



Dear Parents,

Friday 18th December 2020

Philip Larkin wrote a surprising poem to a friend's new-born daughter. Instead of wishing her beauty, talent and love, he says: "May you be ordinary. In fact, may you be dull." He believes that balance and ordinariness are most likely to bring happiness in the end.

2020 has been anything but ordinary! Some of us will be very conscious of things our children lost: months in school and the satisfaction of exam success. Extracurricular achievements. Moments of passage that were never marked.

But there has been much to celebrate in school. This week's **Reindeer Rush** raised £1200 for St. John's Hospice, and **Christmas Jumper Day** raised £913 for Save the Children. Pupils have risen brilliantly to the challenges of the term. I am grateful to teachers, boarding and support staff for their extraordinary efforts. Thank you too for your support.

And 2021? Like Philip Larkin, I am hoping (eventually) for ordinary. Dull would be brilliant!

Start of next term

The government has just announced a staggered return in January. We will update you with any further details:

- **Monday 4th January:** Staff inset day with no teaching.
- **5th – 8th January:** Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and L6 will be taught remotely at home. Year 11 & Upper Sixth attend school.
- **Monday 11th January:** All pupils return to school.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols online

I hope that you enjoy watching our Carol Service which is online [at this link](#). Well done to our readers, musicians and artists, and thank you to colleagues for their work on this wonderful service. Please provide your own mince pies this year. We hope to be in the Priory with the Friends of LRGS next year!



Top 100 Cricketing Schools



We are delighted that LRGS has again been chosen by The Cricketer Magazine as one of England's top 100 Cricketing Schools, and we are featured in their December 2020 edition. The accolade is well-deserved. We remain back-to-back champions in the Royal Grammar Schools' Cricket Festival – even if the most memorable part of this season came much earlier than usual in the February tour of the UAE! This is a tribute to our coaching and grounds staff, to parents for your huge support, and to pupils who enjoy their cricket at every level.

Farewell and welcome

Farewell to **Ray Thomas** after seven years as Director of Finance and Support Services, with many thanks for his work and best wishes for retirement! We welcome **Catherine Lodge** as his successor – previously Finance Director of JESS Dubai. Thanks and best wishes also to **Rhiannon Jones** (Learning Support) as she moves on to academic research.

With all best wishes for Christmas and for a happy and healthy New Year ~ Dr C.J. Pyle

@LRGSLancaster



Storey House



Reindeer Rush



Sixth Form virtual open evening – [video link here](#)