



LRGS Alumni Newsletter

March 2021



A warm welcome to you from LRGS.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back into school next week, everything is in place to ensure that staff and pupils can return with confidence. A few pupils who are unable to return to school until after the Easter holidays will be able to continue with their studies via MS Teams. A big thank you to everyone involved for making these hybrid lessons possible.

Good luck to everyone sitting exams over the next few weeks, especially our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students who will undertake two sets of exams to give them the opportunity to show us their best before the centre assessed grades are determined.

The latest Headmaster's letter to parents can be found [here](#)

As always, we love to hear from our LRGS community so get in touch with [your news](#), be sure to update us of any [change of details](#)

With best wishes,

Lorna and the Development Team

LRGS Updates

Thank you

We have received some wonderful feedback throughout this half term, one parent said, " I'd just like to say thank you to all of the teachers for doing a terrific job with Teams teaching this term.

My son is in Year 11 - and I really do think his education has continued to be first rate during this lockdown.

Thank you to everyone working so hard in school"

Well done to all of our students who have continued to work hard whilst at home and thank you to both teaching and support staff who have worked tirelessly to deliver lessons and provide support throughout the latest lockdown.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all students back into school on 8th March.

Sunshine and our solar panels

A cold but sunny day for the solar panels! These have generated 91000 kWh so far since installation last Spring - with thanks to [solar 4schools](#) and our Sixth Form Green Team





Congratulations

Many congratulations to Sixth Former Josh whose stunning photograph was published in the National Geographic in November and is now on billboards around the country.

Josh submitted an entry into a new project for young photographers focused on teenagers' wellbeing, organised by The Photography Movement.

Josh was awarded the 'JUDGE'S CHOICE' award, they added:

The photo Isolated has been selected by our judge Emma Hardy, Photographer. She said: "Joshua's remarkable image is arresting. Beautifully composed and executed, it shows real elegance and maturity. It's a strongly emotionally connected portrayal of where Joshua finds himself, and it's also a powerful and haunting image in its own right. The monotone adds solemnity and a focussed grace. Bravo Joshua, I'm sure thousands of people will connect with this photograph. Expressing feelings in a way that resonates with others is a gift to all. Thank you!"

Careers Workshops

Thank you to Robert Kielty for a brilliant and engaging session on Careers and Leadership in Sport.

There were some excellent takeaways for the Year 12 PE students and it was a great opportunity for students to share stories about their future plans.

Takeaway message: dream big when setting your goals!

Thank you also to Dr Stuart Palmer from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University for delivering a lunchtime session to L6 students on the topic of critical thinking

In the news

Former LRGS parent, Brendan Gallagher, published "[Lancaster - a finishing school for top coaches](#)" in a recent edition of The Rugby Paper as part of an ongoing series of looking at rugby's great schools.

Alumni News

Thanks from the Stamp Club

Mr Talks and the Stamp Club would like to say a big thank you to OL Ham Baxter (1951-54) for his very generous donation of stamps to the LRGS stamp club. Ham now lives in New Zealand so the stamps have had a long journey!

The Club has had a fantastic time creating posters from the wonderful donations that have been received, you can see the latest posters on our [Facebook page](#).



Sad news

We were saddened to hear that OL John Altham (40-49) passed away on 24th February. John was a long and loyal supporter of both the school and the OL Club, becoming President of the Club in 1989. Along with Hugh McKinney, he played a prominent part in the negotiations, planning and fundraising for the Sports Hall. Our thoughts are with John's family and friends at this sad time.

Renewable energy and Siemens Gamesa graduate scheme

OL Charles Wilson (08-15) graduated from the University of Dundee in 2019 with a BEng in Mechanical Engineering with Renewables (Hons), here Charles very kindly shares his work within the renewable energy sector with us.

"I was fortunate enough to gain a place on the engineering graduate scheme at Siemens Gamesa, the wind turbine manufacturer and service provider. The graduate scheme involves three rotations across three years within different areas of the business. It is combined with academic study at the University of Hull in a bespoke program which includes the



opportunity to gain an MSc in Offshore Wind Energy Engineering. My first rotation of the graduate scheme was focused on EHS (Environment, Health and Safety) and I was largely based at the operations base for the offshore wind farm, Lynn and Inner Dowsing in Lincolnshire. My current rotation is within Operational Engineering for Northern Europe and the Middle East. The workload within this rotation primarily revolves around providing engineering support and solutions to issues arising at sites in service, i.e. operational rather than under construction. My final rotation of the graduate scheme will focus on ensuring new sites are constructed as seamlessly as possible, streamlining logistics and applying lessons learnt before sites are commissioned for full operation.

Alongside my rotations I have been able to partake in a number of initiatives, one of which provided students with a brief [educational video on wind power](#) during the lockdown in 2020. This premise inspired the creation of a video series, 'Energy Debunked', produced by myself and some of the other engineering graduates to boost STEM engagement, as well as to improve knowledge of wind power, renewable energy and sustainability in general. The videos have been released through the [Siemens Gamesa UK&Ire Twitter account](#). With the exception of the introductory video, most of my commitment to the video series has been behind the camera but this changed for my video on ['how low wind conditions are managed in the wind industry'](#)."

Charles has released a [second video](#) which addresses the considerations that are taken into account when selecting a site for a wind power project.



Fundraising for Prostate Cancer UK

Edinburgh to Paris, via Plymouth for Prostate Cancer UK

Individually organised the following event to raise money for EDF's National Charity Partner, Prostate Cancer UK.

On the January 1st, 11 Commercial Graduates including OL Shaun Hunt (14-16) embarked on their challenge to travel from EDF's Edinburgh to Plymouth office

in order to raise money for Prostate Cancer UK. The Quaranteam, aptly named in the time of a pandemic, set-off to collectively cover the 754.9 km virtual distance by walking, running, cycling and rowing over the month of January.

Quick off the blocks, the graduates covered 441.49 km in the first 10 days of January.. After 17 days, the graduates determined efforts meant EDF's Plymouth office was in sight, just under 30 km away.

With 2 weeks of January remaining, discussions ensued to establish a new finishing point. The outcome, a trip overseas to EDF's Head Office in Paris. With the new finishing point providing added motivation, the graduates travelled 435.44 km in the third week of January. Having landed in France, the team entered the final week of January with just 224.62 km left to cover.

As of midnight, on January 31st, the Quaranteam not only reached EDF's Head Office in Paris, a distance of 1379.21 km from EDF's Edinburgh office, but in total covered 1580.10 km. In doing so, the graduates raised £1,300.00 (Total plus Gift Aid: £1,550.00) for EDF's National Charity Partner, Prostate Cancer UK.

The money raised will support Prostate Cancer UK's research and efforts to find better treatments and better tests that can spot fast-growing cancers early, and could be used in a screening programme to save thousands of lives. Such efforts are crucial as prostate cancer is the most common cancer in UK males and more than 47,500 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year – that's 129 men every day.

Strangers in Our Tribe

Former LRGS English Teacher and Head of Sixth Form, Steve Hirst, has recently published *Strangers in Our Tribe* which is available from Amazon. It is described as "an absorbing narrative and ambitious literary fiction, embedded in the reality of the migrant crisis, and very well written." "Hugely impressive! Definitely a book I'd need to talk to friends about. So many points of discussion. So many bits I loved. So many things I haven't yet got but know I will." "Thoughtful, well crafted, with flashes of real brilliance. It's a story that challenges pre-conceived ideas about immigration, adoption, friendship, family and shifting worlds." You can find out more and purchase the book [here](#).



Alumni in the media

Start the week

Did you catch OL Tom Sutcliffe's (67-74) Start the Week programme on 8th February discussing empire and class on Radio 4? If you missed it, you can catch it [here](#)

University Challenge

OL Owain Burrell (10-17) and the team from Warwick University have been on our screens twice in the last few weeks, competing in the quarter finals of University Challenge. The team are doing fantastically well and we can't wait to see if they can make it all the way! If you've missed any of the episodes, you can catch them on [BBC iplayer](#)

Get in touch

OL Brian Leach (63-68), known as "Mouse" during his school days would like to reconnect with his former classmates. If you remember Brian and would like to get in touch with him, please see the article in the [Lancaster Guardian](#) which provides some more information and Brian's contact details.

Film screening

Film maker and OL Chee Keong Cheung's (90-97) martial arts zombie film, REDCON-1, aired for the first time on the Horror Channel on 20th February. The film was originally released in 2018 and parts of it were filmed within the prison section of Lancaster Castle as well as using extras from the local Lancaster community. See [here](#) to find out more.



OL Club Annual Newsletter

Work has begun to compile the next edition of the OL Club annual newsletter and we would love as many of you as possible to feature in it.

Please get in touch and let us know your news - births, marriages, careers, adventures - anything and everything, we would love you to share your stories with us. Please e mail your news to the [Development team](#).

Upcoming Alumni Events

Due to the ongoing situation, the OL Club Committee have taken the difficult decision to postpone this year's East Lancs and Oxford OL dinners. We look forward to returning to both venues in 2022.

Dates for your diary

OL Cotswolds Dinner - Friday 10th September at the Royal Agricultural University.

OL Manchester Dinner - Friday 8th October at Barca.

Further information and details of how to book a place at both the Cotswolds and Manchester Dinners will follow nearer the time.

Please continue to check our website and social media pages to keep up with the latest news.

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We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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