

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

September 2023

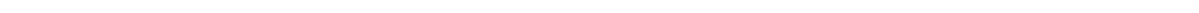
A warm welcome to you and all our new students and boarders from LRGS.

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](#) and be sure to update us of any [change of details](#)

With best wishes,

Lorna and the Development team



LRGS Updates

Rugby tour 2023

We were delighted to be able to take 71 players to South Africa for this year's rugby tour. In addition to training sessions and matches, the group enjoyed lots of additional activities including surfing, going on safari, exploring Cape Town, Table Mountain and shark cage diving! Lots of fantastic memories made both on and off the pitch. Many thanks to everyone who made this wonderful trip possible including staff, the OL Club, parents and of course the players.



Congratulations

GCSE



Congratulations to our 2023 Y11s who collected their GCSE results in August. We are delighted to report that more than half of all pupils gained at least seven grades 7, 8 and 9 in their GCSEs (the equivalent of former A and A* grades). 39% of results across all subjects were awarded the very top 8 and 9 grades. Twenty-five students celebrated seven or more GCSEs at grade 9, including five students who achieved 10 or 11 GCSEs at grade 9. Three boys gained eleven grade 9s and eleven boys gained nine or more grade 9s. Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle said: "It is fantastic to see the energy and hard work of all our pupils recognised in their excellent grades. Congratulations to our students on an excellent set of GCSE results, which will be a springboard to their further success at A-level and beyond."

"We are proud of every single one of our pupils."

Congratulations both to the highest achievers and to all who have worked hard for such well-deserved results.

"It is a privilege to work with such motivated students. I am very grateful to all our teachers as well as support staff at Lancaster Royal Grammar School who have helped our pupils towards these achievements."

A Levels

Many congratulations to all our Sixth Form students who received their A Level results. Almost half of all results were A* or A grades (48.2%), and well over two thirds of all results (70.4%) were A*, A or Bs.

Seven pupils achieved four A* grades and ten others achieved three A*s.

Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle said: "Huge congratulations to every single one of our students on these outstanding A-level results. It is excellent to see our students progressing to a wonderful array of university courses, degree apprenticeships and other opportunities."

"We are immensely proud of our Sixth Formers – girls and boys, boarding and day – for all they have achieved over the past two years. Some have come through particular challenges. They have also contributed hugely to the life of the school beyond the classroom."

"Thank you to staff for providing the exceptional teaching and pastoral care which are the hallmarks of Lancaster Royal Grammar School."

"Very best wishes to our Sixth Form students as they prepare for the exciting next stage of their journeys. I know that they will go from strength to strength."

Boarding judged **OUTSTANDING** in all areas

Lancaster Royal Grammar School's position as one of the top state grammar schools in the country was endorsed by a recent Ofsted inspection which rated the school as 'outstanding' across all categories for boarding. You can read more [on our website](#).



LRGS Apiary



Over the last year the Biology Department has expanded to welcome their very own bee colony. The project has been supported by funds from the Friends of LRGS and donations from Y7 parents and fundraising activities to purchase hives and equipment, along with a very kind donation of the bees themselves from Gresgarth Hall Apiary.

Staff have undertaken training over the last year including; face-to-face theory, looking at bee equipment, training via Zoom to learn more about bees and practical training in the Apiary with Lancaster Beekeepers Association. Thank you to everyone who has provided support in establishing the LRGS Apiary, especially to Calvin Routledge who

continues to tend to gardens around school and helps provide flowering plants for our bees.

The project continues to grow and as Mrs Hargreaves and Mr Millatt become more experienced, they intend to involve more pupils in Bee Club.

Biology has embedded some lessons about bees into the KS3 curriculum and have run a World Bee Day with external expert visitors and honey tasting. Other activities include bee treasure hunts around school, cake sales and much more!

We have not completed a whole year of beekeeping yet, and we still have things to put into practice, especially looking after the colony over winter. All being well our single hive will need splitting next spring, and we will grow to two hives.

We hope LRGS can continue to be happy for a long time to come!

Love to ride challenge

For the last seven years LRGS have taken part in the Love to Ride challenge, which encourages people to get out on their bikes and enjoy the many benefits that cycling has to offer. We are delighted to be joining the challenge again this year and we are off to a great start, first place in the first week! Well done to everyone involved!



LOVE TORIDE

Join the fun: www.lovetoride.net/lancashire



New benches

Our lovely new benches are now in place and are very much appreciated, many thanks to the Friends of LRGS for part-funding this much needed furniture.

Alumni News

Sad News



Tony Joyce

It is with sadness that we share the news of the death on 21 July, at the age of 93, of Tony Joyce, LRGS Headmaster 1972-83. His funeral took place on Friday 18 August 2023 at 2 p.m. at Oxford crematorium. From Merchant Taylor's School in London, Tony went to Cambridge. He served as an engineering and instructor officer in the Royal Navy during the 1950s, before teaching science and maths at Oundle, Clifton, and Magdalen College School (where he was Usher or Deputy Head). In 1972 he succeeded John Spencer at LRGS, retaining LRGS's selective status and building the indoor Sports Hall. He implemented many modernising curricular reforms before moving on in 1983 to be Headmaster of Plymouth College. Tony kept LRGS very dear to his heart. He enjoyed a long and fulfilling life shared with his first wife, Jennifer and his second, Kate -- both of whom predeceased him. Tony enjoyed return visits to the LRGS Founders' weekends and, though

increasingly immobile, remained alert and inquisitive. He was, to the last, ever-eager for news from East Road and took a boyish delight in the successes of our pupils, past and present.

LRGS has lost a deeply significant former leader and lifelong supporter.

Dr Robert Greenwood Walton

We are sorry to report that OL Robert Greenwood Walton (35-40) passed away earlier this year. Robert's daughter, Betsy Walton, has written the following tribute

"Robert Greenwood Walton, M.D., of Modesto, California, met his goal of living a century when he celebrated his 100th birthday on February 13, 2023. He passed away on April 21, 2023, at his beloved Frank Lloyd Wright home, where he lived for 62 years.

Dr. Walton was born in Burnley, England, UK. He served as a Captain in the British Army of the Rhine, 1946-1948. A graduate of the University of London (Guy's Hospital), Stanford University and University of Michigan, Dr. Walton was a board-certified dermatologist who had a large practice in Modesto. Also, as, professor of dermatology at Stanford, he started and managed several skin disease clinics. Dr. Walton is known for several scientific papers that introduced new concepts that changed previous theories. Polo was his passion. He was past president of the United States Polo Association and was instrumental in growing the sport of outdoor and indoor polo. All six children played polo and three of his sons were internationally rated polo players. On a local level, Dr. Walton founded the Modesto Polo Club and supplied the field."



Dr. Walton is survived by his six children and three great-grandchildren and our thoughts are with them at this time.

Ian Cockerill

We were saddened to learn that OL Ian Cockerill (58-64) passed away in March this year. Ian was a lifelong cricket fan and supporter of the school. A service of Thanksgiving was held at Trinity United Reformed Church on 7 September.

Damian Jackson

We are sad to report that OL Damian Jackson (84-91) passed away in Lancaster on Tuesday 25 July. Our thoughts are with Damian's family and friends at this sad and distressing time.

Keith Roberts

We were sad to learn that OL Keith Roberts (53-60) passed away in May this year at the age of 80. Keith became an accountant and remained a lifelong supporter of the school.

Our thoughts are with Keith's loved ones at this sad time.

OL visits

We were delighted to welcome OLs Kieran, Gloria, Rebecca & Eleanor back to school to talk to our current Lower Sixth about their university experiences. Between them, they are studying Law, Mechanical Engineering and Environmental Science at Lancaster University, UCL, Exeter University and Leicester University. Thank you for sharing your advice on how to prepare for university, what to expect when you study at university and for all your top tips!



We also welcomed OLs Rozzie, Isabelle and Olivia back to school as they very kindly led discussions about their experiences of gap years, Languages and Classics at Oxford.

World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals

Good luck to all those competing in this year's World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals which will be held in Barletta, Italy at the end of September. Our very best wishes to OL Joshua Port (21-23) who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the U19 Reserves / Boat Handlers category, an amazing achievement!

Lancastrians in London

OL Peter Charlton (45-54) got in touch to let us know about the Association of Lancastrians in London, an organisation that has been welcoming Lancastrians for over a hundred years. The group have a varied programme of dinners, guided walks, quizzes, museum visits and other delights, all accompanied by a warm Lancashire greeting. For more information, please visit the Lancastrians in London [website](#).

Calling alumni currently based in Singapore

OL Kyle Weston (12-17) has very recently moved to Singapore to study at the University of Singapore and would love to get in touch with alumni who are currently based in the country. If you would like to get in touch with Kyle, please contact the [Development Office](#) for details.

Countess Eleanor Peel Awards

Postgraduate study awards – Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust

Former students of LRGS who are considering postgraduate study are entitled to apply for financial assistance from the Dowager Countess Eleanor Peel Trust. This trust exists to help fund the costs of postgraduate study in the UK or abroad, including costs of study and travel, art or music scholarships. It makes grants of up to £600 per year per student. Please see the details on our [website](#).

Old Lancastrian Club News



Event updates

London Dinner on Thursday 2 November 2023 at the RAF Club, Piccadilly

Durham Dinner on Friday 24 November 2023 at the Honest Lawyer Hotel, Durham

OL Golf Day on Friday 28 June 2024 at Lancaster Golf Club

Links to book a place at the dinners will become available nearer the time.

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

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[How You Can Help LRGS](#)

We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



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