

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

December 2025

A very warm welcome and Season's Greetings to you 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

Sunday Times Parent Power league table

Lancaster Royal Grammar School has once again been recognised in the Sunday Times Parent Power league table.

The school has been placed ninth in the top 10 state secondary schools in the north west in The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide 2025 – up one place from last year.

It has also been placed 98th nationally – up from 114th place last year.

The UK's highest-achieving primary and secondary schools are revealed in the 33rd edition of the guide, which is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's top schools, and was published online on Friday 5 December and available in print on Sunday 7 December.

Recognised as the definitive ranking of the UK's top primary and secondary state and independent schools, this guide remains an essential resource for parents seeking the very best in education for their children. As well as an assessment of academic results on a school-by-school basis, Parent Power enables parents to compare the performance of a given school with other schools in the same area, local authority or nationally.

Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle said: "I am delighted to see the achievements of our brilliant GCSE and A-level students recognised in these prestigious rankings. It is excellent to see this confirmation of the exceptional quality of teaching which is one of the great hallmarks of LRGS."

Congratulations

Sixth Former Ben has been highly commended in the Young Geographer of the Year competition 2025 Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

Earlier this month, Ben visited the Royal Geographical Society in London to receive his award.

The competition encourages young people to think creatively and analytically about geographical themes. This year, the theme was Understanding islands, which invited students to explore islands and highlight the geographical themes, challenges and solutions that connect across both human and physical geography to make islands unique.

There were 1250 entries received by the Society and the judges were looking for eye catching, creative and informative posters and StoryMaps that delved into the socio-economic, cultural, political and physical aspects of a range of islands. They selected 16 young people for recognition, with two winners and two highly commended entries selected for each age category.

The winning and highly commended students who submitted outstanding entries were presented with their certificates by Alan Parkinson at a ceremony held at the Society. Professor Joe Smith, Director of the Society said: "I'd like to give my warmest congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who entered this year's Young Geographer of the Year competition. Islands, including the one we live on, are uniquely affected by climate change, but they also have unique opportunities to address these challenges. The high standard of entries we received across this year's competition gives me confidence that the next generation of geographers is already asking the right



questions about the issues facing island communities and how these can teach us about the wider world.”

The Young Geographer of the Year competition and the Rex Walford Award is run by the Society in conjunction with Geographical magazine and is kindly supported by Esri UK, Ordnance Survey and Philip’s Atlases.

Congratulations Ben on receiving this prestigious award.

Celebrity Chef visit



Celebrity chef, Big Zuu, joined us at the beginning of December as part of his mission to find out more about how schools are teaching Food Technology. From Masterchef competitions to foraging expeditions and hospitality workshops, we enjoyed sharing our enthusiasm and love for food and nutrition.

Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival

Our girls from Ashton decorated a Christmas tree as part of this year's Christ Church Christmas Tree Festival. They worked so hard creating beautiful handmade decorations. The tree looks fabulous, very well done to all involved!



History trip to Dublin



Our Upper Sixth History A-level students went to Dublin for the first weekend in December and met Professor of Irish History, Patrick Geoghagen at Trinity College, for a discussion about Irish Nationalism.

Later, they had a meeting with retired High Court Judge, Bernard Barton at the Irish Supreme Court. They also visited the Wellington Memorial.

Foodbank donations

Pupils have been generously donating items for our annual Morecambe Bay foodbank collection, this will make a huge difference to local families this Christmas time. Thank you to everyone for supporting this amazing charity, we filled a whole classroom! Special thanks to Mr Young, Mr Rosbottom, Ms Owen and Mr Fisher for organising this year's collections.




*Ticket sales close
12 noon on 9th January*

Burns Night 2026

*Celebrate this Burns Night with a 3 course
dinner, piper and ceilidh*

Where: Lancaster Brewery
When: 7pm, 24th January 2026
Ticket price: £56 per person;
whisky tasting £10 per person



Get your tickets today at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FMJJ>

Alumni News

Sad News

John Salmon Hunt-Smith

We were sad to learn that OL John Salmon Hunt-Smith (43-51) passed away on 9th October at the age of 92.

Upon leaving school, John joined the British Army, serving twenty-two years, mainly in the Far East and Hong Kong, achieving the rank of Major. Upon his retirement from the Army, John, Hazel and their two sons, moved to Australia where John joined the business world in Melbourne.

John had very fond memories of his years here at school and enjoyed keeping up to date with school news.

Our thoughts are with Hazel and family at this sad time.

Our thoughts are with Clifford's family and friends at this incredibly sad time.

Albert Oswin Watson

We are sad to report that OL Albert Oswin Watson (52-56) passed away peacefully at home on 20 November, aged 88. Oswin was a well respected Business Management Consultant in the Lancaster area throughout his career.

Our sympathies go out to Oswin's wife, Patricia and family at this sad time.

Congratulations

Huge congratulations to OL Paddy Earnshaw (91-98) who has just completed an incredible challenge as part of the "B&Q Shelter The 170" initiative.

In England alone, there are currently more than 170,000 children homeless in temporary accommodation. From 1 -7 December, B&Q colleagues came together to raise funds for Shelter and their partner charities, taking on challenges inspired by the number 170.

Over the course of two days, Paddy swam, ran, cycled, and rowed a combined 170km across the UK to raise money for Shelter and their partner charities. Not stopping there, Paddy then danced for 170 minutes at the B&Q Head Office!

A truly incredible challenge which, to date, has raised over £222,000 for Shelter and their partner charities.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the initiative and to make a donation.



Congratulations to OL John Lowther (47-52) who was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday 4 December at the UK Coaching Awards at the Queens Hotel in Leeds. John is founder of Kendal Snowsports Club and when speaking to the Westmorland Gazette, said, "I am extremely proud to be recognised with a UK Coaching Award, but I feel that it is a recognition of many people's time and commitment, all the instructors, chairmen, committee members and helpers, over the last 41 years."

John was inspired to create a Ski Club, close to his home, in Kendal and during the 41 years of the Club's existence, approximately 50,000 people have learned to ski, with many staying on to improve. During these years John has organised, been on and led 130 separate weeks of Skiing on snow in Europe and America with some 1300 members of KSC. John also very kindly supported our annual ski trip here at school in the past. Congratulations on your award John, from all of us at LRGS!



Alumni updates

GCSE and A-Level certificates

If you haven't yet collected your GCSE or A-level certificates, they are available for collection from Lee House.
Opening times are Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 4pm and Friday 8.30am until 3.30pm.
Certificates can be posted if you cover the postage fee with Mrs Oversby, please contact her directly on: coversby@lrgs.org.uk

OL Christmas get together

Thank you to OL Peter Davies-Colley (65-72) for this great photograph showing OLs enjoying their annual Christmas get together in Lancaster in November.

The former classmates also meet up throughout the year to go walking or just socialise.

It looks like it was a great evening!

If you've had a get together with former classmates recently, we'd love to hear from you and see your photos! Please send any photographs and news to the [Development Office](#).



Hong Kong OL Dinner 2025



Thank you to the ten OLs, spanning from the Class of 1980 to the 2020s who gathered at USRC in Kowloon on Tuesday 9th December for the Hong Kong OL Dinner 2025. A great night was had by all. Special thanks to Branch Secretary, Patrick Dransfield, for organising another fantastic event. Patrick wishes everyone "Season's Greetings from Hong Kong!"

CCF OL Dinner 2026

The next CCF OL Dinner will take place on Friday 9 January at school, meeting in the Grab and Go from 6pm.

A special 3 course meal will be served for the fantastic price of just £19.40 per person.

Please [visit our website](#) for full details and to book your place.

Just for fun

Thank you to OL Ian Lewis (83-90) for the fantastic photograph below which shows Storey House boarders in 1983. Can you name anyone or everyone in the photograph? Please let the [Development Office](#) know if you can! Answers will be in the next edition.





Future Event updates

Leeds OL Dinner at Masonic Hall, Castle Grove (date TBC)

Cotswolds OL Dinner on Friday 11 September 2026 at The Colesbourne Inn

Links to book a place at the above dinners will become available as soon as the details have been confirmed.

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

[Update Your Details](#)

[How You Can Help LRGS](#)

We thank you for your ongoing support of the school.



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

[Lancaster Royal Grammar School](#)

East Road, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 3EF