

LRGS Alumni Newsletter

March 2026

A very warm welcome 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

Chess success

Huge congratulations to our chess teams on their amazing performances at the recent Northern Grammar Schools Chess Championships.

The A team finished 2nd, narrowly missing out on 1st place to Crossley Heath.

Our B team finished in an amazing 3rd place.

And our C team made up of 4 year 7's finished in 12th.



Further Chess Success!

Congratulations again to our chess team, on 17 March they faced a really tough side; Altringham Grammar (the regional winners for the past few years), LRGS emerged as the winners with a score of 4-2.

They are now Northwest Champions and have made it through to the English Schools Chess Championship Finals. Well done boys!

National Cipher Challenge

Our sixth form students have had a fantastic run in this year's National Cipher Challenge, the nationwide online codebreaking competition organised by the University of Southampton.

The challenge invites thousands of entrants to tackle a sequence of increasingly complex ciphers split into Part A (introductory) and Part B (advanced).

LRGS had two teams competing.



Our Upper Sixth team did exceptionally well, completing every challenge apart from the last one, which was set over the Christmas break when they were surely working hard preparing for exams.

Our Lower Sixth team managed to complete the whole set of challenges.

The leader board, published last week, suggests that they were one of the first 125 teams to break the final cipher, 10B.

The boys explored a wide range of ciphers, finding a connection between the encrypted text and a set of playing cards with each card represented as a pair of characters. Combining this with a four-square Polybius cipher, they achieved their goal using excellent coding skills. The tenacity, team spirit and hard work needed to get this far, over the holidays, is noteworthy.

Well done to all involved! Bring on next year's ciphers!

Success at Stonyhurst 7s



Congratulations to our U16s who won the Stonyhurst 7s with an impressive win against King's Macclesfield in the final, 24-5. Mr Mason reports that, "They were all a credit to the school and played superbly in all but one group game!"

James was the tournament top try scorer with 14 tries over 7 games.

The winning squad was: Raffi (C), Harry, Osian, Zach, Ryan, Luke, Otis, Isaac, Harry, Elliott, Ronnie and James.

LRGSBC at Schools Head

LRGS Rowing Club travelled to London recently to compete at Schools Head in both the Ch4x- and the 1st 8x+ events.

The training is coming good for the quad as they now look like a solid crew ready to compete at higher levels.

They placed a strong 21st in the championship quads amongst a seriously competitive field.

The eight achieved their target in the 1st 8s and had a cracking race down the tideway. Many thanks to Mr Yates, Dr Shawcross and Mr Ledward for their continued support and assistance on the trip.

Overall lots of positives and a great few days for the club.



LRGSBC Newsletter

Many thanks to LRGSBC Captain, Hyrum, for the latest Newsletter which is now available on our [website](#) (entitled Lent1_LRGSBC_Newsletter)

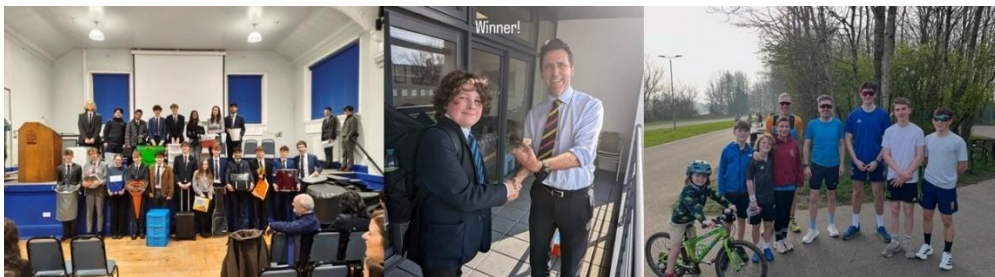
Can you help our new Geographical Society?

Geography teacher, Mr Talks, says "*The Geography department has recently started a Geographical Society. Two highlights of the Lent term have been talks by outside speakers. Ian Vermeulen talked about his epic cycle ride from Kendal to Cape Town with his wife, while Tim Duckmanton spoke about the management of the Lake District National Park.*

I would like to invite OLs and parents of LRGS students to feel welcome to give a talk at the Geographical Society. Please do get in touch via [email](#)"

Fundraising activities

Well done to everyone who has raised funds for our Lenten charities this term, we've had firm favourites such as the set run making a return, alongside newer initiatives such as the Tech raffle, 4x4x48 running challenge and the "Anything but a bag" competition, to name but just a few. Thank you to all those who have taken part, sponsored and supported the many fundraising events that have taken place, your enthusiasm and support is greatly appreciated!



Alumni News

Sad News

George (Barrie) Roberts



We recently reported that OL George (Barrie) Roberts (49-56), Barrie's wife, Sarah, has very kindly written the following tribute to Barrie and provided the lovely photograph.

"George (always known as Barrie) was born in Burnley.

Attended LRGS and then on to Durham University. Classics and Economics.

He worked in the District Bank in Lancaster and Manchester before coming down to London and working in the NatWest Bank. 5 years in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi.

Retired in 1991.

Married in 1990. The happiest of marriages travelling the world.

He was always in demand to be treasurer of the church and local committees."

Our thoughts are with Sarah and Barrie's family and friends at this sad time.

Kevin Hannah

We were saddened to learn that OL Kevin Hannah (74-81) passed away suddenly in February at the age of 63. Kevin worked at Pye Motors in Galgate for 35 years. Our thoughts are with Kevin's family, friends and colleagues at this incredibly sad time.

Kevin's colleagues have issued the following tribute to him



<https://www.lancasterguardian.co.uk/news/national/tribute-paid-after-sudden-death-of-well-known-lancaster-car-salesman-5616641>

Alumni updates

Thank you

Thank you to OL Mike Jump (83-90) who delivered an inspiring careers talk to a packed classroom about his journey from RAF cadets at school to aerospace engineering in three areas: defence industry, consultancy and academia. A fantastic and informative session, very many thanks!



Our Careers Insight talks continue, a huge thank you to OLs Pete Brzezinka and Nick Rafferty (96-03) for their recent visit to school. Together Pete and Nick run recruitment consultancy Proven Sales, they generously shared their experiences after leaving LRGS.



OLD LANCASTRIANS GOLF DAY

FRIDAY 3RD OF JULY 2026
Tee times from 13:32

Lancaster Golf Club 

LGC Members £5 (prizes only)
Non-members £35 (green fee and prizes)
Pupils £20. Paid on the day

If Interested Contact
L.kettlewell3@gmail.com or jarman67@yahoo.com 



OL Club



Future Event updates

[Oxford](#) OL Dinner on Wednesday 29 April at Vincent's Club

East Lancs OL Dinner on Friday 29 May at the Alma Inn ***PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE***

OL Golf Day and Founders' Dinner on Friday 3 July at Lancaster Golf Club

Cotswolds OL Dinner on Friday 11 September at The Colesbourne Inn

Leeds OL Dinner on Friday 2 October at Masonic Hall, Castle Grove

London OL Dinner on Thursday 5 November at RAF Club Piccadilly

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.



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