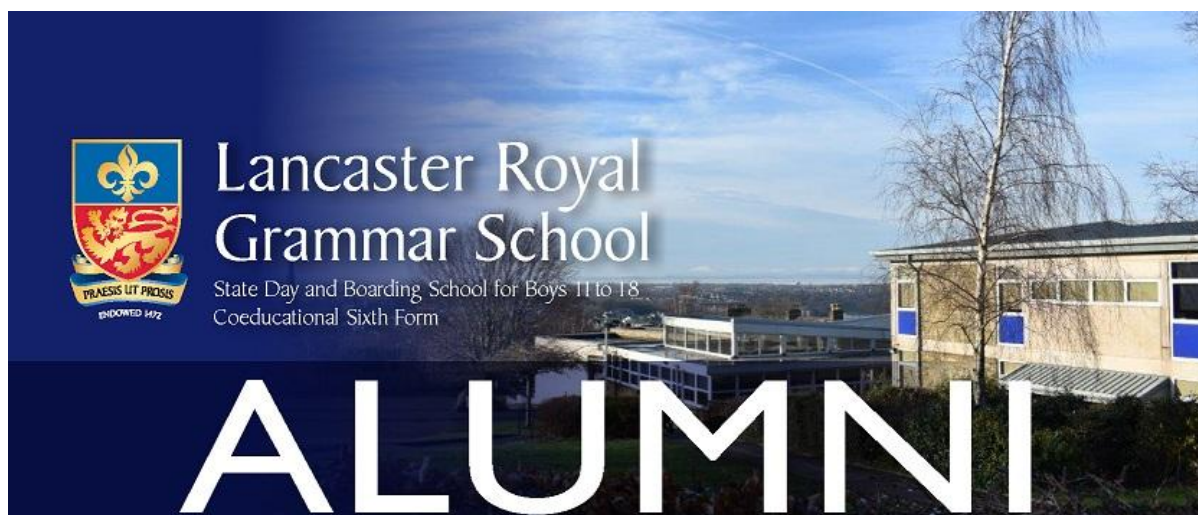




LRGS Alumni Newsletter

Summer 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

A Level success



Congratulations to all of our A-level students who celebrated outstanding results.

The year group of 204 Upper Sixth students achieved A and A* grades in almost half of all their exams (49.8%). More than three-quarters of all results (77.6%) were graded A*, A and B.

Amongst other exceptional achievements, 19 students achieved three A* grades and 3 students achieved 4 A* grades.

Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle said: *"It has been wonderful to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our fabulous Sixth Form students. We are very proud of every single one of them for their achievements. It is excellent to see our headline A-level figures continue to rise year on year. Students should be delighted with their excellent*

academic results. Some of them have come through very significant challenges. They have also set a great example in leadership and have represented the school beyond the classroom in a thousand different ways.

This year group is brilliantly prepared to thrive on opportunities ahead. It is very exciting to see them heading to such a wide range of university courses across the UK and overseas, to competitive degree apprenticeships and employment. Huge congratulations to each of them on their well-deserved success."

GCSE celebrations

Congratulations to all of our students who received their GCSE results this summer.

Overall, pupils achieved top grades 8 or 9 in more than 40% of all examinations (41%), and almost two-thirds of all results (64%) were graded 7, 8 or 9.

Ten day and boarding pupils achieved grades 8 or 9 in ten or more GCSE subjects.

Amongst many individual achievements, three pupils are celebrating achieving the very top grade 9 all in ten of their GCSEs.

Headmaster Dr Chris Pyle said, *"We are delighted with these brilliant results. Our Year 11 students should be very proud of their achievements and the outstanding qualifications that they have gained. Very well done indeed!*

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

Congratulations to all who have worked hard for their well-deserved results, including pupils who have faced particular challenges along the way. We look forward to seeing them continue to thrive at A-level and beyond."



RGS Festival Winners 2026

Congratulations to our 1st XI team who beat RGS High Wycombe in the final of the RGS Schools Cricket Festival by 137 runs to win the RGS Schools' Festival trophy 2026!

There were 3 wickets for Fast Eddie and Young Logan - Logan also won the Young Player of the Festival award for picking up 11 wickets and 5 catches over the 5 days! On Friday, Faizan batted superbly to finish up on 137* to steer the team to victory in glorious sunshine at Worcester Nomads cricket ground.

Jack was Captain had a match winning innings against RGS Newcastle. George also scored a century earlier on in the week against RGS Guildford to help us win on day two.

Overall it was an absolutely super effort from the boys on and off the pitch all week.

Special thanks to Guy Mason, Matt Rosbottom and Ian Ledward for their support and help. Tony Burns joined the team for the 5 days and gave a fantastic speech when he presented the Man of the Match award on day 4.

Congratulations to all involved



Founders' Service of Thanksgiving



On Saturday 4 July we gathered at the Priory and Parish Church for our annual Founders' celebratory service. It is known that a school existed in Lancaster in the thirteenth century, but the first definite mention of the old Grammar School is found in a deed dated the 4th August 1469, when the Abbess of Syon granted to John Gardyner of Bailrigg, near Lancaster, a lease of a water-mill on the River Lune and some land nearby for two hundred years to maintain a chaplain to celebrate worship in the Church of S. Mary, Lancaster and to instruct boys in grammar freely, "unless perchance something shall be voluntarily offered by their friends".

In 1472, John Gardyner's will made further provision for the endowment of the school, and also for William Baxstonden to "keep the said school" so long as he should be able to teach the boys. In 1682 the school was rebuilt and in 1851 was removed from the old site on the slopes by the Priory to the outskirts of the city, where it now stands. The title "Royal" was granted by Queen Victoria in the same year.

Masterchef 2026

The standard was incredibly high in this year's Year 9 Masterchef competition. Congratulations to:

Main course winner - Nyi

Main course runner up – Chris

Dessert winner – Daniel

Dessert runner up - Elijah



Thank you to Head Judge, Alessandro Possamai, Tutor from Lancaster & Morecambe College and judges, Howard Roberts, Chair of Governors at LRGS, Dr Pyle and Mrs Lodge.

Duke of Edinburgh expedition



Congratulations to all pupils who completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Scotland during July. The weather was beautiful and pupils enjoyed admiring the incredible scenery and finding great camp spots.

Food Tech trip to France

Forty Year 9 pupils enjoyed a trip to France on the last week of term, the trip included lots of fantastic activities and opportunities, including visits to a snail farm, a chocolate factory, Chantilly Palace, a street market, a goat farm, a cruise on the Seine and a day in Disneyland Paris! Thank you to Mrs Sharples for organising such a fantastic, fun filled week!



The Battle of Hastings 2026



The annual reenactment of the Battle of Hastings took place on the Mems at the beginning of July, this year's victors were The Saxons. There were some amazing costumes and accessories on display, well done Year 7!

Call to arms - Can you help our CCF?

Our CCF would like to ask if there are any local alums who could support them in their activities, particularly within the RAF section during term time afternoon sessions. Support would be welcomed for any section and other events too. No previous military or CCF experience is required. The CCF meets during term time at school on Tuesdays at 3.30pm, as well as attending additional off site activities.

Please get in touch with [Dr Rowe](#) for further details.



All change in the Physics Department

Hidden in the back of a drawer, Dr Rowe recently unearthed a photograph of the Physics department from 23 years ago. With two longstanding members of the current department retiring at the end of this year, we decided to attempt to recreate the original.

Original

Back L-R: Doug Cameron, Brian Haines, Alan Davies, Front L-R: David Rowe, Alan Hickman (HoD), Audrey Davies

New

Back L-R: Tom Hynes, Michael English (retiring), Alistair Shawcross, Front L-R: David Rowe, Steve Bell (HoD, retiring), Vanessa Whittle

It was quite a moving occasion given the previous photo was taken on the occasion of the retirement of two longstanding department members, Brian Haines and Alan Davies. Strangely, Physicists often retire in pairs as can be seen in this year's retirement of Steve Bell after 17 years and Michael English after 18. Alistair Shawcross having been a teacher trainee at LRGS followed Brian and Alan into the department.

Steve Bell took over from Alan Hickman and will be succeeded by OL Tom Hynes (07-14).

Vanessa Whittle follows in the footsteps of Audrey Davies in providing technical support. Only one old geezer is in both photos, David Rowe, 32 years LRGS and still running.

Goodbye to staff

We bid a fond farewell this summer to Mr Chambers, Mrs Lodge, Mr Bell, Mr English, Mr Fraser, Mrs Molyneux, Mrs Jenkinson, Mr Gittins, Ms Jackson, Mr Sammons, Mrs Pearson, Ms Purvis, Mr Lush and Ms Rosbottom.

A huge thank you for all your hard work, we wish you all the best for the future, you will be missed!

Alumni News

University Challenge

Good Luck to OL Odysseas Gabrielatos (15-22) and the team from Warwick University in the new series (33) of University Challenge. You can watch the team take on opponents from Magdalen College, University of Oxford via [BBC iplayer](#)



Congratulations

Brotherton Poetry Prize



Congratulations to OL Tom Pyle (12-19) upon winning this year's Brotherton Poetry Prize. The prize, awarded by a panel of judges, including Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, aims to encourage and nurture emerging poets. This year saw an amazing 500 entries submitted. You can read more about the award and Tom's win [here](#). Huge congratulations Tom!

Loner

Congratulations to filmmaker and OL Charlie Robb (06-13) on the release of his new, award winning film "Loner".

Charlie writes, *"I was very involved in the drama club, plays and musicals at school, where my love for performance and the arts first began. I pursued comedy writing and performing at Cambridge where I met my long time collaborator Douglas Tawn, with whom I write and direct films.*

Our first feature length film "Loner" is a horror film, about a man (played by myself) who embarks on a wilderness retreat alone, where he is held captive by an ancient, natural force. The film explores issues with mental health and loneliness, and has a dark comedy vein. We had our world premiere at Raindance in London last year, where we were nominated for Best Film, Director and Performance. The film has played at festivals both in the UK and internationally, including Nòt Film Festival in Italy and Panic Fest in the US. "Loner" has won several awards, including Best Feature Film at the British Horror Film Festival, and Best Film and Best Actor at Black Sunday FF. We also enjoyed a cinema tour around the UK at independent cinemas, and are hoping to come to the Dukes some time soon.



"Loner" is currently available to stream on Amazon Prime, both in the UK and US, with more global territories to come.

Challenge completed!



In January's newsletter, we introduced OL Travis Taylor (20-22) who was undertaking an incredible challenge to raise funds for Willow Wood Hospice. We are delighted to report that Travis has now completed the challenge and raised a fantastic amount in the process.

Travis writes, *"Old Lancastrians, and friends,*

In January, I proposed to run seven marathons in seven days for Willow Wood Hospice, Tameside. In July, I achieved that goal!

I write today to extend my thanks to the ever-fruitful LRGS Alumni Community for the support it offered me during my training months. In one sense, featuring in the newsletter's January issue helped monetarily. With your help, we have drawn in £2, 057 worth of donations at the time of writing – a sum which I am proud to have had a small part in raising and actualizing as the man-on-the-ground. I sincerely thank each and every donor for their generosity. In another, the kind words that I received from alums and

parents who had read about my efforts had just as seismic an effect. These really helped to boost morale when my body and mind were pushed to exhaustion out on the road.

Although I ran the miles, LRGS was essential to the challenge's completion in many ways: the wisdom and words of encouragement from the Headmaster: the cheering from current pupils as I ran past the boarding houses: the generous offerings of every donor thus far: and the values of leadership and virtuosity that my two years at school instilled in me. I could not have got here without you all.

I'd also like to publicly thank the Stuchlik family for their unwavering support during challenge week. Thanks to Jakub and Radmilla, friends of the school, for treating me like one of your own. Thanks to my close and upstanding mate Filip, who saw the bleakest of my miles through with me in the hills around Quernmore. And thanks to young Honzik, for his astronomical donation! I appreciate everything.

Like us Old Lancastrians, the caregivers and team at Willow Wood are a tight-knit family. Their care and attention makes a tangible difference to families navigating loss. It feels very special to be fundraising for them, and for our efforts to be so well received. Should you want to continue donating, you can find my portal at www.justgiving.com/page/week-at-the-knees. I intend to close the portal by September and then direct the total to said charity.

One outgoing thank you, for your support and time.

Praesis ut Prosis.

Travis Taylor."

Huge congratulations to Travis and thank you to our alumni community for all their support.

Congratulations to OLs Hazik Syed and Srishu Kellati (19-26), who recently tasked themselves with walking from Preston to Ingleton within a single day (covering roughly 60km in 17 hours) to raise money for Cancer Research UK. The pair raised an incredible £450 to support this incredible charity.



New Honours Board

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Founders' Day celebrations on Saturday 4 July. We were delighted to welcome OLS Tom Prince (18-25), Oliver Biswas (16-23) and Adam Parkinson (14-21) to the Priory and back to school for the unveiling of the updated and new Honours Boards. A fantastic day and congratulations to all alums who feature on the boards.



Graduation congratulations

A huge congratulations to all alums who graduated this year, we wish you every success for your next step!

UAE OLs get together



Thank you to OL Patrick Dransfield (75-80) for organising an OL dinner in UAE earlier this month at the Topsy Tikka Bar. If you'd like to join the UAE Whatsapp group to keep up to date with get togethers in UAE, please contact OL [Eddie Taylor](#)



Future Event updates

[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

OL'd Hammer on Saturday 19 December at school, please see below for details

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.

OL'd Hammer 2026



The LRGS Armchair Generals and Warhammer Clubs and the Old Lancastrians would like to invite any ex and current wargaming OLs to put the O and the L in Oldhammer and join them in the inaugural OL'd Hammer wargaming get together on site at school. The plan is for reuniting previous school club members, Old Lancastrians and meeting the current club pupils. Wargaming parents are also warmly invited.

A provisional date of Saturday 19th December has been arranged, and ideas are developing for display areas, gaming and a potential tournament.

Climb into your lofts, reach into the back of cupboards and dust off those old armies. Come along and show the current boys where it started and how it was done "back in the day" with an RTB01 Beakie or two, a classic wargame or "vintage" miniatures.

Get in touch with OL Club Chair [Richard Brigg](#) to register interest.

[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