

The Friends of Lancaster Royal Grammar School

Annual Report: Academic Year 2018-2019



How quickly the school year passes! The Academic Year 2018 to 2019 has been remarkable in many ways. We particularly wish to congratulate LRGS on its new Co-Ed 6th Form, and the ongoing success of the school, as we prepared to welcome all incoming families in the summer of 2019. In doing so we have been proud to demonstrate the Friends' support for our school, which is always marked by a spirit of enthusiasm, commitment and dedication. Let's take a moment to recount all that has been achieved.....

LRGS Fun Run and Supper

There is no more "fitting" start to the academic year than the annual Fun Run and Supper. With very little time to spare as the school doors open in September, it is always amazing that we "hit the ground running" to make this night a benchmark in our school calendar. The fun run synergy is both ecstatic and infectious, and really must be the living embodiment of the Praesis ut Prosis school spirit. As ever, over 300 runners of all ages, completed the course, encouraged



by the LRGS staff and race marshals. Chartwells Catering kindly provided chip butties which were served by the Friends, while runners were welcomed home by with the LRGS jazz band. The school dining room was overwhelmed by a party atmosphere, as well as great pupil aspirations of winning a "golden ticket award" to beat the lunch queues! Our thanks go to Chartwells Catering, to the Runner's Centre and Walling's Ice Cream for their sponsorship, as well as to the Friends, Cath Mossop and Richard Mellon and all involved at LRGS for the organisation of the event. Congratulations to all who took part.



Groundforce Day

The pleasant autumn weather provided an early autumn opportunity for our annual Groundforce Day. This year we planted bulbs on the upper site, around the new science block. Despite the hard ground, lots of "dibbers" were in action, coupled with great enthusiasm from the Storey House pupils and staff. We enjoyed hot drinks and home-made cakes outdoors, with much chat and fun. Families who were new to LRGS joined in, and lasting friendships were made. Thank you to all who supported this event, after which spring flowers miraculously appeared early in 2019!

LRGS Night at the Museum

To mark the centenary of the Armistice and to remember fallen Old Lancastrians, the Friends hosted "A Night at the Museum" in conjunction with Lancaster City Museums. The programme for the evening included a reception at the King's Own Museum, with private viewing of "For the Fallen, Now that the War is Over" exhibition. We were captivated by stories from home and the Western Front related by Peter Donnelly, Curator of the King's Own Museum. An informal supper at The Borough in Lancaster followed where recollections of local history continued.



Speech Day

In November, the Friends were on hand to host the Speech Day reception in the Mayor's Chamber in Ashton Hall. As Speech Day is a traditional celebration of the exceptional achievements of both the pupils and of LRGS we were delighted to be a part of this event. Well done and congratulations to all.

December festivities

As Christmas approached, Cath Mossop and the pupils invited the Friends and parents to join in mince pie baking, with coffee and carols in the Food Tech Department, ahead of the Festivals of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Priory Church. We baked hundreds of mince pies, which were served with mulled wine at the carol services. Thank you to all involved.



Burns' Night Celebrations

The Friends' Burns Night celebrations have traditionally become our fundraising highlight of the school year. This year there was a huge demand for tickets, which with sold out within 24 hours of going live on Wisepay. On arrival at the Ashton Hall, our guests were greeted by the Friends, with a photoshoot courtesy of the sixth form photographers. The night included a whisky tasting experience, a malt whisky auction, a grand raffle, a ceilidh from Northern Frisk, as well as a traditional Burns Night supper, and Address to a

Haggis. Thank you to all involved, and to our guests who so generously ensured that the event exceeded our previous fundraising efforts

LRGS Spring Festival

The Friends' Spring Festival was a welcome event, and was particularly well attended by our incoming Year 7 pupils and families. A variety of stalls and activities included egg painting,



cake decorating, flower and plant stalls, an LRGS Friends Stall and an Easter Egg tombola. The LRGS spring café

served scones and home baked cakes throughout the day. Meanwhile, in the Grab and Go, the International Food Corner provided guests with a worldwide culinary experience from many different countries, so reflecting our LRGS family community. Thank you to those who gave their time to host and support this event, especially Radmila and Joanne.



LRGS School Shop

The Friends School shop is a cornerstone of our activities and provides an opportunity to meet with other parents, upcycle quality school uniform items and provide a host of LRGS memorabilia. This year our shop underwent an exciting makeover during the summer holidays, thanks to Radmila, Mei,



Joanne and the Friends. We were thrilled to be involved in a partnership in with the 6th Form Green Day initiative to reduce

the use of plastic in LRGS, and have provided branded re-useable water bottles, as well as many new lines of LRGS goods. Additional opening times for Christmas shopping were also popular with the pupils. Our school shop is well received and is going from strength to strength. Massive thanks to the Friends in the school shop team, we congratulate you on this marvellous resource.



In memory of Reece Holt

It was with great sadness that the LRGS community received the news of the loss of one of our young pupils, Reece Holt, to childhood cancer, early in 2019. Along with the Old Lancastrians, in memory of Reece, the Friends have pledged to support the creation of a panoramic viewfinder on the upper site. This is done in conjunction with the 6th Form pupils who designed viewfinder, the Geography and Art Departments, as well as the entire school, who wish to remember Reece by this initiative. More details are to follow about the unveiling of the viewfinder.

We have funded.....

Over the year funds raised by the Friends were realised in the following pledges:

- LRGS MasterChef prizes for July 2019
- Costumes for the production of Twelfth Night at the Dukes Theatre
- Bio Science and DNA Equipment
- Equipment for the Canoe Club
- LRGS Orienteering Club Ties
- Storey House basement refurbishment into a gym/fitness facility for boarders and day pupils
- Outdoor Leisure Equipment: a pledge to develop outdoor leisure facilities on the school site.
- A Geography library book store for the new building.
- LRGS CCF Banner: with the Old Lancastrians we have funded an LRGS CCF banner and standard bearer equipment to be used for the Remembrance parade and other occasions.
- Widescreen TV for School House.



The Friends are a valued and important group within the LRGS community. Thank you to all who contribute to the Friends and those who support our initiatives and fundraising events. Chris Pyle continues as Chair, Anne Marie Waddingham as Treasurer, and Michelle Whitton as Secretary.

Praesis ut Prosis.

Michelle Whitton
Secretary to the Friends of LRGS
Autumn 2019