

The Friends of LRGS

Newsletter for Parents & Friends, Lent Tem 2020



Hello from the Friends of LRGS...

Welcome to the Spring Term from the Friends of Lancaster Royal Grammar School. Thank you for your ongoing support for the Friends' activities, and to those who have attended the many Friends events this academic year.

Highlights from the autumn and winter with the Friends....

LRGS Supper Run

The school year always starts with more than a spring in our step! We were thrilled to welcome many of our new families to the school at the LRGS Supper Run. We were blessed with a glorious late summer evening, and the excitement on the Douthwaite



field was almost uncontainable as runners of all ages awaited the start gun for the 5K race. Along the course the 6th Form and staff marshals were on hand to encourage the runners with treats, music and cheering, which was welcome on the ascent to the Ashton Memorial.

The LRGS 6th Form rock band provided a party atmosphere at the finish line, while the school dining room became a scene of excitement and celebration, abundant with prizes and chip butties served by the Friends. The most coveted prizes were the Golden Tickets for pupils to jump the lunch queues for a month!

Our thanks go to Chartwells Catering for providing the supper, to The Runner's Centre for providing race numbers, as well as to the Friends for their support. Thank you to Cath Mossop, Richard Mellon and the Maths department for their superb and safe organisation of the event, to the staff who provided race HQ and registration, to Sister Moghadden for first aid cover, and to the LRGS CCF for manning the water station. Congratulations to all runners.



Sebastian Gallardo Barton Piano Concerto

In early October we were fortunate to have a visit from the up and coming young Chilean pianist, Sebastian Gallardo Barton who stopped by to play for us on his tour of the United Kingdom. An evening reception of prosecco and canapes served by the Friends was followed by Seb's spellbinding performance in the Assembly Hall. He was inspirational and he particularly enjoyed meeting with the young musicians of LRGS, whom he encouraged to perform impromptu piano pieces. It was a wonderful occasion, enjoyed by all.



Groundforce Day

The following morning families and pupils met for our annual Groundforce Day. This year we planted bulbs on the upper site by the Grab and Go. Thank you to all who supported this event. It's now almost time to check out those bulbs as spring approaches!

A Night with Eddie the Eagle

This year the Friends were delighted to host a special event with British Olympiad and motivational speaker, Michael "Eddie the Eagle" Edwards. Eddie came into school to meet the pupils and then stayed on into the evening to speak to the families and Friends of LRGS. Thanks to Gill Bishop, Radmila Balastikova, Jakub Stuchlich and Meisoon Jumah, the Assembly Hall was magically transformed into a mountain ski village, inspired by the 1986 Calgary Winter Olympics. Here



Eddie spoke to a packed house, relating inspirational tales of his courage and determination to achieve his Olympic dream, so captivating the audience. The après ski party continued with live performances from the 6th Form bands Attacama and Lidocaine, while the guests enjoyed drinks from the amazing snow bar and a hot supper was served. Eddie was on hand for endless selfies and autographs, as well as to give tips on ski jumping should anyone have aspirations to

follow in his footsteps. Huge thanks to the Friends, the 6th Form musicians and pupil helpers, as well as to Lee Engineering, who provided the coolest stage lighting as a backdrop for our rock bands.



December festivities



It seemed that in no time at all Christmas was upon. Cath Mossop and the pupils invited parents and families to join in mince pie baking, with coffee and carols in the Food Tech Department. This was followed by the two Festivals of Nine Lessons and Carols at the Priory Church, the hospitality for which Catrina Holden kindly organised with the Friends. Hundreds of mince pies, were served with mulled wine at the carol services. The guests have since commented on the spectacular performance and talents of the school choir, who set the tone for the ensuing Christmas celebrations. Thank you to all involved especially to Catrina Holden and the Friends' team, and Emma Lamb, Head of Music, LRGS.

Burns' Night Celebrations



It seems that in a blink of an eye the Christmas holiday had passed and the Friends held their annual Burns' Night Celebrations on 18 January. Ticket sales, the grand raffle and prosecco auction were a major focus of our school fundraising. This year we were involved with partnership with Lancaster City Council to share profits from bar sales in support of the maintenance of Lancaster's historic buildings, which we are lucky enough to have access to for our functions and school events.

Guests were welcomed by the Friends and 6th Form students before being piped in at the grand staircase at the Lancaster Town Hall.

Piping of the haggis parade led to the traditional Burns' "Address to the Haggis" performed by Mr Richard Cowie. This was followed by a traditional Burns night supper, a "response from the Haggis" a ceilidh, grand raffle, prosecco auction and whisky tasting. The celebration was well attended with dancing of reels continuing into the night. As this event is a major fundraiser for the Friends, please do save the date for LRGS Burns Night on Saturday 16 January 2021. Details to follow.

School Shop

Our school shop continues to be a popular resource, and we were particularly busy in the early autumn months when we sold a massive number of school blazers and depleted our stock of LRGS sports kit. Currently there is a small range of ski wear available in advance of the half term school ski trip. We are always happy to accept donations of uniform and sports kit, particularly the rugby, PE, rowing and cricket kit (which may be left at City View). The School Shop is open during term time on Fridays 3.30-4.30 pm and Saturdays 10.00 -11.00 am, with cash sales only at present. Thank you to the team of Friends who continue to run the School Shop, and to all our customers.



LRGS and the Kinamaba Community Project Rwanda



They say charity begins at home, but supporting the Friends of LRGS certainly has a wider impact. We are thrilled to have a partnership with the Kinamba Community Project in Rwanda, where children proudly wear LRGS colours on receipt of donated surplus sportswear from our school shop. Here's what they said.....

"Once again, the Kinamba Community Project in Rwanda is very grateful for another donation of sports kit for our children. We are continuing to develop our links with the Rwandan Rugby Authority. All primary and nursery 2 children attend rugby coaching out of school hours. We are very proud that

we now have 3 students chosen to attend contact rugby training with the national under 18 teams, and there is every chance that one of them will play in tournaments in Kenya in June. We field different teams depending on the event. Most recently we fielded 2 girls' teams and one boys' team in a junior tournament. Our boys won the competition. One of our boys was named player of the tournament, and another senior boy was named player of his group. It is a source of pride to us and them that we are able to field teams in matching kit! I am attaching some photos which I think show the contrast between playing in kit and playing in their usual clothes. I am also attaching a photo of one of our girls looking very elegant in an LRGS shirt. Very many thanks.

Kathryn Pink Trustee - Kinamba Community Project



Coming soon.....

LRGS Spring Festival, Saturday 14 March, 12.00 noon

As well as being a Friends' fundraiser, the Spring Festival is a social event for incoming and current families, pupils and teachers alike. We aim to create a relaxed and enjoyable day, whatever the weather brings! Activities include:

- **Plant Sale:** Stock up on early bedding plants, or "bring-along-your-plants" to donate.
- **International Food Corner:** We are cooking authentic food from different corners of the world. Do come along for your Saturday lunch, or let us know if you are willing to cook a speciality dish to share!
- **Café, Cakes & Coffee:** Donations of cakes are very welcome. Please let us know in advance if you're willing to bake!
- **Chocolate Tombola:** Donations of any chocolate items and Easter Eggs are most welcome.

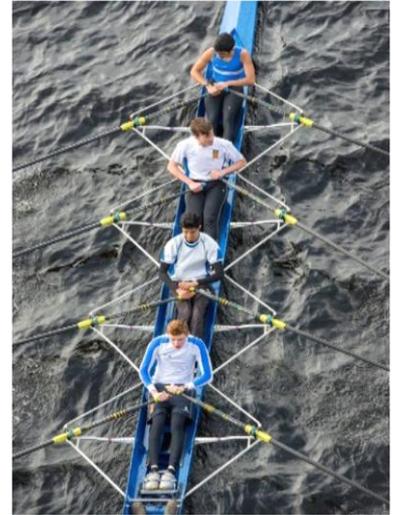


If you are willing to help, or would like to be involved, please leave a message at the City View office, Friends Facebook page or email friendsecretary@lrgs.org.uk

We have funded.....

During this academic year the Friends have provided the following:

- Sponsorship of the Year 7 Singing Day, September 2019;
- Prizes and materials for the LRGS Year 9 MasterChef Competition;
- Prizes for the Headmaster's Christmas Challenge;
- Trailer for LRGS Rowing;
- Portable cricket cage;
- Seismic measuring equipment for the Geography Department
- Wide screen TV from school House;
- Outdoor activity equipment;
- Photo frames for 6th Form art work and the new 6th Form centre;
- Various LRGS memorabilia,
- Board games for clubs & recreation.



Forthcoming events:

- Friends' Committee Meeting 7.30pm, Grab and Go , Thursday 27 February 2019;
- LRGS Spring Festival, Saturday 14 March 2020;
- Friends of LRGS Around the World Summer Wine Tasting; date to be announced.

Finally...

We *know* that Friends of LRGS make a valued contribution to our school, and we are very lucky to have such active parents. If you like what we do, then please think about joining us, even if only in small way. We'd love to have more involvement from parents, guardians, grandparents and families of pupils in years 7 to 11. Thank you, and do keep in touch via our Facebook page: Friends of LRGS.



We hope to see you soon!
Best wishes for 2020
Kind regards

Michelle Whitton
Secretary to the Friends of LRGS
Charity Commission Reference No: 1053685