

OGC *news*

The newsletter of The Leeds Girls' High School
Old Girls' Club

GSAL Launches Business Networking Group

The GSAL Business Networking Group has been successfully launched as a platform for parents and alumni to meet at the school, make contacts and exchange ideas.

The inaugural event was attended by around 70 people who heard speaker Dinah Bennett OBE talk about the benefits of networking and how to enjoy it! Dinah has researched and taught internationally on marketing related issues and the concept of networking and relationship management and how this impacts on successful business development. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and highlighted a number of themes of interest for the future. Comments included "great, useful evening", "very good speaker", "met some interesting people", "numbers were brilliant, speaker was superb", and "great first meeting, hope it becomes a regular event".

Our next event is on October 12th. If you are interested, please contact maryellen.wyrd@gsal.org.uk



Development Office Update

Welcome to the latest edition of the OGC news

Apologies for the late arrival of this newsletter. Bronwen is away currently, so I am covering her absence. Apologies again if you have submitted an article for this edition and it has not appeared. The next mailing and newsletter will be in the New Year.

Thank you to all of you have sent in a completed questionnaire.

If you would like to submit an article for the next edition, please do so by Friday 18 November 2011. Send copies and pictures to Development via maryellen.wyrd@gsal.org.uk, or by post to the school address. We welcome your news, memories and achievements. Keep them coming in! As always, we like to hear from any OGs interested in giving talks to our pupils on their chosen career paths.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events, perhaps the popular alumni lunches, the Christmas Buffet in November and tea and chocolate tasting at Bettys in March, or the Otley Golf Tournament and Reunion in May?

Thanks as ever to the Committee Members for their continued hard work, in our Leeds, London and Bristol branches.

Mary-Ellen Wyrd

Where's the Mousman Mouse?

Each issue we will be hiding the Mousman mouse somewhere within the newsletter for you to find...

LGHS Old Girls Golf
Competition and Reunion ...
see page 4 for further details...



News from Chris Bamforth

President of the OGC (report from March 2011 AGM)



It has been a very busy year, full of activities and events.

Over the last year, we have drafted and now finalised the Old Girls' Constitution (a copy of which is available to all, on request, from the Development Office).

The move from Headingley to Alwoodley continues. Sue Fishburn's portrait now completes the gallery of LGHS Head teachers, which is now housed in the GSAL Senior School. She sits alongside former Heads of LGHS, starting with Catherine Lucy Kennedy (Head 1876-1891). The portraits complement those of past LGS Heads. The stained glass Rose, from the School entrance, has also moved to Alwoodley and is awaiting restoration.

The 2010 OG Reunion dinner was held at Sand Moor Golf Club and was a very enjoyable evening. The company was excellent and numbers attending were very encouraging. The golfers had an enjoyable day. (Since then the Golf Tournament and Annual Dinner has once again been successfully organised by Lynn Aspland at Otley Golf Club, with a walk for non-golfers on the Chevin, by Paddie Breeze).

In November, the Old Girls were represented at the Remembrance Sunday Service, by Shelagh Robinson. It was a very moving occasion with many groups involved and was an example of the School's professionalism at its best.

The Christmas Buffet was full of festive cheer as Old Girls met and caught up over a lovely lunch. Guests were greeted in Reception by one of the School's jazz bands. The Principal, Michael Gibbons, said a few words of welcome and the event concluded with a tour of Alwoodley site – taking in the ADT suite, Assembly Hall, Refectory, Library and Theatre Foyer (home of the LGHS Honours Boards). Thanks must go to Andy Mirfin and his staff for the fabulous spread; to Mary-Ellen for organising the event and to Adrian Knowles for greeting us with his lively Jazz band in front of the Christmas tree.

Thanks must go to Bronwen and Mary-Ellen for their hard work and commitment in producing the OGC news. They certainly have moved this forward and the glossy newsletter is much appreciated by members of the Old Girls' Club.

It is always good to hear from Old Girls and for them to update us on what they are currently doing as both the Bristol and London branches do.

The London Branch met in October. Penny Rappak (nee Walsh) spoke of her interest in fabrics and textiles. The Spring meeting followed in March. The Bristol Branch met in April. The Branch covers a wide area and extends from Hampshire in the east to Devon in the West and the M4.

Thank you to all of you who attended the Celebration Weekend - the Old Girls' Club sponsored the table flowers at the Ball which was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to our representative Joanne Pellow who attended the planning meetings for the weekend.

As you will see from this newsletter, we are planning a number of events for the next year and we hope to see some of you there!

Christine Bamforth

Report of the Bristol Branch meeting for 2011

The meeting at the home of the Branch's Secretary in Bournemouth, having been fixed a year ahead, happened to coincide with the weekend chosen for the Royal wedding. However, that taking place on Friday 29th April and our meeting being held on the Saturday, members were able to enjoy both events.

It has been hoped that moving the venue to the East of our region might have encouraged more Old Girls from Hampshire and East Dorset to attend, but our numbers were once again very small. Margerey Rutter (nee Haygarth) was the sole representative from Hampshire as Ann Helliwell (nee Woods), who has hoped to come, was taken ill a few days before.

Jean Moore (nee Clegg) was in the middle of moving house and in the process discovered an old copy of the School song, which she sent us with an exhortation for us to sing it. We managed all three verses thanks to the presence of some former school choir members.

The rest of the meeting was spent as usual exchanging news and catching up with events in Leeds and an account of the London meeting from Wendy Stevens (nee Watson) and Sylvia Young (nee Smith).

The 2012 meeting will take place on Saturday 28th April at the home of Wendy Stevens near Bridport, Dorset. Details to follow in the next newsletter.

LONDON BRANCH REPORT ON SPRING MEETING

**Saturday 26th March 2011
@ 2.30 p.m., held at the
home of Lady Solti**

Virginia Graves welcomed everyone (24 of us + 3 husbands!) to the meeting, especially new members visiting for the first time. She also thanked Valerie Solti for hosting us in her home for the afternoon and for organising the musical students who would perform for us later on.



Virginia welcomed any ideas to encourage younger members to join us. One suggestion was to focus on a particular decade and/or invite daughters of ex-girls. It was felt that we should remain separate from the Old Leos from Leeds Grammar School, as they seemed to prefer rugby matches and dinners as opposed to our formula of a single speaker followed by tea!

Virginia invited Jackie Chalmers, Treasurer of the Branch, to report on the finances. Jackie reported that the finances were healthy at the moment and suggested we make a donation of £150 to the Solti Foundation and £100 to sponsor one student on the next trip to Malawi. We all agreed to both these suggestions. Jackie also volunteered to produce a flyer to be included in the next issue of the Newsletter being sent to Old Girls in the London area.

Virginia then welcomed Christine Bamforth (Deputy Head - Pastoral Care, GSAL) who had travelled from Leeds for the day to be with us. Chris gave a brief history of her time with LGHS/GSAL since starting in January 1982 as a P.E. teacher.

She commented on the fact that the girls seemed to have benefitted from the move in regard to site facilities, the additional space and the excellent sports facilities. The "diamond" system seemed to be working well too. Update on the LGHS site in Headingley is that planning permission is being sought. Meanwhile a television production company was renting the space for a medical drama, 'Monroe' being broadcast on ITV Thursday evenings.

Before handing over to Valerie Solti, Virginia announced she was giving us a year's notice of her resignation as Honorary Secretary of the OGC, a role she had performed for over 20 years. Valerie explained about the types of musical training she was involved with - the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia de Bel Canto (an annual summer school for young singers, held in Tuscany) and the Solti Peretti Repetiteurs course among others.

We then adjourned to the Studio Room where we enjoyed the musical talents of three students from the Royal College of Music - Laurence Meikle, baritone from Australia; Sonia Grané, soprano from Portugal and Yu Su who accompanied them both on the piano. They sang a selection of arias, a melodic love song and an Irish folk song. It was a superb performance greatly appreciated by us all and we all felt very privileged to be there.

Afterwards we then enjoyed the customary tea, sandwiches and cake.

The next meeting will be held in the large hall at St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, Knightsbridge on Saturday 15th October when Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones will be the speaker. Everyone was encouraged to attend and bring along a friend.



LGHS Old Girls' Dinner, Walk and Golf Competition

Once again a wonderful cross section of friends met up and thoroughly enjoyed chatting and catching up on the sunny terrace at Otley Golf Club on 6th May this year. The views across the Wharfe valley were spectacular.



Thanks are extended to Sheila Yeadon for planning the day and to Otley Golf Club for hosting the dinner and the golf competition.

For the first time, this year we decided to offer a walk for non-golfers. Paddie Breeze innovated, organised and led this glorious 2 hour circular walk starting from Otley Chevin's 'Surprise View'. Called the Fossil Walk this stroll was of fascinating special educational interest. The views were stunning and the afternoon concluded with a refreshing drink at the Royalty Pub. A lovely afternoon.

Meanwhile, seventeen golfers had a wonderful round of golf playing the Otley course on the most perfect of warm summer days.

Later in the day, after a convivial glass of wine on the Club's terrace, forty five Old Girls filled the dining room for an excellent evening meal followed by the golf presentation. Chris Bamforth presented the trophy to Greta Best and Nora Perry took second prize. Congratulations to them both.

As a result of the enthusiastic feedback to the day, we are already planning the 2012 event. We would like to make it an extra special day in order to mark the fifth year since the two schools amalgamated. I am sure that you will agree that, although many things change we are so fortunate to have held onto school friendships.

NEW FOR 2012

Why not begin considering 'taking a table' and inviting friends
Join us for;

- A round of golf
- An organised afternoon stroll
- Or just an enjoyable evening meal meeting OGs.

Come and enjoy the day – Friday May 4th 2012 at Otley Golf Club.

Golf 2pm Walk 3pm and dinner 7 for 7.30pm

Further details for 2012 will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Lynn Aspland

Old Girls' Events and Reunions

Tuesday 27 September 2011

OGC Leeds Branch meeting

Venue: GSAL Conference Room

Time: 6.45pm

Saturday 15 October 2011

OGC London Branch Meeting

Venue: St. Columba's Church of Scotland,
Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD

Time: 2.30pm – 5pm

Speaker: Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones

Those on the mailing list will be reminded nearer the time, but any Old Girls in the London area who would like to attend will be very welcome. Please contact Jackie Chalmers on (01483 579 343) / email: jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com or Virginia Graves (02392 375 482) beforehand, so we know how many to expect.

Saturday 26 November 2011

LGHS Old Girls' Christmas Buffet

Lunch – All welcome!

Venue: GSAL Senior School Staff Meetings Room

Time: 12 noon - 2pm

Cost: £10

See order form enclosed or contact Mary-Ellen Wyard in the Development Office for further details.

Please reply by 3 November 2011.

January 2012

OGC Leeds Branch Meeting

Details to follow in the next newsletter.

March 2012

Bettys Traditional Tea and Talk

Details of this to follow in the January mailing. Traditional tea to be followed by a talk on the history of Bettys and a chance to partake in some chocolate tasting.

March 2012

Spring London Branch Meeting

Details to follow in our next newsletter.

Saturday 28 April 2012

OGC Bristol Branch Meeting

Venue: Home of Wendy Stevens in Bridport

Details to follow in the next mailing.

Friday 4 May 2012

Golf Competition and OG Reunion – all welcome

Venue: Otley Golf Club

Do come and join us. Details and flyer to follow in the January newsletter.

OLD GIRL EVENTS

If any of you are organising an event and would like it publicising in this newsletter, or would like help organising a reunion, please contact Mary-Ellen Wyard in the Development Office.

Alumni Spring Luncheon Club

Those of you who did not manage to attend our first Luncheon Club on Saturday 26 March missed a real treat. We had an excellent lunch prepared by the school catering staff, and then were privileged to hear a most interesting and informative talk by Dr Simon Lindley FRCO, IAO, LRAM, Master of the Music and Organist of Leeds Parish Church. This was followed by a memorable organ recital by Simon in the school assembly hall. Simon enjoys the distinction of also having played the new school organ at its inauguration. Another distinction is that he has composed more Easter Carol arrangements than any other living British composer, amongst them being "The Bell Man's Song". Thank goodness he didn't ask me to sing this with him!

I do hope you will be able to join us at the next luncheon club event, which we will be organising in the autumn. More details will be in the next mailing.



Alumni Luncheon Club at August Flower Show

40 OGs and OLs were entertained at GSAL by Joe Maiden, well known gardener, horticulturist, author and BBC Radio presenter based in Huby, Yorkshire - along with a lunch and visit to the Leeds Flower Show. The successful Flower Show was once again held in the grounds of The Grammar School at Leeds. Lunch was provided by Any Mirfin and his staff. Please look out for more of these informal lunches and talks in the New Year.



What Are They Doing Now?

Rosalind Jack

Rosalind Jack (left LGHS 2006) returned to school on teaching practice as a Physics student teacher.

As part of her induction to the school



she shadowed a year 10 girl, accompanying her for a day to all her lessons and finding herself in Mrs Judith Kerr's English lesson. This really was blast from the past both

for her and Mrs Kerr, who taught Rosalind when she was in year 7 at LGHS!

After leaving LGHS Rosalind went to Peterhouse, College Cambridge where she read Physics. She then went on to complete her MSc degree in Bioinformatics at Birkbeck College, London.

At the time of going to press, Mrs M. E. Dick informed us that Miss M. E. Thwaites died peacefully in hospital in Eastbourne on 17th August 2011. Mrs Dick wrote the following piece earlier this year.

Miss M. E. Thwaites

Old Girls who attended LGHS in the late 1930s and early 1940s may be interested to know that Miss Thwaites, who taught PE then, celebrated her hundredth birthday in August 2010. She still lives in the family home in Eastbourne and when I telephoned recently, her carer said that she was reading the newspaper. Old Girls who were evacuated to the Hall at Bolton Abbey will remember her leading us to a distant field, armed with spades, as cow pats had to be removed before we could play hockey! She organised a very successful Open Day in 1941, with exhibitions of gymnastics, vaulting and dancing round the maypole. The following year, there was another Open Day with dances, depicting the nursery rhymes in the 'Children's Overture.' Phyllis Robinson and Joan Turton played Roger Quilter's music as

a piano duet. Out of school hours, we were grateful to Miss Thwaite for starting a Guide Company and encouraging us to work for badges. Without her energy and dedication, our three years at Bolton Abbey would not have been as enjoyable as they were.

Miss Jean Bedford

Headmistress of Ford House from 1944 until early 1970s, Miss Bedford celebrated her 100th birthday in June. She is fondly remembered by several generations of LGHS girls and staff who all wish you many happy returns!



Ann Irving (nee Lorie) Former Head Girl and OG

Ann pays tribute to her mother, the late Blema Lorie (nee Cohen).

My late mother, Blema Lorie (nee Cohen), who died in 2009, was born in 1920 as the youngest of 9 children to a family of Jewish bakers.

Although she was obliged to leave school at 14 and help out in the family business, she was a bright student and had already developed a great love of English. All her life she remembered and was able to quote to my brother Hilton and later on to her grandchildren, the poems, psalms, Christmas Carols and songs she had learned during her school years. She was an avid reader and also great at the Yorkshire Evening Post crossword.

In 1942, she met my Dad (who is now nearly 90) at a dance at Leeds University. He was a Polish student who had been at boarding school in the South of England, but became trapped here after the outbreak of war. When, in 1944, like so many other Poles, he joined the Army and was posted to Catterick, they decided to get married. After the war, as Dad had no home or family to return to in Katowicz, they made a life for themselves in Leeds.



(L-R) Helen Lorie (wife of Hilton); Frederika Lorie (former LGHS pupil and granddaughter of Blema and Clem); Harris Lorie (former LGS Head Boy and grandson of Blema and Clem); Ann (Lorie) Irving (daughter of Clem and Blema, former LGHS pupil and Head Girl); Hilton (son of Blema and Clem); Mr Clem Lorie (father of Ann and Hilton and husband of the late Blema Lorie)

It was Mum, possibly recalling her unfulfilled desire to go on to further education when younger, who informed Dad that if they had a daughter, she was to try for LGHS! Dad had no issue with this and so in September 1956, I started at LGHS in Ford House and progressed all the way through till 1967. And to Mum's delight was appointed Head Girl with Louise Morgan in my final term.

I was extremely fortunate to enjoy my time at LGHS and made good friends

with whom (thanks to the Old Girls Association and Friends Reunited) I am again in contact. My niece Frederika Lorie went on to have a successful time at the school (she left in 2007) and her older brother Hilton Lorie went to LGS, in due course being appointed Head Boy there.

You can imagine, then how strong a bond my mother felt with the new Grammar School at Leeds, having supported it over some 50 years, as a mother and then a grandmother, all those Speech Days, Sports Days, School Productions etc etc.

It was because of this that my father chose to have a plaque put up and establish a fund in her memory, to assist girls who because of financial constraints might otherwise be obliged to leave the school.

With the support of the Principal and Bronwen Ashton, the family met at the school on June 28th, poignantly 67 years to the day since my parents' wedding at the Psalms of David Synagogue in Chapeltown. And despite the occasion obviously being tinged with sadness, I think it also had a positive feel about it.

My late mother's aspirations for me can, through my father's generosity, now encompass even more girls!

God bless you, Blema.

Leeds Girls' High School Old Girls' Club

(London Branch)



An invitation to join us...

If you are living or working in the London area, we would like to extend a welcome to all Old Girls of LGHS and, more recently, GSAL, to come along to one of our London meetings. Or maybe you are just "down South" on a visit? If you would like to meet up with former contemporaries, share memories and enjoy some teatime treats and a chat, why not come along and meet us?

We are a friendly group of mixed ages, and of course we all have our former School in common. It's always interesting to meet Old Girls from across the years and hear what they are doing now. Many of our Old Girls have enjoyed a fulfilling career, and we actively encourage them to come along and tell us all about it!



At some meetings we enjoy sharing memories and indulging in a general chat about "old times", everyone is invited to bring along something for tea and we always have a wonderful spread. Even if you come on your own, you'll soon be made to feel welcome!

We currently have two Saturday afternoon meetings a year. Our Spring gathering is usually at the London home of Lady Valerie Solti, herself an Old Girl of LGHS, whilst our Autumn meeting is held at St Columbas Church, Pont Street, London (conveniently close to Harrods for those who enjoy shopping!).



There is no subscription involved, but as well as covering our costs, we always try to give a donation towards sponsoring a worthy student on a School project. Our thanks to Lady Solti are given in the form of a donation to support the Solti Te Kanawa Accademia in Italy, the school for aspiring opera singers founded in memory of her husband, Sir Georg Solti, the famous conductor.

So, if you want to give us a try and sample one of our meetings, and would like us to include you on our mailing list for an invitation, please contact Jackie Chalmers on 01483 579343 or by email jackie.chalmers@ntlworld.com.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Many thanks to all of you who attended our inaugural Celebration Weekend at the end of the summer term for pupils past and present.

It was an extremely successful event. The sun shone brightly as people enjoyed the sports fixtures (including Past v Present netball), Family Fun Day, BBQ, Swing Band, Drama productions, gymnastic displays, All Faith Service and the Big Summer Ball. Many thanks also to our representative Joanne Pellow for attending the planning meetings at school.

GSAL Scores '100 Per Cent' in Inspection Report

We are delighted to confirm GSAL has been awarded full marks for excellence in a recent inspection report by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, and we have achieved the highest possible rating in every category from academic standards through to music, sport, extra-curricular activity and pastoral care. In addition, the Inspectors used the Ofsted framework to rate the Early Years Foundation Stage at Rose Court as "Outstanding" in every category.

The junior and senior school was assessed on eight main areas of its provision - including quality of education, welfare and development of pupils, the standard of its teaching and governance. Rose Court nursery and pre-prep school was assessed on four main areas of its early years foundation stage teaching - provision of the programme; the effectiveness of its leadership and management of the programme; the quality of the provision; and outcomes for the children.

The report particularly draws attention to the high levels of confidence among pupils who are described as articulate, well-behaved and possessing a healthy competitive spirit, encouraged by the house system which promotes self-motivation. The inspectors also made reference to the high levels of cultural awareness within the school and quality of the pastoral care.

Principal Michael Gibbons said: "We are absolutely thrilled with the outcome of this inspection. It is hugely rewarding and wholly justifies our belief that we have created a great school with an exciting future."

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is the body approved by the government to inspect schools belonging to the Independent Schools Council. It is also approved to inspect the Early Years Foundations Stage (EYFS) which was introduced in September 2008 and applies to all children in England from birth to August 31 following their fifth birthday. A full transcript of the inspection report is available on www.gsal.org.uk.



Rose Court pupils celebrating the school's outstanding report.



David Gravells and Michael Gibbons, pupils, Governors and members of the Senior Leadership Team

GSAL Students Scoop Business Awards

Enterprising GSAL students have scooped 10 prizes at the Leeds Enterprise Advisory Programme (LEAP) award ceremony, with one company bagging an impressive six.

In total, 17 honours were up for grabs and the school's lower sixth students took 10 first places, three second places, two third places and two highly commended special awards at this year's finals.

The overall winning company was 'Treat Me Sweet', whose profits are going to aid youngsters in Malawi. They won the Westom Network Award for the Best LEAP Company 2011, as well as awards for the best presentation at the finals, the best company report, best presentation 2011, best marketing at all trade fairs 2010/11, and best trade stand at the Merrion Centre, Leeds for St Valentine's Day.

Other winning teams from GSAL were 'Impulse', who won the Spirit of Enterprise Award, as well as best trade stand at the LEAP finals; 'Vendetta', who won the Innovation Award; and Serenity, who won the Media Awareness Award.

'Treat Me Sweet' is headed up by managing director Francesca Whalen, with other roles filled by Callum Kenny, marketing director; Jordan Bickerdyke, finance director; Sophia McDougall, sales; Sophie Stone, company secretary; Emma Anderson, marketing; Isabella Buono, production director; and Lizzie Tomkins, sales.

The company sold a range of bath products to raise £1500 for two Malawian projects - the Open Arms Orphanage and Mary's Meals, a charity which provides a free lunch to all children attending school. Six of the eight students who set up the company took the proceeds to Malawi when they visited the country with school for three weeks in the summer.



Winning team Treat Me Sweet show off their awards. They are (L-R) Sophia McDougall, Sophie Stone, Francesca Whalen, Callum Kenny, Isabella Buono and Emma Anderson. (Not pictured Jordan Bickerdyke and Lizzie Tomkins.)

New Head Boy and Girl Team Appointed



The new team are (L-R) Callum Kenny, Abbie Hopkins, Chessy Whalen and Will Boardman.

Congratulations to Callum Kenny, Abbie Hopkins, Chessy Whalen and Will Boardman who will take up their new roles as head boy and girl team for 2011-12 in September. The team will represent the school on public occasions and open days, speak at speech days and house assemblies. They will also be responsible for organising the sixth form leavers' ball and producing a commemorative year book.

Junior School House Music

Kennedy is this year's winner of the Junior School house music competition. All JS children took part, earning a point for their house by performing to their class. Some children received an extra house point for their effort, while the winner and runner up from each class also earned extra points.

Class winners then went through to a year group final for the chance to win an HMV voucher.

Year group winners were: Joseph Sun, Hannah Andersen, Emma Johnson and Oliver Pettit. Runners up were Charlotte Brown, Toby Fawkes, Holly Hudson and Tasha Lenton-Thompson.



Winning Kennedy house captains Alice Harwood and Hanaan Nazir are pictured with their house music cup.

National Commendation For Junior Scientists

Junior School pupils Ananya Golash and Thomas Coates have been highly commended in a nationwide poster competition to mark National Science and Engineering Week (NSEW).

The two youngsters had their work chosen from 27,500 entries from more than 470 schools. In the competition, launched this year by the British Science Association, with support from BlackBerry®, children were asked to help solve some of life's problems, both small and large. 'How do you solve a problem like...?' asked pupils to investigate the problems and challenges we face and to invent their own innovative solutions. Their success came hard on the heels of Junior School being named runner-up in the NSEW national competition for primary schools.

Liberty To Work With National Youth Theatre



Liberty Jackson

U6 drama student Liberty Jackson has just secured a place with the National Youth Theatre.

The competition was particularly tough this year, with only 500 places and 4,600 students auditioning.

This was Libby's second attempt to gain a place with the NYT. She said: "The audition was really fun; it was a workshop. I then had to perform on my own and I acted the opening to 'Tin Can People' by Edward Bond. The second phase included an interview with a panel where I was able to highlight my love of theatre, as well as my interest in singing, philosophy and Noh Theatre!"

Head of Drama at GSAL, Antoinette Keylock, said: "Most students do not get into the National Youth Theatre first time and I am delighted that Libby has managed to secure a place. I am very proud of her achievement, but more importantly her strength of character to re-audition. I hope this will inspire more GSAL students to audition in the future!"

Anyone interested visit www.nyt.org.uk.

The Face Of Youth Netball



Lexy Shipley (front) and Francesca Tomasso in the photograph which won them a place in the England Netball campaign.

Two keen netballers from Junior School won the chance to become the face of the sport in a competition run by England Netball.

Lexy Shipley and Francesca Tomasso entered the competition, which was open to pairs of children aged nine – 16, to feature in England Netball's 2012 marketing and promotions campaign.

They were asked to send a photo of themselves, plus supply information on where they play netball, what the sport means to them and why they wanted to be the 'Face of Youth Netball'.

The girls were delighted to find out that they were among a number of girls from around the country to be picked for the campaign.

Lexy has attended a photo shoot in Birmingham during half term which Francesca sadly had to miss because of a family holiday.

Lexy writes: "A stylist chose my clothes and a make-up artist decorated my hair and face! The day was amazing and I felt really lucky to have been chosen."

Georgia Skis To Success



Georgia Pexton

Keen skier Georgia Pexton has competed in the British Grand Prix series and finished in the top three in both her races.

The Y5 pupil entered two slalom events in the 10-12 age group, coming second in the first race and third in the second one.

A Trio of First Tier Hockey Players

Three GSAL hockey players have progressed into the first tier of the Leeds Pumas Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC) hockey squad and are playing at North of England level.

If they continue to progress, Katie Toogood Y10, and Becky Hutson and Lucinda Obank both of Y9, will have a chance to go through into HiPac, the high performance assessment camps, which is the talent pathway for England hockey.

Kate Stephenson, head of hockey at GSAL, said: "To achieve this high level takes hard work and determination, qualities these three girls have shown over the years. Lucinda especially, has worked on certain aspects of her game over and over again, and this proves that success does not come easily but will be rewarded. I am very proud of the girls and what they have achieved; continued hard work will make certain they reach the next level."



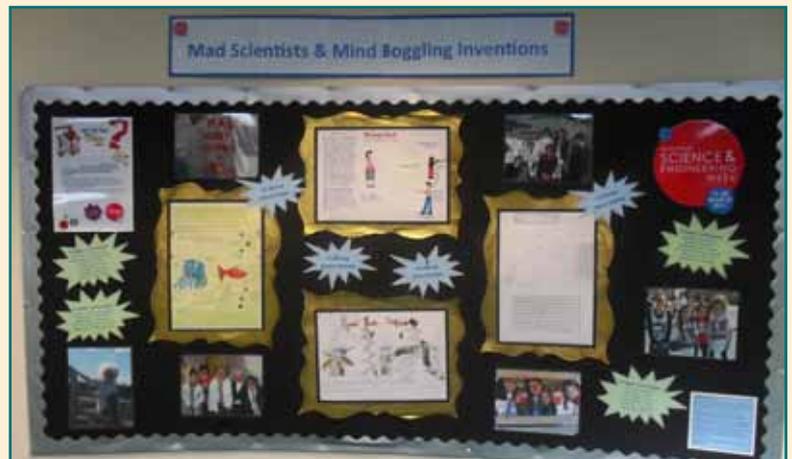
Photographed (L-R) are Lucinda Obank, Becky Hutson and Katie Toogood.

Sophie Becomes Ballet Champion

Congratulations to ballerina Sophie Wilson Y7 who has won the International Dance Teachers Association (I.D.T.A) Junior North and West Yorkshire ballet championship, 2011.

Science Poster Competition

During Science Week, Junior School pupils were invited to design a poster showing their 'mind-boggling' inventions. The winners in each year group were: Elie Glaser (Y3), Nikita Bharath (Y4), Amy Gratton (Y5) and Harry Gearty (Y6).



A display of the winning science posters designed by Junior School pupils.

Wins For GSAL Girls In Schools Badminton Tournament

Talented badminton player Ci Ci Lu has won the singles title in the key stage 3 girls' section of the Leeds Schools' Badminton Competition.

Ci Ci, who is in Y9, went on to win the doubles with her partner Rachel Miller, in Y7. Rachel also took part in the singles match and came third.

Head of Y7 Geoff Thompson, who also coaches badminton, said: "Congratulations to both girls who played really well. It has been a good year for girls' badminton."

Clear Rounds for Laura in British Eventing National Pony Championship



Laura on Otto

Talented equestrian Laura Birley Y9 was invited to take part in the British Eventing National Pony Championship at Brand Hall, as a result of very successful outings in three preceding pony trial competitions.

The British team was selected from the event and Laura came up against 45 of the best ponies in the UK.

The course was big and challenging but Laura did a super double-clear show jumping and cross-country on her pony, Ottava Rima, known at home as Otto, who is an eight year old Conemarra gelding.

Laura has owned Otto since he was five and has brought him up through the British eventing levels herself from intro (jumps at max 95cm) to Pony Two Star (jumps at max 120cm).

Charity Success ROUND-UP

Musicians Raise £1400 For 'Get a Life' Charity



A group of 30 musicians from GSAL performed at the University of Leeds' Clothworkers' Hall in aid of the 'Get a Life' charity. The concert was organised by the Headingley Rotary Club in aid of the charity, which was set up 17 years ago by OL Jeremy Spratt to support the work of the teenage cancer wards at the LGI. Jeremy subsequently died of cancer at the age of 23. The GSAL musicians provided instrumental and vocal solos and trios, together with some fine singing from the A Cappella and Barbershop Ensembles. OL, Mr Robert Tebb, who hosted the concert, expressed his gratitude to the musicians, saying it featured some of the finest playing he had heard in all of his 85 years.

L6 run for charity . . .



Back row (L-R): Tom Seehra, Callum Barr, Desmond Lau, Matthew Hill, Warren Bowman and Jeevan Matharoo. Front row (L-R): James Veitch (teacher), Catherine Burns, Vicky Greenwood, Fran Reeve, Charey Ryatt, Katie Holroyd and Andrew Wheeler (teacher).

Members of L6AW took part in a 5k race to raise funds for Martin House. As part of the 'fun' teachers Andrew Wheeler and James Veitch joined them and agreed to dress up for the occasion! The team raised £350 for the charity.

Summer Dream Mile for Malawi

Summer clad students ran a mile and raised more than £240 in aid of educational and medical charities in Malawi.

Students turned up for the summer themed event in outfits such as wetsuits, shorts, Bay Watch outfits and grass skirts. Some students took the run very seriously and raced around; others took a more leisurely approach and even strolled round the course, singing to the accompaniment of a guitar! This summer, teacher Barry Brindley will lead a party of sixth formers

and staff to Malawi to visit orphanages, schools and hospitals where they will decorate classrooms and hospital wards.



GSAL Open Events

at Rose Court, Junior School
and Senior School

Open Morning
Sat 15 Oct
9am-12noon

Open Doors
Tue 20 Sep
Thu 10 Nov
Wed 30 Nov
9am-12noon

Please contact us to book your place

The Grammar School at Leeds
Rose Court Nursery & Pre-Prep
Buckingham Road
Headingley
Leeds
LS6 1BP

Telephone: 0113 228 5121
E-Mail: enquiries@gsal.org.uk
Website: www.gsal.org.uk



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
AT LEEDS

For more information visit the website www.gsal.org.uk or, please contact Mary Ellen Wyard in the Development Office on telephone: 0113 228 5159, by email: maryellen.wyard@gsal.org.uk or by post to the school address.

This edition was compiled by Mary-Ellen Wyard with contributions from Alison Knight and Judith Kerr.