



# Lady Lumley's School Newsletter

15th February 2013 Issue Number 210



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Battlefield trip returns, ski trip leaves, primary school gymnastic event in sports hall, Year 6 to 7 Roadshow at Thornton Dale, Year 9 options evening, Governors' Teaching and Learning Committee, lead adviser visit and around 900 lessons. Just another week at Lady Lumley's School. There is more about the Battlefields Trip later in the Newsletter, but one quote I must share with you. The coach driver said "this is the best school trip I've had in 12 months" and the tour guides compete to arrange their schedules to work with Lady Lumley's students. Our students (your children) behave impeccably on school trips as clearly shown by the comments of the tour and coach companies. A big thank you to the students and staff involved.

Year 9 options evening is another big event on the school calendar, a time when students and parents consider the best choice of courses for Year 10 and 11. Lady Lumley's is proud to continue to maintain an open options process and to allow students to have a genuine choice about the subjects they want to follow over the next two years.

I hope you all have a lovely half term holiday. Richard Bramley

P.S. If anyone has lost a white cockatoo, please contact the school!

## **Battlefields Trip**

At 11pm last Friday the Year 10 Historians boarded a bus and set off to the Western Front. Liz, our intrepid tour guide, emphasised that this was not a 'trip' in the conventional sense, but an 'experience' designed to change the students' whole approach to life - a big promise! However, over the next five days it became increasingly apparent to all of the 'battalion' that these were not idle words. Whether it was standing in a water-logged trench, staring at a mass grave of 24,000 soldiers, or attending a public ceremony at the Menin Gate, there was a palpable sense of the group's growing awareness of the monumental nature of the Great War. Reading their reflective journals in the evening, it soon became apparent that, even a century later on, the First World War still has the power to shock and move people.



One of the key focuses of taking students to the battlefields is to help them to empathise with some of the experiences that young men felt in 1914-18. Therefore this was not simply a dry tour of historical sites, and nor was it constantly focused on the horrors and bloodshed of trench warfare. Students were taught to sing military songs with full gusto at appropriate moments, and were woken up to the wail of military bagpipes in their early morning ears. In the evenings, they were put through optional drill sessions in order to give them a sense of the rigid discipline new recruits suffered under. On the morning of the final day, students marched smartly up the Passchendaele road, retracing the steps of so many men in the third battle of Ypres. Their enthusiasm, discipline and general approach was, throughout, an enormous credit to all those who came out to Belgium and France this year.

We ended the trip with a moonlit ceremony at the Essex Farm cemetery, with its memorial to the West Yorkshire regiment. Many of the group had relatives who had fought with them on the Ypres Salient, and we had managed to visit some of their graves over the previous few days. Standing in a cold, dark graveyard, it was impossible to be unmoved by the words of our students, who overwhelmingly seemed appalled by what had happened. One said that this moment 'totally changed' them, whilst another wrote about how, standing there, it was 'impossible not to think of all the families that had been left.' On a personal note I am immensely grateful to all of the students for their attitude as we travelled around the Western Front, and in particular would like to thank Mrs Day, Mr Blacklock and Miss Horton for their enthusiasm and hard work on the trip.

Mr Hollis

### **Battlefields - A personal perspective**

The Battlefields trip was my first experience of an overseas visit, and such was the remarkable nature of the trip I felt as much a member of staff as a student. On each and every day the students behaved impeccably, at every site they displayed perfect listening skills and posed a number of interesting questions which were answered by our wonderful tour guide Liz.

The early morning starts weren't a problem and the settling down at night posed few if any issues for the staff, enabling them to sit down and evaluate the day.

The students were there for each other at difficult times as we visited sites which had personal significance. The compassionate nature of the group was certainly uplifting and I can wholeheartedly say that the students were a credit to the school, themselves and their country. I would only make two suggestions for improvement; their choice of film on the journey home (Mean Girls!) and their skills on the pool table (Sir played 4 won 4!).

My final thanks go to Mr Hollis, Mrs Day and Miss Horton for their company, their organisation and for making it a fabulous experience all round.

**Lee Blacklock, Learning Support Assistant**

### **Cross County Success**

**Emma Clapton** represented North Yorkshire Schools at the Inter County Match that was held at Guisborough last Saturday.

Whilst she was not obliged to take part as she had already qualified and booked her place at the English Schools Championships next month, she went on to win the Junior Girls' race.



### **'Look Good, Feel Great'**

Last year the Ryedale District Group of North Yorkshire Local Involvement Network carried out a piece of work with some members of the Ryedale Youth Council. The outcome of this work was that emotional wellbeing is a key priority for young people in the Ryedale District. Following on from this work the Ryedale District Group has decided to host a day which focuses exclusively on the emotional wellbeing of young people – **'Look Good, Feel Great'**.

The event will be held at **The Milton Rooms between 12noon and 6pm on 21<sup>st</sup> February** (during half term) and will include a wide range of activities and information stands such as:  
Laughter therapy workshops  
Mental Health workshops  
Art and Poetry workshops  
Live music from local bands  
.....and a huge range of opportunities for information, support and advice!

There will also be free food and drink throughout the session!

Jen Lewis, **Project Support Officer, North Yorkshire LINK**

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### **School Uniform - Ordering from Trutex**

There are various ways in which parents are able to contact Trutex with any queries:

1. Visit [www.trutexdirect.com](http://www.trutexdirect.com) and complete the online contact form, located in the bottom left hand corner of the home page.
2. Email us at [td@trutex.com](mailto:td@trutex.com) stating any order number and details of the query.
3. Text a query to 64446, starting the message with the word 'Trutex'. The text must include an order number and the nature of the query.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Monday 25th February**  
**Return to School**

**Tuesday 26th February**  
Youth Speaks Event, 6 for 6.30pm

**Wednesday 27th February**  
Year 10 ICT CiDA  
Year 8 Consultation Evening, 4.30pm

**Thursday 28th February**  
GCSE Maths Re-sit Unit 1

**Friday 1st March to Sunday 3rd March**  
Year 11-13 Himalaya Expedition Training,  
set off 12.30pm