



Lady Lumley's School Newsletter

1st March 2013 Issue Number 211



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

As you may be aware I am not naturally a fan of central Government initiatives, but, occasionally, they get things right (in my opinion). One of the better ideas, unleashed this week on an unsuspecting educational world, is the School Data Dashboard (go to the Ofsted report from the school's website). This is a snapshot of the key numerical information about the school in an easily digestible form. As you would expect, we look pretty good, but, as always, the 'numbers' are only one part of the picture. The total experience the students receive is far too nuanced to be expressed in a few bar charts. I think the articles in the rest of this week's newsletter say more about life at Lady Lumley's than the Data Dashboard ever could. Richard Bramley

Ski Trip

Last Saturday at about 10.30pm a coach rolled into the leisure centre car park, having completed a round journey of around 3000 miles. This brought to an end the epic ski trip to Bormio in Italy, where 39 students and 5 staff had spent the last week swooshing their way through the snowy Alps in mostly fabulous weather. Uniquely in my experience, this was a trip without significant incident or injury and, apart from some stiff, tired limbs, all the participants returned in more or less one piece.

It could be said by the un-initiated, that a ski trip is 'just a holiday'. However, over the course of our week away, we saw incredible growth in all of our students, making this an important educational experience. On the one hand they all got better at skiing. But this was about so much more than that. Whether it was trying to speak French/German/Italian in the various service stations we stopped at, budgeting their money to last a week, or simply working out which clothes were clean enough to wear, students were challenged at every moment. Even though they were constantly quite tired, they were required to be active at all times- belting out karaoke songs at one moment, and then attempting to stay upright whilst ice skating at another. From the loud and unsubtle wake-up call just before seven, this was an exceptionally busy trip, and it is not surprising that many of the students opted to go to bed well before the required time set for them.

On the slopes, there were some fabulous moments. Bormio is the site of the world cup run, a challenging cliff-like slope that loops its way back into the town from the top of the mountain. By the end of the week the entire group had skied at least part of it, and although some elected to go down on their face/back/bum they still all came out at the bottom with smiles on their faces. One of the main focuses of the ski lessons seemed to be going off-piste at appropriate moments, which certainly added a few white hairs to my head as I attempted to follow the younger (and much better!) skiers through moguls, trees and rocks. It is an amazing thing to watch young people being taken out of their comfort zone, facing up to a challenge, and then overcoming it successfully. This is what education is all about, and the ski trip provided it in spades.

On the final day the whole team competed in a slalom race, testing their new found skills and confidence. Although a few of the students came down the hill by unconventional routes or in an unconventional manner, it was great evidence of the progress that had been made. We then all piled onto the coach for a sleepy thirty hours of slight discomfort on the way home. The coach drivers commented that this was one of the best behaved groups they had ever had and I would like to back this up. Over the past fortnight I have had the honour of travelling all over Europe with students from Lady Lumley's and they have been nothing less than a pleasure to spend time with. Thank you to all of them. I would also like to thank in particular Mrs Arnold, Mrs Mitchell, Miss Turner and Mr Wilson for giving up their holiday to supervise the trip with such consistent energy and enthusiasm.

George Hollis



Swimming Success

Over half term, **Alex Lynn** took part in the Yorkshire swimming championships, swimming in the 100m Breaststroke and 100m Freestyle and came 1st in both races. Congratulations Alex.

Kathy Robson

Mark Fornum, DipABRSM

Well done to **Mark Fornum** who has successfully passed his performance Diploma in Alto Sax after a gruelling 40 minute program in front of two examiners in York just before Christmas, one of which was the principal clarinet player with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Clive Wass

Rosedale School House

There are some very exciting developments going on in Rosedale! Currently Lady Lumley's School is developing an outdoor centre in partnership with Rosedale Abbey School in the village. It is a residential centre, capable of sleeping 20 people with showers, toilets, kitchen, social areas and learning facilities. Once open, the centre will be open for all students to take part in a wide range of Learning Outside the Classroom activities including: outdoor education, fieldwork, enrichment opportunities, Duke of Edinburgh's Award and much more. It will be also open to community groups such as the scouts, guides and walking groups.



This is a very exciting project and it is almost complete. All major building work, including fire alarms, electrics, showers and toilets has been completed and it is now up to us to decorate the centre ready for students to use. We are planning student and staff visits to do some of this work but we would greatly benefit from parents and members of the community who would like to help out with this amazing project. In particular we are looking for a plasterer who would be willing to re-skim a few walls for us. If you are able to help out in any way, from painting to plastering, please contact Dave Mann at school. dmann@ladylumleys.net

Cross Country Report

This time, **Bronwen Owen** and **Emma Clapton** were representing Scarborough AC and not the school at the National Cross Country Championships, held at a very snowy Sunderland last Saturday. Bronwen was 9th in the Under 17 race in her first year in the age group, whilst Emma was 13th of the Under-15, and also in her first year in a higher group. They were by far the top scorers for the club.



Poetry Competition

I would like to share one of many our students' successful stories with you. Sometimes it is easy to forget all the vast opportunities that exist outside of school, especially as you go up the years and exams become an ever greater priority. However, one of our sixth form students recently took part in a poetry competition with the fantastic result of coming first place as well as being shortlisted for the entry into a magazine. Here is a taste of the talent.

Penultimate Act

My smile; a front
with no depth to bestow.
Like a house fully built
but no lights to aglow.
Pulses turned mute
inside a stale château.
Those that ask
where did you go?
I choke, and reply;
I died long ago.

Anna Ward-Gow

It is always wonderful to witness student achievements that result in hard work outside of the classroom. Well done Anna. You have made us proud. Changming Wu

Red Noses - down to our last box - don't miss out

Also lots coming up for Comic Relief during week beginning 11th March - please support this very worthwhile cause.

Anne Charlton, Sixth Form Student Services

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 4th March

Yr 11 GCSE Art Exam practical Session (11B) am
GCSE Maths Resit Unit 2 am

Tuesday 5th March

Yr 11 GCSE Art Exam practical Session (11D) am
Yr 13 A2 Drama Exam (9am-3.30pm)
Yr 11 Football, Norton College pm
Yr 10 Football, Ryedale pm

Wednesday 6th March

Yr 13 A2 Drama Exam & Performance (9am-8pm)

Thursday 7th March

January Exam results issued

Yr 12 English Language study day, Manchester
Yr 8 Partnership Netball Tournament, Ryedale pm