



# Lady Lumley's School Newsletter

24th May 2013 Issue Number 221



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Today we say our official farewell to the Year 13 students with the final assembly this morning. Many of the students have been part of Lady Lumley's for seven years and, even for those students who joined us in Year 12, we know that Lady Lumley's will always be a part of them. This is a lovely school and I'm sure the students will miss being here, although, if we've done our job right, they should be ready to spread their wings and move onto new and exciting futures. Local Authority advisers (here at our invitation to do a 'health check') confirmed our opinions about the school and, in particular, reported that staff and students feel that the school is a special place and that such feelings are "priceless". I know that the sixth form leavers echo these feelings.

And examinations are still with us. If your child is in Years 11, 12 or 13, please do everything you can to help them make the next week as productive as possible in terms of preparation for their examinations. Doing something every day is a great idea, and please don't let them leave it all to the night before.

There were a couple of clues in last week's newsletter about changes ahead next year which the sharp-eyed amongst you will have spotted – the increase in the number of classes in next year's Years 8 and 9 and the change in lesson length. Lady Lumley's is a good school with a strong reputation and so we tend to attract new students during the year. When the current Year 7 and 8 started, we split them into 5 tutor groups and 5 teaching classes (6 for technology). As the year groups have grown, we now feel that 6 groups in each year is more appropriate, and, as we have been very careful with our budget, we can afford to employ the extra staff to make this happen. Smaller classes are a 'good thing' but, as with any change, there is a downside.

Students will be used to their tutor group and would have been expecting to stay together for the whole five years, and now they will be in new groups. To some extent, this happens naturally throughout the years for teaching groups and much more so when the students reach Year 10, but we normally do not change tutor groups in this way. The process will be handled as sensitively as possible and students will be consulted on friendship groups as they were when they first entered Year 7. If you have any particular questions, please contact either me or Kathy Robson at the school.

Parents and students may be wondering why it has taken so long for official news of the 3 period day and 100 minute lessons to be released. This year, we began again to look at the proposals in the Autumn term with Governors, then senior and middle leaders and then the whole staff. This process takes time, and we shared the ideas with students in the last two weeks and the parents' forum on Tuesday. All of the discussions were robust and questioning, and all of the forums could see that the benefits of the change outweighed any disadvantages. Students in Years 10 to 13 are already experienced in learning in longer lessons of double and triples (120 minutes and 180 minutes respectively) and primary age children are used to whole mornings or afternoons of integrated activity. I have spoken to staff who currently teach longer lessons and their feedback has been unanimously positive. Interestingly, I asked each teacher what their thoughts were when first faced with the prospect of longer lessons. Whilst the general feeling was one of trepidation, this quickly left them as they began to appreciate the flexibility inherent in the structure.

There was a lot of discussion about this last academic year and the rationale behind the change remains the same. There is no definitive research evidence which says longer lessons are better (or worse!) than 50 minute or 1 hour lessons. This is because schools which have changed to longer lessons have changed other factors as well – something which is probably inherent in this process. What is clear is that schools with longer lessons report improvements in attainment and achievement as a result of better student progress as a result of more effective teaching and learning. Schools with longer lessons do well and have positive Ofsted reports (please let me know if you find evidence to contradict this). If you look into schools with longer lessons, they tend to be in clusters – Suffolk and Cornwall/Devon for instance. This is because schools see their neighbours using this model and improving and so want to do the same.

In terms of contact time in the different year groups, Years 12 and 13 will have slightly more time with their subjects, Years 10 and 11 will remain largely unchanged and there will be some alterations in Years 7 to 9 as we divide the time into different sized slots. The beginnings and endings of the school day will remain the same, although internal timings will obviously have to change. I will explain more about the suggested structure of the day in the next newsletter.

Richard Bramley

### Sports Leaders

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May Lady Lumley's Sports Leaders facilitated **swimming and hockey** events for the local cluster primary schools. In the afternoon **nine students organised the swimming gala** at Ryedale Pool, undertaking roles such as starter, start and finish marshals, timekeepers and computer scorers. All students were impressive in their roles as they enabled the primary swimmers to compete in a safe and hugely enjoyable gala. The overall results were:

1<sup>st</sup> – Pickering Juniors

2<sup>nd</sup> – Thornton Dale

3<sup>rd</sup> – Sinnington 'A'

4<sup>th</sup> – Sinnington 'B'

The top two teams go through to the Ryedale and Whitby School Sport Partnership final held at Ryedale Pool on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

At the end of the day **two students led a hockey session** to a group of pupils from Pickering Junior School. The two leaders organised the warm up and hockey drills, as well as finishing the event with a four team mini-tournament.

Well done to all primary pupils for taking part throughout the day, and also to the ten Sports Leaders who organised the events so successfully.

**Sports Leaders involved: Louise Scupham, Nicola Craggs, Lucy Rose, Megan Green, Joe Dunnet, Harry Jowett-Spring, Chris Cook, Emma Clapton, Caitlin Frith, and Abigail Pollard.**

### Year 8 Girls in Physics event - 13th June

We have been invited to take 30 girls to this event at the University of York. The aim of the event is to promote physics to girls (nationally there is a low take up of physics at A level by girls). All girls in the year group will have their name 'put in a hat' with the first 30 pulled out being invited to attend. Letters and further details will follow after half term.

Science Department

### Scarborough & District Football Open Trials Graham Lower School (Raincliffe Site)

The trials for your respective year group will take place on the following days:

**U13s (current year 7) - 18th & 25th June 6 - 7.30pm**

**U14s (current year 8) - 19th & 26th June 6 - 7.30pm**

**U15s (current year 9) - 21st & 28th June 6 - 7.30pm**

The squads will be selected after the second trials. These are open trials, meaning anyone who is interested in playing for your district may attend. If you intend on going to the trials, please see Mr. Buckley. If you are selected there may be weekly training held in Scarborough, which you **must** commit to.

School cannot provide transport to trials/training, please ensure that your parents/carers are able to take you to the trials on the given dates.

If you want any more information please see the PE department.

### Year 8 Oscars for Local History AV Project

Please could parents and carers encourage all Year 8s to collect the best possible VISTA assets for their joint ICT/history project. VISTA stands for Video, Images, Sound, Text and Animation and the history department have worked hard to set every student up with their own choice of project. Meanwhile the students have been learning video editing techniques in the ICT department ready for when they return after half term. We ask that every student completes their 'assets' table and brings a folder (on their memory stick) with all their assets to the first ICT lesson back after half term. There have been some superb films made (see Fronter for examples and criteria) over the 5 years we have run this project ranging from "The Cayley Flier"; an unexploded bomb at Eberston; the Scarborough Spa Orchestra; to some extremely emotional histories of grand-parents and other relatives. Prizes will be awarded for Best Story, Best Technical and Best Overall Film with the winners being shown in a special assembly towards the end of term.

Kate Day and Chris Sharples on behalf of the history and ICT departments

### Athletic Track Success

**Bronwen Owen** made her debut for Great Britain Juniors at the annual Loughborough International Track and Field meeting. The event included teams from the four home countries, Great Britain Juniors and Loughborough University students past and present.

In the women's 3000 metres race, 16 year old Bronwen finished in a most impressive fifth place in 9 minutes 34seconds, which was inside the qualifying time for the World Junior Championships. The quality field included race winner Lisa Dobriskey who was a finalist in the 2012 Olympic Games 1500 metres, and former European champion, Laura Whittle who was second. Bronwen finished ahead of five senior athletes representing Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday 3rd June**

**Return to School**

**GCSE and GCE exams continue**

**Tuesday 4th June**

Year 10 rounders tournament, Malton 4pm

**Wednesday 5th June**

"Let's Get Global" parents meeting , 6.30pm

**Thursday 6th June**

Year 9 rounders tournament, Scalby 3pm

"Let's Get Global" parents meeting , 6.30pm

**Friday 7th June**

Bratham Horse Trials