



Lady Lumley's School Newsletter

6th September 2013 Issue Number 229



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

What a fantastic start to the new academic year. After a jam-packed staff-training day on Monday, on Tuesday the new Year 7 intake joined the school and looked and acted superbly. Thanks to the excellent transition programme which has been running since Autumn of last year, all the students felt comfortable and at home in the school and have already begun to settle into the new routines. Also on Tuesday we welcomed back the new Year 13 students after their 'stonking' AS results and we warmly greeted the new Year 12 students fresh from their GCSE successes. Tuesday afternoon was devoted to getting course choices sorted out for the sixth form students and then Wednesday was back-to-school day for everyone. And what a great few days it has been. We now have 100 minute lessons, the afternoon registration slot, new tutor groups in Years 8 and 9 and different roles for the senior staff and student support staff. Anyone familiar with Charles Handy's sigmoid curve will know that the time to make changes in an organisation is when all the indicators are that everything is going well and the organisation is on an upward trajectory. Lady Lumley's has been very successful for quite some time and 2013 was a really good year, so this is the right moment to build on these strong foundations and move the school on to even greater heights.

We have also made changes at classroom level which may, in the long-term, have even more impact. The school is now a "no hands-up" zone, a practice which has been adopted by many schools and was wonderfully described in the Dylan Wiliam's 'Classroom Experiment' programmes a few years ago (which I described then as recommended watching for anybody who cares about education). The traditional practice of allowing students to choose who answers which questions and who avoids answering questions is not a great way to challenge students or to assess their understanding. We have also adopted the "silent signal", again a common practice in many schools, especially primaries, which is an essential component of cooperative learning. As we are encouraging the students to work together as much as possible, we need a way of attracting their attention and bringing the class together quickly and painlessly. The silent signal is an amazingly simple and powerful way of achieving this, as parents and carers who were here on the July induction evening for the new Year 7 will remember. And then there is cooperative learning, a proven and effective way of involving the students more in their own learning and boosting achievement. In every classroom where furniture can be moved, tables are arranged to facilitate cooperative learning, and in four of the classrooms we have extended this to using round tables rather the standard rectangular school desks.

This is going to be a really exciting year.

Richard Bramley

Well done to all staff who took part in a sponsored swim last night in aid of the Animal Welfare Foundation.



New Staff

We welcomed 18 new staff to the school for this academic year as we expanded staff numbers in key areas as well as replacing personnel who left us last year. Dawn Briston, Joanna Fowler and Felicity Barker have joined the student support team as advanced teaching support staff; Elaine Penley-Martin has become the administrative assistant for the specific learning difficulties team; Julie Middleton has joined us as technical support for the art, drama and music departments; Stephen Elliott is an additional member of the IT technical staff; Claire Brackley joins the office staff and Fiona Shepherd is our new cleaning team supervisor. The new teaching staff are: Lane Stephenson and David Jones (Mathematics), Lee Douglas and Kerry Hammond (PE), Sarah Jennings, Ruth Sudlow and Tiarnan O'Cleirigh (English), Ruth Dawber (Science), Abbie Pye (Geography) and Judith Pearson (specific learning difficulties team).

Uniform and naming uniform

I know everybody associated with Lady Lumley's School knows how important we take the appearance of our students. At assemblies this week I have already complemented the students on how smart they were looking and reminded them that the way they look sends messages to their teachers, their peers and themselves about how they feel about themselves and their studies. I was on duty on Wednesday lunchtime, and was really pleased and proud to see the way the students behaved and looked. Uniform is important, and I want to thank all the parents and carers who work with us to maintain such very high standards in the school. In assemblies, I also pointed out to the students the mountain of lost property piled on the stage. It is difficult to return things to their rightful owner as items are not named. Please, please, please ensure everything your child brings to school has their name on it. This year, we are operating a new system where lost property will be displayed for a week and then removed from the school. Any items named will, of course, be quickly returned to the students. Richard Bramley

For prospective students and parents of years 5 and 6



Lady Lumley's School, Pickering Open Evening

Wednesday 2nd October
18:30 - 21:00

For further information call 01751 472846
or email admin@ladylumleys.net

LADY LUMLEY'S School

A high performing 11-18 School

LADY LUMLEY'S LOVES LEARNING



Racing Success

Dan Chapman has had a fantastic summer!. Dan was racing in the 2 day, moonlit madness at Scunthorpe, after making the final on the first day, he unfortunately did not finish as he was involved in a crash with another vehicle. after repairs to his car during the night, he raced again the following day where he came first in the final. Dan also raced at the fastest man on grass at Sturton on Stow, Lincolnshire. Here he again managed a first place , becoming fastest junior special on grass. It doesn't end there as Dan took part in the ladies and juniors nationals at St Neots, Bedford, where he got a second place. This is a two day meeting requiring lots of heats and semi finals. With 64 junior specials from the UK racing, this was a great result. Well done Dan!

PARENT FORUMS

Tuesday 22nd October 2013, 6:30 pm
Tuesday 10th December 2013, 6:30 pm
Tuesday 4th February 2014, 6:30 pm
Tuesday 1st April 2014, 6:30pm
Tuesday 20th May 2014, 6:30 pm
Tuesday 15th July 2014, 6:30 pm

Further details will follow closer to the dates.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 10th September
U16 Mixed Hockey, LLS 4pm
Year 9 Netball, LLS 4pm

Thursday 12th September
Year 12 Induction Event
Year 7-9 Football, LLS