



@LongridgeTowers



Longridge Towers School

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Longridge Towers School



Weekly News Friday 7th September 2018

It was wonderful to see everyone in school this week – in the glorious sunshine yesterday, and pleased in the rain this morning that the school photograph will take place next month!

The school's 330 pupils heard Mr Lee exploring the arts of listening with Ellie and Mikey (and Mrs Monkman) during yesterday's assembly. They also listened to the advice given by a monk to two very different travellers and Dr Dalrymple discussed how a positive, optimistic frame of reference can be useful when approaching new opportunities. The energy levels were high with excitement as pupils met each other after the summer break, with a few pupils looking forward to a rest this afternoon having not seen such early mornings for a while! We hope that the midweek start, and the weekend break, will help.

As we continue to focus on providing an excellent all-round education at Longridge, we are delighted to welcome five new members of teaching staff at Longridge this year. Hannah McDaniel and Rebecca Scalici join us teaching our J1 and J2 years in Jerningham. Corey Johnston and Deborah Whitcombe join as a teacher of Geography and as Head of English & Drama respectively. Roxane Piskol, formerly from the school's exchange partnership with Wolfenbüttel school, is supporting classes in Stobo and the boarding team as a Gap Year Student.

Over the summer, Longridge students were to be congratulated on their examination results which were featured in the local and national press. This Weekly News is a brief round-up of those results, with an update from pupils and alumni over the holiday period and several community links that might be of interest. There is also a short note about school uniform.

If you have news or photographs for the school's weekly news, please continue to send them to mburns@lts.org.uk

GCSE Results



GCSE candidates were delighted with what they have accomplished whilst handling the change in the content and style of the GCSE examinations this year.

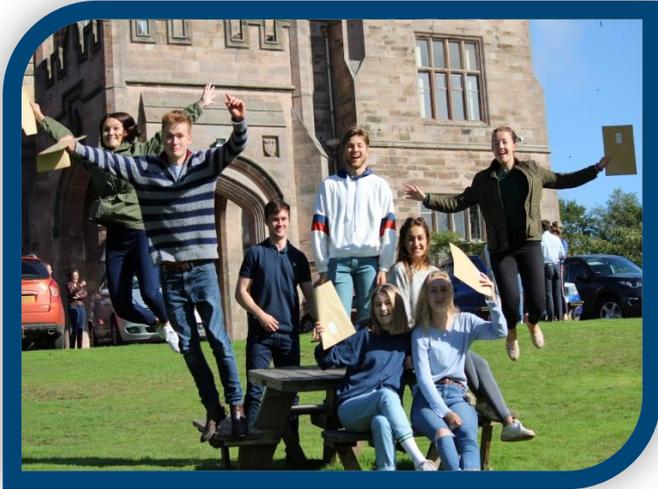
Olivia was pleased with seven grades at A and A* (or what would have been this level with Grade A being equivalent to a Grade 7 this year). A special mention should go to Tom who achieved A* grades in both his Mathematics and Further Mathematics GCSEs (and also secured six further grades above 7); Grace who achieved eight grades above 7; Jake who celebrated achieving six grades above a 7 and an A in his Further Mathematics.

The Spanish department was celebrating with 60% of pupils achieving 7, 8 or 9 grades. In the new science examinations, 41% attained a grade 7 or above.

There were several pupils who had battled against the odds to secure their GCSE grades this year. Emily, who was attending hospital visits and operations for throughout the exam period, secured an excellent set of results including grade 8s in Sports Science and Geography. The three other pupils had joined Longridge in Year 11 having missed much of their GCSE education in the previous year due to disruptions for personal reasons in schools north of the Border all managed to secure strong passes in their examinations and have taken up places in the Sixth Form.

The School sees joiners from Dunbar, Duns and Newcastle in September 2018 onto a wide range of Sixth Form courses this week. We are looking forward to seeing this year group continue to succeed and develop their career aspirations in the Sixth Form.

A Level Results



A' Level students were delighted with their results which see 39% joining the Russell Group which represents the UK's leading 24 universities. Students' interest in continuing their education beyond school continues to be strong in the sciences, and this year girls bucked the national trend by taking up more places than boys for Medicine, Biology, and Physics degree courses. 90% of pupils went to their first choice of university with sixth formers looking forward to take up places all across the UK. Later this month, Longridge students will be studying in Belfast (History), York (Biology), Aberystwyth (Geography), and Dundee (Law) amongst other locations.

This was the first year that the examinations have been set at the end of two years of study and without any modular assessments. All of the students who took up the opportunity within their A' Level courses to take an Extended Project Qualification achieved an A* or A grade. 52% of all grades at Longridge were A*-B.

Two Longridge students are preparing to take on apprenticeships. Rebecca is looking forward to starting with IBM in London after securing a place amongst a highly competitive field; and Archie is taking up a software and web development position with Inforgen in the Borders. Several students this year have already taken up work locally and are seeking to travel and volunteer before taking up deferred university places next year. Four Longridge students who sat their A' Levels last year have been supported in their applications by the school team have also secured places to study Business, Early Years and Film and Television Studies after travelling and working last year. It has been a pleasure to see so many students celebrating at Longridge and clearly ready for the next stage in their lives.

Old Skool Disco – letting hair down before Founders' Day last year



Sparkles, spandex and school ties were the theme for this year's LTSDA summer event. The 'Old Skool Disco' was open to parents, friends and former pupils with an option for a 70's and 80's dress code - which nearly everyone took advantage of. Especially the teachers, Sarah Maddock and Sandra Bullen did Cyndi Lauper proud while Madonna (aka Vicky Smith) danced away to Material Girl. Lucy Gourlay came in a sparkling 70's ensemble and David Armstrong had a chance to be a school

boy again!

The sports hall was transformed taking everyone back in time to a retro, neon flashing, disco ball, school dining room. Records for place mats, glow sticks for flashing colour and sweetie bags of retro sweets were kindly gifted by Glenham Property.

After being welcomed with a renamed Mojito to a Daddy Cool, (courtesy of The Living Leader and Robertson's) guests nibbled at the 80's style hedgehog canapés. The florescent and sparkly clad LTSDA team did a fabulous job of selling CD's which put guests in for a chance to win an amazing prize of dinner, bed and breakfast package at the luxurious Doxford Hall. The winning CD went to Gus and Bronwyn Armstrong.

Guests then had a delicious supper of fish and chips cooked by MacKays fish 'n' chip van, which was parked outside the sports hall and hand delivered by the impressively turned out Fifth and Sixth Form pupils. Ice cream then followed, and then straight into cocktails and dancing. The flashing, retro dance floor was packed out while everyone boogied away to old favourite 70's and 80's tunes, played by DJ Luke. The general consensus was that it was a huge success and while it was aimed purely as a social event and not a fundraiser, the LTSDA raised £1,800 towards future school activities. A huge thank you to the LTSDA team, led by Lucy Armstrong and Julie Gilmour on the night, and all those who helped tirelessly to make this a memorable occasion.

If you have a view on the theme for the next LTSDA event or would like to help out in any way, please contact Lucy on LTSDA@lts.org.uk or join the LTSDA AGM on 17th October at 7pm.

School Uniform

It was a delight welcoming back our pupils this week, looking refreshed and overall very smart. We do expect Longridge pupils to take a pride over their appearance, and would ask for your support in helping them

achieve this aim. The general rule of thumb is that pupils should avoid having hair styles, make up or dress in such a way that attracts attention to them. The majority of pupils were wearing their uniform correctly, and one or two have been given a little early guidance on some aspects which require a little more attention. The areas for our pupils to focus have included: ear rings - one ear ring in each ear only, please, and these should be small gold studs; shoes should be kept clean and clear of mud; hair for Forms 1 - 3 girls should be worn tied back, and for Forms 4 - 6 should be off the face; hair for all boys should be off the collar but not trimmed below a number two cut; girls in Forms 1 - 3 should not be wearing make-up, though from Form 4 upwards, discrete make up is permitted; skirts should not be overly short - a good guide is that they should sit comfortably at the top of the knee.

My thanks in anticipation of your support with this. Mrs Cheer

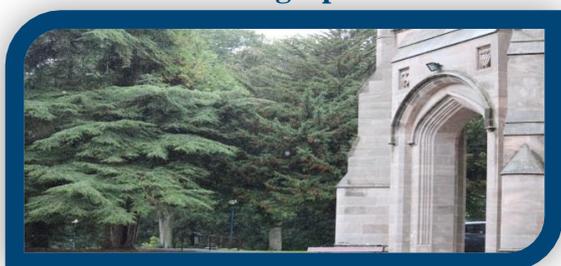
LAMDA Results

Ms Phillips is looking forward to handing out the Speech and Drama awards next week. There are almost 100 pupils receiving results from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA).

Form 5 Parent Information Evening

As you may have seen in the calendar, all parents of Form 5 are invited to attend an information evening in preparation for the year ahead with a special focus on exam preparation. Further information will follow.

Whole School Photograph



Due to the weather forecast this morning, the decision was made to postpone the whole school photograph.

This has been rescheduled for Friday 12th October at 9am.

Pupil News

Iain (pictured right) completed his triathlon competition racing during the summer holiday and finished 5th overall out of 62 competitors at Chateau de Chantilly outside Paris in France on the 25th August. He cycled most of the way around the disciplines. Well done, Iain!



Longridgean News

Greg Manning



Congratulations to former pupil Greg Manning, son of former Headmaster Tim Manning, who married Andrea over the summer. Pictured with them is Imogen, Greg's sister, who was a bridesmaid. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

Euan Garrett

Last week, Euan performed in the National Youth Ballet in Birmingham. As ever, he was brilliant.



Shannon Lowrie

Shannon left Sixth Form this summer and took part in the Tall Ships Race from Sunderland in July 2018. The City of Sunderland has the honour to be the start port for The Tall Ships Races in 2018.

Community Links

Kelso Ice Rink

The ice-skating season is nearly upon us again! If you have children up to the age of 16 who fancy learning or improving an elegant sporty skill, please note the Borders Ice Skating Club starts its season on Sunday 30th September at 12:15 at the Kelso ice rink. The first day of the season is a sort of open day with parents and

anybody not passing as 16 or younger allowed on the ice as well. Though there will be no structured lessons that week, tutors are at hand to teach individually and help with advice.

Heritage Open Days

Heritage Open Days is a national event in England taking place over this weekend and next weekend. There are a number of events taking place in North Northumberland this weekend (Union Chain Bridge; Ford and Belford) and lots in Berwick next weekend, including Longridge Towers School. For more information on these days please click on the links below.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/longridge-towers-school-guided-tours>

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Union Chain Bridge

Union Chain Bridge will be closed 9am till 5 pm (intermittently) from 11th September for 10 weeks during weekdays for vehicular traffic. It will be open at weekends for pedestrians and cyclists

Week commencing 2nd September

Sat	08-Sep	Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition (Form 5) Departs <u>Rugby</u> : LTS/Berwick v Trinity Academy	8.30 am
Sun	09-Sep	Bronze DofE Qualifying Expedition (Form 5) Returns	4.00 pm
Mon	10-Sep	Peripatetic Music Lessons Commence <u>Football</u> : U16 v Boston College, Argentina (H) <u>Netball</u> : U16 v Boston College, Argentina (H)	9.00 am 9.00 am
Tue	11-Sep	Expedition Fundraising - Senior School 'Cake' Sale <u>Rugby</u> : U13/U15 v Clifton Hall (A)	10.50 am 1.30 am
Wed	12-Sep	F5 Art Trip, Edinburgh <u>Theatre Trip</u> : The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Maltings	9.00 am 7.00 pm
Thu	13-Sep	Brucegate Dental Mouthguard Fittings Sixth Form Film Night Form 5 Parent Information Evening - Exam Preparation	9.00 am 5.00 pm 6.30 pm
Fri	14-Sep	F4 GCSE Art Trip, Edinburgh Botanic Gardens	9.00 am
Sat	15-Sep	<u>Rugby</u> : LTS/Berwick vs Lasswade	