



Newsletter April 2018

Welcome to the Spring newsletter. I write to you at the end of a busy term. In the past few weeks we had our annual Residential Ofsted inspection, which went very well. Once again the inspector was really impressed with the level of understanding demonstrated by the residential team, and by the quality of care and support provided by them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residential team for their hard work and dedication; we hope that the official report will be available for us to share with you after the Easter break.

Over recent weeks the girls have been developing their independence skills. Our year 11 students are developing their independent learning skills, preparing for their forthcoming GCSE examinations, and we hope to see lots of them at our revision sessions on 3rd & 4th April. Our Year 10 students were fantastic ambassadors for the school during their work experience week earlier this month. Girls participated in a wide range of work experience placements including offices, primary schools and beauty salons. We were very proud of the Year 10 students, and have received very positive reports about their time in the local community. We would also like to thank our Governors for coming in and conducting mock interviews with our Year 10 students to help them prepare for their work experience.

We have enjoyed extending our community links over the past half term. In February Sarah Hendrickx gave a fantastic presentation to parents. Sarah also worked with a range of students across year groups, sharing her experiences of growing up autistic. In recent weeks students in Year 7 have visited a local synagogue to learn more about Jewish traditions and beliefs. Our Year 10 students have been practicing their canoeing skills on the River Wey in readiness for their D of E Bronze expedition in the summer. The girls have some natural canoeing ability and have demonstrated some fantastic team work in the practice sessions. Recently we learned that a member of our alumni, Natalie Slater, has been selected to represent GB at the Special Olympic International Games in Abu Dhabi in March 2019, in the mountain biking event, which is fantastic news! To support Natalie please go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/cyclingathletestoabudhabi>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for completing the parental attitudes survey earlier this term. I am pleased to report that the majority of parents stated that Limpfield Grange enables their daughter to make good progress, that their daughter enjoys coming to school and learning new things, and that Limpfield Grange effectively meets their daughter's needs. Areas that parents reported we could be better at included explaining the new grading systems for reporting progress to parents, and preparing the girls for the future.

In response to this feedback we will add a glossary of reporting terms to the Spring term report, and we are working on developing our Careers Guidance across the school.

At the end of this term we say goodbye to some colleagues who are leaving Limpsfield Grange to find new adventures. We wish Miss Henderson, Mrs Millard and Mr Pinchin the very best of luck for their future endeavours, and thank them for their hard work. After the Easter holidays Miss Grant will join us to teach Art, Mr McMillian will join us to teach KS3 Maths, and Mrs Millburn will teach KS3 English next term. In September 2018 Mrs Onipko will be joining us to teach KS3 English.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy spring break. I look forward to seeing the girls when we return to school on Monday 16th April 2018.

With best wishes

Sarah Wild - Headteacher

Governor Update:

Having walked past the front gates of Limpsfield Grange for more than forty years and having known class mates of my daughters who have gone on to be pupils there, the opportunity to become a governor of the school was too good to pass by when I saw an advert in the St Johns Parish Newsletter last Autumn. Now I have been a school governor before, at Hurst Green School, and I found that to be a really fulfilling role, so before I knew it, I had contacted our Chair of Governors and the week after, been interviewed and offered the job.

Six months in, and a couple of committee meetings under my belt and I'm starting to get the swing of it. First impressions count, and what I saw of the school, its staff and its pupils from the first visit onwards has been impressive and moving.

My first proper interaction with the pupils happened last week when I came in to conduct some mock interviews with two candidates who were about to start work experience week. Two very different characters but both very impressive in their individual ways. In my line of work, I have interviewed an awful lot of people, usually in less than ideal circumstances and so have got used to spotting the genuine from the manufactured. Both girls came across so positively and I really hope they enjoyed their work experience and learnt new skills from it.

And this seems to be the area I will be focusing on, as I have been asked to be the lead governor for careers and so am starting to research what I need to do to help and support the teaching staff in their endeavours to prepare the older students for life beyond the school gates. Wish me luck!

Nick Ephgrave