

# LSA TECHNOLOGY AND PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

"A learning community in pursuit of excellence"

Winter Edition

21st December 2018

## Message from LSA



## THE END OF ANOTHER BRILLIANT TERM

Dear Parents,

We just wanted to take this chance to wish all of our parents, students, colleagues and governors a fantastic Christmas and New Year. The Autumn term is always a challenging one, with the dark nights and cold weather but the general sense of care and pride around school is wonderful.

Again, we have put together a small selection of items that show how busy we have been. We can only ever capture a small flavour of what we do, but it is nice to know what is happening throughout our community. We have also taken the opportunity to share lots of information that we hope will ensure a smooth start to 2019.

Some of the main developments this term have been the promotion of Recognition Points, recognising students for their excellent work in living our values of aspiration, endeavour, integrity and respect. Focusing on how many good things our students do is genuinely inspirational.

We have also introduced better opportunities for parents to discuss progress at the Meet the Form Tutor Evenings, which have received excellent feedback so far, as well as suggestions for the future.

As the year goes on, we are reviewing small aspects of our uniform, but only in the form of potentially introducing an alternative skirt (to allow choice) and making available normal ties (which will have to be worn properly!) This is not as straightforward as it seems, so I will keep people updated after Christmas after conversations with suppliers.

There is also the constant social issue of mobile devices and the challenges of integrating them successfully in a school environment. Feedback last year from parents was mixed and it is clear there is a lot of confusion around different applications and their recommended age limits.

We have existing rules around the use of phones that we really need to reinforce, asking everyone to play their part. This will be picked up next term, with some work with our Digital Leaders.

Through these newsletters, it is nice to report many good news stories. The success of the school has ensured we are likely to be full next year, with waiting lists now in each year group. We have worked in assemblies about taking pride in our school, whilst also recognising the fact that we can't have a place for everyone. It is a lovely school with so many positives, we often forget how lucky we are to work here and how great the opportunities are for our young people.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas along with a peaceful and happy new year. I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2019!

**Ray Baker, Headteacher**

### THE LAST DAY OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays at 12:30pm on Friday 21st December and will reopen again on Monday 7th January 2019.

The first week back will be a week A.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!**



## LSA COMMITMENT TO READING: LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT IS COMPLETE!

Over the past three years, the Library has been transformed into a valued space for independent learning and teamwork which is a hugely important part of education and the Library aims to give every learner access to the very best in books and cutting-edge technologies available today.

### Research

Before any work began, staff and students were surveyed and interviewed to devise a new model for the Library to encompass all the features needed. Meetings with students showed us that a new approach was needed to meet all the separate demands on the space by users: Making homework projects, reading, revising for exams, working in groups and preparing presentations. The design concept aimed to achieve this by separating the Library into three areas "Make", "Present" and "Reflect" as identified by wall graphics.

### Design Concept

The design and plans were kindly drawn up by Jo Kember of Gilling Dod Architects & Interior Designs (a member of the PTFA), who have played a significant part in developing our ideas and turning students' and staffs' dreams into a beautifully crafted reality.

**Make:** The Make space has new equipment for student to support their academic work including 3D printer, miniature computing hardware for coding and media equipment which gives students the opportunity to express their creativity and opens up a whole range of possibilities for imaginative homework projects and student invention.

**Present:** The Present area has an amphitheatre space with silent-disco headsets for presentations and recitals.

**Reflect:** The Reflect area has been opened up into a larger reading area with additional comfortable seating and improved shelving layout for browsing. The new design will also make the impressive fiction collection more accessible through the use of a Central Pod for catalogue searches and book promotions.

**Study:** A small separate study space has been developed as a bookable meeting and study room for groups of students who are doing committee work or projects and will also work as a totally silent study space at lunchtimes and after school near to exam times. The newly laid out space will be available to rent out to external groups and companies at evenings and weekends.

**Lights:** Lighting up the whole space is some new highly energy efficient LED lighting which is far superior for students reading and studying in the space.

### Support

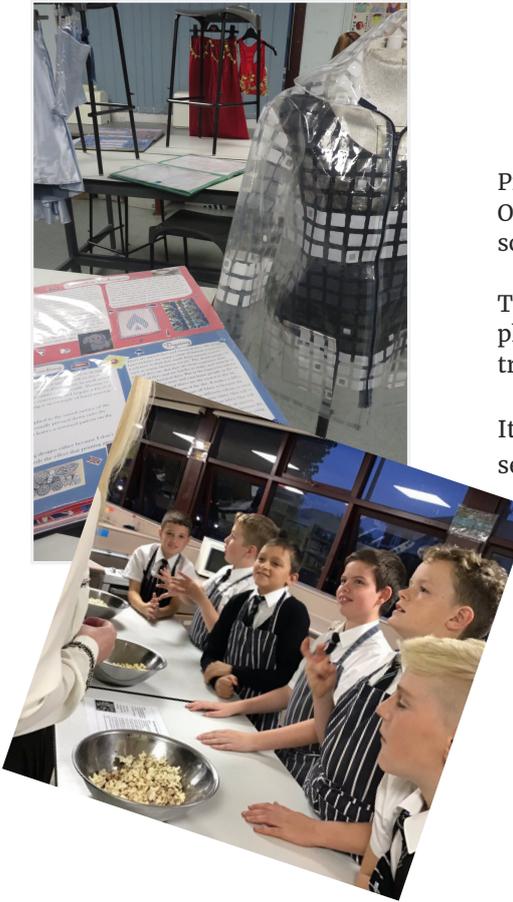
This project has been supported by the School's PTFA, LSA Governors, Students and Staff, Booths St. Annes, The Local List, Gilling Dod Architects & Interior Designs, Lytham Schools Foundation, U.K. Energy Watch, Brian Hodgson Electrical, J.E. Harrison Builders, Marc Anthony Flooring, J&J Decorators, CLC Contractors Ltd, Glendale (UK) Ltd, Lustalux and Lazy Day Cakes.

# OPEN EVENING- WHAT A SUCCESS!

Prospective students and parents were invited to our Open Evening on 4th October to see what we have to offer at our popular, happy and highly successful school.

There were a huge variety of activities such as our Modern Foreign Languages photo booth, Humanity quizzes, exploring our refurbished library and even trampolining taster sessions!

It was great to see so many people visiting our school and we look forward to seeing you all in September.



## PTFA COLOURS FASHION SHOW

The Colours Fashion Show and pop up shop on 18th October was a success, loads of people came along to support the event and picked up some fabulous bargains, brands such as River Island, Top Shop, Marks and Spencer's, Viyella and many more top name brands were available with massive discounts. We hope to host similar events next year so watch out for these being posted on the school website and our social media sites and don't miss out on grabbing a bargain next time!!

Thanks to everyone for their support at this event and for turning up to shop and enjoy a great night out.



## CAREERS FAIR

On 29th November we welcomed several further educational providers, apprenticeship providers, the Armed Forces and local businesses to LSA Technology and Performing Arts College for our Careers Fair. It was a busy and informative evening.

We hope you all gathered as much information as possible during the Careers Fair, however if you would like more information or couldn't attend then contact our careers department who will be available to answer any questions you may have regarding next steps and potential careers.

Thank you to the providers, parents and students who attended and those who helped out.



# PUSHING THE BOAT OUT EXHIBITION

Several of our Art student have had their art work displayed at Fylde Gallery (from Saturday 27th October to Thursday 29th November 2018) as part of an art competition based on 'The Sea', including the new RNLI lifeboat at St Annes. The art work has been further enhanced with historical information courtesy of the Lytham St Annes Civic Society, Lytham St Annes Heritage Group and also the Lancashire Schools Museum Service.

Mike Lonsdale, Head of Art, said "This has been a wonderful opportunity for our youngsters to really engage with the wider community in Lytham."

The Art Department celebrated at the prestigious Awards Ceremony of the 'Pushing The Boat Out' Exhibition scooping two top prizes. We won the overall exhibition prize and the 15 – 16 age group category. The exhibition is themed around the sea - inspired by the launch earlier this year of the new St. Anne's RNLI lifeboat 'Barbara Ann'.



# LSA DRAMA STUDENTS PERFORM AT PEARTREE SCHOOL

On Tuesday 27th November, 11 of our Y11 Performing Arts students spent the morning at Peartree School working alongside students and staff on a 'World of Work' week project. We joined forces to give the students an idea of how actors work in rehearsal and devising and used a range of acting techniques to create a short performance based on Dr Suess' 'The Grinch'.

Both sets of staff and students gained hugely from the morning and the chance to work with young adults with a range of different physical and educational needs was invaluable. Our students took the lead in group work helping to shape the creative ideas and encouraging the Peartree students to take centre stage with some outstanding performances as a result of their team efforts.

Paris Millar said on returning 'this has definitely made me want to work in a Special Needs school when I'm older'.

Izet Shaban said 'the atmosphere in the school is amazing.'

Elizabeth Brunton commented how the whole experience was a lesson in how the arts can be inclusive 'it was great how we all just worked together to create our pieces and forgot about any differences we have.'





## GCSE PRESENTATION EVENING

On Thursday 15th November, former pupils at LSA and their parents and teachers attended the school's annual GCSE Presentation Evening.

This was a lovely event to celebrate the achievements and hard work of former pupils throughout their five-years of education at our school.

As well as being able to collect their GCSE Certificates during the night, it was also a brilliant chance for ex-students to catch up with friends and teachers and celebrate in each other's successes. Congratulations to all students who received an award and/or their certificates!



# OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## NON UNIFORM DAY



Following work with our student council, we have agreed that there will be a Christmas Themed non-uniform day for students on Friday 21st December. Despite some concerns expressed via social media about our requests for sensible clothing, we would like to ask that the same consideration is given this time. Whilst we expect large numbers of Christmas jumpers, we would ask that clothing is sensible and appropriate to a school (no crop tops, offensive slogans etc) If there are concerns on the day, we will provide school uniform to avoid unnecessary absence.

The charity committee will be dividing the funds between two chosen charities; The Edward Dee Fund and the Project 25Zero.

## TRAFFIC/ROADS

Following the recent rain, there are a number of issues with the drains on Albany Road, creating large puddles. We have contacted the Local Authority and have asked them to investigate and clear as soon as possible.

We have also been asked to remind parents that the former bus bay cannot be used for parking or extended waiting periods. Whilst it is a benefit to the other road users that our parents have somewhere to drop off, it does not work so well as a pick up point. Recent weeks have seen a number of parents pull into this area, with others overtaking and passing at speed. There are no crossing markings therefore, students from the bus stops will be walking across throughout the time at the start and end of the day.

## EXPECTATIONS AND STANDARDS

I know it is a recurring theme, but a new term is always a great place to take stock and remind ourselves of the rules, expectations and standards that we have at LSA. After Christmas, it is intended that there is a big push on uniform standards, especially shoes. I am also attaching a link to our Home School Agreement, that we have worked on with students in school. This is a set of guidelines to help us all. Please take five minutes to ensure your child recognises them and is able to support them.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!!

