

Lammas Newsletter

Autumn 2 - 2022



THE LAMMAS
SCHOOL

Please remember to regularly check the Lammas app for up to date news and stories. You can also follow us on [@thelammasschool](https://www.thelammasschool.com)

Sporting successes

Since September, Lammas have provided over 80 sporting opportunities with over 150 students representing the school in various sports. We have competed in football, basketball, netball, handball, table tennis and indoor athletic leagues and competitions.

It has been great to see so many students enjoying and playing competitive sports once again. For the basketball and 11-a-side football teams, the season will come to its conclusion between February and April with many of the teams in a good position to gain success. Some of the school's sporting highlights so far are:

- U16 Girls Waltham Forest Netball silver medallists
- U16 Girls Waltham forest Table tennis silver medallists
- U15 Girls Handball Waltham Forest silver medallists
- U15 boys Handball Waltham Forest bronze medallists
- Year 7 girls Waltham Forest football Plate silver medallists
- Griffin Sporting Festival- numerous sporting winners.



Drop Down Day

On Monday 14th November, we held a special 'Drop Down' day. This is where all pupils are off their normal timetable, to engage in alternative activities. Each year group had its own focus, related to our PSHE curriculum. Activities included:

Year	Focus
7	Essential study skills
8	WiseUp Hub Challenge
9	Study Skills Roadshow
10	PE, Food, Nutrition and Science
11	Careers and KS5 progression
12/13	What is the 'super-curriculum'?

We are so grateful for the numerous external speakers and organisations who came in to run so many of the sessions.

Sixth form

Sixth Formers have been settling in to their newly refurbished common room. It is wonderful to see them feeling comfortable and at home, while also making use of this additional area for study.



Students had a visit in December from an external speaker; Simon Gleeson. They enjoyed listening to how a career in finance or law can lead to becoming a millionaire!

Congratulations to all our students for completing their UCAS applications. Two of our students have secured interviews at Oxbridge. Usman will be interviewing for Engineering at Oxford, while Melvin will be interviewing for Law at Cambridge. We wish them both the very best of luck.

On 4th January, our sixth formers will be going to Geneva for the International Committee of the Red Cross in CERN, with money they raised themselves. They also got to nominate two year 10 pupils for academic excellence, who will get to join them. Well done to Mairya and Ryann. Their spaces will be paid for by the Griffin Schools Sports and Arts Fund.

Robotics and STEM

Led by Ms Bux in our Science department, year 8 and 9 students have been involved in a UCL challenge on Robotics. As well as being a fun activity, this is particularly helpful for students considering choosing STEM subjects at KS4 and 5, and in getting more girls engaging in STEM learning.



Year 7 Parents' Evening

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed over 70% of families of our youngest students in person on Thursday 1st December. Covid had meant that for some time, parents' evening had been conducted remotely. The evening ran from 4-7pm and we were so pleased to have the opportunity to meet in person with so many families. We will continue to offer parents evenings and additional parent events throughout the year in this way as we enter this renewed phase of normality.

Teens and Toddlers

We have 8 students participating in a 16 week programme called *Teens and Toddlers*.

Each student involved receives personalised mentoring from one of two members of staff from an organisation

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called Power2: a youth development organisation which provides programmes that support young people to develop crucial life skills, improve confidence and boost self-esteem through mentoring and positive psychology.

These students will study towards a nationally recognised NCFE qualification in interpersonal skills.

After two initial 'in-school' learning and preparation days back in November, they are now making weekly visits to Willowbrook Primary where they mentor reception-age students, supporting their learning and development.

Spelling Bee



Throughout December, our Y7s competed in the GST Spelling Bee. Huge congratulations go to Balkis for winning this year competition!

Year 11 and 13 mock exams

Our exam cohorts: year 11 and year 13 have had their first round of mock examinations, which started on Wednesday 29th November. They have had their first taste of revision for multiple exam subjects in the same week, strict exam conditions in our school hall, and of course, exam papers that mimic the standard required by summer 2023. With a very small handful of exceptions, students responded well to this challenge and we look forward to sharing their results with them in January.

Thank you to those parents who attended our session on how to support pupils through exams. This can be a very stressful period for students and their families. If you missed the event but would like any advice, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Music Event at Ely Cathedral



On 2nd December, students from our year 7 choir, alongside pupils from our fellow GST school Willowbrook, performed as part of a crowd of 3000 musicians at Ely Cathedral in a performance named *In Dulci Jubilo*.

They performed beautifully and enjoyed being part of such a large event. Thank you to Ms Dimova from our Music department for organising this trip for our pupils.

Parent Feedback

We thank the huge number of you that responded to our parent survey. With over 150 of you taking the time to complete this, we feel our results are a truly representative sample of our Lammas community.

We were so pleased to find that the majority of you agree or strongly agree with so many of the dimensions we asked for feedback on, particularly around your children feeling safe and happy. This was echoed even more strongly in our pupil survey.

One area you told us you'd like to feel more informed on, was understanding what your children will be studying. As a reminder, our curriculum maps are available on our website, here: <https://lammas-gst.org/curriculum-year-7/> with termly overviews for KS3 sent via our app.

We have also launched our 'Pupil Leadership Group'. Their role is similar to that of a traditional prefect and they are already doing a brilliant job. They can be easily identified by their ties: green for lower school and purple for upper school.



Christmas

On Thursday 8th December, we held our Christmas Jumper Day. Students were invited to wear a Christmas Jumper and raise money for Save the Children.

We extended our canteen in the school hall and got started a little early on lunch to allow us to provide a free lunch to every student. With Christmas decorations, festive songs and stuffing a-plenty, students and staff sat together for this special meal. For those pupils who aren't a fan of brussel sprouts and parsnips, there were cookies dipped with chocolate and sprinkles. It was a pleasure to see so many smiling faces.

We wish every member of our school and wider community a very happy and restful Christmas break.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday 4th January.

Dates for your diary for next half term:

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 rd Jan	INSET for staff
Wednesday 4 th Jan	Students return Geneva trip for Y10 and UVith
Wednesday 11 th Jan	Initial meeting of the <i>Parent Leadership Group</i>
Thursday 12 th January	Y11 Results and Parents evening
Thursday 26 th January	VIth Form Parents evening