



LADYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

a Specialist Sports College

Newsletter Spring Term 2013



Dear Friends of Ladybridge,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. It still feels very wintery though!

Ladybridge High School is a Good school with Outstanding Leadership and Management [Ofsted January 2013]

On Tuesday January 8th, Ofsted phoned to inform us that we were to be inspected on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th January. In a strange sense, we were actually looking forward to this call simply because everything has been in place for a long time to secure a good inspection.

The Inspectors were very pleased with the school on a number of levels: for leadership, academic results, teaching and learning, behaviour, safety & attendance. One of the highlights for me was the feedback about our very special Ladybridge students and staff.

'Behaviour in lessons and around school is good. Relationships are very strong and the students are anxious to please their teachers and strive to be the best they can in lessons. Students enjoy school, they arrive to lessons on time and overall attendance exceeds the national average by some margin...The school's senior and middle leaders are highly effective in their roles and help ensure the achievement of students is at least good...the school knows itself very well and is constantly seeking ways to improve students' quality of education even further.'

Please rest assured that we certainly will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do.

Attendance at Ladybridge High School is in the top 20% of all schools in the country

We are delighted to announce this remarkable achievement. Thank you to everyone for securing this accolade. This certainly is testament to the fact that this is a happy, safe and secure school.

Ladybridge High School is oversubscribed for September 2013
Friday 1st March saw prospective Year 7 parents across the country feverishly opening their letter stating which secondary school their children had been allocated to for September 2013. I am delighted to share with you that Ladybridge High School is oversubscribed again this year with a long waiting list. I should like to thank the whole Ladybridge community for working so hard to ensure that Ladybridge remains the school of choice in the local community. Long may this continue!

Our newsletters are intended to give you at least a flavour of all the wonderful news that Ladybridge has to share. Enjoy the read and here's to a highly successful Spring term!

With warmest wishes,

Hilary D'Arcy
Headteacher



(Picture by permission of Bolton News - www.boltonnews.co.uk)
A TRIUMPH: Ladybridge High School Headteacher Mrs D'Arcy celebrates the school's Ofsted report with pupils, Sheldon Renshaw, centre, and Tristan Sutch, both aged 12

UNICEF Week 2013



Last year, our UNICEF fundraising was driven by Mrs Hughes' and Mrs Lowe's mission to do the Machu Picchu trek. They kept our fundraising efforts going right throughout the year and the result is the staggering figure of £3922.81 – our largest total yet! A huge thanks must go to these intrepid explorers whose focus on raising money to support the poorest of the world's children is simply wonderful and a great example to all our students.

This February saw our sixth annual UNICEF week. Our focus this year was to support UNICEF and other charities' efforts to rid the world of child hunger through the 'Enough Food For Everyone IF...' campaign. Two million children die of hunger each year yet the world has enough food for every child. Our Ladybridge students were extremely energised by this focus and organised lots of imaginative ways in which to raise as much money as possible to support the campaign.

The usual cake stalls and pampering parlours appeared throughout the week but this year we had some interesting new ideas to raise money. One Year 11 form organised a table tennis competition which ran throughout the week and Miss Richards ran a 'Name the cockroach' competition! Mr Dickson's class did a sponsored swim for 5 miles, which is the average distance that children walk in developing countries to get clean water to drink.

Many thanks to all who have donated so far. So many children's lives will be changed by the money we raise.
Ms A Zammit (Assistant Headteacher)

Lakeside Challenge 2013



Six students from Years 9 and 10 (Philip Winstanley, Ryan Phillips, Ryan McClusky, Sam Smith, Danial Mushtaq and Adam Vally) accompanied by Miss Beattie and Mr Barlow spent the weekend (15th - 17th February 2013) at YMCA Lakeside taking part in outdoor activities such as climbing, King Swing, crate stacking, group canoeing, night fell walk, and initiative activities collecting points. This was part of a challenge against other schools across the country. The winner of the challenge will be informed in the near future and will receive a trophy. The students had a fantastic time and were a credit to the school.

Landscape in a

Mr Wyatt's Geography Year 7s have been busy this term producing 'Landscapes in a Box.' They produced an action plan and sketch of a geographical location that is close to their hearts or simply inspires them. The students then peer assessed each other offering valuable feedback before presenting a short piece to the rest of the class. All they need to do now is reflect and evaluate their learning and they will have earned one of Mr Wyatt's coveted Bronze stickers and a lovely OS map of the area. Well done to everybody who completed the work.

The photograph shows the best of 7KHL's landscapes as voted for by their peers.



CHRISTMAS MARKET



Twenty-eight Year 10 and 11 students were invited to spend a day in Manchester visiting the famous Christmas Markets as a reward for their effort, achievement and attendance.

The market stalls had mouth-watering delicacies from all over Europe. These included an array of food and drink from Dutch mini pancakes to Hungarian goulash; Spanish paella to French profiteroles. Other stalls sold gifts, crafts, jewellery, clothes and toys. It was a truly international event with a wonderful atmosphere and a uniquely Mancunian flavour.



Although the weather on the day was wet a great time was had by all with several purchases made.

Drama Department



Rehearsals are underway for this year's school production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Rehearsals are held on Monday and Fridays after school and students are still welcome to get involved. Behind the scenes, Mr Mistry and Mr Williams are painting the scenery, costumes are being made and props are being sourced to make the show bigger than ever. Production week starts on the 30th June with technical and dress rehearsals and the performances nights will be 3rd, 4th and 5th July. Tickets will be available soon, so

keep a look out for the release date and buy yours before they sell out.

Bolton Octagon Visit

The education and participation team at the Bolton Octagon used Ladybridge students as consultants on their new piece of work this term. Year 9 drama students took part in a workshop led by the team about racism, linking in with their latest theatre production called 'Tull'. Students used drama and discussion based activities to share ideas and thoughts about the topic, then those ideas were used by the theatre company to create a piece of theatre.

The theatre in education piece is now touring around schools in the Greater Manchester area. Students had the opportunity to watch the performance created using their ideas on Friday 22nd February and were excited to see their words being spoken by professional actors. The session was followed up by a workshop session with the actors and they also had the opportunity to ask them questions about the show and the acting profession.



On December 15th, fifteen Ladybridge staff walked eleven miles from Ladybridge High school to Derian House, Chorley in memory of former student Abigail Lightbown.

After the walk the staff were offered a tour of the hospice and met some of the patients. They raised over £1,000 and Ladybridge students and staff also managed to collect over 3,500 bottle tops to help Derian House with a new and exciting project.



(Picture by permission of Bolton News)
www.boltonnews.co.uk

From left: Mrs Brooks-Doogan, Mrs Burgess, Miss Wood, Mrs Lightbown, Abigail's mother, Jill Kirkham from Derian House, and Mrs D'Arcy, Headteacher.

From 8th April the cost of a school meal will be
£2.30



When Dinosaurs ruled Ladybridge Farm

On Wednesday 27th February, 56 pupils from Ladybridge Primary School visited the school farm and enjoyed a wide range of Dinosaur activities. They included making Dinosaur biscuits, Art & Craft, model making and completing a Dinosaur fact finding log book.

All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the morning and were presented with a Dinosaur Explorer certificate.



PHYSICS OLYMPICS

The Physics Olympics were held at Bolton School Boys Division on 27th February. Teams came from as far away as Dewsbury to take part. Twenty-five teams competed in five events. How would a team of Jessica Ennis, Jason Kenny, Bradley Wiggins and Andy Murray have performed?

Delayed timing – Who could be the slowest to send a ball down a track? Physics expertise had to be shown in turning a light on and off as it travelled.

Generation X – Which team could generate the most electricity by designing and constructing the best turbine.

Rockets – Who could hit a target and travel through hoops on the way? Pressure and angle of fire need careful monitoring.

Annual Ski Trip to Aosta, Italy

Four students learned to Ski Board while we had six complete beginners learning to ski and a further six students skiing for their second, third or even, in one case, their fourth year.

This year students had to cope with very low temperatures. On one morning the temperature was -13 degrees celsius at the top of the gondola. On the same day, it was reported that the temperature at the top of the mountain was a desperate -26!! Even with these freezing temperatures, our three Year 11 girls did one 'run' on their snowboards in shorts to raise money to send students to Kenya this summer with Camps International.

A range of Après Ski activities were included in the holiday including swimming, disco night, pizza night, ice cream extravaganza and on the Friday before departure a presentation evening when the students received their certificates and badges.

All of the students had a great time. It was very rewarding to see the younger students develop their skiing skills as well as social skills. The Year 11 students were excellent role models. The group as a whole gelled together very well and certainly rocked the disco!

Photograph of the Intermediate ski group.

Floating – Which team could float the most marbles with very little to make the boat?

Jelly baby towers - The tallest structure to support a hard boiled egg.

Jordan Court, Justin Pugh, Philip Winstanley and Jake Knox made up team Bernoulli and Umer Din, Khalid Omar, Shachi Pai and Mercedes Mercer made up team Geiger.

Bernoulli came 3rd out of 25 in the Rocket Challenge and Geiger 3rd out of 25 in the floating challenge – watch out Pi!! Bronze medals for all.



Gymnastics

We recently took two teams to the Bolton Schools Gymnastics Competition at Thornleigh. The girls had to complete a floor routine from a list of movements and two vaults.



Ladybridge has never had a Gymnastics squad before and the girls were absolutely outstanding, competed to a high ability and carried themselves like professional gymnasts through a nerve-wracking and intense competition. We are very proud of their performance, well done girls!

Girls Football Cup



On 17th January, Year 8 girls football team represented Bolton and BWFC in the NW regional final at Burnley Academy.

They played against Preston North End, Bury FC, Blackpool and Blackburn Rovers, winning three and losing one against Blackburn, 2-1, who went onto the final. Well done to the girls who took part.

Ladybridge Primary Cluster



Indoor Athletics This year's league was well supported by our cluster Primary schools even though the first couple of rounds were hampered by the untimely snow blizzards. Each Primary school entered 10 pupils who had to run, jump and throw finishing with all 10 competitors competing in the obstacle relay.

The overall winners, pictured left, were Lostock Primary.. Runners up were Beaumont Primary and Gilnow Primary was in third place.

Ladybridge Year 7 students Jade Jackson, Bo Callaghan, Sana Umarji, Emily Sabrine, Rebecca Sankey and Fatimah Patel acted as field and track judges, many thanks for their assistance.

Lostock Primary school went on to represent the Ladybridge Cluster in the Bolton Town Championships at Smithills school on 26th February where they finished 8th out of the 64 schools who entered the competition. Well done!

Bolton Primary Town Year 5/6 Gymnastics Finals

Congratulations to Lostock Primary pupil Lindsay Jackson who took second place in the Town Championships on 28th February. This was the first time Lostock had represented the Ladybridge Cluster in these Championships and they just missed out on the Bronze medal. Beaumont primary school will represent the Cluster in the Year 3/4 final.

*Ladybridge says
thank you...*

*To Ben, Tom and Daniel
Roach*



*Thank you on behalf of
all the students and
staff for donating
£250.00 to our
Defibrillator Fund.*

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
7 MARCH 2013

Thursday 7th March saw us celebrating World Book Day. Staff across school were asked to tell us about their favourite books and these have been used to create a book tree in the library, see photo right. Soon students will be asked about their own favourite book so that we can see just how much and how widely Ladybridge High School reads.



As part of World Book Day, students have been entering competitions to win prizes for themselves and the school, including designing bookmarks and inventing story boards.

Readathon will take place at Ladybridge High School from Monday 8th April to Friday 19th April. Students are asked to read as much as they can over the 2 week period and get sponsored for doing so. All of the money raised will go to the Roald Dahl Foundation and CLIC Sargent – two very worthwhile children's charities. See Miss Houghton for more information.

**Fancy learning the
clarinet, saxophone,
flute, trombone,
trumpet, piano or
learning to sing?**



Want expert tuition?

Only £3.50 per week!

Or

**FREE if you are
entitled to Free
School Meals**



INTERESTED?

**See Mr Garbett (E14) to
ENROL NOW!**

Ladybridge Sports
Development
and
Performance Centre

**ZUMBA
CLASSES**

Starting

Wednesday 10th April

6.45pm - 7.45pm

and

8.00pm - 9.00pm

£4 per session

**KEEP
CALM
AND
ZUMBA**

**KEEP
CALM
AND
PLAY
INSTRUMENTS**