



OUR LADY'S CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL

Issue No. 448

Friday, 11th September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to this new academic year and you will see that we already have much good news to report! During the summer months we celebrated excellent examination successes at both A level and GCSE. I would like to congratulate all the students for their magnificent achievements. The provisional value added data places our Yr 13 in the top 25% of schools nationally for progress from GCSE and the vast majority gained a place at their chosen university or on an apprenticeship for those who decided that further study was not their chosen path. Our new Yr 13 are placed in the top 10% for progress in their AS levels and we hope they will maintain this high standard through the second year of study.

Our GCSE students achieved very well over a range of measures, where 38% of them achieved the English Baccalaureate (this means they gained GCSE C grade or above in English, Maths, two Sciences, a language and a humanity) and 63% achieved the Government benchmark figure (5+ A*-C grades including English & Maths). The progress data gave further cause for celebration as in both Maths and English, 82% students made expected progress or better, which is well above the national average figure in 2014 (English, 70%, and Maths, 65%).

There were also some outstanding individual performances and more details are available on our website www.ourladys.hackney.sch.uk.

A big thank you to all our staff for their hard work in helping so many students achieve their goals.

Open Evening – Tuesday 29th September 2014, 4pm – 7pm

Already we are preparing for next year's new intake of Year 7 students! On Tuesday 29th September we will have a slightly different timetable: Periods 1 to 4 will take place as usual but will be 50 minutes long, school will **finish at 12.45pm** and students will be dismissed home. Those eligible for Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch as they leave. Staff will then prepare the school for the Open Evening commencing at 4pm, and many students will return by 3.45pm to assist with departmental activities in the evening. If your daughter is requested to attend, you will receive a permission letter from the department in which she is helping.

Welcome

We have welcomed eighteen new members of staff this week, along with all our new students in Year 7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 – we hope they will settle in and experience the support of all our school community.

Photography in school – Parental Permission

Please be aware that there are many occasions when photographs of students may be used in school and external publications for publicity purposes. If you **do not** wish images of your daughter to be used, you **MUST** inform the School Office by **Tuesday 15th September**.

Privacy notices – for information

Please be aware that, in accordance with Data Protection requirements, Privacy notices have been issued to all students this week. They are for information only and do not require any action.

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Year 9 Reward Trip – Horse Riding at Lea Valley – Report by Chia Attiapo 10J

On Wednesday, 14th July, a group of year 9s, Miss Lopes, including our resident expert, Shannon Duffley, went horse riding at Lea Valley Riding Centre. At the centre, we changed and then we paired up with a classmate. In turn, we learnt how to approach, ride, lead and steer the horses given to us with the help of the teacher and Shannon we got experience riding on the horses whilst it was trotting. We also learnt how to loosen the stirrups. After that, we know how to groom a horse. Finally, we ate lunch and went back to school. I enjoyed the trip as I learnt so much about riding a horse and how to approach it.

Trip to Iceland – report from Ms. Cooke

Towards the end of last term, myself and 9 other year 12 geography students, accompanied by Mr Sprawson and Ms Cooke left for our trip to Iceland. As soon as we arrived we visited the Mid-Atlantic Ridge that runs through Iceland, as geographers it was amazing to stand in 'no mans land' between the North American and the Eurasian plates. We then visited the Blue Lagoon and had a relaxing dip in the very warm geothermally heated water. On the following day went on a tour of the Golden Circle where we visited Geysir where we saw the hot spring erupt every few minutes. On Sunday we took on a challenging Glacier walk which was an amazing experience especially as glaciers were the main focus of our studies this year, however it was very nerve racking! On our finally day we strolled around the town in Reykjavik and did some shopping. We would like to say thank you to Mrs Mitra for organising the trip, Miss Cooke for stepping in Mrs Mitra's place and finally a big thank you to Mr Sprawson for looking after us and being a great teacher this year!



London Transport 2015 Youth Travel Ambassadors Showcase -report by Dr. Deeny

London Transport held an end of year event for students involved in the project to an event at Westminster Central Hall, London. More than 130 schools from across London have taken part in the YTA programme this year and our group were invited to share their experiences and to hear what other schools had been up to. There was also a number of short films made by other schools which promoted safe sustainable transport to school. Particularly popular were the cycle challenge and a “smoothie bike” where the girls used their cycle power to make their own smoothies.

Dates for the Diary

Please make an advance note of the following INSET days and parents' evenings, these are a very important opportunity for teaching staff to discuss students' progress.

Year 6 Open Evening	Year 6	Tuesday, 29 th September 2015 (early finish)
Parents Evening	Year 7	Thursday, 21 st April 2016
	Year 8	Thursday, 14 th January 2016
	Year 9	Thursday, 3 rd December 2015
	Year 10	Thursday, 10 th March 2016
	Year 11	Thursday, 15 th October 2015
	Year 12/13	Thursday, 19 th November 2015
	Year 12/13	Thursday, 25 th January 2016
	All year groups (by invitation)	Thursday, 28 th April 2016
Year 7 Parents Information Evening	Year 7	Thursday, 8 th October 2015
Sixth Form Information Evening	Year 11	Thursday, 12 th November 2015
GCSE Certificate Award Evening	Year 12	Wednesday, 25 th November 2015
Year 11 Parents Information Evening	Year 11	Wednesday, 3 rd February 2016
Year 9 Parents Information Evening	Year 9	Wednesday, 10 th February 2016
GCSE Options Evening	Year 9	Thursday, 3 rd March 2016
Whole School Mass – school will close at 1pm on these days		Friday, 18 th December 2015
		Thursday, 24 th March 2016
		Friday, 22 nd July 2016
Staff Training – school will close at 2.20pm on these days		Tuesday 13 th October 2015
		Tuesday, 26 th March 2016
		Tuesday, 14 th June 2016
INSET – Staff Training school will be CLOSED all day		Monday, 2 nd November 2015
		Monday, 4 th January 2016
		Wednesday, 29 th June 2016

Open House London 2015 – Message from Dr Blackwell

The school is participating in the Open House event again this year. We will be open on Saturday September 19th from 10 am to 12.30 pm. There will be guided tours on a first come basis with queuing outside if necessary.

English Literature GCSE – news from English Dept

Our new Year 11 English students sat their GCSE English Literature exam at the end of year 10, we are delighted to report that their hard work (and the help of their teachers!) was all worthwhile as they achieved very well indeed with 76% overall achieving A*-C grades. Special congratulations to Mandy Tan and Chelsea Dacoco who both attained 100% (full marks!!) in all their papers – a fantastic achievement!

你们好! – Report by Toluwalope Akintan

This summer holiday six girls had the opportunity to travel to China for 16 days, which I must say was an amazing experience.

Although 20 hours plane journey is a bit daunting, however we were all overwhelmed by the beauty of Beijing once we landed. We visited the Lama Temple, the Summer Palace, and also the Great Wall of China. Apart from all these, we also had Hutong tour by the Rickshaw. Hutongs are narrow streets, or alleys formed by lines of Chinese traditional courtyard residences. The Hutong tour is great fun.

This year summer camp we went to Qingdao for 12 days, a coastal city in North China, where we had lessons every morning, not only learning Mandarin Chinese, but also learnt a lot about Chinese culture, philosophy and architecture. We met the lovely students volunteers, made many new friends and visited many scenic spots, such as the Lao Shan mountain and a German influenced Catholic Church. During our stay each of us had been paired up to stay with a host family for a day, which was the highlight of the trip for most of us, as we got to experience how the life of a local was.

One of the things I took away from this trip was the confirmation in my love for the languages.

谢谢 Ms Li, Madame Robinson and the Languages Department for an unforgettable experience.



Yours sincerely

Mrs. Jane Gray
Head Teacher