



# Leehurst Swan School Newsletter

Issue 56

Autumn 2009

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## FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Parents,

It is almost 4 weeks since the start of term and time has flown by. I write in the strong autumn sunshine that reminds me of the summer we were promised, but that never quite materialised.

This late spell of warmth has been welcomed by both pupils and staff alike. Leehurst Swan opened in September to the largest number of pupils in the school for many years and with record numbers in the Senior School. The waiting lists have grown to the frustration of some parents.

Over the summer holidays and since the start of term two major changes have occurred.

### Yellow Lines

The yellow lines have, at last, been added to Campbell Road and I know a number of parents have found access and parking outside the school much improved.

### New Key Stage 2 Playground

The new Key Stage 2 playground has taken shape and the last piece of play equipment (for now) was fitted just a few days ago. The playground provides an all weather surface and so will be used all year round along with the adventure play equipment, a story telling quiet seating area and, of course, an enclosed area for football. The outdoor stage stands ready for future performances and the new plants are growing well to improve any nature walks. I hope the pupils will enjoy the new playground area and it will develop still further over the years to come.



### Prep Head Pupils

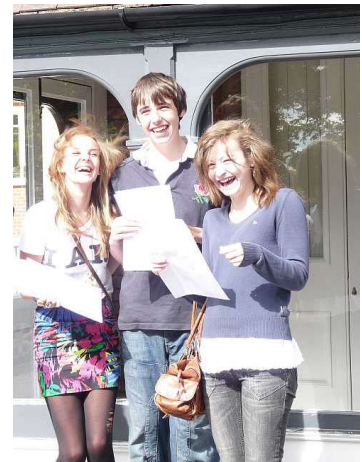
The Prep Head Pupils for this academic year are:

Head Girl is Emilia Bradshaw, Head Boy is Sam Budworth, Deputy Head Girl is Tilly Cuff and Deputy Head Boy is George Woodford-White. Congratulations to all of them and for making such a good start to their duties.

### Academic Results

The other major event of the summer holidays were the GCSE results for Senior School pupils. Once again the results thrilled and delighted. 91% of the pupils gained 5 or more GCSEs at A\* to C grade, including English, Mathematics and Science. The number of A\* and As reached the highest number ever with no fewer than 46% of all the grades achieved at this level. Top pupils this year were Daniel Thomas with 4\* and 7 As and Cara Campbell with 7A\*s and 4A grades. An 'A' was the lowest grade scored between them. Other pupils did exceptionally well too and much of the hard work and determined effort paid off.

All the pupils in Year 10 passed the ICT short course a year early and there were some exceptional marks scored in the Science modules taken by Year 10 pupils last summer. The inclusion of Leehurst Swan in the Times League Table for Wiltshire Schools reflects the continued academic progress of our pupils.



### Prep School Trips

Prep pupils have been involved in a number of trips already this term with more planned. Year 4 have been to Butser Ancient Farm for an exploration of Iron Age living conditions. They all enjoyed the trip

and found conditions in the past to be more primitive than they enjoy now.



**Senior School Prizegiving**

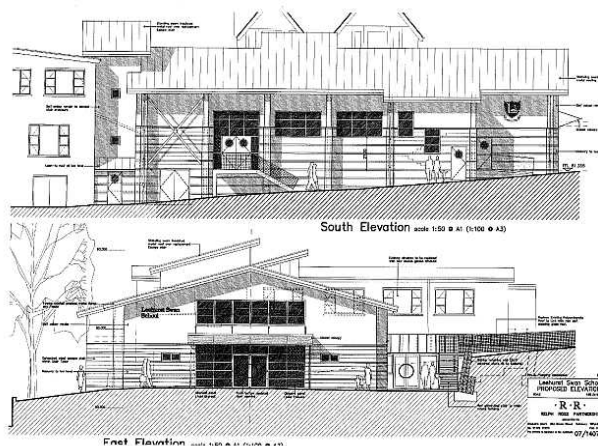


The Senior School Prize Giving took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> September and the Guest Speaker, Mr Peter Jones, shared some of his stories from the TV series *Dragons Den*. He also spoke the need for an "I can" attitude for young people, inspiring them to start out in business. The evening was a celebration of all that the pupils had achieved last year and we were delighted to welcome back last year's Year 11 pupils to receive their prizes.



## **New Assembly Hall**

As the Chair of Governors, Reverend Christopher Walker, stated at Senior Prize Giving, the school is about to embark on a major capital expenditure project of a new assembly hall. The expected completion date at present is sometime in the Autumn Term 2010. Inevitably there will be some disruption to the school and to the car park for the next few months, but I am sure it will all be worth it once the project is completed.



I look forward to keeping you informed about further developments over the coming weeks as the term unfolds.

Parents are gently reminded that if they wish to speak to a member of staff, they should request this in person at reception or by phone call, but not proceed to staff rooms. If you wish to see your Prep child's form teacher, please choose a convenient time such as before morning school or at the end of the school day.

## **Helmets for Cyclists**

Please may I remind parents that all pupils who cycle to school should wear a cycle helmet? In view of publicity surrounding head injuries I am asking for parental support in this matter. Pupils must wear a helmet and follow the one way system in the school grounds. Bicycles may not be ridden where cars are parked in the school grounds

## **School Uniform**

Pupils are presently entitled to wear either the winter uniform or the summer uniform as the weather and you dictate. After half term, all pupils should wear only the winter uniform.

Yours sincerely

Roger Leake