

Alumni et Amicitia Association



for former pupils and staff of Leehurst, Swan, La Retraite,
La Retraite Swan, and Leehurst Swan Schools

Newsletter 11
Dec 2014

From the Headmaster

The 100th Autumn term got off to a happy start with enthusiastic children returning after the long summer holidays and enjoying the warm weather. During the summer holidays the builders had finished construction of the new Prep accommodation, the porta classrooms had been removed and the tarmac had been laid.

The new building (now called the Centenary Building) contains 12 classrooms and was opened officially on the 6th October by Professor Sir Al Ansley Green – England's first Children's Commissioner. This building has really transformed the school. The Prep are now brought together in one building and the classrooms provide excellent teaching facilities. There is a Prep library and a study room for individual teaching and the very popular after school homework club.



The opening of the Centenary Building on 6th October

The move into the new building has allowed development of the old Prep classrooms, occupied by the Swan pupils when they first moved to the school. The classrooms have been converted into a large room for PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) and Careers. The remaining rooms are currently being converted into a large multi-purpose studio for drama, dance, activities and seminars. It will comfortably hold 80 to 100 people and is based in what many may fondly recall as the La Retraite dining room.

Of course, buildings are only one sign of school development. More importantly, I was delighted with the 11 Plus and GCSE results again this year; these have led to us being featured in the top 50 Independent Schools that do not have a sixth form. Yesterday I heard that a former Year 11 pupil of the school, Sarah Kuszinsky, was runner up in the Whitbread prize for achievement at GCSE. She scored 10A* and two A grades in her GCSE results last summer.

The school thrives and, as we look forward to the next 100 years, can I urge you to keep in contact with your school and suggest to other former pupils that they do the same. Please encourage them to sign up via our website. <http://www.leehurstswan.org.uk/information/alumni>

We hope to see as many as possible of you at the school Carol Service in Salisbury Cathedral at 9.30am on the 18th December. Have a very Happy Christmas!

Ros Leake

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Thank you to all those who got in touch with us after the Centenary Teas. It was lovely to hear how many of you enjoyed the chance to catch up with old friends and teachers and tour the school.

We would like to say how grateful we are to Dr Jane Howells for founding the association, contacting so many former pupils and, of course, writing these newsletters and the history of the school. Jane also helped organize the Centenary Events. We wish her all the very best for her retirement, although her continuing commitment to the Local History of Salisbury makes a restful retirement unlikely; she has already written a book on Women in the Cathedral Close!

As her humble successor, I would like to introduce myself. Some of you may remember that I attended the Centenary Teas and I enjoyed meeting many former pupils. I am looking forward to developing the Association, planning a weekend lunch in the near future and getting to know you. We would also be very grateful to hear any items that you would like printed in these newsletters and for any help in widening our membership. It would be lovely to make contact with more old boys from the Swan, for example.



Trudi Cotton

Careers and Work Experience

In September we held our first Careers and Skills Event and fourteen employers came to talk to our Years 9, 10 and 11 about career areas, apprenticeships and the possibility of work experience. The careers ranged widely including sport, health, law, finance, military, science, engineering, design and heritage. After some initial shyness, the pupils were able to learn a great deal from our visitors and the employers appreciated their enthusiasm and politeness. We are hoping to repeat the evening in 2016.

Careers now benefits from our huge new room, shared with PSHCE. However, there is still a small area dedicated to individual interviews, available to all pupils but compulsory in Year 11.



The Careers Interview area in our new PSHCE/Careers Room

Work experience went well with the vast majority of Year 11s gaining a great deal of knowledge and understanding about the workplaces to which they were attached. Two of them were offered apprenticeships as a result. The Work Experience Prize was given to Olivia Beale who worked at the John McNeil Opportunity Centre. She very much enjoyed meeting and helping the children and was given a glowing report. Livvy also attended for three weeks instead of the usual one.

Remembrance – another Centenary

We were very fortunate in being able to take the GCSE History students to the World War I battlefields between November 10th and 12th this year. We were able to take part in the very moving centenary ceremony at the Menin Gate on November 10th and we held our own service at 11am on 11th at Tyne Cot, the largest of all Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries. In fact, we were even joined by members of the public who listened intently to our pupils' readings and kept silence with us. It was a very special moment for the teachers and pupils present.

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