

# LEIGHTON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER



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## Message from the Principal



### Newsletter Nostalgia

#### LOG BOOK EXTRACTS

4<sup>th</sup> March 1954 – Sixty nine children ....went today with their teachers to see the film “Conquest of Everest” at the Plaza Cinema.

9<sup>th</sup> March 1964 – The Headmaster absent for the day attending Head Teachers’ conference at Crewe TC [Training College]

4<sup>th</sup> March to

19<sup>th</sup> March 1964 – 5 staff off work with sickness during this period

17<sup>th</sup> March 1984 – Wembley Trip organised by Mr Cooke

2<sup>nd</sup> March 1994– Heads’ conference at Forest Hills re/ Ofsted Inspections

**Over** the past sixty years, March seems to have been a relatively uneventful month, according to the school log book, with the exception of 1954 as the children had the opportunity to celebrate the conquest of Everest – just under a year after it had taken place. With new technology we are used to news and documentaries streaming their way to our devices almost instantly. Some things do not change quite as much with conferences in 1964 and 1994 for the head teacher. Such conferences have often held an attraction for some heads as avid attenders – particularly if the venue provide a good lunch. Nowadays there are many opportunities each week to attend events and conferences but the difference is that someone is invariably trying to make money out of the occasion. Regardless of the era, however, most functions are a waste of time and I have tried to avoid them as much as possible throughout my career.

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### Sport

**Possibly** the visit to Wembley noted in the last section would have been worthwhile although I am not sure it inspired much of a commitment to sport in the school through the following decade. Leighton entered very, very few competitions through to 1998 but the past sixteen years has seen a fundamental change in philosophy. Much groundwork through coaching for all children continues to pay dividends with a number of spectacular sporting triumphs. I make no apologies for maintaining a competitive outlook during my time as head and the success in regaining the Cheshire and Warrington Sportshall title this month has been built on strong foundations. We first celebrated success as Cheshire champions in 2012 but, after less success last year, we have worked hard to win the Crewe and Nantwich title and again be crowned 2014 Cheshire champions with a winning margin of 48 points. Following this season’s football triumphs in the Crewe 7 a side competition and the Crewe and Nantwich 5 a side tournament, our investment in PE is to be extended through the appointment of a full-time PE support practitioner.

# Message from the Principal

## Curriculum Leadership News

The subject managers at Leighton are outstanding. In addition to their classroom teaching duties, the managers take responsibility for developing their subjects across the academy. For some subjects, the managers have sought accreditation through quality marks as an independent audit of the provision. Where such audits do not exist, the managers are just as effective in ensuring the provision is excellent. I know the governors want to focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the future but the high-calibre managers involved in leading other curriculum areas will ensure the children receive a broad education. Additionally, most of the staff are continuing with their own studies by completing foundation degrees, higher degrees (MA's plus a PhD) and specialist training in special needs and mathematics. Such a commitment to self-development at a time when teaching has never been harder is testimony to the calibre of our staff in all roles across the academy. Other teachers are also undertaking middle leadership and senior leadership qualifications with the National College of Teaching and Leadership whilst two teachers are researching issues such as gender and leadership.

## Curriculum

**Interestingly**, there is much in the news at the moment about the teaching of mathematics with deference to teaching in Shanghai. Our academy has a number of graduates in mathematics amongst the staff alongside two trained specialist teachers in mathematics and a qualified practitioner in an intervention called Numbers Count. Furthermore, we are accessing training in the methodologies used by different countries such as Singapore. This investment by the governors in professional development was in preparation for the focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Of course we can all learn from the different approaches adopted by other educational jurisdictions but applying the teaching of the concepts is just as important as learning them in the first place. Our focus on design technology is one way of practising the skills in a more realistic situation. The Y6 children have just spent a wonderful morning with apprentices from Bentley on a specialist design project. Once again we are indebted to Bentley for their support.

## Parent Forum

**Thank** you to those parents who turned up for the inaugural meeting. The minutes will be published and shared with the governing body so there is a clear line of communication. In future, the meetings will be held once per term at different times to widen the constituency. Please keep an eye on our Twitter account, the website, our email/text service and pupil post for information regarding this important face to face communication channel.

## Visit by Edward Timpson MP

**Elsewhere** in the newsletter the peer mentors have mentioned how they invited Edward Timpson to the academy to find out about their multi-functional role. For someone so busy, Edward came and spoke with the mentors for a long time, finding out about their role and endorsing everything they are doing to help others.

**Thank you for your continued support and I hope the weather stays fine for the  
Easter holiday.**

# School News

## Parking



**Please** can you consider the local neighbours when parking your car for the school drop off and pick up times throughout the day. As you can imagine it is very frustrating for residents that have their driveways blocked by other cars, especially when trying to leave for work in the mornings. We have had a number of complaints about abusive parents who have been asked to move their cars.

## Year 6 News

### Bentley Morning

**We** met some engineering students from Bentley that were introducing us to some careers for the future. During this exciting morning, we did lots of different activities such as: model making, designing posters and career plans. We worked together in small teams to compete in a business enterprise competition where we had to create a successful production line and persuade the Bentley staff to 'purchase' our models. It was an action packed event and we were presented with certificates at the end. We really enjoyed it and we hope that Bentley can visit us again soon.



By Maisy Grice

### Bikeability

**Bikeability** is a government scheme to teach children how to ride on the road safely. It is a two day course that we all enjoyed. They taught us about cycling safely around roundabouts, T- junctions, major and minor roads. We were taught about cycle maintenance, road safety and being aware of other road users. We were put into small groups that went at different times of the day on to the local estates. At the end of the two days, we were awarded with certificates for Level 2. We all felt that we had learnt a lot and would love to do Level 3 when we are older.



By Mille Cullen

**The** Hour of Code is a scheme set up for children to understand more about coding and computer science. There are different levels and videos along the way made by computer geniuses including Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg. In the levels you have to figure out the codes to solve the program as the levels get harder every time. At the end of the test you truly will be a junior code master. Year 6 have completed the Hour of Code and printed off their certificates. The Hour of Code can be found at <http://uk.code.org> - it contains many tutorials and videos for anyone from ages 6 – 106 ! We really enjoyed ourselves and are looking forward to doing more coding in school via Espresso. We recommend it.

By Maisy Grice and Lucy Slade.

## Peer Mentors



**Hello everyone!** This is just a quick message from the Peer Mentors. This is Lilli and Esther writing now but in a minute we are going to pass on to some of our most fabulous Peer mentors. We normally write the peer mentor page for the newsletter but we wanted to let some of the others show off because they really deserve it!!!!!! We are going to start off with Childline's visit to our school, then we will move on to our appearance on Signal One, finally, Smile Week and Speak Out.

**Recently**, a lady from Childline came in to do some workshops with the year fives and sixes. She did things that included: talking about bullying, making our own buddy kits and doing an assembly for the whole school. I (Lucy) organised it and was very pleased with the enthusiasm you showed. Thank you!

**Written by Lucy Slade**

**Lately**, we have been doing work with Louise Stones, Andy Cook and Aaron from Signal Radio. We got offered a 1 minute clip and we decided to base it on Smile Week. To finish off the conversation we asked them to be our patron. We were very excited to hear our clip on Signal One on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014. From now on we will get a 1 minute clip every month, so be sure to listen out for it!

**Written by Eleanor White and Emily Garner**

**From** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March was Leighton Academy's very own Smile Week. We were looking out for the best smilers all week. There were a lot of amazing smilers but unfortunately we could only choose 2. These were: Jamahl Alli from 4H and Maisie Harrison from 2W. Well done!

**Written by Maisy Grice**

**Over** the past few weeks Speak Out ambassadors have been choosing some junior Speak Out officers. Congratulations to: Tiffany Chan, Charlee Whitehead, Callum Thorley, Hannah Finch, Rosa Perry, Hollie Roberts, Joshua Fisher, Carly Slade, Harrison Dunn and Rosie Lucas. They will be having their first meeting this week.

**This was written by Emily Garner**

**On** February 28<sup>th</sup>, Hollie Lennon arranged for local MP and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and families Edward Timpson to visit the peer mentors and at the end of the visit he offered to be our patron!

**Written by Emily Garner and Lilli Tomkinson**



## LPTFA

**First** of all the PTFA would like to thank all the parents/carers and children that took part in 'Wear It Yellow Day'.



**The** chocolate donations were phenomenal and they make for one of the best Chocolate Tombola's to date at our Easter Fayre on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

**It's** the little things that the Leighton Academy community get involved in like wear it yellow day that make all the difference to our fund raising efforts. Thank you to you all once again, especially from our very own PTFA Easter Bunny!

### Fund raising news...

**Over** the Easter Holidays the Academy is having a professional lighting system and a projector with electronic screen fitted in the hall. This is has been funded solely by PTFA funds at a cost of almost **£6000**.

**The** PTFA also regularly fully fund Christmas Disco's, Year 6 Leavers Disco, Santa Gifts, Bibles and School Council Grants (which alone are £1000 per year).

**We** often get requests from children within the school for funding too, our last being the purchase of prizes for the Safety Officers competition.

**As** the saying goes, 'Every Little Helps', so if you could give a couple of hours of your time at our events that are coming up then please let the school office know.

**The** PTFA have been extremely busy preparing for the Easter Fayre and the Summer Fete that will soon be upon us, here are some dates for your diaries...

Easter Fayre	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2014	3.15pm
Next PFTA Meeting	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	7.00pm Coppenhall Methodist Church, Bradfield Road
Summer Fete	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	12.00pm - 3.00pm
Year 6 Leavers Disco	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Pamper Evening	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	7.00pm

**Please** feel free to come along to our next meeting and/or if you have any ideas for events you and your children would enjoy let us know on our Facebook Page, Leighton PTFA. We would love to hear from you.

**Enjoy your Easter Break**

**Leighton PTFA Committee**



# Sports News

## Spring Term Sporting Success at Leighton Academy

We have had an amazing term in terms of sport! Well Done to all children involved in the following events:

### Football

Our football team were the 5 aside indoor football winners for Crewe and Nantwich and have taken on the Timperley Shield tournament this half term. Results so far are as follows:

14th March - Leighton vs Mablins Lane 3 - 1

18th March - Leighton vs Hungerford 2 - 1

28th March - St Michael's vs Leighton 0 - 2

The following matches are still to be played:

2nd April - Leighton vs Monks Coppenhall

23rd April - Haslington vs Leighton

24th April - Leighton vs St Mary's



### Swimming

Our gala team represented the academy at the Crewe Swimming Gala on 18th March, narrowly missing out on first place by 1 point! Well Done to all children involved for training so hard in preparation for the gala.



### Sportshall

WELL DONE to our Sportshall team who came FIRST in the Cheshire and Warrington finals at the Northgate Arena in Chester on 10th March. An amazing achievement! Thank you to Mrs Bohannon for your continuing support.



### Gymnastics

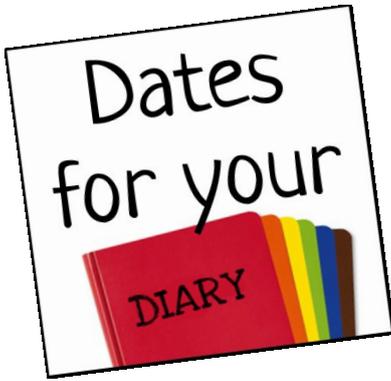
Well done to our gymnastics teams who competed at Camm Street on 25th March. All three teams took first place and the lower key stage 2 team will represent the school at the Cheshire and Warrington finals in July.



### Cross Country

Over 70 of our key stage 2 children braved the wind and rain at Shavington on 20th March to enter in Crewe's first cross country competition. It was great to see so many of our children getting involved, and a special mention to Erin Girffiths, Kenny Phillips and Kyle Brandreth, who all finished in the top 4 for their age groups.

The success was celebrated at a special assembly on 31<sup>st</sup> March where the children received their certificates and medals and we took photographs for the local paper.



Friday 4th April 2014

Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Academy Closes

Academy Opens

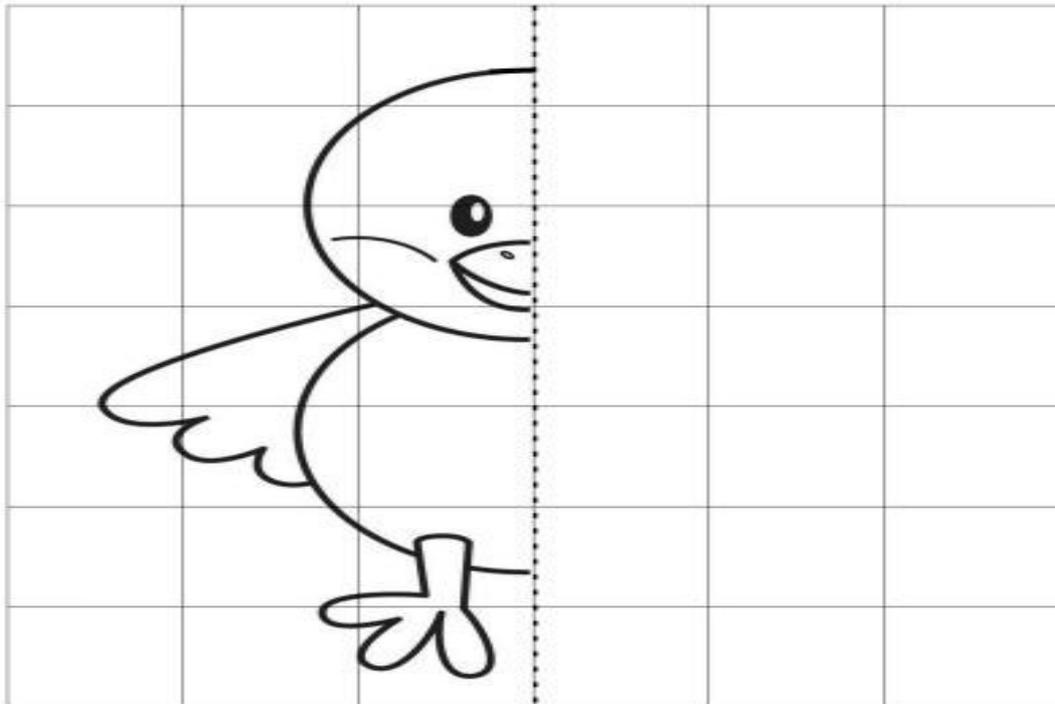
## Just For Fun



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## Chick Symmetry

Complete the chick



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This newsletter is now available in colour on our school website  
[Www.leightonacademy.com](http://www.leightonacademy.com)  
If you do not have internet access at home, please ask to look at  
the school page on a school computer.