

Quad

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The Difference the Y Chromosome Makes

Paul Fisher outlines how LGS equips itself better to teach boys

Boys and girls are different - and the way this difference affects their learning has been an area of significant study in recent years. Applying this research (some of it

where instinctive good practice and modern pedagogy overlap

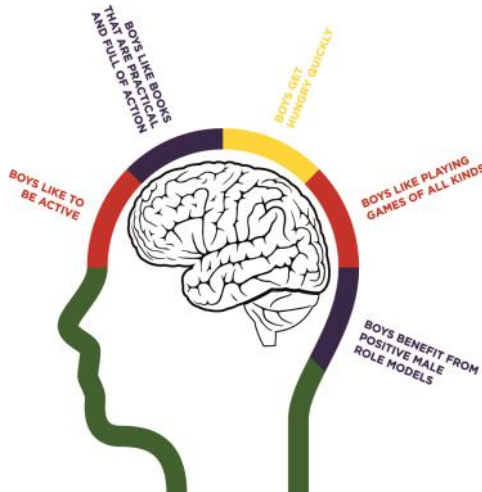
from LGS itself) to our own school and seeing how and where it affects us has been interesting. There are some areas where instinctive good practice and modern pedagogy overlap.

Boys like to be active and like learning actively.

So we have playground space and hoops and goals; we have an active curriculum with PE and Games, myriad weekend fixtures and CCF and Duke of Edinburgh added on.

Boys like books which are practical, factual and full of action.

We have English set texts and readers chosen for boys like **The 39 Steps**; we celebrate graphic novels as a valid genre, for example **Tintin**; we have a library whose sole purpose now is to



get boys to read and so it is filled with what they enjoy and it is an environment they want to be in.

a boys' school studies on its stomach

Boys get hungry quickly.

A boys' school studies on its stomach. Breakfast, tuck shop, lunch and tea are all crucial but quality is the key. Our boys anticipate their school food with pleasure and the Burton Hall is somewhere they enjoy being. Formal dinners at the end of their school careers are the final cherry on the cake.

Boys like playing games of all sorts.

Boys are competitive - on the games field and in the classroom. Creating competitive games makes subjects more appealing and fun; a culture that celebrates genuine, not manufactured, success is also attractive.

Boys benefit from positive male role models.

Male role models are becoming less visible in the world of teaching and boys need enough of them at key moments as they grow up. Equally, some of our best teachers of boys are our female teachers but the balance is important.

The visible leadership of our senior boys and scholars and initiatives like the Lads and Dads camp are making a

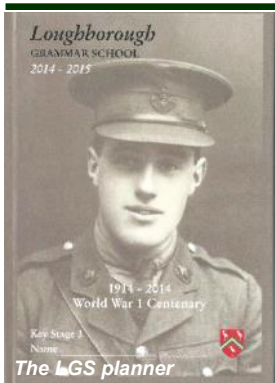
difference.

How much is hardwired and how much is a consequence of environment may ultimately be a matter of debate but

initiatives like the Lads and Dads camp are making a difference

what is not in doubt is the benefit of being able to concentrate on one gender at a time and become a school which is more and more expert on boys.

Paul Fisher



Remembering WW1

For many years students at LGS have been given a school planner to help them remember their homework and to remind them of school rules etc. This year the planner is designed to help them to remember also the major events of the first year of WW1 and in particular the sacrifice of the

56 OLs who gave their lives in that conflict. The cover shows the face of 2nd Lt Thaddeus McCarthy MC who died on 14th April 1918 aged 22. His death and the deaths of the other 55 OLs are shown in the planner on the 100th anniversary of their sacrifice. **We will remember them.**



**4 OLs killed in action
May 13th 1915**

£1m Make-over for Boarding

LGS Boarding facilities have enjoyed a £1 million make-over in the last twelve months. In School House rattling windows have become a thing of the past. The showers have been completely remodelled. Every study bedroom boasts double-glazing, brand-new carpets, wash basins and electrical sockets. Denton House has been renovated to a similar



New comfort for boarders



New Denton extension

level of comfort. The old upper dormitory has been subdivided into smaller units, the showers have enjoyed a major up-grade and a new wing, housing an extra 13 boarders, has been built close to the laboratories, bringing the total number of boarders between the two Houses to seventy.

Robbie's Rugby Record

A record total of 30 teams, 550 rugby players, 1000 spectators and a staggering £22,000 raised on the day made Robbie's Rugby Festival 2014 a day to remember.

Over 100 OLs formed seven out of the 30 teams raising money for both the Robbie Anderson Cancer Trust and the Jake McCarthy

Foundation – two charities which play a huge role in the surrounding area. The 30 teams, drawn from all over the country, fought it out for Robbie's Cup. This was the first time that the Festival had been held on the LGS playing fields at Quorn so it was, perhaps, fitting that the finalists were two LGS Old Boys' teams – LGS Schweff vs LGS Seals. This proved a close-fought



Tiernan Ryan, Chris Simpson, Michael Gurney

Not only was the day a success on the pitch, but also off of it with spectators able to get their faces painted, visit gift

the Party on the Pitch commenced with live bands and hog roast

stalls, have a catch up with friends in the Pimms garden and BBQ area – all before the Party on the Pitch commenced with live bands and hog roast.

The event would not have been possible without our sponsors and a huge 'thank you' goes out to Brush, the Old Loughburians' Association, Loughborough High School Old Girls' Association, Athena, Haart, Porsche Centre Leicester, Thomas

Nicholas Financial Services – and, of course, Loughborough Endowed Schools for their never-ending support. Thank you to all who came and made the day possible and for all of the support we have received over the past six years – Robbie's Rugby Festival is an event that everyone should be proud of. See you again next year!

Liam Schofield (2000-07)



Liam Schofield, Dan Holmes, Matt Everard

encounter with LGS Seals in the end becoming victorious, and with their captain, **Dan Holmes (2002-09)**, being awarded Player of the Tournament.

first time the Festival had been held on the LGS playing fields at Quorn

Strengthening the Common Bond "Fellowship matters"

2014 has seen the Association become involved in a series of conversations regarding the enhancement of the activities and services offered to members of the OLA. In each case I look to focus on what level of engagement a member of the OLA would wish for and how he might benefit from his membership and I do recognise that we are essentially one of many leisure outlets in which OLs may become involved.

Meaningful relationships are to be cherished

At our London dinner this year I was especially proud to speak to a room that spanned eight decades of membership. Irrespective of age, the common bond we all share allows an easy conversation and continued companionship too. In a world that too often squeezes out time for meaningful relationships these times are to be cherished. I conclude therefore that we are not any ordinary leisure outlet and if you have not attended the dinner in the past I do urge you to do so next year.

To strengthen our ties I am looking closer at merging with the Old Girls' Association and we recently set up a joint working committee to develop this. If you have any views or wish to get involved please get in touch.

I am looking closer at merging with the Old Girls' Association

During 2015 there will be other OLA and OGA events and the Development Office will be assisting us with these. The next OLA/OGA Loughborough Dinner is on March 21st and details are on the website www.olaoga.co.uk.

Scott Charlish (Chairman)

In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we record the passing of the following OLs. We hope to print brief obituaries in the Spring edition of the *Old Loughburian*.

February 2014

Jack Anthony (Tony) Evans (1935-39)

April 2014

Brian Webb (Staff 1954-88)

May 2014

Audrey Roydhouse (Matron 1983-90)

September 2014

Gethin Williams (Staff 1949-56)

Boys (and girls?) to the trenches



Trench digging - 1939

The picture of LGS boys digging trenches for air raid shelters in 1939 which appeared in the April 2014 edition of the *Old Loughburian* produced the following reminiscence from the archives. It came from a letter from Sheila Murray née Macbriar sent to the Secretary in 2000. She wrote:

"I recall Grammar School boys digging trenches for air raid shelters early in March 1939. These were situated on the path from opposite the High School which led to the hockey pitch beside Fairfield. I remember there was some difference of opinion as to whether it would be suitable for the girls to join in by digging their own trenches. I seem to remember that the boys were left to do the digging. The reason was a matter of what would the girls wear. Tunics were too encumbering, navy blue gym knickers were not judged to be suitable. The shelters were finished off by professionals. Many an hour we spent in those shelters while the planes grumbled on their way to Nottingham and Derby. I remember Miss Jackson walking up and down (it was the middle of a Maths exam) and saying 'No collusion girls, no collusion' while we sat munching our iron rations on the wooden benches inside the shelters."

Does anyone know the history of the air raid shelters in the garden just in front of LGS Tower? Ed.

That Rugby Match



Ed Thorpe, Joe Hubbard, Martin Brocklehurst, Malcolm Pheby, David Evans

This picture, first appearing in the April 2013 *Old Loughburian*, has stirred memories for **David Evans** (1969 -). He writes:

"In the early 1970s it became an end of season tradition for the 3rd XV to take on the might of the staff to raise money for charity. There are two schools of thought with regard to the motive behind the staff playing the 3rd XV: the staff did not want to embarrass either the 1st or 2nd XVs by giving them a good hiding; or the staff may not have been too keen to play against the likes of **Martin Drane**, **Duncan Hendry** and **Marcus Rose** who were about to play for the Tigers and England – I leave you to decide! The games were great fun and a lot of money was raised through sponsoring members of staff to score tries: the general principle being the less likely the try-scorer the more money invested. So on numerous occasions, a current rugby-playing member of staff was seen fending off defenders and waiting beyond the try-line for a colleague, in whom a lot of money was invested, to appear in order to touch the ball down."

Where are they now?



Simon Leese (1981-2003) left LGS to be Head of Christ's College, Christchurch, New Zealand in 2003. He continues to bump into OLs in New Zealand, UK and all points between.

Experience in New Zealand has been rewarding, though earthquakes were not in the job description. Simon and Jane will be returning to the UK in the not too distant future and will be available for lecture engagements on the subject of 'shaken and definitely stirred'.



Mark McMorran (1986-93 & 1997-05) left LGS to start up Cyclone Industries Ltd, a company he co-founded with **Dave Carrington** (1991-98) with the aim of developing the use of biometric technology in the education sector. The Live Register system, initially created to record attendance and school lunches for LGS, now has access control and point of sale capabilities. **Margaret Daynes** (1998-09) joined the company in 2009 to manage the helpdesk and service departments.



Howard Bullock (1986-1990) left LGS in order to teach in the Birmingham area. Then he moved to Qatar in 2000 before becoming Headmaster of the British International School in Lagos, Nigeria in 2008. After a spell as Headmaster of Haileybury Almaty in Kazakhstan he is currently Principal of Tenby School, Ipoh, Malaysia and would love to hear from any OLs in that part of the world. He has very fond memories of his happy time in Burton Walks.

In the News



Picture courtesy Alma Classics

Christian Hill (1984-91) has caused quite a stir with his recent, well-reviewed book, entitled **Combat Camera**, about the army's role in Afghanistan. *The Independent* reported that he

had resigned his commission so he could publish an eyewitness account of the human cost endured by the British Army in Afghanistan. Christian, who is now a BBC broadcast journalist in Nottingham, told *the Independent*: "My job was to promote the war and make it look like things were under control and getting better. The reality was often very different."

David Condon (2004-09) is now a regular fixture in the Great Britain Hockey Squad and was a member of the England team that came 4th in the World Cup and then won the bronze medal at this summer's Commonwealth Games. His sporting philosophy 'Go Hard or Go Home' is something he conveyed to the junior boys at LGS when helping with their training earlier this term.



Picture Adey Kerry/England Hockey

David Condon



Picture David Evans

Sam Sweeney

"An unusually potent show - charming, enlightening, warm and ultimately shocking" was how *the Guardian* summed up the latest show from **Sam Sweeney** (1999-2007). In the midst of a national tour of the show, Sam dropped into LGS for a moving and memorable telling of the story of his fiddle. The show, entitled **Made in the Great War**, tells how Sam bought the fiddle from an Oxford shop seven years ago, only to discover an inscription indicating the instrument was made by Richard S Howard in Leeds in 1915. Before Richard could complete the fiddle, he was called up to the Front, ultimately being killed at the Battle of Messines Ridge.

Future events

For more details please visit www.olaoga.co.uk
 email honsecola@lesgrammar.org
 or events@lesbursary.co.uk
 or contact Harriet on 01509 638920

January 2015

Thurs 15 South West lunch in Bristol/Bath area

Sat 24 Oxbridge Dinner, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge 8 pm. Open to alumni of LHS & LGS who are current undergraduates or graduates of Oxford and Cambridge Universities and those OLs and OGs living in the area. £50 (£30 students) following the Choristers' Evensong in the College Chapel.

March

Thurs 5 Durham University Drinks event Venue tbc

Sat 21 The OLA and OGA Loughborough Dinner
Burton Hall, 7.00 for 7.45 Black tie £38
(Early Bird rate £36)
Our guest speaker will be Sam Sweeney – fiddle player with the folk big-band Bellowhead and twice nominated as Best Musician at the BBC Folk awards.

June

Sat 13 2005 Leavers' 10 Year Reunion LES 7.00 pm
 Tickets £25

Sat 20 Class of '89 Reunion LES 7.00 pm
 Tickets £25

July

Sat 11 Robbie's Rugby Festival, LGS sports ground, Quorn

In July 2014 **Andrew Adey** (1992-99) was in the news when his firm, Adey Steel, won a £15 million contract to provide steel structures to support the wiring needed to electrify the Great Western main line between London and Cardiff. It was reported in the Leicester Mercury that the firm is also bidding for a part in the electrification of the Midland Mainline from Bedford to Sheffield, Corby and Nottingham as well as the controversial HS2 project, linking the south of England with the north, via Birmingham.



Andrew Adey



OLs in the Business World

*Does the bottom line worry you?
 Do you live and work in the world of business?
 We need you to share your experience for the 2015 OLA Magazine.*
Contact Hon. Editor: Tony Cox honeditorola@gmail.com
Deadline for copy : 14th March 2015