

## WELCOME (BACK)

Welcome to the first of what I am sure will be many LSST Alumni Association newsletters. We do hope you are all well and enjoying life as former LSST students to the full.

While I know many past pupils have kept strong links with the academy and have continued to support us after flying the nest, we are now delighted to be 'formalising' our alumni. An official organisation has been an academy objective for a number of years as we truly believe that creating a network to build communication between you and LSST will, in turn, enrich the lives of our current students through the sharing of your knowledge, skills and life experiences.

As you would expect, LSST continues to grow and develop on both a structural and educational front. After becoming the lead school within The Priory Federation of Academies Trust in 2008 and changing its name to The Priory Academy LSST, it established a teaching school in 2011, opened new sport facilities and a Sixth Form boarding house in 2012 and established a SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) in 2014. It has been wonderful to see some of our past students returning after their degree, training to teach with us and now working in one of our Trust academies.

From September 2019, the Trust is expected to grow to 12 academies across Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. At LSST, we are currently undertaking a major refurbishment programme in our Mathematics and Modern Foreign Language classrooms and surrounding areas – a development which many of you will know is long overdue! Building on the original foundation of the 'Priory Way', our LSST ethos of 'Courage and Courtesy' and our core values of Inspiration, Aspiration, Respect, Resilience and Inno-

vation are now embedded and form the underlying principles for all that we do, both inside and outside the classroom.



It is our hope that you, our former students, can help us grow our alumni association network. Please do encourage others among your friends and family to sign up via our website. As life moves on, and the time expands between leaving school and your position today, links with school friends and colleagues can fray. We hope our alumni organisation provides another avenue, in addition to perhaps smaller groupings on social media, to share the achievements of 'old' friends and reignite friendships with others. In addition, we hope to be able to cement our links with you and encourage you to visit our academy. Staff and students always enjoy the visits of past pupils, whether that is to reminisce about lessons (and staff) of old, or to listen to them sharing their wisdom and exciting life experiences. Just as you once did, our current students often prefer listening to and believing anyone but their teachers!

We do hope to hear from and see you soon.

*J Heple*



## ACADEMY HOSTS ANNUAL OXBRIDGE CONFERENCE

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Academy hosted our annual Lincolnshire Schools' Oxbridge Conference. Over 550 Year 11 and Year 12 students and staff attended from twenty four schools from around the county.

The Year 11 presentations focused on the life of an Oxbridge undergraduate, the study of either STEM subjects or Humanities/Arts and advice on how to prepare for an application.

Year 12 students had a separate programme and could choose from a dozen workshops available during each of the four sessions throughout the day. Those in attendance could receive advice about constructing a competitive application and preparing for the interview, alongside subject-specific information and advice.

Staff and current undergraduates from Oxford and Cambridge Universities presented numerous sessions as did many of our current Year 13 who have just been through the application process.

We were pleased to welcome back many alumni who are currently studying at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

*Would you like to get involved? Please see page 5 for further details.*

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE DofE

The Rt Honourable Nick Gibb, MP and Minister of State for School Standards has recently written to all at The Priory Academy LSST to congratulate them on the success of students achieving a commendable set of results in both Ebacc and Modern Foreign Language subjects.

Both provide "a sound basis for a variety of careers beyond the age of 16 and can also enrich pupils' studies, giving them a broad general knowledge that will enable them to participate in and contribute to society"

Our commitment to the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages alone places us in the top seven percent of all state funded mainstream schools.



## SOMETHING FUNNY FOR MONEY

The Academy raised over £2,300 for charity when it took part in Comic Relief events in March.

Here at the Priory Academy LSST, the theme of 'Teachers doing Something Funny for Money' saw students donating what they could afford in order to see their teachers completing a series of tasks. As a result, staff took part in 'lip sync' and rap battles and dance routines.

Assistant Head Ian Dinnie received a complimentary leg wax, while others enjoyed gunge or wet sponges.



# THE PRIORY ACADEMY LSST TURNS 25!

After months of preparation and rehearsals, the day finally came for both staff and students to represent themselves at the Lincoln Drill Hall for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Priory Academy LSST.



2019 saw the 25th Anniversary of the Academy. To mark the event, the Academy took great pleasure in inviting attendance to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: *Songs from the Musicals: A Concert Performance* – a collection of songs from some of the country's best-loved musicals at The Drill Hall, Lincoln, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Featuring performances from students past and present, the evening promised to be a memorable, high-energy spectacle, with songs including *Grease Medley*, *Do You Hear the People Sing*, *The Greatest Show* and *America*.

Staff and students met at the location in the early afternoon and participated in a demanding session of rehearsals, choosing lighting and organising the formal entrances and exits. Students did an excellent job of representing the Academy and behaved in an exemplary manner throughout the day; they were a credit to themselves and the Academy.

It was not only a display of talent, but an exhibition of the Academy's key values and the great way in which both students and staff can come together to celebrate the LSST family.

Of particular poignancy, Hannah Brown's compelling story was told through the dynamic dancing of last year's Rock Challenge Team. Their captivating movement brought a tear to the eye of many in attendance. Their work, along with the effort made by others participating in the concert, was recognised by Lincoln City Manager, Danny Cowley, who recorded an empowering video on the importance of the arts in education.

As the evening drew to a close, all performers returned to the stage to perform the final song, 'Do You Hear the People Sing?', recognised by a standing ovation.

We look forward to another 25 prosperous years of the Academy!

## SUMMER EXAMINATION SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June over 200 Year 11 students were joined by staff at the Engine Shed, Lincoln, to celebrate the end of their examinations.

The weather was kind and the students looked stunning in their smartest attire as they danced the night away! For some this marked the end of their Priory journey as they venture on to pastures new for their post-16 education.

At the time of writing the Year 13 students have finished their examinations, but are still looking forward to their final farewell at the Year 13 Prom to be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be hosted at the Hilton Hotel, Brayford Pool and is sure to be a fitting



## ALUMNI NEWS!

Over the course of coming newsletters, we would like to share the journeys that some of our Alumni have taken. For Issue 1 we would like to thank Ben Hudson and Sophie Keeling.

**Ben Hudson:** My name is Ben Hudson and I am a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of Lincoln. I finished my studies at the then-named Priory LSST in 2006. How time flies! I love working in academia, but my path here has been anything but straight. Since leaving sixth form, I have studied architecture, international development, socio-legal studies, and law. I recently submitted my PhD in Law at the University of Bristol. Before Bristol, I studied at the University of Manchester. I have also spent time working abroad. In 2011/12, I was based in Georgia, working with national NGOs and United Nations agencies supporting

those who have been displaced within the country as a result of the region's ongoing protracted conflicts. I have also been a business and finance consultant, with experience of working in Moldova and Switzerland.

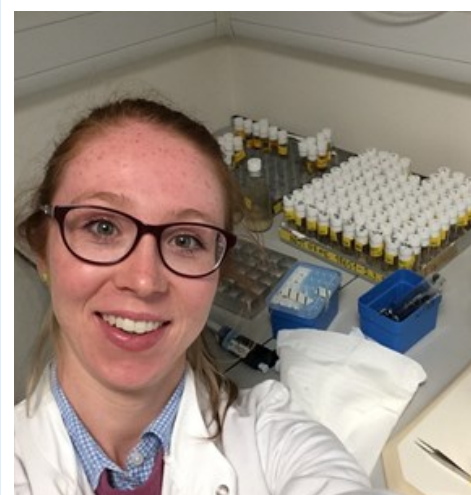


It's great to be back working in Lincoln, especially at a university that is so innovative and ambitious. It also means I'm not too far from the Priory! I actually live in London, but I am of course often in the cathedral city.

Anyone interested in contacting me is very welcome to do so via email: [bhudson@lincoln.ac.uk](mailto:bhudson@lincoln.ac.uk).

Further information about me is available here: [staff.lincoln.ac.uk/4bc0029e-5eb7-471f-9cfb-4306c1ea9120](http://staff.lincoln.ac.uk/4bc0029e-5eb7-471f-9cfb-4306c1ea9120).

**Sophie Keeling:** Since leaving "The Priory Academy LSST" in 2013, life has been full of many exciting things! I initially worked in Gannets Day Café in Newark and with the money earned here I travelled to Hawaii and lived in a yoga retreat for 2 months. In September 2014, I started my Bachelor's in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Warwick. I spent three happy years there, making lifelong friends and memories, being fascinated about the human body and playing football three times a week for the University



I did my first research project, funded by Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK), which gave me a taste of real life in the laboratory and allowed me to put my knowledge to the test as well as develop my practical skills. I worked on tau; a protein implicated in Alzhei-

mer's Disease (AD) and used *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) as a model organism. This project captivated me so much that I continued to work in the same lab for my Bachelor Thesis, where I characterised a novel tau mutation found in AD patients. In July 2017, I graduated with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours and the highest grades of my cohort. However, I was not quite finished with studying yet!

After applying for a Masters in Neuroscience, I was accepted into the Graduate School of Neuroscience (GSN) at the Ludwig Maximilian Universität (LMU) in Munich, receiving a full scholarship from the Leverhulme Trust. During this 2 year Masters, I have taken a wide range of classes in biomedical neuroscience, computational neuroscience, statistics, programming, molecular neurobiology and neurophilosophy. I was also the representative for my year, which involved conversing with professors and organising various events such as parties and a weekend away to the mountains. I am now completing my Master's thesis, in the laboratory of Dr Irina Dudanova at the Max Planck Institute of Neurobiology. The topic is neurodegeneration and I am working on protective mechanisms of growth factors involved in Huntington's disease. I will be graduating in December 2019 and plan to pursue a PhD in Munich, after taking a 6-month break to do some travelling, hopefully in Nepal.



Aside from studying neuroscience here in Munich, I have taken German lessons and I am now able to have a basic conversation. I would definitely recommend living abroad, experiencing a new culture and learning a new language, as it has been a humbling and fulfilling experience. I am once again playing football here for a local team, TSV Solln and attempting to speak German with the girls! I have recently taken part in the Munich Science Slam, an event aimed to promote presentation skills amongst scientists. I had to talk about my research area in 5 minutes in a clear and concise way. You can watch my talk on the Munich Science slam YouTube Page titled "Connecting the dots: Can we link all neuro-degenerative diseases?"

I still think fondly about my time spent at the Priory and am grateful for all the advice and opportunities that I received and allowed me to have a successful start to my scientific career.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Do you have a journey that you wish to share? Do you wish to contribute to the journeys of current students at the Priory Academy LSST? Perhaps, you simply have a suggestion for the onward journey of the LSST Alumni Association. In any case we would love to hear from you!

Please do not hesitate to get in contact with the Alumni Association team.

E-mails should be directed to:

[csharpe@prioryacademies.co.uk](mailto:csharpe@prioryacademies.co.uk)

We will shortly be updating our Alumni Association Twitter page, please follow us:

[@LSSTAlumniAssoc](https://twitter.com/LSSTAlumniAssoc)

## A VISIT TO CHRIST'S COLLEGE

Recently, Mr Milner and Mrs Griffin took a group of ten Year 11 students to Christ's College, Cambridge to take part in the Preparing for Sixth Form Conference run by Dr Mark King.

As part of the day, students attended a talk welcoming them to both the College and the University, followed by a tour and lunch in the Upper Hall. In the afternoon there was a presentation and Q&A entitled 'What Next? A-Level subject choices and how to prepare in Year 12'. This suggested many different ways students can enhance their school curriculum and prepare themselves for applying to competitive courses and universities in the future.

A particular highlight was when alumnus Jake, shared his own experiences in successfully applying to Cambridge to study Law. He also discussed the multitude of other opportunities that have come his way as a result, including forthcoming trips to Malta and Hong Kong and learning how to row! Jake tried to dispel a few myths about who should apply and why the stereotypical image of a Cambridge student is not accurate. He is pictured in the photo in the specialist Law Library at Christ's with two of our Year 11s. Can you tell which one he is?

All involved greatly enjoyed the experience and felt that they had benefitted.



## THE GOLDFISH BOWL

As we are sure many of you will remember in the Priory Academy LSST Sixth Form there is a little office in the corner of the common room. Most days you will find Caroline Sharpe and Nick Milner, part of our Higher Education Advising team.

It's their job to make sure all our students are supported with their applications and get them in on time. Our students have an incredibly wide range of opportunities available to them and Caroline and Nick are responsible for giving them the best and most up to date advice they can. Whether that is applying to study medicine in the UK, getting



a degree apprenticeship at PwC or venturing further afield.

In the past few years we have had many students gain places at the most prestigious universities in the world - from Oxford and Cambridge in the UK to Princeton in the United States.

On our regular visits to Oxford and Cambridge, it's lovely to catch up with our LSST alumni whether they are guiding us around their subject department or hosting us at a formal dinner in their college. It's wonderful to see the way they develop in their 3 or 4 years of undergraduate study. We also keep in touch with our alumni who have graduated and many visit the academy to give presentations and advice to current students.

On a visit to the US this fall, Nick was lucky enough to catch up with Jack Beckett- Marshall, halfway

through his third semester at Bowdoin College, one of the top institutions in the US. Here, he is thriving in the amazing facilities and studying a much broader range of subjects than he could in the UK. The opportunities he has been given are truly astounding.

Similarly, Ben Coles is attending Princeton College. 'Princeton is going great- I'm taking a Computer Science class and I got placed into an honours multivariable calculus course which is by far the most intense. I'm also taking a microeconomics class with George Bush's economic adviser. There's so much to do on campus all the time and so much to get involved in. I'm going to New York in fall break to spend some time at a few Tech companies, including Facebook - I'm also in the line to do some data analysis at an internship in Germany this summer.'



Ben and Jack were both supported with their applications by the Sutton Trust USA programme, however students are also successful when they apply independently. William Waller is studying at St Lawrence University, New York State and Ciara Goggin secured a soccer scholarship at Hinds Community College in Mississippi.

Studying at Oxbridge or the USA is certainly not for every student. However, for a happy few individuals it offers a wonderful range of challenges, experiences and rewards.

Caroline and Nick continue to work with our students to help them reach the best courses and institutions for every one of them. It's an incredibly rewarding role to have.