

Happy New Year to you all!

As we arrive at the halfway point in another exciting academic year at The Priory Academy LSST, it is wonderful to be able to highlight in this newsletter the remarkable achievements of our current and former students. We also describe some of the phenomenal fundraising that has been undertaken by our young people and look at the support our alumni have already begun to give to enable us to enrich the lives of our current pupils.

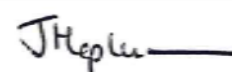
I hope you find it informative and that, in reading profiles on our ex-students and news of our sporting successes, it will take you on a trip down memory lane, recalling your time as an LSST student at the same time as providing you with ideas on how you might be able to support our current students.

During the last six months, I have had many conversations with past students from LSST and I would like to highlight two of them here. Firstly, while promoting our boarding house at the Lincolnshire Show, I had the pleasure of speaking to an alumni student from one of the first cohorts at LSST. It was delightful to hear his fond memories and experiences from his time at the Academy, and to learn that he is now considering LSST as a destination for his own children. As a relatively new school, it is pleasing to think that we are now taking a second generation from families in our community. Secondly, at Senior Prize Giving, it was lovely to listen to Dean Wilson and his disbelief on how the school had grown in size, with its inspiring new facilities, and yet other parts and the 'feel' remained the same. He was pleased the rubber plant in Art (and Paul Clarke and Nick Milner) still remained!



As always, if you live locally or are back in the area visiting family or friends, please do not hesitate to pop in for a visit. We do love to show our ex-students around.

Mrs J Hopkinson
Headteacher



ALUMNI NEWS!

Over the course of coming newsletters, we would like to share the journeys that some of our Alumni have taken. For Issue 2 we would like to thank Sophie Buckingham, Niko Czarlinski and Marie Oldfield.

Sophie Buckingham: It doesn't seem like over 7seven years ago since I left LSST, but looking back, the last seven years have certainly been as busy as the seven that I spent at The Priory!

After leaving LSST in 2012, I went to Lancaster University to study Law and French. I remember being pretty apprehensive about starting my course, and unsure about my choice as to where and what to study. As soon as I arrived though, I didn't look back! I became actively involved in my university's rowing team, and the Boat Club quickly became a large part of my university life.

In my third year, I moved to France for an Erasmus study abroad year at the Université de Lorraine in Nancy. I can honestly say that choosing to study abroad was the best decision I made – it really opened me up to a different culture and lifestyle, giving me the chance to meet friends from all over Europe. It was this experience that convinced me, after graduating from Lancaster, that I should look to repeat my year abroad.

Completely by chance (I met a university lecturer on the bus in Lancaster who told me about the programme!) I came across the College of Europe – a Master's degree in Bruges, Belgium where you specialise in European Affairs. I was lucky enough to spend an incredible (but very intense!) year in beautiful Bruges studying International Relations and Diplomacy.

From there I moved with a lot of my course mates to Brussels to start a traineeship at the European External Action Service – the European Union's diplomatic service. It was a brilliant experience where I really got to be at the heart of EU policy making (even if it's an 'interesting' time for a British person to be working in the EU).

After the EEAS I worked in an international NGO on a migration and integration accelerator programme, and for the last year have been working as a researcher at a public sector consultancy, implementing projects for the European Commission and other EU institutions.

I look back on my time at LSST with very happy memories. I'm especially grateful for the lasting friendships I made there, the support I received in beginning

higher education, and the development of skills that have helped me to begin my professional career.



Niko Czarlinski: When I finished my A Levels in June, I had a firm and insurance offer from two universities. I'd worked hard for my exams and I hoped to reach the A*AA grades required by my first choice. Results day came faster than expected and I was pleased with my results which exceeded my firm offer. Cambridge University had given me the chance to contact them if I reached or exceeded their standard offer for my course, Engineering, and as I had done so I was able to change my choice to Trinity College, Cambridge. During the process of adjustment, I received all the help I needed from Mrs Sharpe and Mr Milner, for which I'm very grateful. The process included filling out forms and further calls with the university on the day results came out, and by the end of that day I was offered a place. Now I am studying Engineering at Trinity and I am part of Cambridge University



Marie Oldfield: I'm Marie Oldfield and I am the Director of Oldfield Consultancy. I have a global consortium and primarily consult into Defence.

So far I have had a very varied career. I can't fit it all in here but check out my LinkedIn if you like. I hope that my article will show you that you can do whatever you put your mind to. Bear in mind – I was told I might struggle with Maths at A Level and my best friend from school failed almost everything then became a sought after chef. There isn't a limit to what you can do with your own specific abilities. So, what have I been up to?

I finished my GCSE studies at LSST in 1997 and went on to Sixth Form at Lincoln Minster. Since leaving school I studied an HND in International Business. Looking around the lecture theatre of about 200 people I thought, 'how do I stand out'. I was getting very high marks at the Maths modules and there were only ten people on the Maths degree so I thought about how I could get onto that course. I studied a foundation in Maths, Physics and Chemistry and then went on to study BSc Mathematics, MSc Statistics and now PhD Computer Science (distance study as it's mainly about my work) alongside running my company. I have particularly enjoyed being at the University of Portsmouth during my studies. During my studies I did a lot of agency work and so I have worked in many job roles. The funniest job was as a 'PA' which was actually babysitting a lot of JCBs at a Texaco plant for a few hours an evening. I also worked as a medical secretary in Oncology and then on a psychiatric ward at a local hospital, where the patients regularly stole my appointment books (pre-computer days) and sat laughing at me trying to find them. After university, using my agency connections, I started working on contracts, firstly in Mathematics and Operational Research for the AA and NATS and then in Statistics for the Office for National Statistics. I was then a Secondary Maths Teacher for a while, where I absolutely loved making Maths accessible to everyone, before becoming a freelance TV and radio presenter. I then moved on into Defence and my only permanent job so far. As Lead Statistical Consultant for both dstl sites I worked on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) and general operational defence modelling. After this I set up my own company and have since consulted to UK Government, MOD, NATO and have spent over a year in Hol-

land working abroad. During this time, I have acted as the Volunteer Global Consultant Lead for the American Statistical Association. Through this pro bono work and my amazing team of consultants I have had direct impact on the Ebola outbreak, Nepalese earthquake, and education and poverty in developing countries. I've worked with the UN, Doctors without Borders and MapAction. I have been an advocate for education for as long as I can remember. I help out as a STEM ambassador and do talks at schools. I speak at conferences on topics such as leadership, statistics and modelling. In amongst this I have lived all over the UK and travelled all over the world as far as New Zealand, South Africa and California. I haven't had the most linear of career paths but I have enjoyed all of the crazy experiences I have been lucky enough to have. I think it's important be adaptable. I have seen this through permanent roles and through running my own company. The market conditions can change on you suddenly and then it's about adapting and conquering them, so I've always had a bag of skills to pull out at any given time.

I've travelled extensively across the globe, met some amazing people and had as much fun as possible at every step and seen some amazing sights, and it's not over yet! I'd recommend everyone to do what you enjoy and have fun!

If anyone would like to contact me please feel free to do so. I'm also on LinkedIn.



IN THE SPORTS ARENA

ABBIE DONNELLY WITH SENIOR GOLD MEDAL

Ex-student Abbie (pictured third from the right), a very talented track athlete at the Academy always showed much promise in her chosen sport. Whilst at the Academy she won the English School Cross Country Championships in 2015 and was selected to represent GB U20s in China.

Since leaving the Academy to study at university Abbie has continued to push herself both academically and on the track. She has recently broken into the GB and England women's senior teams and has found instant success. Just before Christmas 2019 she was part of the GB women's senior team that took gold at the European Cross Country Championships, finishing in 13th place individually. At the start of January 2020 she once again got a taste of gold in the Stirling Cross Country, representing England women's seniors and finishing in 2nd place individually.

We wish Abbie all the best for the future and hope to see her at the Academy soon.



THESE GIRLS HAD AN AWESOME WEEKEND COMPETING FOR THE ACADEMY AT THE ESSA NATIONAL SWIMMING FINALS IN LONDON.

Qualifying 16th (2.04.00) in the country for the 4x 50m freestyle relay, they were determined to get the most out of the visit and swim into the top 10 and be in the final.

In the heats they put in a tremendous effort and swam a 2.02.44 placing them fifth and a spot in the final.

The final was tense and could not have been closer. The girls held on and held on but Mayflower School had saved an absolute flyer for their last leg. It was all about the finish and that final touch. To the naked eye everyone in the top 5 finished together. Heartbreakingly we came fifth again, but the top five were split by 0.6 of a second!

The girls had truly given it their all and were rewarded with a phenomenal time of 2.01.10 and fifth fastest junior girls team in the country and top state school in the junior girls event.

Well done to all of the girls. We look forward to witnessing your many future successes.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Congratulations to those athletes competing at the Anglian Schools Cross Country Championships on the weekend of 1st Feb 2020. We wish them all the luck in progressing to the next round.

Congratulations to the Y10 Football team who are looking forward to their County Cup Semi Final in a few weeks time.



PRIORY BOARDING

The Robert De Cheney Boarding House gets some new guests. Recently a local charity called Re-engage Lincoln for people over the age of 75 who live alone and are considered isolated in the area has visited. Many who the charity help struggle to walk, have suffered falls and go weeks without talking to anyone. They meet once a month for a tea party as well as one off events such as going to the panto! The charity's aim over time, is to see the guests gain confidence and combat growing social isolation. The students engaged with the group, listened to stories and entertained them with musical performances; all whilst enjoying a superbly prepared afternoon tea by the boarding staff.



FUNDRAISING

Throughout 2019 students and staff from the Academy took part in a number of fundraising activities for Teenage Cancer Trust. This is a charity that is close to the hearts of many members of our community and was therefore chosen as one of our academy charities in 2018-2019. As well as many of the usual fundraising efforts such as bake sales and raffles, Head of Year 13 Mr Strawson took on the challenge of running a 10k race every month for the charity – raising almost £1500 in the process. Upon completing the challenge at the Skegness 10k in December he said this: "It has been a privilege to run in the Teenage Cancer Trust vest this year and even better that friends, family and colleagues have been so generous for such a worthwhile cause. To have run today surrounded by friends and colleagues has been quite emotional." The charity is important to Mr Strawson who, as Head of Year 11 in 2018, helped support the year group through the loss of one of their peers. He added "working with Teenage Cancer Trust in 2017 and 2018 opened my eyes to the amazing work they do – not only in supporting young people with cancer but their friends and family too." The charity is also special to Head of Boarding and Science teacher (and alumna) Miss Bosier, who is running the London Marathon on their behalf in 2020. At the time of writing her training is well underway and we will have an update in the next newsletter of how she got on.

Enrichment Leader and Geography teacher Miss Tunnard, alongside our Fundraising and Community Team (FACT) have been instrumental in raising funds for the charity and we continue to help out – we are currently collecting donations of (or towards) toiletries to give to young people admitted to the Teenage Cancer Trust Ward at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham.

We would welcome support from any alumni who feel able to help out.

WE 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.

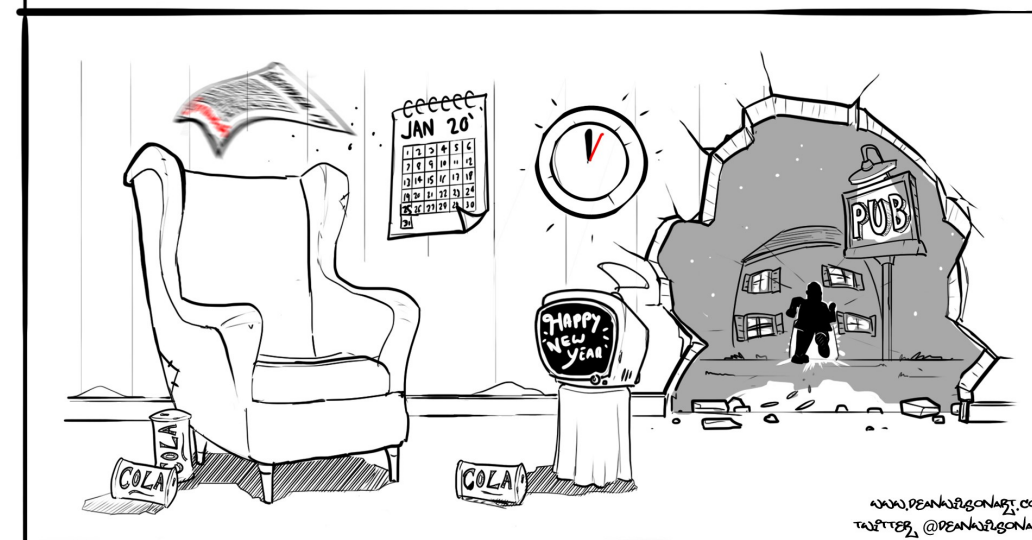
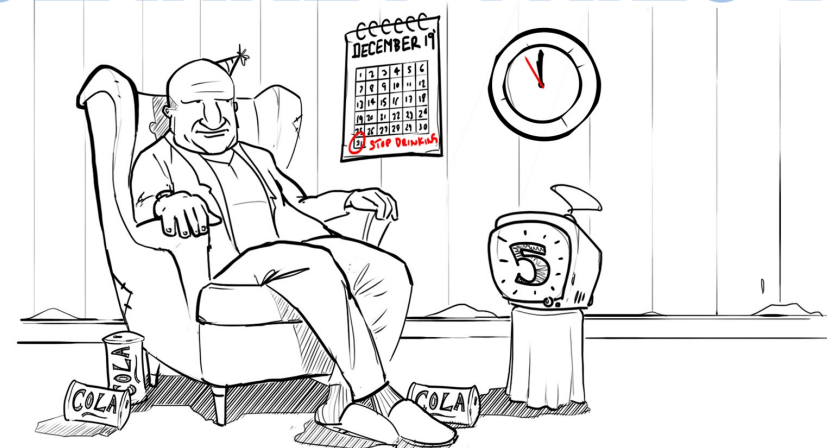
E-mails should be directed to:

csharpe@prioryacademies.co.uk

We will shortly be updating our Alumni Association Twitter page. Please follow us:

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

CLARKEY TRIES DRY JANUARY!



Many of you will remember Mr Clarke, our charismatic Science and rugby teacher.

Thanks to one of our ex-students, Dean Wilson, for the witty but uncannily realistic and entirely plausible cartoon.