



December 2024

LVS Oxford - SHOUTOUT



A message from Mel

It's been such a busy and exciting term at LVS Oxford! Our students have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of brilliant trips and activities. These included visits to Waterperry Gardens and Millets Farm, as well as festive Christmas shopping trips and magical photos with Santa at Fairytale Farm. Students also enjoyed ice skating at Blenheim Palace and more, making this term truly memorable for everyone.

Our Math's teacher, Neil, had an exciting opportunity to travel to Bangalore, India, where he led engaging workshops in Mathematics, sharing his expertise with educators.

Back at LVS Oxford, we discovered we have a superstar in our midst! Ines, one of our talented Year 11 students, wowed us all with her beautiful piano playing and incredible singing. Meanwhile, the staff showcased their culinary skills in a fun and friendly Bake-Off competition, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone—especially the students, who had the very important role of being taste testers!

There are so many fabulous photos to choose from, but this one has to be my favorite! Horace the horse's expression says it all—he's clearly had enough of visitors for the day and isn't shy about showing it. I think he might be saying, "*Alright, folks, photos over!*" Horace has definitely mastered the art of stealing the spotlight,

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas! May your holidays be filled with joy, laughter, and special moments. And as always, stay safe and take care.



Ines Terra – Our School Pianist



What a wonderful world we live in! Today, we were all so delighted and surprised to discover that our lovely Year 11 student, Ines, plays the piano so beautifully. She had never mentioned this before, so we were absolutely overjoyed and thrilled to hear her play for the students.

Not only is Ines a talented pianist, but she also sings—what a superstar in the making! This afternoon, she will perform for the Year 7 parents as they arrive for the church visit.

To see the full video of Ines's incredible performance, please visit our website. Ines shared with us that she has been learning with her piano teacher, Tatiana, and often plays at the Hall in Kidlington.

A message from Chris

It has been an eventful and exciting few months since the start of the new school year, when we warmly welcomed our new cohort of Year 7 students and introduced them to the Lower School. As you'll see in this edition of the *Shout Out*, our students have been incredibly busy!

In addition to working hard in their lessons, they've taken part in a variety of engaging activities. Highlights include themed dress-up days and lunches, hosting a visiting speaker from The Nut Tree Inn, participating in cooking demonstrations, attending a theatre performance of *War Horse*, and watching a presentation by the Fire Brigade. Students also gained valuable safety awareness training by participating in staged road traffic incidents, visited the beautiful Waterperry Gardens, and embraced creativity and teamwork through the Lower School's *Nurture, Thrive, Bloom* Enterprise Project.

It has been heartwarming to see how these activities have helped us all connect more deeply, strengthening our sense of belonging to the school community. Ensuring everyone's safety and well-being remains at the core of everything we do here at LVS Oxford. Our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to enrich students' learning experiences and support their personal development journeys. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for going above and beyond in their work. I'd also like to express my gratitude to parents for their continued positivity and enthusiasm, which means so much to us.



LVSTEACHER CHAMPIONS

Kate Henderson-Dyer, Tash Tillyer and Debbie Keen are our **Teacher Champions**, supporting colleagues in enhancing lesson delivery. To ensure they are easily identifiable, they will be wearing **yellow badges**.



A message from Ian



As we approach the holidays, I would like to say a huge well done to all our students who have made these last 2 terms the best attended since I've been at LVS Oxford. More than that, it has been wonderful to see the excellent progress they have made, and this is down to both their hard work and the commitment and dedication of our amazing staff team. I am also very grateful for the support we get from you as parents in making this school a successful learning environment for all our students.

Wherever, and however you are celebrating, I'd like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a fantastic new year. May you find peace and joy throughout the holiday season.

Warhorse Theatre Trip



Years 8, 9 and some Year 10s had the opportunity to watch 'War Horse' at the New Theatre, this week. 'War Horse' offers an unforgettable theatrical experience, taking audiences on a journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. Based on Michael Morpurgo's beloved novel, this powerful and imaginative drama features stirring music and songs, showcasing phenomenal inventiveness. At its heart are astonishing life-sized horses created by South Africa's Handspring Puppet Company, bringing breathing, galloping, and charging horses thrillingly to life on stage. We were immensely proud of how well our students behaved. They could not have represented the school better, and it was an absolute delight to share this experience with them all. Well, done to our students who struggle with loud noises and flashing lights and sat through the whole play. What an accomplishment!

Kate English Lead

STUDENT SHOUTOUT – RAYMOND YR 9

“I joined cadets roughly at the beginning of last term. I’m really enjoying it and have made friends. I go every Tuesday. I have learnt how to march, CPR/ the recovery position and how many chest compressions. I learnt how to hold a riot shield, and I went to Brize Norton. In the future, I might join the police”.

Raymond



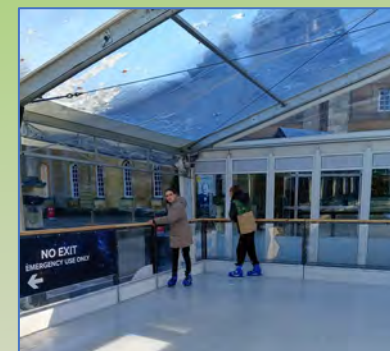
**SHOUT
OUT**

**SHOUT
OUT**

BLENHEIM PALACE

Student
WORK
EXPERIENCE

Some of our work experience students who attend Blenheim Palace had the exciting opportunity to test out the brand-new Ice-Skating Rink, a wonderful addition to the palace grounds for 2024. This festive attraction has quickly become a highlight for visitors, offering a unique and magical experience amidst the historic setting. Among the first to hit the ice were Ines and Harry, who bravely embraced the challenge of learning to skate. Despite a few wobbles and laughs along the way, they had an incredible time gliding (and occasionally stumbling) across the ice. Their enthusiasm and determination truly captured the spirit of fun and adventure, making it a memorable experience for everyone involved.



Thanks to Lorraine,
Blenheim's Work
Experience Mentor for
arranging this for the
students

Upper School students who currently do not participate in offsite work experience placements have the valuable opportunity to gain practical insights into the hospitality industry by working in our on-site café. Open most Fridays, the café provides a real-world setting where students can develop essential skills and experience the responsibilities involved in running a food service operation.

The students actively contribute to every aspect of the café's operation. They assist in preparing popular menu items such as bacon and sausage baps, freshly baked cookies and cupcakes, and a variety of cold drinks. Before service begins, they work together to set up the café, ensuring everything is ready for the morning break rush. During service, they take on key roles such as serving customers, operating the till, and managing transactions. Afterward, they participate in cleaning down the café, ensuring that the classroom is tidy ready for students to learn.

This hands-on experience not only teaches them about teamwork, time management, and customer service but also offers a glimpse into the fast-paced and rewarding nature of the hospitality industry. Through this initiative, the students build confidence, enhance their practical skills, and take pride in their contribution to a successful café operation.



LVS CAFE



Over the October break, our Maths Teacher, Neil Barker, embarked on an enriching professional journey to Bangalore, India. During his visit, he played a pivotal role in leading a mathematics workshop for educators.

This inspiring initiative was designed to foster collaboration, share innovative teaching strategies, and strengthen the global mathematical teaching community by sharing his extensive knowledge and expertise.





Our Year 11 students recently had an enriching and informative visit to the Witney Campus, designed to provide them with a comprehensive understanding of the courses and opportunities available as they consider their next steps in education. During the visit, they were given a guided tour of the campus, exploring various departments and learning about the wide range of courses on offer. This firsthand look, allowed them to experience the excellent facilities and resources available to support student learning and development.

Following the tour at Witney Campus, the group traveled a short distance to the college's Common Leys Farm Campus.



The visit was not only an eye-opener for the students but also an inspiration, as it helped them envision the potential pathways they could pursue in further education. Whether interested in working with animals, exploring agricultural industries, or studying equine science, the tour highlighted the diversity of options and the supportive environment the college offers for future growth and success.

YEAR 11 VISIT TO ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE – WITNEY AND COMMON LEYS CAMPUSES



This unique setting specializes in courses focused on animal care, agriculture and equine studies. Here, the students were introduced to the practical and hands-on learning opportunities provided at the farm. They were able to see how the campus integrates classroom knowledge with real-world experiences, such as caring for animals, working with agricultural equipment, and studying equine management.





Students participating in their work experience at Fairytale Farm were treated to a special and magical opportunity—a visit to Santa’s Grotto! This experience allowed them to immerse themselves in the festive spirit, interact with the holiday-themed attractions, and gain valuable insights into the behind-the-scenes operations of such a delightful event.



LOWER SCHOOL CAPTION COMPETITION

CHRISTMAS GIF COMPETITION

• Really mum? Really?



Jessica Meah 7*



Adding to the merriment of the final week of the school term, students participated in the annual Christmas Caption Competition.

There were some hilarious entries to match the very silly pictures including grumpy dogs dressed as Elves, a Santa stuck under a tree and a very eager group of babies trying to open a present! The winner of the Individual Entry was Jessica Meah. The Tutor Group winners were 7Y.

Congratulations!

YEAR 7 TRIP TO WATERPERRY GARDENS 3rd December



Year 7 students went on an adventure to find the hidden reindeers - beautifully crafted from natural materials and positioned to show off the lovely grounds at the Waterperry Estate.

A popular part of the trip was discovering the stunning plant statues made of metal and glass-like resin. The sun came out and shone on them creating a magical impression of the place. The cafe provided the students with a delicious drink and a snack. Students visited the church and were fascinated to see how the church interior was arranged to seat families in gated pews.



Amazing statues at Waterperry



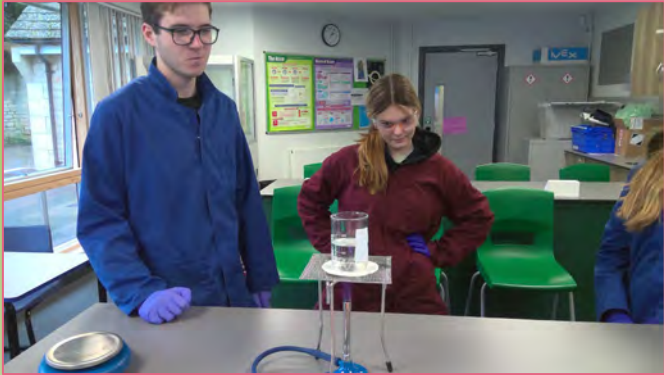
Year 8,9 and 11 Science Practical



Students participated in practical experiments to find how much energy is found in food (marshmallow and in biscuits)

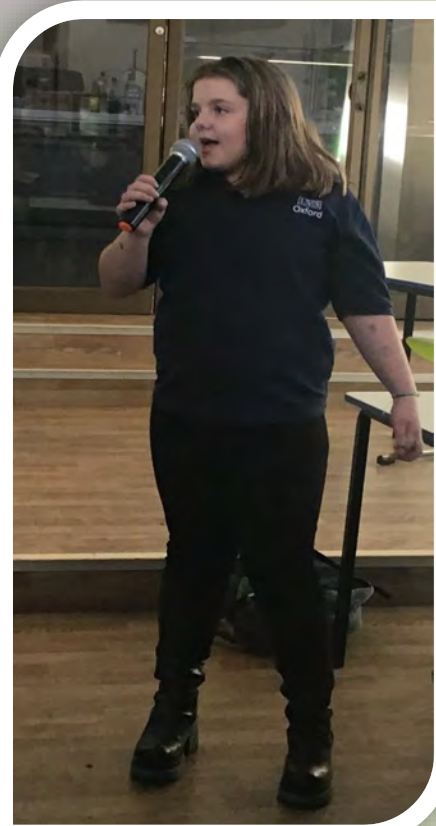
Another couple of experiments which we did today

- 1. To find the pH of different water samples
- 2. To find the dissolved solids in the given sample.



MONDAY LUNCHTIME SINGING CLUB

Every Monday at lunchtime, a lively and cheerful group of students gathers in room G063 to participate in an exciting karaoke session led by Neil and Lucy. This weekly event has become a highlight for many, providing an opportunity to relax, bond with friends, and showcase their vocal talents in a supportive and fun environment. The room is filled with an energetic vibe as students take turns selecting their favorite songs, singing along to popular hits, and encouraging one another. Whether you're a seasoned performer or just looking to have a good time, Neil and Lucy ensure the atmosphere remains welcoming and inclusive for everyone. The karaoke sessions not only offer entertainment but also help build confidence and foster a sense of community among the students.



YEAR 8 TRIP TO MILLETS FARM CENTRE 4th December



Year 8 students recently had the exciting opportunity to visit **Millets Farm Centre**, a popular destination known for its engaging activities and picturesque surroundings. Additionally, they enjoyed some leisure time in the farm's beautiful outdoor spaces, taking in the fresh air and natural beauty.



Cooking



Students took part in a Christmas cooking activity of making And decorating reindeer/ Gingerbread biscuits.

CHRISTMAS STAFF BAKE-OFF



Congratulations to everyone who participated in our fun and exciting staff bake-off! The creativity and effort showcased by all entrants were truly impressive, and the quality of the baked goods exceeded all expectations. From stunning decorations to delicious flavours, each entry demonstrated remarkable skill and passion. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event such a sweet success—we are already looking forward to the next one. Also, it was the first cake Mel has ever made so even more impressive!

Winner Mel's Wonker Cake



Nurture Thrive Bloom Christmas Enterprise Sale

13th December 2024 - Years 8 and 9

18th December 2024 - Year 7

Nurture Thrive Bloom



"From flowers to foliage, fruits to ferns, Nurture, Thrive, Bloom! - a true haven for growth."

We are dedicated to growing high-quality plants and produce that enrich your garden, table, and lifestyle. From lush greenery to fresh fruits and vegetables, our commitment to sustainability and care ensures that every plant and product thrives under our nurturing touch.

The Lower School Enterprise Project

This year's Christmas Enterprise Sale showcased the remarkable entrepreneurial skills of Year 9 students, who took charge of every aspect of running a small business. Collaborating with Lucy, they applied their knowledge of quality control, packaging, and visual merchandising to create a stunning Christmas display featuring plants and botanically-themed decorative products.

Beyond product presentation, the students excelled in stock control, customer interaction, and financial management. They skillfully guided customers in selecting items and efficiently processed transactions using both the cash register and a card payment system.

The event was a testament to the students' dedication, creativity and professionalism, reflecting the valuable skills they are developing for future endeavors. Special thanks to Rosemary and Debbie for their guidance and support for students in learning how to run a successful plant nursery.

Chris Childs

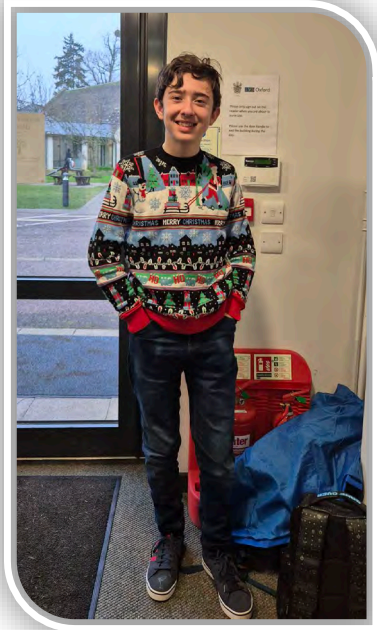


Nurture Thrive Bloom Christmas Enterprise Sale

13th December 2024 - Years 8 and 9

18th December 2024 - Year 7





**CHRISTMAS JUMPER/CHRISTMAS
DINNER DAY 17th DECEMBER**



CHRISTMAS DINNER 17th DECEMBER



Thank you to Sam and her team for providing such a wonderful feast.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 18TH DECEMBER



A truly special moment at the end of term was the Year 7 Christingle Service, held in front of a delighted audience of parents. This meaningful event celebrated our shared responsibilities to the many communities we belong to, inspiring us all to care for one another and the world around us.

Esme and Amber, two exceptionally talented soloists, delivered stunning performances that captivated the congregation. Adding to the occasion, Year 7 students showcased an extract from *A Christmas Carol* as part of their work on community values. Their performance reminded us of the true joy that comes from giving at Christmas. It was a testament to how much these students have grown and thrived since joining the school, leaving everyone feeling proud and inspired.

LVS OXFORD ALUMNI



Zac giving a presentation about his apprenticeship at Blenheim Palace Staff from the Palace also came along.



Toby discussing his animal care course at Banbury & Bicester college



Taby discussing her college placement where she studies childcare at T level

On Wednesday 18th December, we had the pleasure of welcoming some of our former students back to the upper school to speak with our current students. These alumni, who have since moved on to college or apprenticeships, shared their experiences to highlight the positive impact that life after LVS has had on their personal and professional growth.

Pease visit our website to see the full presentations

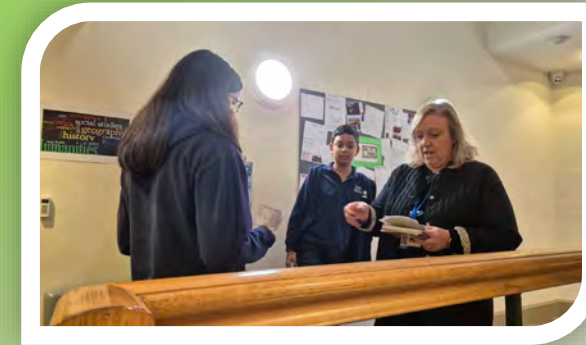
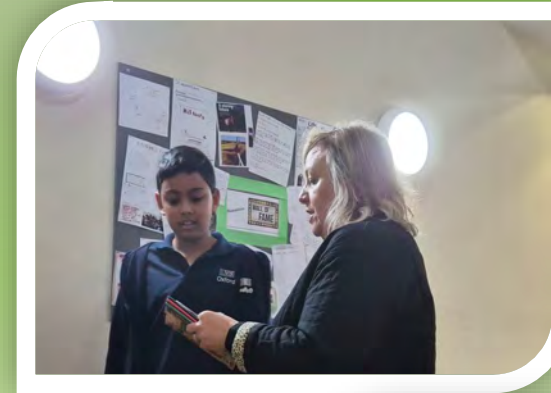
For the recent Anti-Bullying Week, PSHE students were recently asked to produce a mini booklet of advice for Anti-Bullying. All the entries were fabulous and packed with great information, who to report to or speak to if you are worried as well as lots of helpful tips.

3 winners were chosen:

Helena year 9Y

Zak year 7X

Oskar year 8Y



We are delighted that our school has been selected to participate in an Oxford University research project on *Pupil Interactions and Networks*. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to advancing best practices in special education nationwide.



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Extracts from this month's student magazine



As you can see reading this addition of LVS Spirit the year nines are always dedicated to writing articles about their experiences, you can find what they got up to this week.

THE LVS OXFORD SHOPPING TRIP

On the 11th of December 2024, LVS Oxford went into Oxford City Centre for a shopping trip. Actually, it took a zillion eternities for the bus to arrive, so we used the minibus instead. We started at Westgate where we met our old ICT teacher Piyal, and I decided I was a Slytherin. We went to a pizza place, and I had a slice. Some time later we left Westgate and went to Greggs where I got a sausage roll, then we went to the Golden Circle, and finally we went to HMV where I chose my Secret Santa gift for *****.

Dexter didn't buy anything, and Debbie bought leggings for her son and her new baby. Jack bought a pizza slice and sausage roll. I also bought a pizza slice and sausage roll.

If you are wondering what my Secret Santa present was, I'm not telling you!

-Jeff, year nine

Year 9 shopping trip

Shopping trip year 9 went to Oxford city centre, to Westgate and to the Christmas market. We were meant to get the bus to Oxford, but it got delayed by 30 minutes, so the minibus came and got us to take us to Oxford. We walked to all different types of shops; some were Christmas shops and others were your standard shops. We also stopped for lunch at Westgate which had Christmas decorations up the main entrance. This had the most of decorations and lights and some people bought their lunch in Westgate. Others had a sausage roll at the high street. The reason we went to Oxford, is so we learn about the real world and to get secret Santa gifts. This is when someone picks a name out of a hat. We saw a previous staff member from LVS Oxford, and he came along for half the trip. Then we got the bus back to Begbroke, came back to school and spoke about the day with other members of staff and students.

Some students and staff are going to War Horse on the 18th December 2024. Most of us are really excited for the performance. It is about a horse in WW1 who was on the battlefield, and it has been rated 5 stars by critics. The horse is a giant puppet, but the movements are so realistic that it looks real. There are people inside of the puppet to control it. The ears move to express emotions. Most people are super excited, some are a little nervous, as it is about battle, and some are a bit anxious of noise and the about the time we are getting back. I hope it is very good.

Corey, year nine

DECEMBER 2024

LVS Spirit: Shoppin' Like Crazy For Christmas

On December 11th, 2024, Year 9 went on a Christmas shopping trip to Westgate. The Year 9 students that went were: Alice, Cara, Dexter, Evan, Helena, Jack, Jeff, Raymond, Billy S, Millie, Lewis and Corey. The staff that went with them were Gladies, Kate, Debbie, Laura and Joe. They had to wait a long time for the public bus to arrive, but luckily, Tash got the minibus, and they went to Westgate in there. At Westgate, they saw Piyal, an old teacher that left recently. At one point, Evan was uncomfortable about the escalators, so Gladies took him to the lift instead. We had to buy some things for our Secret Santa. Evan had a difficult time choosing what to buy for his Secret Santa but eventually, he bought his Secret Santa Star Wars erasers, a bag of candy and a bag of chocolate. The Year 9 students looked at the various shops in Westgate. The Year 9 students had lunch at Westgate and had their own lunches. Evan had cheese and onion crisps, a sandwich, a Penguin bar, an apple and a water bottle. After that, they had to go on a little walk but before they did, they went to the toilet. They got on the public bus to get back from Westgate. Evan and Debbie were on the first storey while the others went on the second. They made it just in time for home-time. Evan personally had a great time.

--Evan, year nine



LVS Spirit

This term in LVS Oxford, we've been doing loads of things preparing for enterprise day, but we've also been going on some trips. We have just been on our trip for Christmas shopping, where we all had a good time wandering around and buying stuff. Unfortunately, I didn't buy anything because I did not participate in the Secret Santa that took place. But the main story about that trip that made my day even better was the fact that we bumped into our old ICT teacher Piyal, who is very nice and very funny. We are also going to watch the *War Horse* play on the 18th of December, which I'm sure everyone will enjoy. This term, we have mainly been focusing on our enterprise project, where we sell things in the hope of making money and learning a bit more about business. We have been making and selling stuff like plants and lanyards, which most of the students made incredibly well, but the thing to not forget is the fact that the students have worked really hard in school this term.

-Dexter, year nine



INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS CHILDS

Chris's Crazy New Running Challenge

Chris has participated in the London Marathon twice. She qualified for the event by achieving a *Good for Age* time at the Manchester Marathon. Her first coach was blind, a detail that speaks to the inspiring and inclusive nature of her journey in athletics.

The event Chris is preparing for in March is called the **Beast of the Blacks**. The route, which is at an altitude of 9,000 feet, is famously used by the British Army to train their Paratrooper Officers. For the event, Chris must carry her entire kit, including poles, on her back. She has expressed significant apprehension, describing the challenge ahead as intimidating. However, all the training will get her through and the benefit for wellbeing is priceless!



WORD OF THE WEEK



Castigate



Verb

Meaning: to reprimand and tick someone off.

'He was castigated for not setting a good example.'

**Word for week commencing
Monday 6th January 2025**

Explain (Exam
Word)



Verb

Meaning: make (an idea or situation) clear to someone by describing it in more detail or revealing relevant facts.

'Explain how ocean currents can influence climates.
(4 marks)'

**Word for week commencing
Monday 13th January 2025**

MERRY
Christmas
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2025

"We would like to extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a truly wonderful Christmas filled with joy, love and cherished moments with family and friends.

We eagerly look forward to welcoming everyone back when we reopen on 6th January 2025, and we can't wait to start another fantastic year together. Until then, have a safe and magical holiday season!"