

**Welcome back to your Alumni News – keeping you informed about all things Luckley past and present. Here we share remarkable moments from the first quarter of the year, of our staff, students and you, our alumni. Do browse our latest events, activities and musings. As always, your ideas, news and views would be warmly appreciated. Do get in touch as we would love to hear from you. Until then, we hope you are enjoying our glorious spring.**

## Introducing our Head, Areti Bizior

Review by Sarah Francis

Areti started as Head at Luckley in September 2020, not long before the country went into its second lockdown. In just two years under her leadership, Luckley is at full capacity with a healthy waiting list. The school has an expanded sport offering and there have been some significant changes to the site, including a new all-weather pitch. We welcomed a fully refurbished boarding house and said goodbye to Luckley's waterlogged war-time bunker. Life at Luckley is good.

Growing up in South Africa to Christian parents, Areti earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of South Africa. She worked throughout her studies, taking on technical roles in various industries before securing a position in education. What followed was a Bachelor of Education (hons) and a Postgraduate Certification in Education. Apart from her impressive host of educational, coaching and public speaking credentials, Areti also holds a Brown Belt in Karate.

By the time Areti was working at St George's in Ascot, she was married and settled in the Berkshire countryside, where she could not be happier. "St George's is the most fun I have ever had working," she reminisces. As Head of House, she had the time of her life caring for, entertaining and supporting pupils through the school. She was a natural. Still in touch with her old Head at St George's, Areti fondly refers to Joanna Grant Peterkin as her career mentor. "Joanna always said that one day I would become a Head. At the time, I disagreed," says Areti with a smile. We talk about her seven years at Downe House too, where she accumulated friendships, experience and knowledge. She sights Emma McKendrick, Headmistress of Downe House as a great influence and mentor who taught her the art of achieving excellence.



**Fast forward to today and Areti speaks with warmth and enthusiasm about Luckley life. Typically, she meets with staff, prospective parents, pupils and prep school heads. She interviews every child who sits Luckley's entrance exams as well as mentors and manages more than a handful of senior staff. She tours the school twice a week, dines in the evening with our boarders and meets with groups of Sixth Formers at least once a week. Their conversation is inspiring and friendly as Areti has a way of engaging everyone she meets. Outside of school hours Areti plans for Luckley's future, still finding quality time at weekends for her family as well as Sunday church. For this calm, fair and most charming Head, no challenge is too great and her vision for excellence is reflected in all she does. Areti looks forward to many future gatherings with you, our most valued alumni. Should you fancy a visit to school with tea and cake, you would be warmly welcomed.**

## Volunteering Opportunities

Many of you will know Sue Hawkins, our dedicated Alumni Coordinator who is regularly in touch about mentoring, public speaking and reunions. Always firm favourites are the class and small group reunions that Sue so wonderfully organises. Sue also invites alumni to work with Sixth Form students during Luckley's Pre University week, providing guidance about university applications and life. There is one-to-one mentoring opportunities that give you the chance to pair with a Sixth Form student studying in your specialist line of work. Speech Day always welcomes alumni speakers as does Careers Week, where we would be happy to have you inspire our students. While we do reach out to many of you it would be fantastic to have more of you get in touch and join us. There are events around drama, art, photography, geography, history, maths, sport and dance. Please do contact us by emailing [LHSdevelopment@luckleyhouseschool.org](mailto:LHSdevelopment@luckleyhouseschool.org) or telephoning 01 18 974 3246. We would be delighted to hear from you.

## SCHOOL NEWS



### It was off to see the wizard, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

What outstanding performances from our very own Luckley cast, crew and musicians. We watched with pride as students from all year groups came together to provide an evening of fantasy and fabulous entertainment in this adaptation by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company of a classic favourite, The Wizard of Oz. As we travelled the yellow brick road with Dorothy, Toto and friends you may have thought you were sitting in one of London's West End theatres.

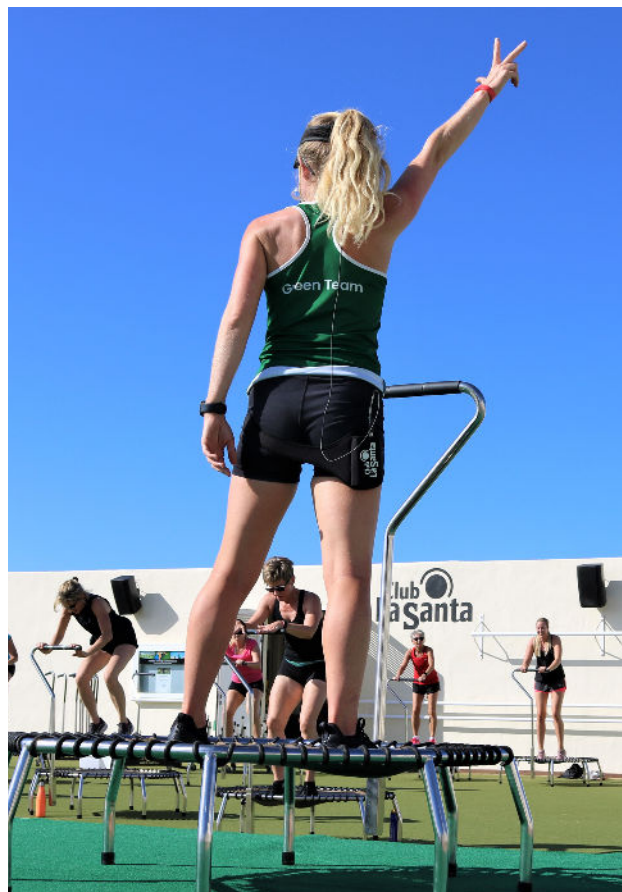
It was a tremendous effort by all involved with one matinée and four evening performances delivered exquisitely over the space of one week. Our cast, crew and staff worked tirelessly over weekends and evenings, with the end result reigniting a sense of youth within us all. A big thank you to all our Luckley parents, grandparents, friends, staff and alumni who provided the perfect audience to encourage and excite our performers. It made all the difference.

### Out with the old, in with the new.

We will soon be launching our new website, providing a fresh look and feel as well as more refined information. A new prospectus will follow and we will be sure to give you access to both once this happens. Tell us what has changed since you were last here, what you miss and what you would like to see happen at Luckley. We would love to hear from you as it gives us a chance to include your feedback in our future plans and communications. Get in touch using the contact details below.

## ALUMNI INTERVIEW

### Dancing Through Life with Stephanie Still, Class of 2009



We had the pleasure of catching up with Steph, a Luckley alumni scholar, class of 2009, who returns to talk about life after Luckley and her plans for the future. It is a while since Steph's last school visit as she works abroad at the world class resort of Club La Santa in Lanzarote. Delivering a packed schedule of fitness and aerobic classes each week, Steph is kept on her toes – something she is used to, given she has been dancing since the age of three. Steph is much at home at the resort, having spent a lot of time holidaying at Club La Santa in her younger years. A hotspot for celebrities, she regularly brushes shoulders with the likes of Paralympic champion, Dame Sarah Storey.

Back to see friends and family, she manages to squeeze us in between skiing in France, online sessions with private clients and catching up with her old Luckley friends. Later today she is off to a fitness convention. There is much talk about Steph's love of dance and fitness. She speaks about her time at Farnborough Sixth Form College, where she continued with PE and sport subjects before going onto Bird College to study Dance and Musical Theatre. College had its challenges, often dancing 8am to 7pm. There was also dancing and competing for Tap Attack's Great British Tap Team, which Steph excelled at. Falling very ill while in her second year at Bird College led to her taking leave from college and dance for some time. Against the odds, Steph fought her way back to health with grit and determination (although she likes to think it was her stubborn, non-defeatist character) and completed Bird College with First Class Honours in 2013. We could not be prouder.

Steph went on to tour the Philippines and Malaysia as part of the 'Hello Kitty' live tour. As a tiny dancer and with stiff competition, the Asian tour was a thrilling opportunity. Once back on UK soil, Steph returned to Tap Attack's Great British Tap Team and this time coached them to win the World Championships. Unhappy with the cut-throat nature of the dance industry and the strict criteria to join a dance ensemble, Steph refocused her energy on dance and fitness tuition – completing her Level 2 Exercise to Music and Les Mills body combat courses, qualifying as a body combat instructor. There was independent travel too; to India, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Swimming with dolphins and eating fresh tuna in New Zealand were highlights although Steph would like to revisit all these countries again (and more). After travel, came study. Steph completed her Level 3 personal trainer course and continued dance tuition before securing a job at Club La Santa, where she was hired within 24 hours.

**Today, Steph is the epitome of good health. This year marks her fifth and last year at Club La Santa before she returns to the UK to continue with a Masters in Clinical Exercise Science at Edinburgh Napier University. Her dream, she says, "Is to split my time between teaching group exercise classes and working with NHS patients, supporting their rehabilitation after illness". During the first lockdown Steph qualified as a Cancer and Exercise Rehabilitation Specialist and then used her spare time to provide online therapy and support to cancer patients. Steph's ability to love and serve is heart-warming.**

**Steph's lasting memories of Luckley? The strong Luckley community and her very dear friends, as well as the time Mrs Hills rescued a snake from the old swimming pool, now replaced with The Whitty Theatre. She mentions the old Luckley summer uniform, "the ones that just slipped over the head like a bin bag with a zip", says Steph. As someone who was heavily into sports, this was the next best thing to her PE kit and her favourite PE teacher, Mrs May.**



## SCHOOL NEWS



### Sustainable Luckley

Our Eco Schools Committee and key staff have been working hard to build a more sustainable and environmentally friendly school. Norman, our Bursar monitors Luckley's energy consumption quarterly and we expect the warmer days to increase our efficiency significantly. Emily, our General Services Manager continues to make her way through each classroom with SITA paper recycling bins, with most of the school recycling daily. Our Eco Schools Club has produced signage for each bin to ensure the right rubbish lands in the right place as well as running a two-week school clean up, collecting 10kg of rubbish. Single-use plastic bottles have been replaced with reusable ones around mealtimes and on school trips, while many of our students already bring their own reusable water bottles; now a school-wide requirement.

### From the Archives

Prompted by alumni, Stephanie Still's love of the Luckley summer dress, I found this photograph from the summer of 2000. Featured is Year 8 girls with Stephen Boateng, a politician and businessman from Ghana who spent the day teaching the girls about Ghanaian culture and tradition, including his costume. I understand it was a day to be remembered and if any of you recall this day or have a particular event you remember well, do tell. Your views on the summer dress are also most welcome.



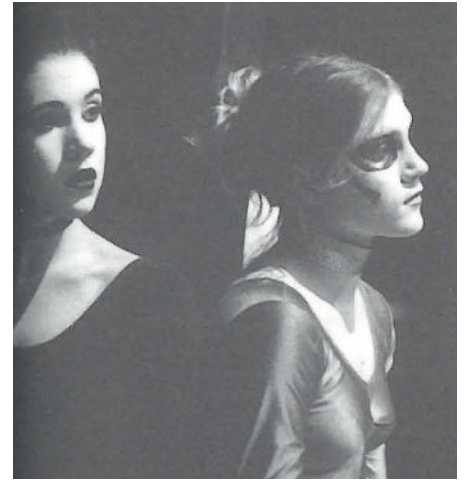
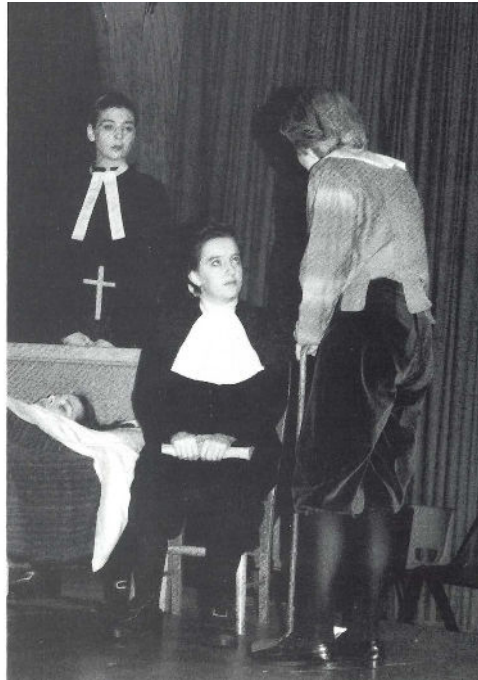


## More from the Archives

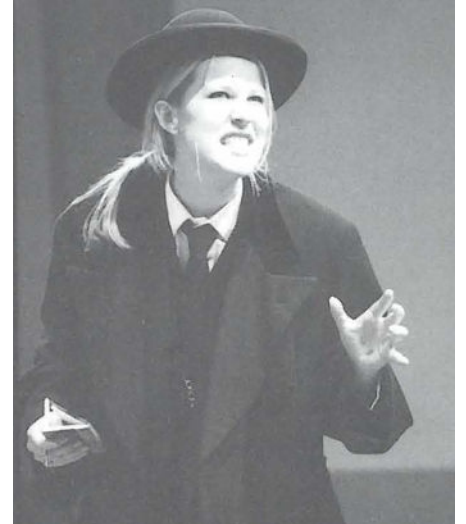
Performing arts has always been an important part of school life. Here is a look back at some of Luckley's and Luckley Oakfield's past dramatic productions. If you are in any of the photos below or have hold of others you would like to share, please do get in touch so we can add to our archives.



1992 The Crucible



2002 The Merchant of Venice



1989 The Roses of Eyam



1934 School Production

## SCHOOL NEWS



## House Music Competition

Every year the excitement mounts in preparation for the House Musician Competition, organised by our Head of Music, Janice Ellwood and showcased by a growing musical talent at Luckley.

The competition is always fierce yet warm and friendly, where performers prepare a two minute piece to represent their House. This year there was singing, and solo pieces played on the piano, cello, flute, violin, saxophone, electric guitar and drums.

You may well remember your own House Musician Competition. Do get in touch and share your memories with us. We have had some great musical talent over the years and would love to feature your memories in the next issue.

## Celebrating International Dance Day

International Dance Day was celebrated with hip hop and contemporary dance workshops for our Year 7 and 8 pupils. It was a meeting of dancers and dance styles, with Luckley's own professional dancer, Rachel Kempton dancing alongside Luckley alumni, Megan Varey. Visit Luckley's Facebook page to see Megan and Rachel reminiscing over their dancing days together. Dance is just one way to get involved at Luckley although there are many other events and activities that you can participate in throughout the year. Read about the types of school volunteering opportunities your fellow Alumni are taking part in on page two as well as ideas to help you get involved.



### Competition Winners

#### Piano

**Sarah Jane B (Cornish - Junior)**  
**Gracie H (Blake - Senior)**

#### Instrumental

**Oscar ST (Cornish - Junior)**  
**River L (Blake - Senior)**

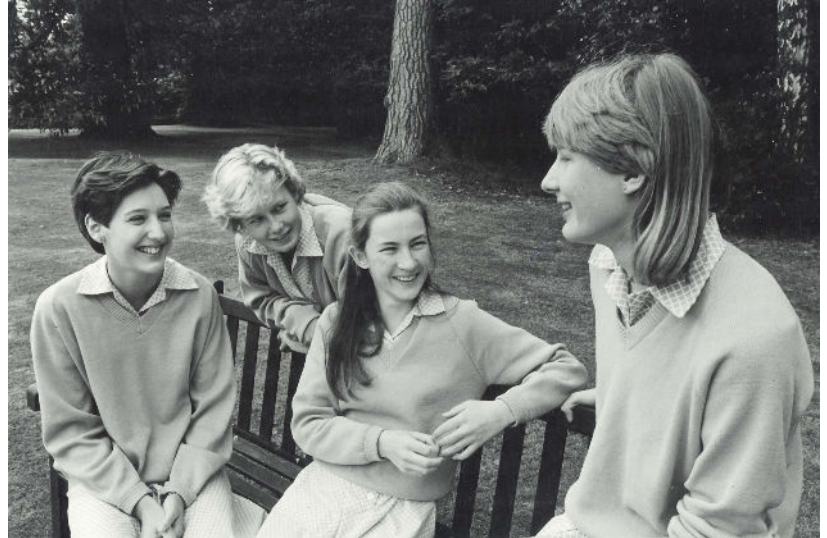
#### Vocals

**Nina A (Galloway - Junior)**  
**Georgia S (Randle - Senior)**



## Can you name these Luckley Oakfield Alumni?

If you know all of those students pictured below, be the first to send your response to [development@luckleyhouseschool.org](mailto:development@luckleyhouseschool.org) and win yourself a Luckley treat. Not to be confused with a 'lucky treat'. Hint: think 80s.



## Curious Finds

I came across this piece of writing from Luckley School's termly magazine, dating back to Spring 1930 and hand written and illustrated by Luckley School girls. It seems a long time ago, yet that Luckley spirit lives on 92 years later. Have a read of the text copied from the actual magazine below. These magazines are still stored in the drawers the old girls mention in the text. You are welcome to have a look through these on your next visit.

**Away you go, small Book, and tell.  
What Luckley said and sang and  
thought.**

**And laughed at, too; and if you've  
caught. Some features of the term,  
'tis well.**

**For words and pictures should  
record. Our friends, our fun of  
everyday. Our hopes and efforts,  
work and play.**

**The things with which these  
months are stored.**

**And when as Old Girls we return.  
We'll ope the drawer and gladly  
look.**

**Inside this little hotchpotch book.  
And feel our hearts more warmly  
burn.**

**Because its leaves to mind will  
bring. This happy 1930 Spring.**

By H.D.M., Spring 1930

## Stay In Touch

As we aim to continue to bring you news that is both relevant and of interest to you, please do send in your news and suggestions and get your friends to do the same. Or why not put yourself forward for an alumni Spotlight Interview or volunteering opportunity? Those that have joined us have found the experience to be very fulfilling. Do get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of each page. Alternatively, you may fancy a visit to Luckley's The Whitty Theatre where there is always a cinematic, musical or theatrical performance to inspire. To find out what is on visit: <https://www.luckleyhouseschool.org/the-whitty-theatre/whats-on/>.

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