

WESTHOLME LIFE

SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2015



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WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

Thank you to our parents for another successful year of fundraising



SPORTS DAYS

Ready, Steady, Go!

92 YEARS OF WESTHOLME



Westholme School celebrated turning 92 years old with a birthday tea party for some very special guests.



During the Spring term, we welcomed Mr John Singleton - former student and nephew of Emily Singleton, the founder of the school, to Wilmar Lodge. Mr Singleton spent the afternoon in the Learning Resource Centre with Mrs Robson perusing archive artefacts including his aunt's pen, registers and many images.

We invited Mr Singleton back to Westholme in the Summer term, to celebrate the School's 92nd birthday. Mrs Joan Smith (née Mackey), former student and Mrs Lillian Hope, former Head Mistress of Billinge House also attended. Mrs Hope celebrated her 100th birthday in the same week.

Governors, Mr Marsden, Mr Forrest and Mr Berry were also in attendance (Mr Marsden and Mr Berry were taught by Mrs Hope when they attended Billinge House!)



Mr Singleton spoke to students about his memories of Westholme and how the School has developed over the years. In his speech, he used Westholme as an acronym to describe what the school means to him:

- Wisdom
- Education
- Success
- Tenacity
- Happiness
- Opportunity
- Learning
- Mental ability/Mathematics
- Emily



The students very much enjoyed listening to Mr Singleton and some interesting questions were asked including ones about homework, uniform and lunches!

After a rendition of 'Happy Birthday', students, staff and guests enjoyed birthday cake and were able to look at the archive photos and registration book. Some of the students even found their grandparents in the original register! A wonderful afternoon was had by all. Special thanks to Mr Singleton for taking us on a trip down memory lane and giving us all an insight into the history of Westholme.



Mrs Singleton, Mrs Joan Smith and Mrs Lillian Hope chat with Mrs Horner

UNIVERSITIES FAIR

The inaugural Universities Fair was held at the start of the Spring term, and saw us open our doors to many Westholme students and the wider community in Years 10 - 12.



Westholme was delighted to welcome 46 universities from the length and breadth of the country, including St Andrews, Stirling and East Anglia. A number of the highly sought after Russell Group universities were also in attendance as well as alternative higher education options including Projects Abroad and SSR (School of Sound and Recording). With only 24 UK universities making it into the top 200 in the world, it was also pleasing to see that 15 of those attended our Fair.

The atmosphere around school was relaxed but informative with exhibitors' stands on display across four locations throughout the building.

A wealth of information was on offer and it definitely proved to be valuable for students wishing to apply to university in the near future. Guests were grateful to have the opportunity to visit stands and gain vital knowledge about various university options including some that they hadn't even considered!

Over 270 people attended this event – it really was a great evening and we would like to thank all our exhibitors for taking time to attend.



“ Only 24 UK universities make it into the top 200 in the world and 15 of those attended our Fair. ”

TIME TO HIT *THE SLOPES*

During February half term, students from Years 8-11 travelled to Serre Chevalier in France for the PE department Ski Trip. With fresh snow on arrival, they couldn't wait to hit the slopes!



Students and staff were in four groups: beginners, novices, intermediates and advanced skiers. They enjoyed 4 hours of skiing with their instructors each day and returned to the hotel at lunch to discuss the morning's events. Stories about the dizzying heights of the 2941m peak and the lows of falling and tripping on the slopes were shared amongst the groups and were enjoyed by all. The evenings were also action packed with everyone enjoying a range of activities including swimming, bowling, treasure trails in the village, pizza night and a karaoke disco on the final night.

A highlight of the trip was watching the Ski Show put on by the instructors. It was a particularly special moment as the advanced group of skiers were invited to be a part of the show. They were cheered on as they skied down with the instructors, carrying torches and impressively managing a black slope at the same time! The night ended with a fantastic firework display.

Another night saw the traditional 'Miss/Master Westholme' competition, which was a closely fought battle, especially between the boys. All teams dressed up one 'volunteer'

according to the requirements of the competition; there were some very creative outfits, including Pringles tubes for gloves! Teams also wrote a song or poem to accompany their model. Well done to Ben Rooney who was transformed into a competent catwalk model for the night by his team of Year 11s! Each night the party voted for students (and staff!) who had done something silly on the slopes, and the winner had to wear the infamous Westholme 'wally hat' with pride for 24 hours. Congratulations to all of this year's winners: Emily Hussey, Mr Warburton, Isaac Samuel, Miss Smith and Kiara Gallacher. The group were thoroughly entertained by the tales and enjoyed watching them wear the hat with pride the following day both on and off the slopes.

Following a long day of travelling, the group returned in the early hours of the Sunday morning, exhausted after a week full of excitement and activity but all looking forward to next year's Ski Trip!





GREAT FIRE OF LONDON DAY

CHILDREN IN YEAR 2 ENJOYED LEARNING ALL ABOUT THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.

They had an interactive day where they dressed up as urchins and took part in themed activities. Firstly, they made dough and special 1666 biscuits before learning how to write using a quill and ink.

A highlight of the morning was when they were able to act out role play in the specially built house.

In the afternoon, Mr Lewis showed the children how to light a fire. After it had been lit, the children were able to cook their bread dough on it using sticks. They all enjoyed eating the bread and the 1666 cakes!

As part of their studies, the children had made their very own houses out of cereal boxes to make up a Westholme version of Pudding Lane. As the day drew to a close, the children watched as Mrs Sutcliffe set the houses on fire, to replicate the Great Fire.

Everyone had great fun; it really was a fantastic day of interactive learning. Special thanks to Mrs Sutcliffe and Miss Cole for all of their hard work.





Night at the Movies

The Year 10 JAC Team (Justice, Awareness, Charity) hosted 'Night at the Movies' for Year 7 pupils. The evening began in the dining room where pupils tucked into a party tea of pizza and nibbles. Returning to classrooms to change into their themed costumes for the night, Year 7 then came parading in their groovy outfits to the theatre where a red carpet welcome and screaming Year 10 'fans' greeted them. The movie 'Madagascar' was thoroughly enjoyed by the boys and girls and had given great inspiration for some awesome animal attire.



Year 7 held a cake sale in aid of World Cancer Day

The interval was one with a difference - the Dining Hall was filled with JAC Team stalls selling delectable treats including a chocolate fountain, popcorn and lots of sweets. The night ended with some disco dancing, a parade of costumes and entertainment.

The JAC Team planned this event and their sense of responsibility and good organisation made the night a great success. Money raised at this charity event was donated to the Year 10 choice of 'TASC Madagascar' and 'Rainbow House' which was a charity chosen by the winning Year 7 group of the charity presentation competition, held in EPR lessons.

Charitable Endeavours

Westholme students of all ages have great fun taking part in events which are organised to raise money for charitable causes. This year has seen children support charities including Children with Cancer, Rainbow Legacy House and TASC Madagascar.

Marathon

All Junior School children participated in a sponsored run to help raise money for the 'Children with Cancer' charity (who Mr Haworth ran the London Marathon in aid of).

Boys and girls had to walk, jog or run around a course set in the grounds of the Junior School and passed many landmarks along the way, including The Mall, Greenwich and Buckingham Palace!

Congratulations to everyone who participated. A fantastic 1251 laps were completed in total - this is the equivalent of 225.18 miles! An incredible £2400 was raised!



Rainbow Coffee Morning

The Junior School held a coffee morning in order to raise money in memory of student Raheel Adam, who sadly passed away last summer. The children added colourful accessories including brightly coloured wigs, hats, glasses, ties and stickers to their uniforms to mark this special event. All students enjoyed serving tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits to their families who came to show their support.

A fantastic £1465 was raised at the event and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, it is greatly appreciated. The money raised will go towards a commemorative bench to be placed at the Junior School site, in Raheel's memory.



BOOKWORMS!



Westholme pupils of all ages love nothing more than reading a good book. This year, all students had fun celebrating World Book Day in many different ways.

Our Infant School staff and children dressed up as characters from the children's book 'Charlie Cook's Favourite Book'. The story tells of Charlie Cook who is reading a book about a pirate captain, who is reading a book about Goldilocks, who is reading about a knight, who is reading about a frog... From kings and queens to aliens and ghosts, there were plenty of characters for the children to dress up as. They enjoyed parading around during a special assembly where Mr Lewis also read them the story - what fun!

The Junior children and staff also dressed up as book characters for the day and completed many different book related activities over the course of the day.

Finally, Senior School pupils took up the challenge set by the English Department and questioned members of staff about the last book they had read in a bid to complete the booklets they had been given.

What a wonderful Westholme World Book Day!



'Dreams' Theme Week



We are constantly seeking to foster innovative approaches to learning at Westholme and so we were delighted to launch our inaugural 'Theme Week' for students in Years 7-10.

During the week, students continued with lessons as normal, but were not set subject specific homework. Instead they were asked to use their normal homework time to create a piece of work on a particular theme: in this case the theme was 'Dreams'. The task was designed to encourage independence and allowed students

to plan, research and deliver a unique piece of work based on their own interests, talents and skills. Heads of Year were amazed at the standard and variety of projects and thoroughly enjoyed reading the evaluations for each one. Projects submitted included a handmade dream catcher, knitted socks with an

embroidered quote 'In dreams we enter a world that is entirely our own' and pieces of art. Other students had composed music, designed and made a dress and recreated a battlefield! Well done to everyone for their innovative, creative and well researched and evaluated work.



Education *Outdoors*

This year has seen students visit a variety of places where they have enjoyed taking part in activities that enhance their learning.



History students in Year 7 visit Birdoswald Roman Fort and Carlisle Castle to enhance their studies on Roman and Medieval times.



Year 9 Historians travelled back to 1916 on their trip to Fulwood Barracks and the Museum of Lancashire.



Children in Year 2 on a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry.



Year 6 were evacuated to Stockport to experience a taste of life in the early 1940s.



A step back in time for Year 6 at Quarry Bank Mill.



GCSE Textiles students visit Platt Hall Costume Museum, Manchester.



Year 2 studies on the Lake District were rounded off with an exciting trip to this beautiful area.



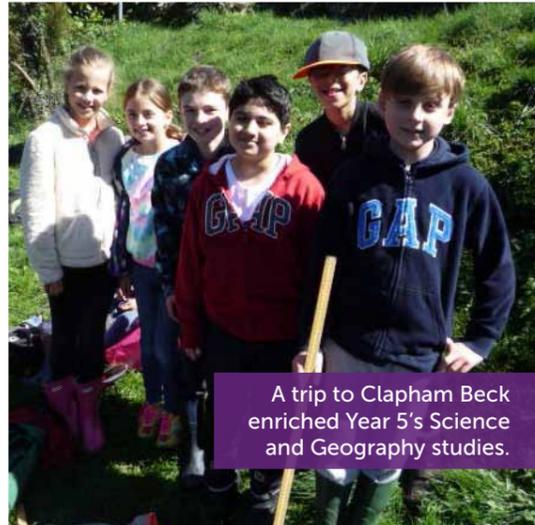
Sixth Form students visit QEGS for a 'Life Skills' day.



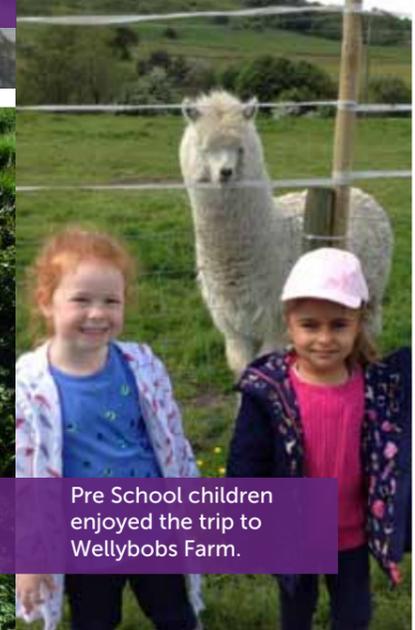
Year 1 experience a Victorian seaside holiday at Fleetwood Museum.



Geographers in Upper Sixth enjoy a field trip to Scout Moor.



A trip to Clapham Beck enriched Year 5's Science and Geography studies.



Pre School children enjoyed the trip to Wellybobs Farm.



Year 9 visit Hanson Cement as part of their Science studies.



Fatimah-Zahra Aram (RS) getting to know the chicks at the Wild Boar Park.

FASHION FRONTLINE



One of the highlights of the Spring term is the Textiles students' annual fashion show where they showcase their creations on the Croston Theatre Catwalk!

GCSE and A-level Textiles students took part in the annual Textiles department Fashion Show. The students presented their designs in the Croston Theatre to students, staff and proud parents.

Pre-show, the Textiles department was a hive of activity as students helped each other get into their outfits and made the finishing touches to hair and make-up. The designs were either modelled by the students who created them, or by a willing friend. Well done to all the girls who took to the stage, you all walked with such confidence!

Sixth Form students Elysia Kenyon and Pippa Sloan compered the show and provided the audience with information on the themes and ideas behind the designs. These pieces are part of the students GCSE and A-level coursework and the girls have spent a great amount of time creating them along with accompanying portfolios.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the show, it was a wonderful way to celebrate our students' creative talents!



EXTENDED PROJECTS

Another year of superb Sixth Form Extended Projects.

Does complementary medicine have a place in today's society? What strategy should be used to successfully launch a new toy? Is ADHD a real disorder or poor parenting? These were just some of the Extended Projects that were exhibited in the Croston Theatre.

This year, 18 Upper Sixth students completed the optional qualification and enjoyed discussing their projects with Governors, parents, staff and fellow students at the exhibition evening. The range of topics on display was hugely impressive and really demonstrated the student's ability to think outside the box, be creative and hone the ability to work independently. Year 10 and 11 students also visited the exhibition to see what awaits them when they enter the Sixth Form.





A fond farewell

Stand down marks the final official day that the students in Upper Sixth Form spend at Westholme. This important day in the school calendar is definitely one of celebration for both staff and students.

A week of stand down festivities began, when a special celebration afternoon was held in the Sixth Form Centre. This saw the outgoing School Officers officially hand over their duties to their new counterparts in the Lower Sixth.

Later in the week, the annual stand down assembly was, as always, full of entertainment from musical performances and the highly anticipated video clips. During her speech, Mrs Waldron commented that she would be sad to see the year group leave but wished them all the very best for the future.

After an emotional whole year group sing along, students made their way to the Common Room where they were met by their parents and enjoyed a buffet lunch. Here, girls reminisced about school trips, most memorable moments at Westholme and what they are going to miss most about leaving (lunches were high on the list!).

We would like to wish the class of 2015 lots of luck in their forthcoming examinations; go forth and keep the Westholme flag flying in whatever you do!



A VOLCANIC ADVENTURE

Westholme Geographers travelled to Sicily to enhance their learning on the study of volcanoes. After landing at Catania airport, they headed straight for the golden sands of the Giardini Naxos beach. Years 9-11 spent the afternoon evaluating the tourist resort in relation to the 'Butler model of resort development' whilst the Sixth Form consolidated their knowledge of coastal landforms, longshore drift and coastal management.

On the following day was an amazing excursion to the summit of Mount Etna, the most active volcano in Europe. The students ascended this immense volcano by cable car and 4x4 vehicles to emerge close to the snow-capped summit, which is currently at a height of 3,345m (although obviously this varies). The guide explained the different volcanic cones and craters and the group trekked slowly (and a little breathlessly) across the snow to stand at the edge of the Valle del Bove (Valley of the Oxen) a 1000m deep and 5km wide depression on the side of the volcano, caused by a catastrophic collapse and landslide. Etna's most recent eruption was in February this year and the students could see the fumaroles rising into the sky from the summit.

The group then descended to the Piano dell'Acqua lava field which was created in the 1992 eruption and threatened to engulf the houses of the village of Zafferana. The students clambered over the solidified lava flow and saw at first hand the destructive force of the volcano, whilst the Upper Sixth students explained to the group the strategies used to stop the lava flow.

The evening entertainment was provided at the bowling centre in Catania and this completed a very long and exciting day.

The next morning everyone woke early to catch the hydrofoil ferry from Milazzo harbour to the volcanic island arc called the Aeolian (Lipari) Islands. After landing at Vulcano, part of the volcanic archipelago off the north coast of Sicily and a World Heritage site, the group trekked with their local guide Pietro, up the Gran Cratere active volcano. This impressive cone, which lies within a huge caldera, last erupted between 1888 and 1890.

Lunch at the summit, on the crater rim, surrounded by a mist of smelly sulphurous gases emitted from the many fumaroles was definitely an experience! After the exertion of the climb they enjoyed a well earned relax in a volcanic mud bath. This geothermal spring is created as rainwater seeps into the permeable rocks and is superheated by the magma below. The hot water rises to the surface and mixes with the soil to produce a mud pool and is believed to have therapeutic properties.

After a refreshing, if rather smelly dip, the group returned to Milazzo on the ferry. On Saturday, the Geographers headed for the Alcantara Gorge, a spectacular river valley cut through a lava flow to reveal the strange columnar basalt on the sides of the gorge. They were fortunate to be able to take a lift down the side of the gorge to walk along the river bed and Lower Sixth Form students explained the formation of the fluvial landforms. The afternoon was spent in the beautiful town of Taormina. The guide, Martina, entertained everyone as she guided them around the amazing Greek Theatre and explained the stunning architecture. After the tour, and a delicious ice cream, the students enjoyed some time for souvenir shopping in the quaint streets of Taormina before a lesson in pizza making at the Pizzeria Al Varo by the resident chef.

This was a wonderful, educational trip and the students were an absolute delight and pleasure.



JUNIOR SPORT

Students at the Junior School have taken part in another successful season of sport and have contested many events over a busy two terms. Here are some of their highlights.

We continue to perform well in this sporting discipline and have once again enjoyed great success when taking part in the tournaments.

Early on in the Spring term, the Lancashire event was held in Blackpool. An excellent team effort resulted in us being awarded an incredible 2nd place overall. Special congratulations went to Christie Sturgess, Molly Moore and Sophie Waddicor who were selected to represent Lancashire in the Indoor Sportshall North of England Championships. The three girls performed extremely well and helped Lancashire to win the competition.

Later that term, the whole team, made up of students in Year 5 and 6 competed in the AJIS Indoor Sportshall Competition at Robin Park in Wigan. We were awarded with 14 medals in total in events including speed bounce, javelin, 3 lap and obstacle relay. Congratulations must also go to Christie Sturgess who set a new championship record in the U11 speedbounce event which secured her the gold medal.

Indoor Sportshall



AJIS Indoor Sportshall

BPS Cross Country

Once again, our Cross Country team excelled at the BPS Cross Country Championships. Great performances throughout the whole series meant that Westholme finished second in both the boys' and girls' events and in the overall School Championship. A major highlight came for Year 5 student, Hollie Cubbon, who, after coming second in Race 1 and first in Races 2 and 3, was crowned Blackburn Champion – well done, Hollie! Huge congratulations to all the runners who took part in the series – what a superb achievement!



Our Cross Country team at one of the BPS events.

Some of our Year 5 athletes at the AJIS Athletics event.



Super Swimming!

Our swimming team should be incredibly proud of their efforts this season. An array of medals were won at both the AJIS and BPS events and the standard of swimming has been top class. In particular, at the BPS event, every single one of our swimmers got through to the finals, winning at least one medal. They showed fantastic teamwork and supported each other wonderfully.

A particular highlight of the season was at the English Schools' Swimming competition, held at Everton Park, Sheffield.

During the heats, both the boys' and girls' teams swam really well and did Westholme proud in the relay events. Unfortunately, our boys missed out on making the finals by 0.9 of a second in the freestyle relay; however, this is the closest they have ever been to making the finals and a big improvement from last year.



Our swimming team celebrate their success!

Our girls' team (Lola Baron, Hollie Cubbon, Charlotte Hemsall, Mia Machie and Christie Sturgess) also put in a great amount of effort, finishing first in the freestyle and medley relays which meant that they qualified for the National Finals – a result that has only ever occurred three times in Westholme's history!

Once at the finals (unfortunately competing without Mia who was ill), our swimmers were incredible; knocking 6 seconds off their heats time in the freestyle relay and a massive 8 seconds of their medley relay time. However, they missed out on reaching the finals by 0.3 of a second and 0.18 of a second respectively. Their performance though was incredible and just to qualify for the final was an achievement in itself. It was a wonderful experience for all the swimmers – well done team!



SPORTS TOURS

54 of our sporting stars travelled down to London for the annual Senior School Sports Tour where they participated in a variety of sporting and non-sporting activities.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



20 of our Junior School sports enthusiasts went on the inaugural Junior School Sports Tour to Manchester, accompanied by Mrs Ingham, Miss Rimmer, Miss Lovick and Mrs Horner.

The action packed weekend included Hockey fixtures against Stockport Grammar School, Netball matches against William Hulme School and even the opportunity to be ball girls at a Netball Super League match. Other highlights involved a night at the theatre to watch 'The Lion King' and a morning spent at Chill Factor. It was a wonderful weekend enjoyed by all.

SENIOR SCHOOL

The weekend started in Rugby, where the girls played Netball matches and the boys competed in games of Football. Both teams played fantastically well; our girls were unbeaten whilst the boys both won and lost a match. These fixtures were a great start to the tour and good preparation for the following day's matches.

Before the students played their second day of fixtures, they were able to do some sightseeing around London. The group visited St. James's Square, Buckingham Palace and Downing Street, before entering The London Dungeons. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time here and the staff there commented on how well behaved and enthusiastic the group were.

After their leisure time, the Hockey and Football fixtures soon ensued. The girls travelled to Queens School where they played brilliantly and were involved in three very close matches. In the meantime, the boys played against a local Football team where they competed in a thrilling match.

After their busy sporting afternoon, the groups headed back to the hotel to get ready for an evening out and about. They enjoyed a meal at Zizzi's restaurant before a trip to the cinema to watch a 3D film.



All too soon, the last day arrived. After stopping off in Birmingham to do a 'little' shopping at the Bull Ring Shopping Centre, they arrived back to School and were met by eager parents who were anxious to hear all about the weekend's events.

Once again, it was another successful Sports Tour!



Senior Sport



Blackburn with Darwen Athletics Championships

The Blackburn with Darwen Athletics Championships were held at Witton Park. Both Westholme's boys' and girls' teams were triumphant in many Track and Field events and should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Special congratulations went to Eloise Littlefair who broke the record in the Shot Put event with a huge throw of over 10 metres and to Grace Casper for winning all three of her events. Congratulations to all competitors.



Netball BDSSA Champions

Our Netballers have had a very successful season with our Year 8, 9, 10 and Sixth Form teams being crowned BDSSA Champions in their respective tournaments. Well done, girls!



Rounders Champions

Many congratulations to our Year 9 Rounders team who were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Champions in a very close tournament held at Feniscliffe playing fields. After winning 3 matches and losing 1 in the group stage, Westholme went through to the semi finals to meet Our Lady & St John, where they won 7-2.

In a nail-biting final, Westholme were successful against St Bede's with a fantastic 7-3 victory. The Year 9 team went on to represent Blackburn with Darwen in the Lancashire Schools' Games at Stanley Park in Blackpool. The team came fourth overall in the whole of Lancashire - congratulations!



Senior Boys

Senior boys have had yet another great year on the sports field. They trained and competed in Rugby, Football and Cricket matches and have showed great team spirit. Well done boys! The Football teams have also benefited from brand new football kits, kindly sponsored by Backhouse Jones, The Envelope Works and James Hart Ltd.

Westholme students of all ages enjoy taking their learning out into the great outdoors and this year has been no exception!



IN PURSUIT OF

ADVENTURE

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



As part of their studies on river landforms, Year 8 Geographers visited the River Brock to measure the river cross-section and velocity, carry out kick samples and take part in orienteering activities.

Also benefiting from some outdoor adventures were our Year 5 children, who journeyed to Patterdale Hall in the Lake District for a day of exciting activities including rock climbing and team building activities. A highlight and the most exciting part of their trip was gorge walking!



Year 6 at Lockerbie Manor!

Year 7 students enjoyed their first Geography field trip to Hothersall Lodge where they fine tuned their map skills, investigated pond life and had fun identifying numerous freshwater nymphs.

Finally, children in Year 6 had a fantastic weekend at Lockerbie Manor, where they showed true Westholme spirit as they competed



Year 8 river studies.

in a range of activities including zooming down a zip wire, racing round an obstacle course, kayaking and a high ropes course!

These experiences have not only enhanced the student's learning, but have enabled them to develop new skills and fulfil their sense of adventure!



Year 7 students developing their map reading skills at Hothersall Lodge.

Westholme students have enjoyed many practice expeditions as they work towards achieving the next level of their qualification.



Wet and windy conditions on the Gold practice expedition!

In April, 11 Lower Sixth Form students successfully completed their Gold practice expedition and endured the most changeable weather conditions Miss Incerti has ever seen in 20 years of DofE! Temperatures ranged from 22°C on the warmest day to -5°C with wind chill factor, accompanied by snow and sleet on the coldest morning. On the final day, gale force winds necessitated a change of route to avoid being blown from mountain paths.

The students showed incredible persistence and resilience during this 'character-building' experience. They have been well-prepared for their final expedition in Scotland, which will take place over the summer.

Year 10 students had more luck with the weather and enjoyed some of the fine May sunshine during their Bronze practice expedition. They learnt the importance of good navigation, organisation, teamwork and resilience. The first ever expedition is always a challenge but they did very well. They will now use their experiences to plan for their assessed expeditions in September. Good luck to them all!

Musical Memories

Westholme students have performed at a number of events this year, including Concert Series performances and other musical shows.

The Soloists' Recital opened the Concert Series in the Spring term. This was a fantastic opportunity for our talented young students to perform a number of musical pieces to an audience of parents and staff - a sure confidence builder for our young musicians of the future!

Soon after, on a suitably sunny evening, the annual Spring Concert was held. Westholme's soloists and musical groups took to the stage to perform a variety of pieces including a 'Frozen' mash up and a rendition of Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep'. Their performances really showed the breadth of talent amongst our students.

The Gala Concert drew the 2014 - 2015 Concert Series to a close, and once again students delighted the audience with an evening of musical splendour. The first half featured magnificent concerto movements performed by members of the Upper Sixth Form, and was followed by Karl Jenkins' 'Mass for Peace'. This reflected the centenary of the Gallipoli landings with moods ranging from the contemplation of suffering through a portrayal of battle, to hope for a peaceful future. Well over 100 performers led the audience through a wonderfully moving musical, cultural and spiritual journey and it was a truly fabulous way to close this year's Concert Series.



Sixth Form student Evie Jones performs a solo piece.



The Upper Sixth performers at the Gala Concert.



Juiner School House Music Festival

Many pupils took part in the House Music Festival which was held in the Croston Theatre. Pupils had been selected after performing in front of their peers and teachers. A wide variety of instruments were played alongside some talented singers and the children performed very confidently. Longridge were the overall winners of the competition.

FOCUS ON...

BEARDWOOD HOSPITAL LINKS

The burgeoning partnership between Westholme School and Beardwood Hospital has brought significant benefits this year to Westholme students and staff alike.

The catalyst was the rental agreement on 290 Preston New Road, our former Nursery building, which the hospital have taken on a long term lease to create a state of the art physiotherapy clinic. Since then, the relationship has deepened and numerous Westholme children have benefitted. Placements have been offered to the Sixth Form students, giving them first hand insight into medical careers opportunities and how hospitals function. The students have really enjoyed the experience and found it incredibly beneficial at a practical level.



Some of our talented artists at the Art Preview Evening with teachers Miss Armitage and Mrs Green.

Running alongside this, Year 1 visited the hospital ward and imaging department to complement their learning and bring the curriculum to life. They learnt about X-rays and how they can see pictures of the human skeleton through this piece of technology – absolutely fascinating!

The Juniors were not to be left out and the hospital kindly agreed to sponsor and provide kit for the Junior School Football Team. This supports us practically and shows the importance of our motto 'Mens Sana in Corpore Sano' (A sound mind in a healthy body!) – a sentiment which BMI completely echoes!

In the final term of the Year, Beardwood also approached the Senior School Art Department regarding a competition for Year 11, 12 and 13. The leadership team were looking for a key piece of artwork to be displayed in their newly refurbished reception. Feelings of calm were important and we had some excellent, imaginative responses. Final, worthy winners with 'Reflections' and 'Twilight' were Flora Robson and Megan Collins. Several other photography students also had their work selected to be displayed in the refurbished ward too. Again, there were some fantastic images which really connected feelings of care, health and wellbeing, individuality, compassion and the journey of life. Parents, friends and the students themselves were thrilled to see the photography on display at a special 'preview evening' and everyone agreed it had a feel of 'The Tate' about it! It genuinely is a huge credit to the whole team to have such a vibrant and sophisticated display. And it doesn't

stop there! The programme of artwork display will continue to roll out for another two years so more excitement lies ahead.

Finally, Westholme staff have also really benefitted from this emerging partnership. Breast and skin awareness evenings and complementary screenings have given reassurance and a focus on wellbeing.

All in all, a very worthwhile year of working closely with a community partner – thank you for everything, BMI Beardwood!



Art preview evening.



BMI Beardwood sponsored the Year 6 Football kit.



Year 1 visit.



Flora Robson's winning artwork, *Reflections* hangs in the hospital's Main Reception.



Megan's artwork *Twilight* has been placed behind the Ward Reception desk.

Physics Trip to CERN

During the Easter holidays, the physics department and a group of A-Level students travelled to Switzerland to visit CERN (European Centre of Nuclear Research).

Upon arrival, the group found themselves in a large area where there were several lit spheres dotted around the room each containing fascinating artefacts relating to CERN including the genuine document typed and printed out by Tim Berners-Lee, outlining his idea of a data-sharing platform which eventually turned into the World Wide Web.

After having had lunch in the CERN cafeteria, sitting down to eat amongst some of the cleverest physicists on the planet, the group began their tour of the European Centre for Nuclear Research. They were shown through many different factories and were mesmerised by the sheer size of the machines and the intricate technology behind it all. An interesting part for many was the 'Antimatter Factory'.

That evening, the Westholme students returned to their inner, competitive roots and headed to a ten-pin bowling centre. Emma Dean demonstrated her natural ability for all things sports-related and kicked everything off with a strike! Meanwhile, the tension between Mr Hiller and Dr Watson could have been cut with a knife – after a captivating couple of hours Mr Hiller was crowned champion of the bowling alley.

The third and final day brought further excitement in the form of a boat ride. From Lake Geneva, the girls were able to marvel at the beautiful lakeside houses and the snow-topped mountains which surround the city. They then went on to walk the footpath under Geneva's 'Jet D'Eau' – one of the world's largest water fountains.

Before heading back to England, their final destination was the United Nations Office. At the entrance of the magnificent building is the 'Broken Chair' - a large wooden sculpture of a chair with one broken leg. Students were entertained by the sight of Mr Hiller sitting on Dr Watson's shoulders as the two worked together in a (successful) attempt to reach the broken leg.

Overall, the trip was a great success and students realised that CERN is certainly one of the scientific 'wonders of the world'.



LINKS WITH INDUSTRY

Through Westholme's close links with local industries, students are able to develop their understanding of business and enterprising skills in a variety of different ways.

Lower Sixth Business Studies students have benefitted from the Schools' links with James Hall Ltd. Earlier this year, students were fortunate enough to attend the NEC Spring Fair, as trainee buyers for James Hall & Co Ltd. They were given the task of selecting a new product to be stocked in 500 SPAR North West outlets during Autumn Winter 2015 – 2016. With over 1000 different exhibitors in more than twelve different halls, students quickly realised they were in for a tough two days! After some intensive negotiation training, real deals had to be struck before the students left the exhibition. It was definitely a steep learning curve but one that allowed them to put theory into practice and discover what the world of business is really like.

Upper Sixth student, Hannah Wood attended the trade fair last year. This has since resulted in Hannah being hand selected by James Hall & Co Ltd to become part of the SPAR Young Enterprise Team. The team is made up of 6 young people from across the UK who are employees for SPAR. The group meet six times per year and are set a number of tasks by the company which involve the group working on new ideas and initiatives. They then present these to the Guild Board and SDF board (board of SPAR directors). Westholme Life caught up with Hannah who said, "Taking this opportunity has allowed me to gain more knowledge of the business world which has greatly helped me with my A-level studies. It has also helped

my presentation skills and this will be extremely useful in the future as I intend to study Business, Marketing and Management at Harper Adams University."

Representatives from James Hall & Co Ltd have also visited Westholme to inform students about their Management Trainee Programme. This is open to school leavers who have completed their A-levels and allows students to learn 'on the job' whilst also completing a sponsored degree. It certainly gave our Sixth Form students food for thought and a reminder always to keep their options open.

Finally, Year 10 students also benefitted from our business connections when they took part in the annual Enterprise Day. Prior to the event, James Hall & Co Ltd conducted research which revealed a gap in the market for attracting 20 – 44 year old females to their SPAR stores. To this end, the task for the students was to invent a non-food product aimed at this age group that would entice them to the stores. Each team was allocated a business representative who guided them through the process of product development. The teams then had to select, price, benchmark and market the product and present their findings to a panel of judges. Some of these ideas will once again be implemented fully by James Hall. Ideas included mobile lipstick chargers, cosmetics, spa products and travel essentials.



Using their negotiating skills at the NEC Trade Fair.



Sixth Form students learn about the James Hall Management Trainee Programme.



NEC Trade Fair.



Presenting their products to the panel at the Enterprise Day.

BAE SYSTEMS

Westholme students have enjoyed visiting BAE Systems on two occasions this year to develop their understanding of engineering and to test their enterprise skills.

A team of 8 Westholme students competed in the BAE Systems Enterprise Challenge. The day had a definite 'Dragons' Den' feel about it as the students were asked to design and market an unmanned vehicle for disaster relief, before presenting an investment pitch to BAE managers. The team worked well together to produce the 'Spartacus1' vehicle and confidently pitched their vehicle to a large audience.

Later in the Summer term, three Year 10 students and Mrs Hughes were invited to visit their military aircraft facility in Warton where they had the pleasure of meeting Carol Vorderman. The aim of the event was to celebrate the success of female engineers and encourage young women to think about opportunities available to them. To see some of the world-class engineering which young women have been involved in left them all inspired to look at the opportunities available to them in engineering. It certainly was a wonderful opportunity for our students.



The winning team 'Optima' at the Year 10 Enterprise Day.

Valuable Visitors



Old Westholmians Claire Grindrod (2002) and Rebecca Maudsley (2002) return to Westholme to speak to Sixth Form students about their career paths.

This year Westholme students have been privileged to welcome a number of guest speakers in to school to enhance their learning in the classroom.



Life on the Beat - Former Westholme students PC Sarah Harman (née Snowdon, 1988) and Emma Barnes-Marriott (née Barnes, 2007) gave Sixth Form students an insight into police work.



Reception children enjoyed some 'Forest School' sessions with Mr Barrett from Just Grow Forest Schools.



Year 1 welcomed Mr Boast and some other special visitors into class to learn about invertebrates including grasshoppers, giant African land snails and a Mexican pink-toed tarantula!



Representatives from the Rainbow Legacy House spoke to Senior School students in an assembly about the charity.



Reverend Dr Mike Kirby visited GCSE EPR classes to discuss the relationship between Science and Religion.

Sports Awards Dinner

Our sporting stars swapped their team kits for glamorous evening wear to celebrate a superb year of achievements.



The evening began with a musical performance by Joseph McGurk and Lydia Carr-Oddie, accompanied by dancers Eve Whittle and Molly Taylor.

Guests were then invited to take part in the 'Sports Numbers Quiz' which included questions such as 'How many green square floor tiles are there on the sportshall floor?', 'What is the combined age of the 5 members of the PE department in years?' and 'How many goals have been scored by our successful Year 9 Netball team this season?' – which was an impressive 730!

After a delicious meal the presentations began. We welcomed professional footballer player, Matt Derbyshire, as our prize presenter. Awards included the Westholme Association trophy for the Junior Girls' Sports Personality of the Year, won by Phoebe Waddicor, the Blackburn Chemicals trophy for the Senior Girls' Sports Personality of the Year, awarded to Emily Winter and the Gallacher trophy for Junior Boys' Sports Personality of the Year won by Sam Hall.

The much anticipated sports video compilation rounded the evening off along with a disco!

What a fantastic evening, congratulations to all our prize winners!



Musical Evening Magic

The Junior School children put on a terrific show at the Musical Evening performance in the Croston Theatre. The first half was a showcase for our young musicians who took to the stage to perform a variety of tuneful pieces with great skill. Particular highlights included the Year 5 Ukulele Group's performance of 'If You're Happy and You Know It', which demanded audience participation and the massed song at the end of the half of Canta! (Sing). Who knew that our entire Junior School could sing in Spanish?!

The second half told the story of 'The Jungle Book'. It had it all – colourful costumes, great humour, and wonderful singing, dancing and comic timing. The lead parts were acted out by the Year 6 pupils who were supported by the rest of the school in their capacity as the supporting choir. Audience members fell in love with the characters including Baloo, Mowgli, Shere Khan and King Louie and enjoyed joining in with many of the well-known songs.

It really was a performance to remember – well done to everyone!



Perfect Performance!

The cast of WISPA performed their version of 'The Aristocats' to family and friends in the Croston Theatre. The storyline was a showcase for the Year 4 girls' and boys' wide ranging talents and the whole cast interpreted the story with a great mix of humour, action, song and dance.

It was evident that the cast, directed superbly by Mrs Daley and Mr Harrison, had put an enormous amount of effort into delivering such a perfect performance – well done to everyone!



The Gallery

The Art & Photography Exhibition was once again a showcase for the huge talent of our GCSE and A-level students. The evening's celebration was a wonderful opportunity to preview the amazing artwork produced by our students and their artwork wouldn't have looked out of place in the Tate Gallery, London!



Ramisha Younis



Lauren Barlow



Flora Robson



Orlagh Tracey



Seve Carrel



Emily McHugh



Rumana Master



Izora Khaliq



Lucy Atwood



Charlotte Clark



Jess Hacking



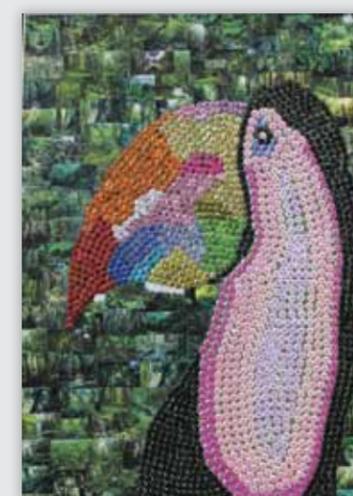
Melissa Bamber



Esme West



Harriet Rose



Eve Barker



Salonee Shah

Westholme Association

The Westholme Association have enjoyed another exciting few months; a successful Spring Fair, Infant and Junior School Discos and the inaugural Summer Ball have all taken place since the start of the year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team for their hard work and dedication this year.



Spring Fair

The annual Westholme Association Spring Fair took place at Senior School. Many families visited to wander through the various stalls including the tombola, the book stall and, of course, the infamous Shajan takeaway stall.

There was something for everyone – games in the Sportshall, nail bar in the Theatre and the café in the Dining Hall. As always, the plant stall was a hit as visitors bought that all important Mother's Day gift. The event was a whole Westholme community effort, from Nursery through to Sixth Form, staff and pupils helped run stalls and made it an extremely enjoyable morning. However, it really could not be run without the hard work and dedication of the Westholme Association. They worked endlessly in the week leading up to the Fair and also throughout the event itself to make it a morning to remember.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Fair a great success; approximately £6000 was raised.



Summer Ball

The inaugural Westholme Association Summer Ball took place at Shaw Hill Golf & Country Club. Visitors were treated on arrival to a champagne reception before sitting down to a lovely three course meal. A limited raffle was held and prizes included a case of champagne, an overnight stay at a hotel in the Lake District, a TV and many more.

The tables looked stunning and it was down to the efforts of the Westholme Association committee members who had given up their Saturday afternoon to help prepare the room. People chatted, laughed and had an extremely enjoyable evening. It was a fantastic evening and one to remember.

Thanks to the generosity of everyone, and the superb efforts of the members of the Association, an amazing £8056.79 was raised.

Well done to the Association on hosting a truly wonderful Westholme Ball.



Masters of the House



**Welcome Monsieurs,
sit yourselves down.....**

Westholme performed the spectacular production, 'Les Misérables' in the Croston Theatre. Audiences were wowed by the incredible ensemble performances of the talented cast of young students.

Handkerchiefs were at the ready to wipe away the tears during the songs *I Dreamed a Dream*, *Empty Chairs at Empty Tables*, *Stars* and the heart breaking rendition of *Bring Him Home*. There wasn't a dry eye in the auditorium!

The comedic characters of Monsieur and Madame Thénardier, together with the chorus, brought the house down in the first act with their hilarious and energetic rendition of *Master of the House*, offering welcome comic relief. The barricade sequences in Act 2 brought drama of epic proportion. These powerful scenes revealed the bleak brutality of war during the French Uprising. Surprisingly, the epilogue offered hope and redemption rather than tragedy. As the story reached its conclusion, the haunting performance of *Do You Hear the People Sing?* was spine tingling to say the least. It suggested that tomorrow would bring a better world....beyond the barricades.

The performance was, yet again, terrific. A whole team effort, from cast, backstage crew, orchestra and make-up ensured that theatre goers were not disappointed – huge congratulations to everyone involved.



SPORTS DAYS

To round off a fantastic year of sport at Westholme, all children take part in the annual Sports Day events.



We welcomed family and friends to watch their children compete in many events including hurdles, sprints, javelin and long jump to name but a few.

Children from all school sites enjoyed taking part and earning valuable House points.

As always, it's all about team spirit (with a little competitiveness thrown into the mix!) and it makes for a fantastic day of all things sport.



Autumn Term 2015

Thursday 3rd September - Wednesday 16th December

Half term - Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October inclusive

Spring Term 2016

Wednesday 6th January - Wednesday 23rd March

Half term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February inclusive

Summer Term 2016

Tuesday 12th April - Wednesday 6th July

Half term - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June inclusive



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