



WESTHOLME
SCHOOL

WESTHOLME LIFE

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018





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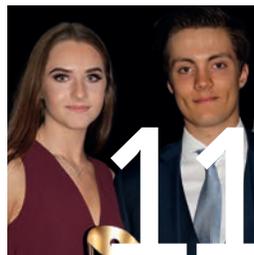
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National Science

Making science fun

For British Science Week the Science Department staff and technicians planned an exciting range of lunchtime activities, lectures and experiments for our students. These sessions allow the students to explore the world of science and engineering in a fun and engaging context.



In the Biology laboratories, students were making origami DNA models from coloured card whilst in the Physics Department, there was a lecture by Professor Ward-Thompson about the surface of the sun and magnetic fields in space. The sessions proved very popular and there was a lively Q&A to round it off.

During the week, students returned to the Biology Department to make DNA models using coloured beads to represent the different bases in the DNA molecule, and in the Theatre the physicists tested the theory of flight with paper airplanes.



Week 2018

Planting pumpkin seeds proved popular and the students competed with each other to grow the largest pumpkin and kept a record of their progress with a photographic record and a chart of measurements.

The highlight of Science Week, as always, was the 'Mentos' challenge which always draws a large crowd. Students tried to create an impressive explosive reaction by dropping the sweets into bottles of fizzy pop to produce a fizzing fountain and the higher the plume, the louder the cheers!

National Science Week once again proved to be a challenging and exciting event which helped to encourage our students to see the world of science as an amazing place to be explored.





The Duke of Edinburgh programme encourages students to enjoy the great outdoors and challenges them to take part in a series of expeditions.

During the Easter holidays, three Silver groups successfully completed their 3-day practice DofE expedition in the Forest of Bowland. The weather was better than expected, with some sunshine at times and all students coped well with heavy rucksacks – well done to them all!

The month of May saw two groups of students journey through the Ribble Valley on their Bronze practice expedition. On day one, they undertook a 12km circular trek from Bowley Scout Camp and perfected their navigation and map reading skills. The heat from the sun was relentless but the students stayed hydrated and completed the walk through the glorious Ribble Valley countryside in great time!

After skilfully putting up their tents and cooking tea, the students got a good night's sleep, ready for day two. The groups headed out alone to put their skills into practice and spent Sunday following their own individual pre-planned 12km routes. The students worked together fantastically, arriving in high spirits and feeling confident about their Bronze Final Expedition in Derbyshire in Year 11.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme enables young people to develop skills and build character. All of our groups proved they are able team members and can cope in challenging situations – well done!



SKI TRIP 2018

February half term saw the return of Westholme's eagerly awaited ski trip. This time, 68 alpine adventurers - the largest number yet - ventured to Bardonecchia in Italy. After a brief coach journey from Torino airport the group arrived at the Olympic Village hotel, used by Olympians in the 2006 Winter Games.

Seven groups of varying abilities, from complete beginners (including an excited Mr Desai) to advanced skiers, were ready and raring to go. Having been kitted out with skis, poles and helmets, students were chomping at the bit to make the 250 metre walk to the first chair lift.

The first two days saw beautiful cloudless skies. Students revelled in the sunshine, and enjoyed the activities on offer. As well as skiing, 'bum boarding' proved to be extremely popular. Lunchtimes provided an opportunity to swap tales of the morning's achievements. Evening activities included

games in the sports hall, ice skating, a pizza night and the traditional disco on Friday which was an energetic affair to say the least!

The traditional Wally Hat made the 900-mile journey with both staff and students having to wear it for a range of 'errors'.

As well as being a fun holiday environment, the trip also provided the opportunity for several PE students to record footage for their GCSE assessments. Tensions were high but all of the skiers performed well under pressure before returning to their respective groups.

Soon enough, the trip drew to a close and having eaten enough Italian pasta to last a lifetime, tired faces and weary bodies summoned what energy was left to carry their cases to the coaches as the group headed home. What a wonderful Ski Trip!





CAREERS CONVENTION

We were delighted to host the biennial Careers Convention at the start of the Summer Term. This saw us welcome many students along with their parents to school who took the opportunity to talk to experts in their field. The event was open to students in Year 8 upwards and was a huge success.

Exhibitors represented a varied range of careers including Journalism, Law, Medicine, Accounting and Veterinary Medicine, to name but a few. Careers presentations were also held in the Sixth Form Centre and the students who attended these talks found them to be extremely informative. A number of local universities were also in attendance which proved to be useful for students to ask about what subjects were offered and also the grades they would need.

It was wonderful to see so many Old Westholmians who had returned to school for the Convention and it was lovely to hear how passionate they were about their chosen careers. Careers Officer, Mrs Hibberd, commented, "It was wonderful to see so many students taking full advantage of this event and I would like to thank all of the exhibitors for taking the time to attend the Convention."

We now look forward to arranging the Universities Fair, which will take place in January 2019.



TREADING THE BOARDS

It is more difficult to get into a Drama College than Oxbridge and typically only 4000 - 6000 students nationally are accepted onto these prestigious courses each year. To this end, we are delighted that four of our students in Year 13 have gained places at top Drama destinations - what an outstanding achievement!



ZOË ARMER

Zoë has been accepted by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) on a three year BA degree in Professional Acting. Zoë was one of over 4000 applicants and each year there are around 20 places on offer. In this year's school production, The Wizard of Oz, Zoë is playing the character of Dorothy and credits her time at Westholme with nurturing her love of acting. She hopes to pursue a career as an actress and we wish her well.



OLIVIA PICKFORD

Olivia is going to London to study at Laine Theatre Arts to do a diploma in Musical Theatre where she will study acting, dance and singing for three years. After roles in many Westholme performances, including this year's role of the Wicked Witch, in The Wizard of Oz, Olivia has certainly got the talent and experience to go far. Specialising in dance, she would love a career in the West End and also hopes to branch out into comedy acting. Good luck, Olivia!



NANCY PINNER

After being involved in school productions since Year 8, Nancy will now go on to study for a degree in Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds for three years. Her final role on the Westholme stage is Glinda the Good Witch in The Wizard of Oz. Nancy hopes to go on to drama school and act in the future.



RUMI SUTTON

After many years of performing on the Westholme stage, Rumi has gained a place to study for a three year BA Acting (Musical Theatre) course at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Rumi applied for this placement through UCAS and had to take part in a number of auditions over the course of two days. She had to perform contemporary and classical monologues, songs and a dance piece. She is hoping to utilise her conservatoire training in either theatre or screen acting and performance and is looking forward to the start of her course. Rumi is also playing Dorothy in our school production of The Wizard of Oz. Well done, Rumi.



VIVA ESPAÑA!

During May half term, 29 students, accompanied by Mrs Buckley, Mrs Bowker and Mrs Waldron, set off for the beautiful region of Andalucía in Spain.

During the stay, they visited Seville and the impressive Alcázar Palace and Plaza de España and also spent a day at the water park, enjoying the vast array of slides.

The group spent time at the oldest bullring in Ronda and enjoyed the views from El Tajo. Later on they took in the delights of Puerto Banús, spending time in designer shops

and admiring the yachts before ending the day in the quaint village of Mijas where they were able to purchase souvenirs of the trip. In the evening, the group enjoyed a flamenco lesson, which was fun and a fabulous way to end the day.

Everyone had a wonderful time and experienced the diverse culture that Spain has to offer.





Sports' Awards Dinner

A wonderful evening to celebrate our sporting excellence

Staff, parents and players from all year groups gathered to celebrate the achievements and success of the last 12 months of the sporting calendar.

The official welcome was delivered by Miss Furness and Mr Warburton, before a student dance performance was enjoyed by all.

After dining on a delicious meal, provided by Northcote @ Rovers, students took to the stage to receive their awards and this year, they were greeted by our very special guest and former Team GB Captain, Jenny Meadows. Prizes were also awarded to those who have represented Westholme at County, Regional and National levels.

The formal part of the evening concluded with the Sports' Captains making a speech about the many sporting opportunities that are on offer at Westholme and thanks were given to the PE Department for organising such a wonderful evening. One of the highlights of the evening was the Sports' Awards film, fantastically put together by Miss Furness which was followed by the disco.

What a truly wonderful evening of celebration.





World Book Day

Celebrating a love of reading and books on World Book Day with costumes, characters and lots of creativity!

The whole School was involved in the celebrations and there were fun activities across all of the sites. At the Infant and Junior Schools, the students were asked to dress up as their favourite book character and had to carry a 'Poem in their Pocket', which at certain times of the day they had to read out to fellow classmates.

Their day began with a carnival atmosphere as the children joined in a parade, showing off their costumes on the catwalk. They danced along to the sounds of their favourite pop songs whilst their friends and teachers clapped and cheered them on. Everyone had worked so hard on their costumes and the effect was vibrant and exciting, bringing all of the book characters to life.





In the morning, teachers from the Senior School visited some of the classes to read aloud from their favourite children's novel. Other fun activities evolved around the book chosen by each class; in Year 1 their books were based on Superheroes and so the children made superhero masks and talked about their favourite heroes. In Year 2 they chose 'The Enormous Crocodile' which accounted for Mrs Barrett's amazing crocodile costume! The children discussed the characters and had to design a 'Wanted' poster warning unsuspecting children to look out for a very grumpy crocodile!

At Junior School, the students selected their favourite author and discussed one of the books they had written and then had to complete a quiz. In the afternoon, Year 6 students walked from Junior to Infant School to read with some of the younger pupils which the children enjoyed immensely.

Finally, Senior School staff pinned a 'currently reading' sign to their door or wore a copy of their favourite book pinned to their back, turning the corridors and classrooms into forums for discussion and debate.

Everyone agreed it was a fun filled day, which may just inspire a new generation of young authors and publishers. However, that is a story still waiting to be told...





Fashion Show





The annual spectacular Textiles Department Fashion Show took place in the Croston Theatre, where our incredibly talented GCSE and A Level Textiles students presented their designs to a proud audience of parents, staff and students.

This year, students took inspiration from a number of styles including futuristic fashion, corsetry and traditional African tribal wear.

There were denim skirts designed and created by the Year 10 Textiles students and the GCSE outfits were inspired by futuristic fashion, African tribal patterns and a swinging 60s revival with a diverse range of fabrics used from satin to pleather.

The A Level outfits took inspiration from a wide range of sources including the ballet Black Swan, a stage costume for Rihanna with Bajan influences including laser cut details and futuristic origami to create armour shoulder pieces. West Side Story's Spanish culture influenced a striking one sleeved

piece and Balenciaga, the famous fashion designer, influenced the tartan jacket.

Pre-show, the Textiles Department was a hive of activity as students helped each other get into their outfits, last minute alterations were made and each outfit was photographed for their portfolios.

The designs were modelled either by the students who created them, or by a willing friend in the catwalk show, and this year the creations were truly impressive. Their designs may appear on the pages of the world's fashion magazines in the very near future!





A CELEBRATION OF

Music

The Concert Series once again proved to be a wonderful showcase of musical performances.

The Soloists' Recital was a memorable evening and provided students with an incredible opportunity to practise performing in front of an audience. The performances were exceptional and the individual talents of the students really shone through as they each took to the limelight and captivated everyone there. They presented vocal and instrumental music from jazz through to musicals and popular songs. It really was a pleasure to see so many students willing to perform on the stage.

Later in the term, students from all years at Senior School and Sixth Form once again took to the stage in the Spring Concert with a programme that offered a wide range of performances to entertain all musical tastes. There was a lively selection of music from *Pirates of the Caribbean* to a medley from *The Greatest Showman* sung by the Junior Choir; the Swing Band played *Mission Impossible* and there were other wonderful pieces by the Harp Ensemble and an uplifting performance by the Ukulele Group to name but a few. The audience enjoyed a fabulous evening, which once again highlighted the incredible talents of all of the young musicians and singers at Westholme.

This year's Gala Concert turned out to be one of the best ever with 17 Upper Sixth Formers performing brilliantly in their last school concert, supported by many other musically-talented school students, parents and teachers. A

number of musicians from the wider Westholme community also took part and it was a pleasure to see a number of former students return to school for the event.

After the orchestra opened with 'The Radetzky March', it was delightful to see some of our Sixth Form students perform instrumental pieces as the climax to their school musical careers.

A rip-roaring performance of music from *The Pirates of the Caribbean* concluded the first half of the concert.

The Senior and Choir Tour Choirs then presented highlights from Haydn's Oratorio 'The Creation' before students performed arias and recitatives. The small orchestra supported admirably and the choir were able to produce moments of great excitement and wonder. Each of the participating Upper Sixth Formers was presented with a rose and this year's Music Captain, Eloise Mackay, gave a very effective vote of thanks to conclude a most impressive and enjoyable evening.

What a wonderful way to conclude the Concert Series this year – thank you to all of our talented musicians.







JUNIOR SPORT

ATHLETICS



We enjoyed success in many events at the BPS Athletics Tournament. Well done to the team on a fabulous performance.



Our athletics team competed at the AJIS event which saw Jonathan Brindle and George Weisters win bronze medals in their individual events.

SPORTSHALL



Congratulations to Year 6 students, Sophie Gibson and Joseph Bank who were selected to represent Lancashire in the inter-counties Indoor Sportshall competition.

TERRIFIC TENNIS!

Congratulations went to our Year 3 and 4 tennis superstars who were crowned BPS champions for the second year running! Going into the tournament, the pressure was already mounting as we were the current holders from last year's competition, but this didn't faze the young boys and girls as Henry, Neel, Daisy and Jessica were very excited to get started!

We progressed through to the semi-finals on most points scored and, after playing some brilliant tennis, were pleased to qualify for the final where we faced a superb Lower Darwen team.

Another fantastic performance ensured that we were once again crowned winners of this year's BPS Tournament and went on to represent Blackburn with Darwen at the Lancashire School Games.

Our performance at the Lancashire School Games was once again fantastic and the team were delighted to come away with silver medals.

Henry, Neel, Jessica and Daisy had overcome adversity to triumph making the Westholme community proud of their grit, determination and Growth Mindset. Well done!



CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations went to our Junior School Cross Country team who enjoyed great success in the BPS event. Jonathan Brindle and Eve Downham both finished in first place in their individual races with Ellie-Mae Lomax finishing in third place.



More success followed as the team medals were announced and we were delighted to learn that we had finished first in the boys' and girls' team races and in the combined race – what a fantastic achievement! Well done to everyone.



SWIMMING

BPS Swimming Gala

The BPS Swimming Gala was a terrific event and a great experience for our Junior swimming team. Competing in all disciplines, Westholme reached the final of every event, and represented the school extremely well throughout, maintaining the excellent record the school has had in the competition over the last few years. James Avent was the only individual winner, taking the 25m breaststroke. In the relay events, the Junior boys helped to retain the titles for the freestyle and medley relays, which we have won three years in a row. Congratulations to James for his medal and to the whole team for a brilliant performance overall.



English Schools' Swimming

After taking part in the English Schools' Swimming Association North West Finals event and finishing in bronze medal position, our team were delighted to represent Westholme in the National Finals, at Ponds Forge Pool, Sheffield.

Despite not winning on the day, we were pleased to finish in 22nd position overall, out of 16,000 schools in the country! Well done, girls, on an amazing effort.



NETBALL

The Year 6 Netball team enjoyed a superb season on the courts, which culminated in them being crowned League One Champions. The girls went into the final match in a great position, having won all their previous matches. They won the first of their final matches 5-0 against Lower Darwen before taking on QEGS in the last match. The girls played to their strengths and produced a confident performance in the second half to win the game 5-2. These results made it a clean sweep, having won all nine league games and they were delighted to be overall champions. What a fantastic achievement!





Wizard of Oz

When a tornado rips through Kansas, Dorothy and her dog, Toto, are whisked away in their house to the magical land of Oz. They follow the Yellow Brick Road towards the Emerald City to meet the Wizard, and en route they meet a Scarecrow that needs a brain, a Tin Man missing a heart, and a Cowardly Lion who wants courage. The Wizard asks the group to bring him the broom of the Wicked Witch of the West to earn his help.

The cast of Westholme students were transformed into the key characters of this well-known story. Fabulous costumes accompanied classic musical pieces – who could fail not to shed a tear when the iconic, 'Over the Rainbow' song was performed by Dorothy? The audience were transported to the land of Oz complete with characters including the munchkins, Glinda the Good Witch, The Wicked Witch and the Wizard.

The characterisation of these popular roles was convincing; each scene was captivating from the journey down the Yellow Brick Road to the arrival at Emerald City and everything in between.

Congratulations to the extremely talented students whose wonderful acting and singing made them true stars of the Westholme stage. Thanks to the whole production team for another marvellous Westholme performance.







SENIOR SPORT

NETBALL BDSSA Tournament

Our Year 8 and 9 netball teams competed at the BDSSA netball tournament again this year. All teams played some excellent netball and it was a clean sweep with the Year 8 A and B teams coming in first and second, along with the Year 9 A and B also coming in first and second in each of their tournaments.

As well as this success, not to be out played, the Sixth Form team also won the BDSSA Senior Netball Tournament, demonstrating some top-level team play.

Congratulations to all of our players!



BRUFC Tournament

The U13 team had a great game of rugby at the BRUFC Tournament and even though the match was a draw, the referee commented on how it was some of the best rugby he had seen at their age.

The boys were up against it from the first whistle where a crunching tackle led to losing us a player straight away, but it is a credit to the team that they kept their heads up and kept on playing hard despite being up against physically bigger opposition. It was a true team effort!



CRICKET

After being crowned the indoor champions early in the year, expectations were high for our U13 Cricketers for this year's annual hard ball match in the U13 Town Championships. Confidence was high and the team sailed through the group stages with 2 fantastic wins, putting them into the semi-final. Batting first, the team played well and put too many runs on the board for the opposition to catch; onto the final! Not only was this the final, but also a local derby against QEGS. The boys choose to bat first again, however this time they only managed to score 130 and were in danger of losing. With all their grit and determination the boys worked hard and produced a fantastic bowling display making it impossible for QEGS to catch, resulting in Westholme being crowned town champions for 2018!

8-a-side Indoor Cricket Tournament

The U15A team travelled to the Lancashire Indoor Cricket Centre where they were one of 5 schools competing in an 8-a-side Indoor Cricket Tournament. The teams were battling to go through to the regional round in Blackpool and so the competition was fierce. On the day our bowling performance was spot on and even the umpire remarked at the end of play that it was the best team bowling he had ever seen. We were delighted to win the competition, which meant going through to the regionals.

Darwen Indoor Tournament



In the U13 Blackburn with Darwen Indoor tournament all of our players made valuable contributions, and gave a real team performance which took us through to the next game. This proved more of a challenge but we progressed through into the final. It was time for a hero to step up, Finlay hit a four, and we won the tournament which means we would be through to the regionals.

FOOTBALL

It has felt like an age since our 1st XI footballers played their inaugural U18's fixture, which was also the first time for Westholme entering the Society of Heads Cup. Having reached the next stage the team found themselves in a tough match, but managed to grind out a 5-3 victory.



All attention turned to the semi-final and the boys had done their homework and knew they were in for a difficult game against a strong Oswestry side. It was not the fairy tale ending they had all hoped for, but it was a great display of effort and determination right until the final whistle.

It has been a memorable year and this is just the start of the journey for our 1st XI team here at Westholme and we predict many successes in the future.

ROUNDERS

The Year 9 rounders team became Blackburn with Darwen Rounders Champions beating all the other teams in the borough. This then meant they advanced through to play in the Lancashire Schools' Games representing the town team. The girls played extremely well and were determined to prove their skill and ability. They remained steadfast and at the end of the tournament they came out in 3rd place which is a fantastic achievement at this level.



CROSS COUNTRY

Ten of our best runners represented the Blackburn with Darwen Town team in very difficult conditions at the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships. In true Westholme style, they all showed great spirit. Charlotte Corrigan did especially well, finishing in 4th place and as a consequence was chosen for the English Schools' team.



Catteral Shield

At the Catteral Shield event it was a wonderful afternoon for a run and a superb course saw the Westholme runners set off in high spirits. For the girls, we had two top ten finishes, Hollie Cubbon in 4th and Lara Ingram-Weston in 7th. The girls ended up coming 3rd overall in the team event. For the boys, they faced tough competition and we had one top twenty finish, Edward Lee in 18th. Congratulations to all our runners on great effort throughout.



English Schools' Cross Country Championships

The team had a great afternoon of running at the English Schools' Cross Country Championships hosted at Giggleswick School. All of our runners performed well, especially the U13 Girls who came 3rd overall in the team event.

ATHLETICS

Students from the Senior School from Years 7 to 11, set off on a hot and sunny Tuesday to compete in the Blackburn with Darwen Athletics Championships at Witton Park.

Blackburn with Darwen Town Sports is always of the highest calibre with ten schools entering this event. Our students were determined to try hard and perform at their best. We had some excellent results on the day and won a variety of medals in different categories, including 12 first place medals, 9 second place medals, 13 third place medals and 4 new records! A tremendous achievement all round!





Year 9 went on a Geography field trip to Bowness in the Lake District

BEYOND THE



Year 3 children had an action packed day at Hollingworth Lake taking part in many outdoor pursuits activities including mountain biking and kayaking



The children from Shooting Stars and Superstars had a wonderful day when they visited Old Holly Farm



A great time was had by the boys on the Year 6 Sports' Tour



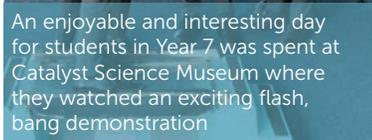
Year 8 went on the annual Biology trip to Chester Zoo to study adaptations of animals to their environment



Students from Year 10 & Sixth Form attended a lecture at the University of Central Lancashire and listened to Dr Robi Catchpole from the Institute of Astronomy



Year 2 travelled back in time to 1666 and experienced a day in the life of Samuel Pepys during their visit to Staircase House, a Grade II listed building in Stockport



An enjoyable and interesting day for students in Year 7 was spent at Catalyst Science Museum where they watched an exciting flash, bang demonstration



As part of their studies on 'Forces', Year 2 children enjoyed an interactive day at the Museum of Science and Industry



Year 8 students had a multi-faith experience in the local community on the EPR 'Sacred Places' trip



CLASSROOM

All of the students in Year 9 visited Hanson Cement as part of their Physics syllabus



A trip to Blackpool Zoo was enjoyed by the children in Reception where they learnt all about different animals including penguins, sea lions and orangutans



Year 13 Physics students had a tour of the medical imaging facilities at Chorley Hospital with Dr Stockwell, parent of two former students



Year 12 Textiles students visited the fashion exhibition at the V&A Museum, London



A trip to Tatton Park enhanced the topic on the Tudors for students in Year 5



Year 6 girls visited Inflatation, as part of their Sports' Tour



Year 4 spent a fun-filled day at Chester Zoo, taking time to visit many of the 21,000 animals on site, and enjoying some interactive workshops



Reception children had fun on a trip to Brockholes where they learnt all about mini-beasts



Blencathra Field Centre was the destination for our Year 12 Biologists to work on their Ecology topic as part of their A Level studies



Year 7 Geographers went on a trip to Hothersall Lodge Field Study Centre



FOCUS ON...

BROADENING HORIZONS FROM AN EARLY AGE

At Westholme we believe education is about preparation for life and that opportunities need to be given from an early age. This enables children to foster a love of learning and to build skills including enthusiasm, teamwork, resilience and concentration. A recent development in our commitment to this has seen us announce Scholarships for children entering into Year 3 in the areas of Music and Academia. These are available to current Westholme children and those joining from other schools.

VISITORS

Experts in their field play a vital role in enhancing the learning of our students. We have been privileged to welcome a number of children's authors and illustrators including Debi Giori, Julian Clarey, Cressida Cowell, and Lauren Child to school to provide an insight into the world of literature.

Other visitors including the History Man, the Fire Service and parents in their professional roles help to really bring the curriculum to life.



CO CURRICULAR & ENRICHMENT

We pride ourselves on a vast enrichment programme and activities are available to our children from a young age. These clubs and societies complement and support the exceptional work that already takes place in the classroom. Clubs such as Performing Arts, Junior Journalists, Construction, Expressive Arts, Scrabble and Cookery prove to be extremely popular. Fitness is also at the forefront of our ethos with Yoga, Martial Arts and Sports clubs proving that there really is something for everyone!



Within the curriculum, children are also able to take part in a diverse selection of sports; our swimming lessons begin in Pre School and other sports such as Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Hockey, Football, Netball, Rounders, Cricket and Tennis also take place. In addition, children are able to enjoy enrichment opportunities at lunchtimes and after school.



TRIPS & ADVENTURES

Trips and adventures also form an important part of the curriculum. Just this past year children have journeyed on over twenty trips to places such as the Liverpool World Museum, Brockholes, Chester Zoo, Tatton Old Hall, Quarry Bank Mill, Formby and the Victorian Museum at Fleetwood.

The biennial trip to France for Years 5 and 6 is always extremely popular! On these trips, learning really comes to life and creates a memorable experience for everyone.

STAND DOWN



We said farewell to the Upper Sixth and celebrated their last official day with the annual Stand Down assembly.

Students reminisced fondly about their time at Westholme and we were treated to an impromptu dance performance before the celebration assembly drew to a close with a rousing rendition of the hymn, *Shine, Jesus, Shine* – a definite crowd pleaser!

Many of the students had been at Westholme for over 15 years and pictures from their early days at Nursery and Infant School were shown throughout the assembly. Special thanks were given to the Heads of School, House Captains and Music, Drama and Sports Captains and

all students were presented with a commemorative leaving gift.

Mrs Waldron was also presented with gifts; Mrs Horner said a special thank you to her, as she also 'stands down' as Head of Sixth Form this year.

After the assembly, students greeted their parents in the Common Room for a special lunch reception, prepared by our superb catering department. Final goodbyes were also said.

Good luck, Class of 2018. We wish you all the very best!





Royal Wedding 2018

Celebrating the big day!

Staff and children at Nursery, Infant and Junior School hosted their very own Royal Wedding to join in the celebrations for Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle.

A special ceremony began at 10.00am when the brides and grooms from each class walked down the aisle, accompanied by Mr Harrison who led the ceremony. The service included a beautiful violin performance played by some of our Junior School students as the happy couples made their entrance. The rest of the school children, dressed in their party outfits, clapped and cheered.

After an abundance of photographs outside, the wedding party boarded their carriage for a royal visit to the Junior School where they received a fabulous welcome before returning to Infant School for a special party wedding lunch.

In the afternoon, the wedding reception commenced and Mrs Horner, Mrs Barnett and Mr McKenna also helped the children to plant a cherry tree to commemorate the Royal Wedding which many parents were able to watch as it coincided with the end of the school day.

The children at the Junior and Senior Schools also joined in the celebrations by having their own party lunch buffet, and special thanks went to the catering staff team for the amazing spread. What a wonderful, Westholme wedding!



Westholme Association

Special thanks to the Westholme Association who have once again worked hard this year to raise funds for the Westholme Community.

Over 70 parents and Year 13 students attended the Spring Ball, held in the Red Rose Suite at Ewood Park, organised by the Westholme Association.

After enjoying arrival drinks of cranberry fizz, guests sat down to enjoy cheese soufflé, followed by duck and an assiette of desserts.

Everyone was amazed by the tricks done by Jason Rea, the magician, who entertained each table during the course of the meal – many of the students hadn't seen table magic being demonstrated before so found it to be extremely entertaining.

The DJ, Lloyd Thomas, was excellent and had everyone on the dancefloor. The men, in particular, were really entertaining with their dance routine lead by Lloyd.

Approximately £3500 was raised via a combination of ticket sales, raffles, the ever popular game of Head & Tails and brochure advertising.

Thank you to the Westholme Association for a super event – the description on Twitter of Ewood being like a 'snow globe' as the wintry weather fell outside onto the football pitch during the evening was true to say the least!



Disco Time!

Children at the Infant and Junior Schools were delighted to attend the disco, kindly arranged by the Westholme Association. Children enjoyed party teas and danced and played games with entertainer, Taz. What a fabulous time they all had!



WESTHOLME

Silverwood Book Events

The Hairy Bikers Visit Westholme!

There was a rousing welcome in the Croston Theatre for Dave Myers and Si King, better known as the Hairy Bikers, as they sat down on the stage with Radio Lancashire presenter, John (Gilly) Gillmore for an evening of conversation, in conjunction with Silverwood Events.



The atmosphere was warm and intimate like a gathering of old friends. Gilly began the conversation with a trip down memory lane; Dave and Si talked about their childhoods and recounted hilarious stories of their youth and the influence of their families.

As they embarked on their careers, Dave and Si found themselves falling into the media industry by accident and would eventually meet whilst working on the same production. Their friendship was forged during an after work drink at the pub with the rest of the crew.

The tale of how they became the Hairy Bikers is one of luck and happy accident. They started with an idea involving food, travel and karma and found a team who were willing to take a chance on them.

They made the audience laugh out loud with funny anecdotes about the first cookery programme they made, which actually turned out to be a surprising success. The warmth and camaraderie was infectious and the witty banter between Dave and Si and their incredible stories kept the audience enthralled.

The move to become Hairy Dieters, which is how they have become known for the last series of books, stemmed from a rather harsh realisation that they both needed to change their lifestyles and waistlines. With a light-hearted approach they



discovered another way to enjoy food and cooking. Their honesty and humour has helped the Hairy Dieters connect with so many 'foodies' and made their series of books and television travel cookery programmes a firm favourite.

The audience were thoroughly entertained and like the food the Hairy Bikers cook, they were left wanting more!

Thank you to Dave and Si for their wonderful visit and to Elaine and Jake from Silverwood Events once again for making the event possible.

Julian Clary

To celebrate World Book Day, we had the pleasure of hosting a Silverwood Author Event with Julian Clary and illustrator, David Roberts.



Our own Junior School pupils were joined by children from local primary schools for an entertaining afternoon of excerpts and live illustrations from 'The Bolds' Great Adventure'. It was an interactive afternoon with Julian heading out into the audience to ask for ideas for David to draw onto Mrs Bold's hat and there was a chance for insightful questions to be asked at

the end. From hilarious 'knock knock' jokes to the shock of hearing about how the original Mr and Mrs Bold were eaten by a crocodile before having their clothes and identities stolen by two enterprising hyenas, it truly was a memorable afternoon, topped off with the children receiving a personalised signed book at the end.

WELCOMES...



We were delighted to welcome back to school geologist, volcano guide and environmental sustainability lecturer, David Edwards, who gave a series of lectures to students at Senior School on a range of geographical topics including animal conservation in Botswana and Mount Vesuvius



Year 3 had fun taking part in Greek Day and invited parents for a special tea party at the end of the day



Pianist, Martin Roscoe, performed his annual concert for a Westholme audience which saw the Senior and Choir tours perform a concert prelude



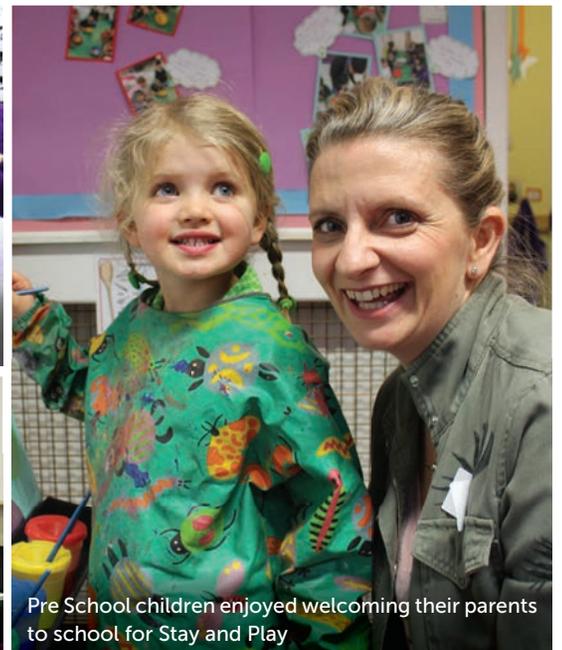
Parents with children in Reception were welcomed to school to join their children in a Come and Learn session



Mr and Mrs Lamb came to assembly to present the annual Art and Science awards that they kindly sponsor



The History Man visited Year 6 to talk to them about WWII which brought their learning to life and enabled them to have a better understanding



Pre School children enjoyed welcoming their parents to school for Stay and Play



Year 5 children welcomed Mr Ian Bamford to school for an African Drumming workshop



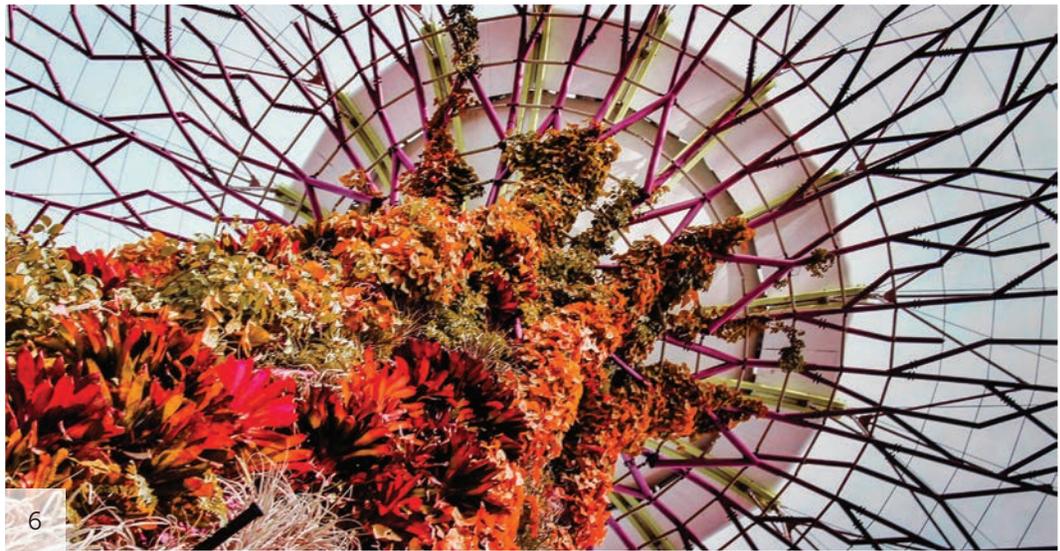
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ART, PHOTOGRAPHY & PRODUCT DESIGN EXHIBITION

- 1 Grace Mellor
- 2 Alice Couch
- 3 Charlotte Francis
- 4 Charlotte Cootes
- 5 Isobel Jackson
- 6 Leoni Peet
- 7 Lauren Bradshaw
- 8 Siobhan Privonitz-Smith
- 9 Rosie Drake
- 10 Claudia Reyner
- 11 Benjamin Rooney
- 12 William Harfield
- 13 Shaan Khan
- 14 Molly Taylor
- 15 Max Stirpe
- 16 Olivia Pickford



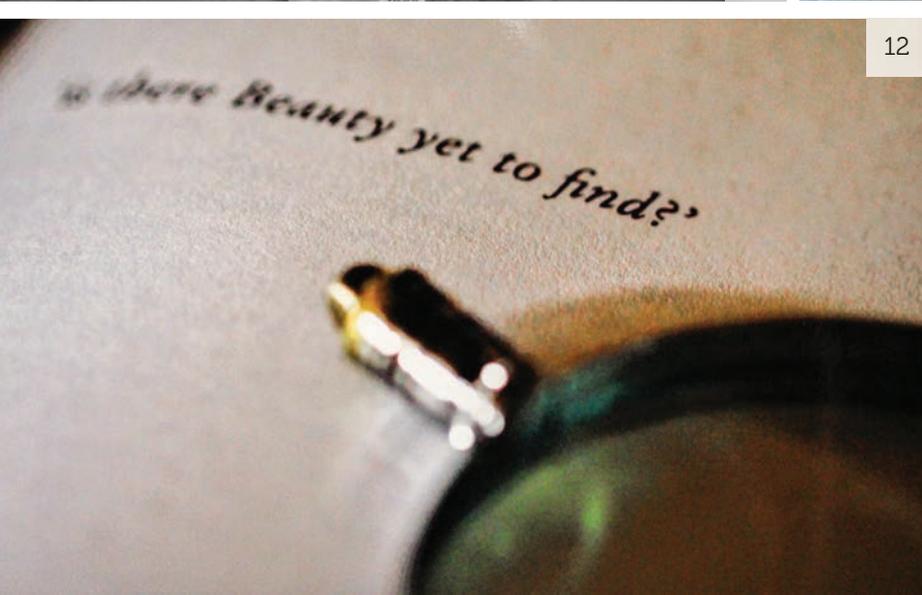
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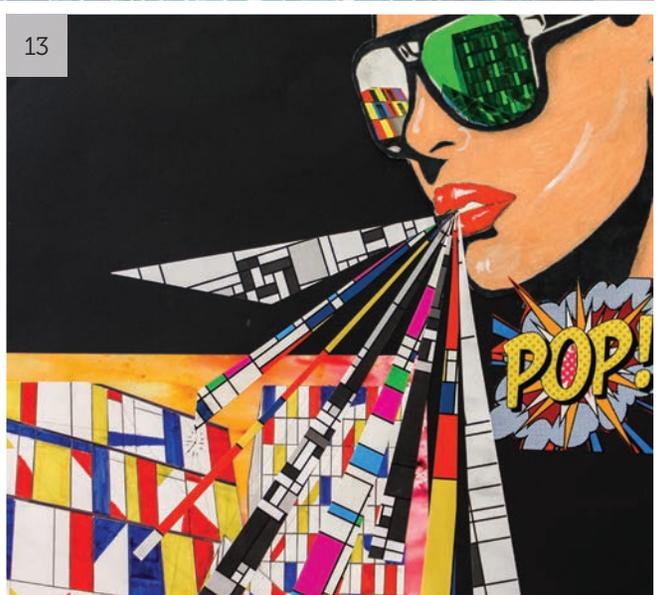
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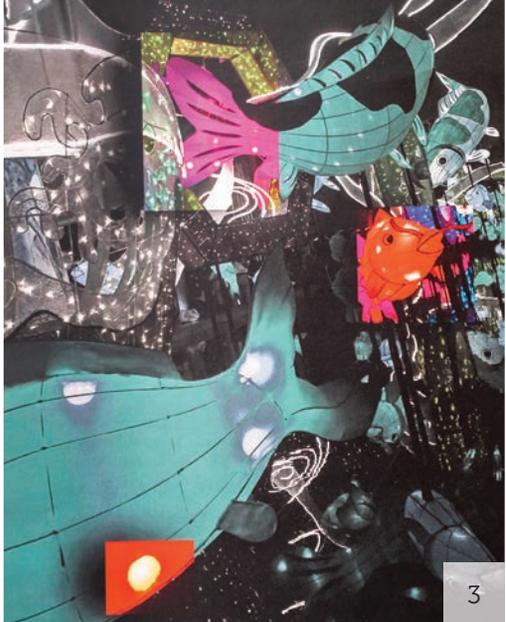
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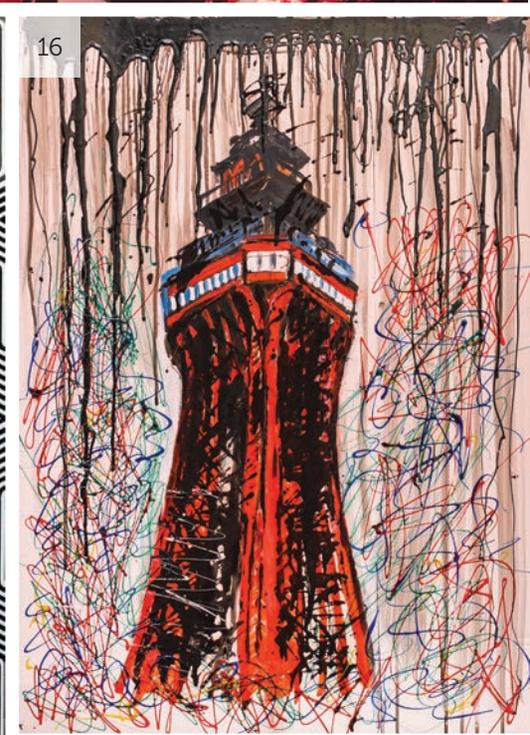
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WHEN IN ROME...

“Upon the Romans I impose no limits of time or place. I have given them an empire that will know no end.”

When Jupiter, the king of the Roman gods, foretold the future greatness of Rome, he was not talking about how popular Italian cuisine would become, nor about how passionate its people might be in their support of their national football team. He was providing us with an insight into the eternal glory of the city of Rome and its people, and their importance upon history for the rest of time. Walking through the streets of Rome, one observes a wonderful blend of ancient wonder and modern romanticism, a bustling city of great beauty with an undercurrent of passion. It is this magnificence that our Latin and Classics students were fortunate to embrace for themselves during their visit to the heart of Italy over the Easter holiday.

Day 1

Despite an early rise, the students were in high excitement as they departed for Rome at the start of their Easter vacation. Upon arrival, adorning their custom t-shirts with appropriate classical names on their backs, they set out from their hotel and made their first stop at Rome's greatest time capsule - the Colosseum. Students were amazed by the size of Rome's largest amphitheatre and asked pertinent questions as Mr Oracz began his role as tour guide, detailing the dark history and architectural genius of the arena.

Next stop was ancient Rome's most important location, the Palatine Hill and Roman Forum. In ancient Rome, these sites were deemed the centre of the world, home to Rome's most famous names, Julius Caesar, Romulus, Augustus. Despite the decay of the sites over time, students were still able to grasp the former glory of the place and walk in the footsteps of Rome's leading names.

With the warmth of the setting sun on their backs, the students made their way for their evening meal at one of Rome's gourmet hot spots, exhausted from the activities of the day, but each commenting on the wonders they had beheld at the start of their trip.

Day 2

Due to the timing of the trip coinciding with Holy Week, they had an early start the following morning so that they could beat the crowds at Vatican City. Despite not sighting the Pope himself, they were fortunate enough to witness the Vatican in all its glory, with students being moved by the artistic genius on display. Students were led through the various rooms of the Vatican Museums, allowing them to see beautiful works of art and architecture, including the famous 'School of Athens' by Raphael, the importance of which Mrs Oracz detailed to the group as they stood in awe.

Other noted highlights included the 'Belvedere Torso', famous for its influence upon Michelangelo, the 'Laocoon' statue, which was a favourite of the Upper Sixth Classics students, and, of course, the indescribable majesty of the Sistine Chapel.

Following our tour of the museums, the students were next blown away by the interior of Saint Peter's Basilica and much to Mr Oracz's delight, every student volunteered to make the optional, long and winding journey up the 551 steps to the height of the dome of the basilica, where students were treated to a stunning panorama of Rome.



After a busy morning, students enjoyed a relaxing lunch surrounding the Vatican before embarking on a more leisurely stroll through some of the city's sites. Walking along the banks of the River Tiber, students passed by the ancient mausoleum of the emperor Hadrian (now known as Castel Sant'Angelo), took selfies inside Piazza Navona, home to the famous Fountain of the Four Rivers by Bernini, finally visiting the Pantheon, the largest freestanding dome in the world, an ancient temple that defines architectural genius and stands out literally as a shining example of why Rome is so popular. Mr and Mrs Lewis were particularly excited about visiting the Pantheon, such is their appreciation for the amazing architecture, something they passed on to the students as they all marvelled at its wonder.



The walk wouldn't have been complete without a stop at what Mr Oracz describes as "the greatest ice cream shop in the world", where students took great care choosing which of the hundreds of flavours they wished to sample.

Following their evening meal and a rest at the hotel, the evening was filled with a leisurely stroll to the Spanish Steps and an opportunity to take in the atmosphere at one of Rome's most famous tourist attractions.

Day 3

The following morning began with a whistle-stop tour of the final ancient sites, including the Circus Maximus, Temple of Hercules, Theatre of Marcellus and Capitol Hill, before students were given time to indulge in souvenir shopping on and around the famous Via del Corso.



A more relaxed day allowed students to refresh themselves and prepare for the afternoon's energetic activity – a visit to the Roman Gladiator School. Mr Oracz teaches about gladiatorial combat to Year 9 and GCSE students, but even he was not prepared for the intensity displayed by the students when faced with the real thing, albeit with highly padded swords. The atmosphere was electric as students duelled one-on-one in their attempts to be crowned champion. High commendation must be given to the finalists of Max Benedetto and Jay Fletcher for the boys, and Kira Pennington and Chloe Pritchard for the girls. However, following these bouts, the male and female champions, Jay and Chloe, squared off in a battle for the ages to try and win the trophy. The match was tense and full of drama, but it was Chloe who claimed the win, emerging victorious as the very first Westholme Gladiator Champion.

The final evening led to a lovely meal together outside the Pantheon, followed by a second trip to the famous gelati shop and time spent enjoying the radiance of the Trevi Fountain. Students took photos and threw in their coins, wishing that one day they might return to the city. Only time will tell, but as Jupiter said, time has 'no limits' when it comes to this wonderful city, and Mr Oracz is confident that each student will be retracing their steps in the future, such was the enjoyment had by all on the trip.

Mr Oracz would like to thank Mr and Mrs Lewis and Mrs Oracz for helping to make the trip such a success, whilst also thanking the students for their impeccable behaviour, remarking how they were a credit to the school and to themselves. He hopes that they enjoyed the trip as much as the staff enjoyed leading them, and that they each gained an enriched outlook and appreciation for the classical world and its influence upon so much of our lives today.





Outstanding



The Lion King

The Junior School students put on a truly fantastic performance of their annual Musical Evening in the Croston Theatre. The first half was a showcase for our talented young musicians featuring the Orchestra, a Harp Duet, Woodwind, String Group, the Year 5 Recorder Group and the Brass Group. All of the pupils played beautifully and captivated the audience with various arrangements from the gentle tones of 'My Way' to an uplifting rendition of 'Eye of the Tiger', performed with exuberance and enthusiasm.

At the interval parents and children enjoyed a selection of refreshments provided by our dedicated catering staff. The Year 6 students changed into costume to transform themselves into their characters for the performance of The Lion King; hyenas, the villagers, the village elders and the rafikis, whilst the Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils wore vibrant orange and red t-shirts adding to the colourful theme of the story.

This story follows the adventures of the young lion Simba, the heir of his father, Mufasa. Simba's wicked uncle, Scar, plots to usurp Mufasa's throne by

luring father and son into a stampede of wildebeests. But Simba escapes, and only Mufasa is killed. Simba returns as an adult to take back his homeland from Scar with the help of his friends Timon and Pumbaa.

The wonderful choreography and acting was interspersed with moments of humour and comedy which was delivered with perfect timing. The children in their roles had the audience in fits of laughter, especially when Pumbaa, Timon and Simba sang the popular song 'Hakuna Matata' and performed it with bags of personality and humour!

This fabulous production with brilliant performances by all of the cast, brought to life this well known story and showed nature's way of taking and giving back life to earth. Representing the infinite nature of energy, meaning if something dies it gives new life to another.

Well done to all of the cast and crew who worked so hard to bring the musical together ensuring the production was a huge success!



Performances



Snow White

The annual Year 3 and Year 4 production took place in the Croston Theatre.

The traditional tale of 'Snow White' included action, adventure, magical characters, suspense, tension, along with lots of laughter and a 'happy ever after' ending. The children acted, danced and performed beautiful

songs professionally and eloquently and were true budding stars. Well done to the entire cast and to the staff for their hard work and commitment for directing such a brilliant show.





Thinking of Others

Students of all ages have once again worked hard to raise funds and awareness to help those in need. Some of our highlights are featured below.



TRIPLE CHALLENGE

Over the course of three months, staff and children at our Infant and Junior School took part in the Triple Challenge – Challenge Me Challenge Us, Challenge Them, to raise money for Children with Cancer and the NSPCC.

The Challenge Me event began when Mrs Sutcliffe ran the London Marathon on April 22nd. Running in temperatures of 23.2 degrees, Mrs Sutcliffe battled on and completed the race. During the race, current parent, Mrs Wood, who was raising money for Arthritis UK, accompanied Mrs Sutcliffe. What an achievement to start this epic fundraising event.

Challenge Us was for the children and took place throughout the month of May. They each set themselves a challenge to do something they had never been able to achieve. Some of these amazing challenges included distance swimming, cycling, running, art and crafts, baking and even knitting hats for infant children in Syria! Well done to everyone for taking up the challenge.

The final part, Challenge Them, saw the teaching staff, along with friends and family, complete a triathlon around Lake Coniston on a beautiful day in June.

The first part of the triathlon started at 8.30am with staff kayaking, paddle boarding or swimming 6 miles of the lake. The temperature of the water was warm, the sky was blue and everyone worked hard to complete the miles.

After this event, the cyclists completed the 14 miles around the shoreline of the lake, tackling some tricky hills in the process.

The final event was the epic climb to the summit of The Old Man of Coniston. On completion of the triathlon, all the staff, family and friends enjoyed a BBQ. It was wonderful to see so many involved throughout the day, including Mrs Horner, former Principal, Mrs Croston and family members who all worked so hard during the day. It really was a whole team effort.

So far, this event has raised over £8500. This is an incredible amount to say the least - well done to everyone!

Mrs Sutcliffe gave special thanks to Danny Yates, who helped guide swimmers, cyclists and walkers throughout the day, Charlie Haworth, who at the age of 8 completed all 3 disciplines of the triathlon and Connie, the Westholme bear, who paddle boarded with Mr Haworth, cycled with Mrs Carr and walked in Mrs Sutcliffe's rucksack!



To raise awareness about 'heart month' in February, students in Years 5 – 8 came to school in their sportswear and donated £1 to play dodgeball and inflatable dodgeball in the sports hall. We raised £226.57 for The British Heart Foundation.



We raised over £700 for Fairtrade in March when Mrs Greenlees visited Senior School to help run the Fairtrade stall in the LRC.



Staff and students at the Junior School hosted a special afternoon tea and music concert for visitors from Age UK.



SPORT RELIEF

Sport Relief at Infant School began with the children enjoying an energetic workout led by Mr Appleton. They played a few games that they had been learning in their PE lessons, including the 'traffic lights and the jelly bean' game. The children then joined in with an aerobics session and a yoga session to cool down. Even the staff had a go!



At Junior School the children, dressed in their sporty outfits, were challenged to take as many steps as possible in twenty minutes, whilst completing laps of the playground. It was a great way to keep warm and some of the teachers joined in the fun.



Over the course of the week at Senior School, students took part in an orienteering course during their PE lessons. There was a leader board for each year group as well as the overall winners of the course. Students also competed in alternative activities such as goalball, volleyball, sitting volleyball, handball and table tennis.



It was fantastic to see the school rising to the individual challenges and really getting into the spirit of Sports Relief 2018. Well done to all of those involved! We raised an amazing £433.57.



SPORTS' DAYS

Our sporting season draws to a close with the annual Sports' Day events that take place for all school sites. This year, we were blessed with beautiful weather for all three tournaments.





The boys and girls eagerly contested many events from 'Over and Under' and 'Beat the Clock' at the Infant School event to shot put, javelin and high jump, to name but a few, at the Senior event. Our Juniors enjoyed competing in a plethora of events; the obstacle course

proved to be a particular favourite. Great fun was also had watching the staff race unfold before our eyes! We were delighted to welcome many parents and friends to watch on the sidelines which really added to the community feel of each tournament.

Medals were won, but the real glory came in the form of House points - competition is always fierce but friendly! Well done to everyone for showing true Westholme spirit - an admirable quality to say the least!



Autumn Term 2018

Tuesday 4th September - Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day
Wednesday 5th September - Tuesday 18th December
Half Term - Monday 22nd October - Friday 2nd November (inclusive)

Spring Term 2019

Monday 7th January - Wednesday 3rd April
Half Term - Monday 18th - Friday 22nd February (inclusive)

Summer Term 2019

Wednesday 24th April - Wednesday 10th July (inclusive)
Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday
Half Term - Monday 27th - Friday 31st May (inclusive)



WESTHOLME
SCHOOL