



WESTHOLME
SCHOOL

WESTHOLME LIFE

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016



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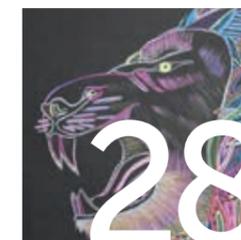
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Fun on the Slopes



During February half term, students from Years 8-11 travelled to Zell am See in Austria for another successful Ski Trip.

Students were separated into five groups with abilities varying from beginners to elite and all groups were fortunate to enjoy four hours of lessons on the slopes each day. The groups came together at lunch time where they had great fun exchanging stories about that morning's events whilst enjoying a hot meal on the

mountain. Tales of speeding down the slopes, falling, slipping and the inability to stop entertained everyone a great deal.

The hotel's amazing facilities meant that the evenings were action packed. The indoor Sports Hall played host to numerous basketball and football tournaments (well done to the boys who were the undefeated champions!) and there was also the opportunity to go trampolining or to play beach volleyball. It's fair to say everyone was eager to eat their evening meals – pizza night and the BBQ were favourites! Trips to the ice rink and a thermal spa were enjoyed by

both students and staff where the group discovered that Mrs Blizzard ('The Wizard') is a superb ice skater and also that Miss Furness can hold her breath for a really long time when she took part in a handstand competition in the thermal spa!

Every night over dinner the group voted to award the infamous Westholme 'wally hat', given to the student (or staff member) who had done something particularly silly on (or off) the slopes that day. The victor was honoured to wear the hat for 24 hours and had to attach an item to the hat; this year additions included beef jerky packets, an empty bottle, and a prize

from a 'Kinder Egg Uberashung'. People were often nominated for a funny fall and this year, there was also an unusual vote for unexplained yodelling in the corridor! Congratulations to all of this year's winners, who carried off the hat with style: Katie Redman, Frankie Yarker, Owen Greenwood-Dawson, Mr Appleton, Thomas Duckworth and Hannah Moodie.

Another evening also saw the return of the 'Miss/Mr Westholme' competition, where groups dress one 'willing' volunteer up in the most ridiculous outfit possible and write a poem or song to describe that person. Well done to all of the competitors

for their dancing, great make-up and good sportsmanship. Despite a convincing staff entry complete with rap, the winner was Joshua Dodding and his group who played the ukulele to accompany their tune. A great disco on the final night rounded the week off perfectly – we even won an impromptu Dance-Off Competition against another school!

The final day was spent exploring the lovely city of Salzburg before the journey home. Students and staff all returned back to School uninjured and exhausted but very happy – many of them are already looking forward to next year's ski trip!



Fabulous Fashion

GCSE and A-level Textiles students took to the stage in the Croston Theatre as they participated in the annual Textiles department Fashion Show. The students presented their designs to a proud audience of parents, staff and students.

Students took inspiration from a number of styles including futuristic fashion and vintage vibes. 2016 also saw Westholme's first animalwear piece be previewed; a cat coat to protect the animal from hazards of the night. With new additions to the technology department, A-level students were also able to incorporate laser cutting technology in to their pieces for the first time.

Pre-show, the Textiles department was a hive of activity as students helped each other get into their outfits. 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 compèred the show and provided the audience with information on the themes and ideas behind the designs.

Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the show, and well done on your fabulous creations!



Sports' Awards Dinner

The annual Sports' Awards Dinner was, as always, a suitably spectacular occasion to celebrate Westholme's sporting success.

The evening started with a pupil performance which saw Ben Middleton and Amelia Lowe sing *All Your Good Friends* while Joe Arcangelo and Caitlin Slater performed a spectacular gymnastics piece.

The 'How well do you know the PE Department Quiz' entertained both students and staff as they answered questions such as, 'Who met Harry Styles whilst queuing for a burger?' and 'Who has broken their big toe 5 times?!' Following this was the Foil Model Making Competition in which teams were invited to make a sporting themed model out of tin foil. Students who submitted winning entries including hockey sticks and trophies were rewarded with lots of chocolate!

After a delicious meal the presentations began. We were delighted to welcome Karen Greig, England Netball Player and Coach as this year's Prize Presenter. Karen has had an impressive sporting career, competing in numerous European Netball Championships, the 2003 Netball World Cup and has played in various England National Squad matches across the world! Trophies presented included the 'Backhouse Trophy for Junior Boys' Sports Personality', the 'Whittaker Trophy for Westholme Girls' Team of the Year' and the Players' Player and Coach Awards for all sports.

Karen gave an inspiring speech in which she encouraged all students to never give up and to try their hardest in everything they do.

The evening drew to a close with the much anticipated disco and it is safe to say everyone in attendance had an excellent evening celebrating our sporting success.

Congratulations to all students who were presented with an award and we look forward to next year's event!



The Big Read

Children at the Infant and Junior School sites enjoyed celebrating a whole week of activities focussed around The Big Read which culminated in a day of celebrations to mark World Book Day.



Throughout the week, different classes at the Junior School had fun reading to their friends at the Infant School. They also enjoyed talking about their favourite books and listening to some of their teachers read to them.

All children had a wonderful time when, at the end of the week, they dressed up to celebrate World Book Day. Many characters could be seen parading through the corridors of both school sites. Some popular choices at the Junior School were Harry Potter, Where's Wally, Mr Messy and Mary Poppins.

The theme of *Alice in Wonderland* had been selected at the Infant School and it was fabulous to see children dressed up as The Mad Hatter, The Queen of Hearts and Alice herself; staff also joined in the fun!

A wonderful lunch, prepared by the amazing catering teams was enjoyed by everyone. Infant School children attended a very special Mad Hatter's Tea Party whilst children at the Junior School had a 'Revolting Recipes' Roald Dahl themed lunch. Some lucky children even had a special golden ticket taped underneath their plate - those who did, won a bag of sweets!

Other celebrations to mark World Book Day included a treasure hunt, held at Senior School where students had to follow clues and solve some tiebreaker questions in a bid to become one of the winning forms.

Westholmers of all ages really have had a wonderful week celebrating their love of literature.



Bumper Book Quiz!

As part of the World Book Day Celebrations, students across all sites took part in the Bumper Book Quiz in a bid to set a new Guinness World Record for the 'Most people participating in simultaneous literature quizzes!' Questions about famous books including *Winnie the Pooh*, *Harry Potter* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* were answered and over 115 schools, libraries, bookshops and publishing houses worldwide took part in the quizzes simultaneously.

In total, a staggering 11,828 people took part in the quiz and we were delighted to discover that we were successful in our bid - the total number of participants finished at nearly four and a half times the record they needed to beat!

It was a fantastic way to celebrate a love of literature and Westholme were thrilled to be a part of it - well done to everyone who took part.





Sports' Tours

Westholme students of all ages have enjoyed taking part in Sports' Tours across the UK this year, competing in Football, Hockey and Netball matches with great Westholme spirit.



Junior Boys enjoyed their time at the National Football Museum.

Junior School boys and girls had fantastic weekends when they travelled to Manchester for their respective sports' tours. The boys competed in hotly contested football matches, visited the Etihad Stadium, The National Football Museum, had fun in the snow at The Chill Factor and squeezed in a session at Jump Nation. Action packed to say the very least!

A few weeks later the girls also visited Manchester to play a number of Netball and Hockey matches. They were even lucky enough to watch the professionals at a Manchester Thunder Netball match! Other activities included a 'practically perfect' evening at the Theatre to see Mary Poppins.

It's safe to say the students have tried and tested most of Manchester's tourist attractions and both had amazing weekends.



Our Junior Netballers on court at a Manchester Thunder netball match.

Edinburgh and Newcastle were the destinations for this year's boys' and girls' sports' tours. The Senior boys enjoyed a weekend of all things Football in Newcastle where they took part in a nutrition masterclass, techniques workshop, football matches and watched a Newcastle United match (with some being lucky enough to be ball boys!). Meanwhile in Edinburgh, the girls competed in Hockey and Netball matches, had an energetic afternoon showing off their gymnastic skills at a trampolining park and made time for a spot of shopping on Princes Street! Both groups had weekends full of laughter and great memories were made.



An exciting trip to the home of Newcastle Football Club, St James' Park, for our Senior Boys.

FOCUS ON...

Westies



Westholme Life interviewed the Sixth Form Enterprise Team who have had a very busy 6 months as they set up their new business venture, Westies.

The Enterprise Team worked together to build, brand and stock the new Westholme shop and this was no mean feat. We are extremely proud of the students and what they have initially achieved.

The team have received lots of invaluable advice and support from many people and would like to thank James Hall & Co Ltd who fitted the shop, provided the team with a till system and helped with their stock. We would like to take this opportunity to thank James Hall & Co Ltd for their generosity and support, Commercial Director, Mrs Davenport and other members of Westholme's support staff team including Estates Manager,

Mr Galvin, Finance Manager, Mrs Garment and the Marketing department who have all offered advice and support.

They were delighted to welcome Mr Andrew Hall, Managing Director of James Hall & Co Ltd to officially open Westies at Easter and are proud to report that the shop is doing well. The team are enjoying their new responsibilities and are excited to see how their project will develop.



Why did you get involved?

We saw being a part of the Westholme Enterprise Team as a unique opportunity to gain new business skills. Having the opportunity to set up a Private Limited Company with its own brand, trading name and accounts isn't something that is readily available whilst you are still at school. As this was the first year of the venture we also saw Westies as an opportunity to leave a lasting impression upon the school!

What have you learnt?

We have first and foremost learnt how to set up a business and the day to day running of a company. Each person was given the opportunity to experience a specialised role within the business such as marketing, finance and stock/ordering. The specialist roles have given us an insight into how different areas of a business all have to work together. We have also learnt valuable life skills to help us with our future such as working within a team, time management and leadership skills.

What has been your biggest challenge?

The biggest challenge we have all faced was the limited amount of time which we had in order to set up the company and its structure. We found this a difficult part of the task because it meant that we had to work efficiently whilst still performing tasks to the best of our ability and to the high standards which were expected of us. In order to produce our business pitch and financial plan it was important to be thorough and accurate at all times.

Who came up with the logo?

We created a small marketing group within the Westies team who worked on creating a logo which was simple, recognisable and unique. We hope the Westies brand will become an iconic part of Westholme and therefore needed to ensure that the name and logo were genderless, in keeping with the school and not related to one particular type of product range. It certainly wasn't a quick task and the time lapse from the original idea to the end product was quite lengthy. We are delighted with the outcome!

How did you decide what to stock?

We organised a questionnaire which was completed by a sample of students



from each year group and some of the staff team. From the data which we had gathered, we devised a list of stock which we were going to order through the school's Catering Manager, Mrs Ballan. The questionnaire showed the students' overall preference of food, drink and other small stationery items. We also visited GAP to source non-food items and bought some supplies from the internet.

How would you encourage future Sixth Form students to be involved?

We would like them to realise that Westies offers a unique opportunity for them to develop their leadership and enterprise skills. We believe Westies is a chance which Sixth Form students would not normally be given. We would also like to show them how much fun it is being involved in Westies and that they can help to develop and grow the business further. The responsibility and decision making power we have been given are like nothing else we have ever done in school. Westies has enabled us to make our own decisions, to learn from them and think about what we would do next time in order to have an even better outcome. It has been a project we will remember and be proud of for many years to come.





A Greek Odyssey

OVER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS, A GROUP OF EXCITED LATIN AND CLASSICS STUDENTS GATHERED AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT TO FLY TO ATHENS, THE HOME OF PHILOSOPHY, DRAMA AND DEMOCRACY.

Once at their destination, the group visited many attractions including Cape Sounion, a beautiful peninsula that is steeped in myth and Delphi, the centre of the ancient world according to King of the Gods, Zeus. Its importance is arguably incomparable in the classical world, and there was nowhere

more memorable to celebrate Head Girl, Flora Robson's 18th birthday! The tour was excellent and the scenery extraordinary; at the heights of Mount Parnassus students truly felt like they were in a divine setting.

They also enjoyed a day in Athens where they visited the Theatre of Dionysus, the home of drama itself and the theatre in which all the tragic plays of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were first performed; a truly inspirational site for the Sixth Form students studying Greek Tragedy.

A highlight of the trip for many was a day out in Athens where the group toured the Acropolis, the Odeon of Herodes, the famous Parthenon temple to Athena and the Erechtheion temple to Athena and Poseidon. Finally, to round off their day in Athens, they visited the ancient agora, a site of various civic buildings and the very heart of democracy. The trip had been educational, emotional and enthralling, but unfortunately the day of their departure had arrived...or so they believed. Unfortunately, their return flight was cancelled due to Storm Katie and the group would now only depart on Friday (3 days later)!

The next few days were spent in a luxurious hotel courtesy of Easyjet. Various activities took place

over this period, with certain students commendably revising for their GCSE and A-level examinations and teachers volunteering their supervision whilst others visited ancient sites in Athens, including the Pnyx, the ancient assembly place, the Panathenaic Stadium and a trip to the ancient sanctuary of Asclepius, home to the famous Epidaurus theatre. A trip to the beautiful port town of Nafplio was also enjoyed by many.

The group had a wonderful trip; they truly walked in the footsteps of legendary heroes, each of whom are remembered for their heroic acts and famous stories. Our students, as always, were a credit to the school. Many thanks to all the staff who supported this trip both overseas and in Blackburn!

Westholme Amnesty International Human Rights Group

The Autumn Term saw the launch of the 'Westholme Amnesty International Human Rights Group' which has been led by Miss Collins and Upper Sixth Form students this year. These Sixth Form leaders have been motivated to bring human rights to the attention of the school community in the hope that they could spread awareness and make a change. Their motto has been: 'Don't be a bystander, be an upstander!', something which has encouraged students to get involved in their various campaigns.



The Westholme Amnesty International Human Rights Group with Human Rights Consultant, Maggie Nicholson.

The group's aim has been to get as many students involved in raising as much awareness as possible. During lunchtimes, the leaders have invited students along to learn about specific issues, as well as giving them an opportunity to take action.

For example, in October, students in Years 10 - 13 looked at case studies of women's rights being abused due to unfair laws in El Salvador. They made keys of freedom as a visual symbol to show their solidarity with these women. The keys were sent to create a sculpture of protest in El Salvador and student messages included: 'I'm ashamed to live in a world where laws like this exist.' (Emily Winter UVI) and 'You deserve justice.' (Freya Bradburn Year 10).

Year 7 students have also been involved as they learnt about girls being forced into marriage in Burkina Faso. Boys and girls made bunting flags to send to shelters where rescued girls are living. The colourful flags will provide decoration in their shelter and hopefully inspire the girls to focus on their freedom.

Other campaigns which have enabled the whole school to join in and be upstanders included the 'Write for Rights' campaign that involved running a stall outside the dining hall during lunchtime. Students from all year groups, and staff, came along to the stall and read about cases of individuals from around the world whose human rights are being ignored. They wrote a few words to a chosen individual and, in total, over 100 students and teachers used their freedom of expression to give hope to others.

On Global Human Rights Day in December, again, many students showed their support for the work of Amnesty International and sponsored the leaders who had given up one of their human rights for the day in the 'Give it up!' campaign. Leaders took part in a sponsored silence, refrained from expressing their opinion, gave up their mobile phones and even became a slave for the day and raised over £160 for the charity.

In March, we were also very pleased to welcome Maggie Nicholson into school to talk about her work at The United Nations, The Council of Europe and Amnesty International. She spoke to various year groups in a PSHEE lesson and told them about her career as a trained lawyer in the field of human rights, which had opened up many opportunities working around the world. As well as being an informative talk, it was inspirational to hear how a local individual, who started off being motivated to stop human rights injustice, went on to carve out a fantastic and rewarding career.

Overall, the leaders have been inspirational themselves this year as well as excellent ambassadors for Amnesty International. They have upheld the group's message of being upstanders against injustice and due to their careful planning, dedication and team work their many campaigns have been a great success.

Next year's group of leaders look forward to upholding the group's ethos and creating more events where students can show they are upstanders for human rights.



Students take part in the 'Give it up!' campaign.

DofE



As ever, Westholme students have enjoyed a number of expeditions this year. We have also seen our first cohort of boys get involved in the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

During the Easter holidays, Year 11 and Sixth Form students braved the cold weather to complete their Silver DofE Expedition in the beautiful Forest of Bowland.

All students coped very well with their heavy rucksacks and cold overnight temperatures, but the warm, sunny and mainly dry weather during the day was appreciated by all, especially as it was so unexpected.

Congratulations to those girls for whom this was their assessed expedition; they showed improvements in navigation, organisation, campcraft and teamwork.



For the rest of the students, this was their practice expedition; their first experiences of a 3-day Silver expedition, which is much more challenging than Bronze. They also coped well, working together to keep morale high and showed great determination and persistence, even when their feet were sore!

Finally, Year 10 students have also enjoyed expeditions in the Ribble Valley during May and June. All groups learnt important new skills, pushed themselves physically, worked well in teams and enjoyed exploring new territories.



Special congratulations went to Gabriela Sharp, Katie Greenall and Rebecca Vose who completed their Gold Award this year. It is rare for students to achieve this award whilst still at school and only around 6000 young people in the UK complete this award each year. Well done, girls!

A Spectacular Show



The Croston Theatre played host to the Alumni Concert which saw many of our former students and staff return to their alma mater to perform in a spectacular show of all things music.

The event was the brainchild of our talented Director of Music, Mr Millest who, for many months worked extremely hard in securing the acts who were eager to return to perform on the infamous Westholme stage.

The concert was simply wonderful; like so many of our school performances, it brought inspiration, enjoyment and pleasure to members of the audience. It really did offer something for everyone and began with an amazing arrangement of Rossini's Overture: William Tell and from that moment on, the performances

got better and better. Songs from the Musicals, classical pieces and more up to date numbers were performed by the talented group and many of the instrumental numbers sounded divine.

All too soon, the concert came to an end and it was lovely to see Mrs Croston take to the stage to deliver the Vote of Thanks.

Mr Millest's programme words said the evening was a very special 'once-in-a-lifetime experience' and he certainly wasn't wrong! We must offer our thanks to him for organising such a spectacular concert and well done to all of the performers.



Musical Moments

The Soloists' Recital took place at the start of the Spring term and audiences were entertained by a wide range of vocal, instrumental, solo and group performances. It truly showcased the breadth of talent amongst our students. The annual end of term Spring Concert was also held which featured many of our school choirs, orchestras and bands – another fine performance!



The Gala Choral and Orchestral Concert was the final, formal concert for our Upper Sixth Form students and was a suitably fantastic evening and a wonderful way to celebrate their contributions to the musical life of Westholme.

As the Concert Series drew to a close with the annual Martin Roscoe Concert, the music department were also delighted to receive a Bronze award from the Incorporated Society of Music for achieving more than 10% A* - C grades in GCSE Music. Well done to Mr Millest and his team!



Some of the talented musicians who performed in the Spring Concert.

Spanish Trip to Andalucía

A group of language students along with Mrs Blizzard, Miss Furness, Mr Oracz and Miss Collins excitedly departed for 5 fun-filled days in Andalucía, southern Spain.

On arrival, they headed down to the nearby marina for a bite to eat and enjoyed an afternoon at the beach sunbathing, playing football and swimming in the rather chilly Mediterranean. In the evening, a fun flamenco lesson was enjoyed by all – especially the boys!

The following day started early with a journey to the city of Granada where they visited the spectacular Alhambra Palace. The palace is stunningly located on a hill with the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada behind and the white buildings of central Granada down below. The complex is large and varied with some parts dating from the 11th Century and there are

beautiful gardens to explore and stunning views from all areas. However, the highlight for many was the Nasrid Palaces which are in the centre of the complex where they could see room after room of intricately carved wall and ceiling decorations separated by shady courtyards with tranquil fountains. It really did feel like a world away from the Costa del Sol. The afternoon was spent in the city centre where students could eat and shop and, given the heat, rather a lot of ice cream was consumed!

Their third day was spent at Aqualand Water Park in Torremolinos. The students spent the day on the slides whilst staff took the opportunity to sunbathe and relax by the wave pool. It was another glorious day and a welcome rest from the busy sightseeing day in Granada. An evening swim later on was also enjoyed by many.

All too soon it was the final full day and the group made the most of it by visiting three very different towns. The first stop was Ronda, a town high up in the mountains famous for being the home of bullfighting. Its bullring is the oldest and one of the largest in Spain. Another famous feature is the stunning Ponte Nuevo (New Bridge), which spans a 130 metre gorge to connect the two main parts of town and was previously a prison. There are stories of prisoners being thrown from the bridge to their deaths but luckily, the Westholme students were all well behaved!

The next stop off after Ronda, saw them wind their way down through the mountains to the upmarket resort of Puerto Banús where they had lunch at the harbour. There was time for some shopping and celebrity-spotting and also the tough decision to make about which of the yachts they preferred! From there, the group continued their journey onto Mijas, perhaps the most famous 'white village' on the Costa del Sol. Whilst many bought souvenirs and admired the sea views, some



brave students also took a 'donkey taxi' to explore the main parts of the village. Finally, in the evening, the whole group went down to the beach one last time to watch the sunset.

After managing to fit in a couple of hours by the pool on the final day, the group loaded their luggage on to the coach and headed to Malaga. Students had time to

eat lunch by the Roman amphitheatre before heading to the Picasso Museum to learn more about one of Malaga's most famous sons. After the museum, there was just time for one last ice cream before setting off to the airport. It was an evening flight and staff and students arrived back at Manchester Airport tired but with lots of stories to tell about their fun filled, cultural trip to Spain.

JUNIOR SPORT

Our Junior School Sporting Stars have enjoyed many highlights this season.

Cross Country

The BPS Cross Country Championships continue to be one of our strongest events in this discipline. Great performances throughout the whole series meant that we were triumphant in both of the girls' and boys' races. After an anxious wait whilst the points for the combined race were counted, we were delighted to learn that we had also been crowned champions overall. It just goes to show that grit, determination and a positive spirit goes a very long way; well done!



Athletics

Our amazing athletes took part in both the AJIS and BPS Competitions and were determined to try hard to perform their best.

We had some excellent results at both events and won a variety of medals in different categories – well done to all of our athletes!



Our medal winners at the AJIS Athletics Tournament.

Indoor Sportshall

Our Indoor Sportshall team from Years 5 and 6 took part in the AJIS North West Indoor Sports Hall Competition, held at Robin Park, Wigan. Over 700 competitors took part in a range of field and track events along with two relay races and competition was tough. Our results were nothing short of outstanding with many personal best records set on the day. Congratulations to everyone who took part.



The girls pictured were all selected for the Lancashire Hockey Development Squad - Evie Drake was also chosen to play for the county at the end of the season.



Our Year 6 cricketers took part in the Manchester Grammar Cricket Sixes Competition and made it to the semi-finals.

SUCCESSFUL SWIMMERS!

We have enjoyed a superb season in the swimming pool with particular success in the BDSSA and the English Schools' Swimming Association events.



BDSSA

Girls and boys from Years 5 and 6 represented Westholme in this event held at Darwen Leisure Centre. Heats were first on the evenings agenda with Westholme pupils ensuring a flying start by qualifying for all fifteen race finals. Buoyed by their success in the heats, the Westholme children went into the finals full of confidence and exuberance. After the first five races, three silver and two bronze medals were already secured with more yet to come.

In the remaining ten races we won nine gold medals and one silver; an unprecedented success for our joint boys' and girls' team. The glowing faces of each and every child were testament to the effort put in over the course of the school year during lessons and at after school practices. Well done!

English Schools' Swimming Association

The English Schools' Swimming Association regional heats took place at Everton Park Sports Centre in Liverpool and members of our swimming team took part in the competition that consisted of just medley and freestyle relays. Schools from all over Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and the Isle of Man competed, with only the fastest three teams making it through to the National Finals.

Our boys swam incredibly well and showed immense spirit throughout. Unfortunately, they missed out on qualifying for the finals by just one place. They should be very proud of themselves however, as these are the best finishing places the boys' team have ever achieved.

The girls also swam brilliantly and were overjoyed when they realised they had actually won both of their races and thus qualified for the finals, held at Ponds Forge Swimming Pool in Sheffield.



When the finals day arrived, the whole team (Hollie Cubbon, Lola Baron, Mia Machie and Aisha Sykes) were incredibly excited; they were welcomed by the Mayor of Sheffield, took part in a parade, sang the national anthem and got to swim in a major event pool. The top sixteen teams had to qualify through the heats to make it through to the final event; our swimmers performed incredibly well, comfortably earning their places in the finals – a first for Westholme School! They knocked an amazing five seconds off their time in the Freestyle Relay and an unbelievable six seconds of their medley relay time from the heats in Liverpool. In the finals they finished 11th in the country for Medley Relay and 12th in the country for Freestyle Relay; two completely incredible results for four completely incredible swimmers. Well done, girls, we are all so proud of you!

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

Sweeney Todd is the murderous tale of a barber, unjustly convicted and transported to Australia by a wicked judge who coveted his wife. Upon his return the barber takes the name Sweeney Todd, and takes his general and particular revenge by slitting the throats of his clients, who are then turned into meat pies by his industrious associate, Mrs. Lovett.

The Westholme cast and crew are fabulous in bringing this terrifying story to the stage in the school's exciting Summer production. With stylised attitudes and gutter costumes, the young actors create an eerie London underworld for the audience. The set looks spectacular, created by our very talented maintenance team. The songs, many of them rapid patter songs with awkward musical intervals, have to be sung while doing five or ten other things at once. Not a problem for the amazing Westholme cast!

It's a musical that works on all levels. It's a private tragedy, a social commentary and the darkest of dark comedies. Above all, it was done with great skill. Well done to everyone involved.



Mrs. Lovett's Pie Shop



SENIOR SPORT



Cross Country Sedbergh

Sedbergh School was the venue for the final cross country event of the school year and children from Years 7 and 8 represented Westholme School in what proved to be a tough competition.

It was the first run of the year for a number of Year 8 boys but all of them thoroughly enjoyed the race. First home for our team was Thomas Perricone followed closely by William Backhouse, running his best race of the year. Thomas Duckworth was next, with Theo Cains and Matthew Ninan also completing the race in fine form.

It was an equally inspiring performance from the girls with Charlotte Corrigan finishing in 7th position overall. Madeleine Rogan, Grace Ade-Hall, Myah Booth, Leah Newton, Darcy Griffin and Mia Salisbury all did fantastically well and fully deserved their hot chocolate at the end of the race!

Thank you to every student who has represented the cross country team at some point this year. You have all done wonderfully well and we look forward to next year's competitions.



National Netball

Our U16 netball team have enjoyed a successful season this year competing in a number of tournaments.



Highlights have included playing the National Schools' Netball Competition which was held at Wright Robinson College in Manchester. All of their games were incredibly fast with strong opposition, but the team certainly did Westholme proud as they finished 5th place overall – a fantastic result in the regional final.

The team also competed in the Lancashire County Tournament and despite the rain and very cold winds they played extremely well in their 9 matches. Other teams in the competition included Stonyhurst, Rossall and St Michael's and Westholme managed to win 6 of their games. Overall they finished as runners-up in the U16 section; an outstanding achievement at county level.

Well done, team!

Some of our sporting highlights



Well done to our Year 7 boys who showed great teamwork, determination and effort in the Rugby Festival which was held at Burnley RUFC. The team played 6 matches and won a fantastic 5 and drew 1 going unbeaten in the whole tournament! Special congratulations went to Jake Chippendale who was awarded player of the match. Well done, boys!



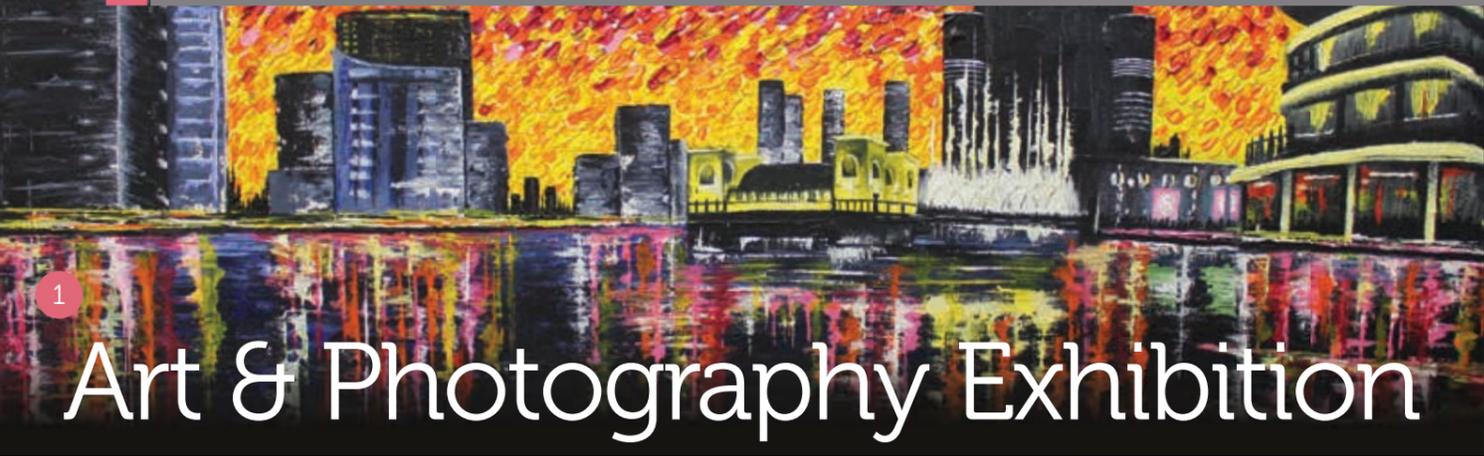
Will Couch and Thomas Perricone visited Carrington Training Centre for a day of coaching with 5 PSV Academy coaches! What a fantastic opportunity for our students who were chosen on merit for their performances in football this year.



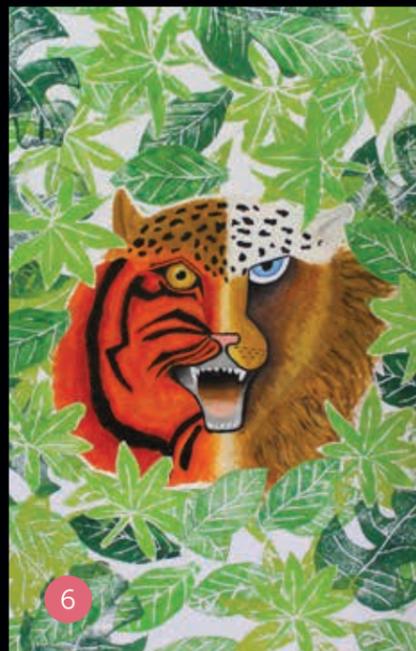
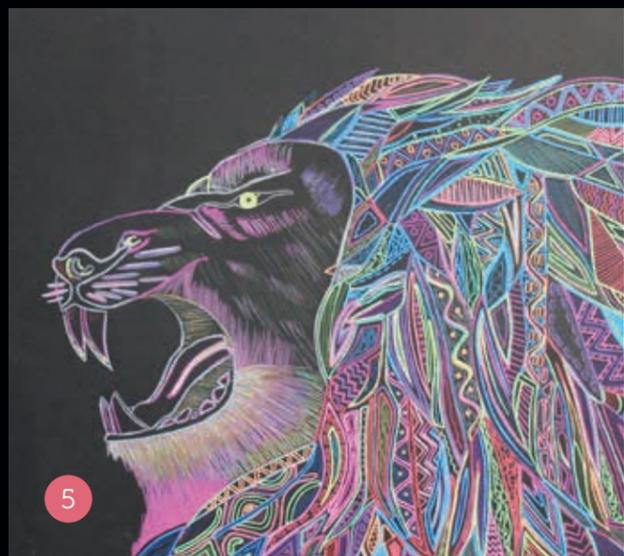
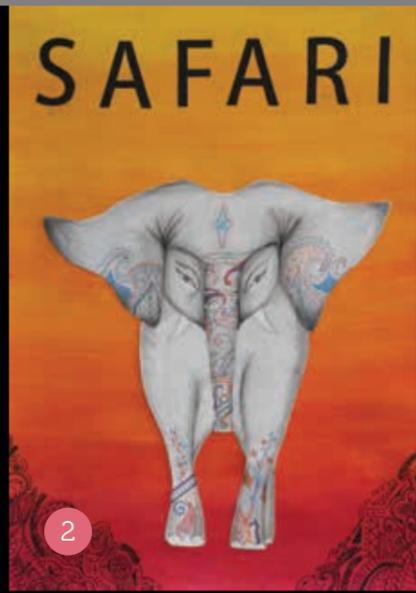
Many congratulations to our Year 9 Rounders team who were crowned BDSSA Champions for 2015/2016.



A formidable team of 10 Westholme skiers travelled to Pendle Ski Slope to take on some of the North West's best in downhill slalom ski racing. All of our skiers gave an excellent performance on the day and enjoyed competing. Big congratulations went to Laura Backhouse and Alice Nickson for winning trophies in their events.

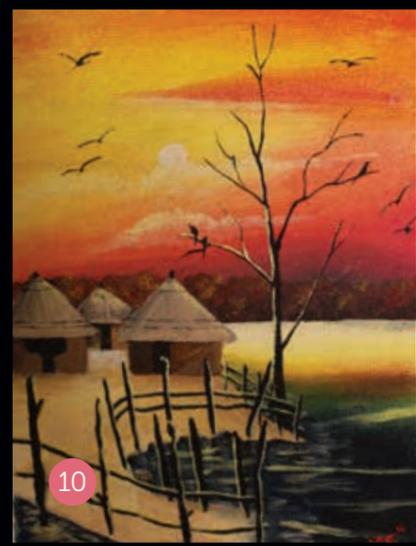
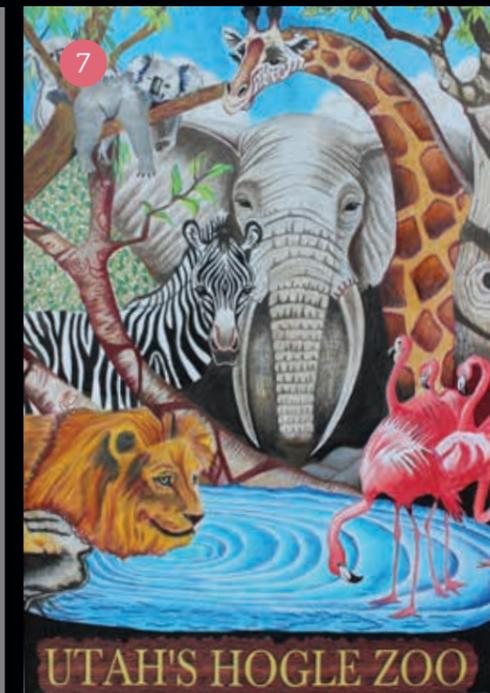


1 Art & Photography Exhibition



This year's Art & Photography exhibition showcased the talent of our GCSE and A-level students. We welcomed many visitors to the event and the vibrant artwork on display looked spectacular!

1 Lucy Atwood	9 Claudia Keogh
2 Nancy Pinner	10 Megan Collins
3 Flora Robson	11 Isobel Jackson
4 Emma Shacklady	12 Jasmin Sharp
5 Hannah Moodie	13 Hope Carr-Oddie
6 Sana Moosa	14 Leoni Weisters-Peet
7 Olivia Pickford	15 Amelia Morgan
8 Lauren Barlow	16 Lauren Bradshaw





Billinge House was a hive of activity as the official opening of the new playground, Discovery Dell, took place, before a wonderful festival, 'Billinge in Bloom' was held to raise money for Cancer Research.



BILLINGE IN Bloom

Mrs Horner thanked everyone who was involved in helping to create Discovery Dell; Mr Peter Forrest, Vice Chairman of Governors and Chair of the Buildings Committee was influential in making sure the playground was developed with the correct regulations in place, the Maintenance Team were also thanked for their hard work and so too was Mrs Helen Berry from the Westholme Association. Soon enough, the ribbon was cut and Discovery Dell was declared officially open.

Once the celebrations of the morning were over, attention then moved onto Billinge in Bloom. For many weeks, children and staff had been submitting entries for this competition, which was in aid of raising money for Cancer Research. Categories for children included, Vegetable Animal, Pencil Drawing and Photographs whilst staff submitted entries for groups including Homemade Produce, Adult Colourings, Cakes, Scones and Craftwork. We welcomed four special guests to come and judge the competition; Mr and Mrs Smethurst (grandparents to Rylan Clark, Year 2 and experienced in taking part in shows to display their Alpine Plants), Governor, Mrs Anne Booth and Chairperson of the Westholme Association, Helen Berry. The judges found it to be extremely difficult to select first, second and third place winners in each category, but soon enough, they were seen making those all important decisions. Well done to all of our winners and special congratulations to Vedansh Jesthi who won the overall 'Best in Show' trophy.

Once the judging was over, we welcomed many parents into school to enjoy cream teas and to hear the winners being announced. An amazing £367.34 was raised for Cancer Research. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our judges and to everyone who took part in this wonderful event.



Firstly, Governors and other invited guests arrived and assembled around the brand new playground, named Discovery Dell. Designs for this development had been submitted back in October last year and our Maintenance Team, with direction and ideas from Mrs Dixon (and of course the children and staff at Billinge House!) soon set to work on making the project come to life. Lots of hard work from contractors, Singleton Groundworks, ensured that the playground soon took shape. Over the coming months, the children excitedly watched the progress before it was completed and they were able to finally see it in all its glory. Discovery Dell is a haven of adventure for our children. It boasts a cycle track, music wall, playhouses (generously bought by the Westholme Association) and has a bark surface with stepping stones made of wood. Flower beds and brightly coloured artwork also help to enhance the Dell.



HIGH PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP AND COACHING



Each year, we host a lecture given by a motivational, intriguing and bar-raising guest. The series of lectures are named after and are in honour of Arthur Rouse, Principal of the school from 1950 to 1969.

This year, we were delighted to welcome former professional cyclist and now commentator, Rob Hayles to Westholme who delivered an inspiring and entertaining lecture which was fascinating from start to finish. Rob is no stranger to success; he is a three time Olympic medallist and one of the most experienced riders in British cycling, competing for England and Great Britain. He has certainly been a fundamental figure in the world of cycling, helping to develop the careers of some talented cyclists, including Mark Cavendish.

His analysis of athletic training techniques and their application to everyday life was insightful to all members of the audience both young and old. Rob spoke about how he was fortunate to have 'straddled' two different regimes of British cycling from the 1990s throughout the 2000s and that the introduction of Sir Dave Brailsford to the British cycling management team was almost certainly the turning point for the sport. Rob went on to explain that all of a sudden, the world began to take note of the British team and a winning mentality became 'the norm'.

It was interesting to listen to Rob speak and once his talk ended, the audience were delighted to have the opportunity to ask him

some questions. We discovered that he was not really interested in any other sports (he was too flat footed for cross country running!) and that his proudest moment in cycling was probably when he was younger and his dad took off his stabilisers - (although we secretly think this talented medal winner was being a little too modest!) - he fortunately managed to ride a bike unaided and the rest is history.

It was quite timely that Rob had just returned from commentating at the UCI Track Cycling World Championships which were held in London the week before his visit and Rob also offered some insight into how he thinks the British team will perform at the Rio Olympics in the summer.

Everyone in attendance was fascinated to hear about Rob's experiences and achievements and he inspired the audience to think like champions; a sentiment that Arthur Rouse himself would certainly have echoed.

Thank you, Rob, for visiting Westholme and delivering this year's Arthur Rouse lecture; you certainly have a new army of fans and we look forward to tuning into your future commentaries and listening with great interest!



Signing our visitor book



Rob shows Sixth Form student Ellie Giles one of his Olympic medals

Stand Down

Stand down marks the final, official day that Upper Sixth Form students spend at Westholme. As always, it was celebrated in style and our class of 2016 enjoyed sharing fond memories of their Westholme time with each other.



The annual stand down assembly featured musical performances, a moving poem recital and some words of wisdom. In her speech, Mrs Waldron encouraged the students to take their memories with them as these are some of the most important things in life. A highlight of the assembly was the

much anticipated video that was shared with the school and as usual, it did not disappoint!

Following this, the students joined their parents in the Common Room for a special buffet lunch; it was at this point that they were also given their

Year Books containing photos from their younger years in school and funny messages from their peers which really did cause much laughter!

We would like to wish the class of 2016 lots of luck for the future; go forth and fly the purple flag in everything you do!

A Production to Remember!

In true Westholme style, the Croston Theatre was brought to life when Year 4 took to the stage in their production of *The Return of the Glass Slipper*. The story of this well-known fairy tale transported the audience to a magical time where wishes came true as Cinderella met her Prince Charming and the script was the perfect showcase for the wide ranging talents of the Year 4 girls and boys. The cast interpreted the storyline with a wonderful mix of humour, action, song and dance and it was evident that everyone had worked extremely hard in putting together such a fantastic production. Well done to the entire team!



'Let Loose' with Music!



The Junior School students put on a fabulous performance of Musical Evening in the Croston Theatre. The first half, as always, was a showcase for our talented young musicians who confidently took to the stage to perform an assortment of musical pieces with great skill. Highlights included the brass group's performance of the Adele classic, 'Rolling in the Deep' and the woodwind ensemble of 'Sweet Caroline'. A surprise performance of the 'Timeline Detective' - the piece of music the Junior School choir helped to record this year was also enjoyed by the audience.

The second half of the night saw the Year 6 students perform 'Let Loose' with Music. The story is set in Slippery Slopes Activity Centre where a group of children depart on their school residential trip. As they prepare to leave, we also see the impact that the imminent separation has on devoted mums and dads; from the three sets of parents who agonise about the sleeping arrangements and the probable non-brushing of teeth to another couple who crack open the bubbly to toast the fact they'll have the house all to themselves for five sweet days. Then we meet the handful of comical bus drivers uneasily awaiting next week's rota to see which of them will be on board for the school trip.

More humour was to come when we witnessed the staff at the Slippery Slopes Activity Centre, discussing last-minute arrangements for the party's arrival. It soon becomes apparent that the children are unable to work as a team, climaxing in a calamitous effort to construct and sail a raft.

Everything is made worse by being ridiculed by another school staying at the centre - Toffington College of Excellence and High Achievement (with their motto 'win at any price'). Can the children work together to gain something positive from their five days away?

This hilarious production was full of laughs from start to finish. The students performed with great confidence and their comic timing was perfect. From the bumbling (and dancing!) bus drivers to the frightfully posh Toffington crew - the students acted out their roles wonderfully. The songs, complete with coordinated dance moves were fabulous and the whole school came together to sing in the catchy numbers.

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



VISITORS IN



Westholme students at all school sites have welcomed a number of visitors to school this year to help enhance and enrich their learning experience. Thank you to each and every visitor for taking the time to come and speak to our students.

The Year 1 classes enjoyed a Forest School Day with Stuart Barrett from Just Grow Forest School, where they helped create art for their new playground, 'Discovery Dell'.



Dr Mike Kirby shared his thoughts on the relationship between science and religion with Year 8 students.



Matt Johnston, a Neighbourhood Youth Support Worker from Young People's Services, set up a pop up voting area for Senior School students to allow them to vote for their local Youth MP.



Dr Chowdhury visited Reception to tell the children all about her work as a Doctor.



Former student, Rachael Moodie, inspired GCSE and A-level Textiles students when she spoke to them about her experiences at university and on work placements at top fashion houses.



Children's author, David Baddiel visited Westholme to promote his children's novel The Person Controller.



Year 5 - 9 students thoroughly enjoyed a visit by Steve Wright from Routes Puppets who performed a puppet show which focussed on British Values.



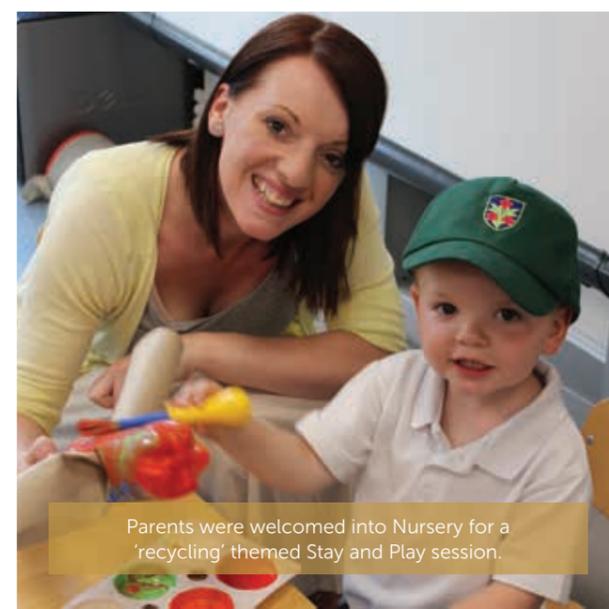
Old Westholmian, Dr Alice Brooke (2004) visited Westholme to offer Sixth Form students an insider's view to both Cambridge and Oxford Universities, where she now works in Admissions.



We were delighted to welcome MEP Mr Sajjad Karim to school to announce and congratulate Jessica Keenan on winning Mr Karim's competition of one week's work experience with him at the European Parliament in Brussels.



We were extremely fortunate to receive a visit from David Edwards, a lecturer on travel, adventure and the environment. David presented lectures throughout the day which were thoroughly enjoyed by students.



Parents were welcomed into Nursery for a 'recycling' themed Stay and Play session.



Wheelchair athlete, Anthony Gotts inspired Senior and Sixth Form students in an assembly focussing on sporting determination and achievement.



Best-selling children's author, Shane Hegarty spoke to students in Years 4-8 about his Darkmouth series of books.



Careers Convention

The biennial careers convention was held at Wilmar Lodge and we welcomed many students along with their parents who were all very keen to ask questions and listen 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. As a number of local universities were in attendance, students took full advantage to ask about what subjects were offered and

also the grades they would need. Many Old Westholmians also returned to school for the convention and it was lovely to hear how passionate they were about their chosen careers. Careers Officer for Westholme, 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 hosting our second Universities Fair which will take place in January next year.



FUNDRAISING FOR OTHERS

Raising lots with Silly Socks!

Children at the Junior School enjoyed a Silly Socks Day in order to raise money for the charity, Every Action Has Consequences. Lots of students arrived at school wearing a variation of silly socks with patterns including stripes, flowers, sheep and cartoon characters.



Tim McKenna, from the charity, visited the Junior School to present a special assembly informing our students about the good work the charity does.

A special Westholme 'bake off' competition was also held; many children had baked cakes to sell at break time and entered one from their batch into the event. The cakes were judged by Mrs Hall, Food Technology teacher at Senior School, who looked for taste and presentation when selecting her winners. Lots of the staff at school also enjoyed tasting the wonderful bakes. Congratulations to the winners who won a selection of baking utensils and well done to everyone who took part in helping to raise a staggering £440.



Year 10 students took part in a walking football match for Age UK. It helped raise awareness about the charity and was enjoyed by all who participated. The event also served as a valuable reminder about the importance of keeping fit and healthy.

Night at the Movies

The Spring term ended with a fun filled night this year as the EPR department and the Year 10 JAC Team (Justice, Awareness, Charity) hosted 'Night at the Movies' for Year 7 students. The evening started with a party tea before students changed into their themed costumes for the night.

The movie 'Labyrinth' was thoroughly enjoyed by the boys and girls and had given great inspiration for some awesome magical themed attire. The interval was one with a difference - the dining room was filled with JAC Team stalls selling delectable treats including crêpes and sweets - there was even a chocolate fountain!

A fantastic £529.51 was raised at this charity event and was donated to 'Children with Cancer UK' (the charity chosen by Year 10) and 'Lara's Foundation' which is a charity chosen by Year 7 students.

'Lara's Foundation' was founded in April 2012, in memory of Lara Jones, a former Westholme student. The goal of her Foundation is to assist in increasing English Language capacity in low-income communities around the world. Her cousin was part of the Year 7 group who won the charity presentation competition which was held in EPR lessons this term.



Old Westholmian Sophie Jones from the charity Lara's Foundation is presented with a cheque by Year 7 students.

WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

SUMMER GOLF DAY



The Westholme Association (with the help of Westholme parent, Jason Teal), organised an amazing day of golf which saw 52 golfers tee off in fourballs at Accrington Golf Club.

Teams were welcomed with bacon sandwiches on arrival and enjoyed a post-match, two course meal on completion of 18 holes. Despite the damp weather, there were no dampened spirits and all golfers were full of fun and camaraderie and everyone said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the day.

In addition, golfers competed in mini competitions such as a nearest the pin, longest drive and beat the pro! There were also some fantastic raffle prizes including VIP tickets to see Will Young at Hoghton Tower which were kindly donated by Live Magazines.

Profits from the event amounted to £1850, so it was certainly a worthwhile day to help to provide Westholme students with "that little extra". Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Congratulations went to the top 3 winners on the day:

- 1st place - VG Tec team
- 2nd place - Duncan Weister team
- 3rd place - Kevin Gallacher/Anthony Waddicor team

Prizes included vouchers for the Pro Shop and a fourball competition at the Accrington Golf Club.



The Westholme Association have worked extremely hard this year arranging a number of events for the Westholme community to enjoy. The Association host these events in order to raise money to give the students of Westholme that extra something; whatever that might be from classroom resources to trips out and visits to school from experts in their field. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Westholme Association for arranging such fabulous fundraising events; the staff and students at Westholme really do appreciate all the work you do.



CASINO NIGHT FUN!

A wonderful Casino Night at Stanley House was enjoyed back in January. The event was truly amazing, with lovely food, excellent company and lots of fun. Almost 100 guests enjoyed an evening of entertainment, including gaming tables and dancing.

Special thanks must go to those who donated prizes, namely, Stanley House, Yu and You restaurant and the Association and congratulations to the lucky prize winners who were: Mrs Anderson, Mrs Ashcroft, Mrs Ninan, Mrs Bolton, Mr Corrigan and Mrs Hartley.

An amazing £1641 was raised on the night!



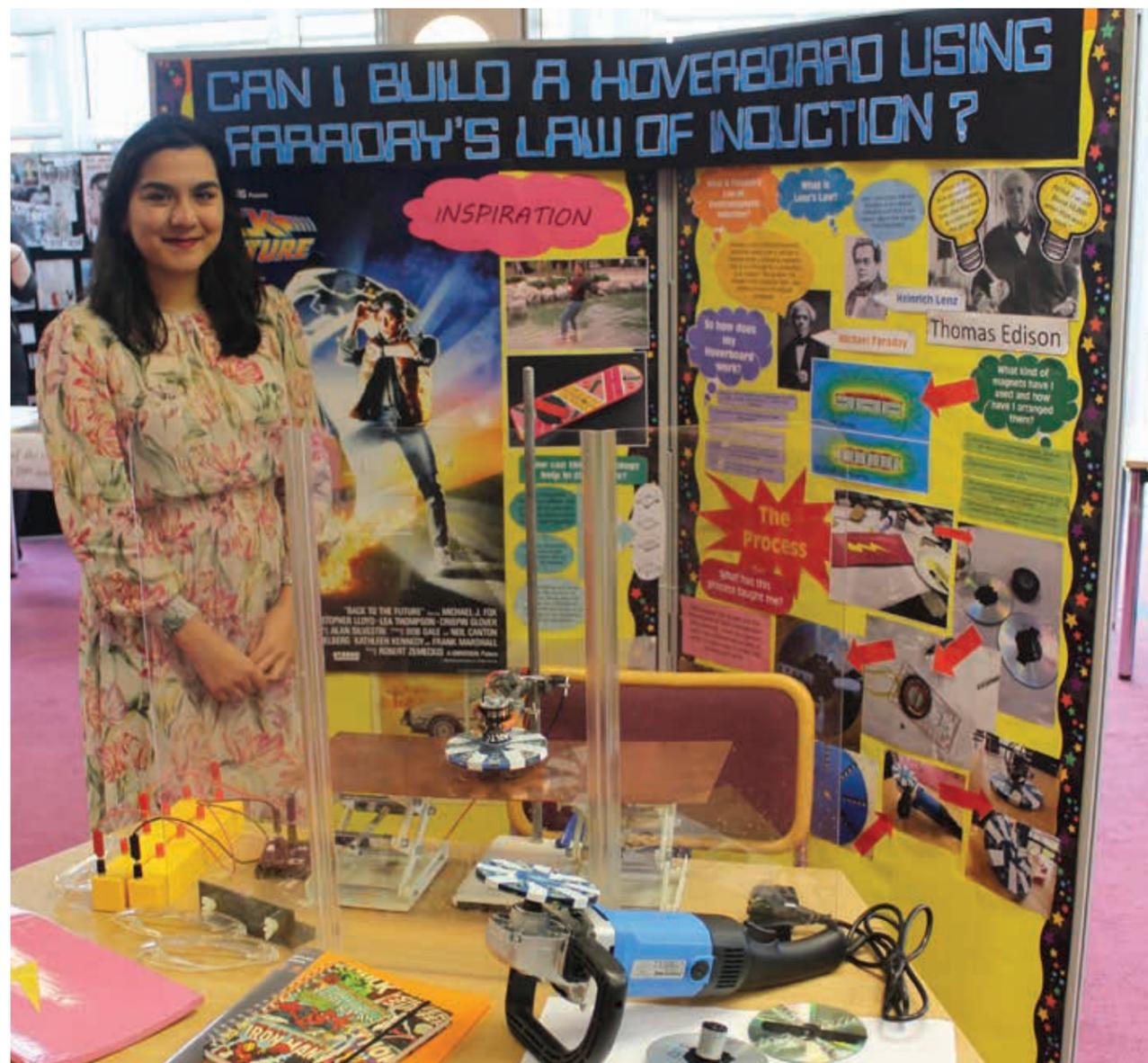
DISCO DANCING

Infant and Junior School children had a fantastic time at their respective discos which were arranged courtesy of the Westholme Association.

Party games, dancing and singing was enjoyed by all the children and they certainly had a brilliant, fun-filled time!



EXTENDED PROJECTS



Sixth Form students have worked hard throughout the year to complete their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

The EPQ award requires students to undertake independent research on a topic of their choice, putting into practice skills that will be vital to them in their futures. Students have taken ownership of their project, planned and executed it in order to produce a 5000 word essay.

The final aspect of the EPQ, involves students presenting their findings - and as always, our students did not disappoint. We held two presentation evenings and at both, all students spoke confidently

and knowledgeably about their specialist field, impressing the Governors, teachers and parents who were present.

This year's topics included:

"Is it possible to build a hoverboard using Faraday's Law of Induction?"

"Should we be wary of a future Ebola epidemic reaching the UK?"

"Are men and women treated differently in the criminal justice system and if so, why?"



This year, Westholme students from Years 8 - 10 have thoroughly enjoyed becoming involved in a Languages Exchange Programme. This began when a group of German students visited Westholme in March for a week of absorbing the English culture. Whilst here, they stayed with host families, enjoyed many trips out and improved their English speaking skills. In the Summer term, it was Westholme's turn to visit their exchange students and the group travelled to Hagen, Germany.

On arrival in Hagen, the group were thrilled to be reunited with their partners who took them to explore the local area and meet their host families.

The following day the group enjoyed some sightseeing in Cologne, where they saw the impressive Cathedral before walking along the River Rhine to the most anticipated activity of the day: the Lindt Chocolate Museum! Students were able to see how the famous chocolates were made and got a few free tasters... es war lecker (it was yummy!). They enjoyed using some of their spending money in the gift shop before exploring the city, doing a bit more shopping along the way. The evening was filled with various activities from mini-golf to bowling and was lots of fun.

On Wednesday, the group travelled to Münster where some students tried Currywurst and other local delicacies at a Farmer's Market. They also learnt a lot about the area on the 'hop-on hop-off' tour bus, which also saved them from the rain! Luckily the rain stopped as they disembarked to walk around the lake and wander through the city some more.



The students bought some German flags, ready for the big match in the Euros the next night which proved to be another eventful time with swimming and football activities taking place.

Much fun was had at the theme park, Movie Park where the students (and teachers!) enjoyed their last full day together. They all enjoyed the rollercoasters and some even braved the log flume as it was a warm and sunny day.

Their last day came more quickly than the group would have liked and before heading to the airport, our students accompanied their partners to a variety of lessons, including Latin and History. Then came time to say their goodbyes and there were plenty of tears as the group have become close over the two visits.

All of the students had a fantastic time in Hagen and it is fair to say that firm friendships have been made. Our Westholme students made a great effort to practice their German and learn new words and phrases. A thoroughly worthwhile and enjoyable experience for all the students involved!





Year 2 children had a fantastic day at the Museum of Science and Industry as part of their topic, 'Move'



To help bring their studies of the First World War to life, Year 9 historians visited Fulwood Barracks



Senior School students visited the AJ Bell Stadium to watch two U20s Rugby World Cup matches



Westholme's A2 Physics students Lucy Atwood and Heeba Toheed were treated to a tour of Chorley hospital's medical imaging facilities



Upper Sixth Form students enjoyed their last Geography field trip at Westholme with a visit to Scout Moor wind farm



Year 9 attended the BAE 'Make It' Challenge where they learnt about the Manufacturing Industry

Out and about!

This year Westholme students from Pre School to Sixth Form have been fortunate to enjoy a number of educational trips which have enriched their knowledge of the subjects they have been studying.



A visit to the Wild Boar Park, Chipping, was enjoyed by the Reception classes as part of their topic studying lifecycles



Malaikah Muhammad (Pre School) enjoyed a pony ride on the trip to Wellybobs Farm



As part of their studies on 'Identity and Belonging', Year 8 students visited three of the sacred places they had been studying



Year 3 and 4 spent an enjoyable day taking part in lots of outdoor pursuits activities at Hollingworth Lake



A fantastic day was had by Year 7 students at the Catalyst Science Museum in Widnes



Year 5 visited Tatton Park to learn about being a Tudor



Students in Year 6 visited Bolton Music Service to experience the Indonesian Gamelan orchestra



Year 1 children visited Fleetwood Museum to complete their studies on Victorian Seaside Holidays



Many students from Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a lecture presented by Helen Sharman (the first female astronaut) at UCLan as part of their science studies

SPORTS' DAYS

Sports' Days take place for all students towards the end of the Summer term. These important events round off our sporting season in true style.

Running, jumping, shot put, javelin and obstacle races are just a few of the numerous events contested by our students of all ages. A fierce but friendly rivalry exists amongst the competitors as everyone tries to win as many vital House points as possible. On days such as these the Westholme spirit shines brighter than ever before!



Autumn Term 2016

Friday 2nd September - Term starts for our new
Year 7 and Lower Sixth Form students.

Monday 5th September - Thursday 15th December

Half Term - Monday 24th October - Friday 4th November inclusive

Spring Term 2017

Thursday 5th January - Wednesday 29th March

Half Term - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February inclusive

Summer Term 2017

Wednesday 19th April - Wednesday 12th July

Half Term - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June



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