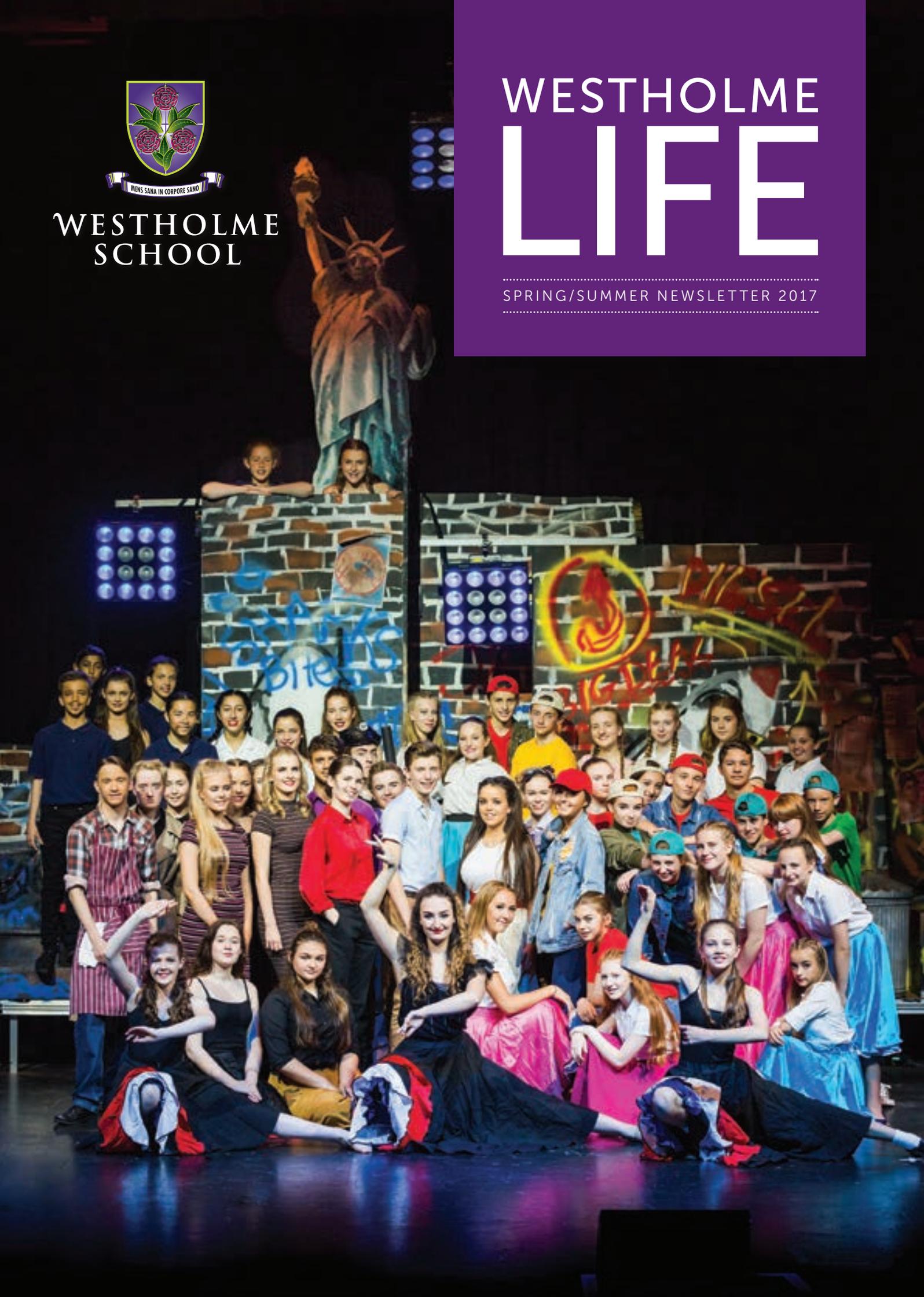




WESTHOLME  
SCHOOL

# WESTHOLME LIFE

SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017



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# UNIVERSITIES FAIR 2017

Once again we held our biennial Universities Fair in January, welcoming students from schools all across Lancashire, alongside their own pupils.

The event proved even more popular this year and attracted an incredible number of enthusiastic students from Year 10 to 13 who were keen to explore their career options. With representatives from over 50 top universities including many from the Russell Group, the choice of courses to be explored was extremely interesting and varied. There was a definite sense of excitement and anticipation as students and parents moved around the stands, discussing courses which would hopefully lead them on the path to their ideal career.

For many, this was a new experience and opened the door to many possibilities. It gave the students an insight into university life and a chance to ask questions about the realities of living and studying away from home, for what would be the first time for most of the young people.

Westholme prides itself on being a truly independent school with a progressive approach to building strong partnerships with universities, business and industry across the UK.



Events such as the Universities Fair enrich the school in so many ways, helping to develop these relationships and placing Westholme firmly at the forefront of a rapidly changing world.

During the course of the school year, a number of Westholme Alumni and businesses visit school to host events and give talks to current pupils focussing on their own career choices and experiences. Students find it much more engaging to

learn about careers first-hand and visitors can offer practical advice and direction. It is this kind of real life networking and support which will give students a solid grounding.

The Universities Fair is just one event in a continuing Careers programme which is growing from strength to strength and Westholme hopes to welcome many more enquiring minds through their doors in the future.



# SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA 2017



The February half term break saw 58 intrepid students from Years 8-12 head off to the Amadé ski region in the Eastern Alps of Austria for a week of fun on the slopes.

With students being divided up into groups based on their ability, from beginner to advanced, they were able to enjoy four hours of expert instruction from a team of Slovenian instructors each day.

There had been plenty of snowfall in the area during the previous week which meant that the slopes were in excellent condition, and the groups were able to ski right out of the hotel and on to the lift just a few metres away.

Each day the various groups reunited at a mountain restaurant for lunch, swapping stories of their exploits over hot chocolate and apple strudel. After a hard day on the slopes the students were able to explore the town of Wagrain, before enjoying a three course meal in the hotel. It quickly

became apparent that no Austrian meal is complete without potatoes presented in one of their many forms!

The hotel's sports hall was put to good use on more than one occasion, playing host to epic tournaments of bench ball and hand ball. Some controversial goals in the staff versus senior students' tournament left Mr Warburton keen for a rematch next year. Other activities included a trip to the local ice rink, which saw more tumbles than an entire week on the slopes, the nearby thermal baths complete with high speed water slides and a disco in the town of Schladming.

The annual Ski Trip has been taking place for many years now, and in that time several traditions have developed that have become staple activities.

After each evening meal the students were asked to vote for the day's 'Wally'. People were nominated for various acts of ineptitude such as putting on the wrong boots, forgetting to pick up essential equipment before setting off skiing, heading out into town in just a t-shirt and for constantly losing their ski group on the mountain. The winner would then have to wear the infamous orange 'Wally' hat for 24 hours, whilst adding their own unique decoration to the hat before passing it on to the next recipient.

For once no staff members were elected to wear the hat, but congratulations (or commiserations) must go to this year's Wallies: Max Chester, Dominic Naylor, Maddie Rogan, Finlay Shepherd and Christie Sturgess. Dominic deserves a special mention for setting the precedent of being chosen to wear the hat on two

occasions in one trip. Prizes were also given out each day to students who had been especially kind and helpful during the day. Nominees included Sam Hall, Katie Redman and Ute Schmitgen who helped out fellow students and staff.

The penultimate day of skiing saw a timed slalom race take place. Medals were awarded to the fastest skiers within each group, but everyone came away with a certificate stating their time. Fastest time of the day went to Sam Hall, who wanted to set the record straight after a disappointing third place last year. Mr Warburton employed his trademark "tuck and hope" style to take the win in the staff competition and in doing so earned the nickname "Warb Speed".

Despite rising temperatures during the week, the final day of skiing saw fresh snowfall, which made for more challenging skiing for some, whilst others revelled in the layer of powder that was rapidly forming on the slopes. After the skiing was over, all agreed that it had been an amazing day, but that the week's activities were finally catching up with them.

The last evening saw the annual Hotel Service competition in which students had to present their rooms in the style of luxury hotel accommodation and give a team of teachers a tour as if they were guests. Extra points were awarded for chocolates on the pillows, towels



folded into the shape of swans, drinks chilled in a bowl of snow, and dance performances. Although the original plan had been to reward the winning room with pizza, the standard of the entries was so high that all students earned their slices.

At the end of the tour, a series of awards were presented for the most improved skier within each group, the 'Best Friends With The Ground' award for the most frequent faller, and the newly christened 'Warb Speed' award for the highest top speed registered using the Ski Tracks phone app, which went to James Hartley. The students had also taken it upon themselves to buy gifts for the staff for their help throughout the week, with a special mention going to Miss Furness for organising the trip.

There was just enough time for a touch of souvenir shopping before taking a coach to Salzburg airport. The group arrived safely back at school tired and relieved, but already looking forward to next year's adventures on the slopes.





# World Book Day

The 20th anniversary of World Book Day was celebrated with a wonderfully vibrant range of activities by the students across the school sites.

At the Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools, the children dressed up as their favourite book characters including Harry Potter, The Mad Hatter, Cat in the Hat and The Gruffalo. They all looked amazing and seeing everyone in costume really brought the books to life and added to the excitement of the celebrations. Even the staff dressed up, making it quite a challenge to work out who was who in some cases.

The children at Billinge House and Beardwood Bank enjoyed it when some of the Senior School staff visited them to read to different classes. Children at Billinge House also took great delight on hearing a bell ring at intervals throughout the morning which signalled they could 'Drop Everything and Read' – what fun!

After taking part in special fashion parades during assembly, everyone enjoyed a delicious World Book Day themed lunch. For the Infants, Willy Wonka was the chosen theme, whilst at Junior School it was Harry Potter. Special Golden Tickets were stuck to the bottom of some of the plates; the lucky children who found one stuck to their plates were delighted when they discovered their prize of sweets or chocolate! A superb spread was put on by the fantastic catering teams at both sites and it was a truly scrumptious lunch indeed.



Senior School students also joined in the fun as they took part in a competition where objects had been hidden around the school on various bookcases - hence the title, 'Guess the Shelfie'. All objects had to be found and students were given a sheet of photographic clues to help them.

Finally, as the day drew to a close, the Junior School children had the pleasure of reading to their younger friends at Billinge House. It was lovely to see how engaged they were and what pleasure they got from such a simple activity.

As a special treat, our Year 5 and 6 students enjoyed a visit from children's author, Derek Landy, who made a trip to Wilmar Lodge to talk to them and other visiting schools about his series of books, *Skulduggery Pleasant*. It was a very lively and interactive discussion and the pupils joined in enthusiastically. This was followed by a book signing session where the children were delighted to be able to ask Mr Landy questions in person.

What a super time, we all enjoyed celebrating World Book Day!



# SPORTS TOUR

The much anticipated Sports Tours were once again a huge success with fun-filled weekends of sports and activities enjoyed by both Junior and Senior girls and boys.



## TOURS FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR STUDENTS



The Junior Tours were first in the calendar and both the boys and the girls travelled to Manchester for their respective trips.

The boys had a jam-packed schedule; the first stop was Stockport Grammar School for a friendly football fixture and then a visit to the AJ Bell Stadium to watch Sale Sharks vs Cardiff Blues in the AVIVA Rugby Premier League. They also managed a tour of Old Trafford and a visit to The National Football Museum followed by an evening of pizza and later, snow mayhem at Chill Factor. To finish off the weekend they had a trip to Goals, Manchester for a mini tournament, then on to the Trafford Centre for a game of laser tag and Nando's after which they at last headed back to Westholme!

The girls followed in the boys' footsteps a couple of weeks later as the Tour set off for the Velodrome in Manchester to see some of the Great Britain cycling team in training and later enjoyed time at Jump Nation. They played a number of games of hockey against St Bede's College before a fun afternoon at the climbing centre, dinner at TGI Fridays and a night at the cinema. The next day, Loreto School was just around the corner from the hotel and so the girls were quickly into a morning of matches ahead of the final journey home.

All of the students had a fantastic time enjoying the highlights of Manchester and will certainly remember the Sports' Tours for years to come!

The Senior Sports' Tour to Cardiff later in the term was also a resounding success! Matches won, friendships forged, a good time had by all. That's what sport is all about. At Monmouth School, the boys had some fantastic matches whilst the girls played Whitchurch Hockey Club on Friday afternoon at two venues, at the club and Stanwell School. Later an evening of trampolining was enjoyed by all, followed by supper in the hotel in Cardiff.



Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny, perfect footballing weather to take on the might of Llandaff Cathedral School and whilst the boys were on the turf, the girls took on the mighty East Side Netball Club. An afternoon of white water rafting was the perfect change of scene and a well-earned reward for hard fought matches. The cold water did not dampen their spirits and an amazing experience was had by all. That evening the bowling was competitive and great fun: the staff competition was perhaps the most keenly contested!

On the final day there was just enough time for a lovely lunch and shopping trip in the Bull Ring before heading back to school, tired, but happy!

# A Journalist's Journey

We were delighted to welcome Lucy Meacock, award-winning journalist and ITV News presenter, to Westholme as this year's Arthur Rouse guest speaker.



On arrival, Lucy kindly agreed to be interviewed by current Sixth Form students, Jolie Mackereth and Cameron Clarkson. The budding young reporters were extremely nervous but Lucy soon put them at ease as they asked in-depth questions about her career and how to navigate the path into journalism. Lucy was extremely impressed by Jolie and Cameron, especially by their focus and ability to listen.

Amelia Lowe, a Year 8 student, gave an eloquent welcome speech as Lucy took to the stage to discuss her long and successful career. She began with the defining moment that inspired her to want to become a writer - when her poem was published in the school magazine and she received recognition for the first time. At that early age Lucy focussed her sights on becoming a journalist but due to the ill health of her mother she had to miss out on university and find a job, which she did at *The Chester Chronicle* and there began her career.

The audience seemed spellbound as she talked about pivotal times in her life from the moment the paper rolled hot off the press with her first by-line on the front page, to her challenging role as an anchor woman for ITV News, and a presenter of Regional Current Affairs programmes.

Lucy talked emotionally about the people and stories that have shaped her as a



person and a journalist over the years, and how she has fought to report the news honestly, accurately and better than anyone else, from the stories of human tragedy to the politically controversial.

There was a lively question and answer session with the audience who clearly appreciated her down to earth approach. Afterwards, still undaunted, Lucy agreed to an interview with former pupil and ambitious young reporter, Alice Singleton.

Many thanks to Lucy Meacock for a thoroughly entertaining and insightful evening.



# Catwalk Creations

The Textiles Department hosted their annual Fashion Show for 2017 in the Croston Theatre and we warmly welcomed the parents of this year's students to view their stunning creations.



The fashion show is an important part of the GCSE and A Level assessment. It allows our Textiles students to test out their prototypes and gain valuable feedback on the designs so they can complete a full evaluation of the process of designing and making.

The GCSE students start the making of their products at the end of Year 10. They pick their inspirations from a selection of set contexts which include: cultural inspirations like India and oriental trends, or they could be inspired by the environment and include recycling and upcycling themes. Japanese street style is always a popular brief as is the Swinging Sixties.

The A Level students can select their own design briefs and this year we had dresses and corsets inspired by the Art Deco and Memphis design movements. There were wedding dresses and evening dresses inspired by natural forms, as well as wicked queen stage costumes and even an outfit inspired by the MET Gala! The A Level outfits are created from scratch with

the students learning how to be a creative designer / pattern cutter which takes hours of painstaking design, sewing and re-working until the finished piece comes together.

The catwalk show is the highlight of the year and the pre-show atmosphere was electric as the Textiles room was turned into a 'behind the scenes' dressing area; a hive of activity as students finalised their outfits and applied their make-up.

The Fashion Show was amazing with enthusiastic support from the audience as the models stalked down the runway to a sound track of urban pop. The outfits were stunning, and the models carried them off with confidence. Everyone agreed that it was a spectacular event and the students had excelled themselves.

A special thank you to all of the staff who ensured the garments were ready on time and congratulations to everyone who took part and worked so hard to produce some amazing creations. It was a truly fabulous show!



# National Science and Engineering Week

During National Science and Engineering Week some of our students explored the world of science and engineering through a range of lunchtime activities and experiments.



The children at Nursery enjoyed a number of science experiments which were set to challenge and engage them. They ventured outside to look at their shadows and discussed what makes them. In the classroom they had fun with a floating and sinking experiment, investigating how different materials and objects reacted in water. The children played with coloured paints in a tray, making marble effect pictures, from which they were later able to create a wonderful display in their classroom.

At Senior School, students explored the world of science and engineering through an exciting range of lunchtime activities. Many of them had fun making

a hovercraft using only a CD, a balloon and a glue gun. Everyone managed a least a couple of runs across the lab room floor with only a few collisions! In another session students chose to build Nautilus Gears, which are based on logarithmic spirals, and these proved extremely fascinating and challenging to put together.

Later in the week, teams of pupils took part in an experiment outdoors which involved filming moving objects to record, test and analyse the laws of motion. Back in the laboratory there was also an opportunity to see some impressive working models of volcanoes which students had made in the run up to Science Week.



Surprisingly one of the best attended sessions was the rat dissection in the Biology labs which attracted a large number of students. The groups enjoyed watching the dissection whilst listening to an in-depth commentary about the findings, and the Sixth Form students even had their own subject to work on!

The final experiment; the rocket launch, had to be postponed several times due to the bad weather, but thankfully took place a week later, as it is always a favourite and attracts a large crowd out on the Bungalow lawn. This year the pupils were asked to design their own spectacular rockets which looked impressive to say the least.



Unfortunately they didn't perform as well as expected and so the grand finale was left to the 'Mentos Mint' experiment. This is where students drop mints into bottles of multi-coloured fizzy drinks resulting in exploding fountains which shoot up high into the sky, much to the excitement of the spectators.

The students and teachers all had a very entertaining and informative week, which proved that science really can be accessible for everyone and all ages. Perhaps it may even have inspired some scientists of the future!





# BEYOND WESTHOLME

During the Spring Term, we hosted our inaugural 'Beyond Westholme' evening at Ewood Park; a lively networking event which brought together current and former students for an evening of inspiring conversation focussing on life skills, opportunities and next steps.



The guest Alumni enjoyed a champagne reception on arrival which provided them with the perfect chance to catch up with old friends and staff. It was lovely to hear them reminisce fondly about their personal experiences as Westholme students. At the same time, our current students from Years 11, 12 and 13 enjoyed a welcome reception of their own with canapés and soft drinks served in the beautifully decorated Jack's Lounge.

Everyone congregated for the formal start to the evening. After an official welcome from Principal, Mrs Horner, Mr Edwin Booth, DL, delivered the Keynote speech. His inspiring words about hard work, perseverance and enthusiasm certainly provided our students with a focus to work towards. His closing quote of 'aim for the moon and even if you miss, you might hit a star' couldn't have been more appropriate.

Dinner, provided by Northcote, was then served and it was great to see Alumni and students discussing their interests, listening carefully and sharing ambitions. To ensure everyone met as many people as possible, our Alumni changed places between courses and were seated at different tables. The atmosphere was warm and lively; conversation flowed easily, contact details were swapped and everyone agreed the evening was working out brilliantly. Finally, Head Girl, Jessica Keenan, gave the Vote of Thanks and presented Mr Booth with a token of our gratitude. Guests were then free to mingle and make more of those all-important connections, before the evening drew to an end.

The event was a terrific success. Here at Westholme, we always strive to both provide our students with that extra something whilst developing relationships with our talented Alumni. 'Beyond Westholme' certainly delivered in both aspects. Thank you to everyone who attended; it was immensely appreciated.



# Westholme in Fine Tune



We celebrated the changing of the seasons with our annual Spring Concert, which provides every musical group within Senior School the opportunity to perform. Our Junior and Senior Chamber Choirs, Flute Choir, Junior Wind, Harp Ensemble and Saxophone Sextet, took to the stage to deliver the joy of spring through some beautiful harmonies and lively performances. With a programme that ranged from classical to pop, there was certainly something for everyone!

At the annual Choral and Orchestral Gala Concert, we were honoured to welcome many families and friends of the School to the Croston Theatre for this special event. It was delightful to see our Sixth Form Students perform movements from concertos and sing arias as the

climax to their School musical careers. A selection of pieces performed exquisitely by the Senior Orchestra and Soloists, the Senior Choir and Tour Choir, included a rousing rendition of 'The Last Night of the Proms'. Parents and friends also joined the Senior Choir and Orchestra to form the Westholme Choral Society for a wonderful recital of Karl Jenkins' 'Adiemus'.

Other musical highlights have included the amazing Soloists' Recital, a memorable evening which saw students from Years 7-13 perform vocal and instrumental pieces from the classics to musicals, and the annual Martin Roscoe Piano Recital. All of the performances in this year's Concert Series programme have been truly wonderful - thank you to all of our visitors.



This year, the Concert Series programme has delivered a musical kaleidoscope of performances which have entertained audiences and showcased the marvellous talents of our students.

We were honoured to host the Athena Strings quartet, a young and dynamic group who performed a programme of beautiful pieces to a captivated audience.

These included Massenet's famous 'Meditation' from 'Thais' and Saint-Saens 'The Swan', the latter being played by Athena Strings member and Old Westholmian, Jessica Thornhill (pictured left), whom we were delighted to welcome back.

As a prelude to the concert, the quartet, accompanied by the School Orchestra, played a rousing rendition of 'Pomp and Circumstance' which raised the roof. They then went on to perform works by classical composers such as Mascagni, Karl Jenkins and Mozart, as well as more popular pieces such as Adele's signature song 'Skyfall', the Harry Potter Theme by John Williams and 'One Day More' from Les Misérables.



# Junior Sport

It would be impossible for us to feature all of the sporting successes of our Junior students on these two pages, but these are some of the standout highlights from a spectacular season of sport at Beardwood Bank.

## Swimming Superstars!

Once again, we have enjoyed a successful season of action in the swimming pool.



### BPS Gala

Congratulations to our Junior Swimming Team for their fabulous efforts at the BPS Gala. A superb performance from everyone meant that we medalled in every single event (a first for Westholme) and every single swimmer came away with at least one gold medal (another first!). We won 7 of the 15 events and our team were extremely supportive of each other. It was a really exciting night and we are all very proud of their efforts!

## English Schools' Swimming Association

Towards the end of the summer term, our Junior Boys Swimming Team ventured to Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield, to take part in the English Schools' Swimming Association National Finals. In March, our team of girls narrowly missed out on securing their spot for this event, but the boys finished in 3rd place, meaning they guaranteed their place in the finals with no trouble. This was the first time the boys' team had qualified and they were excited to be attending such a prestigious event.

Considering the team were competing amongst the very best in the whole country, they were keen to impress and they certainly did so with their performance in the pool. They managed to improve on their qualifying Medley Relay time by an impressive 7 seconds and shaved another 2 seconds off their qualifying Freestyle Relay time – testament to their hard work and determination to say the least.

Their performance was truly memorable and we soon discovered that they were only half a second off qualifying for the Medley Relay Final and one and a half seconds from qualifying in the Freestyle Relay Final!

Our overall result was being placed 18th for both events but we must remember this is out of the whole country – well done, boys!

The team must be extremely proud of their efforts – we certainly are. Special thanks must go to Mrs Gough and Mr Eastham for their superb efforts at poolside and to the travelling family support on what proved to be a fantastic day out.



## Cross Country

Our Cross Country runners have also performed well. In the BPS Tournament, following on from superb performances in previous rounds, the girls' team entered the final event feeling cautiously optimistic. They certainly didn't disappoint and finished in the top 14 runners, romping away with the overall trophy for the series. Kate Deegan deserves particular praise for her excellent 2nd place finish in the individual competition. The boys' race was equally exciting with Jonathan Brindle finishing 3rd overall. Although the boys didn't finish in the top 3 teams, their results, combined with the excellent scores achieved by the girls, meant that the joint team finished in silver position overall. Well done also to the boys in Year 3 and 4 who ran in the friendly race at the end. What a great experience for the future.



## Hockey



Year 5 girls travelled to Kirkham for a day of hockey in the Kirkham annual tournament. Some superb performances from the whole team ensured that we came away with silver medals in the Plate final.

## Amazing Athletes!

### BPS Athletics

Westholme athletes took to the track and field in a spectacular display of athletics from all the local primary schools.

The first event was the Year 5/6 girls' relay where our team ran extremely well to finish in 3rd place - just one place short of the final although Kate Deegan and Sophie Gibson did successfully qualify for the finals in the girls' sprint races. Eve Downham was next in action and with a thrilling display in the 400m event, secured an excellent 3rd place and bronze medal.

The boys' relay team also finished in 3rd place, just missing out on the final.

Boys' track events followed, with both George Weisters and Alex Galiatsatos finishing in 2nd place to make their respective finals.

In the field events, Harry Richmond competed in spectacular fashion, winning the Cricket Ball Throw by a country mile - what a talent! Adam Davenport excelled in the Long Jump, winning a fantastic silver medal, whilst Isabelle Haslam won a gold medal after an excellent display in the Long Jump.

Although we didn't win any medals in the sprint finals, they were all fiercely contested, and our team must be congratulated on their superb efforts – well done!

### AJIS Athletics

It was to be a tough day of heats and finals at this event, so consistently excellent performance was required. Our successes in this competition were from George Weisters, who secured a silver medal in the 80m sprint race and Jonathan Brindle, who also won a silver medal in the 600m race. As always, every single Team Westholme competitor showcased the very best of our school ethos, they tried their hardest, smiled and enjoyed themselves throughout.



Our Year 4 athletics team travelled to Ashbridge School to compete in a tournament against other schools. We finished in 5th place out of 11

# WEST SIDE STORY

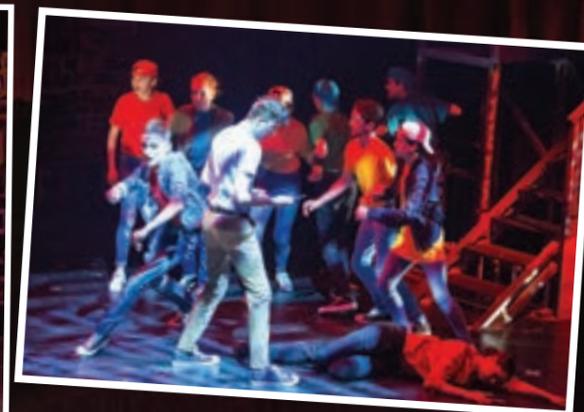
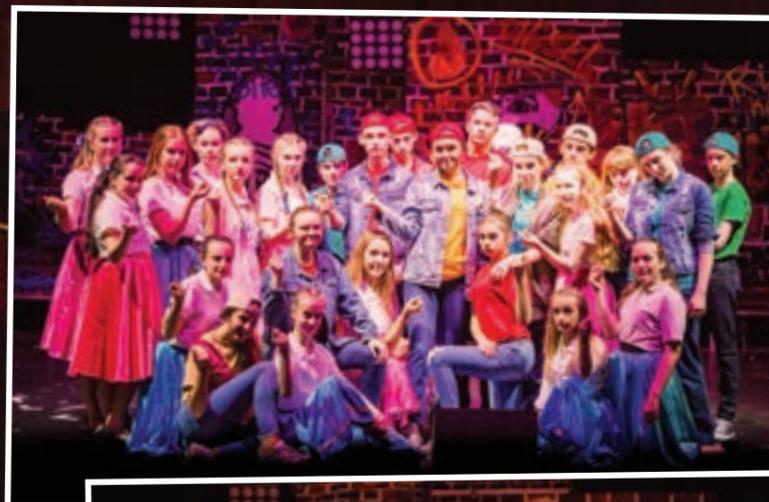
A tale of love and loss

West Side Story closely follows the narrative of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, but with one important difference; the lovers in this 1957 interpretation are related to two street gangs, one noticeably more disadvantaged than the other. The Puerto Rican Sharks have come to New York seeking opportunity, whilst the Jets are barely a rung up the social ladder above the Sharks, but their white European roots afford them a measure of protection from the racist and corrupt police force.

The cast of Westholme students were transformed into the rival street gangs, the Sharks and the Jets with fabulous costumes, snappy choreography and vibrant language, all set against a larger than life New York City stage set. With moody lighting and a graffiti backdrop the audience were transported into the colourful world of grime and crime, fist fights and brawls and the fiercely loyal, if misguided, street gang life.

The audience were drawn into this dramatic and high octane story with powerful performances by these incredibly talented young actors and by the upbeat songs and dances delivered with energy and conviction. Every scene captivated the viewer, from the quiet secret meetings of the lovers to the spirited gang encounters. It carried us along through the twists and turns of this romantic tragedy as its story unfolded and ran away to its heart breaking finale.

Congratulations to the very talented students whose fabulous acting and singing made them stars of the stage and a huge thank you to the maintenance team whose sets were worthy of the West End Also many thanks to all of the lighting, crew and costumes designers who made the production such a success!



# SENIOR SPORT

## ENGLISH SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS

Students from Year 7 and 8 travelled to Robin Park in Wigan for the Athletics final of the regional round of the English Schools' Championships. The day started well with Myah Booth winning the hurdles race before all the girls headed off to their field events.

There was further success on the track with Christie Sturgess winning her heat in the 200m and the relay team won their race by 15 metres. The whole team were placed 5th regionally in the North West. Congratulations to all of our athletes on an amazing result!



## SWIMMING SUPERSTARS

The team, consisting of girls from the Years 10 and 11 swimming squad, competed in the meet, which was the 100th annual event in Blackburn with Darwen's history. It was a powerful performance by Milly Arcangelo, Emily Berry, Tilly Sturgess and Ella Williams who all won their individual events and by both the Freestyle and Medley relay teams who won their races too. This unstoppable squad were therefore crowned Blackburn with Darwen Champions with 48 points in total. Congratulations to all of our swimmers!



## NETBALL CHAMPIONS

Our Year 8 and 9 netball team played in the annual Blackburn with Darwen Schools' Netball Tournament, which was held at Witton astro-turf. Once again our teams played exceptionally well, upholding our reputation for excelling at netball. The Year 8 team played in a Round Robin Competition, and as the team won all of their matches, they are now the Year 8 BDSSA Netball Champions 2017.



On another cold spring day the Year 11 netball team played in the U16 Blackburn with Darwen Schools' Netball Tournament and despite the freezing conditions our team played well and won all their matches in convincing style. They are now the U16 BDSSA Netball Champions for 2017 and have now won this competition for 5 years in a row!



## TENNIS

The U13 mixed tennis team played some strong games and came out as the winners of the BDSSA round of the U13 Lancashire Schools' Mixed Tennis Competition, which qualified them to play in the Lancashire finals. The A team, who won gold, included Jake Chippendale, Charlotte Corrigan, Isabella Fox-Tristram and Freddie Pickford, closely followed by the B team, Hannah Berry, Nathaniel Charnock, Sophie Waddicor and Ben Whelan, who were the runners-up in the competition and picked up silver medals. Well done to all of our tennis superstars!



## BADMINTON

In the U12 Boys' and Girls' East Lancashire Emerging Schools' Badminton Competition, Danny Pringle and Ben Whelan both qualified for the boys' semi-finals and in the girls' singles Amy Dixon became U12 Badminton Singles Champion closely followed by Evie Drake as runner-up.

The U16 Boys' and Girls' Blackburn with Darwen Schools' Badminton Competition produced some brilliant victories for Westholme. In the girls' singles competition Westholme had all the finalists with Alice Hartley and Charlotte Milnes becoming the U16 Girls' Singles Champion and runner-up respectively.

Tom Dixon was our only representative in the boys' competition but he won his group and then a tough semi-final match to reach the final and is now the U16 BDSSA Boys' Singles Champion. Tom is the first Westholme boy to win a BDSSA badminton title – well done, Tom!

## CROSS COUNTRY

Our intrepid running teams took to the Cumbrian hills for the annual Catteral Shield race. The combined Year 7 and 8 teams met with competition and a very difficult and steep course but with determination and grit the boys finished in 7th place and the girls team finished in 2nd place. A special mention should go to Charlotte Corrigan who finished 1st in her race, whilst Will Couch and Hollie Cubbon both finished 5th in their races.

There was an equally impressive performance from the nine Westholme students who represented Blackburn Town Team in Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships, hosted at Witton Park. Hollie Cubbon managed to finish in 2nd place in her race with a fantastic sprint finish at the end and Will Couch, who despite being nearly two years younger than the other boys in his race, came 15th and received a letter to be on the reserve list for the Lancashire team. Well done to all of the students who represented the cross country team!



## ROUNDERS

The Year 9 rounders team excelled in the Blackburn with Darwen Tournament, winning their group stage before playing Witton Park School in the semi-final and Blackburn Central High School in the final. Due to their hard work and determination the team qualified to represent Blackburn with Darwen in the Lancashire Schools' games at Stanley Park on 4th July.



The Year 7 rounders team were crowned champions at the Unity College Rounders' Tournament and the Year 8 team, despite their fantastic effort and determination, narrowly lost in the final to become runners-up. This was a tremendous achievement for the team as this was the first time they had entered the tournament.



Year 7 Rounders Team



Year 8 Rounders Team

# Sports' Awards Dinner

The Sports' Awards evening at Ewood Park was a glittering affair and a fitting tribute to Westholme's 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 and we were delighted to welcome swimmer, Anthony Howard, Commonwealth Bronze medallist, as the guest presenter and speaker.

The evening opened with a fabulous performance by the Westholme Dance Club and there were various competitions such as a 'create something sporty from the bag of tricks', 'match the PE staff baby photo' and the ever popular 'model competition' which the Sixth Form won with their wheelchair basketball player.

After the delicious meal, Anthony began the presentations with the 'Players' Player' and 'Coach Awards', the 'Gough Cup' and 'Outstanding Sporting Achievement' Awards. Other trophies presented included 'The Booth Trophy for Sporting Endeavour',

the 'Whittaker Trophy for Westholme Girls' Team of the Year' and the 'Backhouse Trophy for Junior Boys' Sports Personality of the Year'. Following the awards, Anthony gave an inspiring speech and enjoyed answering an array of questions from the record number of students attending this year's event.

There were thanks and gifts from the players to the PE staff for their time and commitment throughout the year and this was especially poignant for Head of Department, Mrs Catlow. After 37 years of loyal service to Westholme, Mrs Catlow is retiring at the end of this year and we were delighted to wish her well and thank her for her dedication to excellence and sport for all.

It was a super evening which celebrated the incredible sporting achievements of the Westholme students and we are already looking forward to next year's event!



# STAND DOWN

The students and staff at Senior School gathered to bid farewell to the Upper Sixth and celebrated their last official day with the annual Stand Down assembly led by Mrs Waldron and the class of 2017.



They entertained the rest of the school with fond memories of their time at Westholme, which included a catwalk show of the various items of uniform which they have had to wear during their years at school (some more popular than others)! Another highlight of the assembly - a hilarious film, made in collaboration with members of staff, based on the popular 'Car Pool Karaoke' sketch was also played, which of course everyone enjoyed!

Mrs Waldron delivered an inspiring speech reminding the students to reflect on their time at Westholme; the friendships they have forged and the memories created. She encouraged everyone to take with them the valuable life lessons they have learnt at school and to live their lives with pride, confidence and hope for the future. The students were presented with a gift to mark their time at Westholme.

After the assembly, the students posed for the traditional end of year photograph before joining their parents and staff in the Sixth Form Common Room for a fabulous buffet and drinks reception, provided by our superb catering department. Stories and gifts were exchanged before final goodbyes were said.

We would like to wish the class of 2017 good luck in all that they do and remind them to always believe that they can make the impossible, possible.



# VISITORS IN

We have welcomed many interesting and informative visitors to Westholme to enrich and enhance the learning experiences of our students. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to come and speak to the students.



Former pupil, PC Emma Barnes, from Derbyshire Constabulary hosted a Q&A session for students who are interested in pursuing a career in the Police Force.



Year 3 pupils were introduced to a Bamboo Tamboo workshop which gave them an opportunity to develop rhythm and ensemble skills through playing on imitation bamboo sticks.



A former pupil and dedicated campaigner for Fairtrade, Sara Parker, visited us to talk to all of our pupils about her work in Nepal as well as here in the UK.



Congratulations to Charlotte Corrigan who went on to win this year's Step Into the NHS North West Regionals and Amelia Lowe who received a Highly Commended Certificate.



The Fire Brigade visited the children in Year 2 to talk about the importance of fire safety in the home.



Chris Chadford from James Hall Distribution ran a drop in session to offer advice and talk to our students about the schemes they have available. Year 13 student, Charlotte Marshall, has since successfully secured an apprenticeship commencing in September 2017.



Nursery children enjoyed welcoming their parents to Billinge House for a Stay and Play session.



Our Year 10 boys and girls enjoyed a presentation and physical training session with the Royal Marines.



Year 6 received a visit from The History Man where he helped their learning come to life with an interactive workshop on World War II.



Mrs Jenny Lamb presented Phoebe Collin with the George Lamb Art Award 2018.



The Army ran an activity afternoon for Year 11 girls. This was an excellent opportunity for students to develop key skills such as team building, communication and problem solving as part of the school Careers provision.



Elisabeth Devey, a former pupil, visited school to talk about the HeadSmart campaign which aims to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and teenagers.



Parents were welcomed to Reception for a Come and Learn afternoon.

# Focus on... SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

Life beyond the classroom is vital to the learning experience at Westholme. Encouraging our Sixth Form students to expand their horizons, learn new skills and support our community is paramount to their Wednesday afternoon enrichment programme. Employers and universities inevitably look for academic excellence but they also seek young people who are able to demonstrate respect, tolerance, open mindedness and aspiration. These qualities are further developed in our students through engaging in additional activities, meeting new people and being pushed outside of their normal comfort zone. Having

a weekly allocated opportunity to enrich their A Level studies allows all students to become more outward looking, open minded and adept at lifelong learning.

Students have a wide variety of opportunities available to them, many of which are highlighted here. Other activities include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), the school online newspaper, Community Sport Leadership Award (CSLA) and English Speaking Board (ESB) in which seven pupils achieved a Grade 8 with Distinction this year.



## Westies

Not many Sixth Form students have the opportunity to run their own company. However, Westies allows our students to do just that! From staff training to financial record keeping, marketing and stock selection, the day to day tasks are endless for our student Board of Directors. Alongside the strategic planning, students must be organised, committed and good team players to ensure the business runs smoothly, the customers are kept happy and the stakeholders are all satisfied.



## Charity

Charitable work also forms part of the Enrichment programme. This year, students chose to work with the Lancashire Project Linus Charity, which helps volunteers to make comfort blankets to give to children who are in need of comfort, due to premature birth, bereavement or other difficulties. The project has opened the students' eyes to an international charity previously unknown to them, whilst also allowing them to acquire a new skill along the way. Our novice machinists have learnt to sew and quilt and have been touched by the difference their efforts have made to many children across the world. Compassion, respect and giving your time for others are qualities we endeavour to instil in all of our students.



## Volunteering

The whole Westholme community benefits from our Sixth Form Leadership team. An integral part of this is the time and support that many of them give to helping our Infant and Junior students; this might be with reading, art, sport or music. The younger students relish the time they spend with the Sixth Form and they, in turn, develop resilience, compassion and tolerance in their role as mentors and good leaders.



## Sport

Mens Sana In Corpore Sano - a sound mind in a healthy body - never more so than during sports' activities at Westholme! Teamwork, dedication and commitment to achieving group and personal goals are essential for success whether it is in House Sports, competitive fixtures or recreational fitness. Sixth Form students are able to enjoy a wide variety of sporting opportunities to hone their skills, keep them fit and develop their perseverance.

# CHARITY BEGINS AT WESTHOLME

Students have worked hard to raise awareness and funds to help others in need, both at home and abroad. Some highlights are featured below and other charities we have raised funds for include, Amnesty International, #Handstand4Sam and Cancer Research UK.

## Comic Relief 2017

Nursery, Infant and Junior School children enjoyed accessorising their uniforms with all things red, in aid of raising money for Comic Relief. From wearing wigs, ties, socks, hairbands and lots more, everyone got into the jolly spirit of the day and showed their support for this super charity. At Senior School, students also joined in and wore something red to show their support. Well done to everyone on raising an amazing £950 for this charity.



## Night at the Movies

Other fundraising events organised by the students have included the 'Night at the Movies' for Year 7 students, hosted by the EPR department and the Year 10 JAC Team (Justice, Awareness, Charity). Money raised at this charity event was donated to the Year 10 choice of 'Free Tibet' and 'Caudwell Lyme Disease Charity', chosen by Year 7 students. Current Year 7 parent, Mr Spendlove, suffers from Lyme Disease and came to accept the cheque for £378 on behalf of the Lyme Disease charity.

Well done to all of the students for their motivation and fantastic achievements in raising awareness of so many important charities!



## HeadSmart

Former student, Elisabeth Devey, visited the Senior School to talk to students about the HeadSmart campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and teenagers, on behalf of the brain tumour charity. Elisabeth campaigns for HeadSmart in memory of another former pupil and friend, Natalie Wilson, who sadly died from a brain tumour in April 2016. She challenged the students and staff to donate 10 pence and in return they each received a HeadSmart symptoms card. Everyone rallied to the cause and raised over £114.

## Den Building Day



At the Infant School, they had lots of fun during a busy den building day to help raise money for Save the Children. The younger ones enjoyed singing and playing musical instruments or listening to stories in their dens or had snacks and drinks sheltered from the brilliant sunshine.

The older children brought household materials such as boxes, pegs, blankets and sheets to school so that they could create and design their 'secret dens' and there were some wonderful creations, including a rocket and a castle. Altogether they raised an amazing £144 for Save the Children and had lots of fun along the way!



# A Memorable Musical Evening!

The Junior School students put on a wonderful performance of their annual Musical Evening in the Croston Theatre in front of a full auditorium.



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 the 'Blue Danube' to an uplifting rendition of 'Feelin' Good', performed by the entire Junior School with exuberance and passion.

At the interval, parents and children enjoyed a delicious spread of refreshments provided by our dedicated catering



staff. The Year 6 students changed into two tribes; the Wannakeekees and the Sotongis, whilst the Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils put on their blue sweatshirts representing the flowing river central to the story.

In the second half of the evening, the tale of 'Peace Child' unfolds in a far off land of Mambica, where two rival tribes, the Wannakeekees and the Sotongis dwell on either side of an un-crossable river, but it soon becomes apparent that their lifestyles and values differ greatly. The Sotongis promote physical prowess above

all else, while the Wannakeekees choose more creative endeavours. Through song and dance we learnt about their daily lives and watched as they constantly tried to outdo each other by exhibiting their respective strengths.

The brilliant choreography and acting was interspersed with moments of humour and the comedy which was delivered with perfect timing. The children in their roles had the audience in fits of laughter, especially when the 'bears' come on the scene with their hip hop vibe and bags of attitude! This fabulous production with brilliant performances by all of the cast, brought to life the story of two very different societies and showed how fear and hate can be turned into love and hope, through understanding and compromise.

Well done to all of the cast and crew who worked so hard to bring the show together, ensuring the production was a huge success. We can't wait until next year!

# RAGS TO RICHES

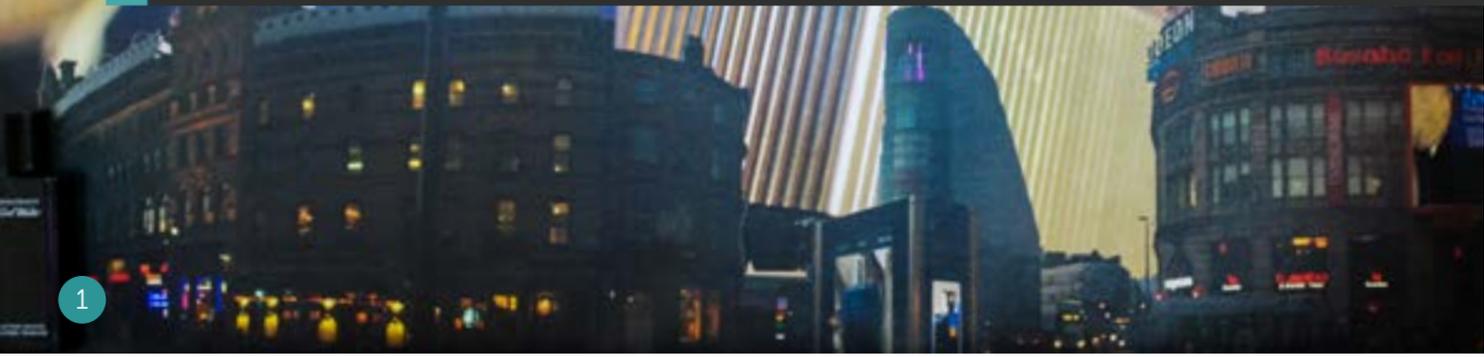
The annual WISPA (Westholme Independent School Performing Arts) performance by the Year 4 children, ably supported by some of the children in Year 3, was a real treat for all in attendance. 'Rags to Riches' was a showcase of excerpts from well-known films and musicals including 'Annie', 'Oliver', 'Les Misérables' and 'Aladdin'.

The children acted, danced and performed beautiful songs and many audience members could be heard singing along to some of the popular tunes. Moments of comedy were littered throughout which brought a feel good factor to the whole performance.

Well done to the entire cast and to Mrs Daley and Mr Harrison for their hard work in directing a brilliant show.



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# Art, Photography & Product Design Exhibition

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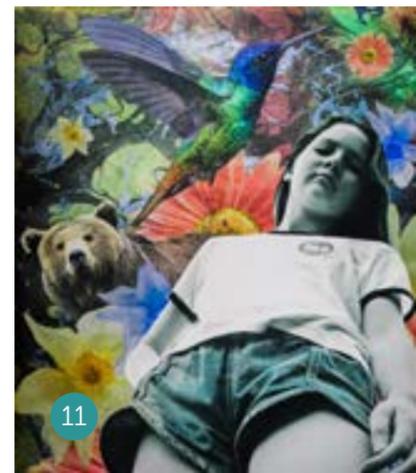
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This year's Art & Photography exhibition showcased the talent of our GCSE and A Level students. We welcomed many visitors to the event and the vibrant artwork on display looked spectacular!

- 1 Umar Patel
- 2 Niamh Preedy
- 3 Holly Salisbury
- 4 Charlie Hindle
- 5 Sophie Dunbar
- 6 Mohammed Ahmed-Raza
- 7 Freya Bradburn
- 8 Harriette Hill
- 9 Cameron Clarkson
- 10 Phoebe Collin
- 11 Angel Collier
- 12 Carrie-Ann Tolson
- 13 Amelia Gee
- 14 Charlotte Burke

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# Silverwood Book Events

Over the Spring and Summer Terms we have been fortunate to welcome several acclaimed authors in conjunction with our friends at Silverwood Book Events. We enjoy a strong working relationship with Silverwood Events and throughout the year, with their help, we co-ordinate author visits so that students and the wider Westholme community can benefit from these inspirational speakers. Already in 2017, we have had some exciting events which are highlighted below.



In May, we were absolutely delighted to welcome Olympic athlete and children's author, Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill to Westholme. Jessica was warmly greeted by our Sports' Captains who were delighted to have the chance to meet such a high profile athlete and ask her some questions. Our Junior School pupils

were then joined by children from nine other visiting primary schools to listen to Jessica talk about her second book in the Magic Bracelet series, 'The Enchanted Puppy'. Jake from Silverwood Events conducted the onstage interview with Jessica, and she talked animatedly about the reasons behind her decision to start writing books for children and how

she was inspired by her own childhood, growing up in Sheffield. At the end of the afternoon, Jessica signed books for all of the children, taking time to talk to them individually and sit for photographs. Everyone loved meeting her and hopefully it will inspire many of them to either become the next Gold Medal Olympian, or a best-selling author!



At the start of this year, best-selling author and mental health campaigner, Ruby Wax visited the school to discuss her book, 'A Mindfulness Guide for the Frazzled', which focused on mental health awareness, and this linked well to our school theme of Mindfulness and Well-Being. Ruby entertained the packed Croston Theatre with her knowledge about this important issue.



Nick Knowles, star of TV's 'DIY SOS' hosted a talk to promote his new cook book, 'Proper Healthy Food' and talked to the audience about healthy eating and a balanced approach to diet.



We welcomed renowned author, Cecelia Ahern, to Westholme to talk to our Year 8 and 9 girls about her second book for young adults. We were privileged to hear Cecelia read from her sequel novel, titled, 'Perfect', ahead of the official publishing date. The girls thoroughly enjoyed this unique opportunity to meet an inspirational young author.

# EXTENDED PROJECTS

Year 12 students have been working hard all year on completing their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).



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

The exhibition is the final aspect of the EPQ, in which students must present their findings - and they certainly did not disappoint! They all spoke confidently and knowledgeably about their specialist field, impressing the Governors, teachers and parents who were present.

**This year's topics included:**

- "How far are we from achieving invisibility?"
- "Should national hunt racing be banned in the UK?"
- "Do we have a right to privacy online?"
- "Social media - a gift or a curse? A study on the impact of social media on young people's mental health."



# Out and about!



As part of their Geography studies, Year 2 visited Brockholes Visitor Centre, Windermere to learn all about this rural location.

The trips to places of interest and educational centres outside of school provide enrichment and active learning which enhances the students' knowledge and understanding of their subjects.



As part of the new Geography A Level course, Year 12 students visited Salford to draw connections with its industrial past compared to the new regeneration of this now modern area.



Year 9 visited the Brockhole Centre, Windermere where they received a thought-provoking talk about the impacts of tourism on the Lake District National Park.



Children in Pre School enjoyed a visit to a bookshop in Kirkham, 'Book, Bean and Ice Cream', for a story time session and an ice cream treat.



Year 7 enjoyed a trip to Hothersall Lodge where they got to grips with orienteering, map reading and observing lots of different wildlife species.



Children in Year 2 had a great time learning about Forces when they visited the Museum of Science and Industry.



Year 13 Geographers went on their last field trip together and climbed up onto Scout Moor plateau to assess the social and environmental impact of this huge wind farm and its planned expansion, on the surrounding area.



Reception children visited Old Holly Farm where they met lots of animals including donkeys, pigs, hens, cows and calves, sheep, goats and even a mule!



The children in Year 1 had a wonderful time visiting Fleetwood Museum to find out about seaside holidays in the Victorian times.



The Year 5 classes enjoyed a day at Clapham as part of their Geography studies.



The Year 10 Textile students visited the Platt Hall Costume Museum to see the Mary Quant exhibition showing original garments from her early 1960s collection.



Year 10 and 11 Spanish students enjoyed tasting traditional Spanish food on a trip to La Tasca.



On a beautifully clear and starry night thirteen GCSE and A Level students were given the wonderful opportunity of visiting the Alston Observatory.



A visit to Tatton Park helped the Year 5 students learn more about their studies on the Tudors.



The Year 4 classes went on a trip to Brockholes Nature Reserve as part of their Science topic on habitats. The group went on a nature walk looking at the different types of habitat.



Year 6 students enjoyed a weekend at Lockerbie Manor taking part in many outdoor pursuits activities which helped them improve their team building skills.

# Sports' Day



At the end of the Summer Term everyone looks forward to the Sports' Days which mark the end of our sporting season and celebrate all of our successes.

The boys and girls eagerly competed in many events including long jump, obstacle courses and relay races, with a spirit and enthusiasm that even the weather couldn't dampen. There were medals to be won but House points were the real prize. It was wonderful to see so many friends and family cheering from the side lines and it's on days like these that we all feel proud to be part of the Westholme Community!

Unfortunately, Sports' Day for the Seniors was postponed until after we went to print - sorry! Please do have a look at the extensive gallery on our website.





# D of E Expeditions

As always the Duke of Edinburgh programme this year has encouraged students to get involved in outdoor pursuits and challenge themselves to take part in a series of expeditions.

During the Easter holidays, a group of six Year 12 girls successfully completed their Gold Practice DofE Expedition in Snowdonia, North Wales. Gold expeditions are particularly tough, as students have to carry everything for a 4-day walk of approximately 50 miles (80km), camping for 3 nights.

The weather was fairly kind, on the whole, given the location and time of year, although it was often very cold, especially at night. As Gold expeditions have to take place in wild country areas, they were often alone, with just the mountains and views for company. When they finally arrived back at base, they were all exhausted but exhilarated by their achievements.

For the final expedition of the Summer Term, fourteen Year 10 students (complete with their heavy rucksacks) trekked through the beautiful Ribble Valley on their Bronze practice expedition.

During the two days, they learnt the importance of good navigation, organisation, teamwork and resilience. The first ever expedition is always a challenge but they did very well. They will now use their experiences to plan for their assessed expeditions in September.

The Duke of Edinburgh scheme helps young people to develop skills and build character. All of the groups proved that they can work as a team and push themselves to the limit even in challenging situations, and still come out smiling! Well done to all of the teams.



# WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

The Westholme Association once again worked extremely hard this year to organise fundraising events for the Westholme Community. As always the proceeds go towards providing our students with that extra something. Thank you, Westholme Association, for another superb year.

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

The Annual Spring Fair was held at the Senior School and despite the mixed weather there was a really good turn out in support of the event.

As always, there was a fantastic selection of stalls, activities and amusements to occupy all ages including the tombola, lucky dip and candyfloss stand which seemed to be extremely popular. There were nearly new books and toys, a crafts table and a princess stall, a nail bar and designer bag lucky dip stall for the ladies and a tempting range of cakes and treats were also on offer for those with a sweet tooth! It was impossible to miss the stunning plant display, and of course everyone's favourite; the Shajan Takeaway Kitchen.



Some brave staff took their turn in the stocks so that enthusiastic visitors could hurl freezing cold wet sponges at them for a small fee, whilst in the Sports Hall, things got really energetic with the bouncy castle and the bungee challenge.

For those in need of a rest from all of the excitement, teas, coffees and a wide range of cakes from the School Kitchen were available (which even the St. John's Ambulance team managed to find a moment to enjoy). The only thing missing from the afternoon was the sun, but that didn't stop everyone having a wonderful time! There was a lovely atmosphere throughout and a real sense of Westholme community.



Many thanks to all of those helpers who supported the Spring Fair 2017, whether through donations, setting up, running a stall, spending money (!), clearing up or any other way - many thanks for helping to make the day a success. An amazing £4,500 was raised.



## PARTY TIME

The Junior School pupils had a fabulous afternoon at their disco organised by the Westholme Association. After changing into their party outfits everyone enjoyed a delicious party tea before being given a goodie bag and a raffle ticket, for a chance to win some exciting prizes including games and toys from the raffle prize draw.



Children's entertainer, Taz, led the party games with the boys and girls competing against one another and even some of the teachers took part in the exciting antics including a game of 'Pie Face'. The dancefloor was jumping to the latest chart hits and didn't stop until the last record ended.

A big thank you to the Westholme Association for organising the disco - the children had a wonderful time!

At the time of going to print, the Infant School disco was still to take place.

## *Autumn Term 2017*

*Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day*

*Wednesday 6th September - Tuesday 19th December*

*Half Term - Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November  
(inclusive)*

## *Spring Term 2018*

*Tuesday 9th January - Friday 23rd March*

*Half Term - Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February  
(inclusive)*

## *Summer Term 2018*

*Tuesday 17th April - Wednesday 11th July*

*Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May*

*Half Term - Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June  
(inclusive)*



**WESTHOLME  
SCHOOL**

Wilmar Lodge, Meins Road, Blackburn. BB2 6QU

Tel: 01254 506070

[WWW.WESTHOLMESCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.WESTHOLMESCHOOL.COM)