



WESTHOLME
SCHOOL

WESTHOLME LIFE

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017



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Results' Days

Excellent results at Westholme highlight yet again the value of first class teaching, committed students and high aspiration.

Over three quarters of the A Level grades were A* - B, which is a truly impressive statistic. 23 subjects delivered a 100% pass rate, proving how remarkable the A Level results were this year. Well over half the students in the Westholme cohort also achieved no grade lower than a B, which is particularly pleasing.

Just one week later, it was the turn of Year 11 to open their envelopes. In a year of significant change to the examination system with a new grading system

introduced for English and Mathematics, the students coped tremendously and delivered an impressive set of results.

Superb performances from 34% of students achieving grades A*/A or 9 - 7 greatly exceeded the national average. With statistics such as 96% of students gaining at least 5 A* - C (or equivalent) grades and 10 subjects delivering no grades lower than a C/4, the future is certainly bright for Westholme's high flyers!



Prizegiving

The annual Prizegiving Ceremony for Senior School was held at King George's Hall in September with honoured guests including the Mayor and Mayoress of Blackburn and the Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones, Dean of Blackburn.

As always, the evening featured a number of captivating musical performances which included solos by Louise Jaitly and Fiona Anderson, and an impressively lively interpretation of 'In the Mood' by the School Swing Band.

Head of School, Emma Taylor and Deputy Heads of School, Olivia Pickford and Hebe Smith delivered a very entertaining speech which offered an interpretation of Sixth Form life in the Westholme 'galaxy', where students are explorers who navigate the many departmental planets and become part of a vibrant and ever expanding community before at last flying off to discover new worlds.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of prizes to the winners by our honourable guest and Prize Presenter,



The Very Reverend Peter Howell-Jones, Dean of Blackburn.

Following a presentation of gifts to the Platform Party, the audience were delighted by a performance of extracts from 'Hamilton' by the Senior Choir. The

Chairman of Governors, Mr Marsden then brought the ceremony to a close with thanks to all those involved in the evening, before the ceremony ended with the traditional singing of the school hymn.

We would like to thank The Dean for carrying out the role of Prize Presenter and offer congratulations to all students who were awarded well deserved prizes on this celebratory evening.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

This year, two expeditions headed for the hills on a journey of self-discovery as part of this challenging programme.

At the start of the summer holidays, two groups of Sixth Form students completed a four day Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition in the Yorkshire Dales, enjoying some relatively tourist-free walks and campsites.

The weather was kind for the most part and they all did very well, especially as a Gold expedition is the toughest challenge that some of them have ever faced. They took it in their stride and made it look easy!

It was then the turn of the Year 11 students who undertook their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's expedition in the Derbyshire Dales.



The five groups of intrepid students enjoyed the sunshine and lovely landscapes and the skills they learnt will be invaluable for the future.

Well done to everyone who successfully completed the challenges, coping admirably with heavy rucksacks and tricky navigation!



Choir Tour 2017

This year, 60 pupils and staff had a fantastic time on the annual Choir Tour to Bologna and San Marino, combining many fun activities with cultural experiences and the great honour of performing in a foreign country.

On the first morning, the group visited the beautiful town of Bologna and enjoyed a challenging climb up the 498 steps of its famous leaning tower. In the afternoon, there was time to explore the medieval village of Dozza with its many murals, before performing a concert in the courtyard of the La Rocca fortress. Songs from 'Chicago' and 'The Lion King' plus Swing Band pieces and other items kept the audience enthralled, made even more dramatic by a sudden thunderstorm.

It was not all about performing though as the students had an exciting time at the San Marino Adventure Park and then exploring San Marino itself later in the afternoon. In the evening, the choir performed Karl Jenkins' 'Adiemus' in the wonderful San Francesco Church with the delightful nuns seemingly totally absorbed in the music. Having presented the two concerts, the following day was spent relaxing with a trip to the beach before the final departure.

The students performed beautifully on their Italian Tour and are very much looking forward to next year's trip to the French Riviera.



RHINELAND

TRIP 2017

During the summer holidays, 21 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 accompanied by Mrs Buckley, Miss Thompson and Mr Desai flew from Manchester Airport to Cologne to spend four fun-filled days on the River Rhine.

The group stayed in the beautiful town of Boppard and after unpacking and eating ice creams at the local Eiscafe, they spent the afternoon enjoying a river cruise and shopping in Germany's oldest city, Trier.

The following day, pupils appreciated more culture by visiting the beautiful village of Cochem. The group had a tour of the famous castle, bought souvenirs and spent the rest of the afternoon swimming at the pool. The final day was spent at Phantasialand Theme Park where pupils experienced an array of exciting rides and watched shows.

The trip was a great success, the pupils got to experience German culture and had lots of opportunities to practise their German language skills. Fantastisch!



One early morning in July, a group of very excited Year 7 and 8 students and teachers met very early to embark on a four day visit to the French capital.

After a long coach journey via Dover and a ferry across the Channel, the group arrived at Château de Grande Romaine located on the outskirts of Paris, still full of enthusiasm and anticipation for the adventure ahead. The students enjoyed many activities at the centre including; archery, abseiling, a leap of faith jump and swimming in the outdoor pool.

The visit to a local town and the market proved to be a real favourite and on the Sunday, the group had the opportunity to visit the centre of Paris and the beautiful district of Montmartre.

A trip to the capital would not be complete without a relaxing boat trip down the River Seine, taking in the sights of the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower; everyone found it an interesting and fun way to see more of the city and spend the afternoon.

A highlight for many of the students was a day excursion to Disneyland Paris, where they had plenty of fun on the amazing rides and delighted in the Disney spectacle, before making the return journey home overnight.

The students arrived back safely, tired but happy, with wonderful memories of all of the experiences they enjoyed on their trip to Paris.

Paris Trip 2017





Bonjour, Hallo, Hola!

Celebrating European Day of Languages.

Westholme students celebrated European Day of Languages with a number of different activities to mark the occasion. The day started off with an assembly led by the Modern Foreign Languages department which included pupils from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 talking about their trips to France and Germany in the summer and what they gained from their experiences.

Some students then took part in a quiz entitled, 'which dish is the teacher holding?' where they had to guess a number of foods and which European country they came from.



The highlight of the day for many though was lunchtime, as our fantastic Catering department cooked up a European storm with a delicious buffet. Special thanks to Mrs Ballan and her team for this spectacular spread. ¡Qué delicioso!



Also during lunchtime, the Careers department welcomed former pupil, Vanessa Robinson from V Translate, to talk about her career, how languages have been beneficial in her work and the importance of languages in business and industry. It really brought to life the possibilities for combining languages with a career and the students found the talk extremely interesting. We would like to thank Vanessa for her time and insight.

European Day of Languages was such a culturally enriching day for Westholme students and we are already looking forward to next year's!



Harvest Festival

Each year at Harvest time our thoughts turn to those in need of our support and we ask parents and children to donate whatever provisions they can for local charities.

The pupils at the Infant School celebrated Harvest with a special assembly and welcomed Mrs Barbara Foster from the Blackburn Foodbank into school.

Mrs Foster talked to the children about all the good work the charity does and who they help in the local area. In the lead up to the assembly, children had been collecting provisions and had brought them into school for Mrs Foster to take to the Foodbank on behalf of Westholme. They were delighted with the amount of provisions collected and said that it would help many local people.

Junior School celebrated Harvest Festival with their traditional service at St Silas' Church.

There were readings about the seasons of the year and poems which were eloquently delivered by the children. A Harvest prayer was beautifully recited by the pupils to a congregation of parents, grandparents and friends.

The special Harvest hymns filled the church and brought warmth and joy to the service, and during the singing Year 5 and 6 Form and Vice Captains carried gifts to the altar.

Reverend Sheelagh Aston drew the service to a close with a blessing and by thanking the children for their donations of food, which she explained would be most gratefully received by those in need.

Once again, a collection was made to raise money towards the purchase of a cow for a family in Africa with over £130 given in donations.

The traditional Harvest service was a very memorable occasion as always, thanks to the support of the staff, students and parents.



YOUNG Explorers

At Westholme we take learning beyond the classroom.



A Level students investigated the succession in the vegetation at Ainsdale sand dunes.



Year 6 were transported back in time and became Victorian mill workers. All dressed in superb Victorian outfits, they spent the day at Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire, where they toured the mill to see spinning machines in action and visited the Apprentice House.



Year 4 travelled 2000 years back in time to Roman Chester (Dewas) where they had the opportunity to join the army and marched through the town, complete with shields and armour.



Year 10 Geographers ventured out into the beautiful countryside of the Forest of Bowland to carry out their Physical Geography fieldwork.



Four A Level students took part in the Liverpool University Physics Olympics 2017.



Sixth Form Classics students attended a Greek Tragic performance of Sophocles' 'Antigone'.



Drama students travelled to the Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch the breathtaking production of 'War Horse'.



Year 1 have had an exciting start to the festive season with a visit to Judges' Lodgings in Lancaster where they found out about a Victorian Christmas and its traditions.



National Poetry Day

Exceptional poems and performances by young poets and creators.

The theme for National Poetry Day this year was 'Freedom'. The whole school joined in enthusiastically to celebrate the day.

Forms were invited to compete in a bid to win the famous National Poetry Day cakes. Judges were treated to each form's rendition of their chosen poem. Highlights were 11M's entertaining rap about the fight for freedom and 9M's poignant performance of 'Invictus', a short Victorian poem by William Ernest Henley. 11T delivered a strong, dramatic piece about modern day slavery.

All the forms who entered had put an incredible amount of thought and effort into the planning and delivery of their performances and provided some extremely enjoyable entertainment.

As always, the judges were impressed by the great wealth of talent and creativity at Westholme.

Throughout the Infant and Junior Schools the children celebrated National Poetry Day by channelling their creativity into writing their own poems based on the theme of 'If I Had Wings'. There were some really wonderful pieces and the children read their poems out to each other.

At Infants, the pupils also continued this year's theme of 'Growth Mindset', and KS1 enjoyed an assembly based around the book 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees. The children joined in with the rhyming text and enjoyed a boogie too!



Remembrance Day

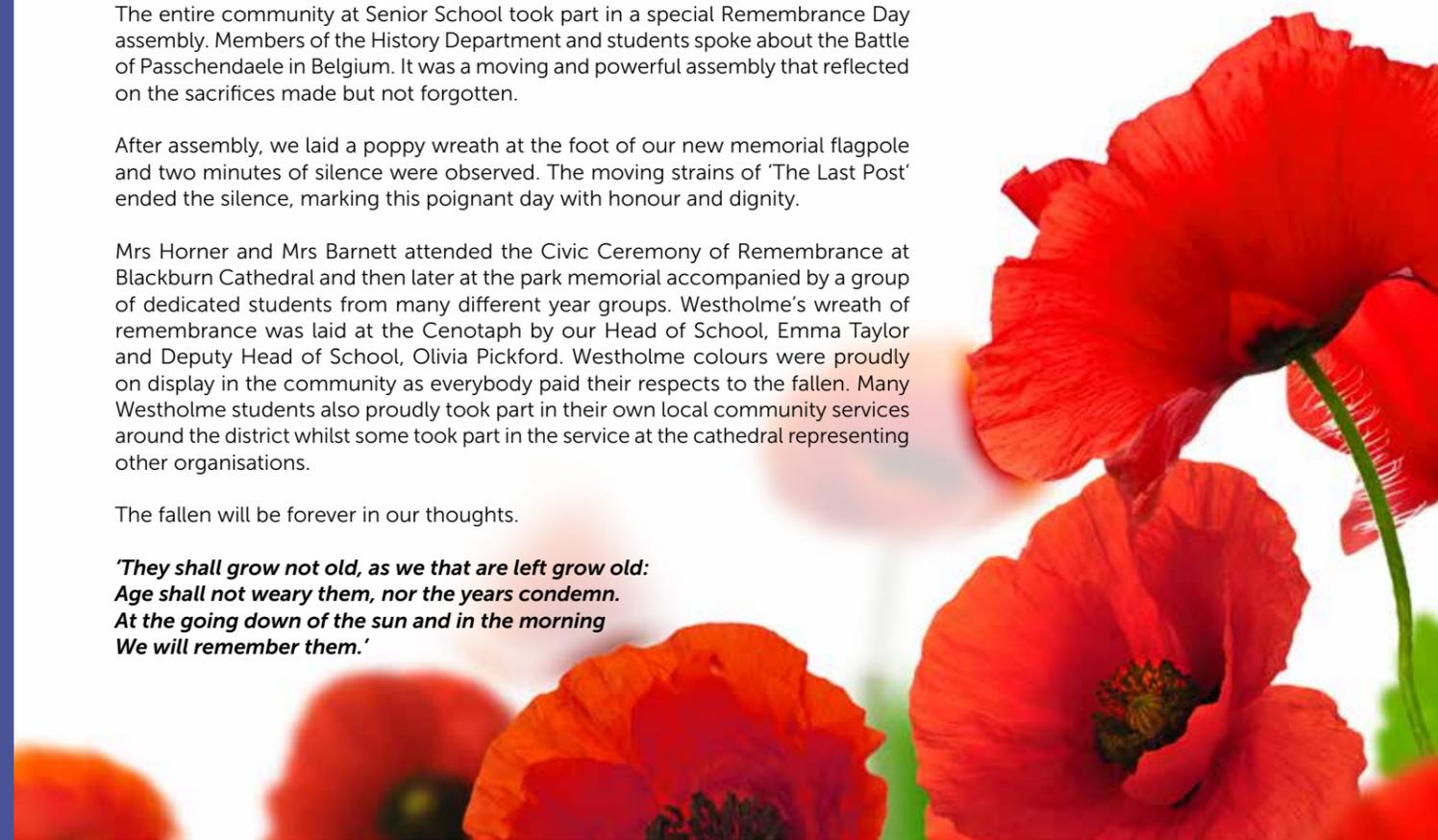
The entire community at Senior School took part in a special Remembrance Day assembly. Members of the History Department and students spoke about the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium. It was a moving and powerful assembly that reflected on the sacrifices made but not forgotten.

After assembly, we laid a poppy wreath at the foot of our new memorial flagpole and two minutes of silence were observed. The moving strains of 'The Last Post' ended the silence, marking this poignant day with honour and dignity.

Mrs Horner and Mrs Barnett attended the Civic Ceremony of Remembrance at Blackburn Cathedral and then later at the park memorial accompanied by a group of dedicated students from many different year groups. Westholme's wreath of remembrance was laid at the Cenotaph by our Head of School, Emma Taylor and Deputy Head of School, Olivia Pickford. Westholme colours were proudly on display in the community as everybody paid their respects to the fallen. Many Westholme students also proudly took part in their own local community services around the district whilst some took part in the service at the cathedral representing other organisations.

The fallen will be forever in our thoughts.

***'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.'***





CROSS COUNTRY

This term we have been leading the field in Cross Country, participating in a series of competitions and events which challenge our runners and push them to their limits. The Junior and Senior teams have been training hard despite the unpredictable weather and the determination and grit of our Cross Country teams has certainly shown that Westholme runners are themselves a force of nature.

Independent Schools' Cross Country Championship

The annual U11 and U13 Independent Schools' Cross Country Championship at Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall took place in November; an event with over 10 independent schools from across the North West taking part. The sun shone and the wind dropped, creating perfect conditions for running.

The U11 girls' team was first to race and they certainly showed how important team work is, even in what could be classed an individual sport. Eve Downham was first to cross the line in 9th position and all of the girls finished in the top 15 putting them in an extremely strong position for the team awards.

The U11 boys set off shortly after and there were a number of promising runs. Jonathan Brindle was the first boy back, finishing in a fantastic 4th position.

The U13 girls all ran superbly; Hollie Cubbon came in 1st place with a dominant performance at the front and the girls' team finished in 3rd place overall.

The U13 boys gave their all and ran some excellent races, with Edward Lee and Finlay Testa having a terrific battle at the front. The boys finished 3rd overall.

As the results were being read out the excitement was building for the Westholme U11 girls' team and sure enough, when the overall winning team was read out, they were declared the winners for the first time in our school's history!

A fantastic achievement and a wonderful way to end the day!



U13 vs Northern Schools' Cross Country Championship, Sedburgh

In October, Westholme travelled to Sedbergh Prep School to compete in the Northern Schools' Cross Country Championships. In the three age categories of U9, U11 and U13 more than 40 children from Westholme competed in, what started out as perfect cross country conditions, but soon became extremely wet and windy weather.

Course distances varied in length up to 3.2km for U13 boys with a great deal of variety in terms of the landscape and gradient providing a great challenge for all athletes involved.

The results on the day were very positive with Jonathan Brindle finishing 3rd in the U11 boys, who then came 7th overall, whilst the U11 girls took 2nd place overall. Hollie Cubbon finished 3rd in the U13 girls' races and the U13 girls' team finished in 3rd place overall, whilst the U13 boys' team finished in 6th place overall.

A special mention must go to the U9 boys' and girls' teams, the youngest only seven years old, who competed in and completed the very gruelling course coming 8th and 5th overall respectively; they may well be future Cross Country champions in years to come.

It is great to see our young runners going from strength to strength!



BDSSA Town Cross Country Championship

It was a fantastic, chilly winter day in December and for Westholme runners at the BDSSA Town Cross Country Championship at Witton Park, it turned out to be yet another successful event. The Year 7 and Year 8/9 girls finished as champions in the U12 and U14 girls' races and the U14 boys' team finished in 3rd place. Will Couch and Charlotte Corrigan in Year 9, Hollie Cubbon in Year 8, Lara Ingram-Weston and Kate Deegan, both in Year 7 all got podium positions. Amazingly 15 Westholme students were selected for the town team.

Extremely well done to our dedicated runners, we are very proud of you all!



Greeting Our Guests

We welcome many interesting visitors to school throughout the year so that they can share their knowledge and enrich the education of our students.

Author visits

This term we have opened our doors to some wonderful guest authors, hosted in partnership with our friends at Silverwood Events. We would like to thank them for arranging these unique opportunities.

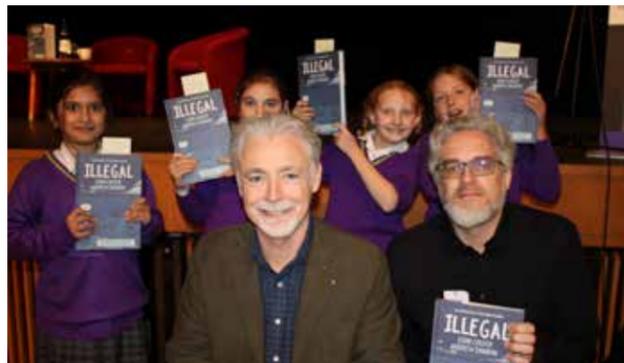
We were absolutely delighted to welcome children's author, Cressida Cowell, popularly known for the novel series, 'How to Train Your Dragon'. Cressida talked animatedly about her love for books and how her writing was inspired by her own childhood. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils watched in awe as she brought her characters to life through detailed description and illustration. Cressida then talked to the pupils about how they too could imagine their own story.

Everyone loved meeting her and hopefully it will inspire many of them to become writers!

It was a pleasure to welcome international bestselling children's author and former Irish Children's Laureate, Eoin Colfer to talk to students from Years 5-9. Eoin was joined by author, Andrew Donkin and illustrator, Giovanni Rigano as they celebrated the publication of their new graphic novel, 'Illegal'. Eoin Colfer is the writer of the bestselling, award-winning 'Artemis Fowl' series and has sold over 20 million books worldwide. The children had the opportunity to ask diverse and searching questions and the best questions won a sketch from illustrator Giovanni.

Children's author and illustrator, Debi Gliori visited Billinge House. Debi has written many picture books and novels including 'Goodnight World' and 'Dragon Loves Penguins'. She has been shortlisted for major prizes, including the Kate Greenaway Award twice and the Scottish Arts Council Award.

Cressida Cowell signed books for all the children, taking time to talk them individually.



The children enjoyed meeting Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin as they had their books signed.

The children enjoyed listening to her read her brand new book, 'All the Way Home'.

Debi talked about all the different characters in her book that lived in the Arctic and her love for penguins. The children had their pencils at the ready and enjoyed following Debi's instructions of how to illustrate their very own penguin!



Debi Gliori signed books for the children.



Other visitors



Team GB rower, Graeme Thomas, took time out of his busy training schedule to present assemblies at Junior School and Senior School and joined in PE lessons where he passed on his expertise to Westholme's sporting stars of the future.



Onatti Productions once again visited Year 9 and 10 Spanish students to present a terrifying tale full of twists and turns.



Michael Cain from Twentyone Digital Marketing Agency came to share his knowledge and expertise with our Year 10 students on the annual BIMA Digital day.



Lancashire Fire and Rescue visited Year 6 to refresh their knowledge about how to deal with fires in the home and also to talk about road safety.



Representatives from BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy visited Westholme to talk to Year 7 and 8 about careers in Science, Computing and Engineering.



Year 3 had a visit from the 'History Man' to learn more about Ancient Egypt and enjoyed exploring the topic through interactive investigations.



Rabia Majid



Molly Taylor

ART, DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

Through the Lens

Year 11, 12 and 13 students travelled to Liverpool to see the Roy Lichtenstein and John Piper exhibition at the Tate gallery. One of the most radical and influential artists of the 20th century, Lichtenstein is known for his iconic pop prints inspired by comic strips.

They learnt that Lichtenstein wanted to celebrate the things 'that are usable, forceful, and vital about commercial art'. He restricted his paint colours to imitate the four colours of printers' inks and devised his own dot screen method.

In the afternoon, students visited Liverpool One to take photographs of the unique architecture, taking inspiration from photographers Ted VanCleave and Kevin Saint Grey. The weather conditions were perfect for a photo shoot and will inform their practical work at GCSE and A Level.



Rosie Drake



Lauren Bradshaw



Sophie Dunbar



BUZZING about Books

Bookbuzz reading scheme

During English lessons in the LRC, Year 8 students have been participating in Bookbuzz; a scheme designed to inspire students to read. They were shown a DVD of 17 carefully selected authors talking about their books. Famous writers, such as RJ Palacio (author of 'Wonder') and Louis Sachar ('Holes' and 'Fuzzy Mud'), each explained their new publications enthusiastically in order to win the students' affections. Year 8 then heard from pupils in different schools who had already read the books and their reviews helped our students to make their final decisions.

Research shows that allowing students to choose their own reading material increases the likelihood that they will engage more with literature. Reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes.

Year 8 waited in anticipation until the huge box of brand new books arrived and each student received their chosen piece to read, take home and keep!



Students can now go to the Bookbuzz website to check out their brand new Student Zone which includes a great selection of author blogs, competitions, fun reading challenges and quizzes.

We are encouraging students to share their books by reading passages to parents and friends and to read ones that have been recommended by others.



“Bookbuzz stimulates an appetite for reading for pleasure that will last a lifetime.”



Lessons in Braille

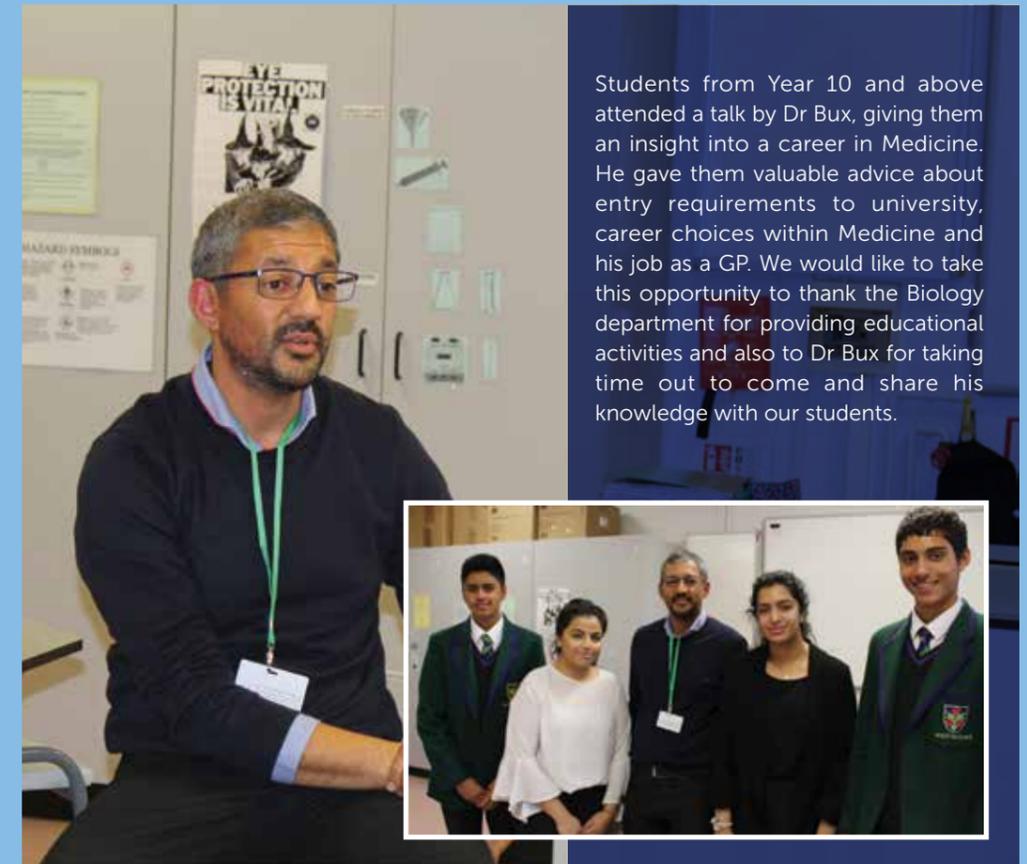
Year 1's topic for the Autumn Term was 'Ourselves'. They spent a week focusing on their sense of sight and carried out several activities to understand what it would be like if they could not see.

The boys and girls learnt about Louis Braille and how, following an accident at a young age which left him blind, he developed a system that would allow visually impaired people to read and write. The system, consisting of six raised dots in varying sequences, is known as Braille and is used worldwide.

Year 1 used the Braille alphabet in order to write their names. They put on a blindfold and tried to read a Braille book using their finger which they all said was very tricky. Moving their learning outside, the children worked in pairs to undertake a blindfolded obstacle course. They worked as a team, guiding each other around obstacles with the help of a white stick. Year 1 were also very interested in a variety of objects designed for blind people such as Braille dominoes and playing cards, a watch and an alarm clock.

At the end of the week the children appreciated how lucky they are being able to see; they all agreed that life without sight would be very challenging.





Students from Year 10 and above attended a talk by Dr Bux, giving them an insight into a career in Medicine. He gave them valuable advice about entry requirements to university, career choices within Medicine and his job as a GP. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Biology department for providing educational activities and also to Dr Bux for taking time out to come and share his knowledge with our students.

FOCUS ON BIOLOGY

THE SCIENCE OF LIFE

Students took part in a number of educational activities to celebrate Biology Week, organised by the Royal Society of Biology. This annual event is a celebration of biosciences and events take place across the UK.

Students had the opportunity to make a necklace containing their own DNA that they extracted from their cheek cells. This demonstrates that, although DNA is an extremely narrow molecule (2nm or 2 thousand millionth of a metre wide), we have a lot in each of our cells (in total, more than 1m in length) and we can extract enough for it to be visible!

A number of fun events were organised by the Biology department and enjoyed by many students. Monday's mini challenge asked about the winners of the 2017 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and their research on Circadian Rhythms. Saahil Ahmed and Anna Heeley, both in Year 10, gave the best responses to this challenge and proved they both understood the importance of the discovery and the implications to our health.



Year 1 learnt about their bodies and five senses and visited BMI Beardwood Hospital where Mrs Sheehan introduced them to radiographers and orthopaedic surgeons. They found out all about the scanners and even got to see images of inside a Halloween pumpkin. The children all listened with interest and amazed the staff with their questions and knowledge. Year 1 would like to thank Mrs Sheehan and all the staff for their warm welcome and time spent bringing the topic to life.



Junior Sport

Sporting spirit at Westholme is encouraged from a young age and the highlights from this term at Junior School show how much our pupils enjoy taking part in sport!



Cross Country

AJIS Cross Country Championships

The U10 and U11 girls' and boys' cross country teams enjoyed a day of great performances at Rossall School for the AJIS Cross Country Championships. It was a blustery Wednesday afternoon with over 20 teams in attendance, all ready to take on the gruelling course.

The first four U11 girls home finished in the top 20 and all of the U10 girls romped home in the top 55, with Eve Downham taking home a 3rd place medal.

The U10 and U11 boys also ran well with the standout performance coming from Jonathan Brindle who finished in 3rd place overall.

All runners gave their all and were a credit to Westholme. A special mention must go to Jack Ainscough, Willa Barnett, Jessica Melling and Munashe Nyabutsi who were all running a year young.



Football

Westholme took part in our annual 6-a-side Primary Schools' Football Tournament. Twelve teams took part in a bid to become the champions for 2017. All of the matches were very close and most were won by a single goal, but Westholme 'A' and Salesbury managed to top their groups and enter the cup final.

Both matches in the final were very close, but Salesbury and Broughton came out victorious on the night, with Westholme just losing out on a close penalty shoot out. All of the teams played amazingly and everyone had a brilliant tournament. Well done to everyone involved!



Netball

This year's U11 Pius Netball Tournament had an excellent field of teams from as far away as the Isle of Man, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. Westholme played some excellent matches and came 3rd overall in the competition, winning bronze medals. Well done to the whole squad!



Swimming

AJIS Swimming Championships 2017

The annual AJIS swimming gala was held at Darwen Leisure Centre with independent schools from across the North West travelling to compete. Westholme Juniors took along 21 boys and girls from Years 4, 5 and 6 for the event which saw teams competing in every discipline.

Every effort was put into each race and it was very pleasing to note that Westholme qualified for 17 finals, gaining four medals amongst some very tough competition.



Hockey

Westholme's U11 hockey team were on great form against Merchant Taylor's School in Crosby, demonstrating excellent communication skills on the pitch combined with accurate spacing. Well done to the team for achieving a phenomenal final score of 9 - 0 to Westholme.

Younger
1505-06 E. Smithurst
1506-07 J. Fielding
1507-08 A. Karyon
1508-09 L. Baker
1509-10 N. Chisley
1510-11 A. Pearson
1511-12 P. Nisha-Biswas
1512-13 C. Gardner

DEPU
OF
2017-18 O. Rickford /
H. Smith

Senior Sport

Netball

The U14 Westholme girls' netball team played in the semi final for the county round of the National Schools' Netball Tournament. The first match was won 7-5 to Westholme which put them into the finals.

Unfortunately, Isabella Fox-Tristram injured her ankle in the semi final and therefore was unable to play in the final meaning Tilly Daley had to step up to play goal defence (a position she does not normally play).

The girls played strongly and put a huge amount of pressure on the opposition by scoring three goals in the first half. However, the opposition managed to bring it back and the match finished with Westholme losing an extremely close 3-4. The girls came second and are automatically through to the regional round in February.

Well done all, let's keep it up for regionals.



Football

Boys' U16/U15 League

Westholme travelled to Pleckgate on a cold Tuesday evening. New to the squad was Will Lucas who played his first game for Westholme. Westholme started brightly with Thomas Perricone scoring an absolute blinder. This was followed by Max Chester with a lovely finish and Oliver Maughan getting the goal with thanks to his knee - a complete performance in the first half. The half time message was to attack and get more goals. Westholme peppered the Pleckgate goal, however could not find a fourth. Pleckgate got one back and with a nail biting ending, Westholme won the game and are now second on goal difference. If Westholme get a point from the last game that will mean the League is ours. A very big game to come against Blackburn Central!

Society of Heads Cup

For the first time ever, we competed in an Under 18 boys' football fixture, playing Rishworth in the Society of Heads Cup; a national cup competition with teams ranging as far as Hull and Portsmouth. Westholme managed to see the game out and won their first ever U18 game 2-1 to progress through to the second round of the cup.



Hockey

BDSSA U16 Tournament

The BDSSA U16 Girls' Hockey Tournament was held at Westholme. Five teams from the area took part in the eventful and fast paced matches. Unfortunately, Eloise Littlefair was injured in the first match after scoring the first goal within seven seconds of the start whistle and was unable to continue.

The 'A' team went on to win every match which means that they are the BDSSA champions for the 21st year in a row in this competition. Well done, girls!



Swimming



BDSSA Swimming Champions! U16/17/18 Boys

Last year Westholme boys made history when they were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Swimming Champions! This was a first for our Senior boys to be Town Champions. One year on and they have done it again, retaining the championship for the second year running.

This came as no surprise as they have worked extremely hard; training twice a week from September! They have been focusing on marginal gains, trying to find small improvements in their technique to improve their overall speed and boy did it pay off!

Seven schools entered the gala held at QEGS and Westholme had at least one swimmer in every final!

It was a great event and one our boys will always remember.



BDSSA Swimming Champions! U16/17/18 Girls

As usual the girls' BDSSA swimming championships is an exciting event for the swimming teams at Westholme. With six schools taking part, the atmosphere at QEGS was exciting and nerve racking! With the boys winning the previous week, the girls knew they needed to retain the record of town champions too. All the girls have been training hard for this event and the work paid off as they were crowned champions again. Well done to all the girls who swam and well done to girls who won their races; eleven first places, an amazing achievement!

Badminton

The Westholme badminton team played against QEGS as part of the Red Rose Badminton Tournament. The U16 girls' team won 6-1, playing exceptionally well as a team. Similarly, the U14 girls' team beat QEGS 5-2. They have now won both Red Rose matches (QEGS and Clitheroe) and therefore should be through to the next round in the coming year.





Students and staff at Senior School dressed up in sixties inspired clothes; the retro and hippie outfits brightened up the school and everyone contributed £1. At Nursery, Infant & Junior School, children accessorised their outfits with spots, dots and Pudsey ears! They raised a fantastic total of £1,674.

Giving Something Back

Students have been enthusiastic and have worked hard to raise awareness and money to help others in need. They have raised funds for many charities including International Aid Trust, Macmillan Cancer Support and Age UK.



The Nursery, Infants and Juniors celebrated red, white and blue day which is an event run by the UK's three Service Charities; ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. The children raised a total of £238.41 for the charity.



Junior School opened their doors to a group of ladies and gentleman from Age UK, Blackburn with Darwen. There was a welcoming atmosphere as they enjoyed sandwiches, a selection of cakes and tea and coffee. The Year 6 children were fantastic hosts and made everyone welcome by taking the time to talk to the Age UK group and sing traditional songs.



The Sixth Form leaders of the Amnesty International Human Rights Group set up a 'Write for Rights' stall outside the dining room. Students were invited to write a short note to an individual currently suffering from human rights abuse. Over 150 students and teachers showed their solidarity and wrote a card.



Students at Senior School have been busy filling shoeboxes for the International Aid Trust's Shoebox Appeal. 52 shoeboxes were contributed which is a huge achievement and it will make a considerable difference to many families.



The Westholme Association held a coffee morning at Billinge House in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The final amount raised was £738.57 - an amazing total!

WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre is always a wonderfully festive occasion when everyone really begins to feel that the Christmas Spirit has arrived at Westholme.

This year, Junior School hosted the fayre with a variety of attractions including the ever popular Lucky Dip and Tombola, together with Secret Santa bags and plenty of gift stalls - the ideal opportunity to purchase early Christmas presents for friends and family. For those with a sweet tooth there was a popcorn and candyfloss stall, mince pies and flapjacks - perfect with a cup of tea! The catering staff provided delicious hot beef and turkey sandwiches which parents enjoyed whilst waiting for the children to visit Father Christmas in his festive grotto.

Everyone then gathered in the assembly hall to see the raffle being drawn in the hope of winning one of the coveted hamper prizes, or the star prize Charlie the Chimp!

A huge thank you to the Westholme Association and everyone involved for their incredible efforts. The total raised was an amazing £2972!



The Westholme Association provide support through charitable events and year round fundraising. This money goes towards providing that something extra which benefits the students and enhances their educational experience at Westholme.

All of the money raised goes back into school and helps to provide some fantastic new facilities, events and equipment such as sewing machines, language books, sport awards trophies and visits by theatre companies. This would not be possible without the incredible work of the Westholme Association members and those who support their events.

THE QUIZ NIGHT

A good night was had by all at the annual Westholme Association Quiz Night hosted at Blackburn Rugby Club. There was a good turnout as 107 people attended and enjoyed a generous meat pie supper and 6 rounds of questions. The victorious team was "Gin telligence" (Gibson family) who took away a trophy, a bottle of champagne and chocolates, followed by "Aha I know it" (Charnock / Jones families) and third place went to "The Mitre Taverners" (Ward-Thompson family).

This event is always more social than fundraising but nevertheless £498 was raised from ticket sales and the raffle.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the evening!

Wonderful Worship

The cathedral was, once again, filled with the festive sounds of the Junior and Senior Carol Services.

This year it was the turn of the Junior School to begin the Westholme Christmas celebrations at the cathedral, led by The Very Reverend Philip North, Bishop of Burnley.

The service started with a melodious rendition of 'Let the Bells Ring', which set the scene for a festive celebration of eloquent readings, beautiful musical performances and uplifting vocals. Every single pupil sang, read or performed wonderfully and the cathedral was filled with the spirit of Christmas.

The Christmas spirit continued into the penultimate week of term when the entire community from Senior School headed to the cathedral for their Carol Service, led by Canon Andrew Horsfall, Canon Pastor. The evening provided an opportunity for everybody present to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The traditional carols, such as 'Joy to the World' and 'O Holy Night' were beautifully performed by the choristers and the readers respectfully delivered the poignant lessons to the congregation.

The carols and readings were interspersed with fabulous musical pieces, including performances from the Harp Ensemble, Flute Choir and String Orchestra. By the time the celebration drew to a close with the rousing 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', everybody was feeling considerably festive and left to go and spread Christmas joy!



A Christmas Tale...

The children from Nursery, Pre School and Infants have been working hard performing their Nativities and have enjoyed singing festive songs in the run up to Christmas.

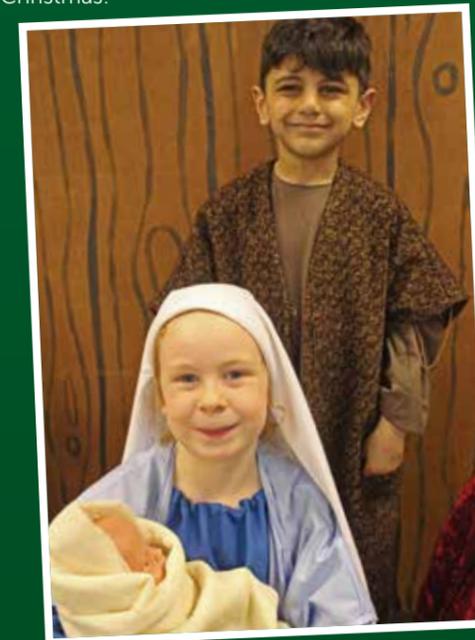
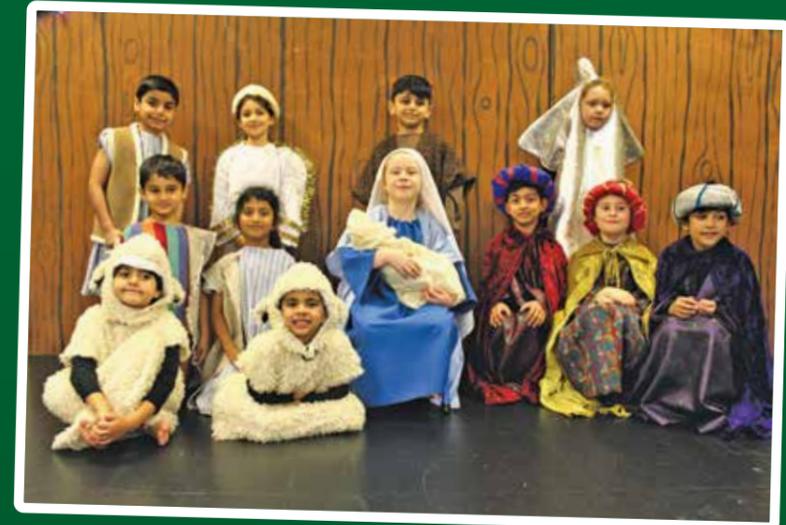
'Follow the Star'

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 captivated the audience when they performed 'Follow the Star' in the Croston Theatre.

The story began at the palace of the three kings when they and their many helpers spotted the much awaited star outside. Once they had woken up the grumpy camels, they all departed without delay in one big procession to follow the star. The little stars that surrounded the big star decided they did not want to be left out so they followed the big star too.

On the hills near Bethlehem, some shepherds saw the procession in the distance. They also noticed the star and after a message from an angel, they left their sheep and travelled to Bethlehem before the kings reached the hills. Desperate not to miss out, the sheep joined the procession when it reached the hills. They watched as the star came to rest above the stable in Bethlehem. Everyone gathered at the stable to meet with Mary, Joseph and the new born baby.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed beautifully and should be very proud of their contribution to Christmas!



'Happy Birthday Jesus'

This year we have seen the inaugural performance of the Nursery and Pre School Christmas production of the Nativity story with a little extra sparkle of Christmas songs by our very own Shining Stars!

Our Rising Stars and Superstars took part in a simple retelling of the Nativity, aptly titled, 'Happy Birthday Jesus!' The children sang beautifully, using sign language and percussion to enhance the songs.

Children from Superstars helped to narrate the story, taking the audience to Bethlehem, along with the angels, shepherds and wise men to meet the very special Baby Jesus.

The performance finished with our youngest children joining in the celebration and singing some well known Christmas songs dressed as a variety of Christmas characters from Christmas puddings to twinkling stars!

The whole performance was a treat to behold and a wonderful addition to Westholme's Christmas celebrations.

DRAMA SHOWCASE

For one night only... Westholme students perform in the Drama Showcase!

This event is a real celebration of the talent we have here at Westholme and showcases the skills of our students from the emerging stars of Year 7 to the accomplished actors in Year 11 and Sixth Form.

This year's Drama Showcase was a fantastic, fun-filled evening with a variety of theatrical offerings. Year 7 students delighted the audience with their charming ABC scripts. Year 8 students offered a variety of styles from thematic devised work to exciting duologues, culminating in the energetic 'Bugsy Malone'. Year 9 students presented a diverse range of Musical Theatre scenes: 'School of Rock', 'Mamma Mia', 'Annie' and 'Grease'. At the heart of the Showcase were scenes from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', performed by Sixth Form Drama pupils from the recent Shakespeare Schools' Festival. The evening also featured some impressive dances that punctuated perfectly a very dramatic evening.

All students shone in their roles and delighted the packed audience of family and friends, once again upholding the reputation of the Croston Theatre as a venue for spectacular drama and entertainment.

Events like this rely on the dedication of both staff and students, including experienced helpers back-stage, the lighting and sound team, directors, producers, the Performing Arts Club – thank you to all those involved in putting on a show, you are the stars too!



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

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

Autumn Term 2018

Wednesday 5th September - Tuesday 18th December

(Please note Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day is on Tuesday 4th September)

Half Term - Monday 22nd October - Friday 2nd November (inclusive)



**WESTHOLME
SCHOOL**