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THE PURPLE PATCH

THE NEWSLETTER FOR
FORMER PUPILS & STAFF



SUMMER 2017 EDITION

P Introduction

The summer break has come around again and as I write this, there is not a single child around. Whilst the background staff are industrious and purposeful in the holiday periods, we all agree that Westholme feels soulless without our most vital ingredient – the children. Each year a whole new set of faces, uniforms, talents, hopes and expectations passes through the Westholme doors; each individual entirely unique. But that unique individuality is nurtured and shaped by belonging to a greater whole, the whole that is the Westholme family. Pupils, parents and staff, past and present, all refer to the Westholme ‘family’ and it is a true representation of how our community operates. We care for each other, look out for each other. We don’t always agree but we have a deep sense of responsibility to each other. And that is a continuum – whether you left a year ago or 50 years ago, you will always be a Westholmer.

Enjoy the Purple Patch. Your Purple Patch.

Viv Davenport (1990)

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News, News, News

Anne Reinert (née Ball, 1954)

We were delighted to be visited by former pupil, **Anne Reinert (née Ball)**, who travelled all the way from Canada, and her brother, Bob Ball, who was also an Old Boy. They enjoyed a tour of the school before looking through the old school register to find their names and those of former friends and pupils. We also managed to find a class photograph in the archives with Anne in it and have since been able to send her a copy to keep as a memento.



Karen Tilden (née Macdonald, 1962)

Karen left Westholme and went on to Miss Wilkinson’s Secretarial School, Manchester, for secretarial and business qualifications, before becoming personal secretary to the Managing Director of Cupal, Blackburn. Karen then moved on to be a shorthand writer in Wigan County Court before relocating to Nairobi, Kenya where she taught in various schools including the main secretarial school in Nairobi. She then returned to the UK and with her husband and ran an 18-bedroom hotel near Cheddar, Somerset. They relocated again to Hayling Island and there, being Jacks of all trades, got involved in various sectors including community care and work with dementia patients in a local retirement home, as well as doing secretarial work for her husband’s business before finally deciding to retire!

Cheryl Sandford (1969)

We were delighted to welcome former student, **Cheryl Sandford**, from

Blackburn with Darwen Council, to the Junior School to promote healthy travel and to provide ideas for the children about keeping safe when travelling to and from school.

Cheryl talked about how they can travel to school to help the environment through car sharing, walking, cycling, using public transport or through the ‘Park and Stride’ initiative. In addition, through an informative question and answer session, parents’ driving habits, especially parking around school, were also discussed.

We look forward to welcoming Cheryl back to school in the not too distant future and for her to continue sharing her extensive knowledge about road safety with the Westholme family.



Gwyneth Wilde (née Fairless, 1969)

Thank you to Gwyneth for this light-hearted update and we think many would agree that they still feel as young as when they were at school!

“Probably everyone still feels 25 even if they are really 64 or 65, which will be the case with all the girls I was at Westholme with. I have kept in touch with quite a few people from my year. We were in school at a time when there were no computers or mobiles and you would have probably been secured in a ‘safe’ place had you suggested that this would be a way of communicating within a very short time.



P I went into teaching and then the world of care. I think my midlife crisis was probably when I started an art degree in 2001. I had always fancied doing art when I left school but in my day, art was not exactly the 'preferred' subject of academia."

Philippa Gascoigne (1978)



Pippa contacted us for the first time since leaving to let us know how she was doing. She was Head Girl in Sixth Form and her name appears on our new honours boards in the dining hall. Pippa has spent most of her adult life in London, working in social care with people with disabilities. She currently works for an organisation called Choice Support and meets other groups from all around the country working with people with disabilities.

Melanie Yates (1979)

Melanie finished at Westholme in 1979. She was House Captain of Pendle in her final year.

After being accepted at St Andrews to study Geography, she changed her mind and did a secretarial course at Blackburn Tech whilst deciding what to do. She then studied the first three years of a dental degree at Sheffield University before deciding to head to Australia on a motorbike adventure! Melanie picked up her studies and graduated from Melbourne University in 1988 with a BSc. She worked in practice and the

dental school for 18 months before returning to the UK in 1990. She joined a local Sheffield practice as an associate until setting up her own practice single-handedly in mid Wales in 1993. Since then she has enjoyed an interesting and flexible career and now is working as Lead Dentist for Oasis Dental Care in Kendal, Cumbria where they run one of the government's NHS pilot sites. She enjoys working for a large corporate company as it takes the headache out of running your own business and allows her to concentrate on her job and help with the development of members of the dental team and also mentoring new graduates. Melanie is also on the clinical care board for the group, helping oversee clinical governance within all the practices. One of her interests is working with Bridge2Aid, a charity which helps train healthcare workers in east Africa to provide safe emergency dental care.

Kay Leech (née Downham, 1984)

Since leaving Westholme in 1984, Kay has worked for BT in various guises. She is currently working as a Senior Sales Operations Manager.

She is married with a daughter, Harriet, who is at Beardwood Bank, three grown up step-daughters and one grandson, aged 2 1/2. Kay's time is spent working and also volunteering for www.tofs.org.uk. Harriet was born with Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula which affects 1 in 3,500 births. She is the local contact in the North West and spends her time supporting new parents and helping to raise awareness.

Sarah Morgan (née Keegan, 1985)

"What a brilliant year! Shortly after the Purple Patch went to print last year, on June 25, I was approached by actor

and playwright, Jim Cartwright, to be represented by his new professional acting agency Cartwright-Higgins Management. This was it! My life-long dream since leaving Westholme (where I'd had my first taste of the stage in the musical comedy role as Ado Annie in Oklahoma) was happening. A new parallel career is emerging...

In June 2016, I travelled down to London to watch my fellow alumna*, **Professor Sophie Scott**, film for the BBC2 Horizon documentary 'The Science of Laughter' – one of her many expert subjects from her work at University College London. The programme was hosted by TV comedian Jimmy Carr, to whom I was delighted to be introduced (by Sophie) in the green room after the show. Like Sophie, he is the consummate professional and I relished the opportunity of meeting such an A-list comedy star. There he was, interviewing my friend, and my companion during the wonderful Latin lessons delivered by the legendary Mrs Meadowcroft (*where we learned the feminine singular of 'alumna'). The show was broadcast in September 2016.

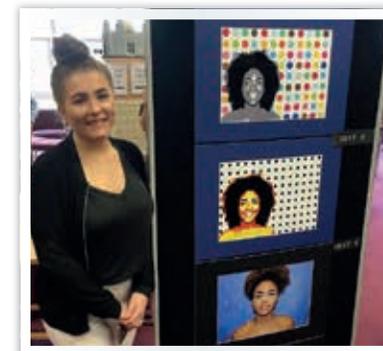


Meeting Jimmy Carr



Sophie and Sarah in the green room

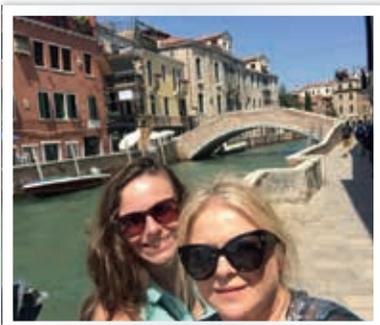
Later that month, my daughter Amelia had her final A Level photography exhibition in the library at school. I had enjoyed the seven years of being reconnected with Westholme and many old and new friends there.



Amelia and art exhibition

In early July, I went with my son, George, to Venice where we were able to meet up with my sister and Old Girl (she's not that old), **Bethany Keegan**, who was completing the second half of her year abroad at the University of Padua. She graduates this summer from the University of Liverpool in Modern Languages, having studied French, Spanish and Italian. She had studied French and Spanish at A Level, and was completely new to Italian. She will be the first to say Italian is now her best language, and it was amazing to hear her switch so easily between English and Italian during our stay. In September, she

P moves to Modena (cue lots of requests for quality balsamic vinegar) teaching English to Italian business people.



Bethany and Sarah, Venice

After the summer, both work and performing and a whole series of birthday celebrations began. On October 6, I performed a self-written monologue at the Palace Theatre, Manchester under the direction of Jim Cartwright.



Sarah and Jim Cartwright

Following the show, I went for a very enjoyable afternoon tea with **Helen Wharton (née McNulty)** and the birthday girl, **Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles)**.



Helen, Sarah and Sarah



Not wanting the day to end, I then went to see an actress friend performing at The Lowry Theatre, Salford, in 'Be My Baby' with Ruth Madoc. It was wonderful to meet her in person having been brought up with the TV show Hi-de-Hi!

A European lecture tour (optometry-related) followed where I was presenting on consecutive days in Utrecht, Netherlands, Stockholm, Sweden, Oslo, Norway, and Helsinki, Finland. In Oslo, they had hired a stage piano, so I ended my presentation playing and singing 'The Presbyopia Song' - a new 'lounge' version! The audience all worked in optometry, so a song about 'vision changes after age 40' was the theme.

On October 20, Beardwood Hospital unveiled the new photographs on display from the A Level photography students (including work by my daughter). Leading the tour was Old Girl **Elizabeth Barker (née Thompson)** who is the imaging and cardiology manager at the hospital.



November was a really exciting month. I was invited to lecture in Helsinki, Finland, once more and had the opportunity of presenting alongside former 2007 Eurovision Presenter, Mikko Leppilampi (I had to Google him, as it were).



I have been a regular guest on the John Gilmore show on BBC Radio Lancashire following the successful event hosted by Westholme in the Croston Theatre, where John interviewed comedian and author, David Baddiel. Our on air discussions cover questions about eyes and vision (the day job - as John says) and he is enthusiastically following my foray into my 'by night' activities in stand-up comedy. He was interviewing the comedy legend, Jimmy Cricket, and John asked Jimmy to give me his top tips. During our discussions, I mentioned how fantastic it would be to perform on stage at the Opera House in Blackpool. Make a note!



BBC Radio Lancashire: Sarah, John Gilmore, Jimmy Cricket

During the latter part of 2016, I made a conscious effort to perform in as many open mic comedy nights as was possible. On December 5, I won 'Beat The Frog' which is a gong show comedy competition night held at the Frog and Bucket Comedy Club in Manchester. Winning this opens up the opportunity to perform and open the show which I did in February.

John Gilmore hosts a Christmas show broadcast live from the studio theatre in Blackburn. He invited me to perform during the show, and I sang 'I Love Me Pies'. This was later picked up by the local press in my home town of Wigan and they ran a feature on the song.



BBC Radio Lancashire Christmas live broadcast with John Gilmore

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In January, John Gilmore returned to the Croston Theatre to interview Ruby Wax, and meeting Ruby was an opportunity was too good to miss.



Blackburn Rugby Club was the venue for a memorable party to celebrate **Helen Wharton's** birthday (*née McNulty*). Many friends travelled to be there and it was great to be together in the town where we had all enjoyed such happy school memories.

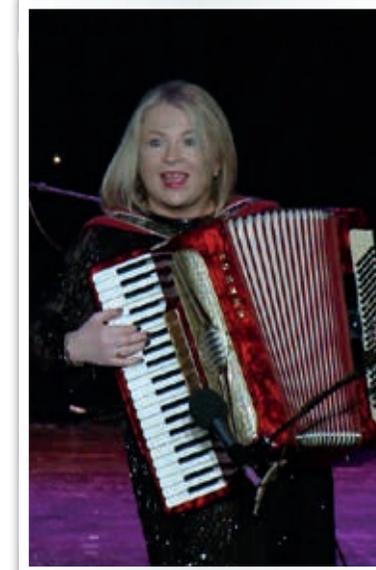
The comedy work continued, with various corporate after dinner performances as well as the open mic circuit. On March 2, John Gilmore invited me to the studio to launch his event for Comic Relief. He had told me we would be doing a show in the studio theatre in Blackburn, similar to the Christmas event. Whilst we were live on air, John received a perfectly timed and planned phone call from Anthony Williams, the marketing manager from the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Anthony explained that the Opera House theatre was being made available for Gilly's Comedy Gala in aid of Comic Relief and they would like me to headline the event! It's a rare thing, but I was speechless.



Photo: Left to right: Louise Southern (*née Saul*), Nicola Dolderson (*née Bradshaw*), Sarah Atherton, Ros Kruger (*née Grey*), Sarah Morgan (*née Keegan*), Sarah Wilkes (*née Knowles*), Beccy Jepson, and centre front the birthday girl herself, Helen Wharton (*née McNulty*).

The event on March 24 was a fantastic day, with behind the scenes tours of the theatre (seeing the 'Frank Sinatra mechanism' was a personal highlight - this was a special stage effect custom-built for Frank Sinatra, so when on stage, he could press a button with his foot and his microphone would emerge upwards from the stage floor). My performance was at the end of the show. I was introduced by Jimmy Cricket, with an audience of around 600 people in the theatre, and simultaneously broadcast by BBC Radio Lancashire live on air. Quite

an experience! As would be expected from my fellow alumnae, I played the piano accordion as well as singing, 'I Love Me Pies' and throwing the pies out to the audience, as per usual. I threw one to **Helen Wharton** (*née McNulty*), because I knew I could rely on her competitive sporting prowess!



Perhaps there is a little bit of luck involved in the exciting world of entertainment, but the old adage 'the harder you work, the luckier you get' no doubt applies. I shall continue to work hard and prepare for future opportunities! (www.spotlight.com/interactive/cv/9495-1205-9013)"

Helen Wharton (*née McNulty*, 1985)

For the leavers of '85 (6th Form) or '83 (5th year), this year has seen us turn the marvellous age of 50! Personally I am loving it as not only am I celebrating with style but it is the perfect excuse to meet up with my school friends...



So it started early in July, **Nicola Dolderson** (*née Bradshaw*) celebrated in denim and it was great to catch up with **Claire Taylor** and **Louise Birtwell**. (Photo 1) Onto October when **Sarah Wilkes** (*née Knowles*) and I donned our purple blazers for an afternoon tea at The Panoramic, Liverpool (Photo 2).



P

In December, I travelled to Marlow to party 80's style for **Ros Kruger's (née Gray)** big 5 0 and danced the night away with **Andra Spiteri (née Varnom)**, **Ros Patricia Durant (née Jones)**, **Maeve Rees-Jones (née O'Reilly)** and **Fiona Jefferson (née Watson)**.



In January it was my turn to celebrate with a few fellow Westholmers **Louise Southern (née Saul)**, **Nicola Bradshaw (née Dolderson)**, **Sarah Atherton**, **Ros Kruger (née Gray)**, **Sarah Morgan (née Keegan)**, **Sarah Wilkes (née Knowles)** and **Beccy Jepson**.



It was lovely to have a February weekend in London with the company of **Beccy Jepson** and **Jane Roberts**, Jane I have not seen for 32 years!



She now lives in London working for a medical company after having spent 10 years in Paris. Her sister, Claire, lives round the corner and we reminisced about our sporting days and antics at Meins Rd.



I regularly meet up with 6 Westholmians and as we chat about our present lives, work and children, we always touch on our school days mostly with fondness! (Photo 6). Me, **Nicola Dolderson**, **Louise Southern**, **Sarah Wilkes**, **Nicola Fielden** and **Sarah Morgan**.



Jane Porter / Dr Jane Holden (1985)

After leaving school in 1985, Jane qualified as a dentist at Leeds in 1990 and currently, and for the last 5 years, she is working as a hospital dentist in the Special Care Dental Units both at Royal Preston and Chorley District Hospitals. Jane previously worked in General Practice for 13 years, followed by community-based dentistry for 8 years.

Sarah Marie Place (née Consiglio, 1987)

We received a lovely letter from Sarah letting us know about her new business, The Costume Cupboard, which provides costumes for musicals and shows in both primary and secondary schools, as well as drama schools.

Jessica Curry (1991)



"It's been another exciting year. I've just recorded the new score for our new computer game for Google Daydream- it's called So Let Us Melt and our voice actress on the project was fellow Lancastrian, Siobhan Finneran, of Downton Abbey, Happy Valley and Benidorm fame. The orchestra and choir were simply incredible and I was thrilled to have Dave Arch, MD of the Strictly Come Dancing band as my pianist for the sessions! I have also started

as a ClassicFM presenter, on a new show called High Score. It was a steep learning curve as I'd never presented before but I'm loving it and the show is planned to return in the autumn. I thought of Mrs Gibson when I worked with the Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, last year - it was a career highlight for me to set music to words that she'd written especially for me. She is an incredible woman and an inspiration. We're still loving being in Brighton. Oscar is about to turn 14 - he's a lovely lad and is in a band of his own- he plays drums, guitar and sings and it's lovely that he is as into music as I am.

Very best to everyone xx"



Helen Griffin (née Timms, 1991)

Helen left Westholme in 1999. She is currently on maternity leave. Helen and her husband, Troy, had a little boy called Hector and for the Classics and Latin buffs - that should make sense to you as to why they called him that!

Helen still works in HR for a 5* hotel, pub and golf resort in the Cotswolds.

P **Amanda Ames (1994)**

After leaving Westholme Amanda went to UCLan and got her degree in International Business, graduating in 1997. She started at Next plc in July 1997 as a trainee merchandiser on men's tailoring not knowing what that role really was! She is still there today and has progressed through the company and is now a merchandise manager on menswear. It is her 20 year anniversary this year so she must enjoy it. Amanda lives in Leicestershire with her husband – also a merchandise manager at Next (on ladieswear) and their two beloved greyhounds, Ray and Edie. They get over to a holiday retreat in North Norfolk with the dogs as much as possible to enjoy the fabulous food and beaches that there are in that beautiful part of the world. Amanda believes her time at Westholme played a huge part in where she is today, and holds many lovely memories of the place.

**Angela Clutton
(née Edwards, 1994)**

“I left Westholme in 1994 to go to Edinburgh University where my love of drama (which had been well-nurtured by Westholme's English department) continued. After graduation I moved to London to build a career as West End theatre producer and general

manager. Over the next dozen or so years I worked for Bill Kenwright Ltd, the National Theatre, Trestle Theatre and Ambassador Theatre Group, managing numerous plays, musicals and dance productions in London, across the UK and on international tour; and was also Director of the Theatre Royal Windsor.

A career change followed and I have been working as a freelance food writer and food historian for the last 4 years. I've written on food and drink for publications including The Daily Telegraph, The Independent and Country Life; I have a regular column for Borough Market in London, and have been featured on Channel 4's Sunday Brunch. I am a recipe writer and demonstration cook at Borough Market (where I also run the hugely popular Borough Market Cookbook Club); and am the Vice-Chair of The Guild of Food Writers.

I live in London and while I have no reason to get back to Blackburn or Lancashire much these days, I am pleased to report that as I get older my Lancastrian accent seems to get more pronounced.”



Angela Clutton
Freelance food writer & food historian
Vice-Chair of The Guild of Food Writers

**Zarrine Dye
(née Ghiassi, 1994)**

“Life as a mum and serial volunteer continues for me in St Albans. The kids are now 7 and 10 and luckily are happy

and healthy if a little challenging at times... I've recently set up a small local charity. We are a group of residents fundraising to overhaul and completely replace the play area in St Albans main park. We have a rather intimidating target of £250,000 to raise but we are determined to make a success of it. I'm learning lots and have met some wonderful people in my adopted home town. I'm also channelling my inner Mrs Jepson in a role as events coordinator for my kids' swimming club. The other main things keeping me out of mischief are a couple of shifts a week at the national parenting charity, Family Lives. You deal with some terribly sad cases on their helpline and learn first-hand how sadly many families face grave difficulties day in day out.

I met up with my darling West-homies late last year. **Jenny Edgar (née Brindle)**, **Katy Osbaldeston** (recently engaged), **Mariam Zaman** (a newly qualified nurse) and I enjoyed Prosecco and other such fun in Stratford upon Avon.

Fondest memories of the Purple Patch.”

**Angela Kay
(née Whelan, 1994)**

“I went to Westholme from 1989-1994 and I have to say my memories of those days are amazing. I loved every moment. I didn't attend the 6th Form as I knew exactly what career path I wanted to take. I attended Abraham Moss College and Lillian Maund Beauty School and qualified in beauty therapy and semi-permanent make-up. My dream when I was younger was to see my name above my own salon (I think this was quite common in those days to name it after yourself!) I opened Angela Kay's Beauty Salon in Accrington in 1998 (age 21) and it has grown from strength to strength. I also specialise in the fantastic new procedure Microblading, I have a separate business

'AKBROWS', and as well as carrying out this treatment in my own salon, I travel to various other salons in the north west as far as Yorkshire.”

**Ann Brennan
(née Warland, 1995)**

Ann was very organised and sent her update to us last summer!



“Life rumbles on in a state of chaos. Martha is now 8 (a “mini me” who loves ballet, plays the piano, a complete freak about order, geek at school and excessively bossy with her brothers and parents), Paddy (angelic, animal loving, gentle) is almost 7 and Dom (the Duracell-bunny thug) is 5. “Life is a crazy balance of family, work and running. I've been at GE as a tax director

P (now in their Oil & Gas business) for over 10 years. It's a great place to work... no day is the same. I've recently had to become an expert in Iranian taxes, which was never even a thought in my mind, or any sort of career objective, 6 months ago.



"I've become fairly obsessive about running over the last few years. I think it is all part of my mid-life crisis (or perhaps it is just a way to keep sane between work and the kids). I'm running Chester Marathon next month, which will be my first marathon since 2001. I've also done several half marathons over the last 3 years, 10k races, a 12 hour quadrathlon in the Scottish highlands (swim, hike/run/kayak and cycle), a tough mudder, etc..."

Mrs Jepson (and in fact probably the entire PE department) would be in shock! I couldn't even swim a width of the school pool when I was 11 and yet I swam across a Loch in July! But, don't worry... I haven't changed that much. There is still no chance of me turning up for the Alumni Hockey Match! Perhaps I could be persuaded by Alumni cross-country...

"It seems that I am not alone in hitting 40, with a running obsession! I keep in touch with **Barts** (Claire Barton, now Stokes), **Charlotte Ward** (now Maclean-Bristol) and **Grace Bond** (now Stamper) mainly via running/triathlon updates! I'm having no impact on my big sister though... **Lou** still sticks to pilates and wine... and she thinks I am bonkers!

"As for the rest of the girls, I still see **Katie Hoyle** (Hardy), **Kate Dewhurst** (Konn) and **Charlotte Whitman** (Lamb) regularly. I am completely devoted to my "Blackburn girls". Katie lives round the corner from us in London and has boys (Toby and Henry) the same age as our "angel" and our "thug"! We are currently planning for a girls-only 40th birthday adventure (loosely based on the films Sex & The City 2 and The Hangover). Current options include Las Vegas or Ibiza.

"I also still see **Miranda Aiken** (Hughes), and her beautiful twins, **Barts** and **Charlotte Maclean-Bristol** (née Ward) although times just flies by and it is worrying to realise that you haven't seen good friends for almost a year. I am usually overly focussed on trying to survive another week of chaos, without forgetting a child or missing a big issue at work.



"I've attached a selection of photos. Perhaps the best one is the one of me, **Katie**, **Kate** and **Charlotte** at a Star Wars themed party a couple of years ago. I'll also ask **Charlotte M-B/Ward** to send you some photos of **Barts**' hen do last November. The first night involved dressing up in old school uniform. It was hilarious to see that **Charlotte M-B/Ward** and **Barts** were still comparing the number of sports badges that they had on their tracksuits. I decided to stay out of that competition and stick to a more dignified school tie and blazer combination! We

also all wore Westholme swim hats (well, crazy purple swim hats) for the pool games the next day. Don't worry... we made sure that "Team Westholme" beat the Clitheroe Grammar girls.

So...I'll sign off now. Please send Mr Millett a big hello from me (I would say "a kiss from me", but I don't want to make him blush!)"

Claire Allison
(née Forrest, 1997)

Congratulations to the Forrest family on the birth of two new siblings for older brother, Finlay.



Lee Campbell
(née Jepson, 1997)

"I'm currently on maternity leave after the arrival of our daughter, Katie, last September. She's an absolute joy and is growing up (too quickly!) into a lovely little girl. I'm due to go back to work part-time in September so I intend to make the most of our summer together, including our first holiday as a family. We're going

to Greece and Katie can't wait to go in the sea - she loves baths and swimming lessons AND was born in the water too! I still look back in my time at Westholme with fondness and I hope that Katie enjoys her school days as much as I did."



Vanessa Robinson-Hoy
(née Robinson, 1998)

Congratulation to Vanessa and her husband on the birth of Jensen Alexander Robinson-Hoy born 3rd May 2017!

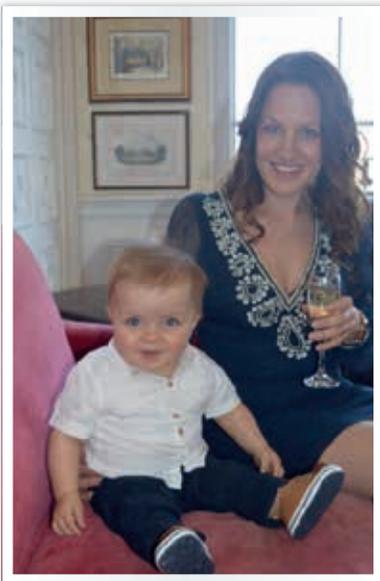


Donna Amos
(née Mullins, 1999)

Donna wrote in to say she had a baby boy in May 2016, called Sebastian and sent a lovely photo. He is the younger brother to her daughter, Neve, who is 4



P and starts primary school in September. She works at Forbes Solicitors, as a Family Solicitor, and lives in Wrea Green with her husband, Gavin.



Elisabeth Devey (1999)



Elisabeth visited the school to talk about the HeadSmart Campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of brain tumours in children and teenagers. She set up the campaign in memory of another former pupil and friend, **Natalie Wilson (1999)**, who died from the condition in April 2016. Elisabeth challenged the students and staff to donate 10 pence and in return they each received a HeadSmart

symptoms card. Thank you to Elisabeth who has worked so hard to bring the HeadSmart campaign to the attention of our school as well as so many others.

You can read more about this campaign on our website <http://www.westholmeschool.com/news-blog-layout/5993-headsmart-charity.html>

Katy Parkinson (2000)



Katy sent this letter to Mrs Davenport after meeting at the Hive Awards this year:

“Hi Viv,
Great to catch up with you at The Hive Awards on Wednesday night and thank you to you and your fellow judges for recognising our achievements and choosing us as winners. The award really does mean a lot to us all.

I also wanted to thank you for your kind words. If I am honest I have never really thought of myself as a success story as, having been privileged to have had the education I had, I have taken a somewhat convoluted and difficult route to get to this point and missed out on the many fantastic career opportunities my peers seem to have had as I had my children

at a (relatively) young age. However, the opportunity Naphthens have given me, including being involved in this awards process, has given me a confidence boost in that regard; I am a local girl who is proud of my roots and all my efforts are starting to feel worthwhile and like they are beginning to pay off at last!

I hope to see you at future events, and if you have any aspiring lawyers/professionals that we can help along their career path in any way, or if there is anything else we can do to assist careers-wise, please let myself or Oliver know.

Hope you have a lovely weekend – yesterday felt like a very long day after such a late night on Wednesday, and I spent half of today in the hospital with my daughter as I thought she had broken her arm (thankfully not!) so I am certainly glad it is Friday!!

Kind regards and thank you again,
Katy”

Claire Sutlieff-Lambert (2001)

Claire is a former pupil who has been Head of Music in schools in Bangkok and Hong Kong is back home this summer visiting family (Richard Sutlieff is her father) before taking over as Head of Music in a school in Singapore in September.

Jessica Cunningham (2001)

‘I’m in it to win it!’



Former Westholme School pupil, Jessica Cunningham, was one of the many hopefuls hoping to impress the business tycoon and wins his investment on the last series of The Apprentice.



Leanne Hurst (née Smith, 2003)



Leanne Hurst has just come back from LA, California after finishing 3rd in the World Natural Bodybuilding Federation. This is Leanne’s first year of competing, and she has pretty much wiped the board: UKDFBA Scottish Figure Champion 2016 UKDFBA UK Figure Champion 2016 INBF Figure Champion 2016 Pure Elite Pro Figure North West Champion INFB World Championship 3rd place Not bad for a first year!

P Karina Jadhav (2004)

Former student, Katrina is taking the business world by storm... Katrina was also interviewed by Live Ribble Valley last September



THE THEATRE OF GOOD TASTE...

Jan Woolley talks to Ribble Valley born Karina Jadhav, who is about to open a stunning new city centre restaurant in Manchester

Renowned restaurateur Karina Jadhav will soon see her dream come true when she opens a new £1.5m restaurant, Menagerie, on the ground floor of One New Bailey across the river from Spinningfields in Manchester.

For Jadhav, who was born and educated in the Ribble Valley, the new restaurant will be her fourth – she was the co-founder and creator of the city's Southern Eleven, Victors Hale and the hugely successful Neighbourhood.

With 200 covers and creating 50 new jobs, Menagerie will first and foremost be a spectacular dining experience serving a spectacular American cuisine: "I decided to do something different that doesn't already exist in Manchester," explains Jadhav, who embarked on a lengthy research trip to the US.

"I very much wanted to move things forward. This industry is all I know as I have learnt purely by experience. The research trip to America enabled me to re-set myself."

Visiting New York and Miami, she gleaned much information about what was happening on the US dining scene: "I ate a lot of food! I got lots of inspiration from Miami where there is much more of a European influence. It is very much about shared dining and a certain level of theatre – it is all about the experience."

During her trip Jadhav encountered lobster nuggets served from a giant popcorn

machine, but gimmicks aside, she enjoyed what she describes as, delicious food that is plated to look stunningly beautiful. "For me it is all about the ingredients," says Jadhav, who returned to the UK full of ideas and inspiration as to how she would develop and evolve her new restaurant.

In October last year the Menagerie project began in earnest and with the restaurant set to open on 12th August, it has been a fast-moving development with Jadhav at the helm.

“THERE WILL BE A STRONG ELEMENT OF THEATRE FROM THE WAY WE SERVE THE FOOD TO THE PERFORMERS”

She reveals that the interior will be luxurious given the vast 6,000 sq ft space: "It has been a real bonus to have that much space and to work on a blank canvas as it is a new building next to Spinningfield overlooking the river.

"It is going to reflect the Miami influence, there will be lots of white and neutrals with touches of teal and emerald green.

It will be very beautiful but most of all Menagerie is about the theatre of the whole dining experience," says Jadhav, who has designed the restaurant to represent a giant stage. There will be a balcony for performers, a catwalk and a stunning 'happy hour chandelier' from which aerial performers pour champagne for the guests below.

"The meaning of Menagerie is a collection

of the exotic and that is exactly what the new restaurant will represent.

"I am a massive fan of creating an environment with which guests can emotionally bond, through lighting, scents and experiences.

"There will be a strong element of theatre from the way we serve the food to the performers," adds Jadhav, who reveals that ballet and opera will form an element of the entertainment at the launch party on 11th August.

"It will be ballet and opera but not as we know it! I think we can expect some Rihanna re-mixes."

With renowned chef Yalcim Ibrahim Ali, Jadhav has created a menu that is both innovative and inspirational. Diners can expect Oysters Ménage à Trois and Lobster Dogs (a lobster take on hot dogs). "We also had to have the lobster nuggets, they are so delicious!"

She has also brought on board innovative bar consultant and mixologist Carlo Graziani of Carlitos in Clitheroe.

"We have some amazing ideas for cocktails and how they will be served. Let's just say we are speaking with a magician for further inspiration and creativity."

In addition to the 200 covers there will also be an additional 50 covers on an outdoor terrace overlooking the river and Jadhav is also creating Menagerie at Home, an outside events catering operation, that will be up and running as soon as the restaurant opens.

"It will be the Menagerie experience – all about theatre at outside locations. With all the restaurants I have been involved with, I have always been asked if we will cover events at other venues – and I don't like saying no." ■

Follow Menagerie on their twitter page @MenagerieMCR



Elly Reynolds (2006)

"I attended Westholme from 2002-2006 after my parents relocated our family from Australia for work commitments. It was a huge cultural change moving from Sydney, the accent and terminology alone presented many a challenging and funny moment. I still remember my first PE lesson was with Mrs Whittaker, she was so energetic and full of life! Since leaving Westholme, I have caught up with Mrs Whittaker when she visited Sydney, where we shared many fond memories. I am currently living in Sydney, Australia. Presently I am a teacher and Head of Department for Personal Development and Health Education (PDHPE) at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. I have been in the role for the last 5 years. I am a passionate advocate for health, sport and love teaching. My other passion is surf boat rowing, which is very unique to Australia. I have been competing for the last 9 years, and have competed at a state and national level. It is an addictive sport allowing me to spend my weekends in the sun and the surf. As you can see from the picture, it is an intense sport; however, I love the adrenaline rush. Westholme will always hold special memories – from trekking in Morocco for my Gold Duke of Edinburgh, GCSE PE with Mrs Whittaker and Ms Entwistle, and Mrs Croston's loving personality. My time at Westholme gave me lifelong memories as it always felt like home, even being on the other side of the world!"



Beth Robinson (née Coombe, 2007)



"Hi everyone,

I got married in February in Scarborough where I now live with my husband, Richard. We had a lovely service at the church where I run Brownies and Rangers, followed by a great reception at a local hotel. It was lovely to see some school friends who came all the way across to the East coast to help us celebrate our big day and here's a photo of the Westholme Girls at the reception."

Charlotte O'Connor (2007)

Catch up with Charlotte's musical success in this article featured in the May 2017 issue of Harrods's online Magazine.

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Talented, driven and thoroughly down-to-earth, Charlotte OC is sure to cast a spell with her bewitching debut album Careless People By NIKI BROWES / Photographer REBECCA MILLER.

She may look the part in a supersized shirt and high-shine trousers, but Charlotte OC is a slightly atypical pop star. For starters, despite being in London "all the time" for work, the 26-year-old still lives with her parents in Blackburn,

P Lancashire. She recorded her recently released debut album, *Careless People*, at LA's legendary Sunset Sound studio, yet she thinks Hollywood is "a bit like Blackpool". And late Queen front man Freddie Mercury is her style icon. She's a character, all right. All of which makes her extremely good company.



Photo: Rebecca Miller

At the age of 15, O'Connor (OC is an abbreviation of her surname) started composing her own songs on a guitar her father bought her ("the best present ever"). After uploading her self-penned creations to Myspace, she was approached by a big record label, signed within a week, and was working on her first album at just 18. The music industry, though, is notoriously fickle, and within a year she'd been dropped.

"No child should be in the music industry," she says. "It's a proper job; you're supposed to be making money, and you've got people telling you what to do. It can really mess with your head." But she wisely chose an attitude of no-regrets. "I'm so glad I got to do it because it made me realise what I wanted in a record label, along with what I didn't. I made a record when I was 18 and it didn't get released, so nobody really knew what I'd done. I had a chance to start again. It was like my apprenticeship."

O'Connor licked her wounds by heading to Berlin for a couple of weeks, which proved to be a transformative period in her life. "I fell in love with the city; it was my first real trip away from home where I was independent. I did what I wasn't doing before, which was enjoy myself." She came home and instantly began writing new material that was completely different to her earlier work. After a few months, a friend sent the songs to a producer and management company. O'Connor began working with them the following week and she's still with that team today.

The title for *Careless People* is taken from a passage in F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* ("They were careless people, Tom and Daisy – they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money or their vast carelessness..."). The album's lyrics explore O'Connor's interest in human behaviour, especially "Darkest Hour", the lead single from the album. She also uses one of her sisters as inspiration for many of her songs. Does she mind? "I think she's used to it now," O'Connor laughs. "Every time she listens to a new track, she'll be like, 'Another song about me, then?' And I'll be like, 'Sorry!'" "Darkest Hour" is also inspired by the folklore of the north and, in particular, the notorious Pendle Witch Trials of the 17th century. "When I first heard about these famous local witches, it really stuck with me," she explains. "That whole world is just so on-point in my head. I was never into pink things and instead was drawn to a more majestic, darker side. When I was little, I used to stand at the bottom of my drive in a black dress and just stare at people. Everybody used to look at me as if I was nuts, but I loved the attention. I guess it was like performing in a way."

The British music scene is an exciting place to be right now if you're female, with home-grown acts such as Adele, Little Mix

and Dua Lipa dominating the airwaves and awards ceremonies. With her talent, wit and beauty, Charlotte OC will surely hold her own in this crowd. And, this time, she's definitely ready.

Imogen Block (2009)



"Having graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2013, I did a Masters in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies. I now work in the Civil Service. I'm currently at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in London and have previously worked for two years in the Department for Education. I also studied for a year in Washington DC whilst doing my undergraduate degree." Imogen attended the Beyond Westholme alumni event earlier this year and talked to our current students about her career.

Melissa Taylor (2009)

Melissa emailed to get back in touch and to let us know what she has been up to since she left Westholme:

"Hello Mrs Davenport!

I've been meaning to email for a while, and I only apologise that I didn't do so sooner - I'm not sure if you remember me, but I left Sixth Form in 2009 to study on a foundation course in acting at RADA. I went on to study English at UCL (which unfortunately didn't dampen my love of

theatre, as my parents probably hoped it would...!) I was then lucky enough to be chosen by the National Youth Theatre to be a member of their REP company last year, which culminated in a season of three plays in the West End in autumn.

I'm just coming to the end of a tour of 'Night Must Fall' (under my Equity name, Melissa Vaughan) which has taken me around the UK for most of this year, and Sharon Rogers very kindly came to see the show in York last week. When we were chatting, I spoke about how Westholme and the brilliant drama department are very much the reason I'm acting professionally today - I wanted to get in touch to see if you'd pass on a big hello and my huge thanks to Miss Roberts, Miss Armstrong (if she is still with you!) and all. I hope the department and the theatre are continuing to thrive and inspire - I shall definitely be along to see a production when I'm next up north!

Hope all is really well with you and the school in the run up to Christmas - I really do miss Westholme, and some of the best friends I still have were made there. We always reminisce when we get together!

All the very best,

Melissa"

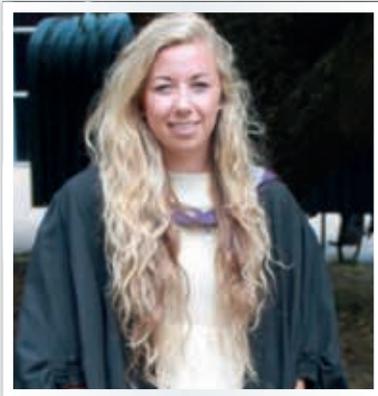
Ruth Moilliet (2010)

"Since graduating I have worked as an artist and sculptor producing bespoke, limited edition artworks for the private, public and corporate sectors.

The main inspiration behind the work is the natural world and the plant kingdom, looking at lifecycles, plant structures and the coexistence of species. I often think of my art education at Westholme and the detailed botanical studies we produced. A subject that I eventually returned to during my fine art degree and which has continued to inspire me.

P The sculptures I now produce range from small detailed pieces to large eye-catching structures. Examples of my work can be seen on my website at www.ruthmoilliet.com. Clients have included Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong, Hapag-Lloyd Europa Cruises, NHS, BBC, Kew Gardens, Christies, Urban Splash, Mount Anvil and Carillion.”

Lauren Struszczak (2010)



“When I received the email informing me Mrs Catlow was retiring I was amazed that she was at the appropriate age to do so... I then counted back and realised it is 7 years since I have left Westholme (not the 1 year which somehow sticks in my head... I will forever remain 19 years old in my own eyes) so it was maybe more realistic than I first imagined. Mrs Catlow got the absolute pleasure (I’m sure she would not use that word) of teaching me throughout my 7 years at Westholme including leading me to an A* at both GSCE and A Level PE. I have now gone on to complete a BSc in Sport and Exercise Science, an MSc in Exercise Physiology (Physiology was Mrs Catlow’s section) and I am now (after too many years) STILL in education completing my PhD on the effects of exercise on immune cell response to breast cancer so I think it would be a huge understatement to say

she inspired me and completely got me to where I am today from her theoretical knowledge and classroom teaching (despite my upmost efforts to completely disrupt most of our lessons with my not so helpful jokes and chatting – I’m really sorry about that, Mrs Catlow... I’m not sure I ever apologised at the time!).

However, I have more than just the lesson-based teaching to thank Mrs Catlow for. She spent the first three years of my time at Westholme along with the other PE staff at the time (Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Griffiths and Miss Entwistle) trying to convince me I should join pretty much every school sports team and convincing me there was actually more sports than the one I loved (football) so I should give them a chance. A memory sticks in my head of Year 9 parents’ evening, I think this is the first one as a student you are allowed to attend. I sat down with my parents in front of the four members of staff, pretty arrogant that this would be a ‘good’ one (I was not-so-modestly sure of my sporting talents). However, I was mistaken. I received a barrage about how frustrated and angry they were that I didn’t dedicate myself to the sports teams. After around 30 minutes (way exceeding the very strict 10 minute parents’ evening time slot), much to my surprise, my parents sided with the staff and from then on I dedicated myself to netball, hockey, rounders, athletics and sometimes (if they were desperate) badminton and tennis. Needless to say being on the sports teams at Westholme offered me some of my best times at the school so a HUGE thank you for that... and I eventually ended up as sports captain – something that I am so proud of even to this day.

When I left Westholme I was determined I would return as a PE teacher. After growing up (ever so slightly) at university I soon realised that it was probably one

of the most hard-working career options. Not only do you dedicate yourself to lesson times but you also give up pretty much every after school and lunch time to coach a load of hormonal teenagers at sport. It is completely admirable. After reflecting on how awkward I must have to been to teach at times, I decided my patience levels are not tolerant enough to go into teaching (but I hope to lecture at higher education level eventually in the hope that adults are slightly easier... maybe a mistake!).

To end, I’d just like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Catlow. I would 100% not be where I am today without your dedication to teaching me, patience to put up with me and consistent belief in me. Now take your retirement on and have a hugely deserved rest.

Best wishes,
Lauren Struszczak”

Jessica Thornhill (2010)



Jessica Thornhill, a former student, returned to Westholme as a member of Athena Strings, a young and dynamic string quartet made up of current and former students from the Royal College of Music and has played at high profile events and for dignitaries such as David Cameron and President Xi Jinping of China on his visit to the UK in 2015.

We were honoured to host the Athena Strings quartet as part of The Concert Series. They performed a programme of

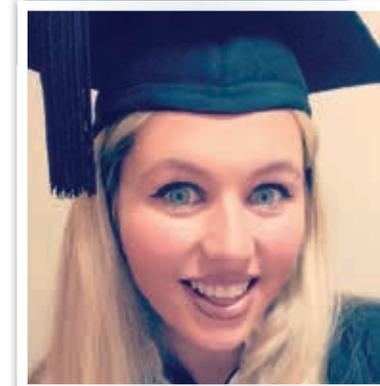
beautiful pieces to a captivated audience, including Massenet’s famous Meditation from Thais and Saint-Saens The Swan, the latter being played by Jessica, whom we were delighted to welcome back.

They began their visit by spending some time at Junior School giving an informal performance for the awestruck students, before travelling to the Senior School to perform for the entire school.

Later that evening, the concert began with the quartet playing a rousing rendition of ‘Pomp and Circumstance’ with the School Orchestra as a prelude to the main concert, which really 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 More Day’ from Les Misérables.

Katie Hope (2011)



Katie at The Oxford University Matriculation Ceremony

“I have just finished my PGCE in Physics at Oxford University. I will embark on my teaching career as of September at King Alfred’s Academy in Wantage, Oxfordshire. The school is an outstanding school and I am really excited to start.”

P Francesca Wheatley (2011)

"I just thought I would give you a little update! I graduated from Birmingham in July 2016 with a 2:1 in Social Policy and began my career as a police officer also in July on their highly competitive graduate scheme Police Now. I was fortunate enough to be given a place with Lancashire Constabulary and I am now based in Burnley and have fallen in love with the job! If you ever wish for me to come and speak to your pupils I would be more than happy to do so, because I honestly believe the skills and support I gained at Westholme gave me the edge when applying for this job."

**Leanna Jayne Oliver (2013)**

"I have a varied social life. I am a member of my local church and have a keen interest in Classical Music, attend classical concerts and continue to learn piano to Diploma Level, having recently attained Distinction in my Grade 8! I volunteer at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, working with Special Needs Individuals, aged 3 – 19, and for the last two years I have assisted with a composition project for Key Stage 2 children. I still remain a member of Burnley Referees Association and am registered both with the Lancashire and National Football Associations. In the past I have been fortunate enough to act as assistant referee at Semi Professional

level and officiated in the Women's FA Cup Semi Final. As a referee, I officiated on the Women's National Premier League as well as county level in male football. This season, I have enjoyed following the fortunes of Burnley FC and hope that their success in the Premier League will continue next season!"

Linzi Robertson (2013)

We received this lovely update from Linzi's mum, Elaine, recently:

"Linzi got her results last week and I felt you and all the Psychology teachers - Mrs Horner and Mrs Bradshaw - that inspired her and put 'fire in her belly' would want to know - Linzi will graduate with a First Class Honours Degree!

We are SO proud of her as she worked incredibly hard and really does deserve this result. Her plan is now to go on to do a Masters for a year (still at Stirling) then a Doctorate so then another 3 years. She wants to be Dr Robertson, Clinical Psychologist. She has a plan, of that there is no doubt! Andy (who will be 60 in August) thought he could perhaps think about retiring in the next couple of years... maybe not!

Linzi had this as her plan way back in her second year and, in typical Linzi fashion, put her head down, dug in and pushed on. She really is a 'go-getter', isn't she, but both Andy and I firmly believe, as does Linzi, that it was the confidence and belief

in herself that Westholme instilled in her that has given her the inner strength to just 'go for it' so you should all be very proud of, yet another, Westholme success story.

I know you will all still be going from strength to strength at Westholme, it's just that kind of place but I wish you continued success. Be proud of the students you produce!"

Beth Walker-Smith (2013)

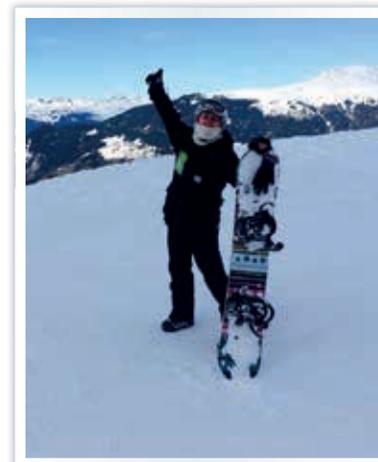
Beth Walker-Smith, a former student, has won the highly coveted Enterprise Award Student Placement of the Year which was presented at the recent Loughborough University Awards ceremony. There were four nominees for the award and the winner was chosen by public vote with nearly 9,000 votes cast. Beth was the only female nominee and was both surprised and delighted to win.

To find out more about this fantastic achievement please go to <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/enterprise/enterprise-awards/>. Beth also recently won the Pirelli UK's Placement Student of the Year 2016 and you can read about this in our previous article at <http://bit.ly/2rL1dO7>.

Fiona Cruice (2013)

"After graduating from Loughborough University with a 2.1 in Criminology and Social Policy last summer, the number one question was what to do now? Not being well travelled, my brother suggested that I

take some time out and do a winter season in the French Alps. Without any other kind of plan I agreed and we both started applying for jobs, specifically chalet hosting jobs for me. It didn't take long for someone to contact me and within a few weeks I was jetting off to Courchevel in Rhône-Alpes, France to work for a snowboarding company. For the first two months that I was there, I was trained up in cooking and cleaning and a few weeks before the season started, my boss told me that I would have the responsibility of running my own chalet for the season which would involve cooking, cleaning and hosting for a maximum of 10 people.



For someone who could barely cook for themselves and had never been skiing, let alone snowboarding, I am incredibly proud that I have successfully mastered both these skills. I loved every second of my snowboarding season: hard work balanced with great times on the slopes with great people, living in a foreign country with such breath-taking scenery for 7 months and achieving things that I hadn't even contemplated in the past was a massive confidence boost. For anyone unsure about what they want to do after leaving education I would definitely recommend doing a winter season."

P Sophie Lamb (2014)

It's hard to miss Sophie in the news at the moment! Here is just one of many articles celebrating her successes this year. We are very proud of her achievements!

Sophie Lamb Is England's Top Golfer

Details

Amateur News

Created: 21 November 2016



British women's stroke play champion Sophie Lamb is England's top female golfers of 2016, having come through a tightly-contested race to the top of the women's table.

Sophie Lamb puts her name on the Order of Merit alongside those of previous winners such as world number two amateur Bronte Law and Solheim Cup star Charley Hull.

"Looking at the names of the women who have won this gives me something to strive for, but also makes me feel proud to have my name next to theirs," she said.

She cemented her place at the top of the table with victory in the British stroke play championship, which put her out of the reach of Cornwall's Georgia Price.

Lamb, who was the only player to beat par in the tournament, remarked: "I had a lot of top 10 finishes but this was my first women's individual win which made it very special.

"It was also one of my last events of 2016 so I was really pleased to be able to get a win in the season."

She had challenged for a big win all season, having been leading qualifier in the English women's match play championship, tied fourth in the English women's amateur and sixth in the English stroke play. She also helped England to win the Women's Home Internationals

Next season the 18-year-old is aiming to win another big event, play her way into the GB&I team for the Vagliano Trophy match against Continental Europe, and to improve her world ranking.

Emma Dean (2015)

"I was at Westholme from Year 7 through to Upper Sixth, from September 2008 to June 2015. I received my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Scotland last summer. I am currently at the end of my second year at the University of Surrey, studying Veterinary Medicine and Science."

Kathryn Jaitly (2016)

At the beginning of January, we were delighted to hear that one of our former students, **Kathryn Jaitly** (currently in her first year at Imperial College, London studying Chemical Engineering), was a finalist in the British Education Awards due to her 'brilliant academic results (5 A*) and other achievements in A Level category'.



In this unique event, young people and their families, teachers, politicians, senior government ministers, professionals and celebrities from across the UK get together to celebrate. The ceremony took place at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London.

Although Kathryn did not win she said, "I had a great experience and it was nice to meet students from across the country in a celebration of individual academic and educational achievement".

Well done, Kathryn, we are very proud of you!

Annabel Steele (2016)

Annabel was presented with her Gold DofE Award at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh on Thursday 6th July 2017 by Prince Philip. This was the very last time that he will present Gold DofE Award recipients, so it was very special for all concerned!



P Former Staff

Julie Sibley

Congratulations to Julie who gave birth to a son, Albert James Sibley, on Friday 26th May, weighing in at 8lb 1oz.

Wendy Douglas – former Science Teacher

Wendy became a grandma on 29th September 2016, her daughter Rachel gave birth to Harriet Grace. Wendy is loving being a grandma!

Chris Hall – former Librarian

I guess there are fewer and fewer staff who remember me now. Three years have flown, we are still loving life in Norfolk, the garden is just about done now and we are recovering from the hard work. The family are all well, the four grandchildren are all good, the eldest is now 10 years of age. The younger one in Bristol is just one year old and will have a sibling in summer 2017.

We have visited Stockbridge Main Street in America and New England during the fall, the colours were way beyond our expectations. The Norman Rockwell museum was really good!

Nicola Edgar, former Deputy Head

I really cannot believe that another year is almost over. 2016 has certainly flown by. It has been a great year personally and professionally.

I am now in my third year of Headship at Saint Martin's and still love the job. It is tiring and all-consuming in term time but well worth it. Headship really is the best job and I would thoroughly recommend it to you. I have gone through a lot of change as four of the five members of

SLT are new so it has been really exciting being able to appoint my own senior team. Numbers in school continue to grow so the Governors are pleased!

I am still coming to terms with the surprising news when Michael (at long last!) asked me to marry him. The proposal was most unexpected in a London pub called the "Nag's Head" – maybe there is some hidden meaning! We are planning a small, intimate wedding on 20 October 2017. We are getting married at Samlesbury Hall at 4.00pm and then having dinner at Northcote. My mum is going to give me away as my dad passed away in 2015. It has been very exciting making decisions about colour schemes, dresses, menus, etc.

During the summer we travelled to Vietnam. It was a special trip as Michael turned 50. He didn't want a party or any fuss so we decided to plan a big trip instead. I absolutely loved it. As many of you know, we have travelled a lot in the Far East and Vietnam was just as good as the reviews say. We are returning to Thailand for our Christmas holiday and I am looking forward to two weeks in the sun enjoying good food, cocktails and total relaxation.

This year in particular I am looking forward to the holiday as I have had time off work recovering from ophthalmic shingles. I started with them during half term and have been quite poorly and lacking in energy.

I am still in contact with Lillian Croston, Anne Patefield and Gemma Cunliffe. They are all well. Anne and Lillian are enjoying retirement. Lillian is busy either travelling or playing golf. Gemma is teaching in Altrincham and Anne is sharing her time between Blackburn and Northampton.

My family in Accrington are all well. My oldest nephew Jack (who many of you know) is working part time at Oakhill College in Whalley as a teaching assistant whilst completing his BEd in Primary teaching part time at Edge Hill College. My youngest nephew Joseph is now in Year 5. My mum, Joyce, is always out and about with her friends. She drives down to visit us once a month. As you can imagine she is so excited about the wedding as she never thought it would happen. I suppose after 17 years, none of us did!

Jeanette Barnes (formerly Miss Stopford)

Thank you for the invitation to the "Beyond Westholme" in March. Unfortunately, I was not able to come to that evening, but I am taking the opportunity to thank Westholme for the way you have kept in touch and remembered me for so many years. I always enjoy your periodic magazine and "Purple Patch", only very occasionally do I recognise any names.

What a long way the school has come since I joined as a teacher of English & Drama in 1950, I think. Mr and Mrs Rouse had just to come to the school and had begun planning their vision for its future. I remember during my very happy years at Westholme, we moved the Senior School to Garth in St Silas Road, which was the first step, I think, in its many reincarnations leading to its present status and success.

I was then, as I still am, very interested in the theatre and recall with great pleasure the many productions we gave – usually Shakespearean – and the wonderful support that Mr Rouse offered. We won several awards in the drama festivals which were held in many areas other than

Blackburn. I recall the lovely costumes that were made by pupils and parents. One particular lovely set was contrived in "Midsummer Night's Dream" with fairies and little lit starry wands that Mr Rouse produced for us a surprise!

When I moved to the Lake District after I married, there followed many more productions in different schools, I then gave up teaching to become Retail Director for my husband's company. We were both theatre enthusiasts and eventually founded and ran for many years a small theatre in Cumbria, where both of us took part in acting and directing productions until my husband died. I still retain my contact with the theatre as a trustee and I also run a theatre club, where we go on trips to many theatres in the north.

Mr Rouse often used to invite me to Westholme to various functions and it was such a pleasure to see how his vision was fulfilled.

I have often meant to write to Westholme and I feel it will go from strength to strength and wish you all the success in the future.

PS

Since I wrote this letter, I asked my neighbour to type it up for me. I have learnt, an amazing coincidence, that my neighbour is Mrs Rouse's niece!



P Elizabeth Gibson

'Everyday Things'

"William, William!"

"Yes, Dorothy?"

"We need a new chimney!"

Thus ran the theme of what should have been (wasn't) an enjoyable and though-provoking play about a year in the life of Lakes poet, William Wordsworth, performed at the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick. After 90 minutes of Coleridge standing on a table ranting in his opium-fuelled miasma, Wordsworth declaiming about politics and the need for a rich sponsor, and Dorothy bewailing the shortcomings of the smoky kitchen chimney, punctuated by a child inexplicably hooting like an owl at regular intervals, we left quietly after the first half and sat by Derwentwater, shell-shocked and contemplated the rising moon and silhouetted mountains.

The play, weary as it was, did serve several functions. It provided a benchmark for bad drama, much as the Earby Mining Museum has for many years been a benchmark in our household for boring collections of artefacts. And it was a reminder that in the midst of genius and inspiration and rarity, there is always the mundane, and the new chimney is as important as the host of shining daffodils as a source of literary inspiration.

I was reminded of this the other day when Mr Bisset came round for a catch-up, and we lazed in the garden watching the bumble bees, which seem to appear from nowhere at this time of year. I'd been hacking some fronds from a dead conifer and had described the result to him in a

text as a "desiccated topknot". After we'd congratulated ourselves on being able to spell "desiccated", he had a look and kindly sawed off most of the rest of it for me. I always have a literature-based quip to match the occasion, so as we carted the dead branches to the brown garden bin, I quoted the bit from "Macbeth" about Birnham Wood coming to Dunsinane. Did Shakespeare get his inspiration from something similarly mundane? When you are young, you are gripped by the power of words. But as you grow older, when Keats declares, "Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty", you're inclined to reply, "Eh? Get a life, Keatsy, there's trees to be chopped, chimneys to pay for". Auden summed it up in his poem. 'Musée Des Beaux Arts'. He observes that 'the human position' and 'suffering' were understood by the painters of Old Masters.

How it takes place

While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along.

The poem describes Breughel's picture of Icarus, where the whole foreground is filled with a farmer ploughing his field, with a fine ship sailing on the calm sea behind him. Only in a tiny upper corner do we see the tragedy of the boy, unnoticed, falling through the sky, having flown too near the sun and melted his wings.

In these troubled times, despite horrific happenings, ordinary life goes on. Enjoy the mundane, and celebrate your time at school, when the ringing of the bell for break was more important than a General Election or a world financial crisis.

Mrs Gibson's News of Former Staff

I hear **Mrs Catlow** is to retire this summer. Here is a happy photo of a crowd of Westholme staff celebrating **Mrs Whittaker's** retirement in **Miss Armitage's** garden. Mrs Catlow looks good in the picture.



Pam Barnes, former Head of Science, has moved to Saffron Waldren to be nearer to her daughters. She has a lovely ground-floor flat, with a patio door to a large well-kept garden, and says life there is easy, warm, comfortable and friendly. Her twin daughters, Joanna and Sarah both attended Westholme. They both work in London. She also has her elder daughter Nicola and grandchildren living in the South.

Gillian Porter, English, is satisfying what she calls her inner geek by studying for an MA in Literature at Newcastle University. She is thrilled to have an expert in 18th century poetry, Prof. Matthew Grenby, as her dissertation supervisor. She has moved to Jesmond. Anna, Clare and Patrick are all doing well in their respective fields of medicine, dentistry, and science-based degree studies.

Jean Asher and I met up recently in Skipton, I'd twisted my knee badly, and I was on two sticks. She had recently had a cataract op and was waiting for another one in a few days' time. We both arrived at the appointed venue, but as she couldn't see where I was sitting and I couldn't stand up to wave to her, we spent minutes in total confusion! Talk about the blind leading the lame...But of course nothing stops a good lunch and a natter, so all ended well.

Anne Pollitt, Head of RE, continues to enjoy her retirement and to do good work. Her latest efforts include knitting angels at Christmas for church members to leave scattered around town for people to pick up; donating money from domino drives to the Mercy Ships charity; and making twiddle muffs for dementia sufferers. We're off to Austria again this summer, favourite place.



Ann Kershaw, Sociology/Law, and I still spend our Monday's wrestling with Horace. We both celebrated (different) significant birthdays this year. I hosted an afternoon tea at Northcote with several former colleagues and she is to have lunch at the Inn at Whitewell this summer. No pie and peas do for us! (Though I am partial to a pie and a pea in the right circumstances...)

Mary Wilson, Head of Geography has become a granny again, with the birth of a baby boy to her daughter, Deborah.

Pat Gardner, Latin, is a real jet-setter these days, braving solo trips to Brazil to stay with her son and daughter-in-law. He plays with the National Orchestra of Brazil.

Margaret Wilcock, Modern Languages and Head of Year, is a French granny twice over, and hops across the channel frequently to babysit. Both daughters live in France.

Christine McDonald, English and Head of Year, has escaped the British climate on several occasions this year, basking in the sun's rays in such places as Madeira and Lake Garda. I had a few days with her at Silverdale, and it rained, and rained and... We resorted to cheering ourselves up by guessing the vintages of various miniature bottles of port she's given for Christmas. We got them all right. Sophisticated palates? Hmm.

Mrs Gibson's News of Alumni

Not so much of this – as I mentioned last year, most OGs and OBs communicate directly with school via email these days. The usual suspects have written. **Mags Rowles** describes herself as a 'crazy workaholic' and is sad to have lost one of her fine cats. **Joanne Robbins** describes her school life as very busy and pretty chaotic, and has cut down to four days of teaching. Both are Art teachers, and seem to inhabit that mad twilight world inhabited by most Art departments! **Caroline Warner, née Sutcliffe**, has furthered her ambition to enter politics by being elected as a LibDem councillor. She also works as a non-executive director for the NHS trust. She and her husband have bought a holiday cottage down in Cornwall. **Alex Carter, née Gibson**, has been appointed Business Assurance Manager at Gatwick Airport. I'm never entirely sure what her roles involve, but I know she she's fiendishly busy, deals with all the contractors and auditing at the airport and is having lunch with the Transport Minister in July! She met up at Easter with **Joy Eccles, née Taylor** in Grimsargh and each has three children and Joy has a dog. I can only imagine the happy mayhem!

Sad News

John Sedgwick Singleton

I am saddened to announce to all our community that Mr John Singleton, nephew of Miss Emily Singleton who founded the School in 1923, has passed away. He will be greatly missed at Westholme events where he enjoyed watching the students showcasing their talents. We were delighted that in April 2015 he, along with his wife Audrey, came to speak to staff and students to share his memories of the early school and his formidable auntie; he was a pupil here from 13th September 1928, aged 5

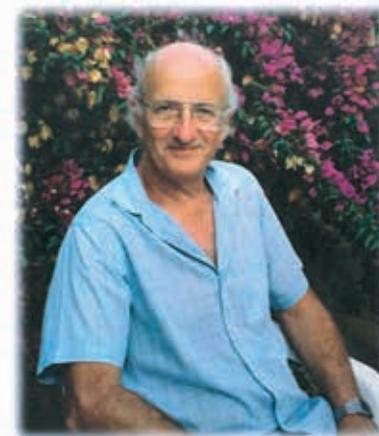
(number 84 on the Admissions Register) until he left to go to Grammar School at the age of 7. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family in their bereavement.

John Whittaker

We were very sad to hear of the passing of John Whittaker, who had a long-standing relationship with Westholme and was a well-respected Clerk to the Governors for many years. Our thoughts and gratitude for his service to the school go to his family.

Service of Thanksgiving
for the Life of

JOHN WHITTAKER



31st January 1930 – 25th May 2017
Aged 87 years

St Marys Parish Church, Mellor
Tuesday, 6th June 2017 at 1.30pm

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

P Beyond Westholme - Alumni Event



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 the 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.

P Alumni Netball Tournament

On Monday 10th July, we invited Alumni and staff to take part in a netball tournament to celebrate 37 years of Mrs Catlow's unwavering contribution to the PE Department.



It was a testament to Mrs Catlow's commitment and popularity that over 60 people attended the event to either play or spectate.



There were enough players for 5 teams with a few extra reserves and so everyone had the opportunity to play in at least two or three games. Unsurprisingly, they turned out to be extremely competitive and very closely matched, but the overriding feeling was one of sportsmanship and camaraderie.



Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tournament which was rounded off with a delicious afternoon tea in the Learning Resource Centre, where there was a chance to catch up with old friends and browse through the archives of old team photographs.



Mrs Catlow was presented with a stunning bouquet of flowers and gave a speech, recounting some of the more memorable and hilarious highlights of her career at Westholme, many involving former pupils and current staff.



On behalf of the Westholme pupils and staff, both past and present, we would like to thank Mrs Catlow for her dedication and unflinching enthusiasm which has encouraged and inspired generations of students and staff, to achieve incredible goals and to strive to be the best.

Mrs Catlow, we will miss you!

P From the archives...



This looks like it may be from the 60s. Are you in this photograph?



A Senior School Production from 1953/55 directed by Miss Stopford, one of the English teachers at the time.



A wealth of trophies for the swimming team! Do you recognise anyone in this photograph or know what year this was taken?



This looks like one of the famous Westholme productions but which one?

P Social Media

Our Old Westholmians Facebook and LinkedIn pages were launched at the start of 2017 so that we can reach even more former pupils and grow our network. Please get in touch and follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/westholmealumni/> or <https://www.linkedin.com/company-beta/17920104/>



P Megan Gallagher

Congratulations to former pupil, **Megan Gallagher**, from event caterer 'With a Twist', who won 'Young Employee' at the Hive Business Awards 2017.



1st Class News!

Mrs D also heard in passing that three alumni had graduated this month with first class degrees - a magnificent achievement! Well done indeed to **Katie Ashcroft (2014)**, **Alexis Gavan (2014)** and **Beth Keegan (2013)**.

If you gained a first class honours this year, do let us know so that we can celebrate your achievement too!



Honour Boards

The Honour Boards are always of interest to visiting Alumni but as a school we are always moving forward. We felt it was time to change from the old...

HEAD GIRLS		HEAD GIRLS	
1968-69 RPI SHARPLES	1970-71 JANE TITON	1991-92 HELEN WOOD	2003-04 ELIZABETH LOWRIE
1969-70 CHERYL NICOL	1971-72 SIANETTE SOCIAN	1992-93 DEEMA GHASSI	2004-05 FIRIA WILLIAMSON
1970-71 JANE TITON	1972-73 BENNETT SHAW	1993-94 SARAH COOPER	2005-06 HEBI CASTALL
1971-72 SIANETTE SOCIAN	1973-74 HELEN DAVIES	1994-95 KATIE HOYLE	2006-07 LIZZE WHITELE
1972-73 BENNETT SHAW	1974-75 JANET CAWTHORLEY	1995-96 SAMANTHA MERCER	2007-08 HANNAH BIGTON
1973-74 HELEN DAVIES	1975-76 LYNN FRANKLAND	1996-97 REBECCA HARDING	2008-09 LUCY ST JOHN
1974-75 JANET CAWTHORLEY	1976-77 GILLIAN MORAN	1997-98 CATHERINE WRIGHT	2009-10 MICHAEL FOSTER
1975-76 LYNN FRANKLAND	1977-78 CATHERINE DAVIES	1998-99 GILLIAN BIRDAILEY	2010-11 WENDY SHIELDS
1976-77 GILLIAN MORAN	1978-79 PHILIPPA GASCOIGNE	1999-00 SARAH TURNER	2011-12 MAHARAJ AHMED
1977-78 CATHERINE DAVIES	1979-80 GILLIAN MORAN	2000-01 LAURA SULLMAN	2012-13 CHARLOTTE SPOCKWELL
1978-79 PHILIPPA GASCOIGNE	1980-81 RUTH TABERNER	2001-02 REBECCA MAUDSLEY	2013-14 HARRIET DAINALL
1979-80 GILLIAN MORAN	1981-82 ADLE HORN	2002-03 RAHIMA PATEL	2014-15 OLIVER BALL
1980-81 RUTH TABERNER	1982-83 CAROLINE COLCHIN	2003-04 ELIZABETH LOWRIE	2015-16 FLOA ROSSON
1981-82 ADLE HORN	1983-84 ELIZABETH HEEDEN	2004-05 FIRIA WILLIAMSON	
1982-83 CAROLINE COLCHIN	1984-85 JANE PALETHORPE	2005-06 HEBI CASTALL	
1983-84 ELIZABETH HEEDEN	1985-86 CATHERINE MURFALANE	2006-07 LIZZE WHITELE	
1984-85 JANE PALETHORPE	1986-87 GILLIAN HASELDEN	2007-08 HANNAH BIGTON	
1985-86 CATHERINE MURFALANE	1987-88 SARAH SNOWDON	2008-09 LUCY ST JOHN	
1986-87 GILLIAN HASELDEN	1988-89 SHELLEY BAHNMAN	2009-10 MICHAEL FOSTER	
1987-88 SARAH SNOWDON	1989-90 LORRAINE BELDERBOS	2010-11 WENDY SHIELDS	
1988-89 SHELLEY BAHNMAN	1990-91 SARAH FORBES	2011-12 MAHARAJ AHMED	
1989-90 LORRAINE BELDERBOS		2012-13 CHARLOTTE SPOCKWELL	
1990-91 SARAH FORBES		2013-14 HARRIET DAINALL	
		2014-15 OLIVER BALL	
		2015-16 FLOA ROSSON	

DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS		DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS	
1968-69 G. FAIRLESS	1982-83 A. GUDE	1996-97 H. EATOUGH	2009-10 A. DOBKASHIAN
1969-70 J. STONE	1983-84 C. YOUNGER	1997-98 F. RALEY	2010-11 D. MILLIGAN
1970-71 S. ASKEW	1984-85 S. MALIK	1998-99 L. ADAMS	2011-12 F. KINLOCH
1971-72 J. GUTTERIDGE	1985-86 E. SMETHURST	1999-00 N. CLARKE	2012-13 S. WARD
1972-73 A. HUTCHINSON	1986-87 J. FIELDING	2000-01 L. BRAITHWAITE	2013-14 L. HORSFIELD
1973-74 M. BRIGGS	1987-88 A. KENYON	2001-02 V. JAGADESHAM	2014-15 H. PATEL / M. HOLDEN
1974-75 S. STEVENS	1988-89 L. BARBER	2002-03 S. CRAWSHAW	2015-16 S. SHAH / G. SHARP
1975-76 A. DUNNE	1989-90 N. CHARNLEY	2003-04 H. LOUDONSACK	
1976-77 R. WATSON	1990-91 A. PEARSON	2004-05 E. SULLIVAN	
1977-78 S. SMILEY	1991-92 R. NAHA BISHWAD	2005-06 M. GRAY	
1978-79 A. HAVETT	1992-93 C. GARDNER	2006-07 E. BARNES	
1979-80 J. PEAKE	1993-94 A. EDWARDS	2007-08 H. COOPER	
1980-81 S. EDGE	1994-95 K. DEWHURST	2008-09 M. TAYLOR	
1981-82 G. LLOYD-WATTS	1995-96 J. TAYLOR		

SCHOOL CAPTAINS		SCHOOL CAPTAINS	
SPORT	SWIMMING	SPORT	SWIMMING
1984-85 H. MAHULTY	1984-85 C. BARER	1996-97 N. BURRIDGE	1996-97 E. HAWORTH
1985-86 M. WOODHOUSE	1985-86 L. WATSON	1997-98 A. WARD	1997-98 E. HARDING
1986-87 C. GRIME	1986-87 K. CAVE	1998-99 H. ASHCROFT	1998-99 R. FAIRBROTHER
1987-88 C. ROBERTS	1987-88 N. ALSTON	1999-00 J. DUCKWORTH	1999-00 N. SMITH
1988-89 D. KERSHAW	1988-89 S. BICARDMAN	2000-01 S. GRINDROO	2000-01 A. DAVIES
1989-90 M. BUCKLEY	1989-90 D. DARBY	2001-02 C. GRINDROO	2001-02 V. WEST
1990-91 K. LEE	1990-91 V. HENRY	2002-03 K. GIBSON	2002-03 S. MALA / S. MALA
1991-92 H. BELDERBOS	1991-92 C. BOARDWELL	2003-04 R. COAR	2003-04 J. LOUGHEED
1992-93 B. WOLFENDEN	1992-93 S. FISHWICK	2004-05 A. JORDAN	2004-05 H. FORBES
1993-94 J. KAY	1993-94 A. CUNNINGHAM	2005-06 D. MORTON	2005-06 P. WEST
1994-95 J. BURRIDGE	1994-95 S. GILL	2006-07 J. BROOKFIELD	2006-07 E. REYNOLDS
1995-96 L. BARRON / H. BRUNT	1995-96 K. HARWOOD		2008-09 H. UNSWORTH

SCHOOL CAPTAINS		SCHOOL CAPTAINS	
MUSIC	DRAMA	SPORT	SWIMMING
2009-10 H. BUCKLEY	2009-10 M. COOPER	2007-08 Z. WADBICOR	2007-08 M. STONES / K. SHUTTLEWORTH
2010-11 H. MAINTOSH	2010-11 F. PORRITT	2008-09 E. FAIRBROTHER	2008-09 R. WALTON / G. STAPLETON
2011-12 A. DAVIES	2011-12 A. HUTCHINSON	2009-10 M. FULFORTH / L. STRUSZCZAK	2009-10 L. BALL / F. HILL
2012-13 J. JONES	2012-13 H. BUTTON	2010-11 L. NAJIA	2010-11 E. THOMPSON / K. MILLAR
2013-14 G. LAMOURY	2013-14 A. GAVAN	2011-12 J. CLEGG / E. WATTS	2011-12 E. BUCKLEY / L. FOSKETT
2014-15 H. CAMPBELL	2014-15 L. SAGE	2012-13 B. WALKER SMITH	2012-13 E. WALKER SMITH
2015-16 E. JONES	2015-16 K. DUTTON	2013-14 H. ADAMSON	2013-14 S. MAUDSLEY
		2014-15 S. MAUDSLEY	2014-15 S. WILKINSON
		2015-16 K. BUCKLEY / S. LEAVER / C. MILLINGTON	
		2014-15 K. BERRY / E. DEAN	2015-16 K. GREENALL
		2015-16 G. COLLUM / E. WINTER	

