



WESTHOLME  
SCHOOL

# WESTHOLME LIFE

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016



# CONTENTS



## CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

An amazing year for our students



## CHOIR TOUR

A musical trip to remember



## JUNIOR SPORT

Sporting highlights for our Juniors



## NORTH WEST CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Run, Westholme, Run



## A TRIP OF A OF LIFETIME

Peru expedition 2016



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Wonderful celebrations



## SENIOR SPORT

Fantastic achievements at Senior School



## LAW TASTER DAY

An insightful day into the world of Law



## FRENCH TRIP

A French experience for our Year 5 and 6 students



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Pupils at the Infant and Junior Schools mark this special festival



## WESTHOLME WELCOMED...

Author visits and many more exciting visitors for our students!



## FOCUS ON THE HOUSE SYSTEM

A sense of belonging



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

We will remember them



## BIOLOGY WEEK

Senior School students celebrate Biology Week



## HERE & THERE

Learning outside the classroom



## THE GIFT OF GIVING

Raising money for charity



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

D of E action



## RESPECT DAY

An exciting themed day for Infant and Junior children



## WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

A successful year of fundraising



## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL...

Magical nativity performances



## AN ORIENTAL ODYSSEY

A taste of the Orient



## ICELANDIC STUDY TOUR

An Icelandic trip



## JOY TO THE WORLD

Junior and Senior Carol Services in the Cathedral



## DRAMA SHOWCASE

Wonderful performances in a fantastic Showcase

# CELEBRATING SUCCESSES



## RESULTS DAY

During the summer, we were delighted to announce another amazing set of examination results.

This year, results at A Level were extremely pleasing. Our best ever performance at A\* grade saw 16% of students achieve this prestigious accolade. 43% of students achieved grades at the very highest level of A\*/A and 90% were at A\*- C. These important grades were beneficial in helping to secure all important university places, or for some, helped students in their quest for future employment.

Our success of 100% pass rate in all subjects was testament to the wide ranging skills and abilities of our students who went on to study courses ranging from Law to Architecture and Medicine.

Some notable highlights were the performances of students Kathryn Jaitly and Gabriela Sharp. Kathryn achieved an incredible 5 A\*s in Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Further Maths and EPQ to secure her place at Imperial College to study Chemical Engineering. Meanwhile, a highly sought after place at Newnham College, Cambridge to study History awaited Gabriela, after her hard work and dedication, which culminated in her achieving excellent A Level results in History, Geography, French, English Literature, General Studies and EPQ.

GCSE results were also a cause for celebration as, in a year that saw the National average results fall, we were delighted that Westholme students bucked that trend. Our A\*- C pass rate was 96% compared to the National average of 66% whilst our A\* pass rate came in at 16% versus 6.5% nationally. Special congratulations went to Louise Jaitly who scooped 11 A\*s at GCSE level.



An extremely proud Natasha Murray receives her GCSE results.



The Jaitly sisters (Louise, L, Kathryn, R) celebrating their GCSE and A Level successes.

Principal, Mrs Horner, commented, 'I am very pleased with the results achieved by our students this year. At Westholme we take pride in ensuring that our young men and women maximise their potential academically, socially and intellectually. These examination achievements are a true reflection of our commitment to a holistic and balanced education realised through students' effort, inspirational teaching and our close partnership with parents.'

After a successful summer, the future is certainly bright at Westholme!

## PRIZEGIVING

The annual Prizegiving Ceremony for Senior School was held at King George's Hall. This year, we were thrilled to welcome Old Westholmian, Seema Kennedy, MP for South Ribble as Prize Presenter.

The proceedings began with a welcome from Mr Brian Marsden, Chairman of Governors, which highlighted a successful 2015 – 2016 for Westholme School, not only for the students, but for the academic and support staff teams too. Principal, Mrs Horner, also reported on the school year and particularly focused on how varied and enriching it had been for Westholme students. Our pleasing set of examination results this summer at both GCSE and A Level were also worthy of high praise.

As always, the evening featured a number of fantastic musical performances which included a duet by students Rumi Sutton and Joshua Dodding, a toe-tapping piece by the School Swing Band and a wonderful finale of 'Songs from Sister Act' performed by the School Choir.

An entertaining speech was delivered by Head Girl, Jessica Keenan and Deputy Head Girls, Layla Ahmed and Ellie Giles. The speech centred around the letters of Westholme including W for Westies, T for travel (as Westholme students visit many exciting places during the academic year) and M was for 'Multi various co curricular activities' for which the girls sang the many activities Westholme students are given the opportunity to take part in!

The prizes were then presented to their worthy winners by our honourable guest and Prize Presenter, Mrs Seema Kennedy, MP for South Ribble. After this, Seema, a former Head Girl at Westholme (and looking resplendent in a purple dress!), delivered an inspirational talk to our students. Seema clearly regards confidence in high esteem, admitting that many of her failures



have enabled her to gain the confidence to keep trying and to never give up. Her speech drew to a close with the words, 'Godspeed, Westholme' – a touching moment indeed and words we were grateful to receive.

The ceremony ended with the traditional singing of the school hymn (which Seema confidently sang, word for word and later admitted made her quite emotional!).

We would like to thank Seema for carrying out the role of Prize Presenter in true, Westholme style. Congratulations to all students who were awarded a prize.



# Choir Tour 2016

This year, Westholme's Choir travelled to France and Belgium for their annual Summer Tour. Whilst there, they stunned audiences with spectacular vocal pieces in authentic locations.

The action packed, music filled trip included a performance of 'Mozart's Requiem' in the stunning Eglise La Madeleine in Paris. On an excitable visit to EuroDisney, the students also found time for a rendition of songs from *Sister Act* and *Abba* on stage. Pre performance nerves were a distant memory after many students went on numerous roller coasters!

A more sombre day was spent at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Thiepval and the Menin Gate where the group placed

wreaths to commemorate the centenary of the Somme. During the Belgian leg of the journey, they visited the European Parliament, the Atomium, Mini Europe, and a chocolate factory in Bruges plus the biennial carpet of flowers in the Grand Place, in Brussels!

Mr Millest and all the staff who went on the Tour were proud of the students they accompanied and commented that 'this was one of our best ever trips as we included such a wide variety of events'. Here's to Italy 2017!



# A trip of a lifetime

21 students accompanied, by Miss Bruce and Miss Shaw, set off on a 4 week expedition to Peru, travelling with Camps International. This exciting adventure was the culmination of 18 months of fundraising and fitness training by the group, so the trip had been eagerly anticipated!



During their time in the country the group stayed in three different communities, the first was Pinchollo, near the Colca Canyon, one of the deepest canyons in the world at 3,270m deep! This camp had a real community feel, and here the girls worked tirelessly digging an irrigation channel, foundations for a new school classroom and a Cultural Centre which will put Pinchollo on the tourist route.

The second camp was at the beautiful site of Lake Titicaca, where the students often woke to watch the sunrise over the highest navigable lake in the world (at 3,812m). Here students continued their love affair with digging as they dug foundations for greenhouses for the local families. In addition to this, the girls levelled ground for a playground at the primary school, mixed mud and built bricks, painted the walls of a new classroom and helped the maestros build new ovens. The girls had a humbling experience when they saw that the old kitchens were tiny and covered in soot. It made them extremely proud to be part of the 'Healthy Homes' programme.

Students also took part in cultural activities during their stay at each camp, including a boat tour to the Uros Islands – floating islands made entirely

from reeds. After this, they travelled to the Isle of Taquile, where they were treated to an evening of camping on the beach.

The third stop was Camp Maras and by this stage our girls' reputation as hard working and talented diggers preceded them! Soon enough they were set to work digging another irrigation channel for a very new community in need of water supplies and the foundations for the school dining room. As at all of the other camps, the group were given a warm welcome from the local community and the Peruvian children even prepared dances and songs for them!

The adventure element of the trip was the trek over the Salkantay Pass on their journey to Machu Picchu. The first day was incredibly challenging as they climbed to a height of 4,680m, a fantastic achievement to say the least! Unfortunately, due to illness they were unable to complete all four days of the planned trek, but on the fifth day the group reached their goal of Machu Picchu. It was simply breath-taking and an incredible experience to see the work of a civilisation that most likely no longer exists.

It was most definitely a trip of a lifetime and all of the girls involved should be proud of their individual achievements.





# European Day of Languages

Language themed activities, a delicious European buffet and an enriching visit!

Westholme students celebrated European Day of Languages in true style! Children at the Junior and Senior Schools took part in a number of fun language themed activities.

In their French classes at Junior School, children learnt how to say hello in many different languages and also learnt the name of European countries in French.

A similar activity took place at Senior School as members of staff were given a greeting to say in a European language. Students then had to search for the members of staff and decide what language they were speaking.

A highlight of the day for many was lunchtime as our fantastic catering department cooked up a European storm with a delicious buffet. Special thanks went to Mrs Ballan and her team for the spectacular spread!

Also during lunchtime, the Careers department welcomed Mrs Pyke from Solvay (an international chemical company) to talk to students in Years 7 – 13 about the importance of languages in business and industry. Those who attended found the talk to be extremely useful; thank you, Mrs Pyke.

Many thanks to everyone for making European Day of Languages such a memorable and culturally enriching day for Westholme students.



# FRENCH TRIP

An excited group of Year 5 and Year 6 students set off on the annual Junior School French trip to Northern France during October half term. After a full day of travel on the Friday, arrival at their home for the trip was much appreciated.

Excited children got up on Saturday morning ready for a full day of activities. They had fun trying out their French speaking skills at the market in Boulogne before moving onto a farm where they saw how to make goats' cheese. Everyone enjoyed sampling the delights on offer! Saturday night was the all-important disco – children (and staff!) had great fun eating treats and dancing the night away.

On Sunday, the group visited the Beaumont-Hamel Memorial for the fallen of Newfoundland, where our prefects laid a wreath. They also found it a fascinating, yet moving experience when they walked through the trenches. A trip to the Somme Museum in Albert and the Thiepval Memorial was also enjoyed by all. In the evening, everyone enjoyed a special French night – complete with berets, snails and crêpes!

Before too long, Monday arrived and it was time for the journey home, but not before calling into La Boulangerie Le Fourni to see how traditional French bread and pastries are made – what fun. The group arrived back at school, tired, but with many wonderful memories of a fantastic trip. Thanks to the staff who accompanied the children on the visit.



# Harvest Festival

Harvest is a special time of year when we focus our thoughts on others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Children at the Infant and Junior Schools celebrated Harvest and donated provisions to local charities.

Children at the Infant School celebrated Harvest with a special assembly and welcomed Mrs Barbara Foster and her colleague, Tara, from the Blackburn Food Bank into school. They came to talk 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 brought them into school for Mrs Foster to take to the Food Bank on behalf of Westholme. They were delighted with the amount of provisions

collected and said that it would help many local people. Each year group also contributed to the assembly; Pre School and Reception children sang songs, Year 1 talked about Harvest Time and Year 2 pupils read special prayers.

The following week, it was lovely to welcome many families and friends of Westholme to the Junior School Harvest Festival which was held at St Silas' Church. Children in Years 3 and 4 led the service with Harvest time readings, prayers and wonderful songs. House Captains and Vice House Captains offered donations of provisions which were taken to the local Food Bank. Generous donations of money also collected in the lead up to the service were put towards the purchase of a cow for a family in Africa.

Thank you to the staff and students for their generosity.

## Remembrance Day

The entire community at Senior School took part in a special Remembrance Day assembly. Members of the History department and some students spoke about aspects of this year's focus of the Battle of the Somme. Alongside their poignant words were powerful images, giving everyone food for thought on the ultimate sacrifices made by so many and the futility of war.

Year 10 students read '*Dulce et decorum est*', vividly painting a picture of the horrors of gas attacks.

The Westholme cadets marched on and laid a poppy wreath and two minutes of silence were observed. The moving strains of *The Last Post* ended the silence, bringing our thoughts of the fallen into focus.

'We shall remember them...'





# Biology Week

Students at Westholme enjoyed celebrating Biology Week, promoted by the Royal Society of Biology. This annual event is a celebration of biosciences and events take place across the UK.

At Westholme, Biology Week got off to an exciting start with the Biology Bake Off. Thank you to everyone who entered – there were some fabulous entries including brains, eyeballs and broken bones to name but a few! – Congratulations to Eve Sulway (Year 9) and A'isha Dalal (Year 11) who won the Junior and Senior categories with their brilliant bakes.

The Biology department were also delighted to welcome back former Head Girl, Sophie Ward who had recently graduated from the University of Oxford with a 2:1 in Cell and Systems Biology, majoring in Molecular Medicine (Genetics), minoring in Neuroscience. Sophie assisted staff in a lunchtime dissections session – not very appetising! This saw students dissect lungs, hearts and kidneys whilst learning about how they function.

Sophie also hosted a talk for students about studying Science at Oxford University.

It was an interesting talk and those in attendance enjoyed seeing pictures of university laboratories and hearing about her experiences.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Biology department for putting on such brilliant activities and also to Sophie for returning to school to share her knowledge with fellow Westholmians.



# Duke of Edinburgh's Award

In September and October, 60 Year 11 Bronze participants successfully completed their qualifying expeditions in the beautiful White Peak area of Derbyshire. They carried everything in their rucksacks for their 2 day, 24km trek, with an overnight camp. All of them showed improvements in their navigation, teamwork and camp craft skills since their practice expeditions, and good weather was enjoyed by all.

Well done to everyone who has endured or enjoyed their expeditions this term; nothing worthwhile is ever easy!





# Respect Day

Students at the Nursery, Infant and Junior Schools enjoyed a wonderful day celebrating the theme of Respect.

Mrs Barnett was thrilled with her first cross site theme day and the engagement of both staff and pupils. She commented,

"Respect Day was held at the Infant and Junior Schools as part of our year of Mindfulness and Wellbeing. This was an amazing day that brought together both the two schools to work in groups that included children from each Year group between Reception and Year 6, and in the afternoon some Sixth Form students as well! Our Pre School and Nursery children also had their own special day where they looked at sharing and Golden Rules. The activities they undertook throughout the day helped the children to learn about the importance of respect, not only between ourselves and other people, but towards our environment as well. It was simply magical to watch children work together to achieve common goals, bringing out the best in each other. As a school, this day summed up the values that we hold dear to us.

The day itself was filled with creativity, teamwork and vertical learning experiences for all. Children, in their groups, rotated around five activities. They explored the theme of respect towards others, 'Singing and Signing', 'Games Around the World', (focusing on an 'African Playground'), Disability Awareness and Challenging Stereotypes as well as discovering what their names mean and how to write them in Braille. All children worked incredibly hard and showed fantastic leadership, communication and respect skills throughout. A fantastic day was had by all. In the end everyone learnt that we all have more in common, more similarities, more things to celebrate together and more to learn from each other than we do any of our differences."



# An Oriental Odyssey!

During October, after a long wait with anticipation and excitement building, 15 students accompanied by Mrs Jolly and Miss Incerti headed to China for a week long adventure. Miss Jolly's write up explains how they got on:

Upon arriving in Beijing, we were welcomed with good weather and a traditional Chinese banquet. After a night recovering from the journey, we set off to see the cultural highlights of Beijing, including Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven. The day was rounded off with a spectacular acrobatic show before yet another banquet. The following day we journeyed to the most breath-taking section of the Great Wall at Mutianyu, which dates back to the mid-6th century. The pupils were amazed at how hilly this section is and walking up and down the vertiginous steps proved to be fun yet challenging, although the highlight was definitely riding the toboggan down from the Great Wall. What an experience! The day was topped off by a visit to the infamous night market, where some more unusual delicacies were tasted.

On our final day in Beijing, we visited a local high school where we participated in their daily exercises and joined in their Art and English lessons. It was

such a wonderful atmosphere and many friends were made, in fact our pupils did not want to leave! Then it was off to Shanghai.

Our students immediately noticed that Shanghai is more modern, metropolitan and when we were there, far wetter! Our schedule had to change to accommodate the almost British weather, but it did not dampen any spirits! During the three days in Shanghai, we visited museums, went up the Oriental Pearl Tower, browsed at local bazaars and celebrated Alice's 15th birthday. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the Shanghai dumplings at a local café. Our day-visit to a water village showed the contrast between traditional living and modern living. The weather finally improved allowing us to end the trip with a cruise up the Yangtze River to view the illuminated Shanghai Skyline.

This was a truly memorable experience that everyone will treasure.



## ICELANDIC STUDY TOUR



On Tuesday 1st November, 40 very excited Westholme Geography students headed out from Manchester Airport to Keflavik, for their Icelandic study tour.

Their first geographical experience was a swim in the amazing Blue Lagoon, a mineral-rich lake formed from geothermally heated sea water. The students loved this unique spa experience and found the novelty of putting white silica mud on their skin particularly exciting and therapeutic.

On Wednesday, they embarked on the 'Golden Circle', a popular tourist experience which includes Thingvellir National Park, where the rift between the European and North American plates is so obvious with its deep cracks and fissures, the Geysir geothermal area, to see the Strokkur geyser erupt, and the spectacular Gullfoss waterfall. After so much sightseeing, the only way to relax was in the hotel's outdoor hot tubs and pool and enjoy the warm geothermal waters.

Thursday's excursion was to the south coast of Iceland to visit two more amazing waterfalls, Seljalandsfoss, where the students walked behind the falls, and Skogafoss, where they climbed to the top of the 60 metre high waterfall. The south coast of Iceland has some

of the most dramatic coastal landscapes you will ever see and the dramatic black basaltic beaches and strange hexagonal columns on the cliff faces provided many wonderful photo opportunities.

The Year 12 and 13 Geographers are studying coastal stacks, arches and caves for their A Level and got very excited when they saw Dyrholaey (meaning door hole) a massive arch carved out of basalt. The Reynisdrangar needles (stacks) are, according to Icelandic legend, formed from two trolls that were trying to drag a three masted ship to land until, when daylight broke, they turned to stone. We think the A Level students would have a slightly different explanation! As if that wasn't enough physical geography, the group then visited the impressive Solheimajokull glacier which flows down from the Myrdasjokull icecap. Here the Year 11 students were able to recap their knowledge of the GCSE 'Ice on the land' topic identifying different types of moraine and the huge crevasses in the snout of the glacier. As if that wasn't enough excitement for one day, but there was yet more as after dinner the students headed for the

bright lights of Reykjavik for a very competitive bowling trip.

For many the highlight of the trip was the excursion to Heimaey, an island off the south coast of Iceland, formed by volcanic eruptions. On Friday, the sun shone and the sea was calm enough to make the crossing to Heimaey, the only inhabited Westman Islands. It was here, in 1973, that the islanders awoke to a volcanic eruption that threw out vast quantities of tephra and lava over a 6 month period, destroying part of the town and threatening the fishing harbour. Most of the 5000 inhabitants were evacuated to the mainland and fortunately there were no casualties. The students enjoyed clambering on the solidified lava, with the houses buried beneath their feet, and then walked to the summit of the Eldfell volcano, which was formed in the 1973 eruption. The views were spectacular and provided possibly one of the most beautiful picnic spots in the world. Escorted by Ashley, a very friendly Icelandic cat, the group then visited the wonderfully interactive Eldheimar museum to consolidate all they had seen during this amazing day.

# JUNIOR SPORT

Our sporting superstars at the Junior School have enjoyed a successful term. Here are some of their highlights.

## BDSSA CROSS COUNTRY

The first of this year's three BDSSA Cross Country events took place at QEGS Lammack Playing Fields. Westholme were represented by six boys and six girls from Years 4 through to 6.

Kate Deegan, Year 6, was first back for the girls with a remarkable 2nd place finish with Eve Downham, Year 4, close behind in a brilliant 6th place. Charlotte Backhouse, Year 6, also came in the top 20 (13th) in a very competitive field. Ayesha Vose, Year 4, Isabelle Haslam, Year 6, and Evie Mitchell, Year 5, completed the girls' team all coming in the top 40 from nearly 100 runners.

In a slightly controversial boys' race, Jonathan Brindle, Year 5, also finished in a wonderful 2nd place despite the race having to be restarted after a marshalling error that allowed the boys to run the wrong course. After running nearly 400m and comfortably leading the chasing pack, the race was stopped. William Ormisher, Year 5, was next back for the boys (22nd) with Jack Davies, Adam Davenport, Toby Haresceugh, Year 6, and Harry Duckworth, Year 5, all close behind.

Well done to all of our runners!



## NETBALL



Our Netball Team have been in action throughout the term competing in various fixtures. We were delighted when the team finished in 3rd place in the Plate competition of the St Pius Tournament.

## FOOTBALL



Our Year 5 and 6 Football Team competed in the Jubilee Shield event, only narrowly losing out on qualifying for the next round.



## AJIS CROSS COUNTRY

Our Year 5 and 6 students (along with a couple of Year 4 children) competed in the annual AJIS Cross Country Competition which was held at Rossall School.

Although the weather was dry, there was a fierce wind blowing straight off the Irish Sea making the course tough going into the wind. Our excited boys and girls walked the course prior to the run to assess the terrain and conditions.

The boys in Year 5 ran first with everyone putting in an excellent performance. A terrific run from Jonathan Brindle saw him finish in 2nd place in a field of well over 100 runners; well done to Jonathan.

Year 5 girls were next and raced off to the front of the field. They produced our best result of the day with the team coming 4th overall, narrowly missing out on the medals, whilst Eve Downham was first girl home in an extremely impressive 3rd place – well done, Eve. This was an impressive result as Eve is only in Year 4.

Both the boys and girls races in Year 6 were keenly contested with some great performances and gutsy runs.

# North West Cross Country Championships

**Sport can have its highs and its lows, it can be filled with triumph or disaster, but one thing remains consistent; hard work pays off.**

Since September our students have been training hard in both lunchtime and after school running clubs. Students have endured blood, sweat and tears when training, especially when they hill train! However, the grit and determination shown in training transferred directly onto the cross country course!

Junior and Senior students competed in the annual Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall Cross Country event. The weather yet again this year was pretty grim with the course already saturated and driving winds and rain to contend with.

Not to be put off by such small matters...our teams donned running footwear, hats and gloves and attacked the course in true Westholme style.

The Year 5 and 6 girls took to the challenging course first and despite a few slips and slides, they all performed amazingly well with Kate Deegan romping home in an excellent 3rd place. The rest of the team did not disappoint and the top 5 runners all finished in the top 30 in a field of over 70 runners.

They then cheered on the boys' team who flashed past in a cloud of mud and rain. The boys had a tough field of runners and an even tougher race to battle with the now driving rain; however they all acquitted themselves well and had some good finishes.



Our U13 girls did tremendously well with a special congratulations going to Charlotte Corrigan who finished 1st and Hollie Cubbon who finished in 3rd place. This meant our U13 girls finished 2nd overall – a fantastic achievement.

The U13 boys were the last group on what was now a very muddy course. In typical cross country style, the heavens opened and there was a huge downpour of rain and hail at the very start of the race. Undeterred, they got off to a great start and managed to keep it up the entire way round; some even managed a brilliant sprint finish to gain valuable points. The boys were delighted when they found out the team came 3rd out of all of the North West!

Well done to all our intrepid runners both individually and as part of the team overall.

<b>U11 (Girls)</b>	3rd	<b>U11 (Boys)</b>	12th
<b>U13 (Girls)</b>	2nd	<b>U13 (Boys)</b>	3rd





## Swimming Success!

The boys and girls in our swimming teams made Westholme history when they were both crowned Blackburn with Darwen Swimming Champions!

It is a first for our Senior boys to be town champions. However, it came as no surprise as they have been very close in many events and this year they have all worked extremely hard; training twice a week from September.

Seven schools entered the gala held at QEGS and we had at least one swimmer in every final. It was a great event and one our boys will always remember.

In the girls' event, a fabulous score of 117 (with their closest rivals way behind on 84) guaranteed that they too were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Swimming Champions.

The gala was again held at QEGS and our team put in some fine performances. Keep on swimming!



## Badminton

Both of our U16 teams played spirited games in the first round of the Centre Parcs National Schools' Badminton Competition which was held at Westholme. Our A team successfully qualified for the county round of this competition and will now represent Blackburn with Darwen Schools.



# SENIOR SPORT

## Netball Achievements

Our U19 netball team competed in the first round of the National Schools' Netball Championships at UCLan sports arena. Westholme were very strong against serious competitors and comfortably won 4 out of 5 matches in the group stages.

They continued their winning streak when they then met Stonyhurst in the semi-final, and won 16-4. This meant they were through to the final against Newman again. After a very close and exciting match, we just lost 14-8. Congratulations to our U19 team who are now Lancashire runners-up. They will go through to the regional round on 21st January at Wirral Grammar School. A very well-deserved victory.



## BDSSA Hockey Champions Again!



Congratulations to our U12, U14 and U16 hockey teams who excelled themselves to become champions again this year, in the BDSSA Hockey Tournament held at Westholme. The U16s are the BDSSA champions for the 21st year in a row. The U14 A team were unbeaten in the competition, winning against teams from St. Wilfrid's, St. Bede's and even our own B team. The B team were also determined not to be outdone and succeeded as runners up in the competition just behind the A team.

In the U12 Tournament our A team won all their matches convincingly and so our Year 7 hockey team are now also BDSSA champions. Our hockey teams continue to go from strength to strength - well done on a successful season!



## Football Heroes

Our Year 8 football team had a great start to the football season and were well-deserved winners of the Shewsbury 6 a-side tournament.



## Cross Country

This year's Blackburn with Darwen Cross Country Championships took place at Witton Park. Runners from each group ran well on the slippery mud course and did Westholme proud.

Well done to Hollie Cubbon who won the Year 7 race with a fantastic sprint finish at the end. Will Couch in Year 8 came 3rd in his race, Charlotte Corrigan and Laura Backhouse finished in 2nd place and Lucy Lambert came 3rd.

Congratulations to the Year 8 and 9 boys' team who are now Blackburn with Darwen team champions, and well done to the Year 10 and 11 girls who came 2nd and the Year 8 and 9 girls who came 3rd.

A big congratulations to the nine Westholme runners who were selected to run for Blackburn Town team in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships in February 2017.



# Law taster day



**Students in Years 10, 11 and Sixth Form from Westholme and three other local secondary schools enjoyed a Law Taster Day which was held at Senior School in conjunction with the Law faculty at Lancaster University.**

Dr Siobhan Weare and her team began the day with an interesting taster lecture on Criminal Law. Students gained a real insight into the world of being a Law student and welcomed the opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session. After a quick break, session 2 was soon underway. This was delivered by current parent and Director of Backhouse Jones Solicitors, Jonathon Backhouse. We were delighted that Jonathon brought one of his employees (and Old Westholmian, Charlotte Jackson) to assist him during this session where students debated a recent, high profile case and tried to determine if the suspect was guilty or innocent. Once again, students asked thought-provoking questions and our guest speakers complimented them on their maturity throughout the session.

After a delicious lunch, students were then given the opportunity to browse the stalls in the Common Room where many exhibitors from local law firms were situated for the lunchtime Careers Fair. We were pleased to welcome representatives from AMT Lawyers, Keogh's, Napthens, Forbes, Blakewater (including Old Westholmian, Henna Khan), Backhouse Jones, UCLan and Brabners who spoke to the students about their areas of speciality. This gave all students the opportunity to speak to experts in their field and proved to be a worthwhile experience.

The afternoon session was once again conducted by the team from Lancaster University and consisted of Moot (mock trials) preparations and presentations. Students were given various case studies to work on and presented their findings to Siobhan and her team. It is worth noting that this activity is usually undertaken by Law students in their first year at university and Siobhan was really impressed by the standard of presentations she watched.

The day ended with all students having enjoyed the event; it will certainly be something they will be able to include on their university applications. Siobhan explained attendance at today's taster day will set them aside from other students when applying on those important university courses in Law.

We would like to thank the team from Lancaster, Jonathon and Charlotte from Backhouse Jones and all of our exhibitors who attended the lunchtime careers fair. Your support at this event has been greatly appreciated.



# WESTHOLME

# WELCOMED...

We have been fortunate to welcome a number of visitors to school this term who have each shared their knowledge with our students on a range of topics. From Nursery children to Sixth Form students, Westholmians of all ages have benefited from these special visits.



## Author Visits

This term, we have hosted three author visits with our friends at Silverwood Events. We would like to thank them for coordinating these visits with us.



Firstly, author, Philip Ardagh and illustrator, Elissa Elwick, visited our Infant School to talk about their children's book, *Leafy the Pet Leaf*. This visit gave the children in Pre School to Year 3 the opportunity to gain a real insight into the world of a children's author and illustrator.



To begin, Philip talked to the children about each of the characters in the book and explained what pets they had. Later with Elissa, the children were asked to help her create a character of their own. Our children chose a

tall, thin boy with enormous feet and wild, crazy hair. He was called Sugar and had a pet unicorn called T-shirt – what an interesting character!

After the talk had finished, the children were excited to learn that they could have a copy of the book, which they had purchased, signed by the duo.

Just a week later, we were delighted to welcome Clare Balding to Senior School to talk to Year 3 and Year 4 children (from Westholme and other local primary schools) about her children's book, *The Racehorse Who Wouldn't Gallop*. Clare read excerpts from her book and presented an interactive slideshow which gave us an insight into the world of horse racing.

When Clare's talk drew to a close, a Q and A session ensued with questions ranging from 'how long did it take to write the book?' to 'when is your birthday?'.

Clare really was amazing; her stories of meeting famous Olympians coupled with others about the world of horse racing gave us a real insight into the fast paced lifestyle of this talented TV and radio presenter (and now popular children's author!).

Finally, as the term drew to a close, we were thrilled when Gareth P Jones visited our Junior School to give an interactive talk about his books in the Thornthwaite series to the children in Years 4 and 5.



The Nursery children received a visit from a current parent, Mrs Ahmed, who spoke to them about her work as a Dentist.



Reception children welcomed their parents to school for a Come and Learn session.



Children in Nursery & Pre School had fun learning about the work the police carry out during a special visit from members of the Lancashire Constabulary.



The Onatti Theatre Company performed *¿Cuántos me gusta tienes?* to an audience of Year 10 students from Westholme and other local secondary schools.



Swinging at the Cotton Club was the first event in this year's Concert Series and entertained audiences in the Croston Theatre.



The 'History Man', Adrian Warrell, visited Year 3 dressed as archaeologist, Howard Carter, to talk about Ancient Egypt.



We welcomed Michael Cain from TwentyOne Agency to school for the annual BIMA Digital Day.

# FOCUS ON... The House System



On the last day of autumn term at Senior School, one of the many highlights is the much anticipated staging of the four House plays. Funny, sharp, clever, observational, witty, occasionally irreverent; these plays, written by the students themselves represent all that is best about Westholme life. They include everyone in some way, rely on excellent teamwork to come together, showcase talent and invoke a keen sense of competition. A perfect summary of the Westholme House system in general...



Senior School students ready to run!

Every pupil and staff member at Westholme is assigned a House. This starts at Infant School with three Houses: Longridge, Bowland and Pendle and extends out to Calder in the Senior School where there is a much greater volume of pupils. Based on local regions of significance, the Houses form a long standing Westholme tradition creating competition, promoting good work and behaviour, encouraging teamwork, providing opportunities to take on responsibilities and bringing everyone in the school together. Pupils are incredibly proud to belong to their House and the addition of staff Head of Houses at Senior School in recent years has sharpened the competitive edge even further! Over the summer, new House T-shirts were introduced displaying imaginative, intuitively designed new crests which the pupils have enthusiastically accepted as

part of their House identity. They were a huge hit for the first key House event of the year, the Cross Country run. Juniors also enjoyed their own House Cross Country competition this term, which was likewise hotly contested and a really joyful event. The war paint, the collaboration, the support and the enthusiasm on display show a real identification with the Houses and long after our alumni leave, they talk of their House with both affection and affiliation.



Half way around the course for the Juniors.

Westholme Life caught up with the current Senior School House Captains to ask them their views on leading the Houses, and what they felt they were gaining from their experience. Universally, they believed it was an important link between the Sixth Form and the rest of the School, and allowed them to motivate, lead and inspire the younger pupils. They acknowledged the responsibility of the role and felt it was giving them some valuable life skills, but more than anything, they stressed how much fun they were having and how much they enjoyed getting to know all the members of their House. The same is true at Junior and Infant schools, where the House Captains are also encouraged to step up and lead, to cajole and include. Each year the numerous inter-House competitions (which span everything from public speaking, general knowledge quizzes to every kind of sport), ultimately lead to a clutch of shining trophies, bedecked with ribbons, which are collected at the annual Prizegiving events by the House Captains. And so the tradition continues onto the next year...



Bowland House Captains at the Infant School swimming gala last year.



## Senior House Captains

- Pendle** Katie Sudell & Molly Walker
- Longridge** Maddie Laing & Holly Salisbury
- Bowland** Anya White & Francine Tattersall
- Calder** Jolie Mackereth & Megan May Jones



## Junior House Captains

- Pendle** Charlotte Backhouse & Toby Haresceugh
- Longridge** Yusuf Toheed & Isabella Clark
- Bowland** Adam Davenport & Olivia Ashby



## Infant House Captains

- Pendle** Ammara Zumla & Elliot Powell
- Longridge** Farhan Dudiya & Bertie McGhie
- Bowland** Cameron Osborn & Elizabeth Judah



Excitement builds on the start line of the Junior School House Cross Country event.



Infant School children competing for their House in last year's Sports Day.



The finish line is in sight for the Seniors.

# Here & there

Learning at Westholme takes place outdoors as well as in the classroom. This term has certainly been no exception and students from all year groups have visited many interesting places to enhance their learning.



The Lower Sixth Form Geographers had only spent a short time in the classroom before they ventured out to put theory into practice on their field trip to Ainsdale.



Four Year 12 students took part in the worldwide Physics Olympics at the University of Liverpool.



Sixth Form Business Studies students visited James Hall Spar for an interactive evening of learning.



Year 1 children learnt all about a Victorian Christmas by taking part in different workshops when they visited Judges' Lodgings for the day.



At the start of term, Sixth Form students enjoyed an exhilarating 'Team Building' session at the Anderton Centre in Chorley.



Mrs Waldron and Miss Smith took a group of students from French & German classes in Years 10 and 11 and some Sixth Form students to the Christmas Markets in Manchester.



Children in Year 1 had a morning of fascinating learning when they visited Beardwood Hospital as part of their topic on Ourselves and Our Bodies.



Year 4 children enjoyed a visit to Roman Chester as part of their history studies.



Year 6 enjoy a trip back in time at Quarry Bank Mill.



Year 11 & Sixth Form went on an inspiring art & photography trip to Blackpool

# The gift of giving

**Westholme students of all ages have enjoyed raising money for charity this term.**

All students helped to raise money for Children in Need by taking part in a special Fitness Friday event in school.

From Nursery through to Sixth Form, students enjoyed sessions including 'Wake up, Shake up', aerobics, dancing, circuit training and even a brisk walk around the grounds of Wilmar Lodge.

Other activities taking place included making Pudsey faces out of healthy snacks, Tai-Chi and Pudsey themed creative crafts.

Senior School students wore their own sports kits to school whilst Nursery, Infant and Junior children accessorised their uniforms with spots, dots and Pudsey ears!

Thanks to everyone for getting involved in raising money for this fantastic charity. We raised a fantastic £1358.18!



Students at Senior School filled shoeboxes for the International Aid Trust's Shoebox Appeal.



Nursery and Infant School children helped to raise money for The Royal British Legion by taking part in a Poppy Competition.



The Westholme community gathered together at Billinge House for a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer. A total of £386.53 was raised for the charity.



The proceeds from the collections taken at each of the Infant School nativities were donated to Alder Hey Children's Hospital and Children with Cancer UK.



Westholme's Human Rights Group supported Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign.



Some of the Sixth Form students helped out on the Age UK Silver Surfers initiative during their enrichment lessons.



The students of the Year 10 Westholme Fairtrade Committee, along with Kath Greenlees, the Fairtrade representative, ran a very popular stall in the LRC. They sold a wide range of gifts and sweets to a very enthusiastic crowd and raised an amazing £740 for the Fairtrade Campaign.

# WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

The Westholme Association work tirelessly throughout the year, raising money to provide the students of Westholme with that something extra. This term has been no exception as they hosted a Comedy Night and a Winter Ball.

## WINTER BALL

This year's Winter Ball at Ewood Park was a tremendous success and a truly enjoyable evening.

It was fantastic to see so many parents and teachers enjoying themselves and socialising outside of the school setting. The event raised over £11,000 which is more than ever from the Ball – down to record numbers attending (162) and the amazing generosity of parents and local businesses providing prizes for the raffle, the silent auction and advertising in the glossy brochure which everyone got to take away and browse through at their leisure.

The men looked amazing in their black tie attire and the ladies, as you can see from the pictures, were sparkling from head to toe.

Ewood Park and Northcote provided a fantastic meal, especially the main course of lamb cutlets and slow cooked lonk lamb. They also donated the cranberry fizz reception which the Association were truly grateful to receive as this has never been offered at any other venue.



There were so many raffle prizes kindly donated that it would be impossible to mention them all, but the dinner party for 8 cooked by Lisa Goodwin-Allen (Head Chef at Northcote Manor), Olly Murs concert tickets, and Manchester United Executive Club hospitality tickets were among the favourites. Almost everyone went away with something including the flowers from the tables, which again were kindly provided by a parent who was willing to help make the room look totally amazing!

To top it all, the DJ was great and got everyone up on the dance floor. The Association would like to thank everybody who helped to make Saturday November 12th one of the most memorable and profitable events they have ever had.

All money raised goes back into school to help provide our students with that something extra, such as the laser cutter to be found in the D.T. Department, trips, trophies, football and tennis nets, outdoor seating and much more.



## COMEDY NIGHT

On Saturday 24th September the Westholme Association's Comedy Night came back by popular demand.

The event was another huge success and all three comedians were hilarious in their own unique way.

It was a fantastic evening with £1900 raised and thanks to everyone who supported this fabulous night.



Merry Christmas  
to all...



Westholme is always full of the Christmas spirit as the season begins with Nativity performances by the children at the Infant School.

## A Little Bird Told Me

A wonderful Christmas tale was told by the children of Pre School and Reception in their captivating performance of 'A Little Bird Told Me', which took place at the Nursery and Infant School.

The story follows the brave adventures of a little Robin one cold, snowy night. She dreams of flying to a warmer place when she hears a bird tell of some exciting news about the birth of a very special King, far, far away in Bethlehem. A passing flock of birds ask her to join them on their travels to visit the newborn baby and so little Robin decides to fly south with them. On their way they meet shepherds, angels and wise men and together they surprise the baby Jesus with a very special present.

Everyone was star-struck by the beautiful voices and heart-warming performances of all the children. They played their roles with confidence and spoke their lines so clearly that the stage really came to life. The children seemed delighted with their success and received a well-deserved round of applause from family and friends.

## Prickly Hay

The shining stars of Year 1 and Year 2 dazzled the audience with their animated performance of 'Prickly Hay – A Nativity Hoedown', which took place in the Croston Theatre.

The Prickly Hay story begins with Sam, a hardworking young stable boy, but no one seems to notice his hard work. His ever-faithful friend, Shrew, tries to keep his spirits up, but Sam is finding it hard to feel important at all. However, as crowds gather in Bethlehem for the census and the inns fill up, some very special visitors are shown to Sam's stable. Gradually, as the miraculous events of the night unfold, Sam starts to realise his worth - with a little help from his friend Shrew!

A toe-tapping selection of roof raising tunes entertained family and friends, and put everyone in the Christmas mood. The children were so professional and enthusiastic, entralling the audience with their wonderful acting and singing. They really captured the imagination and made the story their own. A fabulous performance by some rising stars!



# Joy to the World

*The Westholme community gathered together to celebrate the Junior and Senior Carol Services in the familiar tradition in the spectacular surroundings of the Cathedral.*

The Senior School Carol Service marked the start of the Westholme Christmas celebrations at the cathedral. The evening of readings and carols brought together students, staff, Old Westholmians and Governors in a moving service of contemplation to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. The readers delivered thought-provoking words to the congregation whilst the choristers and musicians filled the cathedral with uplifting hymns and inspiring movements. A truly splendid evening.

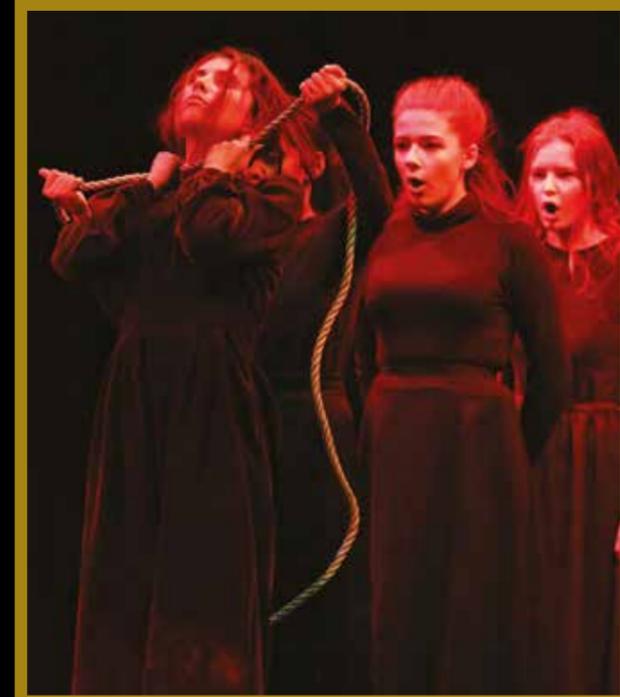
The 'Christmas Celebration' preceded the Junior Carol Service, featuring Junior ensembles; brass, woodwind, string, harp, recorder groups and orchestra. All of the children displayed incredible talent and played beautifully, filling the halls with the spirit of Christmas. The angelic voices of the singers entranced the audience and set the scene for what was to come.

Proceedings continued with the main Carol Service and special celebration. The beautiful voices rang out through the cathedral and lifted everyone's hearts, whilst the readers spoke so eloquently, they imbued the whole service with peace and joy. Wonderful solos from pupils added sparkle to the afternoon and made everyone feel festive. A fabulous way to continue the Christmas period.



# Drama Showcase

The Drama Showcase performance is a spectacular success for the second year running.



This year's Drama Showcase proved to be a huge draw for even more aspiring actors and performers, which included boys and girls from every year; all hoping to tread the boards of the Croston Theatre.

There was an incredible variety of acts showing off the talents of the pupils, ranging from high energy musical theatre such as *Hairspray Medley* and *High School Musical*, to the more sombre set piece 'Mary Ann Cotton', and the humorous anecdotes from 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. The Showcase was a roller coaster of emotion, sometimes sending the audience into fits of laughter and other times conducting spine-tingling shivers through the auditorium.

It was obvious that so much hard work and professionalism had gone into producing the show including the fabulous costumes, set design, sound and lighting, which only enhanced the performances of all of the students.

From the youngest to the more experienced thespians, the confidence of the performers really shone through, and the camaraderie of the cast was evident, both on stage and behind the scenes. Hopefully the thrill of being part of such a successful showcase will be something the students will always treasure, and perhaps in the future it will even inspire them to seek out the bright lights of the West End.



## *Spring Term 2017*

Thursday 5th January - Wednesday 29th March

*Half Term - Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February (inclusive)*

## *Summer Term 2017*

Wednesday 19th April - Wednesday 12th July

*Half Term - Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June (inclusive)*

## *Autumn Term 2017*

Tuesday 5th September - Year 7 & Year 12 Induction Day  
Wednesday 6th September - Wednesday 20th December

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



**WESTHOLME  
SCHOOL**

Wilmar Lodge, Meins Road, Blackburn. BB2 6QU

Tel: 01254 506070

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