

A Brilliant Sports Tour Weekend

*Our fantastic sports stars
enjoyed a successful sports tour*

WESTHOLME MOVES FORWARD

Exciting new developments ahead

WESTHOLME LIFE

SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014

MARVELLOUS MUSICAL EVENING

*Our Junior School pupils wow the audience
with their performance of Robin Hood*



**WESTHOLME
SCHOOL**

CONTENTS



05

THE APPRENTICE

Exciting challenges for our budding entrepreneurs



08

NATIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

A thrilling week of all things science



11

SPORT RELIEF SUPERSTARS

Billinge House fundraising fun



15

CONCERT SERIES SPLENDOUR

Our amazing musicians delight audiences



19

FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

Westholme pupils thinking of others



23

VISITORS

Inspiring visitors are welcomed to Westholme



27

FOCUS ON

Westholme Life talks to the Learning Resource Manager



07

HITTING THE SLOPES

The 2014 ski trip to Sestriere



09

CAREERS CONVENTION

Senior School pupils talk to experts in their field



13

WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS

A love of literature throughout the School



17

SPORTS AWARDS DINNER

A night to celebrate our sporting stars



21

WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

More fundraising events take place



25

OUTDOOR ACTION

Students embark on many exciting trips



29

PARIS/ROME

Easter trip to European capitals



**LESSONS LEARNED
IN POLITICS &
ELSEWHERE**

Edwina Currie hosts the Arthur Rouse lecture

30



**ART AND
PHOTOGRAPHY**

Highlights of this year's exhibition

33



**DUKE OF
EDINBURGH'S
AWARD**

Successful expeditions all round

36



**THE CROSTON
THEATRE**

Catwalk or exhibition gallery?

39



**THOROUGHLY
MODERN MILLIE**

A 'thoroughly' wonderful show

43



SENIOR SPORT

Awards in abundance

47



STAFF CHANGES

Hello and goodbye

51



**SIXTH FORM
STAND DOWN**

We say a fond farewell to the Class of 2014

31



**JUNIOR SCHOOL
STARLETS**

Our Junior School pupils astound the audience

35



**BRILLIANT
BIOLOGISTS**

Challenges and field trips galore!

37



**WESTHOLME
MOVES FORWARD**

Onwards and upwards

41



JUNIOR SPORT

Success stories for our Juniors

45



SPORTS DAYS

On your marks, get set, go!

49



NOTICES

Key dates

52

THE APPRENTICE

comes to Westholme...

As part of their Business Studies Course, Lower Sixth students took part in an 'Apprentice Style' challenge in conjunction with James Hall Ltd. The challenge comprised of three separate tasks. Students travelled to two Trade Fairs in both Birmingham and London and then presented their findings to the James Hall Management Team.



The first challenge saw the students visit the London Toy Fair, at Earls Court. Their task had a definite Sir Alan Sugar ring to it! They had two days to select, price and recommend the new 'Best Selling' toy appropriate for James Hall's market. Girls faced a packed Earl's court of over 400 exhibitors in their bid to spot that potential best seller, lunch on the go, the infamous taxi ride and even a debrief meeting in a local café. A finance lesson and serious negotiation with suppliers began on day two. Work even continued on the train journey home as the students started to prepare their costings and presentation for the James Hall Management Team.

The second Trade Fair which the students visited was the Spring Fair at the NEC Birmingham; this was the largest Craft Fair in Europe. The girls were asked by Spar Distribution to select products for sale in their Spar stores, petrol stations and on their internet site. They had a unique and unmissable opportunity to negotiate cost prices with suppliers and search for innovative retail and online products.

After visiting both trade fairs, it was time to analyse their product selections, do their number crunching, justify their recommendations and present their findings to the James Hall Management team. The presentation took

place in the conference suite at James Hall Ltd where the girls were faced with a panel of twelve managers who listened intently to the students before asking them probing questions in order to clarify the choices that had been made. Products ranged from 'Minecraft' keyrings, a new app 'Animin' to a snow scooter! We look forward to seeing how these products actually sell when they are placed in Spar stores throughout the North West.

Seeing business come to life and having this unique, real, hands on experience has enhanced the students' studies beyond belief and a huge thank you goes to all involved from James Hall for their support, insight and generosity. The students gained an invaluable experience that will set them apart when they come to complete UCAS forms and or apply for future jobs!

Congratulations to Hannah Wood who as a result of her superb performances throughout the project has been selected to represent SPAR at a National Focus Group Conference in London.



Hitting the Slopes



Forty students and six members of staff enjoyed a seven day ski trip to Italy. Staying in the Sestriere area, the conditions were perfect for refining their skiing skills.

The party enjoyed 4 hours of tutored skiing each day, where they were able to develop their techniques and put them into practice once they hit the slopes. In addition to skiing, all students had fun snowboarding and ice-skating. Other highlights included the traditional Westholme 'wally hat' competition and a skidoo ride which proved to be very popular.

What a fabulous trip!





NATIONAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING WEEK

Throughout National Science & Engineering Week there were activities for all.

The practical side of things got off to a flying start with students from Year 7 to Sixth Form joining the Physics department to build model hovercrafts using old CDs, sports bottle tops and balloons. Later in the week students were lucky enough to have two representatives from UCLAN to talk about careers in dentistry. They also brought in a training model and had the students trying to remove teeth! A popular activity for students of all ages was to extract their own DNA to take away in a necklace, which made for a perfect Mother's Day present!

Other presentations were delivered by Dr Bibby from UCLAN, entitled



"Stellar evolution", a topic covered in both the GCSE and A-level syllabuses and Dr Reade from Heysham's nuclear power station, who came to talk to a large audience about working in the nuclear industry.

Our National Science & Engineering Week finale was held outside at the end of the week. Students were able to view and take part in two

very exciting experiments. The first experiment involved setting fire to methane gas bubbles with an eight foot splint! Secondly, Mentos were dropped into litre bottles of coloured fizzy drinks in order to create a rainbow effect! Students in the crowd may have got a little wet but it was a fantastic event to round off a week of excellent science and engineering activities.



Careers Convention

The biennial careers convention was held with plenty of students and parents all keen to ask questions and listen to experts in their chosen field. It was open to students in Years 8 and upwards. Exhibitors came and represented a wide range of over 40 careers, including Accountancy, Dentistry, Journalism, Teaching and Medicine. We also welcomed representatives from a number of new careers such as Investment Banking, Environmental Science and even Rolls-Royce!

It was particularly apt, that during Science & Engineering week, the largest range of people from engineering careers to date were in attendance.

Westholme students and parents found the evening to be most valuable and took the opportunity to find out more about the working world. With a number of local universities also being represented, students were able to enquire about subjects offered and grades needed.

A number of Old Westholmians also returned to school for the convention and it was lovely to see so many of them talking passionately about their chosen careers.

Thank you to all exhibitors for taking time to attend our careers convention – it really was a great evening!





SPORT RELIEF SUPERSTARS

All children at Billinge House really embraced the Sport Relief spirit as they took part in a sponsored walk, obstacle course and a whole school Zumbathon!





The day began with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children walking from Billinge House to Wilmar Lodge. Along the way they were chanting, singing and playing musical instruments to make as much noise as they could. As they approached Senior School, a welcoming party of staff and Year 7 pupils were stood outside cheering them on. Nursery and Pre School children were also there to show their support.

Next, was time for the obstacle course which had been set up in the sports hall. All children completed the circuit twice with many staff members also taking part. The children really did go that extra mile for the charity, as they walked back to Billinge House just in time for lunch.

A whole school Zumbathon on the playground at Billinge House rounded off the Sport Relief challenge in style. Well done to everyone who took part and to the whole staff team for their hard work in organising such a wonderful event. We managed to raise a staggering £1413.61!





Wonderful

A love of literature runs through the very heart of Westholme School. From our Nursery children enjoying their weekly visits to the Infant School library to the Shakespeare speaking competition at Senior School. All pupils at Westholme embrace the wonderful world of books!

World Book Day was celebrated in literary style throughout the whole of Westholme. At the Boys' Junior School, pupils dressed up as their favourite fictional character. In every classroom you could meet Harry Potter, James Bond, Buzz Lightyear and Willy Wonka, to name but a few. Some of the boys brought in their favourite books and discussed why they had chosen their favourite character.

Pupils at Senior School took part in the English Department's 'drop everything and read' day. The idea was for classes to drop everything, whether it be Bunsen burners in Science, maps in Geography or instruments in Music, and read a book. Form classes also competed in a book related Quiz which resulted in delicious cakes being won by three successful forms.

To celebrate Book Week, each year group at Beardwood Bank took part in a number of activities, including designing their very own book covers for two classic stories! *George's Marvellous Medicine* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Pupils in Year 5 had lots of fun dressing up as book characters and interviewing their friends in role, whilst another group produced book blurbs and covers for their favourite reads. In addition, the girls enjoyed browsing and buying books at a book fair.



Boys in 3M had fun celebrating World Book Day

World of Books



Westholme gave a warm welcome to fantasy fiction author Joseph Delaney when he visited school during the summer term. Joseph talked to Junior and Senior School pupils about his book 'A New Darkness' which is the first in a new trilogy called 'The Starblade Chronicles'. He told the pupils how his inspiration to start writing came from reading *Treasure Island* and the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

Students found it interesting to know that many of the Spook's books are based in Lancashire and are inspired by local ghost stories and legends. After the presentation, students had the opportunity to meet Joseph and get their books signed.

Thank you to Joseph for taking the time to visit Westholme and to share his inspirations with our students.

Concert Series Splendour



HOUSE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Many pupils took part in the House Musical Festival which was held in The Croston Theatre. They had been selected after performing in front of their classmates.

A wide range of performers were chosen to reflect the different abilities of the children; some had been playing for many years and others for only a matter of weeks.

Singers took to the stage along with pianists, trumpet players and harpists. Our wonderful Year 6 readers guided us through the morning's events with confidence and clarity as they spoke.

Congratulations went to Pendle who were crowned overall winners for the Boys' Junior School and to Longridge who won for the Girls' Junior School. Well done to all performers.



This year 'The Soloists' Recital' opened the concert series in the Spring Term. Many of our young musicians performed to an audience of justifiably proud parents and staff.

Later that month, the Spring Concert saw our budding musicians take to the stage in groups including the Senior Choir, Junior Orchestra and Swing Band, to perform various instrumental and vocal pieces.

We were also delighted to welcome Martin Roscoe to The Croston Theatre. His recital was the opening concert for the Ribble Valley International Piano Week which Westholme were proud to be a part of. The school orchestra presented the prelude to the main recital.

The grand finale to the concert series was the Gala Concert, held in the Summer Term. Senior School students provided a wonderful evening of music for guests. The evening featured members of the Upper Sixth Form who presented solo movements as a climax to their musical career in school, as well as vocal soloists and group performances.

It was a superb occasion and a splendid way to draw this year's Concert Series to a close.

“ Year after year the Concert Series provides music lovers with a wide variety of musical entertainment. ”

Sports Tour

48 of our fantastic sports stars enjoyed a very successful sports tour in Cardiff, where students participated in a variety of sporting and non-sporting activities.



In their first match Years 8, 9 and 10 competed in hotly contested matches against a local hockey club. The girls and boys thoroughly enjoyed the games and came away exhausted and ready for bed.

The next day saw the tour move to Glamorgan Sports Park (home to Cardiff City Football Academy) where the boys excelled themselves in a football tournament. Their effort and attitude has to be commended. The highlight was a fantastic team goal finished off nicely by Owen Greenwood-Dawson.



Whilst the boys were battling it out on the football pitch the girls were inside competing in netball matches against a club who were previously national champions of Wales! The girls did tremendously well and won 2 matches, drew 1 and lost 3.



After the matches the girls and boys went their separate ways with the boys touring the Millennium Stadium. They learnt about the history of the stadium and loved being inside the home dressing room and walking through the tunnel. The tour finished with them lifting the trophy.

Whilst the boys were busy imagining themselves to be famous footballers, the girls were off shopping. They enjoyed a lovely time together and even came back with large amounts of Krispy Kreme doughnuts much to the delight of the staff!

With the shopping and tour finished it was time to head out into Cardiff for the evening meal. This was topped off with a surprise cake for Charlotte Bowker who turned 13 that day. After the meal, everyone enjoyed a trip to the cinema.

The final day brought more excitement in the form of white water rafting. Every student participated and all left soaking wet!

This was by far their favourite activity, as they got the chance to push their teachers in the water. Miss Furness paid the price when she tried to jump aboard the boys raft and was left swimming back to shore!

The 48 students returned to school rather tired after their action packed weekend, but had many stories of laughter and were incredibly excited for the 2015 sports tour.



Sports Awards Dinner



A wonderful celebratory evening to honour Westholme's sporting superstars took place at Ewood Park in May.

The evening began with a dance performance by Olivia Pickford accompanied by singing from Dominic Naylor and Rumi Sutton, showing that our students are not just talented on the sports field! Guests were invited to take part in a modelling balloon hat competition and prizes were awarded to the most creative designs.

After a delicious meal the presentations began. We were delighted to welcome Alice Travis and Georgie Webster who play netball for England, as our guest speakers. Awards presented included Players' Player, Coach's Player, the Booth Trophy for Sporting Endeavour, awarded to the Year 7 & 8 Cross Country Champions and the Blackburn Chemicals Award for Senior Sports Personality of the Year, won by Emma Dean.

As celebrations drew to a close, the guest speakers took to the stage and highlighted that being successful in sport requires hard work and determination yet is immensely rewarding.

The grand finale was the much anticipated sports video compilation which provided lots of entertainment along with the surprise disco which was enjoyed by everyone.

What a fantastic evening!



FANTASTIC FUNDRAISING

The children at Westholme love nothing more than raising money for a good cause and having great fun at the same time! As always, the whole school have played their part in one way or another...

MARVELLOUS MARATHON EVENT

To show their support for Year 6 boys teacher Mr Haworth, who ran the London Marathon in April in aid of Barnado's, the entire Boys' Junior School took part in a sponsored event. Pupils had 'designed' games and lead various activities throughout the morning on the astro turf at the

Senior School. Ten multi sport activity stations were completed, which included a penalty shoot out, a sprint course and an obstacle course.

Boys also had to walk, jog or run around the perimeter of the astro turf in a bid to complete as many laps as they could in the allotted time. Some of

the Senior School boys also completed this challenge. Whilst running, they passed many sights of London, including Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace and The Mall!

Mr Haworth successfully completed the marathon in an incredible 3 hours 44 minutes, raising over £2000 for the charity.



HEALTHY HEARTS

As part of the Infant School Healthy Heart Day, all children took part in activities over two days, to raise money to buy a defibrillator for Billinge House. Year 2 took to the swimming pool and completed a carousel of swimming activities such as 'Splash-a-size', 'Zumba Aqua Aerobics and 'Beat the Clock'.

The following day all pupils took part in an aerobics session, led by Mrs Sutcliffe. Everyone enjoyed bending, stretching and jogging on the spot to keep themselves fit.

What a fantastic effort by everyone – a brilliant £243.96 was raised!



FUNDRAISING FUN RUN!

Junior girls took part in a sponsored run around the grounds of Beardwood Bank to raise money for two well deserving charities. The first, 'Threads of Hope', is a charity that Year 5 teacher, Mrs Hayton, did some voluntary work for last summer, in Kenya. The second, 'The International Porter Protection Group' (IPPG) supports the porters who work at the Everest base camp.

Throughout the day, all pupils completed a circuit within the school grounds and everyone was given half an hour to do as many laps as they could. It was a lovely atmosphere and they could be heard cheering on their class mates to push themselves that bit further. A total of 1310 laps were completed and an amazing £2776 was raised for the two charities – what an amazing effort!

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

The EPR department and the Year 10 JAC Team (Justice, Awareness, Charity) hosted a 'Night at the Movies' event for Year 7 pupils. The evening was held after school in the Sixth Form common room where pupils tucked into a party tea of pizza and nibbles, before returning to classrooms to change into their themed costumes for the night. The movie, 'Monsters Inc. University' was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and provided great inspiration for some grizzly, groovy outfits.

During the interval, the common room was filled with JAC Team stalls selling delectable treats including candy floss, a chocolate fountain and lots of sweets. Everyone enjoyed the night and a fantastic £550 was raised!



WESTHOLME

SPRING FAIR

The infamous Spring Fair was a huge success this year with over £7000 being raised for the School. Visitors to Wilmar Lodge were able to meander around the many stalls, try their luck on the tombola and sample the famous Westholme shortbread! Guests could visit the plant stall and 'Sweet' Mothers' Day stall, buy homemade cakes in the dining hall, throw sponges at teachers and parents in the stocks and much more! The all important raffle was drawn by Mrs Horner; prizes up for grabs included a wonderful array of hampers and boxes of beautifully made cupcakes. With the sun shining and the grounds of Wilmar Lodge looking stunning it really was a Spring Fair to remember.

ASSOCIATION

The Westholme Association work tirelessly arranging many events and this year has been no different. Parents, children, staff and the wider Westholme community have enjoyed some wonderful occasions.

FUNDRAISING WITH FLOWERS

The Westholme Association organised a Flower Arranging Evening which was held in the Sixth Form Centre at Wilmar Lodge.

Jacqueline Iddon, a well known garden expert, enlightened her audience with gardening tips for summer, and demonstrated arranging flowers and plants. Jacqueline was a fantastic speaker, very witty and very passionate. A raffle was drawn before the talk and raised £500 for Macmillan Cancer Support. As the evening drew to a close, guests had an opportunity to ask questions and purchase some of the lovely, healthy looking plants that Jacqueline had brought. Jacqueline also offered advice on the best places to plant them and how to care for them.

A fabulous evening was had by all. Special thanks go to the Wilmar Lodge catering staff who provided a lovely hot supper.



Visitors





- 1 Matthew Hoggard MBE presents the prizes at the Boys' Junior School Prizegiving ceremony
- 2 Year 5 girls enjoyed learning all about the Mary Rose when Mr Eatough from the Mary Rose Trust visited Beardwood Bank
- 3 Children in Nursery meet the fire brigade
- 4 Dr Judah visits Pre-School as part of their topic on people who help us
- 5 Martin Roscoe performed his Piano Recital in the Croston Theatre
- 6 Former pupil Seema Kennedy spoke to Sixth Form students about her career in Politics
- 7 Senior School French students enjoyed a visit from the French theatre company, Onatti
- 8 Reception children get to know some creepy critters with a visit from Critters2You
- 9 Representatives from the Lancashire Constabulary Hate Crime Team, the Lancashire Constabulary County Terrorism Branch and Father John of Thomas House, hosted a Hate Crime Workshop for Year 11 and Sixth Form students



OUTDOOR ACTION

Trips form an important part of our pupils' learning and this year students have visited many places to bring their learning to life.

Sixth Form geography students ventured to the Olympic Park to study regeneration



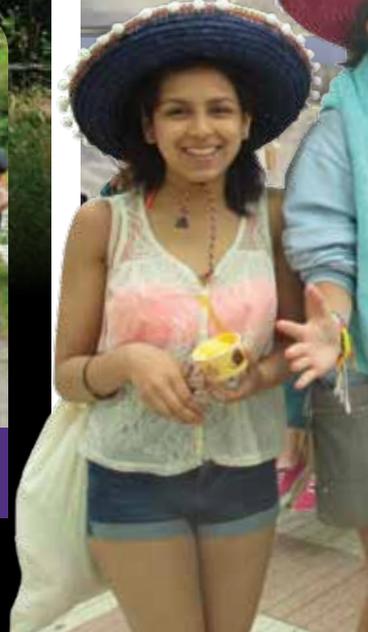
Year 2 stepped back in time when they visited Staircase House Museum, Stockport as part of their history topic on the Great Fire of London



Mud-dipping - The Year 6 trip to Fairhaven Lake



An action packed day at Patterdale Hall for Year 5 boys





Happy in Hothersall - Year 8 visit Hothersall Lodge for a team building activity day



Year 3 became archaeologists for the day when they took part in the Big Dig at Witton Park



Girls in Year 3 enjoyed a day at Chester Zoo



A wonderful day at the Wild Boar Park for Reception children



Year 7 students took part in an interactive science day at Catalyst Museum



Fun in the sun on the Costa Brava trip



A trip to Hoghton Tower enriched and enhanced Year 8's historical understanding



FOCUS ON...

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

The newly named Learning Resource Centre (LRC) lies right at the very heart of Senior School. Westholme Life spoke to LRC Manager, Mrs Clare Robson, about the many exciting events that have been hosted in there and what her plans are for the future.

How are you settling into your new role?

I am thoroughly enjoying my role as Learning Resource Centre Manager. The former Library was renamed by Mrs Horner and the Senior Management Team to emphasise the space as a centre of learning open to all pupils. The LRC is a hive of activity and learning and I am fortunate to spend my day in an environment where students really enjoy working whether in a teacher led group or individual students revising or working on coursework.

What facilities is the LRC home to?

In addition to the amazing selection of library books, we have great facilities including printers, computers, subject review magazines and revision guides. Pupils are able to loan books for three weeks and our selection of DVD's are available on an overnight basis. The three separate computer rooms are booked by teaching staff throughout the school day which allows pupils to make use of the library at the same time.

Who uses the LRC?

At lunch times the centre becomes a busy meeting place and there is a distinct change of pace when pupils grab ten minutes to chat or play with the selection of games and puzzles

before heading off to a sports practice, choir or other lunchtime clubs. On days when they have fewer activities they enjoy chatting in groups, reading or using the computers. If there are lunchtime teaching sessions taking place pupils are very considerate of others. As we have such a large area we are easily able to cater to many groups.

Many Sixth Form pupils spend time on private study and the working atmosphere is such that all year groups work extremely well together and respect the need for quiet.

We are fortunate to have visiting Chinese, German and French Assistants who spent the academic year at Westholme working in the language department in addition to holding small class groups in the LRC.

The LRC looks wonderful with all its new display boards showcasing the pupils' work. How are you finding the creative aspect of the role?

As I came to my new post in January I thought it appropriate to assist the



departments in displaying some of their students work in the LRC. The English department led the way with Mrs Corrigan's 8T class and their research of Mythological Creatures followed by the pupils' study of 'What makes a Good Spy Story'. Mrs Lewis and her Year 9 History class learnt about 'Life in the Trenches' and researched and prepared fascinating posters which have been on display. The work was accompanied by a WW1 book selection from the Library stock. Other fantastic displays of work have included the Hindu Shrines, made by Year 8 EPR students and Roman Villa models created by Mr Oracz's Year 8 Latin pupils.

What events have been hosted in the LRC?

The LRC plays host to a number of annual events throughout the academic year. The House General Knowledge Quiz saw pupils gathered from all Years over three lunchtimes to compete for the all important title of House General Knowledge Quiz Champions. This year, the honours went to Calder. The quiz was hosted by Dr Riley and Mrs Moore; pupils loved using the famous Tattersall Buzzer System!

Each Monday lunchtime during spring term, we hold the Westholme Chess Championship. This offers pupils new to the game a glimpse of the experts at play. Mr Worden keeps a keen eye on the progress and has current Chess Champion Mary Holden (Year 13) to run the event.

Other events have included Miss Shaw's French Easter Egg hunt, which involved pupils spending part of their lunch time hunting around the LRC for the answers to quiz questions and the GCSE and A Level Art & Photography Exhibition.

What has been your favourite event in the LRC?

One of my particular favourite events this year was celebrating The Chinese New Year. Together with the Language Assistants, we created a Chinese Display for 2014 - the Year of the Horse and invited pupils to join in lunch time

an interesting game loaned to us by the Chinese language assistant Ji Song known as 'Jian Zi'. This was great fun for all involved. We also had a display of Tai Chi movements to practise.

Have you created any new initiatives as LRC Manager?

I arranged for two famous authors to visit the school. The first was a talk for pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 by author Joe Delaney. He spoke to the children about His new trilogy 'The Starblade Chronicles' and shared with them where he found his inspiration for writing. Secondly, the children at Billinge House enjoyed a session with Debi Gliori, author and illustrator of 'Dragon Loves Penguin'.

What are your aims for the future?

My hope is that we will encourage reluctant readers to become independent readers, to enrich their lives through reading for pleasure and for students to make use of the wonderful resources we have to directly support their studies.



The much anticipated Maths trip to Paris took place in the Easter holidays.

Students all met up bright and early to depart by coach to their destination. Maths quizzes were completed on the journey with enthusiasm and prizes were welcomed.

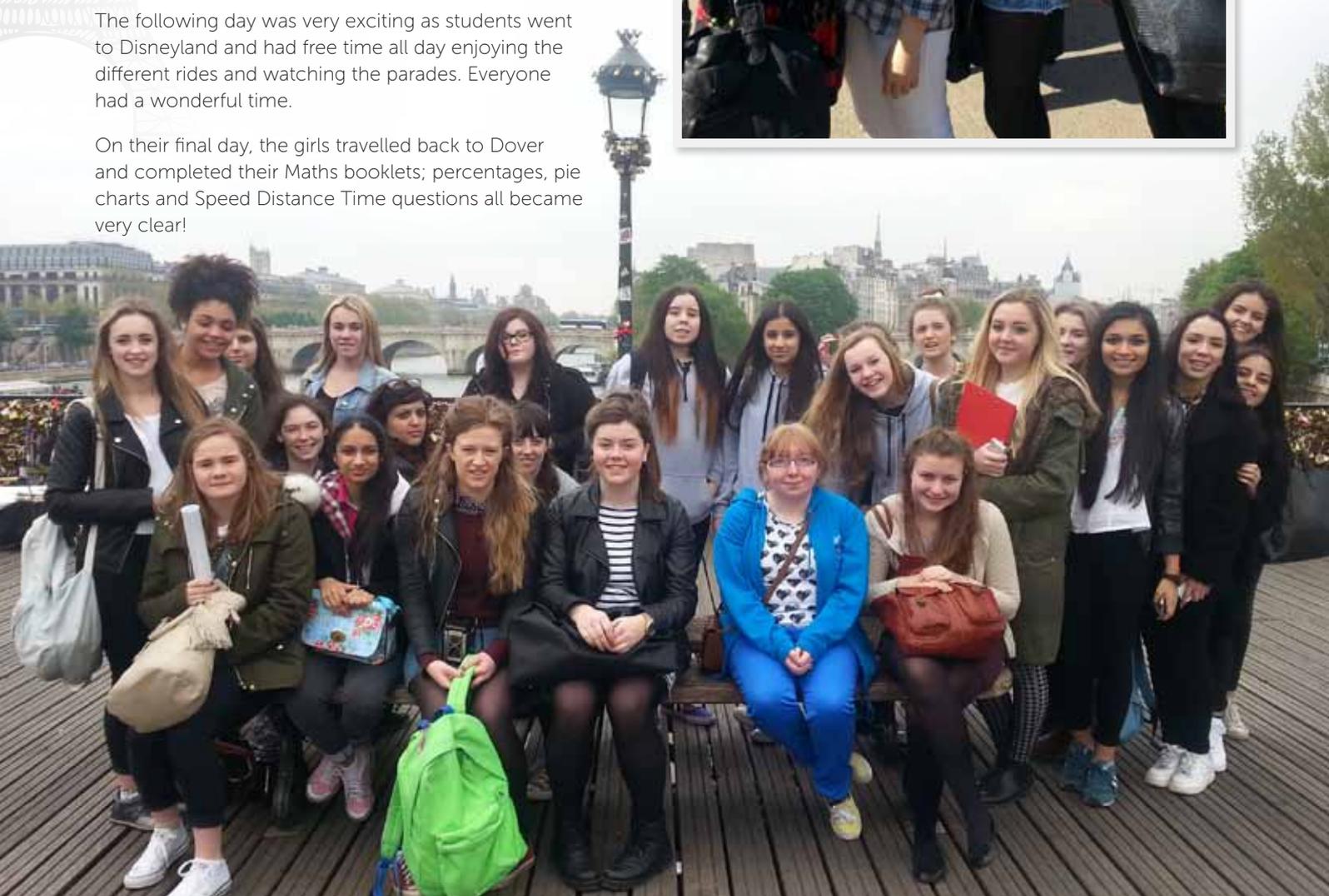
Once in Paris, the girls enjoyed visiting the Musée des Sciences, an interactive Maths exhibition, and also managed a tour around Paris. They saw some great views from the Basilique du Sacré-Coeur. The students also visited the Cathédrale de

Notre Dame and its beautiful stained glass windows and enjoyed a long walk along the River Seine, passing the antiquarian booksellers; some of the girls even bought padlocks to add them to the Pont des Arts. A must, was a visit to the Musée du Louvre to catch a glimpse of the Mona Lisa amongst the crowd. The evening concluded with a river cruise which started at the foot of the Eiffel Tower. The students thought this was the best part of the day as they saw all the major buildings in a beautiful sunset light and saw the Eiffel Tower light up.

The following day was very exciting as students went to Disneyland and had free time all day enjoying the different rides and watching the parades. Everyone had a wonderful time.

On their final day, the girls travelled back to Dover and completed their Maths booklets; percentages, pie charts and Speed Distance Time questions all became very clear!

Paris





In April 753BC, Romulus founded Rome; in 218BC Hannibal crossed the Alps on elephants and marched on Rome; in 49BC Julius Caesar dramatically crossed the Rubicon River leading his army on Rome....and, in April 2014AD twenty-one Westholmers crossed the Mediterranean Sea, the Alps and the Rubicon to enter into Rome and emulate their legendary counterparts.

It was a journey for the ages, the likes of which have had epic poems written about them. Students studying Latin and Classics from Year 10 to Sixth Form walked like legionary soldiers for many miles around the glorious sites of Italy's most famous city. Amongst the attractions were the mighty Colosseum, the Palatine Hill and Roman Forum, the Catacombs of Saint Callixtus and The Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. Other sightseeing opportunities included Saint Peter's Basilica and cupola, the Trevi Fountain at night, the Pantheon, Tiber Island and the Janiculum hill. Students walked through the numerous basilica's and piazzas, and enjoyed a visit to the greatest gelati shop in Rome (if not the world)!

Everyone was amazed by the beauty and grandeur of the city and its most famous attractions, whilst enjoying simply Rome-ing the streets of the city by day and night, and immersing themselves in both modern and ancient Italian culture.

Each student threw at least one coin over their shoulder into the Trevi Fountain to signify their desire to return to Rome, however, this was somewhat of a predestined future; Westholme students took a trip to Rome, but Rome took a piece of each of their hearts.





LESSONS LEARNED IN POLITICS & ELSEWHERE *by Edwina Currie*



The Arthur Rouse lecture is always an important date in the Westholme calendar and this year was no exception!

We were delighted to welcome erudite Edwina Currie to our theatre, and expectant pupils, parents, staff and friends of the School settled into their seats for a night of entertainment. For anyone who may have expected pure political positioning, you came to the wrong gig!

Edwina was a genuine raconteur and she rollercoasted us through her three key life lessons via the media of stories, personal anecdotes and some snippets of juicy gossip. Whoever would have believed

Putin to be such a magpie for the diamonds? Students were told repeatedly by the energetic and driven Edwina that their most important gift, to be treasured throughout life, was their education. She said that even in the darkest days of political male domination, she was always able to hold her head high and say, "I am your equal".

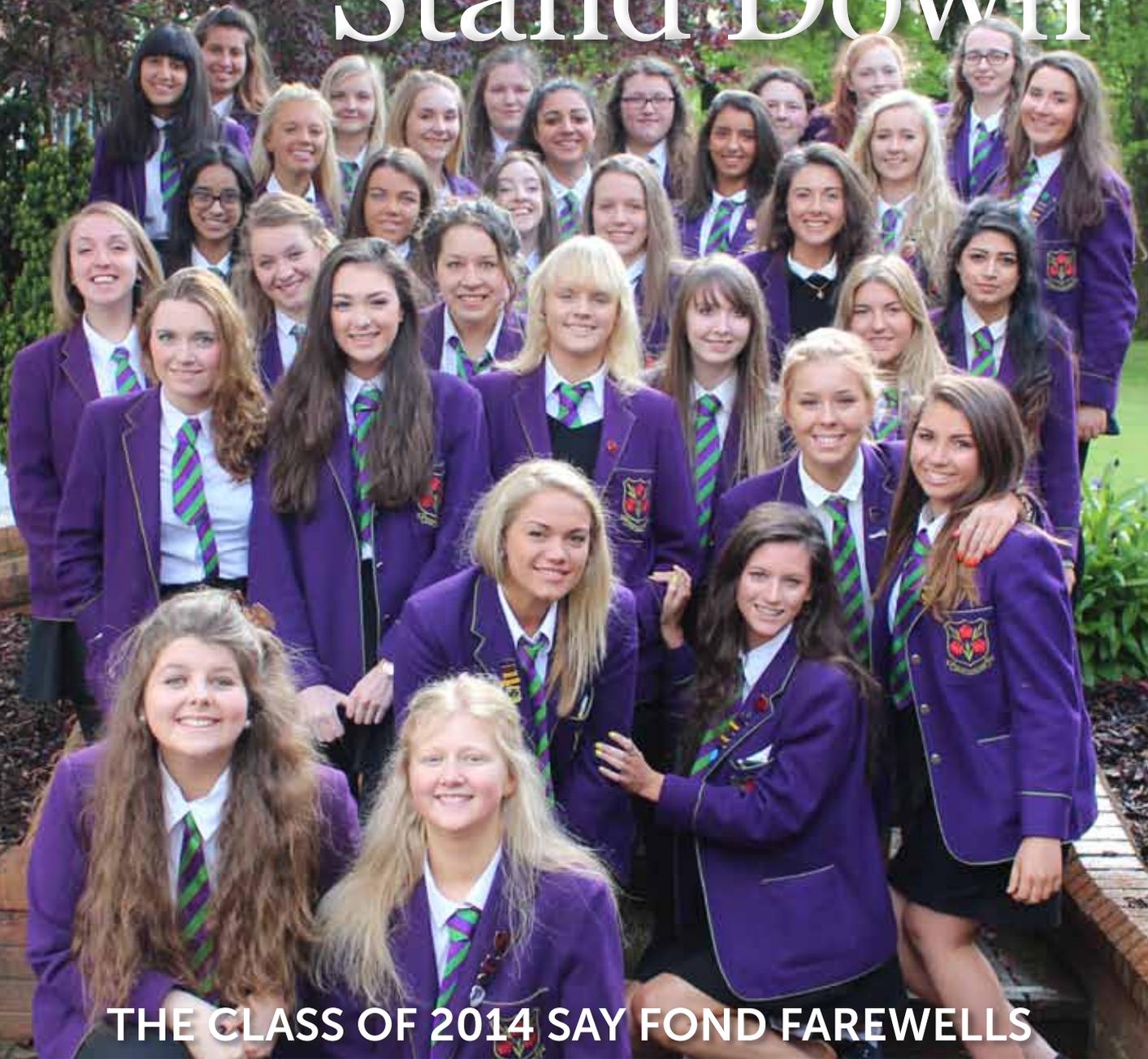
Edwina's other cornerstones of advice were never to miss a trick, know your enemy and what to do in a very tricky situation (the sanitised version!). There was not a dull moment as she gave some wonderfully amusing examples from the worlds of showbiz, politics and family, which brought all her life lessons into technicolour.

You could tell the audience wanted more as the Q&A session kept on going, with some really challenging and interesting questions from the audience. Inspirational is a much used phrase, but on this occasion it seemed entirely appropriate. With Hannah Patel and Katie Goodier welcoming and closing the evening superbly, everyone had really enjoyed another Westholme highlight.

Thank you to Edwina once again for provoking us to think, reminding us that every challenge is an opportunity and delivering yet another splendid Arthur Rouse lecture!



Sixth Form Stand Down



THE CLASS OF 2014 SAY FOND FAREWELLS

Stand down marks the last official day that the Upper Sixth Form spend at Westholme; a definite milestone in their lives and traditionally a day of celebration.

The day was filled with emotion as the girls looked back on the time they had spent at Westholme, the friends they had made and the many things they had learnt, achieved and celebrated.

The annual Stand Down assembly was full of entertainment including musical performances, poetry and the traditional Stand Down video.

Mrs Waldron, Head of Sixth Form highlighted how the girls

would be going out to face the future with their whole lives in front of them. Throughout the morning, the girls reminisced about school trips, their most memorable moments in school, school lunches and much more.

As the assembly drew to a close, a montage of photos of their Westholme lives scrolled across the screen - a fitting way to say goodbye indeed!

After a delicious lunch that also saw parents enjoy, it was time for the girls to leave.

We wish the class of 2014 good luck in all their examinations and in the next stage of their lives.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

— exhibition —



• Tallulah Martin •



• Salonee Shah •



• Mary Holden •



• Lucy Baxter •



• Charlotte Booth •



• Georgina Ball •



• Beth Hothersall •

• Jasmine Welch •

This year's Art & Photography Exhibition was a platform to show the wealth of talent amongst our GCSE and Advanced level students. The evening's exhibition was an opportunity to showcase the amazing work the students have created. Yet again the school came to life with vibrant displays of artwork lighting up many areas of the school.



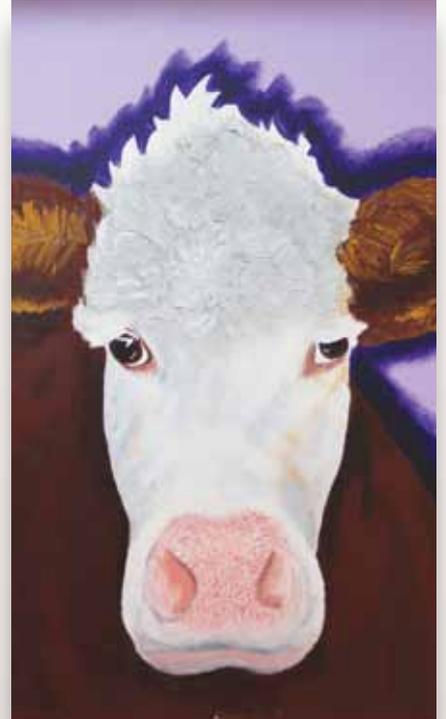
• Grace Harris •



• Ella Daniels •



• Elysia Kenyon •



• Emily McHugh •



• Melissa Bamber •



• Gwen Erceg •



• Lexi Gavan •



• Laila Abbas •



• Hannah Monk •



Junior School STARLETS

THE JUNIOR SCHOOL PUPILS CERTAINLY HAD 'THE POWER IN THEM' AS THEY TOOK TO THE STAGE FOR THE ANNUAL MUSICAL EVENING PERFORMANCE.

The first half was a showcase for the talented young musicians. The orchestra began the proceedings with a wonderful selection of English Folk Songs that had the audience tapping their feet in no time at all!

The pupils played a range of musical instruments with great skill, from the brass group's stunning performance of *Drunken Sailor* to the melodic sounds of the Harp Duo, who were, simply sublime. The sensational finale was a whole school performance of the song *Power in Me* complete with harmonious voices and co-ordinated actions – what a treat indeed!

The second half transported the audience to Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire for a unique performance of Robin Hood. Complete with his band of merry men and fair maiden, the story was told excellently through singing, dancing and much humour. The Year 6 pupils took on the lead roles and were ably supported by the rest of the school who sang their hearts out through the whole performance. It really was a show to be proud of – **well done to everyone!**





Wonderful WISPA!

The cast of WISPA put on a spectacular evening of high quality entertainment for a packed Croston Theatre of parents, supporters and friends.

Hansel and Gretel was an amazing showcase for the Year 4 girls' and boys' extensive talents. The show, from the very outset, was characterised by colour, amazing scenery and pure energy. From the birds, in their brightly coloured leggings to the talking trees and bungling gang of robbers; the scene was set and the audience knew they were in for a great evening.



The main character roles were shared, to allow for more of the children to take part and they truly supported each other with real spirit. The cast interpreted the story incredibly well and took the audience on a wonderful journey of music, dance, comic timing and action. The wicked stepmother and old woman provided great humour for the audience. It was clear to see how much hard work had been put in by all the children and staff team behind them.

Huge congratulations must go to everyone involved in making this a truly wonderful WISPA performance. These performers are just at the young age of 8 and 9 – stars to watch out for in the future for certain!





Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Well done to all students who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh's award.



Year 10 Bronze DofE participants have been training for their expeditions throughout the year; learning about equipment, cooking, camp craft, safety, teamwork and navigation.

In May and June, around 60 students successfully completed their Practice Expedition, which for many was their first experience of lightweight camping. They had to contend with the ever-changing English climate, from torrential downpours and thunderstorms to very hot, sunny weather, all of which make carrying a heavy rucksack much more challenging. The girls coped well, often out of their comfort zone and all agreed that the experience was 'character-building'.

For the Sixth Form Gold participants, their first Bronze expedition feels like a distant memory! In April, eight Lower Sixth Form students enjoyed their first taste of wild camping in the Snowdonia National Park, as part of their 4-day long Gold Practice Expedition. The weather, often unpredictable in the Spring, was kind to them and they took the whole experience in their stride.

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



Brilliant Biologists

Westholme Biologists have had a busy year competing in Olympiads, challenges and embarking on field trips. The students have used their practical and theoretical skills to achieve some remarkable results.

Our top Year 10 Biologists entered the National Biology Challenge organised by the Society of Biology. Over 33,000 entries were submitted with students completing multiple choice questions online, testing all areas of Biology including topics not on the GCSE syllabus. Students achieving bronze awards and in the top 15% nationally were Helena

Bilsborough, Katriona Privonitz-Smith & Charlotte Sumner. Eleanor Brooks, Eilidh Campbell and Sally Ralphson won silver awards and were placed in the top 10% nationally. Special congratulations must go to Stephanie Hannah who won a gold award placing her in the top 5% nationally – an amazing achievement!



Blencathra Field Studies Centre near Keswick was the destination for Lower Sixth Form biologists who enjoyed a four day visit. There, they had the ideal opportunity to study a number of different eco-systems including fresh water and woodland. They also practised many ecological techniques in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. Students planned and carried out a number of investigations to improve knowledge and understanding of sampling techniques, ecological principles and display and statistical analysis of data.



The Croston Theatre

The Croston Theatre has provided the students of Westholme with a perfect backdrop for creative expression, throughout the past academic year. As well as our wealth of music, dance and drama performances, it has also been transformed into a catwalk and an exhibition gallery.

Textiles Fashion Show

Westholme's annual textiles department fashion show was held in March. Thirteen A Level students and ten GCSE students presented their creations to parents and students on stage in The Croston Theatre. The designs were either modelled by the students themselves, by friends or by Dr Watson! Our talented students created outfits which were inspired by the structure of Chanel, futuristic fashion and Aztec trends – fashionistas of the future!



Extended Projects

This year's Upper Sixth Extended Projects were another wonderful display of the students' work and showed real enthusiasm and passion for what they had learnt. In total seventeen Upper Sixth girls completed this additional qualification and all were adamant that the skills they have learnt will prepare them well for university life and independent study.

Governors, parents, staff and fellow students thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition in The Croston Theatre and fully engaged in deep and meaningful discussions with the students. Projects included: An investigation into size zero models, An analysis of traditional v modern marketing techniques and a fascinating debate to conclude if Henry the VIII was a hero or a tyrant?

Congratulations and well done to everyone involved!





WESTHOLME

Always endeavouring to improve, Westholme School is developing new initiatives for Year 7 as well as new facilities for our Sixth Form, both of which will give students even more opportunities.



Mrs Carla Hornby is the Head of Year 7. She spoke to Westholme Life during the busy summer term to explain a number of new initiatives that are taking place over in 'The Bungalow', or the Arthur Rouse block, to use its official title!

"We have launched a new lunchtime club called the PAL Group (Positive Approach to Life). This group aims to offer students the opportunity to develop their communication skills and enhance the way they maintain relationships. This in turn will help them to grow in confidence and develop ways of dealing with the demands of school life.

Session topics have included assertive communication, recognising and challenging automatic negative thoughts, building healthy relationships and strategies and approaches to build resilience in young people.

Many students have been keen to attend these sessions and we have received a lot of positive feedback from parents."

As the Bungalow is going to be exclusively for all Year 7 students, some refurbishment has recently taken place. New toilet facilities and locker areas have been installed to make a welcoming space for our new starters.

Mrs Hornby went on to explain, "We are also introducing a Year 7 mentoring session, which will take place over the course of two lunchtimes. Year 10 students have been trained as mentors and will work on a rota basis as special advisories for the Year 7s. They can speak to them about anything, from friendship issues to organisation tips.

Ideas are in place for a residential trip for two nights at the Conway Centre, Wales, where pupils will enjoy activities including kayaking, raft building and orienteering. This will be a great way of teambuilding and really getting to know other members in the year group. These are exciting times for Year 7 pupils at Westholme!"

“ These are exciting times for Year 7 pupils at Westholme! ”



MOVES FORWARD



Sixth Form life has always been an enriching experience at Westholme and the new 2014 developments will allow us to further prepare students for independence and the working world.

In September 2014, Sixth Form students will adopt a new dress code of 'business dress' and will see a revitalised curriculum that will still offer students the choice of 22 different A-level courses with specialist teaching and facilities in all subject areas. Changes to the structure of the working day will ensure that students have some independent study time each day of the week and, that on Wednesdays, all Sixth Form students can engage in our new enrichment afternoon. This significant aspect of the curriculum reform will allow students to take part in a variety of activities including sport, community service or volunteer work, public speaking, debating and the opportunity to complete the English Speaking Board qualification or the Prince's Trust Million Makers scheme.

Dedicated tutorial time will also allow for specialist careers advice to be given along with learning about life skills in our 'Uni and You' programme, whilst also having the opportunity to listen to stimulating, inspirational speakers covering a wide range of topics from 'safe driving' to 'the importance of using your right to vote'.

The Sixth Form experience will also be enriched through an extensive leadership programme, stronger business links, the co-curricular provision which includes music, drama and Duke of Edinburgh along with an extensive calendar of subject specific trips, lectures, visits and competitions.



The Sixth Form are already making the most of our recently added facilities which include a new dedicated Sixth Form fitness room along with a dance and drama studio.

Significant investment in Sixth Form facilities will continue over the summer break so that September 2014 will see the introduction of Wi-Fi throughout the Sixth Form study areas, common room and café. These areas are also undergoing a total refurbishment which has been designed in conjunction with the students; their creativity and imagination will guarantee that the Sixth Form centre has a certain 'wow' factor ready for the new academic year.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Rachel Waldron said, "Sixth Form should be an exciting time that truly prepares students for university and working life. This is certainly the case at Westholme where we are always considering ways to take the curriculum forward and will continue to invest to ensure that our students have the very best environment in which to study and develop as leaders of the future."



Thoroughly Modern Millie

The talented Westholme cast brought the exciting world of 1920's New York to The Croston Theatre.

Our pupils wowed the audience with their stunning interpretation of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; a fun-packed musical filled with impressive chorus numbers and energetic dance sequences. It had something for everyone in the family to enjoy. From the comic subplot involving the villainous Mrs Meers and her reluctant henchmen who had the audience roaring with laughter, to the talented lead characters who moved the audience with their heartfelt renditions of

songs such as *Gimmee Gimmee* and *What Do I Need With Love?*, it was a show not to be missed!

The cast were split over the four evenings in order to showcase the talents of as many students as possible, and they didn't disappoint! Singing, dancing; it had it all. Theatre goers left having been *thoroughly* entertained in every way! Another fabulous Westholme production - well done.





JUNIOR SPORT

Congratulations to our Junior pupils who have participated in a fantastic sporting season this year. Events including indoor sportshall, swimming, cross country and athletics have all been contested along with many, many more. Here are just some of the highlights.

Biathlete

Further to her success in the North West Regional Under 10s Biathlon, Year 4 pupil, Hollie Cubbon travelled to the Queen Elizabeth Park in London, to take part in the Schools 2014 Modern Biathlon Championships.

The special event began with Hollie and her friends meeting Tom Daley. He was training in the Olympic pool and he wished them lots of luck – what a claim to fame!

Hollie did really well and came 19th overall in the 10s and under girls' category for Westholme. This was out of 160 finalists! Hollie also swam in the Olympic pool, which was an amazing experience and she even recorded a Personal Best time of 37 seconds for the 50m long distance swim. She ran the 800m run in 3 minutes and 2 seconds and is now looking forward to next year's competition.

Well done, Hollie – everyone at Westholme is extremely proud of you!



Indoor Sportshall

The final round in the winter league was held at Stanley Park, Blackpool. The girls had chosen the four events they wanted to compete in along with the obstacle races at the end of the day. We had some excellent results throughout the day with some personal best scores being achieved. After all the points were added up from the 3 meetings, we finished 5th place overall. We were the only school to enter out of athletics clubs teams, which makes our result extra special. Well done, girls!

Sportshall Success for Molly

After superb performances in the winter league, Year 5 pupil, Molly Moore was selected to represent Lancashire at the regional event. Here, Molly recorded more outstanding results of 1m 85 in the long jump, 11.2 seconds in the 1 lap race and 14.2 seconds in the high stepper. We certainly have a high flyer to be proud of!

Cross Country

As ever, the BPS Cross Country Competition continues to be a strong event for our junior pupils. In the final race of the series, a huge team effort from both our girls and boys saw them win silver medals in their own categories and were also crowned silver medal winners overall for the combined event – what an achievement!



Super Swimmers!

The annual Blackburn Primary Schools' Swimming Gala was held at Darwen Pool and saw many local primary schools competing for the medals and trophies. Our team were exceptional, with every single one of our swimmers making it through to their respective final. An extra special mention should go to Charlotte Hemsall (Year 5) and Hollie Cubbon (Year 4) as, not only did they win their events in style but they were younger than their competitors in the finals. Well done to all the swimmers – it was a great night.



SENIOR SPORT

Westholme Senior Sports teams have competed in many sporting events this year and have celebrated some outstanding performances. A number of teams have been awarded trophies, medals and certificates and here are a few of their achievements:

Athletics

Westholme athletes have competed in many tournaments throughout the summer. Great performances at the English Schools' Athletics Championships and the Blackburn with Darwen Athletics Championships saw us become overall Champions for 2014.



Netball Champions

Our netballers have had a very successful season. Many teams throughout Senior School have been declared champions in tournaments; Year 10 were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Champions 2014, Year 7 were the BDSSA Champions and Year 8 finally, triumphed to be the U13 Lancashire Schools' Champions 2014.

Rounders Town Champions

The rounders season suitably came to an end with the Year 8 team playing fantastically well in the Blackburn with Darwen Tournament. This saw them being crowned the Champions for 2014 - well done!



Senior Boys

Senior Boys have had a great year on the sports field. They trained and competed in their first rugby matches, which saw them play extremely well showing great team spirit. They also continued with their football matches and entered the BDSSA Football Cup where both year groups made it to the quarter finals.



Swimming

Year 10 and Year 11 were crowned Blackburn with Darwen Champions 2014 at the Blackburn with Darwen Annual Swimming Gala. Westholme also won a lot of the individual races, well done girls!



Badminton

Many congratulations to our badminton players who have had lots of success this term: Alicia Stebbings - U16 Girls Singles Champion, Emily Winter & Esther Gibb - U16 Girls Doubles Champion, Dominic Naylor - BDSSA Badminton Champion

IG NAYLOR



SPORTS DAYS

A stand out moment of the summer term for many are the annual Sports Days. We welcome family and friends to watch the events being contested amongst children of all ages.





All pupils relish the opportunity to compete at sports day and earn those valuable House Points.

Competition is fierce, but friendly, as hurdles are jumped, batons are passed and relay races are run.

Team spirit shines through and with added support from the many spectators in attendance; the children really do go that extra mile in their quest to win.



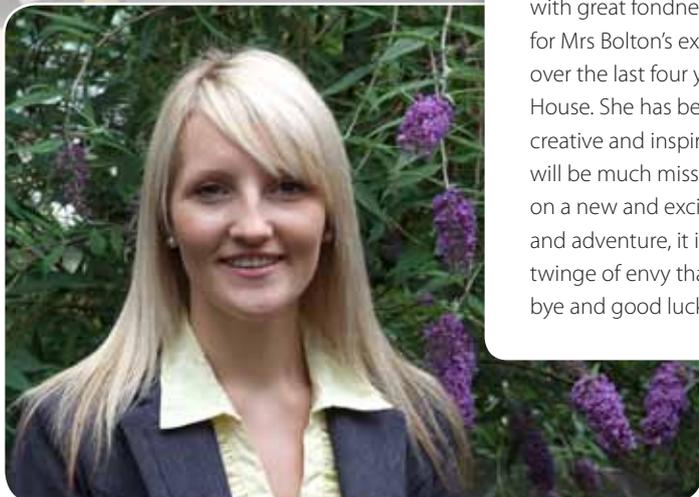
Staff Changes

As is always the case at the end of an academic year, we say a fond farewell to some of our team, and look forward to welcoming new faces. This year has been no exception.

With the restructure in place for September for our Infants and Juniors, Mr Lewis has been making plans with our new Deputy Head Mrs Dixon and Nursery Manager, Mrs Church, to integrate our youngest Westholmers and create a very welcoming environment for every child at Billinge House. Mr Lewis' active, can-do approach is going to be a real asset and he is personally looking forward to getting to know all the families in his care. Mrs Dixon and Mrs Church are both very committed and talented, with specialist knowledge and training in the Early Years framework. As a team, they are sure to be unstoppable!



At the same time as we look forward, Governors, staff and pupils look back with great fondness and gratitude for Mrs Bolton's excellent leadership over the last four years at Billinge House. She has been a dedicated, creative and inspirational Head who will be much missed. As she embarks on a new and exciting life of travel and adventure, it is only with a twinge of envy that we say "Good bye and good luck, Mrs Bolton"!



New Leadership

Meanwhile down at the Juniors, Mrs Laverick, her forthcoming deputy, Mr Haworth, and Senior teacher, Mrs Shipley are hard at work planning the new layout for Beardwood Bank and preparing the curriculum, clubs, trips and environment which will stimulate our Years 3 through to 6. Mr Haworth is looking forward to stepping up to his new role and commented, "This is such an exciting time for Westholme's Junior School.

All the staff are fully on board with the changes and I really think it will provide a busy, purposeful and happy environment for every child." Mrs Laverick added, "It is about bringing together the best of the Boys' School and the Girls' School, protecting their unique qualities but creating an even stronger place for our children to develop within. I am delighted to be leading the new, cohesive Junior School."



And of course, the new faces. Many pupils will already have met Mr Dumbill who joined us this term as Assistant Head, and Mr Hoffman who recently arrived as Academic Systems' Manager. Miss Smith comes to us in September with great credentials as Deputy Head, and former pupil Miss Magdi joins the English department. Mrs North and Mrs Sibley move into the roles of PA to the Principal and Registrar respectively. Everyone is excited about the future which lies ahead for Westholme!

At Senior School, hankies have been out as we say good bye to long standing staff member and Deputy Head, Miss Edgar. After 19 years of loyal service, Miss Edgar leaves us to take up an illustrious headship at St Martin's, Solihull. Children and staff will miss her easy good humour, her high standards and her genuine love of all things Westholme. She could not have been a more committed member of the team, and most of her holidays over the last two decades have been spent taking hundreds of our pupils on journeys are the globe. Although we may need a map to find her, she is sure to take the Westholme spirit with her wherever she goes.



We also say thank you and farewell to Mrs Dagnan who has also spent over two successful decades at Westholme in the Textiles department, excellent Biologist Mrs Bell, Mr Bisset who has been such an asset to the English department, superb Spanish teacher, Miss Widnall, and Ms Sabben, keen physicist and choir member! Our best wishes likewise go to Miss Byrom at Infants and Mrs Silvester at Juniors, who have both brought compassion and skill over many years to their teaching roles. Finally, we say a grateful thanks to Miss Cunliffe who leaves her important role as Registrar and Principal's secretary to take up a career in teaching – it must be something about the place!



KEY DATES DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

SUPERSKILLS

w/c Monday 14th July, 21st July, 28th July

KINGS' CAMP WEEKS AT WILMAR LODGE

w/c Monday 4th, 11th, 18th August

AS AND A2 LEVEL RESULTS

Thursday 14th August

CHOIR TRIP TO ITALY

Friday 15th - Thursday 21st August

THEATRE WEEK

w/c Monday 18th August

GCSE RESULTS

Thursday 21st August

W CLUB AT WILMAR LODGE

w/c Monday 11th August, Tuesday 26th August,
Monday/Tuesday 1st/2nd September

START OF THE AUTUMN TERM 2014

Wednesday 3rd September

Please note that the school website (www.westholmeschool.com) has an up-to-date calendar of events. Also, each school site has its own notice board where weekly activity sheets are posted.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our new school uniform supplier is School Blazer

Please note: All new school uniform is available from 1st September, 2014.

Sportswear is available now.

www.schoolblazer.com

TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2014

Wednesday 3rd September – Wednesday 17th December

HALF TERM

Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October inclusive

SPRING TERM 2015

Wednesday 7th January – Wednesday 25th March

HALF TERM

Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February inclusive

SUMMER TERM 2015

Tuesday 14th April – Wednesday 8th July

BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 4th May

HALF TERM

Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May inclusive

OPEN EVENTS

OPEN DAYS

All school sites will be open on

**SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2014
FROM 10AM TO 2PM**

Senior School

**SATURDAY 7TH MARCH, 2015
FROM 10AM TO 1PM**

Infant and Junior School

**SATURDAY 25TH APRIL, 2015
FROM 10AM TO 12NOON**

*Come along and see Westholme in action!
You will be made very welcome.*

**11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2015**

for further details or to register for the examination,
please contact *Mrs Julie Sibley, Registrar*
(01254 506070 or sibleyj@westholmeschool.com)

WESTHOLME SPORTS' CLUB OPENING TIMES SUMMER HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

(MONDAY 14TH JULY – MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER INCLUSIVE)

Please note, during the summer holidays, the swimming pool and sports hall will be open for all normal Sports' Club Opening times with the exception of 21st - 27th July.

In addition to normal Sports Club opening times, extra sessions will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2pm and 4pm.



**WESTHOLME
SCHOOL**

WWW.WESTHOLMESCHOOL.COM