

**EXCITING NEW
FACILITIES FOR OUR
YOUNGEST PUPILS**

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WESTHOLME HUMBLY
REFLECTS**

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
UNDERLINES OUR
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WESTHOLME LIFE

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014



**WESTHOLME
SCHOOL**



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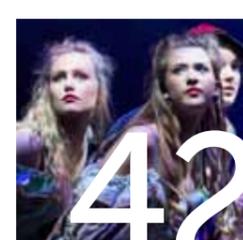
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CELEBRATING SUCCESS

RECOGNISING WESTHOLME'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Our annual Senior School Prizegiving Ceremony was held at King George's Hall. This year we welcomed Year 6 classes from the Junior School who came to watch and enjoy a taste of what is yet to come for them in their progression through Westholme.

After opening remarks from the Chairman of Governors, Mr Brian Marsden, Principal, Mrs Horner, guided us through a review of the last academic year via a photographic presentation of memorable achievements. She also spoke of things she had learnt about the school over the past twelve months, highlighting that we have a strong and dedicated team of Governors, parents and staff who all go that extra mile for the children of Westholme.

Head Girl, Olivia Ball and Deputy Head Girls, Megan Holden and Hannah Patel, presented a comedic report of the '10 most memorable changes of the year'. This included some 'in' jokes such as the pre-made sandwiches at lunchtime

and the renaming of the Library to the LRC! It truly was an entertaining account.

Prizes were then distributed by Professor Damian Hughes, author of six bestselling books including *Liquid Thinking*, *Liquid Leadership* and *How to Think Like Sir Alex Ferguson*. He spoke to the school about three key points he has learnt during his career. Firstly, how we all have the ability to stretch ourselves that bit further and also how we should look beyond our immediate world in the things we do throughout life. His third and final point, and perhaps the most important of all, was that we should all have the courage to get up and go for it! His interactive speech was entertaining and thought-provoking to say the least.

Two performances from the Swing Band and the Chamber Choir rounded the ceremony off. Congratulations to all prize winners. What a wonderful ceremony.



WESTHOLME STUDENTS SHINE AGAIN

This year's A-level results represented another impressive record of achievement for Westholme students and staff. With almost 10% of all grades being at the very highest level of A* and five pupils holding a clutch of 3 or more A*/A grades, the students of 2014 have every reason to be proud. They collected their results during the summer in our newly refurbished Sixth Form Social Centre, which created a buzz of excitement!

The pass rate was 100% in a wide range of 22 subjects, automatically ensuring that over 86% of pupils will find their way to their top choice of university.

The success continued at GCSE level with almost half of all GCSE grades being A* or A grades. 12% of girls achieved the superb result of at least 8 A*, which is truly outstanding. Kathryn Jaitly, Lucia Lamoury, Gabriela Sharp and Henna Reddy were especially delighted to have been awarded 10 A* each. In eight subjects we had a 100% A*- C pass rate, which is really pleasing.

Mrs Horner expressed her pride in all that the students had accomplished. "At the end of my first year in post, I am thrilled to see how hard work and perseverance, coupled with excellent teaching, has created the magic formula. There have been some exceptionally strong individual performances, but also as a group, they shine out as hard workers and confident team players. Destinations for our Sixth Form leavers are really diverse, from Oxford and St Andrews through to a sought after fashion placement in Paris! Equally, I am looking forward to seeing last year's Year 11 thrive with us in the Sixth Form, enjoying further success!"



Annabelle Steele and Charlotte Booth collecting their GCSE results



Choir Tour 2014

Members of the 2014 Choir Tour embarked on their tour to Italy in August.

Day one saw the group arrive at Hotel Gardesano a little earlier than expected, but the few who had to wait for their rooms to become available were quite happy to spend the time eating the Italian food available from the cafe right next to the hotel pool! Before long, every member of the choir was splashing around in the pool or sunbathing in one of the most relaxing periods of the week. After a lovely evening meal, the group took part in the traditional and necessary first night rehearsal before heading off for a well deserved night's sleep.

The 7am breakfast call for day two was followed by a visit to the nearby Gardaland Theme Park, which allowed choir members to enjoy plenty of exciting rides including the Blue Tornado, Raptor, Mamut and Log Flume. After returning to the hotel for a quick change, they set off to Chiesa Saint Zeno in Verona for a concentrated setting up period ready for the first concert. After solos from Georgia Flatley and Steph Parsonson, the choir filed into place for

Faure's Requiem, which also featured a solo from Sophie Hodson. The audience seemed delighted by their efforts and gave a standing ovation. A late evening meal and 10pm 'Simon Says' game, followed by floodlit volleyball games rounded off a wonderful day.

The next stop saw the tour head to Venice where they took in a delightful boat ride into the city. Most pupils enjoyed riding a gondola and seeing such places as St Mark's Basilica, the Doge's Palace and the Campanile. After a good sightseeing expedition, they returned to the hotel for an early meal and to perform the next concert on the shore of Lake Garda. Excellent lighting and amplification helped the 'Coldplay' and 'Olly Murs' medleys along, with superb solos from Evie Jones and Steph Parsonson delighting the audience. The evening drew to a close with a greatly appreciated 25 minute set from the Swing Band.

Fully into the swing of Italian life, students got up for a 6.45am breakfast call on day 4 to enable an early departure for Milan. Here they visited the Last Supper Fresco, the San

Siro Stadium, Milan Cathedral and various famous fashion houses, shopping centres and restaurants. A disco back at the hotel gave the pupils an exciting end to their last full day, whilst Mr Millest learnt a new skill as a bouncer waving his arms at the 20 or 30 hotel residents who tried to join their party and attempting various Italian pronunciations of the word 'private'!

On the final day, the group packed their suitcases before local coaches took them into Verona where most visited Juliet's Balcony, the Roman Amphitheatre and yet more shops and cafes before returning to the hotel and setting off for home. A changed route took them through the beautiful mountains and lakes on the way to the Gotthard Pass.

As they arrived back at Wilmar Lodge, the group were anxious to share their many stories with their families, although not before an early night and hopefully, at last, a very late breakfast!



FABULOUS FUNDRAISING!

A major part of life at Westholme is supporting the many events that take place throughout the year to raise money for charity. Children in Need, The Prince's Trust and Ronald McDonald House are just some of the charities Westholme students of all ages have raised money for this term.

Westholme students and staff across all sites took part in various fundraising events in support of Children in Need.



Children at Infant School, from Nursery through to Year 2 dressed up as super heroes for the day! Many Pudsey Bear characters could also be seen and everyone also enjoyed taking part in Children in Need activities.



At the Junior School, pupils accessorised their school uniforms with spots and dots and were able to bring their teddy bear to school. A raffle, made of prizes donated by the staff was also drawn in a special assembly.

Finally, pupils at Senior School held a Bake Sale at break, selling scrumptious home-made cakes. Members of the Sixth Form Charity Team also sold Children in Need wristbands – what a great team effort!

Thank you to each and every student who took part in raising money. **You helped to raise £903.**



Mr Howard Newhall from the cancer charity The Christie Hospital was presented with a cheque for £2500, raised from the 'Teach your Teacher' extravaganza.



Lunchtime popcorn sales in order to raise money for The Prince's Trust.



£80.81 was raised for The John Bury Trust at a cake sale organised by 9M.



Candy cane sales raised money for Miles of Smiles.



As part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme, some students volunteered to run a car wash to raise money for The Prince's Trust.



Hannah Dobrashian, Georgia Farebrother-Dunn and Sophie Page sold refreshments and raffled a hamper at the Christmas production of Beauty and the Beast in aid of The Prince's Trust.



JOYFUL JUNIORS!

This term has seen the highly successful integrated Junior School really begin to blossom.



From September, the boys joined forces with the girls in the central hub of Beardwood Bank, with both groups regularly using Beardwood House for specialist activities such as art and languages. There has been significant investment in the Junior School, and the atmosphere is noticeably warm and vibrant. Girls and boys are taught separately but share lots of exciting co-curricular opportunities such as drama and sport. This gives the children the very best of both worlds, and makes work and play stimulating, stretching and fun. Children and parents have commented very favourably on the busy sense of purpose which permeates Beardwood Bank and staff have really benefitted from sharing best practice. All in all, the first term could not have gone better, and the children are fully settled into their environment.



Mrs Laverick, the Head of the Junior School, commented, "I am thrilled with the way we have all gelled together in this first term. It feels like we have always been together as one family unit. The boys and the girls have both found it advantageous to be part of a more diverse community, but the special ethos of Beardwood Bank has been not only maintained, but enhanced. I am really enjoying leading this dynamic school!"



ECUADOR

Over the summer, a number of students, accompanied by Miss Edgar, Miss Incerti and Miss Salisbury, set off for a four week expedition to Ecuador. This is the fourth trip of this kind organised by Westholme in conjunction with Camps International. Previously, students have travelled to Tanzania, Kenya and Borneo.

Whilst in Ecuador, the students stayed in various communities in the Andes. The group camped at three different sites, in a village 3800m above sea level, in the cloud forest and in the Amazon basin.

They also completed some extremely challenging community and environmental work, including building a water tank to supply water for the village, constructing a community centre, renovating a local school and making a kitchen garden.

Towards the end of their stay in one of the villages - Kuri Kuchu, the villagers visited camp and performed a dance with traditional songs which was definitely a highlight for everyone!

A jungle trek rounded off one of their final days in the Amazon. They saw many different types of trees and were amazed by the various habitats along the way. Traditional war paint was worn on their faces for positive energy.

The group also enjoyed a boat ride to Amazonico; a rescue centre for animals from the Amazon rainforest.

The highlight of the trip was spending 4 days on the Galápagos Islands where the team had the opportunity to snorkel with sea lions, turtles and hammerhead sharks! They also saw many marine iguanas, frigate birds and blue-footed boobies. It really was a relaxing time after their gruelling expedition through the rainforest.

Everyone had a wonderful time on their month long journey, making lifelong memories along the way.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

We celebrated this special day in true style at Senior School! Pupils took part in a 'guess the idiom quiz' whereby they had to translate various idioms from a foreign language into English and also a flag colouring exercise, which took place in the Learning Resource Centre during lunch.

The menu at lunchtime itself was an amazing array of foods from countries all over Europe. Spanish paella, Italian pepperoni pizza and Greek moussaka were just a few of the dishes available for staff and students to eat. Desserts included a traditional English Victoria sponge, Dutch apple tart and French croissants.

Flags from many countries were hung in the dining room and the tables were decorated with European flag tablecloths – it really was a European treat for everyone!

Well done to Mrs Ballan and her wonderful catering team for all of their hard work in organising such a fabulous spread!



French ADVENTURES

Many Year 5 and 6 boys and girls took part in the sixth Junior School French trip to Hardelot, on the coast of northern France, over the October half term holidays.

Together with five members of staff they left Beardwood Bank on the Friday morning and arrived at Le Pré Catalan in the late afternoon. On the first night, everyone enjoyed a walk to the beach where games of 'Beach Olympics' took place. There also was a chance to play football and make sandcastles in the dark!

The first day started with a visit to a local boulangerie where students learnt how bread, croissants and pains au chocolat are made. They all had a go at kneading the dough and rolling up the pastry to make croissant shapes. The next stop was the colourful market in Le Touquet where they were able to practise their French as

they bought mementos at various stalls. Later that day, they also visited a snail farm where they held snails and found out about their life cycle. This was followed by the chance to taste snail pâté and snails in garlic sauce in biscuit shells!

Sunday was spent visiting the Somme area. They visited The Somme Museum, in the town of Albert, and went to the Thiepval British memorial. Here, Year 5 student, Mollie-Jo Green, found a relative's name on a memorial list and left a poppy on behalf of her family. They also visited the Canadian War Memorial, Newfoundland Park where the children walked through the trenches and learnt about the terrible losses in that area. They laid a wreath provided by the British Legion.

It truly was a trip they would never forget.



Great War Battlefields

Some of our History students and members of staff journeyed to the Great War Battlefields of Belgium and France during the October half term break.

They visited lots of important landmarks of the Great War such as Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Langemark German Cemetery, the Somme Battlefield and the In Flanders Field Museum.

A particularly poignant part of the trip was when they attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate, along with over four thousand other people of all ages and nationalities.

The students laid a poppy wreath on the cross of remembrance at St Amand British Cemetery. Here, they saw the grave of Gabby and Jasmin Sharp's great-great Uncle, Thomas Lind. He was a rifleman in the British army killed in action in August 1918, only three months away from the end of the war. He was just 18 years old.

All students and staff who went on this trip commented on what a moving and insightful journey they had been on.

During the Remembrance Day assembly at School, they were each presented with a poppy bought from the In Flanders Field Museum.





TO THE GLORY OF GOD
IN HONOURED MEMORY
OF THE MEN
OF THIS CHURCH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR THE EMPIRE
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914-1919

Harvest Festival

The annual Junior School Harvest Festival took place at St Silas' Church, Blackburn, and saw our Year 3 and 4 pupils confidently lead the service. Pupils read Harvest time poems they had written and also gave their thanks through grateful prayers. Special hymns were also enjoyed. The service drew to a close with Canon Ranson thanking the Junior School for their generous food donations and praised the children for their clarity and confidence in leading the service.



LEST WE FORGET



Some of our Junior and Senior School pupils took part in a special Remembrance Day service at Blackburn Cathedral. The service this year, was particularly poignant as it marked 100 years since the start of the Great War, the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings and the withdrawal of British troops from Afghanistan this year. After this, the congregation processed to the cenotaph in Corporation Park, where two of our prefects laid a wreath.

On Armistice Day itself, all pupils at Senior School attended an assembly presented by the History department. Through powerful

images, readings and prayers, staff and students explained why it is important that we remember the fallen on the 11th November and how we should wear our poppies with pride as a mark of respect. After singing the traditional remembrance hymn, 'Abide with me' and observing a two minute silence, the poem of the 'Great War' was read movingly, by Mr Stewart, before Sixth Form student, Evie Jones played 'The Last Post'. A wreath was laid by Lexie Smith, who, along with Rebecca Wignall, came to school wearing their traditional air cadet's uniform.

Children at our Nursery also marked Remembrance Day by creating their own poppies to make a full poppy wreath.

*"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."*

JUNIOR SPORT



AJIS CROSS COUNTRY

Westholme girls and boys arrived at Rossall on a wet and slightly windy afternoon for this year's AJIS competition. Some new faces were running this year so everyone jogged the course together to get a feel for the terrain and the tricky bits. A few nervous Year 5 and 6 pupils went through the warm ups and focused on running their best for the team. No-one disappointed as both the boys and girls races were extremely well run by our pupils and some excellent results were recorded.

Our Year 6 boys team, although not making the top 3, were very close to being medallists with a particularly fine performance from Freddie Pickford who finished in 29th place out of 120 runners.

It was a positive experience for our Year 5 boys team, who tried their very best and even fielded some talented Year 3 and Year 4 runners – well done! A special mention must go to Edward Lee and Finlay Testa who finished in 10th and 12th places respectively out of 124 runners.

Our Year 5 and 6 girls teams ran their hearts out and pushed home hard for the team. The Year 5 team were rewarded with two accolades; firstly, Hollie Cubbon, who finished in a brilliant third place overall out of over 200 runners – well done, Hollie! Secondly, the whole team finished third overall to win bronze medals. Well done to all teams who took part!



INDOOR SPORTSHALL

Our indoor sportshall team performed extremely well in the first of the Lancashire Indoor Sportshall series at Stanley Park, Blackpool. The boys team managed to finish in 6th place at the end of the day. A special mention must go to our Year 4 boys who did exceptionally well competing against older year groups and showing great endurance – well done!

Our girls also performed extremely well with a mixture of pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 competing on the day. We had some well placed individual performances with Molly Moore, Christie Sturgess and Freya Tembe gaining good points for the team. Special congratulations to Sophie Waddicor on winning the chest push event, gaining top marks for the team.

Overall, the Westholme team did fantastically, coming 2nd out of all the club teams competing. When all the points were combined, the boys and girls team finished 7th out of 12 teams, with Westholme being the only school side to compete against athletics club teams.



Congratulations to our netball team who won bronze medals at the BPS Netball Tournament

BLACKBURN PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CROSS COUNTRY

Our Year 5 and 6 boys and girls competed in the first of a 3 series Cross Country event against other Blackburn Primary Schools.

The girls ran in the first race with over 100 other competitors. They made an amazing start with all seven Westholme runners coming in the top 22! Particular congratulations to Hollie Cubbon who finished in 2nd place and Christie Sturgess who finished in 3rd place overall.

The boys then competed in a similar field of runners from Year 5 and 6. They pushed themselves extremely well with an overall team performance that stood them in good stead for the next two rounds.



RUN, WESTHOLME, RUN!

North West Cross Country Championships

Junior and Senior School students competed in the North West Cross Country Championships at Saint Mary's Hall College.

In typical wet and windy cross country conditions, students ran extremely well. The U11 girls ran their hearts out and finished in 10th place out of 16 schools. The Westholme U11 boys ran well against tough competition and our first runner back finished 17th out of over 120 competitors.

Whilst competing individually, the U13 boys were fully aware that teamwork could help them all prevail and reach

their potential. This saw Thomas Perricone and Dominic Naylor run the majority of the race together and finish a fantastic 8th and 9th place respectively. Well done to all the boys in the race, this great team effort resulted in the U13 boys finishing in 3rd place overall.

The U13 girls were equally as impressive with a smaller field taking part but just as tough a race. There were 5 girls' teams competing and 37 runners.

Well done to all the students for their terrific efforts.



English Schools' Fell Running Championships

Westholme Senior students took part in the 7th English Schools' Fell Running Championships which were held in Hebden Bridge. This is a very prestigious event with the top schools in the country competing.

The Year 7 boys finished in a creditable 8th place overall, with Thomas Perricone the first Westholme runner back in 22nd place. The Year 7 girls finished in a fantastic 2nd place in this national event, with amazing performances from Pollie McGaughey who finished in 18th place and Mia Salisbury who finished in 21st place.

The Year 8 and 9 girls' team achieved a superb 4th place overall, with Anna Lonsdale coming 23rd and Laura Backhouse finishing in 32nd place. Congratulations also to Dominic Naylor who completed the Year 8 and 9 boys' race in a respectable 35th place.

Finally, in the Year 10 and 11 girls' race the team finished in a fantastic 3rd place, with Lucy Fielden the first Westholme runner home closely followed by Sally Ralphson.

Well done and thank you to all 24 runners who took part in this challenging and very steep course, you should all be proud of your efforts!



English Schools' Cross Country Cup

Westholme competed in the first round of the English Schools' Cross Country Cup at Sacred Heart College in Crosby. 18 schools from all over Lancashire took part in this prestigious event.

Westholme entered a Junior girls', Junior boys' and an Inter girls' team, all the runners who took part ran extremely well.

The Junior girls' team finished in a fantastic 4th place overall with Lucy Lambert finishing in 14th place, Anna Lonsdale in 17th place and Pollie McGaughey in 20th place.

The Junior boys' team finished in 8th place with Thomas Perricone storming ahead in 17th place.

The Inter girls' team also ran extremely well with Lucy Fielden being Westholme's first girl back in 15th place, closely followed by Baylie Thompson in 25th place. Overall the team finished in a fantastic 5th place.

Well done to all the runners, all teams should be incredibly proud of their performances.



Senior Sport

U14 & U16 National Schools' Netball Competition 2014

Our U14 & U16 netball teams played in the Lancashire round of the National Schools' Netball Competition, which was held at UCLAN Preston Sports Arena.

It was a cold and wet day, but this did not dampen the girls' spirits and all our teams played well against some very tough opposition.



The competition was organised slightly differently this year with the top two teams from each group qualifying for another round robin group competition.

In the first of the group competitions our U14 team won all 3 of their match and the U16 team won an impressive 3 of their 4 matches.

This meant that both of our teams qualified for the top group play-off, to decide the winners of the competition.

With both teams only losing one of their matches, it meant that both of our teams were the runners-up in the competition and have qualified to represent Lancashire in the North West Regional finals at Pendlevalle High School in Nelson.

This is an excellent achievement, and the first time Westholme has ever qualified in two age groups in the same year.



BDSSA Swimming Gala

Westholme boys entered the BDSSA Swimming Gala, along with six other schools in area. It was a great occasion with lots of families supporting our fantastic swimmers.

Westholme did extremely well and came 3rd overall!

Special congratulations to the following competitors; Thomas Perricone, who won 1st place in his breaststroke 25m race and Sam Hall, who won 1st place in his backstroke 25m race.

Well done to all boys involved!



Blackburn with Darwen U14 Indoor Hockey Championships

The U14 Indoor Hockey Championship was held at Westholme in the sports hall. There were 4 teams challenging for the accolade of town champions.

Westholme A team started with their toughest match against DACA but soon they got into their stride and won the match 5-2.

Next, both Westholme teams played against each other. Some intelligent play was displayed from both teams and in a very well fought out, competitive but friendly match, the A team were victorious by 3 goals to 1.

Westholme B team then went on to draw one and win one match. Whilst the A team's final match also resulted in a 1-1 draw

Final results were as follows -
4th - St Bede's
3rd - DACA
2nd - Westholme B
1st - Westholme A

Well done to all the Westholme players and congratulations to the A team on becoming the Blackburn with Darwen Indoor Hockey Champions!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

As ever, many students have participated in expeditions for their DofE awards.



This term, both Bronze and Silver DofE participants completed their expeditions in unusually sunny weather!

Our Bronze award team, comprising 30 girls, successfully journeyed to the White Peak area of Derbyshire, where they were able to enjoy cooking, eating and relaxing in the warm, dry weather.

Similarly, on their Silver Final Duke of Edinburgh expedition, 8 Lower Sixth students ventured to the picturesque Forest of Bowland. Their organisation, navigation, teamwork and camp craft were excellent.

Well done to both groups, and good luck in the next stage of your qualification.



Great Debates!

DURING THE AUTUMN TERM, SENIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS ENTERED A NUMBER OF DEBATING COMPETITIONS, BOTH IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL.



'Big Debates' are a regular feature in the English department's calendar. This term, debates ranged from topical issues including *'the institution of marriage'* and also *'should every human being have the right to assisted suicide?'* Students and staff argued the toss for or against each motion which has resulted in some interesting points of view being made.

Westholme has also been well represented in external competitions. Earlier this term, two teams faced the challenge of the British Parliamentary Debate at Lancaster University. Zainab Khatoun and Paasha Ahmed debated

alongside Molly Walker and Alice Galatola. They debated for and against motions including *'should classical literature be taught in the secondary classroom?'* All students learnt valuable skills, such as constructing an argument and dealing with controversial issues in a sensitive way.

A significant highlight this term, was at the Cambridge Debating Competition, where Sixth Form students Annabel

Steele and Flora Robson qualified for the regional round of the competition. The girls argued against the notion *'prisoners should be allowed to raise their children in prison'*. Annabel and Flora gave a convincing argument against the proposition and tackled a number of 'points of information' successfully. Again, in the unknown proposition, the girls were victorious meaning they will now advance to the regional round of the competition. Well done, girls!



A WELCOME RETURN

We always look forward to welcoming Old Westholmians back to school so they can share their knowledge with our current students. Many of them travel across the globe, but are always drawn fondly back to Westholme. This term we welcomed back three Old Westholmians, who spoke to students about their experiences since leaving Westholme.



Lucy Hutchinson, (2009), an expert in the field of Art, spoke passionately to our A-level art students. Lucy studied Fine Art at Coventry University and offered our students an insight into the world of art. A 'Question and Answer' session followed her presentation, which the girls found to be extremely helpful. Lucy has been doing some amazing things since leaving university. She was recently selected to be exhibited in London and is also represented by a gallery in Hong Kong. In spring 2014, she was awarded a residency at the Birmingham City Library, where she currently has an exhibition.

We also welcomed Dr Angharad Chilton, (née Lewis, 2008), back to Westholme to speak to our budding medics about the route she has taken since leaving us. Westholme Life spoke to Sixth Form student, Kathryn Jaitly, about the talk:

"The medicine talk from Dr. Angharad Chilton gave us all a first-hand insight into the lives of young doctors. As she has only been a graduate for 18 months, this provided us with the perfect opportunity to ask her everything we

wanted to learn about universities and being a doctor in varying roles.

She helped us to understand the importance of deciding if PBL (Problem-based Learning) courses are what we wanted, what we wanted to get out of the university experience and, most importantly for the Year 11 and 12 students, deciding if medicine was for us.

She discussed the need for hard work to get into university, but that once you get onto the course there is a wide range of work available for you in a wide range of disciplines - all within medicine. As she loves a whole range of disciplines within the non-surgical side of clinical medicine, she has decided to take a Core Medicine exam, allowing her to continue working in a variety of disciplines.

The talk was followed by a 'Question and Answer' session which was put to good use as people asked about their queries and concerns regarding Medicine. This talk was great as it allowed us to make a more informed decision regarding medicine as a career."

Sophie Ward, (2013), returned to Westholme and enthusiastically spoke to some of our students about the 'real Oxbridge'. Sophie is currently studying Biomedical Sciences at The Queen's College, Oxford, and her knowledge was vital information to students who are considering applying for Oxbridge.

She explained that what really matters when applying to Oxbridge, along with results, is that you must have a real love for your subject. Sophie spoke in great detail about how the university surroundings are "amazing" and that the one-to-one teaching is "world class".

Sophie loves the social side to life at Oxford; when she first arrived, everyone else was in the same boat and felt as nervous as she did, but she soon settled into life there. She has since become the Assistant Director for the Oxford Girls' Improvisational Comedy Group and is also a female welfare representative for her college.

Many thanks to Lucy, Angharad and Sophie for coming in to speak our students and give them an insight into life after Westholme! They all found it extremely useful.



Lucy Hutchinson with A-level Art students

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

The expertise and insight that visitors bring to pupils is significant in stretching their learning experiences. We would like to thank all visitors who have given up their time this term - we are extremely grateful.



Author, Steve Cole, entertained students with his presentation about his Young Bond series of books



Sergeant Dave Ward from the Lancashire Constabulary spoke to the Criminology course students about his work.



French theatre company Onatti, entertained students with their play, 'The World's Gone Mad'.



GCSE Computing students took part in an interactive workshop hosted by industry experts from Thought Works.



Major Katerina Lennox presented an assembly for Senior School students on the work of The Salvation Army.



Michael Cain from local digital media company, TwentyOne, hosted the BIMA Digital Day at Senior School.



Representatives from the charity Barnardo's visited our Infant and Junior Schools.



Mr Gwynn Lewis spoke to Sixth Form students about driving convictions, as part of their enrichment programme.

Journeys of Discovery

Students from all year groups have journeyed to many interesting places to enhance their learning including factories, universities and museums to name but a few...



GCSE artists visit the 'Mondrian and his studios' exhibition at Tate Liverpool



Learning about manufacturing at Graham and Brown



As part of their topics 'Ourselves', Year 1 visited Beardwood Hospital



Dancing at Lughnasa theatre trip



Sixth Form Economic students enjoyed a lecture at the University of Liverpool



Theo Sturgess (4M) mounts an attack on the Roman Chester trip



A visit to The Envelope Works proved informative for A-level Business Studies students



Year 6 enjoyed a day at Quarry Bank Mill



Westholme students at the Lancaster University Debating Competition



Geographical investigations with Year 9 at Middlebrook retail park, Bolton



Year 1 travelled to Lancaster to enjoy a traditional Victorian Christmas experience at Judges' Lodgings



Year 10 Spanish students visit La Salsa tapas restaurant



GCSE EPR students visit the Vajravarahi Buddhist Centre in Preston

FOCUS ON... NURSERY



From its small beginnings in 1923, Westholme has never looked back. New developments are the cornerstone of our ethos. To this end, in November, we were delighted to announce the opening of the brand new Nursery building, within the Infant School site.

Our Nursery children have settled into their stunning new environment extremely well. Thoughtfully converted to offer a warm welcome, the building is bright and airy and is enclosed within a secure, multi-surfaced garden. They have enjoyed playing with lots of new toys in their spacious surroundings, from a brand new sandpit and kitchen indoors to a vibrant play area outside.

Nursery Manager, Mrs Joanne Church commented, 'The children have even more space to play and the building is tailored to their every need. The talented team of architects from Harrison and Pitt worked very closely with our Senior staff to ensure the rooms were planned out in an intuitive and future proof way.'

The children's needs were at the centre of our decision making process and as such, the Nursery at Westholme is even better than before. Our highly qualified staff team are delighted to have a brand new area in which they can develop the learning of all of the children within their care.'

Head, Mr Stuart Lewis also added, 'The Nursery development is yet another stride forward in Westholme's development. The enlarged, purpose built space allows us to provide many new co-curricular activities including gardening and 'wake up-shake up' sessions. These new initiatives, along with our current programme of music and dance, will enrich our children's learning further. The children are truly integrated into the whole school environment, with all the opportunities that brings. I am delighted we are all together and know the children will feel the greatest benefit.'

These are indeed exciting times ahead for our Nursery children!



WESTHOLME ASSOCIATION

The Westholme Association had an extremely busy start to the new academic year with exciting new events and a change in leadership. They said goodbye to three key members at the AGM in October: chairman, Mrs Carina Lamb, long serving member and vice chairman, Mrs Anne Booth and Mrs Vikki Ashcroft, treasurer. Mrs Helen Berry, Mrs Helen Hart and Mrs Barbara Wood were elected as chairman, vice chairman and treasurer respectively.

COFFEE MORNING



The Westholme Association and Stanley House Hotel & Spa were delighted to host a morning of preening and pampering. Stylist to the stars, Rupert Kingston, introduced his exclusive Delilah cosmetics range and offered expert advice, demonstrations and good humour, as he spoke to a captivated audience at Stanley House. Tips on how best to apply makeup were received with great interest and before too long, he was asking for volunteers to demonstrate his technique.

At the end of Rupert's demonstration, a raffle was held to raise funds for Rosemere Cancer Foundation and their Trust and Corporate Fundraiser, Paula Richardson also came along to show her support for the event.

Rosemere aims to raise funds for additional equipment and facilities for cancer patients being treated at the specialist Cancer Centre at Royal Preston Hospital and in the local Cancer Units throughout Lancashire and South Cumbria. They also look to invest wherever possible in local cancer research to ensure that patients in this part of the North West get the best treatment possible.

The proceeds of the raffle raised a wonderful £170. It really was a lovely morning. We would like to thank Stanley House and the Westholme Association for hosting this event, and of course to Rupert for his top tips!



COMEDY NIGHT

The Westholme Association Comedy Night took place in October. A great night was had by all who attended and huge thanks go to both Louise Ormisher and the subcommittee for organising a kind of evening that has never before been attempted in School. The three comedians were hilarious and really raised the roof of the Croston Theatre in a very different way! The bars were a welcome addition to the evening and many thanks go to the bartenders for volunteering their time. The evening was a success in more ways than one as around £3000 was raised on the evening from ticket sales and the bar. Well done and thank you for supporting the Westholme Association.



Christmas Fayre



The inaugural Westholme Association Christmas Fayre took place at the Infant School. As parents and children queued to make their way in, festive tunes were playing to immerse visitors fully into the Christmas spirit. A festive tombola, lucky dip, Christmas crafts and scrumptious, festive tasty treats were all on offer for the many people who came through the doors. Christmas carols were sung by members of the Junior School choir and beautiful winter plants for sale adorned the hall at Billinge House.

A highlight for most was paying a visit to Santa's grotto, where the man himself, accompanied by his trusty elves, chatted to the children and gave them a special Christmas gift. After the all important raffle was drawn to see who would win the much coveted 'Olaf' and many other wonderful prizes, everyone joined in to sing Christmas carols which really got people into the festive spirit.

It really was wonderful event and a great kick start to the celebrations at Westholme. Well done to the Westholme Association and everyone else who helped to make it such a fantastic family occasion. A whopping £3,431.06 was raised!

The Spirit of the Season

The magnificent Cathedral in Blackburn set the scene for our annual Junior and Senior School Carol Services.



The Senior School Carol Service opened the Cathedral's programme of events for Westholme. With majestic music and tuneful singing voices, the spirit of the festive season was really brought to life for all members of the Westholme family. Contributions to the service from Governors, Old Westholmians, staff and students provided the congregation with an uplifting sense of peace and joy. What a superb evening of celebration!



Only two days later and for the first time as one cohesive school, our Juniors came together for their annual service. A highlight for many is always the Year 5 performance of lunchtime 'Carols in the Cathedral' and this year was no different. Following this, came the traditional order of proceedings, performed to a full Cathedral. Beautiful solos and recitals by various musical groups enhanced the service and left family and friends feeling suitably festive.

Magical Nativities

The Nativity series launched the Christmas season at Westholme. Three wonderful plays were performed by the children at Infant school.

Whoops-A-Daisy Angel

Our youngest pupils took to the stage at Billinge House to perform their adorable Nativity of 'Whoops-A-Daisy Angel'. The story tells of a clumsy, forgetful angel who is always late but who is given a very important job - to go to Bethlehem!

It was hard to believe that these were our Preschoolers; children who had only joined the Infant School in September and not one of them over 4 years old! The costumes were divine and the singing was beautiful, clear and extremely tuneful. Heart-warming songs including 'We're so angelic' and 'Six little snowflakes' complete with matching actions had the audience transfixed. The children were clearly delighted to perform in front of such a supportive audience.

What a wonderful start to the festive period at Westholme!

The Landlord's Cat

Pupils in Reception performed their Nativity 'The Landlord's Cat' to parents and friends at Infant School. The story tells how life in Bethlehem has never been so hectic, and at a certain inn on the edge of town the Landlord's Cat is particularly unimpressed by the hustle and bustle that surrounds him.

Fed up with being ignored, the irritated Landlord's Cat is on the verge of leaving home. But one night a young man and his pregnant wife arrive at the inn and are shown to the stable. The cat senses that something very special is about to happen.

The children told the story with great enthusiasm; their singing voices were lovely and their smiles for the audience were heart-warming.

Well done to everyone involved - it was another wonderful show!



Baubles!

The Croston Theatre was the setting for the Year 1 and 2 wonderful production of 'Baubles'.

Baubles tells the story of a school, where the excitement levels are building in the lead up to Christmas.

It's clear to Mr Potts, the caretaker, that something may have been overlooked. Assisted by some helpful mice, he sets to work creating beautiful baubles for the bare Christmas tree and along the way, he helps the children to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas.

The children took to the stage in the Croston Theatre, and the audience were guided through the story with word perfect narrators who spoke confidently to a packed theatre. Year 2 pupils took on the lead character roles brilliantly - the moody donkey, the directionally challenged kings and the sheep that sleeps through an angelic visit to name but a few, had the audience entranced. Their Year 1 friends assisted them superbly which added extra sparkle to the performance.

Congratulations to everyone involved - it was a truly great performance.



'Beauty AND THE BEAST'

Our Senior School production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast had audiences captivated.

"Simply terrific", "they get better each year" and "wonderful" were just a few of the quotes from theatre goers at the performance of Beauty & the Beast.

Visitors to the Croston Theatre were amazed from the moment the curtain lifted to reveal the stunning silhouette of the Prince being transformed into a terrifying beast. From start to finish, it was a real treat for the eye – the set, built completely by our superb maintenance team, was fantastic. It was a terrific backdrop for the fairytale to be told.

Wonderful singing, dancing and humour – the show had it all! A major highlight was the costumes. They really brought each character to life. The audience engaged with everyone: adorable Chip in his cart, the flirtatious candle, Lumière, complete with light up flames for his hands, Cogsworth, the clock, numerous pieces of cutlery and of course the main characters of Belle, the Beast and Gaston who were simply brilliant.

The performance, supported by a fantastic orchestra and back stage crew was once again outstanding. Huge congratulations to everyone involved. We really did enjoy 'being your guest'!



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

Autumn Term 2015

Thursday 3rd September - Wednesday 16th December

Half term - Monday 19th October - Friday 30th October inclusive

Spring Term 2016

Wednesday 6th January

Half term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February inclusive



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