

Ackworth Today

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Not for oneself but for everybody



Fothergill Triumphs

On the evening of 9 February, the annual Inter-House Drama Competition took place. All four Houses performed their own interpretation of the given theme 'breaking free'. The winning House, Fothergill, portrayed the theme as breaking free from stereotypes within society, with a choral chant 'what you looking at?' as the main focus of the piece.

It proved to be a very challenging two weeks, filled with rehearsals and script writing. However, each House demonstrated vast amounts of determination, team work and overall enjoyment.

As members of the winning House, we feel privileged to have been able to participate in such a wonderful evening filled with such a warm and supportive atmosphere. A big 'well done' to everyone involved.

Beth Pouncey and Georgia Dunstone



Farewell to Peter Simpson

Peter Simpson began his Headship at Ackworth at the same time as I became Clerk of Committee. We quickly established a good working relationship which we continue to enjoy today. From the start, it became apparent that his creativity, his sharp intellect and his keen analytical mind would benefit the School enormously.

Perhaps his most important achievement during the past four and a half years has been broadening the scope and enhancing the quality of education at Ackworth. His move to be Head of the British School in the Netherlands is well deserved. We wish him and Monica success and enjoyment in their new life in The Hague.

Christopher Moore

Coram House Pupil Concert

My favourite thing about the pupil concert was when I got to see all the other fabulous performances until it was my turn. I played Whirly Bird and Surrender and it made me feel good. I live in Stainborough, Barnsley with my mum and dad. When I did my pieces I was a bit scared but I had done it three times before so I knew what was going to happen. I started playing the piano when I was three so I have been doing it for four years because I am now seven. The song Surrender was spooky but the song Whirly Bird is jollier. My favourite tune was Surrender because it is very spooky.

Rani Patel





Amnesty International National Youth Advisory Group

Recently we were successful in winning places on Amnesty's National Youth Advisory Panel. The Panel meets three times a year and offers advice on issues affecting Amnesty youth groups throughout the UK. To win our places, we had to write an essay outlining our involvement within the School's Amnesty Group and explain why we would be good representatives on the Youth Council. We recently attended our first meeting, which started with an introduction to Amnesty and then discussed the role of young people in Amnesty and ways to increase membership. After this we watched a film that Amnesty plans to use as part of a campaign next year and we gave our advice on how they should use it. Finally, we discussed the advantages of using the internet for campaigning and also how we use off-line campaigning. We really enjoyed the first meeting and are looking forward to the next two meetings this year.

Victoria Beilsten and Felicia Linke

Local schools enjoy 'Annie'

Pupils from local schools came along to a matinee performance at Ackworth, this time of the musical 'Annie'. As a member of the cast I found the matinee performance great fun, although I was really nervous before the show. Performing to the younger pupils was quite nerve-racking. Afterwards we went down to the school dining rooms and talked to the children and their teachers while they had a party tea. They all seemed to have enjoyed it and only wished it could have gone on for longer. A good sign, I think!

Imogen Young



Head's Barn Dance

When I received my invitation, I was a bit puzzled as to what to expect. To begin with I didn't know how to reply to this formal invitation, but I thought it would be an interesting experience and decided to go anyway.

On arriving, I was still worrying about what I was wearing, since everyone else seemed to be wandering around in checked shirts. As it turned out, though, there were loads of different people wearing completely different things.

The dance itself was extremely good fun. It was a great atmosphere - I wasn't expecting live music, so when I walked in and heard the band warming up, it was a nice surprise. Their music was excellent.

Ben Henderson



Cycling Home from Siberia

A recent Sunday Evening Reading was 'Cycling Home from Siberia', presented by Rob Lilwall. He took three years covering three continents with a budget of around £7,500.

It was an inspiring Reading, opening our eyes to previously stereotyped cultures. He shared his experiences with great energy, telling us about some of the amazing adventures he has had.



Rob had even cycled through countries in a state of war, like Iraq and Afghanistan, although he did spend a short time on a bus through Kabul, as it was too dangerous to cycle through the streets.

The way he had experienced treacherous terrain, dangerous places and really exciting cities showed us that, if you really want to do something, it is always possible. It was a fantastic story.



It turned out, too, that Rob has a connection with Ackworth. His grandmother, Amy Lilwall (maiden name Amy Hobby) is an Old Scholar who is still alive, aged 103, and living in Dorset. After the presentation, Mr Simpson took him to Centre Library and showed him a photo of her when she was at School. Amy Lilwall used to tell Rob stories of how she was only allowed to see her brother, Jim Hobby, who was also at School once a week for an hour!

Harry Stallworthy and Jake Usman

International Centre Trip to Magna

Recently, we went to Magna Science Adventure Centre. Magna's design is so strange, but we had a fun day! There were four themed pavilions: water, air, fire and earth. First, we visited the water pavilion. It had lots of funny games about water. We played the games and learned lots of things. I think the most important thing was learning how people can save water. Then we went to the earth pavilion. It was like a virtual factory. Some of us drove the diggers to get rocks and move them. We learned about a mine worker's life. Finally, we went to the fire pavilion. The fire tornado was so cool, we had never seen that before. It was hot, and sometimes dangerous. We didn't have time for the air pavilion, because there was so much to see in the others! All in all it was a lovely day!

Doris Ruan

Yorkshire Sculpture Park Trip

One sunny Sunday morning, a group of Art Students set off for the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Pulling up to the car park, everyone quickly jumped out and stretched their legs and then promptly headed off to see the first sculpture. James Turrell's fascinating design was up first - his pieces experiment with natural and artificial light and, since he comes from a Quaker background, his sculptures need to be explored in silence.

After a nice look around the rest of the Park, we headed off to Sheffield to visit the town and the Millennium Gallery. We had a great but tiring day, and each and every one of us came away inspired.

Kendra Howard





Fire safety lesson

Dave Berry, a local Fire Safety Officer, joined our Friday assembly. He talked about some of the different aspects of his job, used volunteer Coram House pupils to demonstrate how to get out of a fire safely and then answered lots of interesting questions posed by the children. Dave then visited Pre-Prep, where the children have been working on the topic of "people who help us", and read a story about fire safety. All the children enjoyed a lovely, informative morning.

Mary Wilson

Inter-House Basketball

Last term we had an Inter-House Basketball match. Teams from Gurney, Penn, Woolman and Fothergill Houses joined in. Everybody tried very hard to win. The players ran and their team-mates shouted and cheered - in fact, it seemed like the team-mates gave extra power to their players! I am in Gurney, which was the winning team. My team-mate, Troy, won the player of the tournament.

Jay Wan

New Estate Manager and Head Gardener

We are delighted to welcome Mark Culbert and his family to Ackworth. Mark comes to us with a wealth of experience in estate management and horticulture. He has worked for the National Trust in Oxford, including a period as Manager of the late Lord Lichfield's estate in Staffordshire. In addition, Mark has managed the grounds of a Pastoral Centre housed in a Grade I Listed house in Shropshire. He has been working for the past 10 years as an Instructor at a Horticultural and Agricultural College in Staffordshire.



Mark has many plans for the improvement and general maintenance of our beautiful grounds. He has a particular interest in recycling and hopes to set up a worm composting scheme in the near future.

Bryony Lebetter

Ackworth in the Snow

I'm sure that everybody is aware of the huge snowfall that we had on Monday 2 February – wonderful news for Ackworth pupils! Every free moment was spent throwing snowballs, shaking trees, sliding and at the same time getting very wet! The School itself looked stunning - the trees were covered, the pond iced over, and some of the longest icicles I've ever seen lined the buildings.



So, despite being soaking wet and freezing, everyone had the best time, and I hope it happens again next winter!

Isabel Parkinson

UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

Of the fifty 3rd, 4th and 5th Form pupils who entered the Maths Challenge, nearly half gained certificates. Bronze certificates were awarded to Omar Qadir, Rachel Cook, Wesley Yau, Ralph Waters, Nathan Beresforde, Aaron Barnes, Georgina Crowther, Charmley Worth, Matthew Playforth, Bethany Burns, Sam Henery and Andrew Wong. Silver certificates went to David Gopinath, Minnie Tang, Jack Rhodes, Sara Tomlinson, Jeffrey Luk, Christopher Cheseldine, Jake Pugh, Rebecca Holmes, Sophie Pennington and Hester Plant. Isobel Clare in the 3rd Form gained 'Best in School' and a Gold certificate, and she will be going forward to the next round. Congratulations to Isobel, and well done to all who entered. Our thanks also go to Rebecca Wallis for organizing this event.

Lucinda Hamill

Shoe Box Appeal

At the end of last term, Third Year students launched an appeal for a charity called Samaritans' Purse. We asked for donations of small items to fill shoeboxes. These would then be sent to children in need in several countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. With your help we were able to fill 35 boxes in two weeks. On behalf of all the Third Years, I would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped to make the appeal a success.



Wanda Wiggans

Russell Hepworth



After seven very happy years with us, Russell left Ackworth School in July 2006 with excellent A level results and our Highest Scholarship Award. Russell went on to Hull University to study Chemistry and in 2007 he was awarded the University Prize for "Outstanding Performance in Analytical Chemistry". In 2008 he was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry prize for the "Best and Most Promising Student in Analytical Chemistry" – we congratulate Russell on these outstanding achievements.

Lorna Anthony

Author visits Ackworth



Recently Joe Craig, the author of the Jimmy Coates series, visited Ackworth. He spent time with pupils from Coram House and the Senior School. That week was Enterprise Week, so not only did he tell us about how he turns an idea into a book, but also how he turns that same idea into money. Joe explained about the advance he receives as an author, and how the royalties from book sales add up to pay this off. He welcomed questions, and he answered them all in as much detail as he could.

The opportunity to meet a published author was wonderful, and it definitely inspired us to read more of his books.

Ella White, Sammy-Jo Worrillow, Imogen Badrock and Sophie Rolfe

South Bank Show Films Old Scholar

Arriving in Centre Passage on my infrequent visits to School always gives me a feeling of coming home: taking me back to a very happy time. Not that life has not been interesting and busy since: my degree in genetics (thank you to Lorna Anthony for introducing me to Mendel and his peas – it fascinated me!) led to a clinical MSc in genetic counselling. I specialised in deafness, largely due to an interest triggered at School by my best friend, Caroline Close, who taught me some sign language as her brother was deaf. I look at the genetic causes as well as access and communication for deaf people and this has led to my current PhD work on translating medical and genetic information from English into British Sign Language.

My visit to School this time was for an unusual reason. I discovered a love of choral music at School (and Gilbert and Sullivan, but that's another story – Tom Bootyman made a fantastic Pooh-Bah!). I have sung regularly since, most recently in a small choir called 'Sacred Wing' that comes together annually before Christmas to perform a different work. This year we are performing highlights from 'The Messiah'. The South Bank Show contacted us via our website because they were making a documentary about the piece, people's reasons for singing it and their connections to it. The programme is due to be broadcast around Easter 2009. I told them about the School's connection to Handel and his support for the Foundling Hospital through fund-raising performances of the 'The Messiah'. They were extremely keen to include this and were impressed by the School's atmosphere during their visit, not to mention the beautiful buildings. Of course, those of us who know Ackworth will not be surprised by this reaction!

Rachel Belk



Art Trip

The Discovery Centre at Leeds Museum was very interesting. I enjoyed looking at all the different species of bugs and wondering whether or not these bugs lived near me. I didn't enjoy looking at the ones with long legs, though, as they 'creep me out'! I enjoyed going on the tour, especially when Hester nearly threw the fossilised dinosaur dung on the floor! I found the mammoth tusks amazing. They were strange and looked coarse, like wood. The colours of the insects were unusual and I used a fine line to draw my picture, but I also used charcoal on a few of them which were duller colours. The staff were very nice and were happy to answer any questions we had. I really enjoyed the trip.

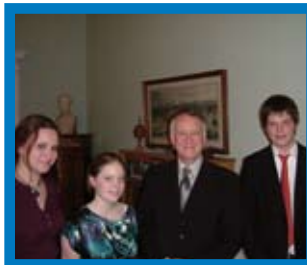
Emily Holmes

Don't let anything cloud your imagination

The Olympic Games are considered to be a festival of sports but, in fact, they are so much more. As Mr Havenhand, Executive Chair of the Yorkshire Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games told us at a recent Evening Reading, there should be benefit from the Olympic Games all across the country, not just in London.

It was interesting to know how Yorkshire in particular will gain from the Olympics and what is to be done in order to complete the preparation process. It's hard to believe that athletes wanting to achieve selection for the 2012 games are already in the process of training.

Ana Milinovic



Future PSA events

Tennis Tournament, Monday 11 May
Coffee 9:30am, Lunch approx 12 noon
Family Treasure Hunt, Saturday 6 June
10:30am - 2:30pm

Outdoor Concert of Summer Music and
Family Picnic, Wednesday 1 July 7pm - 9pm
Open Day, Saturday 11 July
Craft Stalls from 10am

Autumn Ball at the Burntwood Court Hotel,
Friday 9 October 7:30pm - 1am

Parent Staff Association

The Abba Tribute Night was enjoyed by all of the parents and friends who kindly supported the social event held at the Kings Croft Hotel. The hog roast was delicious and everyone danced the night away. The PSA would like to thank parent Rosie Ingram for financially supporting the evening. The funds raised will go towards the after school clubs and societies which provide fabulous opportunities for our children.

Beverley Nichol-Culff

Seismometer

Ackworth School has joined with several other schools in the North of England in the School Seismometer Project organised



by the British Geological Survey. Ackworth's seismometer will be located in the cellar where it is very quiet and where it won't be disturbed by the pounding of 400 pairs of feet every lesson change! Data from the seismometer, which can detect earthquakes as small as 4.5 on the Richter Scale, will be automatically posted on the internet where it can be shared with and combined with data from over 200 other schools worldwide.

Tom Bootyman

ADVICE 38

If pressure is brought upon you to lower your standard of integrity, are you prepared to resist it? Our responsibilities to God and our neighbour may involve us in taking unpopular stands. Do not let the desire to be sociable, or the fear of seeming peculiar, determine your decisions.

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