

Ackworth Today

July 2017

Not for oneself but for everyone



Feeding the imagination

After all these years, and there are many of them, I remember very little about the lessons I was taught at school, but I can recall the best ones, usually because I was doing something I was confident about or because I had a good teacher.

One of them, my English teacher, allowed us time to dream, of great things that lay ahead of us and about things we wanted to do. Imagine, he would say, if you could record everything you could see, and everything you said, and everything that was said to you. Perhaps he was describing the advent of smartphones?

I imagined how I might change the things I had said that were embarrassing, unfortunately there were quite a few of those! I thought about bailing myself out of all the trouble I was in for not doing the things I should have done or having the confidence to do things I desperately wanted to do.

In class we would slip into an alternate state of mind, we were allowed to put our heads down on our desks whilst we listened to him. He was skilled at making us use our imagination as an effective part of learning. In other words making us think!

The desk top was always refreshingly cool to the touch in the midst of a very warm summer's day. The temperature in Queenstown, South Africa could reach 40 degrees celcius in the afternoon. Too hot for imagining things, unless you had Furney, Mr Furney that is! He was the best teacher I ever had. Wise, patient, experienced and so good at getting the most out of us! He knew how to engage with us, he understood what it was like to be in our position.

My desk was covered in adolescent graffiti. All of them were, 30 desks in a class, in five rows. Some of the graffiti was quite tasteless, but occasionally something artistic or humorous would arise, only to be covered by freshly applied thoughtlessness the next day. Not much imagination there!

There was a hole in the lid of my desk. It had been made as a result of years of boredom. It started as a knot, a defect in the timber, that had been gouged out by enterprising means. A pair of Compasses were good for gouging, Bic pens, the orange ones, were also useful for excavation when the tip broke off, but they made a mess that no amount of washing could remove. I hasten to add that it was there already and not through my doing! I have never defaced anything.

Encouraged to dream I would press my eye against the hole, staring into the darkness within. I imagined that I was looking into the future.

Furney would talk constantly, about his thoughts, the things he had done and the places he had been. He had travelled to cities I knew I had to see and he remembered details I found fascinating, the water lapping against his gondola whilst on the canals in Venice, crunching through snow whilst walking in Scotland or observing Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile in Paris.

Mr Furney was doing what a good teacher does, he was feeding our imaginations, preparing us for creative writing, transporting us into a world where we could use the most powerful gift we have.

I appreciated his sense of humour. He liked canoeing and he had 'done the Dusi' an arduous 78 mile endurance race along a river in Natal. 'Only for the mentally tough', he would say, 'My hands were just one big blister', he said, 'My lips so chapped by the sun that a tube of lip balm fell into the cracks and never came out again'.

Gazing through the hole in my desk I tried to imagine myself careering down a flood swollen river, past an uprooted tree, around the hippos, over the crocodiles. See it, he would say, visualise it, you don't need your eyes, what do you perceive?

Now, he would say, banging his table, write for me! And we did, it just poured out!

He was a spark and he lit fires within us. One day, he said, you will have to solve problems and deal with difficult people, as if teenagers can't already see problems and regard everyone as difficult. Your imaginations will solve more problems than I can prepare you for, he said, so it's good to use it!

Everyone has their favourite teacher. Someone with the passion to ignite a love of learning and to unlock the confidence that can make a difference. Every school needs a Mr Furney, we have lots of them at Ackworth School. We have teachers that extend student knowledge, stretch their skills, overcome their reluctance and stimulate their imagination.

Anton Maree, Head

The Braille Legacy

On Saturday the 10th June I went with Ackworth Community Choir and friends to see the The Braille Legacy at Charing Cross Theatre, London.

It was starring Old Scholar Jack Davies (stage name Jack Wolfe) It tells the thrilling, true, inspirational and epic story of Louis Braille, a young blind boy who wanted the same chance in life as those who see and ended up improving the lives of millions of blind people around the world.

I thought the show was fantastic and very moving and Jack playing Louis Braille was brilliant

I agree with the Daily Mail review:

★☆☆ #TheBrailleLegacy "@JackTWolfe in a fine professional debut as Louis is possibly bound for great things" Quentin Letts @ MailOnline

Lucy Roche Year 7



Mining Museum Trip



We can thoroughly recommend a trip to Caphouse Colliery, the National Mining Museum.

A group of us visited recently for a guided tour of the once-working mine to find out about the history and conditions of our mining heritage. Our guide, Martin, related vividly how whole families would be involved in mining – father digging, mother pulling the trolleys and children as young as five waiting in complete pitch blackness for the signal to open the trap door.

There is lots more to find out, from pit ponies to modern large-scale machinery – do visit!

Claire Mason and Phoebe Nyssen (Gap Year Students)

Aerial Extreme



When we arrived we had a safety talk and Mr Bootyman had to sign loads of forms.

We then put our harnesses on and we had a go at changing the clips. After that, we were set free on the high wire course. I was terrified. It was an amazing experience, though.

At the end of the course there was a fantastic zip wire, it was the best bit.

When I got off, I just wanted to get straight back on again! It was fabulous!!!

By Florence Edwards – IC

Young Writers 2017

I entered a Young Writers 2017 story competition with my story "Unexpected Visitor" and was shortlisted by Falmouth University.

"I never thought I would be shortlisted or awarded a certificate, I enjoy writing and look forward to entering my next competition."

Hannah Britton



'Pirates of the Curry Bean'



The Year 6 Production 'Pirates of the Curry Bean' takes the audience on a sea adventure. It follows the tale of a kidnapped mother, a distant tropical island and a treasure map! Jack and Liza Periwinkle prepare to set sail on their ship, the Crunchy Frog but are chased and ambushed by the pirate crew of the Curry Bean – Captain Redbeard proved to be the most fearsome of the lot. After many weeks of rehearsing, brilliant singing and dancing, Year 6 learned how to shake their pirate booty! What a performance.

Annabel Harper Year 6

Sally Slater - Head of Coram House



Sally has already made her mark in Coram House since her first appointment 8 years ago. She is well known there for her readiness to help others and engage with everyone she encounters.

She has ambition and a clear vision and is professional and passionate about education. More recently, Sally has been Acting Head in Coram House since January 2017 and we thank her for the excellent job that she has done in this regard.

The School has continued to make significant progress since then, and Sally performed very well in the interview process against a strong field. All those who know her will feel that we are fortunate to be able to appoint a person of her calibre as we seek further development for our future.

We wish Sally every success in her new role and offer her our full support.

David Bunney

The Big String



On Wednesday the 21st June, Wakefield Music Services held their first ever 'Big String' event at Ackworth School. Children from four local primary schools, The Mount, Wakefield, North Featherstone, Mill Dam and Upton Primary came to spend the day playing violins and 'celli.

The morning included workshops, activities and rehearsals, which the string players from Coram House, Ackworth School joined in with, and then a performance was held in the afternoon, with exciting music played by each school, and rousing songs and pieces played by all the students at the end.

It was a fantastic showcase of the work that these young players had put into playing their instruments, most of whom had only started this year, and for many it would have been their first concert.

The sound of over 100 students playing their stringed instruments was wonderful, and thanks go to their instrument teachers who work with them every week; Miss Ghent, Mrs Younger and Mr Kidd. Thanks too, go to Mrs Rhodes and Wakefield Music Services who organised the event with the primary schools. A great collaboration which was enjoyed by all, and we hope will be repeated.

Elizabeth Hussey and Tom S-B

International Business : Music Festival Project



This term the IC students have participated in a business project to develop, set up and run a Music Festival. This project has allowed them to gain practical experience in some of the most important aspects of business. Students worked as part of a team to produce a business plan for their music festival, to present to potential investors in an attempt to gain funding. Within the business plan, the teams have had to consider business location, create their own budget, calculate costs, revenues and profit and engage with marketing concepts such as market research,

promotion and pricing.

The investors decided to support the music festivals of Samali AJ for IC1 and the R2CMJ won the funding for the IC2 group. We have yet to decide whether or not to 'fest off' between the two groups.

Business Studies

Short Stay students' trip by train to Haworth, 15/6/17



"Today we went to Haworth Railway Station to see the old trains. We got to travel on them too which was great fun!"

We later had some time to explore Haworth for ourselves where we saw the church and had some lunch. The sun was shining and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our friends"

Olivia and Jeanne.

Kindergarten's visit to the Food and Nutrition Department



Kindergarten had a wonderful time with Brenda Hodge in the food and nutrition room.

We learnt some new skills and made yummy apple and blueberry muffins.

Thank you to the lovely helpers who joined us!

Lucy Cruddas

Daniel Jones – Chemistry Department

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two terms here at Ackworth, both inside the Chemistry department and on the sports field with the football and cricket teams. It makes a change to the sweltering temperature of Dubai where I was previously for nearly 4 years. I have been very happy to work again in a boarding school with such a large number of international students and diverse set of cultures. I believe that students learning in these environments have a great deal of benefits and opportunities available to them.

I never saw myself going into teaching when I was younger, as my first love was cricket and belief that I would be a professional. However, some dreams are not meant to be, but my passion for cricket indirectly lead me into my current profession. Whilst studying at university, I set up cricket summer camps in three cities across the country as a means of some extra spending money. However, after I finished university and realised that my dream of being a professional cricket was never going to become a reality. Yet I understood that I enjoyed coaching the sport as much as I enjoyed playing it and would probably enjoy teaching Chemistry as much as I enjoyed studying it at school and University.

I am looking forward to my future at Ackworth and hopefully making an impact within the Chemistry department and the school as a whole.



Sibford trip – Music



In the Easter holidays a small group from the choir went on a trip to a Quaker school in Banbury called Sibford School.

When we arrived none of us knew what to expect, we all loved the fact that we would be meeting new children and get the chance to sing with them. After a long rehearsal with the other schools we were invited to a social with a school from Ireland called the Friends School Lisburn.

The next day we went to Banbury and had a walk around the shops and then finished with a great concert in a beautiful church. What a great experience we had.

By Lucy Assassa

Table Tennis England Success



The academy players enjoyed a very successful trip to Zagreb, Croatia. The players had an intensive training camp followed by the Zagreb Youth Open, with lots of successes for the academy players!

Junior National Cup - it's been a busy period on the National circuit of the last 2 months, with the players competing first in the Junior & Cadet National Cups. In the Junior Girls, we saw 2 of the Academy players finish on the podium, with Mollie Patterson finishing 2nd & Jasmin Wong finishing 3rd overall.

Cadet National Cup - The following weekend saw many of the Academy players in action again, this time in the Cadet National Cup in Preston. In the Boys event we saw Jamie Liu come 2nd at the end of a hard fought weekend! Other strong performances were made by Reece Chamdal (finishing 4th) and Sam Chesterman (finishing 7th)

This year's National Championships saw some fantastic performances and results from our academy players! Here's a quick rundown on how they did:

- Cadet Boys Singles: Amirul Hussain - Silver, Jamie Liu - Bronze
- Cadet Girls Singles: Mollie Patterson & Jasmin Wong - Bronze
- Cadet Boys Doubles: Sam Chesterman & Amirul Hussain - Gold, Reece Chamdal & Jamie Liu - Bronze
- Cadet Girls Doubles: Ruby Chan & Jasmin Wong - Bronze
- Junior Girls Team: Ackworth - Silver
- Junior Boys Team - Bronze

Lunchtime Concert

Taking part in the lunchtime music concert gave me an opportunity to sing one of my grade 6 songs before my exam in front of friends.

I also thoroughly enjoyed watching the other performances to see how they have all developed their musical skills over the year and the contrast between the different styles of music.

Everyone did extremely well and should be proud of themselves.

By Lucas Culf



Year 4 Picnic



Hello from Malta



HAHA

Memories
x



SCHOOL MALTA



!!
D



Jeep ride!



Boys.



Poses!!



SMILE

On Friday 21st March, a group of boys and girls set off to Malta. Once we touched down, the girls went to play our first netball match against a team from Malta. This was interesting as it was good to see how different teams play.

On the first day, the boys went off to play football while the girls went shopping in the town, after this the girls went to play our second and final match. The Ackworth girls played brilliantly and went on to win by a large amount and then to top off the day we went bowling.

The second day was my favourite as we went on a Jeep safari. Groups of four and five were each assigned a Jeep in which they would spend the day in. Whilst on this trip we were able to see some breath-taking sights

and views of the island and we also visited the silent city. Lastly, we hit the track and went go-karting.

The third day was the day of the boat cruise. After spending a few hours on the boat, we reached the blue lagoon. The views were beautiful and we spent the day laying on the beach and relaxing. When we got back the boys had their final fixture and after this we reunited and went out to a local restaurant and had an enjoyable meal.

The last day arrived and it was, sadly, time for us to go home. After stopping off at the aquarium we made our way onto the airport and back to Ackworth. Overall I thoroughly enjoyed this trip. I made lots of happy memories and had some great experiences.

From: Charlotte
Glasby

Florida Trip



During the Easter holidays we went to Florida on a science trip. We visited the Disney parks and Universal Studios and attended seminars there before enjoying the attractions.

The seminars helped us to gain an understanding of the marine biology behind Disney's award winning aquarium as well as the physics of the forces we experienced on the rollercoasters.

We also visited Kennedy Space Centre and got to meet Mark Lee, a retired astronaut, who gave us an insight into what life in space is really like.

I enjoyed every part of the trip and I'm really glad that I got the chance to go.

Victoria Patel

Biathlon

On Thursday 25th May 23 students from years 4 to 6 took part a biathlon organised by Pentathlon GB at our school. There were two events, a one length swim and a 400m run. The Pentathlon GB staff were very kind and helpful and the races were very well organised. I did really well in the swim (coming first) and I smashed it in the run coming first again. It was great to hear all of my teammates and the staff cheering me on. It was an amazing experience and I hope I am selected for the next round.

By Lucas Coulson

Manchester United Trip

Today we had a trip to Manchester United. It is so big, huge and enormous. We went to the big red stadium and all of the other rooms. For example, the food room before you go to watch the game, dressing room and the place that players go before they come out.

Yanie, Thailand



French Pen Pals

"In my French class, we all wrote letters to our own penpals in France about ourselves, where we live and interests. It was really enjoyable being able to practise our French and I look forward to receiving my reply and seeing if we have any similar interests. We all left some contact information at the bottom if we wish to continue our conversations." - Maddie Cooper



Ducklings - Shed Court



At Shed Court we have hatched ducklings. They have been kept in an incubator for approximately thirty days.

We hatched six ducklings but one of them was particularly weak. We took it to an expert who recommended a tonic to be used.

Everyone nurtured the duckling and we are pleased to report it is in good health. The ducklings have been given names which we pulled from a bag of name suggestions. Before we break up for the summer the ducklings will be returned to the farm.

by Ross Bolland

Geography fieldtrip



On the first weekend of the May half-term holiday the Lower Sixth geographers were on a residential fieldtrip at the Field Study Centre in Shrewsbury.

We had 2 days of intense learning about investigation techniques and fieldwork ideas which were extremely useful regarding our A-Level coursework.

Even though some of our group aren't taking their A-levels, it provided a fantastic and enjoyable experience about planning a large piece of work and meeting new people which was very beneficial.

A great weekend was topped off with a trip to Wales on the final day to visit Cwm Idwal corrie and revise our Glaciation unit. A top weekend was had by all and the tunes on the bus meant for a quick journey home!

Able Writer's Day

On Monday 12th June Noah, Eloise, Bani and I went to an able writer's day at Grove Lea Primary School, Hemsworth. The event was led by an author called Colin R Parsons. He writes children's books and has written quite a few! Our task was to write a story about 'Max Chocolate' and 'Lily Paper'. They had found a disc and when they touched it it transported them to a fantasy world. It was great fun, especially when Colin told his jokes. At the end of the session we had Q and A time. Noah, Bani and I bought a book called House of Darke. It was a brilliant day.

Freddie Barr (year 6)



Guy Emmet – Professional Cricketer!

Well done to our Deputy Head Pastoral, Guy Emmett, who has been signed for Lancashire League Roe Green Cricket Club as their Official Professional Cricketer for the 2017 season.

He has previously played Minor Counties Cricket for Cheshire, alongside Patrick Roberts and Daniel Jones



Great Britain Team for Katie Assassa

Katie Assassa has been selected for the Great Britain Triathlon team to compete in the European championships in Portugal 12-16 July 2017.

Triathlon is a sub sport of Olympic pentathlon. Each competitor must shoot, swim (50m x4) and run (800mx4). Katie qualified at the national trials by placing 5th and achieving the qualifying time.

This follows successfully competing at the National Schools Biathlon (swim, run) at Crystal Palace earlier in the year with both personal best times in swimming and running the mile. Katie had been placed in all of her recent competitions in regional biathlon (run, swim, run) She is competing in the national tetrathlon championships (swim, fence, run, shoot) this weekend and the National Fencing championships the next weekend. She has successfully applied to train with the National junior fencing team in Hungary over the summer holidays.

So it's a hot summer of training and elite competition for Katie ahead.

PE Department



L6th Business – Resolving an industrial dispute



The lower sixth business studies students have been studying employee/employer relations.

As part of their learning they have participated in a role-play pay negotiation, as employer, trade union or ACAS representative.

It was unlikely that the parties would agree with their starting positions being so far apart; the employer only offering a 4% pay increase and the employees via their TU representative requesting a 12% rise. In addition the employees through their TU representative were asking for a £15,000 refurbishment of the works canteen.

During the negotiations our TU representatives, Daiki Kawasaki and Jonas Scholich, used a whole host of tactics, threatening to ban overtime, then threatening to work to rule and finally in an attempt to get the employers, Pak Ho and Jess Tither to agree to their demands, to ballot their members for strike action!

Thankfully, due to the shrewd conciliation skills of our ACAS representatives, Fran Whiting and Al-Waleed Al-Turki, both parties reached agreement; settling at a 7% pay increase and a considerable investment in the refurbishment of the staff canteen.

Al-Waleed AlTurki, Daiki Kawasaki, James Clarke, Lukasz Puchalski, Jess Tither, Fran Whiting, Drew Wallace-Ross

Coram Choir at Wakefield Cathedral

On Monday 12th June, the Coram Choir took part in the Big Sing Project, run by the Opera North. They had worked hard in the weeks leading up to it, learning the work, 'A Little Book of Monsters' and they had 2 vocal workshops from the Choral Delivery Artist, James Bingham.

The music was difficult, but really enjoyable, and the pupils found themselves singing about 'Cannibal Animals' around the Coram Playground!

On the day, we were joined by two other schools, and were accompanied by the world renowned Chamber Orchestra of the Opera North. After an afternoon of rehearsals, we were treated to a performance of Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev, and then it was our turn to perform.

This was a fantastic opportunity to perform alongside professional musicians and conductors, and a really fun experience. The feedback we had was very positive, and the pupils were still buzzing the following day.

"We did lots of fun things with Opera North, but my favourite thing was meeting lots of new friends. We sang about little monsters and eating people! ... It was the first time rehearsing with the other schools, but I enjoyed it very much. We enjoyed practising nearly all afternoon, but at 5pm we had some tea. When it came to the impeccable performance I was excited but a bit nervous. It was our first time working with Opera North but it was really fun!"

Hannah Moxon Year 4



Where Are They Now?

Ruth McCall nee Braithwaite

I have written an extract about my mother for her funeral service on Monday. I thought you might be interested in the first paragraph. Ackworth School meant everything to her. I am so glad Malcolm and I were able to visit you and to get a feel for the school that so shaped her.

Ruth was born in Newcastle upon Tyne on the 28th of July 1919, daughter and eldest child of Jessie and Eldred Braithwaite. Her father, a surgeon, worked in Nigeria for the Colonial Medical Service from 1911 to 1945 and although very hard working and successful - he set up and ran the Braithwaite Hospital in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, which today is flourishing and is still named after him - he was a distant father, whom Ruth did not relate to. She was moulded therefore, not so much by her family, but by her boarding school, Ackworth School in Pontefract in Yorkshire, which she attended from 1929 for 8 years. The school, founded on Quaker principles, made Ruth what she was, accomplished, caring, resourceful, interested in helping others and careful never to be wasteful or to stand out from the crowd. She made friendships at Ackworth that lasted a lifetime and was always grateful for her education. At home she loved teaching her siblings and especially her youngest brother, Frank, who is grateful today for being taught to swim by her.

What will Catherine most remember about her mum? - her beautiful brown eyes and lovely smile, her seemingly boundless energy and sense of humour, her eagerness to help people, her generosity and kindness, her amazing strength of character and her wonderful ability to make do and mend.

*With very best wishes,
Catherine*

Dr. Angela Brodie

An excerpt from the Washinton Post's obituary to Angela Brodie:

Angela Mary Hartley was born in Oldham, near Manchester, England, on Sept. 28, 1934, and grew up mostly in Buxton. Her father, an industrial chemist, had been an expert in glues and helped develop for the British military an anti-tank hand grenade that stuck to the armored vehicles instead of bouncing off them.

After attending a Quaker boarding school, Dr. Brodie graduated in 1956 from the University of Sheffield with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and received a doctorate in 1961 from the University of Manchester in chemical pathology.

An early job as a research assistant at a cancer hospital in Manchester influenced the direction of her career. She won an NIH-sponsored post-doctoral training fellowship that brought her to the Worcester Foundation, now part of the University of Massachusetts medical school.

Beside her husband of 52 years, a retired NIH executive secretary for grant review, survivors include a son, Mark Brodie of La Crescenta, Calif.; a brother; and two grandchildren. Another son, John H. Brodie, died in 2006.

Dr. Brodie's full obituary is publicly available at the Washington Post's website.

Wasseem Emam



After an unforgettable number of years at Ackworth, my life path me took me far and wide. Based on my performance in my A-Level subjects (which included Business Studies and French) as well as my love affair with the north of England that started during my time in West Yorkshire, I was initially on course to study International Management with French at the University of Manchester. However, a few months into starting my studies, I had a change of heart and decided to start a new adventure studying something and somewhere completely different. As fate would have it, my family were debating a move to Canada. Upon exploring different options during my first year of undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, I heard the words of Mr Ward, my Head of Sixth Form at Ackworth School that much to my regret I did not heed initially resonating loudly. Having taught me A Level Biology, Mr Ward had encouraged me to consider my passion (as opposed to basing a career choice purely on the subjects in which I performed best) by pursuing a degree in the biological sciences. With this in mind, I went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a minor in French (given the enduring love of the French language that Ms Grew at Ackworth had instilled within me). This decision acted as a springboard for my career in marine ecology and fish biology.

In the ensuing years, I was fortunate enough to have a wide variety of professional experiences - ones that included performing environmental impact assessments for new power line construction in Ontario, Canada; testing sport fish for contaminants with the Canadian government; analysing fish movements to evaluate habitat restoration efforts in Lake Ontario; working with a United Nations agency in Thailand to combat sea level rise; consulting the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization on sustainability issues facing the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Mediterranean; and working with an international charity to improve the livelihoods of fishermen and fish farmers in rural communities in my native home of Egypt. In amongst these jobs, I also returned to the UK to complete a Master's in Applied Ecology, under the Erasmus Mundus scheme, primarily based out of the University of East Anglia in Norwich but with time spent in France and Germany and carried out a dissertation project in Uganda where I studied fish movements in the Lake Victoria basin. Most recently, my longing for returning to the UK led me to start a PhD in Ecology and Environmental Biology at the University of Glasgow where I am currently investigating the use of controlled temperature increases to reduce disease in farmed fish.

Although the journey of life has seemingly taken me across the globe, the cherished memories of my time at Ackworth School have always remained firmly in my heart and I frequently find myself reminiscing of the days of walking around the Green with fellow boarders or taking some quiet time to reflect on life during Silent Meeting on Sunday mornings (a rare moment of quietness that I don't think I really appreciated enough back then!).

Wasseem Emam - Highest Scholar 2005

Engaging in Enterprise at Ackworth Howard School

Ackworth School's Lower Sixth Business Studies students have been working with the Ackworth Howard Primary School Year 5 students, to create an enterprise and employability skills workshop.

The primary school students were given the challenge to design their own mobile phone app. They had to consider the key features that make an app successful; their target market for the app and develop promotional materials, with the help of their Sixth Form business buddy. They presented this to an investor, Anton Maree, Ackworth Schools' Head, who decided on the app and business he would most likely invest in.

The Sixth Form students developed the concept of the workshop, led the tasks, developed the activities and materials and facilitated the sessions. It provided a fantastic opportunity for the students to develop and expand their enterprise skills.

Business Studies



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