

# Ackworth Today

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Not for oneself but for everyone



## Disneyland Paris



We arrived on the Wednesday and went to our first seminar, which was about the science behind rollercoasters; this was very interesting because we found out how the rollercoasters were supported in the air. We spent Thursday in the Parks, going on the Tower of Terror and the Rock and Rollercoaster which were amazing! In the afternoon we went to a workshop and designed our own ride, presenting our ideas to the rest of the group. Our second seminar was about the use of fireworks and pyrotechnics, and we got to see these in action at the light show displayed on the Disney Castle. On the way home we had great fun singing Disney songs on the coach.

Brooke Elsworth and Olivia Schofield

## Young Analyst Competition



The Young Analyst Competition was held at Bradford University this year, and was a good insight into university student life. The competition was tough this year and really challenged the team; the team consisted of myself, Lloyd Barlow and Vanessa Dam. It was also a great opportunity to use some equipment that we otherwise would never have been able to!

Mollie Watson



## Badsworth and Hesle 2015 Cross Country



Senior Winners	Henry Lodge	Zoe Jefferies
Intermediate Winners	Sam Dawson	Holly Kitching
Junior Winners	Josh Dawson	Leona Clarkson

Holly Kitching and Sam Dawson also qualified to represent Wakefield at the Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships. Both were coming back from injury and gave strong performances.

Also a Year 7 boys' team consisting of Oliver Nicholls, Josh Dawson and Harry Dean all finished in the top 10 in their Wakefield Cross Country league races.

Elizabeth Burrows





# Head's Message

Education is about lighting fires. As parents we do our best to keep the fire burning, but we could also smother the flames if we get it wrong. I watched my daughter fling herself into action, facing imminent public examinations, immersing herself in her books, creating notes and smothering the walls with post-its and on the other hand, a son calmly picking his way through his subjects one after another with no visible sign of stress. How very different their approaches were, but in both cases I wondered how I could help them?

Alison and I have done quite well, we have achieved the equivalent of an IB Diploma and two GCSE certificates so far, not from 'writing the exams' but by surviving the process as silent witnesses and chief supporters. The hardest part as a parent is letting go of course; after all, our children have to learn to do things for themselves, and taking responsibility for their own revision is important.

So what can we do to help? I have just downloaded a new app. It is rather intriguingly named Dragon Dictation! It struck me that this was an app that most of our students could use on their smart phones; the ability to dictate key notes into a device always within reach would be a very useful tool to apply to the process of revision, particularly as the notes can then be emailed or stored and the best bit is that it is a free download. Mobile phones are expensive devices and the more use we can make of them the better. There is a plethora of apps like Exam Pal, probably named as such because when you are revising you could do with all the friends you can get! Apparently it allows parents to support their children through the stressful revision process and that is really the point that I am trying to make!

As a parent you usually can't win - a balance is the best approach which means you have to apply the right approach at the right time. Every teenager is different. The starting point is to sit down with your child and ask them what works best for them. It may be that your skills as a listener are required, or that you are needed to inspire. What is easier to appreciate is that you have to make sure that they are eating properly and that they have a regular supply of snacks and drinks.

Some children work better in short bursts, whilst others need a timetable. Some work best late at night, others in the morning. Recently Sarah Blakemore informed readers of the Telegraph that teenagers were barely awake by 10 am and that the reason they slept late at weekends was to give their brains a chance to recover from being forced out of bed early during the week to attend school. Best to keep this information to yourself!

Anton Maree

## My Ancestry



Late in 2011 I started to wonder about my family history. I asked all my grandparents and then in August 2012, I became a member of Ancestry.com. I have now researched right back to 1379 with John Fentonman of Swillington, and have over 1,300 people in my tree. I have fun visiting graveyards, but the best part about researching your family is finding out about the lives behind the names.

Ben Cawood



## Geography Trip to Sheffield

Recently the Fourth Year Geographers went to Sheffield City Centre and Meadowhall. We went to investigate the land use between the two areas, and to ask the public their views of the two sites after Sheffield underwent a major redevelopment. Despite the daunting prospect of asking strangers their age, we all had a great day out!

Emma Howell & Charlotte Sowter

## Top of the Bench

Sam Raby, Sam Dawson, Lucy Allen and I travelled to York University in January to represent Ackworth School in the Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition. The competition consisted of several other schools in the West Yorkshire region with timed challenges such as naming the origin of elements and analysing information from chemistry magazines. Unfortunately we didn't progress to the finals, after a close call, but it was an exciting experience and I loved representing Ackworth.

Thomas Atkinson



## Year 4 Tea Party

Recently, Year 4 went to the Senior School to cook food with Miss Hodge. Our topic was about healthy eating. We made fruit kebabs and pasta with sauce! To be honest no Year 4 students knew about the pasta and sauce. We had to wash up, chop up fruit, use teamwork and best of all eat it! Miss Hodge was really nice to us. I can't wait to be in Year 6 so I can see Miss Hodge every week.

Matthew O'Donnell



## Wakefield Cathedral Concert

We were so pleased to be invited back to Wakefield Cathedral again this year as part of their lunchtime concert series. The venue is beautiful and I would be lying if I said I wasn't a little bit nervous when I first walked through the main doors. By the time 1pm came the Cathedral was absolutely packed with many people having to stand at the back. Both choirs sang beautifully and a special mention has to be given to Amelia Thackeray and Hester Jackson who both sang solos with great confidence. I was so proud of our pupils afterwards especially as members of the public made a point of commenting on their excellent behaviour.

Ian Lenihan

## School Poetry Competition

This 2014-15 Inter-House Poetry competition once again saw many excellent entries written by students (and some teachers!) on the subject of "Doubt". What is not in doubt, however, is the superb quality of the runner up and winning entries - many congratulations in particular go to Isabel Parkinson, Charlotte Sowter and Abigail Stretton-Moore as winners of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior prizes respectively. The overall house winners are awarded on a points-based system, taking into account all entries as well as the winners and runners up, and this year, the overall competition was jointly won by Gurney and Woolman. Well done to them, and to all who entered! Look out for the school Arts magazine Mosaic, available at the end of the year, to read some of the entries.

Ali Boucher

*I Doubt, Therefore I Am  
I know that I am human, but  
I doubt I'm just like you.  
I know that I'm impatient, but  
I doubt I'll skip the queue.  
I know that there'll be danger, but  
I doubt that I'll be brave.  
I know the world has heroes, but  
I doubt that it's me they'll save.  
I know about emotion, but  
I doubt what I should feel.  
I know that I love Christmas, but  
I doubt that Santa's real.  
I know that I'm not "over-weight", but  
I doubt I'll fit size six.  
I know about the people, but  
I doubt that I can mix.  
I know there's no gain in shrinking  
So that others won't feel small.  
I know that only I care if  
I'm short or fat or tall.  
I know that we were born to glow,  
to shine as children do.  
I know no one's self-confident:  
No one doubts yourself like you.*

Abigail Stretton-Moore  
(Gurney)

# 'Annie'

Recently I went to an audition at the Phoenix Theatre group to be in the play 'Annie'. I auditioned for the part of Annie or an orphan. After a very long day, to my amazement, I was recalled for the part of Annie. After a few more hours of singing, dancing and also a bit of acting I was down to the last two Annies. I had to wait but luckily I got the call after 1½ hours. I was so excited, and completely shocked when they told me the great news - I was chosen to be Annie! I was so excited to hear that my friends Lucy Roche and Grace Dibb had got parts as orphans.  
Libby Pawson



# Carousel

Getting into 'Carousel' was very exciting as it would start in Leeds and then go on tour to Norwich, Edinburgh and Dublin in May and June.

There were three rounds to the audition process and we were delighted when we were offered places. 'Carousel' is a story of love, loss and the possibility of redemption. It is sung in English and lasts for approximately three hours. We are both very much looking forward to being part of the production.

Dominic Pierechod  
& Lucas Culff



## Sixth Form Students hand over a cheque to the charity Candlelighters

Candlelighters came top of the pile in our charity choices across the whole school. The money was raised in our annual Sixth Form Charity Week. Students sold, bought, sung and danced their way past their charity target total. We took great pleasure in raising money for such a wonderful cause. Hopefully our donation will be able to contribute to the fantastic work Candlelighters does for young people with cancer and their families.  
Alex Collingwood



## Boarders' trip to Harry Potter Studios

Recently, a group of 14 boarders travelled down to London to visit the Warner bros. Harry Potter Studio Tour. Despite the long journey, everyone had a great day. We saw how the films were made, we walked through the incredible Great Hall of Hogwarts and we saw all the props that were used in the making of the films. It was a truly magical day and I can't wait to go again.

Emily Hardy.



# Isle of Man

In January, 34 first to fourth form netballers and footballers enjoyed a weekend Sports Tour on the Isle of Man. It was a huge success until Sunday evening when our flight back to Liverpool was cancelled. We spent a night in a hotel before flying home on Monday afternoon. We had a great time!

Rachel Swales



## Calming Nerves at Bowling

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, all of Year 6 went bowling at Xscape to make us calm and not worry about our Entrance Exams the next day. When I arrived I was quite excited to see all my friends and some of the teachers.

When we got in our lanes we started playing straight away. We were playing for about 45 minutes until our games had finished and then we ate our tea.

It was a great night out but the best part was when Miss Greveson beat Mr Ball 140-93. Also my team was the winning team!

Overall it was amazing to be with my friends that night and I am sure we all did fantastically on our Entrance Exam.

Harriet Metcalfe



## Opera North Visits Ackworth School

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in a workshop run by Opera North funded by the Imogen Young Trust Fund. The day included singing, composition, acting and directing based around the opera 'The Marriage of Figaro.' A few of us who took part were also fortunate to see the opera live in Leeds which was an eye-opening experience.

Alice Hyde



## Nursery trip to the Library

To celebrate World Book Day we dressed as our favourite book characters and went on our first Nursery trip this year to Ackworth Community Library. Travelling in the school minibuses we were met by the lovely library staff. One of the library volunteers read the children the story 'Too Hot to Hug' about a friendly dragon. We then sang a dragon-themed number rhyme. During our snack time, the volunteer talked to the children about what the library can offer them. The children chose a book each to borrow from the library and then we returned to Nursery. We now hope to visit the library on a monthly basis.

Lucy Cruddas

## Bowling and Pizza!

Bowling was quite fun and I was really good and scored 70 points. We went to the pizza restaurant at the end of the day which was really yummy.

Daiki Kawasaki



## Football Match

Watching a Bayern Munich game live has been one of my dreams since I came back from Munich last Easter. Miss Sochacka managed to get hold of 45 tickets for students so it suddenly became a school trip. We were impressed by how City performed and immediately saw another trip opportunity.

We emailed Miss Sochacka in the middle of the Christmas holidays and using her magic powers, she managed to acquire another 45 tickets and run another trip. We were flattered by how good and caring the school is to run this trip for us.

One of the most enjoyable things about this trip was that our seats were on level one, which gave us a great opportunity to have a clear view of the match. Unfortunately, City lost the game, but it was a wonderful experience for us to see a game at this level.

Sam Huang and Daniel Lin

## Yorkshire Netball Match

On Saturday 7th March, I was selected to represent Yorkshire in an Under 17 netball match against Scotland in Hull. When we all arrived, we were very nervous. I was playing Goal Defence and once the match started, we relaxed and by the final whistle we had won 57-20.

Ellie Williamson

## Cheerleading Squad

Cheerleading Squad is one of the best clubs I do because it's fun and is good exercise. In Cheerleading Squad we do stunts, dances, gymnastics, stretches and it increases your flexibility. It's really fun because the dance is upbeat. I can't wait until our first competition.

Clara Greenwood

*“The cheer starts here...”*



## PSA Events

### Bag 2 School

Friday May 22nd

Please spring clean your wardrobes and support us! Fill the recycling bag and please return to school by 9am on the Friday. Come rain or shine, some members of the PSA and the Sixth Form will be in the car park to help you with your bags. Please use black bin bags if you have surplus goods.

### Party On The Green

Wednesday 1st July

Bring a picnic and enjoy music and songs from the children outdoors on The Green - weather permitting!

### PSA Summer Ball

Saturday 4th July

This is to be held at Ackworth School. Please see website for details if not already received.

### Printer Ink Cartridges

Please remember to recycle your printer ink cartridges. Bags are available from school for depositing in boxes in the school foyer and around school.

### PSA Committee Vacancy

from September 2015.

Any parents wishing to become involved with the PSA should please contact the school. For further details of events and to purchase tickets, please contact a member of the PSA or Senior School Reception, on 01977 611401 or email [psa@ackworthschool.com](mailto:psa@ackworthschool.com)

*Thank you for your support*

## Advice 28

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

## Ackworth School

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