

Ackworth Today

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Not for oneself but for everyone



Amazing Ski Trip to Jasper, Canada

During the Christmas holidays, twenty-three pupils went skiing and snowboarding in Jasper, Canada. It was a great experience for everyone. We spent the last couple of days of the holiday at the West Edmonton Mall, the largest mall in North America, where we enjoyed the theme parks as well as the bargains on offer!

Thank you very much to Mr Sutton, Miss Smith and Mr Ellis for a great holiday.

Matthew Strutt

Top of the Bench 2013



Isobel Tagg, Jake Finch, Henry Byfield and I took part in the Central Yorkshire heat of the 'Top of the Bench Chemistry Challenge'. The competitors included Bradford Grammar, Leeds Grammar, Bootham and Pocklington Schools.

Our Chemistry and English skills were put to the test: we had forty-five minutes to write a story with a scientific theme, and also to hide as many elemental symbols as possible within the words. We opted for an epic tale of the combustion of magnesium, from the point of view of the reactants. We were honoured to find out that we had won the heat - and we are very excited that we'll now be travelling to Loughborough University for the National Final of 'Top of the Bench'.

Isabel Parkinson

Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Four members of last year's School Council were delighted to receive invitations to go and see the people at the Yorkshire Air Ambulance as a treat in return for Coram House's work in raising money for the charity. We found out about the charity and, though we didn't get to fly, we explored inside the helicopter and we watched it take off.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Eleanor Morris



Chinese New Year at Ackworth!

The School gave us a memorable Chinese New Year. Firstly we went ten pin bowling - the competition was exciting and we all had a great time. The second treat was a Chinese meal in the evening. We ate some tasty Chinese dishes, including pork, cabbage with noodles and spiced salt chicken. Also, we talked about some Chinese stories and customs to make the other boarders more aware of Chinese culture.

Coco Chen

Geography Field Trip

The First Year recently travelled to Pickering on a Geography field trip. When we arrived we sketched parts of the river and the V-shaped valley. It was very funny as Mr Bootyman fell into the river trying to save his camera! We ate lunch in the sun while Mr Bootyman dried off, then we did environmental and pedestrian surveys for all the different parts of Pickering.

Finally, we got to go to the sweet shop!

Holly Rice



Senior Inter-House Quiz

Much like University Challenge, we were in teams of 4 representing each House. I had a great time and thought the questions were diverse and challenging but still accessible, which led to a very close competition, ending in a triumphant win for Gurney!

Elliot Trofimowicz



Trip to Haworth

Shortly after arriving at Haworth we were given a tour of the area and visited the Brontë Parsonage.

This was another fantastic trip organised by the English Department and the information we were given about the Brontës was very interesting - it gave us all an idea of what life was like for their family in the 19th century.

Abigail Green



Sugarcraft

Earlier this term, Mrs Reddington came in to School to teach us sugarcraft. For those who don't know what sugarcrafting is, it's when you use icing to make decorations for cakes like roses, tulips and leaves. It is a very challenging skill to learn. However, the morning was a very exciting and interesting experience.

Kiran Kaur

Officially Amazing!

On Saturday we went to watch Guinness World Records Officially Amazing Science Live. The first half was really good, with records being attempted and explored. In the interval there was a chance to have your photo taken whilst pulling your funniest/weirdest face. The second half was as good as the first with lots more records being attempted. Overall, it was a great night out.

Emma Forrester

Thackeray Museum Trip

Recently we travelled back in time to the Thackeray Museum and the Royal Armouries. At the Thackeray Museum we learned all about disease and gruesome operations. Afterwards we went to the Royal Armouries, where we attended two historical workshops - we were taught how to use a musket and a pike. It was a great day!

Louisa Holstead

Outstanding Inspection



'Real success is finding your lifework in the work that you love'.

David McCullough,
US biographer & historian (1933 -)

I commented on the excellent ISI Reports received following the inspection process for both Boarding and Welfare and the Early Years Foundation Stage in my recent half term letter. The staff involved with both areas inspected are to be congratulated and thanked for their unstinting support and hard work. Recently the excellent boarding provision on offer was sampled by some Year 6 children from Coram House who came for a 'sleepover' in the boarding houses and had a truly fantastic time.

In a school with a full boarding ethos, and where approximately a third of the students in the Senior School board, I believe it is essential to recognise the outstanding care that the students receive. To have a family of four is, at times, challenging, but to have a family of 60 is almost impossible to imagine and certainly a very different story!

For students to flourish academically they need a secure and happy home life. They also need to develop strong relationships with those entrusted with their care. This is what boarding offers at Ackworth. To provide this stability and excellent support, a whole team of individuals is involved. This team is headed by two exceptionally able and talented members of staff, Christopher Bailey, Head of Boys' School House and Claire Cougan, Head of Girls' School House.

Recently I attended the Society of Heads' annual conference and heard the Chairman state 'our responsibility as leaders is to create an environment where brilliance can shine'. I am content in the thought that this is indeed what our boarding environment provides.

Kathryn Bell



Northern Ballet

Eleven Fifth formers went to see Northern Ballet's *The Great Gatsby* at the Leeds Grand Theatre. The performance was a glamorous but moving representation of the roaring twenties – even the boys may have shed a few tears! It was fascinating to see how such a narrative-based novel could be expressed through dance. An Ackworth Old Scholar, Tobias Batley, played a lead role!

Isabel Parkinson, Emily Hardy, Lizzie Upson and Becky Greenwood.

The Imogen Young Trust Fund – An Update

We hope to have the Fund up and running towards the end of this year. We are currently working on two projects in areas in which Immy was closely involved. The first is to provide a Scholarship for a student at NFD (Northern Film & Drama) which Immy attended from its launch at Castleford High School. The second is to sponsor a Choral Scholarship at St Giles' Church, Pontefract – the Choirmaster at St Giles' was Immy's singing teacher.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued generosity in supporting Immy's Fund.

www.imogenyoung.tv

Sarah Bentham



Pontefract Athletics Club

Last year I won two medals at a competition and several trophies from the club. At this year's presentation evening, I earned three trophies; the one I'm most proud of is being 'Cross Country Runner of the Year'. Training at the club has also motivated me to do well in the cross country fixtures arranged by School. In the future, I hope for more medals and to keep getting better at long distance.

Dominic Sanderson

Seaside Art in Coram House

Coram School Council held a Seaside Art Exhibition in aid of the RNLI (Coram House's charity for this year). Pupils, staff and parents purchased tickets to gain entry to the exhibition and the School Councillors were kept very busy greeting visitors. Overall we raised £176, which has taken our current total up to £556. Thanks to Mrs Bamforth and Miss Tate for setting up the exhibition and to the kitchen staff for the delicious cake with sea-blue icing!

Rachel Swales

Northern Sequential Art Competition

When I heard that the winner of the Northern Sequential Art Competition would be published world-wide in the 'Thought Bubble' Comic Anthology, I got straight to work. My comic strip, 'Darren's Dentist of Doom', is about a man who finds out that his dentist is a caveman!

A month after submitting my entry, I was really pleased to find out that I'd won 1st prize in the 12-17's category. As well as my cartoon strip being in the anthology, I won comics and graphic novels, and I get to attend an awards ceremony in Leeds.

I will be absolutely thrilled to see my work in the anthology.

Jack Land

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award

Recently some of the Fourth Year D of E students attended a training day which involved a walk in the Ackworth area. We walked to Upton, going through Thorpe Audlin and Badsworth, and then back to School. We then did a couple of entertaining tasks which tested our knowledge of bearings and also learnt how to use camping stoves by making some delicious, and much needed, hot chocolate!

Alice Hyde and Oliver Cuthbert

Choir Trip to New York



Going to New York was an amazing experience. The choir sang at beautiful venues such as The Cathedral Church of St John the Divine and saw some spectacular sights. A particular highlight was a visit to the Brooklyn Friends' School, where we performed two concerts and experienced an afternoon there; it was great to meet other music scholars of our age and see what school is like for them in America.

Zoe Ibbetson



Old Scholar News

I studied at Ackworth from 2006 to 2008. Currently I am working in Hong Kong in the field of wealth management. However, I am not only a serious wealth manager working for AIA, the largest insurance company in Asia-Pacific, I also work part-time as a model.

My A-Level experience at Ackworth gave me a strong foundation for my later university studies in Actuarial Science. I would like to say a big 'thank you' for all the support and help given by the teachers and my friends at Ackworth!

Jane Zhang



Jim enjoys an historic national victory!

Popular conductor and virtuoso cornet soloist Jim Davies recently led Huddersfield based Drighlington Band to the coveted title of National Mineworkers' Champion Band of Great Britain. The adjudicators, Michael Fowles and Paul Cosh, said of the winning performance:

"They were excellent. It was a performance constructed with intelligence and good musical common sense. There was a quality about everything they did on the day. It was a clear winner for us – Bravo, Maestro!"

Kathryn Bell



Sixth Form Art Trip to Paris

We were lucky enough to go on a trip to Paris to experience the artistic and cultural heritage there. We had the chance to visit The Louvre, home of the (tiny) Mona Lisa. As well as experiencing both modern and traditional art at the Pompidou and the Musée D'Orsay, we had the opportunity to be tourists on a river cruise - where the English audio-guide sounded identical to the French version! Much to Miss Rose's horror we could also climb - by escalator - to the very top of the Eiffel Tower, which was amazing, as you could see the lights of Paris for miles and miles...

Sarah Dennison

The Deep

Recently the Third Year went to The Deep, an aquarium in Hull, on an Art Trip. There were many different types of sea creatures, including jellyfish, octopuses and sharks. Our favourites were the starfish and the clownfish - they were cute! We drew lots of fish in different styles, and learnt lots of interesting facts. One of the best parts was riding up in the glass lift, as it gave a panoramic view of the largest tank which contained massive fish and sharks!

Luca Steele and Sophie Emms



Yorkshire Jets in Action

Some of our younger students travelled to Leeds Arena to watch Yorkshire Jets play against Northern Thunder. It was a close match in the first and second 15-minute quarters, but Northern Thunder did start to pull away in the third, then extended their lead in the fourth.

Unfortunately, the Jets lost - but it was great to watch how they played.

Holly Kitching and Georgia Green

GCSE Science Live

Members of the Fourth and Fifth Year Science groups went on a trip to Leeds City Hall to hear a variety of lectures given by some of the most esteemed scientists in the world. Many different subjects were covered, such as embryology and astrophysics. The lectures were all really interesting - the speakers were very engaging and explained their ideas clearly and in lots of detail.

Joshua Fish



'American Justice' by Richard Vergette

WINNER Audience Favourite Award and Best Production Award, 24.7 Theatre Festival, Manchester

WINNER Best Fringe Production, NOMINATED Best New Play and Best Performance, Manchester Evening News Awards

It was a great thrill to have my play staged at The Arts Theatre in the West End of London. However, one of the nicest moments was when we took a party from School to see it. They were able to meet the cast afterwards and chat about the ups and downs of life in the theatre. Everyone has been very generous in their support for the production and I'm very glad to have had this remarkable opportunity.

Richard Vergette

The Great Magic Bake-off



Question: What happens when you mix 'Professor Puffindor', popping candy, crazy sandwiches and a class full of Coram House Year 4 pupils?

Answer: A dazzling tea party full of creativity!

Pupils were challenged by the 'Professor' and his 'laboratory assistants' to help them make a tea party for 50 guests. They had assumed it was for five guests, but had misread the note!

The children busied themselves making popping candy buns, rainbow cakes and cookies for the tea party. The Home Economics room was soon vibrant with ingredients whose smells and colours would make Mary Berry and team turn pale!

When the guests later arrived (disguised cunningly as parents), the children helped to demonstrate the wicked-looking food.

Sally Slater



Stargazing

As the stargazing evening was cloudy, Mr Hickenbottom took us down to his classroom, which was filled with telescopes. There were six different star charts on the desks. Mr Hickenbottom then showed an impressive PowerPoint presentation. Some of the slides had an arrow that said, "Can you find this

star?" and you had to find it using the charts. If we got stuck, the Sixth Formers came over and helped. Some of the constellations we learned to recognise were Pegasus, Orion and the Seven Sisters.

Matthew Manders

PSA Events

Bags 2 School
Friday 19th April

It's that time again, so please spring clean your wardrobes and support us!

Please find enclosed with the mailing a bag, together with details of what is suitable for collection. Once this is full, please return it 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.

Tennis Morning
Friday 10th May

Players of all abilities are invited to come and join us for a morning of fun at our Tennis Tournament.

Tickets cost £15 and include coffee beforehand and a fantastic lunch afterwards. To book a place, please contact Ruth Roche - ruthroche@btinternet.com

Party On The Green -
Thursday 27th June

Bring a picnic and enjoy music and songs from the children. We're hoping for a warm, dry summer evening this year!

Midsummer Ball
Friday 28th June at Nostell Priory

This event is completely sold out but, if you would like to donate an auction prize or sponsor a table, please contact Selina Baxter

psa@ackworthschool.org.uk

Committee Vacancies
from September 2013

Any parents wishing to become more involved with the PSA should please contact William Yates, Deputy Head (Pastoral) - 01977 611401.

For further details of events and to purchase tickets, please contact a member of the PSA or Laura Lunn, Senior School Reception, on 01977 611401.

Advice 26

Do you recognise the needs and gifts of each member of your family and household, not forgetting your own? Try to make your home a place of loving friendship and enjoyment, where all who live or visit may find the peace and refreshment of God's presence.

Ackworth School

Ackworth, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF7 7LT

Tel: +44(0)1977 611401 Fax: +44(0)1977 616225

Email: admissions@ackworthschool.com School Website www.ackworthschool.com