

Ackworth Today

April 2014 Volume 18 Issue 3

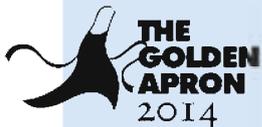


Not for oneself but for everyone



Playground Pleasure...

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the pupils of Coram House School Council and overarching vision of the School, the Junior adventure playground is now open for play! On a beautiful sunny day, the blue ribbon was cut by two First Year students who had helped take this project forward. A great celebration took place that included numerous stalls and fun and games. *Mary Wilson*



Golden Apron Competition

On Saturday 3rd March I competed in the 'Golden Apron 2014' award at the Yorkshire Wolds Cookery School. I was pleased to be in the top 16 out of 3,600 applicants.

I had an amazing time and I loved getting tips from Michelin starred chef James Mackenzie. It was a brilliant experience and I enjoyed every minute of it.

Matthew Gilbert

Great Britain Hockey Coach Inspires!



During half term, Great Britain Under 21 Hockey Coach, John Bell, visited Ackworth School to coach pupils from both the Junior and Senior School. John had just recently returned from the World Cup in India and hoped that in the near future some Ackworth students will be representing their country. We are looking forward to John returning in the Summer (last week in July). *Guy Emmett*

"We thoroughly enjoyed learning new skills and tactics. John was fantastic at teaching this interesting sport."

Lucy Kitching & Edward Ducker

"It was an inspirational day with John Bell including every age group with all abilities. By the end of the day everyone had improved."

Zoe Jefferies

"John Bell was an idol as well as a coach and gave us a great day of world class coaching."

Charlotte Kingston



Head's Message



Recently I have attended the annual Society of Heads' conference and have also had a meeting with members of Qfqual. It goes without saying that the majority of the time was spent discussing, analysing, evaluating and criticising the forthcoming reforms in the external examination system. Michael Gove has stated his educational philosophy, what should be taught and when, what should be examined and how this is going to take place. These reforms are fine as elements of an education system but what about the rest? What is suggested fails to celebrate all that is going on in our schools today.

Students at Ackworth belong to a very active community. The ethos of the school and the confidence of the students creates a 'can-do' attitude, where anything and everything is possible. Our students are encouraged to 'make the most of every situation'.

The students we have in school today, and those we encourage to join our community, are ones that take advantage of all the opportunities available both at school and in life. We encourage them to think about the sort of people they are and who they want to be. We ask them to identify their individual talents and gifts. We give them opportunities to identify and develop their own learning styles, and we ask them to think about how they behave and interact with others.

We encourage our students to tackle difficult tasks with a sense of adventure. We expect our students to take risks, push boundaries and to step out of their comfort zone. We ask them to work hard and play hard in an environment where they are nurtured and taught well. They achieve results of which they should be proud and they are well prepared for the rigours of university and life beyond school. Above all we ask them to remain true to themselves and be their own person.

So let's tackle new reforms with an open mind and enthusiasm but let us not lose what is so fundamentally important to our school: that multi-dimensional 'Ackworth Factor'.

Kathryn Bell



Chinese New Year

It is always enjoyable to learn about cultures of different countries. On Sunday when we came downstairs for tea we all were so happy to see a huge range of different Chinese dishes. After you just started eating you could not stop and at the end none of us could move. I wish we could celebrate Chinese New Year more often.

Veronika Bugaichuk and Yulia Medvedenko

Oxford Success

We are delighted to celebrate the success of Katarina Martinovic, who was given an offer from the University of Oxford during the recent round of interviews. Katarina writes, "In December I was invited for an interview at Oxford. I stayed at St Catherine's College for three days and I was interviewed three times. Living there for three days allowed me to get a feel of the place and meet other applicants too. I had a great time and with anticipation waited for their reply."



"At the beginning of January I received a letter from the college saying that they were offering me a place to read Physics. I feel honoured and I am extremely excited about this given opportunity!"

Helen Batty

Badsworth & Hessle Cross Country 2014



Results of the Cross Country:

Junior Girls 1. Grace Clarke 2. Callula Tobin 3. Amelie Harper	Intermediate Girls 1. Holly Kitching 2. Maddie Shaw 3. Grace Harrison	Senior Girls 1. Charlotte Kingston 2. Zoe Jefferies 3. Olivia Upson
Junior Boys 1. Sam Dawson 2. Tommy Askew 3. Ben Hopkinson	Intermediate Boys 1. Richard Brown 2. Nikita Demchenko 3. Dominic Sanderson	Senior Boys 1. Matthew Brown 2. Ben Raby 3. Henry Lodge

Andrea Thomas

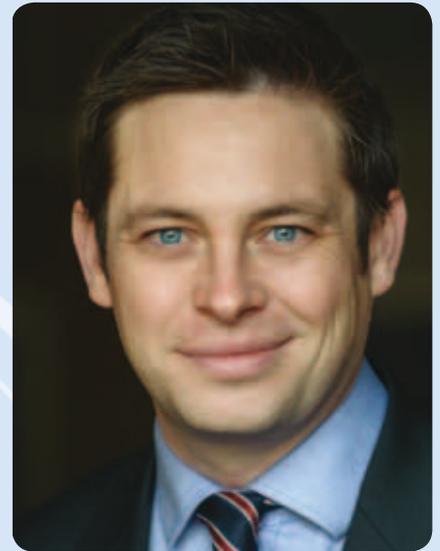
Welcome to our new members of Staff...

Deputy Head (Pastoral)

The friendly atmosphere at Ackworth School was apparent from my first visit. The school has such a vibrant and welcoming community, underpinned by its Quaker values. My wife and I felt part of the Ackworth family right from the beginning. It has been delightful to get to know the pupils, staff and many parents from the Nursery to the Senior School.

Whether it has been in lessons, the boarding houses or in the numerous activities and clubs that Ackworth students take part in, the pride the pupils have in their school has been inspiring. Both inside and outside the classroom, I have seen many pupils with a huge array of talents and interests. I have certainly enjoyed the first few weeks at this wonderful school and meeting our happy, caring, friendly and gifted pupils. I look forward to the Summer Term and discovering more about the students and community at Ackworth School.

Guy Emmett



Director of Music

It certainly has felt like a rollercoaster ride joining Ackworth School half way through school year. However, it has been made all the easier by the helpfulness and kindness of pupils and staff alike. Although I must admit, I'm still growing accustomed to some of the more unique Ackworth traditions, I'm already starting to feel at home within the Ackworth

Community. During the Spring term, we have all been very busy in the music department with two lunchtime concerts and choir performances in Wakefield Cathedral and St. Cuthbert's Church in Ackworth village. There are also exciting developments taking place within the department including the building of a new IT suite and much needed repairs of our pianos. With our fantastic purpose built centre, I believe that Music in Ackworth has the potential to be really special. I'm delighted to be at the helm of Music in Ackworth during this exciting time.

Ian Lenihan

Heads of Department



I am delighted to have taken over as Head of the International Centre and Head of the EFL Department from January 1st 2014. This dual role is a challenging but highly rewarding one, and I am lucky to be supported by a first-class teaching team in the EFL Department.

In the five years that I have worked at this school, I have heard many students commenting to visitors that what they most love about the school is its international flavour, and I feel very proud and privileged to be able to work with, and support our international students.

Val Gough



I have really enjoyed the start of my first few weeks at Ackworth School as Head of Home Economics. Both staff and students have been incredibly friendly and helpful. I love the sense of community here at the school. I am looking forward to getting to know as many of you as possible across the school. Thank you for such a warm welcome.

Brenda Hodge



World Book Day

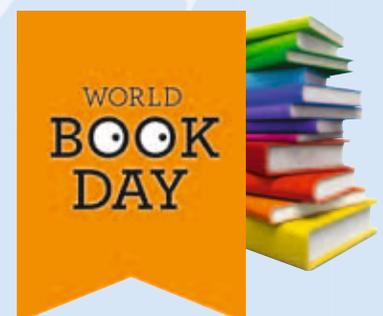
World Book Day held more than one treat for our Reception children this year. They chose a favourite book from home to bring in and talk about to their friends, as well as painting a favourite character from their book. The titles ranged from 'The Bible' to 'Rapunzel' to a musical Christmas story.....and of course superheroes were also included!

At playtime the Year 5 children read stories to the Reception children and talked to them about their favourite reads.

Sally Slater

On Thursday 6th March it was World Book Day. Miss Hoar, our form teacher organised us in groups to read stories to the Pre Prep children. Matthew and I read 'Llama Llama Red Pyjama'. I think the children enjoyed it very much and so did we.

Matthew Hill and Misha Mikhail





Ski Trip to Canada

Our trip to Vancouver was an amazing experience. On the first day we went on a tour round Stanley Park and saw the totem poles. Then we drove to Sun which was a long drive, however it was worth it when we got there. The evening activities were great fun especially the snow shoeing and ice skating. Even though the mountain was bitterly cold, the skiing and views were breathtaking.

Tommy Storey & Hester Jackson

Longitude 90

Longitude 90 is a group of seven Eastern and seven Western students who combine to learn more about each others' culture and language. On Tuesday 14 January the group enjoyed its final session at an authentic Chinese restaurant, giving Eastern members the opportunity to introduce the Westerners to some of the more unusual Chinese dishes, with varying degrees of success. The group's work has definitely improved integration in our year, and hopefully its success will continue for the new members of Longitude 90.

Sophie Rolfe

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards

Having recently completed our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards, we were invited to London to an award ceremony at St James' Palace. To our mutual surprise, we bumped into each other outside the palace, neither of us realising we had been invited to the same ceremony.

The ceremony itself was a memorable experience, as the Duke himself was present and spoke briefly with some recipients, including ourselves. We then heard a talk from Leon McCarron, a National Geographic professional explorer, which was inspiring. We've had a great time throughout our DofE experience, and hope that pupils will continue to enjoy it for years to come.

Toby Lebeter & Matt Playforth



Coram House Football

With impressive victories over Lyndhurst, Silcoates, Bronte House and Hymers College, Coram's Year 6 football team qualified for the final of the HMC Championships.

They were keen to avenge an earlier 3-0 round robin defeat against Royal Grammar School Newcastle, which saw Coram's 100 per cent winning record for the 2013-2014 season finally come to an end.

Unfortunately, the 'fairy tale' ending did not come to fruition, as Newcastle deservedly won the final 2-0. Nevertheless, the boys should be very proud of their achievements and outstanding efforts.

Aden Ball

The Big Bang Fair

On Saturday 15th March we travelled to the NEC in Birmingham for the Big Bang Fair. There were many stalls with a variety of activities to take part in, including taking blood samples from a rat. There was a NASA stand, and we got to meet John McBride, a real astronaut. This was my highlight of the whole trip. We all had a brilliant day out, looking at and learning about science.

Jacob Roberts



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Day Walk

I got up at what I would call an un-godly hour for a Saturday and arrived at the minibus. We were then whisked away to a small, innocuous car park in northern England (Walton Colliery Nature Reserve) and split into our groups. Luckily we had picked a nice, clear day for this walk, the sky was absent of clouds and the sun was shining. This didn't stop it from being cold, or wet on the ground. However it was still a great day for a walk. We walked through a rustic village (Crofton) and around a beautiful lake (Winterset Reservoir), culminating in the grounds of an old manor house (Nostell Priory), where we had our lunch with the other group. We trekked off back to school after our break there, while the teachers drove back in a nice warm bus... It only took us from 9 till 3:30, so overall a good time in my books! Luckily it was a very enjoyable time. I look forward to repeating this, but travelling further, in the summer for my real walk.

Nathan Wild



Milan Experience

In the week before Ackworth broke up for the summer, I was fortunate enough to take part in a summer school placement in Milan with Università Bocconi.

I spent the first two days getting to know my way around the area of Milan, seeing the fantastically built Milan Cathedral at the Piazza del Duomo and also finding my way through the campus of Bocconi.

For the rest of the week, it was early mornings and extremely long hours, attending lectures mainly in

Economics, Management and Finance but also one in Law and Mathematics.

Overall the week was very educational and really helped to open my eyes to the different perspectives of economics and ways it can be used to help those less fortunate.

Andy Deng



Trip to Haworth

This trip was very fun and educational. Once we got to the Brontë Parsonage there was a very good talk about the history of the house and the Brontë family. We then looked around the house and learnt more. After that, we ate lunch and then had some time for shopping in Haworth. In the town there was a very nice sweet shop and soap shop that we all spent a lot of time in!

Theodora White

Economists inspired!

Recently, a group of enthusiastic economists spent their time efficiently using their maximum interest of the subject by listening to a talk given by Tim Harford, a leading British economist/journalist in Sheffield. Harford talked about controversial engineer, turned economist, Bill Phillips. Though Phillips was not the best at his school he still managed to create the Phillips machine. This machine was used to show visually the flow of money in the economy by using tanks full of water and water pipes connecting each tank, being controlled by levers that could be manipulated.

It was interesting to hear how not all economists started off wanting anything to do with the economy and then becoming well-known names in the subject. It has sparked my interest in the subject and I am sure the others who went will agree.

Kurt Hope

Target 2.0

Taking part in the Target 2.0 competition was definitely a challenge, both in terms of the economic knowledge and presentation skills required. It also gave us an insight into a very prominent and current issue: whether or not to increase, decrease or maintain interest rates to lift the UK economy out of recession.

Hearing a variety of opinions at the conference broadened our view still further, and we look forward to watching the winning presentation. The experience brought us a great sense of achievement and is something we would recommend to any student with an interest in current affairs.

Sophie Rolfe



Music Workshop

A wonderful Music Workshop took place for Nursery and Reception children focusing on the theme of dinosaurs.

The children danced, played and sang to the "Dinosaur Stomp" deciding whether to be a Diplodocus, a Stegasaurus or the mighty T-Rex. Such an exciting event, in true Ackworth style, culminated in a fabulous showcase for parents.

Sally Slater

Ackworth performs at Wakefield Cathedral

Both the Senior Choir and Coram Choir were very privileged to be invited to sing in Wakefield Cathedral this half term. It was an incredible experience being able to perform in such beautiful surroundings, in front of an audience who received our recital very well. The highlight for me, personally, was the sound of our voices combining with the brilliant acoustics of the cathedral and so I, therefore, cannot wait for our next opportunity to perform.

Alice Hyde



Durham Cathedral Solo

When I arrived at Durham Cathedral to sing a solo in a Christmas Carol Service I couldn't believe how big the space was that I had to fill. I had been asked to sing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' and although it was very nerve-wracking, it was an incredible experience and one I will never forget.

Hester Jackson

First Year Geography Trip

We started off at the river and sketched the valley. We then went close up to the river. Next we travelled to Pickering where we used a map to find all the buildings and wrote about whether the buildings were comparison, convenience, service or tourist related. We did a pedestrian count, where we stood against a wall and counted the number of people that passed in front of us. This was our first whole class trip and I really enjoyed it!



Eleanor Ward

Debating in Bratislava!

The competition I attended was the third regional round for west and central Slovakia of a debating competition organized by the Slovak debating society. It took place in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, during the second weekend in February. There were 4 debates on three different motions. The prepared motion was "This house supports a second chamber of the parliament representing the youth below 30 years only" and we debated both for and against. The impromptu motions were "This house would rewrite the history textbooks so that they include more content on minorities" which we proposed and "This house would make casinos pay additional tax going directly to centres which help with addiction" which we opposed.

Sandra Martinkova



U14 Pontefract and Castleford Area Netball Tournament

Ackworth School entered the U14 area netball tournament on 5th March which consisted of six other

teams. Ackworth started as they meant to go on with a win against Kings and continued this by winning all their games. The level of play was outstanding with a strong defence which enabled the ball to be passed around the centre third with precision and fluency; this resulted in excellent movement of the ball into the circle with consistent accuracy of the shooters. The girls represented the school superbly and it was a pleasure to watch and umpire. Congratulations girls for all the hard work and a well deserved win.

Annabel Hartshorne

Book Fair

On Monday 3rd March it was World Book Week, so the school held a book fair after school. It had many books from many different genres. I helped at the checkout. The book fair was such a success that at one point I was overwhelmed and I could not serve people fast enough!

Over £260 was spent on brand new books and we raised £60 for the Projects Abroad Team. I enjoyed it immensely and hope that we can run another one next year.

Jacob Roberts



Royal Armouries Trip

Recently we stepped back into a time before automatic weapons and bullet proof vests. We got to try on the outfits and armour from 1642. Later we got a chance to learn our way around a musket and pike. Overall we loved it!

Lucy Allen and
Abigail Stretton-Moore

PSA Events

Bag 2 School

Friday 9th May
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 2nd July
Bring a picnic and enjoy music and songs from the children. We're hoping for a warm, dry summer evening this year!

Midsummer Ball at Nostell Priory

Friday 20th June
Please enquire via school secretary if tickets are still available. If you would like to donate an auction prize or place an advert in the Ball brochure please email - psa@ackworthschool.org.uk
Please remember to recycle your printer ink cartridges, bags available from school for deposit in boxes in school foyer and around school

PSA Committee Vacancies

from September 2014. Any parents wishing to become involved with the PSA should please contact school.

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 42

We do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Show a loving consideration for all creatures, and seek to maintain the beauty and variety of the world. Work to ensure that our increasing power over nature is used responsibly, with reverence for life. Rejoice in the splendour of God's continuing creation.

Ackworth School

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