



Dangling Delightfully

A group of us went to an Aerial Extreme course. It is basically a tree top obstacle course where, despite being scared of heights, I had a lot of fun! We jumped, climbed, dropped, screamed, swung, leaped and laughed our way around the course while Mr Bootyman stood below taking unflattering photos of us as we dangled awkwardly in trees!

It was a great laugh and an enjoyable challenge. I can't wait until the next trip.

Abigail Stretton-Moore



Black Belt Honour



On Sunday 6 April, I completed the biggest challenge of my life. It was my Black Belt Graduation in Wado Ryu. I was extremely nervous as I feared the unknown. At points my nerves overcame me and side-tracked my thoughts but with the help of my amazing instructors I passed after two and a half hours.

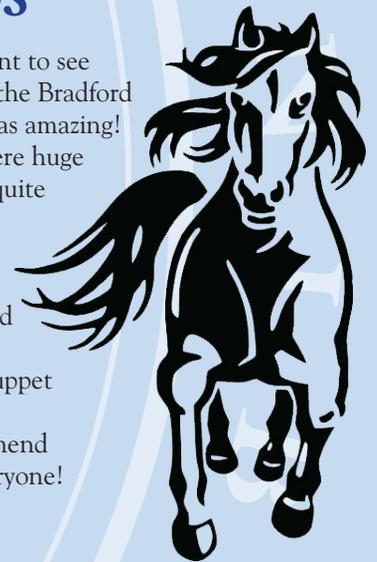
James Klassen-White

Other Ackworth students to be congratulated include Maya Watson, Dominic Sanderson and Maisie Powell in gaining their Black Belt 1st Dan in Tae Kwon Do.

Puppets and Pathos

We recently went to see 'War Horse' at the Bradford Alhambra. It was amazing! The puppets were huge and they were quite scary at times. It made me scared and I was eager to find out more. My favourite puppet was the duck! I would recommend this play to everyone!

Alex Kinch



Coram House Kindergarten

Kindergarten has returned to Coram again this year following its success last year. Children, parents and staff all agree that this venture is a great transition into School which enables all our new starters to experience a series of full school days in which the children get the chance to take part in swimming and PE lessons, as well as a school lunch.

Sally Slater



Coram House Year 4 Tea Party

On Thursday 5th June Year 4 had been invited to the Senior School Home Economics room to attend a tea party. The only catch was that they had to make the food before they could eat it! They created stained-glass window cookies and smiley-faced pizzas, which they later ate with great enthusiasm. They were joined by their parents to share the meal in Centre Library, where there were then yet more smiley faces to be seen!

Beth Green





Charity Cycle Ride

At 7am on 26th April, I set off from Playa de Muro to tackle the Mallorca 312. It took me 12 hours and 42 minutes to cycle the 195 mile course that included over 4300m of climbing. It was a tough and very gruelling day in the saddle, however it was worth it because I managed to raise £1500 to volunteer in Tanzania with Projects Abroad this summer.

Daniel Strutt



The Queen Elizabeth Park, London

The National Schools Biathlon Championships 2014

The starter raised his arm and 'bang', I was away. I remember when I was on the first lap I said to myself, "wow, I'm actually racing now!" Following the race my legs went like jelly! After the run I felt like I could relax a bit; I had got through it, but next came the swim.

When I dived into the pool to warm up it was ironic that the pool was ridiculously cold - not good for a warm up - but you do swim faster in a cold pool! I won my heat in a time of 1.12.93. I remember looking up at the digital score board seeing my name at the top of it in the Olympic pool in London.

Overall, I came 29th out of 100 and second in Yorkshire.

It was one of the best days of my life and something I will always remember. I know that I did myself and Ackworth School proud.

Holly Kitching

PSA Events

The PSA would like to thank all parents and staff for their continued support, making it both an enjoyable and successful year of raising funds for the after school clubs and societies.

We were delighted to be able to donate £10,000 for the new Coram House outdoor play equipment.

Please see our newsletter for further details of events and grants.

We are looking for new PSA members from September 2014. This is a good chance to join up with parents and staff and become involved in fund raising events - if you are interested, please contact School.

Ruth Roche - Chair

Advice 1

Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God, whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.

Ackworth School

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Ackworth Today

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Not for oneself but for everyone



Viva L'italia

During the Easter holidays 29 history and geography students from the 5th and 6th forms took a trip to the Bay of Naples. As soon as we arrived we visited the Solfatara volcano, where the ground emits jets of sulphurous steam. Our guide for the afternoon, Francesco, has been guiding people around the crater for over 60 years! We visited sites such as Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius. I found Herculaneum particularly interesting as the Roman town was reasonably intact, which allowed me to appreciate what life was like at the time.

Charlotte Searby



Russian Students – Ackworth Experience

Ackworth School is very big, there are lots of spacious classrooms, a large sports hall, beautiful Meeting House. We have many interesting subjects that are taught by experienced teachers. I cooked pancakes in home economics and made a beautiful key ring and clock in design technology and did experiments in chemistry and biology. There are lots of friendly students here who always help you. I enjoyed studying at Ackworth School.

Denis Semagin

This is the second time I came to Ackworth School. I really like this school! There are very friendly children and teachers and interesting lessons, even when I didn't understand everything.

Some Ackworth students became my friends and I will miss Alice, Maddie, China and also my room-mate Thao.

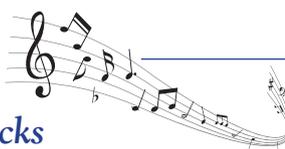
Valeriya Kozhukalova



Ackworth School Rocks

Being in Ackworth little big band has been a lot of fun because we have played a real range of music. I play the saxophone in the group and have really enjoyed my role within the horn section. My favourite song has been 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams. It is quite easy to put together but sounds really effective. I'm looking forward to playing in Party on the Green.

Charlotte Sowter



Young Consumers

Even bearing the title of 'Current Affairs', this year's Young Consumer team was determined to succeed at the regional final in April. A great time was had by all, but even our strong team with many varied talents - a certain team member had surprising knowledge of Simon Cowell's offspring and previous 'Dancing on Ice' winners - couldn't surpass the lightning fingers of Horbury Academy, and we finished in second place.

Isabel Parkinson



Ackworth team consisted of Matthew Brown, Isabel Parkinson, Jake Sowter and captain, Daniel Strutt.

Results of the Young Consumer Competition 2014

1st	Horbury Academy - 63 points
2nd	Ackworth - 55 points
3rd	Hayfield School, Doncaster - 29 points
4th	Abbey Grange Academy, Leeds - 27 points

Well done to everyone involved and particular congratulations to the team from Horbury Academy. Marion Mitchell

Head's Message



So the time has come for me to write my last message for 'Ackworth Today'. Five years have passed so quickly and in many ways I am just not ready to leave, but life takes us all on a journey over which we have little, if any control. I leave with the School in a very exciting position. Much has been achieved, for which I am very proud; however there is so much still to do and the plans in place mean that there are exceedingly exciting and fulfilling years ahead.

The School has a very supportive Committee that has a clear vision and focus for the future. We have a long list of reasons to be thankful: from the Nursery opening in September, with year-round provision and extended hours; a new build being planned for September 2015; the creation of a Fothergill Society for the more able, gifted and talented; the redevelopment of the Sixth Form Study block; work already being carried out to preserve our beautiful buildings and heritage; curriculum developments; exciting overseas trips, including a choir tour; sports courses and tours; and a Music Centre refurbishment. Our children are very fortunate indeed.

Above all I leave a school that provides a multi-faceted education. It is one that ensures the whole child is considered and catered for, with our Quaker ethos at the very heart of all that we do. It inspires and engages, it ignites the spark in the children receiving it and shapes their lives. It enables imaginations to grow and lets the minds of all our community fly. The education we provide allows the voices of our children to be heard. Through this our students are able to bring about real change and be active participants in the world in which they live.

The learning taking place supports and encourages the Quaker ethos of the School; our teaching gives learners the opportunity to reflect spiritually, morally and socially, and to develop an understanding of the Christian foundations of the School as well as the diversity of beliefs and cultures expressed in the School.

So it is time for me to pass the Ackworth baton onto Anton Maree, who will receive it with pride and lead the school from strength to strength. I know that you will give him the unstinting support and encouragement you have shown me. I wish him and all the Ackworth community every good wish and success for what lies ahead.

Kathryn Bell



School Officers 2014-2015

Head Girl

Georgia Mattison

Head Boy

Daniel Strutt

School Officers

Matthew Brown

Sarah Roche

Emily Hardy

Mae Smith

Sam Huang

Jacob Sowter

Henry Lodge

Jialin Wang



Former Staff News

When I left the staff at Ackworth and Coram in 2008 I wanted to develop my feltmaking and design work. I have been studying for two years and am delighted to have been awarded the City and Guilds Medal for Excellence in Feltmaking 2014. It was fantastic to be back in the classroom as a student, learning new skills, and I am amazed to have achieved this international recognition.

Helen Riddle



Ready, Steady, Bake!

On 3 May I took part in the Inter-house Senior Bake-off: we had to create a celebration cake of our own design. I chose to create a lemon cake with a lemon curd filling and a white chocolate frosting. For the design I chose a Spring themed cake with fondant icing ducks, sheep, butterflies and flowers. We all had an amazing time designing and baking the cakes, and I would definitely do it again.
Caroline Rhodes



Ackworth School Choir

Being in the choir has been a really good experience. We rehearse every week and we normally do classical music with a few pop songs thrown in for fun. I have really enjoyed the concerts this year. My favourite was our performance in St. Cuthbert's Church because the venue was really nice and it was near to the school so we could just walk to the concert. We are singing 'You've got a Friend' in Party on the Green and I'm really looking forward to it.
Polly Clarke



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award



After a lot of hard, but extremely enjoyable work, I went to St James' Palace at the end of April to receive my Gold Duke of Edinburgh award. It was lovely to meet another ex-Ackworth student, Georgina Rastall, as we waited to go in. The award was presented by cricketer Wasim Khan MBE, and the Earl of Wessex. It was an amazing day which I will never forget.
Sam Jackson

A spritely, spirited slog to Slingsby

On the first day of D of E we walked about 7 miles and it was very hot and tiring. The camping was fun, learning how to set up tents and how to cook properly for ourselves with no help. On the second day we walked about 6 miles and it was very hot again! I had a great time and learnt a lot about camping and map reading!

Georgia Whelan





North of England Under 16 Champions – next stop Wimbledon!

On a beautiful Saturday Lloyd Barlow and Henry Atkin travelled to Ampleforth College to play in the under 16 North of England tennis championships.

The boys got off to a flying start beating Woodhouse Grove's 2nd couple 6-2, Manchester Grammar School 6-2, Ampleforth 6-4 and Yarm's 1st couple 6-1. This meant they went through as winners of Group A to the knockout group where they played some amazing attacking tennis with excellent serving, volleying and fierce ground strokes, resulting in a 6-3 win!

What an amazing day's tennis. And at 4pm the boys were presented with their trophy and crowned North of England under 16 champions!

This is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations to you both!

Andrea Thomas



BBC Radio 2 500 Words 2014

Getting into the top 50 for the BBC Radio 2's 500 Words Competition was an amazing experience. Although I didn't win a medal, I did get to meet a lot of inspirational actors and writers including Michael Morpurgo, Malorie Blackman, Benedict Cumberbatch and many more.

I have even read my story to the children in Coram.

The whole day was great and I definitely want to write more often.

Abigail Stretton-Moore



Young Analyst Competition 2014

The competition was an amazing experience for Sam, Ryan and me. We experienced a wide range of analytical techniques and equipment. The university was very welcoming and we were able to use new, high-end equipment such as a new colorimeter. The competition itself was both arduous and tiring, yet in the end it was extremely rewarding as we had a true taste of professional chemistry, all the while developing our teamwork and analytical skills. All in all it was an extremely useful experience that will stay with us for many years to come.

James Schofield

Summer Sports Programme

This summer Ackworth School launches a series of sports coaching camps in hockey, tennis, cricket, netball and Leeds United Academy hosted football. The courses start on 29th July and run through until 29th August.

For full details of all the courses on offer, please visit www.ackworthschool.com/sports-camps

Former England hockey and cricket players, LUFC Academy staff, together with level 4 tennis coaches form the formidable line up of experience on offer, which will ensure vibrant weeks of learning.

Guy Emmett

