

Not for oneself but for everyone

## Sporting success for Woolman!

After many years in the sporting wilderness, Woolman House celebrated a resounding victory in the Inter-House Sports competition. Well done to everyone who took part in a splendid afternoon's sport.



## Duke of Edinburgh Weekend



Hiking and navigating in the countryside as well as camping with friends were just some of the experiences our DofE weekend allowed us to gain. That was along with some card games, slight cooking mishaps and roasting marshmallows around a camping stove. We had a great but tiring weekend and we were all in need of a good rest at the end.

Victoria Patel, Thea White, Katie Abson,  
Brooke Elsworth



## Kindergarten Days

Our themed Kindergarten days have been a huge success this year benefiting from specialist teachers, Ackworth School's facilities and our amazing setting. The children have experienced swimming sessions, linguistic teaching, ICT, musical performances, outdoor games, baking, our fantastic Forest School, ending with a celebratory picnic with parents. This transition opportunity is an important milestone which serves to introduce the children to future teachers and their new environment for September. The children have ended the term with wonderful memories, hopes and excitement for their next learning journey at Coram House.

Sally Slater and Lucy Cruddas

## Shakespeare Rocks

Year Six have been involved in an enjoyable performance called "Shakespeare Rocks."

There have been lots of lines to learn and it's been really tiring, but worth it because we have come out with a great show.

When we performed for real we all felt glad that we could enjoy what we had done. We felt really proud to present it to other schools and our parents.

Hayley Allen





# Head's Message

It's time to say goodbye; lots of wonderful pupils are leaving, or have already left us, and it will be a different place in September. Most of them will be at their first choice university but some will return to their home countries, hopefully able to dazzle their friends with their knowledge of British politics and also their accent-free English. We rely on those who remain to carry on the values of the school, to pass on to those lucky enough to start in September how we relate to one another and the way we behave. A 'day-to-day kindness' characterises the spirit of the school

We have much to rejoice about in our lovely school and a steady flow of pupils from other local independent schools, rising numbers in the nursery, first year and the sixth form, and improvement to our provision and the fabric of the buildings all augur well for the future.

There will be some changes in September – we will be working on the new Sixth Form lounge, and on the Autism Resource Unit. I am particularly pleased with the quality of the provision and level of care in our Nursery. It has been extensively refurbished and is I think the best Nursery in West Yorkshire. Coram House continues to offer an exciting and enriched curriculum both in and out of the classroom and makes the most of links to the senior school and all of its facilities and expertise.

It's also time to say goodbye to staff. Seven members of staff are leaving Ackworth at the end of the academic year. Andrew Ward, Head of Sixth Form and Head of Biology, after 35 wonderful years of service to the school, has decided to retire. His knowledge of the school and the staff and pupils who have shared their time with him is astonishing. I am glad that he will only be down the road, and within reach for advice, and that I shall see him occasionally on a Sunday morning. Valerie Gough is retiring as Head of the International Centre and Head of ESL; Claire Cougan has resigned as House Mistress of Girls' School House and teacher of mathematics; Gwen Casey has resigned as Head of Spanish and accepted an appointment at Durham School for Girls; Linda Armstrong, Deputy Head of Coram House is retiring as is Stephen Bontoft, teacher of IT at Coram House; and Emma Tate, teacher of Art in Coram House is moving to Outward Grange School. We will miss all of them and wish them well for the future.

I have many happy memories of the year that is finishing: not just being at Ackworth, but the many genial interactions with this amazing community. Have a good holiday when it finally arrives.

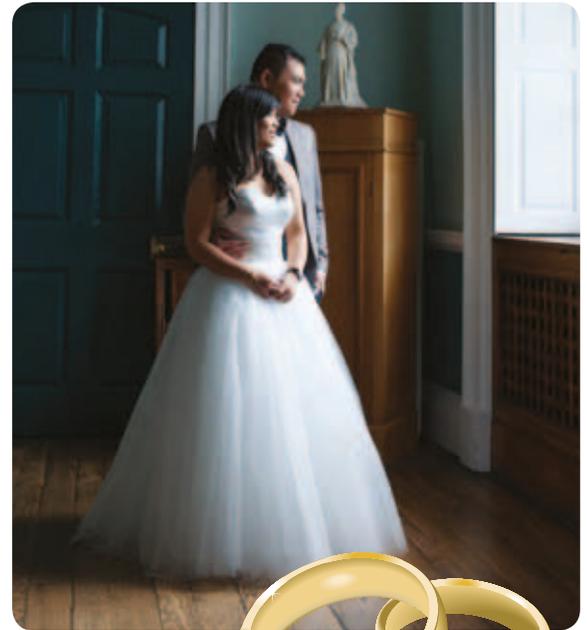
Anton Maree



## Bradford University Workshop

On 12th June, affiliates from STEM Bradford University came to run a workshop for the whole day with the A2 chemistry class to educate us on the process of making paracetamol under lab conditions. We used advanced equipment that we as A Level students would otherwise have not been able to access - let alone use.

Vanessa Dam



## Ackworth Old Scholars Get Married.

Raymond Shum and Catherine Chan met and fell in love at Ackworth School. This happens to lots of people! They got married a few weeks ago in Hong Kong but, over half term, they came back to the UK and held a blessing ceremony in Leeds Minster followed by a reception at Ackworth School. All the best to the Happy Couple!

Tom Bootyman



## British and Irish Modern Music Institute

I first learnt about the British and Irish Modern Music Institute when I was looking at University courses where I could sing. While I was looking I discovered there was a foundation course to get onto the degree course and it was exactly what I wanted to do. I went for an audition and was lucky enough to be accepted on the course in Manchester for next year. I am really looking forward to singing all the time and learning about different singers, styles and genres. I wouldn't have realised that this was what I wanted to do if there hadn't been so many opportunities to sing at Ackworth and so many different groups to get involved in. Thank you, Ackworth!

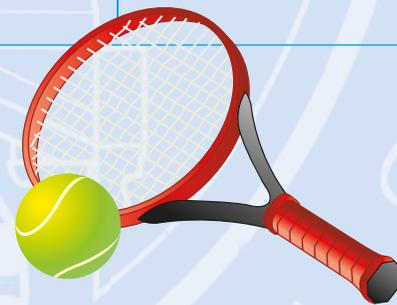
Hester Jackson

## School Officers' Weekend

The School Officers' weekend to Osmotherly was far more than we expected! The weekend was the first time we had interacted with each other as members of a team. We created bonds that will unite us through the course of the upcoming academic year and we hope to bring all that we can to Ackworth. The highlights were certainly the very intense game of Pictionary that was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the trip to Mount Grace Priory (obviously with a great game of frisbee)! One of the key elements that we all reflected on during our training was to be true to ourselves and we hope we can do this whilst embodying the five Quaker principles throughout our time in office.

Zoe Jefferies

## Ackworth Boys' Tennis closes in on league titles!



The under 15s and under 13s boys took one step closer to the league title, beating the Boston Spa teams convincingly. The under 15s managed to win all singles and doubles sets against a good Boston team. The under 13s managed to win with similar style, as Josh Dawson, Will Harrison, Olly Nicholls and Joe Morton continued their unbeaten record, having never lost a set between them all season. If both sides can maintain their 100% record, they will be crowned regional champions!

Michael Callister

# 'The War in Syria: Through the Eyes of a Child'

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, the boarding community and staff attended an evening presentation delivered by John Stephenson, Head of Religious Studies at Ackworth School about the effects of the war in Syria on civilians, especially the young. John gave a talk about the origins and complexity of the war in Syria and its historical roots by exploring the origins and expansion of early Islam, the establishment of an Islamic 'Caliphate' and the divisions which emerged between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

The talk revolved around a series of photographs taken by an under-cover war photographer, operating in and around Damascus. The photographer, using the alias 'Muhammad Dimashqi,' works together with a small group of like-minded individuals, known as 'Dimashqi-Lens', and is endeavouring to record the effects of recent alleged government attacks, including chemical weapons attacks, on civilian areas that have expressed opposition to the rule of President Bashar Al-Assad.

The students were very moved by the talk and asked many good questions, seeking to understand further why it is that we have been witnessing the rapid emergence



and spread of Islamic fundamentalism and what are the ultimate aims of the Islamists. They also asked for more information about the differences that exist within Sunni and Shia Islam and shared their feelings about the suffering of the children in Syria.

A few tears were shed by students and staff whilst watching the powerful photographs, but overall, the sense was that everyone was grateful for the risks the photographer had taken to make the world aware of the plight of the Syrian people, and so all in all, it was a worthwhile educational opportunity.

For more information:

[www.dimashqilens.com](http://www.dimashqilens.com)



[www.flickr.com/photos/lensdamascus](http://www.flickr.com/photos/lensdamascus)



[twitter.com/lensdimashqi](https://twitter.com/lensdimashqi)



## Drama Trip to London

Our recent trip to London was great. Both the shows were amazingly performed and produced and the drama workshop was enjoyable and helpful towards Drama GCSE. The whole weekend was a lot of fun and I can't wait for the next Drama trip.

Abigail Stretton-Moore



## Fencing

Ackworth School's Fencing Club has been a popular after school club for many years. This year our fencers have gone from strength to strength. We are really proud of their achievements.

Ally Hyde has completed her Gold Foil Award; Sam Huang gained his Bronze and Silver Sabre Awards; Nick Wang has achieved his Bronze Foil Award.

Another notable achievement – Finlay Caswell won third place at the recent U16 Yorkshire Youth League Competition in Penistone. Well done, fencers!

Catherine Jackson

I have ridden since I was two years old and been a member of the Badsworth Pony Club since I was four. I enjoy all aspects of riding, but in particular show jumping and eventing. My enthusiasm and determination is deep rooted and I think nothing of getting up at 6am to ride. My most recent success was last weekend at The Bramham Horse Trials where I was a member of the Badsworth Pony Club team and we won out of 20 teams.

Mark Poskitt



## Living the Liverpool Life

As we broke up for the Easter holidays some of year five and six went to Liverpool. We went on the oldest serving boat in the UK across the River Mersey.

The first night we got there we had tea and went bowling. On Saturday we saw one of the most beautiful China Towns in Europe. We stood by Penny Lane, made famous in a Beatles' song. Then we went to most of the Beatles' homes including their producer, George Martin.

Just before we left we went to a safari park and saw animals like elephants, giraffes, tigers and a very rare animal called a Zedonk; its legs are zebra and its body is like a donkey. Everybody enjoyed the trip; we were all sad that we had to go home!

James Robinson



## Unpicking Pickering

The first year travelled to Pickering to complete geography fieldwork. At the river we looked for evidence of erosion, solution and suspension. In Pickering we used our map skills to complete a land-use survey – rating shops as being convenience, comparison or service. We also did environmental surveys. We enjoyed being out in the countryside and getting ice-creams!

We had a great time and learnt a lot.

Hannah Savage, Abigail Taubman, Maisie Waite, Lucy Mackenzie and Uma Schuth

## Yorkshire Schools Athletics

The following students represented the district at the Yorkshire schools athletics:

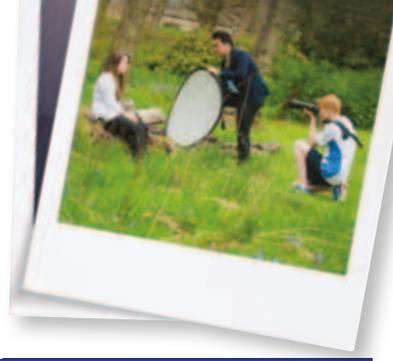
- Sam Dawson • Holly Kitching
- Okemdi Ahaneku • Alex Rudkin

Notable performances were: 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 1500m for Holly Kitching, and Okemdi Ahaneku becoming the Yorkshire long jump champion.

Liz Burrows

I love photography but before I came to Ackworth I did not have much chance to take lots of pictures. Now I get a lot of opportunities and I am learning how to use my camera properly. Also, I am learning how to compose a picture so that it looks nice.

Nicholas Wang



we had a great afternoon on the athletics track in Thornes Park competing in the Wakefield Schools' Athletics League. This was an athletics competition for first year pupils from all the schools in Wakefield. I was 2nd in the 600m and ran in the relay with Thomas Lodge, Josh Ward and Will Harrison. All the Ackworth competitors did well and are looking forward to the next meeting on 10th June.

Josh Dawson



## Junior Bake Off

Recently, 15 pupils took part in the Junior Bake Off. We had to make two batches of identical biscuits and then we received a recipe to make scones. Everyone had a great day and enjoyed the challenge.

Amelia Beckwith, Henry Hackwell and Alice Mason



## 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.

### New PSA Members

We are looking for new PSA members from September 2015. 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



## RYA Level One Sailing

On Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June we completed our RYA Level One sailing course. The weather was great and we learnt how to rig a dinghy and sail into the wind. I like tacking, but I prefer gybing.

Matthew Lee



## Advice 34

Remember your responsibilities as a citizen for the conduct of local, national, and international affairs. Do not shrink from the time and effort your involvement may demand.

## Ackworth School

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