

# Ackworth Today

October 2014 Volume 19 Issue 1



Not for oneself but for everyone

## Tanzania 2014

Over the summer eight lower sixth students travelled to Tanzania to volunteer at the Genesis orphanage in Arusha. Our project was to build a chicken coop to house around 100 chickens in order to allow the orphanage a sustainable source of eggs to eat and to sell.

This was a brilliant experience for me. There were many memorable moments such as visiting the Maasai village which was fascinating due to the different culture and beliefs. Moreover, seeing the chicken coop finished after two weeks of hard work meant we accomplished what we came to do. It was an excellent and worthwhile trip and I loved every minute.

Mae Smith



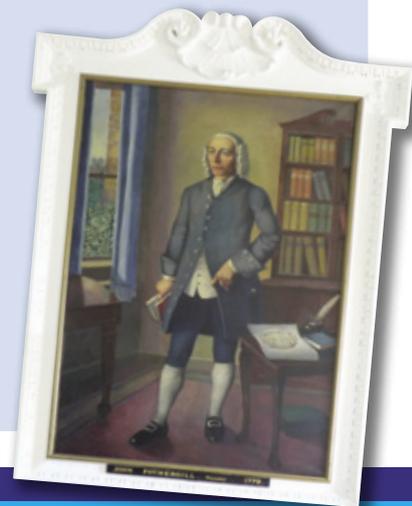
## A Champion's Homecoming Inspiring the New Generation

James Willstrop, old scholar and Commonwealth Games double medallist came in to School recently to meet with four new students. Harry Anderson, Sam Todd, Ben Beachill and Ben Sockett joined the School in September. They are exceptional squash players and all train regularly at Pontefract Squash Club. We look forward to further developing the special links between Ackworth School and Pontefract Squash Club over the coming months.

## The Fothergill Society

The inaugural Fothergill Society Platform was delivered by 3rd year Cambridge Classicist, Qasim Alli. Across four ideas stations set up around the room, Qasim led our students through a fascinating exploration of our society's stereotypical views of gender, education, language and culture. Through curiosity, questioning and wider learning, Qasim argued, we can learn different ways of seeing and engaging with the world around us, which in turn can improve society and make us better citizens. The Fothergill Society is devoted to the broadening of knowledge: we seek out challenges that make us look and think differently. All students are welcome to attend. For further information, please see the society website at [www.thefothergillsociety.weebly.com](http://www.thefothergillsociety.weebly.com).

Ali Boucher





## Head's Message

What brought me to Ackworth? I was curious; I had read about Ackworth's gentle approach to educating children and appreciated its admirable results and status as a boarding school, with its diverse and exciting mix of children from more than 20 different countries.

I was also struck by its facilities: really good for a small school. I marvelled at its 230 years of co-education, nestling amidst the Yorkshire countryside and I was struck by the rapport between teachers and students and the respect that children had for one another.

Now that I am here, I see with greater clarity and understand what makes Ackworth special. It is a dynamic and 'forward thinking' school. We develop resilient individuals who can think creatively, act ethically and express themselves culturally. So do other schools, but we also offer the strength of quiet reflection and a safe and supportive environment with an extraordinary range of students, all with something quite special to contribute.

Following a successful Open Morning for prospective families and full School Inspection, which praised us for our very high standard of care, we celebrated the beginning of the academic year with a Hog Roast for the whole school community – a wonderful opportunity for Ackworth families to socialise and for me to get to know so many of you. We will do it again!



## Oxford Success

We are delighted to celebrate the success of Katarina Martinovic, who has taken up a place at St Catherine's College, Oxford, to study Physics. This follows a very impressive set of grades achieved in her A level examinations this summer. Katarina came to the school from Montenegro, as an HMC Scholar, and impressed many throughout her time here. Despite not having the opportunity to undertake practical work as part of Science lessons in her previous school, Katarina dedicated time and effort to developing her skills and achieving highly in her practical examinations. Through hard work and perseverance, Katarina secured the funding to take up her place at Oxford University and we look forward to hearing of her successes when her time at St Catherine's begins this October.



Helen Batty

## Umph 2014

Recently, I along with my team mates Daniel, Tara and Barbara, travelled to the John Smith Stadium in Huddersfield to compete in a Business Challenge. The day itself was interesting and useful. All of us chose four lectures to attend and this enabled us to meet successful entrepreneurs and to understand how and why they decided to start up their own businesses. Following lunch the real competition began.

Overall the day was fantastic, even though we did not win the competition. We learnt a lot and had a great time in the process, and if someone was offered the chance to take part in the competition I would definitely recommend it to them.

Abby Green



## Sun, Streams, Sand and Statistics

It could only be the Biology Field Trip. Add to the mix the odd ice cream and cream tea and you have the perfect way to learn about the environment. Our A level Biologists showed great commitment to all that was asked of them and the final day of individual project work was consequently a great success. We all learned a lot of Biology but also a lot about each other.

Andrew Ward

# Welcome to our new members of staff...



I've really enjoyed my first few weeks meeting and getting to know my new colleagues and all the students. I am really excited about the future at Ackworth with our new PE department.

Liz Burrows



My first few weeks at Ackworth School have been very enjoyable due to the warm welcome I have received from both staff and pupils. The community spirit and family atmosphere that exists at the school is quite remarkable in education.

Andrew Hobson



Having just completed my first few weeks of teaching at Ackworth School, I can honestly say that I have been struck by the genuine warmth and friendliness of the students and staff and I already feel part of a happy and very special community.

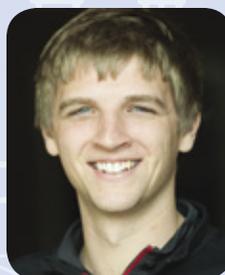
In a world increasingly divided by bigotry and intolerance, Ackworth, by stark contrast, holds firm to its Quaker principles of peace and tolerance, welcoming people of all faiths and none, whilst 'seeking that of God in everyone'.

John Stephenson



I have had a wonderful welcome and am delighted to be part of such a lovely community. The welcome and support I have been given by both staff and pupils has been overwhelming and I look forward to what the future holds.

Elizabeth Sochacka



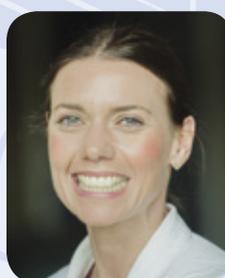
Since arriving at Ackworth School, I have been made to feel extremely welcome by all staff, pupils and parents. This has made the experience thoroughly enjoyable!

Michael Callister



Being at Ackworth School is a great experience for me. The staff, parents and most of all students have been extremely welcoming and ensured that I have settled in well at the school.

Mark Spetch



Since starting at Ackworth a few weeks ago, I have experienced a lovely welcome. There is a caring and efficient ethos along with a wonderful, positive atmosphere, allowing students to flourish – a great place to be.

Kate Dawson



A huge thank you to all the staff and students at Ackworth School for making my first weeks so enjoyable.

I am thoroughly looking forward to working with everyone at the school and making 2014/15 a successful year.

Patrick Roberts



I've had a fantastic welcome by all staff and students since starting in September and I feel I have settled in really well. Ackworth really is an exciting and unique place to work and I cannot wait for the future.

Lauren Bradshaw



## Rivers, Rocks and Rafts!

Year 2 have enjoyed visiting Forest School this half term. One of the many activities included the challenge to dam the river Went using rocks and logs. The children also made brilliant rafts and floats with sticks and string. There was even time to learn a silly song and play with Sage the Elf!

Katie Staton

## Highest Scholars

'A' level results this year were very pleasing – we are delighted to report that the percentage of results graded A\*-C was 84.3%, and that our percentage A\*/A grades was a very positive 34.3%. 14.9% of all grades at 'A' level were the highly sought after A\* grades. There were some superb individual performances: our top girl and boy performers at 'A' Level are awarded the Highest Scholarship and this year the recipients of the award are Katarina Martinovic and Jake Williamson. Katarina achieved 3A\*s and 1B at 'A' level, whilst Jake gained 3A\*s.

At GCSE the results were impressive. The overall statistic of 88.9% A\* to C grades reflects the results of every student taking GCSEs including members of the International Centre and the one year intensive international GCSE course. More specifically, looking just at our main UK Fifth Formers, the A\*-C statistic rises to 92.7%, with A\*-B being 75.4%. It is interesting to note that our top 20 students' A\*-C performance was 99%, and that they achieved 93.3% A\*-B. Once again Ackworth had some remarkable individual performances. The awards for the best performances at GCSE this year went to Alice Hyde, 7A\*s and 3As, Matthew Gilbert, 7A\*s and 2As, and Oliver Hackwell, 7A\*s, 2As, and 1B. We wholeheartedly congratulate all our students on their outstanding results.

Jeffrey Swales

## Old Scholars' Cup 2014

This year it proved impossible to decide on a single person to receive this award and so it was shared by two very worthy winners – Esther Dyke and JJ Storey. Both these students have contributed fully to the life of the school, often in ways unseen by many. Always willing to help when needed, they have certainly fulfilled the criteria for the award which is aimed at students who have given service to the school community and beyond. Whether it was in raising money for charity, taking extra responsibilities in school or working in the Autism Resource, these two students gave willingly and cheerfully of their time and effort.

Andrew Ward



## My Stay Abroad

When I first came to Ackworth I was really excited and also quite nervous about my stay since I had never lived abroad. However the teachers, staff and pupils treated me warmly right from the beginning so that I soon felt very comfortable.

During my stay I learned a lot about teaching, the culture and the people of Yorkshire, but also about my own country and cultural identity. I was also able to improve my language skills and meet many amazing people. I had a wonderful time in Ackworth and I hope that I was able to assist and help the language department and the students who studied German with me. I wanted to convey to the pupils how wonderful it is to speak another language and how much you can gain from it. Hopefully I succeeded with that.

All in all, I had a great time and I am incredibly glad to have worked as a language assistant in the UK.

Ronja Herdina - German Assistant, 2013/2014

## Coram House Cross Country

Coram's cross country team had their first outing of the year at the Grammar School at Leeds.

On what proved to be a very challenging course, and a very high quality field of runners (which included the current U11 Girls European Cross Country Champion) our runners lived up to expectations, with several notable performances.

Darcey Ducker finished a super 4th in the Year 5 girls' race, Harriet Metcalfe an excellent 5th in the Year 6 girls' race, Matthew Celino a brilliant 7th in the Year 5 boys' race and James Bourke 15th in the Year 6 boys' race. A huge well done to all of our runners, who I am sure are already looking forward to tackling the upcoming Barlborough Hall tournament.

Aden Ball



# Leadership Day

As part of the Lower Sixth induction, the whole year group was taken off timetable for a day to work as teams in order to complete mostly physical challenges. There was time to learn more about yourself – are you a shaper, a resource investigator, a finisher? There was time to learn about peers and how different personalities can contribute to forming an effective team. There was time to learn about the Quaker model of leadership. There was time also for a lot of fun!

Alex Collingwood



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Old scholar Georgina Rastall was unaware that taking part in her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme would have such a significant impact on her future career.

Having taken up photography as part of her Skills section, this enjoyable pastime is now Georgina's full time profession.

Through participating in her Gold DofE Award, Georgina now has ambitions to volunteer one day as an Assessor, where she can lend her knowledge of the programme to young people currently completing their DofE.

Commenting on how the DofE has impacted on her, Georgina said; "DofE changed my life for the better; I don't know what I'd be doing now if I hadn't done my Gold DofE Skill!"



## Cambridge Chemistry Camp



I participated in the Salters' Chemistry Camp at Cambridge University. I was so happy and excited to be chosen, not only to take part, but also to visit such a prestigious university. I stayed on campus at Churchill College with 60 other strangers my age; at first I was nervous about meeting new people, but I was pleasantly surprised! Everyone was so nice to each other because no one knew anyone else and you had no choice but to talk to people. Over the course of 3 days, we did many interesting experiments, such as creating glow in the dark chemicals and creating paint from scratch. However the highlight of the experience was having a tour around the city of Cambridge, and of course, meeting so many new people. It was really genuinely sad that everyone had to leave each other because we all became so close in those 3 days.

Thomas Atkinson

## Whitley Wonder

I play for Whitley Bridge U11 and U13 teams, and was selected to play and captain the U11 Pontefract District Representative League Team.

We finished the season on a high when I was presented with the U13 bowling prize for most wickets and best bowling average in the league.

Henry Hackwell



## Nursery Vegetables

The Nursery children have loved growing their own carrots and potatoes. Azariah had to pull very hard to harvest this huge carrot .... it was like the Enormous Turnip! After washing it we enjoyed tasting it. The carrot was delicious!

Sharon Marsh

## HMC Poetry Competition

When I returned to school, Mr Boucher told me that the poem that I had entered for Inter-house Poetry had been selected by Gillian Clarke as the winner of the Specially Commended prize in the HMC Poetry Competition. I went to Celtic Manor Resort on 1 October to collect my prize.

Jake Sowter



## Yorkshire Tennis

This year I have played for Yorkshire in the Summer County Cup event for under 12s and the team came 5th in the country (out of approximately 43 counties). I also won my first Grade 3 regional event and got into the main draw of the Grade 1 National Championships at West Hants for the first time, reaching the semi-finals of the consolation draw. Overall a good 2014!

Leona Clarkson

## Visit to the Seaside

The geography classes of the Fifth Form went to Hornsea to see how the East coast and the sea react together. We measured things like where the wind and waves come from as well as the width of the beach, cliff angle and pebble roundness. Afterwards we ate traditional English fish and chips from the seaside.

Jacob Ude



## Economics Lecture

Recently, Jacco Thijssen, a visiting Professor from the University of York came to talk to the Sixth Form about Economics. He spoke in general terms about Economics choice, strategy and information. Jacco then explained the game theory – which is critical for A2 Economics and will benefit many of us. It was an interesting lecture and worthwhile to many of us!

Katie Livock

## Smooth Sailing!

Recently we went to Pugneys Country Park in Wakefield to complete the Royal Yacht Association Level 1 Sailing course. The course involved rigging, rope work, sailing techniques, launching, recovery and sailing theory.

We had a great time and we all passed!

Joe Beacock



## PSA Events

### Bag2School

Friday 31st October 2014

Bags will be enclosed with the half term mailing, but use bin liners if you have extra things to donate. Please drop off your bags by 9 am in the car park - we will be able to help collect them from your car. We need clothing in good condition, belts, pairs of shoes, handbags, and soft toys but no bric a brac. We are paid per kilo of items collected so please empty your cupboards and recycle!

Remember to recycle your printer ink cartridges drop off boxes in Coram and Senior School reception.

### Christmas Craft Fayre

Christmas carols from the pre-prep children, Christmas craft stalls, coffee and mince pies on Friday 5th December.

### Sportsman's Dinner

Saturday March 14th 2015 at Darrington Golf Club. Further details to follow.

Thank you for your continued support which helps fund clubs and activities for all the students.

## Advice 39

Consider which of the ways to happiness offered by society are truly fulfilling and which are potentially corrupting and destructive. Be discriminating when choosing means of entertainment and information. Resist the desire to acquire possessions or income through unethical investment, speculation or games of chance.