



The Heat is on in Saigon

Wow! What a week it was. Miss Saigon has just completed a week of shows and the praise for the entire production has been overwhelming. Many people travelled quite a distance to come and watch the show and many people saw it more than once - such was the draw of this ambitious but perfectly executed production.



The cast and crew, under the talented direction of Mr Theobald, have once again put The Lakes School on the map as having a fantastic reputation for staging theatre productions that rival the quality found in the West End. As we look back in to the school archives ahead of our 50th anniversary it is clear that this is a reputation that goes back decades and one that we intend to maintain.

The impact of such a show on the pride and ambitions of our students is immeasurable. We have already heard so many stories of students aspiring to audition for Mr Theobald's next production.



The cast and stage crew have become superstars around the school and carry that pride and self-assurance in to their studies. Mr Theobald is also incredibly proud of all the students who contributed to the show, 'I knew Miss Saigon was going to be a huge undertaking as they have taken around 8 years to pick the professional cast and directors in the West End! What our students did in the space of a year, along with their fundraising, rehearsals and commitment, is nothing short of a miracle! They amazed me with their professionalism, patience, hard work and are all a credit to our school.'



'I have seen Miss Saigon (the professional one with Lea Salonga) three times and believe me your production was absolutely wonderful. The work and dedication that has gone into this is remarkable. I really didn't think the helicopter could possibly arrive, but it did! So very moving and I certainly struggled with the tears. Well done.'

'Absolutely amazing show! You have some extremely talented performers and amazing staging! I'm so proud :)'

'Stunning. A seriously grown up show. Very well done to everyone. What next???'

'Just watched the matinee. Wow. Just wow. So much talent on that stage. Feel so emotional after it, you all should be so proud - cast musicians and stage crew all incredibly polished and professional.'

'Did I enjoy the show?? Haha!! Well i have seen lots of west end shows and OMG this has to be up with the professionals - wide awake thinking about it!'

'Wow! Wow! Wow! What a fantastic show. Absolutely amazing to watch these superstars, especially as I remember some of them as little superstars in my class when they were 4 or 5 year olds! Well done to you all'



Rotary Youth Speaks Winners

For the second year running, The Lakes School have won the The Rotary Club of Kendal Youth Speaks Competition with their talk on 'Jealousy'. The competition featured four local schools, John Ruskin, Kirkbie Kendal, The Lakes School and Queen Katherine.

We are proud to say that The Lakes School also won the best 'Chair' who was Beth Jakins and the best 'Proposer' who was Jenny Holden. The team, which also included Meghan Guy, will now go on to compete in the district final to be held next year. The best individual speaker was Angus Pinkney from Kirkbie Kendal who entertained us with an intriguing talk entitled, 'How does airbrushing in the media affect teenage perceptions of body image'

Thank you Mrs Dixon for her hard work preparing the team for the competition and we wish them every success in the final next year.



50th Anniversary on the Horizon

We recently sent you a 50th anniversary newsletter which you can find on our website. We have had a great response to our request for people to email us on 50th@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk to register interest in our celebrations which will take place during the autumn 2015.

Can you help us? We are trying to find some old cine film of the school and theatre productions. We are also searching for photographs, documents, news articles, school magazine, stories, memories or any other items associated with the history of The Lakes School. We are also keen to gather memories associated with Windermere Grammar, Kelsick Grammar and The Old College.

We would also like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to attend our next planning meeting on **Tuesday 13th January 2015 at 5.30pm.**

Andy Cunningham

New Website Hits the Mark

Thank you to everyone who has provided us with such positive feedback about our new website. We still have some content to add but we are pleased that students and parents are finding the site easier to use.

The website itself was designed by Michael Webster who lives and works locally and he really has brought a fresh and modern look to the way the world sees The Lakes School. Thank you to Michael for helping us develop a website that we are proud of.

Winter is on its way - cycling and snow

With winter around the corner now is a good time to mention some of the hazards associated with this time of year.

It has been mentioned to us recently that some students cycling home from school do not seem to have lights on their bikes and we would like to encourage all parents to ensure that their children are following the Be Seen Be Safe message. Lights and reflective tabards are a great way to be seen and a cycle helmet should also be worn. Thank you to those well meaning people in the community who are helping to keep children safe.

Whilst there is currently no prospect of snow on the horizon it is a good time to remind everyone of the arrangements for closing the school in the event of disruptive snowfall. We will always attempt to make a decision as early as possible and inform parents through the text messaging service so please ensure that the school has your most up to date mobile number. We will also place a message on the homepage of our new website and inform Cumbria County Council who will list our school closure on their website. Local radio stations will also periodically broadcast school closures.

Whilst we would always try and avoid the need to close the school part way through the school day it is sometimes unavoidable. Should this be necessary we would notify parents in the same way and ensure that we accommodate students in school until they are able to safely make their way home with a parent or on public transport.

Sixth Form Open Evening and Facelift

We are pleased to announce that our Sixth Form area will undergo a facelift ahead of September 2015 to better meet the needs of our sixth form students who want to feel as though they are one step closer to University and a more independent life. This message was well received at our Sixth Form Open Evening this week which helped Year 11 students think about the subjects they may want to study here at The Lakes School Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form has a reputation for academic excellence, success with UCAS applications, enrichment opportunities and also for supporting students who are exploring alternatives to university such as apprenticeships or vocational training.

Please contact Ms Rainey, our Director of Sixth Form, if you would like more information or a tour.