

New term, new look

Welcome to our new look edition of The Lakes School newsletter which has been 'revamped' in response to recent feedback about the need for our regular newsletters to be more accessible for everyone who reads them. We hope you enjoy the new design.

It's also been a new term, new look for many of our students who have responded magnificently to our 'no hoodies' rule and a general improvement in the school uniform. I know that we also have you, our parents, to thank for supporting us with this before your child leaves home in the morning; it really has made a huge difference around school as everyone now feels part of The Lakes School family. We still have work to do on the footwear some students are wearing and we look forward to working in partnership with you again in the coming weeks to ensure all students arrive to school proudly wearing The Lakes School uniform.

Rewards, rewards, rewards. Yellow slips galore!

As the students returned from their half term break they were greeted by a flurry of yellow merit/commendation slips that have been introduced to make it easier for staff to issue rewards. The School Council told us that, the electronic recording system didn't really help them feel proud of receiving a merit or commendation. However, having listened to the School Council, staff across the school are now able to issue yellow merit slips at any time, which is particularly helpful when marking work at home. Many students are opening their exercise books and folders to the sight of a yellow slip which they write their name on and post in to the letterbox at reception.

We now have a regular rewards slot in every Monday morning assembly when we award a cup to the house with the highest merit total from the previous week and we also draw three merit slips out of the hat, one from each Key Stage, to receive a £5 voucher. As you can see from the photo, the winner of the trophy for the first week back was Rothay with 210 merits.

Our next task is to revamp the postcards that we send home to parents for recognising outstanding work by our students and to look at ways in which we can reward students in every tutor group who have achieved the highest number of merits.

We are particularly proud of the way in which our students have helped to shape the new reward system. Josh and Nicole, Sixth Form students and our Head Boy and Head Girl, passed on the thoughts of the School Council to me recently; great schools always listen to the views of their students.

It has been great to see the staff and students so excited about the new rewards system which will also bring a little competitiveness to The Lakes School house system.



Dining in comfort

As part of our ongoing work to develop the dining experience for our students we have introduced the use of trays at lunchtime. This has meant that every student now sits down to enjoy their lunch with their friends and is responsible for clearing away their own plates and rubbish.

This new system has brought about an instant improvement in the cleanliness of the dining area making it a much more pleasant place to eat and to socialise - for staff and students.

Thank you to all of our students for making this transition so smooth.

BBC News 24 Arrives

It's lovely to be able to reward students when they make the effort to respond to our high expectations which is why it has been our pleasure to install a TV in the dining area that shows BBC News 24 throughout the day.

This has already proved to be a huge attraction for staff and students who can often be seen keeping up with the day's events around the world over breakfast and lunch.

Possible Strike Action

You may have noticed in the news that the NUT have announced the possibility of strike action taking place on 26 March 2014. We will keep all parents informed as soon as we have further information but you may like to consider child care arrangements on this date just in case the school should have to close.

Cumbria Young Writers Award

It's an exciting time for Molly Parry who has been shortlisted for the Cumbria Young Writers Award 2014. Molly is from one of only nine state and independent schools and colleges across Cumbria to be shortlisted for this award which will be presented at an awards ceremony at Theatre by the Lake, Keswick on March 8th 2014. We wish her good luck!

Where did everybody go?

The school looked deserted on Wednesday and Thursday this week as staff and students embarked on their enrichment days which provide a fantastic opportunity for students to visit new places that relate to their studies and, as in the case of the Year 7 students, take part in a residential experience, overcome challenges and learn more about themselves as a person.

This week's enrichment days have once again proved to be a huge success. Year 7 students set off on a mini expedition and an overnight stay. Year 8 investigated the Lakeland landscape and attended their very own UN Climate Change Conference, pictured below. Year 9 visited the Imperial War Museum, Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Centre and South Lakes Wildlife Park. Year 10 students took part in a drug awareness day. Year 11 focused on their English with a revision day and Sixth Form students immersed themselves in their studies - I visited some of our talented photographers and was amazed at the quality of their work.

There has been a real buzz around the school during the enrichment days. What has impressed me most is the fantastic way in which students at The Lakes School work together, supporting each other to complete challenging tasks and solve problems that relate to the real world. Enrichment day activities really help our students to flourish and develop the skills and qualities that help them stand out as the talented and high achieving students they are.

It's also great to hear feedback from staff who have taken students on trips and, once again, our students have proven themselves to be great ambassadors for The Lakes School.



Langdale CE Primary Parents Evening

On Monday this week I spent a lovely evening at the Langdale Primary School Parents Evening. Quite apart from the beautiful setting and the first glorious sunshine of the year, it was wonderful to speak to parents of children who are thinking of joining The Lakes School in the years to come. I asked some of the children what they would like to know about The Lakes School and they were really interested in our School Council producing a guide for Year 6 students to include information about what you can do at lunchtime and what to bring in your bag each day. I'm sure the School Council will do a fabulous job of producing an essential guide to The Lakes School.

March Madness!

The Lakes School Drama and Dance Clubs are proud to present March Madness on Thursday 13th and Friday 14th March 2014 from 7pm. Come and join us for a wonderful evening of performances, *Living with Lady Macbeth*, *Rats!* by Alan Gardner and *It's Always the Butler* by Jane Atherton. Refreshments will be available on both nights and tickets are available from the school office priced at £2 for children and £3 for adults.

Disabled Parking

As you can see from the photo below, half term has also brought a new look to our disabled parking area which has made it much more useable with a brand new path and attractive fencing. This has also made the area safer for our students when they are catching the bus at the end of the day.



House Merit/Commendation Update

	This Year	This Term
Brathay	1507	242
Leven	1836	302
Rothay	1652	312

Andy Cunningham