

Records are broken!

The merit and commendation system has worked wonders this week as a record number of over 659 were issued to our students who tell us that it's nice to receive a yellow slip from their teachers as they like the recognition and the responsibility of handing it in to reception. After a successful start to the term by Rothay house, Leven proudly won the cup last week only to be beaten this week by Brathay who have quietly been working away to attract recognition for their hard work and polite and respectful behaviour around the school. Many congratulations to all of our students who really are embracing the culture of rewards.

This week, our prize draw during assembly enabled three more students to collect a £5 voucher from a wide selection including Amazon, WHSmiths, Argos and Waterstones. This week's winners were Lucy Hill for Key Stage 3, James Fitzsimons for Key Stage 4 and Sam Jones for Key Stage 5. It really is great to see students proudly collecting their rewards for meeting the expectations of The Lakes School.

Royal Visit

It was our pleasure to receive the Duke of Gloucester this week who used our field to land the royal helicopter before travelling on to an appointment. Mrs Bagnall, The Chair of Governors, and I were presented to the Duke of Gloucester as he disembarked the helicopter.

The Lakes School is an approved site for such landings and it was quite a sight to see the pilot land on our field, perfectly positioned on the matting, as you can see from the photograph below.



Sporting Success

Congratulations to our U13 girls hockey team who finished second to Sedbergh School in the county 11 a-side competition beating Keswick School and Austin Friars School on their way.

Huge congratulations also go to our Year 8 football team who, under Mr Robinson's management have this week become County champions beating Richard Rose Central 3 - 2 in the final. What a week it has been for sport at The Lakes School.

Interview Pressure

Our Year 11 students put themselves through a rigorous trial interview this week with the help of a fantastic team of volunteers from local businesses. One member of the interview panel commented, 'I wish I was that confident when I was that age!' Well done Year 11 for making the most of this opportunity and for being such fabulous ambassadors for the school.

Revision Revision!

Many of our students are making the final push in the run up to their summer exams and we are doing everything we can to support them.

In the next few days we will be publishing details of our extra revision sessions and we'll be encouraging students to attend targeted study classes so that they feel confident and prepared going in to their exams.

I'm sure parents will support us in stressing the importance of working hard during these final few weeks before the exams.

Enterprise and Leadership

When students get a business idea or an opportunity to work with younger students it always brings out the best in them. They rise to the challenge and show themselves as true ambassadors for The Lakes School. I have found it quite humbling over the last two weeks with the number of students who have been to see me to talk about their enterprise ideas which help to raise money for charity and also help to support events such as our next theatre production Miss Saigon.

Just this week, two students have been to see me to talk about running a pudding evening in the autumn term. They came with a fantastic business plan and I have no doubt that the evening will be a huge success under their leadership. I am looking forward to seeing Sapphire and Emily's ideas really take off and I hope this is an event you will be able to support during the autumn term.

A number of our Sixth Form students have volunteered to help out with a range of duties at lunchtimes in exchange for £3 which they can spend at the school canteen. Several students are already supervising in the dining area and four students have offered to run film club in the hall at lunchtime to enable students who just want to sit and relax with their friends to go and watch a range of different films. The students who run the film club brought a lump to my throat last week when we were talking about their £3 payment for carrying out this role. They felt that they would rather donate some of their £3 per day to charity than use it to buy food!

The students at The Lakes School never fail to impress me and I know that they are keen to take on more responsibility at their school. The School Council are also working hard to help improve a range of things at the school and I am looking forward to them making a contribution to future newsletters.

Your Views Matter: Parent View

Many of you pass on your overwhelmingly positive views about the school through our parents evening surveys.

I would like to encourage you to complete the Ofsted Parent View survey which, once you have completed a simple log in procedure, enables you to quickly respond to 12 questions about the school.

Ofsted use the site to help inform them about the school prior to an inspection. You can access the site using the link below

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/register>.

Thank you for your help.

Andy Cunningham

Grasmere Primary Parents Evening

I spent a lovely evening this week at Grasmere Primary school for their parents evening. This was a great opportunity for me to speak to parents and for people to ask me questions about The Lakes School. It was great to talk to students at Grasmere and put their minds at rest about taking such a big step. It was also nice to hear success stories from parents whose children had settled in well at The Lakes School and are continuing to flourish.

A Warm Welcome in the Community

It has been my pleasure recently to attend the Windermere Neighbourhood Forum and the Windermere Rotary Club meetings who both invited me to talk to them about the future of The Lakes School. I received such a warm welcome at both of these events and I really enjoyed talking to local people about our aspirations and plans for the future. I met so many people who are eager to work in partnership with the school to develop a range of projects which will provide opportunities for our students to take part in community projects.

Following the neighbourhood forum meeting, we are investigating ways that local councillors can work with the students on key local issues and provide them with a glimpse in to the world of local politics. We are also hoping to work closely with Windermere First Responders to explore the feasibility of sighting a defibrillator on the school site which could be a huge benefit for the community. We are also looking forward to developing strong links with Windermere Rotary Club so that we can make the most of the opportunities available locally. I am very much looking forward to developing our links with the local community and would welcome any contact from community groups who would like to develop their links with The Lakes School.

Praise from Vattenfall Windfarm

Recently, a group of Sixth Form scientists visited Vattenfall Windfarm as part of their curriculum to investigate the energy industry on the Cumbrian coastline. Our students had a fantastic time at the windfarm and I am pleased to say that we have received glowing praise from John Walmsley in the business division who said our students were a credit to the school.

Since arriving at The Lakes School, I have been overwhelmed by the number of opportunities available to students to take part in trips and visits that bring their lessons to life and help them make links with local industries.

