

A Summer of Success Stories

Many congratulations to all of our students who collected their exam results this summer. There were many stories of individual success and lots of smiling faces on both the A-Level and GCSE results days. Personally, I enjoyed talking to the students and finding out about their next steps and I have to say I was overwhelmed by the ambition that our students have and the amount of thought they had put in to planning their futures.

Our A-Level and AS-Level results showed a strong set of results this year and the percentage of students achieving GCSE A*-C Grades in the Ebacc subjects has improved. You may have read in the news about the predicted 'volatility' with the GCSE English and Maths results this summer which has affected many schools across the country including The Lakes School. Along with many other schools and national organisations, we are looking carefully at the reasons behind this 'volatility', securing remarks of work and exam papers where appropriate and taking steps to ensure that we are not one of the schools affected by exam system changes next year. We will be publishing a summary of our 2014 exam results on our new website in the next few weeks.

Welcome Year 7

A warm welcome to our new Year 7 students who are already settling in well. It's lovely to see all of your smiling faces and to hear all of the stories of how our older students are looking after you.

Attitude to Learning - the key to student achievement

During the summer term, Mr Sharp brought together ideas from staff and students to create our brand new attitude to learning descriptors. We realised that we were sending home student reports to parents which contained an attitude to learning grade but we hadn't really made it clear what those grades meant.

We are pleased to announce the launch of our attitude to learning descriptors which will help students, parents and teachers understand what we all mean when we talk about attitude to learning at parents' evenings for example. Read on to find out what a good attitude to learning looks like at The Lakes School.

Attitude Standard	Learning Behaviours
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I do what I am asked by my teacher • I ask my teacher for help when I need it • I put my hand up to answer questions in class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I show respect to others • I work well with others (teamwork)
Knowledge & Understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I ask essential questions to help me understand • I follow advice in order to improve my marks • I apply my literacy and numeracy skills as well as I can • I prepare for tests and exams to check my understanding • I evaluate my reports so I know how to make progress
Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wear the correct uniform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I try my hardest • I am a positive thinker and look for solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I feel proud about my homework • I make sure I catch up if I miss a lesson
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I arrive on time • I have the correct books and equipment • I try to work independently using my own initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I record my homework in my planner • I finish my work on time

The Inset Day Mystery

Someone said to me last week, 'Do we ever tell parents what staff do on training days?' And it made me realise that they must be a mystery to most parents so I thought I would share with you a summary of the work we did on our two inset days at the start of September.

On September 1st, we focused on student achievement and the summer exam results. We looked at what had gone well and what we needed to improve, like all great schools, and subject teachers produced a plan of action for the coming year. We also looked at our school improvement priorities, which we will share on our new website soon, discussed our new staff appraisal system and finalised some new arrangements for how we are going to assess your child and provide you with regular information about their progress and attitude to learning. The English department gave us an introduction to Inference training which is going to help us work with children who need to improve their ability to read for understanding, which is not as easy as it might seem. Staff then spent time together in their subject teams to plan for the year ahead.

On September 2nd, we focussed our training on safeguarding and supporting students with their learning. We began the day with a refresher about school policies concerned with safeguarding and whistleblowing and an update on the new Children and Families Act. We were then pleased to welcome Sgt Bill. Nolan and PC Paul Burke who provided awareness training for our staff on Radicalisation and Child Sexual Exploitation, both of which are national issues. This was followed by a look at how we will spend our Pupil Premium funding and who might be joining us as trainee teachers this year before our Form Tutors met in their house teams to plan the year ahead.

As you can see, we were quite busy; we only really managed to fit everything in because our kitchen staff kept everybody fed and watered for two days! A huge thank you must go to Miriam and her catering team for looking after us on both of our training days last week.

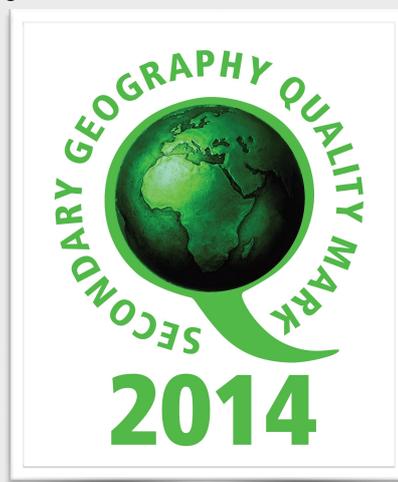
Golfing Success

Many congratulations to Kyle Todd & William Aspinwall who won the junior foursomes Windermere golf championships recently. Kyle also won the junior individual championship on the 19th hole in a match refereed by Aidan McDougall the Junior captain. For the second year running, the Windermere Junior team have won the Cumbria Junior Southern League. We also send our huge congratulations to Mrs Wadmore who has won the ladies club championship played over 36 holes with a score of 9&8.

Andy Cunningham

Geography Quality Mark

Following an amazing amount of hard work by Mr Griffiths, we are pleased to announce that The Lakes School has recently been awarded the Secondary Geography Quality Mark for its excellent Geography provision throughout the school. Congratulations to Mr Griffiths and his team.



Facelift

During the summer holidays, the school has undergone a number of improvements. We have improved the look of the front of the school with a block paved area and a drop off bay for delivery vehicles. We have removed an unsightly shed and clad an existing shed. We have also begun the installation of a dedicated graphics room in the technology department which will increase our ICT provision and see the introduction of graphics as a curriculum subject from September 2015. We have also improved ICT provision in the Sixth Form area.

William Smith Wins Photo Competition

Congratulations to William Smith who has recently won the under 16 category in the Cumbria Wildlife Trust Meadow Life competition. Will has won a £100 voucher and one of two books, 'A Year in the life of an English Meadow' by Andy Garnett and Polly Devlin or 'The Meadow' by Barney Wilczak. Williams winning photo will appear in the 2015 Cumbria Wildlife Trust calendar and he also had his photo below exhibited on the Meadow Life stand at the Westmorland County Show this week.

