



Happy New Year

With 2015 now well under way I am pleased to say that the new term at The Lakes School has started well. The spring term is an exciting time for Year 9 and Year 11 students who have already begun thinking about their GCSE and A Level options including thoughts about college courses and apprenticeships for some. Following this year's success with the Year 8 into Year 9 options programme this will also be an exciting time for our current Year 8 students who will soon be considering which technology and creative arts subjects to choose as they move into Year 9 in September. This small option choice has proven extremely popular with students and staff since its introduction in September 2014 and is proving to be a fantastic springboard for preparing students ready for their GCSE choices.

Attendance + Attitude to Learning = Progress

We have five assessment points throughout the year when teachers assess students according to how much progress they have made and according to their Attitude to Learning - these are also times when we take a snapshot of the attendance right across the school. We know that there is a clear link between a student's attendance, their attitude to learning and the progress that they make right across all of their subjects.

Good attendance and attitude to learning are absolutely essential if students are going to achieve their potential and particularly if they are going to achieve their aspirational target grades. After each assessment point we talk to each year group in an assembly called 'This is You', where we let all of the students know the general picture of their progress in English and maths, we let them know their average attitude to learning as a year group and we also compare one assessment point's attendance data with the next. A number of students, and some parents, have said how beneficial this is in helping them realise the importance of their role in helping not just to improve their own attendance, attitude to learning and progress but also how they can, in a small way, contribute to how well their year group is doing at The Lakes School.

We present this information to students as pie charts and bar charts and this makes it easy for them to understand how they are making improvements from one assessment point to the next and highlights key areas for the year group to improve which they can then go away and work on as individuals before the next assessment point. It's also a great chance to show our students how proud of them we are and to celebrate their success.

At this point in the year I would particularly like to mention attendance and to remind parents the importance of regular attendance for all students. We would ask parents to do their best to avoid taking children out of school for holidays in term time as a block of time out of school can have a serious impact on your child's progress due to the work missed. Lengthy absence can also cause a break in momentum for students. We would like to encourage parents to look at the attendance section of our website which contains useful information about our expectations of student attendance.

Winter Weather

During this period of the year when we expect snow and ice, please can I ask all parents to refer to the school closure section of our website in the caring menu just to familiarise yourself how you will be informed should we sadly need to close the school.



Ask Year 7

We have some great news for our local primary school children who might like to find out more information about The Lakes School. A small group of our current Year 7 students have recently set up a new email address: y7ask@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk to enable children from our local primary schools to email in their questions knowing that they will be answered by our Year 7 students.

Mrs Storton, our Year 7 transition co-ordinator, has helped a small group of our Year 7 students to organise this, she will receive all the emails from primary school children and pass them on to our Year 7 students so that they can draft a response to be sent back to the child. If you know any young children in our local primary schools who would like to find out more information about The Lakes School from Year 7 students themselves, then please encourage them to email on the address below.

y7ask@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk



By a Lake, Across a Field

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Lakes School we are hoping to make a short film. The film will feature the voices of current pupils at the school reading out the written memories of ex pupils, as well as archive photographs and newly shot footage of the school. **We need your help** if you were a pupil at The Lakes and would like to share a memory or two that can be read as part of the soundtrack to this film.

Ideally, your memory would include roughly what year it is from and can be as short as a couple of sentences or as long as a few paragraphs. It could be about your first day, your last day, your best day or your worst day. An inspiring teacher, moment or a friend you made for life. Memories from a school dance, a concert, a sports match, a prize, trip, club or detention. Whatever you want, but hopefully something that reveals something about the character and influence of the school you attended and the era you were a pupil.

We are particularly keen to hear from any pupils who were there on the opening day, in 1965. We would also love to receive any photographs you may have of the school, from any era, that can be included in the film.

The film will be made by ex pupil Michael Cumming, who attended the school between 1974 and 1981. Michael started his filmmaking career in The Lakes School Cine Club in 1976 and is now an award winning television director. The rest of the crew and production team will also be made up of alumni and current pupils wherever possible. The film will be screened as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations and will be available to view online, via the school website.

Everyone who contributes a story we use will get a credit at the end of the film. Occasionally, the text may need to be edited to fit. Please write down your memories and send your photos to us at The Lakes School or submit them via our anniversary email address 50th@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk. The deadline for submissions is March 2nd 2015. To the right is an example from the seventies.



Anarchy in Troutbeck Bridge

'I played in lots of school bands during my time at The Lakes, they were some of my happiest memories, but this was the first - for me and the school. After months of persuasion, an inaugural 'gig' was eventually allowed to go ahead. Half an hour of lunchtime punk. Tickets price - 10p. Drama Studio. All proceeds to charity.

I was fifteen. It was winter 1977. Punk took a while to pogo up from Manchester's Free Trade Hall to sleepy Troutbeck Bridge. Six boys, crammed into a tiny room off the balcony, changed out of uniform and into something ripped. Desperately trying, in a pre-gel world, to cajole hair to spike with soap and water. I peered down at the turbulent grey and blue sea below and felt sick. The lights dimmed and on we stumbled, all sweat and safety pins. We were nervous, under rehearsed, out of tune and the lyrics were mostly inaudible. It was the best feeling in the world. I was hooked for life.'

Submit your own Lakes School memories to 50th@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk.

