



Holocaust Memorial - 70 Years

We were very proud to be invited to attend the Holocaust Memorial event at The Birdcage, Kendal on January 26th 2015. As you may already know, the history of The Lakes School dates back to October 8th 1965 when the school itself was opened but, before that, 300 Jewish children were relocated from Germany to The Calgarth Estate which stood on the site of our school. During 2015, the world is remembering the Holocaust, 70 years on, and we will be thinking back to the history of The Lakes School, 50 years on from when we opened as a comprehensive school.

Two of our students, Tom Gardner and Keelan Hardy, were invited to the Holocaust Memorial event to read pieces they had written, specifically for the memorial event. Tom wrote a short piece about the importance of remembering the Holocaust and Keelan wrote a poem. Both Tom and Keelan can be seen reading their pieces in the photographs below.



Mr Hardy and Mrs Black, in our art department, worked with a small team of students and created some very moving and thought provoking pictograms which were suspended from The Birdcage, as you can see in the images below.



Holocaust Project

If you would like to find out more information about the Lake District Holocaust Project then follow the link below www.ldhp.co.uk.

Ski Trip Success

We are pleased to report that all of our students and staff returned safely from their ski trip to Austria during the February half term. The Lakes School has a long tradition of organising ski trips and we will be featuring some images from the trip on our website in the near future.

ITV Border Visit

We were pleased to welcome ITV Border recently who have featured The Lakes School in a news item about school sport.

The feature shows staff and students talking about the importance of PE and school sport to young people.

A link to the film can be found in the press section of our website.

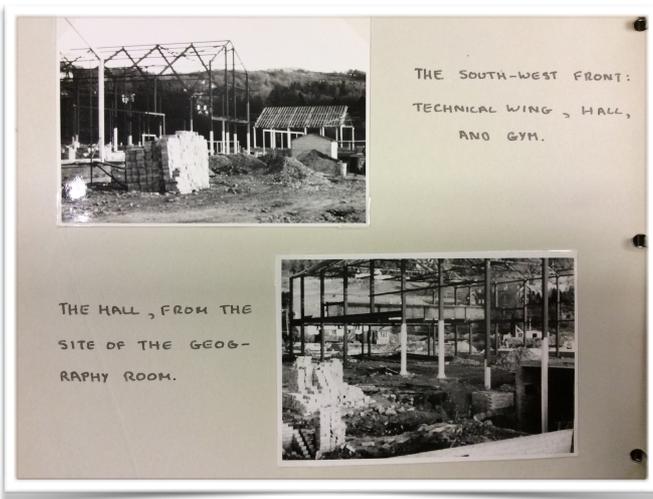
Our 50th Anniversary

Thank you to all those people who have contacted us about our 50th anniversary. We have had people email us from as far afield as Australia! Stories, images, memories, suggestions and ideas are being submitted to our dedicated email account 50th@lakes.cumbria.sch.uk and we would encourage everyone with a connection to the school to get in touch.

Early thoughts about the anniversary celebrations include a formal anniversary event on or around October 8th 2015, organising an archive of materials at the school, curriculum events throughout the year 2015-2016 and a whole range of other events and ideas. We have also been discussing how to commemorate the 50th anniversary with a film, a booklet or a souvenir.

One of our biggest responsibilities will be to gather memories from the past so please do get in touch to share those memories. We could arrange for you to be interviewed by some of our talented students who would be only too pleased to record your memories for you - they might even offer you a cuppa and some cake!

Please check out our website for more information about how you can contribute to our 50th anniversary.



Mental Health at The Lakes School

The Lakes School has a strong reputation for being a caring school and we take our responsibilities in this area very seriously. The smiles we see in classrooms and corridors everyday tell us that students are happy at their school but we know that there are times when young people need support to get through a difficult time.

During a recent assembly, I encouraged our students to think about who they would turn to for help. The great thing about The Lakes School is that students can not only speak to staff but we also have a team of trained peer mentors - a group of students who can help to signpost younger students to the right adult in the school who can help them. We have also encouraged our students to think about parents, grand parents, siblings and friends as good people to talk to if they need help.

We encourage our students and staff to be mindful of the following thought, 'Be kind, for everyone is fighting a battle that you know nothing about.' I felt it was important to share this with parents that we have talked to students about seeking help if they are stressed or worried. We will of course keep parents informed if your child comes to us for help.

Speaking of Mindfulness

A number of staff at The Lakes School, including myself, are half way through a Mindfulness course which is helping us learn techniques to manage stress and anxiety. We then intend to develop Mindfulness at the school to support our students with their mental health which could be related to exam stress, workload, personal difficulties or a wide range of other issues.

This will become another huge strength for the school and I look forward to keeping you informed about how we are looking after the mental health of our young people.

You said, we listened!

We always welcome feedback about The Lakes School and enjoy hearing thoughts about how we can improve our service to students, parents and the community.

Recently, we have been listening to students and parents about several things so I thought I would update you.

In the near future we will be revisiting our approach to homework and looking at how we can communicate more effectively to parents about what we expect from our students in each subject and in each year group. We will also be improving the way we inform parents about our curriculum in each subject area.

I am also pleased to say that we have now published a staff list on our website to make it easier for parents to identify a key point of contact at the school. Visit the Contact Us page for more information.

We are working on these areas as a direct response to feedback from parents so please keep talking to us. I will soon be meeting with groups of students to talk to them about their school so I will keep you informed about their views.