



As the summer term draws to a close, we say a very fond farewell to our Year 13 students who recently enjoyed a lovely evening at Windermere Hydro celebrating seven years of friendships and experiences that will last a lifetime. It really has been a huge pleasure to see our Year 13 students develop in to wonderfully talented and caring young adults and we wish them all every success for the future. The doors at The Lakes School are always open and we encourage you all to come back and talk to us about your adventures.



We also recently enjoyed a wonderful evening with our Year 11 Leavers at The Low Wood Hotel who always look after us wonderfully well. This was an emotional night for me as this year group were rosy faced Year 7 students when I was lucky enough to join The Lakes School in January 2014. Thank you for being such fantastic ambassadors for The Lakes School and we look forward to following your careers with great interest.



Read on for articles from our Head Girl and Head Boy and our Chair of Governors...

## Parent Calendar

In response to feedback from parents, we're reinventing the way we inform you about our school events from parents evenings to term dates to Parent Forum meetings and more.

Parents told us that the events calendar on our website was not easy to navigate so we are now producing an Office 365 calendar that you can synchronise to your mobile device. This calendar will enable us to easily add new dates and also build in reminders to help you stay organised.

We will contact you soon with instructions about how to access our Parent Calendar.

## Results Days

Important dates for our Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents.

### A-Level Result Day

16th August 2018

### GCSE Results Day

23rd August 2018

Results can be collected on both days from 9.00am and staff will be on hand to provide support and guidance with securing a place at our Sixth Form, Kendal College or University. We look forward to sharing in the success of our students and invite parents to join us for a chat and refreshments on results days.

## Did you know?

We now have a letters page on our website where you can access and download all of the important letters that we send out to parents including things like term dates, letters about trips and events or important safety information.

You can access the letters archive by navigating to the Links menu on our website or by following this [link](#) which will take you directly to the relevant page.

## Uniform

We have been listening carefully to parents and students and I am pleased to be able to update you about our uniform expectations for September 2018. Comprehensive information about The Lakes School uniform can be found on our website by following this [link](#) or by visiting the uniform page.

We would like to encourage all parents and students to check with the school prior to purchasing any clothing that may not be permissible as school uniform. Coniston Corporate provide pre-approved uniform for our school and items in high street shops are not always acceptable at The Lakes School.

**Footwear:** there are some great hybrid shoes/trainers on the market which are comfortable and smart and we are pleased to announce that, from September 2018, students will be allowed to wear plain black hybrid shoes/trainers. We must stress that footwear needs to be plain black and must not feature coloured piping or coloured detail of any kind. Canvas style trainers are not allowed

**Trousers:** we are sensitive to changing fashions and aware that a slimmer fitting trouser is the preference for a number of students. We are pleased to announce that, from September 2018, students will be allowed to wear slimmer fitting trousers which can be sourced through our uniform supplier Coniston Corporate. Please note that this does not include leggings or jeans or other unsuitable trousers which may contain numerous zips.

During warm weather, we are happy for students to wear smart tailored shorts or a skirt instead of trousers. Traditional black trousers will of course still be part of our standard uniform expectations. Skirts must be knee length at least.

We would like to remind all parents and students that jewellery is not to be worn at The Lakes School and hair styles must be appropriate for school. Coloured, shaved and heavily stylised hair is not acceptable.

We hope that the information above shows that we listen carefully to our students and parents and that we are keen to reflect on our student expectations and make adjustments as necessary. The governors of The Lakes School have approved these uniform changes in the belief that they will support parents, staff and students. Whilst our priority is to inspire and care for all of our students, we thank parents in advance for your support in ensuring that your child arrives at The Lakes School dressed appropriately and in accordance with our uniform expectations.

Coniston Corporate provide a great service to parents at The Lakes School and they are always happy to help. You can access The Lakes School uniform page by clicking on this [link](#).



## 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 period.

During a recent assembly, Mr Theobald encouraged our students to think about who they would turn to for help. The great thing about The Lakes School is that students can speak to staff about their worries and we have also encouraged our students to think about parents, grandparents, 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 and we will of course keep parents informed if your child comes to us for help.

## Letters from Year 5 and Year 6 Children

I love to receive hand-written letters and I am pleased to say that I have recently received many lovely letters from Year 5 and Year 6 children in local Primary schools who are excited about joining The Lakes School. I always write back and look forward to receiving many more letters over the summer holiday.

## Student and Parent Surveys

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 areas and we are working on a number of areas including our new homework policy, the use of mobile devices in school, uniform expectations and much more.

We will be sharing more detail with you soon through a dedicated newsletter which will be released at the start of the autumn term.

## Astroturf Opening

Earlier this summer, we welcomed Tim Farron who opened our newly resurfaced astroturf pitch which is now perfect for hockey. We would like to thank Richard Belk of Windermere Hockey Club for securing the funding for this project.

We wish Windermere Hockey Club every success for the future and look forward to many years of working closely with the club in support of local talent.





## A Letter from our Head Girl and Head Boy

Dear Parents and Students,

This is Lucie Staniek and Ethan Rigby-Nelson, the new Head Girl and Head Boy of the Lakes School.

We have many exciting ideas for this upcoming year and intend to share these with you so you know how we are trying to improve certain aspects of the school to ensure it is a caring and learning community for our students.



Firstly, in order to help support the students of the Lakes School, (and make the transition for the year 7's easier) we plan to get the sixth form students involved in the morning, in the younger students' forms. This will allow the students to engage with the sixth formers in case they need any help or support, as a teacher might be busy or they might want to get advice from a fellow peer. Also, we plan to place a suggestion box in the main entrance of the school. This is intended to allow students, and potentially parents, a chance to advise the school on how to do better in an anonymous way, as we understand it can be daunting for new students to approach staff and older students. We hope this will give every student a chance to have their views impartially listened to.



Furthermore, we understand that worldwide events are extremely important and spoken about more openly in schools. So, in order for students to get involved in sharing their ideas and understanding certain events, that are perhaps overlooked, we plan to have assembly's that might benefit or widen the students perspectives on certain events that are currently very important. This includes: the plastic crisis, political issues, (such as Trump migration and Brexit) and any other events/crises that concern pupils. We also plan to have a greater charity initiative, where hopefully one day a month we as a school will either raise awareness, or money for a given organisation or issue, within many different communities.



Moreover, environmental issues are coming to our attention now, more than ever. This includes the conservation of endangered species, as the extinction rate has risen in the past few years to unprecedented levels. Therefore, we plan to have more information available for the students to find out more about this and what they could perhaps do to raise awareness. Also, to make the school more eco-friendly, we plan to get more recycling bins in all the classrooms, to lower our carbon footprint. We will be able to get students involved, as different forms at the end of the week can collect the recycling bins and take them outside to where we recycle them.

These are just a few of the ideas we have for helping to improve The Lakes School community. We hope that these ideas will give more support to the pupils and allow them to share their ideas more openly and in an educated way.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter,

Lucie and Ethan.





## A Fond Farewell

This summer, we say a fond farewell to several members of our team who go on to begin brand new adventures. At the end of term we say our goodbyes to Mrs Dixon, Mr Kieley, Mrs Shaw, Mr Leonard, Mrs Black and Miss Houlihan. We also say goodbye to Mrs Corrie, Mrs Buxton and Mrs Reid from our administration team.

We wish you all every success with your new roles and projects and thank you for your tireless dedication to supporting young people at The Lakes School. We will all miss your care and expertise and we wish you well as you take on this new phase of your life.

## A Warm Welcome to...

We are excited to be welcoming new additions to our team who will join us from September 2018. Mr Shaw joins us in English. Mrs Fitzherbert and Mr Duggan join us in Science. Mrs Benson joins us in Art. Mrs Ortega joins us in Spanish. Mrs Ingram joins our administration team. We also welcome Mrs Erickson who joins our PE and Sport team. She will be developing Youth Sport Trust Inclusion programmes across Cumbria to engage young people in a wide range of activities including a number of projects which will provide great leadership and participation opportunities for our students at The Lakes School. Mrs Erickson will be working closely with Ms Jeffrey, Head of PE, and also Mrs Nicholson, School Games Organiser.

We also welcome back Mrs Young and Ms Nelson.

## Buttons Galore!

What a year it's been! Following Holocaust survivor Arek Hersh's visit in July last year, Year 9 students were tasked with designing a Holocaust memorial. This led to a discussion about the sheer quantity of victims, and students struggled to conceptualise the numbers being discussed. 6 million Jews, of which 1.5 million were children, and a total of 11-15 million overall. We then decided to collect 1.5 million of a small item, to help students to grasp the scale of the tragedy. Buttons were chosen because 'they are all different, just like the children who lost their lives.' With our school's history as the former home of the 300 'Windermere Boys' (and girls!), it felt fitting to focus particularly on the child victims.



It is fair to say the response has been enormous. From a simple social media post appealing for buttons, we've had donations from all corners of the globe, and have surpassed our target of 1.5 million. To date, we have in excess of 2 million, and we are still counting. The whole community has supported the project, donating, attending community counting days and providing logistical help and support. Special thanks to the Ambleside Rainbows and Brownies, who have counted nearly 30,000 buttons for us. We have been both humbled and blown away by the response, and hope that this project serves as a meaningful learning tool for our students and our community for years to come.

## Message from our Chair of Governors

With another school year coming to a close, this newsletter forms a timely reminder of the tremendous range of achievements, activities and aspirations of the students and staff at The Lakes School.

The Lakes School is a community and, like any community, one that encompasses the attainment of great success, delivery of wonderful opportunities and, occasionally, the need to meet challenges that may be unforeseen.

The Lakes School is undoubtedly a resilient and progressive community and, as Chair of the Governing Body, I have the good fortune to witness first hand many of the issues that impact on the school on a day to day basis. Along with my fellow governors, we are continually impressed by the positive and calm atmosphere created within the school, the presentation and politeness of the students, their individual achievements and the dedication and commitment of the teaching staff. Undoubtedly a community that all should be proud to participate within.

Since taking the chair I have come to even better appreciate and understand the many levels of expertise required throughout the school to ensure that positive momentum is maintained. Rural schools such as ours are continually faced with the challenges of maintaining and developing educational outcomes whilst managing the ever-increasing financial challenges of balancing complex budgets. As Governors, we will do all that we can to meet these challenges head on in a manner that preserves all that is good within the school.

Whilst we are also obviously extremely mindful of these needs we also recognise the importance of ensuring that the school continues to provide a caring, safe learning environment whilst meeting the diverse needs of our students as we work to attain one of our key goals; the school achieving a 'Good' rating at our next Ofsted inspection.

The various articles within this newsletter reinforce my belief about the unique environment that is The Lakes School. A school that strives to provide an educationally inspiring environment alongside one able to equip all of its students with the life skills necessary to make their way in the future.

With many schools now seeking to increase school numbers by aggressive marketing, often in areas well beyond their traditional catchments, there is danger at those schools of students being regarded as a commodity not a community.

This newsletter contains examples of many of the great things that take place across the school and the opportunities ahead for all involved, opportunities created not just by the staff, but by the students themselves, not as commodities but as important members of our community.

Bill Smith, Chair of Governors.