

It's been an exciting term at The Lakes School

It's been a busy spring term at The Lakes School and we trust that you are looking forward to the warmth of a Cumbrian summer which is just around the corner.

The Lakes School continues to be full of life on a daily basis with staff, students and parents making great things happen and it is important to make time to think back on those memories as they are easily forgotten. Our Facebook page captures so many great stories about the school and we are also pleased to reveal that a brand new Facebook page has been opened by The Lakes School Community Partnership; more news about this later in the newsletter.



You will have read that OFSTED visited us during the autumn term and provided us with a seal of approval about the work we are all doing together to improve provision for our students as we march towards our next inspection. This week, we have also been pleased to welcome an inspector as part of the Cumbria wide SEND inspection. The inspector was impressed with the work of our Student Development Team and our links with professionals throughout the county to support SEND students. We look forward to sharing the full report with you on behalf of Cumbria County Council during the summer term.

In addition, staff have continued to organise a myriad of educational visits and extra-curricular opportunities for students. If that wasn't enough, our students continue to make a huge contribution to the life of the school. Many run charity events, organise bake sales and raise funds to support the things that we love at The Lakes School which has included the recent opening of our Reef Room and a fabulous careers event which was organised by our Sixth Form business students.



Fond Farewells

At the end of the spring term we say very fond farewells to several staff who have, over many years, made a huge contribution to the life of The Lakes School.

On 29th March 2019, we say farewell to...

Mrs Wileman, School Business Manager, who has dedicated over 20 years to managing the finances of the school.

Mr Seed, Site Manager, who has overseen the care and development of The Lakes School site for many years.

Mr Mwenya, who we are proud to acknowledge as being our oldest member of the cleaning team and who has given many years of service to the school.

Mr Wilson, our Attendance Officer, who has helped to develop our attendance systems in school during the last year.

Mr Gallagher, who has done a fine job supporting our English team since January 2019.

Warm Welcomes

On 15th April 2019, we extend our traditionally warm welcome to the following new staff...

Mrs Proctor, who joins our English team.

Mr Eccles, who takes up the role of Senior Site Manager and will preside over some exciting developments this summer.

Mrs Barnes, who joins us as Attendance Officer.

Do we have your details?

Please help us to keep your child safe by telling us promptly if you change your home address or emergency contact numbers.

Send a note to reception or call 015394 40810

In Memory of Mr Busbridge

We recently had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs Gilbert back to The Lakes School. Mrs Gilbert is the widow of Mr Busbridge who sadly passed away earlier this year. Many of you will I'm sure remember fondly that Mrs Gilbert and Mr Busbridge were inspirational members of the science team at The Lakes School.

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Gilbert will be sponsoring an annual science prize in memory of Mr Busbridge. The prize will be awarded at our annual awards evening and will recognise the achievement of an inspirational Lakes School student in the field of science.

I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Gilbert for her kind gesture. We look forward to first awarding this prize in September 2019 at our awards evening.

The Lakes School Website: Subject Pages!

Our school website provides a great place to find some of the more 'static' information about the school and is a perfect complement to our school Facebook page, newsletters and other letters we provide for parents and the wider community. Here are a few really useful developments that you may find helpful.

Our **Calendar of Events** page contains a link to our live Office 365 parent calendar which can be viewed on a PC or mobile device. We are currently working on next year's calendar and will release this during the summer term. From this page, you can also access our **term dates** which are published up until the end of August 2021. Further term dates will be published soon.

If you are looking for recent newsletters or letters from Mr Cunningham or other useful information sent out by the school then you might like to look in our Links menu and click on the **Letters** section. In here, you will find a range of communications from the school.

We are also pleased to announce that our **Subject Pages** are now in development! Following feedback last year from the Parent Forum, we have developed a series of subject specific pages where you will soon be able to find out about the curriculum offer in each subject at The Lakes School. The subject pages will also include information about career opportunities, further study and a range of information that will help you support your child with their studies. We will be working on the subject pages during April and look forward to sharing them with you via Facebook as they reach completion.



Garry Holmes with our Rugby Squad

Reef Room

During the last six months of 2018, students and staff worked hard to raise funds for a sensory room in school. This fundraising has enabled us to buy resources including paint and sensory lighting and we are now very proud to announce the opening of our new facility which is based near room 15 and will be used as a multi-sensory 'down-time space' for students.

A huge thank you to Bliss Rullo for instigating the whole idea and also raising the profile of Autism in school. Thank you also to Robyn Allen and Estelle Gabrielle Ainsworth for their art work and to Leo Atkinson and Rosie Musetti for their constant support throughout the project.



Archaeologists Set to Dig The Lakes

Many of you will be aware of the unique history of The Lakes School which dates back to the time when Calgarth was nestled on the school site, the development of Windermere Flying Boats and the arrival of 300 Windermere Boys.

We are excited to announce that the Lake District Holocaust Project are working closely with archaeologists from the University of Stafford to excavate sections of the school site and this is set to take place at the end of July 2019.

We recently welcomed Trevor Avery and Rose Smith from LDHP and three archaeologists who are excited about the prospect of uncovering the footprint of some of the Calgarth buildings and artefacts from the time when the Calgarth Estate was inhabited. We look forward to sharing more details later in the summer about how the community can get involved.



Arbor: Our New Information System

Over the Christmas period, we completed a transition to a new information management system which is already helping us to improve the way we work with students and parents. This new system is provided by a company called Arbor and it replaces our old system called SIMS.

This new **Arbor** system has many advantages. Most notably, the system provides us with live information about attendance, behaviour, merits and student achievement.

One of the reasons we chose this system is because it will enable us to respond to feedback from The Parent Forum and from the results of our parent survey of summer 2018. Specifically, this new Arbor system has enabled us to make sweeping improvements to our progress reports to parents and we will also be launching the **Arbor Parent Portal** in the summer of 2019 which will help parents access live information about your child's life at The Lakes School. The parent portal will also make it easier for you update your child's key details such as emergency contact information and to easily pay for trips!

You will have already received your child's 'report card' in February for Assessment Point 3 and early feedback from parents has been very positive with parents commenting on the more personalised and clear layout which makes the information easier to access. We look forward to collecting more of your views during the summer term.

Early in the summer term, you will receive an email from Arbor containing instructions about how to log in to the Parent Portal. Please send a note in to school if you need to update your email address on our system. Thank you.

Cashless Catering and SIMS Agora

Many parents have told us that they have found the SIMS Agora payments site quite difficult to navigate and we are aware of parents who are also having issues with logging in to their account. At the same time, our cashless catering equipment has required an upgrade and we are pleased to announce that we are making improvements to our cashless catering arrangements and improving the way that parents can pay for school meals.

We realise that it is important for parents to top-up their child's meal account from home. We prefer this approach as it means we do not need to spend time managing cash and it ensures that our students are less likely to mislay any money they bring in to school. The system will be familiar to students as we will continue to use the thumb print which is securely stored within the system.

Our new cashless catering system will be provided by CRB Cunningham's (who, incidentally, have no connection to anyone at The Lakes School), and this new system comes with a new parent payment account called **iPayImpact**.

In the near future, you will receive an email from the iPayImpact team which will enable you to set up your account so that you can add money securely to pay for your child's meals. We're certain that both of these developments will improve the service we provide to parents and we are pleased to be able to respond to parent feedback.



The Lakes School Community Partnership

Raising Awareness, Funding our Future

The Lakes School Community Partnership has been created to work together with the Headteacher and staff, Parent Forum and Governors and was instigated by Mr Bill Smith, Chair of Governors and the the Bowness and Windermere Care Trust.

The work of The Lakes School Community Partnership has already attracted financial support from Ambleside Kirkstone Rotary Club which helped to fund a 3D printer which has already been well used by our engineering students.

Will Smith, Sixth Form engineering student, can be seen pictured below after his recent talk at Ambleside Kirkstone Rotary along with members of the club, Mr Sharp and Mrs Hogg who were present to hear Will talk about his amazing engineering project and the difference the 3D printer has made to his work in the technology department at The Lakes School.



LSCP are holding a fundraising night in the form of Camel Racing, Friday 10th May, in the evening. All are welcome to attend, parents, staff from the School, grandparents and anyone interested in a fun evening. More information can be found on the Facebook page for Lakes School Community Partnership.



Our winners of the Advanced Rotary Technology Tournament.

10 APPS TEENS ARE USING THAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

- Calculator%**
This app looks like a calculator but functions like a secret photo vault.
- Hot or Not**
Strangers rate your profile. Goal is to lead to a hook up.
- Omegle**
A free online chat website that promotes chatting anonymously to strangers.
- Burn Book**
Post anonymous rumors about people through audio messages, texts, and photos.
- Snapchat**
This is the way most teens communicate with each other. Sending messages and snaps that disappear within seconds and stories go away after 24 hours. Teens live for a "streak" of communication.
- Wishbone**
An app that allows users to compare kids against each other and rate them on a scale.
- Whisper**
An anonymous app where the creators promote sharing secrets and meeting new people.
- Kik**
Messaging app. Kik has built in apps and web content that would be filtered on home computer.
- Ask.fm**
Ask an anonymous question and get an answer. This app has been linked to the most severe forms of cyberbullying.
- Instagram**
Many kids are now creating fake accounts "finsta" to hide content from parents. Kids also like to text using Instagram because most kids know parents won't check messages.

Staying Safe Online

As a parent, you will be very much aware of the temptation for young people to spend time online communicating with friends. Whilst mobile devices and apps can be a great tool for modern day living, we are all aware of the need to stay safe online and young people need our constant advice and support in this regard.

The graphic to the left highlights just some of the mobile apps that your child may be using to communicate with friends. More concerning is that young people may be using these apps quite innocently before they realise that people they don't know are sending them unpleasant messages and finding out private information.

Staying on top of the ever increasing number of apps and websites is a challenge but one piece of advice will continue to help young people; please spend time talking to your child regularly about their mobile phone use and encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult about anything they feel is unacceptable or may be upsetting them. Closing accounts, deleting apps, blocking users and reporting inappropriate content is essential.

Student Development Team

Our Student Development Team provides an impressive package of support for our students and we thought we would share with you the extensive range of programmes available at The Lakes School to ensure that students develop in to confident adults with strong aspirations for the future. Our Student Development Team is constantly evolving and responding to the needs of our students.

The Lakes School: Student Development Team Provision

Academic Development

English & Maths

Rationale

Unlocking the mystery of English and Maths and building the foundations of sound Literacy and Numeracy will help children with learning needs succeed in all areas of the curriculum and prepare the for a future career.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop their skills and confidence in English and Maths through a personalised curriculum. The focus for this programme is to help children reach age related expectations.

Specific Activities

Passport Maths
Key Stage 1 and 2 SATs Questions

Target Group

Children who need to develop the building blocks of English and Maths so that they can confidently work in mainstream classes.

Special Programmes

Rationale

Children with learning needs often have acute gaps in their basic language, numeracy or processing skills and these programmes target those specific needs.

Curriculum

This programme covers a wide range of interventions which are specifically tailored to a child's needs.

Specific Activities

IDL
Phonics
ASDAN
AQA Unit Awards

Target Group

Children with identified specific needs who need a targeted intervention programme to address a specific aspect of their learning.

Pupil Premium

Rationale

Pupil Premium students

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, support will be tailored to the needs of PP students in line with barriers identified.

Specific Activities

Aspirations Support
Attitude to Learning Support
Support for families

Target Group

Pupil Premium Students

EHCP

Rationale

Students with EHCP hours

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop their ability to work independently within the classroom environment.

Specific Activities

These will be identified within the child's EHCP.

Target Group

Children with EHCP

Personal Development

Social & Emotional

Rationale

Socialising, striking up conversation, managing emotions, learning to feel comfortable in difficult situations and learning social etiquette are often key areas for development for children with learning needs.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will gain confidence in social situations and develop emotional intelligence through working as part of a team and taking on leadership roles and responsibilities.

Specific Activities

Group Tasks
Sports Leadership

Target Group

Children who need to develop their communication skills and emotional intelligence so that they can forge positive relationships with others.

Confidence & Resilience

Rationale

Feeling confident and secure in your own abilities and being able to work through challenging tasks or difficult situations are often key areas for development for children with learning needs.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop confidence and resilience through experiences in the natural environment.

Specific Activities

Outdoor Journeys
Walking
Canoeing
Climbing
Route Planning
Gardening
Environmental Work

Target Group

Children who need to feel good about themselves so that they can tackle life's challenges and see positives in learning from mistakes.

Life Skills

Rationale

To develop the skills needed to be independent in the future.

Curriculum

Throughout this programme, children will develop their life skills.

Specific Activities

Management of money
Independent journeys
Personal Hygiene

Target Group

Children who need to develop the skills needed to run a home and manage themselves and their family.

Attendance

Rationale

Children with poor attendance.

Curriculum

This programme covers a wide range of procedures which feature in our attendance policy.

Specific Activities

Support meetings with staff
Rewards
Use of County Inclusion Team

Target Group

Children with less than 90% attendance
Persistent Absentees
Children with high absence due to illness