



We start 2020 with a spring in our step following our positive Ofsted inspection in November 2019 and we thought this would be a good time to update you with some important messages. You will be pleased to know that we continue to look ahead with plans to further develop The Lakes School so that it continues to provide local children and families with a first rate experience of school. We will continue to be a caring, learning community and a school that works in a warm and supportive way whilst expecting the very best from our students. We hope that you enjoy the following updates.

**Holocaust Memorial Day: Marking the 75th Anniversary**

The history of The Lakes School is very special indeed and it has been our pleasure to work closely with Trevor Avery and Rose Smith at the Lake District Holocaust Project as we continue to share with our students and community the amazing history of the Windermere Boys and Calgarth.

On Monday 27th January 2020, Molly and Ed (pictured below) joined the memorial event in Windermere where they read their own reflective and moving work about The Holocaust; work they had produced last year as entries for the Alf Huberman Award. Once again, Molly and Ed proved themselves to be fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Mr Pickering and Miss Fisher have been busy during the last 18 months facilitating visit after visit to The Lakes School. During this time, we have enjoyed visits from a wide range of people interested in the history of the school site including Holocaust survivors, a team of archaeologists, BBC TV, and BBC Radio. These visits have culminated in some fantastic experiences for The Lakes School including the BBC Four programme Digging for Britain, TV and radio features about B's Buttons and the receipt of heartwarming letters and emails from people connected with the history of the school site.

In addition, we were all transfixed by the BBC dramatisation The Windermere Children which told the moving and uplifting story of the children who arrived at The Calgarth Estate, Troutbeck Bridge, as refugees in 1945. The high level of care, the nurturing environment and the desire to help each child find their hidden talents were themes that came across strongly in the programme and we are proud to keep such a philosophy alive today at The Lakes School.



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**ALFRED HUBERMAN**



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[HMD Trust](#)

## Social Media

Just like any organisation or public figure, schools attract unhelpful attention via social media and we can only trust that people who are connected with The Lakes School reflect their views positively on social media. Recently, we have become aware of several Instagram accounts that re-post images of other students featuring unhelpful messages or share 'the person you like' at The Lakes School. Whilst to some students this might be fun, there is of course a fine line between light-hearted fun and online bullying.



It is pleasing that, since we spoke to a small group of students who featured on the accounts, both accounts have been removed from Instagram and this is great news. Whilst it is impossible to control social media, you can be reassured as parents that we will look to close any accounts that are brought to our attention that we consider to be unhelpful.

Please could we ask you to closely monitor your child's social media use. We know that so many of you do this regularly and we also know that some children are very adept at concealing some accounts that they might have liked. We would also like to thank the parents who have called us in recent weeks to let us know about an account their child has liked so that we can speak to those involved.

For further information about keeping your child safe on the internet, you might like to visit <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>.

## Changes to our Assessment, Recording and Reporting Arrangements (ARR)

During the last 12 months we have been reflecting on our Assessment, Recording and Reporting arrangements, commonly referred to in schools as ARR. These arrangements cover how schools assess children, set targets, record this information and, most importantly for parents, how a school communicates assessment information so that you are kept informed about your child's progress. We have been listening to parents via the Parent Forum and also through discussions at parents evenings and we are pleased to announce some improvements to our ARR arrangements which will help parents gain a clearer understanding of your child's progress.

You will be pleased to hear that we are currently putting the finishing touches to a document called '*Assessment: A Guide for Parents*' which will help to explain how we set targets for your child and how to interpret the reports after each assessment point. We look forward to releasing this to parents in the near future.

It was January 2019 when teaching staff began reviewing their curriculum and assessment arrangements and this is always a time consuming piece of work in a school. At the beginning of the process, staff and governors developed a whole school curriculum vision which now appears on our website and shapes the curriculum in each subject area, right across the school. The Ofsted inspection team were extremely impressed with our inclusive curriculum that inspires, challenges and empowers our students. They were also pleased to hear that, in line with the organisation of our new and improved curriculum, we had plans to move to three assessment points in the year.

We are currently in the process of making the change to three assessment points in the year which will take place annually in December, March and July. These new arrangements will ensure that the data we communicate to parents reflects the progress that children are making over a more sustained period of time. Teachers will also provide an attitude to learning report for Year 7 and Year 10 students in October each year as we think it is important for you to know how your child is settling in at these key points in their life at The Lakes School. We look forward to updating you soon with our guide for parents. Please find below an easy to follow guide which sets out the assessment points for the rest of this academic year and in to next year.

October 2019	December 2019	February 2020	April 2020	July 2020
AP1	AP2	AP3	AP4	AP5
Completed	Completed	Cancelled	To be Completed	To be Completed
December 2020	March 2021		July 2021	
AP1	AP2		AP3	
To be Completed	To be Completed		To be Completed	