



Thank You

We owe the success of our Centenary Year here at Westholme to all our Old Westholmians, staff, and students who dedicated their time and efforts to the curation of our Centenary events and exhibitions.

Westholme thanks all those who sent and organised archive materials for the creation of our Centenary Exhibition and brochures. Your contributions have left a physical reminder of the spirit and legacy of Westholme throughout the past century.

Thanks also to those involved in the running of our events throughout the year. Each event took careful time and consideration, and the collaboration of departments and communities embodied the family approach we so value at Westholme.

Finally, thank you to all those who participated in events, to our staff who continued to provide excellent teaching amidst an array of extra events to plan and take part in.

We are grateful to have shared such a wonderful year with our Westholme community and wish all the best in the approaching years.

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THE CENTENARY EXHIBITION

Arranging the Centenary Exhibition

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INTRODUCTION

elcome to the Westholme
Centenary Year in Review!

After a busy year celebrating in true Westholme style, we are pleased to say we have a whole brochure of photos, articles, memories and reflections from this past year and we couldn't wait to share it with our wider Westholme community.

Throughout the year, celebrations took form in a diverse array of events and activities. From grand balls, to concerts, carnivals, lunches, and fireworks - there was always something to be excited for at Westholme.

It was also a year of reflection, as we delved into our heritage and explored archives from all decades of Westholme. With the help of former and current staff, as well as our incredible student executive helpers, we were able to curate a Centenary Exhibition reflecting on Westholme's development through the years.

Over the course of the next 100 years, we hope to build on all we have achieved so far. 2023 has embodied the Westholme Family spirit, we are grateful to have welcomed Old Westholmians from around the globe, reminiscing a plethora of decades of Westholme, and we were pleased to see so many families participating in our numerous Centenary events.

WESTHOLME IN 2023



Our Eco-Committee advocated to develop Westholme's environmental impact through biodiversity, healthy living and making the school grounds more biodiverse.

> Developments included planting 420 trees and creating a sensory garden on the school grounds. Students also learnt about food waste and how to reduce it from their caterers Thomas Franks as part of their 'surplus to purpose' initiative.

> We are delighted to have been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag Award with Merit this year, and thank the committee for their efforts throughout the year.



2023 brought with it a plethora of celebration, learning, development for Westholme. A year has passed since our integration of Prep, Seniors and our INSPIRED Sixth Form onto one site and our Westholme community is stronger than ever before as a result.

Like any year at Westholme, 2023 was filled with activity. Trips, events, visitors, sports shows, matches, seminars, and more filled each week with opportunities for students to develop their skills beyond classroom learning.

Our staff and students' commitment to co-curriculars was reflected through national recognition in departments such as physical education. We are honoured to have been Commended at the Education Business Awards in 2023 for Sports.

With regards to academic and professional progression, careers support was further developed in our INSPIRED Sixth Form this year to provide more tailored support via careers events, application support, and a series of careers and higher education seminars. We are proud the winners of Independent School of the Year award for the Student Careers Programme.

Westholme has seen exceptional academic performances from this year's Centenary graduates.

The student's destinations this year include the University of Oxford, Durham University, University of York and University of Liverpool. Students have secured coveted Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships at the BBC, KPMG, PwC, Jaguar Land Rover, Civil Service, Sellafield and ARUP.









WESTHOLME IN 2023

Westholme continued to welcome esteemed visitors to various departments across the school. We welcomed a variety of famous authors through our doors who shared their literary knowledge with the Westholme community, in partnership with Book, Bean and Ice Cream (outlined on the next page).



This year, 300 guests attended our luxurious Sports Awards event, and had the privilege of welcoming former Pakistan hockey captain Ali Ghanzafar as guest speaker.







Trips and extracurricular activities encouraged student exploration all over the globe. Trips this year included: Ski trips to Europe and North America, Performing Arts trips to New York, subject trips to Athens, France, Spain and China. These continue to increase each year, with opportunities for enrichment via trips available for students from Prep all the way to Year 13.









The Performing Arts department produced a total of 5 productions this year, including: Fame, There's No Place like Westholme, Matilda Jr, The Witch Trials of Salem, and an outdoor production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students and staff worked tirelessly throughout the year to deliver exceptional performances across all productions.

Most recently we saw our students perform in Les Misérables. We had many aspiring performers working on this production with support from experienced Old Westholmians, some of whom have taken to the West End stage and theatres across the country, supporting students in these well their performances as applications to drama schools in the coming years.

Following the rising interest in performing arts, Westholme added Dance to its GCSE and A Level curriculum. Additions such as Criminology, Graphic Communication and Music Technology have enriched our curriculum over recent years. We are also pleased to see the development of a wider range of student-led societies, including Medicine, Law, Politics, Biology, and Physics, amongst others.





We hope 2024, and the years that follow bring as much, if not more, Westholme spirit as we saw in 2023!

linking of Westholme with its

wider community.

A Year of Inspirational Guests

We were delighted to welcome a plethora of inspirational speakers through our doors to coincide with the Centenary Year, either in partnership with publishing company Book, Bean and Ice Cream (formerly Silverwood Events), or through invitation to our own internal events such as Prize Giving and Beyond Westholme. It was fantastic to have such an array of talent visit Westholme to talk to us and be part of our celebrations.



Record breaking author A.F.Steadman introduced her bestselling book 'Skandar and the Unicorn Thief' to students in Prep 4-6 and visiting schools in the Croston Theatre.



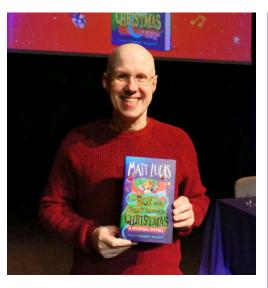
National treasure and literary icon Dame Jacqueline Wilson delighted students when she visited to talk about her new book 'The Magic Faraway Tree: A New Adventure'.



Claire Balding joined us to speak about her new book 'Isles of Dogs' which explores the role our 'best friends' play in our lives.



Professional Explorer and Thomas Franks Ambassador Louis Alexander was the guest speaker at our Alumni event 'Beyond Westholme' at Ewood Park. Louis spoke of his aim to raise money for Dementia research by running seven marathons on seven continents.



Much loved comedian and TV personality Matt Lucas came to Westholme to read an excerpt from his musical novel 'The Boy Who Slept Through Christmas' to Prep students and visiting schools in The Croston Theatre.



Cyclist and Guinness World Record Holder Josh Quigley (pictured above) was our guest speaker at both the Prep and Senior Prize Giving ceremonies towards the end of last academic year.

Niall Harbison, (pictured right with student executive members Fatimah and Bill) dog rescuer and social media sensation, flew over from Thailand to give a special Q&A to guests about his mission and new book 'Hope'.



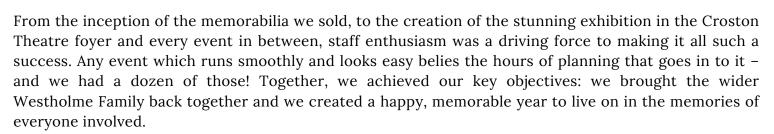
World renowned 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' author Jeff Kinney, (right) brought his entertaining 'No Brainer Show' to Westholme and performed in front of a sell-out crowd in The Croston Theatre, as part of his UK tour.



REFLECTIONS ON A WONDERFUL YEAR

Mrs Vivienne Davenport, Commercial Director

All the marvellous staff at Westholme, past and present, teaching and support, joined forces to mark our 100th birthday with unabashed joy and typical Westholme dynamism!



There have been many laughs, many reminiscences, many glasses of fizz, many renditions of the school hymn, many shortbreads, many hugs, many donations and many reconnections. It has been an utter triumph, marred only by the loss of some of our 'greats'. We were so sorry to hear of the death of former Principal Dr Joan Bond (1968 to 1988), former Chairman of Governors, Ian Woolley MBE (1968 to 1991) and former Vice Chairman of Governors, His Honour Edward Slinger (1985 to 2013) who all passed during our special year. We thank them for their huge contribution and the part they played in our history, which paves the way to our future. They are indeed the purple ties that bind.

A truly wonderful year and a sincere thank you to everyone involved.





FACULTY CENTENARY REFLECTIONS

Mr Charnock - Head of Chemistry

The Chemistry Department asked the students, as a competition, to nominate the most significant discovery/creation linked to Chemistry over the past 100 years. This could be done in any way they would like to choose, such as creating a model, producing a video or a poster. The winner created a photovoltaic cell, commonly called a solar cell, which converts sunlight directly into electricity.

Mrs McConnon - Head of Mathematics

As part of Westholme's Centenary celebrations, during the month of February 2023, students researched how Maths and Computing has developed over the last 100 years and how these developments have impacted the world around us.

Each of Years 7-10 and 12 had a period of 20 years to research. Their projects were displayed on a timeline outside the Maths office. House points were awarded for every entry and the following students received a prize for the best work in each category:

Year 7 2003-2023	Alfie and Katie
------------------	-----------------

Year 8 1983-2002	Maariyah, Lisara, Elizabeth & Anaya
------------------	-------------------------------------

 Year 9 1963-1982
 Urooj

 Year 10 1943-1962
 William

 Year 12 1923-1942
 Fatimah

Mr Purdy - Director of Sport

During the Summer, Westholme pupils and students took on the '100 mile challenge' as part of our Centenary celebrations. Each year group was challenged to complete 100 miles of running during one of their PE lessons. This included completing as many laps of our athletics track as possible without stopping. Every lap completed contributed towards the year group totals and to the whole school effort. I am pleased to say that as a school we smashed it!! A grand total of 811 miles were completed. This is the equivalent of over 4000 laps of the running track.

Lower Prep completed:	452 laps	84 miles
Upper Prep completed:	1,177 laps	220 miles
Year 7	988 laps	187 miles
Year 8	493 laps	92 miles
Year 9	719 laps	134 miles
Year 10	500 laps	94 miles

The group completing the most miles was Upper Prep, completing 220 miles of running which is over 1000 laps of the track. We would like to thank all pupils and students for embracing this challenge and coming together as one to celebrate 100 years of Westholme.

Mrs Blizzard - Head of MFL Department

September was our Centenary celebration month for languages. On European Day of Languages itself, we had an assembly by Mrs Blizzard and the Sixth Form linguists about the influence other languages have had on English and then we enjoyed another delicious, Europe-themed lunch by Thomas Franks. The following day, a group of eager Year 11 language students headed down to Prep, where they taught Prep 2 and Prep 4 body parts in Spanish and animal sounds in German. Who knew that German frogs say 'Quak'!

We also ran several competitions, including an idiom quiz and a fiercely fought Duolingo league. The highlight was our Europe-themed Bake Off competition, where some budding bakers produced an array of delicious looking entries. Well done to everyone who took part in all of our events, it truly was a celebration of Languages!



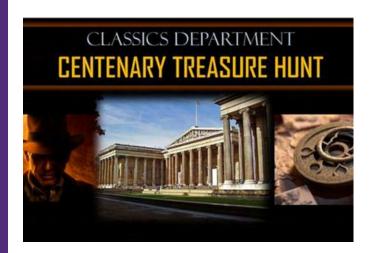




Miss Taylor - Latin & Classics

The Latin and Classics Centenary event marked a triumphant celebration of both historical knowledge and modern technology. Students from the Lower School transformed into intrepid explorers, inspired by Indiana Jones, to complete our online treasure hunt through the exhibits of the British Museum. Working in small teams, they navigated the challenge of solving riddles related to ancient world before skillfully 'infiltrating the cameras' within each exhibition by using virtual tour links to uncover incredible treasures from the Greco-Roman world.

After photographing their evidence for 'Dr Jones,' they combined what they had discovered to reveal the name of our secret hero: Hercules. All of the students exhibited superb critical thinking, collaboration and curiosity, with many successfully completing the mission. Overall, the success of the event came from its celebration of mythology with innovative technology to provide an exciting and interactive study of the classical world.



FACULTY CENTENARY REFLECTIONS

Mrs Oracz - Head of Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty Head of Ethics, Philosophy & Religion

The EPR and Psychology departments Centenary celebration honoured the school motto 'Mens sana incorpore sano': a healthy mind in a healthy body. Both departments filled a week in November with amazing activities and visiting speakers to mark the significant ways in which both EPR and Psychology explore the importance of having a healthy mind in a healthy body. The week kicked on with the whole school coming together to hear about how brilliantly the school lives up to its motto by providing all with an holistic education that enables the whole self: mind and body, to grow and thrive. EPR and Psychology play a crucial role in this education by giving students the opportunity to develop healthy minds through a focus on the 21st Century Essential Skills including curiosity, critical thinking and emotional intelligence.

The new role of student Faith Ambassadors was launched during the week too. This vibrant and diverse team of enthusiastic students have a role to raise awareness about, and celebrate, the different beliefs that exist within the school community. The Prep ambassadors held their first pupil forum, when pupils with keen curiosity asked each other about how they celebrate their beliefs and how faith affects their daily lives.

November was also the month for the national celebration of Inter Faith Week and visiting speakers, representing a range of different beliefs, came into school to share ideas about a healthy mind and body in EPR lessons. A group of Youth Workers from St Luke's Church in Blackburn ran a fun and interactive session with Year 7 in the LRC, whilst Year 11 heard from a representative from the Lancashire Humanists group who spoke about his Inter Faith work, and his personal journey to Humanism. Year 10 had the opportunity to hear some wisdom from Gen Paljin, a Buddhist monk. He explained how his body is linked to his cultivation of a healthy mind because his shaved head is symbol of the fact that his inner self has removed any anxiety about how others may perceive him. Throughout the week interactive displays in the LRC and Prep also enabled students to have some personal reflection on the complexity and wonder of our mental and physical selves. Contributing ideas and reading others' points enabled students to share with each other a wonderful and diverse range of insights. A Bollywood dancing session was also planned for the celebration and this is now taking place in 2024.

In Psychology, visiting speakers also came to share their knowledge and expertise with the INSPIRED Sixth Form students. Mrs Clayden, who practices 'talking therapy' explored this approach to helping patients with mental illness. Students gained an insight into her work and the benefits and disadvantages of the therapy for different people. Mrs Davenport, a Cognitive Behavioural therapist, also came into Psychology lessons to educate students about unhelpful thinking styles and how she uses therapy to reverse these. Her talk enabled students to engage with real life cases which were fascinating.

During Psychology Enrichment, students also discussed whether people learn to have healthy or unhealthy minds due to their environment and upbringing. Students watched a documentary about the serial killer, Andrew Cunanan, and discussed what factors, including his irrational thinking, that may have influenced his killing spree. Students were challenged to think about whether anything could have been done to change his thinking and help a healthier mindset.

Overall, the school had a fantastic week celebrating the school's motto and all activities deepened their appreciation of how EPR and Psychology at Westholme enable them to develop their own healthy mind and body.

Mrs Hibberd - Head of Careers

On Thursday 23rd March, we were delighted to welcome a whole host of exhibitors and company representatives through our doors for the Centenary Careers Convention 2023.

Organised by Head of Careers, Mrs Hibberd, it was a fantastic opportunity for students to meet professionals from a wide range of industries and make connections and form ideas for the future. Companies such as Astra Zeneca, Jaguar Land Rover, Coca-Cola and Barnardos were in attendance amongst many others, and it was a great turnout. We were also delighted to welcome back some familiar faces and former Alumni's who were exhibiting and helping to inspire our current students for the future.

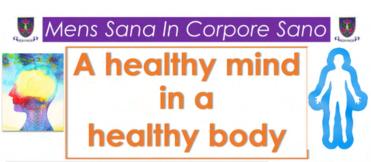
After the previous convention was held online as a virtual convention, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was great to see the event back in school with the Dining Hall, LRC and INSPIRED Sixth Form Common Room being in use and plenty of people in attendance.

There was lots of engagement between students, parents and exhibitors throughout the evening. It was a chance for the students to talk to experts in their field and learn some essential advice that they will need going forward with their subject and career choices. They were also able to learn some valuable tips and gain knowledge on the potential career paths that are available to them.

Overall it was a fantastic evening and thank you to all those that were involved!







EPR and Psychology
Centenary Celebration Week









OLD WESTHOLMIANS

One of our main aims at Westholme throughout our Centenary year was to strengthen our Westholme community network. We wanted to ensure alumni knew their Westholme journey does not end as they finish Year 13. We are pleased to report our OW network has flourished over the past year, with thousands of alumni keeping in touch via social media groups, our online alumni network, and through returns to Westholme during our numerous alumni events.

We cannot begin to express our sincere gratitude for the continuing support of alumni with our careers and higher education programmes. Delivering seminars, providing mock interviews, developing higher education application programmes and presenting in assemblies are just a few of the ways alumni have returned to help the next generations of Westholme young professionals.

Our Westholme Family Alumni website has provided a platform for alumni to reconnect, and find out about the plethora of incredible activities OWs have been up to since leaving Westholme. We were proud to congratulate alumni in a range of career sectors on their achievements during our Centenary year, and our students continue to take inspiration from such OWs when making their own career and higher education decisions.

Reunions and reminiscences of times at Westholme were plentiful throughout the Centenary, with hundreds of OWs retuning for our series of Centenary events.















EMILY JONES

Congratulations to OW Emily Jones for making her TV debut on Vera.

"It was the most joyful experience. I was so lucky to work with many iconic actors who I really look up to and admire, alongside a phenomenal director and magnificent crew. From the first moment I stepped on set, I was made to feel very welcome and part of the team. There are so many talented people behind the scenes who play a huge role in making the magic happen. I will definitely cherish the memories from this experience."





CAROLINE JANE BUCKLEY

Congratulations to former Head of Geography and Humanities Caroline Jane Buckley, for her appointment as The Royal Horticultural Society artist-in-residence for The Plant Review Magazine.

"I am a member of the RHS and although I had seen the competition to find the Plant Review's new artist-in-residence, I only applied after a group of friends encouraged me to do so, and much to my surprise and great delight I won!"

JESSICA PICTON

Congratulations to OW Jessica Picton, who has been nominated for Young Person of the Year at the I Love MCR Awards 2023. A talented golfer who played at county level, Jessica set up her own luxury golf sportswear brand 'She Swings'.

"I got into golf through my parents but my belief that I can achieve my goals was inspired at Westholme. An influential teacher for me was my Head of Year, Mrs Moore. Mrs Moore developed me from a shy, timid year 7 to a confident, successful year 11 by the time I left school.





SAAHIL AHMED

Congratulations to OW and former Head Boy Saahil for his new role as President of the University of Sheffield British Asian Society. Saahil is committed to building on the society's previous successes, and nurturing and driving the society in a plethora of areas.

"The role is a bit of everything – leadership, celebrations, sports teams, events, meetings and finances. I was on the committee last year in charge of events. It's actually very similar to the head boy role at Westholme. It's a role of leadership and leading by example."

MAY DALEY

From the Croston Theatre stage to the small screen! Congratulations to OW May Daley who made her debut on the famous cobbles of Coronation Street.

May starred in many of our incredible productions, including 'Beauty & the Beast', 'Sweeney Todd' and 'West Side Story' and we were thrilled in our Centenary year to see May on our television screens in one of the most famous British soaps.



MATTHEW CLIFF

We were delighted to welcome back OW Matt Cliff to Westholme this year where he lent his expertise to our Centenary Beyond Westholme event.

Since leaving Westholme in 2020, Matthew went on to secure an apprenticeship with BAE on their newly established Digital Technology Solution scheme. Talking about his time at Westholme Matthew said: "The thing about Westholme is that it has a real sense of community. Everyone wants each other to do well and that sort of environment cultivates success."





ZOË ARMER

OW turned actress, Zoë, was very busy during our Centenary year as she graced our TV screens in Eastenders! Zoë, who is no stranger to British soaps, has also been lucky enough to appear in Emmerdale, but her love of acting started right on our Croston Theatre stage.

"The Westholme productions are so special - young talent coming together to create something for the pure joy of it! It was so much fun and the excitement of putting on a huge live show for friends and family was so new and magical."

RABIA MAJID

Congratulations to OW Rabia and her creative partner Matt, who won a D&AD New Blood Pencil Award for their Ebay 'Cut Your Losses' campaign. Their entry encouraged Gen Z to sell items associated with past hobbies/pursuits they no longer care about through a series of incredible advertising projects.

"During my time at Westholme, I was always interested in a creative career. My art teachers introduced me to Graphic Design, which is what I studied for my undergrad. Whilst at Westholme, I also enjoyed public speaking, which has definitely helped with my confidence and pitching skills in the advertising world."





CAMILLA AINSWORTH

Congratulations to OW Camilla on being named 'Top 10 female entrepreneurs making moves' in Business Insider Magazine and 'Top 10 women to watch list' by Starling Bank.

Camilla, who was also the youngest ever finalist on The Apprentice, has since developed her own brand and company outside of the TV spotlight and said "I do feel like attending Westholme really did arm me with a toolkit to be my most confident self which certainly helped in the Apprentice process, when you are constantly out of your comfort zone."

NIAMH PREEDY

Congratulations to OW, and Northcote bar tender Niamh Preedy, who has been awarded the Young Mixologist England title through the prestigious Young Chef Young Waiter Competition.

"Whilst at Westholme I was very creative and definitely preferred the more 'arty' subjects which I think absolutely resonates with my job now as I still need to use my creative skills that I learnt to help with mixology to create new drinks."

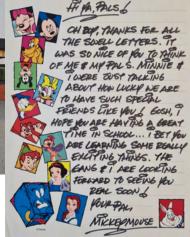




Sharing our Centenary with Disney

Westholme was not the only institution to celebrate a Centenary in 2023. It turns out, we share our founding year with Disney! We honoured Disney's Centenary alongside our own throughout our numerous events, including Disney medleys performed by our staff and lower senior choirs at various performances throughout the year.







Our Prep students all wrote postcards to their favourite Disney characters to celebrate and wish all at Disney the best throughout their 100 year celebrations. On the back of these postcards was our very own Westholme Mickey: a drone image of our pupils arranged in the outline of Mickey Mouse.

Students were ecstatic when we received a hand-written response from Mickey Mouse!

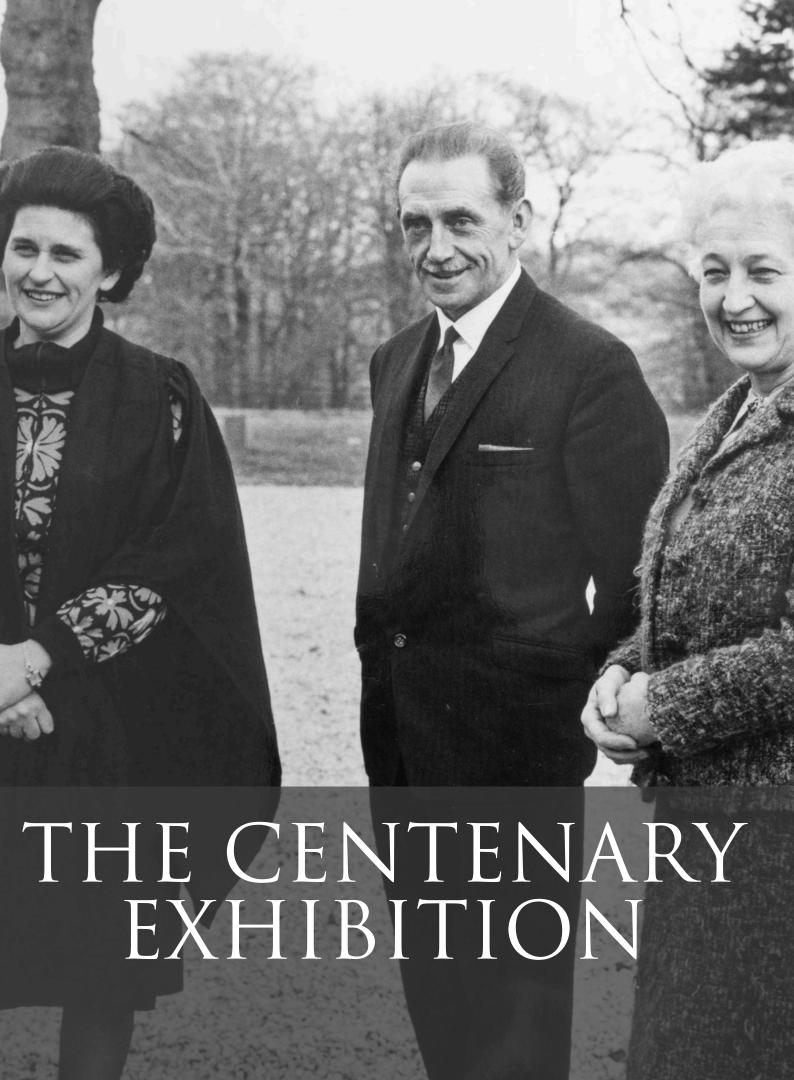


A Letter from His Majesty The King!

Westholme students and staff alike also celebrated the King's Coronation in 2023. We were delighted to receive a very special letter indeed. Warm wishes were received from Buckingham Palace, with His Majesty himself sending wishes for staff and students at Westholme. Students at Prep received the letter and were told of the importance of the occasion, we're sure it's something they will remember for a long time!









1 00 years of history at Westholme provided plenty to reflect on. Over the course of 2022, our Centenary Archive Committee remained busy, organising one-hundred years' worth of material into corresponding decades, events, and occasions.

Former staff returned to help with the project, lead by Mrs Gibson, Mrs McDonald, and Mrs Whittaker.

Mrs Gibson described her return to Westholme to help out on the project:

'Out came the boxes, casual cardboard holders of treasure. Painstakingly, Mrs McDonald, Mrs Whittaker and I filed archive material into pigeonholes for each decade of the school's history. Mrs Rogers helped to deal with the Lower and Middle School archive. It was dusty, heavy, sometimes tedious work, leavened by the joys of memory and discovery. Old ribbons in school colours, plans of extensions, prizegiving brochures from the 50s, lists of uniform and school fees, fabulous photos, all were examined, exclaimed over and put in order. Out of the chaos came a strong sense of the development of a remarkable school with a distinctive identity.'



MR. A. R. ROUSE

girls would be able to attend the school. Mr. Rouse added that they were hoping to caterfor more than 500 pupils. At present, there were 322 on pul

present there were 323 on roll.

Mr. Woolley said the school had already received several applications for the senior school.

Westholme school was founded in 1923 by Miss E. H. Singleton, as a preparatory school with seven pupils, Mr. and Mrs. Rouse took over as co-principals in January, 1950, with 166 pupils.

pais in January, 1880, what for pupils. The school now serves a wide area, including Preston, Chorley, Leyland, Darwen, Accrington, Burnley, Haslingden, Rawtenstall, Nelson and Clitheroe, as well as Blackburn.

It is planned to launch a £26,000 appeal in 1969 to raise money for Phase Two of the scheme which is estimated to cost approximately this sum, bringing the total cost of the school to £92,600.

The total expenditure which included £27,500 for the purchase of the school from Mr. and Mrs. Rouse, for 1968, was estimated at £66,000

'REALISTIC'

The splendid response to the interest-free loan scheme had enabled the fee increase to be kept down to £2 a term.

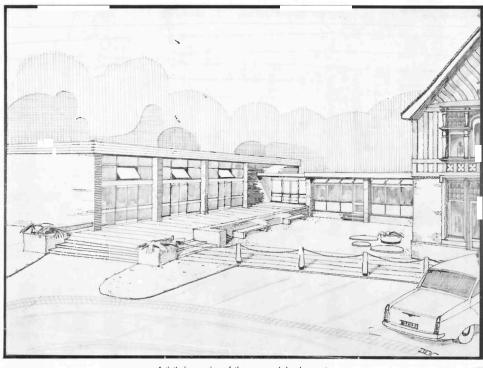
Mr. Rouse described the venture as "a realistic one."

At present, he said, girls had to leave the school after "O" level and continue their education at a local authority school, but since Blackburn had changed to the comprehensive system, none of their pupils had left.

had left.

"We aim to create for girls a similar set-up as Queen Elizabeth's Gramar School, but not as a direct grant school." He said he did not look upon the move as a condemnation of the comprehensive system, but as a move to fulfil a demand.

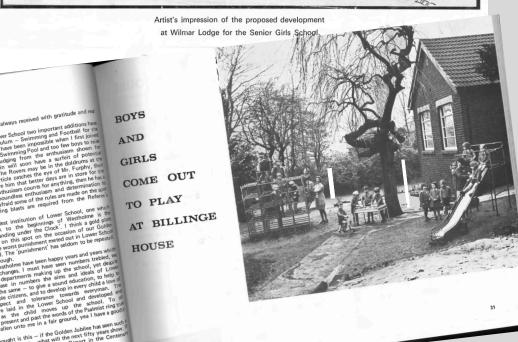






As files were organised, Westholme's history was unveiled. Building plans, registers, news articles and images provided a glimpse into the changes occurring at Westholme over the decades, whilst the same 'Westholme spirit' has persisted from the very start.

OW Vera (1966) reflected on the changes at Westholme, highlighting how despite the differences present 'the atmosphere was the same' and so are its values.



There has been a lot of change at Westholme over the past 100 years. Founded by Miss Emily Singleton in 1923, the school developed from a primary school, with 6 pupils at the end of its first term, to a school of over 700 students ranging from Prep to INSPIRED Sixth Form.



SOME WESTHOLME History...

By 1948, the school had been recognized by the government and had 135 pupils.

In 1968, a building programme was begun on the ten-acre site and an assembly hall, laboratories, swimming pool, sports hall, a five-acre playing field, music centre and art studios were built.

Upon Mr Rouse's retirement as Principal in 1976, Dr Bond joined as Headteacher.

The building programme continued to develop and upon the appointment of Mrs Croston as Principal in 1988, Westholme really began to flourish. A brand new science wing was completed, the theatre was opened in 1997 and in 1999 the new library, ICT facility and languages classrooms were ready. In 2012, the brand new extension to the Music Centre was completed, allowing for more space for orchestra and choir rehearsals. With demand for students taking A-levels, Westholme added a Sixth Form Centre, which was completed in September 2003 and was refurbished in summer 2014.

Westholme developed from a girls school, to a completely co-educational institution. Boys were introduced into the senior school under the leadership of Mrs Croston. Entry of boys into the Sixth Form, as well as mixed classes followed shortly, implemented by Mrs Croston's successor Mrs Horner.

2022 saw the integration of all three sites: formerly spilt between Wilmar Lodge, Billinge House, and Beardwood Bank.



It was a pleasure to reflect on Westholme's past with our former through the process. Mrs McDonald shared her fond Westholme memories with us:

'What do remember about Westholme? The beauty of the site. Mr and Mrs Rouse chose well. Everyday the surroundings lifted your spirits the views over the fields and hills, the daffodils lining Meins Road in Spring, the wisteria that used to flower outside the Sports Hall. Standards were high and we all worked hard to maintain them but there were lots of laughs along the way as well. I feel proud to be a part of the Westholme community and wish the school every success in the future.'

Developing our archives allowed for the creation of our Centenary Exhibition, displayed outside our Croston Theatre, as well as our Centenary History brochure. This provides a physical record of Westholme's history for current and future members of the Westholme community to utilise.

We thank current staff and students, as well as returning staff Mrs Gibson, Mrs Whittaker and Mrs McDonald for the time and effort dedicated to this project. It has offered an important glimpse into Westholme's legacy for current and future members of the community to explore.

CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION Ltd. Swim No. Challetter Date 92, 192, 2003 (To be completed in full by the Official Observer)

Observer's Log and Comments (sheet # of 7)

behind the Senioro (2.5.1 E) from the boat Wiking Princess. All the girls are in high special across the boat wind giving clare lots of encouragement.

or king princess and the serior summers can keep up.

-Still trying to get dare to show her pace down show not happy about it.

are has asked if she can pick up the pace to it she has been allowed to sprint the tollen minutes. She is a very strong borah furter !!

ady at 68 stokes a minute, Clare very cold estill situate.

ee out of water.

ebbie still swimming will said

8 stokes a minute. I went still averaging Debbie has picked her pace up to 50 stoke had to slow her down.

aryn Duckworth (and Change over) started of al o stocked a minute, had to consind her we use to wait for other boat until it get like roke 76 a minute, the girts are not happy the store pace, Hanna, Kim or happy





























CENTENARY MEMORABILIA



WESTIES

Westies were very excited for the opportunity to officially launch a range of limited-edition Centenary memorabilia to celebrate 100 years of Westholme at the start of 2023.

From teddy bears, notebooks, key rings, to coffee cups and umbrellas, Westies was proud to offer a range of items to commemorate our Centenary in style.

In addition to the wide range of products, we were delighted to have a new 'Westholme 100' hoodie, available to students, families, staff and OWs.

Throughout our 100th year, students and staff wore their hoodies one Friday each month at school. Everyone was extremely excited to wear our fashionable hoodies on the first hoodie day on the 10th February, and from then on, 'Hoodie day' became one each student looked forward to with eager anticipation.

Our Marketing Manager, Amelia, also created a Centenary bundle with Westholme's creative marketing team, she was innovative in creating a bundle that included a Centenary teddy bear, a china cup and the delicious Westholme shortbread.

Old Westholmians were invited to celebrate 100 years of Westholme's at our Centenary Lunches. They absolutely loved to see the Centenary memorabilia, and enjoyed purchasing memorabilia which signified their many memories of Westholme! Our team loved hearing of the many memories and stories OWs shared of their time at Westholme whilst purchasing their their favourite Westholme goods at Westies.

During the Centenary Firework Night members of our Westie team including Bill and Umme-Ayman carefully crafted the delicious event delicacies such as toffee apples and sweet bags. These were sold throughout the night for all to enjoy.

Our last event was the Christmas Fair, our Managing Director Amaara created our Centenary baubles. Amaara and Finance Manager Aliya, were overwhelmed with the popularity for the decoration. The bauble was a part of our limited edition memorabilia for Christmas. The design included a snowflake-filled, heart-shaped bauble with the iconic purple and green colours and Centenary logo.

- Amelia, Westies Student Marketing Manager

WESTHOLME CENTENARY GIN

A COLLABORATION WITH BRINDLE DISTILLERY

To raise a toast to our Centenary in true Westholme style, we commissioned a special craft gin to mark the milestone.

This involved a collaboration with Brindle Distillery, run by the family of OW Liz Long, who shares her talent both through performance and teaching LAMDA here at Westholme.

Westholme Centenary Craft Gin is a handcrafted London dry gin infused with fresh rosemary, basil and bright notes from lime and grapefruit.

Liz's husband, Mark Long, said: "We are delighted to collaborate with Westholme, and have created a special blend to celebrate their 100 years.

"It has a beautiful Mediterranean feel to the premium gin, made using ingredients which include our own spring water. It has double the juniper for an average gin, rounded off with zesty lime and grapefruit."

Westholme's Commercial Director Mrs Davenport, commented on the collaboration, saying:

"We have commissioned a wide range of memorabilia to mark the monumental milestone in Westholme's history and this lovely gin is the perfect addition to add to the hoodies, cups, pens and other Centenary items available. Having a former student creating the craft gin with her family is the perfect touch to mark our Centenary."

OW Niamh, who was recently awarded the title of Young Mixologist England, crafted original Westholme Purple and Green recipes for the gin.

NIAMH'S RECIPES:

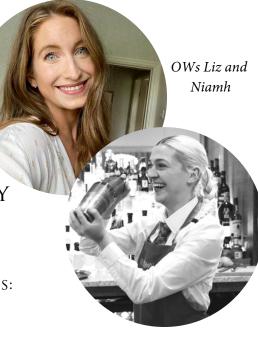
Green:

- Add 3 basil leaves in the base of shaker and muddle.
- Add 60ml Westholme Centenary Gin.
- 15ml freshly squeezed lime juice.
- 10ml cucumber sugar syrup.
- Shake with ice and double strain over ice in a tall glass.
- Top with preferred tonic water.
- Garnish with basil leaf

Purple:

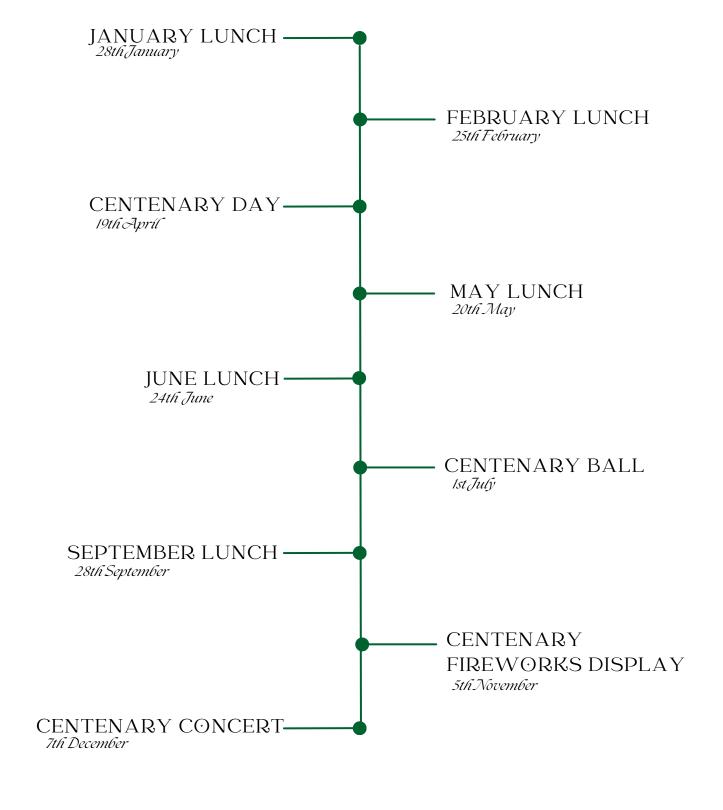
- Add 3 blackberries in the base of shaker and muddle.
- Add 60ml Westholme Centenary Gin.
- 25ml Crème de Violette Liquor.
- 10ml sugar cane syrup.
- Shake with ice and double strain over ice in a tall glass.
- Top with tonic water.







CENTENARY CALENDAR



LILLIAN CROSTON'S

CENTENARY LUNCHES

Hundreds of OWs were welcomed back to Westholme to enjoy catching up with old friends and staff members, enjoy a drink or two with a delicious meal and finish with a tour of our Centenary Exhibition and school. Former Principal Lillian Croston hosted these lunches, and reflected on her time here through a series of wonderful speeches to commemorate 100 years of Westholme.





Recent leavers, who left our INSPIRED Sixth Form just two years ago, met with staff and alumni who shared advice and memories of Westholme from decades ago, including leavers from 1956 such as Angela, where the school was hugely different, but the same Westholme community spirit remained.

We were so happy to see so many former teachers returning to Westholme and provide an insight into what teaching was like for them during their time at the school, and what they have been up to ever since. These included Mrs. Catlow, who taught PE at Westholme for an incredible 37 years.

Our patrons George and Jenny Lamb also attended and shared their congratulations to Westholme as everyone raised a toast to the past, and future of the school.

Alumni had the chance to shop at Westies and secure their own centenary memorabilia, as well as trying on our house t-shirts to 'fondly' recall cross country races and spark the competitive spirit of sports days and house plays!

































LILLIAN CROSTON'S CENTENARY LUNCHES



WESTHOLME

UNRIVALLED HOLISTIC EXCELLENCE



CENTENARY DAY

19 APRIL



Classrooms

PREP



8.45am – 9.15am Birthday Party Welcome

9.20am - 11.20am Session 1

Treasure hunt and break time

11.20am – 12.00pm Lunch Dining Hall 12.00pm - 12.40pm Stalls

Glitter tattoos and sweet treats – theatre foyer and quad



12.40pm - 2.00pm Session 2

Field events: Parachute; inflatable course; crackerjack relay; hobby horse slalom; jigsaw challenge.

2.05pm - 2.30pm Birthday Cake Assembly

The Croston Theatre

2.30pm - 3.40pm Session 3

Westholme Through the Ages Party and photo booth visit.

3.40pm Home time



SENIORS AND INSPIRED SIXTH FORM

8.45am - 9.15am Birthday Party Welcome

The Croston Theatre

9.20am – 10.50am

Session 1

Years 7 & 8: The Great Escape – LRC

Years 9 & 10: Westholme Through the Ages – The Croston Theatre

Year 11 & INSPIRED Sixth Form: Field events – Field

10.50am - 11.10am Break & stalls Theatre foyer
Dining hall
Outside theatre
entrance and quad

11.10am – 12.40pm

Session 2

Years 7 & 8: Westholme Through the Ages – The Croston Theatre

Years 9 & 10: Field events - Field

Year 11 & INSPIRED Sixth Form: The Great Escape – LRC

12.40pm – 2.00pm Lunch & stalls Theatre foyer
Dining hall
Outside theatre
entrance and quad

2.05pm - 2.30pm
Birthday Cake Assembly
The Croston Theatre

2.30pm - 4.00pm Session 3 Years 7 & 8: Field events – Field

Years 9 & 10: The Great Escape – LRC

Year 11 & INSPIRED Sixth Form: Westholme Through the Ages – The Croston Theatre

4.00pm Home time





A 'Party Day' was held at the school to celebrate 100 wonderful years of Westholme - where students observed the milestone in assembly before taking part in escape roomstyle challenges, a carousel of activities including an inflatable obstacle course, exhibition, ice cream van, photo booth and an array of stalls.

The students were treated to a spectacular Disney medley. From Dr Watson's grand acting as Lumiere and Mrs Lewis' outstanding performance as Mrs Potts, to Mr Oracz, Miss Harfield, (both OWs and current staff) and Mr Holt stealing the show with their rendition of Hakuna Matata, their performances were full of entertainment.

The school was decorated around the site thanks to balloon installations by Emily Dunn, a former student, who now has her own events and styling business: All Dunn. Emily also helped to set the scene at the



School's Centenary Ball in July.

The students came together to sing Happy Birthday before blowing the 100 candles out on a show-stopping cake created by the School's catering company Thomas Franks.













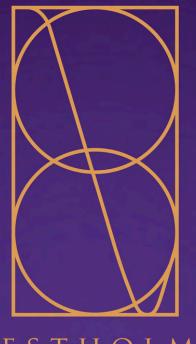
OW Nancy from Isabakes, created a selection of mouth-watering cupcakes for students to enjoy throughout the morning.



As beautifully summarised by one of our Governors:

"I have just returned from spending several hours at the birthday party - what an amazing day, for once the weather held, the excitement around the school was tangible.

From inflatable assault courses, quizzes, the largest queue from the Prep pupils for the ice cream van, incredible cakes, glitter tattoos, dancing, nerf guns, photo booth etc. etc. It was so enjoyable having lunch with the Prep students, a rolling soundtrack of all the number 1 tracks from this day going back to Doris Day. The teachers were dancing in the dining hall and there was a real sense of excitement. The building was immaculate, the food was amazing, the teaching staff looked to be really enjoying it - in terms of the teacher performances in the Birthday Cake Assembly, I couldn't stay for them, but really wanted to see Dr Riley dressed as a flamingo!'



WESTHOLME

CENTENARY

SATURDAY 1 JULY 2023

7pm Champagne Reception 12.30am Carriages

THE CENTENARY

BALL

On the 1st July, Westholme was transformed into a fairytale of purple and green during our commemorative centenary grand ball. That evening, almost 200 members of the Westholme community gathered together in their finest black-tie attire to celebrate 100 years of Westholme.

Our guests arrived on the famous Westholme purple carpet and followed the sound of our exceptional swing band towards the hall which was now transformed into a luxury dining area. Here, guests were treated to a three-course meal provided by Thomas Franks, accompanied by wine and our handcrafted centenary gin.

Besides a plethora of interesting conversations as alumni, staff and family reunited - formal entertainment in the form of a magician, as well as live band The Deadbeats, and a DJ brought life to the ball and had everyone dancing, singing along and enjoying the music.

The voice of OW, West End performer and current LAMDA teacher Liz Long captivated everyone, with beautiful renditions of songs to accompany the sit-down dinner in hall.

















Former Director of Music, Eric Millest, ensured no one had forgotten the renowned Westholme School Hymn as he directed the crowd through the music. The dinner was also accompanied by a range of speeches celebrating the history and successes of Westholme and its community.

Throughout the evening, an incredible £7,660 was raised towards the Centenary Bursary Fund. OW and guest speaker Adam spoke passionately about his personal journey of receiving The Hope Bursary and the impact this has had on his future.

We were exceptionally grateful to everyone who supported us for such a memorable evening and their generosity in providing prizes, contributing towards our Centenary Bursary Fund, and sponsorship.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate 100 years of all things Westholme!

















CENTENARY CONCERT







One would walk past the Croston Theatre in the morning of the 7th December and would hear a culmination of music, laughter - which followed Mr Millest's brilliant jokes mid-practice, pure talent, and reminiscing between nostalgic alumni. This could only mean one thing: it was the morning of the Centenary Concert!

Alumni travelled from all areas of the UK, taking a break from careers in medicine, science, business management, modelling, TV, theatre and more. Some returned to the stage for the first time since their Westholme graduation, others were more familiar to performing, with those who performed on the West End or theatres all around the UK returning to share their talents.

Rehearsals were intermitted with no other than the delicious Westholme Shortbread. Lunch of wraps, sandwiches, salads and cakes was served by our catering company Thomas Franks, fuelling our performers for more rehearsals ahead of the evening.

Students joined the practices in the afternoon, and what resulted was a stunning collaboration between Westholme pupils past and present. OWs who had never met before were chatting like old friends, students were eagerly listening to stories of what OWs went on to do since leaving Westholme. This was all of course, in between incredible singing, led by both former and current music department staff.



Once rehearsals were over, much more reminiscing occurred. Alumni viewed our Centenary Exhibition - and to their delight many found themselves on images from past concerts, carol services, or performances. The day flew by and before our alumni knew it, they were rushing to get ready in the green room, just like they did as students.







Once ready, guests were treated to a VIP reception in the LRC. There was a luxurious atmosphere to the reception, created by stunning decorations and incredible talents on the harp mastered by one of our current students.

Visitors took to their seats and eagerly anticipated the beginning of a fantastic line-up that had been carefully planned and organised by Mr Oracz.

A musical medley of Westholme productions (created by Mr Millest himself) opened the concert - highlighting exactly what the concert was about: 100 Years of Westholme Music. Mr Millest's original piece for Westholme's Centenary: 'Our Time' also made its debut in our Croston Theatre that night.

Performances from our soloists followed, and left not a single person in the room without goosebumps and fascination. The audience was treated to an original song performed by OW and singer/songwriter Charlotte OC.

Pieces were often introduced by notable speakers such as our former and current Student Executives, former Principals Lillian Croston and Lynne Horner and Chairman of Governors Mr Brian Marsden.

A Westholme Concert wouldn't be that without quality entertainment and comedy from our music department, which was delivered perfectly throughout the staff Blues Medley which involved a lot of 'fighting' around the piano, and some stunning dancing from current and former music staff.

The night was a culmination of hard work, lots of planning, and collaboration, and truly reflected the strength of the Westholme community and spirit. We thank all involved, and couldn't be more grateful to end our Centenary celebrations on such a high note.











WESTHOLME

IN 100 YEARS TIME



REFLECTING ON WESTHOLME IN 2023

As we looked ahead to 2023 and laid the groundwork for the various events and activities we wished to organise to celebrate the school's Centenary, one thing became very clear: as is typical for all things Westholme, we certainly were not going to do things by half. For such a momentous moment in our history, we aimed to provide students, staff and wider Westholme family members, past and present, with an opportunity to both reflect upon and create memories, moments of nostalgia, pride, sentiment and that sense of the passion and warmth which continues to define our school. It was a huge undertaking, but I am immensely proud of the teamwork, leadership and utmost quality that went into every moment celebrating 100 years, characteristics that have been at the heart of Westholme since its birth. Our wonderful exhibition and Centenary magazine gives countless examples of unique individuals coming together and uniting to ensure the continued success of the school over the years; this year was a testament to that united effort, something we might take for granted as typical for Westholme. Upon reflection, it is so important that we acknowledge how Westholme is not just the wonderful site, buildings, facilities and opportunities that are afforded to its students, it is also the people themselves who come together on a daily basis as the beating heart of the school to ensure our unrivalled holistic, fun, exciting, happy, warm, outstanding school continues to be a place we all call a second home.



I have been a part of Westholme my entire life as one of those boys who donned the purple cap and duffle coat in the 80's, saw my sister enjoy her entire education at the school, and made many lifelong friends along the way who are now OWs themselves. As Mrs Oracz and I are proud to see our son now flourishing in the Reception class at Prep, enjoying the start to his exciting journey at the school, it is wonderful to see the next 100 years has certainly begun as the previous century ended and I look forward to seeing the school build upon that historic foundation for many years to come.



"I would also like to thank all former and current students, and our wider Westholme Family, for your continued support and for being part of the past, present and future of the school. Here's to the next 100 years!"

It is hard to pick out a standout moment from all of the events that took place this year, however, if I was to choose one, it would have to be the speech given by Mrs Anne Longson, Emily Singleton's great niece, at the Centenary Concert. It was certainly a showcase of unbelievable talent on the night and momentous way to crown a century of performances of the highest calibre at Westholme, and to hear a relative of our founder share her pride and note how Mrs Singleton would have been "awestruck" by the concert and how the school has developed since she founded it in 1923, was a very moving moment for all in attendance and one I will personally never forget.

In a year when so many truly came "Westholme", I would like to thank all of our staff for their dedication, unparalleled work ethic and that wonderful Westholme passion, to ensure the Centenary events were a complete success. I would also like to thank all former and current students, and our wider Westholme family, for your continued support and for being part of the past, present and future of the school. Here's to the next 100 years!

Mr Jonathan Oracz

Head of INSPIRED Sixth Form, Classics and Latin Old Westholmian Proud Westholme Parent





THE NEXT 100 YEARS OF THE WESTHOLME FAMILY









Increasing connectivity between the Westholme community was a central aim in our Centenary year. The Westholme Family is made by the interactions between students, staff, families, Old Westholmians, and the wider Westholme community. We were pleased to see hundreds of OWs return to Westholme for our Centenary and alumni events. Seeing them reconnect and reminisce reflects on the Westholme spirit, and the fact that you truly don't leave Westholme at the end of Year 13, you remain a part of the community alongside thousands of others.

We couldn't be prouder of the many successes of our OWs, we were delighted to hear the many incredible stories, journeys and progressions OWs have made since leaving Westholme as pupils. These stories not only inspired us, but our students have taken each story they heard from alumni as inspiration and advice. As they make decisions about their own futures, OWs have provided vital support to them that means more than they can imagine.

In 100 years time, we hope to see our OW community expand even further, to celebrate your successes together, reconnect more often, and foster stronger links between students past and present. Thank you to all our OWs, for maintaining the same Westholme spirit since you first walked through the Westholme doors.

As such, we were delighted to continue growing our Alumni network online, through our dedicated Alumni platform. This allows alumni to find old friends and colleagues, access exclusive news and photos, and find out about events. If you are interested in finding out more information, you can register by scanning the QR code below to the right.

You can also join us on Facebook by scanning the QR below to the left, where we have a Westholme Family Alumni group dedicated to all things Westholme!



Facebook Group





Alumni Website

100 YEARS OF

SUPPORT

The support that is offered to students throughout their Westholme journey has continued to play a vital role in their development as young adults and graduates. Throughout their time at the school they are offered specialised 1:1 support by their teachers and student mentoring programmes which are run by our INSPIRED Sixth Formers. The relationships between the students and teachers continued to thrive in our Centenary Year and really hit some dizzying new heights with the success that was achieved through our Careers Programme, run by Head of Careers Mrs Hibberd.

Many of our students received brilliant A Level results, securing offers from top Universities. Seven of our students also garnered the highest level Apprenticeships available from companies such as BBC, KPMG, PwC, Jaguar Land Rover, the Civil Service, Sellafield and ARUP. As a result, we were a winning finalist at the Independent Schools of the Years 2023 Awards for our Outstanding Careers Programme, the highest recognition for the exceptional levels of support that are on offer to Westholmians.





Whilst the recognition of the award highlights the impressive achievements that were attained in 2023, this is by no means a one off. We have seen through our series of Alumni lunches just how appreciative our former students of all ages were of the support that was available to them at Westholme during their respective times at the school. Many of them have gone on to achieve fantastic things in their careers as a result.

The Centenary Year has been a fabulous celebration of all things Westholme, but one of the highlights has been seeing the appreciation for the levels of support provided to students of all ages and abilities during their time at Westholme in all areas of the curriculum, whether it be inside or outside of the classroom.



REFLECTIONS
FROM OLD
WESTHOLMIANS



"Without Westholme, I wouldn't be the person that I am today."

"My education was elevated by the opportunities presented to me at Westholme, and the support from the staff that was available to me during my time there."

"The constant support from teachers made the learning environment feel inspiring and inclusive."

100 YEARS OF SUPPORT









"Students form excellent relationships with their teachers who are generous of their time to provide support and guidance."

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

ADAM'S STORY



Adam's Westholme journey began after having received outstanding results at GCSE, joining Westholme on a Full Academic Scholarship as a member of our INSPIRED Sixth Form.

Adam did fantastically well in his studies and achieved A*AA in his A Level results, which allowed him to study a Degree Apprenticeship in Aerospace Engineering.

Adam went on to speak about his Westholme experience at our Centenary Ball in July 2023, sharing his story as a Westholme scholar.

During his time at Westholme, he relished the support that was provided to him, taking full advantage of the opportunities an independent school education offered him.

Adam went on to say, "I valued the small, everyday things which became normal, however they had a large impact over my experiences at Westholme."



FINAL THANKS

What a wonderful Centenary year we have had here at Westholme! The series of events organised by the collaboration of numerous departments within the Westholme community has provided a truly magical experience for all.

This magic does not stop at events however, and we are truly grateful to our incredible staff and students for bringing the Westholme Spirit each and every day. Whether in the classroom, or on stage performing renditions of Disney hits, our teachers embody the meaning of the Westholme family feel, and continue to make Westholme a fun, warm, welcoming place to be.

Our students continue to make us prouder each and every day, and their involvement in both the organisation, and participation in events is a testimony of their bold, energetic and creative characters. Thank you especially to our Student Executive team, for their brilliant speeches and support with myriad of our Centenary events as well as their day-to-day duties.

Thank you all for making this Centenary year more memorable than anyone could have imagined, we couldn't have done it without you.





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