

# Wakefield Girls' High School



2010 - 2011



## Foreword

As another academic year in the history of the High School draws to a close, the pages of this year's magazine chart its course from last September to this July.

Our girls have worked hard, played hard and been outstanding ambassadors for the school and all it stands for, both at home and abroad. They have secured excellent university places, been crowned U16 National Hockey Champions, amazed us on the catwalk, dazzled us on stage and in all regards have embraced every opportunity the year has had to offer, as the forthcoming articles and photographs will testify. Generous of spirit, time and energy, they have continued to raise fund for those less fortunate and to write and deliver assemblies which demonstrate a mature, caring and sensible outlook on life, which is their hallmark. Life may not always have been plain-sailing for some, touched by loss, injury or personal struggle, but the W.G.H.S. community is a tremendously supportive one and will do all it can to comfort, support and encourage.

The strength of that community continues beyond a girl's school years and pulls her back to it. This year, we have hosted two 'W.G.H.S. in touch' reunions in the newly refurbished Jubilee Hall, which has been much admired throughout the year. Leavers from the 1980s attended a luncheon in June, and in May we welcomed back former Head Girls of the school for a delicious dinner, followed by an unveiling of a board in honour of all 110 Head Girls to have held the post since 1902. Carol Otley, Head Girl in 1952, performed the unveiling and was then presented with a posy from the most recent former Head Girl, Hattie Jones. It was a truly moving and memorable occasion, filled with reminiscences and laughter, and a shared love of W.G.H.S. that transcended time and united generations.

Similarly, the Year 13 Leavers' Ball saw the most senior students in the Foundation united in nostalgia for what was passing and excitement for what lies in store. Both I and Mr Craig were like proud parents, welcoming our immaculately groomed young adults to their final school celebration and witnessing their rite of passage. As they step into tomorrow, we wish them every joy and fulfilment and thank each one for their unique contribution to the school.

The photographs which accompany this foreword paint a better picture than I can do in words. In one, the out-going Head and Deputy Head Girls, Hattie and Lottie can't help but show their emotion in the assembly in which I and the school, show our

gratitude for all they have done. In the other, we have the laughter of two former Head Girls, Hattie and Carol, bridging the 58 years between their respective terms of office.



W.G.H.S. touches the hearts of all who come under its spell, whether staff, pupil or 'friend' and has the power to transform. In the year which has seen the opening of the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield the city can be proud of the High School's role in Barbara Hepworth's formative years, spent here from 1909-1920. She said that it was here that she came into contact with art, through the 190 reproductions of Old Masters which lined every corridor and hung in every classroom, the Headmistress's lectures and slide-shows of Egyptian sculptures and 'the gorgeous smell of the paint' she used.

As the pages of this magazine will show, the school continues to nurture talent in all areas of curricular and extra curricular life, thanks to the dedication of its equally talented staff. Read and enjoy!

Gill Wallwork





### John Fox

John joined the High School in the summer term of 2010 as our AV/Sound and Light technician. This was a new post in school and, from day one, there was much to be undertaken. Faced with a huge learning curve, John has worked very closely with staff and pupils from Senior and Junior schools, as well as supporting joint productions with QEGS. He has guided and managed the SALT Team, providing training and support for members as well as organising duty rotas. Within a few weeks of taking up post John was heavily involved with planning and refurbishment and upgrade of equipment and lighting within the Jubilee Hall and was assisting the ICT Technical Team with upgrades to our computer network.

John's professionalism, organisation, reliability and excellent technical skills have resulted in High School productions and events achieving previously unseen levels of production and sparkle. He has been universally praised for his unfaltering good nature, expert assistance and support. All this has been achieved whilst organising his wedding, new house purchase and move!

Remarkably, John has not been put off by the non stop organised chaos of school life as he now leaves us to pursue, what is perhaps, an even greater challenge of becoming a teacher. I speak for all who know and have worked with him by stating that John is going to be a huge loss to the High School (and Foundation) but that he will also make a most excellent teacher. We wish him all the very best for the future in both a professional and personal capacity.

### Mrs Frances Ginn

Mrs Frances Ginn left WGHS at the end of May after 19 years of dedicated service.

Frances joined WGHS on 2 November 1992. She came to us from Colt Chemical Company where she was secretary to the Managing Director.

Looking back at one of her references I quote, "Frances demonstrated her pleasant disposition and ability to work with adults and children" and was described as "mature and calm under pressure". I have found this to be one of Frances' major strengths - when everything is bustling on around her, there is a serenity and calmness which is welcomed and appreciated by all who work with her.

Frances has seen many changes, but she has remained the calm and professional face of the Senior School Office, building a team of loyal and dedicated colleagues around her.

On her application form Frances stated that her interests were archaeology, historical houses, floral art, music and opera. Although time now is being spent preparing for their daughter's wedding, we do wish Frances and Malcolm a very long and healthy retirement, and hope that Frances will be able to spend time following her many interests with renewed vigour.

Christina Hastings

### Debbie Guthrie

Debbie began her relationship with the High School when she was a pupil in Year 7, then IV Lower. She was taught by staff, some of whom were later to become her colleagues when she joined the staff of the school in 2000.

Debbie was an exemplary pupil who was a natural choice as Head Girl when she moved into the Sixth Form. She was a top achiever academically and a very talented artist, who was greatly liked and respected by everyone. When Debbie finished her university degree and teacher training, she was soon back with us again. In the Languages Department, teaching both French and Spanish, she has been an inspiration to many girls over the years. Debbie has the ability to light up a room and she energises those who come into contact with her. At WGHS we have been lucky to see her grow from schoolgirl, to young woman, wife and mother. She is now living in Brisbane, Australia with her husband and two little girls and we know she is very happy.

Sue Hotham

### Lynda Hutchins

Lynda joined Wakefield Girls' High School as Head of Geography on 1 September 1994.

It was apparent from the beginning that Lynda was an absolute professional with many exciting and innovative ideas about how she would like the department to move forward in the future. She was capable, conscientious and always tried to lead by example.

Lynda was passionate about Geography and its relevance to the students both in and beyond the classroom and she used her wide experiences of travel and fieldwork to enthuse both colleagues and girls. When she was appointed Head of Sixth Form she continued to play a very supportive role within the department, always willing to help whenever she could. Her experience was freely shared, especially with new staff just starting their careers. Lynda was approachable, down to earth and earned the respect of both pupils and parents as she gave sensible and practical advice at all times.

We were all sorry to say goodbye to Lynda after her many years at WGHS but she has earned some time to herself away from the routine of school life. We know that she will be using her time now to follow her wide ranging interests from completing complicated cross stitch pieces and counting barns in the Yorkshire Dales to travelling to the places about which she has previously only taught in class and spending time with family and friends.

We wish Lynda all the best in the future.

Geography Department

### Suzanne McElfrick-Parr

Suzanne was made matron at WGHS in 2007 and since her appointment she has made a huge difference to so many students and has become a highly valued and respected colleague. From dealing with minor cuts and bruises, to saving lives by administering epi-pens, to offering counselling and support, Suzanne is always available with a friendly manner and professional approach. The knowledge that she is there when required is hugely comforting to both students and staff. In the three years she has been with us the job has expanded to include delivery of PSHE lessons, the writing of policies and becoming the WGHS 'Guru' on a range of afflictions, from swine flu to impetigo. We will be very sorry to lose her but wish her all the best as she moves to Edinburgh with her husband Richard and sons Alex, Ben and Reuben.

### Mrs Jean Partridge

Mrs Jean Partridge also left WGHS at the end of May to spend time with her husband Jack and of course, not forgetting Smudger, the dog.

Jean joined the School Office to cover maternity leave on 27 February 2006, and we were delighted when Jean became permanent on 23 October after Mrs Walters decided not to return and become a full time mum.

Jean came to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked at Leeds Girls' High School and Morley High School. With over 17 years in secretarial roles in schools, she quickly settled in and became an asset to the team.

One of Jean's references described her as having a "good sense of humour and lovely smile" - how true.

Jean's role developed considerably over the last couple of years and she rose to the challenge and coped admirably with the pressure.

Jean is looking forward to many happy times away in her beloved caravan, and we wish her and Jack a very long and healthy retirement.

Christina Hastings

### Annabel Pitcher

Annabel Pitcher left us at the close of last year to pursue her rapidly developing career as a keenly anticipated, soon-to-be-published author, after what was a brief, but very valued, year in the English Department and Year 10 Pastoral team. We were both very sorry to see her go and yet at the same time thrilled about her success and the bright future which lay ahead of her. Her time here will be remembered for her enthusiasm and the sheer gusto with which she involved herself in school life at WGHS with all her formal classes, the Junior Book Group, Drama

productions and in supporting students outside of the classroom. A very talented classroom teacher, innovative and interactive, her students and colleagues could already see her inspirational effect on her charges. Her enthusiasm and hard work are still reaping rewards as she makes a name for herself as the author of the acclaimed *My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece*, and her having been a visiting author to school, we now look forward to return visits as she goes from strength to strength.

### Lindsay Slack

Lindsay was only with us at WGHS for four years, but she made an impression which none of those who knew her will forget. The only thing that was petite about Lindsay was her stature. She was an exceptionally talented linguist, a born teacher and an inspirational Head of the MFL Department and Head of French. You only needed to walk down a corridor with Lindsay to be aware of her incredible energy. She had great vision, an immense capacity for hard work and she got things done. She embraced all the worthwhile thinking in education and led by example. We know that she did not want to leave the High School and that she misses us all. However she will no doubt soon be revolutionising another Languages Department in the Coventry area, where she has moved with her husband and two daughters. We wish her all the best there.

Sue Hotham

### Skandar Taj

Having worked both in industry and teaching, Skandar joined WGHS in September 2008 as a teacher of ICT and junior Mathematics. A Physics graduate and also holding a Master's degree in IT, he had many strings to his academic bow.

A man of many talents, boundless enthusiasm and often colourful wardrobe, Skandar was an excellent supporter of the school, entering into its academic, pastoral and extra curricular life with obvious and characteristic enthusiasm. He was the first to volunteer for things that others may have been less keen to participate in, hence we always saw him in 'splat the teacher' and other such fundraisers. He was unfailingly courteous, compassionate and kind, ready to lend support to students in need of help and to speak up on their behalf.

We thank Skandar for his contribution to the two departments in which he worked and wish him every happiness in his new post as teacher of Physics and House Master at Rossall School in Fleetwood, Lancashire. We have no doubt that the bracing sea air and flat landscape will encourage even more cycling in the future!



## *Caroline Follon*

I am, and proud to be, a 'Yorkshire Lass'. Although not originally from Wakefield, I moved here nearly twenty years ago now to embark on a career in Nursing (it's scary how quickly time flies!). After completing my three years of training in Wakefield I then went on to give fifteen years of service on the wards and various other departments. Lots of studying and learning, lots of hard work, sadness and laughter, and lots of chilling out downloading and unwinding with colleagues afterwards!

Nursing was a real 'educational experience' for me: it taught me that life isn't always fair, sometimes you have to make the most of everything while you can! I always found I enjoyed 'being there' for people, teaching and assisting students and junior staff, and encouraging new learning with patients - nothing gave greater pleasure than witnessing achievements gained after the struggles and determination shown.

In my role as Learning Resource Assistant I hope to continue my role as a 'promoter', encouraging learning and sharing in the achievement of success. I have many hobbies but one of my greatest passions is reading - what better place to work for me is there than to work in the Library!

## *John Fox*

Having spent almost 10 years working in the corporate video and music video market, I began a career as an AV Technician in education. WGHS is the second school I have worked in, and its students and faculty welcomed me with open arms.

I have a degree in Media Studies and a passion for screen writing, film making and photography. I enjoy reading books, with fictional writing being one of my many hobbies.

I have been fortunate enough to work in a variety of workplaces, from the chaos of a busy city newspaper to the pressures of running my own video company, but none have been as rewarding as working with young people. I am passionate about my work and dedicated to providing the best service possible to staff and students alike.

I live in a village not far from a river, and I can be found taking long riverside walks most Sunday evenings. I enjoy food of all kinds, and was fortunate to marry a very talented cook!

I have travelled to many places, with Warsaw, Oslo, Tokyo and New York being amongst my favourites. I enjoy meeting people of all backgrounds, especially those with a good sense of humour and excellent manners.

I am a family person at heart, and I am pleased to be a member of the closely knit community that is WGHS.

## *Carl Jeavons*

I grew up in Yorkshire and went on to study BA Hons Fine Art at Loughborough University. During my Degree Show I was interviewed by a journalist from The Times to feature in an article about up and coming art graduates. This exposure enabled my artwork to be exhibited in London and Barcelona.

After graduating in 2005 I moved to London to work as a Graduate Trainee for the London Graphic Centre. In 2007 I began working for Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust (SGMT) where I gained curatorial experience and installed various exhibitions. These included works by artists such as Barbara Hepworth, Leonardo Da Vinci, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Marc Quinn, Su Blackwell and Vivienne Westwood.

I moved to Lancaster to complete my PGCE at St Martin's (University of Cumbria) in 2009. This included a school placement in Windermere. Since I began teaching at WGHS in September everyone has made me feel extremely welcome. I look forward to developing my career here and cannot wait to see the girls' creative ideas come to fruition in future.

## *Chris Shaw*

I was immensely inspired as a Sixth Former by my own Maths teacher. His outstanding ability and knowledge of Maths, coupled with the ease with which he portrayed this knowledge to us, the pupils, left me with a strong desire to pursue teaching as my own career.

With this goal in mind I studied Maths at the University of Sheffield, graduating in 2009. I also chose to complete my PGCE at Sheffield due to gaining such a strong affiliation with the city.

I spent the summer of 2008 working in America as a rocketry and modelling specialist, as well as travelling round the North East of the USA. This was an amazing experience and furthered my interests in working with young people.

My hobbies outside of school include football, bike riding and the occasional bit of modelling and painting. Other interests include American Football and baseball which I grew to love from my time in America.

WGHS is an excellent school to be starting my career. I am delighted to be a member of the school and look forward very much to the times ahead.

## *Wendy Zhang*

Mathematics has always been my favourite subject from school and my passion for it grows day by day. As a result, I have completed a straight Mathematics degree from the University of Manchester and after that I started my PGCE year at the University of Sheffield. It was an intensive year, yet enjoyable. I had the chance to meet people from similar backgrounds who share the same passion for Mathematics.

I then worked in a number of schools including King Edward Grammar School in Birmingham. It is a privilege to work at WGHS; both the staff and pupils have made me feel so welcome. Outside of school, I enjoy playing American Pool and Snooker. I love digital photography, travelling abroad (sightseeing) and tasting food from different countries.

I look forward to my future at WGHS.



*Julia Lawson Year 13*



*Philippa Bayford Year 10*





*Mr & Mrs Fox*



*Mrs Dee & Mrs Jo North-Clarke*



## Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl 2010-2011

Our roles as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl this year have been a pleasure to carry out. We feel honoured to have been elected by both staff and pupils to represent not only Year 13, but to act as role models to the school. We have really enjoyed our time at school and this year has definitely been the highlight.

Our roles have brought with them considerably responsibility and we have learnt a great deal in the process. We have developed not only in our confidence, but also in our communication and organisational skills. Speaking to fellow students and figures of authority has taught us to adapt our conversational skills depending on the situation. During the year we had the chance to organise the Christmas Review. It was a lot of hard work, but the team work within the year and the dedication of everyone really paid off; the show was a real success. Other duties we have carried out include giving speeches at school events, delegating tasks to prefects and helping organise the Year 13 Leavers' Ball.

We would like to thank our team of Senior Prefects and Prefects who have all been so helpful this year. It has been a pleasure to work with you. The staff have also given us a great deal of support which has been very much appreciated.

Both of us have chosen to study dentistry at University, Harriet at Newcastle University and Charlotte at Sheffield University. We are sad to leave school but we are looking forward to the new challenges that University will bring. We wish next year's Head Girl Team all the best of luck.

Harriet Jones and Charlotte Mawby





# Outgoing Senior Officials 2010-11

Head Girl - Harriet Jones  
Deputy Head Girl - Charlotte Mawby

## Senior Prefects

Jenny Barker  
Jessica Crowther  
Emma Gill  
Julia Lawson  
Laura MacGregor

Sarah Proud  
Eleanor Richmond  
Aimee Ward  
Scarlett Whittell  
Charlotte Youngs



# New Head Girl Team 2011-12

Head Girl - Lucie Baker  
Deputy Head Girl - Charlotte Morris

## Senior Prefects

Phoebe Attia  
Elizabeth Brown  
Hollie Firth  
Amy Hibbins  
Maisie Martland

Kate Nichols  
Mohini Patel  
Rebecca Smith  
Gayathri Vakkalanka  
Lauren Wills

## Prefects

Heena Ahir  
Rosanna Jones  
Emma Atkinson  
Kanika Kapur  
Katie Bacon  
Kiran Kaur  
Hettie Barker  
Danielle Kaye  
Charlotte Beck  
Emily King  
Charlotte Bedford  
Sarah Lavery  
Charlotte Bingley  
Jayne Lawson  
Evangelene Boothman  
Laura Lindsay  
Jessica Brown  
Victoria Linter

Lucy Chaplin  
Beth Mears  
Rachel Cooper  
Alicia Midgley  
Emma Corbett  
Charlotte Morris  
Vanessa Coughlan  
Ashleigh Parry  
Clare Croft  
Anisha Patel  
Eleanor Cross  
Gemma Patterson  
Emily Crowson  
Jasmine Puckering  
Rachel Cust  
Ellie Rawnsley  
Ashleigh Dean  
Harriet Reddish

Claire Dobson  
Emma Reilly  
Rebecca Dods  
Madelaine Sayner  
Victoria Eades  
Jessica Schofield  
Charlotte Ferris  
Rachel Seymour  
Victoria Field  
Bethany Sharp  
Lydia Georgiou  
Nicole Shaw  
Sarah Gibbons  
Saumya Singh  
Rosie Greenwood  
Amy Smith  
Chloe Guest  
Natalie-Ann Stanley

Jenna Guy  
Rosie Taylor  
Laura Hargreaves  
Beth Thompson  
Sophie Hartley  
Sarah Turton  
Abigail Higgins  
Lizzie Watts  
Kerry Inman-Rollin  
Rosannagh Watts  
Sophie Jenkinson  
Lucy West  
Rebecca Jennings  
Rebecca West  
Laura Jones  
Anoushka Wilson



Head Girl - Lucie Baker



Deputy Head Girl - Charlotte Morris





## Prefects

Priya Aggarwal  
 Alice Jackson  
 Harriette Speight-Hulme  
 Deepa Ahir  
 Rachael Jones  
 Laura Stead  
 Aleena Altaf  
 Emily Kaye  
 Lauren Stephenson  
 Beth Atkinson  
 Roseanna Keighley  
 Hannelore Talbot  
 Holly Barden  
 Neelam Khan  
 Audra Taylor  
 Abbygail Bell  
 Simmerjeet Kaur  
 Laura Thornton  
 Hannah Bennett  
 Rebecca Lancaster  
 Catherine Uttley  
 Charlotte Bevan  
 Emma Lewis

Aditi Verma  
 Anastasia Blair  
 Bethan Liddy  
 Cheryl Wan  
 Alia Bracewell  
 Sophia Lindley  
 Honey Watson  
 Alexandra Brown  
 Olivia Lister  
 Natasha Watson  
 Natalie Brown  
 Alicia Livingston  
 Charlotte Woodall  
 Georgia Burghardt-Scriven  
 Elizabeth Long  
 Ella Wood  
 Bryony Butler  
 Louisa Long  
 Ruby Zoccolan  
 Sophie Carrigill  
 Louisa Lumley  
 Lucy Carveth-Johnson  
 Katy Lyons

Eleanor Cawthorne  
 Balreenpal Mehat  
 Jessica Chen  
 Hannah Mitchell  
 Alice Ch'ng  
 Sophie Morgan  
 Susie Collett  
 Katie Mumby  
 Lara Colwood  
 Beverley Murray  
 Rachel Connell  
 Chloe Murray  
 Katherine Cooper  
 Eleanor Newton  
 Emma Cresswell  
 Jessica Parker  
 Bethany Duckitt  
 Teena Patel  
 Georgia Dudleston  
 Hannah Pollock  
 Niamh Duffy  
 Jasmine Puckering  
 Antonia Eves

Megan Richmond  
 Alice Fletcher  
 Emily Ridge  
 Harriet Flocks  
 Faith Ridler  
 Lucy Fox  
 Evie Robinson  
 Hasitha Ginjupalli  
 Isabelle Robinson  
 Gayatri Gogoi  
 Amanda Scuffham  
 Emma Goy  
 Zoe Shackleton  
 Charlotte Gulliver  
 Emily Sharpe  
 Louisa Guy  
 Melanie Sharp  
 Henna Shiwani  
 Ciara Hornshaw  
 Sophie Smith  
 Molly Howe  
 Monica Soliman





## Caythorpe Court 2010

On Tuesday, 21 September 2010, 92 excited girls and 9 (quite excited) teachers loaded their suitcases and sleeping bags onto the coaches destined for Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire. We arrived at noon, settled quickly into our rooms, had lunch and were straight into activities. Throughout the week the girls would be experiencing abseiling, 'all aboard', archery, 'challenge course', fencing, 'giant swing', 'Jacob's ladder', raft building, 'sensory trail' and trapeze, as well as a full programme of evening activities.

The first evening, full of stories of how high they had climbed, swung, shot etc, we all grabbed our torches and headed to the camp fire to sing songs and listen to tall tales.

Wednesday dawned bright and sunny and everybody participated in their activities with great determination and enthusiasm. The evening games included apple bobbing, a bin bag fashion show and a scavenger hunt, with the eventual winners being decided by a 'rap-off'.

Thursday saw another full day of activities and a visit by Mrs Tingle. Thursday evening gave the girls the chance to wear something a little more glamorous (climbing harnesses do little to flatter the figure!) at the long awaited disco.

Friday morning, we awoke to torrential rain, but nothing was going to dampen spirits and the girls completed their final activities with typical High School energy. After lunch our thank yous and goodbyes were said to our excellent PGL leaders, Dawn and Bradderz, and we set off for Wakefield.

Throughout the week the girls had all stepped outside of their comfort zones, challenged themselves and forged new friendships along the way. My thanks must also go to the staff that accompanied the trip; without their hard work and enthusiasm the trip could not take place.

### Mrs Rees

On our third week at WGHS all the Year 7 girls went on a four day residential trip to Caythorpe Court. I was in a room with five other girls who I soon became friends with. During the week we took part in lots of team building activities such as raft building (in which we made a raft using barrels and rope and then tested it out on the lake), the sensory trail (where we were blindfolded and had to complete an obstacle course) and problem solving (an activity which needed lots of communication and concentration). We also had the opportunity to try fencing, archery, rifle shooting and trapeze which were all great fun! In the evenings we were entertained with a disco, campfire and a team competition. I really enjoyed my week at Caythorpe Court because it gave me the chance to make lots of new friends and get to know my classmates and teachers better.

Katie Hodgson - Year 7



Caythorpe Court was a great way to get to know more people; 91 new faces can be quite daunting. I've never really had a thrill like that from a trapeze or the Giant Swing prior to this. Our room was great, lots of space, a big bathroom and a great view. The meals were mostly excellent and the activities were amazing! Although I missed my home, Caythorpe Court was an unforgettable experience.

### Maria Balac - Year 7

I really enjoyed Caythorpe Court as I made loads of new friends and became even closer to the friends I already had. I learnt new skills like belaying and fencing. I also tried things I had never tried before like abseiling and Jacob's Ladder. Although I enjoyed all of the activities, my favourite was the Giant Swing. The rest of the group pulled me up to the top and then I pulled a rope. Suddenly I swooped down. It was amazing! What I also liked about Caythorpe Court was the delicious food. I loved all the cakes! Also, I liked how we all worked together in a team. I loved all the songs, especially the rapping contest. Caythorpe Court was an experience I will never forget.

### Laura Sanderson - Year 7

Overall Caythorpe Court was a brilliant trip! The Giant Swing or any climbing activities were by far the best. Although raft building comes a close second. All the activities were good as they got you thinking and got your heart pumping. My favourite evening activity was the disco. At the disco everyone had great fun and loved the music. The campfire was also good as I loved singing songs and dancing with everyone else. I had great fun at Caythorpe Court.

Isabella Wood - Year 7

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### Maria Balac - Year 7

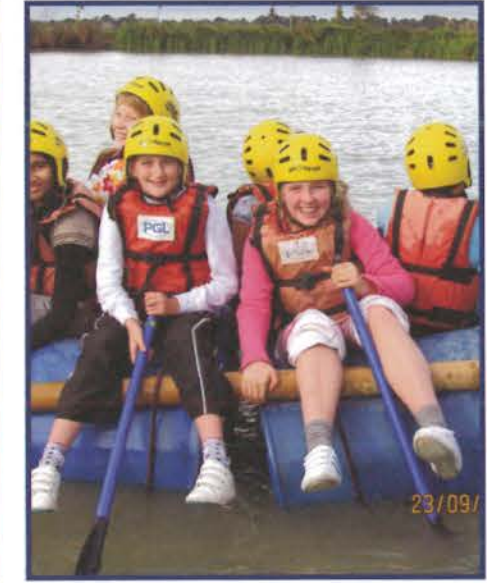
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Isabella Wood - Year 7

## Caythorpe Court 2010





# Key Events 2010-11

## Year 7 Trip to the Deep in Hull

The 18 January 2011 was an exciting day for future WGHS pupils - it was Entrance Exam day. In order to give the potential new students some space to get acclimatised to what could be their new academic home for the next seven years, six staff members took 91 current Year 7 girls on a pastoral day trip to the Deep aquarium in Hull. The Deep is an Education and Conservation charity, which focuses on educating people about the world's oceans - their history, environments and inhabitants, as well as carrying out its own research projects. It is very school-friendly, offering a variety of learning programmes and workshops linked to Geography, Science and Art across all age-groups.

WGHS has had successful trips to the Deep in the past, and the 2011 trip was no exception, being just as enjoyable and enriching for the pupils as on previous occasions. The girls were dressed in non-uniform (but looking as impeccable as ever) and we reached the Deep by 10.30am. We wanted a relatively early start as there is so much to see and do in the aquarium and adjoining purpose built learning centre. The day was structured so the girls could enjoy a combination of free time, examining the exhibits and aquariums, and take part in the education session taken by one of the Deep's staff. The girls learnt about the world's oceans through time, discovered the life and colours of a coral reef, and explored the vast array of over 3,500 fish (including sharks, jellyfish and rays). There were numerous members of the Deep's staff on hand to answer any questions the girls had about the oceans and sea-life, and, as befitting WGHS girls, they were not shy about coming forward to find out more about the exhibits! They participated in a variety of interactive activities, audiovisual presentations and a Science workshop. Lunch was provided by the school and to finish the day off the girls had some time in the 'Deepartment Store', the Deep's on-site shop, where they purchased souvenirs such as key rings, pens and soft toys. We returned back at WGHS in time for the buses at 4pm.

Here are some of the comments the girls made after the trip:

"My favourite parts were seeing all the colourful fish being fed and the massive sharks!"

"We got to look round everywhere in three groups so I made lots of new friends who I didn't know before"

"I especially enjoyed making slime and learning about it."

"I think the trip was amazing and wish to go there again in the future."

Many thanks to the Form Tutors and any other members of staff who helped to make this a wonderful start to 2011 for the Year 7 girls.

Miss Brennan  
Assistant Head of Year 7

## Salamanca Trip- October 2010

During the first week of the half term break, Mrs Dale and Mrs Relano from the Spanish Department took a small group of Year 10 and Year 11 girls on a language study trip to Salamanca. The girls attended a 21 hour intensive Spanish course at Academia Isla, as well as getting to know the beautiful UNESCO world heritage city.

We climbed the Cathedral towers to enjoy a bird's eye view of the old and new naves. We marvelled at the University classrooms and buildings dating back to 1928, when it was just one of four universities in Europe, and stared mesmerised by the chapel ceiling depiction of the Salamanca sky. We also sampled "chocolate con churros" and authentic "tapas" and enjoyed a Salsa lesson at a local dance school. It was icy cold in the mornings, but by the afternoon the girls were soaking up the sun's rays and the cafe culture in the magnificent main square.

The girls were fantastic ambassadors for the school. Their host families specifically asked us to tell their folks at home what a pleasure it had been and what a credit the girls are to their parents and the school.

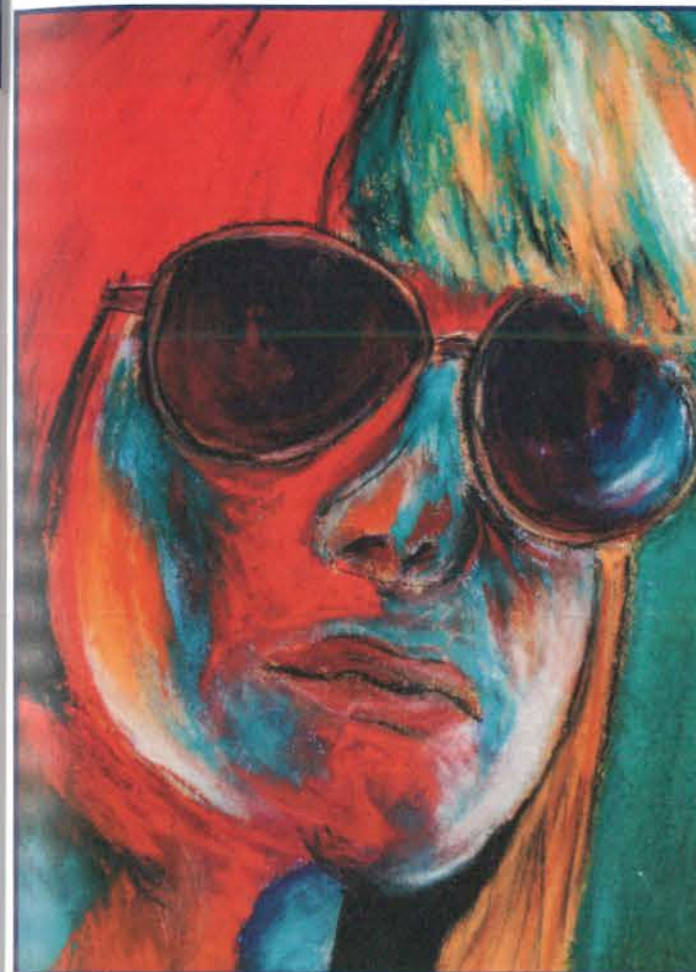
The best thing of all is that the girls had the opportunity to use their language skills in real situations and to discover one of Spain's gems hidden to most tourists.

Myself and Mrs Relano would like to personally thank the girls for their great company and we hope that they enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

Mrs Dale, Head of Spanish



Lydia Georgiou Year 13



Emily Warren - Barratt Year 11



Holly Freeman Year 11



Holly Freeman Year 11



Holly Freeman Year 11



### Spanish Trip, Salamanca 2010

Salamanca is a beautiful, rustic, culture filled town and for any Year 9 or 10s planning to go on the Spanish Exchange this year, you are about to have an amazing experience.

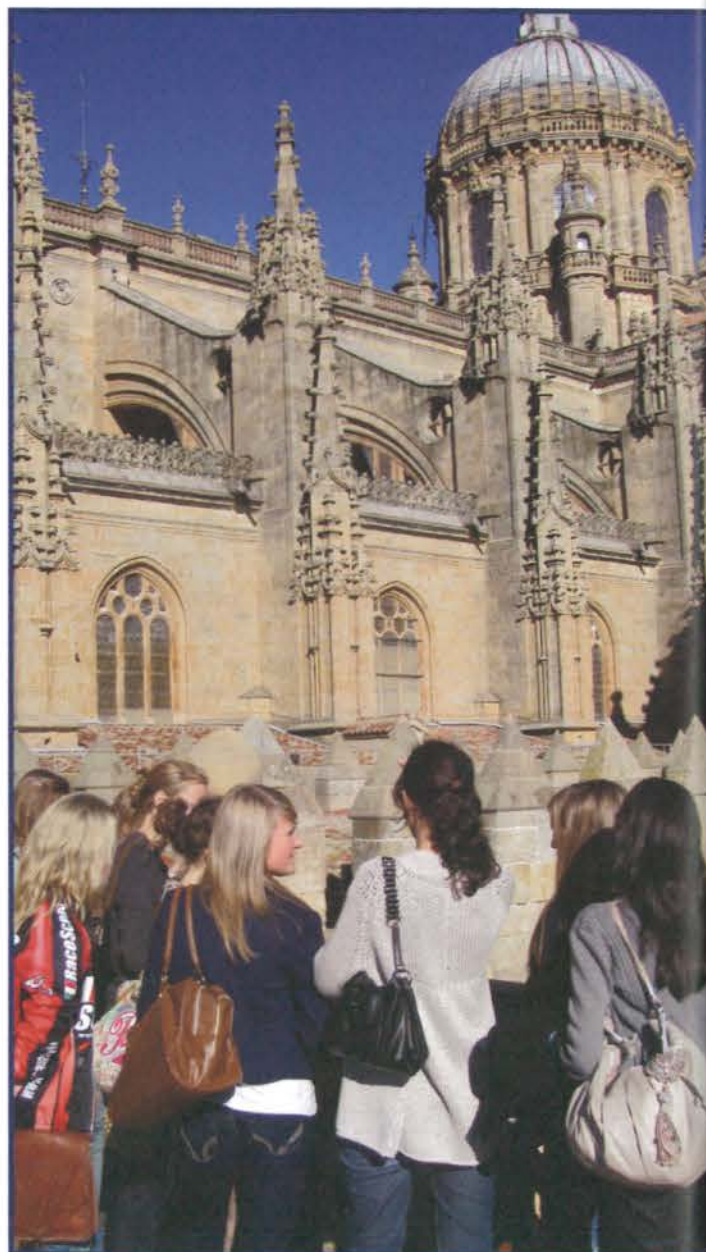
When we arrived in Salamanca, we were introduced to our 'families' for the week, and armed with Google translate and our Spanish phrase books, we definitely made friends for life.

During the week, we were offered everything from tapas to salsa dancing, my personal favourite, but also the free afternoons allowed us to explore Salamanca and spend some time shopping and relaxing in the gorgeous main square, the Plaza Mayor.

Although speaking to actual Spanish families did seem daunting at first, you would be surprised how much Spanish you actually know! Also the Spanish lessons at ISLA and just generally absorbing the culture meant we learnt many new words to bring back to England.

It was certainly a week for all the girls who went to remember and I could not have wished for a better way to spend my birthday than in a salsa class!

**Franki Fozard and Shruti Patel**  
Year 10



### Year 10 & 11 visit to the First World War Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme Sunday 17 to Wednesday 20 October, 2010

We travelled by coach and the Channel Tunnel to Belgium and reached our hotel close to the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres after a brief visit to the grave of the Wakefield nurse, Nelly Spindler.

We spent the second day exploring the town of Ypres before travelling around the battlefield that produced the iconic images of mud-filled trenches. We visited restored German trenches close to where Adolf Hitler was stationed as a young soldier and, from the Island of Ireland Memorial with its message of peace and reconciliation, we looked out over the scene of Winston Churchill's experiences in the trenches as a serving officer. From there we moved on to Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world before finishing with a visit to the restored 'Yorkshire Trench'. After our evening meal we attended the daily Last Post ceremony under the Menin Gate before continuing to sample the delights of the Belgian chocolate shops.

The next day started bright and early as we had to travel into France to visit the scenes of the fighting at Vimy Ridge with its impressive Canadian monument and preserved trenches and tunnels. Lunch was taken at the nearby

German cemetery with its forest of black metal crosses and grey Jewish headstones before continuing to the Somme battlefield with its huge mine crater, memorials and preserved trenches where we closed the visit with a brief ceremony of remembrance and the laying of a wreath on behalf of the school, where West Yorkshire battalions went 'over the top' on 1 July, 1916.

It was a very moving and inspiring trip for all of us and it was an experience that we will never forget. New friendships and memories were formed and the days seemed to fly by as we had an early start to each day, arriving at different preserved trenches, a museum, visiting different memorials to pay our respects and enjoying free time in the town of Ypres after going out for a meal each night. Although there were a lot of tears during the trip, we all had an amazing time and are very grateful to the teachers involved in organising the trip. Especially big thanks go to Mr Hargreaves.

**Samantha Lancaster**  
Year 10







## Pompeii 2011

### Our Itinerary

- Day 1 - Flight to Naples
- Day 2 - Virtual Museum at Herculaneum  
Visit to site of Herculaneum
- Day 3 - Naples Museum  
Rain soaked attempted visit to crater of Vesuvius
- Day 4 - Day in Pompeii returning on Circumvesuviana railway  
Tarantella evening
- Day 5 - Return flight to UK

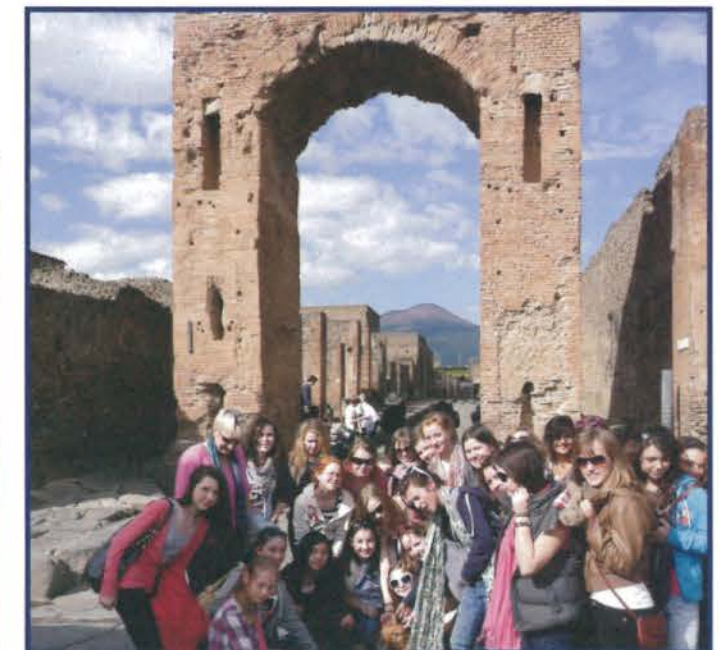
My trip to Pompeii was something I'll never forget. I've never really stayed with my friends for that long and it was amazing because it's just like they are your family, as you eat tea with them, share the same living space and go everywhere with each other!

During the trip, we went to Sorrento, Pompeii, Herculaneum and Vesuvius. Each place has given me an individual memory. From Sorrento I'll never forget the late night shopping and ice cream. From Pompeii my favourite memory has to be eating the delicious food in a nice restaurant with all my friends. In Herculaneum, my highlight is definitely eating pepperoni pizza on top of a roof!! Finally, in Vesuvius it's standing outside the coach in the thick fog whilst it was raining because we weren't allowed any further as the rain had made it unsafe!!

We also visited the virtual museum in Herculaneum. The museum was great and everyone enjoyed it because there were lots of things to do like uncovering paintings and standing in water mosaics to make the water move, which made it a lot more interesting and fun than walking around and just looking at things.

Overall, this amazing trip provided you with a week of fun activities and Italian food and I would recommend everyone to go because it's a great opportunity that may never come up again in your life. Also, it's a great chance to bond with your teachers!

Rebecca Tolson  
Year 8





This year a group of 12 students and 5 adults made the journey out to Tanzania for the adventure of a lifetime. Gathering at Leeds Bradford Airport at 4am on 7 July, we all felt terribly excited, but this feeling soon turned to exhaustion after twelve hours of travelling as we flew to Nairobi via Amsterdam. Having acquired visas and safely negotiated Nairobi Airport to pile into 3 vans, we were taken to the Presbyterian Guest House, happy to have a good meal inside us and a bed for the night.

The next day, after stocking up on supplies and drinking water in a supermarket in Nairobi, we went to Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage, where we could meet baby elephants and get close enough to touch them as they were being fed. In the afternoon, we drove to Elsamere, home of Joy Adamson and Elsa the Lioness, arriving in time for high tea. In the evening, after a very enjoyable meal and watching an interesting documentary about Joy Adamson, we were escorted back to our rooms by guards to avoid hippo attacks.

The next morning we all went on boats out to Crescent Island, where *Out of Africa* was filmed, near Lake Navasha. It was an amazing place to visit as the Island contains no predators, so we were able to walk around among the wildlife and see them far closer than most people would ever be able to. We saw zebra, giraffes, wildebeest and many other grazing animals. On our boat journey back we took a detour in order to photograph a group of hippos in the water. Then, in the afternoon, we began on a journey through Kenya to Tanzania. We stopped that night at Kemu cottages, and enjoyed our last hot showers and sticky toffee pudding and custard, knowing that the next night we would spend at Issenye School itself, and it would be nowhere near as luxurious.

The final journey to Issenye School the next day involved crossing the Kenya/Tanzania border, and this transition was made smoothly and successfully thanks to the expertise of Val (Mrs Denison). When we finally arrived at the school, we were pleasantly surprised by Savoy, the area of the school where we would be staying. Though there was no running water and limited electricity, we were glad to be able to stretch our limbs and rinse the grime from our



bodies after a long, bumpy and dusty journey. Luckily for us, we weren't expected to teach straight away the next day, and had a day to get used to the school, the heat, and to wash clothes and prepare our materials for our first day of teaching. We were shown around the school, and were able to see the classrooms and dormitories (some of which were built by fundraising at Wakefield Girls' High School).

Our timetable on teaching days while we were at Issenye School started when we woke up at quarter past six. Assembly started at 7am, before breakfast. On Monday and Thursdays the assembly was formal, with a flag raising and the students singing their national anthem, a patriotic song and their school hymn (much to our embarrassment, we had to sing *God Save The Queen* in the first assembly, though none of us could carry much of a tune...). On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays the assemblies were more informal, with student choir groups performing songs they had made up themselves along with the harmonies and simple dance routines; we always enjoyed these assemblies very much.

After assembly we taught Form One groups English and PE. We worked in pairs, with each pair taking a group of about ten students to teach. The students' ages ranged generally from 13 to 17, though they could sometimes be older, with one student this year who was 35 years old. We taught with basic books, using flashcards and picture boards to help the students get a better idea of vocabulary and thorough understanding of the story. PE lessons were far more active and much enjoyed, as students are rarely given the chance during lessons to run around and have fun – they enjoyed simple games played by many in WGHS, such as *Grandma's Footsteps* and *Funky Seaweed*. They also enjoyed playing sports such as netball, volleyball and football, and this year Kim (Mrs Stothard) brought a Softball bat and introduced them to a game which none of them had ever played before, but that became immediately popular (especially when we mentioned that Barack Obama loved to play it with his kids!).

It was only after these lessons that we could finally have breakfast. Then, before the sun became too hot, we went

to sit in groups with the students in other year groups to discuss the photographs we had brought with us from home. We were all amazed by the huge variety of questions the students asked – from politics and history to the weather and music. It was a chance for both us and the students to expand our knowledge of each other's cultures.

One group per day didn't teach, but went down to the nursery to spend some time with much younger children around the age of five. This was a really pleasurable experience for all of us as the children were so keen and attentive; we played games with them and read them stories, and enjoyed watching them smile which was quite heart-warming.

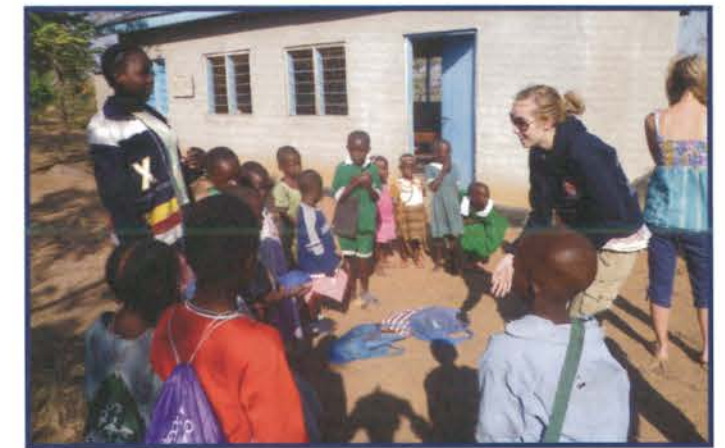
In the afternoon it was important for us to keep out of the midday sun, so we mainly stayed inside the Savoy. One afternoon we took a trip to the Issenye market and bought fabric from the vendors there, and another afternoon we visited a local junior school to give them two footballs and a netball as a gift. Both of these trips were certainly eye-opening experiences for us all. In the later afternoon, after



four o' clock, we went to sit out with the students again, to talk or to play sports with them and allow them to ask us more questions. We sometimes walked with the students, mainly girls, down to the well where they fetched water; we were also able to see the Wakefield Girls' High School Garden project which grows fruit and vegetables for the students to have with their meals. Our school also arranged a football, netball and volleyball tournament for the students to compete in, and though the WGHS team got to the final of the netball tournament, they were beaten by the Issenye girls. All the students are extremely talented sportswomen as well as showing a good deal of sportsmanship.

On the Saturday of our stay in Issenye School, we took some of the staff and the head boy and girl out for a picnic on the Serengeti, where we were able to see a great variety of wildlife including a hyena and two elephants. The view from our picnic spot was amazing and we had a really enjoyable day.

We very much enjoyed our two weeks in the school, and the farewell assembly and dinner was a sad occasion for all of us. We were given gifts of traditional African outfits from



beautiful material, handmade by people at the village. After a lot of photos and goodbyes, we finally went to get some rest before our early start the next morning, sad to be leaving already.

The money we raised with the help of the school will be going towards a television for the students to watch films on a Saturday evening at the school, but the bulk of it will fund a new dormitory for the Sixth Form girls to sleep in, with only two beds to a room and indoor washrooms, to allow the older girls some privacy and encourage them to continue their education at Issenye School, rather than leaving school at sixteen. As a girls' school, we recognise the importance of female education, and think this is important to impress upon the girls at Issenye School in this way.

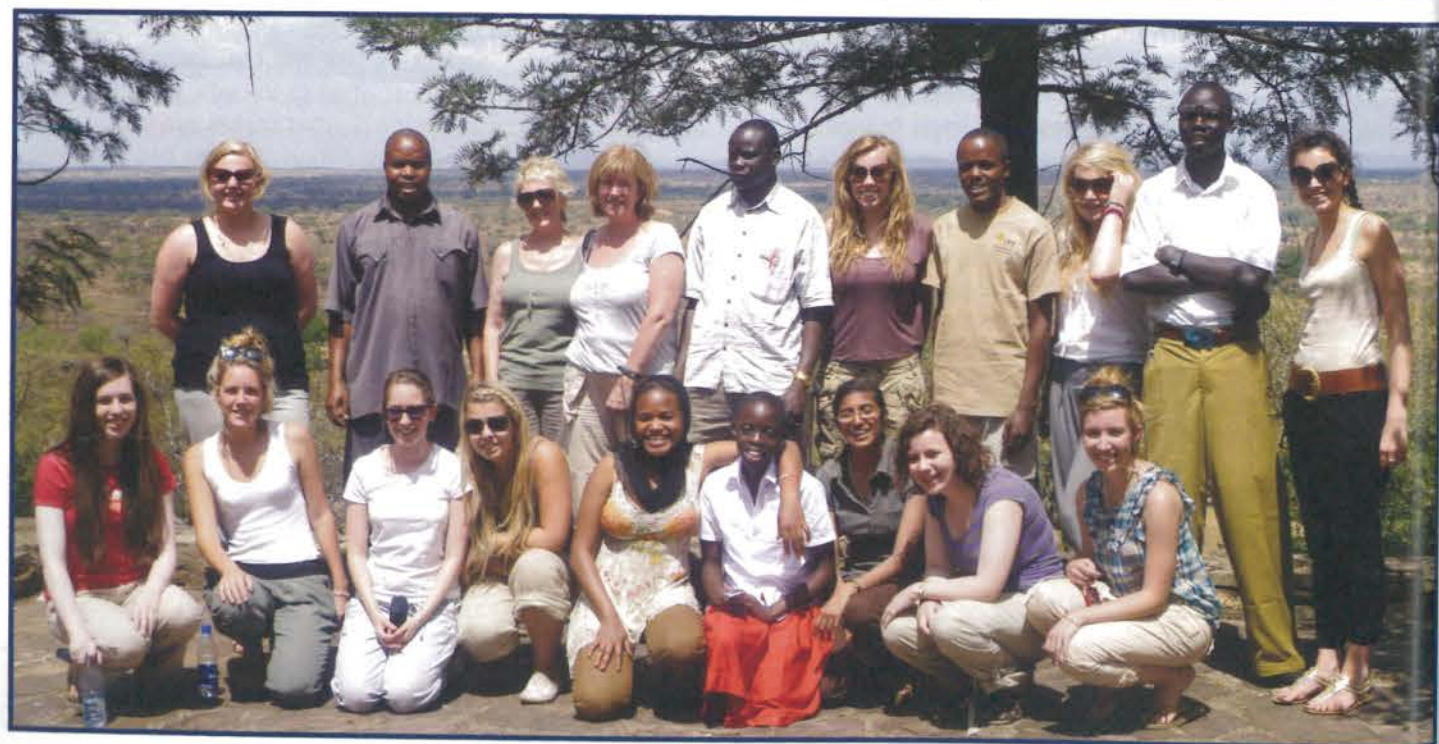
After leaving the school, we went back to Kenya for a few days' safari at Keekerok. We were lucky to see three of the Big 5 (buffalo, lions and elephants), as well as cheetahs, crocodiles and hippos. We were also lucky to see a Massai dance performed after dinner one evening, with some of us joining in with a few of the moves, which was great fun.

We all thought the trip to be unique and unforgettable. Our thanks go to Sarah, Kim, Lisa and Gail for accompanying us, and most of all to Val whose dedication and accumulated knowledge is what makes the trip run so smoothly and successfully and allows us all to get the most out of it that we possibly can. And for anyone who gets the chance to visit Tanzania, take it – it's the experience of a lifetime.

Harriet Grunewald







Concerts and musical events come thick and fast throughout the school year and this whistle-stop tour of some of the major landmarks of the year gives me a welcome opportunity to revisit some happy musical memories. Apologies if yours are not on this very concentrated list!

Music tours don't come any better than Foundation Chorus' week long sojourn in Venice and Northern Italy in July 2010. The venues were to die for, but it was the maturity, camaraderie and committed music-making that lit-up this expedition for me. Mrs Preston's vision, relentless pursuit of excellence and indefatigable leadership led the choir to perform beyond itself, and before a pen had even been raised in the new academic year, new musical horizons had been opened up for this young group of musicians.

This year saw our first Carol - as opposed to Advent - Service for some years and it was hugely enjoyed by all who took part. The mix of choral and instrumental music worked a treat, providing a heart-warming introduction to the festive season. The unashamedly classical mix of Berlioz (Shepherd's Farewell), Britten (excerpts from the Ceremony of Carols) and Pachelbel (the ubiquitous Canon) from our choirs showed that WGHS musicians can still get in touch with the spiritual side of their musical contributions.

February saw our KS4 and 5 musicians brushing up their party pieces for the WGHS Music Competition. Any independent school worth its salt can produce a couple of good performers, but to boost seventy plus, confident and talented musicians, all prepared to 'get stuck in' on behalf of their Music department, is quite an achievement. Stunning performances by Kathryn Mason (harp) and Sophie Smith (marimba) caught the attention of adjudicator Mr Tom Moore (Director of Music at Wakefield Cathedral) on the night, but all the entrants can be very proud of their contributions.

The Foundation musicals take a lot out of everyone involved, but the effort invested is always repaid with interest and, in the case of 'Anything Goes', a hefty bonus in addition. The pacy, syncopated score of this u-dated Cole Porter favourite was brilliantly captured by the entirely home-grown band, and the larger than life portrayals on the stage captured every nuance of the wittily reworked libretto. Huge praise to the cast and orchestra, and Mr Lenihan and Mr Besford, who led with such skill and good-natured enthusiasm.

This is just a sample of the many musical activities that have been taking place this year. I hope all the musicians who have contributed to, or been involved in, school music this year, have as many happy memories of it as we all do in the Music Department.

Nick Meredith  
Director of Music



Nichola Frewer Year 10



Elizabeth Heaney Year 11



## Cabaret Evening

The Cabaret Evening is a firm favourite with performers and audience and one of the earliest dates on our WGHS musical calendar. Rather than give you a 'review' of the performances this year I thought it would be interesting to look at the event from another angle - the 'coach's-eye view'. Here are some reflections by Mrs Valerie Littledyke (WGHS singing VIM) - a highly experienced singing teacher who has prepared singers for the West End stage as well as the far more demanding environs of Jubilee Hall...

**Question - How did you select the song with your pupils?**

The girls and I looked at various songs appropriate to both the cabaret style and to their vocal capabilities at this stage in their development - nothing too highbrow and generally songs with which their audience would be familiar. I wanted them to feel comfortable with their choice of song, sure of words and tune, and happy that they would not come to grief under the pressure of the moment.

**Question - How did you prepare your pupil for the event?**

Having chosen a song together, we worked on the technique needed to deliver it and to communicate it to the audience. Each girl was encouraged to learn her words well in advance so that she could give full attention to 'putting the song over' whilst looking and sounding totally relaxed, in true cabaret style. Singing into a microphone is quite different to 'unaided' performance, so we had to practise holding and using one to best effect.

**Question - What advice did you give for the day itself?**

My advice on the day was to go out there and enjoy the experience, to lose themselves in the meaning and feeling of their song, to forget who they were and be what they were supposed to be - a cabaret singer.

**Question - Did you discuss the performance after the event?**

After the event I encouraged them to tell me how they felt about their performances - not that they needed any encouragement! We watched recordings of each song, so the girls could see for themselves some of their little mannerisms which I try to point out and correct in lessons, and realise that I'm not making them up! Hopefully they learn that singing is enjoyable, and that it's not all about passing exams!!

## A Year in the Life of Flautacious

The start of the school year saw everyone getting back into the daily routine, including the weekly rehearsals we hold on Monday after school. We also have run-through rehearsals on Wednesday morning before lessons begin, though it always takes a few of Mrs Bacon's famous "gentle reminders" before everyone remembers to come to a practice at that time!

The second half of the Autumn term is always dominated by the decision on what to play at the Christmas concerts, as well as the annual expedition to Meadowhall to buy the infamous dresses! Although there is, of course, more to the group than a fashion show, we do like to dress to impress. If only the shopping trip was less complex! Seven people of all different shapes and sizes never bodes well when trying to find one dress to suit everyone! Despite being there so long that we nearly get locked in, we manage to find one every year.

After the blur of Christmas, which is always so hectic, we spend time playing through various pieces, and debating what to play at the Mrs Sunderland Music Festival and National Festival for Youth in Music. Unfortunately, the Mrs Sunderland Festival was cancelled on the night of our performance due to security problems.

This year, the regional round of National Festival was held at Outwood Grange Academy. We received some very complimentary and constructive comments from the judges, and the competition allowed us to perform in a different setting, to unfamiliar faces. After the two festivals, we had to decide whether to play a completely new piece at the summer concerts, as well as deciding on our programme for a charity event at Dewsbury Town Hall in aid of Teenage Cancer Trust. Despite having problems with the dreaded music stands, we were still able to enjoy playing in a lovely setting with some of the best acoustics we have experienced.

We have the huge privilege of being able to use Bass and Alto flutes, and the piccolo, alongside our standard flutes. This means we have been able to expand our repertoire, and gives members the rare opportunity to play these instruments.

We all have many fond memories of experiences in Flautacious, whether we all burst out laughing in rehearsal for no real reason, or the embarrassing antics of family members - who have since renamed themselves our Groupies! However we have had the odd stressful moment, with broken flutes at the Christmas Concert. Thank goodness for spare flutes!

The year does seem to go by far too quickly, and in the summer we have all had to juggle rehearsals, gigs and exams, but we wouldn't have it any other way!

Sophie Jenkinson  
Year 13

## Anything Goes

This year saw the triumphant return of the Senior School Musical Production after a long absence, following the production of Pirates of Penzance in 2008. With director Steve Besford at the helm once more, and with the musical leadership of Ian Lenihan from QEGS, the talented boys and girls from Year 10 and above set themselves the ambitious task of performing Cole Porter's legendary "Anything Goes".

The classic Broadway musical has been revived and updated in various editions over the years, but endures mostly as a result of its fine wit and sparkling musical numbers. Indeed, it's often a surprise to modern audiences how much of the show's language is familiar to them: who can forget the opening lines to the eponymous barnstormer, "In olden days, a glimpse of stocking..." or indeed the lyrical playfulness of "You're the Top".?

Hundreds auditioned for roles in the show and many were disappointed in what was a wealth of talented candidates. Rehearsals started in late September 2010, with the lead roles sometimes expecting a thrice-weekly commitment - not an easy task with students who have so many other demands upon their time both in and out of school.

During rehearsals, the cast were enthusiastic and excited about the creative possibilities of the script. From then very first read-through, many of the actors were surprised at the modern sensibilities of the text; the cutting, crisp witticisms and roguish amorality. There were anachronisms too, most notably the casual racial stereotyping in the final denouement, but the students were able to place the piece in its proper context and enjoy themselves - there were many, many laughs.

Working alongside the cast, Molly Howe provided dedicated and consistent support as Stage Manager, in charge of assigning props and maintaining the set on stage. This



would be no mean feat, given that this year the set was a two-level steel monster, representing the deck of an ocean liner on the modest stage of the QE Hall. Throughout the process, Miss Howe commandeered her troops with politeness and ease; the success of the show is in no small part down to her and the work of her crew.

The crew were also delighted to work with visiting



choreographer Victoria Thomas, without whom a show like Anything Goes would not have been possible. The cast responded exceptionally to her calm and measured direction and the big numbers rapidly took shape into exciting and thrilling pieces. Her work was complemented by that of the cast, many of whom volunteered their own choreography creating accomplished and appropriately styled movement.

When it came to performance, there were no shortage of plaudits from the audience, who felt that the cast had





created a West End quality performance with great ensemble co-operation and stunning individual performances. Many were impressed by the commanding performance given by Chloe Murray as Reno Sweeney, belting out flawless final notes, while also delivering perfect comic timing in her scenes with Billy Crocker, played by the equally impressive Sandy Murray. Others were delighted by the soft lyrical performance given by Alicia Lee-Clarke as Hope Harcourt.

Comic relief was provided by the wonderfully drawn Moonface Martin and his sidekick, Erma, played by Matthew Woodhead and Molly Standing respectively. Alex Woolhouse triumphantly overcame adversity, when a lost voice threatened to derail his sublime interpretation of Lord Evelyn Oakleigh - luckily, he pulled through and delivered a riotous performance. Iain Cramphorn blustered on stage as a lovably vulgar Elisha Whitney in pursuit of Evangeline Harcourt, played by last year's Juliet, Lydia Georgiou, showing her range as a delightfully mercenary mother-from-hell.

The three evenings provided a great showcase for the talented young people of the Foundation, and reaffirmed the success of Performing Arts across the two schools. Each and every member of the cast and crew should feel very proud of their achievement.

Steve Besford



## Tales from the Island

As the lights were dimmed and Mrs Fitzsimons gave the actors the final thumbs up, the plays began. The opening scene started with quiet whispers from the cast and at once your attention was grasped. As each actor stood up to deliver their first line, their clear voices cut through the air.

"Tales from the Island" was a collection of five short plays, performed by pupils from Years 7-9; each based on a Greek tragedy about the gods and mortals. The style of the show was very simple with only props and music to set the scene. Each performer wore costumes of only black; this choice of costume proved to be very effective, as it placed more focus on the actors' faces and voices.

The first play told the story of Orpheus (Henry Woolhouse) and his love, Eurydice (Megan Byrne). Eurydice dies when bitten by a snake and is taken to the underworld. Orpheus, planning to get her back, made a pact with Hades (Tom Maskill). Orpheus could not look back at Eurydice or he would lose her forever. One of my favourite parts in the play was when Orpheus and Eurydice were travelling to the surface. We could see how much time had passed, as both of them began to slow down and look very tired. As the audience, we were willing Orpheus to carry on and not look back, and the distress in Eurydice's eyes kept the tension.

In the second play, one of Aphrodite's priestesses, Hero (Lydia Jenkinson) fell in love with the mortal Leander,



without seeking permission from Aphrodite. Aphrodite (Summer Abbasi) told Zeus (Aidan Hopkinson) and together they brought about the death of Leander (Lewis Greenhalgh). Hero's moment of panic and upset when she found out Leander had been killed was very convincing and the audience felt her emotions. Lucy Booth as Bella showed a carefree attitude towards her duties as a priestess, which lifted the mood of the play making it relevant to the audience; we all have a friend who doesn't like to take things too seriously!

I particularly enjoyed play three, Jason and the Argonauts. The charismatic Alex Preston in the role of Jason, managed to charm the audience with his bold responses. In the adventurous plot, Jason and the crew tried to retrieve the







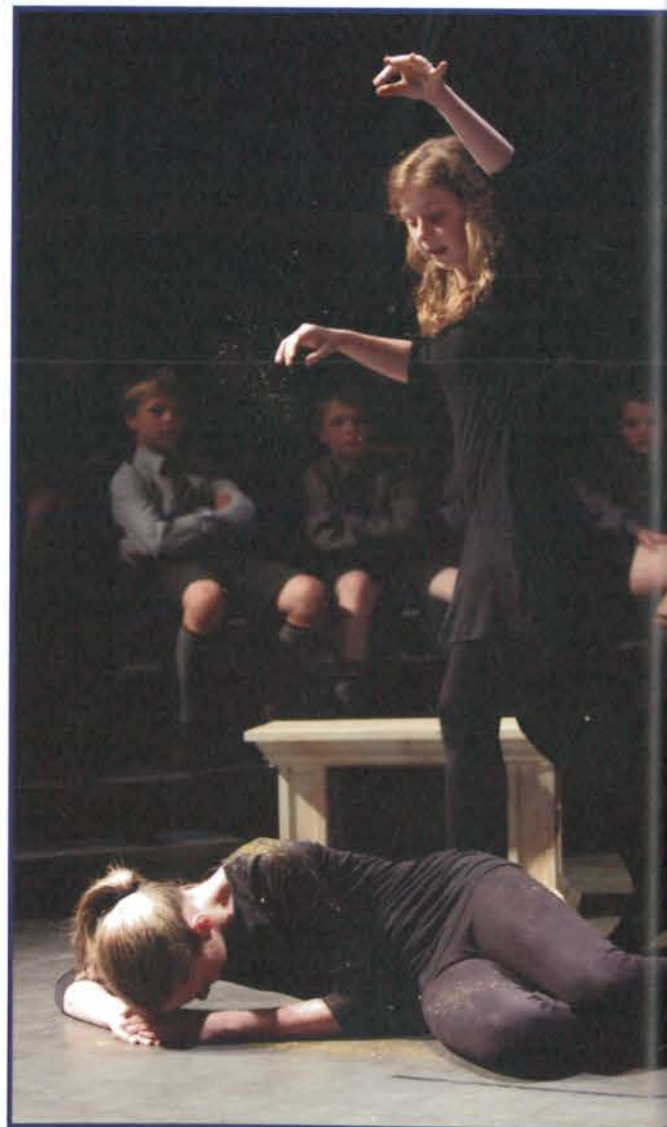
Golden Fleece for the King. The lively script and witty banter brought lots of laughs from the audience, in particular the quote "Don't touch the merchandise!"

Play four presented the story of Perseus (Tom Zarowski) and his struggle to retrieve the head of Medusa (Isabella Renouccie) for evil King Polydectes (Matthew Stoner). With help from Athena, Perseus completed the task. The sound and light team set the tone for danger with creative lighting and the hissing of the snakes on Medusa's head underlined the threat she posed to Perseus.

The final play of the night involved the story of forbidden love brought about by Aphrodite (Elizabeth Kent) between the goddess of discord, Ever, (Annabelle Brook) and Eros (Rory Ingham). Ever and Eros managed to keep the tension between them, but also added humour to each situation, such as the phrases "raspberry lip gloss" and "before-shave". Ever's name was skilfully used to create double meanings, which enlivened the script and made everyone laugh.

The cast gave all-round excellent performances, superbly directed by Mrs Fitzsimons and Mr O'Connor, but the unsung heroes of the night were the sound and light team (Milli Birkett, Becky Baxendale and Ben Black) and the backstage crew (Marie Aylward, Alex Henley, Helena Marrion and Laura Fisher), led by Alex Byram. They all did a great job with lighting and costume, helping to create the atmosphere of ancient Greece. All five of these unique productions were written by twelve pupils from last year's 7-8, providing a different take on five Greek tragedies.

Rachel Seignot  
Year 10



## Fieldwork

Fieldwork is regarded as an essential component of our curriculum and there have been a number of memorable visits this academic year. Year 7 extended their understanding of limestone scenery at Malham Cove while Year 8 visited Flamborough and Filey to explore coastal landforms. The AS Level students attended a weekend in North Wales to improve their fieldwork techniques and many of them are now looking forward to a trip to Iceland next academic year.

## North Wales

Becky Smith and Charlotte Morris describe their visit to Snowdonia on their residential last March...

It was on grey March day when the dedicated Year 12 Geography students were forced to forfeit their Sunday morning lie-ins, in order to embark upon a long journey to the Snowdonia region of North Wales. The early rise and Mr Hargreaves' persistent promise that it would rain, possibly even snow, throughout the duration of the trip, could not deter our spirits as we journeyed along the motorway. Having picked up our guide along the way we soon found ourselves deep in the middle of nowhere i.e. the Welsh Valleys, surrounded by sheep and green landscapes. Dressed like Arctic explorers in an assortment of fleeces and waterproof coats we began our mini Glacier trek, applying our knowledge of glacial features to a world outside that of the textbooks. We clambered up to visit troughs, valleys and arêtes that had once been visited by Charles Darwin and even got to scale a roche moutonne; our task was made all the more difficult by the relentless wind and rain. Feeling more than a little windswept, we journeyed to the centre where we were to stay, a beautiful old house far removed from the previously promised haunted house. After a short Geography lesson, we were treated to a well-deserved Sunday roast before retiring to our beds for the night.

The next day our hiking boots were replaced by wellies as



the fieldwork really began. We went to a variety of sites along the Afon Glaslyn and in groups collected data using some sophisticated methods, which required weighted ping-pong balls, flow metres, ranging poles and clinometers. In spite of a couple of punctured wellies, one complete submersion into the river and the threatening black clouds, the rain held off allowing sufficient data to be successfully collected. Rather impressed by our skills we returned triumphantly back to base, but instead of being greeted with a cup of tea and late afternoon television we worked until tea and then until half past nine in preparation for our Unit 2 exam. The saving grace was the fact the room in which this work took place was no ordinary classroom, but an impressive conference room with rotating plasma screens and comfy black chairs. For some the comfort of the conference room combined with a long day of data collection was too much, discovering the chairs' multifunctional use as a bed! For those of us who were not quite ready to sleep, we made our way to the bar and played an eventful word association game and "Guess Who?" until we too succumbed to tiredness.

On the final morning, the sun made a surprising but nonetheless welcome appearance, providing a glorious day for us to visit Arthur Arrowsmith, the mastermind in





controlling water flow and sluice gates from Bala to Chester, followed by a picnic by a lake. If only the weather had been like this during our river studies! Despite this, the fieldwork trip surpassed all our expectations and we therefore eagerly await our next 'fieldwork' adventure to the more intriguing location of Iceland.

## The New Year 7 Geography Challenge.

A new Geographical Challenge has been running through the year for all the girls of Year 7. A weekly selection of quiz questions, all with a geographical theme, have been set to encourage research, discovery and learning. By successfully completing any three such challenges in a term, every girl in the year has been able to claim a very popular prize from the tuck shop. Over twenty girls have been able to purchase their prize this year!

Katy Hodgson (7KS) and Zahra Ahmed (7DLD) deserve special mention, having completed all twelve challenges this year. Have a look below .....how many of these can you do?



Monica Solomon Year 12

## The Names of Cities.

Many cities have undergone name changes in their histories perhaps as the result of conquest, the evolution of language or as a political statement. Below are listed the previous name of ten major world cities. Can you identify them?

Old Name	Name Used Today
Peking .....	.....
Constantinople.....	.....
New Amsterdam .....	.....
Leningrad.....	.....
Edo .....	.....
Danzig .....	.....
Salisbury .....	.....
Saigon .....	.....

## Interform Dance Competition 2011

As in previous years, girls from each Form in Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in the annual Interform Dance Competition.

This year, the Year 7s danced their choreographed routines to Don't Stop Believing by Journey. They had to incorporate a selection of shapes and patterns together with a variety of different levels and individual and group formations. Each Form demonstrated dances of an excellent standard but the overall winners were Form 7DLD and Sarah Willis, Emily Aldred, Lucy Browne and Libby Ostrowska from 7JS were the highest placed group.

Year 8s danced to 'Telephone' by Lady GaGa and Beyonce. Their main focus was based on the theme of canon and each group brought innovative and artistic ideas to the fore. After an extremely close judging final 8DD emerged as the overall winners with Lizzie Holling, Megan Kaye and Gabby Holmes from 8LTM placed as the highest group performers.

Year 9 had to combine a series of ideas based on the theme of abstract and group shapes. They danced to 'Promise This' by Cheryl Cole and with two years' experience under their belts each group were keen to incorporate their own individual styles and expressive ideas to their performances. 9CJ were crowned as overall Form winners and Ashleigh Heasman, Katherine Willis, Ella Grayson and Hannah Coe, also from 9CJ, were the class who achieved the highest marks.

Once again thanks go to the staff who helped to judge the final performances and to the girls themselves who displayed a lovely set of imaginative and creative sequences based on the themes they have covered in their lessons.

Krista Robinson





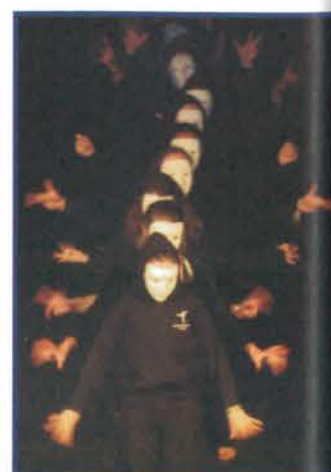
## Junior and Senior School Dance Evening 2011

Once again, by popular demand, this evening was held over two nights in order for girls from both schools to display their talents in every aspect of dance.

Both the Junior and Senior School dance clubs exhibited exceptional performances and other groups and individuals displayed a medley of styles ranging from hip to jazz to modern ballet and tap. Girls were also given the opportunity to display dances they had been choreographing during lesson time.

Every year the standard of dance gets higher and higher and this year was no exception. It is a fantastic opportunity for every performer to demonstrate their charismatic flair and imaginative choreography to a captive audience.

Krista Robinson



## Senior Hockey Report 2011

Senior hockey Saturday fixtures have been devastated by the weather, injuries and club fixtures and therefore the emphasis has been put on the preparation of teams for the National Schools' competitions. The Under 18 squad has trained regularly and has involved girls from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. The squad started the season playing really well to qualify from the West Yorkshire round to the North East semi-finals. Here they were unbeaten and qualified for the North Finals. This was a really close competition with only one goal separating the teams. Unfortunately our squad just missed out on qualifying for the National Finals. They have won five, drawn three and lost two games with Hollie Firth top goal scorer with three goals.

The Under 16 squad have also trained regularly and have been very positive and committed all season. They started the season with the goal of winning the National Championships and therefore a lot of hard work would be needed. The team easily won through the West Yorkshire round, scoring 21 goals and only conceding one. The North East and North finals were similar affairs with the team scoring another 20 goals and conceding only one. It was then off to the National Finals as North of England Champions. Here the competition was still tough but a 1-0 win over Wilmslow, 5-0 win over Bromsgrove and a 1-0 win over Southampton meant a spot in the final against Ipswich (the team who had beaten us in the indoor final). It was a tightly contested game with a 0-0 score at full time. On to penalty flicks and a resounding 3-0 victory: National Champions! A tremendous result and thoroughly deserved by the whole squad. The team have played 15 matches, won 13 and drawn 2. Top goal scorers are Mollie Rawnsley and Daisy Morgan with 9 each and Ellie McGrath with 14.

## National U16 Hockey Finals Cannock HC - 2/4 March 2011

We'll begin by letting you know who is actually in the U16 Hockey Team that won at Cannock. Our team consists of the following Year 10 girls: Hannah Foy, Lauren Grundy, Lucy James, Ellie McGrath, Frankie Roberts and Megan Roe. From Year 11 we have the following players: Rachael Brooke, Jo Coughlan, Hannah Field, Katie Firth, Alice Graye, Daisy Morgan, Mollie Rawnsley, Abi Sawyer, Lucy Stevenson, Olivia White and Amy Toon.

On Wednesday, 2 March all our spirits were high at school and we were really excited to be playing at a National Final. We left at lunchtime with lots of goodbyes and good luck messages from many of our friends. We set off from Wakefield Girls' High School with Godfrey, our friendly bus driver, Andy Gibson, our coach, Mrs MacGregor, our manager and all our team, preparing to win and be crowned National Champions. Our destination was Cannock Hockey Club in Staffordshire.

When the bus pulled up to the clubhouse, the U14 presentation was underway and we were glad to see that our arch rivals from the North, Arnold School had reached their final but had been beaten by the well-known

scholarship school for hockey, Repton. Our aim for Friday was to be up on the balcony of the clubhouse holding the National Schools' Hockey Trophy high.

We had an enjoyable light training session and tried to get used to the unfamiliar, bouncy pitch. The session came to an end and everyone showered, ready for our evening meal. We went to the Tumbledown Farm restaurant and had to wait a while for our food to come but overall it was an enjoyable evening, with lots of giggles and chatting. When we returned to our hotel, we had a team meeting led by Mollie which was really inspirational and emotional and had us all filling up, but we knew what we had to do over the next two days. So it was an early bedtime and lights out for that day.

Thursday 3 March was Jo Coughlan's birthday, so we wanted to make it one to remember. We had a nice early breakfast at 8.30am. Sadly no cooked breakfasts for the team, but we did watch the teachers eat theirs! After a very motivating speech by Mollie, our first match kicked off against Sir William Borlase, a team we knocked out of the indoor finals at the semi-final stage. We got off to a slow, shaky and nervous start but eventually came out victorious, when Daisy scored a good goal from open play in the last 10 minutes of the second half.

Our second game of the day was against Bromsgrove School. We had a slow start but we could feel a goal was coming. We then 'hit the beach' as our club coach would say and goals came flooding in from Daisy Morgan and Ellie McGrath, finishing with a final score of 5-0.

We left Cannock that day with 16 happy players, 2 happy coaches, 2 happy teachers, 1 happy captain and a very happy bus driver. After showers, we left the hotel for the Barns Hotel, which was quite a posh restaurant booked by Mrs MacGregor and Mrs North-Clarke and good enough to be celebrating Jo's birthday. We had a surprise cake for Jo which was delicious and had a very enjoyable night. We returned to the hotel for the evening and for some they were joined by the familiar faces of Benidorm on the TV before hitting the pillow after a long, tiring day.

On Friday 4 March, we had a nice easy start to the morning and left the hotel at 10.00a.m. Once we arrived at the club we had a formal photo taken and then had a silly photo taken which made us all laugh when we saw it posted on the photo wall. Our game that morning was against Portsmouth. We needed a draw or a win to go through to the final. We thought this team would be an easier game but we struggled to get a goal past their keeper. However, we weren't settling for a draw. Late in the second half Daisy scored the only goal of the game which was enough to give us maximum points and a place in the final, which was almost certainly going to be against Ipswich. Unfortunately for them their coach was heard to say, "Don't worry girls, it's only Wakefield through to the final. You should win this easily" ..... No need for a team talk for us then!!!

It was time to prove them wrong.

It was a tough game and both sides were playing some good hockey. They had a few good players and played most of the game through the middle players, whereas we



had strength across the whole of the pitch. Both teams had spells of good possession, both teams having changes to score and we were the team under pressure in the last 10 minutes of the game. (That kept the spectators on the edge of their seats). The final score, however, remained at 0-0.

The U16 National Final would be decided by penalty flicks.

Lucy James, Ellie McGrath, Frankie Roberts, Mollie Rawnsley and Lauren Grundy were our chosen five. Feeling confident they stepped up to the plate. Molly gave the five flick takers and Megan another inspirational team talk. It would all be decided in the next few minutes; the best of five flicks.

Ipswich went first to take their penalty flick. Megan dived and saved their first flick.

Then it was time for Wakefield. Lucy James took her turn. Could she put us ahead? Yes, she scored - 1-0.

Megan saved the next Ipswich flick; Ellie McGrath made it 2-0. Yes, she scored!

Ipswich's third flick and their captain took it. Megan dived and Megan saved!

All we needed now was one more goal and so now our third flick taker, Frankie Roberts, made her way to the spot. She steadied herself. Umpire: "Keeper Striker". The ball left her stick - Yes, she scored. It was all over.

We had done it. Wakefield Girls' High School U16 Hockey Squad were National Champions.

The whole team ran and screamed and ended in a massive pile. Miss Applewhite joined in our tears of joy and was at the bottom of the pile! All of the team then ran and gave our parents hugs and our coach Andy Gibson nearly cried. The presentation was smiles all round; a very proud moment for us all.

This was a truly memorable three days. We were all very proud to represent Wakefield Girls' High School and bring the trophy home to sit alongside our U14 trophy and be recognised as the best school team in the country.

## U16 Hockey Team

## Under 15 Hockey Report

The season has of course been shortened by the bad weather but the Under 15 squad have had some good fixtures. They have played six matches, winning all six.

In the Area Tournament the team was far too strong for the other teams, winning all their matches comfortably, scoring 22 goals and conceding none.

Congratulations to all our Under 15 players and to the top goal scorers Frankie Roberts with 6 goals and Ellie McGrath with 14.

## Under 14 Hockey Report

The under 14 squad of players worked very hard at training to improve their skills, working predominantly on individual techniques. The squad consists of 14 players who were regularly available and committed to

school fixtures. In terms of results it was a mixed season but they never gave up and always played to the best of their ability. In their matches this year they played 8 won 3, drew 1 and lost 4. Top goal scorer was Ellie Spruce.

Many individuals within the team have played at Junior Development Centre and Junior Assessment Centre level and some have gone on to be part of the Junior Regional Performance Centre structure.

## Under 14 National Schools' Report

Many of the squad, along with the Under 13 players, made up the School U14 National Schools' Cup side who trained incredibly hard to have a successful season. They became West Yorkshire Champions and North East Champions scoring 13 goals and conceding none in this particular round. Unfortunately at the North round they lost to the two eventual qualifiers but showed great determination and progression over the season.

## Under 13 Hockey Report Easter 2011

The Year 8 players attended practices regularly and enthusiastically to make very good progress during the season. There were a few matches cancelled due to the weather but those played were of a good standard achieving some pleasing results.

In the School matches the squad gained the following results:



Played 10, winning 8 and losing 2

Top goal scorers were Emma Berry and Emily McGrath with 11 goals each.

Two teams were entered in the Wakefield Under 13 League with the final positions not yet known.

The Under 13 Area Tournament ended with the team undefeated and victorious, becoming Area Champions yet again. In the Wakefield Under 13 League the two teams

entered played consistently well to finish in first and second places.

In the National Mini Hockey Championships, the seven-a-side squad came first equal in the West Yorkshire round and won their section in the North East round to qualify to play in the North Finals. Here they won their section to reach the North final, losing to GSAL after extra time but with two teams going through to the National Finals along with GSAL.

In the Under 13 National Mini Hockey Finals held at Cannock Hockey Club the Under 13s drew with St George's 0-0; in the second match against Bromsgrove a goal for the opposition from a penalty corner meant a loss by 1-0. The pressure was on to get wins from the next two games and the third against Dean Close did just that with an emphatic 3-0 win. In the final sectional match we played Kings, Canterbury and again did well to win 1-0. This gave us seven points and we finished third behind Bromsgrove and St George's who had eight points each. This qualified us for the fifth/sixth play off against the third team in the other section who were Danes Hill. We were comfortably the stronger side and ran out 2-0 winners to be the fifth best team in the country. A fantastic achievement from this ever improving squad.

The strength of the players is shown in the fact that many of them have been to JAC assessments and been put through to JAC development squads. We look forward with anticipation to another year of strong development next season.

## Under 12 Hockey Report Easter 2011

The Year 7 players attended lunchtime practices regularly and enthusiastically to make good progress during the season. A few matches were missed due to the weather but those played were very well contested, producing some good results.

In the school matches the squad gained the following results:

'A' Squad played 16, winning 10, drawing 2 and losing 4.

'B' Squad played 4, winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 2.

Top goal scorer was Sally Patton with 8 goals.

Last October, the team played very well to come second to Hymers in the final of the Hymers' Tournament.

The Under 12 Area Tournament was held at the end of the season with the squad winning four and drawing one of their matches to become Area Champions. This bodes well for another good season next year.

## Indoor Hockey Report 2011

The season was dominated by preparation for the National Schools' Championships. Practices were well attended by Under 16 and Under 18 players.

The Under 18s made their way through to the National Finals unbeaten but unfortunately at the finals the opposition proved too strong and they finished fifth in their section. This was a tremendous achievement and many of the girls have had a chance to experience playing at the top level.

The Under 16 squad comprised of a large nucleus of players who had narrowly missed out last season in the final to Millais School and finish second in the country and so they were determined to go one better this year. Practices were well attended and there was a real determination within the squad. The North round saw us travel to Arnold School to win 3-1 and so qualify for the finals. At the Nationals we beat Millais School (the team that had beaten us in the final last year) 3-1, Millfield 2-1 and Repton 2-1 to progress to the semi-final stage. In the semi-finals we beat Sir William Borlase 2-1. In the final against Ipswich it was a very tight game which could have gone either way. Unfortunately we lost 3-1 to be runners up for the second year running. Second in the country again; an absolutely fantastic achievement. Six of this squad are still young enough to play next year, so we look forward to next season. The end of the season has seen a new crop of young players attending practices and hopefully they will progress as the older girls have and be playing at the National Finals in years to come.

Congratulations to all our indoor hockey players.

## Netball Report 2010-11

### Under 18s

The Under 18s have had to be a flexible group of individuals this season. The squad was hit early with a number of injuries but rallied round and welcomed the return of a number of girls who had not played for the school since their junior days. With a new squad in place they played valiantly in the County Round of the National Schools, finishing a very respectable fifth. Since then the squad has developed and had some excellent victories over Silcoates and Hull Collegiate as well as a number of very closely fought games. The hard work over the season and perseverance of the girls paid off as they culminated the season as District Champions.

### Under 16s

The Under 16s have gone from strength to strength throughout the season. The team bounced back strongly after they narrowly missed out on getting through to the regional round of the National Schools' Competition finishing a commendable third in the County round. When the full team is out the squad is a force to be reckoned with and have demonstrated this over numerous wins throughout the season. Determined to finish on a high note the team demonstrated their maturity and depth in a fantastic District Tournament winning all of the matches and finishing the season as District Champions. The girls are a talented group who have excellent tactical awareness and versatility, all things which will stand them in good stead as they join the Senior Squad next year.

Individual congratulations go to Emma Knowles who has been selected for the Regional Satellite Academy.



## Under 15s

The Under 15s have welcomed a number of new players into the squad this year. The team has been committed and has worked hard to develop their skills and knowledge. After a couple of difficult games at the beginning of the season they soon realised the challenge ahead and have worked tirelessly to raise their game, acquiring skills and tactics enabling them to compete competitively with schools in the area and region. The squad went all out in the District Tournament making it all the way to the final where they narrowly lost 7-8 to Silcoates. An extremely impressive tournament and a tremendous achievement for the team.

Individual congratulations go to Lucy James and Rebecca Strapps who were selected for the Under 15 District Squad.

## Under 14s

As Under 13 Regional Champions, the Under 14s started their season with confidence and achieved a number of good wins in the area. We knew the National Schools' Competition was going to be a close fought contest and the coveted top two places were going to be a challenge. The team got all the way through to the three-way final without conceding a game which is a phenomenal achievement in itself. Unfortunately the wind and rain did not blow away on the day and the team finished a very respectable third. The girls however were quickly back on their feet and went on to play some very good netball throughout the rest of the season.

Individual congratulations go to Stephanie Cheetham and Jessica Holland who were selected for the Regional Satellite Academy and to the girls who were selected to represent the District in the Under 15 District Squad.

## Under 13s

The Under 13s should be congratulated for their perseverance and devotion after a tough season of fixtures. After a promising start with a draw against Silcoates at home, the team looked strong for the year ahead. B Team players should be proud of their successful wins over Bradford Girls and Hull Collegiate. Well done.

We found difficulty at the West Yorkshire Invitation Tournament when we drew GSAL-1 in our section which meant that we narrowly missed out on a place in the semi-finals but the girls came away positive knowing that they managed to beat Silcoates and GSAL-2. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be when we did not make the semi-finals at the Regional Schools' Tournament. Again we had a tough draw of teams and lost a little confidence throughout the morning. Regardless of the results this season, the girls remain positive and have been working on improving their defending in the shooting circle. Spacing and passing accuracy have improved greatly and with a little more confidence the girls are set to improve on their results next year.

Congratulations on your efforts and commitment this year girls, you have shown great potential this year.

Individual congratulations go to the girls who were selected for the Under 13 District and Satellite Squad.

## Under 12s

The Under 12s have made an impressive start to their school Netball careers. Both the 'A' and 'B' team have shown remarkable strength and success when playing in their school matches. It was great to see so many Year 7 trial out for the squad back in September and fortunately we have had consistent attendance and commitment to training on a weekly basis. As a team, the girls' have developed their ability to create space on court and accurately bring the ball down to the shooting circle. As individuals all players have worked to improve their own game and consequently shooting is accurate, passes are sensible and defending is strong.

Although matches for the 'B' Team have been a little thin on the ground, they should be congratulated on their recent success at winning the District 'Friendly' Tournament. They went up against a range of teams and won all of their matches proving that they are a strong unit of players.

The 'A' Team have gone from strength to strength having never lost a match all season. The icing on the cake was a long awaited win over GSAL in the final of the Regional Schools' Tournament. Many congratulations on becoming the Regional Champions! Both teams are looking forward to concluding the season at the District Tournament with the hope of another clean sweep.

Individual congratulations go to the girls selected for the District and Satellite Squads this year. Well done.

## Cross Country Report

### Easter 2011

Cross Country Running still continues to be a popular activity in school during the lunchtimes and a group of girls organised by Mrs Rees with Mrs Liddy ran on Wednesday's throughout the winter terms.

Eight girls ran in the Wakefield Cross Country League this season performing very well. In the Under 13 section Emily Gill won all the races in which she took part. In the Under 15 section Rebecca Parkin, Kate Offord and Jennie Collins all finished in the top 10 over the three races, with Natalie Gill in the top 20. In the Under 17 section Olivia White came in the top 10 with Reyanne Buckley-Anderson very close behind.

The top ten placings meant the Under 15 and 17 runners qualified to represent Wakefield in the West Yorkshire Championships held in February where Rebecca Parkin finished 14th, Kate Offord 22nd and Jenny Collins 31st, helping Wakefield District to win the team event in the Under 15 age group.

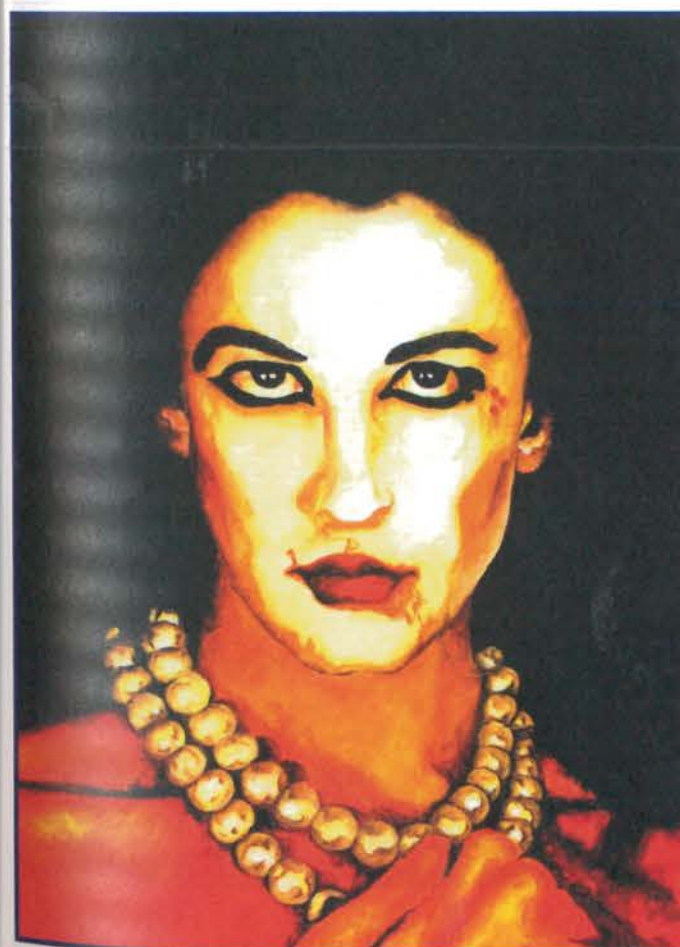
We now look forward to the Athletics season where hopefully the good winter work can be transferred to the track.



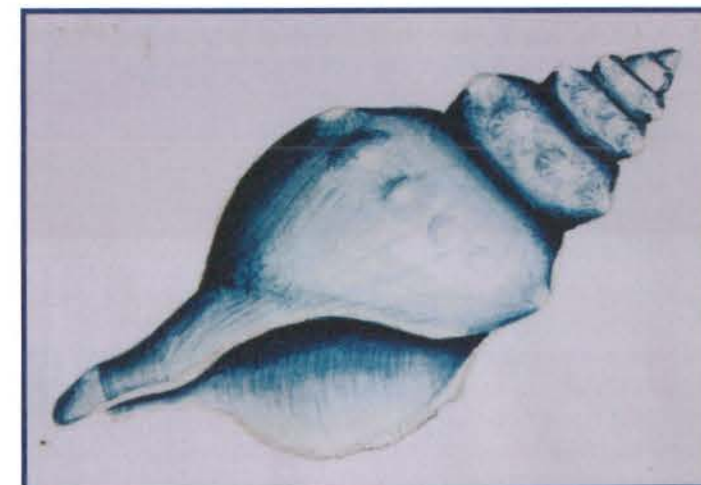
Rachel Lee Year 11



Tanya El-Khahib Year 11



Lydia Georgiou Year 13



Olivia Scoraĥ Year 11





The willingness of Wakefield Girls' High School pupils to put others before themselves and to strive to make a difference, no matter how great or small, is to be both cherished and admired. The amount of effort given to charity events by the committee as well as the generous donations given by the whole school makes me incredibly proud. It has been a 'jam-packed' but 'fun filled' year for the Charities' Committee!

### Operation Christmas Child

The year started with the Operation Christmas Child team collecting boxes of Christmas gifts to send to less fortunate children in Bosnia. Overall, the team collected 53 boxes that had been filled by pupils and parents across the school. The response to this campaign was incredibly heart warming, not only for the amount of effort and thought given to the gifts donated but also regarding the reaction of the children receiving the gifts.  
<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/>

### The Christmas Charity Fayre

The Christmas Charity Fayre just keeps getting bigger and bigger every year. However, due to the snow this year, the Fayre had to be cancelled. Obviously, this was a huge disappointment as so much effort had been shown by the Sixth Form Charity Prefects in organising stalls, collecting prizes and marketing the event. Their effort was greatly appreciated. Also, the disappointment of missing such a fun event for pupils, parents and staff across the Foundation was immense. However, I can promise you a fantastic Christmas Charity Fayre 2011 and I look forward to seeing you there.

### The Princes' Trust Challenge 500

A selection of Year 10 pupils were given a challenge to raise £500 or more for The Princes' Trust. The group decided to become a confectionary company, using special holidays such as Christmas to sell products. Each member of the team was designated a role, such as Project Manager, Marketing Director etc. They met every Monday to discuss their marketing strategy and any issues arising in the lead up to events. The group managed to raise an incredible £526. In February some of the group travelled to Bradford Grammar School to compete against their team to become the West Yorkshire winners. It was a daunting experience for our team; they were against a team of 17-18 year olds and they had to present to a panel of judges. However, they were confident and delivered their presentation with passion and determination, which obviously 'paid off' as they won. The team was then up against other finalists within the Yorkshire and Humber region. It was a tense time waiting for the decision, but when it came, we were thrilled that they had won and were crowned The Princes' Trust Yorkshire and Humber winners. The panel of judges'

feedback was:

Strong determination was shown through creating a contingency plan when the Christmas Fayre was cancelled

The team impressed by working very well together and giving extra recognition to the team leader

To risk their own money as an initial investment showed great courage and risk taking

The team appeared to learn more lessons, which may be because they were a younger team. However the judges felt this should be seen as a real positive.

Congratulations to the team, which should be extremely proud of this achievement.

### Issenye Appeal

Every year Mrs Denison and a team of pupils campaign to raise money for our sister school in Issenye. This year it was decided to have a balloon race. Pupils, staff and parents bought balloons for donations of £5 or over and these were released from the Quad on Friday, 25 March. The school congregated on the Quad, in the glorious sunshine, to watch the team who had worked so hard to sell the balloons, start the count down from ten, nine, eight.... On the count of one, the balloons were released and there was a loud cheer as we watched the balloons fly away. Over £2,000 was raised. A huge well done and thank you to the Issenye Team and to everyone who bought a balloon.

### Comic Relief

This year, a team of pupils organised many different events in the lead up to Comic Relief to help raise as much money as they could.

Pupils paid 50p to challenge their friends at 'Just Dance' on the Nintendo Wii in a fun lunchtime that was like a disco with some friendly competitiveness and lots of laughing!

Mr Carlin, Mr Besford, Dr Durrell, Mr Taj and Dr Korosi very bravely had a strip of hair waxed from their legs. Pupils paid at least 50p each to watch and laugh at their teachers in pain!

Mrs Ward judged cupcakes that had been decorated in the theme of Comic Relief, which were then sold to raise money.

A fun 'Zumba' class was taken by Charlie Youngs in the Drama Studio. Pupils were encouraged to wear 'silly' outfits to add to the fun of the class.

Pupils paid £1 to come to school in non-uniform (and optional red noses!).

Pupils watched (and laughed at) a selection of their teachers who attempted to do a dance routine to songs such as MC Hammer's 'Can't Touch This'.

It was an extremely fun week, which saw over £1,000 raised.

### The Charity Fashion Show

This year the theme for the Charity Fashion Show was 'DISCO'. Pupils could work as individuals or in small groups. They had to create a whole outfit demonstrating their interpretation of disco!

The show was a huge success with many entries from pupils in Years 7-10. The outfits were modelled on the catwalk and the variety was excellent, ranging from 60s inspired to modern day. Then after all the outfits had been shown, the three judges had to make their decision.

The winners were:

Year 7 - Jemima Gardner

Year 8 - Elizabeth Kent

Year 9 - Ruby Swaine

Year 10 (a team effort) - Mayowa Irelewuyi, Phoebe Madigan, Sarah Palmer

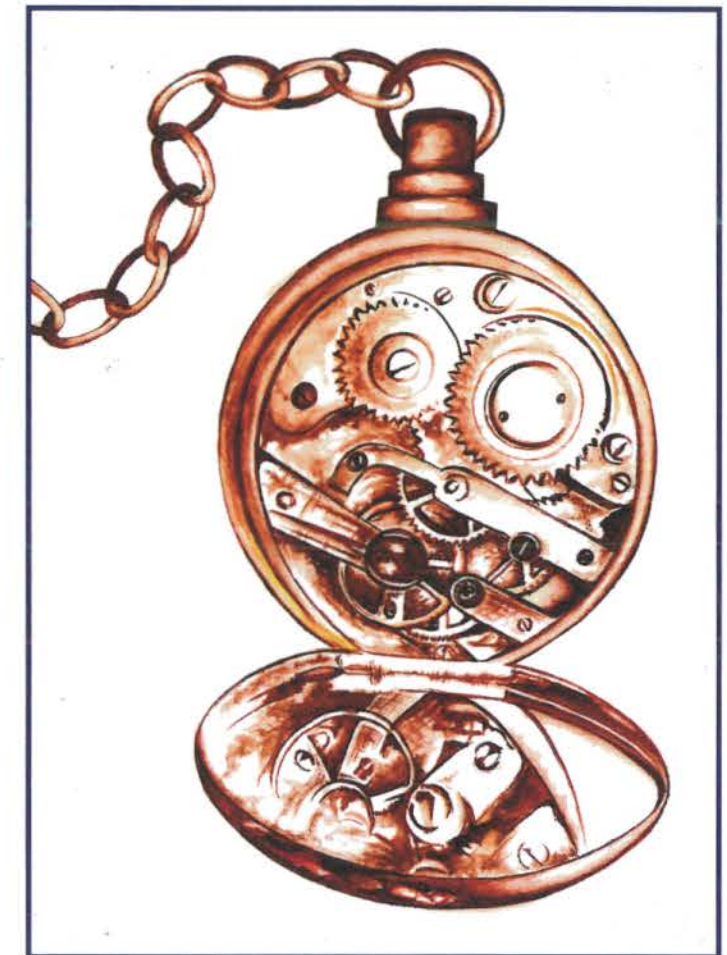
The prize was that these outfits were to be modelled in the annual Design Technology Design Show.

and finally,

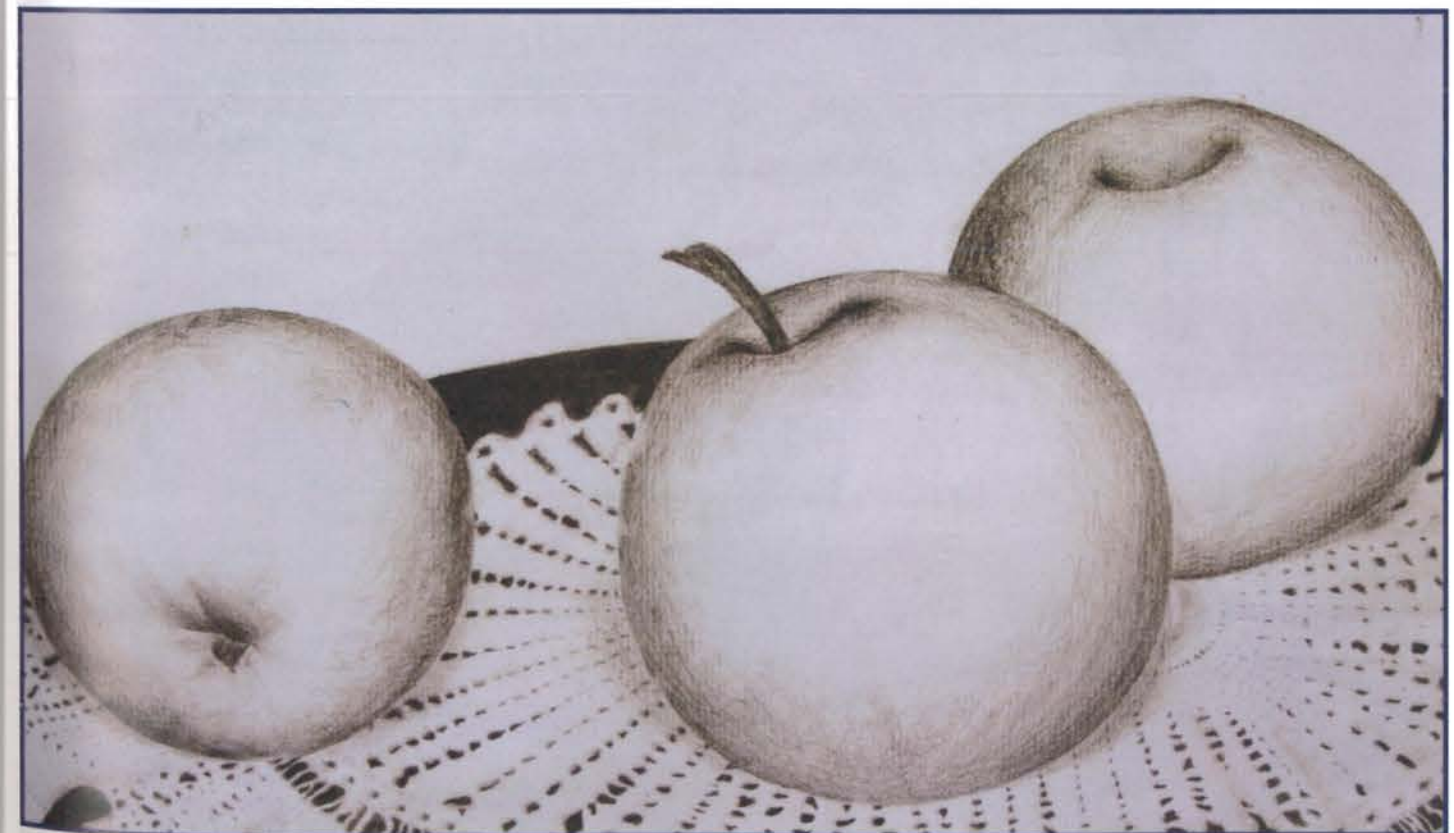
Throughout the year, Form groups, small groups of friends and individual pupils organise small charity events. There has been a large variety of events for pupils to take part in such as bun sales, movie lunches, guessing games, miniature games etc. A large amount of money has been raised from such events and this is the reward for all the hard work the pupils put into these.

Wakefield Girls' High School girls are incredibly generous with the amount of money they give to charity but also with the time they dedicate to raising money. In 2010/2011 we have raised £30,000.

Natalie Ingham



Phoebe Attia Year 12



Elizabeth Heaney Year 11





Amy Marsden Year 11



Lucy West Year 13

## German Exchange

### German Exchange

I believe the best way for you to improve your language skills is to practice in the country where the language is spoken, therefore an exchange in any country is highly recommended and it is an unforgettable experience to stay with a host family. Not only will students meet new friends but also the time spent in a foreign country will allow anyone to gain an enhanced understanding and interest of the culture and history of the country.

There are so many good things about Germany especially being an exchange student which has made me more open-minded, independent and willing to undertake a new adventure. In February half term 2011, students from the Foundation spent a week in Neubeckum with German hosts who were kindly prepared to invite a total of four WGHS students and ten QEGS students into their homes to experience their daily lifestyle. Throughout our visit, we explored the local area of Munster including the Heinz Nixdorf Computer Museum in Paderborn which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants involved in the exchange. Additionally we sampled German school life which of course was daunting at first but overall it was a memorable experience and we have all benefited from the German exchange.

I consider German life to be exceptionally enjoyable and through the exchange it has encouraged me to have a desire to undertake a career which will include German. Not only am I influenced by the German lifestyle and the picturesque country, but also by the delicious food that we were able to try including Currywurst from German stands in towns that we visited and indulging in delicious Italian ice cream.



On Thursday 30 June 2011 seventeen German Exchange students from Neubeckum arrived in England who were warmly welcomed to commence their seven day visit with their hosts from WGHS and QEGS. Undoubtedly the exchange students have been getting a taste of West Yorkshire life whilst making the most of the good weather. As well as attending the charity day 'Do It For Dawson' which was eventful especially as one of the female German Exchange students seemed enthusiastic to participate in the sponsored head shaving event and to our amazement she proceeded with her decision. Other visits included trips to the Mining Museum, attractions in Leeds and York, and also enjoying lessons within our school. Having spoken to the



German Exchange students, they found that their time in England was extremely valuable in many aspects, such as gaining an understanding of English lifestyle, international knowledge and also improving their language ability.

I would recommend a foreign exchange to anyone who has a keen interest in language in particular but without a doubt it is beneficial to anyone. Moreover self development and awareness leading to enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem will be noticeable in returned exchange students.

It has definitely been a wonderful experience and we are all grateful that we have been given the opportunity with the help and assistance of Miss Pick, Mrs Firth and two members of staff from Germany Susanne Wolf and Sascha Tiemeyer.

Kate Nichols  
Year 12





## French Assistant Julie

Bonjour!

**M**y name is Sophie, and I was the French Assistant at Wakefield Girls' High School since September. I come from Brittany and I studied English for four years in a French University. I loved my job here, the teachers were always very helpful in the Modern Foreign Languages Department and working with them was really a good experience. I helped the girls from Junior School to Year 13 and they were all very nice, friendly and hard working! The level of French was amazing and it was nice for me to help them as they were very curious and always wanted to learn more. I felt very happy to be here, as I was also really involved in the life of the school. Next year I would like to study translation either in Salford or in France. I know I will come back to England one day for sure! I wish good luck to all of my students for their future studies and hope that they will continue studying French and Languages.

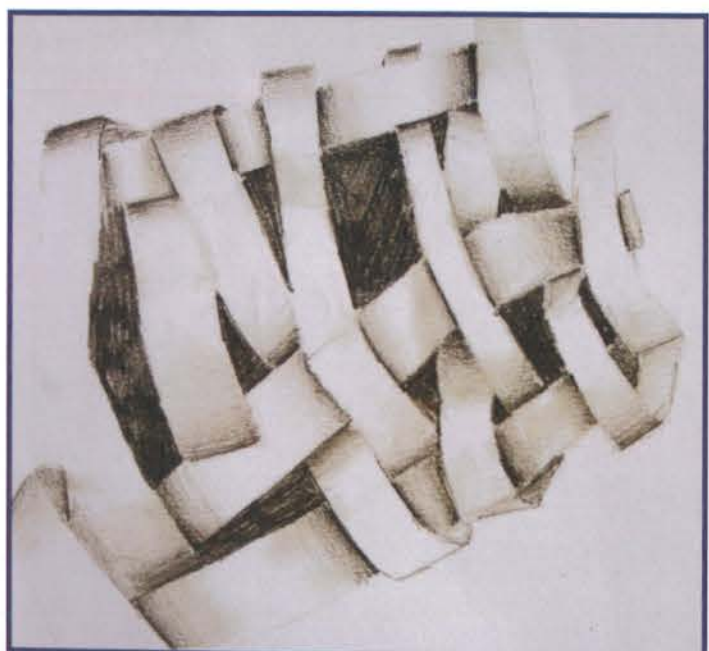
Merci pour tout et au revoir!



Julia Lawson Year 13



Tanya El-Khahib Year 11



Emily Paton Year 9

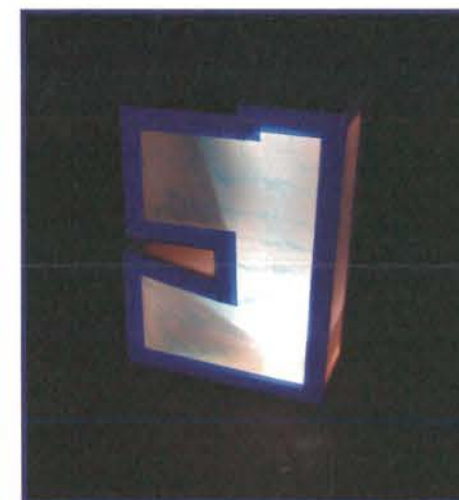


Monica Solomon Year 12

## Year 10 Lamp/Docking Station Project

**P**roduct Design students in Year 10 carried out the Lamp/MP3 Docking Station Project. They developed a given brief and tailored it to suit the target market of their choice. Each student had chosen their own source of inspiration for the style of their product, examples of which included architecture, famous brands, music, nature and art. Through carrying out this project, the students gained a wealth of skills that they will utilise in their GCSE major projects.

Brent Carlin  
Head of Product Design





## Rotary Technology Tournament 2011

On Tuesday, 8 March 2011, WGHS and QEGS entered two teams in the Annual Rotary Technology Tournament in Featherstone. The Foundation Team consisted of two girls from Year 9, Emma Corlett and Jenny Collins, who were teamed with two Year 9 boys from QEGS. The Intermediate Team consisted of two girls from Year 10, Stevie Barker and Katie Browne, who were teamed with two Year 10 boys.

The emphasis of the contest was on both civil and mechanical engineering, with the teams being given a task at the start of the day in which they were to design and build an artefact to carry out a specific task. The students were given the scenario of a train derailment in which a container carrying hazardous chemicals had to be retrieved from a minimum safe distance. Using a limited amount of materials the students then set about designing their lifting/transportation device - which also had to incorporate an electronic reversing switch to winch the 'hazardous chemical' up and down!



## Cambridge Occupational Analysts' Preview Careers Selection Programme

This year 2010-2011 has seen Year 11 girls at WGHS piloting a new careers' guidance programme designed to reveal suitable future careers and clarify the selection of AS and A2 Level subjects. After the completion of an interest based questionnaire each girl received an individual feedback report highlighting six to eight career areas for them to research further. The girls had a one to one interview with a careers' adviser and were each given a copy of 'The Careers Directory' and a personal development and work experience guide. The girls have also been given access to 'myCareersRoom' a website where their report is stored electronically and which has useful links to a variety of careers. The portfolio section enables skills gained, work experience taken, hobbies and achievements to be recorded, and the girls will have access to this valuable resource until they are 23 years old.

## Cambridge Occupational Analysts' Centigrade Degree Selection Programme

In February 2011 all of Year 12 took part in a degree selection programme called Centigrade. As with Preview the girls sat an interest-based questionnaire designed to reveal suitable Higher Education courses. The individual feedback report generated highlighted possible suitable Higher Education courses available through UCAS. Follow up work then took place in a Guidance, Information and Support (GIS) lesson and the reports were then used by the girls at the UCAS Higher Education Convention in Manchester in March where they did their own research into various post-18 options available and where some made a concerted effort to collect as many prospectuses as possible!

## Careers Seminars

To complement the Careers guest speaker programme, two seminars took place in March and April this year on the topics of Law and Health Care respectively. The seminars were arranged to enable the girls to see how the various professions work together and to give them a snap shot of what each job entailed. In the case of the Law seminar girls in Years 10-13 listened attentively to P.C. Amos who talked about careers in the Police Force. Mr J. Roberts, a Senior Probation Officer, talked about a day in his working life. Mr A. Argyle from Zenith chambers in Leeds talked about the job of a Barrister and Mr A. Abbasi discussed life

as a solicitor.

The Health Care seminar saw Dr R. Jackson discuss her role as a G.P., Ms F. Coia discuss life as a nurse and Mr P. Creegan talk about the pros and cons of being a physiotherapist. Dr Kellett from the Leeds School of Dentistry gave an informative talk on careers in dentistry and left lots of useful freebies. As always we are extremely grateful to all the guest speakers who have kindly volunteered their services and come into school to assist with the careers programme. We would particularly like to thank Dr Andrew Jackson for organising most of the Health Care seminar.

## Project Acorn

The WGHS Careers Department have been in discussions with the Independent Schools' Business Partnership (ISBP), a group of business men and women who have children within the Foundation's schools. The joint working relationship with ISBP and WGHS, aptly named 'Project Acorn', aims to give practical support to Year 12 pupils on career guidance, life skills, interview techniques, c.v. writing and work placements. To date, ISBP members have kindly volunteered their services and have delivered lessons to Year 12 on 'interview technique', writing a c.v. and covering letter and 'mock interviews'.

Other ISBP members have offered up week-long work placements for Year 12 to participate in over the Summer of 2011. Job descriptions for placements in the world of finance, human resources, fashion buying and dentistry to name but a few, were advertised to interested Year 12 girls who then applied, were shortlisted and interviewed for each placement, thus bringing a realistic and competitive edge to the process.

We look forward to future collaborations with the ISBP and are most grateful for their generous offer of help.

## WDH Enterprise Challenge

Wakefield District Housing held a competition for Year 9 students to choose a piece of WDH's land and make plans to develop it. This was a great opportunity for us to make a difference to Wakefield's surroundings. Our team consisted of Caitlin Halliday, Jenny Collins, Amy Rolinson and Lauren Bestwick.

For our piece of land, we chose a sheltered accommodation, Hatfield Court, on Howard Street near QEGS. Using our lunchtimes and spare time, we prepared a professional presentation to promote our designs and plans. We visited the residents with Miss Hawkridge and became determined to help these people make their garden more appealing. As there was only one team from WGHS, we were immediately in the semi-finals.

On 7 March, we went to the WDH Headquarters for our



first presentation. We were all extremely nervous as none of us had done anything like this before and had no idea what to expect. Our competition consisted of Kettlethorpe High School, City High and Horbury; they all looked very well prepared. We were last to present and headed into the Inspiration Room where we were to present in 'Dragons' Den' fashion. After we had all presented, the Dragons came and announced the results. It was particularly close between WGHS and Kettlethorpe High School, who all the judges were very impressed with. Unfortunately, Kettlethorpe were chosen to go through into the final, with us closely behind in second place. We had all worked so hard and were quite disappointed.

However on 10 March, Miss Hawkridge was sent an email asking us to attend the final. We were ecstatic! Making a few adjustments to our presentation, we quickly prepared for the final on 14 March. When Monday came, we felt both excited and nervous. Once again, we took the trip to the WDH's Headquarters, ready to meet our rivals. This time we presented in the Board Room in front of the other schools and a set of different Dragons. We presented confidently and the judges were very impressed, but again Kettlethorpe had a great pitch. After all the schools had presented, the judges conferred and came to a difficult decision. With just one point between the winners and runners up, they announced Kettlethorpe High School as the winner, who would have the support of WDH to construct their garden. We were very disappointed but it was a great opportunity and experience. As finalists, we all received an iPod Shuffle and a certificate. Hopefully, we will be able to raise the funds to construct the gardens ourselves to help the residents of Hatfield Court.

### Work Experience with Vivienne Westwood

Ellie Theaker is a girl who knows what she wants and nothing less than work experience with Vivienne Westwood would do! So, during the summer holidays, she wrote a personal letter to Vivienne and quickly had a reply from her Personal Assistant. Vivienne had been impressed by Ellie's letter and wanted to offer her the opportunity to go and work in London. This opportunity could not be missed so was quickly organised for October. To remember the whole experience Ellie wrote a diary of her time in London:

"Today was the day I met, and spoke to, Vivienne! My dream had really come true! She had come into the room where I was working on my drawings and I knew time was running out for me to speak to her, so I went over and introduced myself (I have never been so nervous in my entire life!). She was lovely to me and asked if I was having a good time on work experience and how I had managed to get the place here. I told her that I had just written directly to her asking for work experience. Then the most amazing thing happened, she said, "Were you the girl with the carrier

bag dress?"

The aforementioned dress had been designed and made for the school Charity Fashion Show the previous year, to highlight the need for recycling within the fashion industry, and Ellie had included a picture of this dress in her letter, which managed to capture Vivienne Westwood's attention. She gained much from this experience, which she will remember and be able to use in her future career. This is yet another example of how resourceful our girls are.

Emma Hawkridge

### Reflections on the "MY Plastic Surgery Course"

The opportunity to attend the "MY Plastic Surgery Course" arose from correspondence with Mr S Majumder, one of the Course Convenors and Mrs J A Thorpe, the Course Co-ordinator, after initial discussion about a stint of work experience in the Plastic Surgery Department at Pinderfields. "We would also like to invite you to attend the 'MY Plastic Surgery Course' we are running on 11 and 12 June 2010". This was the first I'd heard of such a fantastic opportunity which, little did I know, would fill me with such drive and even more enthusiasm to reach my ultimate goal and achieve the A Levels that would allow me to enter into medicine and a surgical career.

I had always hoped surgical medicine would be to my taste when it came to a career but as a High School student, these are weighty decision to make when you have such little, and what seems like unattainable, experience in this field. It is most certainly not something you can learn on the job but a course such as Pinderfields, "MY Plastic Surgery Course", simulated just that.

Upon accepting my place and reading the available literature outlining details of the course, I could never have hoped for an experience that broadened any pre-conceived ideas about plastic surgery so much. My pre-conceived ideas were not entirely distorted, as I felt I already had some sort of grasp on what this vocation entailed. However, I did not expect to gain such practical experience first hand for myself, which I am sure simulated the real situation very accurately.

For students like myself I believe this course brings prospective careers a step closer. For me, I already knew I wanted to enter into medicine. In fact I wanted nothing more than to do just that, although the field of medicine which I wished to enter into was still unclear. After doing work experience prior to this, I did wonder whether the surgical side of a medical career appealed more, but as I had nothing to compare the medicine aspect with I remained uncertain as to whether I was completely suited to such a role.

On arrival at the "MY Plastic Surgery Course" I had nothing more in mind other than to answer that exact question. I

did not expect that it would aid me with so much more for my chosen future field. I hoped it would give me a good insight into the different roles within plastic surgery and show me that it wasn't just about the stereotypical "cosmetic surgery" but that it saved lives and enhanced them too, as this is what I believe medicine is about.

All of my questions and many more were answered by the faculty members who I found to be extremely helpful and welcoming. They were generally medics who wanted to help others into the field too, not just to succeed in their own. I enjoyed the opportunity to mix with people who were where I aim to be in not too many years and found that it was not just the faculty members who could inspire me. The course was mainly aimed at doctors and the chance to work alongside them and learn at the same level made me full of admiration for what they do beyond the course also.

I found the structure and organisation of the course to be profound, illustrating that it had been very carefully planned. The contents of the lectures were easily understood, most probably because of the excellent way in which they had been put together and presented; a way in which it was easy for even a future medic like myself to follow.

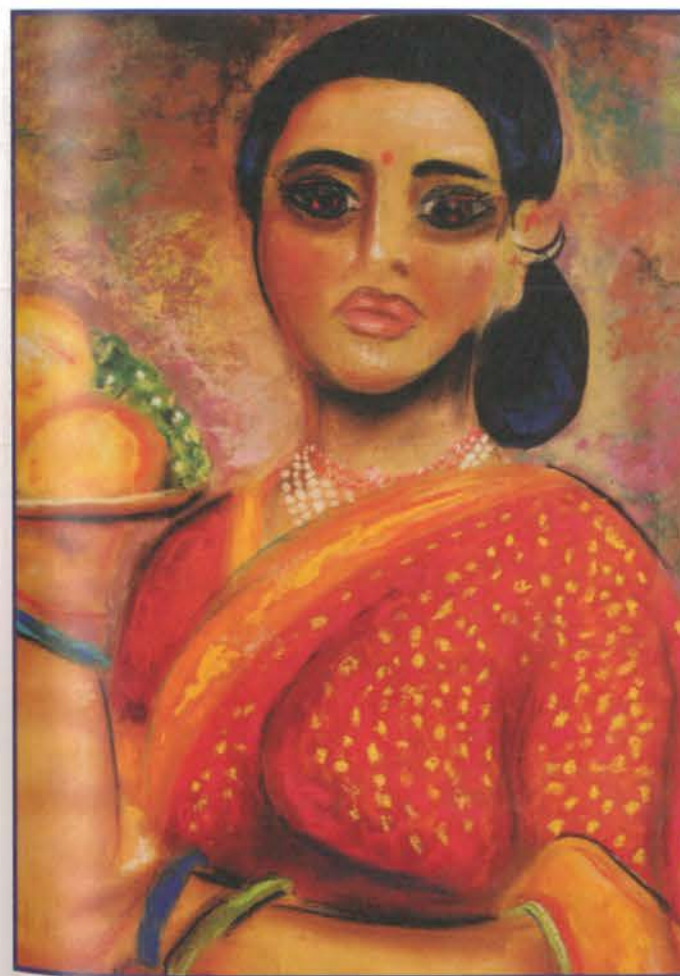
It is my personal opinion, one which I expect many other

attendees would share, that the practicals brought the knowledge which we had just attained to life. Having previously been on other courses, more directed at students of my own level (Medlink for example) I can undoubtedly say that this has been the most worthwhile and fulfilling course yet. Practical such as designing our own skin grafts, local flaps and establishing suturing techniques certainly gave a wonderful insight into common plastic surgery techniques, moreso than I had envisaged.

A particular highlight I took away from the course was gaining experience of the latest technology, for instance where we used 'loupes'. The chance to familiarise yourself with surgical equipment and get a feel for techniques was one which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also learnt how plastic surgery also entailed working with hand fractures and securing them with plates, K-wires etc.

Overall I feel I gained much more than I could ever have hoped from the Pinderfields "MY Plastic Surgery Course" and would like to thank the organisers and faculty members for such a fantastic insight into what I wish to do. I am now more focused on surgery as a career and definitely feel plastic surgery is the direction I wish to steer towards.

Emma Gill



Liz Joseph Year 10



Alice Wright Year 11



Speech Day started with Charlotte Maule, from Year 8, captivating the audience with her beautiful flute performance of Menuet and Badinerie from Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 2 in B minor. Our Chair of Governors, Dennis Wheatley, congratulated the school on another year of outstanding success in all areas of school life. He noted the importance of the partnership between students, staff and parents in achieving these successes and acknowledged the hard work, commitment and support of all.

The Headmistress, Mrs Wallwork, then reported on the school year, outlining the many areas of school life in which the girls achieve. She also spoke about her belief of what makes a High School Girl, which was that, "girls come from a variety of backgrounds, with a variety of talents and interests and a variety of personalities. Girls here are not robots or clones but individuals. There is no mould we make each one fit - and yet, ALL walk through the doors of the school into the next phase of their lives as confident, happy, well balanced young women, well equipped to use the lessons learned within the High School's walls and ready to make their mark upon, and contribute to, tomorrow's world. What is more, the invisible threads connecting them to the school will weave WGHS friendships, interests and values into the tapestry of their lives and hopefully continue to pull them back to us, not only as visitors but as speakers, educators and parents of the next generation of girls taking to the stage at this, and future, Speech Days."

Our speaker at this year's Speech Day was Canon Andi Hofbauer, Canon Precentor at Wakefield Cathedral and Governor of the school, nominated by the Council of Wakefield Cathedral. Her speech was beautifully crafted around a striking assertion from the outset, the greatest crime in the desert is not murder but not telling others where the water is'. She then went on to use this as a metaphor for society and education: the greatest crime we can commit is to fail in our duty to show the next generation 'where the water is', or more literally to educate them academically, practically and morally so they can survive in the potential 'desert' of the adult world. She



acknowledged that the water at WGHS is plentiful and refreshing and that all the girls need to do is drink. Canon Hofbauer captivated her audience and gave us all food for thought and Head Girl, Hattie Jones, thanked her for giving of her time so freely to the school and for entertaining us so successfully, while offering such sound advice.

The long line of prize winners then received their awards and as Mrs Wallwork pointed out, behind each statistic lies the individual personal best of each girl as she negotiates her way to her chosen career path and future. The



emphasis of the school is on commitment and effort, realizing potential and achieving personal bests, whether that be reaching the highest grading available, or simply the best grade a girl can achieve in each of her subjects. As a school we celebrate all of these throughout a girl's time at the High School as well as in each prize-giving.

The enduring memory of this year's Speech Day was the welcome sight of Sophie Carrigill collecting her GCSE certificates and being given an ovation by the audience that said it all. An example to us all.

## Co-Opted Governors

Jason Brook  
 Susan Brown  
 Irene Dalton MA, PGCE  
 Ian Garner FCA, CTA  
 Malcolm Golightly MIMS, FCDIP  
 Douglas Hird BA  
 Douglas R Metcalfe LLB  
 John McLeod MA, DMS, FRSA  
 Mahendra Patel Ph.D, B.Pharm, MRPharms  
 Robert M Turner LLB  
 Dennis Wheatley B Tech, C.ENG, MICE  
 David A Young

Nominated by the Council of the University of York  
 Nigel Dandy

Nominated by the Council of Wakefield Cathedral  
 Canon Andi Hofbauer

Nominated by the Council of the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
 Claire Lawton FCA

Nominated by the Council of the University of Sheffield  
 Penny Simons BA, MA, PhD

Nominated by the Council of the University of Huddersfield  
 Diane Ayre

Nominated by the Council of the University of Leeds  
 Angela Byram

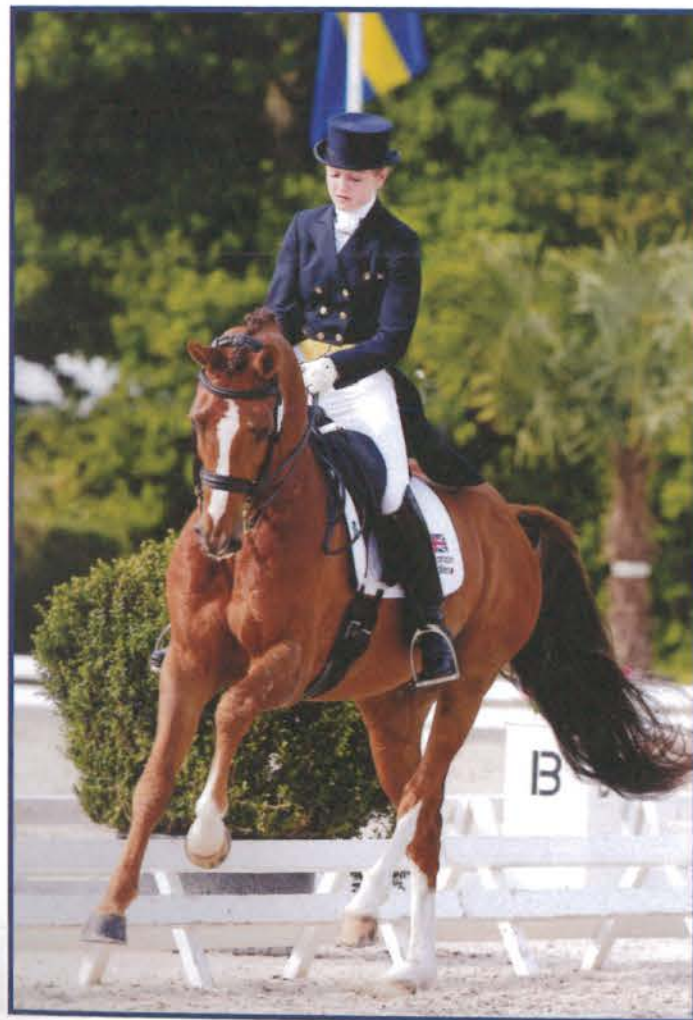




### Great Britain Equestrian Squad

After owning and training my current horse for two years, my trainer recommended that I attended the Great Britain Squad Viewing weekend. This is a weekend where you are viewed and assessed by Great Britain selectors to assess your suitability for being in a Junior GB team. I had been working towards this moment for about four years so I was excited and somewhat terrified at the prospect.

I arrived at the venue on Saturday, 2 October and was completely in awe at the standard expected there. I never thought for a second I had a chance of making it onto the squad! Upon arrival, we attended a talk with the selectors, which made me even more nervous if that was possible! I then had my training session with Gareth Hughes, an international dressage rider and trainer, whilst being watched by the selectors. My horse, Feo, was a very good boy and behaved perfectly but I still wasn't sure if we had done enough to get on the squad. There were 22 riders trying for six squad places, as team members from the previous year were automatically eligible for a place. On Sunday we had another training session in which Feo was even better. As we left we were then told that we would



receive the news by email.

After returning home from school on Monday, I logged onto my email immediately to see if the selectors had seen enough potential to put us onto the squad or not. I had! It was the biggest shock ever as I really hadn't been expecting it. I was so pleased! So I was now one of six people aged 14-18 on the Great Britain squad, an achievement I am really proud of for both Feo and myself.

We will now attend four GB Training Days between now and March in which we will continue to be assessed to see if we will be good enough to be selected to represent Great Britain at Junior level in the European Championships in Denmark next summer. I will continue to train with my trainer, Becky Moody, throughout the winter and compete whenever possible to get Feo used to the atmosphere of different arenas. Whatever next summer brings I am very proud of what we have achieved and that the hard work over the last two years with Feo has brought such fantastic rewards.

**Emma Corbett**  
Year 13

### England Netball Match Day

In February, I and nine other girls from the Yorkshire & Humberside Regional Netball Academy were selected to participate in a National Match Day at Loughborough University to take place on 12 March 2011. It's the first time that England Netball has run such a tournament and I was really excited to be picked! On the day, we joined up with the other girls from the nine regions around England, mixed up the teams and played in a league tournament throughout the day.

The idea of playing in a team with other players who I'd never met before made me feel even more nervous than I already was! All I had been told about the day beforehand was that it was going to be an amazing opportunity to play a high standard of netball with the best players from each region in England.

On the way down to Loughborough, I was excited at the prospect of being able to learn new skills from both my team mates and the opposing teams, and just wanted to play my best as I had been told England selectors were going to be watching us! When I arrived, we were all split up into nine different teams, and I was one of the unfortunate ones - I didn't know anyone in my team at all! Luckily, our coach for the day was the North East Regional Excel Coach, Kelly, whom I had previously met and worked with at our Tri-Regional match days in October and February.

Each team played three 40-minute games throughout the course of the day, and our coach was able to pick up on our individual strengths and weaknesses quickly, allowing us time to improve as the day went on and learn from each other - picking up new moves and tactics in order to help

our team progress to the final stages of the competition. In our first match, against tough opposition, we started nervously and you could tell from our play. As none of us knew each other, we were sometimes unsure whether to pass certain balls, and where to move both in and around the shooting circles. We lost this game by just two goals, and after pulling the deficit back from a twelve goal margin at half-time you can imagine our disappointment at the end of the forty minutes! But for the next game we pulled together as a team - we practised a lot in the time we were off court on centre passes, movement around the shooting circle and interceptions, and by the time we stepped on court for our second game of the day we were determined and focused on the job in hand. At half-time we had a four goal lead and by the final whistle the score was 31-20 to us. Both the players and the coach were overjoyed at this result following our narrow defeat in the first match, and we happily progressed to our final game with high spirits.

Our third and final game of the day was a play-off game, both teams fighting for third place overall in the competition, and we started the stronger side. After the first two quarters the score was 25-17, to us, and we were all confident going into the third quarter. After suffering an

injury early into the third quarter, our Wing Attack Emily was taken off court for treatment and on came Steph, our most experienced player. She had an immediate impact on the game, and by the end of the quarter the lead was ten. The feeds into the circle had improved, and our interceptions were being converted into goals each time we turned over a loose ball or pass from the other team. The final quarter saw our coach, Kelly, make a few changes to our side, and even though the opposing team clawed back our lead to just six goals, we managed to hang on and therefore finish third overall in the competition.

I really enjoyed this match day. It was a fantastic way to see the standard of play of some of the next young netballers from around England. The skill and competition levels were incredible, and it was an invaluable experience that I'd gladly repeat!

**Hollie Joyce**  
Year 9



Emily Warren - Barrett Year 11





## Hosting an Author Visit Annabel Pitcher

Friday 11 March was a day highly anticipated...the return of Mrs Annabel Pitcher. This was not just a visit from a previous WGHS English teacher, but a highly successful and sought after full-time novelist, celebrating the acclaimed launch of her debut novel *My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece*.

Annabel came to see us in a break from travelling across the British Isles in the weeks following her London book launch and TV and radio appearances, the launch of her website and planning her travel schedule to promote the book further afield in the international sphere.

This WGHS author visit had unique appeal, the whole school having followed the development of Annabel's first writing venture, the experiences which she had had during the process of securing an agent and the ensuing bidding war which developed as publishers competed for her book.

The edge-of-the-seat excitement was palpable with an assembly to update everyone on what had been happening since she had left us and as the book reached the printers and then its readers, followed by presentations to, and mini-workshops with, all the girls in Years 8 and 9, including students who had either been taught by Annabel or had been members of the Junior Book Club with her.

In her sessions with the girls, the teacher came forth once more as the students were tasked to consider what their important first memories were and how such memories can be the foundations of convincing stories, as was the case for Jamie in the novel. Reading extracts, Annabel helped the students to see how characters can be realised and given



psychological depth, such as when Jamie faces the dilemma of rebelling against his father or accepting the 'rules' laid down. The process of designing the book's cover and developing the trailer for it was explored and how focus group feedback informed the decision making. We learned about her 5am start to the day and how she developed the first stages of the book, in notebooks, whilst travelling. She was asked about where she gets ideas from and what she is doing to develop her second novel, which is underway, then signed copies of her book for those who wished - students and staff alike.

In the students' feedback they commented on how 'inspiring...informative and enjoyable' the sessions had been, talking to a 'real author', how 'glad' they were to have been able 'to attend'. It showed them 'what is achievable', 'what is possible' when you 'are committed' to 'your dreams' - even the ones from childhood. Those who 'also love(d) writing' or considered themselves 'aspiring writers' were 'spurred on'. Some felt 'privileged' to hear about her success and others were enthralled by the 'Calendar' media coverage on the day too, loving 'being on television' and seeing the 'fame' as the 'result of all her (Mrs Pitcher's) hard work'. Many commented that they were 'intrigued' and planned to read the book as 'everyone was saying just how good it is'. Hearing about what an 'author does on a daily basis' was of interest and there was amazement, during the holiday, for one girl when she found 'the book in the airport in Dubai' which showed her 'what you can do if you put your mind to it'. The excitement Annabel conveyed, 'writing the publisher's telephone number on a piece of WGHS toilet paper' which 'she has kept' for her scrapbook was keenly remembered by many girls. She was unquestionably 'admirable' to them.

Undoubtedly, such author visits are an excellent way to stimulate our girls' desire to read and to see how reading



helps writing and how writing can come from their own, or imagined, thoughts and feelings. Annabel Pitcher did all this with grace and good humour which was very much appreciated by all, in what was a marathon of a day with us. She is indisputably a very positive role model, encouraging girls to read widely and to develop their own creativity and writing aspirations, by being committed and following their dreams.

We look forward to welcoming Annabel back to WGHS at some point in the future to see how her writing career is developing and we eagerly await the next novel!

Sherre Harrison  
Head of English

## The World Book Day Twitter Story Event 2011

To celebrate World Book Day the Learning Resource Centre ran a whole week of events including the Daily Twitter Story which proved to be hugely popular. Each morning Miss Dover would display a new introduction, requested via Twitter a week earlier, and written by a well known author especially for the event. Then gradually throughout the day, girls and staff alike would add a little piece to the story which Miss Dover would then Tweet. Even some of the authors themselves got involved by commenting on the writing as the stories unfolded. Here are two examples of the stories produced during that week.

### Introduction by Helen Grant

Gael's wings folded neatly inside his leather jacket, but the scales around his eye socket were a problem, which was why he always wore shades when he climbed the winding staircase which led up to the human city.

Gael was a creature of the dark. His shades glowed green at night and silver in daylight. He is a creature who should not exist but does. He is your worst nightmare.

Curse the increased perceptiveness of mortals! Whatever

happened to the days when a fairy could walk round unmolested?

Gael was a horrible creature. He spat when he talked; he shouted at everyone. Every night his hiss pierced through the night. He was your worst nightmare.

Gael slowly ascended the winding staircase and he opened the door. The dazzling sunlight hit him and he entered the human world.

He wandered all around the streets, staring at anyone that looked at his glowing sunglasses. He was a mythical creature out of this world.

A child who saw him burst into tears and Gael walked over to the child and went up to his ear spitting as he whispered, "Stop crying or I will haunt your dreams and kill you!"

The boy ran screaming, back to the safety of his home. Gael carried on walking the streets in the dead of night. Walking with a purpose.

Walking slowly. Only his silhouette was visible. Only moonlight illuminated his path. Far away a church bell chimed 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12 midnight. Gael slowed down; he had reached his destination. He was on the edge of the wood.

There was an old, rusted, iron gate at the edge of the forest. As Gael stood in front of it he sensed the object of his desire beyond. He raised his glasses, and perceived the night with his eyes unmasked. The darkness suited him well.

He silently moved towards the tall dark building. Its windows were shattered and the glass had shattered everywhere. He opened the rust metal gate and it creaked so loudly that even Gael, a creature of the night, jumped. He walked towards the abandoned house and pushed open the rotten door.

Slowly and cautiously he walked into the building and saw an old man sitting in front of a little fire. He slowly and quietly moved towards him before he sliced his neck and then carried on looking round the house. Little did he know that the man was already dead.

Gael was bombarded with the strength of mould. He grimaced as he walked towards the winding staircase in the centre of the dusty hall he entered. The stairs groaned as they creaked under his weight.

A spirit lurked around this house. As Gael walked up the stairs he saw a figure at the top. It was the man he thought he had just killed.

Not given to being fearful, Gael narrowed his eyes to focus and control his impulse to strike. He had to be wary. He knew taking action might bring out his enemies searching for Leah; that was the last thing he wanted.

Written by various girls from Year 7, 8, 9 10 and 11.

Helen Grant's comments: "A while ago I saw Alison's appeal on Twitter for authors to write an opening for a story to be



continued in tweets. I can't resist a challenge, so I contributed an initial sentence about a winged and scaled creature called Gael. Although my own books are often classified as "crime" or "thrillers" I started out writing creepy stories for magazines like Supernatural Tales and All Hallows and I love anything supernatural, whether vampires, ghosts or zombies! I'm thrilled with the twists and turns that the story took once it was out of my hands - the shades glowing different colours, the mysterious old man and the unknown enemies. I would love to see the story developed further - who is Leah, for example? Can it be that the powerful but evil, spitting and child-threatening Gael has a love interest? I'm dying to know..."

Introduction by Anthony McGowan

There was a knock. I opened the door. It was dark outside. I sensed movement but saw nothing. And then there was the smell. Nothing I could quite identify, except to say that it filled me with horror and disgust. And then...

Something brushed past me as it went into the house. I span around in the dim-lit hallway, sure I would see someone.

But no, all I could see were shadows, and that smell, that awful smell now filled the hall. So strong it was making my eyes water.

It was obvious, once my eyes had become accustomed to the gloom, what the hideous odour was. The cat had clearly been dead for sometime, and the string around the corpse was stretched tight under the strain.

"Japetto!" I yelled so hard I dropped my taco and my sombrero fell off. "What are you doing? I left the cat out there for old farmer McGarvey to eat for his tea!"

Although I know that McGarvey enjoyed the cat, I felt guilty for leaving it outside on its own. I couldn't sleep for it! Then my mind fell onto an all-important question: how did the cat die?

It seems unfair that the cat had died and I think it was killed by a creature of the dark. I remember seeing a hideous creature and McGarvey seemed to enjoy eating dead animals. Is he a dark creature as well?

I ignored my fallen possessions and examined Japetto's corpse. It was spread pitifully on the doormat and I spotted a disturbing wriggling under her fur. I then realised something was in the house. After all, what else could've touched my shoulder? Japetto's death was a distraction for...

the intruder. The figure stood in front of the kitchen table brandishing a meat cleaver, stained with scarlet residue. I screamed and grabbed Japetto and threw him at the silhouette, but the cat simply stopped mid-air and fell to the kitchen floor.

It was clear that there must have been some kind of forcefield or invisible entity before me. For now, however, this was the least of my worries, as the figure stepped out of the shadows. For a brief second I was sure I recognised

the face, but just for a second, as I collapsed to the floor unconscious... I woke up and recoiled in horror...

When I realised the figure before me had my beloved Japetto's face in place of any other face. His eyes glared and shone bright red like two piercing rubies. Almost like lasers they bore into me. I began to feel really sick and oh so hot, so very hot, suddenly...

through the mist I began to perceive the recognisable shape and build of my father, broad shouldered and solid like the mountain landscape in which he had been raised. The voice, comforting and calm, reached me... "Stay with me... I'm here now..."

Oh no, I couldn't believe it. He had been gone so many years; it felt like an eternity to me. "Butt, where have you em???" I uttered, trying to put together a sentence with so many questions to be answered. My face fell white like a ghost. The long piercing silence created an uncomfortable atmosphere. Were these questions going to be answered?

Written primarily by various girls from Year 11 with the help of some girls from Years 7 and 10.

Anthony McGowan's comments after sending him a copy of the story to read: "That was great! - thanks for sending it."



Charlotte Bevan Year 12





## Poppies of Blood

Bang! Bang! I felt sick. Bang, bang, bang...and up we climbed. 'Arrghh,' one man screamed and the light, it shone. 'I'm down...' another cried out through tears in blood shot eyes.

The sun. I remembered; the sun, the brightness, the light. My eyes were weeping as I looked out from the pit, the trench, the hole. I lay there, playing dead. What, I thought, what was worse? The rats, the damp, the darkness or this field? The one patch of earth, so very far from beautiful, the one patch of earth which Mother Nature had forgotten?

The poppies grew there...when I went back. Blood red poppies. The same shade...just as I remembered the field to have been. But the poppies - they were not there before. The blood of five-hundred plus men...and boys...I remember.

Through his eyes the blood shot man had seen death. Perhaps glimpsed his sweetheart, back home, never near where the poppies did grow, back home, alone, back home, she sat and thought of him, knitting by the fire, a 'welcome home' thought in her heart, not 'tally-ho!'

For who thinks they will die? He did not.

I'd have given my life to him, for I have no-one; I'm all alone.

I walk these fields now as the pretty poppies skim my fingertips. Looking up to the sun, the same sun which I had seen all those years ago.

Then I'm there again, back in the field, and I look up. Open-eyed-pupils stare at me. The pupils of the dead man; his life went by in a flash, a bang. Just like that. Now he will lie, forever, in the field. Before, he and the others had a place in which to live, a place to call home. Now they live in a field. That's not so 'fitting' is it? Soon they will be poppies - the machine guns, the gas, the bombs, those men, their lives and losses.

My life, what's left of it now? For I live there with them, there too, in spirit.

I am one of the poppies; people skim their fingers through me; they comment on my beauty. I am to all intents, one of them, I am with them.

So...every day I shall remember them. They scream, they cry, they pull at my legs. They want my limbs, they want my breath, they want my life.

The poppies sway now in the summer breeze, gently...back and forth.

Forever I will remember them; their mud filled faces. Forever, I will remember them; they scream for forgiveness. Forever I will remember them; they only want what is ours, what is yours.

Forever...I will never forget those screams from the line, the blood-shot eyes and bravery smiles; the discoloured eyes

and clothes of grey; the pale faces and grimaces.

In the night they cry for help whilst I lie in deepest sympathy, as if my bed is a coffin and my head as heavy as a rock. I silently scream for them to leave my brain, to find another's as their home, then beg for their forgiveness when they are gone...fearful to be alone.

Each delicate flower represents them, the faceless men and the naive, innocent boys. Each flower represents the lie they told in their eagerness to join up, and then the fear in each boy's eyes.

The poppies, they grow in Flanders fields, they represent the dead. The poppies they grow in Flanders fields, and also in my head.

(In-role, re-creative writing after having studied the poems of the WW1 poets: Owen and Sasson)

Caroline Swift  
Year 10

## Caged

A stomach of hummingbirds. Not butterflies, Hummingbirds are fifty-four times the worse, Because they pulsate around in the ribcage Until starvation knocks them off their perch, And then barricade the path of unpolluted air Which allows breathing with their dead weight.

And they are only hatched from your slow-poisoning Yet pungent perfume - that smothering scent of Smoked roses and sultry showers Which I know all too well, have tasted all too much. As it clots in the brain and plummets through the veins To fuse itself in the throat I realise it is a drug.

That you, with your unblemished shoelaces And artificial honesty are a Drug. Addictive. Make my grasp of control Slip. Send me lurching over the edge Beneath a scarlet grin in the fringe of the sky. And it is funny how I am not laughing.

And suddenly all is indistinct drapes sliding over The ground, and I find myself with both a Hummingbird stomach and butterfly brain, Wanting nothing more than to play with the Traffic and sun-battered cars, just to feel My bones locked beneath your skin.

Laura Potts  
Year 10

## A Cornish Combe

Daybreak. The moorland, now veiled  
With the torn rags of impaled  
Severed clouds. The drab tide,  
Sullen as any jilted lover,  
And the hollows of the hills  
Pursue one another.  
To the hem of the cove we would soon succumb  
Where clustered cottages would lean -  
Deserted some.  
For here we could run like savages,  
And seek a hidden place to build a den -  
Time and again -  
Until only the winds answered.

By midday tide would be full.  
Here we would watch it lull  
And crawl in, licking the chalk of the land.  
Hand-in-hand  
Taunting ambition would drive us down to sea  
Where the combe would be  
Stippled with white-lipped waves,  
Commencing their escapade,  
And the Cornish crest would bite our skin  
And we would laugh.

Soon those waves would ebb  
Passionately, entwining their web,  
As the crouching clouds grew reluctant  
To the night. Moors no longer alight,  
Spray hung in a scarf along the smoking cliffs;  
A slow dusk dawned.  
Waves would curve beyond  
To break the inlet of the combe,

With slanting shadows draped over the tide.  
And still for hours we would roam,  
With not a thought for those at home.

Some would carry lights which would swing  
In the mounting darkness, of which a string  
Could be seen from the cliffs.  
The moorland was now seemingly-scarred,  
And the barren-starred  
Brows of the sky charred  
As miners.  
Storm was on his way.  
Farewell to the day,  
As the tide, in his beauty, begins to decay.

Tide breaks.  
Waves - now shadows of their former self - snakes  
Under a quilt - creeping almost unseen by the moon.  
Wind would tear off mouthfuls of unquiet sea  
And shadows ominously loom.  
Silence falls.  
After its brief masquerade,  
The cascade of the tide became disordered  
And ran in ragged confusion:  
Lost.

Once tossed  
By the tide, spray would settle to form mist.

The moon, creeping insight,  
Revealed the cottages, still standing nearby.  
Then the new darkness seemed to suffocate  
And sigh.  
As a sudden warmth flooded the cove  
Light retreated  
To crevices, undefeated.  
A beauteous pale emerging from the black  
Ribs of night.  
Tide now opaque,  
It would begin again:  
Daybreak.

Laura Potts  
Year 10

## My Tree has Secrets

Above my tree	is the sky with all its chirping
birds;	colour slowly fades from the sky
preparing	for nightfall
Inside my tree	are millions of insects foraging for
food	they burrow, slowly...surely... wearing down the tree.
Despite the wind	being so strong, my tree is still
standing	TALL.
Beyond my tree	a road filled with cars all parked
on the left hand side.	
Unlike others, my tree	will moult its leaves for winter.
Underneath my tree	is the soggy soil; its contents will
soon	become a worm's feast.
After my tree moults	its leaves, new buds will then
bloom into...	blossom.

Jemima Gardner  
Year 7



## The Money

It was a long time ago, I suppose, but I remember it as clear as yesterday. My father was back home from work, like he was every day. Weekends excepted, or course. He was an entrepreneur, very rich, fairly famous. I don't suppose you'd recognise his name now. He went out of business years ago, too greedy with his profits, too lax with everything else. But that one day, when I was eleven years old, I asked him more about his work. He gave me a simple sentence back.

"It's all about the money," he told me that night. And every night after that. No matter what else went on, whatever else he said to me, every night he'd say those five words to me. It was like a prayer to him. He was completely obsessed with the saying. It was carved into the back of the front door, written on random pieces of paper whilst he was thinking. He barely saw me, staying out late to work on his products, to count his money. He'd go on holidays without us. Me and my mum.

Mum got sick of it after a while. She said he was too greedy, too obsessed with his money. And it was never our money. We barely saw any of it. Just my father, descending into madness. She asked him to leave, and he did. We struggled on with her meagre wages, waiting for me to be old enough to earn something more for us to live on.

I hit sixteen, got a job on the paper round, and got the news that my dad had killed himself. That was that.

Years later, whilst working in a bank, a woman came in needing a loan. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. I asked her out. She said yes. We married six months later.

I had three children after that, three beautiful girls who all grew up as happy as I could make them. We weren't exactly rich, but we were content, and that was all that mattered.

\*\*\*\*\*

I was forty-one when I went back to visit my father's grave. A visit to the tombstone, that was it.

I laid a wreath of flowers on his grave, and cleared away the dust from the inscription. I knew what it would say before I read it.

"It's all about the money."

The words echoed in my head again, after thirty years. But for the first time, the words made me smile.

"No it isn't, Dad, no it isn't..."

Amira Boussahia  
Year 9

## A Sense of Place - Venice

The first time you go to somewhere special, you always remember it...

Venice is a mixture of everything.

If you get there early in the morning, you feel isolated from the rest of the world; the streets are empty, the shops are closed. It's so peaceful. The morning mist deadens every sound - making it quiet and calm.

The days, though, are bursting with life. The streets are crowded with shoppers and tourists. No alleyway is empty. People enter and exit the shops in a steady flow. Everywhere it is busy, overflowing with Italians, Americans, other Europeans and Asians - everyone from everywhere.

At night, the waters are dark pools of ink and everywhere is alight. Only holidaymakers come out now, to taste Italy's finest dishes. People chatter and eat while the city is almost ablaze with lights from the many restaurants and hotels. This is Venice's nightlife. Magnificent!

The smells are not as the sights. Mostly there is the odour of sewage and dead things in the canal perrades or the Vaperetto engine fumes. Sometimes you can even smell the waste from animals... but, sometimes, on those rare occasions, you unexpectedly smell the glorious scents of pasta in the oven - supposedly the finest in Europe, maybe even the world - and fresh baking bread, mixed with the faint smell of sweets, baking cookies or ice-cream...heaven!

Venice's sounds are just as extreme. On a gondola, the steady rhythm of the rippling water fills your ears. If you're lucky, maybe, just maybe, you'll hear an anonymous singer somewhere, whose sweet singing of Italian songs takes you away to a dream land, without war and fighting, where nothing disturbs the peace. On the bridges and in the streets, the air is filled with the sound of the busy murmurs, punctuated by the street sellers' cries. You are surrounded by stalls filled with masks and other Venetian delights, tempting...tempting...tempting you.

Like I said - the first time you go to somewhere special, you always remember it.

Rachel Silvester Williams  
Year 7

## The Door To Our House

Inside the door,  
Toys lie strewn around  
The piano sits grandly, like the throne of the queen  
Behind the door,  
The stained glass window paints a bright flowery picture  
While the washing machine turns repetitively  
As bored as can be  
Opposite the door,  
The mantelpiece stands  
Close to the brown sofa  
Shrouded in blankets against winter's chill  
Near the door,  
I sit here  
Dreaming of sunny days, ice-cream cones  
And holidays at the fun-filled seaside  
Over the door,  
Against patterned wallpaper  
A picture of snowmen hangs  
Framed by a bleak black bold border  
Adjacent to the door,  
The modern windows  
Let the sun shine through, unblemished  
Whilst shadows flitter  
Through the suburban skies  
Once in a while  
Close to the door,  
The breaking bookcase is covered with jigsaws and games  
Waiting to be played  
On the door,  
The hinges creak noisily  
Leaving the door as unhelpful as a drunken soldier on guard duty  
Vivi Way Year 7

## My Desk

Sitting at my desk covered with doodles.  
I can see trees blowing in the courtyard;  
I can see more doodles.  
There is a pile of books,  
Meaning homework for me to do.  
Pens in an old pencil case.  
Books.  
Chewing gum.  
Is my brain like my desk?

Outside  
Under the desk  
Upon the desk  
Inside is a mess -  
Beneath this...  
Besides these...  
I wonder,

Sarah Robinson  
Year 7

## Our Little Train

Outside the train,  
The people busily stride to their destination,  
Like ants collecting leaves for their brothers and sisters.  
Outside  
our little train.

Inside,  
We wonder where this engine will take us,  
What adventures will greet us;  
Once we say goodbye  
To  
our  
little  
train.

Above us,  
The wires race off in the distance  
Stretching many miles  
To ensure we get to our next stop safely  
Above our  
little  
train...

Below the train,  
The tracks entwine in complicated patterns,  
Bearing our load,  
Guiding us to our destination  
Below  
our  
little  
train.

Rachel Silvester Williams  
Year 7

## My Tree

On top of the tree  
leaves are emerald green  
shining like the grass on our front lawn.  
Above this huge tree  
a bright blue sky is gleaming  
with beautiful yellow sunshine  
as bright as a newborn's first ever smile.  
On the aged branches of the old oak tree  
some birds whistle a melodious tune  
whilst others forage to feed their young.  
Above the sky  
the clouds float by in different shapes  
fixing themselves in people's minds  
making them wonder what it would be like to fly on a cloud?  
Under the oak  
worms wriggle around joyfully  
munching on soft soil.

Lydia Hyett  
Year 7



## A Beginning and an End

Mum

I'm so proud of my daughter Abby. She was so nervous this morning, nibbling her toast and tapping her brand new school shoes on the kitchen floor. It seems like a totally different girl gets in the car after her first day of Year Seven; someone else's daughter, an identical clone of my beautiful Abby. She turns and smiles at me. "You were right, Mum" she grins, "it wasn't that bad after all."

Dad

Abby crosses the stage and shakes her headmistress' hand. I'm jubilant as I stand and applaud. My Fabby Abby, now a young woman leaving High School. I'm elated. Me and my wife look at each other with smiles bright enough to power a city as Abby sits down with her friends. They have all changed so much, I can hardly recognise them. Of course now I don't ferry them about in the car anymore, I hardly see her and her best friends. I'm allowed to pay Abby's petrol bill but I'm still too much of an embarrassment to be seen with.

Abby turns around to smile at us. I'm suddenly struck with how much she looks like her mother. I wave and give her a thumbs-up sign. She rolls her eyes as if this has proven her theory about my "totally un-cool behaviour", but then she sticks out her tongue and gives me a thumbs-up sign back. Her best friend of the past seven years elbows her side as Mrs Wallwork starts to speak and she turns to face the front, poking Emily back in retaliation.

I love her so much I'm glowing.

Abby

I push open the classroom door slowly, wishing I could be anywhere else. Mum cooked a good luck dinner last night. Me and Dad laughed and he called her sentimental. Now I think I'm going to need all the luck I can get.

The classroom is small and stiflingly hot as the last weeks of summer run into September. I glance around for an empty seat and a friendly face. There's no-one I know, so I sit next to a fierce looking girl with bunches. "Hi, I'm Abby", I introduced myself and she surprised me completely by grabbing

my hand and shaking it. "Emily", she replied.

I decided to stick with her for the rest of the day. Now, I can't imagine school without her.

Mum

Abby came downstairs early the morning of her graduation ceremony. I shoved a cup of coffee at her which she took, drained, and handed it back for another.

This has been our morning ritual for years and the only time Abby will ever emerge from her room looking less than immaculate. Today she still had her pyjamas on. She sat across from me and nursed her second cup. Her feet tap the floor and I'm reminded of the morning of her day of Year Seven. She was nervous then too. "What's wrong?" I ask her.

"What will happen if I fall off the stage?"

I sigh and butter some toast as I try and convince her that everything will be perfect for my baby girl.

Dad

I kiss my daughter goodbye as she leaves the house for the first day of school.

"Dad!" she moans, "Get off me."

I smile and pull on one of her long blonde braids. "Have a good day, Fabby."

She winces at the use of the childish nickname.

"Whatever, Dad." She dismisses me with a wave, goes back inside.

"Love you, too, Dad."

I can't hide the grin that spreads on my face as I start the car engine and pull out from the drive.

Abby

Emily pounces on me the minute I get into the Common Room. She hugs me and tries to ruffle my hair. She's the taller one of us but I duck out from under her arm with a hiss. Nobody touches my hair. It's short, a pixie cut and styled to perfection. I had it cut halfway through the summer holidays after Year Twelve and Emily was there when I had it done. It's my pride and joy and she knows it.

She shakes her head and laughs. "Come on," she smirks, "it's the assembly at ten."

I grab her hand and drag her towards the kettle.

"Just time for a coffee before we find a seat then," I say.

"I swear you live off that stuff." She shakes her head in amazement.

I just shrug and flip the power switch.

Mum

We wait for Abby just outside the main doors to the hall after the ceremony. She comes rushing out with Emily close behind her.

"Mum!" she cries and pulls me into a hug.

I return it and can't help but feel she's grown up now, taller than me in her high heels, blonde hair, styled and suit, pristine.

I turn and smile at Emily. She smiles back and says she better go find her own parents and she'll call Abby later. I laugh as David groans.

"But you always hog the phone, Abby!"

"Yes, Dad," Abby explains patiently, "because you pay for it."

David laughs at her logic before lunging for her hair. Abby raises one eyebrow and I can't help but feel sorry for David as he freezes on the receiving end of, "The Look." Abby shakes her head at him before grabbing our hands and pulling us out the door.

Dad

I lock the front door behind me and hang up my keys as I make my way to the kitchen. I can hear Abby's high pitched excitable babble as she tells her Mum about her first day of school.

"And I met a girl called Emily and she sat with me in Geography and then we had Maths and I could do the work and in P.E. we played rounders, I caught Katie out and..."

"I'm home!" I called as I interrupted her very detailed, hundred-mile-an-hour retelling of her day.

"Dad!" she shouted, jumping up and giving me a hug. I ruffled her hair absentmindedly as I poured myself a coffee and asked her how school was.

"Well..." she said drawing in a deep breath. I nodded as she sat next to me and told me all about her day.

Hester Wood  
Year 10

## Fearing Failure

"Heheheh..."

I glare at the page in front of me.

"You'll never win..."

Great. Now it was mocking me! Evil paper.

"Why don't you just give up? You're going to fail anyway..."

I scowl and bare my teeth at that piece of paper. It was taunting me! I look around. Nobody else seems to notice the sinister voice coming from my table top. I glance towards the front of the room. My English teacher sits there, reading, marking, oblivious to the distracting remarks my page is feeding me. My eyes return to my desk.

Wait... since when does paper have eyes? Beady black orbs glare at me. I'm beginning to freak out, so I grab my question sheet and slam it down on top, successfully blocking the paper face from view.

The question once again, catches my eyes. I've been staring at it for ten minutes now, trying to think of something to write about. I turn my eyes to the clock. Not long left now. Then I can go home. But I have to get through this first.

I have to write about a time when I have been fearful.

Fear? Me? Nah!

I suppose I may not be believable when I say that I have never felt fear. The replies I get after saying that usually are somewhere along the lines of, "Well, you must have feared something at some point in your life," but I haven't.

No, really, I haven't.

I guess I've never had any reason to fear. I mean, I've lived quite a privileged life: I live on a nice street - I've never come across any drunk or violent people in my neighbourhood before. I've never been in fear for my life, or my freedom, and I've always had plenty of friends that could help me with schoolwork or problems. In all, I'm actually rather lucky! As a child, I didn't even fear the dark, and as a teenager I've always been fine with tests and examinations. My scores have always been pleasing, and my work has always been displayed to younger years. All this and no fear. Now what? I guess if I've never felt fear, I'll have to make it up. Improvise or something.

Yes, that's what I'll do. "Wing it." I harden my resolve, pick up my pencil and touch it to the paper. Suddenly, I realise I don't know where to begin, and my resolve melts again. I twirl the pencil in my fingers for a little while, before glancing out of the window in a frantic attempt to gather some inspiration. I spot a bird's nest in a tree directly in my line of vision. I notice that it has been empty for a number of weeks now, so I wonder where the owners could be?

I have stopped fiddling with my pencil, and I now realise that I have been doodling small, wonky (I am not the greatest artist) images of those missing birds. I sigh and get back to work.

OK, so my mum told me that if I was stuck on something I should focus on all five of my senses. So, what can I see? Well, that's easy - a great big sheet of horrid white paper. I say horrid because it shouldn't be white - it should be covered with the messy black scribbles that make up my handwriting. But anyways.

Hear? Writing. Lots and lots of writing. Ugh, jealousy. I bet they all have multiple ideas they could use, while fearless McNofear over here has nothing! Why me, eh? Why me? I can also hear church bells. It's a Wednesday morning and that is when they are tested. It's annoying.

Now for the sense of smell. Well, seeing as how my head is resting on my arm, I can smell whatever washing powder my mum uses on my uniform. Mmm, nice, fresh! I inhale deeply, smiling. And again. I need to sneeze.

Nope, it's gone.

Taste is simple. Chocolate! Our headmistress told us last week that red berries and dark chocolate were excellent brain food for exam week. Lovely.

Last but not least, touch. My neck is itchy from having it pressed against my jumper. But I can't be bothered to move right now. I can also feel something on my face. I think it is moving. I don't want to touch it, so I snatch up my water bottle and use its metallic surface to see what it is. As I do so, it moves again, across my cheek and onto the end of my nose. It's a fly. The biggest and hairiest fly I have ever seen in my whole entire life! My face twists into a look of pure disgust as my eyes cross and my lips purse, trying to blow it off my nose. In my peripheral vision, I spot the girl next to me peeking at me, so I suddenly turn around and give her the cheekiest grin I can muster, while simultaneously still trying to remove the fly. I finally manage to get it off its perch by letting it crawl onto my finger and then shaking it off.

I now notice that the girl's chair is turned completely away from me, but she is still managing to keep an eye on me over her shoulder. Oops. I guess I didn't make a great impression on her. Ah, well.

The creepy crawly has now gone, I glance once again at the clock. Half an hour left. Plenty of time. Yeah, right. I'll just keep telling myself that. I find my question sheet again, and I start to underline key words. Actually I'm just underlining random words, but it's better than doing nothing. I hope I don't fail. I would hate that. In fact, I'd fear it! It's all I've got. Fearing failure. Yeah, that's a good title. Now I only have to come up with the story, and I have twenty minutes left.

I put my pen to paper.

Cody Wilson  
Year 10



## Classroom Observations

Opposite me  
Toils a girl with short, brown hair.  
Without her headband, it would be  
A curtain across her face.

Beside me,  
Pupils have heads buried in work,  
Busily trying  
To complete the given task.

Underneath my desk,  
My faithful, battered, old schoolbag waits,  
Heavy as a boulder -  
Sore shoulder  
I will receive in return,  
For its company all day.

In the corner,  
Stands the teacher  
Surveying the pupils...  
Have their ties the correct stripe number?  
She ponders.

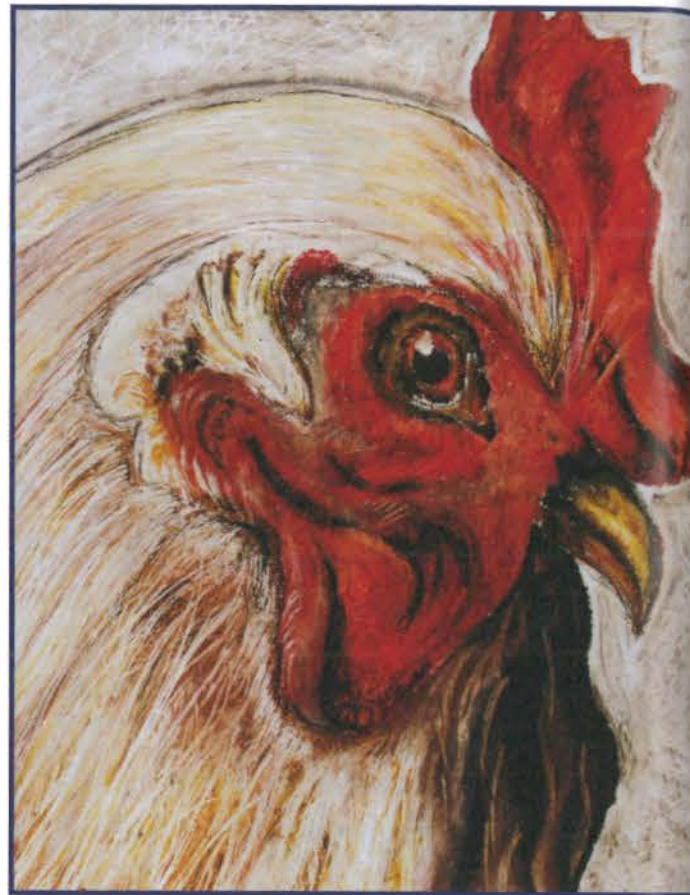
On the wall,  
Hangs a plain, yet accurate, clock.  
Its loud, annoying tick  
Dominates the working silence.

Behind us,  
A large, imposing, wooden cupboard stands.  
What lies behind its two brown doors  
Is a mystery to all pupils.

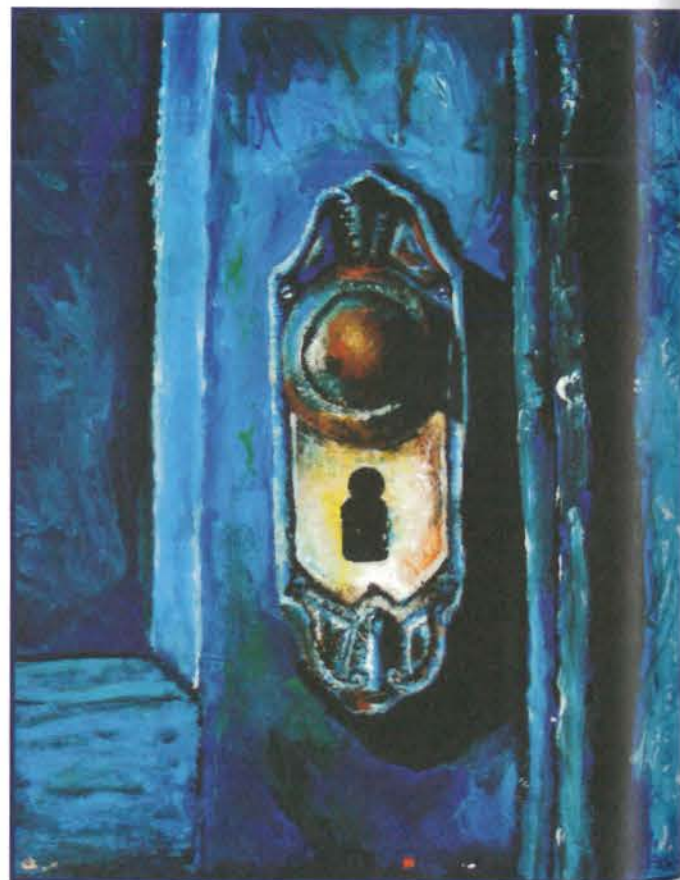
Melissa Knapton  
Year 7



Julia Lawson Year 13



Victoria Field Year 11



Tosin Kenogbon Year 11

## Neon-eyed Distractions

She could hear the ticking of the clock... or that could just be the sound of her pen tapping the paper impatiently. She knew the answer to this question, she knew it... she just couldn't remember it at the moment. It was late and her brain seemed to be too tired to work properly.

Maybe I should leave it 'til tomorrow?

She quickly dismissed the thought. She knew her mind would find a way to prevent her from completing the task as soon as she quit, such as trapping her in another daydream as soon as she woke up the next morning. It wasn't that she couldn't tell it was a daydream - she knew that weird, shadowy, demonic creatures with colour-changing neon eyes weren't normal - it was just that she could never seem to snap out of it.

As far back as she could remember, Cathy had always had complete control of the imaginary world her mind occasionally drifted into... that had changed only a few weeks ago. She knew it was getting worse, she just didn't know why, or where her mind was getting all these strange ideas it was creating. The neon-eyed creatures, for instance. She would often see them just out of the corner of her eye during the day, but at night they would be just about everywhere, just out of sight. She knew that there were usually two who hid in the shadows just across the street from her second storey window; sometimes they climbed up the walls, but couldn't get through the windows.

No! They're not real, Cathy! Snap out of it!

Sometimes she forgot and she was annoyed that she even needed to remind herself. She could see them as she sat at her desk and scowled at the other side of the road. They weren't the slightest bit human. Humans didn't have talons.

Why do they always have to look so real?

She diverted her attention to the maths problems on the page, still scowling slightly.

Okay... " $x^2 + 7x + 12$ "... no, no, that was the last question.

She collapsed on the table.

...Ow, I can hardly keep my eyes open, I should really leave this 'til tomo-no.

She sat up straight and checked the digital alarm clock to her right; it had been ten minutes and she had completed two questions... Cathy decided to risk another glance out of the window. It took a few seconds, but she saw them again; one whose eyes were shifting shades of blue, the other's whose were glaring and deep red.

Well, at least it wasn't the one with the tornadoes again - what am I saying?

She shook her head, she couldn't let herself be distracted, the questions were in for Tuesday. Cathy realised she'd been tapping her pen on the table again. That wasn't good; that was what happened whenever the daydreams started again, and whenever that happened she tended to forget things;

once she'd almost forgotten to eat for a whole day and ended up with a splitting headache which didn't leave for hours. Her mother had really worried about her then. She'd almost tried to take Cathy to a hospital, thinking something was seriously wrong. Her father? He didn't really care. Not that it mattered to Cathy. He'd always been like that.

"Oh, you don't need to worry about them." Cathy's alarm clock said dismissively, "they're not even here!" This was a common sign that she'd started daydreaming: inanimate objects talking to her. Actually it was usually only the alarm clock, so she thought that was okay. Something moved in her peripheral vision and she turned to her left. It was one of the shadows again.

Okay, I'm definitely daydreaming... Oh well, it's not like I'm going to get this work done anyway.

When did you get here?

It made a slight chirping noise in response to her thoughts and blinked its bright green eyes. She heard a door slam downstairs. That would be her parents. As her mind started to drift she realised that they'd probably be fighting again, as usual. She decided that she'd rather not to back just yet.

Liberty Ware  
Year 10

## Memories

Memories can be a beautiful aspect of life or they can be something you don't want to forget in a hurry. One thought I thought of was when say the word memories is what exactly makes a memory? I figured it can be all sorts of things both good or bad. It can also be embarrassing or fun, but it has to be something. For instance, when you get a pet.

There are some memories that you would quite like to forget, but when you do they just come back to you. Some memories like this can make you feel guilty or embarrassed, they never normally make you feel happy and joyful.

Another question I asked myself is why are they so special? One memory can be special for one person but totally pointless to another person. Memories are special because you want them to be and that is all you can do. You don't need to make anybody think that one of your memories are special just because you want them to be. All a memory has to be is for you and nobody else.

There can be memories of a loved one you have



## Christchurch Earthquake

Lizzie Grove left WGHS in 2002 to study medicine at Nottingham University. Graduating with a first class honour degree she left to complete her first two years of foundation year training within the Trent foundation hospitals. With a natural gap in her training and unsure about her future career path (hospital medicine vs General Practice) Lizzie took the opportunity to escape the NHS and gain further experience by practicing medicine in Christchurch, New Zealand. Below is an email she sent home after the Christchurch Earthquake 22 February 2011.

After so many kind messages and managing only a few quick words, I thought I'd use some of my free time to write a cathartic reflection (What is the medical world doing to me??) about the day of the Earthquake and the weeks that have unfolded.

I was at work on the fourth floor of the hospital, a building which was commonly believed not to be "earthquake-ready." It started like all the thousands of aftershocks we have experienced; you have a split second warning as the ground rumbles and the building starts to creak. Ironically I was in the process of writing my resignation letter at the time, having heard about my job in the UK and was hoping to go into town in the afternoon to post some postcards, which are still sitting in my bag two weeks later. Almost instantly we knew it was big; the nurses instinctively threw themselves in a door frame. I however, remained in my chair. The computer screen fell onto my lap and I was then propelled backwards onto the wall behind. The noise was incredible as beds broke free from their brakes, oxygen cylinders crashed over and 5kg ceiling tiles fell down. There was dust everywhere, all the electricity went off and the emergency alarm started firing telling staff to 'stay calm and follow the evacuation plan' - what an evacuation plan was I still don't know and it certainly seems to be different for neutropenic patients on the oncology ward. Hand on heart, I thought the building was going to collapse. I remember the feeling of resignation as I realised just how powerless I was to save myself. But in our case we were lucky, the building stood and we are all alive.

As soon as the shaking subsided my priority was to ensure the patients were okay, doing things such as checking lines were still in place, emergency pumps had gone to battery power, that no-one had fallen, and that no-one was trapped in the bathrooms. It would have to be Mr Grey, a gentleman with ataxia from brain metastasis who had just gone to the toilet! Of course his frontal mets meant that he found the disorder amusing after 'such a little shake'. 'Make the care of your patient your first concern' - I don't think anyone on the ward had been studying the General Medical Council's "duties of a doctor," but I witnessed that in its truest form. Most staff on the ward stayed, regardless of concerns for themselves and their loved ones, and I can promise - you just want to run out and never come back.

Although the fire alarm was instructing us to evacuate, we were to wait on the ward for further instructions. When

word came of the casualties lined up outside the emergency department, a few of us left to see if we could be of more use. There were two waves of patients - initially horrible, horrible trauma. Status 1 patients arrived one after the other, every resus bay was filled with a full team attending to a critically ill patient. An ED consultant organised everyone over the tannoy, providing some sort of order and keeping us from panicking as further shocks rocked the building. I hope she is recognised for the job she did. When you think of major incident planning you think of how the hospital will manage the casualties. But when the hospital itself is damaged it is something else. The lifts didn't work, the CT scanner didn't work, the back-up generator went, and for a while everything was done in semi-darkness. With most of the other medics I stayed to help in minors - "minors" meaning stable pelvic fractures, huge lacerations, spinal injuries, acute crush injuries, but no hyperkalaemia, whilst intermittently running up to my ward to check on my patients as the bleep system had gone down.

My first case was a young boy who had a TV fall on his head, next a lady with a huge scalp laceration from a wall of glass that had hit her, next a man with an open fracture from bricks falling on him. It continued for the hours that followed. I wished I had done ATLS (trauma) training prior to this, but I had worked in ED and I could manage a C-spine, suture and almost more importantly I could smile and offer reassurance. It was amazing how fast we ran out of things like staples and blood (only offering O -ve in the end, with doctors queuing up to donate), but one thing we were never short of was staff!

We were away from some of the worst things I think, but helping in majors throughout the evening we started to get more and more crush injuries in. Massive pelvic traumas were very common - one man with both legs amputated at the scene and a girl younger than me, newly paraplegic with a potassium of 8 from her pelvic injuries. ICU was overflowing within a few hours with many more in theatre and recovery all at once. The overwhelming feeling was of uselessness. The instinct for everyone is to run to resus and offer your help and you could barely move for staff in ED. What was needed was for the hospital to remain functional and efficient so that those with most expertise could do their job. That day I acted as a doctor, porter, social worker, ice cream bearer and water carrier.

Once the new shift came into ED, I moved back up to my ward to ensure my patients were okay and began a rapid discharge process as four patients were eager to 'get the hell out of here'. All the surrounding floors had evacuated out of the building as water pipes burst, black stuff leaked down the wall and ceiling tiles continued to fall. By 8pm a group of wheel chairs arrived to the ward which signalled it was our turn to evacuate, we were moving to the oncology day unit, normally used to deliver chemotherapy but would be temporarily changed to a 20-bed ward. Despite the bed lift being broken, the transition happened remarkably smoothly with immobile patients being transmitted on mattresses down the stair well. Many of the patients had to

sleep in lazy boys for the night, but the nurses were amazing and that night they were all fed, watered, toileted and bed bathed.

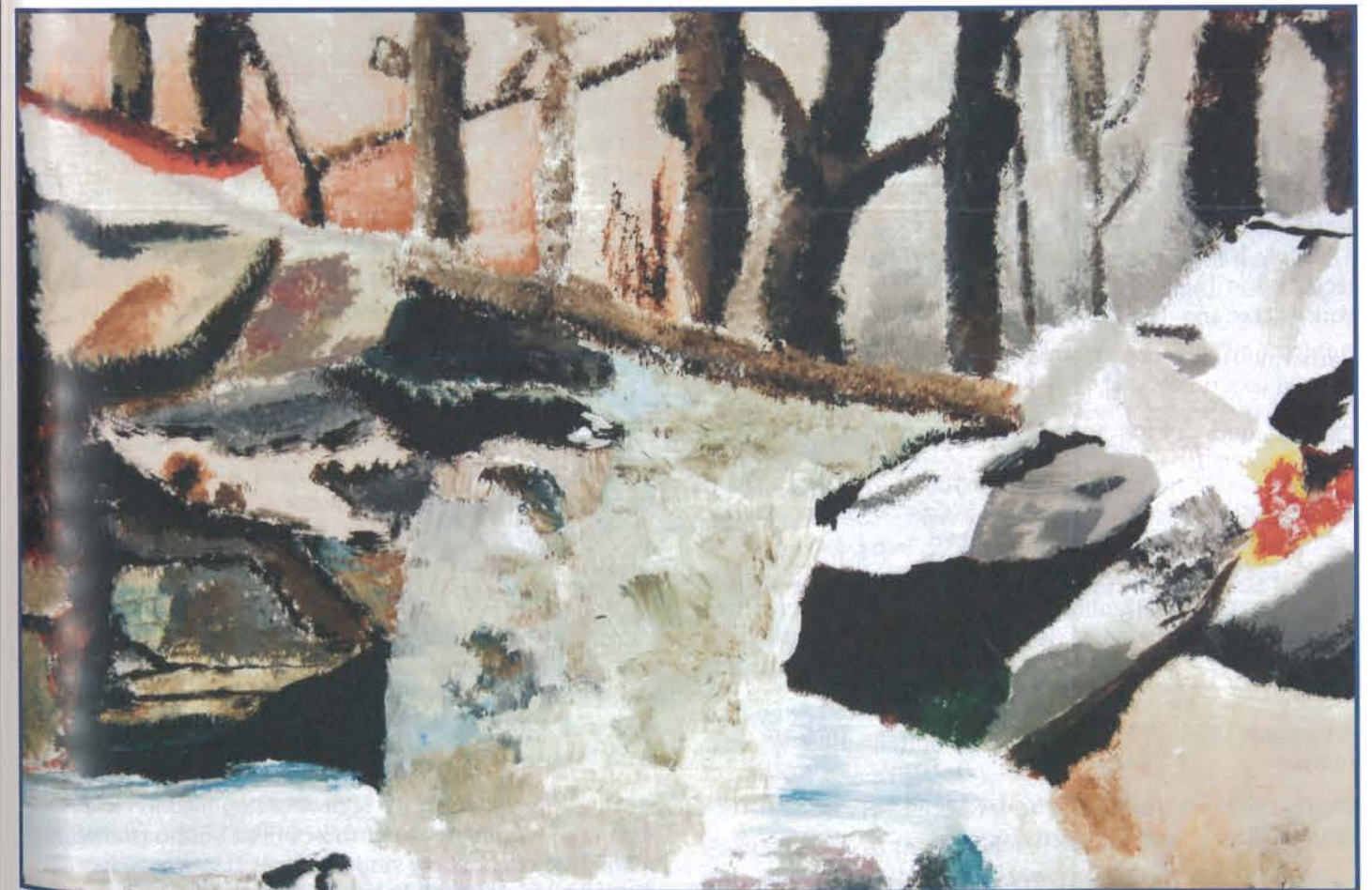
By 11pm I got a lift home with some good friends. The streets were a mess with massive amounts of silt from the liquefaction, and dark, so dark we had to drive at 20kmph to avoid huge cracks, holes and crushed vehicles. Our house was a terrible sight - anything that could break had broken, cracks were everywhere. But as you hear very often here at the moment, "It's just stuff, isn't it?" The houses on the opposite hill will need to be demolished as a massive landslide has made it unsafe to live there and one down the road has already collapsed.

I've been back at work for two weeks and it has resumed a surreal peacefulness (hence the long email). There are plenty of extras helping out, but the workload has fallen right off, partly because of elective surgery has been cancelled and partly because there has been a mass exodus out of Christchurch (when I went to the airport this weekend it was probably the busiest place in town).

It is very early days at the moment. I have only just found out that one of the CTC (Night team co-ordinator) nurses I work with was killed after a building fell on his car. The city centre is obviously completely shut down, and RNAZ

helicopters are making regular fly-bys. We have to go through army check points to get to the hospital and I'm currently wearing scrubs as I can't wash my clothes. I'm living across the road from the hospital as my house has still to be given the green sticker to say it is safe to enter, even so we have no water and use portaloos and are having to use the hospital to shower. Despite all of that, everyone remains dedicated, supportive, and as positive as possible. A lot of people are saying this will break Christchurch - I hope not. Seeing the number of people working 24 hours to keep this city functioning is astounding. It is all very well watching the surgeons/anaesthetists/ED docs bring people back from the brink, but there are a lot of very unglamorous heroes here - as cheesy as I know that sounds.

On the positive side, the wine stores are selling off their partially damaged stock at bargain prices, rugby has returned to normal but with the added bonus of the consultants taking it in turns to invite us back to their houses after the games. People are slowly heading back to Sumner as power and water begin to return and the place is as beautiful as ever. It'll be interesting to return in 10 years time to see what happens to the city (having been to Napier this weekend and seen the 1930s Art Deco building of their earthquake re-build).



Rachel Lee Year 11



## OLD GIRLS' NEWS AND MEMORIES

Compiled by Judith Laydon (nee Steele) 1977-1983

### BIRTHS

To Louise Barnes (nee Field) 1984-1992, a daughter, Sophie, born in January 2010, a sister for Jack and Ella.

To Hilary Carver (nee Marshall) 1987-1994, two sons, Joshua Harry, born in January 2008 and William George born in February 2011.

To Helen Davies (nee Binks) 1986-1993, a daughter, Florence Isabella, in May 2010.

To Helen Eldridge (nee Mallalieu) 1992-1999, a daughter, Charlotte Rose, a sister to Oliver, born in March 2011.

To Louise Flowers-Coburn (nee Flowers) 1985-1990, a son Ethan Tate Coburn on 8th July 2011.

### MARRIAGES

Alexis Barr 1994-2001 married Mr Ben Hardy, son of the Right Reverend Robert Hardy – ex-QEGS and ex-governor of WGHS/QEGS.

Selina Basu 1994-2000 married Mr David Bailey on 22 May 2010.

Laura Cliffe 1993-2000 married Mr Paul McNeillie on 1st October 2010 at Beamish Hall, Durham.

Katie Evans 1992-1999 married in June 2011, coming back to Yorkshire for the event from Australia as her fiancé, Arthur, is from Perth and his family are making the trip to the UK.

Jacqueline Foyle 1983-1988 married Mr Martin Green on 17th July 2010 at York Registry Office with a family reception at The Grange, York and an evening reception at York Cricket and Rugby Club.

Catherine Heaton 1977-1984 married Mr Clive Moxon on 18th June 2011 at St Helen's Church in Sandal.

Claire Lynagh – 1996-2003 married Mr Anthony Richardson in August 2010.

Katy Lynagh 1992-1999 married Mr Colm McCabe in February 2010. They now live in Dublin.

Eleanor Shaw 1996-2003 married Mr Giles Ratcliffe on 24th September 2010.

### ENGAGEMENTS

Amy Gara 1994-2001 to Mr Kartheinz Beck. They are due to marry on 15th October 2011.

Victoria Ingham 2000-2007 to Mr Michael Hudson on 10 February 2010 – her 21st Birthday.

Suzanne Judge 1984-1991 to Andrew Redmond. They will be married in summer 2011.

### DEATHS

It is with regret we record the following:

Marjorie Andrassy (nee Blackburn) died 5th May 2011 – aged 101. Marjorie was born in Sandal on 3rd August 1909 in the reign of Edward VII, 8 years after Queen Victoria had died, 3 years before the Titanic sank and in the same year as Louis Bleriot made aviation history by piloting an aircraft across the English Channel.

In the Spring of 1920, before she was 11 in the August, Marjorie sat the entrance examination for WGHS. Much of this information has been taken from Marjorie's own extensive notes, beautifully and so neatly handwritten. Marjorie states that during her interview with the then Headmistress, Miss McCroben, she was asked what books she had read and she was able to reply 'The Waterbabies' and 'Ivanhoe'. She was awarded a story scholarship and was thrilled to commence her education at the school in September 1920 shortly after her 11th birthday at the same time as the new Headmistress, Miss Martin.

Marjorie enjoyed life at WGHS, proceeding through the school gaining prizes en route for reading and recitation. She progressed from obtaining the School Certificate to taking the Higher School Certificate (the equivalent of GCSE's and A levels of today) and she was also a prefect when she was in the VIth Form. On the result of the Higher School Certificate she was awarded a City Woman's Scholarship. Her name remains today on one of the Honours Boards.

Marjorie had already decided that she wanted to study Domestic Science and she gained a place at the Yorkshire College of Housecraft, so in 1927 she commenced a three year teaching course at the college in Leeds. She studied cookery, laundry work, needlework, housewifery, Psychology, principles of teaching, Mothercare and Chemistry and qualified as a teacher in 1930, aged 21.

It was the beginning of the depression years and many were unemployed but Marjorie was successful in gaining a teaching post in Grimsby. Later she obtained a position at Ings Road School in Wakefield. A month after her 30th birthday, Britain and France declared war on Germany and she continued to teach at Ings Road during the war years until her marriage to Gerald Andrassy in October 1946.

Marjorie served on the committee of the Old Girls' Association, at one time as Vice President. She leaves 2 daughters, Christine and Elaine (both old girls) 4 grandsons and 2 great-granddaughters.

Dorothy M Forster 1927-1935. Dorothy died in October 2010. She was three weeks short of her 93rd birthday. Her funeral was attended by students from Leicester University where she was Warden from 1947-1968), Ex pupils from All

Hallows School in Bungay, where she was Head from 1968-1983, colleagues from WGHS and Oxford University.

Ruth Taylor (nee Marsh) 1942-1948, died in March 2010.

Priscilla Templeton (nee Ashwell). Scilla died at home in Huntingdon, surrounded by her family. She is greatly missed. She was very much a High School Girl and often quoted the school motto, 'Each for All and All for God'.

### OTHER NEWS

Alexis Barr 1994-2001 completed a PhD in Oncology at the University of Cambridge

Claire Beckwith 1999-2006 gained a 2:1 degree from Newcastle University and is now studying for her Maths PGCE at Southampton University.

Thelma Borley (nee Dickinson) who left school in 1945 writes to tell us about her enduring friendship with Rebecca (Rebe) Rainsbury. Rebe was Head Girl to Thelma's Deputy and they went on to have successful careers in Medicine and Physical Education respectively. They are pictured together below at a reunion in 2000 and send their best wishes to anyone from the same era.



Evelyn Bradnam (nee Ogden) 1936-1943 tells of a lasting memory of how during the 2nd World War, the prefects (in pairs) and on a rota, spent the night sleeping in the Geography room on fire watch duties. Two members of staff were also on duty and if they were lucky they were invited into the staff room for a warm night cap – a rare treat in those days!

Jacqueline Broadhead 1984-1991 has her own cheese making business [www.epicureslarder.co.uk](http://www.epicureslarder.co.uk) – which is progressing very well and she won a silver medal at the World Cheese Awards in November 2010.

Diana Brown (nee Kenyon) 1970-1974 is still living in the area. Her younger daughter is in Year 12 at WGHS and thinking about University. Her elder daughter is at the University of Bath in her first year of Biochemistry after a gap year when she trained to be a ski instructor in Switzerland and then went backpacking in Australia. The whole family went to Australia last year to see their relatives in Byron Bay.

Jan Brumfitt (nee Flavell) 1958-1965 writes to tell us that she, along with Anne Garthwaite (nee Nichols), Freda Eves (nee Rankin) and Mary Hart-Danby (nee Hart), is organising a 65th birthday reunion for their year group (1958-1965) at Broadcut Farm, Calder Grove, Wakefield, WF4 3AB (close to

J39 of the M1) on the second Saturday afternoon in July 2012. Please phone Jan Brumfitt on 0113 2853163 or e mail [jan.brumfitt@virgin.net](mailto:jan.brumfitt@virgin.net) for further details. They hope that all who came to the 60th birthday reunion in July 2007 will come again and many more besides. Partners welcome.

Gillian Brierley (nee Ramsden) 1954-1961 has now retired from professional singing. She still teaches singing and directs a choir for retired people! She enjoys visiting Miss Knott who lives nearby. Her memories of WGHS are wearing the blue summer dress with beige collar and cuffs; Misses Bell and Beaumont, music staff and Mrs Knight, the Spoken English competition and the Dramatic competition, especially 'Toad of Toad Hall'; Miss Benson's hockey rules tests on rainy days in the pavilion and a field trip to Edale in Derbyshire where the weather was poor but they enjoyed a visit to the Blue John Mines and collecting grasses on boggy moorland.

Ann Butcher (nee Hall) 1953-1958 is now living in Moffat with Alan, a retired Headmaster. They are book indexers. She has given up teaching 'Back of the Book' indexing – there are too many other things to do – i.e travelling to their house in France, playing music, walking etc! She has 2 children and 4 grandchildren – all living in Northern England.

Christine Casey (nee Brooke) 1967-1972 moved to Canada in 1977 and married a Canadian in 1981. She has two boys now aged 25 and 22. She has great memories of being on the hockey and tennis teams during her time at WGHS.

Emma Cockroft 1997-2004 completed Part II in architecture at Sheffield University, graduating with a MArch in June 2010

Miss P M Collingwood – Headmistress of the Junior School 1962-1986 is still happily enjoying her retirement!

Celia Conways-Wright (formerly known as Elsie Smith) 1942-1949 lives in Australia. She is now 80 and has recently retired from 50 years of teaching piano. She is a Grandmother of 10 and is still writing novels and seeing them published. She is an ordained minister in the Anglican Church and is still busy preaching, teaching and leading. She remembers WGHS fondly and feels fortunate to be well and strong: life is good!

Frances Day 1999-2006 graduated from the University of Leeds in July 2010 gaining a 2:1 BSc (Hons) Audiology. She is now employed as an Audiologist at Harrogate District Hospital. She has been working there since November 2010 and her job involves assessing, diagnosing, managing and rehabilitating patients of all ages who suffer with hearing loss and associated disorders.

Catherine Featherstone (nee Silverwood) 1987-1994 has been remembering the Australia Hockey Tour in 1992; the first major tour WGHS did – fantastic memories and an amazing opportunity for a 16 year old!

Philippa Frances (nee Tate) 1974-1979 is thoroughly enjoying her MA in Creative Writing at West Dean College near Chichester. She is due to qualify this year. Look out for



## The Old Girls' Association

her work, written for children, under the pen-name K M Lockwood.

**J Constance M Gilby 1940-1948** writes to say that she felt that the girls had exceptionally good music teachers and that in some ways this was the most valuable part of her education and has always given her much satisfaction and pleasure, particularly leading to membership of good choruses throughout her life. One delightful dramatic memory is that she, (small and square!), wore the same 18th Century velvet suit as her tall and slim French teacher did a year later – an adaptable set of clothes!!

**Victoria Hall 1998-2005** completed a PGDip Speech and Language Therapy (with Merit). She is now working as Head of Learning Support (SENCo) in a boys' prep school in London.

**Mrs Mary Herbert (nee Chadwick) – ex-staff 1952-1959** met with some former colleagues at the funeral of Mrs Jean Coppack. She is still in close correspondence with Miss Knott and hears from Margery Lord and Susan Frank on occasion.

**Victoria Ingham 2000-2007** graduated in July 2010 from the Royal Veterinary College London with an Upper Second Class BSc Hons degree in Veterinary Science including a First for her research project and also gaining full university colours for clay pigeon shooting. She is now studying Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the Royal Dick Vet School in Edinburgh on a 4 year graduate entry programme. She is a published author of research projects in 2 Veterinary Science Journals.

**Charlotte Jones 1997-2004** is in New York for a year on a Mountbatten Trust Internship. She is working for a receptionist for a firm of Structural Engineers whilst following a course in Business Management.

**Charlotte Lamb 1994-2001** is still working as a lawyer in London but has just launched her own handbag brand, called Lamb. Charlotte is the fourth generation in a family-run Wakefield-based manufacturing business. She launched 'Lamb Online' on 15th April 2011 with the debut Italian Collection, inspired by the old-school glamour of Sophia Loren, Grace Kelly and Jackie Onassis. The Italian Collection has seven different styles, each named after areas of Italy renowned for their natural beauty and high fashion.

Charlotte is thrilled by the reception of the brand by customers, with the Capri Clutch selling out just weeks after she launched! The stunning envelope-style Capri clutch bag has already been backed by a number of independent retailers as the key piece of the debut collection and has prompted a spin off style which will be available on-line later this year. The collection can be viewed on [www.lamb1887.com](http://www.lamb1887.com).

**Alex Newport (nee Walker) 1989-1996** married Rob Newport from her A Level German Group in August 2010. She retrained as a French and German Teacher in 2008 and is currently teaching at St Peter's School, York

**Joy Newton 2000-2005** is in her final year at St Catharine's

College, Cambridge

**Joyce Oliner (nee Coleman) 1968-1975** lives just outside Washington DC. She practised law with a DC firm for 20 years, retired from that in 2005 and now has her own consulting business. She has been married to Steve for 30 years and has two children – David aged 24 and Rachel aged 22.

**Rachel Poyser (nee Neild) 1980-1987** is now married to Mr Robert Poyser, the Organist and Director of Music at Beverley Minster. She is teaching music part-time at Hull Collegiate School and performing regularly as a pianist, singer and conductor. She recalls that when she was in the Sixth Form, she played the First Movement of Schumann's Piano Concerto with the school orchestra. Last year, in July 2010, she finally performed the whole concerto, this time with the Hesse Sinfonia, in Schumann's anniversary year.

**Zoe Proud 2001-2008** is about to finish the 3rd year of her languages degree, which she has spent as an English Language Teaching Assistant in Madrid, Spain – a very exciting and worthwhile experience.

**Mary Russell (nee Moxon) 1939-1944** recently decided to resign from her appointment as a school governor after 30 years' service in both Primary and Secondary schools – her only reason for this was 'advancing age'!

**Suzi Saperia – 1999-2006** graduated from the University of Manchester in July 2009 with an Honours Degree in Music. She was awarded the Proctor-Gregg Prize for her final solo recital. She is currently studying on the Post Graduate Artists' Masters Programme in Vocal Studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London.

**Rebecca Smith 2004-2006** has achieved a 2:1 Accounting BSc Honours from Hull University on July 12th 2010.

**Audrey Stubbs (nee Morris) 1940-1949** is still regularly in touch with Barbara Dewing (nee Redgewick) and Peggy Howarth. They meet up from time to time although they have all recently celebrated their 80th birthdays.

**Rachel Sykes (nee Matson) 1977-1984** has three children in the WGSF – Ben in Year 9, Josh in Year 7 and Anna in Year 4, who moved from Silcoates 18 months ago – she is very pleased to be back!

**Coral M P Taylor 1944-1952** was installed as an Honorary Lay Canon of Wakefield Cathedral in October 2010 – the first WGSF pupil to hold such a position.

**Catriona Terry (nee Sinclair) 1993-2000** graduated from Leeds University with a BHsc in Nursing Studies and gave birth to her daughter Eleanor a few weeks later on New Year's Day.

**Claire Walker-Gore 2000-2007** is doing a Masters at Selwyn College Cambridge in American Literature and has funding for a PhD at the same college to continue her studies in English Literature.

**Hannah Walker-Gore 1999-2006** is finishing her professional exams this year and starts work as a commercial

## The Old Girls' Association

lawyer at Freshfields in the summer. She is looking forward to not sitting exams for a while!

**Kathleen Walton 1942-1948** completed 60 years as a church organist in 2010.

**Mary Way (nee Curtis) 1934-1942** has moved into Walton Manor and is very happily settled. Sadly, many of her friends and contemporaries are no longer with her. However, the wonderful friends who she met at school and who are, happily very much still here, continue to give her great pleasure. Amongst them are Nancy Francis (nee Mann), Sheila Hamilton (nee Rhodes), Bronwen Ralph (nee Arthur) and Christine Breakey (nee Farrar). She sends good wishes to all concerned with the school – the happy memories really do last a lifetime!

**Jo Waterhouse 2000-2007** graduated last summer with a 2:1 in Art History. She is now half way through a gap year. Having spent 6 months in Whistler, Canada, she is now travelling through Thailand and Laos. Next step Australia and South America. She is thoroughly enjoying experiencing the different cultures around the world but is back to real life in September!

**Maureen Whitfield (Colman) 1939-1946** has happy memories of WGHS during the war. She lives near heathland and woods in Suffolk and enjoys walking her dog. She is president of the W.I. which has recently formed in her

area. This keeps her busy, active and meeting more new people. She described how there are paratroopers stationed nearby, prior to going to Afghanistan, who train on the heath and in the woods.

**Eileen Wilby MBE 1939-1945** remembers the early wartime days when they had to wear their gas masks for an hour on Monday mornings. When the sirens sounded they went down into the cellars until the 'All Clear' sounded. This happened in the middle of their 'School Certificate' History exam so they were forbidden to speak to anyone and resumed their exam when the alert was over!

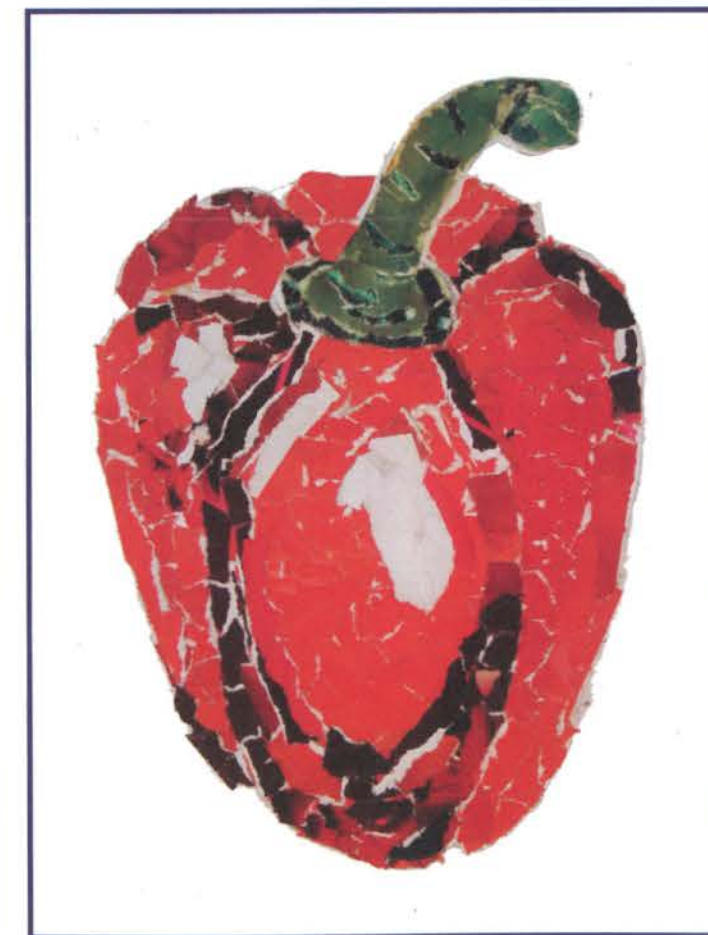
**Elizabeth Wroe 1989 – 1986** now lives in Australia where she will be married in 2012.

**Abigail Wilkinson-Keys 2004-2009** is currently finishing her A Levels and has a conditional offer from Leeds University to study Law. She has also completed her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

**Eleanor Wilkinson-Keys 2001-2006** has completed her degree in English and Linguistics and has obtained a place at Leeds University to do a Masters Degree in Medicinal Studies. She has also completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Lauren Johnson Year 9



Rebecca Bruce Year 11



# The Ex Head Girls' Dinner



# The Ex - Head Girls' Dinner





# The 1980's Reunion Lunch





