



### Principal's Blog

Dear Parent/Carer

Thank you for all your support during my first two terms at West Lakes Academy. I had a feeling it was going to be great but there's rarely been a moment pass where I haven't witnessed something startling, something inspirational that somehow makes the word 'great' seem lacking. There have been such heartrending moments and experiences since I started it is truly difficult to articulate the impact they have had on me and I wouldn't do any of the staff or students justice by trying to list them. I would, inevitably, miss something or someone out so suffice to say my first seven months is littered with wonderful memories.

It is a blessing to have this staff as my team and they work at a rate that creates an intoxicating atmosphere. There is a reason we keep working the way we do and it's in the appreciation of the students. To see them off last week was a wonderful experience and the staff who have left us this summer have given them nothing other than the highest of praise. Our students, your children, continue to amaze. I admire them who do so much more than I could when I was their age. Thank you, all of you, who support us in our efforts to help them to shine.

The Sponsors and Governing Body continue to provide me with the challenge that can assure you they are fulfilling their duty and ensuring I fulfil mine. I am grateful to them for their challenge and the support that has come with it. In the last seven months we have created a strong vision and direction. We have a very bright future and steps have already been taken along that journey. We continue to support other schools without any fanfare because we're used to quietly and diligently getting on with the business of providing a world-class education to your children. We've submitted our Multi-Academy Trust application and continue to assure our partners that it doesn't change anything; we will always be here for them and to serve them.

I continue to feel very humbled and privileged to lead such a successful academy which contributes so significantly to the futures of young people in West Cumbria. We don't have a history to trade on but it's alright because we're carving out our own and the year on year improvements speak for themselves. I wonder at what point those who believe their child's education is better found outside of Egremont will have those misperceptions challenged and consider the case to be otherwise?

I recently watched 'Inside Obama's White House' and the first episode struck a parallel with the new Education Secretary, Justine Greening. In it, a new and optimistic President arrived not to implement the changes he had in mind but to a nation on the brink of collapse and immediately had to shelve his own plans to deal with the more pressing issues of the time. The education system is groaning under the weight and pace of change and, whatever her own desires may be, Ms Greening will be faced with tackling some significant issues first; teacher recruitment being one of them. Thankfully, through the skilful leadership and management of the sponsors, governors and academy leadership group we are in a position to rise above and view patterns before they unfold; positioning ourselves to capitalise only on that which will make a difference to your child and protect the academy from the storms that seem to swallow up others' attention.

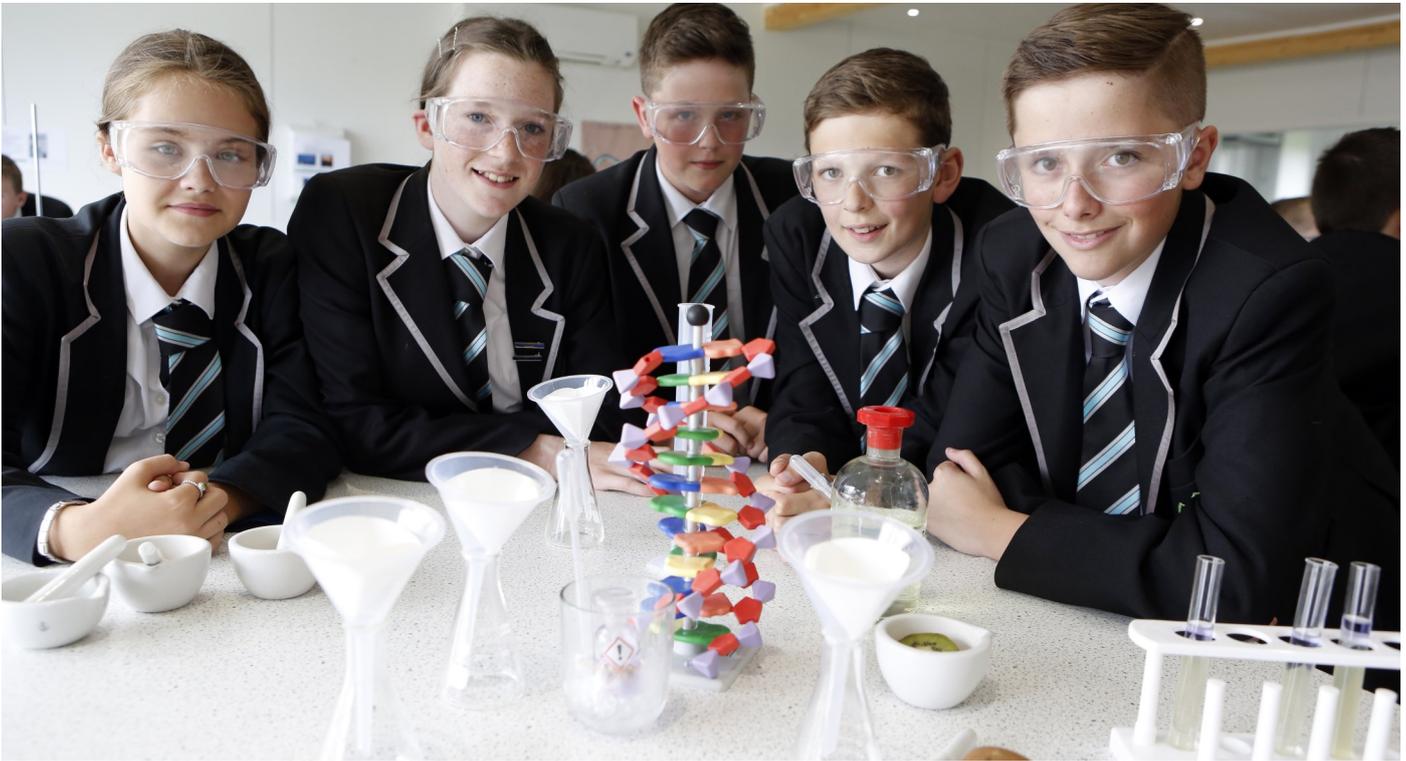
In terms of teacher recruitment I am delighted to say that our subjects remain staffed with fully qualified expert teachers in their subjects. The pages that follow will show you the list of our new staff and we are excited about the experiences they will bring to your child's education.

Our sponsors provide a wide range of opportunities for the students here and if you feel there is a way you and the organisations you represent could engage with us in widening that offer still we would be keen to hear from you.

I look forward to welcoming all our students and staff to the academy on 5 September 2016 and until then I hope you have a wonderful summer and that your children are safe.

Jonathan Johnson

Principal and Chief Executive



### New Employees from September 2016

Robert Brown	Teacher of Maths
Stacey Brumwell	Teacher of DT
Alison Higham	Teacher of Maths
Kimberley Hodgson	Teacher of Art
Rachel Martin	Teacher of Science
Peter Rigby	Teacher of Science
Alyson Rochester	Teacher of ICT
William Sanderson	Teacher of Science
Claire Wootton	Teacher of Humanities
Leigh Richardson	Art Technician
Delila Kaouane	MFL Teacher
Keri Taylor	Teacher of Maths
David Cooksey	Teacher of Maths
Jemari Rigg	Science Technician
Claire Price	LSA
Danielle Bulman	LSA
Maxine McCombe	LSA
Jessica Cowper	Apprentice LSA
Maya Kirkbride	Apprentice LSA
Georgia Keggs	Apprentice LSA
Jonathan Sunter	Pastoral Head of 6th Form/ Disadvantaged Student Mentor
Laura Kerr	Girls PE Maternity Cover

### Leavers

Maria Contell	Jane Dyer	Katy Forrester
Vanessa McGowan	Ellen Price	Rachel Rooney
Kerry Stamper	Neil Carruthers	Claire Nellis

### Upcoming Events

#### **A Level Results Day (18/8/16)**

**Year 13** students may collect their A level results from 10am onwards.

**Year 12** may collect their AS results from 11am onwards.

#### **GCSE Results Day (25/8/16)**

**Year 11** may collect their GCSE results from 10am onwards.

**Year 10** may collect their results from 12pm onwards.

#### **First Day of Autumn Term (5/9/16)**

