



WESTHOLME
SCHOOL

Unrivalled Holistic Excellence

RECORDS SMASHED AGAIN AT WESTHOLME!



“Today we celebrate the stoicism and fortitude of our Year 13s. The academic achievement is breathtaking.”

DR ROBSON, PRINCIPAL

67%
of students achieved
Grade A

26%
of students achieved
Grade A*

A LEVEL RESULTS SPECIAL 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

For the second year in a row, Westholme's INSPIRED students have triumphed! Today we celebrate the stoicism and fortitude of our Year 13s as their academic accolades at Westholme this year have again surpassed all previous School records. With 67% at grade A, and over a quarter of our fantastic students securing the coveted top A* grades, the academic achievement is breathtaking.

Their journey through our INSPIRED Sixth Form has prepared them for the next chapter in their lives through developing the essential 21st century skills as well as ensuring they are articulate, well-rounded and engaging young people. With a quarter of our A Level students achieving a clean sweep of all A*/A grades, they have smashed the School records again! This year's grades are a true reflection of the inspirational teaching that takes place each and every day at Westholme; undeterred by the pandemic and home learning, our teachers have delivered 1:1 support and guidance for every student. I would like to thank all of the teaching staff for their adaptability throughout the past two years in making sure our A Level students were fully prepared to return to public examinations to attain the terrific grades they wholly deserve today.

It is a great day for all our Westholmian families, many of whom will be coming to the end of a journey that for some may have lasted 15 years or more. We would like to thank all our parents for their unfailing support of Westholme and warmly invite you all to continue to be part of the School and return to celebrate our centenary with us in 2023. Today we celebrate the unique success of each and every student, so to give you a flavour of a few individual students, we have provided some case studies below for your perusal. It would be remiss of me not to pick out a few exceptional academic performances from this year and I am sure everyone will want join with me to congratulate Hannah Forbes (3A*s and an A), Lucy Eastwood and Julia Gartold (both 2 A's and an A*), Tilly Daley (2 A*s and a B) and Molly Entwistle-Moore and Katie Backhouse (straight As). Quite extraordinary.

This year's destinations include the University of Oxford, the University of Bristol, The Royal Navy, the University of Newcastle, Drama Conservatoires, coveted Level 6 Degree Apprenticeships and the University of Leeds to name a few. Our leavers' industries of choice include: Medicine; Philosophy; Theatre Writing; Environmental Science; Computer Science; Business Management; Costume Design; Sports Coaching; Economics; Biology and Musical Theatre.

For the last 100 years, Westholme has believed in offering our students the time to develop their talents, the opportunity to explore their passions and as the late Sir Ken Robinson would have said, the experiences to find their element. I encourage our leavers to continue to find their element as they embark on their future endeavours. All I ask is that they actively engage with the Westholme Alumni Association, keep in touch as OWs, and come back from time to time to tell us all about the wonderful things they are up to and inspire future generations of Westholmians.

Dr Richard Robson
Principal

“We will miss you, but remember - purple and green: always!”



THE NUMBERS ADD UP FOR HANNAH

Hannah Forbes was delighted to achieve A* in Economics, A* in History, A* in EPQ and an A in Mathematics. Hannah is on her way to securing a dream career in finance and is looking forward to starting a BSc (Hons) in Economics at Lancaster University in September. As part of the course, Hannah will spend a year in industry and is particularly looking forward to this.

“I loved studying economics at A Level and gained amazing real-life experience acting as Managing Director at Westies – a really valuable experience that has definitely opened my eyes to future career opportunities within economics.”

Hannah also had the added challenge of balancing her studies with her role as Assistant Head Girl. “Acting as a representative for the school and speaking in Westholme’s unique Croston Theatre has really helped to develop my confidence and public speaking skills. I was quite nervous before taking on the role but the exposure and support from staff and fellow students has been wonderful.

“Support from my teachers and the small class sizes have allowed me to flourish. I am so grateful for the support I have received over the years.”

Hannah is a keen theatre-goer and has enjoyed taking part in numerous school productions in Croston Theatre, one of the largest in school theatres in the country. Dr Richard Robson said: “Hannah has been an outstanding student and an excellent representative of our school as a member of the Student Executive as Assistant Head Girl.”



KATIE RAISES THE BAR AFTER A LEVEL SUCCESS

Katie Backhouse excelled in her A Levels by achieving 4 As and looks forward to studying a BA (Hons) in Ethics, Philosophy and Religion at the University of Leeds. Katie has big plans to affect positive change either as a barrister or medical ethics consultant.

Katie achieved As in Religious Studies, Sociology and Business Studies, and achieved Distinction in her English-speaking board examination, as well as an A in her L3 Extended Project Qualification.

Katie said: “I am delighted with my results and so excited that I will now be heading to the University of Leeds in September. My passion for ethics definitely came from the opportunities I have been presented at Westholme – including being part of the Amnesty International Human Rights Forum – and the freedom we have been given during lessons to explore a wide range of issues and opinions.”

Katie also received the Rachel Waldron Achievement Award as the “most improved pupil” within her year.

Katie continued: “At Westholme, pupils have access to brilliant sporting facilities, and I have really enjoyed being part of competitive teams and having access to so many different sports within the school timetable. The facilities, opportunities and level of care I’ve received at Westholme have just been amazing.”

“My teachers at Westholme have been absolutely fantastic and their support and level of care has undoubtedly had a huge impact on my personal development, confidence and aspirations for the future.”



HEAD BOY BEN WRITES HIS NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER...



Congratulations to Head Boy and aspiring screen writer Ben Middleton on securing an exciting new chapter by achieving a place to study BA (Hons) Theatre Direction, Script Writing and Performance at the University of York.

Ben achieved A* in Drama and B's in English Literature and Music and has big plans to challenge societal issues such as racism and gender discrimination through a career as a professional screenwriter – whilst also maintaining his love of singing and performing. Ben, who is also Music Captain, said: “I have had the most amazing education at Westholme School and I am so grateful for the opportunities I've been given since joining in Year 5.”

Ben is certainly not afraid of a challenge, having recently raised £13,000 for Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM) after visiting 92 professional football stadiums in a week to raise awareness of male mental health and suicide prevention. A fantastic achievement!

Ben has also achieved Distinction in his Grade 8 Singing and Grade 8 LAMDA Musical Theatre examinations this year – and recently returned from a World Challenge trip with Westholme to Vietnam and Cambodia. Ben added: “I have enjoyed every minute of being at Westholme School – especially performing

in the school's amazing Croston Theatre - but all good things must come to an end. Westholme teachers instil a belief that you can achieve anything you want to achieve and that we have the ability to affect positive change within the world. The opportunities and support I have received have been absolutely fantastic and I'm ready and excited for whatever my next chapter holds.”

“I wouldn't have wanted to study anywhere else, and Westholme has always felt like a second home. I've been encouraged to grasp every opportunity life throws at me and with outstanding support from my teachers I've been able to focus on my own ambitions and personal growth.”

GRACE DANCES HER WAY TO THE BRIGHT CITY LIGHTS

Congratulations to Grace Ade-Hall for achieving A's in Drama and Psychology and a B in her English Literature A Levels. Grace has accepted a place to study BA (Hons) Drama and Musical Theatre at the prestigious Bird College Conservatoire in London where she can follow her professional theatre career aspirations.

Grace will receive expert coaching in all genres of dance, musical theatre and performance and has big dreams of performing professionally on West End stages.

Grace said: “Westholme's Croston Theatre is one of the largest school theatres in the country and I feel so lucky to have had the opportunity to perform regularly on such a large stage. Those experiences really boosted my confidence and helped me to prepare for drama school auditions.

“My teachers have been so supportive, and I've benefitted from their industry insights and expert knowledge. I have also been able to take LAMDA examinations within school, in addition to attending My Stage Company in Preston.”

Grace has always loved dancing and can't imagine doing anything else other than performing. She added: “The thought of performing for a living is really exciting.”



ISABELLE'S UNCONDITIONAL OFFER TO STUDY AT PINEWOOD STUDIOS

"I love the fact that at Westholme you have a face and a name, not just a number in a large college lecture theatre. The atmosphere here is really supportive and friendly, and I have loved being a pupil here. I would definitely recommend studying at Westholme INSPIRED Sixth Form."



Isabelle Eastham could soon be designing costumes for the nation's biggest theatrical performances after achieving grade 3 B's (and a D in Further Mathematics) in her A Level examinations at our INSPIRED Sixth Form! Isabelle has accepted a place at Buckinghamshire New University to study BA (Hons) Costume Design and Making. Part of Isabelle's degree will be taught at the world-famous Pinewood Studios where films like Oscar winning *Judy*, *Jurassic Park*, *James Bond* and *Star Wars* have all been filmed.

Isabelle said: "I am so excited to be continuing my love of sewing and dream one day of creating costumes for national theatres, ballets and musical theatre productions. Some of the costumes you see on stage are incredibly complex and wacky and I love trying to work out how designers have achieved the look. I'm excited to learn new skills, work on a variety of productions and be involved in such a thriving creative environment."

Isabelle has been a Westholme pupil since Year 6 and chose to continue at Westholme INSPIRED Sixth Form because of the school's fantastic textiles offering. Isabelle explained: "I have been lucky enough to have access to advanced machinery, expert knowledge and enough space to explore a variety of design disciplines and approaches at Westholme."

OXFORD SUCCESS FOR ASPIRING ZOOLOGIST JULIA

Congratulations to Deputy Head Girl Julia who has fulfilled her dream to study Biology at the University of Oxford after achieving A*AA. Julia achieved A grades in Biology and Chemistry and an A* in Geography – she is excited to share her passion for conservation with communities across the world.

Julia said: "I would love to become a field biologist and have always imagined myself working in a rainforest. I have been so impressed with how interesting and fun my teachers have made each subject and so grateful for all the extra support with mock interviews, exam techniques and reassurance before exams and interviews."

"Westholme teachers give you the right balance between practical experiment and academic research – it never felt like studying for exams but exploring the world and how spectacular science can be."

Julia is a keen wildlife and landscape photographer, sings with Blackburn Cathedral's Young People's Choir, and is a member of The British Exploring Society – whom she travelled with on an exhibition to Loch Tay in Scotland. Julia has also enjoyed singing lessons at Westholme and taken part in numerous school productions, choir tours and school trips.

Julia added: "A real highlight of my time at Westholme has been a recent school trip to Vietnam and Cambodia – the most incredible thing I have done. It was such an amazing opportunity to trek through the jungle, visit various temples and pagodas, and volunteer with local people. It was such an inspiring, incredible opportunity."

"I feel so privileged to have studied at Westholme School and have really fond memories of my time here. The friendships I have made make it even more difficult to say goodbye, but I am also really excited for what the future holds."



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AND GOOD LUCK TO WESTHOLME'S CLASS OF 2022!





TILLY ASPIRES TO LEAD TOP CITY FIRM AFTER A LEVEL SUCCESS

Tilly Daley, was ecstatic to achieve A*A*B in her A Level examinations. Tilly studied Sociology, Photography and Drama and will be heading to Newcastle University to study for a BSc Business (Hons). Aiming to enter the world of international marketing, Tilly plans to become an Executive Director of an international company.

As Head Girl, Tilly played a key role representing the school. Tilly said: “My time at Westholme has been incredible and I feel so grateful for having the opportunity to grow up here. I am incredibly sad to be leaving and will really miss my friends and teachers – Westholme feels like your second home and like you’re part of a really tight knit family.

“It has been such an amazing privilege to be Westholme’s Head Girl and one that I aspired to achieve as a younger pupil. I have gained invaluable experience managing a group of INSPIRED Sixth Formers to influence positive change within the school and presented my own thoughts and beliefs to hundreds of students and parents. The role has definitely strengthened my desire to lead a company in the future.”

Tilly, a keen performer, achieved Grade 8 Singing and Grade 8 LAMDA Musical Theatre. She also played the cornet in the school orchestra and swing band, recently took the lead as Maria in *The Sound of Music*, and played in the school’s netball, swimming and rounders team.

Tilly explained: “Westholme is special because you are presented with so many opportunities to be part of amazing experiences and achieve your full potential – whatever your personal interests. My teachers have been incredibly supportive and have inspired the belief that I can achieve absolutely everything I set my mind to – an ethos that I will certainly carry through whatever my next exciting chapter throws at me.”



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS FROM OUR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

We are delighted with the outstanding A Level results achieved by our INSPIRED Sixth Form students. They have faced a huge amount of challenges during these last two years as a result of the COVID pandemic, but these results speak volumes about the character, grit and resilience they have displayed throughout this time.

Despite only joining the school in April, I have been so impressed by their leadership, commitment and dedication, just some of the characteristics that we nurture in our students at Westholme.

I am sure that they are ready to make a huge impact in whichever field they pursue when they move in to the next stage of their life.

Mr Neil Baggett
Assistant Head of Teaching and Learning

“This group of students epitomise what it means to be a Westholme student and they have taken advantage of the vast amount of opportunities on offer to them during their time here.”

CAITLIN SLATER CRACKS THE CODE TO PRESTIGIOUS CIVIL SERVICE CYBER SECURITY DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

“I would absolutely recommend Westholme School - the people, supportive learning environment and pastoral support make it a really special place to learn and grow.”



Caitlin has done fantastically well to be accepted onto a prestigious L6 Cyber Security Degree Apprenticeship with the government's Civil Service after receiving her A Level results. Caitlin dreams of working within cyber security - one of the government's key priority skills - after studying Computer Science, Maths, Further Maths and Mandarin. Caitlin also accepted a deferred place at the University of York to study MSc Cyber Security.

Caitlin said: “I am absolutely thrilled and so excited to start a career in cyber security! My teachers introduced me to the idea of cyber security, thinking that I had the right skill set and challenged me to try an online Cyber Discovery programme. I found the course really interesting and my teachers were then instrumental in helping me find out more.

“Through school, I had the opportunity to attend three CyberFirst courses, led by the government and designed to introduce young people to cyber security. I thoroughly enjoyed attending a residential course at Warwick University and meeting other like minded people – the course really opened my eyes to the opportunities within the sector.”

Caitlin is also a keen musician and played flute in the school orchestra and for school productions. Caitlin said: “I have loved playing in the school productions, getting to be part of a full orchestra within the school's impressive Croston Theatre. I've also loved going on school choir trips including *Brussels, Paris, Nice* and *Monaco*.”

Alongside her interest in music, Caitlin competes in Rhythmic Gymnastics, and recently won a silver medal at the British Championships with her team. An outstanding achievement and we wish her all the best for the future!

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM MR ORACZ, HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

It has been an absolute pleasure to see the class of 2022 flourish during their time in our INSPIRED Sixth Form, culminating in an outstanding set of results across the year group. They have worked tremendously hard to achieve such fantastic A Level results and I offer them my most sincere congratulations.

Every student has been enriched throughout these two years of study and now move onto the next stages of their lives as leaders in their fields. I am grateful for all of the memories you have made at Westholme and proud of the people you have become, truly making the most of everything available to you, whilst enjoying the journey every step of the way.

Mr Oracz
Head of Sixth Form

“I wish you all the best in your aspirations and look forward to catching up and hearing your success stories as we welcome you back to celebrate our centenary in 2023.”





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