



## JRS Express

Writing the JRS Express column at this time of year is always a bittersweet moment. One of the hardest things is saying goodbye to Year 11 but also to staff, some of whom have worked with us for a decade or more and all who have made an impact on individual students. Mrs Hunt in art, Mrs Houssaye in French, Mr Phinn and Mrs Hutchinson from the learning support department all leave us this year and we wish them all the very best for their futures. We are fortunate that we have been able to recruit replacements where needed and the students have been incredibly influential during student voice panels in terms of who we have appointed.

One of the highlights of my year will be our ability to have the JRS Picnic operating again. Events like this are such an important part of building the culture at JRS. Our Year 9 students were amazing on their Bronze DofE Award and our first cohort of Year 10 completing Silver has done the school proud. This year we have seen employers returning to speak in assembly, perform mock interviews and even a return to Work Experience placements - all of this combined hopefully ensures that 'Be Ready For Your Future' is something we can truly say we deliver on. We have also celebrated students' skills and talents at the Summer Concert and at sports day which allow everyone to 'Be Valued' for their achievements.

Many of our recent events have been supported by external providers and every single one has taken the time to email and compliment our students on their manners and engagement with the work they have been doing - we should be really proud of our young people. Of course the academic outcomes of our students when they leave JRS are also important and if I can remind parents that we are open for Year 11 to collect their GCSE results from 0930 on Thursday 24th August and Year 10 can collect their RE results from 1030.

It remains for me to wish you, our JRS families, all the very best for the summer holidays.

Peter Blackburn



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Science Lab.....	2
Form Time Reading .....	2
Sporting Success.....	2
Oracy .....	3
En Français.....	3
Outdoor Learning .....	4
Panathlon .....	5
Textiles.....	5
Athletics .....	6
Cumbrian School Games ...	7
Sporting Stars .....	7
Softball.....	7
JRS Fundraising Committee.....	8

## NEW SCIENCE LAB AT JRS!

On returning to school after the Easter holidays, students were thrilled to discover a brand new science laboratory and classroom waiting for them. The creation of this fantastic new learning space was made possible thanks to the generosity of Peter George, and includes a new interactive screen with sliding white boards, an ergonomically designed desk layout and integrated storage space allowing equipment and work to be stored neatly away, leaving the classroom feeling spacious and relaxed...the perfect environment for continued scientific success!



## SPORTING SUCCESS

We have so many talented sporting students in this school and it is great when they get the opportunities to showcase their talents - thanks to staff for supporting all the sporting fixtures and events throughout the year!

A mix of Year 7, 8 and 9 students made up two teams to take on The Lakes School on Tuesday 11th June in a rounders fixture, where JRS were triumphant - winning both games:

JRS team 1: 13 - 8 1/2 Win

JRS team 2: 3 1/2 - 3 Win



Keep reading for more examples of sporting success scattered throughout this edition of the JRS Express!

*"Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so shall you become." - John Ruskin*

## FORM TIME READING

Form time reading at JRS this term has focused on reminding students who is in our Hall of Fame and looking back at who forms voted for in relation to British and United Nations values. We looked at the biographies of our Hall of Fame entrants and some of their famous quotations - it will be interesting to see who makes our Hall of Fame again when we vote in 2024!

In addition to this we have looked at texts related to the FIFA women's World Cup, focusing on its history and its 2023 mascot / slogan as well as a reading list of sport related books that might inspire young readers. We've finished the year with contributions from staff leaving us this summer: Madame Houssaye got us thinking about culture and traditions: what it means to be British / what it means to be French and Mrs Hunt treated us to her secret passion - the care and preservation of hedgehogs. We rounded off the year with some brain teasers from the 1% Club quiz show which really got the students thinking and talking first thing!

Mr Walker

## ORACY

A focus this year for all students (and staff) at JRS has been developing speaking and listening skills in the classroom. This term, there have been various ways students have been challenged to use their oracy skills in real life settings.

Year 10 had a visit from The Talent Foundry and completed the RISE workshop which was all about employability skills - being an effective communicator is often very important in the workplace and students worked in groups on a presentation. This event was part of the Year 10 Be Ready for Your Future Days, where all students wrote a letter of application and a CV for a job - this culminated in real life interviews with local employers in school where students had to use all their speaking and listening skills as part of a job interview. The preparation included a session on interview technique and a Barclays Life Skills resource booklet (plus some interview roleplay from Mr Rawcliffe and Mr Walker where students were shown what **not** to do during a formal interview!) The employers who visited the school and spoke to students were all impressed by the confident, welcoming and articulate nature of the students.

Another way oracy has been at the fore at JRS this term has been the completion of the Year 10 GCSE Spoken Language Endorsements - there was an incredible array of topics covered: from whether 21st century education is fit for purpose to living with a disability; from the concept of love to veganism; from fake news and its dangers to racism in football....the maturity of their thinking as well as

their measured and effective delivery meant every student used their oracy skills in a formal setting. They should be very proud of their achievements!

Perhaps the best way we see oracy at JRS manifest itself is during the speech delivery process for our head student vote where every candidate has to write and deliver a speech to present in assembly to the whole school. To see their passion and commitment and the way they engage the audience, is undoubtedly a highlight of the school year - it's great to see our Year 10 students being such great oracy role models for students in KS3.

And finally, a group of Year 9 students have trained as peer mentors with Chris Clark, one of our governors and local Christian youth worker - from September they will be paired with incoming Year 7 students and use their communication skills to ensure Year 7 have a great start to JRS. The peer mentor training builds on the oracy work we do in lessons and we are certain we have trained a great team to get the peer mentoring programme back up and running in school.

It's clear the school vision is embodied in every aspect of speaking and listening at JRS; that's why we value oracy work in lessons as we can see how much it benefits students beyond a school context.

Mr Walker

---

*"I want to speak to you about the treasures hidden in books; and about the way we find them" – John Ruskin*

---

### EN FRANÇAIS

Year 8 star work in French: 'Une publicité pour un hôtel' - An advert for a hotel

Have a look at some of the wonderful work the Year 8 have been creating in their French lessons. Bonnes vacances!

Madame Houssaye



## OUTDOOR LEARNING



Summer is here which means outdoor learning has been in full swing here at JRS. Unfortunately the heatwave didn't last for our Year 8 canoe days, not that this stopped the students from leaping from the jetty and paddling for 4 miles on Coniston Water in the wind and rain! The students showed fantastic resilience, teamwork and great humour throughout and were complimented by the outdoor instructors for being brilliant young people to work with.



The Duke of Edinburgh award continues to grow at JRS and we are now a registered D of E centre. This year, 43 Year 9 students have completed their bronze expedition while 14 Year 10 students completed their silver expedition in the Yorkshire Dales. It is fantastic to see the students put all their outdoor learning skills into action and have a great time camping out and navigating their way in their groups. Well done to all!

Huge thank you to the PTA who have supported the D of E this year with 5 new tranguias.

Ms Richards



## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HEAD STUDENTS:

Archie Brown  
Alex Graham  
Alaana Harrison  
Dex Holcroft

Their amazing speeches to the whole school will make them brilliant ambassadors to for the school!

## Southern Lakes Panathlon

Panathlon is a national charity which gives young people with disabilities and special educational needs every year the opportunity to take part in competitive sport.

We were lucky enough to be invited to take along a team of eight students to participate in this event, held at the Lakes school, Wednesday 21st June. The event is very well organised and led by professionals and sports leaders. The day's events included adapted games of football, basketball, cricket and bowling which focused on point scoring, hand eye coordination, teamwork, and target throws.

The following students worked amazingly well and finished 3rd place overall, winning certificates and medals and a framed certificate for the school.

Well done to: Leon, Kyle, Jack, Noel, Enzo, Oliver and Deacon.

Mrs Walker

## TEXTILES

As always, it's been a busy few months in the textiles department. The Year 11 students wowed us all with their finished NEA (non exam assessment) work. The student's demonstrated dedication, talent, and huge amounts of effort which resulted in an extensive range of initiative, inspirational ideas and prototypes being produced.

The Year 10 students have been putting the 6 R's into practice by repurposing and reusing materials to make some rather dazzling and delightful denim doorstops. They used a range of sustainable materials including rice, pebbles, and natural materials to stuff and style their work.



Meanwhile KS3, students have been busy using a range of hand and machine sewing and textiles techniques to produce weavings and hand puppets, all of which will shortly be displayed in the textiles room.

Mrs Phillips

## Athletics

Four of our students qualified in their events at the South Lakes District athletics trials and were invited to represent the South Lakes team at the County trials. These were held at Sheepmount stadium, Carlisle. This stage of events shifts up a gear and competition was tough, however, our athletes held their own and produced some great results on the day.

Roan = 4th in the discus with a distance of 21.44m  
Charlie = 8th in the discus with a distance of 18.48m  
Sophie = 8th in the shot putt with a distance of 6.56m  
Lucie = 8th in the long jump with a distance of 4.11m (her personal best)

After qualifying and finishing first place in the shot putt and first place in the 100m heats at the inter schools district Year 7 athletics competition, Khy was invited to represent the South Lakes team at Copeland sports academy, Whitehaven, for the Cumbria schools county trials. Khy put out some great performances on the day, finishing 4th in the shot putt and 8th in the 100m.

## Cumbria School Games

19 students qualified to take part in the County School games, held at Sheepmount stadium and the Sands Centre in Carlisle, on Thursday 29th June.

This is a large scale event, with the focus on inclusion, and following the values of: determination, respect, teamwork, honesty, self belief, passion and eco friendly.

We took 11 students who competed in the Orienteering event, this involved maze trails, time trials and a long course; all students worked well together throughout the courses with some good results.

Eight students competed in the Dodgeball event, these students played five matches, winning every game and finishing first place in the competition.

We were also asked if we could take along four SEND students to take part in the inclusive games, this involved playing the games Boccia and New Age Kurling.

Lots of fun was had on the day along with learning new skills and lots of teamwork.

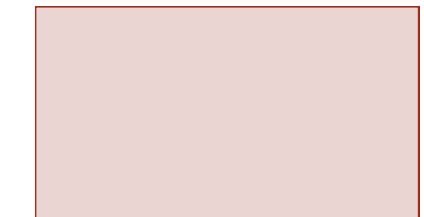
Well done to:

Orienteering: Jera, Khy, Freddie, Ioan, Georgie, Betony, Lucy, Amelie, Thomas, Herbie and Holly.

Dodgeball: Douglas, Stanley, John, Liam, Maddox, Harry, Jen and Jasmine.

Inclusive games: Leon, Kyle, Jack and Noel.

Mrs Walker



## SPORTING STARS

For those of you that didn't know, we have a champion sailor amongst our fleet at JRS!

Max recently competed at the RS Feva Nationals in Pwelli North Wales. This competition saw Max and his team mate compete in a 94 strong fleet where he finished 4th place overall, just missing out on a podium by three points. Not only this but they won a first mixed pair and are the fastest boat in the fleet upwind.

Well done, Max!



*“The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it.” - John Ruskin*

Could we have the next ladies' England football captain in the making here at JRS?

Maisy in Year 9 is still showing off her outstanding football skill and talent outside of school, firstly making it on to the girls County squad and playing regularly for both County and Westmorland teams, but she was also invited along to trials at Preston North End where she has been scouted for Morecambe.

Well done, Maisy!

Through cadets, Jessica in Year 9 recently competed in the Cumbria and Lancashire wing athletics competition. This saw competition from Carlisle, Whitehaven and Manchester. With some practice at school, and her own natural talent, she finished 1st place in the long jump and 2nd place in the 200m. This takes her on to the next stage of events competing against athletes from Yorkshire and other Counties across the country.

Well done, Jessica!



## SOFTBALL

Eight of our SEN/D students attended a inclusive softball festival, this gave the students an opportunity to work alongside students from other schools of a similar need and abilities, building on their basic cricket skills of throwing and catching and batting and fielding, then going on to consolidate these skills in a game situation.

The students worked on their social skills, by mixing with the students from other schools and building upon their own individual needs, such as; confidence, hand eye coordination, teamwork and communication.

Well done to: Leon, Jack, Noel, Deacon, Oliver, Enzo, and Max.

Mrs Walker

## JRS FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Sadly, this September, we wave goodbye to two mums, Julia Wilson and Karen Birch, who have worked tirelessly to help raise money for the school. Being part of the committee is good fun but now that their children have moved on, they are moving on too.

With the loss of two important members it does mean that we need a few more recruits. Like any HSA (home, school association) we need a mixture of parents and carers as well as teachers. While our teacher numbers remain good, it would be nice to have some new parents/carers.

Q. What would you need to do if you joined our committee?

A. We only have two major fundraising events: Bingo night (January) and The Coniston 14 run (March) and, as a result, we only meet twice a year to arrange these events. We have a further meeting to discuss how monies are best spent on our students. For convenience, our meetings have been done via Zoom recently.

Q. Apart from attending a meeting, what else will I have to do?

A. For the Bingo night, it is a case of gathering prizes; setting up the hall for the night and serving refreshments. For the Coniston 14, it is preparing food and serving refreshments to the runners. With the money we raise we are able to buy many things that the normal school budget can't stretch to: from ice-cream treats, a disco for the prom and regular contributions to the school library to a printing press for art and a laser engraver for design technology. We have currently agreed to purchase new signs for the school and are hoping to provide outdoor seating in the near future.

If you have a child joining us in September, could you spare us a thought? For more information or to sign up please contact myself, Mrs Wright ([d.w@jrs.org.uk](mailto:d.w@jrs.org.uk)).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Wright



John Ruskin School  
Lake Road  
Coniston  
Cumbria  
LA21 8EW

Phone: 015394 41306 / 41411

E-mail: [admin@jrs.org.uk](mailto:admin@jrs.org.uk)



We hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you all once more in the new term!

**Remember: term starts on Wednesday 6th September for years 7 and 11; all other year groups will start back on Thursday 7th September**

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Summer issue of the JRS Express.

Please look out for the next edition arriving in your inbox at the end of the autumn term!