



# Witherslack Group

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newsletter

Spring 2010

# OUTSTANDING RESULT FOR CEDAR HOUSE AND PONTVILLE

## CEDAR HOUSE

After a joint Ofsted inspection, Cedar House School in Cumbria has been recognised as providing an outstanding quality of education and outstanding quality of care for its pupils.

Cedar House School in Kirkby Lonsdale has been praised by Ofsted for the overall quality of its education and the effectiveness of teaching and assessment in meeting the full range of pupils' needs. The report also rated the "provision for promoting the health and well-being of boarding pupils" as "outstanding."

The report highlighted the "outstanding progress" made by pupils in "their all-round personal development" and praised the "outstanding" curriculum which includes a "range of good quality additional activities for the pupils to learn outside of traditional lessons."

The staff were described as "dedicated and caring" and the promotion of equality and diversity

judged as outstanding, with pupils confirming they are treated with "understanding, respect and dignity."

Gillian Ridgway, Head Teacher at Cedar House School, said: "I am delighted that Ofsted has recognised the fantastic achievements of the staff and pupils at the school. The 'Outstanding' inspection grades are well deserved and reflect the successes of the school. This will now be our third year of being recognised as an outstanding provider by Ofsted and demonstrates our commitment to provide quality care and education, enabling all our pupils to reach their potential as productive citizens."

## PONTVILLE

Pontville School in Ormskirk has been rated 'Outstanding' for the overall quality of its education and its residential provision.

Pontville School received the praise following its latest inspection by Ofsted.

The secondary school caters for around 70 pupils who have speech, language and social communication difficulties. Twelve pupils are residential with the others attending daily.

The report highlights the school as being "particularly successful in improving pupils' communication skills,



*Iain Sim with pupils Jack Gorry, Adam Harrison and Emily Colliss*

increasing their self-esteem and confidence as well as preparing them for adult life."

Inspectors also pointed to the "overwhelmingly supportive" questionnaires received from parents, including the following typical comment; "School life for our son before going to Pontville was so emotionally hard and stressful. He is now a much calmer and centred young person due to Pontville's effect on him. We are absolutely overwhelmed by what a wonderful school it is."

In 2009, the school achieved a 100% pass rate for GCSE exams, with

some pupils gaining seven, which the report says is due to the "outstanding curriculum and outstanding teaching and assessment."

Iain Sim, Head Teacher at Pontville School, said: "Everyone has worked tremendously hard to ensure we are delivering the very highest quality education for our pupils. Such 'Outstanding' results can only be achieved as a result of the dedication and commitment shown by all of my staff. This acknowledgement is well deserved and I am confident these standards will be maintained and where possible improved even further."



*Megan Doyle, Gillian Ridgway and Brandon Clark*

The Witherslack Group is a leading provider of specialist education and care for children and young people with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, communication difficulties (autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, speech and language impairment) and complex learning needs.

Our portfolio of eight schools and six children's homes provide a diverse day, residential and 52 week system of education and care.

The Group was founded in 1972 and we work across the UK in partnerships with parents, local authorities and the wider community to best meet the individual needs of all children and young people within our schools and homes.

If you would like to discuss the provision or would like to arrange a visit to one of our schools please contact Mark Bowes, Local Authority Liaison Officer, on 015395 66593 or email [mbowes@witherslackgroup.co.uk](mailto:mbowes@witherslackgroup.co.uk).

## CHANGING FACE OF CHILWORTH HOUSE

Work is underway on Chilworth House School's new secondary facility.

Chilworth House School purchased its new building, which is situated next door to the school, back in August last year and conversion work began in November.

Phase One, which is due for completion later this month, will see the building, which was previously a Georgian farm house, converted into four multi-purpose classrooms.

Bob Marchbank Principal at Chilworth House School, said: "Once completed, the building will become Chilworth Upper School and will cater for our secondary pupils aged between 11 and 16.

"It is a hugely exciting time for the staff and pupils at the school and we are delighted with the way things are going with the conversion so far.

"We are looking to further enhance our provision with specialist facilities for science and art in the near future."



*Rachael Fitzpatrick, Morgan Kelly, Rhys King and William Culshaw*

## LAKESIDE SCHOOL PICKS UP A PENGUIN

Lakeside School has a brand new pupil in the shape of Polly the Penguin.

The 3ft fibreglass figure was designed by the pupils at Lakeside School as part of 'Go Penguins', a public art project to mark Liverpool's Year of the Environment.

The project saw 140 individually designed penguins displayed throughout Merseyside between November and January this year. Lakeside was one of 93 schools to get involved in the project.

Vicky Size, Head Teacher at Lakeside School, said: "The pupils are absolutely thrilled with Polly the Penguin and

enjoyed designing her for the exhibition.

"Polly's clothes are based on our school uniform. Each pupil designed and painted their own purple square depicting their favourite aspect of Lakeside, so we had a wide range of pictures ranging from football matches to frogs in the lake.

"The finished result was fantastic and Polly was a real credit to the school when she went on display at Liverpool's Met Quarter shopping centre.

"We are now really looking forward to getting Polly back to the school so she can take pride of place in our entrance hall."

## TEACHER GETS ON HIS BIKE FOR CHARITY

A teacher from Cumberland Upper School in Blackburn got on his bike to raise more than £600 for a local hospital.

Dave Williams cycled 75 miles from Cumbria to Blackburn to raise money for The New Children's Hospital Appeal.

He was inspired to organise the charity event by one of his pupils who was treated at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital in April following a road accident.

Dave Williams said: "I was keen to do something to help raise awareness for The New Children's Hospital Appeal after finding out more about the fantastic work that they do.

"I went to the school to tell them that I wanted to organise a charity event and we came up with the idea of a cycle ride. It took nearly five hours to complete and, despite being difficult in places, it was a great feeling to complete it. It was also a massive help to have the pupils cheering me on at Preston and back at school."

Jackie Rhodes, Head Teacher at Cumberland Upper School, said: "We are extremely proud of Dave and the pupils enjoyed cheering him on when he was completing the ride. Royal Manchester Children's Hospital is a wonderful charity to support and I am sure the money raised will go towards making a real difference to many people's lives."



*Jason Martin, Josh Murray, Liam Swarbrick, Dave Williams, Andy Gilbert, Sarah Rawcliffe and Callum Pepper*

# FANCY DRESS AT GUMMER'S HOW



Staff at Witherslack Hall raided the fancy dress box and scaled the summit of a local beauty spot to raise more than £1,200 for charity.

More than 90 teachers, carers and support staff from the school climbed to the top of Gummer's How in The Lake District to raise money for the Kendal Mountain Search and Rescue Team.

They did this dressed as a variety of characters including pirates, Mohicans and St Trinians' pupils.

Tina McIntosh, Head Teacher at Witherslack Hall School, said: "This year they chose a fancy dress theme and supported each other in travelling to the top of the mountain, raising money along the way.

"We had a brilliant day and all the staff really rose to the challenge. We are delighted to be supporting the Kendal Mountain Search and Rescue Team as they do such a wonderful job."

*M Meadows, T McIntosh, B Sephton, D Blessington, P Henderson, J Kneale Jones*

## COASTAL FUN FOR CUMBERLAND SCHOOL

Pupils from Cumberland School in Preston mixed science and sculptures when they visited Liverpool for their Winter school trip.

Teacher, Mrs Farrell, brought science to her students by organising an outing to Liverpool World Museum and Crosby Coastal Park.

Liverpool World Museum is made up of four galleries, which contain science and natural history items, ranging from fossils to fauna. Crosby Coastal Park is renowned for its views of the sea, the Wirral and North Wales and home to Anthony Gormley's iron men.

Martin Hayhurst, Head Teacher at Cumberland School, said: "The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day out and it was a great way of encouraging learning outside the classroom.

"The museum's aquarium and planetarium proved particularly popular with the pupils. They also enjoyed seeing Anthony Gormley's iron men at Crosby and working with the coastal park's natural marine flora and fauna.

"We will certainly be making a return visit to Liverpool in the not too distant future."



*Kevin Dempster with one of Anthony Gormley's statues*

## 10K CHALLENGE FOR BELLE VUE HOUSE

Staff at Belle Vue House are gearing up for a 10K run taking place later this year.

The run, which has been organised by the independent assessment centre in conjunction with Sporting Edge at Edge Hill University, will take place on Saturday 17th April. The run will start and finish at Edge Hill University and all proceeds from the event will be donated to the National Autistic Society.

Judith Brown, Consultant Speech and Language Therapist at Belle Vue House, said: "We decided to organise the run as April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day and we wanted to mark the occasion.

"Although we understand the disorder as we are working with children and young people on the spectrum on a day to day basis, there is still ignorance surrounding the condition. We hope that the run will help to raise public awareness of Autism and promote a better understanding of the disorder."

If you would like to take part in the run or make a donation contact Judith Brown on 01695 578 558 or email [office@bellevuehousecentre.co.uk](mailto:office@bellevuehousecentre.co.uk).

# WALKING TALL AT WCEI

A teenager from The Birches Children's Home in Southport was walking tall when he raised more than £800 for charity.

Bradley Wilson, who is 16, walked seven and a half miles from Ormskirk to Southport to raise money for the NSPCC. He was joined on the journey by his family, friends and staff from the home.

Bradley trained for his sponsored walk with his Key Worker, Paul Mowatt, by walking from Freshfield to Southport, along Fisherman's Path.

Paul Mowatt said: "Bradley is always doing things for charity so we were not surprised when he told us that he planned to do a sponsored walk. We are all extremely proud of his achievements and look forward to seeing what fundraising activity he comes up with next."

Bradley said: "Many people came to support us along the way which was great and we were able to raise a lot of money for a good cause."



Ash Wevita, Bradley Wilson and Shelly Daly



(Back row) Sue Asher, Richard Huxley, Jean, Marie Mason  
(Front row) Connie Rochester, Charles Rouse, Jak Hunt

## EVACUEE MAKES A RETURN VISIT TO SCHOOL

A woman from Chorley went back to the school where she was evacuated to more than 70 years ago.

Marie Mason nee Huxley, from Liverpool, was four years old when she was evacuated with her family to Westmorland School (previously called St Gregory's Primary School). The school hall was used as a drop off point for evacuees before they were re-housed in Chorley.

Marie, her twin sister, Jean, and brother, Richard, were invited back to the school on Weldbank Lane to see how it had changed over the years and to speak with the pupils.

Sue Asher, Head Teacher at Westmorland School, said: "We got in touch with Marie after hearing her being interviewed on a local radio station. When she described being taken to a school hall on Weldbank Lane we knew it must have been what is now our school and were really keen to invite her back.

"We were absolutely delighted that Marie and her family accepted our invitation and took time to share their memories with the pupils. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit too and it proved to be a history lesson they won't forget."

Marie said: "As I was very young when I first came to the school I don't remember much. I had a strange feeling of déjà vu when Sue showed us the hall as I vaguely remember arriving in a big hall with my family all those years ago. "It was wonderful to come back to the school with my brother and sister and I am thrilled that Sue got in touch after hearing our story on the radio.

"After the war all the family remained in Chorley and it is very much our home now - we are thrilled to be able to give something back to the community."

## JBE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT EXPANDS ITS FACILITIES

JBE Training and Development is now able to deliver more training programmes for teachers and care staff having opened an additional facility.

The new training lodge complements the company's existing facility at Lupton Tower, near Kirby Lonsdale in Lancashire.

JBE Training and Development offers a range of courses and induction training programmes including 'Safeguarding Children and

Staff', 'Child Development' and 'Principles of Care.'

JBE Training and Development also offers a full suite of de-escalation & behaviour management training programmes, through its accredited Team-Teach portfolio.

All training courses meet national standards and the majority are accredited through nationally recognised agencies. For more information call 015395 67400 or email [admin@jbetraining.co.uk](mailto:admin@jbetraining.co.uk).

### Witherslack Care & Education Initiatives

Derwent House, Mandale Business Park, Durham DH1 1TH  
Tel: 08448 806 520

### JBE Training and Development

Lupton Tower, Lupton, Kirby Lonsdale LA6 2PR  
Tel: 01539 567 400

### Cedar House School

Kendal Road, Kirkby Lonsdale via Carnforth, Lancashire LA6 2HW  
Tel: 01524 271 181

### Chilworth House School

Thame Road, Wheatley Oxford OX33 1JP  
Tel: 01844 339 077

### Cumberland School

Church Road, Bamber Bridge Preston, Lancashire PR5 6AJ  
Tel: 01772 284 435

### Cumberland Upper School

4 East Park Road, Blackburn Lancashire BB1 8AT  
Tel: 01254 691 195

### Lakeside School

Naylor's Road Liverpool L27 2YA  
Tel: 0151 487 7211

### Pontville School

Black Moss Lane, Ormskirk Lancashire L39 4TW  
Tel: 01695 578 734

### Westmorland School

Weldbank Lane, Chorley Lancashire PR7 3NQ  
Tel: 01257 278 899

### Witherslack Hall School

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Tel: 01539 552 397