

SIXTH FORM 2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS



AKS Lytham

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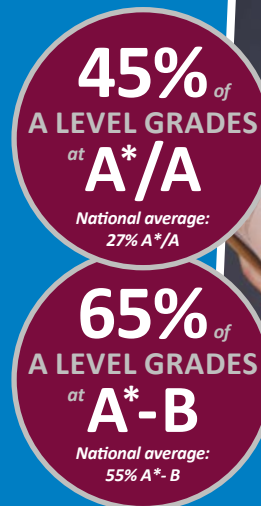
AKS Celebrates Outstanding 2025 A Level Results

The Class of 2025 has achieved exceptional success with 45% of all grades at A* or A. Alongside their academic excellence, this year group has left a lasting legacy through leadership, service, creativity and sporting triumphs, from national competition victories and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards to major stage performances and inspiring contributions in music, CCF and charity.

Student Highlights

Top achievers include Isabel R (A*A*A*A* Imperial, Engineering), an accomplished pianist and prize winner for Mathematics; Jessica A (A*A*A* Birmingham, Pharmacy), 1st XI hockey co-captain and winner of prizes for Geography and Academic Excellence; Anya K (A*A*A* Manchester, Medicine), performer, sportswoman and co-founder of 8:FIFTEEN; Sophie F (A*A*A*A* Imperial, Natural Sciences), 1st XI hockey player and Gold DofE completer; and Daniel M (A*AA Durham, Engineering), county rugby player and national Tycoon Enterprise winner.

Heads of School Toby C (A*A*A Economics) and Priyanka R (A*AA Liverpool, Medicine) exemplified all round excellence.



Toby led the 1st XV rugby team, toured Argentina and contributed across sport, service and expeditions, winning multiple school prizes. Priyanka excelled academically and across music, sport and leadership, gaining national recognition for her contribution to AKS.

Reflections

Headmaster David Harrow praised the cohort's wide-ranging impact beyond exam results, celebrating their role as sportspeople, musicians, performers and community leaders. Head of Sixth Form Kevin Maund added that their achievements in the classroom were matched by their energy, creativity, resilience and generosity of spirit, which have enriched the whole school and will continue to inspire as they move on to new challenges.

The diversity of this year's leavers reflects our commitment to nurturing potential from across the region, empowering all students to achieve excellence and lead with confidence.



Sixth Form this year has been nothing short of extraordinary. From exam halls to theatres, sports pitches to Summer Ball dance floors, the Class of 2025 has left its mark on AKS Lytham.



AKS Sixth Formers once again demonstrated success in their academic studies. With 45% of A-level results graded A*/A, our students proved that hard work and determination truly pay off. Many are now off to their first-choice universities, medical schools and other top destinations. It's safe to say the future looks bright for this year's leavers.

Life at AKS Sixth Form is never just about exams. This year saw our students once again take on The Tycoon Enterprise Challenge, with Christmas Crusaders making it to the final in Canary Wharf. The team raised an astonishing £4250 for the charity Papyrus, and for their efforts won the best business for the KS5 category. We are delighted that the Class of 2026 Tycoons have also reached the final and AKS will be represented by Trinket Box this October. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award has proven to be a great success again, with the intrepid trekkers completing their expedition in the demanding terrain of Scotland, showing that adventure and leadership remain part of our DNA. This summer a number of our leavers celebrated the completion of their Gold Award with an invitation to Buckingham Palace. On the sports field, AKS athletes shone in hockey, rugby and more, with several Sixth Formers representing the county and beyond. An incredible season's performance saw the First XV lift the Lancashire Cup for the first time in our history. Students have also had the incredible opportunity to represent the school abroad: the girls in the hockey tour to South Africa in 2024, and the boys in the rugby tour to Argentina and Uruguay in 2025.

The music and performing arts community have continued to flourish this year, with notable events including the school production of Sweeney Todd performed at the Lowther Pavilion Theatre, and the countless concerts and cabaret evenings. Not to be beaten, the musicians packed their travelling accoutrements and toured the Netherlands this summer.

A great strength of AKS Sixth Form is the shared experiences and opportunities that exist for students in both year groups, meaning their two years with us brim with opportunities. The Class of 2025 may have just left but the Class of 2026 has already proved itself to be equally talented. Whether it be further competition success at the Design & Technology Fylde BAE Rotary Competition, department trips to BBC Studios or the Palace of Westminster, interviewing Fylde MP Andrew Snowden for a Sixth Form podcast or demonstrating an enduring commitment to local charities, our students inspire others to see what they too can achieve at AKS Sixth Form.

Kevin Maund, Head of Sixth Form



Nicki Hamilton
Deputy Head of Sixth Form



Jenn Arnold
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

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A LEVEL SPOTLIGHTS 2025



Amelia B

Amelia achieved A*A*A* and will apply for BDS Dentistry in 2026 after a gap year. As Head of the Medical Society, she received the Chemistry Prize and the Best in

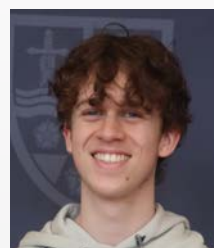
Everyone Award for Modern Foreign Languages. Beyond academics, she plays tennis at Lytham Tennis Club and completed her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Isabel R

Isabel achieved A*A*A*A* and will go on to study Engineering at Imperial College London. A talented pianist, she was awarded the Listen Memorial Prize for

Mathematics at this year's Prize Giving.



Christian L

Christian achieved AAA and will study Physics and Engineering at Durham University. He was awarded the Old Lidunian Prize for Outstanding Contribution to

the Life of the School and played a key role in AKS Action events. He has also completed Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh awards and is working towards Gold.



Toby C

Toby achieved A*A*A and will study Economics with Politics at the University of Bath. As Head Student, he led the school

with distinction, captained the 1st XV rugby team, and represented the 1st XI cricket team. At Prizegiving, he was honoured with multiple awards including the Ross Cup and the Cocker Trophy.



Anya K

Anya achieved A*A*A* and will go on to study Medicine. A standout in performing arts, she starred in multiple school productions and was awarded the Rhodes Marshall Prize

for Biology. She also represented AKS in 1st XI hockey and has progressed through the Duke of Edinburgh Award to Gold.



Jessica A

Jessica achieved A*A*A* and will study Pharmacy at the University of Birmingham. As Co-captain of the 1st XI hockey team, she combined leadership in sport with success

in music and academics. She completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and received the Bacon Prize for Geography and the Prize for Academic Excellence.



Daniel M

Daniel achieved A*A A and will go on to study Engineering at Durham University. A 1st XV rugby player, he toured Argentina and completed all three levels of the Duke of

Edinburgh Award, receiving Gold at Buckingham Palace. At Prize Giving, he was awarded the Norman Lawton Trophy for his contribution to the DofE scheme.



Sophie F

Sophie achieved A*A*A*A* and will study Natural Sciences at Imperial College London. A talented 1st XI hockey player, she

received the Mosley Prize for her academic success. She also completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, presented at Buckingham Palace.

AKS STUDENT UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2024

- 
- 1 Northumbria University, Newcastle
 - 1 Durham University
 - 2 Lancaster University
 - 3 University of Leeds
 - 4 University of Huddersfield
 - 5 Blackpool and the Fylde College
 - 6 University of Central Lancashire
 - 7 Edge Hill University
 - 8 University of Manchester
 - 8 Manchester Metropolitan University
 - 9 University of Liverpool
 - 9 Liverpool John Moores University
 - 10 University of Sheffield
 - 11 University of Birmingham
 - 12 University of Bath
 - 12 Bath Spa University
 - 13 Royal Holloway, University of London
 - 13 Imperial College London
 - 14 University of Chichester (Italia Conti)

ACADEMIC

Sixth Form Inquiry Project



On the evening of 12th May 2025, Year 12 students of AKS showcased their remarkable knowledge and understanding during the annual *Evening of Inquiry*. This event was the culmination of much hard work over the preceding months in developing

a suitable topic, researching it using academic journals and writing a 2,500-word essay at undergraduate level. *The Evening of Inquiry* provided a platform for students to present their research and creative endeavours to governors, parents, teachers and the wider community. The event was held in the Sixth Form Common Room, which was transformed into an impressive exhibition space filled with the academic posters created by the students to accompany their essays. The atmosphere was filled with

curiosity and intellectual rigour as attendees explored the diverse range of topics on display and questioned the students on their newfound knowledge.

The essays covered a wide array of subjects, reflecting the students' interests, academic strengths and future plans. These included *Have modern composers run out of ideas?*, *The relationship between art and AI: where are we and where are we going?* and *Could the solution to Peto's Paradox revolutionise cancer treatment?* The topics displayed a breadth of thought that was both impressive and enlightening. The informal setting of the Sixth Form Common Room allowed for engaging conversations between the students and interested adults, with the students displaying a high degree of confidence in their subject knowledge and clarity in being able to talk to those with a previous understanding of the topic and those with none. Parents and teachers expressed their admiration for the ability of the students to engage with their interlocutors in a meaningful manner. It was evident that the Inquiry



Project had not only deepened the students' understanding of specific topics but also cultivated essential skills such as critical thinking, research and public speaking.

The Sixth Form *Evening of Inquiry* was a resounding success and has quickly become one of the academic highlights of the school calendar, highlighting the talent and hard work of the academic scholars at AKS. This event provided a platform for them to share their hard-earned knowledge, and it undoubtedly reinforced the value of independent research and the joy of lifelong learning. It was a memorable occasion that left a lasting impression on all who attended.

In order to further the oracy and presentation skills of the students, a selection have been invited to take part in the *Thursday Takeover*, by presenting their research and findings to the wider school body. An important aspect of undertaking research is being able to present the findings in a manner that is accessible to all. By presenting their work in the form of a short lecture to students and staff, the Inquiry students have been able to develop and practise their presentation skills and offer an insight into the many varied and interesting topics they have studied.

Nick O'Loughlin, Head of Inquiry



Sixth Formers Connect with Alumni Journeys

Many distinguished alumni have returned to AKS this year to share their journeys with our sixth formers. Each visit has given students valuable insights into life beyond school. Here are just a few examples.

In October, Ian Tottman from King Edward School (class of 1973) reflected on how his experiences as Prefect, House Captain and participant in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, debating and sport helped shape his character. His career took him from Cadbury Schweppes to senior leadership roles at *L'Oréal*, *Pernod Ricard* and *Southcorp Wines*, with opportunities that spanned the globe. Ian encouraged students to read widely, research thoroughly, step out of their comfort zones and stay curious.

Later in the term, alumnus Ian Barclay returned to speak about passion-led decisions that carried him from IT programming into senior leadership and eventually Chief Executive Officer at Lycett's. His reflections on rugby, triathlons and resilience highlighted the importance of balance between work, family and sport. He urged students not to fear mistakes but to embrace challenge, adjust their sails when the winds change and ask for help when needed.



In April, Mark Kerrone inspired Year 12 with an exploration of Artificial Intelligence and the workplace of the future. Now leading the UK Cloud Transformation Practice at *KPMG*, he reminded students that the most valuable skills will remain the most human ones such as emotional intelligence, creativity and ethical thinking. He also challenged them to consider the responsibilities that come with technology and their role in shaping a fairer and more sustainable world.

These talks are just some of the many contributions our alumni make to AKS. By sharing their journeys, they not only offer practical advice but also inspire the next generation to face the future with confidence and ambition.



Passing the Torch - Welcoming Our New Student Leaders

We are proud to announce the **2025–26 Student Leadership Team**, made up of six outstanding Year 13 students who will represent and support the student body in the year ahead.



Student Leadership Team 2025-26

Heads of School: Harper C and Alfie K

Deputy Heads of School: Charlotte C, Evangeline D, Tommy M and Rhys N

Mr Harrow, Headmaster, shared: *"Selecting the new team is always a highlight - it reveals the depth of ambition, vision and care our Sixth Form students have for their school and one another."*

These six students were chosen not only for their academic dedication and involvement in school life, but also for their character, leadership potential and the respect they have earned from their peers and staff.

Their journeys to this point reflect the diversity and strength of the AKS community. Five of the six students joined AKS from local schools - **Lytham Hall Park**, **Singleton C of E**, **Heyhouses Endowed C of E**, **St Peter's Catholic Primary School**, and **All Hallows Catholic High School** - while one progressed through our own **AKS Prep School**.

Mrs Marland, Assistant Head, added: *"These students represent the values we hold dear - character, courage and compassion. We look forward to seeing the difference they'll make."*

Thank You to Our 2024-25 Leadership Team

As we look ahead, we also thank the **2024–2025 Student Leadership Team** for their outstanding service to the school.

Heads of School: Toby C and Priyanka R

Deputy Heads of School: Libby C, James D, Hugo F and Seren S

From leading assemblies and representing students at key events, to supporting pastoral initiatives and mentoring younger pupils, they brought integrity, kindness and commitment to their roles.

Their contribution has been deeply appreciated, and their example will continue to inspire those who follow.



SPORT



This academic year has been a remarkable one for Sixth Form sport at AKS Lytham, marked by exceptional achievements across disciplines and a growing culture of participation and performance.

Cricket enjoyed a standout season, with Sixth Form players leading the way across numerous fixtures and contributing to our recognition as one of the UK's Top 100 cricket schools. Rugby celebrated its most successful year to date, being named Lancashire Rugby School of the Year, with the 1st XV lifting the Lancashire Cup under the leadership and commitment of our Sixth Form players who set the standard both on and off the field.

Hockey built further momentum, with the 1st XI reaching the fourth round of the National Schools Championships and three players selected for the England Hockey NW Talent Academy Festival. Netball grew strongly too, with Sixth Form students playing a leading role in both competition and participation.


Golf made a welcome return, with AKS competing in the Independent Schools Cup against Rossall and Stonyhurst and hosting a fixture at Green Drive in Lytham, marking an exciting new chapter for the sport.

Throughout the year, our Sixth Form athletes have shown resilience, ambition and camaraderie, supported by a dedicated coaching team and a thriving sporting culture. As we reflect on these successes, we look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to inspire excellence in every corner of AKS sport.

Richard Chadwick, Director of Sport

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and follow us...**

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Boys' Senior Rugby Team



Boys' 1st XI Cricket Team



Senior Girls' Hockey Team



Argentina and Uruguay Rugby Tour 2025

The rugby tour of Argentina and Uruguay was an unforgettable adventure that combined tough competition with rich cultural experiences. The squad began with the opportunity to watch England take on Argentina in Buenos Aires, an atmosphere that set the tone for the two weeks ahead. While there they also met with alumnus Lee Blackett, now part of the England coaching team, which made the occasion even more memorable.

On the pitch both the 1st XV and Development XV faced four fiercely contested matches against strong local opposition. Despite narrow defeats the players showed resilience, determination and pride in representing AKS. Each fixture was followed by time spent with hosts which highlighted the respect and unity at the heart of rugby.

Off the pitch the programme was equally memorable. The first week included a traditional Argentinian barbecue, walking tours of Buenos Aires, a visit to the famous La Boca neighbourhood and a trip across the border to Montevideo to explore the Estadio Gran Parque Central. The second week took the group north to the spectacular Iguazu Falls with a thrilling boat ride to the cascades followed by a Brazilian style buffet and live performers. A visit to the River Plate stadium, South America's largest, offered another glimpse into the passion that surrounds rugby and football alike.

The tour concluded at a local ranch where students enjoyed horse riding, zip lines, excellent food and warm hospitality. It was the perfect way to end two weeks of tour.

Scan to read the
official Tour Brochure



Lancashire Rugby School of the Year 2024-2025

In the summer term, AKS was officially named Lancashire Rugby School of the Year 2024/25 - a prestigious honour recognising the strength, depth and ambition of our rugby programme.

This award reflects far more than just results. It celebrates a thriving rugby culture built on commitment, teamwork and community - values that were on full display in the 1st XV's performance in the Lancashire Cup Final at Fylde RFC, one of many standout moments in a remarkable season.

This accolade marks a proud chapter in the story of rugby at AKS - one built on ambition, character and a deep sense of pride. With strong foundations in place, the future of AKS rugby has never looked brighter.



Headmaster David Harrow commented:

"This award is a tribute to the dedication of our students, staff and coaches. Rugby at AKS is inclusive, aspirational and built to last - this recognition is richly deserved."



Director of Rugby Alan Holmes added:

"It's been an outstanding year, particularly for the 1st XV, who recorded strong results against leading schools. Many of the players have developed through the AKS programme since Year 7 and their progress has been exceptional. We've also seen record numbers selected for Sale Sharks' Elite Player Group, Lancashire, the North of England and national representative teams - a testament to the players' hard work and the support of the wider rugby community at AKS."



TYCOONS ENTERPRISE COMPETITION

AKS Tycoon Enterprise: Student Start-ups With Impact

Led by Mr McIntyre, this year's Tycoon groups built on the legacy of past success, creating brilliant businesses and raising thousands for charity.

Below are the groups that were formed this year - each with a unique product, purpose and charitable mission.

Wreath Emporium - Stylish Christmas wreaths, a sold-out workshop and top-tier digital marketing helped this team raise £1,950 for Alder Hey and The Christie Foundation.

Luxury Lanterns - Charming, handcrafted lanterns, great teamwork and customer feedback led to a strong £1,250 profit for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Just Good Candles - Scented candle innovation and a key order for the Ladies' Luncheon Club helped raise £300+ for Just Good Friends.

Trinket Box - Upcycled sea glass jewellery and a polished online presence brought national recognition. 2nd in the UK, they raised £1,950 for the Peter Jones Foundation and IDAS.



Christmas Crusaders became National Champions

Last year's team, 'Christmas Crusaders', were invited to the Tycoon Enterprise Finals at Canary Wharf, where they were crowned Best KS5 Business in the UK - a huge achievement.

Their business transformed condemned scaffolding planks into stylish Christmas gifts, combining sustainability with market appeal. Over just six weeks, they generated a remarkable £4,250 profit, donated entirely to Papyrus, a charity focused on youth suicide prevention.

At the finals, the team impressed with their professional stall, engaging presentation and thoughtful video reflections, facing tough questions from business leaders and Peter Jones himself. Their innovation, teamwork and social purpose made them stand out on a national stage.

Watch their winning moment

Scan the QR code to view
the Peter Jones Foundation
Awards Ceremony 2024



Congratulations to Stan, Jasper, Alfie, Daniel and James - an unforgettable experience and a shining example of what AKS enterprise is all about.

ROUND SQUARE



Liam Donovan,
AKS Round Square Representative

A Visit from Georgia

In March, we were delighted to welcome 14 students from the Georgian American School, who were here to attend the **Lytham Classic Association** presentation on 13th March. We used this opportunity to host a short exchange, with the visiting students joining our Sixth Form lessons, meeting peers, engaging in discussions and sharing their experiences of life in Georgia. Students also spent a morning in our Prep School, engaging with younger pupils and supporting lessons. They shared their culture through traditional dances, games and stories about life in Georgia - creating a vibrant and memorable experience for all involved.

RSIC Colombia

During the first term, eight of our Year 12 students took part in the 56th Round Square International Conference in Colombia. We would like to thank our host schools: Colegio Anglo Colombiano, Colegio Gran Bretaña, Colegio Los Nogales, Colegio de Inglaterra – The English School, and Gimnasio Campestre.



"They allowed me to experience Colombian culture and the amazing diversity within this country, from the food, restaurants and markets to the chance to play on a local football pitch."

"I experienced a trip of a lifetime but the time I thought was the most adventurous was with my homestay."

"The adventures I experienced have changed my attitude to life and I feel fortunate to have met the wonderful people I did."



PERFORMING ARTS

The 2024/2025 academic year has been another whirlwind of theatrical triumphs, musical marvels and backstage brilliance for the AKS Lytham Performing Arts Department. Students have taken part in a wide range of creative opportunities on stage, in rehearsal rooms and behind the scenes.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly our phenomenal production of Sweeney Todd at the Lowther Pavilion Theatre. From outstanding principals to the energetic ensemble, every performer rose to the challenge of this demanding musical. Supported by skilled backstage crews and striking SFX makeup, the show was a true testament to teamwork and determination.

Music has flourished too, with our concert series celebrating both seasoned and emerging performers. From intimate teatime concerts, sometimes even performed al fresco, to large scale termly events

featuring more than a hundred musicians and singers, our students have filled the year with music of passion and variety.

A rich programme of theatre trips and workshops added further inspiration. Performances at The Lowry, The Grand and The Winter Gardens were complemented by sessions led by visiting industry professionals, offering insight and encouragement to our aspiring artists.

At A Level, students impressed with work of real depth and flair. Year 13's moving performance of Who Cares and their Shakespeare monologues demonstrated maturity and power, while Year 12's devised piece Kick off, a physical and verbatim exploration of football and relationships, showcased their professional approach and creativity.

This has been a year of hard work and achievement for Performing Arts at AKS, with students showing talent, imagination and commitment throughout.



5 MONTHS • 700 HOURS • 32 SONGS • 55 STUDENTS • 5 STAFF • 16 MUSICIANS • 1 SHOW...

"THE MUSICAL EVERY YEAR, IS AN AMAZING WAY FOR THE CHILDREN TO MAKE REALLY STRONG BONDS WITH EACH OTHER."

Parent comment

AKS PRESENTS

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

SCHOOL EDITION

"PROUD THAT AS A SCHOOL WE CAN PULL OFF SOMETHING OF THIS MAGNITUDE."

Michael Hodgkinson, Musical Director & Co-Producer

"I MEAN, IT WAS PHENOMENAL, YOU CAN SEE THE AMOUNT OF HARD WORK THAT HAS GONE IN OVER THE MONTHS."

Parent comment

"EVERY YEAR IT SEEMS TO GET BETTER AND BETTER."

Parent comment

"I'VE MADE SOME WONDERFUL NEW FRIENDSHIPS AND MEMORIES THAT I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH."

Student comment

"I'M SUPER PROUD OF THE KIDS, THEY'VE WORKED SO HARD."

Martha Worthington, Producer & Director

The Gazette

"TODD AND MRS LOVETT ESPECIALLY SHINE IN THE FIRST HALF FINALE DUET."

"WE WERE BLOWN AWAY BY THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE PRODUCTION AND THE TALENT ON STAGE."

Audience feedback

"A SHOW BY A HIGH SCHOOL... BY A GROUP OF TEENAGERS, WHICH YOU COULD EASILY SEE ON THE BIG STAGE."

Parent comment

Key Dates for Sixth Form Entry 2026

2025

1

Open Day
11th October

2

**Applications for Entry
and Scholarships Open**
13th October

3

**Sixth Form
Options Evening**
6th November

4

Futures Fair
19th November

5

**Admissions and Scholarship
Interviews Commence**
26th November

2026

6

**Sixth Form
Taster Day**
2nd February

7

**Careers
Consultation Evenings**
4th and 5th February

8

**A Level Option
Deadline**
9th February

9

**Sixth Form
Open Evening**
11th March

10

**Sixth Form
Games Night**
22nd April

Contact us: admissions@akslytham.com | 01253 784100

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Change your world

Book a
tour to get
the inside
view



CCF



This year has been one of growth and pride for the AKS Combined Cadet Force. In the autumn term we opened our new permanent air rifle range which allowed cadets to practise regularly and develop their skill at arms training. Cadets also had

the honour of marching on Remembrance Sunday and mounting an Honour Guard for the AKS Service.

The spring term brought exciting change as we welcomed Year 8 cadets for the first time which doubled our numbers and injected fresh energy into the section. A highlight was joining Kirkham Grammar CCF at Fulwood Barracks where our younger cadets fired the L98A2 for the first time.

The summer term was particularly memorable. To mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day our cadets mounted an Honour Guard at the Beacon Ceremony at Fairhaven Lake. In July fifteen cadets from years 8 to 13 attended the annual CCF

Camp at Altcar Training Camp joining over 270 cadets from across the North West. Over five days they took part in live firing adventure training TIBUA Close Quarter Battle and the Altcar Cup Challenge. The camp allowed them to build on skills developed throughout the year while gaining new experiences and growing in confidence. We were extremely proud of the way our cadets represented AKS CCF to the highest standard.

With the enthusiasm of our new Cadet Training Team Sergeant, the support of new Adult Volunteer Sue Shakespeare and the energy of our Year 8 intake, the section is thriving. We look forward to another year of challenge, adventure and achievement with real confidence and excitement.

WO2 Sharon Hobson-Woodhead,
SSI and Contingent Commander



45% of
A LEVEL GRADES
at **A*/A**
(national average 27%)

65% of
A LEVEL GRADES
at **A*-B**
(national average 55%)



AKS Lytham
SIXTH FORM

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be one of the most rewarding enrichment opportunities at AKS giving our students the chance to develop resilience, independence, teamwork and a spirit of adventure. This year our students achieved an impressive 96 awards with 48 at Bronze 23 at Silver and 25 at Gold. These achievements reflect the commitment and determination of students across the school and the expert guidance of our dedicated DofE staff team.

Paul Riches, Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator

Bronze

Our Year 10 students began by building vital skills during the February training day before heading out on their two-day expedition near Beacon Fell in cool and damp conditions. Their qualifying expedition in May brought warm sunshine and greater challenges but the group rose to the occasion and showed excellent resilience. Students have made strong progress with their awards and the DofE team now looks forward to guiding them as they move on to Silver.



Silver

Year 11 participants faced tough terrain and height gain as they moved through their expeditions. After honing their skills in the Forest of Bowland they completed their qualifying expedition in the Three Peaks area of the Yorkshire Dales. The challenge was significant but every student succeeded in completing the route and in doing so demonstrated teamwork and determination.



Gold

Our Gold participants brought their DofE journeys to a memorable conclusion. Following training in Dentdale and a demanding practice in the Lake District, they enjoyed a glorious final expedition in Scotland during August where they experienced breathtaking scenery and perfect weather. For those completing Silver last year this marked their seventh and final expedition with AKS. Staff have greatly enjoyed supporting them through every step and now look forward to seeing our Year 13 students complete their awards ready for the Buckingham PalPce Garden party in May 2026.

Students Celebrate Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace

This year we were proud to see a group of AKS students attend a special celebration at Buckingham Palace in recognition of completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. James D, Nick H, Daniel M, James P, Edward S, Sophie F, Isobel R and Maisy R joined young people from across the country to mark this prestigious achievement.

Reaching Gold is the culmination of years of dedication. Many began their DofE journey in Year 9 with Bronze, which provided a manageable introduction to the Award.

Silver demanded greater resilience, particularly during challenging expeditions and by Year 12 they were ready to take on the Gold Award, aiming to complete it before the academic pressures of Year 13. Along the way they committed themselves to volunteering, developing new skills and pushing their physical endurance, all of which reflect the spirit of DofE.

Their success demonstrates not only perseverance but also the wider benefits of the Award, which builds confidence, teamwork and a sense of service. The school is immensely proud of all our Gold Award students, who have shown determination, resilience and a readiness to make the most of every opportunity.

A special thank you goes to our dedicated DofE team who have given countless hours in planning and supporting expeditions, ensuring our students had the guidance and encouragement needed to reach this milestone. We also recognise the vital role of parents whose support and encouragement at home has been central to helping our students thrive and complete their DofE journey with such success.



Sixth Form Geography Fieldwork in the North Lakes

From Sunday 23rd to Tuesday 25th March, Sixth Form Geography students embarked on an enlightening three-day fieldwork trip to the North Lakes, exploring glacial landscapes and understanding the region's unique sense of place.

The first day began in Glenridding, where the group trekked up the valley to Kepple Cove, studying the effects of glacial processes on the landscape. They also explored the human and physical influences shaping Glenridding's identity. Day two involved a journey through the Borrowdale and Buttermere valleys, followed by a coastal visit to Allenby, revealing further examples of glacial modifications. The final day focused on lowland features, offering a broader perspective on the area's diverse topography.

This trip offered invaluable hands-on experience, enhancing their knowledge for A-level exams. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Winterflood, whose insights into the Lake District's geomorphology enriched the experience for all.



Celebrating the Class of 2025

The AKS community gathered on 8th May to bid a fond farewell to the Class of 2025 at the Upper Sixth Celebration Evening - a warm, musical and memory-filled send-off ahead of study leave.

The Senior School Chamber Choir opened the evening before Headmaster **David Harrow** welcomed students, families, staff and governors celebrating their time at AKS and the exciting journeys ahead.

Keynote speaker **Beth Holyoak (Class of 2015)** shared words of encouragement, urging students to build strong networks, be resilient and believe in themselves as they embark on new adventures.

The evening was filled with laughter, nostalgia and celebration. **Hugh F's** saxophone solo, accompanied by **Michael Hodgkinson**, provided a musical highlight, while Head of Sixth Form **Kevin Maund** shared a heartwarming collection of photographs, videos and stories from their years at AKS.

A lively finale from **8:Fifteen**, the school band formed in their early Senior School years, brought the evening to a close - a true AKS farewell for the Class of 2025.



Head Student Priyanka R spoke on behalf of the year group, thanking staff, families and each other:

"We have laughed, cried, grown and developed together - and for that, we are forever grateful. The opportunities we have had at AKS, and the support from our families, has given us the strongest possible start in life."



SIXTH FORM HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring Politics in the Heart of Westminster

On a crisp morning in March, the Sixth Form students travelled to the heart of UK politics – Westminster – for an exciting day of political engagement. Hosted at Methodist Central Hall, the event gathered over 1,000 students and featured speeches from influential political figures, including former Conservative MP Jacob Rees-Mogg and current Reform UK MP Richard Tice.

The speeches sparked lively debate, with each politician sharing their perspectives and responding to challenging questions from the student audience. The students' academic curiosity and political insight made for a thought-provoking experience that deepened their understanding of the UK's political landscape.



Students Interview Fylde MP

We were also delighted to welcome Andrew Snowden, MP for Fylde, who took part in a live student podcast led by Sixth Former Jess A. He spoke about his journey into politics, the importance of a strong local economy and why young people should have a voice in shaping the future. Students came away inspired by his advice on leadership and public service.



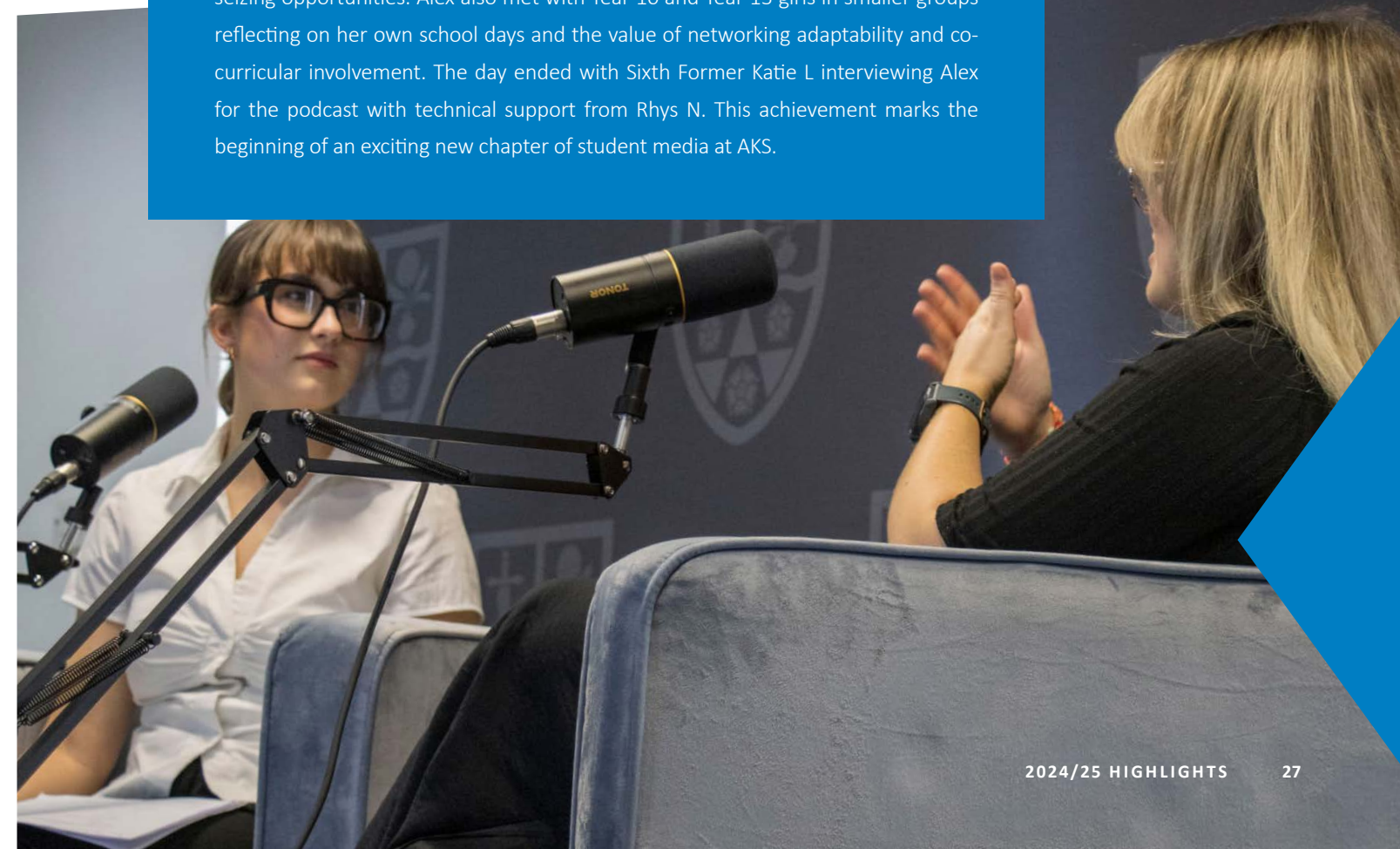
Exclusive Behind-the-Scenes Access at BBC Breakfast

Upper Sixth Sociology students enjoyed a unique trip to Media City in Salford Quays where alumnus Richard Frediani Editor of BBC Breakfast and BBC News at One gave them a behind the scenes experience of the newsroom. They watched a live broadcast of BBC Breakfast, met presenters Jon Kay and Sally Nugent and even sat in on a story planning meeting which brought their studies on how news is presented vividly to life. The day ended with a case study on globalisation at the Trafford Centre where students explored the range of international cuisines and discovered that several popular restaurants were in fact local Manchester brands.



First Student Led Podcast

AKS proudly celebrated the launch of its first student led podcast to mark International Women's Day. We welcomed alumna Alex Boothman, Arnold School 1994, now Director and Head of EMEA Electronic Trading Compliance at Barclays. She shared her career journey and spoke about resilience, self-belief and the importance of seizing opportunities. Alex also met with Year 10 and Year 13 girls in smaller groups reflecting on her own school days and the value of networking adaptability and co-curricular involvement. The day ended with Sixth Former Katie L interviewing Alex for the podcast with technical support from Rhys N. This achievement marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter of student media at AKS.



Girls' v Boys' hockey match

The annual Girls' vs Boys' hockey match never disappoints and this year it came with a twist.

From the start, the girls dominated possession. Carly shone on the right wing, Jess A brought pace and flair and Amelia H dictated play through midfield. Despite this, the boys, full of energy and chaotic charm, had their moments. Felix and Finn broke forward several times, testing the defence.

Goalkeeper Harvey was the standout in the first half, pulling off a string of impressive saves as the girls piled on the pressure. The boys responded with quick counterattacks, with Toby and Felix showing flashes of skill, but the match remained goalless at the break.

The second half delivered more end-to-end action. Daniel and Sammy created strong chances for the boys, while Sophia, Danni and the Arts sisters defended with confidence. Neither side could convert and even extra time could not break the deadlock.



With the score still 0–0, the match was decided by shuffles. Carly scored first for the girls, but the boys responded with confidence. Toby, Daniel and Felix all converted, while Harvey, stepping up once again, made three excellent saves to secure a **3–1 win for the boys**.

It was a break from tradition and a brilliant, good-spirited contest that will be remembered for years to come.

Sixth Form Ball



Inspiration, Reflection and Celebration at the Headmaster's Dinner

On Friday 21st March, Year 13 students, form tutors, school leaders and governors gathered in the OAKS Hall for the annual Headmaster's Dinner – a cherished tradition marking the final stage of our Sixth Formers' AKS journey. The evening began with a drinks reception before guests enjoyed a superb three-course meal prepared by Head Chef Steve Shepherd and the catering team, generously sponsored by Lexington Independents.

This formal occasion is a chance for students to pause, reflect and celebrate before their summer exams. This year's guest speaker, **Air Commodore Robin Caine MBE MA FCMI RAF**, brought an unforgettable blend of humility, humour and inspiration.



"Be of service – find something that gives you purpose in life."

Air Commodore Robin Caine



With over 20 years in the Royal Air Force, Robin is a highly experienced Tornado pilot with more than 2,500 fast jet hours. He has served as an **Electronic Warfare Instructor**, **Chief Weapons Instructor** and in senior operational roles, including commanding RAF and University Air Squadron cadets and overseeing UK Military Flying Training. His leadership has earned him an **MBE (2015)** and the **Master's Medal from the Guild of Air Pilots (2019)**. He also holds an **MA from King's College London** and is a graduate of the Joint **Services Higher Command and Staff Course**.

Robin wove these achievements into an inspiring address that resonated deeply with students. Sharing the RAF motto *Per Ardua ad Astra* – 'Through Adversity to the Stars' – he encouraged them to set their sights high, embrace setbacks as opportunities for growth and remain grounded, valuing kindness, respect and enduring friendships.

Head Student Toby C thanked Robin with a gift, sprinkling in light-hearted anecdotes from his school days – much to the amusement of Deputy Head Phil Hayden, who attended school with him.

A night of friendship, inspiration and celebration, the Headmaster's Dinner 2025 was the perfect send-off for the Class of 2025 as they prepare to take flight into the next chapter of their lives.



Ending the Year in Full Colour

On the last day of the Summer Term students came together for our third annual Colour Run, an event that marked the end of a fantastic academic year. More than just a celebration, the day also aimed to raise funds for our charity partner, The Sparkle Foundation.

Throughout the day, students competed in a series of challenges in house teams, showcasing their teamwork, leadership and communication skills. The highlight was the Colour Run course itself, manned by the Year 12 students. A heartfelt thank you goes to our PTA for their generous donation, which made this event possible, and to all colleagues who helped to organise and support the day.

Scan to
see the
Colour Run
Highlights



Farewell Year 13!

Year 13 students celebrate the end of Sixth Form





From the Director of Marketing, Development and Engagement

This year has been one of celebration, connection and progress for our alumni and engagement work. From notable alumnus Sandro Monetti (Arnold School) returning to inspire and delight at our Spring Concert, to Mark Kerrone (KES) leading an engaging session on the power of AI for our Sixth Form, alumni have continued to share their talents and enrich the life of AKS. We were especially proud to welcome the Class of 2025 into the OAKS community, with an overwhelming majority joining oakconnect.com to keep connections and opportunities alive long after leaving AKS.

Another milestone this year was the merger of Marketing and Development into one dynamic department. This has brought greater energy, creativity and collaboration, sharpening how we tell the AKS story. Importantly, it has also enhanced employer engagement, opening new partnership and sponsorship opportunities for AKS. Support from local businesses, alongside formalised partnerships with Fylde Rugby Club, Fylde Hockey Club, Lytham Cricket Club and Lytham Tennis Club, has strengthened community ties, expanded opportunities for our students, and showcased the remarkable spirit that unites our students, alumni and local community.

Sarah Walton, Director of Development



Get in touch and follow us...

@OAKSAlumni
 @AKSLythamOAKS
 @OAKSAlumni
Email alumni@akslytham.com
www.oaksconnect.com



Since its launch in May 2023, the Foundation has raised over £316,000, far exceeding sector benchmarks for a new school foundation.

Alongside the continued support of our first cohort of fully-funded transformational bursary recipients, who are now beginning Year 13, we were delighted to welcome two new exceptional students in September 2025 - one joining Senior School and one starting Sixth Form.

We were also proud to receive the Gillen Cup, generously donated by former Headmaster of Arnold School, Bill Gillen. Presented for the first time at Senior School Prize Giving, it celebrates student excellence while supporting transformational bursaries – a new model of giving that links legacy and recognition.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of our donors and supporters whose generosity continues to transform young lives at AKS.



2 Bursary recipients in year 13
1 Bursary recipient in year 12
1 Bursary recipient in year 10

This marks a significant milestone in our journey and underscores the incredible potential of our community to make a difference in the lives of young people through the AKS Lytham Foundation.

A huge thank you to all our donors and supporters who came together to make this happen.

We are delighted to report that since the AKS Lytham Foundation was launched on 5th May 2023, **£316,936** has been raised.

£9,348

Fundraising Events
(for the benefit of the school)

£4,671

Educational trips
for existing AKS
Bursary Students

£316,936

**TOTAL FUNDS RAISED
SINCE LAUNCHING ON
5th MAY 2023**

£302,917

Donations to the
Bursary Fund

A bursary isn't a substitute for hard work and determination but it's a **helping hand** you can't put a value on until later in life. Now it's **my turn** to pay back some of that opportunity, in the hope it inspires others to **nurture talent** wherever it can be found.

Ciaran Nelson, KES Direct Grant Recipient (1989 – 1996)

Alumni Sporting Highlights 2025

Our much-anticipated alumni sporting events once again brought former and current students together in a celebration of sport and tradition.

The inaugural AKS vs OAKS football fixture proved a great success and is now set to become an annual event. The school First XI approached the contest with confidence after a successful season but faced an OAKS squad led by alumnus Dan Slawson and full of depth and experience. After an even first half the alumni side proved decisive as they pulled away in the later stages to claim a 9-5 victory. The match was played in excellent spirit and provided a valuable test for the school team as they continue their development.



The traditional Boxing Day rugby match at Fylde RFC also drew strong support from the school community. In a competitive encounter the Old Lidunians established control and secured a 19-5 win against the Old Arnoldians' team. The fixture was a fitting continuation of this long-standing tradition and a reminder of the close ties that endure between current students and alumni.

This summer AKS was proud to welcome back alumni for two special cricket occasions.

The school hosted the prestigious Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in a memorable First XI fixture organised by Director of Cricket Liam Castellás. Adding to the occasion was the return of Old Lidunian Anthony Pilkington, who officiated the match alongside former Arnold and King Edward VII teacher Steve Godfrey. Both are highly respected in cricketing circles, and their involvement underlined the ongoing connections between AKS and its alumni. On the field the First XI impressed early with tight bowling and sharp fielding, before MCC's depth saw them post 211. Despite a confident start, AKS finished on 136, with MCC securing the win.

The alumni spirit continued in the Headmaster's OAKS team's annual clash with AKS staff. In a fixture full of competitive fun and played in challenging weather, the OAKS side proved too strong, recording a 133 to 83 victory.



Watch the
Headmaster's
Cricket
Highlights



AKS Lytham

SIXTH FORM



SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

2025

Open Day: 11th October 2025 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Applications for Entry and Scholarships Open: 13th October 2025

Sixth Form Options Evening: 6th November 2025 6.30pm

Futures Fair: 19th November 2025 4.00pm

Admissions and Scholarship Interviews Commence: 26th November 2025

2026

Sixth Form Taster Day: 2nd February 2026

Careers Consultation Evenings: 4th and 5th February 2026

Sixth Form Open Evening: 11th March 2026 6.00pm

Sixth Form Games Night: 22nd April 2026

Scholarships available: Academic, Art, Drama, Music, Sport

Contact us: admissions@akslytham.com | 01253 784101

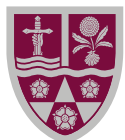
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Change your world





AKS Lytham

SIXTH FORM

45%
OF A LEVEL
GRADES
at A*/A



AVERAGE TUTOR
GROUP SIZE

12

AVERAGE SUBJECT
GROUP SIZE

8

48%
OF GCSE
GRADES
at 9-7

**INQUIRY
LEARNING
PROGRAMME**
UTILISING THE
FOSIL FRAMEWORK

**SCHOLARS'
PROGRAMME**
LUNCHTIME LECTURES
SCHOLARS' SOCIETY EVENTS

STUDENTS
SECURE DEGREE
APPRENTICESHIPS
**WITH TOP
EMPLOYERS**



92% OF STUDENTS
ACHIEVED THEIR PREFERRED
**UNIVERSITY
CHOICE**

FLEXIBILITY AND
FREE PERIODS FACILITATE
**INDEPENDENT
STUDY**

**SPECIALIST
CLINICS & STRETCH
SUPPORT
PROGRAMME**
TAILORS SUPPORT TO
INDIVIDUAL
REQUIREMENTS



ACTIVE ALUMNI BODY
DELIVERS REGULAR SESSIONS:
**"MEET THE
PROFESSIONALS"**
AND

"AN AUDIENCE WITH..."

1:1
**CAREERS
CONSULTATIONS**



**ALUMNI
CAREERS SUPPORT**

200+

MEMBERS FROM
DIVERSE PROFESSIONS

**WORK
EXPERIENCE
PROGRAMME**



BEYOND AKS
EXTENDS MENTORING
BEYOND SIXTH FORM

**BESPOKE
CAREERS
PROGRAMME**



**EUROPEAN
MUSIC
TOURS**

10 PLAYS
& CONCERTS
PER ANNUM



**SENIOR HOCKEY
AND RUGBY
SPORTS TOURS**
TO SOUTH AFRICA
AND ARGENTINA

9
MUSICAL
ENSEMBLES
& CHOIRS

ANNUAL
MUSICALS AT
**LOWTHER
PAVILION**

**CONTINUED
INVESTMENT**
IN THE SIXTH FORM CENTRE



REGULAR
STUDENT-LED
SOCIAL EVENTS



CULTURAL TRIPS
BROADEN HORIZONS



GOLD AWARD
c. **50%**
PARTICIPATION
RATE IN YEAR 12

PROUD MEMBER OF
THE ROUND SQUARE
NETWORK OF

200
SCHOOLS ACROSS
5 CONTINENTS



**ANNUAL
ROUND SQUARE
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES**



(SOUTH AFRICA,
CANADA, INDIA, NAIROBI
AND COLUMBIA)

**CCF AND STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
ROLES**



50+
CO-CURRICULAR
CLUBS



10
YEARS AT
THE TOP

OF THE NATIONAL
LEADERBOARD OF
**TYCOON IN
SCHOOLS
BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE
COMPETITION**

