

West Lakes Academy

- Dates:** Monday 21st – Friday 25th September 2015 (1 night per group)
- Group:** West Lakes Academy (Egremont, Cumbria). 230 Year 7 pupils, divided into tutor groups. Approx. 60 per night. Samantha Brown (Head of Year 7).
- Grant:** £750 from the Hadfield Trust.
- Theme:** Communication: getting to know each other and working as a team, while exploring a beautiful location. Local and global geography; environmental quality, globalisation, maps, and designing a country.
- People:** All activities delivered by the West Lakes teachers. There were different teachers each night: each tutor group was accompanied by their tutor.
- Links:** <http://www.westlakesacademy.org.uk/year-7-derwentwater-trip/>



Each day three different Year 7 tutor groups arrived for a one night stay. The residential was completely free of charge for each pupil, subsidised by the Hadfield Trust and West Lakes Academy.

The head of Year 7, Samantha Brown, commented:
The Derwentwater trip was a huge success! We were (mostly!) lucky with the weather and enjoyed the beautiful Lake District views. We took a trip on the ferry across the lake, built dens in the woods, and created our own marching chants. We hold the trip this early on in the school year because we believe it is really important for our new students to have the chance to bond away from the classroom, and to make new friends from other tutor groups.

This is a photo from the round-lake walk.



The groups arrived at the hostel at about 10am, ready for their day of challenges. The first thing they did was catch the Keswick Launch from Ashness Jetty, taking it round to Nichol End, on the other side of Derwent Water.



The walk around Derwent Water, on the lake shore path from Nichol End to the hostel (going anti-clockwise), is about 5 miles.

The pupils walked in teams, devising marching chants along the way. They also had to take a picture which captured them working together as a team.



Some of the creative tasks included: making 'wild art', such as stone sculptures; producing an acrostic poem of Derwent Water, with at least one line from each group member; and designing a map of the walking route.



The teams also had to produce a 'Top 5 tips for survival' for the next group.



This is a photo from the west side of Derwent Water, near Hawes End. The base of the tree trunk is hollow and so it makes a great little den!



Good team work was really important, and each group took the task of devising a team name very seriously! They also took photos of moments that captured them working as a team, and over the course of the day they had to think of at least one kind thing to say about each person in the group. They produced marching chants as well!



Here is another one of the teams: Team Tebay!



The pupils made dens and shelters in the woods around Derwent Water, using whatever natural materials they could find.



There were some wet shoes but everyone kept smiling!



Some group photos at the National Trust 'Entrust' sculpture on the west side of Derwent Water.



Exploring the Lodore Falls, on the east side of Derwent Water, and noticing the beautiful shapes in nature.



Looking south, down the Borrowdale Valley: the view from the 'Chinese' bridge, which spans the River Derwent.



Here are some of the pupils on the lake shore path. Along the walk the students tried to find out where other visitors to the area had come from. Then they discussed reasons for people to visit the area, and the impacts of international tourism in the Lake District.



The groups were not just focused on themselves: they had to think about how to act in a responsible manner towards the environment, and find out where other visitors to the area were from.

Here is a picture of some of the pupils on the Derwent Water foreshore, near the hostel. This is a very popular place for people to walk, but unfortunately not everyone respects the environment: sometimes there is rubbish left-over from picnics and barbecues.



During their stay, the teams also had to find out 5 facts/useful pieces of information about the hostel. Here is a picture of some of the pupils on the last stretch of the walk, going up the hostel driveway.

Back at the hostel, students enjoyed a delicious evening meal before playing team games together, including rounders and stuck in the mud. The students returned to the academy the following day, where they spent time in their tutor groups reflecting on the trip.

The whole week was really successful, with each group making the most of their one-night stay. The activities around Derwent Water gave much more meaning and purpose to the activities back at school, and the pupils got to know each other and their tutors really well.