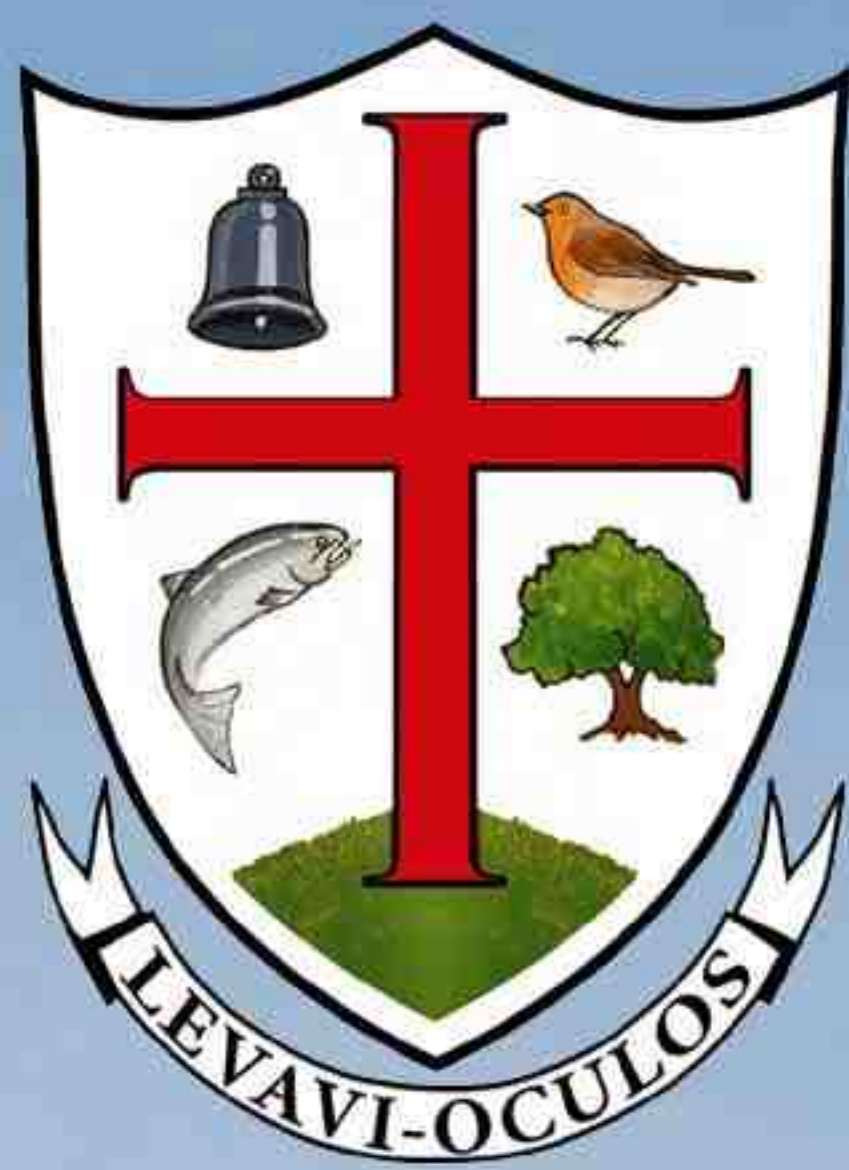


# Keswick




# School



PROSPECTUS



A group of five students in school uniforms are sitting in a lush green field, engaged in a study session. They are huddled together, looking at books and papers. The background shows a dense line of trees under bright sunlight.

*'The excellent leadership of the headteacher, first rate teaching, students' excellent attitude to learning and knowledgeable governance all combine to make Keswick School outstanding.'*

**Ofsted Report (2014)**





# Welcome

Welcome to Keswick School. I hope this prospectus conveys a sense of our rich, happy, purposeful community and the passion we have for learning. We share an ambition to be the best we can be. This happens through working in partnership, encouraging pupils to take risks, seeing failure as essential for success and developing confidence and resilience. It is what we want for our own children and is reflected in our school's motto *Levavi oculos*.

Keswick School is a co-educational day and boarding school. We invest time in developing positive relationships. These are revealed in personal qualities such as consideration, service and endeavour. Visitors are struck by the disciplined yet caring atmosphere and pupils who are mature, respectful and tolerant.

We value academic achievement, encourage excellence but appreciate that other qualities are equally likely to lead to success later in life. Our pupils broaden their horizons through the wide range of extracurricular activities that run every lunchtime and evening, from chess, writers and illustrators and horse riding to astronomy, rowing and first lego league.

Keswick School is a special place. The history and traditions of the school are most evident in our pupils. They enjoy being here and are extremely proud of the school they belong to. If your values and aspirations match ours then you would be welcome to join us. To find out more about Keswick School please visit our website or, even better, come and visit us in person - I look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,

S Jackson MA(Oxon) MEd FRSA  
Headteacher

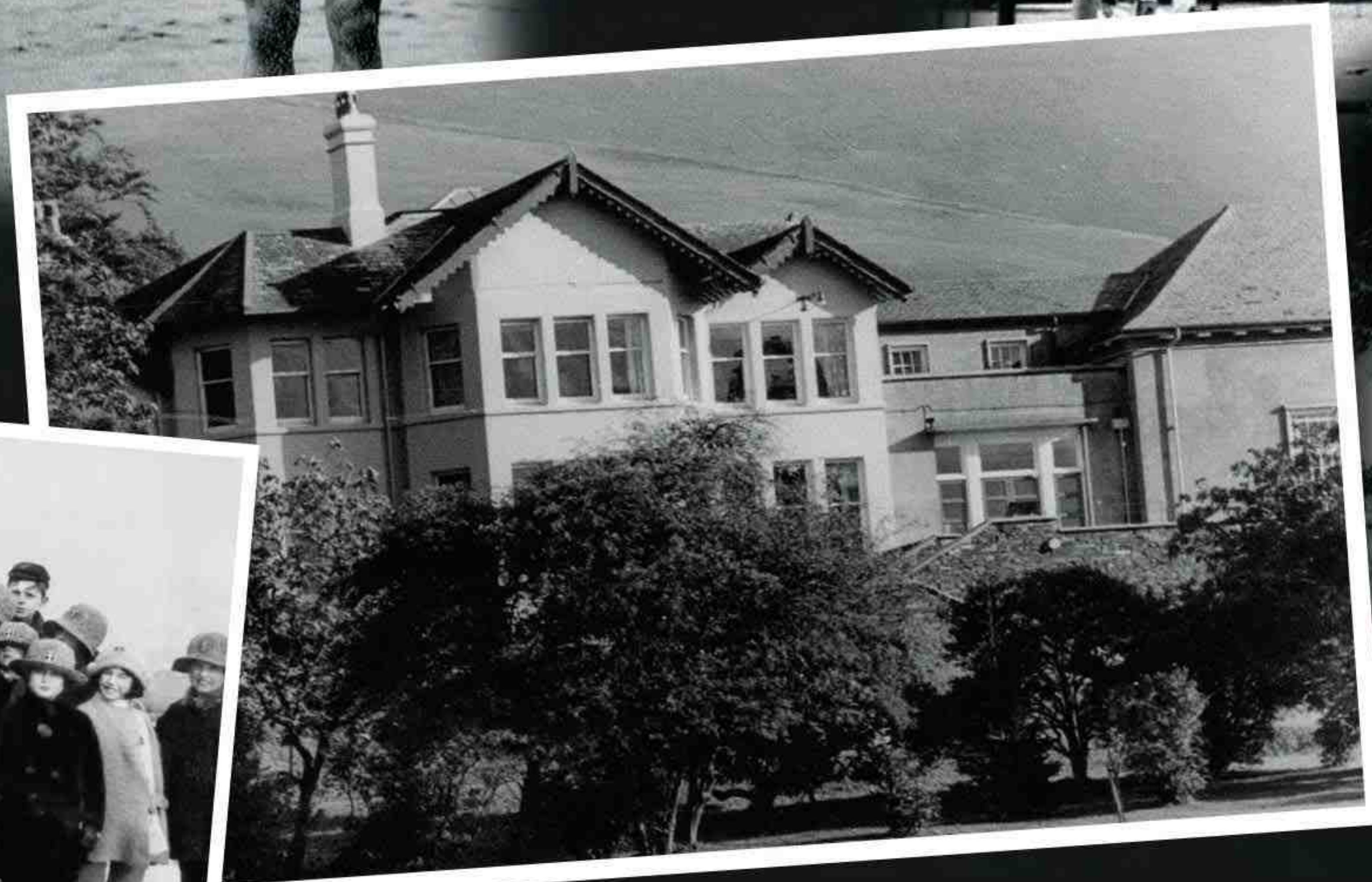
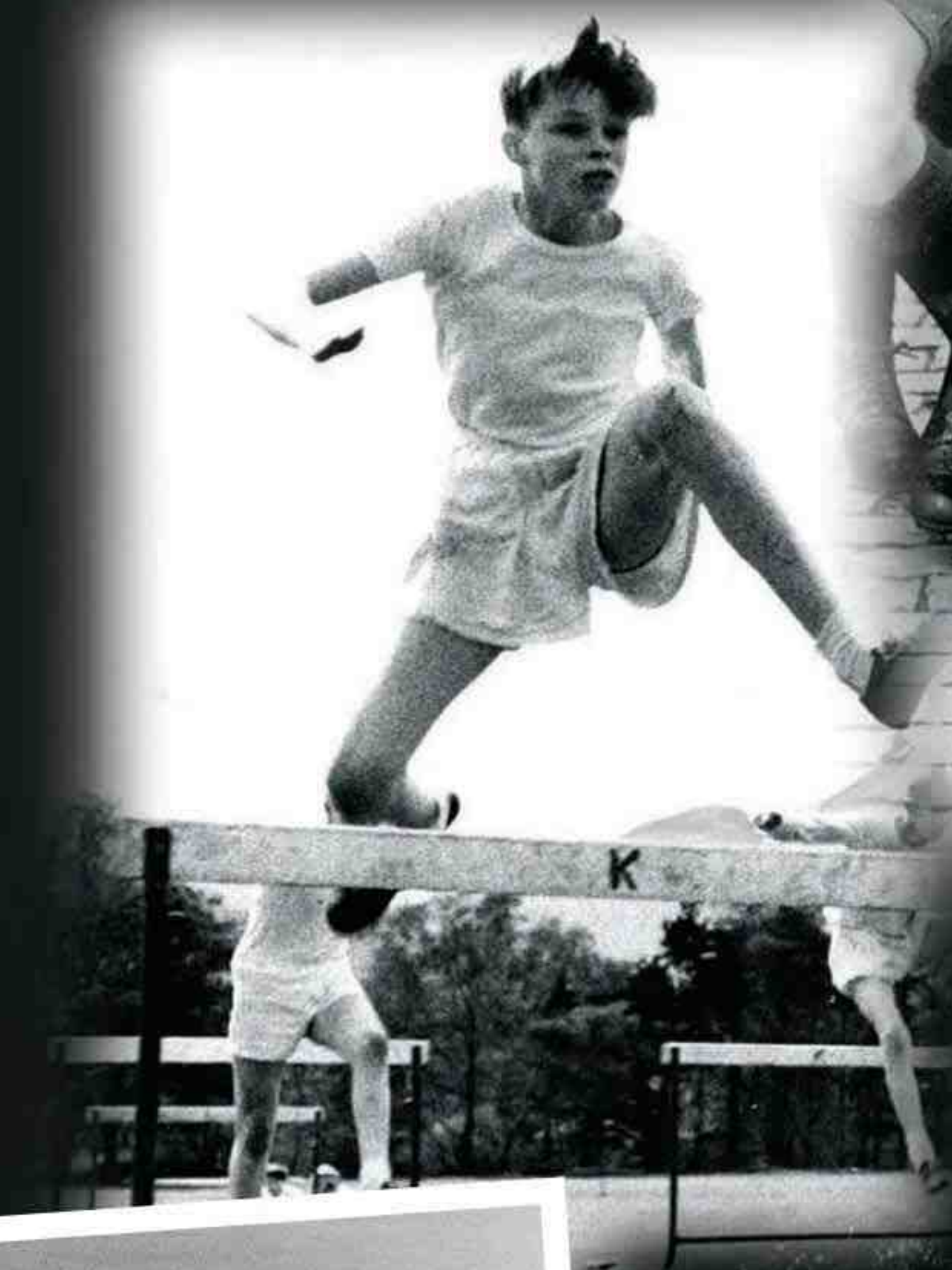
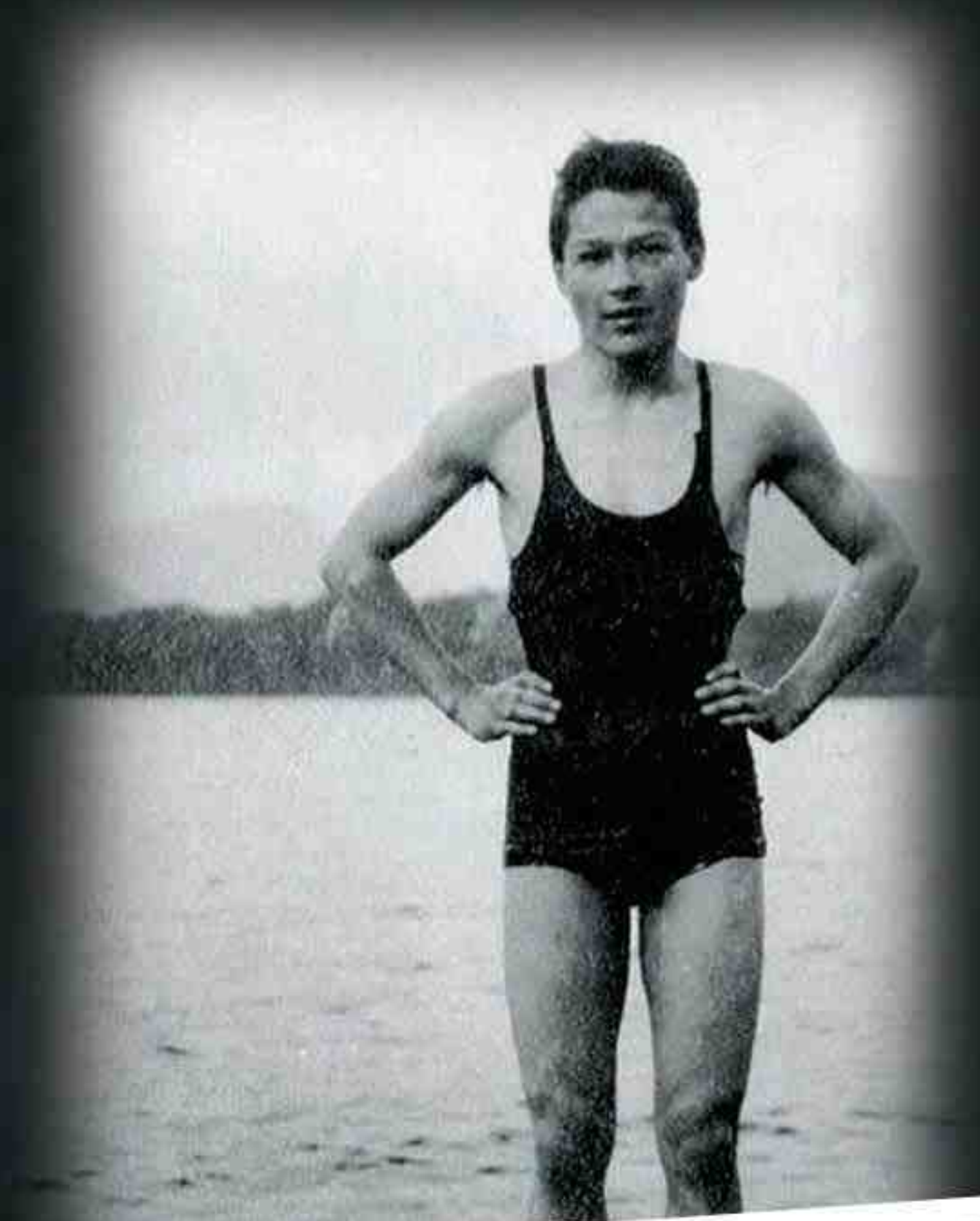


# *A brief history*

Our school possesses a rich tradition. Its origins date back over 650 years to the mid 14th Century when it was thought to have been founded by the vicar of Crosthwaite Church, Sir Thomas de Eskhead. This link with Crosthwaite Church is reflected on the school badge which represents the four miracles of St. Kentigern, to whom the church is dedicated.

Over the following centuries the school evolved from an Elementary Boys School to an Ancient Grammar School. The Ancient Grammar School was re-founded in 1898 by the Rev. Cecil Grant for the co-education of day and boarding pupils. There have been just seven Headteachers since then.

In 1946 Keswick School became a Voluntary Aided Grammar School. In 1980, the Governors established an enlarged non-selective Keswick School through an amalgamation with the former Lairthwaite Secondary Modern School. In July 2011 Keswick School became an Academy.







# Aims

- To maintain the highest expectations for all our students and seek excellence in everything we do.
- To instil traditional values such as courtesy and consideration for others.
- To develop every child's talents and interests, and broaden their horizons.
- To provide outstanding academic, social, moral, spiritual and cultural education.
- To maintain a varied and enriched curriculum to develop confident, creative, articulate and distinctive young people.
- To prepare students to be independent, resilient and life-long learners.
- To see learning through failure as essential for achieving success.
- To develop local, regional, national and international partnerships and constantly look for opportunities to extend learning.
- To encourage all parents to take an active interest in their child's education.
- To send into society level headed and compassionate young people who are a credit to themselves and the school.









# Our Community

*Our ethos is one of community where everyone works together to create a happy, caring and supportive environment.*

Our community is built on the principle of partnership. Behaviour is exemplary, pupils are encouraged to take risks in their learning and success is recognised and celebrated. Gifted and talented pupils are identified and catered for through an enrichment programme that includes activities both within and outside the curriculum. Pupils with Special Educational Needs are supported and encouraged.

We have a strong pastoral system. Pupils can seek support from any member of staff. Our specialist staff include: Heads of Year; school nurse; professional mentor; education support officer; the student support centre and the learning support department. Form heads support pupils with everyday issues, target setting and guidance. Liaison between school and home is one of our strengths and we expect parents to be actively involved within our community.

All year groups are represented on a School Council. This meets regularly and informs the school's decision making. There is a strong sense of service and we expect all our pupils to support their local communities.

Pupils are given many opportunities to develop as individuals within the life of the school. We pride ourselves on offering an extensive programme of over fifty clubs and societies ranging from debating, photography, rugby, sculpture, drama, film, sailing and writers and illustrators. These take place at lunchtime and after school stimulating the interests of pupils and enriching all areas of the curriculum and beyond. Many clubs and societies are pupil led and we are confident that everyone will find something to interest them. If a particular club does not already exist then pupils are encouraged to establish it.









# *Learning & inspiring*

*We provide a personalised curriculum that engages, inspires and challenges all our pupils.*

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) pupils develop their skills as learners. We pay particular attention to achieving high standards in literacy and numeracy. This enables pupils to realise their potential. We use an accelerated reader programme to encourage and challenge pupils to read for pleasure and knowledge. All students study one modern foreign language (French or German) in Year 7 and most go on to study two languages in Years 8 and 9.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) most pupils study 9 GCSEs. This includes English language, English literature, Maths and three separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) or Combined Science. Pupils have 3 option subjects. They can choose from: Art, Craft and Design, Business Studies, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Engineering, French, Geography, German, History, Computer Science, Music, PE and RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics).

Vocational options include: Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications and BTEC First Award in Business. Technical Awards are also available in Performance Skills (Drama), Fashion and Textiles, Materials Technology, Visual Communication and Sports Leadership. (Extended school options include: GCSE Latin, Astronomy and Dance which are offered after school).

All pupils undertake a Personal Development programme in Years 7-11. This includes careers education with pupils completing a week of work experience during Year 10.

Developing independent learners is an important part of our educational philosophy. Key Stage 3 pupils experience a variety of cross curricular weeks on diverse topics such as Our Universe, Language and the Landscape and Future Technology. All pupils take a Learn to Learn course in Year 7 and some take an Enquiry Based Learning course in Years 8 and 9.

Home learning has a vital role to play to support our aims. Activities are varied but include: reading, investigating, drawing, recording, creating, practising, revising and so on. Many departments use online learning through Google Classroom as well as their own websites and blogs to support home learning. A parents' guide to home learning is available on the school website.





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# *Beyond the classroom*

*Our programme of outdoor activities, trips, competitions and events builds confidence, develops teamwork and helps to nurture our community.*

Keswick School is set within an area of majestic scenery comprising of mountains and lakes. Consequently outdoor education plays a significant role in the development of our pupils. Activities include: climbing Skiddaw, walking around Derwentwater, orienteering, sailing, canoeing, raft building, rock climbing, running, cycling, rowing, skiing, horse riding, high ropes challenges and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

We are proud that our pupils volunteer in both the local community and in school, ranging from support for local organisations such as the Calvert Trust, Theatre by the Lake, Guide and Scout groups and charity shops to working in school as peer mentors and subject coaches.

The school house system means that all students become a member of either Rawnsley, Southey, Coleridge or Wordsworth Houses. This fosters a wider engagement between students of all ages and there are many opportunities to participate in inter-House competitions throughout the year.

We believe that learning should extend beyond the classroom and across subjects. All students have the opportunity to participate in local, national and international trips, activity days, competitions and events.

These range from local visits to the theatre or a sports event, to longer trips to London or Manchester. Overseas trips go to France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Poland and Cambodia. The school has a long standing exchange with Königslutter in Germany.









# Sport

We have a proud history of sporting success and encourage pupils to actively engage in an array of different sports. These include: netball, hockey, badminton, volleyball, basketball, tennis, cricket, athletics, rounders, rugby, football, orienteering, skiing and many more. Pupils represent the school in competitions and tournaments around the North of England.

The school has strong links with sports clubs in Keswick and benefits from professional coaching. Past and present students have achieved representation at county, regional and national levels. We have former pupils in the England Rugby Union squad (male and female), Alpine skiing, swimming, professional football, a number of excellent cricketers (male and female) and pupils competing in sports as diverse as open water swimming, cyclo-cross, downhill mountain biking, eventing and archery.





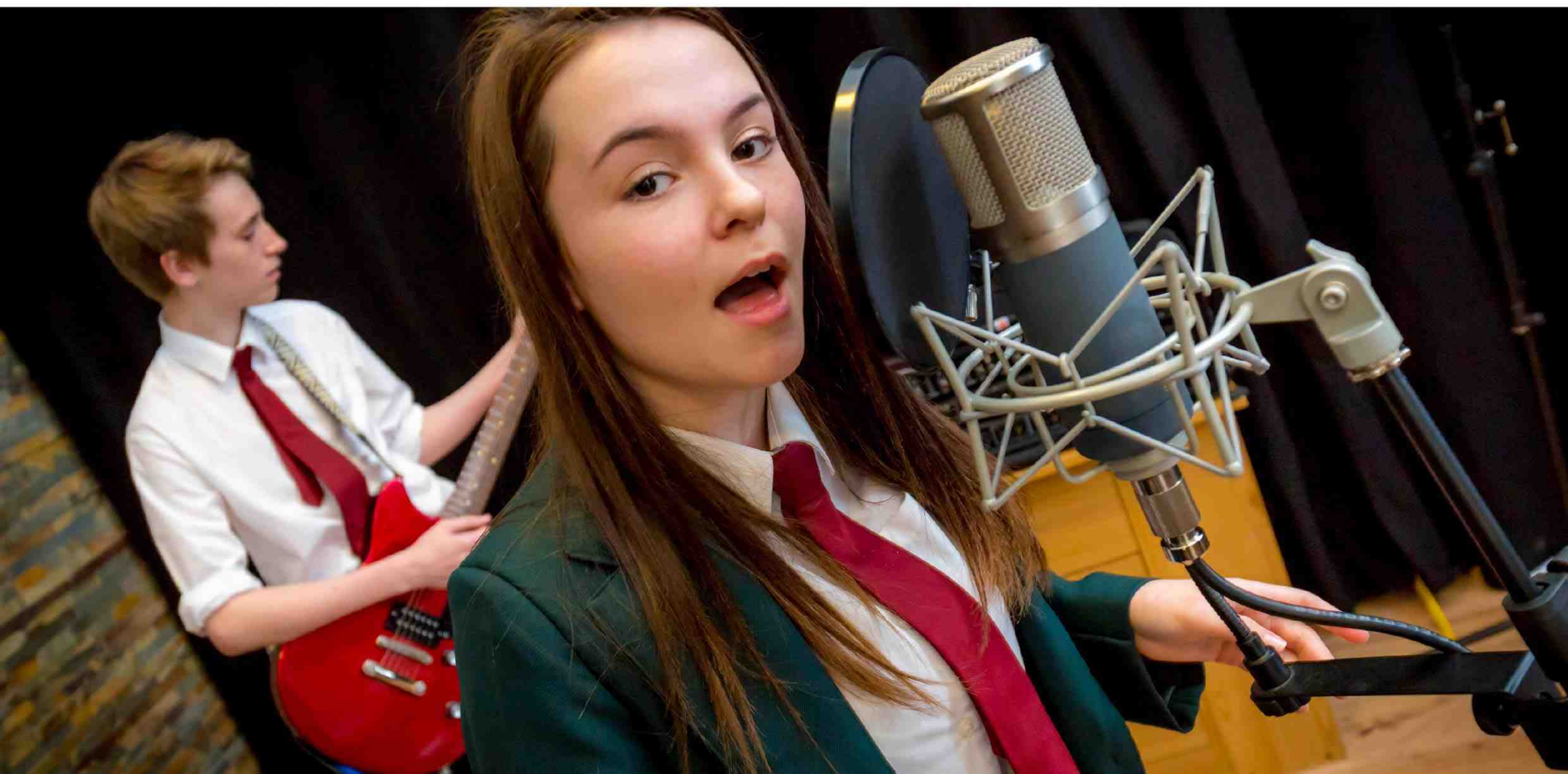


# Music

Pupils can take instrumental and singing lessons and many participate in one of our music groups including: the chamber orchestra; the Wind band; the Jazz band; various ensembles; the guitar group; the school choir; the pop choir and MOVE (Male Only Vocal Ensemble) to name a few. These groups perform at an array of events including the Young Musician concert, the Spring Concert, school productions, the Keswick Jazz festival and other local music festivals. We have a dedicated Music Centre which includes a recording studio and suite of Apple Mac computers.

Drama at Keswick School has a burgeoning reputation enhanced by the opening of 'The Judi Dench Performing Arts Theatre'.

We work closely with the Theatre by the Lake and a number of pupils perform in their productions. School musical productions have included 'We Will Rock You', 'West Side Story', 'Guys and Dolls' and 'Cabaret'. The department runs a Drama club and there is a youth theatre group after school. Both Music and Drama collaborate to produce a week long 'iPerform festival' in the Summer term.











# *Sixth Form*

*Our Sixth Form offers a rich and varied curriculum of A-levels to suit a range of higher education pathways.*

A-levels include: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, French, German, History, Geography, Media Studies, Music, Art and Design, Fashion and Textiles, Government and Politics, RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics), PE, Computer Science, Psychology, Sociology, Drama and Theatre Studies, Business Studies, Design and Technology: Product Design (3D). We also offer BTEC Level 3 in Business and Information Technology and Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary Diplomas for Music Practitioners. Students can also undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). Full details are set out in the Sixth Form prospectus, available on the school website.

We have a traditional prefect system. A Head Boy and Girl are supported by a team of senior prefects who oversee teams of subject and year group prefects. Prefects are role models for our younger pupils. They provide additional help and support that is a hallmark of our community.

Most of our students go to university. Students are guided through the UCAS process or to other training and employment destinations. We offer practice interviews and encourage work experience. We have partnerships with a range of universities including Newcastle, Durham and Lancaster. Our Oxbridge preparation is extensive and we have strong ties with The Queen's College, Oxford.





# Boarding

*Boarding has been an important part of our school since the Victorian times. Boarders have helped shape our ethos and bring a richness and diversity to our community.*

Lairthwaite House has 53 spaces for pupils aged 11-18 in 2, 3 and 4 bed dormitories. These are arranged by age with girls and boys separated on different floors. Each boarder has their own wardrobe, bookshelf and study desk. The House is well equipped with facilities including: a large communal common room and kitchen area; a Sixth Form common room and kitchen area; a music room; a computer room; laundry and sick bays. Boarders have access to tennis courts and other sports facilities in the evenings. The Head of House and Deputy Head of House are resident and a team of House parents provide additional support.

Boarding is like being part of an extended family.

Boarders work and play together, share experiences and aspirations, and develop life-long friendships. Boarding is a happy, close knit community where pupils can relax at the end of the school day. All boarders undertake prep 5 nights a week either in the main school (library or IT rooms) with academic tutors or in their own study areas. Boarders rapidly acquire independent study habits and organisation skills. This manifests itself in highly confident and articulate young people who excel academically.

One of the attractions of boarding is the variety of accessible activities. These include drama workshops, horse riding, dance, local sports clubs, craft workshops or spending a Friday night at the theatre or cinema to name a few. There is an organised outing every weekend and boarders are given the opportunity to undertake a residential outdoor programme over the May bank holiday weekend.



*'Keswick School is a place where all students, including those who live in the boarding house thrive and become mature adults who are extremely well prepared for their future lives.'*

**Ofsted (2014)**







# Admissions

## Day admissions

Applications for Year 7 should be submitted according to Local Authority guidelines and timeframes. Information about the application process is contained within a parent information pack published by the Local Authority. This can be accessed via their website. Application forms can be completed on line, or sent directly to Cumbria County Council School Admissions.

As an Academy we are our own admissions authority. We set our own oversubscription criteria - our Admissions policy is available on the school website. If you have any questions about the application process or would like to provide supporting information please contact our Admissions Secretary:

### **Mrs Tracey Troman.**

017687 72605 Ext 229

[traceytroman@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:traceytroman@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk)

## Sixth Form admissions

Applications for Year 12 should be submitted to the Sixth Form Office following the Sixth Form information evening in January. The Sixth Form prospectus is available on the school website. Applications are welcomed from students currently attending Keswick School and from those attending other schools; to apply, please select the appropriate version of the Sixth Form application form from the website.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact:

### **Mrs Jane Challis.**

017687 72605 Ext 276

[janechallis@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:janechallis@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk)

## Boarding admissions

We are one of 38 state boarding schools in the UK. The following conditions apply to all applicants for boarding:

1. Applicants must be UK or EU citizens or have full UK passports with the right of abode in the UK.
2. All applicants must attend an interview to establish suitability for boarding according to the government's published guidelines (in exceptional circumstances this can be arranged via Skype).
3. Applicants whose parents do not normally live in the UK or who travel frequently away from home must have an adult guardian who resides in the UK.

Upon application please forward a copy of your child's latest school report together with a copy of their passport. References will be requested from the applicant's current school. To apply for a boarding place or for more information please contact our Boarding Secretary:

### **Mrs Sal Pepper.**

017687 72605 Ext 248

[boarding@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:boarding@keswick.cumbria.sch.uk)



# Keswick School



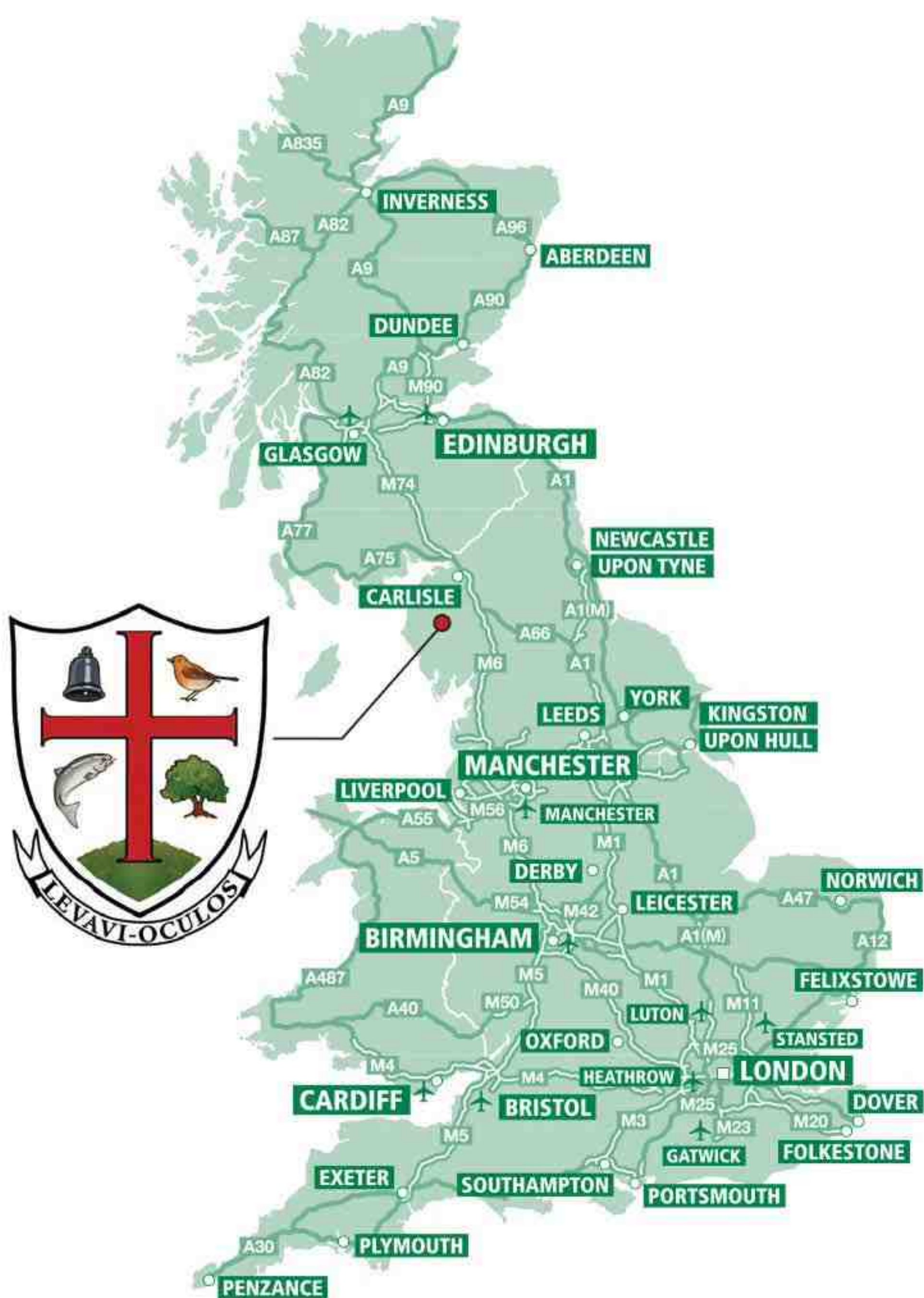
## How to find us

**By Road:** (North/South) From the M6 leave at junction 40 (Penrith) and follow the A66 towards Keswick, turn left onto the B5289 on the west side of Keswick and then left again onto Church Lane following the signpost up Vicarage Hill to the school.

**By Rail:** The nearest main line station is Penrith (25 minutes by road with hourly bus connections).

**By Air:**

Glasgow International	2 hrs 20 mins
Manchester International	2 hrs 10 mins
Newcastle International	2 hrs
Durham Tees Valley	1 hr 50 mins

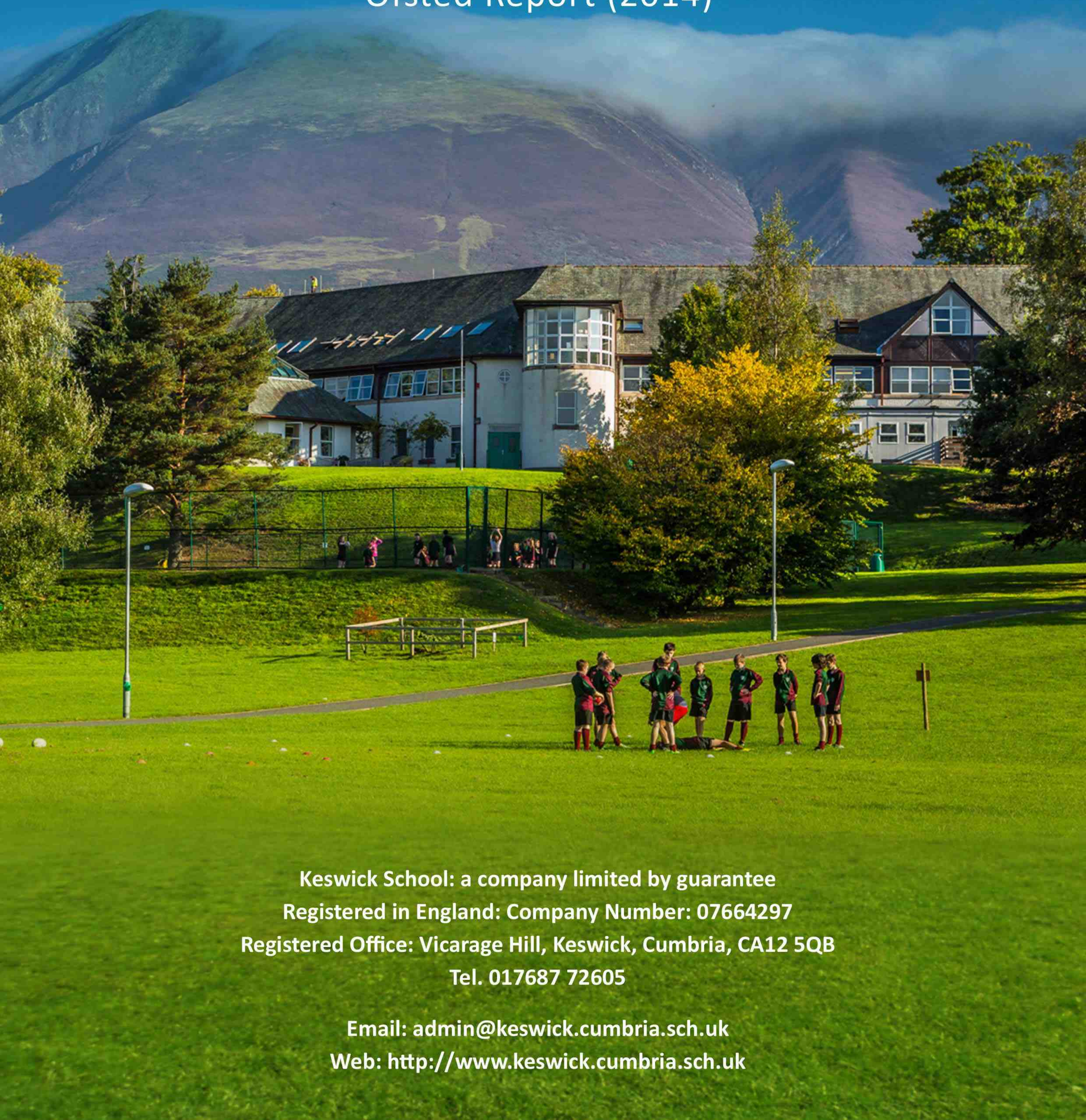




# Keswick School



*'This is an outstanding school.'*  
Ofsted Report (2014)



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