

Autumn 2009

2nd edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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HEAD'S VIEW



Dear parents and friends of Beacon Hill

As we near the end of term it is time for me to reflect on our work over the term and to look forward to the New Year. What a very busy term this has been!

Our Ofsted last month was the official confirmation that the school is now officially 'good' with **outstanding** features and that we are providing a good education for all our pupils. I was especially pleased with the comments from our young people when they told the inspectors that they felt happy and safe in the school and also the recognition that as a school we are inclusive, helping all our pupils to achieve no matter what barrier to learning they may have. I would like to thank all our staff, pupils and governors for their hard work, determination and commitment to the school and to the parents for their loyalty and support. I recommend that you take some time to read the report. However, this is not the end of our work and we continue on our journey to make Beacon Hill an outstanding school.

The excitement over the Ofsted report was soon overshadowed by the news that two of our teachers' homes were washed away in the floods and they are still struggling to get back to normal. For the rest of us inconvenience and traffic jams are a small price to pay. Our thoughts are with Mr Dalzell and Mr Millne and their families and I would like to thank all the students who raised money to buy them food hampers; I know that it meant a great deal to them to know how much we care.

Finally, Christmas arrangements are well on their way and we have the usual Christmas lunch prepared by our 'in house' expert Mrs Storey (sadly this will be her last Christmas at Beacon Hill as she retires in the New Year), the Christmas carol service held this year in the Methodist Church and our end of term activities on Thursday and Friday.

So I wish you all a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. See you all in January!



Annual Chess Tournament

In the run up to the Christmas break a chess tournament has been held in the library during break and lunchtimes. This has become a very popular annual event. It's obvious that we have quite a lot of avid chess players in our midst, none of

the staff who bravely volunteered were a match for our budding grandmasters! The final playoffs were a 3 way split between **Ian Gilbertson** Yr8, **Adrian Scott** Yr9 & **Ronnie Morris** Yr10. Expectations were for a one horse race with Ronnie being the bookies favourite to win from previous year's performance as he was the student winner in 2006 whilst only in year 7! However a dark horse was lurking in Adrian as he demolished Ronnie in a classic four moves placing Ronnie in checkmate in a flash! After the 3 finalist all played each other Adrian was declared Chess Champ of 2009 with Ronnie taking second runner up and Ian a very commendable third. Well done to all who took part especially nice to see a few more girls participating this year.

Mrs Cruickshank

Sponsored Reading



Every year during Children's Book we encourage Yr 7 students to take part in READATHON, sponsored reading raising much needed funds for 2 Children's Charities – CLIC Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation who between them help children & young people in Britain suffering from cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy, blood disorders or acquired brain injury. Amazingly a few students have raised an astounding total of £192 by reading as many books as possible within 2 weeks, our best ever total! Although lots of students (17) initially showed interest in taking part, the total amount was raised by only 8 students. If anyone has their sponsorship cards & money languishing at home, it isn't too late to hand them in to make the above amount even more spectacular.

Mrs Cruickshank

Who am I?

In our L2L Humanities lessons, we have been learning about Aspatria's history and continuity. To help us understand what our town used to be like, we have had a visit from Mrs Pattinson who has lived here her whole life. We were able to hear first hand from Mrs Pattinson about her memories from school, work and how she spent her leisure time. The visit helped us a lot with our L2L project "Who am I". Mrs Pattinson commented on how well mannered the class were and in her reply to a student's question regarding local celebrities she said "They weren't discovered in those days but there were some wonderful people. Doors were never locked, much caring & sharing." She also included a lot of information about local personalities & places such as Sheila Fell (artist), Miss Vera Stoddart (awarded the MBE for her many years of devoted service to the local community) and Charley Overs cinema in her after talk letter. Thank you Mrs Pattinson for giving up your time to talk to us.

Lynsey Rumney YR7

Busy Time

A big thanks to all who have sang with the singing group this term. A new crop of year 7's, namely Chloe Tordiff, Chelsea Buchanan, Ellie Watson, Kerry Sim and Sally Dixon have provided fantastic new life to the sound and with our die-hard supporters (Chanelle Potter, Rebecca Nicholson, Shannon Turnbull, Abbie and Anita Ungless) make a tremendous group. After performing at the open evening, the group sang in assembly performing The Climb by Miley Cyrus and Rule the World by Take That. For most of November and December the focus has been Christmas. After a busy Saturday morning at the Christmas Tree Festival where we sang a recital of old and new Christmas songs, we managed a repeat performance in front of over 200 of Aspatria's senior citizens at the Pensioners Christmas lunch. The final big performance of course is the school carol service this year held at the Methodist Chapel on Tuesday. Singing group runs every Tuesday if you want to come along, you're more than welcome.

Mr Deakin

Scores on the Doors

The food at Beacon Hill School has always been produced in a safe and hygienic manner and now it's official. The catering department has been awarded **5 stars** after a visit from the local environmental health officer.



In order to receive this award a number of criteria had to be met, including a clean and well maintained kitchen, good staff training and a system that ensures safe food is being produced. (HACCP – Hazard Analysis Critical control Points)

Catering manager Margaret Storey attended a course held by CMC, the schools catering consultant and then returned to put her system in place. This achieved the highest possible score and indicated a fully implemented system along with supporting documentation. Well done to Margaret and her team.

www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk

Drew Sinclair CMC

Peer Mentoring

In June this year whilst we (12 students) were in Year 9 we trained for 5 weeks with Mentor Point following a course on Peer mentoring. Now the training has been completed we would like to set up peer mentoring in school.

Part of our role as peer mentors in school is to support the younger pupils particularly the yr 7's through the transition of moving from junior to secondary school. Helping the mentees to adapt to school life, dealing with the differences, building up confidence, self esteem and helping them with their behaviour.

We are also here to listen and support any of the pupils if they have any worries if they feel they are unable to talk to a member of staff about their concerns like, bullying, some else being bullied, struggling in lesson or homework.

Being a peer mentor also helps us to learn and develop new skills.

- To start off the programme we are having small group sessions during lunchtime, with a group of yr 7 pupils and 2 peer mentors where they can talk and do fun activities.
- Then we would like to have a drop in service at dinner times on an informal basis where pupils can come and talk to the peer mentors about any worries or problems they may be experiencing.

Once up and running we would like to have a referral system, where members of staff can refer a pupil if they think that they would benefit from talking to a peer mentor. We also have plans for a page on our school website linked to a peer mentor email address so that students can contact us in confidence and without any stigma attached.

Dominic Searby & Rebecca Hodgson YR10

999 Emergency Visit

On 6th November a group of Literacy Plus students went to visit Workington Fire Station. This was part of a unit of work called '999 in an emergency' which helped those involved to improve their Speaking and Listening skills. We were also accompanied by two ASDAN students as this visit tied in with their work. All students showed excellent progress over the course of the unit of work and this was a perfect chance to show them off!

Our afternoon began with a test call to the station in case they received a genuine emergency call out while we were visiting. After that we were given a guided tour around the fire engines by three fire fighters from White Watch. We were given the opportunity to sit in the back of the fire engine and find out what jobs each of the firemen had to do on a typical call out. We were also given lots of information about what their equipment could do. One fact which I think surprised everyone was that the foam used to put out certain fires is actually made from animal blood! Yuck!

After we were shown around we had the opportunity to ask some questions which we had prepared in school before we went. All of the pupils showed off their speaking and listening skills well and as a result found out lots of information about things like their last call out, what they do when they are not called out to emergencies and even about prank calls.

A good time was had by all, even if we didn't get to slide down the fireman's pole!

Mrs Fisher



We Remembered

Young people often get criticised for being thoughtless and selfish. On November 11th, Remembrance Day, we paid respect to those young men and women who fought and died for us in the First World War and for all those since that conflict who have lost their lives or been affected by war.

Our period of remembrance started the week before Armistice Day when an assembly led by Kentigern 2 tutor group informed everyone about the meaning of the poppies that are sold every year. This was followed by all tutor groups using their discussion time to talk about the last war veteran Harry Patch and his life.

On Wednesday the Armistice assembly was led by the Head teacher with readings from three year 9 students and the Reverend Shaw who brought in a wooden cross used to mark the grave of Captain Henry Bell one of the soldiers from Aspatria who was killed in France in 1917. Finally we ended our commemoration with a visual presentation and two minutes silence as we thought about all those people affected by war past and present.

Mrs Richardson said *'I was deeply moved by the respect and commitment all our young people paid over the day.'*

Comments made by our young people also showed just how much they cared:

'I didn't know that 71 people died in the first world war- that's a lot from Aspatria' **Gareth James**

'I felt sorry for the soldiers who had to fight' **Abbie Ungless**

'They were true heroes and so are all the ones in Afghanistan' **Luke Kershaw**

'The whole school was dead quiet as we all thought about the soldiers' said **Danielle Lindsay**



Mountain Biking in Whinlatter Forest

On 17th November we set off for Gibbs Hill farm but beforehand we went Mountain Biking at Whinlatter. Firstly we went in and out of tight cones to show that we had the skills needed to safely weave in and out of rocks. We went under a bar to show that we could duck under branches; we had a go at standing on the bike to show that we were good at balancing too. We also completed a safety check of our bike's gears and brakes. Then we went on our first trail, the blue trail.

When I was coming down the hill, it was a brilliant experience, I had to concentrate so much it was hard work. The first track was easy, then they got harder on the second one after that we had to bike up a hill where we waited for the ones who were behind us. Frankie and James went back to the bus whilst the rest of us practised jumping over a stick to prepare for the next track. After completing quite a few uphill and downhill courses we biked back for our lunch, afterwards we looked around the shop. Frankie, James, Chantel and I decided to go for a walk, unfortunately it then started to rain and hailstone so we had to return to the bus where we waited for the rest of our group, the ones that were still biking. After taking off our waterproofs we finally we set off to Gibbs Hill Farm.

Russell Cartwright YR11

Christmas Tree Festival

Recently we helped to support the Christmas Tree Festival at St Kentigern's Church in Aspatria. Our school made a tree collage for the event - consisting of a cardboard cone-shaped base on top of a stool, painted green which was then covered in cut up cds and other shiny materials such as glitter. As there is no electrical socket in the entrance all these materials were designed to create as much light as possible without the use of electricity. The tree was made by our year 9's and Mrs Clitheroe with a little help from year 10 and 11- they all did an excellent job.



Year 9 also made a mosaic tableau of the three kings following the star. This was mainly made with small pieces of coloured tiles. They spent a total of 3-4 weeks on these projects and were justifiably very proud when they had finished.

Yr8 students, Rebecca Beattie, Scott Batchelor and Laura Foster-Devaney designed a PowerPoint. Scott created a digital tree animation; Laura researched and put on a PowerPoint surrounding the history of Christmas carols with Rebecca helping on both. Unfortunately due to a final hitch Laura's and Becky's PowerPoint wasn't added to Scott's PowerPoint, so only Scott's animation made it to church.

Lots of students from different year groups helped to contribute in different ways towards the Christmas Tree Festival, the first celebration of its kind in Aspatria.

Scott Batchelor & Rebecca Beattie YR8

We would like to thank Beacon Hill staff and students who joined with church and community groups to help us turn St Kentigern's Church into a very special giant work of art for the Christmas Tree Festival on the first weekend of December. We had many visitors from far and near, some so impressed that they came back for another look. Everyone was full of praise for the imagination, creativity and craftsmanship on show. So thank you to Mrs Clitheroe and her students for creating the mosaic panel and tree in the porch and Scott Batchelor for the delightful computer animation that formed part of the video presentation. Thank you also to Mr Deakin and the group of singers who entertained visitors for an hour on Saturday. We raised a much-needed £2750 for church funds, but more than that we had a lot of fun, and we hope you did too. Thank you all. Have a wonderful Christmas.

Rev. Clive Shaw



The ASDAN Experience

For the past year I have been involved in the ASDAN group where I have learned new skills as well as learning about all the different plants, weeds and tools. We are transforming the area at the back of the school to look neat & tidy! We swapped all the dead horrible weeds for nice fresh plants and swept all the leaves up off the new Astroturf. We also go to the Dreamscheme Garden regularly to do some work down there for the local community.

I try and work to the best of my ability; it gets a bit tricky at times especially as I hate the cold weather and when you have really mucky hands you sometimes have no other choice but to wash them in cold water. Which is not nice when it's freezing!

We have been selling some of our products that we have grown ourselves and we have also used our produce to make jam; we have been showed how to in our Food & nutrition classes by Mrs McGeough.

I have found my ASDAN experience really enjoyable; we work together as a group carrying out a variety of challenges together which each others support & help. We all helped each other to bring the new poly-tunnel up to a high standard which we feel we achieved amazingly.

Chantelle Jackson Yr10

STOP PRESS ASDAN CHRISTMAS SALE RAISED A GRAND TOTAL OF £350.



Astroturf & Sports Hall Open for Community Use

Our new **all weather, multi sport, floodlit Astro-turf facility** will be opening for use early in the New Year. The Astro turf consists of 2 multi purpose pitches, on which a range of sports can be played such as football, hockey, rugby and tennis. There is also a 3m net divide that can go across the pitch so depending on your need you can use the full pitch or just half for a competitive price. If required it is possible (on request) to make use of our footballs, cones, bibs etc for a small returnable deposit to cover lost or damaged equipment.

Below is a table showing the opening times for both the Astro turf and Sports Hall facilities along with the hire charges.

ASTROTURF				SPORTS HALL	
Monday—Friday 5pm until 10pm				Monday—Wednesday 5pm until 9pm	
ADULT HIRE		JUNIOR HIRE			
Full Pitch	£35 per hour	Full Pitch	£25 per hour	£12 per hour	
1/2 Pitch	£20 per hour	1/2 Pitch	£15 per hour		

For further information or to book please contact **Mr. J. Mason** our sports hall assistant by email (jmason@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk) or telephone the school office (016973 20509). Further information, booking forms and conditions of hire can be found on the school website www.beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk/further-education/community-sports.



Green Fingers

The gardening club has been meeting every Friday dinner time this term. We started off in September harvesting the things we had grown in the poly tunnel this year. Every week we try

out another activity, sowing seeds, planting bulbs, scavenger hunts, exploring our beautiful ancient arboretum.

Recently we have learnt how to make Christmas wreaths and had a go at decorating one. The photo shows students preparing pine cones to add onto a wreath.

All the students in the gardening club had the opportunity to buy one wreath at cost price and received 10% off any purchases on the day of the Christmas sale.

Mrs Skillicorn

Making Bird Boxes

Thomas Carrick and Connor Abram have been busy making bird boxes as one of their ASDAN challenges. The boxes are made from recycled material, they were sold at the Christmas Sale for

£5 each together with all the other goodies the ASDAN students have been busy creating. Other items for sale included: homemade jams and chutneys from this year's harvests at the Dream-scheme garden and in the poly-tunnel, Xmas decorations, Christmas wreaths, locally sourced vegetables and pots of spring bulbs, tulips, narcissi, crocuses etc. Well done to all the students who have made this term such a pleasant experience. Keep growing!



Mrs Skillicorn

Climbing Training

On Sunday 25th October 5 members of staff (Mr Young, Mr Gee, Miss White, Miss Kaye and Miss Pandrich) attended a climbing course which enabled us to lead climbing sessions on our climbing wall in the gym. We are hoping that having this extra string to our bow will engage more pupils in PE and give them another opportunity that they might not normally get. Climbing club is on at the moment on a Friday night 3:15 – 4:30.

Sports Clubs

Firstly I would like to say thank you to everyone that has been attending clubs. The clubs at start of this academic year have been the best attended since I started at Beacon Hill. As a department we are willing to offer any activity that the pupils are interested in so if there is not a club on that you would like to attend then please come and see me and we will try and sort it out for next half term.

The clubs that are on this half term have been **Cheerleading, Boccia, Football, Girls Football, Table Tennis, Badminton, Netball, Crazy Catch, Hockey, Dodge ball, Multi Skills, Climbing and Inter Cricket.**

Thank you again and hopefully the club attendance will get better and better.

About the game

The aim of the game is to throw leather balls - coloured **red** or **blue** - as close as they can to a white target ball, or jack. The jack is thrown first, then each side takes turns to propel their ball towards the jack. At the end of each round, or end, the referee measures the distance of the balls closest to the jack, and awards points accordingly - one point for each ball that is closer to the jack than the opponent's closest ball. The team/player with the highest number of points at the end of play is the winner.

Boccia Tournament



In October a team of five students represented Beacon Hill in a Boccia tournament competing against 12 other teams from schools and colleges within the county. Our school came 3rd overall and 2nd in the groups competition.

To find out more about the event I interviewed Connor Abram (year 8 student) who was the team captain.

Q. Where was the venue for the Boccia tournament?

A. We went to Lakes College, Workington.

Q. Who represented the school?

A. I went with Serena and Declan Phillips, Dan Troddan and Oliver Stewart.

Q. How did you prepare for the tournament?

A. We practised at lunch times at school and before we start we have a team talk.

Mrs Chandler & Connor Abram YR8

Sports Personality of the Year Awards 2009



After a long wait the 2009 sports personality awards were held at the Lakeside on Friday 23rd October. Although smaller than previous years the event was no less grand. All of the nominees were smartly dressed and well presented. Pupils won awards, ranging from representation awards up to the ultimate accolade - Sports Personality of the Year award. The main awards of the evening went to: **Thomas Carrick** who won the **Rudd trophy** which is for excellent attitude towards PE;

The Lynn Trussell Leadership Award went to **Joseph Barnes** for his tremendous leadership within all year groups in all sports; **Captain of the Year** went to **Callum Clark** for his fabulous attitude whilst playing with the year 10 football team. The biggest award of the night was the Sports Personality of the Year Award; this award is for pupils that have contributed to the PE department in many different ways such as conscientiously always having their PE kit, trying hard in lessons, attending and participation in after school clubs, taking sports sessions and officiating/organising activities/matches in addition to their actual sporting skills and success. The well-deserved **Sports Personality winners** this year were **Paige Cass & Michael Prescott**.

Thank you very much to everyone that attended and thank you to all pupils who participate in lessons, clubs and teams, without you PE in school wouldn't be as successful as it is and the evening wouldn't be held.

Mr Young (Head of PE)

Diary Dates

[See our full calendar on the school website](#)

14 –18 December 2009	Work life balance week - no after school clubs or detentions
15 December 2009	School Christmas Lunch & Carol Service @ Methodist Church 2—3pm
18 December 2009	End of term early finish @ 1pm
4 January 2010	INSET school closed
5 January 2010	Spring Term begins
15 January 2010	YR11 Mock Results afternoon 2 –3.30pm (Study leave arrangements for other years)
22 January 2010	Fairtrade Conference @ Keswick School
9 February 2010	YR11 Next Steps Evening
15 – 20 February 2010	Half-term
22 –26 February 2010	YR10 Internal Exams
9 March 2010	YR9 Aimhigher—Get The Whole Picture @ Solway School
9 March 2010	YR9 Options Evening
26 March 2010	End of Term
12 April 2010	Summer Term begins
20 April 2010	Yr7 & 8 Parents Evening