

Autumn
2012
1st Edition



Dear parents and friends of BHS

I am writing to you at the end of a very exhausting half term where the worry of an impending Ofsted, coupled with the controversy over the new national funding formula for schools has kept us all busy! It is that time of year I suppose; the days are drawing shorter and the work load for staff and students is growing longer. We have done so much in such a little time from dancing for charity in our breaks and lunchtimes, extended homework tasks to hosting our visitors from Ghana and Supercool science shows. And that is on top of all the excellent work that goes on in lessons! Not a minute to spare! I would like to wish all the staff and students a well earned rest this half term and a chance to recharge the batteries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Richardson'.

HEADTEACHER

BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter



I discovered that 'Save the Children' had arranged a national charity event called 'The Ultimate Dance Challenge', which entailed dancing non-stop for FIVE HOURS! I decided to personally take on this challenge with the help of students who would complete their own challenge in a relay. The opportunity to dance non-stop for 50 minutes was offered to

all students and in total I had around 104 students volunteering to dance at various times throughout the day from 11am to 4pm. I could not stop as my challenge was to keep dancing for 5 hours which even meant dancing while eating my sandwiches at lunchtime! The dancing saw students busting moves to the likes of the 'Conga' and the 'Cha cha slide' as well as trying their own freestyle to some of the latest hits. 25 students came back after school to dance to the end and will definitely have seen a difference in my moves at 3.30pm compared to when I was fresh at 11am! The deadline for the charity money is close but already we have raised over £500 for 'Save the Children'.



Well done everyone and thank you for your efforts.

Miss Kaye

Almost all of our students are smart and dressed appropriately for school; however, we have a few uniform reminders. Please remind your child that they are not allowed to wear bright nail varnish to school. Also extreme hair styles or colours are not allowed. Please support us over these matters to keep our students looking smart and a credit to us all.

Market Square

Aspatria

Cumbria

CA7 3EZ

Tel: 016973 20509

Fax: 016973 22510

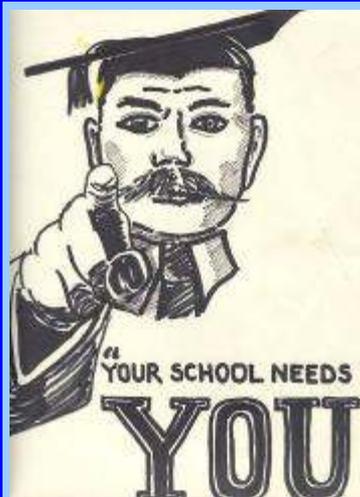
Email:

beaconhill@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

www.beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher:

Mrs J. Richardson, B.Ed. N.P.Q.H.



Governor Vacancy

An exciting opportunity has arisen to play a part in the running of our school.

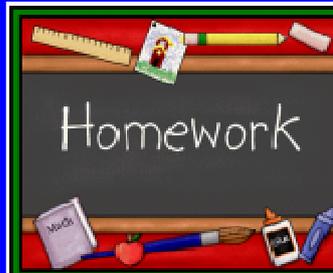
The full governing body normally meets about 5 times per academic year. The committees that support the governing body usually meet once a term, so 3 times per academic year. Governors spend an average of 3 hours per school month on related activities including the meetings and preparatory

reading.

The governing body is answerable to parents and the community. The core responsibilities can be summarised as:

- providing strategic management
- acting as a critical friend to the school
- ensuring accountability
- promoting high standards of education & achievement
- planning the schools' long term future
- setting the school's aims and values
- appointing senior members of staff including the Head Teacher
- budgetary allocation and control

If you are interested in playing a part please contact Clerk to the Governors Mrs A Hemingway at the school on 016973 20509, beaconhill@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk or by letter.



Extended Homework YR7-9

Parents can access details of the extended

homework set via the parents tab on the school website.

These are longer homework projects you may wish to support your child with.

School Transport

Retender exercise for school transport

If you have any issues or comments

regarding transport to school that you would like taken into account now is your chance. Please contact Ingrid Simmonds, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA Tel. 01228 226426

ingrid.simmonds@cumbria.gov.uk



Interim Assessments All students in YR7-9 will bring home their Assessment sheet in early December. Included will be the usual attainment level for each subject and effort grade. In addition we will now include a homework & behaviour grade.



Pre-16 Supported Progression Information

Evening

YR10 students & parents

Tuesday 30th October

Carlisle Racecourse

7-9pm

For more information

http://www.dur.ac.uk/supported_progression/pre16/

To book a place call

0191 3349122

or e-mail

richard.coldwell@durham.ac.uk

An invitation to all Secondary School Pupils

Engineering Awareness Day

GEN II Workshop Tours

10.30am
11.30am
12.30pm
1.30pm
2.30pm

ENERGUS, Lillyhall, Workington

Saturday 17th November 2012
10.00am – 3.00pm

Day 30 Exhibits:
Engineering Companies, Universities, Education Organisations

For all young people in West Cumbria, Years 9 – 13, to learn about Engineering in its diverse forms and career pathways (Under 16's must be accompanied by an adult)

Careers Advice

Hands-on Activities

To Workington Town Centre and A258 Moyock
To Workington Ferry Centre
To Workington
To Carlisle South Quay
To Whitehaven and Blancow

For more information contact
Mandy Pattinson, 01946 852680
e-mail: mandy.pattinson@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk



Oh, So Smart! YR11 Prom

After all the exams had passed we said goodbye to last year 11's in style. In June we held our Year 11 prom at Wheyrigg Hotel to celebrate their achievements and the time they have spent together over the course of the past 5 years at Beacon Hill.

A good time was had by all, with the majority of the Year 11 students and some of the staff coming together to share this evening of celebration. This was an event which everyone obviously enjoyed and it was nice to see the amount of effort that all the students had gone to, boys dressed smartly in their suits and the girls in their prom dresses, with perfect make-up and sleek hairstyles. Some had even gone that extra mile - arriving in style, chauffeur driven in nothing other than a Rolls Royce and a Bentley!



There was great food, excellent music and a fabulous atmosphere with everyone making an effort to join in the celebration, by taking to the dance floor for a huge part of the evening. Some light hearted humour was added when certificates were presented to each of the students, novel awards which drew on the memories, individual characteristics and experiences that the students enjoyed over the past 5 years together at Beacon Hill.

The evening's proceedings would not have been complete without the crowning of Beacon Hill's 2012 Prom King and Queen. After a hotly contested voting battle, Prom King went to James Critchlow and Prom Queen went to Toni Miller.

The entire event was a roaring success thanks to the many students and staff whose efforts and enthusiasm had made the evening possible. Although all of the Year 11 were collaboratively involved in making decisions about the Prom, Tiffany Alderson and Rebecca Pearson were two students who took on the majority of the organisation ensuring that everything run smoothly. Well done girls, an excellent night of fun, laughter and more good memories!

Also on behalf of the school and Wheyrigg Hall I would like to thank all of the students for the grown up and mature attitude which they displayed on the evening; staff at the venue were very impressed telling us how much of a credit the students were to the school.

Mr Bragg

**What's
Your
Story?**



Are you a former student of Beacon Hill who has achieved notable or novel success in life?

Or are you proud of one of your family who previously attended Beacon Hill?

If so we would love to hear your story to include your/their name in an alumni roll of honour.



Rising to the Challenge

At the end of the summer term students from all years took part in a Challenge Week, testing their resilience and resourcefulness to the limit. Each student opted for either the Physical, Science & Technology, Community or Entertainment Challenge.

Students in the **Entertainment group** spent three days producing a performance on the Titanic which included Drama, Music and Dance. Within the three days the script, music, stage settings, props and costumes were all created from scratch.

Rehearsals were held before giving a final performance in front of YR6 Richmond Hill pupils. The audience were asked to act as judge & jury to decide whether the disaster could have been avoided, did the crew do all that they could and if the passengers and crew all acted with dignity. Jasmine Wilson, YR8, enjoyed the challenge, *"It was great, we all worked at what we were good at, art making the scenery or dancing or singing. I hope we can do the show again sometime."* Emily Grierson, YR8, said *"It was great to see how excited the younger pupils from Richmond Hill were who all came to watch."*

On the Wednesday **the Physical Challenge group** (including our Headteacher) had an early start for their aptly named Sea2Summit Challenge meeting at Allonby for a 3.6mile run to Westnewton Primary School. Students and staff had trained for this by attending a running club each week to build up to the distance. Lynsey Rumney, YR9, said *"The run was a real challenge, really hard after 2 miles but nobody wanted to quit on the day, there had been so much build up and excitement we just pushed harder to all do it."*



Parents turned out to support students in the changeover before students began a grueling 19mile cycle, including the punishing Whinlatter pass. Ben Carter, YR9, felt, *"The ride was tough. It wasn't as far as the Coast 2 Coast last year but this time we knew we were against the clock and if we were going to complete the challenge we were all going to have to help each other and support each other to succeed."* Lewis Critchlow, YR8, said, *"The final climb was so tough I really felt like stopping but everyone kept encouraging me and we all felt really proud at the top. It made you keep going when we saw how many people had turned out to cheer for us."*

The highlight of the day for many was the 2 mile kayak sprint across Derwent water. Lewis Penn, YR8, said, *"I had struggled in the kayak on the training day and I was worried I would capsize. It was cold and raining but we could see the bus on the other side and just pushed on."*

Meeting the target departure time by minutes - students were then joined once again by our head, Julie Richardson, for the final part of our Sea2Summit challenge, the ascent to the summit of Catbells. Dan Proud, YR9, described his feelings on the ascent, *"By this time my legs were burning, we were all tired and finding it hard but everyone encouraged each other, it was well worth it when we got to the summit though."*

The Community Challenge organised and ran a party for a toddler group in Fletchertown. Students made up Storysacks, told stories, made face masks and hats, rehearsed and performed action nursery rhymes, ran games with the toddlers, baked cakes for sale as well as for the toddler's party. On top of all of this they organised a food stop for the physical group serving them juice & bananas - a great boost to their moral as well as their energy! Nicole Nicholson, YR9, said, *"It was great! We all really got into it. I loved playing with the little kids; you could tell they truly enjoyed it."*



Finally the **Science & Technology Challenge** saw students complete a series of challenges – building sumo wrestling robots and using Forensic Science to solve a murder in a Crime Scene Investigation. In the DT Challenge students designed and built a small "robot" or remote controlled vehicle to compete in 2 different competitions. The "Sumo Bots" were tasked with pushing their opponent out of the ring. The second task was to navigate through an obstacle course, knocking some obstacles over and guiding the robot through, around and over others. Some fantastic team names were devised from

Twisted Metal, Demolition Crew to Ninjas in Lemon Trousers. The final Sumo Robots winners were the Destroyers made up of Jack Dixon, David McCune, Daniel Noutch & Jack Carrick. Lucy Nicholson, YR9, said *"I really enjoyed the Challenge; we all got really competitive trying to build the best robot."*

The CSI group tackled fingerprint, fiber, chemical and hand writing analysis as well as looking at matching footwear patterns before writing up their reports explaining their findings as to who they thought had committed the murder! Martin Bell enjoyed the CSI explaining, *"It was really interesting to see how stuff we do in science can be used in real life."*

Headteacher Mrs Richardson was delighted with the way in which students had participated, *"We set out for everyone to face a challenge, a real challenge and that is just what we did! Some told stories to toddlers, some sailed the Titanic, some faced a robot war and some ran, cycled, kayaked and then climbed a mountain. Challenges make you discover things about yourself that you never knew. I know we are amazing!"*

Mr Gee





Supercool Science

On Thursday 27th September we were very fortunate to hold the Supercool Science Roadshow in school for all of lower school, years 7-9, courtesy of the REACT Foundation & London Science Museum. The shows are designed to excite and inspire local youngsters to think about the part science and engineering plays in our everyday lives. Whilst the shows are energetic and fun, there is a very clear educational content at each show.

Students joined Plasticine Pete and Pam on their journey



as they experienced extremes of temperature and investigated the incredible effects of the coldest substance ever seen – liquid ni-

trogen. Volunteer students were invited from the audience to find out what it felt like to touch a cloud, make instant ice cream, hammer a nail into a block of wood with a banana and blow up a balloon Science Museum style. To begin with students were reluctant to volunteer but it wasn't long before Aasiya Hassan, our Science Museum presenter had wowed everyone over with amazing visual feats of science and engineering ... then lots of hands were frantically pushed in the air!

Dr Graham, our science teacher, commented that "*The show was fantastic, engaging and tied in very closely to work covered within lessons, especially within Year 8.*" Have a look at some of the comments from year 8 which clearly show their enjoyment.

Year 8 Cool Thoughts

I really loved the show and definitely would like to go again. I learnt that when rubber balls are cold they won't bounce. I also saw how a banana when put in liquid nitrogen will freeze so hard that you can hammer a nail with it.

Jordan Thompson

The Science show was amazing, there was lots to learn about convection, conduction & liquid nitrogen. They used liquid nitrogen to demonstrate how dangerous science can be.

Jack Charters

They were funny, making it fun for us to learn what they were teaching us!

Trudy Donald

The presenter was very funny and involved the audience as much as possible. It helped me as our science topic in class was about heat.

Matthew Charlton

Awesome & funny! Horrible when she squeezed out the gooey insides of the banana.

Jack Carrick

It was amazing when they poured the liquid nitrogen onto the stage and it evaporated into smoke.

Danielle Scott

It was a brilliant mix of fun and teaching, we could touch clouds and create a banana so hard it would crumble not squash.

Daniel Bell

She told us how frost bite made your fingers go black and swollen.

Daniel Noutch

Fun and funny, it was good how she made the ice cream with liquid nitrogen and when we got to feel what clouds are like.

Eloise Hinds

A Warm Cumbrian Welcome

Beacon Hill students and staff have had the pleasure of welcoming Ghanaian teachers & students from Akosombo, in the Eastern region of Ghana into our school.

In September a group of Ghanaians arrived in Cumbria to spend a total of 10 days visiting schools across the west of the county. The Ghanaians soon adapted to their new surroundings and of course acclimatized themselves with our notorious British weather!

Beacon Hill has had Global Partnership

links with Akosombo schools for 4 years and this is the second visit the Ghanaians have paid to Cumbria. Both Mrs Skillicorn and Miss Pandrich have travelled over to Ghana and spent time with a variety of Ghanaian families and schools in the area. This time we repaid their hospitality offering them a true Cumbrian welcome - the Ghanaian guests were hosted by local families and staff from the various participating schools.

The 10 teachers and 6 students experienced lessons taking place at Beacon Hill as well as other Cumbrian schools. Whilst in Beacon Hill the Ghanaian students and staff observed how our students are taught. They saw European dishes cooked in Home Economics and joined Design & Technology lessons to see how CAD/CAM operates and investigated the effects of acid rain in Science. Richard Acheampong (a 16 year old Ghanaian student) told us *"My visit to Beacon Hill gave me a great opportunity to explore how computers do extraordinary things. Mr Esslemont, Beacon Hill's Design Technology and ICT teacher has shown me the power of ICT in Great Britain."*

Beacon Hill students have over the last two years participated in a unique collaborative literacy project (Spellbinding, Cumbrian Schools Book Awards) with 3 Akosombo schools: Learningfield International, Akwamuman High, and Volta River Authority Junior High School. Our students along with many secondary schools in Cumbria take part in this local challenge every year. This book award gives students who are avid readers the opportunity and confidence to express their own views and improve their speaking & debating skills, as well as generating excitement about books. In the last 2 years we have shared these books with our Ghanaian partner schools and have initiated email discussions between our students on their thoughts about each title and at the same time also learning more about our each other, our schools, local area and family life.

On the Thursday evening of their stay Mrs Skillicorn organised a Barn Dance at the school to give our parents, students and wider community an opportunity to personally welcome and meet our Ghanaian visitors.

We hope that our new Ghanaian friends have gained a great insight to British life, culture and education and take many happy memories back to Ghana with them.



ASDAN Day Trek up Skiddaw



In September the ASDAN group walked up to Skiddaw House with Dave Fenwick and Mrs Skillicorn to have a look around before our residential there the next month. Along a steep path we passed a beautiful waterfall named the Whitewater Dash, in fact there were lots of fantastic views especially as we climbed higher. When we arrived at Skiddaw Youth hostel we meet up with Charlie Miles, Martin and Marie Pierre. Thomas Harrington said, *“The youth hostel gang gave us a warm welcome to Skiddaw House, making me feel at home.”*

We also had a look around the rooms including the kitchen as we will be cooking our own meals during our stay. Damien soon noticed that some of the rooms were a bit chilly so he decided to add a hot-water bottle to his kit list. There isn't any main electricity so no television and no computer games so we will have to entertain ourselves! Luckily there is a games room with lots of board games and a dart board. Damien Tinkler bet us all that a girl couldn't beat him at darts but Ellie Watson was looking forward to proving him wrong.

Charlie showed us the jobs that needed doing; we will be helping him to plant trees on the site on our next visit. We will also need to chop our own firewood up to keep the fire going and us warm.

We asked questions so we would know all the rules and know where everything is at when we come back to stay overnight.

It was a good day, we were lucky with the weather and we are all looking forward to going back there in October.



Read in the next newsletter how we got on!

Important Dates for your Diary

29th October - 2nd November	Half-term holidays
Tuesday 6th November	French Trip Parent Information Evening @ 5pm
Wednesday 7th November	ASDAN visit to Lakes College
Wed 7th - Fri 9th November	YR7 Adventure Residential
Tuesday 13th November	Whole School Awards Evening, 7pm
Saturday 17th November	Engineering Awareness Day, 10 - 3pm Energus Lillyhall
w/b 3rd December	YR7-9 Key Assessment Interim Reports
w/b 10th December	YR7-9 Interim Reports sent out
Mon 3rd & Tues 4th December	YR11 Art Mock Exam
Thursday 6th December	YR10 & 11 French Speaking Tests
Mon 10th - Thurs 13th December	YR10 Internal Exams & YR11 Mock Exams
Mon 17th - Thurs 20th December	Work Life Balance Week - no after school clubs or detentions
Monday 17th December	YR11 Visit to Newton Rigg Campus (selected students)
Wednesday 19th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 20th December	End of Term
Monday 7th January 2013	Spring Term Starts
JANUARY	VARIOUS GCSE EXAMS - please see online school calendar
Sat 12th - Sun 13th January	Manchester Trip
Friday 11th January	YR11 Mock Results afternoon 2pm
Friday 11th January	YR7-10 Early dismissal @ 1.35pm (work sent home with students)