

Spring
2013



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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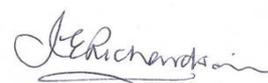
Mrs J. Richardson, B.Ed. N.P.Q.H.

'Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.' Richard Steele

Dear parents and friends of BHS

Reading is very important at our school as we believe that good reading is the key to learning and success. I like to think that we are a 'reading school' and we encourage all our young people to practise and develop their reading throughout their time with us. We have just celebrated World Book day with lots of fun activities and a book fair in school where over 60 books were purchased by our students and many more were given away free. This is great news and shows us that students are becoming increasingly confident in reading and especially 'reading for pleasure'. You will notice as you read our newsletter some of the ways we encourage reading from reading buddies, quiet reading time in the library, to assemblies about books. I hope you agree that we are doing all we can to make our students the best readers they can be and we encourage all parents to support us. You can do this in a number of different ways; by listening to your child read, by discussing the books they have read and by modelling reading yourself - this newsletter is a good start!

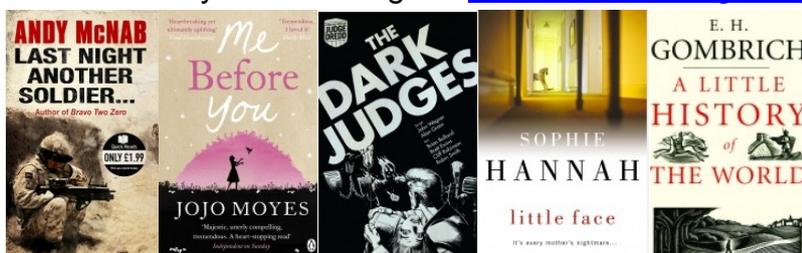
Have a great Easter break whatever you do and wherever you maybe.


HEADTEACHER



INVITATION To YR7 & 8 Parents

In conjunction with World Book Night, Mrs Cruickshank was successful in her application to become a book giver as an institution. Therefore at the next parents evening on Tuesday 30th April for years 7 & 8 loads of **FREE** books will be given out to parents. We are expecting multiple copies of the books illustrated below. We hope this will give you another opportunity to share your reading experiences with your child and as Mrs Richardson has said above model good reading habits. We hope there is a nice mix to hopefully suit most interests. To read more about any of the titles go to www.worldbooknight.org

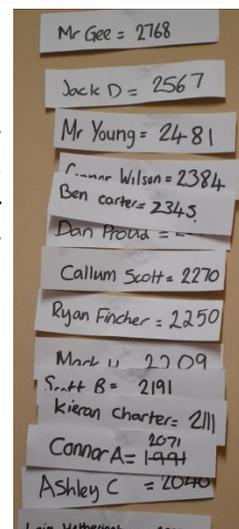


Change to Mobile Phone Rules

RULE: Mobile phones should not be seen or heard in school.

- If a mobile is confiscated for the first offence in any one academic year it will be returned at the end of the school day to the student.
- For any repeat offences it will be confiscated for a week including weekends and will need to be collected by parents.

Rowing the Channel



Mr Gee = 2768
Jack D = 2567
Mr Young = 2481
Connor Wilson = 2384
Ben Carter = 2345
Dan Proud =
Callum Scott = 2270
Ryan Fincher = 2250
Mark = 2109
Scott B = 2191
Kieran Charter = 2111
Connor A = 1991
Ashley C = 2040
Lain Hetherington = 2027

I wanted to raise some money to give to a charity called Diabetes UK as I know a lot of people who suffer from the disease and know how hard it is for them to keep it under control on a daily basis.

I came up with the idea of having a sponsored rowing challenge because I preferred to do something physical. I spoke to Mrs Richardson and Mr Gee about it and they encouraged me to go ahead with the row.

Following two weeks of planning I was ready to tell the rest of the school my plans, ask them to get involved and help me raise some money. I also spoke to Jonti from Jonti's Gym in Aspatria as I needed permission to use his rowing machine! I organised to speak at an assembly to advertise my sponsored row – I was amazed at the instant response of lots of people (staff & students) who wanted to take part. In the end 35 people signed up for the challenge to row the equivalent of the English Channel.

On the day of the row we took it in turns to do 10 minutes each on the rowing machine from 12 o'clock until 6pm. It was hard work but everybody who took part enjoyed themselves. A very competitive element between Mr Young & Mr Gee emerged to see who had rowed the furthest in the 10 minutes – congratulations Mr Gee!

In total we managed to raise £343 for the charity! Thank you, Jonti for allowing us to use your equipment and well done to everyone who supported me in achieving my goal.

Connor Abram Y11

YR11 Newton Rigg Visit

At the end of last term I took a group of Y11 students to visit Newton Rigg College in Penrith. It was part of a whole day set aside for secondary schools students to experience what the college has to offer. The students were shown round and given taster sessions of the different kinds of courses that are available to do there. There was a wide variety of subjects, from Animal Care, to Hairdressing to Farming and Forestry. All of the students choose a few areas to look at in which they had an interest in and in some they got very hands on

Mrs Fleming

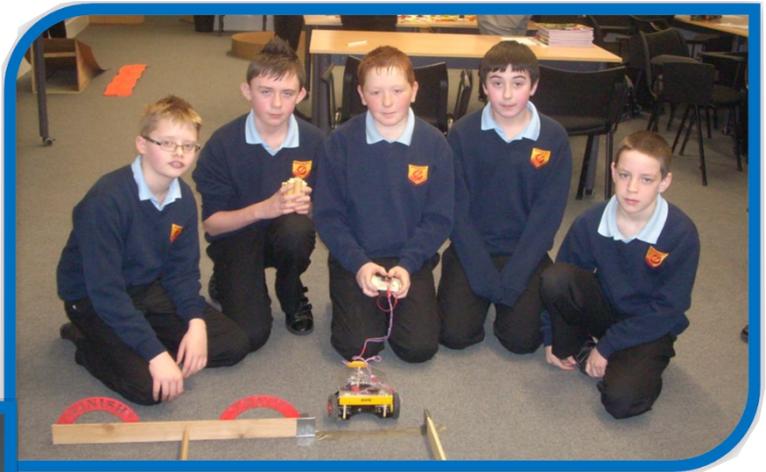


When we went to the buggy competition I didn't really know what to expect but it was amazing with lots of other activities that really made me think about problem solving. As it turned out my buggy wasn't that reliable, although the judges thought the steering and drive mechanisms were great. It was great fun and I would love to do it again next year.

William Manning YR8

Cumbria Robotics Challenge 2013

A big well done to all the students who took part in the Cumbria Robotics Challenge 2013. This is the 3rd year we have competed in this competition. As usual there were 2 levels to enter – the juniors (KS3) with wire controlled robots and the seniors (KS4) with radio control.



The event was held at Keswick Schools Crosthwaite Centre, and run by nuclear graduate engineers from a variety of disciplines that have all undergone STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) training for work with schools in addition to their “day” job. In addition to ourselves, this year there were teams from Richard Rose Central, and Keswick School. All Cumbrian schools are invited to take part.

Our KS3 team this year was mostly from Y7, John Sim, Evan Miller, Jack Richardson and Liam Hetherington, with one Y8, William Manning. Competing at senior level were Y10 students Shane

Warwick and Aiden Smillie. Both teams were exceptionally good this year at independently designing and building their robots, and the judges passed very favourable comments about both.

The challenges this year were a Sinosoidal Road – with a road made up of 2 sine wave surfaces designed to test control and traction just like the Land Rover testing ground. Our KS3 team won this challenge easily, managing to go the full length of the road and off the far side! There was also a hill climb event – our KS3 team suffered from lack of power here, but made some quick modifications and managed to just about get to the top. The KS4 team had some mechanical problems, but again managed to get going after some quick fixes. More power and stronger gearboxes are needed for next year...!

The bridge building challenge also tested engineering abilities, and both teams constructed excellent bridges. Our KS4 team were first to do this, and seemed to provide the blueprint for the following teams! Another building challenge was the tower challenge – the aim being to get a water bottle up into the air as far as possible using only paper tubes.

There was a new secret challenge devised by John, one of the nuclear engineers running the event, the aim of which was to simulate decontaminating a nuclear dump pool by removing the contents without getting contaminated. Our senior team won this event, building some very clever equipment to ensure they got out “alive”.

William also won a special prize, nominated by the STEM ambassadors, for special enthusiasm and knowledge. This turned out to be a rather nice radio controlled helicopter!

Mr Esslemont

We won the Hill Climb Challenge but unfortunately nothing else. We also met engineers from Sellafield and learnt a bit about their jobs. Overall it was a good day out!

Evan Miller YR7

Reading Buddies

Since October half term 26 YR10 & 11 volunteer students (Big Reading Buddies) & 32 KS3 students (Little Buddies) have been taking part in the paired reading program where every week they read with their little buddy in morning registration. It is a great experience for all younger students that don't yet read as well as they can. Most students have had one little buddy, apart from the prefects, Beth Tovey, Lucy Nicholson and I, who have had two. Lucy Nicholson commented, 'It's a great way to help with their reading, their English, but also gives a confidence boost.' Martin Bell (little buddy) said, 'It has really boosted my confidence and I feel like I have improved in my English, even though I have only been doing it for a short period of time as I volunteered to be part of the program at the start of this term.'

Some students have benefited so much from this that they don't have to take part any more. William Manning, year 8 improved his comprehension skills and also his confidence that he no longer needs to attend and his place was swiftly taken up with another student.

As big buddies we felt like it has not only helped them but helped us as well in reading more. Before paired reading we would read very little but seeing the big impact that it is having on the little buddies it is making us want to read more. As well as that, just knowing you've helped someone who doesn't find it as easy is a great feeling and very encouraging.

The paired reading program is a great experience for all that are involved and should be used again in the future to help more students, considerably more... are you reading this Mrs. Richardson?

Sally Dixon & Lucy Nicholson YR10

Mrs Richardson's reply:

"Yes, I am listening and completely agree with you Sally!"



World Book Day 2013

From Dynamic Duos to a Hunger Games Menu

How to follow on from last year's World Book Day popular Form Door competition was quite a challenge. A Schools' Library Yahoo newsgroup that I subscribe to were all frantically trying to come up with inspirational ideas too, so we shared with each other what had previously worked for us. This was where the idea for the Dynamic Duos competition was born, gleaned from other schools which had run something similar.

The main idea of this competition was for students to match up staff pairs who were wearing badges named with literary characters that have been famously linked and then identify the book and the author. I needed 20 matched pairs so selected from classical characters such as Elizabeth Darcy from *Pride and Prejudice* to contemporary fictional characters Katniss Everdeen & Peeta from the current blockbuster *The Hunger Games* based on the book by Suzanne Collins and also incorporating fun characters

Noddy & Big Ears from childhood Enid Blyton favourites. I must admit to a few students being perplexed as to the author of the Bible characters Samson and Delilah! A bit of a trick conundrum?!! Congratulations go to Mrs Inkester & Dr Graham's form, Kentigern 1, who stormed through to win the form prize of a World Book Day free book each. The accolade of the individual winners went jointly to Jack King YR7 & Lucy Shardlow YR9 who each claimed their free book prize from my book rewards shelf. I also created a bit of a competitive element with the staff giving out prizes for the first staff pair who visited me together in the library each day.

Once again Miss Bell and I spent a few hours in rapture at Waterstones choosing books worth 1000's of pounds for our annual school book fair in the hope of enthusing our students with a lifelong passion like ourselves for reading. Students were able to use their £1 World Book Day vouchers against the purchase price and with multiple buy 1 get 1 half-price offers lots of bargains were to be had. Raffle winner this year was Jordan Thompson YR8 who was the lucky recipient of a free book from the book fair. A big thank you to my brilliant team of pupil librarians who were kept busy manning the book fair.

On World Book Day itself the school canteen displayed a Hunger Games menu – the usual school meal options but with a book themed twist. When I first started to relate the meals to books the creative juices were just not flowing but I was soon on track and came up with ideas Chitty Chitty Bang Bangers (Frank Cottrell Boyce's recent adaptation of the classic) for break time sausages in a bun to Breadwinner baguettes (Deborah Ellis' tale of life as a girl in Afghanistan) and jacket potatoes & 'Grated Expectations' with a bit of poetic licence of course.

World Book Day is actually only one day, but lots of schools are now using the opportunity to hold a whole week of events in celebration of reading; lots of work but well worth the buzz it creates around the school as well as highlighting once again the importance of reading.

WORLD BOOK DAY 7 MARCH 2013

Hunger Games WBD Menu

Morning Break

- Chitty Chitty Bang Bangers (Frank Cottrell Boyce)
- Babe the Sheep Pig in a bun (Dick King Smith)
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Pizzas (Kevin Eastman)

Lunch

- Macbeef (*Macbeth - Shakespeare*) & Artemis Fowl (Eoin Colfer)
- Roast Dinners
- Jacket Potatoes and 'Grated' Expectations (Charles Dickens)
- Famous Five Salad (Enid Blyton)
- Breadwinner Baguettes (Deborah Ellis)
- Paddington's Sandwiches (Michael Bond)
- Professor Dumbledore's Pasta Pots (J.K. Rowling)

'As You Like it' (Shakespeare) Desserts

- Lemony Snicket Yoghurts
- James & The Giant Peach (Roald Dahl) & Magenta Orange (Echo Freer)
- Fresh Fruit
- Ginger Snaps (Cathy Cassidy)
- Cookies (Jacqueline Wilson)

Mrs Cruickshank



Beacon Hill takes France by Storm

It's midnight, it's almost half term, let's go to France! A bleary eyed crowd of parents, staff and students gathered in the school car park, where an audible buzz of excitement surrounded our 2 coaches.

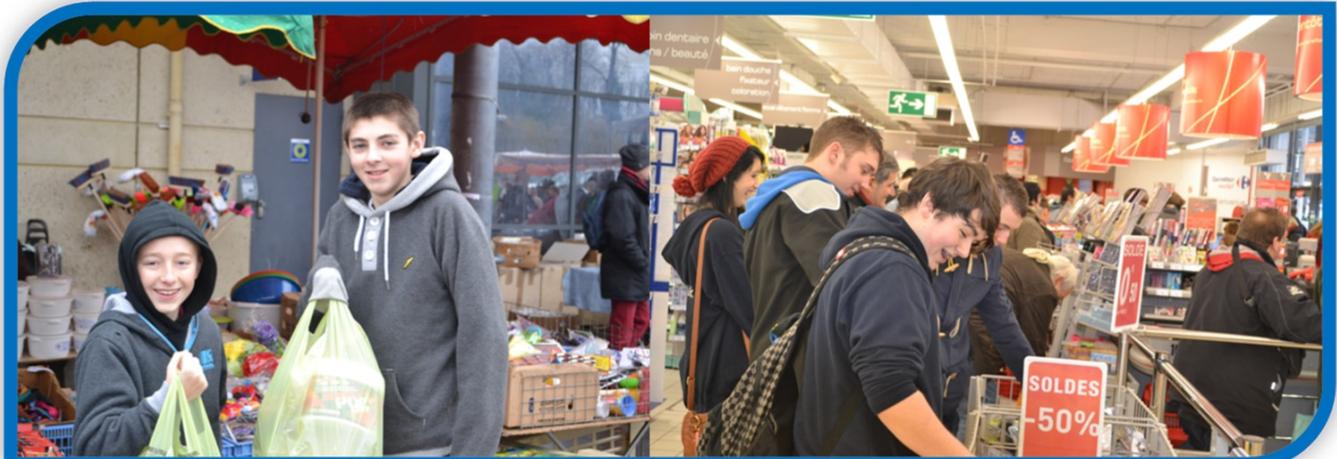
Many of our party had never been abroad before but others were accompanying the trip for the umpteenth time, so there were a whole host of hopes and fears going through our heads. My biggest concern was the length of the journey, but my concerns were soon dispelled as the students settled down for the night and most of us snuggled up with pillows and blankets.

Morning broke and we arrived at Dover under blue skies ready to cross the channel ahead of schedule. It was refreshing to go out on deck and watch the white cliffs disappearing from view. On arrival in Calais, students had their first chance to speak French and I was delighted to witness Ross Jackson ordering "un grand Poulet-Frites" for his brunch.

Our journey took us to Vimy Ridge, a Canadian war memorial and the site of a WW2 battle. We were touched by the familiar surnames we found on the memorial and wondered if any of our distant relatives had given their lives here.

The PGL centre we stayed at wasn't far from Vimy Ridge and it was a relief to finally get to our comfy rooms and unpack. The staff were really friendly and made us feel welcome. The food was brilliant, more 'poulet' and plenty of choice. The games that evening ensured that everyone had a decent night's sleep ready for activities the next day.

"I really enjoyed going to the market at Méhun. I bought a necklace and I said everything in French. I was shocked at how bitterly cold France can be in February. It was the first time I've ever been abroad, but I felt safe and happy. I learnt about some of the sights of Paris and I really liked the bridge covered in padlocks. I would like to have walked around more of the sights but it was really too cold." **Bethanie Cross**





As the French teacher at Beacon Hill, I couldn't have been happier to see so many students trying to talk to the market stall holders in French. It takes courage and resilience to do that in a real situation, so well done all of you.

The afternoon was spent at "Le Cite des Sciences" in Paris, a massive, interactive science museum. My group headed for the planetarium and made the most of the comfy seats and mind-blowing film about our universe. Sweet dreams Sally and Annabel, this is the quietest they have ever been. A picnic tea, followed by a trip up to the top of L'Arc de Triomphe finished our evening off.

A full day in Paris awaited us on Sunday with visits to the Louvre and Notre Dame and a somewhat dubious coach tour of Paris; I think our group leader had her guide book upside down: Cloud factories? Pea distribution outlets? Never seen those in the Lonely Planet!

The pièce de résistance for some on the trip was our long day at Euro Disney. It was everything I expected it to be, but the kids all really enjoyed it. Sadly the all you can eat buffet has banned Mr Gee from eating there again and Mrs Sanderson's confessions to Slimming World were deemed unpardonable by the calorie police.

"It was really good that we were allowed the freedom to go off in groups of 3 at Disney. It was my first time abroad. I spoke French and used French money. I expected it to be more foreign so it was a relief that you could buy lots of familiar things like coke and phone adapters."

Kalem Skivington YR8

What made the trip such a rewarding experience was that every child leaving the coach on Tuesday morning said a proper thank you to the staff. For that alone, it was well worth the effort. Thank you also to the office staff, who worked so hard to make it happen, we could not have run this trip without you.

Mrs Baxter



Road Aware

During a Personal Development lesson in January PCSO Sarah Fletcher came in to school to talk to us about Road Safety. She took us outside to show us things in her police patrol car. We looked at the emergency and law enforcement equipment carried in the vehicle regularly such as a speed camera which when pointed at cars records the speed that it is travelling at. The main aim of her visit was to encourage us to be road aware and keep ourselves safe.

Reece Devlin YR7



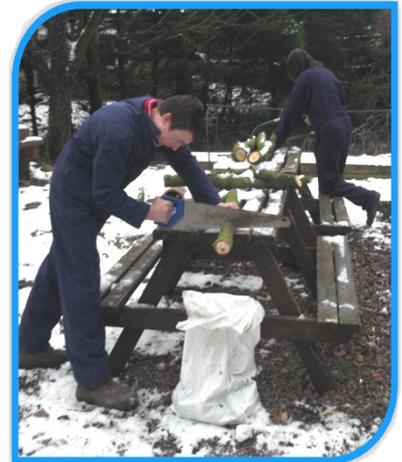
**Wood for sale
£4 a bag
collection only
from BHCS**

BIG THANKYOU TO ASPATRIA DISTRICT CHARITY SHOP

Students at the school, who are keen to make more use of the woodland area at Beacon Hill School, recently applied to ADCCA for funding to help manage the site. The old arboretum dates back to the days when the site was part of the old Agricultural College in Aspatria founded in 1874; at that time it was the second educational institution of its kind in the United Kingdom. The College closed at the outset of the First World War and never re-opened.

Our school was built over the original site and the arboretum is a valuable link to our past heritage. The charity shop has kindly donated £600 to help manage the woodland and support a group of students keen to preserve this special space. The "Outdoor Woodland Learning Project" (OWL Project) plan to manage our woodland, create wood fuel to sell, learn woodland skills, gaining confidence and transferable skills. They will of course also be doing their bit to take care of a very special part of our local heritage.

Mrs Skillicorn



The opportunities for students to see good handwriting and to develop their own handwriting style has become less frequent over the years as more and more work is done on computers. Even teachers' worksheets and writing on the board are usually done using typed lettering. With this in mind I

organised a Christmas poetry handwriting competition and was extremely pleased to see so many young people have a go! We had some fine entries from KS3 with the eventual winner being **Jessica Kyffin** from year 7 and most improved handwriting being **Andrew Charlton**, YR9. Well done to all those who entered. Perhaps we should organise an Easter One!!

Mrs Richardson

15th March

Do Something Funny for Money



My Sponsored Silence Doing the Impossible – for me!

For Comic Relief this year I challenged myself to stay quiet for 48 hours. Consequently I spoke to Mrs. Richardson to ask if I could do this during school times, she agreed. However she thought it would be a good idea to ask the school to also take part in the silence for 1 whole school day.

During the next assembly Miss asked me to announce my idea to the whole school. So with some trepidation I stood up at the front and explained what would happen during the course of the day. Afterwards we had around 60-65 people signed up but numbers soon decreased after people found out the responsibilities needed to take part. Numbers decreased to around 16 students including me.

For my individual challenge I had lots of things to think about from organising my fundraising kit, getting sponsors to figuring out how I would be able to carry on with my work in lessons. I also needed to get myself into the right frame of mind, set my heart on achieving my challenge and ensure that I knew exactly what I was and wasn't allowed to do.

The day finally came. I was getting ready when I sat and thought "What if people make me talk?", "What if something big upsets me? And I can't talk to anyone!" I was getting myself worked up; I started to get cold feet and wanted to back out. But then I thought of the children at home and in Africa that my money would help. I thought of how I could make a difference to their lives. My mam drove me to school. She wished me luck and said bye. I got out the car and put on a smile. I went into breakfast club and all around me were wishing me luck. Jasmine Wilson even made me some signs to put on my jumper to show what I was doing. I started to think I could actually do this. Then after having a chat with Mrs. Richardson we agreed to postpone it till the next day so I would be doing my last day with my friends and others so we could be silent together. I started to practice my silence (so it would make it easier for me later on) when I went along to support Beacon Hill at the after school netball match against St. Josephs. I kept up my practice silence in the car on the way back and decided to start it for real as I was managing to keep silent so well.

The next day arrived and I went into school raring to go as I was coming to my 16th hour. Only 32 to go! I was quite relaxed and happy as my friends were all still very encouraging. Even teachers were giving me money to donate. The day was hard but I pulled through. The next day, I was nearly finished only a couple of hours to go. Everyone else started and now I wasn't the only one being silent. Everyone else thought it was hard, now they understood exactly how I felt. They all finished at 3:15 when I still had an hour and bit to go.

On my own I have raised about £100 and eagerly await everyone else handing in their sponsorship money so that we can announce the grand total! To everyone involved a big pat on the back, to everyone else who supported me a huge THANKYOU. And finally a gentle reminder please hand in sponsorship forms and money collected ASAP to me or the school office.



Keeping my
lips well
and truly
sealed!

Keris Mitchell YR9

L2L Humanities Buttermere Visit

Year 7 visited Buttermere on a sunny but cold winter's day to find out how settlement has changed. We were fortunate to have two wardens from the National Trust who pointed out old settlement sites at Lanthwaite and Rannerdale and showed us rare example of rock art.

"The best part of the day was at lunch when we climbed up a hill and ran down it. Also when we were looking around Buttermere I learned that some of the settlements were over a1000 years old.",
Joe Stewart

"I learned that the glaciers pushed the soft rock away. I enjoyed when we went into Buttermere and walked through the forest to get back to the bus.", Rebecca.

"The best part of the trip was when we were looking at the stones which were very interesting.",
Kate Parker.

Mrs Inkester



Trying to keep warm at Rannerdale!

Alcohol Aware

As part of the year 11 Personal Development lesson, the whole class went next door the Letters Inn for a lesson on alcohol awareness with PCSO Sarah Fletcher and her colleague PC Alan Taylor. Going across to the pub was better than just doing it in the classroom because it gave us a more practical way to learn. The police talked to us about the units in different types of drinks and the landlord, Kevin, gave us some bottles to place in order of strength. Everyone was surprised at the amount of alcohol in

some of them. We were also given the chance to wear beer goggles which showed us just what it feels like through the eyes of someone excessively over the legal limit. We also discussed what would happen when as a consequence they were caught drink driving. **Katie Ridley YR11**



Mr Millne added, "Our thanks go to the local police for their continued support and Mr Kevin Thurlow, landlord of the Letters, for once again allowing us to deliver a curriculum topic in a 'real life' context."

Sports News

YR9 Young Sports Leaders

So far this year we have held football, tag rugby, netball, cross country and sports hall athletics as primary sports festivals; it's impossible for me to run these festivals on my own so each year I ask for year 9's to volunteer as Young Sports Leaders. This year's group have been superb successfully



Netball young leaders course



Josh Donald leading a group of pupils in a Rugby session

running these festivals as a team. Coming up for the rest of the year we have rounders, golf and an Olympic festival planned.

I'm really impressed with the manner in which the leaders have approached the festivals and in some cases the confidence our students have shown speaking in

front of large numbers of primary pupils and their teachers.

I'm looking forward to the Olympic festival which the Young Sport Leaders will organise themselves without me helping at all...good luck.



Parkour

Following every activity we run in PE Miss Kaye and I discuss what it has been like to see if we think it could be improved. After Gymnastics last year we decided that it hadn't worked very well and levels were starting to slip so I went in search of an alternative to gymnastics that would engage more of our students. What I found was Parkour.

Parkour is a modern take on gymnastics where students have to get from point A to point B as fast as they can going over, under or through objects using skills taught. The students took to Parkour, really enjoying it. The Parkour club was very well attended and because of the interest the levels of the students have increased. Well done to everyone in lessons and I'm looking forward to what next year brings.

Rugby

This year we have worked closely with Aspatria RUFC to try and introduce Rugby back into the school. It has taken a while but

we have eventually started with some fixtures. In the past couple of weeks we have played two year 10 fixtures against Solway School. We have currently won one and lost one, both schools are looking forward to the decider.

Next year rugby will be back on the curriculum, and if the interest stays the way it is now, we should have a good standard rugby team which we will hopefully be able to enter into tournaments.

Jonti's Gym visits by YR10 & 11

For key stage 4, last term we worked in conjunction with Jonti's gym. YR10 & 11 went for one of their lessons each week, during which Jonti and Dawn gave expert advice on cardiovascular fitness and weight training. The girls also received a Moky session delivered by Dawn. The students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions at the gym and some of them have started going regularly. We are aiming to work with them again, perhaps including year's 7, 8 and 9 as well. Many thanks to Jonti and Dawn for their support and dedication, the gym really is a welcoming place for anyone.

Mr Young



YR7 Girls Allerdale Football Champions

Last term we entered the year 7 girls into a 5 a side football competition. With a bit of practice the girls were performing at a good level. Mr Young took the girls to Stainburn School in Workington for the Allerdale finals. The girls played in the final against Stainburn and through a roller coaster match the girls came away victorious...Allerdale champions.

As Allerdale champions we went on to represent Allerdale in the county final, held at the Sands Centre in Carlisle. There were 4 teams at the event St Benedict's, Trinity and Dowdales. The girls played superbly well and finished 3rd overall. Although this is not a win we need to remember that the other schools we were playing are so much bigger than us.

Since then the girls have played other fixtures and successfully beaten Lime House and more fixtures are arranged for later on in the year.

Well done girls, a superb result for the team and for the school. You should all be very proud of your performances.

Mr Young

STOP PRESS : Congratulations & WELL DONE to our Year 8 boys Rugby team who beat Solway on Monday night 55-15.

A cracking effort!



Important Dates for your Diary	Tues 26th March	YR11 English & Maths Parents Evening 5 - 6.15pm
	25th - 28th March	Work Life Balance week no after school clubs or detentions
	Thurs 28th March	End of Spring Term
	Mon 15th April	Summer Term begins
	Thurs 18th April	YR11 Mock English GCSE
	Tues 30th April	YR7 & 8 Parents Evening - World Book Night free books to be given away
	Mon 6th May	Bank Holiday - School closed
	Mon 13th May	YR11 GCSE Exams begin
	Mon 20th - Fri 24th May	Work Life Balance week no after school clubs or detentions
	Tues 21st - Fri 24th May	YR9 Core Exams
	W/Beg 20th May	Newsletter distributed
	Wed 22nd - Fri 24th May	YR10 Work Readiness
	Mon 27th - Fri 31st May	Half-term holidays
	Mon 3rd June	YR9 begin GCSE courses
	Fri 7th June	YR9 End of Key Stage Report
W/Beg Mon 17th June	YR7, 8 & 10 School Internal Exams	