

Summer 2012

1st Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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

Dear parents and friends of BHS

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. This copy has a wonderful assortment of the work we do both in and out of the classroom and gives a real sense of our busy and lively school. It also has some information for you about safety – keeping our students safe and happy in school is extremely important. Without this our students cannot thrive.

I would like to draw your attention to the article on cyber bullying and make a plea to you to attend the next parent information evening on this important issue.

Finally, this will be the last chance I get to wish all our year 11 students great success in their GCSE exams and good luck for their future careers – don't forget to come back to see us!

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

HEADTEACHER

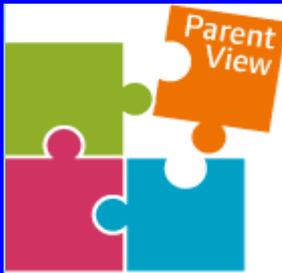


AQA English Exam Revision Conference

On Friday May 11th Mrs Fleming and Mr Horseman took a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students to the Crosthwaite Centre in Keswick for a day of English exam revision. AQA's Chief Examiner Peter Thomas delivered a presentation to the students, highlighting key areas of the English examination and offering practical advice on how to improve grades.

Several activities were undertaken by our students in what proved to be a humorous, unconventional and extremely valuable day. Everybody came home with lots of notes and very clear ideas on tackling the exam which we can only hope prove helpful.

Mr Horseman



Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school by asking for your opinion on 12 aspects, from the quality of teaching, to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. Ofsted will use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect, and when.



By sharing your views, you'll be helping your child's school to improve. You will also be able to see what other parents have said about your child's school. Or, if you want to, view the results for any school in England. <http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

SCHOOL INFORMATION TEXT ALERTS

Please keep school informed of your current mobile number(s) as we now send texts to alert you to all events & letters home.

Cyberbullying

Facebook, Blackberry, Beebo, texting and other social networking sites are increasingly becoming a problem in schools today. Unfortunately Cyberbullying is a sign of our technological times. Staff at Beacon Hill School are working hard to ensure that any problems a student may experience in this area are investigated and strategies offered to support that student.

Recently, in March we had an excellent presentation at Beacon Hill provided by the Police with information about internet safety. The information was extensive and very helpful particularly to parents. Unfortunately despite a lot of advertising only two parents attended from our school and one parent from a primary.

If we are to help our children manage the effects of today's technology we all need to be equipped with as much information as possible. Education in this area is key.

As we make plans for the next academic year we are incorporating more sessions in lessons on this subject. This will keep students informed of how to use social networking sites appropriately and with caution. We will also be providing some information for parents to support their children.

Mrs Sanderson



The Think You Know website has loads of Internet Safety info for both parents & children of all ages www.thinkuknow.co.uk



www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
Dotted around various websites are links to the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) where internet abuse may be reported.

Le Collège du Vallon des Mottes

Years 7, 8 and 9 have been improving their language skills this term in order to communicate with some new friends in France, students at a small rural secondary school in the south west of France. We have written letters and sent PowerPoint's in French about ourselves and our school and they have replied in English. I hope that this friendship becomes a key focus for study in the French department and helps to broaden students' horizons. See how much you can understand about their school:

Le collège du Vallon des Mottes est un petit collège de 250 élèves et 20 professeurs dans le sud-ouest de la France. Il se trouve près de Grenoble.

Il y a un nouveau bâtiment sur 4 étages, construit en 2008. Ils ont une piscine, une bibliothèque et un terrain de foot, mais ils ont seulement une salle d'ordinateurs.

A la cantine, on peut manger une entrée, un plat principal, un fromage et un dessert.

Mrs Baxter



REACT Foundation 2012 Awards

YR11 student Jack Askew was one of only 13 young hopefuls to be given a cash promise of £200 each by REACT Foundation Chairman Pete Woolaghan at The Beacon, Whitehaven on Thursday 27th April.

The year 11 teenagers had been hand-picked from hundreds of entries from secondary schools across the region after pledging to study an engineering, maths, technology or science related subject at sixth form in September.

Afterwards Jack commented, *"I felt very happy when I learnt I was one of the winners of the REACT Foundation award out of all those who applied within Cumbria. It will make a difference when I start 6th Form."*



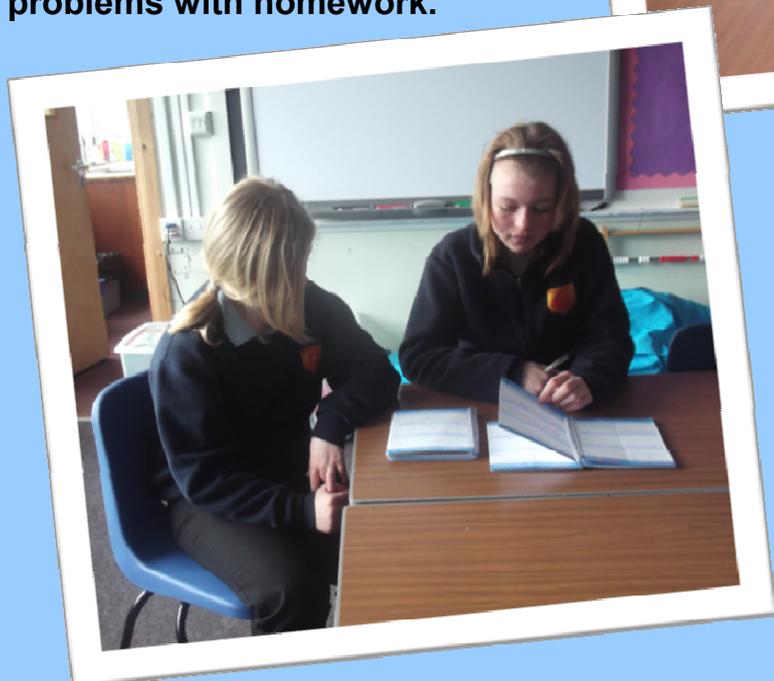
"This is a really useful award for Jack. Having a bit of extra cash to spend on essentials such as books and equipment is always welcome! The application process means that the award selectively goes to those continuing with their secondary education in fields that we have shortages of in this country. Having industry putting some money back into the education sector means they are helping to fill those gaps, and build the foundations we need for the future. Jack's application was one of 4 from our school, and we are delighted he was successful!"

Peter Esslemont, Head of Design Technology

Being a Peer Mentor

Over last year I have been working and supporting the year 7 students in my form as a Peer Mentor.

My responsibilities in form were to help check school planners and support the students if any worries came up. I also talked and discussed with them how they were getting on in their lessons and helped them if they had problems with homework.



I found this to be a good experience because it helped me get to know the younger students and it is nice to know that I have helped younger members of the school.

Doing the peer mentoring has helped me to gain confidence in myself and was certainly enjoyable to be involved in; I think the other peer mentors have felt the same.

Paige Thompson YR11

Peer Mentors in the Making

Over the last few weeks we have been doing a training course in school to learn about Peer Mentoring.

The providers of the training were Mentor Point and our trainer was Jackie Denney.

Peer mentoring was a great experience to do. We learned lots about this course and we learned new skills, such as how to be a good listener to younger students.

As a group we are all looking forward to next year to become good future Peer Mentors.

Jonathon Bragg Year 10

I have recently taken part in a Peer Mentor training program helping us to gain knowledge and understanding of how to mentor younger students in our school, who may have any worries or problems and they would like to talk about it in confidence - knowing they can trust and rely on us.

The training lasted for 6 weeks in school.

I really enjoyed learning the aspects of how to be a good mentor and how we can ensure we give a good high standard of mentoring.

Hannah Donald Year 10

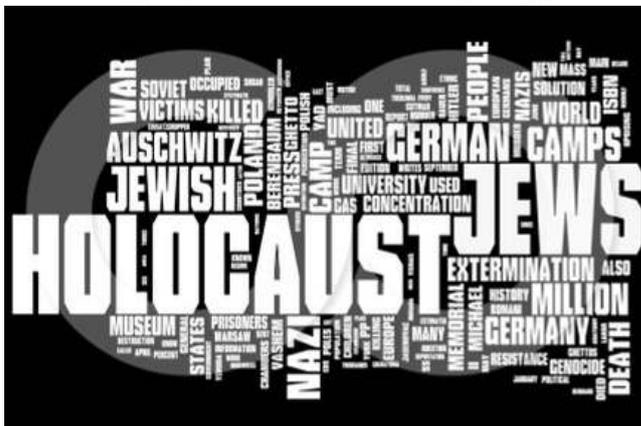
L2L Humanities

In L2L humanities we have been learning about Nazi Germany. In this project we found out how life in Germany changed after Adolf Hitler came into power and what political views were a threat to Hitler. We also learnt which sides were opposing each other. I was shocked how Hitler managed to keep a secret away from the rest of the world when he began to treat certain races and religions differently – ‘the Undesirables’! We thought it was horrifying how the Nazis treated the races which they thought were inferior.

We were given an extended homework task to write a diary. Within the diary we had to write from the perspective of a German citizen, describing the events that occurred before and during the beginning of World War 2. We chose somebody to write about; maybe from the viewpoint of one of Germany’s considered “undesirables”. Within the diary we researched to produce what we thought was a good reflection of that time. In my diary I wrote about a teenage girl who was German and a member of the notorious Hitler youth. I wrote about how she suffered the guilt and the pain from ‘the Undesirables’ getting treated appallingly. We had to also make our diaries look like they were from the 1940’s. Most of us used coffee or tea to stain the paper, creased it and tore the edges slightly to make it look old and worn.

Last month 16 of us were chosen to go Keswick to meet a holocaust survivor – one of the few that are still alive to tell the tale. During this seminar he told us about the horrors of living in the conditions that he was put in. He explained to us about the concentration camps and how badly they were treated, this made everything that we had learnt become real to us as it made us understand more about what we had been taught in class. This made us feel terrible! One person from our group even cried! Reality of the Holocaust is far removed from a classroom of the 21st century! Nevertheless we thoroughly enjoyed this experience and feel honoured that we could meet him.

Chloe Tordiff YR9



Revision Techniques

In March we held a very successful ‘Revision Techniques’ session after school with some Year 10 and 11 students. This involved giving the students tips on the different ways to revise for their upcoming exams along with practical advice on how to actually get through exam day! This was a real hands on session using teacher’s experience and knowledge to show the best ways to learn and remember different subjects. All finished

off with pizza and a movie – well, all work and no play

GOOD LUCK

I would just like to say a massive GOOD LUCK to all the Year 10 and 11 students who are sitting GCSE exams over the next few weeks. This is where all your hard work and diligence will pay off. Just remember to keep calm. My fingers are crossed and I’m sure you’ll all do brilliantly! See you in August for the results!

Mrs Fleming



Wheelchair Basketball

On Thursday 29th April we arranged for basketball coaches from Carlisle Panthers to come into school to deliver a full day's worth of sessions to the students. The idea of the day was to give our students a taste of disability sport and experience how it is. All students in the school were given the opportunity to participate in the sessions. Peter Longworth, a player and coach from Carlisle Panthers delivered some fantastic sessions which motivated the students to work hard, giving them the



chance to see how challenging the sport is and to appreciate the serious side to disability sports.

The students found the activity fun but tiring, highlighting the fact of how fit you need to be to perform in wheelchair basketball. The hardest part for the students was generating power without the use of their legs - even passing the ball over short distances was strenuous.

Hopefully the students found the experience worthwhile and can relate to it in future.

Thanks very much to Peter and his team who were an inspiration to our students.



Mr Young

As part of the humanities curriculum YR8 students have been studying the Slave Trade. It is a requirement of the National Curriculum to examine issues from a local context and to include fieldwork; as such a visit to The Rum Story exhibition at Whitehaven was arranged for Tuesday 22nd May. As well as this visit students have also completed an extended homework project on this topic.



In Learn to Learn we have been researching the slave trade - we were very shocked to find out it had a lot of connections with our local area, especially Whitehaven. Fortunately, some of the things involved with the slave trade are not around anymore. However some have been preserved in museums for us to look at, which we saw at the Rum Story. We went through a stage setting showing us a tropical rainforest, where the slaves chopped down trees to make fields to grow sugar cane. Here we saw how the sugar was grown, harvested and made into rum. We also saw how the slaves were kept and how the slave owners treated them.

We learnt a lot during our out of class field trip. We had a tour guide to help us find out as much information as possible contributing towards making the Rum Story a very educational visit.

Did you know?

Amazingly there were 12,000 bottles of rum on the Titanic when it sunk, and only 3 bottles were missing when they were recovered!

Whitehaven was also the only place to import tobacco.

Mr Gee & YR8 Students



Greased Lightnin'

Dance had previously been overlooked within the PE curriculum but I wanted to implement a change. Including dance in the curriculum is important to the growth, self-esteem and creative expression of learners. Dance is more than the exploring of different ways to make a shape or learning a series of steps to music; it is a way of moving that uses the body as an instrument of expression and communication. Through dance, students learn many positive attributes such as teamwork, focus and improvisational skills.

A 6 week unit of work was created using the song 'Greased Lightnin' from the musical, Grease. The song was split into sections and each week, the dance was added to and developed further. Students worked with a partner as I felt that the collaborative skills required to work within a pair provided them with a sense of independence and a chance to be heard. A combination of my dance ideas and the individual student's ideas ensured a full choreographed dance could be recorded at the end of the unit.

Dance will definitely be repeated and developed next year as the obvious enthusiasm and high levels from

"Dancing was very active and it was great that we were able to dance with our friends."

Trudy Donald YR8

assessment exposed a real sense of rhythm and creativity from our students at Beacon Hill!

Miss Kaye

"It was fun making your own routines and moves."

Kieran Rowney YR9

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Sports News

Junior Sports Leaders

As a PE department we see a lot of benefit from students adopting a leadership role. We work very hard to train our young leaders and give them as many opportunities to practice their skills. One way in which we do this is by using year 9 young leaders to run festivals for the primary schools. The current group of year 9 leaders have been so successful that we have developed a club with them, meeting once a week for them to run a primary Olympic festival. They are totally in control of the festival with very little help from Miss Kaye or Mr Young.

We have kindly been awarded money from Aspatria and District charity association and we are using this to develop our leaders. So far the young sports leaders have arranged a date and running order for the event and are in the process of putting the finishing touches to the project.

Good luck for the festival and here's to a bright future as sports leaders.

Bike Club

Bike club is up and running and after half term will still be on a Wednesday night. Last year we were training hard for the coast to coast, this year we are aiming to complete a gruelling sea to summit challenge. This challenge is not to be taken lightly so anyone that has signed up to it really must be training for it. Although we hold cycling sessions every week, students should also be cycling in their own time to reach the required fitness and Miss Laithwaite will also be delivering running sessions every Friday night (again students should be completing at least one additional session in their own time). If you have signed up for the end of term physical challenge we expect to see you at the clubs. Believe me the challenge is honestly very hard and will be a true achievement!

Mr Young

If you would like to sponsor one of our newsletters please contact our school business manager, Mrs Hemingway.



Important Dates for your Diary



Mon 4th - Fri 8th June	Half-term holidays
Mon 11th June	YR9 begin GCSE Courses
W/B Mon 18th June	YR7, 8 & 10 Exam Week
Wed 20th June	Spellbinding Awards Day
Thurs 21st June	Olympic Torch through Aspatria
Wed 27th June	Primary Technology Taster Day
Tuesday 3rd July	Primary Olympic Festival
Thursday 5th July	Sports Day
Mon 9th July	YR6 Induction Day & Parents Evening
W/B Mon 9th July	Yr10 Work Experience Week
Mon 16th July	YR7, 8 & 10 full reports posted home
Mon 16th - Thurs 19th July	Personal Challenge Week
Thurs 19th July	End of Summer Term