

Summer 2012
2nd Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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.

Dear parents and friends of BHS

As the end of term fast approaches, and the last newsletter of the year is waiting patiently for my contribution before going to press, I would once again thank all the students, staff and governors for all their hard work over the year and for their contribution to our wonderful school.

There have been lots of highlights over the year, many of which you will have read about in our newsletters but one of the most significant for me is the outstanding achievement of Ailsa Kaye, our GTP student, part time cover supervisor and unqualified PE teacher who has worked so hard to achieve her teacher status and to accomplish it at the highest possible level. She is a credit to our school and a fantastic role model for our girls!

We are all getting ready for the Challenge week and excitement is growing amongst students and staff. There are four challenges that all of our young people are involved in: a music, drama and dance performance about the Titanic; a tea-party and entertainment for a toddler group in Fletcher Town; a physical challenge from sea to summit and a technology robot and science CSI challenge. All promise to be an exciting and rewarding end to the year!

Finally thank you for your support to our school. I hope that everyone has a good, restful holiday and I look forward to another exciting year ahead.

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

HEADTEACHER

Outstanding!

For those of you that aren't already aware - this past year Miss Kaye has been following a graduate teacher programme. This entails completing university assignments, attending lectures every Wednesday, twilight sessions as well as planning all her lessons and being observed on a regular basis by her university lecturer, Mr. Millne and myself. Miss Kaye has worked extremely hard this year. All of her dedication has paid off as she has achieved the highest possible GTP grade - **Outstanding**. She also received the ultimate accolade from her GTP lecturer who commented that she was: "the best GTP student we have had". We are very proud of Miss Kaye and everything she has achieved; a great asset to the school. WELL DONE Miss Kaye.



Mr Young (PE)

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

World of Work

Trying to get ahead and succeed in today's climate is no easy task, and here at Beacon Hill, we do all we can to prepare our youngsters for taking the next crucial steps into the world of work and further education. Each year we set aside an intensive few days for our year 10 students, with a vigorous programme of activities, talks and tasks designed to help them prepare.

The students started Work Ready week off with a talk from Connexions about

'The Future Workplace' followed by an interactive Employability Skills Workshop with the Army and then More Than Dreams Theatre Group presented a humorous 'Raising Aspirations' workshop.

The second day saw the students spending a whole day at the University of Cumbria at the Bramp-ton Road campus, having a tour and finding out what it's really like to be a student at University! The budgeting activity came as a bit of shock to many students as did the expectation of doing their own laundry! It was useful to visit a University right on our doorstep as many of the year 10 students had the opportunity to visit Lancaster Campus in year 7.

On the final day, the students created CV's and were coached on crucial interview techniques in preparation for the afternoon where they were put through their paces during the nerve racking 'Mock Interviews' session. This gave the students a taste of what a real interview is like and the chance to practise and perfect their interview skills which will prove to be of immense value when they are out in the wide world .

This event could not take place without the help of our local employers, who gave up their time for the benefit of our students. Huge thanks to:

[Sgt Patrick Jackson from ACAF in Carlisle](#)

[Mr Robert Wills from Messers C R Wills in Carlisle](#)

[Alison Walker, Lindsey Richardson, Dennis Graham, all from Innovia in Wigton](#)

[Ken Stitchell from Aspatria Farmers](#)

[Mrs Lisa Dustin from Co-op in Aspatria](#)

[Peter Clark from Rathbones in Workington](#)

[Catherine Bird from Sealy in Aspatria](#)

[Helen Askew](#)

An excellent few days was had by all involved. The Year 10 students took the interviews very seriously and all looked amazing – very professional! Our students really impressed the local employers and received some fantastic feedback from their interview sessions:

“Very polite, well mannered young people, a credit to the school.”

“Compared to other schools, the standard was high and the preparation work showed.”

“Well prepared and the best I have seen – Congratulations.”

Mrs Fleming (Learning Skills Coordinator)

We Can Doodle.

Beacon Hill students and staff at have created a commemorative piece of Art which has been presented to West Street doctor's surgery and is now on display there. The Students and staff added doodles based on 2012. They were inspired by events taking place globally, locally and personally to add a small drawing that represents their ideas and feelings.

Mrs Clitheroe (Art)



Maths Challenge

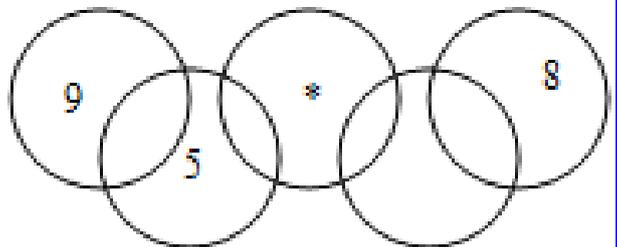
This year some intrepid students from across the school have taken part in the National Maths Challenge. This hour long voluntary event takes place across a number of schools all around the country on the same day, February for years 9 and 10 and April for years 7 and 8.

The challenge consists of a series of mathematical questions and puzzles. They are not what you might imagine are typical maths questions – they are really designed to make you think. For example:

On my clock's display, the time has just changed to 02:31. How many minutes will it be until all the digits 0, 1, 2, 3 next appear together again?

And

Seb has been challenged to place the numbers 1-9 inclusive in the nine regions formed by the Olympic rings so that there is exactly one number in each region and the sum of the numbers in each ring is 11. The diagram shows part of his solution. What number goes in the region marked * ?



The students taking part were -
Y7: Danielle Scott, Tom Askew, Ben Grierson, Jack Carrick and Alix Long.
Y8: Neyve Barton, Shannon Richardson, Jasmine Wilson and Keris Mitchell.
Y9: Annabel Gold, Lynsey Rumney, Ben Carter and Shane Warwick.
Y10: Laura Foster-Devaney, Rebecca Beattie, Beth Tovey, Jack Dixon, Scott Batchelor and Mark Jonsson.

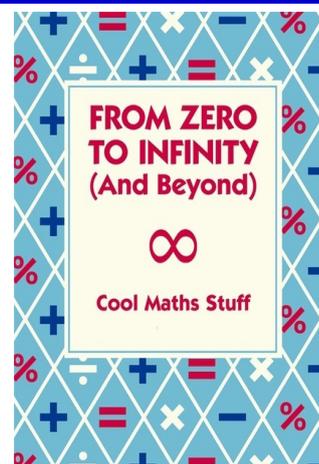
All students made a valiant effort with Neyve, Danielle and Lynsey achieving the bronze award for their efforts and Annabel achieving Silver. Congratulations to them all.

(Answers: 41 minutes, 6)

Miss Laithwaite (Maths)



Most people have thought about the concept of infinity at some time, even if it is just to wonder at the size of the universe and whether it does indeed go on for ever. For most people though, that is as far as the wondering takes them. Infinity is almost too big a concept to explore! Year 8's did some exploration into infinity and it certainly threw up more questions than answers. They presented some of their findings to the rest of the school in an assembly.



Consider walking in a straight line from point A to point B. Your first stride takes you half the distance. Your second stride is half as long so it takes you half the remaining distance. Your third stride is half as long again, your fourth stride half as long again and so on. You can keep walking like this for ever but never quite get to point B...you are taking an infinite walk.

Is time travel possible? We can think of time as people walking in a straight line. Those in front of us are the future and those behind us are the past. Suppose those people now start walking in a circle – an infinite line without start or end. Now everyone is in front of and behind someone at the same time, everyone is the future, the present and the past. If time can be thought of as circular instead of linear then maybe time travel is possible?

The Olympic Selection Committee has the difficult task of deciding which athletes will represent GB at various events. Several factors will be considered including their performances over previous competitions. Students have been imagining themselves as part of this committee and have been comparing the performances of athletes in their events. They have used the statistical measures of mean and range to choose the athlete they would select and to justify their choice.

In July year 8 combined PE and Learn-to-Learn to conduct their own set of athletic investigations. They tested such things as the 11% rule (in athletics it is broadly regarded that if a female's performance is within 11% of a male's performance in the same event then the female's is better), the hypothesis that the longer your legs the further your long jump and exploring what difference throwing over-arm makes to throwing under-arm.

In the final week of term some students will be undertaking their own physical challenge. In preparation for this they have been participating in a running club learning how to run distances efficiently. Any event over 800m is best performed with a negative split, that is where the second half of the distance is covered more quickly than the first half. Students will be aiming to cover the distance in their personal best time with the most efficient pacing.

Maths really is all around us, in all aspects of life. We just rarely get the time to pause, appreciate and wonder at it.

Miss Laithwaite (Maths)

Yummy Chocolates!

Y9 recently had a project morning, where L2L, Design and Food Technology all worked together for 4 lessons. The students were split into teams of 4 and given the task of designing a chocolate, making a mould to make it in and packaging the end result. The new vacuum former really came into its own and students enjoyed using it as part of their work. They vacuum formed a mould to make their chocolates in. The same mould was then used to produce clear packaging for the chocolate which was inserted into a laser cut card wrap. The end packaging design included all necessary nutritional information etc then printed. The standard of work was very high, and the winners therefore difficult to pick. The outcomes were very professional looking and reflected the hard work that students had put in all morning.



Mr Esslemont (DT)

Attendance

Attendance Criteria	Action	Frequency
BLUE 100%	Text or letter to parents.	Every Half Term
Green 95-99.99%	Text to parents	Every Half Term
AMBER 84.01-94.99%	Student Interview with form tutor	Every Half Term
PERSISTANT AMBER	Student interview with Pastoral Manager and Form tutor	Every Half Term
Red Less than 84%	Student and Parent to attend attendance interview with Inclusion Manager	Every Half Term
Persistent absence less than 84%	Attendance panel interview, Parent, Inclusion Manager and School Governor	Every Half Term

As from September our attendance targets have been revised. Please be aware that the threshold for the RED category has been raised to 95% following Local Authority advice. The new grid explains the procedures we need to follow to ensure we are maintaining good

attendance at Beacon Hill. We have now have a BRAG attendance system (Blue, Green, Amber, Red), and we have introduced a BLUE category to celebrate 100% attendance. The new system will also be available to view on our website.

Mrs Sanderson (Inclusion)

Sports Clubs



It's finally arrived, summer term, the PE department's favourite time of year. Rounders, athletics, tennis, cricket... all in the sunshine. Only one thing has gone wrong, you've guessed it, no sunshine. This term's clubs should be basking on the field whilst performing mind blowing throws with the javelin, lightning quick runs on the athletics track and gravity defying jumps in the long jump... none of this has happened! The weather has been so poor very few of our traditional summer clubs have been able to take place.

However, with challenge week fast approaching we have plenty of training to be getting on with. Running club on a Friday night with Miss Laithwaite is in full swing with the majority of the physical challenge participants regularly turning up and the same with bike club on a Thursday night. Both clubs are going well with students improving all the time.

We have been fortunate to secure some free archery coaching. Every Friday for this half term

we have selected a group of students to attend the club and learn new skills. The club is going well with all students enjoying it especially the competitive aspect, notably Chelsea Buchannan who has asked Santa for a bow and arrow for Christmas!

Year 6/7 Summer School

How often do we hear our children say that they are bored in the summer holidays? Here's a solution - Mrs Clitheroe and I have organised a summer school based around both Art and PE, running from Monday 13th August to Friday 17th August, 10am – 3pm each day. The summer school will provide a taste of our school to the new intake year 6 students, give them an extra chance to look around the school and mix with the current year 7 students so they will see some familiar faces when they join Beacon Hill in September. If your child is interested in attending and you haven't had a letter please contact Mr Young.

Junior Sports Leaders

In the last newsletter I mentioned that as a PE department we see benefits from students adopting leadership roles and how much effort we put into training our young leaders. The current group of year 9 leaders have completed all their planning for the Primary School Olympic Festival on Tuesday 10th July - we're just hoping for good weather on the day. Well done to the young leaders as they have performed superbly during the last 4 weeks of after-school meetings and have organised what looks to be a fantastic festival.

Mr Young (PE)



Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch

Initially I volunteered at a School Council meeting to organise a Diamond Jubilee celebration lunch at school. Little did I realise that I would have only 2 days to pull everything together including food, music, layout, decorations and helpers – panic stations!!! First stop was a quick dash down to the canteen to discuss with the staff and to see if it was actually possible given the short time we had to arrange everything. Next, I pitched my ideas to Mr Millne and Mrs Richardson, they agreed and we were in business.

As you can imagine the actual day of the Jubilee lunch soon came round. I began to wonder if all the last minute planning would pay off – it had to! During the day I clock watched as everything needed to happen at certain times. 3rd period I came out of PE to help the canteen set up and at the buzzer signalling 4th period, I rushed up to English still praying that everything would run smoothly.

The buzzer rang, time for lunch and it was back down the stairs and straight into the canteen. Year 10's were out as part of their Work Ready Week so all the goodies were just for KS3 (years 7 – 9). Sandwiches, sausages on sticks, pork pies, crisps, cake, ice cream and jelly were there for everyone to enjoy - as much food as everyone could eat and all for £1.80, brilliant value and good British street party food!

Whew, I was very relieved that in the end everything did run smoothly. After half-term I was called down to Mrs Richardson's office to be presented with a Head Teacher's award for my efforts in organising this event.

Keris Mitchell YR8



Diamond Jubilee Big Read

This term YR7 & 8 have been encouraged to take part in a National Literacy Trust project – the Big Diamond Jubilee Read, a literacy competition to mark the Queen's 60 year reign. Students have been collecting reading miles by spending time reading both at home and in school. These miles allow them to travel around the Commonwealth recording their progress on a wall map as well as their individual reading 'passports'. In total they will 'travel' 33,000 miles which is the equivalent of 11

hours reading broken down into 66 ten minute slots. At motivational checkpoints (Commonwealth countries visited by the Royal Family) students checked in with me to receive little rewards of chocolate coins.

The first past the finish line (returning home to the UK) in both YR7 (Kayleigh Stoddart) & 8 (Shannon Richardson) were presented with a commemorative Jubilee mug in a whole school assembly. Everyone who completes their reading journey has been entered into a national prize draw and will be able to choose a free book from my very special bookshelf!

This challenge has been achievable for even the most reluctant of readers, especially as they have had complete freedom over their reading choice and students have loved receiving edible treats as rewards as well as having their progress charted on the wall map.

Mrs Cruickshank (Library)



If your child needs any form of medication during school time this should be left with the office. The appropriate paper work must be completed and the medication labelled with name, dosage and contact number.

ROLAND HILL

Working to Improve the Eco- Environment



*General Building Contracts
Steelwork and Cladding Services
Roofing Services
Sustainable Construction
Renewable Technologies
Plumbing and Heating
Plant Hire*

TEL: 016973 20483

office@rolandhills.co.uk

www.rolandhills.co.uk



Uniform to Work Day

school assembly at Beacon Hill School, where he is a student. He was assisted by Lance Corporal Ian Murdoch, an old boy of Beacon Hill now in post sixteen education.

The cadets of Aspatria Detachment showed considerable initiative in arranging the presentation which is in line with the commandants newly announced policy to involve cadets when recruiting in schools.

Major J.C. Bennett, Cumbria ACF

Cadet Martin Bell took advantage of the Uniform to Work Day, not only to wear his uniform, but to give a short presentation on the advantages of service as an army cadet to a whole

Recently in our Triple Science lessons we had the opportunity to take part in 'I'm a Scientist, get me out of here!', an online event which enabled

I'm a Scientist
Get me OUT of here

<http://imascientist.org.uk/>



us to talk to scientists who are just normal people doing a job that they are passionate about. First we read up on the scientists and what their job involved ranging from genetics, drug testing, and evolution to nuclear physics!

We were then able to actually chat online with at least two scientists in 30 minute time slots. We talked to them in depth asking questions like 'How their work will help us in our lives?', 'Can they cure illnesses & diseases?', 'Will we ever be able to choose the gender of our children?' and 'How are new drugs tested?'.

The scientists were quick to respond and at the end of the session we were able to vote for the scientist we liked the best.

The winning scientist was Nicki, 24, who works in a hospital screening samples of DNA for genetic diseases and researching the effects of mutations on cells, proving that not all scientists are old and boring!

As well as the scientific aspect, we really enjoyed talking to them and getting to know them. We all found it beneficial and would gladly take part again.

Lucy Nicholson YR9

We do it right...

offering uncompromising quality
We are a local firm with over
30 years genuine experience



Adrian Hemingway Est.1982
PVCU SPECIALIST

**SECTIONAL, ROLLER, UP & OVER
GARAGE DOORS & AUTOMATION**



Innovative Design
Smooth Operation
Safety & Security Features
Wide Range of Styles
Competitive Prices
Please call us for a
FREE quotation on

Telephone 01900 873400

www.adrianhemingway.co.uk

Corbiere House, 8b Main Road, Seaton, Workington

Routes into Languages

On Monday 2nd July, 14 students from year 8 set out to Cockermouth School for a 'Routes Into Languages Day' run by Manchester University. The aim of the day was to increase students' awareness of the importance of studying foreign languages and to raise their awareness of the wide range of languages and cultures alive in the UK today.

During the day we took part in 3 workshops. Our group were mixed with a group from Cockermouth School, who were really friendly. We learnt how to

present ourselves in Italian and did well in a quiz about Italy. Some students were disappointed that the 'taster session' didn't include food! We had great fun doing Arabic dance, waving coloured scarves around and shaking our stuff. Finally we learnt the art of Chinese paper folding and made a jumping frog 'Chin Wa' to take home.

Mrs Baxter (French)



'We learnt Italian with a funny man called Fabricio. It was straight forward and it got us talking to the Cockermouth pupils. I think it would be challenging to learn another language such as Spanish or Portuguese.' - **Sophie Holliday**

'I liked the Chinese paper folding, it was different and we learnt new Chinese words along the way. The most memorable moment was when Bradley Thompson was belly dancing, he really got into it and won a prize.' - **Ellie Tinnion**



Important Dates for your Diary



Further dates may be found on the school website

Monday 16th July	YR7, 8, 10 Full reports posted home to parents
Monday 16th -Thursday 19th July	Personal Challenge Week
Thursday 19th July @ 2pm	End of Term - Summer Holidays begin
Monday 13th - Friday 17th August	YR6 & 7 Summer School
Thursday 23rd August	GCSE Exam Results 10am - 12pm
Wednesday 5th September	Autumn Term begins
Tuesday 18th September	YR6 Open Evening 6pm - 8pm
Thursday 27th September	KS3 Supercool Science Roadshow
Thursday 4th October	National Poetry Day
Tuesday 16th October 5 - 6pm	YR7 Tutor/Residential Information Evening
W/B Monday 22nd October	Work Life Balance Week no after school clubs or detentions
Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November	Half Term Holidays
Wednesday 7th - Friday 9th November	YR7 Adventure Residential
Tuesday 13th November	School Awards Evening