

Summer
1st Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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Head Teacher:

Dear parents and friends of BHS

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. This edition is once again packed with news and articles about the life of our wonderful school. When I read it I am always amazed at how much we pack into our days. No wonder the weeks seem to fly by! Learning is much more fun than it ever was when I went to school: from discussing the Boston bombers, learning to be a musketeer in the fencing club to scaling the fells around Loweswater. I sometimes wish I was still a pupil!

Some of you will recall that Mr. Rajput Head of Science resigned from his post last term. I would like to thank him publicly for all his hard work over the years and to draw your attention to an article about him on page 3. We have appointed a new science subject lead, Mrs Andrea Bateson who is to take up the science reins in September.

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

GCSE ART AND GRAPHICS 2013



The Art course is two years of drawing, painting and 3D work broken up into three courseworks and a final exam. It's not just life-drawing! There are many medias to explore. Art students are expected to think independently and choose their

own final outcomes.

Many choose Art because they think that it is the easy way out, but as some of our year 11s can tell you, it's not! Personally I think that Art is very challenging and brings out your creative side. After studying this subject I feel like it has made me a well rounded person complementing my other academic studies. I have learnt a lot about different types of art, such as graffiti and typography. It has certainly made me appreciate artwork more.

I would definitely recommend choosing Art as an option. Even though it is a lot of work, it is a great experience.

Katy Riddick YR11

Baking to Backpacking for Bikes



Training is going well and planning is finally coming together for this year's Bike Challenge. In just over two months' time 22 pupils will embark on the most ambitious Bike Challenge yet – to cycle from Rotterdam to Calais, a total of over 165 miles!! Not only is this even further than the Coast2Coast but it will also see pupils cycle through 3 countries on the continent.

Pupils have been working hard – both to train for the challenge and to help

raise funds. After a tough 20 mile ride last Thursday Callum Scott had to sprint back to school to make it in time for a live radio interview with radio Cumbria where he explained how the training was “hard,” but that he “can feel the benefits and see improvements each week.” Bike Club members have been joined on the weekly rides by parents and police officers who will also join us on the challenge itself.

Pupils have also continued to work hard raising funds to pay for the ride. We have been well supported by parents baking and donating goods for the regular cake sales and the local produce market at the beginning of the month in Cockermouth. The raffle is going well with great prizes being donated including a double bed from Sealy, Tumble Dryer from Northern Vacuums, an electronic photo frame and a DVD player. Tickets are still available so don't miss out! There are also some names left to guess on the huge Teddy Bear. After half term all pupils will take part in two bag packing sessions at Workington Tesco and Morrison's. So far the commitment on behalf of most of the pupils has been fantastic with many giving up several Saturdays to make this trip possible.

One of the few girls brave enough to take on the challenge, Trudy Donald, said, “The training is hard, but very worth it! I am looking forward to the real thing.”

Coast2Coast and Sea2Summit veteran Ben Carter feels that, “Out of all the challenges I think this might be the toughest as it is on average 50 miles a day.”

Mr Gee

Parent Governor Vacancy (Sept 13)

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 and 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.





MR RAJPUT Token of Appreciation

As many of you will already know Mr Rajput resigned from his post as subject Leader of Science earlier this year.

He was in post at the school for over twenty eight years and during his time he held many varied posts; science teacher, PE teacher, school counsellor, midday supervisor, Head of KS4, all undertaken with great enthusiasm and dedication. He is an inspirational teacher and many students past and present owe their love of science and their curiosity of the world around them to him.

Mr Rajput became a stalwart of the bi-annual trips to France, and as a keen sportsman he often took students for a night out in the school mini bus to watch Carlisle United calling in for fish and chips on the way home! Many past and present students and staff have fond memories of his time at Beacon Hill.

Mr Rajput was a great support to me when I first came to Beacon Hill and has remained a good friend.

To mark his retirement from Head of Science I would like to present him with a token of our appreciation at the end of term.

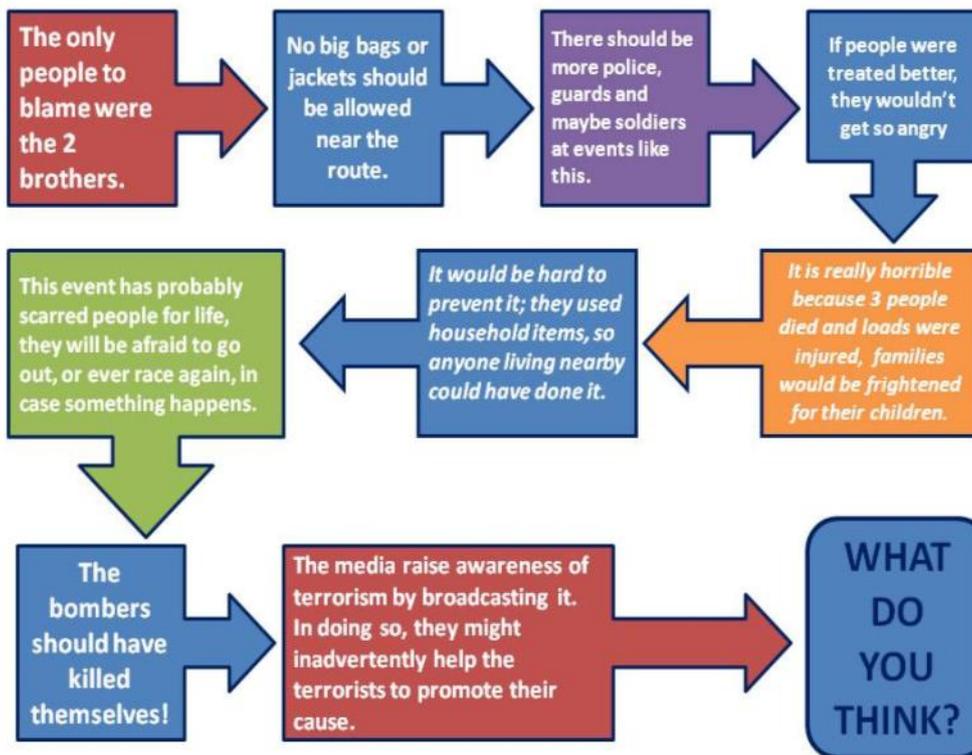
A collection has been opened and donations can be made via the school office.

Thank you in advance.

Mrs Richardson

Kentigern 2 Talks About: Boston Bombings

Following the shocking news that 2 bombs exploded near the finish line of one of Boston's biggest events, the Boston Marathon, form K2 have been discussing both the effects of, and reasons why, acts such as this are committed. The pupils' ideas are food for thought.



Everyone agreed that it would be practically impossible to search the full 26 mile route for every dangerous eventuality. The only safe alternative would be to run at a stadium where access could be restricted.

Miss Laithwaite, who runs marathons in the States and at home, 'It may be concerning, but not to take part would be handing power to the terrorists'.

Bassenthwaite - L2L

In Learn2Learn this term we have been studying the Bassenthwaite catchment. This topic included us:

- finding out about the area;
- discovering about phosphates and how much we use;
- how much sedimentation we had in our lakes, how much was natural and how much was our fault;
- how we were affecting the area;
- and what we can do to help.



To start with Neyve, Emily, Sophie, Josh and I were given a task, to lead a short lesson to other pupils. Mrs Inkester told us what we had to do and what equipment we had. We were a bit unsure at first as we had to plan everything by ourselves.

At the beginning of our prep time we looked at some information sheets. These had everything we needed to know on them, so it wasn't too hard. We had a box full of cloth objects, each one represented something involved in the catchment. We also had a cloth sheet, it was supposed to be Bassenthwaite and the surrounding areas. We sorted out who would be saying what and who would place each object on the mat. Soon our time was up; our first group was ready to be taught. Reece said *'It was a new way of learning and it was fun.'* Then the group we taught had to teach another group. We watched and gave help where needed.

Soon, we realised that there were lots of things we could do to stop sedimentation and phosphates entering the lake. We could all switch to eco-friendly washing powder; we could help plant trees by riverbeds and stop walking on eroded footpaths.

The final part of this project will be our visit Loweswater where we will work with National Trust Wardens who will give us an insight into the work they do to protect the area.

Jasmine Wilson YR9



500,000 Free Giveaway

Almost a month has passed since World Book Night on 23rd April, when we and **19,999** others gave books to an astounding **half a million people**. Here at Beacon Hill we gave away 100 World Book Night books (20 each of 5 very different titles) at the Year 7 & 8 Parents evening on Tuesday 30th April. The books ranged from Little Face, a psychological thriller to Judge Dredd an iconic graphic novel.

As a school we are passionate about reading with many of the staff volunteering to read some of the books prior to our massive giveaway.

We hope YR7 & 8 parents, grandparents and carers have enjoyed the books they chose, and in the spirit of World Book Night please feel to pass it on to someone else. For myself I really did enjoy meeting and talking to you all about my favourite subject ... BOOKS. A great way to pass on the love of reading to your child is by actively being seen to read yourself and chatting to them about what you are reading.

Mrs Cruickshank



YR9 L2L Loweswater Visit

This term in Learn2Learn we have been asking the question *Do We Care?* and focusing on the local environment. We have studied the impact of farming and tourism on ecosystems, in particular the Bassenthwaite catchment.

On Tuesday 14th May we went on a trip to Loweswater where they have similar concerns with phosphates, invasive species and sedimentation. In particular they are concerned about blue green algae. We really enjoyed this trip - the bus journey was fun and we learnt a lot, especially through talking to all sorts of different people while we were there.

We would like to thank **Mark Astley** and **Roy Henderson** who are **National Trust Rangers**. They took us on a walk around the lake; it was interesting to see real examples of the things we had learnt about in class. We could really see our impact – particularly on erosion which contributes to sedimentation. Mark was great, explaining the problems at Loweswater and ways in which people could avoid damaging the environment and what we can do to help.

Farming is the main industry and form of employment in the Loweswater area. We met a local farmer called **Ken**. We heard the issues from his point of view and found out about the ideas and methods he has introduced to protect the ecosystem and save time and money.

A **West Cumbrian Rivers Trust** representative called **Vicky** also spoke to us on how they are working with local people to improve the quality of water in the lake and the innovative methods used to get rid of the blue green algae in Loweswater. She explained that Loweswater was unusual in that it was the concerns of local people and the Loweswater Care Project who first noticed the problem and attempted to improve the lake – rather than directives coming from government or the EU like other lakes.

Finally we would all like to say a big thank you to Mark and Roy's dogs, *Nel* and *Daisy* who pulled us up the hills!

Year 11 students are currently taking GCSE's.

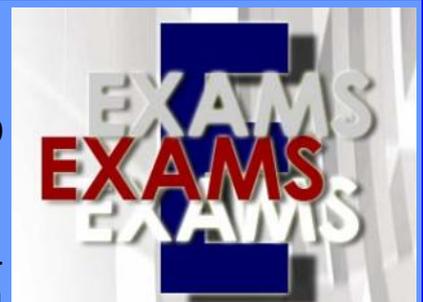
Year 10 have Science GCSE modules after half term.

Year 9 have Core Subject Exams this week and **Year 7, 8 & 10** have internal School Exams the week beginning 17th June.

REVISION HELP

Students can find numerous online resources to support their revision on the school website under the left hand student tab. All exams are important and require considerable amount of revision to be done at home to ensure success.

Mr Millne, Deputy Headteacher



Celebrating Enterprising Ideas Wood you Believe it!

Enterprising Year 11 leavers Thomas, Connor and Damien have been celebrating the successful completion of their Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Level 1 awards by purchasing new polo shirts as a memento of their time at Beacon Hill from funds they have raised themselves.

These winning students have taken part in several enterprising activities whilst studying for their Certificate of Personal Effectiveness including plant sales, selling Christmas wreaths and most recently selling bags of wood produced from a newly felled diseased tree from the school site.



The students organised for local woodsman Charlie Miles to come and help them fell the tree which they then reduced into logs. They bagged and sold them, raising over £200 to put towards future projects for the next cohort of students who follow them onto the course.

The course offers an alternative more vocational course of study. ASDAN is a pioneering curriculum development organisation and awarding body, offering programmes and qualifications that explicitly grow skills for learning, employment and life. It provides opportunities for all learners to develop their personal and social attributes and levels of achievement through ASDAN awards.

“This course is the one and only because you don’t have to sit down all day. When you are out doing Practicals, it’s the time of your life.” Connor Abram

“I was threatened with permanent exclusion from my last school, moving to Beacon Hill has been the time of my life because I don’t have to stay

indoors all day. You plan things and work towards your goals. Learning how to work with others and solve problems in my CoPE lessons has helped me become part of a great team.” Damien Tinkler

Thomas Carrick commented, “The best thing about coming to school for me has been my ASDAN lessons because you get your hands dirty and it shows you can do practical work at school that will help you as an adult”.

I have been so impressed with all the hard work and effort these boys have put into their studies, their portfolios are a credit to them and we have shared many wonderful experiences during their time at our school. I wish them every success for the future, stick in lads!

Mrs. Skillicorn

A Year in the Life of a Prefect

Towards the end of year ten, some students underwent interviews to become school prefects. As prefects we would assist teachers and admin staff in organising the many events that we undergo here at Beacon Hill, including charity events and end of term student activities.

One of our first objectives as prefects was to organize a music concert for the both Beacon Hill students and teenagers in the surrounding area, producing posters and tickets, taking charge of selling the tickets and handling the profits. We sold over 100 tickets and the event was declared a resounding success!

Another activity the prefects had an active role in was the paired reading scheme ran by the school. Each Prefect had two younger students to mentor in their reading. During two morning form sessions a week we would listen to them read, and make motivational comments on their progress; other students from KS4 were also part of the group aiming to improve the reading of some of the younger students who were perhaps struggling and not reaching their potential.

We also provided support at both our Open Evening and Awards Night. At the Open Evening, we guided potential future students around for their first look at the Beacon Hill. During the Awards Evening: Laura Foster-Devaney did a dramatic monologue from the perspective of Heathcliff from Wuthering Heights; Beth Tovey, Becky Beattie and Hannah Donald showed parents to their seats, as well as greeting people at the door. I assisted Laura and Suzanne in tending to the VIP guests to the event, serving refreshments before the evening began and to round the evening off I gave the Vote of Thanks speech at the end of the awards presentation.

Our next task as prefects was to think about charity work we could support. We organised a Red Nose sale for Comic Relief, as well as a 'Who Knows Whose Nose' challenge in which students and teachers tried to match teachers with their corresponding nose picture, on the sheet provided. Not an easy task!

Prefects are now entering the final months of their year of duties, and are co-ordinating any final school leavers' events. Leavers' jumpers are our current project, which includes organising and collecting money for orders, and placing the order itself. A few weeks ago we were given the opportunity to create our own leaver's assembly presentation, which I agreed to do and with the help of a couple of other YR11s we are now sifting through the mammoth archive of photos.

Year 11s are now looking forward to their leaver's Prom to be held at the Wheyrigg Hall Hotel after sitting all our GCSE exams. The Prefects started off the process for the Prom by canvassing what students actually wanted - what venue, entertainment and food choices the leavers would prefer.

All in all a very busy year and we hope that as Prefects we have 'done the school proud'.

Scott Batchelor Prefect



The diverse roles of a Prefect - formal speeches to end of term activities!





Young Sports Leaders - Fencing

On the 26th of March 2013, 12 year nine sports leaders were chosen to take part in a full day fencing course. The reason why we were enrolled on the fencing course was to teach us how to organise and run our own sessions. First of all we were told what to do and how to keep safe while using the epees (the swords we were using) and to always keep them away from other people.

We then moved on to playing some warm up games and learnt how to get our participants active using games such as Stuck in the Mud or Tag. We practiced using the epee, learning how to perform to fool our opponents, making them think you are going to move in a certain direction or make an attack when you are not. We performed these skills and tricks in front of the other young sports leaders to show our understanding.

Finally we were given the opportunity to play in a match using our newly acquired skills aiming to out-manoeuvre our opponents. Fencing is a sport which keeps you on your toes, making you think ahead of ways to win the point.

Joshua Donald YR9

Important Dates for your Diary

Mon 20th - Fri 24th May	YR9 Core Exams
Wed 22nd - Fri 24th May	YR10 Work Readiness
Mon 27th - Fri 31st May	Half-term
W/B 3rd June	YR9 Begin GCSE Courses
Fri 7th June	YR9 End of Key Stage Report sent home
Sat 8th June	Bike Challenge Bagpacking @ Tesco, Workington 10am - 6pm
W/B Mon 17th June	YR7, 8 & 10 School Exams
Wed 19th June	Spellbinding Awards Day
Fri 21st June	YR11 PROM Wheyrigg Hall Hotel @ 7pm
Sat 22nd June	Bike Challenge Bagpacking @ Morrison's, Workington 9am-5pm
Tues 2nd & Wed 3rd July	YR4 & 5 Primary Technology Taster Days
Thurs 4th July	Sports Day
Mon 8th July	YR6 New Intake Day and Parents Evening @ 6pm
Mon 8th - Fri 12th July	YR10 Work Experience Week
Fri 12th July	YR7, 8 & 10 Full report sent home to parents
Mon 15th - Fri 19th July	Work life balance week no after school clubs or detentions
Mon 15th - Fri 19th July	Challenge Week
Fri 19th July	End of Summer Term