

Autumn 2008

2nd 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 Beacon Hill

As we near the end of another very busy term it is time to reflect on 2008 and to look forward to the New Year.

Once again, the school recorded its best ever GCSE results with 51% A* to C grades and we were awarded a certificate for outstanding progress by the Specialist Schools Trust. We are hopeful that our current year 11 will do even better next summer.

However, as I said at our special leavers GCSE award night last November, examinations are not everything and it is lovely to see so many of our young people involved in worthwhile activities both inside and outside the school.



A credit to our school!
Some of our students who took part in Remembrance Day activities.

We are all looking forward to the New Year when our long awaited Astro Turf will be completed. This pitch will be an excellent addition to our facilities both for the school and the local community and we know it will be well used, both during the day and in the evenings. Information about hiring of the pitch for community use will be sent out later in the New Year.

Although our school was not included in the first bid for funding to the Building Schools for the Future we are very optimistic for the future. We hope that we will be able to take part in the 'follow on' funding streams and have time to develop innovative and exciting proposals to transform our school and ensure education is kept in the heart of our community.

Sadly, at the end of this term, we say goodbye to our Deputy Head Teacher Mr John Whittle. He has been a fantastic Deputy and I will miss him very much. I would like to thank him for all the hard work he has done for our school and wish him the very best of luck in his future post as Head Teacher of Samuel King's School.

The newsletter is once again crammed full of interesting articles so I will sign off by wishing each and every one of our friends, parents and students a very happy Christmas, and a successful and enjoyable New Year.

Peace to you and your family.

HEAD TEACHER

Not to be SEEN or HEARD Mobile Phones in School



Just a reminder about the school policy regarding students' bringing or using mobile phones within school. Recently we have had a few students choosing to ignore the school rules and we

are concerned that they may be used to bully other students!

We appreciate that for personal safety, walking home on dark, wintry evenings that parents may wish their child to carry a mobile to & from school. If they need to bring a mobile into school they should be left switched off in their locker, bag or handed in at the school office. Please note that we don't accept any liability if they are damaged or stolen.

If your child needs to contact home throughout the school day, they **MUST** do so via the school office.

Warning if your child is seen using or carrying a mobile phone it will then be confiscated for a week and then only returned to their parent/guardian.

BBC Look North

Some of our year 10 & 11 students who attended a smoking information presentation at Oughterside Primary School were asked if they were interested in being interviewed by our local BBC Look North.

One of our ex-governors, John Miller gave a talk on smoking and what the long term effects of smoking can be. This gentleman has had throat cancer and now talks through a voice box. BBC Look North wanted to interview the students to see what the effects the talk had on them.

Judy Ingham from BBC Look North came into school on Tuesday 18th November and interviewed 3 of our students Lucy Dixon, year 11 and Emily Weaver and Joseph Barnes from year 10. We were very lucky that 2 of our students' interviews were on BBC Look North that night, both came across as very confident and clear speakers. Well Done!

Mrs Pearce



The Big Draw

Each of the form groups was initially given a section of a chapter to illustrate from C.S. Lewis' classic *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*. I am very pleased to say that the Big Draw was a success; the students enjoyed the activities so much that it had to be extended for a second week.

The end results from the form group sessions are fantastic and are up on display around the hall. It provided an excellent opportunity to promote drawing as a fun activity and for the students to see teachers who are not normally seen drawing, having a go!

It also gave the students a chance to look more in depth at our theme for Rock challenge this year, *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*

All round it proved to be a stimulating and productive activity that will be programmed in again next year. Prizes are to be presented during the awards ceremony for the form that produced the best image and the form that put in the most effort.

Mrs Clitheroe



The Free Books for Schools scheme, begins in the new year. Tokens can be collected from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from January 11, and our school will be able to use them to claim free books from a list of 170 great titles compiled by Times Newspapers and Scholastic Book Clubs. So with 12 tokens printed every week and books available from just 10 tokens, it won't take long to fill our library shelves with some great new titles. Please hand in any tokens at the school office. Thank you.

<http://tbfs.gfm.co.uk>

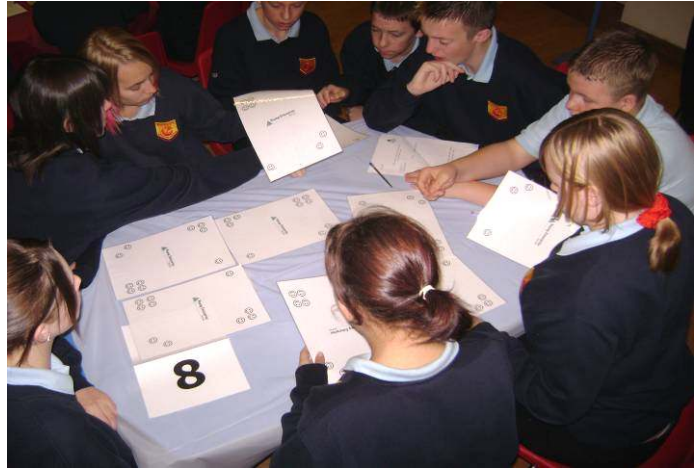
Mrs Cruickshank



Seasons' Greetings

We would like to wish everyone who has supported us throughout 2008 a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. This year we have decided to make a donation to charity instead of sending out greetings cards.

Seconds till Take Off - YR9 & 10 Enterprise Day



For years 9 and 10 this year we have started off the enterprise by working in conjunction with a company called young enterprise. Young Enterprise came into school in November and delivered a programme based around starting up a new airline company. Students were split into teams and made decisions as to who was going to adopt which roll such as finance manager, managing director, sales rep etc. Students were tasked with planning in flight menus and entertainment, designing a tail fin and crew's uniform, calculating costs, applying for a flight licence and selling seats. They then had to put together a presentation to show why their airline was the best and why the judges (volunteers from Innovia Films, Wigton) should chose them as the winners. All of the students worked extremely hard on the day and the overall winners were Pudsey Airlines.

Thanks very much to Young Enterprise and Innovia Films and well done to all the students, a fantastic effort all round!

Mr Young

Beacon Hill Community Learning

Holiday Spanish

Monday 26 January 7pm - 9pm
10 wks Beacon Hill School

Dog Obedience

Tuesday 13 January From 6.30 pm
10 wks Beacon Hill School

Pilates

Tuesday 13 January From 6.15 pm
10 wks Beacon Hill School

Website design

Saturday 28 February & Saturday 7
March Beacon Hill School

Easy IT

Thursday 29 January 7pm to 9pm
10 wks Beacon Hill School

Reading, writing and spelling (for adults)

Tuesday 24 February 6.30pm-8.30pm
16 wks Beacon Hill School

Watercolours

Monday 12 January 9.30 am - 11.30 am
10 wks Blennerhasset
Transport available

Drawing

Wednesday 14 January 10am to 12pm
10 wks Blennerhasset
Transport available

Silverwork

Wednesday 14 January 7pm to 9pm
10 wks Torpenhow
Transport available

Salsa

Wednesday 27 January 7pm to 9pm
5 wks Aspatria

Trace your family tree

Wednesday 28 Jan 10am to 12pm
5 wks Aspatria

Yoga

Monday 12 January 10am - 11.30am
10 wks Plumbland Village Hall
Transport available

Contact Judith at Beacon Hill School 016973 20509

beaconhillcommunity@hotmail.com

Hourly fees

£2.45/£1.96/61p



We ran a poetry competition to celebrate National Poetry Day in October and although the following was unfortunately our only entry it is of an exceptionally high quality. Definitely very thought provoking! Rachael said her inspiration came from a conversation she had had with a Nobel Peace Prize winner and very aptly it was read out at our Remembrance Day assembly. Well done Rachael.

Be Proud by Rachael Dixon

Be proud that the innocence of children's youth was blown away with their limbs.

Be proud that the actions of the leaders of countries are slaughtering innocent people.

Be proud of the bombs dropped overhead ruining homes, families and lives.

Be proud that our answer to problems is to blow things up, incinerate countries and the souls that live there.

Be proud of the mothers at home feeling "proud" that their child's life has ended because they went to war.

We should be proud?

A Taste of Uni Life



As part of the Government funded Aimhigher initiative a group of year 10 & 11 students were given the opportunity to visit the faculty of Health, Medical & Social Care at the Fusehill Campus of the University of Cumbria experiencing 'Taster Sessions' spanning nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, radiography and working with children. By attending the Taster Day students should be in a position to make more informed choices about future careers and higher education opportunities.

I would like to take this opportunity to re-assure any parents and students who didn't receive an Aimhigher target letter recently that within school we aim to offer HE activities to ALL students who would benefit.

Future Aimhigher activities planned for 2009 vary from Problem Solving Workshops for Yr 7 & 8, Girls in Aerospace Yr10 (designing & building a hovercraft), through to further Yr11 taster days covering Forensic Science, Law & Policing and Access Lancaster Maths & Science revision sessions.

Mrs Cruickshank

Free Stuff!!!



Earlier in the year I sent out a letter to parents enquiring about the possible interest in seeking out Windows Office software at as reasonable a price as possible. Unfortunately the limited response meant that it wasn't practical to pursue this any further.

However, as I mentioned in that letter, I would continue to look out for ways to provide suitable cost-effective software and have come across a way our students may access most of the applications they will need during their time at Beacon Hill free-of-charge! This depends upon having Internet access at home but if you do I can recommend a range of applications provided by Google called "Google Docs" accessed by going to www.docs.google.com. Once signed up, users have access to free word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software that can be used from anywhere with Internet access. In addition Google provides free secure storage for documents and incorporates a facility to work on documents 'offline' and then when ready 'upload' them.

I propose running lessons at school to introduce students to Google Docs to raise awareness of this free resource and I am willing – if the demand is there – to run one or two evening sessions for parents, either send in a message via your child that you are interested or email me at:

sthompson@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk.

Mr Thompson

RA Young Chef of the Year



During September and October 11 of our YR 9 students prepared to take part in the very first Rural Academy Young Chef of the Year competition. A 2 course meal including a main course and either a starter or a dessert had to be planned for 2 people using as much local produce as possible and all for no more than £5.

A panel of judges marked the competitors on a variety of areas: personal hygiene, range of skills used, freshness of ingredients,

use of local produce, healthy eating, creativity and of course taste, aroma and appearance.

Many of the students as well as sourcing meat & fish from local suppliers also used home grown ingredients.

After two very close and very difficult to judge school heats our two winners were Abbie Storey & Robyn Carter who then progressed onto the inter-school final in early November.

Abbie's Menu

Sausage Casserole

Mini Raspberry Cheesecakes

Robyn's Menu

Spanish Chicken & Orange Casserole

Oaty Plum Crumble

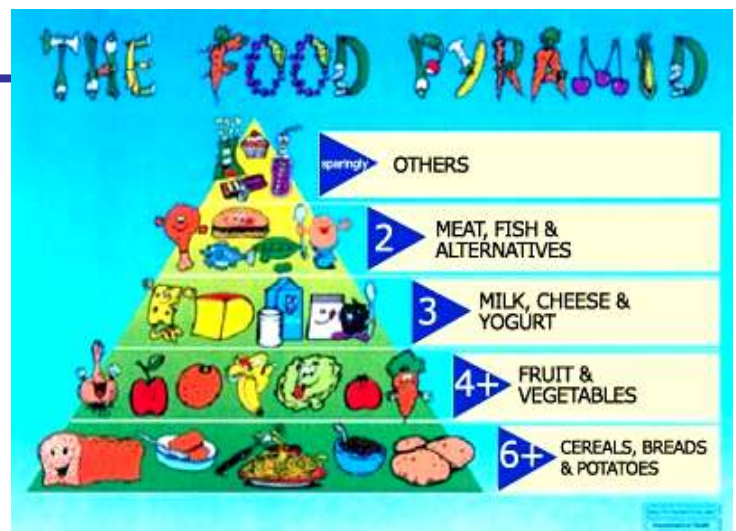
Unfortunately neither of the girls won but I would like to congratulate all of our students who participated and hope they gained confidence from the whole experience. I was very impressed with them all, especially when you consider that it is the first time they have been involved in anything on this scale. The 2 finalists excelled in the use of their allotted time span, their choice of dishes which incorporated well thought out ingredients, health conscious and the end result was very vibrant and appetising.

Mrs Pattinson

Eating to Learn

We are concerned that some of our pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 are visiting the local shops on their way into school in the morning. This has resulted in them buying sweets and fizzy drinks and not having enough money left over to purchase a dinner from the school kitchen.

Apart from the health issues this raises we also feel that is having a detrimental effect on their concentration and behaviour in school. Also many do not have enough money to purchase a school lunch and are filling up by just eating sweet things such as puddings and drinks. Please explain to your child the need for a healthy lunch in the middle of the day and ask them to stop visiting the shops on their way to school. Obviously sweets eaten after school will be something that you will advise them on.



ASDAN in the Community

As well as developing their own in-house growing area students have also been working hard supporting their local community. A team of Year 10 students have been working at Allerby Community Gardens where they have created a cobbled stream and pathways in their developing wildlife garden site. Allerby is a market garden with lovely view over the Solway coast. It acts as a working market garden with work training links. Project manager, Dave Fenwick commented, "The students have worked very well, produced excellent results and the main thing is they have enjoyed themselves creating a high standard part of the wild life area. The area they are working in has within days been taken over by wildlife and was highlighted by the visit of a snipe and two stoats within a few days."



Other community efforts include working with the local Youth Service utilizing the beautiful Dream-scheme Garden created behind the Church Hall some years ago. "Maintenance of the garden had become an issue as the original members of the Dream-scheme had 'moved on'. Having the students employed in helping maintain the site has been a godsend to our local community. The students have really worked hard on the garden and it's wonderful to see the original plans still driving forward by the young people of Aspatria", said Dream-scheme Project Manager, Linda Hunter. Pupils are learning to grow their own fruit and vegetables in raised beds on the site and this year have harvested beans, carrots, leeks, onions, potatoes and pumpkin as well as trans-

planting black-currant bushes to the site, pruning, weeding, painting woodwork and general maintenance.

The students earn points whilst working at the garden and these points can be exchanged to help finance equipment, trips or activities. The students used this year's points to help finance a trip to Gibbs Hill Farm in Northumberland experiencing life on a working farm, staying overnight and enjoying a quad-bike safari the next day.



Mrs Skillicorn

Thank you for all the Morrison's vouchers you donated to the school. In total we have collected an amazing **one thousand one hundred and sixty eight vouchers**. We are going to put these vouchers to good use and exchange them for new equipment such as gardening gloves, potato barrel widger and dibber set and also seeds such as pumpkin, sweet pea, nasturtium, candy tuft, Californian poppy, giant and dwarf sunflowers.



By Tamara Fincher and Connor Wardle

How to Make a Wreath



Recently we visited Distington Walled Gardens to make Christmas wreaths. To begin with we learnt about all the different materials we would need to decorate our wreaths. Helen showed us how to make machine made wreaths whilst Allan showed us how to make hand made wreaths.

If you want to have a go yourselves:

- 1. Start with a moss ring;**
- 2. Wind thin wire around a small bunch of holly/ivy/yew/heather or conifer;**
- 3. Wire the bunch onto the moss ring snip the wire;**
- 4. Continue making bunches using various greenery and adding them onto the moss ring until the wreath is full;**
- 5. Add pine cones, berries, ribbon etc in the same way to decorate.**

Tamara Fincher

ASDAN APPRECIATION

Many thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas Sale. The students raised over £280 for Distington Walled Gardens.

Our thanks also goes to Jenny and Sharon from the Cumberland Building Society for volunteering to work with our ASDAN students. After a tour around the ASDAN Dreamscheme garden, they helped us plant broad beans. We also had time to show them around our new Outdoor Learning area.

Mrs Skillicorn

Boccia Superstars

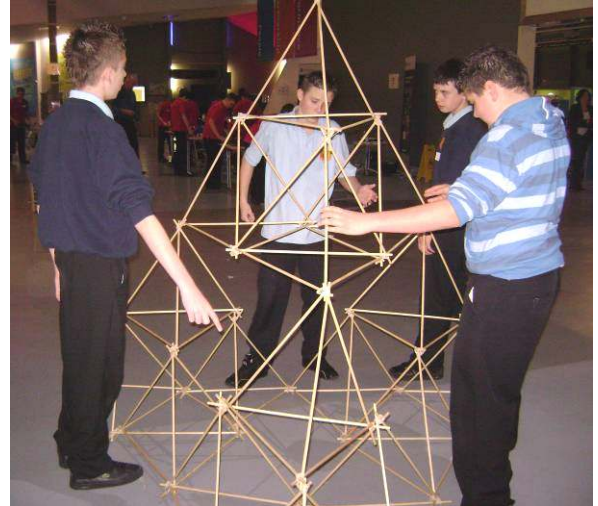


Three students from Beacon Hill have been chosen to officiate at a regional Boccia event being held in Liverpool in January 2009. The students were chosen after they had at-

tended a Boccia Officials course last year where the organisers and coaches were so impressed with these students that when a tournament was organised our students were some of the first on the list. This is a great honour for both them and the school and we are very proud of these 3 as well as all the other the Boccia students on the course.

Miss Trussell

YR 9 Skills Fair



On Friday, 5th December Year 9 visited Sellafield as part of a Career Pathways' education programme. Various activities were available, and students had pre-selected two workshops to attend. The Year 9s fought their reticence going on to enjoy tasks such as biscuit decoration, miniature car manufacture, tower building, nail beauty and PE circuits. Rather than learning new skills, the tasks were designed to engage the Year 9s and inspire them to think of new work opportunities, whether it is in tourism, engineering, science or customer based services.

Mr Peck

Table Tennis Tournament



This year's house tournaments have started with a house table tennis tournament following a well attended table tennis club both after school and at lunchtimes. The tournament was a great success with some great play leading up to the grand final which was to be fought out by three students; Michael Prescott, Ben Barton and Adrian Scott, one from each of our new house system. All of the matches in the final were of good quality but the deciding match between Ben and Michael was a step above the rest, with long rallies and hard smash shots from both the game could have gone either way. Eventually the winner was **Michael Prescott** winning by 21 points to 19. Well done Michael and thanks to all who entered, 25 students in total. **Mr Young**

Rock Challenge 2009

Rock Challenge - the rehearsals for the 2009 Rock Challenge event are going well. The theme this year is The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Some of the main parts have been allocated and we are now in the process of putting the students into groups i.e. "goodies and badies". After Christmas the main rehearsals will be on Tuesdays but there will be some on other days so students need to look on the PE notice board for information.

We are performing on Friday 24th April at the Sands Centre in Carlisle so please keep that day free if you want to come and watch. Tickets will be on sale via the school office nearer the actual date.

Miss Trussell

Astro Turf Progress

The building of the road to the Astro turf started during October half-term. New fencing has replaced the old fencing making the site more secure. We are now looking forward to the next stage of laying the carpet. Photos of the progress are displayed in reception. We are hoping to have a grand official opening on Thursday February 26th 2009.

Miss Trussell

Keep a look out for the new Clubs timetable in the New Year

Dates for your Diary

See the full school calendar on our website

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 19 December 2008 | Yr7 & 8 Interim Reports |
| 19 December 2008 | Term ends at 2pm |
| 7 January 2009 | Spring term begins |
| 9 January 2009 | Leisure & Tourism exam |
| 12 January 2009 | Yr9 Internal Exams & Yr10 Interim reports |
| 12 January 2009 | French trip parents meeting @ 3.30pm |
| 16 January 2009 | Yr11 Mock Results afternoon school closes early |
| 19 January 2009 | Yr11 Leisure & Tourism group visit Rhedged |
| 26 January 2009 | Yr8 Curriculum Evening |
| 4 February 2009 | Yr9 Parents evening & reports handed out |
| 10 February 2009 | Yr7 & 8 Aimhigher Problem Solving Workshop |
| 12 February 2009 | Yr11 Next Steps Evening |
| 13 February 2009 | YR7 & 8 Interim reports |
| 16– 20 February 2009 | Half-term |