



Christmas
2012



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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Dear parents and friends of BHS

Christmas is always a special time in school and one that brings many precious memories, each one the same, yet different in some special way. At Beacon Hill, like all schools, we are very busy: Christmas entertainments, plays, carol services and Christmas lunch all added to our already busy school days. Could we do without it? Ask any stressed and overworked teacher and they would give a resounding yes! On reflection, it is just these activities that bring us all together and give us the memories that we remember fondly in our later years. I would like, at this point, to thank all the staff and Governors for their commitment and hard work over the term and for finding the energy to do all the extra things they do for the students.

Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone and for those who find life difficult in some way, whether it is because they have no home or family or because they have lost someone dear to them, Christmas can be very lonely and difficult. For us, it is a time to thank God for our blessings and to think of those less fortunate than ourselves. It is this message that will be the theme of my Christmas assembly this year and one that I hope all our students will reflect on as they celebrate this Christmas time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Oh, and ... when you get fed up with all the Christmas TV don't forget to read our brilliant newsletter – as usual, packed with all the fantastic extra things your children have been doing this term!

HEADTEACHER



Chess Challenge

When I started at Beacon Hill I discovered that one of the games most students played at this time of year was chess. That is when I set myself the challenge to learn how to play chess - Bradley Stoddart, my friend volunteered to teach me. The chess tournament started for real after the October half term break so Bradley had a huge task ahead and immediately started showing me all the moves. After lots of practice games (almost every day) I was ready to enter the Annual Knockout Chess Tournament. To enter the tournament, in which students and staff pit their chess skills against each other, an initial entry fee of £1 is paid which then makes up the prize pot split 75%/25% winner to runner-up.

I couldn't believe it when I actually won my first game against Daniel Harrison but unfortunately I met my chess tutor, Bradley, in the second round where I lost. I re-entered because I wanted to play again and see if I could reach any further in the tournament. But then I found out I'd drawn a match against Mr Young! I was nervous but I stayed calm and feel I held my own despite the end result of Mr Young winning the game. I wasn't too disappointed as Mr Young ended up being knocked out himself in the next round by Mark Jonsson YR11 (Bronze medallist) who successfully played through to a 3 way final with Shane Warwick (Winner) YR10 & Iain Gilbertson YR11 (Silver medallist). Congratulations to Shane Warwick who was declared Beacon Hill's ultimate Chess Champion of 2012 after many hard fought matches.

Reece Devlin YR7

Shane said after he had won, "I really wanted to win but honestly didn't think I would. Like Reece I didn't know how to play chess in Yr7 but I've entered each year and kept on trying. I'd previously beaten Mark Jonsson and by winning against him again in the final I proved that it wasn't a fluke!"

Training to be a Pupil Librarian

Being a pupil librarian is fun. So far we have put up displays, shelved books, worked at the issue desk and supported other new pupil librarians who started with and after us. Sophie and I only have to do some more work at the issue desk before we are fully trained.

For the training we were all issued with a booklet which mimics NVQs, we are observed whilst shelving, complete a computer course and pass tests on different areas of the library organisation.

The training takes a while, we are still not fully trained and it has been nearly a full term since we started training. In the first half term we had group training on Wednesday lunch times and as an added incentive Mrs Cruickshank gave us a home-baked treat each week. After that is up to us to come on our assigned day to carry on and complete our training.

Being a pupil librarian is rewarding, we can gain RAP (reward achievement points) for contribution to the school community which is hard to achieve unless you get involved in extra-curricular activities outside of class. When pupil librarians help at open evenings or induction days Mrs Cruickshank also rewards us with a free book. But one of the biggest rewards of all is making sure that the library is tidy and helping people get into the habit of reading (well perhaps 95% of students)!

The whole experience has been interesting (mostly). The only part I have not liked so far has been the online course on the Dewey decimal system because it is hard to get the hang of.

Jack Richardson YR7 (a new pupil librarian) says "I have learnt new skills which would be useful if I wanted to be a librarian", Leah Stephenson YR7 (also a trainee pupil librarian) says "It is awesome I really enjoy it because I have learnt how to shelve books correctly".

We highly recommend becoming a pupil librarian because it is amazing.

Rowanne Potter & Sophie Loynes YR7



Maryport Dental Care Centre

Maryport Dental Care Centre are now taking on **under 18's as NHS patients**, (their contract with the NHS does not include adults).

If you have a child or children under 18 in your family who do not have a dentist, and you would like them to be seen on the NHS, please get in touch with the dental surgery to make an appointment as soon as possible.

The Dental Care Centre has been given a temporary extension to their contract with the NHS to see up to **100 new patients**. The slight snag is the deadline is **the end of December**, so if you do want them to be seen, action is required quickly!

Contact the Centre on **01900 819222**, or call in at the surgery at Broadside House, Maryport, CA15 8AD

School Achievement Awards 2012

This year Beacon Hill Community School held a school awards evening. For the first time, members of the wider community were invited to join the celebration and witness the very special achievements of the students.

As well as presenting the awards, the audience were also entertained by some of the students as they showcased their talents in music, dance and drama.

The welcome speech was delivered by the Chair of Governors Mr. Trevor Gear who spoke about the many skills that young people need to develop, for a world that is ever changing and how the school, through its innovative curriculum approaches, teaches children to be resilient, responsible, resourceful and reflective; essential skills that will enable them to be happy and successful in adult life.



**Tiffany Alderson & Luke Kershaw
Sports Personality of the Year Awards**



Jack Askew Governors' GCSE Highest Achiever Award



Beth Tovey KS4 Media Studies Subject Award

Along with academic achievements there were a number of awards for sporting excellence and community service to the school.

In her concluding remarks Mrs Richardson described Beacon Hill as *'a real community school and expressed how proud she was of each and everyone no matter of ability, aptitude or background'*

Amongst the guests of honour was the right honourable Sir Tony Cunningham MP who was quoted later as saying that,

'I was at the Beacon Hill School prize-giving ceremony last night and though it's only a small school, it achieves great things under the leadership of Mrs Julie Richardson, who is a tremendous head teacher.'

Other guests were the Mayor of Aspatria Mr Alan Reay, representatives for the County Council, and local business leaders Mr David Oldham and Mr Dennis Graham from Innovia Films.

The evening finished with the presentation of GCSE certificates and a vote of thanks expertly written and delivered by Scott Batchelor, a school prefect.



Sasha Carruthers YR7 Flying Start Award

YR7 Adventure Residential - Getting to Know & Trust Each Other

The week after half-term year 7 went to Castle Head at Grange-over-Sands for a entertaining residential. On the whole activities were aimed as team building exercises; since we all come from various schools in Cumbria it was an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other better instead of staying in our own friendship groups from our Primary schools.

We learnt to trust one another whilst climbing up a wobbly pole, holding hands and leaning back as others controlled our harness. Once again trust was a major factor when we put our faith in students who we perhaps didn't know so well to take care of the harnesses when we were abseiling down a massive tree.

Back on the ground, in teams, we attempted to make a marble



roll along a long tube and in another activity our challenge was

to get everyone across from one place to another without any of us touching the grass. We were also given maps and tasked with finding our way around Castle Head. I thought the night walk was terrifying especially when we entered an old building!

Luckily the rain didn't manage to put out our camp fire. One funny activity was when we played nose jousting.

Mr. Young (our P.E teacher) went with us, joining us in all the activities; he climbed the wobbly pole and abseiled down the tree! Mrs Baxter also attended this visit

along with one of the student's parents, Miss Fitzsimmonds who is also a member of staff at Beacon Hill.

Mrs Baxter mentioned that the staff who attended did amazingly well on

the activities despite being as she said 'old codgers'!

We were all exhausted after our fun packed trip with all of us saying we would definitely like to go again. **Everyone really wanted to have a go at everything on offer.** Liam Hetherington said that '*It was really good fun*' and Evan Miller commented that, '*All the activities were brilliant*'. I too thoroughly enjoyed this trip!

Sophie Batchelor YR7





Judith Bradshaw came in to talk to our Yr9 Humanities class about Sustainability & Carbon Footprint; she works for the Cumbria County Council as their Community Sustainability Officer.



At first she asked us what sustainability is – basically it is looking after our environment making sure that we have and will continue to have, the water, materials and resources that we need to keep everyone healthy and safe. She then described to us what carbon footprint actually is – it is anything that makes an impact on the environment. It could be the impact of taking part in an activity, manufacturing or using an item, or how much energy

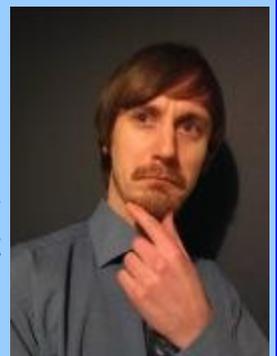
you use when travelling in a vehicle.

Reece Wilson was picked to help demonstrate how heat is lost; he was asked to run on the spot to increase his body temperature. We then used a thermal imaging camera (heat sensitive equipment) to observe where on his body he was losing heat most; his face and around his neck were the warmest. Afterwards we wrapped Reece in various materials, a blanket, newspaper and tin foil to see if they helped to keep him warmer. The thermal imaging camera showed us that all of these make good insulation materials. We also tested where heat escaped from the room and noticed that most heat escaped from the roof and around the windows.

In conclusion she said that to cut down on our school's carbon footprint we need to recycle and reduce energy usage by switching off lights and equipment when not in use. Keris Mitchell commented, "It was interesting and educational."
Joshua Donald YR9

MOVEMBER'SONS

This half term in school we have been raising awareness of and raising money for various cancer charities. Four of our staff (Mr Young, Mr Esslemont, Mr Maughan and myself) decided - with much encouragement from our students - to make good on a promise (or was it a joke?) from last year and join the Movember efforts to raise awareness of men's health issues. A few weeks in and we were constantly itching and scratching at the prickle on our lips whilst counting down the days. It was surprising how many people we encountered over the month who had made the conscious effort to look like an actor in a 1970's B-movie or an Italian pasta chef.



All of us, to a man, were relieved come December 1st when we could shave properly again! And of course the hilarity began once more with the multiple, "you look strange without it!" comments. The serious side of Movember has been covered with students during their Personal Development lessons. Donations were accepted in the canteen from all those who were amused enough to make a contribution, helping us to raise much needed money for a great cause.

Mr Gee



Year 11 Mentoring

For the last few years we have mentored all of our Year 11 students during their final year in school. The main aim of this programme is to help the students plan out the work they need to do to be successful and achieve their target grades in their GCSE examinations. It is another support strand; an adult (a non-teaching member of staff) who can liaise with teachers, resolve any workload or coursework issues, help with revision planning and assist with future college choices or job applications.

Over the years this mentoring programme has gone from strength to strength and has proved to be a great success with both the students and their Mentors (all of whom volunteer to take part in the programme). Some honest comments from last year's Mentees:

"Good Program"

"I'm gonna miss her"

"Helped me do my revision"

"Teacher was a good craick!"

"Nice to have someone to explain things to me"

Since the beginning of the academic year, Yr11 students have been split into small groups and each allocated a 'non-teaching staff' Mentor who meet with them on a regular basis to set targets, review time management and help with revision techniques. This has proved to be extremely useful in the run up to our 'Mock Exam' week, the results of which we will see during 'Mock Results Afternoon' in January – an opportunity for parents to chat with their child's mentor about the support they have been giving over the last term and seeing how the studying has paid off!

Together we can work as a team to help each student meet his/her goals.

Work will begin in earnest after Christmas in the build up to students GCSE exams. We will provide as much support as we can in order for each child to reach his or her full potential and get the grades they need to move on.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions or feel that your child would benefit from extra input.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – I'm looking forward to seeing all the students refreshed and raring to go when we return in January!!

Tracy Fleming, Learning Skills Coordinator



Senior Citizens' Christmas Treat



Every year we are asked to provide six students to assist with the annual senior citizens' Christmas lunch at the Masonic Hall in Aspatria. The students that we send are always keen to go and lend a hand.

This year it was six students from year 10, Chelsea Buchannan, Jasmine Tovey, Ellie Barkhouse, Dan Proud, Declan Csak and Ben Carter. For two hours they were busy serving food, collecting crockery and washing up and in between chatting to the people they were serving. One student told me they were allowed to sample the very tasty cakes! The Mayor expressed his gratitude for the support from Beacon Hill School, and all the students received a selection box.

Mrs Sanderson

Tree-mendous Effort ASDAN Tree Felling

*"The only source of knowledge is
experience" Albert Einstein*

A BIG tree huggers THANK-YOU to Mr. CHARLIE MILES of Stoneraise Farm, Wigton for coming to our school and helping our students safely dismantle a diseased and condemned chestnut tree close to our polytunnel and outdoor learning area here at Beacon Hill.

Charlie had met up with the students earlier in the Autumn term whilst they were staying over at Skiddaw House Youth Hostel helping with a variety of activities. Charlie is a Skiddaw House warden

who helps to restore, maintain, improve and extend the use of Skiddaw House primarily in an environmentally sympathetic way.

During our recent residential at Skiddaw House ASDAN students acted as volunteers for the day to assist in the running of the hostel by planting trees and chopping wood to keep the fires burning, thereby doing our small part in helping to ensure the long term survival of the 1780 year old traditional shepherd's and gamekeeper's house and its 120 year old plantation.

By encouraging our students to participate in local community work and experience new activities we hope to help to increase our young people's confidence, keep them interested and to improve their post 16 life chances.

Mrs Skillicorn



Preparing for France 2013

For anyone who thought that winter was a time to slow things down and hibernate, think again. The Paris trip is fast approaching and the itinerary is packed fuller than Santa's sleigh.

Friday: En route visit to Vimy Ridge

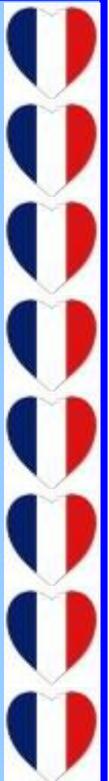
Saturday: Visit Melun market and hypermarket. Visit Cité des Sciences, Montmartre and evening visit to Tour Montparnasse.

Sunday: Louvre followed by Notre Dame and the Eiffel Tower

Monday: Disneyland Paris then travel back overnight.

You might have started to think about the contents of your suitcase, but what about the French you should be practising before we arrive? Here are a few indispensable phrases to tuck away in your memory banks.

Excusez-moi!	Excuse me.	Je voudrais....	I'd like...
C'est combien?	How much is it?	Répétez, s'il vous plaît.	Repeat that please.
J'ai faim.	I'm hungry.	J'ai soif.	I'm thirsty.
Merci beaucoup.	Thank you very much.		
Où sont les toilettes s'il vous plaît?	Where are the toilets please ?		



Mrs Baxter

I fancied a change from the usual PE Lessons so I asked Miss Kaye if I could organise an after school Moky class. She was enthusiastic and encouraged me to carry out my idea.

We started to advertise by speaking out in assembly on Wednesday mornings and it now has grown by word of mouth.

Moky is held after school on a Wednesday afternoons starting from 3:15pm to when the last song has played. All that is needed is to turn up in your P.E kit and bring along lots of water as we do dance our shoes off. The amount of people that come along is amazing and all the smiles on their faces have been good to see because then I know they were having fun.

Personally, I would have to describe Moky as exhilarating exercise for people who like dancing. Moky is not like any other kind of dancing because it's a cardio and toning exercise. It is out of this world!

If you can't get the steps correct the first time it real doesn't matter as long as you are really enjoying yourself; the moves do become easier the more often you come. Also I can break down the moves into further smaller steps if you let me know before we start.

We all benefit from Moky as it works out our core muscles such as (abs, back and hips). It helps us to tone up our bodies as we change from one dance move to another, all to the beat of up-to-date music.

My motivation to do Moky comes from my love of dancing to the radio. Moky is also a fabulous way to socialise and build up confidence. The comments I get back after I have led a session makes me feel over the moon and so proud with what I have achieved with the students who attended and it certainly pushes me on to continue leading sessions each week.

Turn up and give it a go, you may surprise yourself how much you like it!

Jonathon Bragg Y11



REMEMBER: YR7-10 Please return your Mock Results Day early closure parental permission slip to the office.

Important Dates for your Diary	Wed 19th December	ASDAN Christmas Plant Sale
	Wed 19th December	School Christmas Lunch
	Thurs 20th December	Carol Service - students dismissed from St Kentigern's Church @ 1.45pm
	Mon 7th January	Spring Term Begins
	January	Various GCSE exams see website for details
	Fri 11th January	YR10 Interim reports sent home with students
	Fri 11th January	YR11 Mock Results Afternoon
	Fri 11th January	YR7-10 Early dismissal @ 1.35pm work will be sent home with students
	Sat 12th - Sun 13th January	Manchester Lion King Residential
	Fri 8th - Tues 12th February	2013 French Trip
	Mon 11th - Fri 15th February	Half-term holidays
	Tues 19th February	YR11 Next Steps Evening 6pm - 7.30pm
	Tues 26th February	YR9 Parents & Learner Pathways Evening 5pm - 6pm
	Tues 5th - Thurs 7th March	Book Fair in the Library
	W/B 18th March	YR7-9 Key Assessments followed by interim reports sent home with students the week after
	Tues 19th March	YR10 Parents Evening 4.30pm - 6.15pm
Thurs 28th March	End of Spring Term	