

Autumn 2013
1st Edition



Dear parents and friends of BHS

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year! I am pleased to report to you that the term has started well; we have a full staff complement, students are working hard and there is a very positive feel about the school. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff this year: Mrs Bateson who takes up the helm as Subject Leader for Science; Mrs Fitzsimmons who aims to inspire all with her love of languages and Mr Frew our new apprentice classroom assistant supporting year 7. This first newsletter reflects on the great success of our challenge week held at the very end of the summer term. Our motto for this week was to 'challenge yourself and you will be surprised how far and how much you can achieve'. My goodness, how the staff and students all rose to the challenges put before them! An eclectic mix of drama, art, physical and technological challenges pushed the staff and the students to their limits. It was all a great success! So a big well done to everyone involved and my thanks to all our sponsors.

Enjoy the read

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

HEADTEACHER

BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

Making your Mark in Life

To try and recruit new members for the local Army Cadet Force detachment in Aspatria we recently performed at a school assembly for years 8 & 9. We spoke about the activities we take part in, our camps and weekends away, as well as what happens on normal nights. The week before the assembly we had 10 Army cadets; the week later our members had more than doubled!

Looking back on my cadet career I have achieved a lot; gained confidence and been pushed mentally and physically. I have enjoyed the huge variety of activities, field craft, shooting and kayaking. On lots of camps I have taken part in adventurous military activities with my friends both from here in Aspatria and new ones I've met in the ACF.

I feel I have grown a lot since I first joined; my physical abilities have increased as have my mental capabilities. Cadets has done a lot for me and will continue to do so, I hope it can help others to.

Cadets has helped me become a better leader and team player, this without a doubt will help me in later life and of course is an ideal option for a career path.

Matthew Charlton YR9



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Head Teacher:



Performance Challenge - Macbeth

This year's Entertainment Challenge was perhaps the most ambitious we have attempted so far. It involved an abridged performance of William Shakespeare's "Scottish Play", *Macbeth*.

Around 30 students were involved in the challenge, for which rehearsals took place over 2 and a half days during the final week of the Summer Term. The culmination of our efforts was a performance given on the Thursday afternoon in front of students, parents and other invited guests.

In the days leading up to the production, auditions were held for the leading roles...Macbeth himself, Banquo, King Duncan and, importantly, the character who eventually gives Macbeth his comeuppance – Macduff. Due to the demanding nature of this undertaking, it was decided that the character of Macbeth would be played by two actors – Jasmine Tovey and Annabel Gold – both of whom excelled themselves. Other key roles were taken by Jack King, Aimee Salisbury and Daniel Troddan, amongst others. Special mention must also go to our three (disturbingly convincing) witches...Neyve Barton, Lauren Bell and Bethany Fowlds.

Apart from the rigours of preparing the actors, many other students worked to design and make the set, costumes and props, and still more students were involved in the choreography, rehearsal and performance of two key dance scenes.



No production can take place without extensive backstage contributions, and the remaining students worked with staff in designing and setting lighting, sound and special effects, including a smoke machine which brought a mysterious and dramatic atmosphere to the scene involving the witches and their evil spell.

I think everybody concerned certainly challenged themselves to the limit (staff included), and proved that, if everybody sticks together and works hard towards a shared goal, anything is possible!

Well done and congratulations to all involved and thank you to all those of you who came to lend your support to us as part of our audience. **Mr Horseman**

Installation Art Challenge



Dear Mrs Clitheroe,

I am writing on behalf of us at St Kentigern's Church to say a warm thank you to all the students and assisting staff of the Art Challenge group for the wonderful set of Stations of the Cross which you made to go on display in the church. Please convey our thanks to everyone involved.

I received many expressions of admiration and appreciation from members of the church and from visitors. During the week the art was on display, I watched as people followed the sequence around the church and paused to reflect on the meaning of the artwork.

We have now carefully put them into storage but plan to have them on display again during Holy Week 2014 as well as in future years. I have it in my mind to make them the focus of our Good Friday Act of Worship next year.

Once again, our thanks, along with best wishes for the new school year.

Yours sincerely,
Revd Clive Shaw

The Creative challenge actually began just after Easter when Beacon Hill students were tasked with planning and making a commissioned installation piece for St Kentigern's Church in Aspatria.

The project is based on the 12 Stations of the Cross which is a series of artistic representations of the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ on earth that continues to provide spiritual conviction for many Christians today. Surprisingly the 12 Stations of the Cross actually consist of 14 pieces!

Students attended a weekly after school club to plan and design the final pieces; each had been given a title to interpret in their own way, connecting with contemporary issues, historical and modern artists to produce a version that had personal meaning.



The Creative Challenge group also planned and held a coffee morning in St Kentigern's church to help raise funds towards the cost of the project.

This display was finalised in school during the last week of term as part of a challenge week and went on display in St Kentigern's church on Thursday 18th July. We hope you had the opportunity to view it, in all its glory.

Mrs Clitheroe

Residential Challenge - Grasmere to Ambleside YHA

The Youth Hostel residential trip was a great experience, as we got to see the beautiful area that we live in from a bird's eye view! I signed up for this challenge because I liked the idea of staying overnight with my friends and also I like hill walking.

Included in this challenge was a day spent learning outdoor survival skills in the school grounds. We were shown how to build a sturdy shelter in a good place, where best to put a campfire and how to make one. We made sure we were well prepared checking that we all had the correct clothing, sturdy walking boots and despite the good forecast a waterproof



jacket just in case the weather changed. This was rounded off with route planning for the two day hike across mountainous terrain in the Lake District that followed.

Our actual trip started with a minibus journey from school to Grasmere which is where our walking would begin. With the minibus safely parked for the duration, we began our climb over Loughrigg Fell which is almost 250ft tall and down to Ambleside YHA. Along the way we put our new map reading skills to good use. To top it all off the weather was glorious and red hot but it had

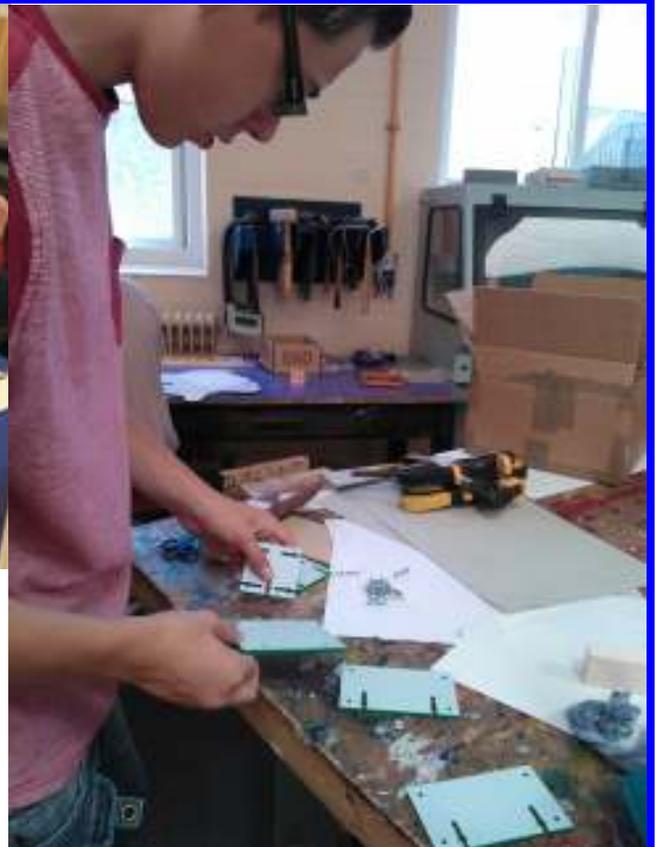
its downside as it did make the walking even harder for us.

After a rest in our YHA rooms, we wandered around the town and beside Windermere Lake. At a park by the lake we found a dead pike which seemed to fascinate everyone especially the boys! I've stayed in a Youth Hostel before but to me the Ambleside YH seemed a bit more upmarket probably because of the tourist location.

the following morning, before we left for the return walk we spent a while relaxing on the jetty and watching the fish in the water. Since we were tired from the day before's walk our return route was alongside Loughrigg Fell instead of on the top. Our thanks go to Miss Pandrich who helped us with our survival skills and Mr Millne & Mrs Inkester, our leaders for the walk and residential.

Jessica Kyffin YR8

Mr Millne added - " All the participants, mostly from YR7 & 8, were a credit to themselves and the school in approaching and meeting this challenge in such a positive manner."



Technology Challenge - Board Games Creation

The technology challenge gave students the chance to flex their imagination, use their design skills and develop their marketing ideas.

In groups the students were asked to design and make their own board game. This could take any format and the ideas did indeed prove to be far reaching.

The students started by playing and researching existing board games – both old and new. They then discussed, planned and designed their own games and set about making a small prototype to test. Only when the prototype proved to be a working model did they move onto making the real thing.

The games ranged from variations on Monopoly - Football Monopoly and Beacon Hill Monopoly (where the 'jail card' was 'detention' and a 'chance' card gave the opportunity of an early lunch pass!), and a 'Zombieopoly' variation involving zombies. One game was a story board journey where players planned their own twists and turns and racetrack games included ideas on space invaders and treasure searches. 'A Battle of the Bands' game also catered for boy band fans everywhere.

Students made their boards using the materials and equipment available in our fantastic technology department and one group even made an electronic dice as a variation to the more recognisable cube!

The three days were filled with often fraught activity but the results were worthwhile being both visually appealing and fun to play. Mr Esslemont emerged a shadow of his former self but we all agreed that the students had surpassed our expectations with their achievements.



Miss Laithwaite

Physical Challenge - Rotterdam to Dunkirk

The original idea for our contribution to challenge week was to cycle from London to Paris and this raised a lot of interest in the already popular bike club. However, we were unable to take this route as the funding would have been almost impossible to achieve in the amount of time we had and for safety reasons, we would have been unable to cycle through two major cities.

After realising this, a new challenge came to light of cycling from the port of Rotterdam,

Holland, through Belgium and to Dunkirk, France in three days—R2D. Right from the start, this lived up to the name challenge for everyone involved as we all had to work hard on training rides in the local area as well as fundraising.

The training rides took place every Thursday after school, usually biking along the coast near Allonby and Silloth as well as sometimes reaching Parsonby and taking on Parsonby brow. As well as the weekly rides, one Sunday we all met at school and set off on a 50 mile ride along the coastal road to Kirkbride and back to give us an idea of what we would be facing in the actual challenge week.

As for fundraising, it was a struggle but everyone came together, staff and pupils, and gave up our own time to make sure our challenge could happen. Collectively we spent a number of weekends running cake sales in school, on market stalls in Cockermouth or bag packing in Tesco and Morrison's. Eventually we raised the funds needed and the challenge was able to go ahead.

On the 15th July 2013, as part of the school challenge week, a group of 21 of us along with 8 adults made up of staff and volunteers set off by coach to catch an overnight ferry from Hull to Rotterdam, Holland; all enjoyed the ferry experience from the on board cinema to the three course meals. When we reached the port in Rotterdam on Tuesday, everyone helped packing the luggage onto the van and unloading the bikes from the trailer driven by one of the group's parents, Steven Barnes. We then managed to set off in formation through Holland.





This was for many of us our first time in Holland and so we were all very taken aback by the beauty of the areas we were cycling through and the courtesy of the people we met as well as the scorching 37-40°C heat. Fifty eight miles later, we arrived in Vlissingen, Holland, the first town we were staying in. After reaching our youth hostel, getting showered and changed, we enjoyed a meal cooked for us by the chef at the hostel before being given free time in the town. Everyone was very excited as we had arrived at the same time as a travelling fair.

On Wednesday 17th, we were all woken early for breakfast before setting off again on our second day of cycling. This second day took us along the coast line from Holland to Belgium, meaning we had to cycle along beaches and take a fast ferry over the water. Another 48 miles later we arrived in Oostende, again excited as we got to spend our free time in an arcade and looking out at the sea. We set off early the next morning surrounded by fog and in temperatures a lot lower than the previous two days. To Mr Gee's excitement, we came across a flak cannon used in WWII and managed to pose for a group picture in front of it. A further 50 miles and we arrived in Dunkirk at a shopping centre where we had our meal before cycling to the ferry port. All that was left was the two hour ferry ride and another midnight hour wait at Dover for our bus to arrive. On arriving back to school on Friday, we were greeted by the whole school waiting in the car park before a short prize giving in which everyone received their own unique award.

We would like to thank all the staff and volunteers who helped organise and run this cycle challenge trip and hopefully there will be more to come. What next we wonder?

Lynsey Rumney & Callum Scott YR11

As part of the **Personal Development programme** year 7 students enjoyed a visit from our link police officers focussing on road safety whether on foot, on a bicycle or in a car.

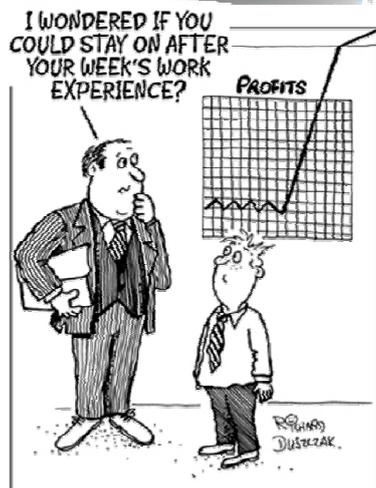
On Tuesday 1st October Cumbria Police came in to teach us about general road safety. They started off by showing us an interesting Powerpoint. PC Blain & PCSO Sarah Fletcher told us how the ratio of people dying by road accidents decreases as we get older. The police officers then took us outside to show us how a speed gun operates. It was fascinating to see how sensitive the equipment was to passing vehicles. The next point they covered was drink driving, showing us how a breathalyser works. I found it really difficult to hold my breath for the amount of time required. Overall I really enjoyed this interesting session on road safety.



Luke Hinds YR7

Mr Millne added "Once again Beacon Hill students benefitted from the invaluable advice given by our local police officers delivered in a hands-on manner. Our thanks go to PC Blain and PCSO Fletcher for their continued support."

my work EXPERIENCE



Near the end of the summer term year 10 (now YR11) went on a work experience week to lots of different places; some of us went to Innovia in Wigton, Thomas Cook Travel Agents, Spring Lee Caravan Park or The Guide magazine whereas others took on roles as labourers, joiners and mechanics.

Shane Warwick spent his week at West Coast Karting in Maryport, he told me, *"I thoroughly enjoyed myself, such a great experience. I helped with the maintenance of the go-karts and marshalled some races. My working day started at 12 in the afternoon and finished at 10 at night, long days and I certainly finished tired."*

I completed my own work experience at St Josephs Catholic High School, Workington, in their P.E. department. I assisted with a lot of core P.E. lessons with years 7 -11 and also carried out some theory P.E. with their head of department. The staff were really friendly and helped me find my way around.

It was a really useful week as I like sport and plan on studying to become a sports physiotherapist. However this week showed me a different career involving sport.

Most students had very good reports from their placement employers who on the whole seemed to be very impressed. Some of us were even lucky enough to be rewarded financially as well!

Ben Carter YR11

National Anti-Bullying Week 18th - 22nd November 2013

**Theme: 'The Future is Ours.
Safe, Fun and connected'.**

At Beacon Hill we work hard to prevent bullying. There are several organisations that support young people who may be victims of bullying. We use the information from these experts to help us in our aim to **stamp out** bullying.

An example is the vision of 'Anti-Bullying Alliance' - **'Together we can stop bullying and create safe environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn'**.

We will be supporting Anti-Bullying week by selling wrist bands in school for the students to buy.

Top Tips

Unfortunately there isn't a sure-fire recipe for dealing with bullying. What works for some may not work for others. The most important thing is to try and prevent the bullying occurring. When it does happen encourage your child **to tell an adult they trust**.



And where possible

- Avoid the bullies
- Stay with their friends
- Avoid retaliation – stay calm – walk away



If you have any worries about your child being bullied please do contact the school.

www.bullying.co.uk offers a listening, supportive and non-judgemental advice service.

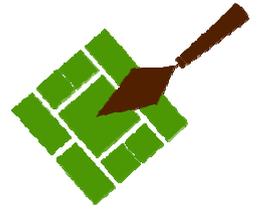
Mrs Sanderson





Young Archaeologists' Club

Summer Holiday Archeology Dig



I have been a member of YAC (Young Archaeologist Club) at the Roman Museum in Maryport for the last two years. It was through YAC that I heard about a dig at Camp Farm that was taking place in the summer holidays and the best thing was that you didn't have to be over 18 to take part. I called Steven Rowland who is from Oxford Archaeology North, who was leading the dig and asked to be involved. After a few emails being exchanged, I was told that I was in!

On 12th August I arrived at the Museum with my trowel, kneeling pad and my Dad. Firstly I had to attend a health and safety briefing where I was given the job of first aid monkey, which meant that I had to take the first aid kit to the site every morning and return it to the cabin at the end of the day. On the first day we got down to some trowelling back, carefully scraping the loose soil off the top of the exposed soil, all the time keeping a good lookout for any interesting fragments.

It wasn't long before I uncovered a Roman stone inscribed with a Celtic design. The lead archaeologist was very excited about this find and told me that most people can wait a whole lifetime to find something so interesting and rare and I found it on my first day! The next few days were spent trowelling back and then for a change, I decided to become everyone's bucket monkey. This meant emptying peoples buckets and wheelbarrows on the spoil heap and returning them.

The first week went so fast, I couldn't quite believe that I was on the dig working alongside real archaeologists. They answered my many questions and treated me as one of them.

The second week began with rain and windy weather, but I didn't care. I was asked to help with photographing the site, this entailed operating a camera on a 25 meter monopod by remote control. Then I was occupied with drawing and mapping the entire site and taking levels with a quick set dumpy level. I also completed a stint of finds processing, involving various stages of washing and bagging the finds.



I never realised there was so many different things to do on a site. The two weeks flew by and I had the best time ever. I had the opportunity of meeting Steven Rowland in person, he said he was very pleased with my efforts and even invited me back for next years dig! Roll on summer holidays 2014, I can't wait.

William Manning YR9

Danger High Voltage

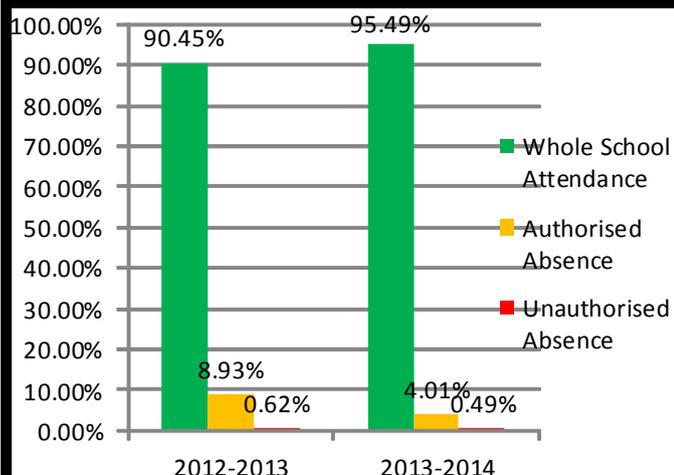
On Monday the 23rd September the REACT Foundation was in school to give their annual Science & Engineering Show. This year the show was delivered by the London Science Museum who presented 'Danger High Voltage' to all KS3 students.

The show aims to inspire students outside the classroom and this year involved some hair raising demonstrations about electricity and magnetism.

Sasha Carruthers from year 8 wrote this about the show, *"When I heard that the science museum was coming to our school to do a show I couldn't wait to watch it! It was fun, exciting and enjoyable to watch. The show was called Danger High Voltage. It was hosted by the science museum and was all about electricity. They used a Van de Graaff generator and a Barbie doll to demonstrate how electricity travels through our bodies. The Barbie's hair stood up on end! They also told us about famous scientists like Benjamin Franklin who tied a key to a kite and was struck by lightning and also Michael Faraday, who both had studied electricity. I really enjoyed the show because it wasn't all about us sitting down and listening; they got us involved and asked us questions. At various points during the show someone was called up, out of the audience, on to the stage to help with experiments."*



Mrs A Bateson



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

It is our hope that frequent and regular absences can be avoided. Irregular attendance is a major barrier to progress and achievement in school. Beacon Hill has consistently achieved high attendance and very low truancy rates and we are determined to continue this. We treat absence from school seriously and will investigate any unexplained absence. Our whole school target is 95%. Please call the school if your child is absent due to illness.

Dates for your Diary

Mon 28th Oct - Fri 1st Nov	Half-term holidays
Wed 6th - Fri 8th November	YR7 Adventure Residential
Tues 12th November	School Awards Evening 7pm
Fri 15th November	YR10/11 Interim Reports to Parents
W/B Mon 25th November	Science ISAs (10B & 11B Science only)
W/B Mon 2nd December	YR7-9 Key Assessments
W/B Mon 9th December	YR11 Mock Exams & YR10 Internal Exams
Friday 13th December	YR7-9 Interim Reports to Parents
Mon 16th & Tues 17th Dec	YR11 Art & Graphics Mock Exam
W/B Mon 16th December	Work Life Balance Week no after school clubs or detentions
Tues 17th December	School Christmas Lunch
Wed 18th December	School Carol Service 1.30pm
Wed 18th December	Christmas Holidays begin 2.30pm
Mon 6th January 2014	Spring Term starts