

Newsletter

Autumn 2013
2nd Edition



Dear parents and friends of BHS

As you will see from the newsletter, the school has been a hive of activity this term from sporting events to science clubs, Halloween parties and charity events; all helping to enrich and extend the experiences of our students and make learning fun!

We had an excellent awards evening in November which I know many parents and guests attended, when we came together to celebrate the achievements and progress of our students. A very proud and uplifting evening for everyone connected with our school.

An exciting residential for year 7 also took place in November where night walking and slippery pole climbing helped the year 7 students develop good relationships with each other and understand that working as a team achieves much more than working on your own.

It is this sense of community and team work that Beacon Hill relies on and I would like once again to thank all parents and friends of the school for their continuing support this term.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every one of you a ... Happy Christmas and a successful 2014!

A handwritten signature in blue ink.

HEADTEACHER

Lending a Helping Hand

A group of year 9 students were asked to help out at a Senior Citizen's Christmas lunch treat held at the Masonic Hall, Aspatria on Tuesday 10th December. William Manning, Trudy Donald, Eloise Hinds, Alix Long, Sophie Whitehead, Danielle Scott, Tom Askew & Kayleigh Stoddart all willingly volunteered to serve meals and chat to the senior citizens.

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Following on from this event we received a very complimentary letter from the Aspatria Town Clerk thanking these students on behalf of Councillor Alan Reay, Mayor of Aspatria. Read an excerpt from the letter alongside this article.

Dear Mrs Richardson

Councillor Alan Reay has asked me to write and thank you ...

Alan wished me to make clear that this is not just a formal letter of thank you but he was sincere in saying that the children were absolutely exceptional; their behaviour, cheerfulness and efficiency was much appreciated by all and without their help, the event would not have run so smoothly as it did.

Please pass on Alan's personal thanks to all the children who assisted and also the thanks of his fellow Councillors. The children were a credit to Beacon Hill.

May I take this opportunity to wish yourself, staff and children, a very Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely
Helen Ostle
Aspatria Town Clerk



All in Aid of Charity

This term we have had 2 charity themes.

Mr Maughan and Mr Esslemont decided to do the Movember challenge again this year and grow moustaches throughout November.

This year was a little easier as we knew what to expect... itching, annoyance and a slightly deranged look! Neither of us is a big fan of wearing a moustache, and are generally clean shaven the rest of the year, but thought that this is a worthy cause. The Movember campaign (<http://uk.movember.com>) is aimed at supporting and raising awareness of men's health issues, and prostate cancer in particular.

Mr Esslemont said that the worst bit was going outside to collect logs one windy evening and feeling the wind ruffling through his moustache – a very disconcerting feeling! Mr Maughan didn't quite meet his target of getting it long enough to wax into twists at the end – but we think he should practice this over the holidays (maybe summer?) and give us all a laugh when we come back.

The serious side is the fund raising, and this year we managed to raise in excess of **£245**, which we were really pleased with. This was a combination of internet donations from friends and family, and a "cash for tache" box in the canteen at school. Thanks to all who dropped some money into the box!

The other charity fundraising activity was when peer mentors sold wristbands in aid of BullyingUK, a charity that works in raising awareness of and combating bullying. They have a website at www.bullying.co.uk. We managed to sell nearly **100** wristbands which was fantastic!

Mr Esslemont



Christmas Sale

Mrs Skillicorn said that she was “*very pleased with the support of the staff, students as well as their family and friends*” at the Foundation Learning group’s recent Christmas Sale held on Wednesday 11th December.

It was a very busy sale with lots of interesting items on sale from festive decorations to gifts for Christmas – wooden coin boxes made in Design Technology, ceramic pots made in Art and some Christmas themed canvases made once again by the Foundation Learning group as part of

their Expressive Arts Challenge. Prior to the sale the Foundation Learning students had been busy making wreaths costing £10, gardening club students also had the opportunity to make their own at a discounted rate of £5 each. Orders had been pouring in for wreaths well before the sale day.

Lottie Giagnoni Yr7 commented “*It was really fun, plenty of good things and I’m happy that lots of money was raised.*”

In total almost **£300** was raised from the sale which added to the Halloween funds raised will go towards subsidising the group’s residential outing, helping towards the costs of accommodation, food and activities.

Mrs Skillicorn asked us to pass on her thanks to Mr Beattie for allowing them access into his wood to gather greenery for making their wreaths.

Celebrating Success & Hard Work

On Tuesday 12th November we celebrated our annual awards ceremony. Parents Governors and our partners from businesses, public services and local dignitaries enjoyed an evening of music, drama, reflection and awards for students from KS3, KS4 as well as GCSE certificates for last year's leavers. All agreed it was another excellent inclusive celebration of the stunning work that goes on at Beacon Hill.

Mr Millne



Beacon Hill Awards 2013

KEY STAGE 3 AWARDS

Flying Start Awards - positive start to Secondary education

Elliot Bouch Jessica Donald

KS3 Academic Achievement Awards

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Sasha Carruthers	Trudy Donald	Jasmine Wilson

KS3 Progress Awards

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Rebecca Marsh	Dylan McTear	Daniel Kershaw

Award for Contribution to School Life Leah Stephenson

KEY STAGE 4 AWARDS

KS4 Subject Awards

Rachael Hankin	Art & Design
Laura Foster-Devaney	DT Product Design
Chelsea Buchanan	DT Resistant Materials
Annabelle Brown	English Language
Sarah Mackereth	English Literature & Leisure & Tourism
Aimee Salesbury	French Young Linguist
Thomas Carrick	Foundation Learning
Rebecca Beattie	History &
Kieran Giagnoni	Science (Additional)
Scott Batchelor	Hospitality & Catering
Bethany Tovey	ICT
Mark Jonsson	Media Studies
Hannah Donald	Mathematics
Nicholas Cross	PE
Shane Warwick	Science (Core)
<u>Award for Contribution to School Life</u>	Science (Triple)
<u>Pupil Librarian of the Year Award</u>	Reece Wilson
<u>Reader of the Year Award</u>	Samuel King
	Daniel Troddan

SPORT AWARDS

Young Sports Leader Awards

Lauren Bell	Lewis Critchlow	Joshua Donald
Bethany Fowlds	Mark Hetherington	Sophie Holliday
Daniel Kershaw	Michael Mackereth	Keris Mitchell
Nicole Nicholson	Shannon Richardson	Melissa Telford
Bradley Thomson	Ellie Tinnion	Jasmine Wilson
Reece Wilson		

Sport Achievement Awards

Kirsten Donald	Joshua Senejko	Joseph Stewart
Rudd Trophy	Terence Bellerby	

Sports Personality of the Year Awards

Lynsey Rummey	Daniel Proud
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GCSE AWARDS

GCSE Certificate Presentation

Connor Abram	Scott Batchelor	Rebecca Beattie
Jamie Bell	Aiden Bradbury	Jonathan Bragg
Annabelle Brown	Thomas Carrick	Ashley Clark
Nathan Devlin	Jack Dixon	Hannah Donald
Ross Dunn	Rachel Fincher	Ryan Fincher
Laura Foster-Devaney	Iain Gilbertson	Sophie Graham
Rachael Hankin	Cameron Hodgson	Mark Jonsson
Suzanne Long	Sarah Mackereth	David McCune
Emma Parker	Katy Riddick	Katie Ridley
Natalie Thurlow?	Damien Tinkler	Beth Tovey?
Rebecca Wilkinson	Connor Wilson?	

Headteacher's Awards

Nicholas Cross	Bethanie Cross
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University of Cumbria Academic Excellence Award

Laura Foster-Devaney

GCSE Progress Governor Award

Jamie Bell

Jonathan Bragg

Halloween Polytunnel Party

On the 25th October the ASDAN team organized a Halloween party for the whole school to raise funds for us all to take part in an exciting residential experience that we will thoroughly enjoy and look forward to in 2014. We decided to have this party at the Polytunnel (specially decorated) because it is more spaced out than the classroom. To raise money we also decided to do a cake sale, sell sweets, tickets for the raffle as well as more traditional games such as apple dunking.

Both pupils and teachers enjoyed the party so over all I think it was a great success whether you were a customer or taking part. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves so we are very pleased with how the party went. And ultimately in the end we raised more money than we had started with!

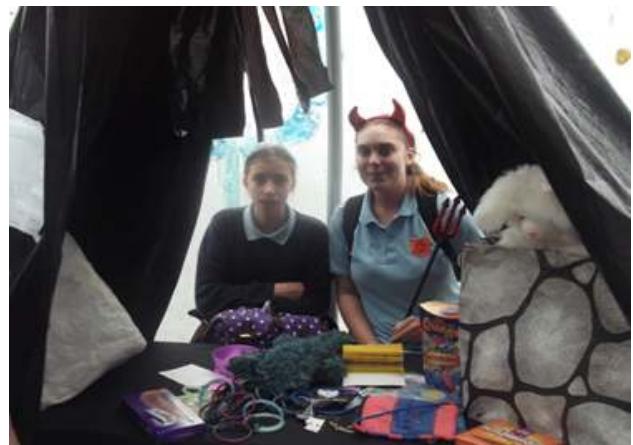
Liam Smith YR10



My job was the raffle. I think this part of the party went well because we raised lots of money for our fun-fantastic residential in 2014.

I worked on this Halloween party with Tom, Liam, Ellie and Lucy we all had very different jobs but I think mine was the best. Together we sold lots of cakes and jelly worms but everyone kept coming back to the raffle stand for more tickets.

Sam Wilson YR10



My role along with Liam Smith was to make & sell cakes: Victoria sandwich cake, chocolate brownies, caramel flapjacks, and spooky nests. We also organised a key game that Liam had thought of - loads of keys to open 1 box but only one of the keys could open that mysterious box. Inside the box was a prize.

Our job was challenging as we needed to get all the ingredients weighed out the day before. Miss Pandrich toasted marshmallows to raise some extra money. Altogether we made over £40. So I think we had a good day but we had spent more money on the ingredients for the cakes than anybody else so our profits were not as big.

Thomas Harrington YR11



I organised a spider naming game, some of the others helped me put up the web. It was 50p to pick one name and if you got it right you won the spider. I really enjoyed it because I was dressed up as a zombie.

Ellie Watson YR11

YR 7 Adventure Residential - Facing our Fears

Before we went on our residential to Castlehead I felt a bit worried, happy and slightly embarrassed. I felt these emotions because I get extremely nervous doing new things in front of others, even more so as at that time there were only boys in my group! Part of my worries also centred around not knowing what type of adventurous activities we were going to try. When I found out about the abseiling tree and wobbly pole, I must admit to feeling scared as I am petrified of heights. Despite all these anxious thoughts I felt happy and glad to be going on a residential with all of my friends and also because this was my first trip at Beacon Hill.

On the bus journey we were entertained by Liam dancing to the music and David Wilson kept us laughing. When we arrived at Castlehead I just wanted to get started especially when I found out I was in Mr Young's team. Throughout the residential he supported us a lot. We started off with various team building activities.

On the first night we went for a night walk at about 7pm; in complete darkness and in the freezing cold we walked to the top of the fell using only our head torches to guide our way. At the top we sat in a little hut for a while before making our way back down to the minibus.

The following day (Thursday) we walked along the beach, climbed up a wall and made our way through a little cave, fitting through the tiniest gap to get back out again. We also faced one of my fears – climbing up the wobbly pole. Dryden climbed up first, then it was me, then no one else would attempt it before Adam stood up and was the last to make it to the top. We should have had 4 at the top but only 3 had made it so Mr Young made up our team's fourth man.

Our next activity (another of my fears) was the abseiling tree; we'd to climb as far up as we were able. I made it to the top of the tree as the rest of my team gave me lots of support, egging me on to go further and further.

On Thursday night, after a very spicy Indian meal we completed a low ropes course, great fun even although half way through we came across a bog. Most of us aimed NOT to fall in!

Although the beds were really comfy and most of us fell asleep really easy we still stayed up quite late at nights. The only down side was we weren't at all keen on the food apart from the breakfasts and the soups.

Friday, our last day, soon came around and despite us all being extremely tired we stayed awake on the journey back to school. My thoughts on the return journey were "I need a proper shower" and "What was I going to eat when I got home!" Lots of us faced and overcame our very different fears throughout the residential and we certainly will work better as a team in the future.

By Charlotte Graham YR7





Going for Gold

I started swimming competitively when I was 10 year old; I first won a gold medal with trophies in breaststroke and two silvers in backstroke and front crawl. After winning these medals I thought I can win anything if I try and put my mind to it with or without asthma. This spurred me on to train even harder with my swimming club, improving different strokes one at a time – I was really determined to keep at it and succeed.



In 2012 (aged 13) the next competition came and I tried my utmost working on my turns, arm patterns and strokes. When it finally came to the awards being announced, I was nervous because I did not know whether or not I was disqualified in any of my races, when I found out I had won a gold medal and trophies in front crawl I was delighted with myself but then I had also got silver medals in Freestyle (backstroke & butterfly) and Individual Medley which is butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and front crawl all in that order. Unfortunately I was disqualified from breaststroke so that is the medal I'm aiming for this year.

This year I felt I have stepped up my effort more than ever before and trained, trained, trained. On the day of this year's competition I watched how the other people in my age group swam, setting myself two targets to beat the other girls I'm up against in my category and to hopefully get first (or second) in an open race where I compete against girls that are 8 to 16 years old.

At the awards I thought that I did badly because my asthma had played up, but I surprised myself winning four gold medals: Individual Medley, Freestyle, Backstroke and Breaststroke all in my age categories. I also won 2 silvers in an IM open and Butterfly and a bronze in an Open.. On the fourteenth of December six of us from Maryport swimming club are going to Sheffield to compete and I really hope to win a couple of medals there but as always I can't get medals unless I train hard and put my mind to it. I just can't wait to see if I do even better next year. **By Lucy Shardlow YR10**



Science Club

In Science Club we have done many experiments. We have enjoyed going to this club at dinner time because it's fun, interesting and gives us something to do. We find the experiments extremely enjoyable but at times it gets frustrating because we cannot do it. The best experiment so far was making the slime which was bouncy or stretchy. We hope the Science Club carries on after Christmas.

Chloe Dunn & Sasha Carruthers YR8

Mock Results Day – Tuesday 14th January 2014 1.30pm

If you haven't done so already please return your REPLY SLIP ASAP for the above event to school to let us know if you are able to make alternative arrangements to get your child home (YRS 7-10 only) or if you wish for your child to remain in school until the normal finish time of 3:15pm. Spare letters may be collected from the office or downloaded from the school website.

Sports Day with a Difference

(belated article ... no room in last newsletter!)

On Thursday the 4th of July, a group of 16 sports leaders, were set the challenge of organising and running sports day for the whole school.

As many as could turned up to the meetings after school on Fridays. In the meetings we discussed what activities there were going to be, how many groups, how many people in a group, and a lot more things. The meetings became harder as the things we did became more advanced, such as solving all the problems that came up on the way.



The week of sports day soon arrived with a list of things still to be done! Yet another meeting, the day before, to double check that we had everything arranged to ensure that all would run as smoothly as possible the next day. The leaders were sorting out their activities. The certificates were being made. The printer never stopped. People running around sorting things out. Then all of sudden everything was under control... we hoped.

The day had arrived and it was time for all 8 groups to find out what activity they had first. With all the groups off to their activities, the rain became heavier. Everybody complained because they were cold, wet and the girls whining because their make-up was washing off!!! However the weather soon fared up and we finally all began to enjoy the day. Before everybody knew it the day was over.

While all the teams were settling down in the hall. Behind the scenes the sports leaders were busy adding up the scores to decide who should win what award. Everybody was really excited to see if they had won anything. With all the awards handed out and everybody heading off home it was time to get everything packed up so the sports leaders could go home too!



By Shannon Richardson
YR10 (YR9 then)

Ellie Tinnion, one of the organisers said, "The whole day went really well and all our planning paid off."

Sophie Holliday said, "It was hard to sort everything out before hand."

Lucy Shardlow said, "It was good and I enjoyed the Ultimate Frisbee challenge."

Jack Richardson said, "It was good and I really enjoyed the day."

Lauren Bell said, "It was successful with everybody listening to us."

Melissa Telford said, "It was a great opportunity and a challenge giving students a chance to coach."



Allerdale Sports Awards

Category: Performance Award for Person with a Disability

Beacon Hill is very proud of Samantha Wilson YR 10 who was recently awarded an Allerdale Disability Sports Award. She was nominated as she has Cerebral Palsy which affects both of her legs and despite being in pain every day she swims more than 3 times each week. Thirteen weeks after major surgery on her legs she was picked out as a talented disabled swimmer competing at National level winning 'Top Girl' at a North East regional, 6 bronze and 5 silver medals. In November she swam with the paralympians from London 2012.

Her successes not only lie with swimming but also in wheelchair basketball. She became involved with this sport after the Carlisle Panthers visited Beacon Hill last year. Subsequently she was selected to go to Stoke Mandeville in July to represent the North West again at National level, her very first competitive basketball game and the only girl on the team! After 7 matches, her team won each and everyone and brought home GOLD for the North West under 15's. On top of her swimming training she also trains for basketball twice a week. Quite a busy young girl, I'm sure you will agree.

Samantha is also very proud to say that she finally has mastered the art of riding a 2 wheeled bike which she has been desperate to do for so many years. She is grateful to Ryan at Watchtree Wheelers for his help enabling her to now ride independently.

Article originating from her nomination written by Sam's proud Mother

Important Dates for your Diary



Mon 16th & Tues 17th Dec	YR11 Art & Graphics Mock Exam
Mon 16th - Wed 18th Dec	Work Life balance week - no after school clubs
Tues 17th Dec	School Christmas lunch
Wed 18th Dec	School Carol Service 1.15 - 1.45pm
Wed 18th Dec	End of term - school closes @ 2pm
Mon 6th Jan	Spring Term begins
Tues 14th Jan	YR11 Mock Results afternoon with summary report 1.30pm
Tues 14th Jan	YR7-10 early dismissal work sent home with students
Tues 14th Jan	YR10 Parents Evening 4.30 - 6.15pm
W/B 27th Jan	Science ISAs YR11B & 10B only
Tues 28th Jan	YR11 Next Steps evening 6 - 7.30pm
Mon 17th - Fri 21st Feb	Half-term
Tues 25th Feb	YR9 Parent & Learner Pathways evening 5 - 6.30pm
Thurs 6th March	World Book Day
W/B 17th Mar	Science ISAs YR11B & 10B only
W/B 7th April	YR7-10 Key Assessment reports sent home
W/B 7th April	Work Life balance week - no after school clubs or detentions
Wed 9th April	End of Spring term