

Summer
2nd Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

Market Square

Aspatria

Cumbria

CA7 3EZ

Tel: 016973 20509

Fax: 016973 22510

Email:

beaconhill@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

www.beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher:

Mrs J. Richardson, B.Ed. N.P.Q.H.

Dear parents and friends of BHS

As we approach the end of another hectic summer term I just want to thank a few people. First, thank you to all our students who have kept us on our toes this year, been enthusiastic in and out of the classroom, well behaved and above all else worked really hard to improve their learning. They are a great credit to us and to their parents. I also want to thank the staff who have worked their 'socks off' to make sure we got a good report from Ofsted and to ensure that the students are hitting their targets. Sadly we say thank you and goodbye to some staff leaving us at the end of the term: Mrs Baxter, Mr Bragg and Mrs McGeough.

Finally, thank you to the Governors and parents who have supported us - without your support our jobs would be so much harder.

I don't know about you, but I am ready for a break so if you are lucky enough to get away on holiday have a great time if not hope the sun shines over Aspatria. See you in September!

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

HEADTEACHER

Foundation Learning Sports & Fitness Award

At the end of May I started my sports and fitness award. So far I have written up loads of paperwork to help me get organised, including learning about having a balanced diet, creating a warm up programme for the start of my fitness sessions and making a training programme to improve my swimming performance.

I love swimming and sport in general. I train three times a week after school and some weekends. I have participated in national swimming competitions where I have won a number of medals and trophies: Best Girl in 12 – 13 years category, a trophy, 3 silver and 5 bronze medals. I am training hard to 'Go for Gold' in the next national competition which should be at Liverpool or Sheffield towards the end of this year.

My best swimming time is 50 seconds and 55 milliseconds for the 50 meters front crawl. I have swum 25 meters in 20 seconds and I am only seven hundredths of a second off the internationals qualifying time for my 50 metres front crawl.

I have also been picked for the under 15's Carlisle Panthers Wheelchair Basketball team. My coach is very pleased with my progress and says in a few months time I will be at a Paralympics level. I already train with Nat Patterson, in the Panthers team, who trains with team GB Juniors and has just come back from a training session over in Holland.

My Foundation Learning lessons are making me feel like my dreams can come true! I feel very lucky to have been offered this fantastic opportunity to develop my skills and I'm looking forward to getting my Awards!

Sam Wilson YR9





OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 24th September 6 - 8pm



Introduction to the school followed by guided tours of our facilities & work of our students. If you are unable to attend the open evening please ring to make an appointment to see the school in session.



ATTENDANCE AMENDMENTS

The following new regulations have been issued by the Department of Education:

(i) Formerly, authorisation of family holidays during term time has been at the discretion of the Head Teacher in a school. This has now been amended; **any** family holiday booked during term time will be recorded on the register (which is a legal document) as unauthorised.

The amendments make it clear that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

(ii) Where a penalty notice (fine) is issued, for poor attendance, the allocated timescale for payment has been reduced. Each parent must now pay £60 within 21days or £120 within 28days.

Earlier this year nine of our year 7 and 8 students bravely took on the Junior International Maths Challenge. This is an annual event that schools all over the country participate in. It is aimed at budding top mathematicians who are prepared to pit their wits against each other, attempting to solve a range of testing mathematical and logical problems.

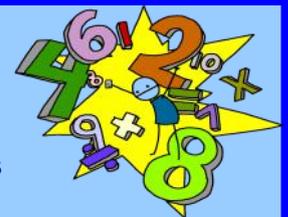


The students who rose to the challenge were Tom Askew, Terence Bellerby, Jack Carrick, Daniel Bell and William Manning from year 8 and Jack King, Scott Wilson, Sophie Batchelor and Rebecca Warwick from year 7.

Congratulations to all these students. Special congratulations to William Manning who achieved the prestigious silver award and to Tom Askew who achieved the bronze award. Jack King also deserves extra recognition - he narrowly missed out on a bronze certificate and achieved best in his year. Well done, I hope you are all inspired to try again next year.

Miss Laithwaite

Maths Challenge Student View



We were faced with questions such as:

Peter has three times as many sisters as brothers. His sister Louise has twice as many sisters as brothers. How many children are there in the family?

Each side of an isosceles triangle is a whole number of centimetres. It's perimeter has length 20cm. How many possibilities are there for the lengths of its sides?

It was certainly a challenge and it made us all think very hard early in the day! Despite it being difficult I'd like an opportunity to try again next year – maybe!

Rebecca Warwick YR7

PROM A send-off fit for Kings and Queens

Once we had finished our last exams on the 14th of June, there was one last get together to send the Beacon

Hill Class of '13 out with a bang... our Prom Night. Free to relax, last minute preparations for the big night flew amongst friends in the week – dress alterations, panic-stricken shoe shopping, nail appointments; the girls seemed pretty frantic too!

After all the preparation from staff and students alike, on the 21st of June, the excitedly awaited evening at the Wheyrigg Hotel was upon us. Though the morning had been a washout of overcast skies and downpours, a gorgeous sunset had emerged to make the event even more memorable. This timely burst of good fortune sparkled off sequins and well polished shoes as the former Year 11s emerged from their lifts, looking a million light years away from the strung out exam students of weeks gone by. It's safe to say each and everyone was worthy of a red carpet spotlight.

Proud parents took group pictures, before we proceeded indoors to the party that awaited, following the teachers; looking almost alien in their out of school get-up! The room had been decorated with balloons, table runners and confetti, all in accordance with the school's colours; an aspect we have the teachers who prepared it to thank. After digging in to the light finger buffet, cooked by the Wheyrigg caterers, we chatted with friends, crooned over dresses and reminisced our time at Beacon Hill.

Later in the evening, Laura and Hannah presented awards that had been prepared by the prefects. Each student was presented with a joke award, reflecting their individual personalities and time at Beacon Hill. A selection of the awards included: the Chewbacca Award for hairiest student (Cameron Hodgson), the Carpet Carrier Award (Connor Abram) and the Thor Odinson award for Truest Viking (Iain Gilbertson).

The main awards of the night were Prom King and Prom Queen; throughout the night both students and teachers voted for a single male and female candidate to receive the award. Connor Wilson won Prom King, with Hannah Donald taking Prom Queen, both were presented with their gold PROM sashes.

As the night grew older, people seemed to take to the dance floor a little more, even requesting songs from the DJ to be played. Especially Jonathan Bragg and Thomas Carrick who didn't seem to stop dancing all night long! Everyone got involved and had a brilliant night. On behalf of all the year 11 students that attended I would like to thank all of the staff involved in the PROM, with special thanks to Mrs Cruickshank and Miss Casson for going out of their way to do a lot of the organising. All in all it was a great and memorable way to end our school lives at Beacon Hill.

Laura Foster-Devaney & Scott Batchelor (Prefects)



GCSE Product Design

I am really very pleased with the standard of the coursework projects this year. We have had a variety of outcomes in answer to the projects set by the exam board. Docking stations have again proved popular, and the variety of designs, together with some clever making processes have given us some really interesting pieces – all of which work and sound great!

We had a couple of nightlight projects this year too which is a new idea – these use a circuit board made in school and put together by the pupils to automatically light LEDs when the light falls to an certain (adjustable) level.

Some beautiful clocks were made this year – using a wide variety of materials and processes again in response to the exam board brief. Some were designed to be flat packable, and some to reflect design influences from the last century.

Two students made radios – and as working prototypes these are really impressive. This is a particularly demanding project with the circuit boards and switchgear being quite delicate and needing precise layout to ensure the controls reach the desired position and are connected to the correct wires!

One student explored the growing market for table name cards that have the name glowing – again, a high degree of precision was required using CAD and CAM to make the component parts for this project.

Some students looked at games storage – again with the emphasis being either on flat packable or showing design influences from the last century and there were some very professional outcomes!

If the students have done as well in the exam as they did in the coursework I will be delighted this year on results day!

Mr Esslemont



Everyone's a Reader—Spellbinding 2013

When Spellbinding was first mentioned I didn't really want to do it because I'm not much of a reader but Mr Horseman and Mrs Cruickshank persuaded me to take part. At the first meeting, all the books were wrapped up so that we didn't have a clue which book we were going to read first. Initially it was quite hard to get a second book to read as they were all out being read. By the end I had read six out of the 10 books, more than I would normally read in 4 months! **Amy Turner**



I really enjoyed Spellbinding; I was so proud of myself as I'd read all ten books. This year Spellbinding was promoted within Mr Horseman's year 9 English group and at times there was a shortage of the certain books that I wanted to read (although there was at least 3 copies of each of the books). Using my initiative, I requested the titles from the public library and in one case I wanted to read one book so much that I actually bought it. I also know of others who downloaded copies to their e-book reader. I was disappointed with the winner as I was hoping my favourite Wonder would win – a really emotional story about a boy with facial disfigurement. **Shannon Richardson**

During the last 4 months a number of students from year 7 to 9 took part in Spellbinding. Some thought the books were great reads however I thought on the whole they were pretty rubbish, mostly because they weren't my type of storylines. Maggot Moon stood out as being my worst and Weight of Water as my best as it was set out in poetic form, flowing nicely and taking only one night to read. Spellbinding has reinforced the genre I prefer best – murder mystery for me!!! **Lauren Bell**

Part of Spellbinding was talking to others via an online forum. It was fun finding out what others thought about the book I was reading. It made me realise some things about the books that I hadn't noticed myself. When posting a comment I always wondered whether anyone would agree with my opinions. The Spellbinding forum has made me more aware that not all people like the same books but at the same time lots do. **Beth Turner**

100 Word Prequel Challenge

Whilst all the reading for Spellbinding was going on, a group of YR9 Spellbinders were tasked within their English lesson to write a 100 word prequel to our favourite 2013 Spellbinding title. Quite a challenge as it took us a while to understand what both a plot and prequel were; some confused it with the actual story they had read. We all got there in the end and Mrs Cruickshank submitted many of our prequels into the Cumbrian School Book Awards countywide competition. I was at the actual awards when Keris Mitchell was announced the winner and Lucy Shardlow accepted her certificate and prize on her behalf - a £50 Hills book voucher for our school library. Any of the Spellbinders who read more than 5 books has been given a vote on how to spend this welcome pot of gold. Mrs Cruickshank and Keris will choose the books to buy from all the suggestions received. Both Keris and I also received the Head Teacher's award for our efforts. **Emily Grierson**

Awards Day

Three students (myself, Emily & Lucy) who had read all 10 books were chosen to represent the school at the Awards day in Penrith Methodist Church. In groups, with other Cumbrian students, we started off with a quick fire round of literature quizzes before getting down to the main business of the day, discussing the pros and cons of the top 3 titles of 2013.

We all bought in up to 3 books for a Book Swish in exchange for tokens which at lunchtime we swapped for different books that other people had brought in.

Our master of ceremonies for the day, Alec Williams (a performance poet and storyteller) finished off the day by announcing the overall winner 172 Hours on the Moon by Johan Harstad, followed by Wonder (R.J. Palacio) & Torn (David Massey). Overall it was a really good day. **Neyve Barton**

Chocolate Heaven Primary Technology Day

During 2 day period we had over 60 pupils, from Years 4 and 5 along with one Y3, working in the Design Technology, Food Technology and ICT area to design and make a new chocolate product. We have run a very similar project with Y9 before, and thought the Primary pupils would benefit from and enjoy the range of experiences that the project offers.

Rotating between the three areas, pupils had a variety of tasks to complete. In the DT rooms, pupils had to choose a shape for their chocolate – and this was linked to who they intended to design it for. Once they had done this they then used a vacuum forming machine to mould clear plastic to the desired shape, and this gave them the mould to form the chocolate later on, as well as part of the packaging. We used a blister type packaging where the product is in a clear plastic bubble that has a card wrapper round it to give space for advertising and product details. The second task in the DT area was to produce this card wrapper using a template. Computer graphics and lettering were added to the design to reflect the chosen customer and shape – and this was then printed on card. The printed card was then put into the laser cutter and the packaging was cut out with fold lines engraved too.

Pupils then moved on to the Food room where they learnt about hygiene and production methods used in a food factory environment that makes chocolate. A variety of ingredients were available – different chocolates together with sprinkles, sparkles and other very tempting sweet treats! Pupils melted chocolate and used freezers to set any designs before adding further layers and special ingredients into their mould. Pupils were shown videos which tracked the process of making chocolate beans through from bush to finished product, seeing the process of moulding commercially and how it was very similar to what they were doing in school.



In ICT pupils were tasked with writing and recording a short radio advert for their chocolate. This was a very busy activity with writing, recording and then mixing music into the background of the advert all going on at the same time. Pupils were introduced to Audacity software which allows separate sound tracks to be brought together and edited on the computer. We then listened to everyone's adverts – there are perhaps some budding marketing people in the making!

This was a very packed day, pupils had to work hard and keep on task to fit in with the tight timescales. Break and lunchtime allowed the pupils to experience the wider school and many took part in the activities put on for them. Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, including the staff accompanying the Primary pupils! There was a very impressive array of products by the end, with some really clever combinations of shape, market and packaging looking highly professional! There were student helpers at each stage taken from Y8 and Y9 and they were superb in helping the younger ones throughout the day – so a big thank you to them and all the staff involved in making this a memorable experience of Beacon Hill.

Mr Esslemont

I am **Mrs Esther Gigli**, I have recently taken over the position as Beacon Hill's **KS4 Academic Learning Mentor**. My main role is to mentor all the Year 10 and 11 students, helping them to achieve the best grades they possibly can. I coordinate the Non-Teaching Mentor Programme - where all Year 11 students have access to a member of our support staff. This involves having regular termly meetings with students to talk about how things are going, address any issues and find out how they are preparing for the upcoming exams and providing any help that they require.

I am also responsible for offering and co-ordinating Careers advice and work with Inspira to find information tailored to each individual student. With the new Government RPA requirements, I assist in finding education or training for all students post-16. I work mainly with Year 11, but see all of the Year 10 students, to introduce myself and prepare them for how things will be next year.

I am happy to work with any student who needs support and if you feel that this would benefit your child, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am based in the Academic Mentoring office and am usually available Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am – 1.30pm.



Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

From Summer 2013, the Government has changed the law so that all young people in England will have to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

This does not necessarily mean that they have to stay in school, and there are a number of options that they can choose:

- Study full-time such as in a school, college or with a training provider;
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training;
- An Apprenticeship.

The Government website has a lot of useful information about what this means: <http://tinyurl.com/nufecyh>

This Government document tells parents specifically about what it all means: <http://tinyurl.com/ng5v3ek>



YR9 Peer Mentors

In May, 19 Year 9 students started doing Peer Mentor Training to help and support the new year 7 group that will be starting in September. As part of their training they have been working on developing their own skills and confidence through role play activities which also help improve listening and communication skills.

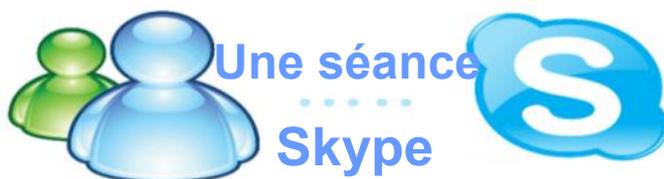
During the Peer Mentor training the year 9's have worked together as a group, made a rota so that they all had a turn at helping out at the Year 6 Induction day in July. The Peer Mentors provided support in lessons and helped out at break and lunch time.

In September the Mentors will be in form groups with the new year 7's where they will look after, help them to settle into school life and with any worries or concerns that they may have.

The year 9's are working towards gaining a qualification in Peer Mentoring, where they have to produce a folder of work. They will continue their training in year 10 part of which will be to plan an assembly for the year 7's in September.

Mrs Pearce

10 years ago, this would have been unimaginable outside of a Hollywood movie. We have been able, this term, to talk live with French students from our link school in the south east of France. This kind of learning experience could only be bettered by actually meeting French speakers in the flesh.



Initially, there were a few technical glitches to overcome, but Mr Maughan easily ironed these out and I was able to chat with Madame Barreau and establish how the sessions would run.

Skype, for the uninitiated is a video conference facility whereby you can talk to someone anywhere in the world via the internet. It costs nothing to use and can be accessed via mobile phones and computers.

Interested students signed up to participate and came along at lunch time for the session. Some conversations flowed easily with questions and answers exchanged in both languages. Annabel Gold and Jasmine Tovey even ended up exchanging Facebook names with 2 equally enthusiastic linguists. Others were more reserved and glad of their list of suggested questions, as with any first time encounter, it can be awkward, or you can just click, regardless of language barriers.

Some of the Year 7 students were able to participate in a Skype conference during their French lesson. It was difficult to make sure everyone spoke to their own penfriend as some students were absent, but everyone who had a go tried communicating in English and French.

This experience made a lasting impression on those who took part and the experience was deemed a success. Our students came across as open minded, friendly individuals. I suspect skyping will become a far more commonplace occurrence both in business and socially, so if you haven't had a go yet, please sign up.

Mrs Baxter

Hills Books Ltd. Est. 1890
Wholesale Book Suppliers



BOOKS VOUCHER

Up to 25% Discount off all stock when visiting our Showroom.

Children's Books, Activity Books, Adult Books, Local Books, Maps, Local Stationery etc.

MON – FRI 8AM – 5PM

(VALID 19/07/13 - 31/08/13)

Hills Books Ltd
Clay Flatts Industrial Estate
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 2DR

Tel: 01900 603031 & 602781
Fax: 01900 61072
Email: schools@hillsbooks.com
www.hillsbooks.com

Important Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 17th July	YR7,8 & 10 full report posted home to parents
Mon 15th - Fri 19th July	Work Life Balance week no after school clubs or detentions
Mon 15th - Fri 19th July	Cycle Challenge
Tues 16th - Thurs 18th July	Challenge Week end of term activities non-uniform
Wed 17th—Thurs 18th July	YHA Residential Challenge
Thursday 18th July	Macbeth Performance @ 2pm
Friday 19th July	End of Summer term @ 1pm
Mon 5th - Fri 9th August	YR6 & 7 Summer School
Thursday 22nd August	GCSE Results Day 10am - 12noon
Thursday 5th September	Autumn term begins
Thursday 12th September	School Photographs
Monday 23rd September	KS3 REACT Foundation Science Roadshow
Tuesday 24th September	YR6 Open Evening 6-8pm
Tuesday 15th October	YR7 Tutor & Residential Information meeting 5pm
Mon 21st - Fri 25th October	Work Life Balance week no after school clubs or detentions
Mon 28th October - Fri 1st November	Half-term holidays