

Summer 2009

2nd Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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HEAD'S VIEW

Dear parents and friends of Beacon Hill

At the end of this term we sadly say goodbye to four members of staff; Miss Trussell who has given a staggering thirty two years of service to the school and has decided at long last to hang up her whistle, and Mrs Wakefield who is also retiring after being here for ten years. We also say goodbye to Mr Peck and Mrs Pattinson who are leaving for pastures new. They have all been valuable members of staff and have shown outstanding dedication and commitment to the school.

Unfortunately there is little room in this newsletter for anything more but to say, we have had a very busy term and to thank you all for your continued support to the school.

We have a brand new website coming up and decoration and refurbishment of the school changing rooms over the summer break – so plenty to look forward to!

Thanks to all the staff and to the students for their hard work. See you all in September!

HEADTEACHER

Fond Memories



I would like to thank every teacher, every member of staff. For younger students, just to say, you may hate school now but you will never find a school that will help you more in every way they can like Beacon Hill. You will never be just a percentage, you'll be treated as a person. I have a great respect for everyone there because no matter where I go, what I do in life, Beacon Hill was where I started and made me who I am and for that I will always be proud. The school is a beacon of light for every student for their growth in learning and personality. I'm sure there will be some very good students to come. However, as every teacher there would know our year has set a high standard in everyway but there is always the opportunity to do better than us (highly unlikely though!!)

I hope some of the teachers may read this and see how they have inspired not only me, but so many others in my year. So from year 11, we thank you all.

Rachael Dixon

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Mumps Alert

There has been an increase in mumps notifications in Cumbria this year, there were 11 new cases in Cumbria last week. Mumps is an acute viral illness, although rarely fatal, complications of mumps can include Aseptic Meningitis, Orchitis, Oophritis, Profound Deafness and Encephalitis. Mumps in the first three months of pregnancy may increase the rate of spontaneous abortion.

Mumps is a notifiable disease, which means that a doctor who sees a patient whom they suspect has mumps is required by law to report it.

There is no specific treatment for mumps.

Mumps vaccine is one part of the MMR vaccine which is given at the national immunisation programme usually at 12-15 months and at 4 years of age but there is no upper age limit.

To prevent the spread of infection the Health Protection Agency recommend infected children should be kept away from school, nursery or child-minders for five days onset of swollen glands.

Monica Whitson and Janet Morphet,
Immunisation Co-coordinators, NHS Cumbria.

Monica.whitson@cumbriapct.nhs.uk

Jane.morphet@cumbriapct.nhs.uk

Meet the Governors

Most of you will have heard the expression "Governors" and "Governing Body" but who are they and what do they do. They are a group of local residents from various walks of life who are responsible for overseeing the running of the school on your behalf. Each Governor has specific responsibilities and is allotted to a sub committee. Below is a table of the present Governors and their roles and responsibilities. They are proud of the recent achievements of the school

Mrs J Richardson	Headteacher
Mr T Gear	Co-opted-Chair of Governors
Mrs G Monkhouse	Co-opted
Rev. C Shaw	Co-opted
Mrs Brandwood	Local Authority Governor
Ms Linda Hunter	Local Authority Governor
Mr S Beattie	Parent Governor
Mr G Day	Parent Governor
Mrs Foster-Devaney	Parent Governor
Mr D Harrison	Parent Governor
Mrs L Clitheroe	Staff Governor
Mr P Peet	Staff Governor
Mrs A Hemingway	Clerk to the Governors



Year 9 Enterprise Project

Year 9 students have chosen their options for next year, this sometimes leaves them at a bit of a loose end in the subjects they will not be continuing with next year. With this in mind I have produced an enterprise project which brings together a large number of the subjects at school for one project.

Year 9 were split into companies and from this they needed to allocate different job roles to each individual. Students then had to design, produce and market a CD holder using only a budget of £20! Their final task was to put together a Dragons Den style

presentation. Both judges and parents then voted on which in their opinion was the best company to be crowned the winner. All of the groups have worked extremely hard over the course of the project with the eventual winners being **Simple Volume** (Daniel Bell, Lydia Bowness, Katie Heaney, Domonic Searby, Scott Donald, Toni-leigh Turnbull & Chantel Armstrong). All the presentations were of a high standard making the whole evening a success. Congratulations to all the teams, you deserve a round of applause for all your hard work.

Mr Young

Alternative Work Experience

Between Monday 1st June and Friday 5th June year 10 took part in an alternative work experience week made up of various activities which will prepare the students not only for their actual work experience placement but for their future too. The activities included enterprise style team events, a programme to prepare students for interviews and a team building day with the Army. The enterprise events were linked with the NatWest bank and Twoey toys from Wigton, who also supplied the prizes. The highlight appeared to be the mock interviews with all the students entering into the true spirit of the activity wearing smart clothes and even feeling a touch nervous!!! The week was a great success with all the students seeming to enjoy it. Hopefully they will have gained a lot from it to help them in the world of employment. We would

also like to say a massive thank you to everyone at Twoey Toys, especially Jo Miller who are a massive support to all the enterprise events we do in school.

Mr Young



Wednesday 29th July 2009 @ 11.00 am

Aspatria Town Park

All welcome - bring along a picnic

Contact Chairmum - Gillie Young 07920422806

Growing Success Outdoor Learning



ASDAN



We are pleased to report that things in the garden have been blossoming!

Firstly a lovely lady in Ireby offered to buy £20 worth of plants from us after hearing about the fantastically successful Open Day we held in May. So we packed up some of the plants we had grown and set off to deliver them in person. She was very happy with our delivery and has invited us back again next year when she will pay us to plant them out for her in her beautiful garden. Grand! We celebrated our accomplishments by going to Wellington Farm near Cockermouth where we treated ourselves to a home made (Jersey cream!) delicious ice-cream.

Down at the Dream-scheme Garden our broad beans, onions, cabbages, potatoes, blackcurrants, redcurrants, rhubarb, tomatoes, sweet corn etc are all growing rapidly, unfortunately so are all the weeds! We are finding it hard to keep

on top of it all but are hoping to have it tidy before the end of term.

In the poly-tunnel the sunflowers, tomatoes and potatoes are lush. The butternut-squash and achocha (type of gherkin) are taking a while longer to get going. Again we're kept busy weeding, feeding and watering.

We invited children from Richmond Hill Primary School to come garden with us and spent three weeks helping us. We planting up tubs down at the Dream-scheme Garden, also at Richmond Hill School we showed the children how to grow their own tomatoes (using some of our tomatoes that we had grown from seed). We weeded and wrote up what we had done whilst enjoying a drink and a biscuit in the fresh air.

Around the school we have weeded flower beds and created beautiful hanging baskets. The canteen now have a tub full of fresh herbs ready use at the back of the canteen door, all from plants we have grown ourselves to brighten up the school.

Somehow we also found time to visit Bank Mill Nursery at Mawbray to celebrate the success of our Year 11 ASDAN students and as a final fond farewell to them all.

I'll leave the closing comments to some of our remaining ASDAN students:

"I have enjoyed my ASDAN lessons. I like all of it." Thomas Carrick

Chantel Armstrong "We get to go out on fun trips and learn how to garden."

"We get to go out and it is fun and awesome." James Hawkins

Devvon Wilson "Get's us out and it's fun and spontaneous."

"It keeps us active and it is a good laugh." Russell Cartwright

Adam Hankin "We learn about different things, plants and vegetation. I enjoy it."

Mrs Skillicorn





Year 7 & 8 Aimhigher students and a few parents recently visited Lancaster University to experience first hand what being a student at university was like when studying and “chilling out”. Mrs Clitheroe commented that *“From the parents’ point of view it was very worthwhile to see the accommodation and receive information about finances.”* The cost of this event was completely funded by Aimhigher Cumbria

We started off in a small room all together but shortly after we were split into smaller groups and moved to separate rooms to give us more space. To begin with we drew a picture of what we each thought a university student would look like. Another activity was where we tore off individual sheets of toilet paper, we hadn’t a clue why, some of the lads tore off about 10. Then we realised that we had to say that number of things about ourselves; obviously the lads then regretted tearing off so many sheets!!

We were also given the opportunity to look around the campus including the library, lecture hall, cinema, and some onsite- campus shops. The university was really big, and the people we met were really nice. I would hopefully like to go to university myself when I am older.

Most of us felt that although it was a long way to go it was worthwhile. The return journey definitely passed by much quicker as we watched a DVD on the coach. Overall it was a fun, enjoyable and useful day.

Sarah MacKereth Yr7

D-Day - 65th Anniversary

The 6th June 2009 was the 65th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France. Army Cadet Luke Hampson travelled to Normandy to take part in the commemoration of this turning point in the war against Hitler’s Germany.

Travelling by bus, Luke made his way to Portsmouth and took the overnight ferry to Bordeaux. The first stop on the D-Day tour was to have the greatest impact on Luke – the bus pulled up at a war cemetery, full of both the living and the dead. Luke described the presence of old soldiers who had lost their comrades, returning in peace. These beret-clad veterans, adorned with medals cried at the graves of their friends. To Luke the experience was “awful” – a fitting word to describe the waste of young men who never could become grandfathers. As he made his way to the beach codenamed ‘Sword’, it was a time for Luke to remember his own grandfather, a former Military Policeman during the war.



Upon ‘Sword Beach’, Luke’s cadets joined up with forces from France and a circle of veterans. They formed ranks, stood easy and became part of the new history. As one of five, Luke was honoured to be chosen for the front line. Here he shook the hand of our very own Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and even made an appearance on news television.

Luke had an amazing experience. Through commemoration of the dead, he said he appreciates “the living” more now too; like the veteran with 35 medals whose favourite time in the war had astonishingly been D-Day! So Luke boarded the bus and headed back to Blighty. As he waved to the American President, Barack Obama, one lad now has his own D-Day stories to relate.

Luke Hampson Yr9 interviewed by Mr Peck



A reader's journey

Personally, I have loved reading ever since I first read the Harry Potter books. But sometimes, people just cannot find a book they like, therefore they do not read as often. But since Spellbinding, I have seen people that I had thought would never read; start to get into a really good book.

I was certainly up for the challenge when I heard about Spellbinding. The challenge was to read 10 books within three months. The book list was: Airman, Ways to Live Forever, Message in a Bottle, Blood Ties, Rune-marks, The Declaration, Wilderness, Bearkeeper, Carbon Diaries and The Red Necklace. I love reading, but unfortunately, I am not very fast and can lose concentration easily. At first, I was very slow, only having read two books in the first month. My commitment had faded slightly, as I had started to read Stephenie Meyer's bestseller, Twilight. But Mrs Cruickshank brought back my commitment with her constant encouragement, and I left New Moon (the sequel to Twilight) to concentrate more on the Spellbinding titles.

By the second month, I had done exceedingly better than the previous one, and had found that even in the first Chapters some books like Airman and Blood Ties had won me over and discovered myself greedy for more.



On my journey through Spellbinding, I heard comments about the books that I didn't completely agree with but everybody is entitled to their own opinion as everyone's taste in books is different.

Whilst Spellbinding was going on, Pictureboards was also being held in the Art room on Wednesday lunchtimes. You could make a board that showed graphically what the book was about. My sister, Rachel, and I committed to this greatly, coming in after school and, when needed to meet the deadline, before school. Both of ours were entered in the competition, and displayed with other schools' handiwork, at the awards ceremony. This sideline activity appeals to students who have perhaps only managed to read a few Spellbinding books.

At the Awards, held as usual at Newton Rigg Campus, Penrith, we (Rachel Foster-Devaney, Paige Dodds, Rebecca Hodgson & myself) were organised into groups with a team leader where we discussed, sometimes argued, the merits of the top 3 nominated titles, veering off at times to our likes and dislikes of the other books. Often I had to restrain myself to let the quieter ones speak! Following the discussions we all voted for our favourite Spellbinding book. After lunch the winner was announced - I had voted for The Declaration, but Blood Ties turned out to be the overall winner.



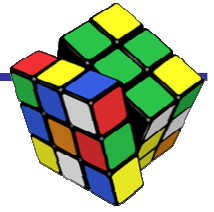
To round off the day, Niall de Búrca, an Irish man, entertained us greatly with his vibrant storytelling, followed by all of the participating students being presented with certificates of their achievement. Party poppers exploded all around as we celebrated Spellbinding 2009...

Laura Foster-Devaney Yr7

For the past 5 weeks I have been a part of film club. Film Club is a unique opportunity which consists of meeting up every Wednesday after school to watch a film. We all watch a range of films including horror, comedy and adventure. We don't particularly always watch new films; we view a lot of older films as well. After we have watched a film we usually write a review on it on the Film Club website. This is worthwhile to do because people can view the reviews and every week a review is chosen and if it is yours you can win DVDs for the school. You can look at our reviews at <http://www.filmclub.org> so far the films we've watched are; Pans Labyrinth, Bridge to Teribithia, My Neighbour Totoro and Porco Rosso. We are lucky to have the opportunity to be in Film Club as there were only a few places, to join we had to write about why we wanted to join. Soon the refectory will be made into the official Film Club room; this will include comfy beanbags, a projector and perhaps a new paint colour on the walls.

Scott Batchelor Yr 7

Mathemagics



Recently several Beacon Hill students were offered the opportunity to participate in a session with a Maths magician. Having been sceptical of the idea at first, I was pleasantly surprised by how enjoyable and informative it was.

He started off the session by doing a few rather simple mathematical illusions or "abnormalities" as he called them - things that at first seemed impossible, such as guessing the number that we were thinking or what had been inputted on a calculator. He then proceeded to explain the mathematical "abnormality" behind this trick that no matter what number had been thought about by using the correct method and formula the number could always be "guessed".

After demonstrating several of these, he went onto the highlight of the show, defying all logic by completing a Rubik cube (that had been randomly shuffled by a student) behind his back in under a minute!! Now I'm not quite sure what that had to do with Maths but it was definitely enthralling.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their time including me, leaving us all eager to learn more about these mathematical abnormalities. Certainly 50 minutes well spent!

Ben Barton Yr 8

Aimhigher...

Yr 8 Girls Science & Engineering



On Tuesday the 2nd June 2009 all of the year 8 girls were given the opportunity to take part in a science & engineering day at B111, Sellafield. This was an event to encourage us girls to be more aware of the variety of occupations within Science & Engineering.

Along with other Cumbrian students we were organised into groups, told about the plans for the day and set off to work on different activities aimed to be a simple introduction to skills needed within the science & engineering field.

We made rockets and launched them, a steady hand game, a buzzer game and also aeroplanes. In our groups we had a competition using a special machine to see who could fire their aeroplane the furthest.

We all really enjoyed ourselves, made friends getting to know quite a bit about each other. The day was really enjoyable I definitely would be interested in taking part more engineering type activities.

Anita Ungless Yr8

Sports News



SAILING

Miss Trussell, the genius that she is has yet again managed to source external funding to send some lucky students on a 5 week sailing course at Derwent water marina...for free! Students were selected using certain criteria. They have learnt how to set up a sailing boat, steer and control the sail, tack and jibe. Students are well on their way to completing their RYA level 1 but still need to have another go at sailing on their own. Students seem to have had a fantastic time with only a limited number capsizing (unfortunately, as it makes good viewing!). Thank you very much to all the students who have committed to attending the whole 5 weeks and well done to all.

PARALYMPIC - WORLD CUP TRACK CYCLING

On Friday 22nd May Mr Young and Miss Donaldson took a coach load of year 7 and 8 to the Paralympic World Cup at the Velodrome in Manchester. We'd secured tickets to see the finals of the track cycling. Setting off just after 9, we arrived at the velodrome just in time for the first race.

It was a long way to travel to watch an event but the students gained a lot from the experience of watching a live event, especially one whose participants have faced and overcome a disability. Cycling itself is a difficult sport but with the added disability of only having one leg or being partially sighted it makes the even more spectacular. Hopefully this will inspire the year groups to participate in PE and extra curricular clubs on offer.

Mr Young

REGIONAL MULTI-SKILLS ACADEMY

Four pupils (including Rebecca Beattie from our Yr7) from Allerdale School Sport Partnership were selected to attend Northumbria University to take part in a 1 day Regional Multi-skills Academy due to their talent within PE and Sport on Wed June 3rd with Chris Wright, Lead on Talent Development from ASSP.

Miss Trussell

Dates for your Diary

13th July 2009	Yr8 Whitescar Caves trip
13th July 2009	Richmond Hill concert 6pm
16th July 2009	End of term early finish 12 noon
27th-31st July 2009	Summer Activities
28th-30th July 2009	Storytree Theatre workshop
27th August 2009	GCSE Results Day
3rd September 2009	School starts back for the Autumn term
3rd September 2009	YR7 Induction Day
7th-11th September 2009	YR11 Work Experience week
29th September 2009	YR6 Open Evening
19th-23rd October 2009	Work life balance week—no after school clubs or detentions
26th-30th October 2009	1/2 term
26th November 2009	Academic Review Day (years7-10)
7th-11th December 2009	YR11 Mock Exams
18th December 2009	Last day of Autumn term
5th January 2010	Spring term begins