

Summer 2010

1st half-term



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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HEAD'S VIEW

Dear parents and friends of Beacon Hill

Welcome to the summer addition of our newsletter. This addition focuses on many of the fantastic enrichment activities that make our school so special. This term's theme has been 'community' and you will see and read about many of the excellent community activities we have been involved in. Thinking of others and giving something back to the community in which we live is a very important part of our school and makes me feel very proud of the students and staff who give their time for the benefit of others. From gardening to cooking, conservation to revision- enjoy your read!

Finally, this will be the last chance I get to wish all our year 11 students great success in their GCSE exams and good luck for their future careers – don't forget to come back to see us!

HEADTEACHER

Science Club



Since October the science department has run a science club during Wednesday lunchtimes. Every week we have carried out lots of different fun, hands on and exciting experiments. The students who come every week have said:

**'science club is fun',
'everyone is welcome' & it's exciting'**

Some of the favourite experiments we have experienced have been 1) making our hair stand on end with the van De Graaf generator, 2) investigating which paper aeroplane is the best, 3) making electrical reindeer with flashing red noses at Christmas time 4) making gooey slime. My favourite was when I set my hands on fire using a bubble mixture – naturally I couldn't set light to the students, even though they wanted me too!

I'm really enjoying running the science club and I look forward to continuing it next year, with hopefully bigger and better experiments. Students who want to come along just need to turn up at 1pm Wednesday lunchtime in the science lab.

Dr. Graham

We are set to become a UK Online Centre in early June. Online Centres provide free or low cost access to computers and the internet as well as the help and support they will need to use them.

Whether you are a beginner or know a little bit and would like to learn more, a tutor in our centre will give you the help and support to get started.

Using computers and the internet can make life easier and it's fun too! You can use it to find a new job, stay in touch with friends or even save time, money and hassle by using the internet to order your shopping or pay bills.

It doesn't matter if you've never used a computer or the internet before - we're here to help.

Give it a go and find out what it's all about!

For more information please contact the school on **016973 20509**

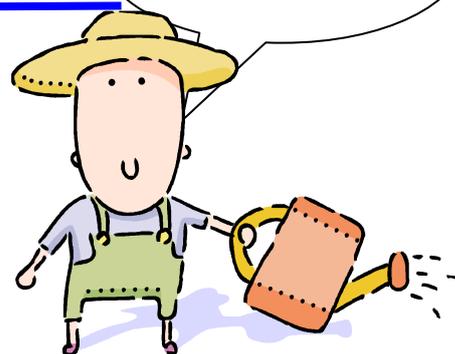


Family Gardening

Fun for all the family!

Do you have an interest in gardening?

Have you skills and knowledge you'd like to pass on?



Perhaps gardening is new to you but you'd like to know more?

Yes? Then read on.....

The family learning gardening sessions have started at Beacon Hill Community School. We've now held our first 2 meetings after school (**3.30pm – 4.30pm**), on Wednesdays, with a fantastic 16 taking part the 2nd week.

It's a chance for families to discover more about yourself and gardening in our new, fun, family gardening group.

The sessions are being run on a weekly basis every Wednesday this term. They are designed to be informal and above all just for fun! All the materials you will need, tools, compost, pots, seeds, etc. will be provided (**FREE!**) but please bring your own gloves if you need them and wear suitable clothing for the outdoor weather conditions.

This club is open to all our students, each student must be accompanied by an adult from their family and they both must have an interest in having a go at gardening. Interested contact **Mrs Skillicorn** at the school.

School Uniform Online

Uniform order forms are available from the school office or on the school website however the uniform supplier sells and distributes the uniform directly from their factory.

You will need to send a cheque made payable to Coniston Corporate UK LTD, to the address shown on the uniform order form. Alternatively, you can order & pay for uniform online at www.conistonshop.com/shop_select.php?ShopID=ODc or telephone 015394 41360.

We have placed a direct link on our own school website under parents tab. At the moment our actual uniform isn't displayed but the page can easily be identified with our school badge.



Easter School - A Great Success

Easter School 2010 took place in school and ran for 6 days during the Easter holidays. Year 11 students had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of GCSE coursework clinics and revision sessions for subjects including: English, maths, science, art, graphics, music and French. Easter School helps students prepare for their GCSEs and is one of the programmes that we run in school to support and encourage our students to work towards gaining the highest GCSE grades possible.

This year's Easter School was an extremely successful event due to the high attendance of students and the enthusiasm and dedication of the teaching staff who delivered the sessions. We are very lucky to have so many teachers working in this school who gladly give up their holidays in order to support their students!

Mrs Moore



KS4 Learning Mentor –YR 10 Update

The Year 10 students are already working hard towards their GCSE grades; I think it's fair to say that the amount of work required has surprised some of the students! GCSE Science modular exams take place regularly throughout Years 10 & 11 and coursework in all relevant subjects starts in earnest in Year 10. Also Year 10 students taking Food & Nutrition will take their written GCSE exam this summer. ALL Year 10 students should therefore be doing several hours of school work (e.g. homework/coursework/revision) at home each week in order to ensure that they gain the best GCSE grades possible – we will do our utmost in school to encourage them to do this and we'd be grateful if you could do likewise at home.

An early warning to Year 10 parent/guardians: Year 11 is a very stressful year and we do our best to support students with additional coursework clinics and revision classes, especially from January onwards. We hold many of these sessions after school however we also offer some sessions during February and May half term holidays and run a yearly Easter School throughout the Easter holidays. Please bear this information in mind if you decide to book a holiday when your child is in Year 11.

Work Experience

All students at Beacon Hill School take part in our 'Work Experience Programme'. This programme gives pupils the opportunity to spend one week out of school on a work placement. YR10 carry out their work placement when they enter Year 11 and the placement lasts for 5 days starting Monday 13th September 2010 which is the second week back to school after the summer holidays. All Year 10 students are currently investigating the work placements that are available in the area and are choosing which they feel would be most appropriate for them.

Work placement is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience the real world of work along with the associated demands and challenges including dressing appropriately, arriving on time, working alongside colleagues etc. A CBEC information leaflet has been sent out to all parents but if your copy has been misplaced, it can be downloaded from the school website under letters home in the Parents tab.

"A dictionary is the only place where success comes before work."

Mrs Moore

Mock Election



As I'm sure many of us would agree the election has dominated our lives for the past month. With the Conservatives, Labour and Liberal Democrats 'fighting' for rule over the country. This year's election was so big, they even broadcasted American style debates on the television. They debated for what they wanted in the country, sometimes even arguing with each other. Nick Clegg, leader of the Lib Dems, won two out of three

of the debates, David Cameron, leader of the Conservative Party won one, and Gordon Brown, leader of Labour, won none of them.

Within school we held our own forum debates, online using Moodle (our VLE - Virtual Learning Environment), to see what WE (the students - not old enough to actually vote!) felt should be the new government's priorities. Some of our main concerns that came up over our Moodle debates were: our soldiers to be brought home from Afghanistan, hunting bans, high fuel prices, respect for the elderly and banning smoking.

In election week we had an assembly organized by Mr. Gee, where we acted out the televised debates, with Annabelle playing the part of David Cameron, Laura as Nick Clegg and Connor Fawcett taking on the role of Gordon Brown. Teachers and students from the audience gave the 3 main party candidates questions to answer about how they would make an impact on the country. This developed students' understanding as to the current political situation.

As did so many of our parents who went to local polling stations to vote we held a Mock Election again using Moodle. Surprisingly, this was very different to the actual election result in school 26% of us voted Labour. 36% voted Conservative and 38% voted Lib Dems. Our results were entered into a national poll run by Google to see what us under-8s thought.



"The Key Players"

Moving back to parliament, the polling was in and being counted up. Two parties were in tight lead. This ended in being hung parliament but then both Labour and Conservative really wanted to pair up with the Lib Dems. Eventually after 5 days of talking the Lib Dems decided to pair up with the Conservatives which gave us a new government and a new prime minister, David Cameron.

This, as agreed by many, was one of the biggest elections in history. But all is not yet over, as we are yet to see what the new government does for OUR country.

By Annabelle Brown + Laura Foster-Devaney YR8



Thank you for all the vouchers you have collected so far, keep them rolling in!! Tesco have now stopped issuing them at the till but Sainsbury's will continue for another month yet.

Last year we used the vouchers for ASDAN (various insect & bug habitat boxes), DT (lever & CAM demonstration boards) and some PE equipment (replacement tennis balls). This year we are looking at cookery equipment.

Conservation Work Party

Nine ASDAN students recently went to the Quarry Banks reserve near Carlisle to work alongside Countryside officer for Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Morag Angus, site manager, Paul and a group of volunteers from Mencap. This attractive and peaceful woodland and meadow is looked after by Cumbria Wildlife Trust. The purpose of this visit was to help develop the students' conservation skills complementing their ASDAN environmental studies, work included scrub clearing and hedge planting work.



We spent the day in a small meadow beyond the quarry helping maintain this natural habitat, an old hedge had been recently laid and new hedging was ready to be planted; we started a fire to burn up the cut branches left behind afterwards. We moved the branches over to the fire area then spent time cutting them up to a manageable size for the fire.

The meadow is important as it contains species typical of unimproved grasslands in this area such as knapweed, great burnet, betony, yellow rattle and devil's-bit scabious. Towards the beck, plants such as yellow iris, ragged robin and marsh marigolds grow. 60 species of bird have been recorded on the nature reserve including spotted flycatcher, great spotted woodpecker, tawny owl and moorhen, which have all bred. During the summer the meadow area attracts butterflies including ringlet and large skipper.



Here are some quotes from our students about their experiences who between them all seem to agree that it was hard, hot, tiring but above all fun:

James Hawkins, "It was very hot and hard work but also a bit of fun",

Russell Cartwright also commented "It was HOT!"

Luke Hampson thought "It was hot, sweaty, good crack and fun"

Frankie Brown said, "Today was a hot tiring day and we were working hard."

Devvon Wilson also thought it was a good day and "a lot of hard work".

Adam Hankin said "Today was excellent, warm and peaceful",

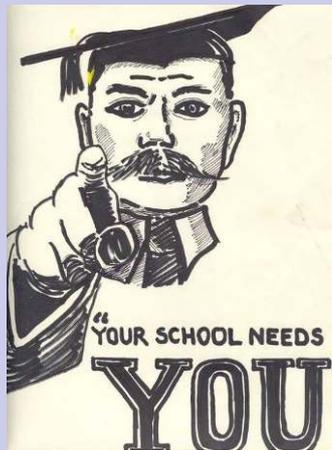
Chantel Armstrong thought, "Today was the best! I had lots of fun!"

Last but not least, Bradley Cass commented "It was a very hot day, a very good day out and we enjoyed working with Morag Angus, the Cumbria Wildlife Trust ranger."



We would like to thank Morag very much for letting us come and volunteer and are looking forward to our next day at volunteering.

Mrs Skillicorn



We NEED you!

We are all aware that our school has, over the last few years gone from strength to strength and become one of the best schools in the local area with good examination results and 'good' judgements from Ofsted. The success of the school depends on many different factors but leadership is an essential ingredient. The Head teacher cannot work effectively without a strong and committed governing body. They are the group that support and challenge and who help to steer the direction of the school. As a group, the governors of our school come mainly from our parents – their views are vital to us, after all it is their children who we educate.

At the moment we are short of governors and need you to think seriously about supporting us and volunteering to be a governor.

What does it mean?

- Attending a few meetings a term usually from 6.30pm to 8pm
- Term of office is 3 years but can be shorter if you wish
- Giving your views about the school
- Asking questions
- Giving something back to the community

You do not need to have any qualifications just an interest in the school.

So come along for a cup of tea and a chance to meet the governors and find out if it is for you – next meeting is 30th June at 6.30pm or contact Mrs Hemingway, clerk to the governors, for an informal chat!



Trevor Gear
Chair of Governors

Sports Relief Plant Sale



ASDAN students held a mini sale for Sports Relief on Friday 19th March 2010. They raised £48.25 by selling plants they had grown, bird boxes they had made and jams and chutney created from produce grown last season. 10 % of the profit was donated to the Sports Relief cause.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the sale and to the students for all their hard work.

Mrs Skillicorn

Just Rewards

ASDAN pupils who have been carrying out community work at the Dreamscheme Garden got their just rewards recently when they went to Bank Mill Nursery to spend some of their hard earned

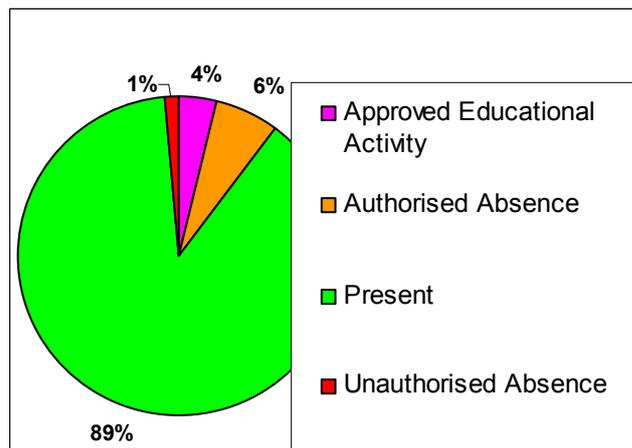


returns. For every hour the students spend down at the garden they earned 10 points, these points can be cashed in towards goods or outings to help them enjoy their horticultural experiences.

This photo shows Chantel Armstrong with her rewards - a barn owl garden ornament and a planter.

A big thanks to Linda Hunter and the Aspatria Youth Club team for their invaluable support.

Amber Attendance Alert



The whole school attendance up to Friday 14th May 2010 is **92.4%**, this places us in the **AMBER A** attendance category.

GREEN	100% - 93%
AMBER A	93% - 90%
AMBER B	89.99% - 87%
AMBER C	86.99% - 84%
RED	LESS THAN 84%

We are committed to raising attendance and to work with every child to help them achieve the best from their education through good attendance.

It is our hope that frequent and regular absences can be avoided. Irregular attendance is a major barrier to progress in school. We treat absence from school seriously and will investigate any unexplained absence.

In line with new government strategies to raise attendance in school we will be involving parents of students with attendance concerns more frequently.

Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their child attends school and lessons each day.



Yummy Food Club

Food Club has started after school on **Thursdays** from **3.15 until 5pm**. It is open to any students with an interest in food and who would also enjoy cooking it.

So far the club has made ginger oat cookies, scotch eggs and chocolate chip muffins. We look forward to the delights after 1/2 term.

Some weeks we will provide the students with the opportunity to taste new foods and dishes as well as trying out new cooking processes. Students who are interested need to keep an eye open on the Food classroom door for recipes and costs involved.

Thursday 19th June - Pear Surprise Cake

Thursday 17th June - Red Bean Mousaka

Thursday 24th June - Coconut Haystacks

Thursday 1st July - Rice Salad

Thursday 8th July - Gingersnaps

Thursday 15th July - No Club

Mrs McGeough

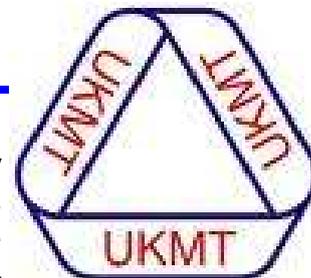
Junior Maths Challenge

Ten of our students took part in the Junior National Maths Challenge on Thursday 29th April. This testing maths paper is aimed at the highest ability students in years 7 and 8 and gives them the opportunity to pit their wits against students in schools up and down the country. They have the possibility of being awarded gold, silver or bronze awards if they score sufficiently highly, but taking part and tackling the myriad of questions is a challenge in itself 25 questions in under an hour! We await the results.

The participating students were Laura Foster-Devaney, Annabelle Brown, Sarah Mackereth, Scott Batchelor, Katie Ridley, Rebecca Beattie, Lynsey Rumney, Ben Carter, Shane Warwick and Lucy Nicholson.

The senior maths challenge took place in February where Ronnie Morris YR10 successfully achieved a bronze award.

Miss Laithwaite



Primary Multi Skills Tournament



On Monday 19th April Beacon Hill hosted a KS1 and 2 multi skills festival for their cluster primary schools, nothing special I hear you say ... well you're right in that all SSCO's organise these festivals but for this one we used our year 9's who have chosen GCSE PE to organise and run the festival. This was the first time that year 9 have been asked to do anything like this, although they have been using leadership skills within lessons since year 7 they have never had to put them into practice with people they do not know.

The weather was perfect and the pupils were ready for the challenge. Year 9 arrived into school early and started to sort their equipment for their individual stations. When all the primary schools had arrived our students quickly sorted them into mixed groups and accompanied them to each of the activity stations. The first station started slowly as a few nerves crept in but by the second station the year 9s were in full flow and the primaries seemed to be loving the day.

Well done to all primary schools for attending and special praise to our year 9 GCSE PE students for their hard work in making the day such a success.



Mr Young

Dates for your Diary

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2010	Half-term holidays
Sunday 6th June 2010	Sports Aid @ Old Trafford, Manchester
Tuesday 22nd June 2010	YR10 Parents Evening
Wednesday 23rd June	YR9 Aimhigher Media Roadshow
Friday 25th June 2010	YR8 Language Enrichment Day @ Bolton University
Monday 5th July 2010	YR6 Transition Day & Parents Evening
Tuesday 6th & Wednesday 7th July 2010	Sports Day & Swimming Gala
Tuesday 6th - Thursday 8th July 2010	YR10 Aimhigher Liverpool University Residential
Friday 9th July 2010	YR11 Celebration Night
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th July 2010	YR7 - 9 Enrichment Week
Monday 12th - Friday 16th July 2010	Work Life Balance Week no after school clubs or detentions
Monday 12th July 2010	YR7, 9 & 10 Theatre Workshops
Monday 12th - Thursday 15th July 2010	YR10 Work Ready Week
Monday 12th July 2010	YR8 Enrichment Trip to Ingleton
Thursday 15th July 2010	Sports Personality Awards
Friday 16th July 2010	End of Term—Early finish
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd July 2010	Summer Sports Week
Tuesday 24th August 2010	GCSE Results Day
Thursday 26th - Friday 27th August 2010	Allerdale Sports Camp
Monday 6th September 2010	Autumn Term starts