

Summer 2010

End of 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

As the end of term fast approaches us, and the last newsletter of the year is waiting patiently for my contribution before going to press, I would once again thank all the students, staff and governors for all their hard work in making this a truly memorable year for our school.

There have been many highlights but from my point of view the most significant was the official recognition, of the school by Ofsted, as a school that is 'good with outstanding features'. It was also impressive to hear that we had been mentioned in Parliament by the Education Minister as one of the most improved schools in the country. Our year 7 also made an excellent start by becoming county champions for athletics which means that the future is bright!

Sadly, we need to say a fond farewell to Mr Dalzell who has been a teacher at the school for 32 years and to thank him for all his work; I know we will miss him even if it is for his bad jokes! Also Mrs Robson who came back to help us with our ICT courses has been appointed as maths teacher at the West Lakes Academy, we wish her every success in her new post.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a good, restful holiday and I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

HEAD TEACHER

Soccer Aid

At the decent hour of 3pm on Sunday 6th June we set off to Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester to watch Soccer Aid, never imagining that it would be after 1am in the morning before we would return to school!

When we arrived at the stadium it was packed, the atmosphere hummed with eager anticipation. Sitting in the south wing, we soon saw the players take to the pitch and the game began earnest. On the stroke of half-time England scored the first goal of the match. A Mexican wave went around England's supporters 7 times in celebration. During half-time everyone was left on the edge of their seats wondering who would score next?

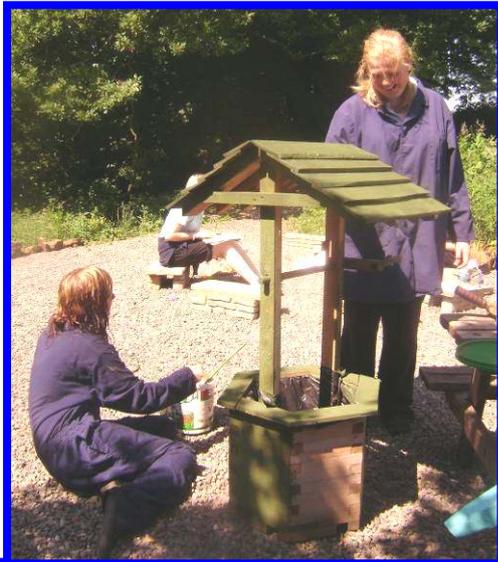
The kick off for the second half started and all eyes were back on the game. Soon after England scored making it 2-0, however the Rest of the World gave their all and levelled the score to 2-2. The score remained the same until the final whistle blew; the game ended with the nail-biting finish of a penalty shoot out and sudden death. The Rest of the World won by a close margin of 7-6, giving them their very first Soccer Aid win.

Although it was a long tiring day, we all thoroughly enjoyed watching a live football match and experiencing the fever pitch of the crowd & the atmosphere within such a large football stadium. All in the aid of UNICEF charity too!

The friendly raised over £2 million for charity UNICEF and featured a host of ex-players and celebrities. The money raised will help continue to provide long-term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.

Sarah Mackereth YR8





ASDAN

Wishing Well Project: we needed to tidy up the wishing well as it was destined for pride of place at the front entrance to our school. We tipped the old compost out from the well - discovering a dead mouse and two pence in the bottom of it!

Next we wire brushed and sanded it down to get the loose stuff off it and make it smooth.

Afterwards we painted it green, it needed 6 coats on the roof and 3 coats elsewhere. Josh and Daniel carried it around the front of the school where we all filled it with fresh compost and new plants to make it look good. I hope you agree that it makes a nice addition to the school entrance. **Serena Phillips**



Last month, Mrs Cruickshank took Laura Foster-Devaney, Kieran Rowney, Chloe Tordiff and me to Caldew School at Dalston for an alternate awards day for the books that were in the Spellbinding competition.

There were six books in each key stage. During the day we discussed with other schools the merits of our favourite books from this year's selection followed in the afternoon by a short workshop by graphic illustrator/author team Metaphrog. The winners from each section were: Love, Aubrey by Suzanne La Fleur and Devil's Kiss by Sarwat Chadda. A result that I totally agreed with. Although we had been discussing the books with other students via an online forum it was nice to chat to them face-to-face. **Lynsey Rumney YR7**

Family Gardening

Cooking from our produce



Whilst we waited for all the families to arrive at the school for the gardening club, Ellie Watson showed her grandma the sensory garden she had helped create (a big thank-you to Aspatria Charity shop for their kind donation).

In previous weeks the group had been sowing seeds, making hanging baskets, creating a sensory garden and this week were about to tackle creating their own homemade rhubarb crumble from some of their own home-grown rhubarb.

Daniel James and Josh Armstrong showed the younger children how to harvest the rhubarb stems ready for using in the crumble to be prepared up in the school's food technology class room.

Everyone was keen to get started and after a quick demonstration we all, young and old, got stuck in.

We used 10 stems of rhubarb, 5 tablespoons of sugar and 10 tablespoons of water then heated it all together till cooked.

We emptied the contents into our silver dishes and topped with crumble mix. We covered with silver foil ready to take home and bake for another 20 minutes at gas mark 4 or 180°C, delicious. **Mrs Skillicorn**





Kaos Theory

On the 27th May, Pop Band 'Kaos Theory' hit Beacon Hill School. The four band members of Jordan, Chris, CJ & Alberto have all had solo hits in the top 40 and Jordan came 4th runner up in Pop Idol. The boys have now decided to form this boy band with Andrew Piper Music Agency.

After a slightly late arrival, the boys and their supporting dancers performed four

songs and showed their great voices and smooth dance moves. After an intense bombardment of question, even from Mrs Richardson the boys settled into a mass of autograph signing which continued on well past the final school bell.

After a final thanks, Mrs Richardson duly invited them back again, when they were more famous!! Since then they have been spotted featuring in various teenage girls' magazines so maybe they won't have too long to wait until fame comes calling.



If you want to hear and see more of them follow this weblink. <http://www.myspace.com/kaostheoryofficial>

Mr Deakin



Aimhigher... Media Roadshow Cumbria

YR9 students were given an insight into the world of the media when they were recently given the tremendous opportunity to produce their own TV show surrounding what else than the South African World Football Cup.

Run by the University of Cumbria's lecturers and student ambassadors, this outreach activity aims to increase students' confidence in their ability to move on to higher education whilst delivering a media studies taster course. This event is organised and funded by Aimhigher Cumbria.

The Roadshow gave our young people a chance to try out some high tech media equipment and by the end of the day they had produced their own news broadcast, including studio interviews, weather forecasts and video recordings from around the school.

Feedback comments from our students always rate this activity very highly and this year was no different. YR 9 all responded really well, met the challenge and gained some very valuable skills in the process. As well as building their confidence the Media Roadshow allowed the students to develop a range of skills from thinking and team working, to interviewing and presentation skills and as they had to produce a real TV programme, it generated quite an exciting atmosphere.

As always, both students and staff are keen to have the Media Roadshow come back again next year. Our thanks go to Keith Coulter and his team at the University of Cumbria for all their hard work and also to Aimhigher for funding such a fantastic event.

Mrs Cruickshank

Maths Alive

$$a \text{ 🍔}^2 + b \text{ 🍔} + c = 0$$
$$\text{🍔} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Do you want
 π with that?

Maths can seem a very abstract subject at times with little relevance to everyday life. One of the most common questions I get asked is 'When will we ever use this outside of school?' Sometimes the answer is 'Perhaps never'. But does everything we do have to have relevance? What about trying to solve a problem because it is complex, challenging, enjoyable and satisfying?

This year 20 of our students have done just that by taking part in the Junior National Maths Challenge (years 7 and 8) and the Intermediate National Maths Challenge (years 9 and 10). This involves sitting a paper of varied challenging mathematical questions and pitting yourself against other students nationally. It is a difficult challenge and I commend all of those willing to take part. Two of our students, Scott Batchelor (Yr8) and Ronnie Morris (Yr10) achieved the bronze award for their efforts which is an excellent result.

Of course the functionality of maths is an important aspect of the subject, as is the appreciation of the maths around us in our surroundings. Year 7's have explored the maths in nature (and in their own bodies) by investigating the Golden Ratio. This ratio (approximately equal to 1.6) occurs naturally in beautiful objects such as the patterns on shells, the arrangements of some plants and the markings on some creatures. It has also been shown that the features and proportions of beautiful people fit this ratio! Year 7 explored how close they came to physical mathematical perfection!

The year 9's quickly realised the importance of budgeting when they undertook a project to buy or rent a flat, furnish it, feed and clothe themselves and manage transport costs on a fixed given monthly income. The actual cost of living appeared as quite an eye-opener to some and a lot of compromising had to be done!

The use of maths in everyday life is something that is becoming more of a feature in the new GCSE Specification which starts in September. Of course it is important that the necessity and practicality of maths is apparent to students but I also hope that there will always be a few who just appreciate maths for the challenges and the wonder it creates in its own abstract way.

Miss Laithwaite



Budding Entrepreneurs

Last month Young Enterprise came into talk to us to encourage enterprise and understand how industry operates. The main activity was in groups to create our own airline company and give a presentation about it.

Our groups consisted of approximately eight students, a mixture from both year 7 & 8's, in total 9 groups. In our groups we were tasked to think of a name for our "new" company, design a company logo and make costumes suitable for male & female staff. We were given a budget of 100 million which sounded a huge amount of money to us to buy and sell aeroplanes as well as advertise & sell seats to customers.

Overall it was a great experience with lots of useful information which we will be able to use in the future, most enjoyable too!

By Dan Proud & Ben Carter YR7

Megan Harrison, "Helpful, as I'd not worked with some of the students before who were in my group."

Ellie Barkhouse, "I Learnt a lot, as I was in a good team who worked hard and helped each other."

Kieran Rowney, "I thought it was fun, especially writing out cheques for loads of money!"

Kerry Sim, "A good opportunity to work with year 8."

Jenny Greer "The best part was designing & making the costumes."



Olympic Inspiration

Having won an award for “Living for Sport” and, conveniently, with Sports Day and the Swimming Gala looming scarily close, Beacon Hill students needed a little boost of inspiration to liven up our sporting spirit. And who better to deliver than Olympic Gold Medallist, Darren Campbell.

When Darren walked onto stage nobody would have guessed that he had a Gold and Silver medal under his belt, he seemed so normal! Darren talked to us of his life-long dream to walk out onto the Olympic stage, inspired by Carl Lewis who he had seen win four Gold medals at the Olympics.

Amazingly Darren’s sporting talent was discovered at the tender age of eight! After he left school, he worked long hours, training hard, that Olympic dream scorching him forwards. In the 1996 he competed in his first Olympics, one of the youngest in Team Britain. However disaster struck as he dropped his baton in his 4 x 100m relay. Darren didn’t let his dream roll away with his baton! He stuck out the harsh comments from the media and steeled himself to working hard to change the minds of the nation, returning four years later in the 2000 Olympics, more determined than ever, to win a **Silver** medal at 200m.

But he didn’t sprint into the horizon never to be seen again. Darren told us he wanted to know that he was at the top of the top, to have achieved better than the best. His best! He returned in 2004 to the incredible Athens Olympic Stadium, the home of Olympics itself; knowing that he had a lot to live up to. Darren ran his event, only to better his best and come out with the ultimate, a Gold medal. Darren Campbell from a poor estate in Manchester had achieved his life-long dream. A **GOLD**.

And, as the assembly ended and we walked to the remainder of our lessons, we knew that if we wanted it enough, and we worked hard enough, we could almost definitely achieve our dream no matter what it was.

Laura Foster-Devaney YR8

Bible World

On June 23rd in our Learn to Learn humanities lesson we took part in an activity held in the public car park in front of Beacon Hill. Bible World was in a mobile classroom; inside there were 6 different activity zones to do with Christianity & the Bible. When we first went in we watched a video about the story of Jesus followed by different stations: one was music another was a drawing exercise, covering the symbols of Earth, Water, Air and Fire. At the final station we took our seats in a virtual airplane to learn about different cultures and their gods. This activity was very informative for RE helping us to understand more about the Bible & Christianity.

Sarah Mackereth YR8



This is the time of year when my PACT Groups come together once more; this year we'd grown slightly extending to 3 groups. These groups consisted of pupils from some of our feeder primaries: Richmond Hill, St Michaels, Bothel accompanied by pupils from other schools and the final group was a mix of pupils from our other local junior schools.

The groups come on a rotational basis to Beacon Hill every Wednesday afternoon for a few weeks during the Summer Term.

During these sessions the pupils work on different challenges together as a group with the opportunity to work in different settings in our school to help them find their way about Beacon Hill. We often worked in the school library where we completed a our ICT challenges. Coming to do these sessions helps the children with a smooth Transition from Junior to Secondary School.

Mrs Pearce

YR 6 Small Transition Day

On Wednesday 23rd June 10 we held a Transition day for our small feeder schools, where yr6 pupils attended for the day took part in different activities. One activity was Circle Time which gives the pupils an opportunity to get to know each other in a fun way. Some of our year 8 pupils gave the year 6's a presentation about their Learning to Learn (Humanities) lessons that the year 6's will be doing next year when they come to Beacon Hill. The yr8's were split into four groups each giving a different presentation on the varied aspects of their L2L learning. One of our yr 7 pupils also gave a short presentation about life at Beacon Hill.

The year 6's stayed for their break and lunch, accompanied outside by our Peer Mentors who had the role of supervising them.

This was valuable day, one which I hope the yr 6 pupils enjoyed at Beacon Hill.

Mrs Pearce

My presentation to Yr 6's by Declan Phillips YR7

During their transition day I gave a presentation in front of the year 6's. I made a book about life at Beacon Hill and as I talked to them I showed them the book about school.

In my presentation I talked about the lunches, the staff, and the different rooms - I had taken photographs of different parts of our school to show them, I also answered any questions they had. I enjoyed doing the presentation and meeting the year 6's.



YR6 Induction Day

That time of year is again upon us yr 6 pupils moving up from Junior to Secondary School. On 5th July we held our Induction day for our New Year 7's that are coming up in September giving them the chance to sample life at Beacon Hill. They took part in a variety of lessons working with different teachers; meeting other pupils and staff that they will be spending a lot of time with post September. The day went by very quickly and it was soon time for the parents evening; giving parents the opportunity to meet and talk with the staff that will be working with their children.

Mrs Pearce

Iron Man



With the swimming pool open we could once again run the popular Iron Man competition. The students who entered took part in gruelling multiple, consecutive events - cycling 1km on an exercise bike, swimming the same number of lengths as the year they are in (year 7 swam 7 lengths etc, staff swam 13 lengths!) then running 3 laps of the track. The event went well with a massive turn out from students, event winners will be announced at the Sports Personality of the Year Awards. Everyone who took part deserves a huge pat on the back, staff and students alike and thank you for making this event such a success with your enthusiasm.

Mr Young

"I really enjoyed the challenge, felt very comfortable cycling, swimming was tough, running a nightmare ... cheers Callum Clark for your help! Can't wait for next year—just you wait Mr Young!" Mr Gee

"Although there was a hitch with the stopwatches, the race was still a good laugh!" Lynsey Rumney YR7

"The running was hard ... I felt as if I was dying!" Jack Askew

"Although it was hard work, I don't think I performed too badly." Adrian Scott YR9

"My knees really suffered after the cycling!" Matthew Wilkinson YR9

"Rather hard, but fun. I will definitely take part again." Kieran Rowney YR7

"Tiring but still enjoyable, hopefully the YR 7's gave other students a bit of competition!" Dan Proud YR7



Frank Cottrell Boyce



In reward for reading all 6 books in our section of Spellbinding (the Cumbrian school Book Awards) Mrs Cruickshank, our librarian took 4 of us (3 year 7's and 1 year 8) to a short author talk by Frank Cottrell Boyce at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith.

Frank Cottrell Boyce is a British screenwriter, children's author and occasional actor but he is most famous for his novel and film "Millions". During his talk to an audience of students from across Cumbria he read excerpts from 2 of his books, telling us how he came to start writing for children and where his inspiration comes from. He was a truly entertaining speaker and during the Q & A session had a quirky answer at the snap of a finger.

Afterwards his books were on sale and we were able to get our books signed, I braved the queues to get two books signed Millions & his newest book, Cosmic. Overall I had a great day and I'm sure the others did to.

Kieran Rowney YR7

Primary Sports News

Over the last few weeks we have hosted a number of primary festivals and sporting events. As SSCO (school sports coordinator) I organise these events but running them on my own is quite a challenge so I use our trained young leaders from key stage 4. Since the change in the curriculum and the advent of controlled assessments in year 10, it can be difficult for YR10 students to miss any lessons therefore I have started to involve year 9 GCSE PE. The year 9s have turned out to be a godsend! The students have had less training than any other students I have used before but they have taken to it like a duck to water.

The last event we organised was a year 5 and 6 young leaders course, giving the primaries a chance to organise and lead sporting activities including warm ups, during lesson time or at lunch times. Our year 9's ran sessions on different areas such as organisation, communication and team work.

All of the events organised have been a great success which would not have been the case if it wasn't for the year 9s' hard work and leadership skills. Well done.

Sports Day

The end of the year again and therefore the climax of the sporting calendar, Sports Day! The day was organised in the same traditional way with field events taking place in the morning and the track events in the afternoon with the whole school watching and cheering on the participants. The day ran smoothly with some fantastic performances and some very close races. Overall winners on the day were **Brayton** on 250 points followed closely in second place by **Kentigern**. Thank you to everyone who took part and staff for helping out.

Mr Young

STOP PRESS

Unfortunately Sports Personality Awards evening on Thursday 15th July has had to be cancelled; insufficient interest has meant that it isn't financially viable! This is disappointing for all concerned especially after recent consultation showed that this option and venue were preferred by a clear majority. Hopefully, we will be able to present all the awards at a future whole school awards celebration in the Autumn term. Apologies to parents & students who have been affected, refunds will of course issued.

Important Dates for your Diary

Friday 16th July 2010	End of Summer Term - school closes at 12.30
Monday 19th—Friday 23rd July 2010	Summer Sports Week
Tuesday 24th August 2010	GCSE Exam Results Day
Thursday 26th & Friday 27th August 2010	Allerdale Sports Camp
Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd September 2010	School closed - Office open for Uniform Orders
Monday 6th September 2010	Autumn Term begins
Monday 13th—Friday 17th September 2010	YR11 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 21st September 2010	YR9 National Science Museum—Supercool Show
Monday 18th—Friday 22nd October 2010	Work Life Balance Week
Monday 25th—Friday 29th October 2010	Half-term holidays
Monday 6th—10th December 2010	Provisional Mock GCSE exams
Friday 17th December 2010	End of Autumn Term 2010
Wednesday 5th January 2011	Spring Term begins
Monday 21st—Friday 25th February 2011	Half-term holidays
Friday 8th April 2011	End of Spring Term 2011
Wednesday 27th April 2011	Beginning of Summer Term 2011
Monday 30th May—Friday 30th June 2011	Half-term holidays
Friday 22nd July 2011	End of Summer Term 2011