

Summer 2014



Dear parents and friends of BHS

As this is the last letter of this academic year I would like to thank all parents, students and staff for all their support and work over the year. The newsletter contains many wonderful articles and celebrates all that is good about our school. I hope that everyone has an enjoyable summer and comes back refreshed and ready for the challenges that lie ahead.

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

HEADTEACHER

REACT Foundation YR11 Awards

Each year, there is a REACT Foundation Year 11 prize of £200 available for one student from each school in West Cumbria. To be in with a chance of winning the prize, the student needs to fill in a short application form, and the REACT Foundation requests a reference from the school to support the application.



The only criterion is that the student must be intending to study 2 subjects from the following list at Sixth Form in the next academic year: maths, sciences, product design, or any other engineering related subject.

This year, the winner from Beacon Hill School was Annabel Gold. She received a promissory note that she will get £200 when she starts her new courses at Sixth Form in September. Mrs Gigli went along to see Annabel receive her prize on Thursday 12th June at The Beacon in Whitehaven. Annabel was delighted with her prize and is looking forward to going to Sixth Form next year.

Mrs Gigli (KS4 Academic Learning Mentor)

BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

Newsletter

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Becoming a Governor at Beacon Hill School
is a rewarding way to make an important
contribution to your child's education.

Apply now ▶

If you are interested in finding out more please contact:
Clerk to the Governors, Mrs M Batchelor at the school on 016973 20509
or email mbatchelor@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk.



Getting a Head Start

Trying to get ahead in today's climate is no easy task, and here at Beacon Hill School, we are doing all we can to prepare our young people for taking the next crucial steps into the world of work and further education. Each year, we have an intensive few days set aside for our year 10 students, with a vigorous programme of activities, talks and tasks to help them prepare.

This year, Work Ready Week began with an introduction from Inspira, followed by a fun-filled team-building session with ropes and hoops. We then split into three groups to enjoy visits to local workplaces: Innovia, Sealy and Iggesund. The afternoon saw us trying to match personal skills and qualities to specific jobs in a workshop run by Andy Wallam from Inspira. The day ended with a practical look at interview techniques with Mrs Richardson, our Headteacher.



The second day was spent at the University of Cumbria at the Fusehill Street campus. The students had workshops in making a short film as well as looking at health and social care courses and spent time on a campus tour.

The culmination of the week's events finished with the help of some of our local employers. On Friday 23rd May, our students dressed to impress and were put through their paces during our 'Mock Interviews' session. The students had already completed real application forms and written a personal statement and now they went through an interview with a real employer. This gave the students a taste of what a real interview will be like and offered them the chance to practise and perfect their interview technique, which is of great value for the future. One student commented '*I didn't know how hard it was to fill in an application form*' whilst another said '*It made me think about how stressful it can be to look for a job*'

This event could not take place without the help of our local employers, who gave up their time for the benefit of our students. Our thanks go to:

Army: Sergeant Bob Haile

Cumberland Building Society: Kevin Aitken

Sealy: Hannah Fisher and Barbara Barlow

Carrs Billington: Sarah Jackson

HSBC: Michael Little

Whitehaven Seafishing: Bob Davies

Wilmott Dixon: John Whelan

Rathbone: Peter Clark

Aspatria Farmers: Denise Davies



Mrs Gigli

YORK

Earlier this year a small group of students were invited to go on the York trip. My favourite part of the trip was visiting York Dungeons. It was really scary and our guide told us lots of information about York in the olden days. The river trip was wonderful too - we travelled along the River Ouse and saw the beautiful city from the comfort of an open top boat.

We also went to Italian restaurant for a meal, it was a very grand place and the food was delicious!

We not only enjoyed the sightseeing aspect of the trip but also the residential part.



Jessica Kyffin YR8



Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery - L2L Visit

Year 8 visited the Buddhist Monastery in Scotland. We were greeted by Peter who is a Buddhist himself and was kind enough to show us around the magnificent monastery, which I personally thought was amazing. You were just hit with brightness and lots of gold. Peter told us that each temple has to have a Buddha (Buddha was born in the village of Lumbini in Nepal.) Near the Buddha was water in tiny bowls which is an offering to Buddha. The temple also must have scripts which has their teachings in it.

When Peter finished talking about the temple and what's in it, he gave us a chance to have a go at meditation. It was supposed to put us into the present time and not to think about what we did yesterday or what we are going to do tomorrow. It should make you a lot happier but for me it didn't really do a lot. I think this was because I was concentrating on so many other things.

We got the chance to hear the monks meditate and it was really fascinating to hear them do it. We also looked at all the different statues. Buddhists have 21 Buddhas which help them have a happier life. The one that I liked was the man sitting on the snake as it is supposed to represent the man who wrote down Buddha's teachings. The snake is supposed to represent what that man is scared of and how Buddha helped people become happier.

The grounds were amazing we didn't see much because it was pouring with rain but we managed to stand under a shelter before lunch and discuss what happens when a Buddhist dies. They are placed in the outer building near the gardens where other Buddhists pray and sing for the best in the future for that person.

One of the facts I found most interesting is why monks shave their hair ... because of when Buddha left his wealthy home he had blue hair to signal to the people to treat him like royalty and give more respect but he didn't want that so he shaved his hair off so he could be treated like everyone else.



Monica Constable YR8

Blackpool ASDAN Residential

Our ASDAN group visited Blackpool because we needed to complete a short ASDAN award - Adventure.

To plan this residential we discussed where we could go and Blackpool fitted in the category specified by ASDAN for distance. Then, we needed to research about what we could do in Blackpool. Finally, we booked the accommodation, tickets for our chosen activities and the school minibus just in case anyone else needed it and snapped them up before us.



After all of our hard work raising the funds (£600) to go - we were off to Blackpool. Along with Mrs Skillicorn & Mr Frew we set off from school at 9:15am on Tuesday the 13th May and arrived at Blackpool sometime after dinner a bit too early to check in to our rooms though.

We went to Madame Tussauds to see celebrities modelled out of clay such as Cheryl Cole, Steven Gerrard, Simon Cowell, Louis Walsh, Ant and Dec. After we had looked round the waxworks and took lots of photos we went to the arcade. Most of us didn't spend any money but Ellie spent half her money! Everyone else soon got bored so we dragged Ellie out and we all had



a walk along the sea front instead. We were extra lucky that the sun was shining. It had been fine all day and so we wrote our names in the sand. I think that was my favourite part of the whole trip as well as taking a photo where it looked like I was holding the Blackpool Tower on my hand.



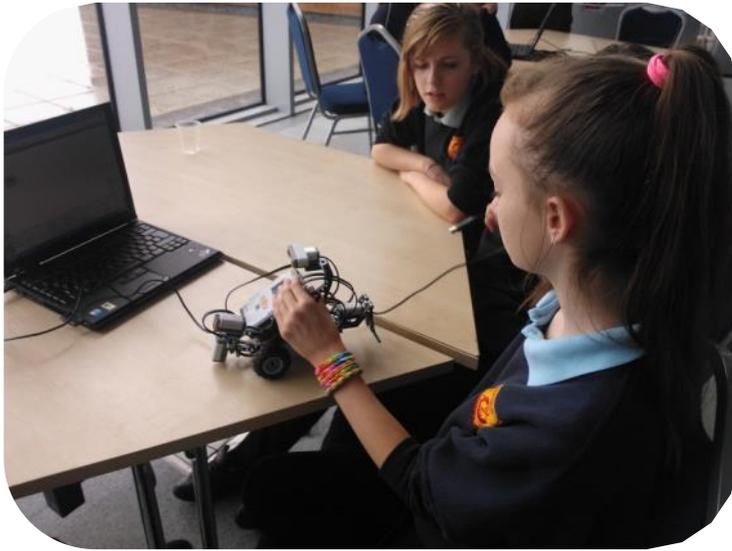
After tea we went back to the hotel and after catching up on some paperwork (worksheets!) we played some board games such as Uno, Guess Who and the Yes/No game. We had some evening entertainment from Mr Frew playing the guitar; he was great just like Ed Sheeran.



The next day we went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach where the lady at reception told me I had to have a Doctor's note to confirm my disability. As I didn't have one I handed over my International British Swimming Athlete's Pass and well let's just say she took it the wrong way in thinking I was a Paralympic swimmer. Her face was so funny as she came running back from talking to her manager to say that she was so sorry and of course I could have the disabled pass that was by far the funniest part of the trip for me!

Sam Wilson Yr10

Girls STEM Robotics



Mrs Fitzsimmons gave an assembly recently about doors – likening them to an opportunity. You can't take the opportunity without going through the door and finding out what is on the other side.

It's all too easy to think "I can't do that, it's not for me, it's too far away" and so on. There ARE a lot of opportunities in Cumbria, and it's often just a case of finding the right door to open. In the West of the County for example, there are many jobs being created with the increased development of Sellafield (where there is a planned 100 years of work!), the off-shore wind farms and all the

other infrastructure projects which come under the "Energy Coast" initiative.

There are thousands of jobs being created for all types of people with hugely different skill sets, design manufacture, office work, catering, project management and so on.

One particular area of skill is in Programming and Control Technology – getting machines to do a particular job by following a set of instructions given by its controller or programmer. This field of work is set to become the next "big thing" – similar to how computers has had such an impact over the past 25 years or so, we will see robotics becoming a big part of life and impacting on so much that we do.

The event we attended, run by the University of Cumbria and STEM Cumbria Ltd (STEM is Science Technology Engineering Maths) allowed a group of Y8 girls to have a look through some of these doors, and dip their toes into programming robots to do some set tasks. The event was aimed at girls in particular as there is a big push by Universities and employers to recruit females into the Technology sector of work – an area often wrongly seen as a male preserve. Women do have a huge amount to offer in this sector, and have abilities which make them valuable employees. Girls often are more methodical and creative for example, and these skills are highly valued.

As well as our 2 teams of girls, there were girls from 4 other schools at the event, which lasted all day. I was really proud to see our girls engage so well with the event, and work hard all day. Hopefully it planted a few seeds of possible career options and the carrot is the excellent rates of pay and opportunities in many of the fields where Robotics and Control are set to play such an important part!

The tasks and the day as a whole fitted in really well with our recent work in ICT and Technology. In ICT we have been doing a series of programming activities and projects, including robot programming, so the girls were able to grasp the concepts quickly - making fantastic progress with the tasks.

Many thanks to all the girls (Sophie Batchelor, Hollie Bell, Courtney Bunting, Sasha Carruthers, Chloe Dunn, Jodie Forrester, Jessica Kyffin and Rowanne Potter) as they were superb ambassadors for our school. These students demonstrated that a small school is equally as able as the large ones to prepare students to engage with education and industry in offering opportunity and experiences that shape them into well prepared members of society.



Mr Esslemont

Spellbinding 2014



I was really excited to be chosen to attend the Spellbinding awards this year with Monica Constable also from year 8 as we had reached our goal of reading all 10 books in this year's longlist.

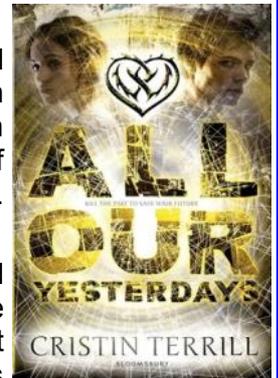
At the awards, firstly we were organised into mixed discussion groups with students from other Cumbrian schools. Dave Crier, our Master of Ceremonies then took over starting us off with a Spellbinding quiz. I was amazed at the depth of questions ranging from the easy childhood favourites to the more complex classics. I realised then that I MUST read much, much, more! The quiz had various picture rounds including naming the authors

and identifying books from small sections of their cover.

In our discussion groups we then went onto chat about the merits of the final top 3 books shortlisted: Bodyguard Hostage by Chris Bradford, Ferryman by Claire McFall and my favourite All Our Yesterdays by Cristin Terrill. Before lunch we all placed our votes on which book we thought deserved to win.

In the afternoon Dave Crier led us through a drama session with scripts we could follow for each of the Spellbinding books, we had the choice to make up our own script if we wanted. Monica and I paired up with 2 girls from Nelson Thomlinson School and acted out The Hanged Man Rises by Sarah Naughton however none of us were brave enough to take centre stage and perform to the rest of the audience. Many did though and some were excellent depictions of the scene they had chosen.

Soon we were onto the final part of the day THE ANNOUNCEMENT! I was delighted when All Our Yesterdays was crowned the winner as I liked how the 2 different time zones were covered. I was surprised as I thought from my discussion group that Ferryman might have got the most votes. The whole day was brilliant and I was amazed at how time flew by.



Rebecca Marsh YR8

I was disappointed that All Our Yesterdays won. I felt strongly that it should have been Sorrowline by Niel Bushnell as it had a lot more action and I felt that the story flowed much better than the jumpiness of All Our Yesterdays. I have since also read the sequel to Sorrowline, Timesmith and I'd recommend it too.

Scott Wilson YR8

The Spellbinding books were all right this year but I preferred last year's Spellbinding selection with a wider choice of genres.

My least favourite book this year was Black Spring because it was very wordy however the story line was good; this book could be less like a dictionary and more like a book for teenagers!

My number 1 book for this year would definitely be Ferryman because it was a romance mixed in with fantasy, and it was one of those books you couldn't put down which I love in a book. But I will also say that my other top book was Bodyguard because it was full of action from the start to finish and normally I wouldn't read this genre but this one really did grip me.

The top 3 books were All Our Yesterdays, Ferryman and Bodyguard and I honestly thought it would be against Ferryman and Bodyguard because I thought All Our Yesterdays was quite boring but surprise, surprise All Our Yesterdays won which to me was a let down!!

Monica Constable YR8

My favourite Spellbinding book is The Hanged Man Rises by Sarah McNaughton as I really liked how it was a murder adventure set in Victorian times. However, I am reading A Horse called Hero by Sam Angus just now and it is creeping up a bit as it is really sad and emotional.

Jessica Kyffin YR8



Vampires, Football, Wizards & Spies ...

Sharing reading at home doesn't end with Primary school. **Parents, older siblings and friends** can be **excellent role models** to develop a love of reading.

Lifestyles nowadays can be very hectic and I'm sure like me many of you, of course, read much more during holiday periods. Personally I never read as much as I would like to. Family wins, email wins, TV wins. Everything else wins – well sometimes!!! However having other family members who are seen to be reading regularly can have a huge impact on a child's perception of reading and ultimately their motivation to read themselves.

Evidence shows that reading for 10 minutes each day can dramatically improve a child's overall achievement over their lifetime.

Over recent years there have been lots of excellent so called 'Children' and 'Young Adult' books turned into blockbuster movies or theatre performances – Hunger Games, Alice in Wonderland, Boy in Striped Pyjamas, War Horse ... I could go on and on! Give them a try yourself and then pass it onto your child, if they haven't already beaten you to it! The books, I mean.

This is a win, win situation. Yes, reading is good for your child. Yes, it's good for you too. But, most of all, it's good for you to share something together.

Within school, as is one would expect, I do my utmost to promote reading for pleasure outside of school to our students (Read for my School, Spellbinding Book Awards, Book Fairs, and competitions galore) but peer and parental recommendation definitely carry much more weight. The buzz that '*Fault in our Stars*' by John Green is creating amongst teenage girls at the moment proves my point. It is akin to a Mexican wave!



Anyway, the crux of this article is to remind you all that **READING MATTERS**. If you lead by example, chat with your child about reading and actively encourage them to read you can be certain that this will have a positive impact on them for the rest of their lives. The summer holidays are a time when traditionally students' levels dip away, however by **encouraging your child to pack a book along with the suntan lotion you are helping to reverse the trend**. And remember, you are not restricted to physical books either; Kindles, iPads, audio CDs can all complement books especially for those long car journeys.

Mrs Cruickshank, Librarian

Well done to all Year 7 & 8 students who took part in the Read for my School competition. All in all well over our target of 300 books was registered as having been read either from the Read for my School online library or paper-based. Recently we have been informed that we are the grand winners of one of the prize draws to receive 100 free books for the school library.



Sustainable Design Projects

I am really pleased with the GCSE Design Technology classes this year. I have had two GCSE groups in Y11, GCSE Product Design and GCSE Resistant Materials and I can safely say that the quality of work really is excellent in both subjects.

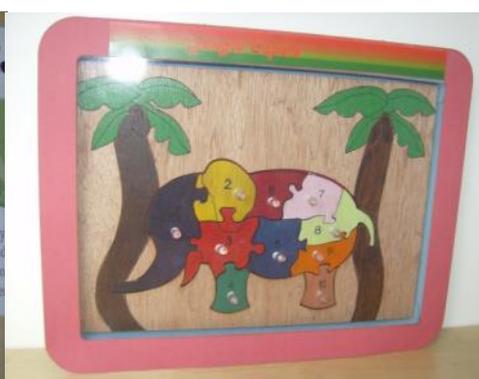
Students are given around 20 projects to choose from by the exam board and it is free choice which one they complete – a lot chose the Docking Station project, and I can see the attraction of that!

However, this year there was a good variety of other projects. We have a couple of bird nesting boxes which had the necessity of being environmentally friendly, as well as recyclable at the end of their life. There is a clock in the style of a 20th century design movement – combining shapes and materials in a clean geometric layout. Students selected some more unusual materials - including one docking station with a slate front, which was interesting to work with! One of the environmentally sustainable bird nesters used Indonesian timber that we rescued from one of the pallets that the new French room furniture came on; it's beautiful wood and it seemed a shame for it to be thrown out or burned.

I think just about every machine got a good workout this year, and the benefits of CAD and CAM are evident in the work. Two students used the laser cutter to produce 'live hinges'. By cutting solid sheet in a clever way, acrylic and wood can be made very flexible and results in some really creative shapes being possible.

All students completed their coursework, and this stands them in good stead for their GCSE, as the coursework element is worth 60% of the GCSE grade – the other 40% being the exam taken this summer.

The photos should speak for themselves – and show a lot of talent in designing and making. Well done Y11! **Mr Esslemont**



Tuesday Music Club

Where: **Performing Arts Room**

When: **Tuesday lunch time**

What: **Singing and dancing ... music chosen by the group**

Why: **To perform together and have fun**



Music Club members say:

"...You can dance and sing....I would love to go in a gala." Chloe

"I enjoy singing and now I feel less shy when performing." Lottie

"I like music because it helps me with my confidence." Kerri-Ann

"I enjoy everything about music because I can express myself." Lucy

"I enjoy everything about it. I come 'cause I love dancing and singing." Bryony

"I get to dance, sing and play instruments and have a great time." Baillie

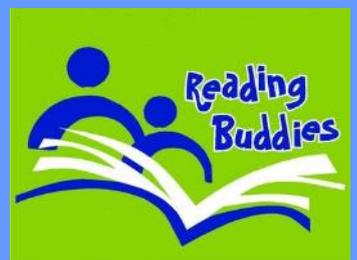
"It is a chance to do what I love." Toria

"We can sing and no-one judges you. We can also play instruments and dance." Beth

And as a footnote, I would like to add that this music club is special because the group members are learning together, teaching each other, bringing the songs and sometimes asking me how to play instruments. Mostly singing and dancing: It's our own Glee club, with all the energy and smiles that you would expect.

Mr Humpage

KS4 students, each year, volunteer to take part in training to become a Reading Buddy to help younger students improve their literacy skills. These very dedicated students turn up each week for almost 6 months and have a very positive impact on their Little Buddies reading skills and attitude towards reading in general. We have a lot to thank the Big Buddies for!

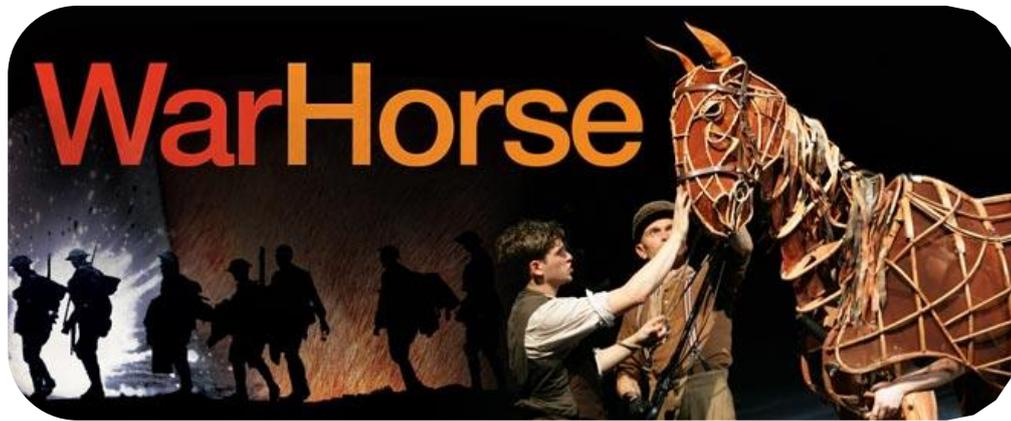


The Little Buddies reading comprehension was tested at the start and again at the end of Reading Buddies. Of the initial pilot testing group consisting of 22 Year 7 & 8 students - 1 gained 3+ months, 5 by 6+ months, 11 by 12+ months and 2 made progress in their reading age by 3+years.

The Big Buddies have also commented about the many benefits they too have gained: increased confidence when talking to younger students & learning the value of patience. Many feel it has been 'a great privilege to be part of reading buddies' and 'feel proud to have been able to help younger students with a skill that they will use their entire life'.

Mrs Cruickshank

"Despite having a few different **Reading Buddies** it really helped me and increased my reading age by 2½years in 6 months. I now realise everyone doesn't need to like or read the same books; I enjoyed reading the rugby biographies." **commented a Year 9 student**



On the 2nd of May 2014 a group of 11 students went to the Empire Theatre in Sunderland, to see the stage production of War Horse, which was performed by the South African, Hand Spring Puppet Company.

This stage adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's children's book War

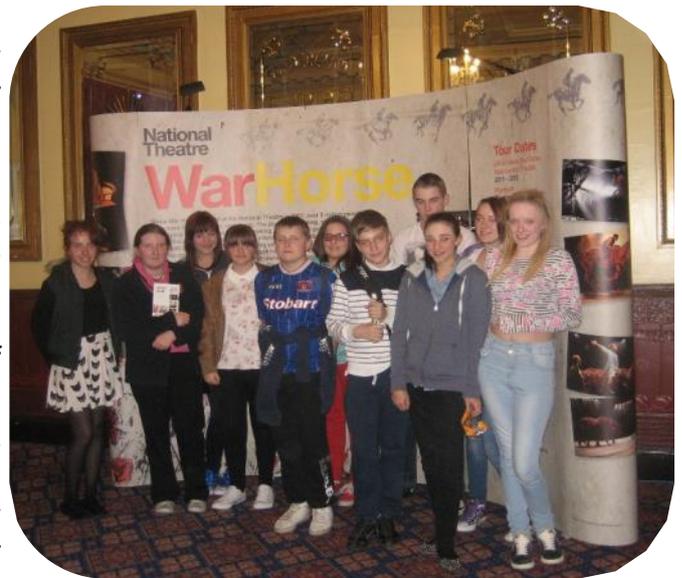
Horse took us on an extraordinary journey from the fields of rural Devon to the trenches of First World War France. The story is told through the eyes of Joey, a horse, and tells the poignant tale of his strong bond with a young boy, Albert Narracott and the tragedy that World War 1 brought on them both and others around them.

The stage production was a very emotional and filled with lots of moving music and songs. The life-size puppets were astonishing and brought breathing, galloping, charging horses to thrilling life on stage. We were amazed at the imaginative puppet construction using steel, leather and cables and thought that the puppeteers controlled each horse brilliantly - synchronising them expertly to the music and script. Our favourite part of the show had to be each time the puppets came on; even though they scared us they were mesmerising.

Some of the scenes, especially the ones on the battlefields of the Somme were excruciatingly tense and very evocative of the destruction of war and on many occasions we felt a shiver and goose bumps rising.

Shannon has read the book and she thought it was a close portrayal - the stage production was just as emotional as the book. However, the theatre truly brought it to life. Though as always when adapting a book for theatre or film bits of the book are chopped out.

We would like to thank Mrs Richardson for organising this amazing trip and we definitely would love to go on another. We would highly recommend that if you haven't already to either read this thought-provoking book or if you get the chance see the phenomenal stage production.



Beth Turner & Shannon Richardson YR10

Lucy Shardlow said, "It was very good and the use of the puppets was very fascinating."

Jake Fish thought, "It was unrealistic" but he still enjoyed it anyways.

Amy Turner said, "It was fab."

Sophie Barnes gave it a thumbs-up!

War Horse in Sunderland was amazing, I really loved how realistic the puppets were. It was so dramatic; I got scared every time someone pulled out a gun, as the gunshot was really loud. Although it was quite a bit different from the movie and the book, it still had a really good storyline. My favourite scene out of the entire play was when Joey as a foal reared up with him as an adult appearing behind him. I didn't get very emotional as I have seen the movie and read the book before, but you could hear a lot of people crying. The play was phenomenal, the acting sensational, the puppetry out of this world.

Jessica Kyffin YR8

Ray Meares & Bear Grylls Look Out!

On Saturday 26th April, 12 students and four members of staff embarked upon a major challenge - to spend a day and night surviving in woods near school. We were led by two survival experts (nicknamed Mags & Fish), both ex-soldiers with experience of leading expeditions all over the world. We arrived prepared with all our kit: sleeping bags, clothes and a variety of snacks. Immediately the minibus keys were taken from us, and all our kit confiscated! Replaced with goggles, water bottles and emergency tins containing the very basics that we should need to survive - so we were told anyway!



Split into two teams, one headed by Miss Pandrich, Mrs Skillicorn and Mr Miller, the other by Miss Bell and Mr Frew; the only staff that were brave enough to take on the challenge! Each team spent the morning scavenging for anything that might help us survive the night with points awarded for useful items, redeemable for a very small snack - one team chose a bag of crisps to share, another two bananas. This was the only food we would have all day!

Mags and Fish gave us demonstrations in survival skills including shelter building and starting a fire with flint and steel, impressing us with their tales of survival in Afghanistan and Russia! Afterwards we made a start on building our shelters using wire saws to cut branches and logs for the shelters & fires. Hard work for hungry students who had not had much food all day. Lots were desperate to get access to the minibus and the hoard of energy drinks and other sugary delights, but Mags and Fish stood firm and would not let us! Eventually, by eight o'clock at night our shelters were finished.

We were then given the chance to use our points gained though team building tasks and shelter building to buy back the sleeping bags we had stored on the bus, along with a variety of other kit including a tin & spoons to cook and eat our tea with! It was difficult to work out what we should buy with our meagre points, but we decided that sleeping bags were essential.

The groups were then given potatoes, carrots, broccoli, eggs, hot dogs and stock cubes to make our tea with. Usually teenagers are not known for their liking of vegetables, but it was agreed that a boiled potato and some broccoli made the most amazing feast after starving for the whole day. One group used their warm hard boiled eggs as mini hot water bottles in their sleeping bags.

As it began to get dark the groups settled down round the fire with all the teenagers claiming that they would 'easily be able to stay up all night and keep the fire going'. By two in the morning it was only the staff that were left awake with all the students fast asleep, warm and snug!

We woke to an army style breakfast with bacon grill and dried egg cooked by Fish and Mag with the students claiming that it was one of the tastiest meals ever! With full stomachs and tired bodies the group were finally given access to their biscuits and treats in the minibus. Making our way back to Beacon Hill, we were relieved to be returning to our warm, comfy houses with electric and hot water. But also feeling mightily proud of our successes, working in teams to survive a night in the wild(!) and feeling very much like Bear Grylls or Ray Meares!

Miss Pandrich



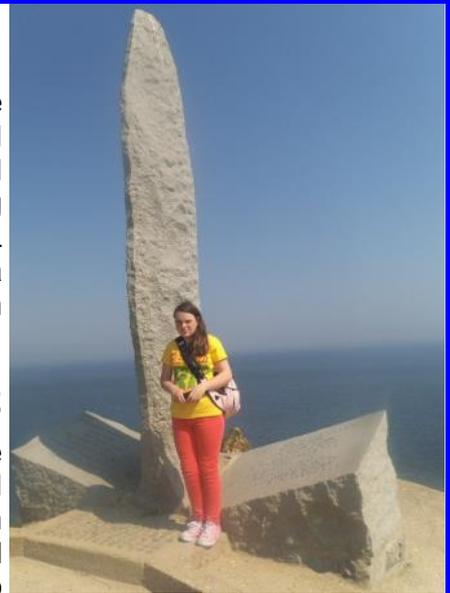
Well, when you are hungry you will eat anything!



French Trip 2014

As we waved our parents good bye in the school car park to go and pick up Southfield Technology College students we were all very excited and impatient to begin our long journey to France. We stayed in a PGL centre called the Château du Tertre in a village called Ambrières-Les-Vallées in Normandy.

On the first day we went to Fougères, where we walked around Mrs Fitzsimmons' town trail, which led us to the market where we went shopping at the little stalls and bought crêpes. We continued on the town trail to a church where we met up and had our lunch. In the afternoon, we went to



Mont St Michel, an island that monks had built a monastery on. On the island there were small shops in alley ways that were packed in really tight, selling lots of interesting things. Some of us went with Mark, our PGL staff guide, to the top to see the monastery. Lauren Bell enjoyed being in the market getting to talk French in a French environment to French people. When we got back to the PGL centre we took part in activities like rounders and capture the flag.

The next day we went to the D-Day landing beaches and saw the craters where the bombs had dropped, followed by a visit to the American cemetery where the graves for the American soldiers that died fighting in the war were. Thousands of graves lined up; just a vast field of white. Lastly we watched clips of films from different D-Day events in the 360 degree cinema at Arranches. That night we had a special treat eating crêpes out at restaurant, we ordered them and our drinks in French, yummy!

Finally on the last day we to Mondeville 2, a big shopping centre in Caen, where we spent the whole day in groups shopping. All of us made really good friends with the students at Southfield after spending only a few days with them. After shopping we made our way back to the ferry for the homeward journey after having a really good time and loads of new experiences in France.

Lucy Shardlow YR10



Dates for your Diary	Friday 11th July	YR7, 8 & 10 Full reports posted home
	Tues 15th - Friday 18th July	Challenge Week & Cycle Trip to France
	14th - 18th July	Work Life Balance Week no after school clubs or detentions
	Friday 18th July	End of Summer term @ 12.30pm TBC
	Thursday 21st August	GCSE Results Day 10am - 12 noon
	Wednesday 3rd September	Autumn term starts
	Monday 22nd September	KS3 REACT Foundation Roadshow
	27th - 31st October	Half-term holidays
	Thursday 18th December	End of Autumn term

Glentress Mountain Biking

We went to Glentress with high morale and very high expectations, and we weren't let down. We had hours and hours of real enjoyment, learning new skills on our bikes and how to properly look after them.

Watching all the professionals racing down the steep rocky hills, and gliding through the air on the high jumps and landing perfectly. But none of us were quite that expert or even confident at first, especially after watching a few YouTube clips of riders falling off their bikes and hurting themselves! But we all were raring to go, and had that hunger inside of us to excel at this and to be looked up to as we looked at everyone else flying past us early on Saturday morning, but by the end of Sunday evening we were all skilled riders. We weren't perfect just yet, but we all had managed to stick in and work as hard as we could to become better riders.

It was a lovely place to be. The beautiful view we had as soon as we stepped out of our Wigwam wooden cabins in the mornings was extraordinary, the sun coming up over miles of dense woodland. The café that was there served the most delicious food, it was just a shame we couldn't have had all our meals there, it was always jammed packed with customers it was that lovely.

It was such a spectacular memorable event that everyone talked about it long after they got home; we all loved it and it certainly was worth every penny. I'm sure that everyone would jump at the chance to go again, but for an entire week next time rather than just a weekend. It was only possible because of the teachers that took the trouble to organise and take us there, all in their own personal time. So everyone would like to say a big thank you to the teachers, Mr Young, Mr Gee and Miss Kaye. And to all the other adults who went, James Bell and Tom Barnes' parents. We couldn't have had one of our best times of our lives if it wasn't because of them.

Jake Fish YR10



Student of the Month



Every month, teaching and support staff are given the opportunity to vote for two 'Students of the Month' – one pupil in Key Stage 3 and one pupil in Key Stage 4. Awards are given out during Assembly and these include a certificate to keep, a WH Smith voucher and a bar of chocolate. These awards are only given to pupils who have worked particularly well across several academic areas throughout the month. Consequently the pupils who achieve these awards should feel very proud of themselves.

Mrs Gigli (KS4 Academic Learning Mentor)

Students of the Month 2013-2014

Month	KS3	KS4
October	Terence Bellerby	Aimee Salisbury
November	Hollie Bell	Melissa Telford
December	Matthew Charlton	Martin Bell
January	Emma Dibb	Declan Csak
February	Monica Constable	Jenny Greer
March	Chloe Simpson	Aiden Forrester
April	Ewan McMullen	Lynsey Rumney
May	Dylan McTear	Lucy Shardlow
June	Naomi Lowden	Eloise Hinds

P R O M



With the prom fast approaching, couples and friends prepared to all set off for Greenhill.

On arrival, everybody was extremely surprised by the entrance of Ellie Watson who arrived in a white stretch limo with one of the biggest, most beautiful dresses! Of course, everybody looked stunning but there's always one that draws everybody's attention and she was the one.

With the photographer there, everybody was eager to get photos, individual and group ones, all the girls looking beautiful and the boys, hmmm, they all scrub up quite well – surprisingly!

With the hall decorated with balloons and diamantes, everybody was ready for lovely food, a catch up and a good dance with their peers and teachers. With the helium at the ready, everybody was in for a laugh, never heard the boys go so squeaky and high pitched! What can we say about the food? It was delicious! Melt in your mouth sticky toffee pudding, what could even be better?! Everybody loved their food.



Cont: 

www.beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Everybody was mingling, dancing and generally just having a great time. Dancing all night long until you couldn't wear heels any longer and a breather was definitely necessary!

On with the awards – everybody got their own award, mine being the nicest natural hair award (Lynsey), the perfect eyebrows (Kieran Charters). Just silly little

awards which made us all laugh. Awarding prom king and queen to Ellie Watson and Callum Scott, not the obvious choice but they both truly deserved it as the votes showed! Ellie for her stylish entrance and fabulous dress and Callum for being Callum, you all know what he's like. Hilarious and always life of the party, even if it is in a science lesson!

With the evening coming to an end, we all danced together to 'Time of my life' and said our goodbyes, with hugs and sharing our final few memories with each other. Overall, it was a brilliant night and everybody had an amazing time, a few wishing they could do it all again, including me. Good luck in the future to all year 11's whatever they plan to do. Thank you to Miss Casson for planning it all, an unforgettable night, shame she wasn't able to join us.

Sally Dixon Prefect



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