

Autumn 2014  
2nd Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

# Newsletter

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Head Teacher:

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



Dear parents and friends of BHS

It is now time for me to say goodbye as I leave the school after ten wonderful years as Headteacher. It has indeed been a privilege and an honour. I would like to thank all parents, governors, staff and students both past and present for all the brilliant memories that they have given me over the years; some great laughs and a few tears along the way.

Sadly, we also say goodbye to Mrs Sanderson who has given over twenty years of loyal service to the school and has been an outstanding member of our pastoral team, supporting many families and young people. I know she will be missed greatly by everyone and would like to thank her for all her work and support to the school.

As Mr Millne takes up the reins I would like to wish him great success and hope that you will all support him in the coming two terms as acting Headteacher.

And on the note of reins, I finally would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

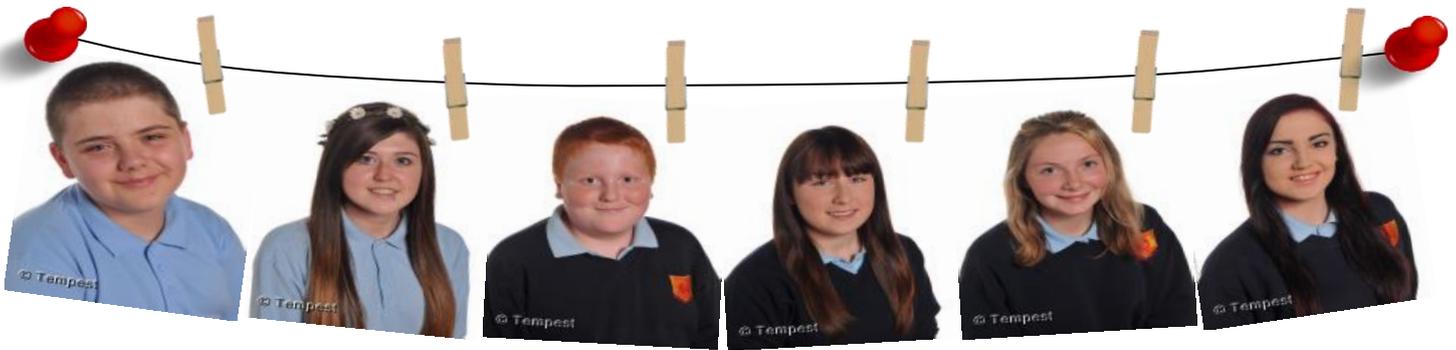
HEADTEACHER



As a PE department we have been working closely with Aspatria Rugby club for

some time to increase participation of Rugby in the school. This started with a 'few' pupils attending rugby training with an Aspatria RUFC coach. With persistence, to say the least, we have managed to increase the regular participation from 7 students to there being in excess of 25 boys attending. This has meant, we could start organising fixtures, in the first half term we played some matches against Netherhall, winning one and losing one. Since then we have put in a lot more training and the teams progress has been awesome! Last week we played an under 14 fixture again against Netherhall but this time we won 34-28 with a superb performance from the whole team. Well done to all the boys that have been attending training, I have been in contact with other schools and have lined up fixtures for after Christmas so please keep attending.

Mr Young (Head of PE)



## Students 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 token 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.

	KS3	KS4
September	Jake Beswick	Alix Long
October	Arren James	Melissa Telford
November/December	Naomi Lowden	Lois Charters



## What we sow, we reap.

October's assembly looked at the principle that Harvest can be a time when we think about how we can harvest our own efforts and reap the rewards. What we sow, we reap. What we put in, is what we get out.

We thought about us being very fortunate; that in this country we have enough food for us all. We also have a good education, where we can make a difference in our own lives by working hard and reaping the rewards in qualifications and jobs.

We also thought about people who are not as fortunate as us and who don't have enough food. In many parts of the world there is not enough food, because the harvest has failed, and there is not enough rain, or too much rain, or because of war. In many countries there is still very little education, so jobs and money are very scarce. This means people can't afford enough food and water to live on and become very vulnerable when diseases like Ebola hit.

Our response should be that Harvest is a time to think of others and think about how we can share what we have with them. This may be helping someone to read and write, saving lives by using medical knowledge, or using creative skills to devise emergency housing for countries hit by disasters. Whatever we do, we need to work hard to make sure we have a future and can share it with others.

This assembly also provided an excellent introduction to presenting our Student of the Month awards and linked very well with the mantra 'What we put in, is what we get out'. **Mrs E Gigli**

## Beacon Bosses - Cheerleading Club

In September 2014, due to popular demand, the PE department started an afterschool Cheerleading Club on a Friday. The club has been well attended and its success prompted a performance at the Awards Evening on the 18th November 2014. During the show, the girls performed a sequence of stunts and dance which had the audience gasping in disbelief as the flyers were propelled up into the air and dropped suddenly. The routine took weeks of preparation and required a great deal of commitment from the students. We are all thoroughly proud of for their achievements in such a short space of time.



For those of you who don't know, Cheerleading involves a combination of dance, stunts, tumbling and chants. It is fast paced, exciting and is wholly reliant on the development of trust and co-operation within the squad. Pupils not only gain physical strength and conditioning but a sense of achievement and purpose in knowing that without each and every member the stunts would not be able to take place.

**Miss Hedley**

Beacon Bosses cheerleading group had a variety of different girls from year 7- 11. None of us had ever done Cheerleading before but we certainly all enjoy learning how to! Cheerleading involves a huge amount of trust when performing stunts as in the cradle catch, where we throw one member of our troupe in the air and catch them. Or again in the shoulder stand, involving 2 cheerleaders, one standing and other climbing up without fear to stand correctly on their shoulders without falling.

One of the girls commented, "Cheerleading is something new that I wouldn't ever have imagined doing. Being chosen to be a part of the Awards night and having to practise every Friday night to prepare a routine to show a variety of different stunts was a lot of fun! At the same time a lot of hard work went in to make the routine perfect to perform to parents, ex-pupils, students, governors and teachers."

**Melissa Telford YR11**



## Girls PE Match Results

**v Lime House  
netball**

Year 9 won  
Year 10/11 lost  
**football**  
Year 9 lost 6-5

**v Nelson  
Thomlinson  
netball**

Year 7/8 lost 3-4  
Year 9 lost 15-5  
Year 10/11 lost 21-4

**v Netherhall  
netball**

Year 10/11 won 8-5  
Year 9 drew 4-4  
Year 7/8 lost 7-1

## Uniform Reminder

**Please note:** correct school uniform must be worn including polo shirt, jumper, tailored trousers and black shoes. Full list of statutory uniform and order forms can be found on the school website under parents/general information/uniform.





## Prefects on a Mission

This year our first two tasks as Prefects were to help organise the Awards Night early in November; an annual event in which staff, students, special guests and parents spend one night to celebrate together the achievements of our students and those of previous year 11's, and a charity event.



Due to the large amount of planning involved in the two events we split up into two teams. Melissa, Joshua, Keris, Martin, Emily and I would take on awards night, and Bethany, Lauren, Ellie, Sophie and Nicole would plan the charity work.

First on the calendar was the Awards night. The teachers had already nominated students for the awards, Mrs Cruickshank had organised and sent out the invitations, that left the entertainment and speeches from our very own prefects to be arranged. Task one: Who was going to perform and show case our talents? Could anybody juggle? Dance with fire? No. Guess we'd need to look elsewhere. Who else but our very own Beacon Bosses? A dance scene from last year's Performance Challenge? And soon to be X factor winners, Bryony Sturrock and Toria Christie. With the nod of approval from Mr Esslemont the performers were 'booked'. Next, the speeches. We decided on an inspirational speech, read by Lauren Bell, and the thank you speech, read by Martin Bell. Due to the fact that we had to split up into two groups to get everything done, I was put in charge of writing the speeches. Yikes!!! After many drafts and lots of panic stricken moments, we decided that the final scripts were good enough to be read aloud (without sounding like the work of an over-enthusiastic four year old!) To finish off all of our hard work we needed some of us to serve up the after-awards refreshments. Nicole, Sophie and Melissa were up to the job. Thankfully, the night was another huge success and all of our team work and determination paid off.



While the Awards night planning was going on, our second group proceeded with the task of planning some charity fundraising. So which charity would they choose? Among all the worthy charities one name stood out; Children in Need. Along with all the work that they did for children in the UK, they had previously provided some money to our local youth club, Aspatria Dream Scheme, which many of us are members. Next on the list, what were we going to do? As it is always a popular choice we decided upon a non-uniform day

in which each family would donate £1 towards the charity. And what proved to be even more popular – pieing the teachers. Thank you to all the teachers that volunteered, your embarrassment meant money for worthy children. Another two ways that we raised some pennies, was a Guess the Name of the Bear; congratulations to Eloise Hinds, who picked the lovely name Ashton. The other one was Guess How Many Sweets in the jar, congratulation to Emily Grierson for her guess of 59 sweets. Held on Friday 14th November to tie in with Children in Need day itself, when all totalled up we had raised a whopping **£225** for our chosen charity. Thank you to all the students and staff that made this year's events possible and of course, to Sophie, Ellie, Nicole, Bethany and Lauren for their excellent ideas and planning. Now we have moved onto our next mission - organising the end of term fun Christmas activities for the whole school!

**Jasmine Wilson YR11 Prefect**



In a Personal Development lesson, Mrs Gigli gave information to eligible students about the **Dream Placement** scheme organised by the Centre of Leadership Performance. The most valuable part of the Dream Placement scheme is the opportunity of a week-long placement that each successful student has with their host company to see firsthand how the real world of business leadership operates. The scheme aims to bring together the brightest young students of Cumbria with some of the most forward-looking and successful businesses in the county and keep Cumbrian talent within Cumbria. There are many different businesses that have signed up to this scheme such as BAE Systems, REACT Engineering, AMEC as well as Allerdale Borough Council and University of Cumbria amongst many others.

One of the main eligibility criteria was you had to turn 16 before 8<sup>th</sup> of December. In the end I was the only student from the small group of sixteen year-olds who thought this was for them and with the help of Mrs Gigli I completed and submitted my application form including an in depth personal statement explaining why I would like the dream placement and what my career hopes are ... to work within mechanical engineering.

Shortly, by email, I was told I had been shortlisted and also inviting me to attend a selection event at Energus at Lillyhall, Workington. During this day there will be various activities, including speed-interviewing, which will hopefully match my skills and aptitudes to the various employers. This is a fantastic opportunity for me and I hope that during this selection event I will be successful and end up receiving one of the much sought after Dream Placements.

**Shannon Richardson YR11**

## Our own Time Team

When we got to Senhouse museum in Maryport we could see the Watch Tower from the car park, it seemed huge. We went inside to look around and found lots of old roman stuff like stones, pots, plates.

From the very top of the Watch Tower we could see the outline of an old Roman Fort. Some people thought it was really scary going up the tower – especially if you're already scared of heights.

The museum had a sand pit we were told that when you find a roman object you must be careful because these are rare things and easily damaged. We dug in the sand to see what we could find and Kyran found a Roman coin, on the coin there was a picture of a Roman emperor. Kyran said that *"I felt like I was a real archaeologist – like on Time Team"*.

Jerry spotted a Roman sword and spear and thought the spear felt really heavy. Here is a little fact they had little swords as they had to fight for a long time. We got to try on the Roman helmet and wear the armour, so heavy especially on our heads. The sword was real but the spear was made recently but looked just like a Roman spear.



The artefacts are very old and when the archaeologists dug up the ground hundreds of different altars were found in Maryport. The altars were for the Roman God Jupiter. The altars had I.O.M. engraved into them – this stood for Jupiter optimus primus – Jupiter the Greatest and the First.

Also we were all given some clay to make pottery of things we'd seen to bring home with us. Mr Gee made the best one. Lottie said *"Most of us made pots then bowls. It was good fun and all of us had a really great time on this trip"*.

**Lottie, Kerri-Ann, Leon, Jerry & Kyran**  
(Project Group)

## YR7 Adventure Residential

On the 12<sup>th</sup> November year 7 went on a 3 day residential to Castle Head field studies centre. On the departure day most of us were excited but some others had last minute second thoughts. Leaving school about 11:30 we arrived to have a quick tour before having a late lunch. Then straight into activities!

First up was the name game so that our instructor Dave from the centre knew our names; the second activity was to try and move the whole of our team but we had to move together on wooden skis. The third was to guide a golf ball from one hoop to another using gutter piping, the second to last was to cross an imaginary lava river using plastic mats and the last one was to type a code in a hoop but everybody in our team had to type at least one key. All of these activities were designed to get us working together well as a team.

Then onto more mundane tasks – making our beds and had a little time to chill out before dinner of smoked gammon and mash potatoes, Josh Grey commented that, he didn't like the food, however most of us had clean plates. The food generally was quite tasty!

After darkness fell we travelled to the side of a fell and walked up it by torchlight to a hospice that looks over both Cumbria and Lancashire. Back to the centre more chill time before bed and there ended the first of the three days.

On the second day after breakfast we went to the local beach and climbed along the cliffs. We climbed up a really steep hill to get to the top and then scrambled down to the bottom. After the scrambling we walked along the shore line and were taught how to get free from sinking sand. We found a cave but before we could go in our instructor, Dave had to check it was safe. After the all clear we went in and explored it. Then rumbling bellies took over, time for lunch.

In the afternoon my group tackled the Jacob's Ladder, a giant ladder with steps that get wider the nearer to the top you go. I thought it was fun but scary even though I've done it before. Callum Lockwood commented "the wobbly pole and Jacob's ladder were very high and scary but exhilarating!" Callum's claim to fame is to be the only one to reach to the top of the ladder. Mr Young talked to me about the dreaded wobbly pole, "The pupils learnt to trust one another whilst climbing up the wobbly pole, holding hands and leaning back as others controlled the harness below. Once again trust was a major factor when the pupils put their faith in the students who they don't know so well."

That night again by torchlight we tackled an assault course. With a partner we needed to guide and help each other through and over the various obstacles. At one point about half way through the course everyone wasn't working and communicating properly and ended up frustrated and arguing. However we caught our breaths and carried on in a better team-working frame of mind.

The following morning was devoted to bushcraft including shelter and fire building before packing up to leave. All in all I loved it and thought the experience was amazing. I think it has made all of us work better together in class and out. Thank you to Mr Young & Miss Fitzsimmons both for organising and giving up their time to take us on this residential. Mr Young added, "The pupils were all exhausted after a fun packed trip with all of them saying they would definitely like to go again. Everyone really wanted to have a go at everything on offer. Well done to all of year 7 for working so hard and being such good sports and having a go at everything."

**Cameron McGarel YR7**



# Beacon Bots on the Move

In ICT, we have been trying out various Programming activities, to fit in with the new ICT curriculum which places an emphasis on this part of Computing.

The first step into Programming has been completing the Hour of Code, which is an international initiative to encourage people of all ages to do Computer Coding. The pupils work their way through a scheme which increases in difficulty as it progresses, and everyone who completes it gets a Certificate as evidence of their new skills. Additional units within the same scheme have allowed pupils to develop and explore these programming skills further, including building and customising their own version of the popular Flappy Birds app.

We have looked at how computing uses 1's and 0's as its entire basis – and explored this by writing our own programs using them. 1 is used to show “on” and 0 is used to show “off” – and this on and off sequence is the basis of how all computer software and hardware works.

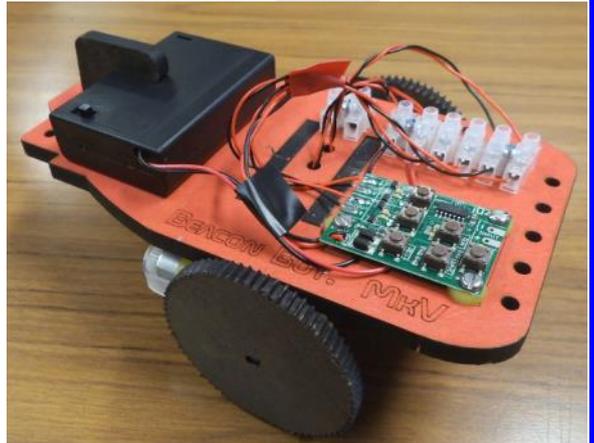
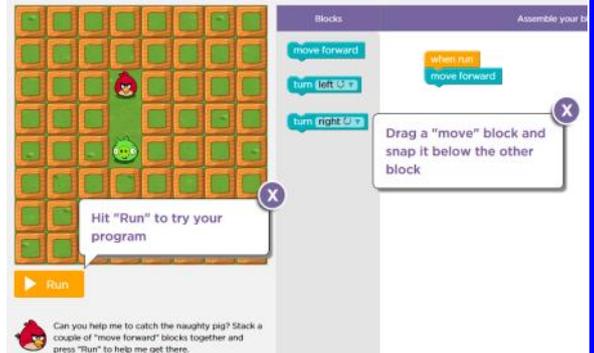
To help understand how these can be used to control an output we have been programming robots. It was frustrating to start with as we only had 3 quite elderly ones which were built from a kit sold by the BBC over 10 years ago.

An updated version of the control board used in the BBC kit is now available at about half the price it was 10 years ago – so this was chosen to power and control our new robots. There are commercially available kits to suit these IQ4 Controllers, but cost made them prohibitive. A fair bit of design work, and building 4 prototypes resulted in the Beacon Bot MkV being developed as an alternative to bought in kits. All parts were drawn on the same CAD software the pupils use in Design Technology, and then cut out using the laser cutter. Adding parts such as geared motors and the control boards, which were all bought in as standard components, meant the we were able to build a class sized set of Beacon Bots for about the same cost as buying 4 of the commercially available kits.

The end result is that all pupils are able to have a go at programming the robots without having to share and wait – giving more opportunity to experiment.

The robots have future expansion possibilities too, with added inputs meaning that they will be able to react to their environment and use these inputs to trigger sub programs the pupils enter. That's for the future though!

**Mr Esslemont**



## Opening Times

9.00am to 5.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

9.00am to 1.00pm Wednesday and Saturday

To make an appointment please telephone 016973 22285





## React Foundation Science Roadshow

Earlier on in this term the REACT Foundation came to our school to deliver their new science roadshow 'Material World', a show focusing on how atoms and molecules interact to form the world about us. This hour long spectacular was delivered in partnership with the Science Museum in London and is the 3rd exhilarating REACT STEM event hosted at our school. Demonstrations included exploding paint cans, formation of water from hydrogen and oxygen in highly explosive balloons and even screaming Jelly Babies! In this fast paced and fact-packed show the Outreach Team answered those all-important questions about materials, such as: What is the world around us made of? What's the difference between elements, molecules and compounds? How do you make a jelly baby scream? All students in year 7, 8 and 9 watched and enjoyed the highly entertaining show designed to engage students in science and engineering and ultimately inspire them to consider careers in science. We would like to thank both REACT and The Science Museum for bringing this excellent opportunity to us at Beacon Hill. Read below one student's first hand account.

"I thought the show was really exciting and fun to watch. It was amazing how they got the Jelly Babies to squeal and also the way a Jelly Baby disintegrated when combined with a chemical in a tube. This ultimately made for spectacular flames but poor Fred the Jelly Baby had been sacrificed in the process.

A lot of students were eager to volunteer to help on stage. I was one of the lucky ones ... I was asked to put liquid on a newly designed hat to show us how it would soak up water but it was actually a nappy and led Bradley Stoddart who was wearing the hat (nappy) to believe we were pouring on urine! Uproars of laughter! We didn't actually believe the presenter, would you?"

**Monica Constable YR9**

### Important Dates for your Diary

15th - 18th December 2014	Work life balance week no after school clubs or detentions
16th - 17th December 2014	YR11 Art Mock Exam
Tuesday 16th December 2014	School Christmas lunch
Thursday 18th December 2014	End of Term students dismissed from St Kentigern's Church at 1.45pm
Tuesday 6th January 2015	Spring Term starts
Tuesday 13th January 2015	YR11 Mock Results Afternoon 1.30-3pm
Tuesday 13th January 2015	YR7-10 Early finish 1.35pm for home study
Tuesday 13th January 2015	YR10 Parents evening 5-6.30pm
Tuesday 27th January 2015	YR10 & 11 Next Steps evening 6-7.30pm
9th - 13th February 2015	Work life balance week no after school clubs or detentions
16th - 20th February 2015	Half-term holidays
Tuesday 24th February 2015	YR9 parent & student Pathways evening 5-6pm
w/b 23rd March 2015	YR7-10 Interim Assessments posted home
Friday 20th March 2015	Newsletter Distributed
Friday 27th March 2015	End of Spring Term at 3.15pm