

Spring 2015  
Edition



BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE AND RURAL ACADEMY

# Newsletter

Dear parents, guardians and friends of BHS

Once again it is a pleasure to introduce in this newsletter some of the highlights reflecting the outstanding work that has taken place at Beacon Hill during the spring term. Most importantly I am delighted to inform you that our recent HMI Monitoring visit was extremely positive. The report is very highly complementary of all aspects of Beacon Hill Community School and summarises our progress by stating that 'improvements to teaching and curriculum planning are raising students' achievement'. Congratulations go to staff, students, governors and parents for this strong affirmation of the excellent work that goes on daily to support and develop our school aspirations. The full HMI letter can be found on the school website.


As you'll see on this front cover three stalwarts of our school are retiring at the end of April. Mrs Hemingway, Mrs Skillicorn and Mrs Cuthell have contributed in numerous ways to the broader life and community of Beacon Hill and leave with the sincere appreciation of the whole body of staff and students for the many fond experiences that have been shared over the years. We wish each of them health and happiness in retirement.

MR D MILLNE  
ACTING HEADTEACHER

## Bowing out after 92 years combined service



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**YR11**  
**REVISE**  
AND PREPARE  
**FOR YOUR**  
**EXAMS**

### PLEASE NOTE:

- YR11 GCSE examinations start after Easter with Art & Graphics on Monday & Tuesday 21st April
- YR10 Work Experience placements need to be back to Mrs Gigli ASAP
- YR7 & 8 Parents Evening on Tuesday 21st April



## Aspatrian Viking

Within Humanities this term, BH1 have been studying the Vikings. Students have been exploring local history and learning about the Aspatria Viking (Beecan) which was excavated at Beacon Hill in 1789. Whilst many of the artifacts found in the dig have been placed in museums in London and Carlisle a section of the hogback coffin and the wheel headed cross remain in Aspatria. On Monday 16th March we visited St Kentigern's Church to view these artifacts and learn more about the Vikings.

**Miss Hedley**



**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

**Struggling to make yourself a meal at home?**



**Let us help!**

For many of us an occasional helping hand is all we need to be the best we can be. The Cumbria Meals Service is there for people who are struggling to manage to cook a meal and get out and about.

If you live in Aspatria and would like to have meals delivered, Cumbria Community Meals Service can help you. Community Meals are made from fresh ingredients prepared daily and delivered to you by volunteers.

**For more information please  
call Wendy 0844 9671885, or  
email : [info@ncip.org.uk](mailto:info@ncip.org.uk)**



## Beat the Teacher

During the week building up to Red Nose Day, Beacon Hill Community School ran a series of events to raise as much money as possible. The Student Forum, led by Mr Young, organised all of these activities and events. We held many teachers vs. students' challenges, for example students could challenge Mr Esslemont at a slow biking. In this particular challenge, the aim was to bike as slow as possible towards the finish line, first one there loses. This was much harder than you would expect, I should know, I



spent a pound on it, losing every time. Students could pay 20p per attempt to beat the teacher! Basketball shots against Mrs Wamsley and penalty shoot outs against Mr Millne both proved to be very popular. At the end of the week, at Red Nose Day assembly, the winners were announced with a prize for each one. Also held on the Friday were student vs teacher bench ball games. Students could collect a team of five friends to play against the teacher teams. Throughout the week the canteen also contributed to the final total with the sale of special Red Nose Day cakes.

The week was very successful with a grand total of over £175 being raised. Every student who took part in each challenge really enjoyed it.

**Matthew Charlton**



## French Unites

Mrs Fitzsimmons recently received a request from a teacher in Finland to correspond and share news in French with her class. CS2 were only too pleased to join in this project so we have begun by sending each other a presentation about our students. You may wonder what the link is between Beacon Hill and Finland; the teacher, Marika Rautiainen, did her initial teacher training in Cumbria to become a French teacher, and one of her placements was at Beacon Hill! She has always remembered how friendly the staff and students were here and so naturally when she was looking for a school to correspond with she chose us! We look forward to using the French language to find out more about her school, the students, the area where she lives and indeed the country of Finland. We can't talk to them in Finnish but we can put the French we learn in class to good use!





Science &



PE in Action



In order to celebrate Science week, the PE department organised a practical and fun assault course the aim of which was to mimic the passage of oxygen around the lungs, heart and body.

Students learnt about how the respiratory and cardiovascular systems work together to supply the body with oxygen in an alternative, exciting and physical way. Together in pairs students, representing oxygen, navigated themselves around an obstacle course symbolizing the major organs involved in the process. Some of the obstacles included climbing through tunnels (bronchi/ bronchioles), climbing though a spider's web (alveoli), piggy back carrying their partner to the heart (red blood cell carrying oxygen), blowing up balloons (creating pressure and the heart pump), performing exercises at the muscles and finishing on a water slide (exhalation of carbon dioxide through the mouth). The Science/PE activity day was great success with students having a fantastic time and are quoted as follows:

**'It was amazing' Leah Stephenson 'It was fun' Jodie Forrester 'It was super-cool' Hollie Bell**  
**'Spectacular' Jack Devlin 'Best science lesson ever' Joe Stewart**



## Cheerleading Thanks

Cheerleading club continues to be well attended and is currently preparing for their next performance of 'Uptown funk' the date of which is to be confirmed. The Bosses would like to publicly thank Aspatria and District Community Charity Association who have kindly donated £600 for us to purchase cheerleading uniforms which is very much appreciated. Whilst we have retained interest in the club we always welcome newcomers and would love to expand the squad even further. Cheerleading club runs on a Friday after school from 3.15pm to 4.30pm. We are currently practicing the Basket Toss (see photo) so if you fancy being flung 6 foot in the air come and join us.

**Miss Hedley**



## Science Alive

There have been a number of changes afoot in the science department this last term. A new science club started and has seen about 20-25 students each week taking part in experiments to enrich and broaden their science experience in school. The club had a messy start with



students making a non-Newtonian fluid (cornflour and water) and then attempting to walk over it without sinking! They have also experimented with fire-writing, made elephant toothpaste and also set fire to my hands – under controlled conditions of course!



### British Science Week

From the 13th – 20nd March saw the school involved in various activities as part of British Science Week. As well as the students undertaking a 'heart and lungs' assault course during PE, they could also see and learn about a sheep's heart, lungs, liver and tongue in science. A number of year 9 students also carried out excellent heart dissections. Students were able to learn some science through teaching across the school, through Maths, Technology and French lessons. A number of science club members helped to make equipment in preparation for the solar eclipse on Friday 20th March. The staff were



kept for the students to experience this rare event, so we all headed outside. The day started with typical Cumbrian weather, the cloud lifted momentarily bang on time at 9.34am, and cheers rang out. We were very lucky to catch glimpses of the eclipse through the fast moving cloud.

### Junior Technicians Wanted!

The science department are currently seeking enthusiastic students from years 9 and 10 to become Junior Technicians. We want to encourage any students who may be interested to apply. The role will involve working one or two lunchtimes a month, testing and helping to prepare equipment, under the supervision of teaching and technician staff. This would suit anyone interested in science or who may be considering a course or career which uses science in the future. Please speak to your science teacher about this opportunity.

### Time flies....

As the GCSE examinations approach, I would like to remind those in year 11 that there is revision support available every Thursday and Friday after school in the science department. There is a committed core of students who regularly attend these sessions, and both Mr Rajput and I would like to encourage other students to attend. The revision topics are posted on the Science Department notice board weekly.

**Mrs Wamsley**

## Wonders of Liverpool



After hours of driving around Liverpool we finally found the YHA, good direction skills Mr Gee!

Our first stop was the Liverpool Central Library; I've never seen so many books! There were four floors, which were full of books, computers and other learning resources. At the very top of the building was an open-top roof top, where you could see the landscape of Liverpool. Although we came here by mistake it was a beautiful view.

Next we went where we were supposed to be, the World Museum; six floors of history, wildlife and facts. The first floor was an aquarium full of wonderful coloured fish. Then we went up to the bugs and taxidermy floor, an information guide told us lots of facts about the animals. He even let us hold a skull. Next was the Ancient, where there were lots of artifacts. The dinosaurs and natural world floor was next, Neyve loved seeing the dinosaur fossils and the taxidermic animals.

The famous bar where The Beatles used to drink and play, The Cavern, was our next venture. The bar was a great cultural experience, where we got to see a Beatles tribute act. Don't worry, no alcohol passed our lips; it was just Diet Coke for us!

Next we went to the Albert Docks which led us on to The Tate Art Gallery, full of wonderful artwork and sculptures; a great sight to see.

To keep us busy on the Saturday night, we went on the Shiverpool Ghost Tour. We were led by two, very convincing characters around some scary sights of Liverpool. The final stop was the public garden next to the cathedral, which also was host to some graves. This was by far the scariest part of the tour... not going to lie, I cried.



The Sunday morning was spent visiting the Cathedral, one of the biggest in the world. We watched the Sunday service, which included singing and prayers.

Last up was shopping; Beth and Neyve had looked forward to doughnuts since the Saturday morning. Luckily they got them – twelve each. After touring the shops we got back on the bus and set off back home. A full, fun packed weekend!

**Jasmine Wilson YR11**



**Head lice** are a normal part of childhood - surveys have found that nearly 1 in 10 school children have head lice at any one time.

If you're a parent you probably know what a hassle it is to treat head lice and just how frustrating it can be when your child comes home scratching their head yet again. But parents, you've got the power to stop head lice in their tracks!

By following a simple three step process, **Check-Treat-Complete**, you can fight back against these bug bullies.

Anyone can get head lice! The best known symptom is itching but this is not the best indicator as many people may not itch with lice at all. If head lice is spotted, don't worry or be embarrassed, check all the family including yourself then treat according to current guidelines - ask your local pharmacist for advice.



## Outdoor and Adventurous



In PE lessons this half term we have had an interesting mix of activities on offer. Students have had lessons on outdoor and adventurous activities (OAA) including some interesting and difficult tasks for the students to complete. As a team, students worked to make a square out of

rope...blindfolded, carry an injured person on a stretcher over an obstacle course without dropping them, over an electric fence, through a spiders web, save a town from extinction by removing the toxic waste...and much more!

The students have responded really well to the tasks and we have really been able to see the progress they have made as team members. Well done for getting fully involved.



## X Fit



Earlier this year I was introduced to a new (to me) type of exercise, I have never really been interested in the gym or going to work-out classes instead I favour the outdoors as everyone knows especially my bike! However, this new exercise, cross fit (X-FIT), is superb which I thought the students may enjoy as much as I did.

Cross Fit is a training program that builds

strength and conditioning through extremely varied and challenging workouts. Each lesson will test a different part of your functional strength or conditioning, not specialising in one particular thing, but rather with the goal of building a body that's capable of practically anything and everything.

The students completed exercises such as box jumps, sit ups, Man on fire burpees, window wipers...to name a few. These were done in lots of different ways. Some were traditional such as you would imagine a workout class at the gym to be like. However other methods were more imaginative, such as a team race finishing in the students carrying their partner across the finish line, or a race around a 50m track whilst the rest of their team held the plank position. None of it was easy but the students seemed to really enjoy it and even came back for more in the after school club.



**Mr Young**



**mentoring**  
**mentor** creative transformative  
 advice support trust  
 invaluable expert benefits  
 growth

## Year 11 Mock Results Afternoon

In January we held a very successful Mock Results Afternoon for all Year 11 students and their parents/guardians. We hold a similar event each year, which is extremely well received by parents and enables students to take responsibility for their learning and understand the relevance and importance of early exam preparation and revision.

Students and their parents/guardians attended in order to receive and discuss their mock GCSE exam results with their Progress Support Mentor. Following this meeting they were given the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with all their subject teachers. An Action Plan was drawn up by the Mentor and this will inform our mentoring for the rest of the term.

## Next Steps for Beacon Hill Students

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January saw Beacon Hill's Yr10 and Yr11 students and their parents attend our highly successful Next Steps careers evening. Up to 20 organisations came along to explain their pathways to life, post-16. Headteacher Dave Millne, welcomed a hall buzzing with enthusiasm. Esther Gigli, KS4 Academic Learning Mentor, answered questions and guided parents to suitable areas in the hall.

The event gave many students and their parents much to think about. Some Yr10 students sorted out their work experience and Yr 11s confirmed the grades necessary to fulfil their dreams. We look forward to many good outcomes from our Next Steps evening and successful placements for those

|  |                              |   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Important Dates for your Diary</b>                    | Wednesday 25th March         | French Trip Meeting @ 6pm                 |
|  | Friday 27th March            | End of Spring Term - Easter Holidays      |
|  | Monday 13th April            | Summer Term begins                        |
|  | Mon 20th & Tues 21st April   | Art GCSE Exam                             |
|  | Tuesday 21st April           | YR7 & 8 Parents Evening 4.30 - 6.30pm     |
|  | Thurs 23rd - Tues 28th April | French Trip                               |
|  | Monday 4th May               | Bank Holiday                              |
|  | Tuesday 12th May             | YR9 B Humanities Loweswater field trip    |
|  | Tuesday 12th May             | GCSE Examinations begin                   |
|  | Wed 20th - Fri 22nd May      | YR10 Work Ready Programme                 |
|  | W/b 1st June                 | Half Term                                 |
|  | W/b 1st June                 | YR9 new GCSE timetable                    |
|  | W/b 29th June                | YR7—10 Internal exam week                 |
|  | W/b 6th July                 | YR10 Work Experience Week                 |
|  | Monday 6th July              | YR6 Induction Day & Parents Evening @ 6pm |
|  | Tuesday 14th July            | Reflection Rooms                          |
|  | Wednesday 15th July          | Sports Day TBC                            |
| Friday 17th July   | End of Summer Term           |   |
| <b>Years 7-10 Reports posted home before end of term</b> |                              |   |