

Beacon Hill Community School

Summer 2015

Once again our Newsletter draws together a summary of the many varied aspects of daily life at school: from Year 10 mock careers interviews, student elections in personal development lessons, multiple sporting activities and a visit to the science Big Bang show to studying Hindu culture, all skilfully presented by our Librarian, Mrs Cruickshank.

It is amazing, in a year of transition for the school, that the breadth of pastoral support, after school activities and in class curriculum enrichment continues to grow in strength at Beacon Hill. This is of course due to a combination of the commitment of staff and governors, strong partnerships with parents and the wider community as well as the full contribution of our students.

The summer term will finish on **Friday 17th July at 12.15pm**; school transport has been arranged accordingly. The new academic year begins for students on **Monday 7th September at 8.45am**.

Please note from September the school day will begin at **8.45am** and finish at **3.05pm**. School transport has been notified and will adjust pick up times to 10 minutes earlier than at present.

Thank you for all the support you have offered me and the staff team over the past academic year. I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to further developing Beacon Hill Community School in partnership with parents and governors on our return to school in September.

Mr D Millne
Headteacher

Termly Newsletter

With all the sparkle, glitter and glamour of the red carpet, Beacon Hill's 2015 Year 11 Prom prompted sighs, gasps and squeals of delight and joy. On that warm and sunny June evening, Year 11 dressed to the nines and celebrated all their years in education. They deserved it. Mrs Gigli



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On Tuesday 9th June 2015, our year 7 and 8 students travelled to the Whitehaven Golf Course to attend the Big Bang Exhibition. We had been taken off timetable for all of the morning to experience this popular scientific event.

When we first arrived, many schools were already there; students didn't particularly like being squashed together especially in the heat inside the room! In our groups we walked around, stopping to look at

various display stands where the representatives would explain what they were doing and how an object functioned. Companies there included, Carlisle College and Sellafield. One of our year seven students stood on a platform and a woman held an electric rod over his head as he touched a Van der Graff generator, his hair started to stand on end.

After we had finished walking around learning about many different parts of science we watched a science busking show; the aim of which was to persuade us that Science, People and Fun were made to go together. Thoroughly enjoyable! The presenter showed us how sound waves are made and how air pressure can defy gravity. He also showed us illusions by spinning a spiral in front of his head for 20 seconds and when he took it away his head began to appear to enlarge, that's because part of your brain falls asleep and doesn't concentrate. There was also a demonstration on what happened when you get two empty metal cans, put them next to each and blow in between them - it creates a high pitched screech. After the show we came back just in time for lunch and we were back on timetable for our last 2 lessons. If we were to do this again next year I would love to go.

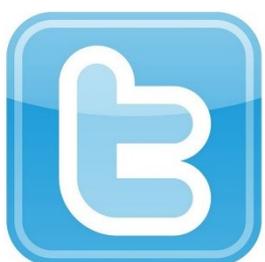
Baillie Folden YR8

West Cumbria Big Bang



Note from Mrs Wamsley

It was a real pleasure to see our pupils speaking to university students and representatives from scientific industry, asking questions and getting involved in demonstrations. Once they became orientated, they really threw themselves into the event, attempting quizzes and challenging activities replicating handling radioactive substances and controlling robotics. I want to thank Aspatria Community Fund for supporting us towards the cost of transport to this event, making this fun and informative morning of activities possible.



We are excited to launch two new ways of sharing school life with parents and the community who we are sure love to know what happens at school. This week the **school's own Facebook page** will be launched followed shortly by our own **Twitter feed**. This will enable us to showcase great examples of student work - such as the wonderful GCSE DT projects from this year which have just been posted.

We know from speaking to you that many of you use social media more regularly than you may visit our website and we would welcome you to positively interact with the page should you be impressed with a piece of art work which we post or are proud of your child representing the school on a team. News, key dates, events, deadlines and reminders will all be posted to the page as well as photographs from trips and visits or performances in school. We hope you will "like" our page and look forward to seeing how impressed you are with our students work.

Making a Mark



Amongst the excitement of the general election this year, Mrs Gigli's Personal Development groups held their own elections in class. Within each class, some pupils comprised the Polling Station team and the rest became political parties and candidates.

The Polling Station teams had to set up the ballot boxes, register the voters and check and count the votes.

The parties and their candidates had to select appropriate manifestos, work out their key arguments and prepare to present this to the voters in the following lesson.



The excitement of the day was enhanced by

other classes being allowed to visit the elections and join in the voting. Many posed intelligent and searching questions to the candidates and their party members. Voting was tense, as the voters queued up to make their mark on the day.

The grand finale came when the votes were counted and live tally kept on the board. The winners were congratulated and all who took part so enthusiastically were rewarded with RAPs. Mrs Gigli

Work Ready Week

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.

Work Ready Week began with visits to local businesses including Innovia, Sealy & Iggesund followed by a workshop run by Andy Wallam from Inspira, 'An Introduction to CV Writing' and a fun-filled team-building session. Students attended Media workshops at University of Cumbria and an across campus treasure hunt on day two.

The culmination of the week's events finished with the help of some of our local employers. On Friday 22nd 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.

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: Sergeant Paul Imrie - Army; Craig Coulson - Gen 2; Warren Mitchell - Sealy; John Paul Whelan - Wilmott Dixon; Denise Davies - Aspatria Farmers; Sandra Harrison - Cumberland Building Society; Liz Hearnden - National Skills Academy Nuclear and Gerry Sewell - Aspatria Dream Scheme.

Comments from students included: **'very useful'**; **'I didn't know how hard it was to fill in an application form'**; **'it made me think about how stressful it can be to look for a job'** and **'it gave me a real understanding of why adults say school is good'**.



Mrs Gigli



“We all got a chance to make our own rangoli patterns on a clay tile, as unique as we wanted, and they all turned out beautifully.” Toria Christie YR8

Diwali Festival of Lights

On Wednesday 20th May, Year 7 and 8 (Stage not Age) were involved in a Hindu Theme Day, centred on Diwali the Festival of Lights, as part of their religious studies. Throughout the morning pupils took part in a number of activities in celebration of this holy day including:

- ✦ Creating Rangoli patterns in **Maths** which were then used to make clay tiles in **Art**. During Diwali Hindus create Rangoli patterns and place them on the ground outside of houses to welcome Lakshmi (Goddess of Good Fortune) into their homes.
- ✦ Performing the story of Ramayana in **Drama**. This story is central to Diwali as it is a celebration of victory of good over evil.
- ✦ Learning how to play the Dhol drums in **Music**, to accompany the **Drama** performance.
- ✦ Learning a dance involving a mixture of classical Indian hand gestures, Bangra and Bollywood dance styles. This was created in **PE** and was later performed as the finale to the **Drama** performance.
- ✦ The opportunity to try Indian food at lunch time.



The day was a huge success and pupils were inspired and enthused by the activities as well as the opportunity to dress in traditional clothes (Sari and Sherwani).

Miss Hedley

“If you wanted to see some gorillas, girls in saris and people running around with swords Beacon Hill was the place to be. The reason for this was Hindu day! There were students acting out the story of Rama and Sita, twelve girls dancing in saris and people making music with

drums and keyboards. We also made some Rangoli patterns out of clay which is what Hindus would have made outside of their houses on this special occasion. I was a Hindu dancer. I had to learn a Hindu dance in just less than 90 minutes. This was hard and a bit hectic because in that time we had to learn how to tie our saris. Dancing in our saris was the hardest because we had to move around and we could hardly move our legs. I enjoyed it and I think everyone else did too because we were talking about it for a couple of days after.” Emily Southward YR8

“We learned all sorts of crazy dance moves, one called ‘The woof woof!’ It was very enjoyable learning dances from other cultures and seeing how people from other cultures dress and dance.” Chloe Simpson YR8

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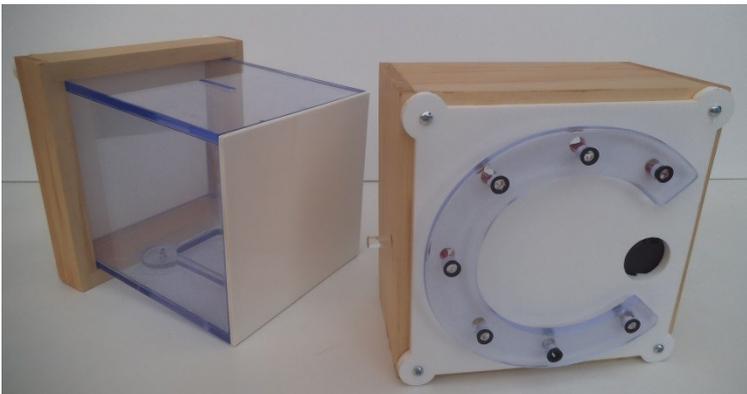


“The play that was performed was Rama and Sita. Before we started rehearsing, we were told the story of the play. The story was about a girl and a boy who got sent away. Sita gets kidnapped by a ten-headed demon and, with the help of the monkey army, Rama saves her. It was a lot of fun, but not much went right. This was due to the short time we had to prepare. The girls were all dressed in saris that were incredibly hard to keep up properly. The boys, however, were dressed in everything from fancy clothes

to monkey costumes, even ten-headed demon masks.” Emily Brown YR8

“I was part of the drama group, we had lots of fun and plenty of laughs! We performed an unforgettable performance (even though some things went wrong!). We all had a really good time being different characters, it was a great experience for everyone and a good opportunity to explore the Hindu culture and learn some more about the festival of Diwali.”

Toria Christie YR8



GCSE Product Design & Resistant Materials

These are part of the GCSE work where students produce a Design folder and then make what they have designed. The project they make depends on which “scenario” they choose. These are provided by the exam board and the students then Design and Make a solution to the problem, or scenario they have chosen.



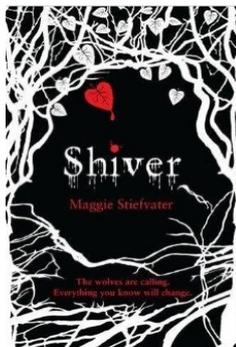
A variety of materials and processes are used - and students have to try and show a range of different skills using a variety of materials and processes. As part of this they have to show skills in Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM). Use of, and skill in the use of hand and machine tools are also still part of the requirements. This year, projects included clocks, radios, music player amplifiers, storage solutions or projects which were a combination of these.

The quality this year was particularly high, and I was really pleased with the end results. There was the usual panic at the end of the process getting all the required work finished, but hopefully it will all be worth it when the results come through! **Mr Esslemont**



 See more on Facebook

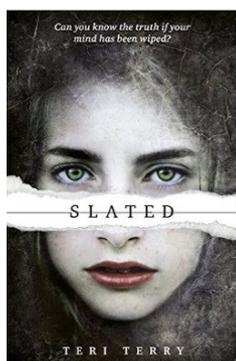
We are all Reading ... by Mrs Wamsley



I am not an English teacher, in fact I teach Science at Beacon Hill Community School, but I felt compelled to write a short article about a reinvigorated love of reading.

I have always loved a good book, curling up and getting lost in a gripping story, but many of my books this year have been non-fiction, or just not very gripping!

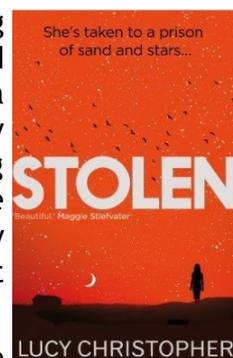
Each week I have a duty which involves me hanging out around the corridor and library scowling at loiterers at break time. Very frequently I find myself staying a little longer in the library, and have often asked the question 'what are you reading?'



The following dialogue is often enthusiastic and animated. I have also been met with the challenge to read this book or that, and hence I have discovered books that I would not usually consider.

One such book was *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater, recommended by Beth Cross. A well written werewolf love story, but with an ending that made me not want to read the second book in the series for fear the happy ending would be shattered!

Beth also recommended *Slated*, an intriguing start to a trilogy warning of possible future consequences to misbehaving children. As an interlude before commencing onto the second book of the trilogy, I took an enthusiastic recommendation from Monica Constable, to read *Stolen* by Lucy Christopher. Another book I would highly recommend to others; it is a letter to the writer's captor by way of explaining the effect of her kidnap over the several weeks of her being held captive. I have also picked up the thriller *Zom-B*, as recommended by Arren James, a slightly gory tale of zombie invasion. Arren told me, once I had started, that he just recommended it just to see if I would read it - well I have!



We really do have an excellent selection of books in our library, and I for one shall be borrowing a few reads for the summer holidays. **What do you recommend?**



Science of Heating Food

Science is everywhere. If you look carefully you will notice it. Many people use science without even thinking about it. When you use a microwave oven, you are using electrical currents - science! Many people in poorer countries such as Uganda do not have electricity to power a microwave.

Year 9's in our Triple Science class tested a common way to heat food without electricity.

A tyre, crumpled newspaper, foil and glass are all you need to make a simple solar cooker. Basically, without going too scientific, solar panels absorb sunshine to trap heat. The glass on top of the tyre acts like a solar panel. The black tyre absorbs heat also. The foil reflects the heat towards the food. Ta-da food served in a couple of hours from a slow cooker!

Monica Constable YR9

For further insight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCPuYvIMKi0>

French Trip 2015



As we waved our parents goodbye in the school car park we were all very excited. We were also impatient to begin our long journey to France. We stayed in a PGL centre called the Château de Grande Romaine on the outskirts of Paris.

On the first day we went to Vimy Ridge, which is the site of a WW1 battle. We were able to go into the trenches and were surprised to see that there were bomb craters and even unexploded bombs in the surrounding fields. We also spent time at the monument, which had the names of all the soldiers who lost their lives at Vimy Ridge engraved into the stone. It was very moving. When we got back to the PGL centre we did outdoor activities which the staff there had organised for us. We were also able to spend some time in

the swimming pool, which was great fun.

We spent the whole of the following day in Paris, seeing all the famous monuments. Up the Eiffel Tower, some of us dared to stand on the glass platform, which was very scary! We also went to Montmartre to see the Sacré-Coeur and the Place du Tertre, where there were a lot of artists at work. Most people had their portrait sketched, which was a great souvenir of our trip. Back at the Chateau we all made pancakes after having another dip in the pool.

The highlight of most student's visit was the day we spent in Disneyland! We went on all the rides and met many of the Disney characters who were wandering around!

Finally on the last day we to Cité Europe, a big shopping centre, where we passed the morning using up what was left of our spending money. After shopping we got the ferry and came home after having a really memorable time in France.



Student of the Month Winners 2015

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. Above are just some of the 18 students who deservedly won an award over this academic year 2014 - 2015.

Mrs Gigli

Uptown Funk Cheerleading

On the 9th July Beacon Bosses Cheerleading Squad performed their second show piece for the Year 5 Student Taster Day. The squad performed a routine consisting of dance, stunts and cheer to the popular tune of Uptown Funk. The group have been working hard since their last performance to incorporate more challenging stunts and have included the basket toss into the routine which involves the flyer being propelled high into the air and then caught again.



May I take the opportunity to publicly thank the Aspatria and District Charity Association for their financial contribution to the club which has enabled us to buy our own cheerleading uniform. The squad looked fantastic during the performance and the pupils really appreciated it.

Miss Hedley

“ I love the new colour and it has given us a sense of identity.”

Chloe Simpson

“ It’s nice to have our own costumes, it feels more permanent and has brought us together as a squad.”

Emily Southward

“The uniform is comfortable and stylish and I like the change in colour.”

Baillie Folden

Important Dates for your Diary	Wednesday 15th July	Sports Day
	Thursday 16th July	PE Activity Day
	Friday 17th July	End of Summer Term @ 12.15pm
	Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results 10am - 11am
	Monday 7th September	Autumn Term starts @ 8.45pm
	Thursday 10th September	School Photos taken
	Monday 21st September	KS3 REACT Science Roadshow in school
	Monday 21st September	YR7 Residential Parent & Student Meeting @ 5pm
	Tuesday 22nd September	YR6 Open Evening 5pm - 7pm
	Thurs 1st - Fri 2nd October	YR7 Adventure Residential
	26th - 30th October	Half-term
	Tuesday 3rd November	Awards Evening @ 7pm
	7th - 11th December	YR10 & 11 Mock Exam Week
	Friday 11th December	Termly School Newsletter distributed
	Mon 14th & Tues 15th December	YR11 Art Mock Exam
	Thursday 17th December	YR7-9 Interim Reports posted out
Friday 18th December	Carol Service 11.15am @ Methodist Church	
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term	
Tuesday 5th January 2016	Spring Term begins	