

Autumn 2015

Welcome to the latest edition of the Beacon Hill newsletter: these pages as always reflect the broad experience of our students during a busy term. In among the exams, assessments and reports at this time of year, students have contributed to and benefitted from cultural and sporting activities.

As we approach the end of this active autumn term, I take particular pleasure that the high quality education our students receive both in and out of the classroom has been recognised by OFSTED. They also noted that we are quickly moving to a good grade once again. The recent Ofsted report is a strong affirmation of all the successes staff and students achieve on a daily basis with the support of parents and our community.

Enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to further achievements next year.

Best Wishes

Mr D Millne, Headteacher



Student of the Month

All the proud nominees for October Student of the Month award are shown in this group photo. The well deserved winners so far this term have been:

September: Caitlain Tate KS3 & Rebecca Warwick KS4

October: David Greer KS3 & Beth Cross & Jack Lawson KS4

November/December: Nathan Johnson KS3 & Lauren Potts KS4

Variable hours, including one early evening meeting per month.

(BS1A) £8.04 per hour

Please call the school office in the first instance to discuss this vacancy.



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Christmas Drama

In KS3 drama, we have been preparing for a number of different Christmas performances.

Within 9B drama, we have been preparing a dance to 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' which not only involved learning a set dance, but also included some of the dancers' own choreography. The girls have done a fantastic job and are excited to perform in their elf suits.

9B have also been practising a performance of a short version of a 'Christmas Carol'. Elliot Bouch plays a convincing Mr Scrooge. The production will make a superb addition to the Carol Service at the end of term.

CS drama has been rehearsing 'The Grinch' which they performed in front of the whole school in assembly. Jared Thomson played the lead role as the Grinch, excelling with his highly appropriate gestures and expression.

Finally, 9H have been preparing to perform a skit based on the 'The Night before Christmas', entitled the 'Week before Christmas at School'. The skit tells the story of the chaos and stress that Miss Hedley endures when she finds out that she has to prepare a school assembly. It is a comic performance with Lottie playing a scarily accurate version of Miss Hedley. This piece will be performed once again in front of the whole school in the end of term assembly.

KS3 drama students have worked hard on their performances, growing in confidence throughout the process. I am looking forward to seeing them perform and I'm sure all our mini productions will be an immense success.

Miss Hedley



We provide well-balanced, nutritional meals, catering for dietary requirements and tastes of all of our customers.

Dishes include traditional favourites such as Shepherd's Pie, Fish and Chips, Jacket Potatoes and of course the traditional Roast Dinner.

We aim to offer the best possible food at a reasonable price, offering a main course and pudding for **£3.75**.

All meals are delivered every lunchtime by dedicated volunteers.

For further information please contact Beacon Hill School on **016973 20509**



YR7 & 8 Buttermere Field Trip

Our topic for the term was to learn about glaciation and the formation of waterfalls, rivers and streams. We have also looked at settlement sites and made a model which represented our ideal site. Our class teachers Miss Hedley and Mrs Inkester kindly let us go to Buttermere! We were there to choose between three sites which were called Rannerdale, Lanthwaite Green, and of course, the town of Buttermere. Lanthwaite Green was the first site that we were going to judge. Lanthwaite Green had an uneven surface with a thin layer of soil. This means that you could only grow and harvest crops once! We had to imagine what it was like when humans had just started to build houses and if there were enough resources in the area to make the site sustainable.

The site we went to visit next was Rannerdale. We had our lunch in a secret valley, in the spring the hill is full of blooming bluebells. There was a strange formation called a pot ash kiln. It was dug into the ground, and held up by loads of heavy stones. Also, we saw a rubbish tip. In the olden days people used to ride up the mountain on a special road made for horses and carts, and would pour all their rubbish onto the tip at the base of the mountain.

Finally, our last stop on the trip was Buttermere. We noticed the village still had a lot of houses built in the last century, perhaps due to the flat land in the area. There was also a natural water source, with a mill nearby! It was by far the best site, fitting all the requirements needed for a good settlement.

Before we visited all three sites we went to meet some people from the West Cumbria Rivers Trust. They told us about the Whitbeck Restoration Project, which involved creating meanders in a river, in order to slow down the flow rate and encourage more wildlife and prevent flooding. Within school we had entered a competition to draw a river based picture to go on the sides of the vehicles for the West Cumbria Rivers Trust. The winners were: Callum Lockwood, Jared Thomson, Brenna Creighton, Mason Wilson and James Barnfather, who each received a £10 voucher as a prize. Well done!
Caitlain Tate YR8



Maths YR6 Masterclass

Do you like games? ... Do you like maths?

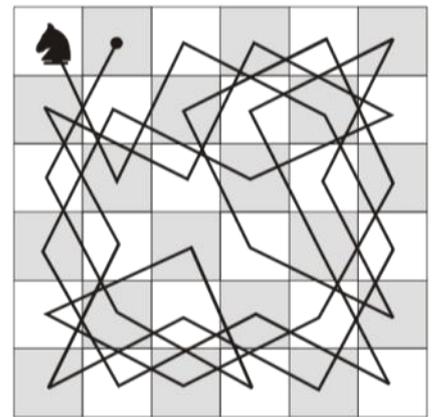
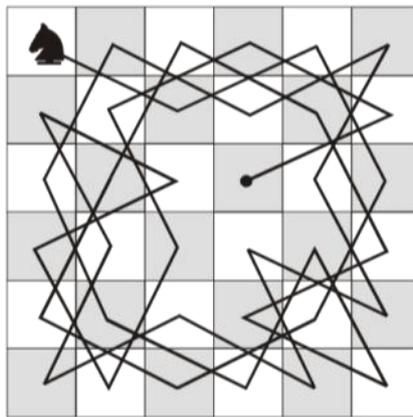
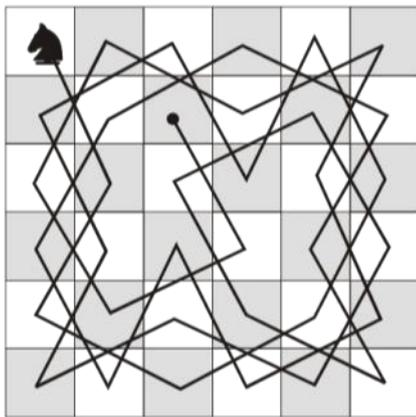
If your answer to the first question is yes, then it should also be your answer to the second question!

The fact is that when you are playing games you are most probably carrying out lots of mathematical procedures.

Year 6 pupils joined me for an afternoon of games, maths and fun.

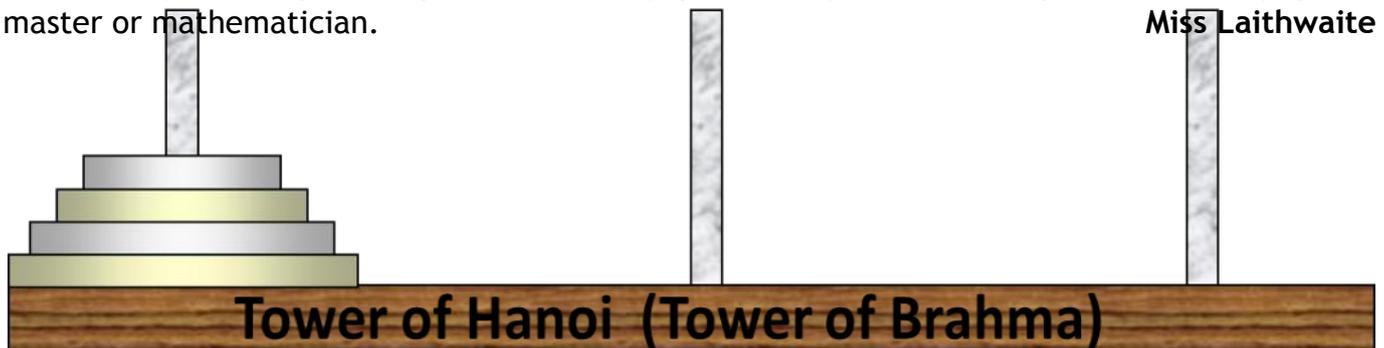
We looked at the classic game of chess, in particular the Knight. The Knight moves around a chess board via a strict L shaped manoeuvre. If a Knight starts in one corner of a chessboard it is possible to take it on a journey to visit every other square on the board without ever revisiting one. The year 6 pupils endeavoured to do this with 5x5, 6x6 and 8x8 boards.

A Knights Tour on a 6x6 Chessboard

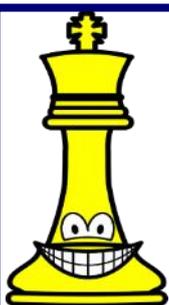


We then went on to explore the strategies involved in the Tower of Hanoi game. We looked at the minimum number of moves required to move 3, 4 then 5 discs from one peg to another peg on the 3 peg board without placing a larger disc on top of a smaller disc. The relationship is a recursive one and the game is only really mastered if it can be done in the minimum number of moves - seven for 3 discs, fifteen for 4 discs and thirty-one for five discs.

Year 6 found the 15 minimum moves for 4 discs and logged them one by one to prove their authenticity. Strategic thought and tenacity proved key - essential qualities for any games master or mathematician.



Chess Tournament 2015



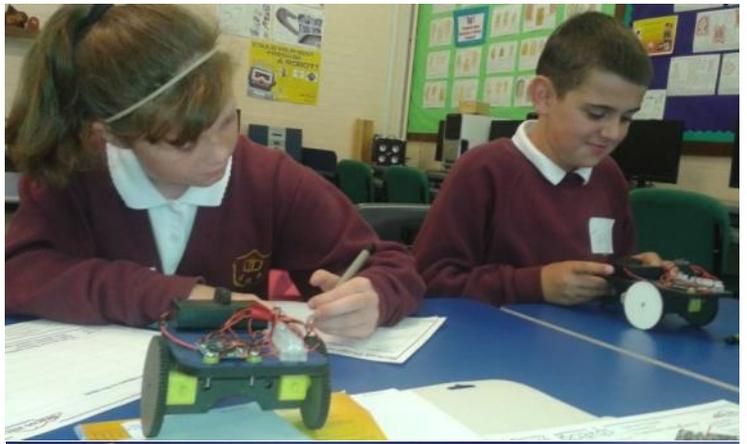
At the time of writing, we are in the final throes of our 'friendly' annual chess tournament. For the first time in 8 years we have staff in the semi finals. Will Mr Lolli & Mrs Cruickshank be knocked out by Jack Johnston from YR9? Or will an adult finally reign supreme? Well done to all those who have already taken up the challenge, especially Year 7 who have shown great enthusiasm for the game.

Technology YR6 Masterclasses

Pupils from year 6 spent 2 sessions in the Technology rooms with Mr Esslemont. In the first one they were programming robots, and once they had got the hang of the routine for programming they then wrote their own programs, setting these to music to get their robot to dance in time to the tune! This showed the basics of programming, where a machine follows a series of instructions to give an output. It was great fun, and the students were really impressed with Mr Esslemont's suggestions for dance moves, or maybe they weren't ... !

In the second session we were looking at CAD CAM - (Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture). The students learned the basics of the design software and then used their design skill to come up with a design for a nameplate. Pupils used 2 machines to cut the designs out - a laser cutter to cut out the acrylic background, and a CNC plotter to cut their names out in self-adhesive vinyl - the same system that is used to make shop signs and logos for wagons.

This was a lot to take on board and actually do in the time, so students had to work quickly and accurately - and in the end all successfully made a sign!



Mr Esslemont

365 days in each year	175 non-school days a year → To spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments			
	190 school days in each year	12-19 pu days absence 178-171 days of education	19 days absence Half term missed 171 days of education	38 days absence 152 days of education
	100%	Below 95%	90%	80%
	GOOD Best chance of success.	WORRYING Less chance of success	SERIOUS CONCERN Not fair on your child Possible legal action YOUR CHILD IS IN A GOVERNMENT CATEGORY OF PERSISTENT ABSENTEE	

MISSING
(SCHOOL) =

MISSING
OUT

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD
IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.



Macbeth Cinema Visit

Year 10 and 11 study “Macbeth” as part of their English Literature GCSE course, so were delighted when they heard that there was a new film of the play. A group of 25 students enjoyed an evening’s entertainment at the Plaza cinema in Workington in November. It was an amazing film of the play, which had everyone on the edge of their seat. Some students feel they understand the play better after this experience.

National Poetry Day

We had some fun in school on National Poetry Day in October. Mrs Fitzsimmons, Mrs Heaton and CS2 got the day off to a flying start with an assembly during which Mrs Heaton launched our “Poetry by Heart” initiative, which is where we asked everyone to learn a poem of their choice and be able to recite it from memory. We are hoping to enter some students in the national competition for this. Mrs Heaton had already learned “If” by Rudyard Kipling and gave a flawlessly impressive rendition during assembly. During the day, students from English lessons went round classes with poetry “bombs” which they threw into classrooms! Teachers had to stop the lesson and read the poem! Miss Hedley and 9H retaliated by bombing Mrs Fitzsimmons with their own, hastily composed, but excellent poem!



Poetry by Heart



Our KS3 students, although too young to be eligible for the national Poetry by Heart competition, did take part in a school version. There was a great variety of poems chosen and students memorised their chosen poem very well and performed it confidently in front of an audience. There are certainly some future star competitors for the national competition! In KS4, Monica

Constable and Mike King performed their word perfect poem at the Awards Evening. We are hoping that they will be part of a team of students to take part in the regional competition in February and possibly go on to the national finals in Cambridge next March. Watch this space!



Harry Potter Writing Competition

Our KS3 students and Year 6 Masterclass pupils have been learning to write in the style of JK Rowling. We held a competition for a new “Harry Potter” chapter and the standard of entries was outstanding! The eventual winner for KS3 was Caitlain Tate and for Year 6, Caitlin Simpson, (Richmond Hill School) and Josh Hall, (Oughterside School) were joint winners.

The Snow Queen A group of students from KS3 are going to the Theatre by the Lake to see a performance of this Hans Christian Andersen story on Tuesday, 15th December. A real Christmas treat!

Mrs Fitzsimmons

Santa Dash

Almost all of the 18 students who signed up for Whitehaven Santa Dash turned up on Sunday 6th December, a brilliant turnout despite the widespread flooding with-in Cumbria. The event involved running just over a mile whilst dressed in a Santa suit. Students were participating in the event



not only for fun, but in order to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation, a charity which they had chosen themselves. The event was a great success; all students, staff and accompanying families had loads of fun and gained a sense of achievement, both through completing the course and raising money for a good cause. On completion of the event students were awarded a medal and a selection box for their efforts. Well done to all who completed the run, and particular congratulations to Reece Devlin (1st), Lewis Penn (2nd) & Jack Charters (3rd) who all finished together, right at the front, out of well over 100 runners!! Thank you to those who supported the event through sponsorship; the total amount raised will be published in the next newsletter.

Miss Hedley

Girls' Sport



We have had a fantastic term of girls' sport this year, with an increase in participation and commitment to after school clubs and fixtures. It has also been brilliant to watch the subsequent and linked increase in the number of winning matches in both netball and football. I would like to recognise the commitment and achievements of all of the girls who have attended practices, worked hard to refine skills and develop team play.

We now have U14 and U16 teams in both netball and football and the squads are continuing to grow. Well done girls, keep up the good work next term and I'm sure we will continue to experience further success.

Other news:

We are also developing a girls' rugby team. We will be entering festivals in the Spring term; an external coach will join us after Christmas to help get us prepared. In addition, there will be a rugby practice on Wednesday nights after school, enabling all year groups to train together. Hope to see you there next term.

Miss Hedley

Diary Dates Beacon Hill Community School	14th & 15th December	YR11 Art Mock Exam
	W/B 14th December	YR7-9 Interim report posted home
	Tues 15th December	KS3 Snow Queen Theatre by the Lake trip
	Wed 16th December	Christmas Lunch - cost £3
	Fri 18th December	Carol Service @ St Kentigern's 11.15 students dismissed at 12 noon from Church
	Fri 18th December	End of Autumn term 12.15pm (buses pick up from school at this time)
	Tues 5th January 2016	Spring term begins
	Tues 12th January 2016	YR11 Mock results afternoon with Interim report
	Tues 12th January 2016	YR7-10 Home Study from 1.20pm
	Tues 12th January 2016	YR10 Parents evening 4.30-6.30pm
	Tues 26th January 2016	YR10 & 11 Next Steps Careers Fair 6-7.30pm
	Tues 2nd February 2016	YR9 Pathways & Parents evening 5-6.30pm
	W/B 8th February 2016	Work life balance week no after school clubs or detentions
	15th - 19th February 2016	Half-term holidays
Thurs 24th March 2016	Spring term ends @ 2.15pm	