

Beacon Hill Community School

SUMMER 2016

Once again our newsletter draws together a summary of the many varied aspects of daily life at school: from Year 10 mock careers interviews, multiple sporting activities and a visit to see Romeo and Juliet performed outdoors to studying Buddhist culture, edited and presented by our Librarian, Mrs Cruickshank.

It has been another amazing school year: in-class curriculum enrichment and extra-curricular activities continue to go from strength to 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 Wednesday 20th July at 12.15pm, school transport has been arranged accordingly. The new academic year begins for all students on Monday 5th September at 8.45am. Please ensure that any new uniform is ordered well in advance.

Thank you for all the support you have offered me and the staff team in 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

Our worthy nominees & KS3 winners for May & June Student of the Month. See the back page for this year's roll of honour.



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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.

This year, Work Ready Week began with us enjoying a fun-filled session with ropes and hoops in team-building exercises. We then went on visits to local businesses: First Milk, Sealy and Lakes College. In the afternoon we enjoyed presentations and tasks involving CV writing from careers company, Interserve.

The second day was spent at the University of Cumbria at the

Fusehill Street campus. The students had workshops in making short films and an across campus treasure hunt.

The culmination of the week's events finished with the help of some of our local employers. On Friday 27th 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 personal statements 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.

Mrs Gigli

Work Experience - Science Technician.

My time during work experience was totally different to what I'd imagined. For the week I was given the opportunity to work alongside Mrs Proctor, Beacon Hill's Science Technician. As I'd initially expected, I helped out with preparing chemicals under the watchful eye of Mrs Proctor. Surprisingly, I also completed tasks that I wouldn't have associated with being a science technician, such as D.I.Y e.g. checking & repairing equipment. There was also the administrative side of this occupation, including designing safety posters & labelling. I enjoyed my time and no doubt I will use the skills and experience I have acquired in the future.

Scott Wilson YR10



Message from Mrs Wamsley: The Science department would like to thank Scott for all his hard work and diligence helping us to prepare for the new academic year.

Orienteering @ Whinlatter



On 9th June all of Stage Not Age had a geography trip to Whinlatter in order to complete an orienteering course. Split into six groups, we had the task of finding stations which contained letters. These letters were to make up a word. However some of the checkpoints were so well hidden

we only found two. At one stage while trying to find a checkpoint we realised we were lost, so using our maps we navigated back to the visitor's centre. After our lunch and ice creams bought from the café we followed the WildPlay trail. At one stage we headed off on a path to play a game called Deer Hunter. This game is similar to hide and seek and was great fun to play. This was a brilliant way to end our day before heading back to school.

Cameron McGarel YR8

Message from Miss Hedley: Congratulations to Ellie Phillips and John Barnes who won the prizes for demonstrating the best navigational skills.

Colour Fun Run

The ancient walls of Muncaster Castle were overshadowed by grey clouds. Birds of prey displayed their skills against the overcast sky.

Below this, however, the air was filled with explosions of clashing colours. People sported hair that was blue, yellow, red, pink and green.



For those waiting eagerly at the colour stations, the white T shirts the runners wore were a canvas which they needed to fill.

15 enthusiastic pupils and three staff from Beacon Hill Community School enjoyed a fun packed day at the 'Colour Run,' raising money for West Cumbria Hospice at Home and challenging themselves at the same time.

After running through some stunning scenery, whilst being pelted with paint, we finished the race clambering through an inflatable obstacle course and enjoyed the MOKY cool down in front of the main stage.

Sophie Barnes YR9



Much Ado about Nothing!

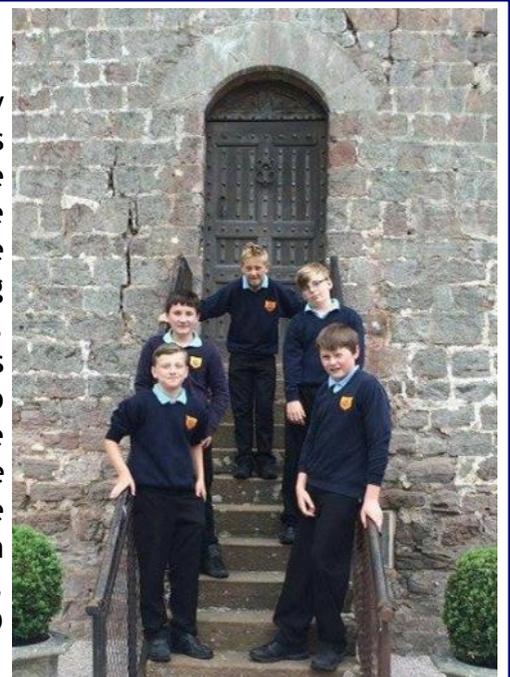
To commemorate the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, the English department thought it would be fun to have all the staff dressed as a character from one of his plays for a day. We chose Thursday, April 21st, as it was close to the actual day of Shakespeare's death. Once the first obstacle had been overcome - persuading everyone that it would be a good idea to come to work in fancy dress - we all became quite excited about being a Shakespearean character for a day! Students were taught that day by Titania, Lady Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Lady Capulet, Puck, to name but a few. The most interesting aspect was that our students were not at all fazed by these strange creations standing in front of them and behaving 'in character'; it's all in a day's work here at Beacon Hill!



Mrs Fitzsimmons

Open Air Romeo & Juliet

On 25th June, years 7, 8 and 9 got the exciting opportunity to watch a fun and interactive version of the famous Shakespearean play 'Romeo and Juliet'. The interactive element of this show added humour and enthusiasm to the play, and helped us understand and be involved with the story. We watched this iconic play in the beautiful setting of Appleby Castle, which complemented the play perfectly, giving it a medieval atmosphere. We had been studying this play thoroughly in our English lessons, so to see it brought to life helped expand our knowledge of the play and we were able to identify famous and well-known lines within the play. All in all, this trip was enjoyed by everyone, despite the long bus journey; we were able to pass the time with ease by chatting and even singing! The only downside, was, we were unable to stop for a KFC! **Toria Christie YR9**



A Day of Enlightenment

On Tuesday 14th June, Year 7 and 8 participated in a Buddhism Day. Inspired by the previous year's successful Hinduism Day, we had access to many new activities, such as meditation and making mandalas. The day was based upon the Buddhist festival Wesak, (or Buddha Day). Mrs Clitheroe and Miss Laithwaite helped the groups create the spiritual mandalas on old vinyl records which now adorn the school hall. Initially everyone was shown how to create a mandala first on a piece of paper which, once coloured in, was stuck in the middle of a record. We then had to continue drawing the pattern onto the record. The mandalas required lots of concentration and creativity to make and turned out brilliantly.



We were taught how to meditate correctly by Rob from Life Raft, a professional who had been taught by a Zen Master! A Zen Master is a monk who has achieved full enlightenment. We learnt many interesting and new techniques to keep us calm and relieve stress, thereby helping us to improve our concentration. During the meditation many students described how they felt and said how it had been a great experience. Teachers, not to mention other students as well, were surprised as to how the groups kept silent throughout the meditation! It seemed as though you could hear even

the slightest pin drop in the meditation tent.

Some students performed a drama piece about the Enlightenment of Buddha, which involved Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha), whilst others were taught how to play Buddhist celebration music to accompany the play. Mrs Heaton wrote the script and brought the costumes to make the play more realistic; Miss Gigli also helped with the acting. In the music group led by Mr Humpage, most needed to play their piece of music on more than one instrument. Our teachers thought they did very well to play the music, considering they only had three lessons to learn something that was quite hard.



At lunch, the canteen provided Asian food, including vegetarian dishes, as many Buddhists are vegetarian. Some found this delicious, others... not so much. There were also some activities such as prayer flag making. In creating a prayer flag there were different animals to choose from, with each animal symbolizing something different. For example, the dragon represents power and health. Buddhists hang them up and hope that their wishes will come true.

Overall, the day was a wonderful experience, which we are sure Year 7 and 8 would happily participate in again.

Caitlain Tate & Ellie Phillips YR8



A number of us were invited to the BMX track and Velodrome at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester. We were able to go because the school won a competition called The Big Pedal. This is where Mr Gee tallied up how many rode their bikes to school and everyone who went on the bike rides on Wednesdays after school over ten days in April. Thank you, Mr Gee; out of all the schools in the whole of Cumbria we came first. A couple of pupils from Netherhall School came with us as well because they were runners up.

We started off with the BMX track. Before we went in our instructor gave us clear guidance in what we were and weren't allowed to do. All of us were

provided with elbow and shin pads, as well as gloves and a helmet and a BMX bike. WOW!! The instructor opened the door to the BMX track, I couldn't believe how massive it was and unbelievably we were all going on it. The BMX bikes were a bit different to our road bikes, not very comfy to sit on either. After receiving instruction on how to position our pedals to go over the jumps and round corners, we were taken out on the track - quite frightening



how with just a little speed you felt like you were going to become airborne over the jump. On the bigger jumps it was even scarier but after the first time you just wanted to do it again and again. The instructor showed us a technique for going over the jumps called the 'pump'. This is where when going over a ramp we pulled our arms inwards and then straightened them when we were on the flat. After a few practice runs, we were allowed onto the full track, a mixture of big jumps and little jumps. Tremendous fun going extremely fast around the corners and jumping really high. I felt every time that I was going to catch my pedal and fall off.

All too soon we'd to hand back our pads, gloves and helmets as our hour was up.



After our dinner break we entered the Velodrome and yet again I was amazed by its immense size. We collected our bikes, which already had a sticker with our names on it as we each needed one suitable for our height. Feet into our clips, our helmets on and away we went. Initially we all started off on the flat at the bottom and then we started to increase the height. At first some of us were terrified to go up the sides because they were so steep, but as we all got into it, it wasn't that scary. We were all going at phenomenally fast speeds

trying to race each other. One thing most of us didn't like, there were no brakes! If we wanted to stop, we'd to slow down our pedalling.

Our time on the track came to the end. After us were the Paralympian GB team going to Rio. It was amazing to watch how fast they were going and how quickly they set off at the starting line. We were in awe as to the amount of power they would need in their legs. Finally, we finished off with a tour round the cycling centre; we saw all old bikes that had been used on the track even the very first one. Overall every single one of us loved the whole experience!

Kirsten Donald YR10

Wordsworth Trust

In April, Katherine Kay from the **Wordsworth Trust** came into school and led workshop sessions for year 9 & 10 students on exploring **Romantic Poetry**. I used to think Romantic Poetry was all about love but I now realize it's so much more. The sessions were very entertaining and brought the poems to life for us. I particularly enjoyed turning **'She Walks in Beauty'** into a film scene and deciding which well-known actress should play the main role of the woman in the poem. All in all, I found it an enjoyable experience and I learnt a lot.



Jack Johnston YR9



Reflection Rooms

There is no such thing as aimless relaxation. Taking time out to sit and reflect is a precious opportunity and not one to be wasted. The reflection rooms at Beacon Hill School give us moments of peace and time to be still. The experience may be spiritual, calming, restful, depending on needs and viewpoints.

I found the cushions and music of one room suited me very well. Time to pray and read Bible verses felt like a gift in a busy day, at the end of the school year!

Mrs Gigli



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 the school on 016973 20509 or email beaconhill@beaconhill.cumbria.sch.uk.

Roll of Honour

Students of the Month 2015/16



Month	KS3	KS4
September	Caitlain Tate	Rebecca Warwick
October	David Greer	Beth Cross Jack Lawson
November/December	Nathan Johnson	Lauren Potts
January	Ethan Harrison	Daniel Harrison
February	Kieran Hine	Scott Wilson
March/April	Ellie Phillips John Barnes	Courtney Hayhoe Ewan McMullen
May/June	Leah Snell Kyran Marsh	Charlotte Craven Dillon McCarthy

Every month, teaching and support staff are given the opportunity to vote for two 'Students of the Month' - one in Key Stage 3 and one in Key Stage 4. Awards are given out during assembly including a certificate to keep, a WH Smith token and a bar of chocolate. A praise postcard is sent home to every student nominated by staff. These awards are only given to students who have worked particularly well across several academic areas throughout the month. Consequently the students who achieve these awards should feel very proud of themselves.

Mrs Gigli

Important Dates for your Diary

Thurs 14th July 2016	Sports Day
Tues 19th July 2016	Activity Day
Fri 15th -Wed 20th July 2016	Students on Normandy Cycle Challenge
Wed 20th July 2016	End of Summer Term 12.15pm
Thurs 25th August 2016	GCSE results day school open 9.30 - 10am
Mon 5th September 2016	Autumn Term begins
Wed 7th September 2016	School Photographs
Tues 20th September 2016	YR6 Open Evening
Mon 26th September 2016	KS3 React Science Roadshow
W/B 26th September 2016	YR11 Inspira Career Interviews
W/B 17th October 2016	YR11 Interim reports posted home
W/B 17th October 2016	Work Life Balance week (<i>no after school clubs or detentions</i>)
24th - 28th October 2016	Half-term
Tues 8th November 2016	Annual Awards Evening 6pm
W/B 28th November 2018	YR7-9 Key Assessments
W/B 5th December 2016	YR10 & 11 Mock Exams YR7-9 Interim Reports posted home
W/B 12th December 2016	Work Life Balance week (<i>no after school clubs or detentions</i>)
Friday 16th December 2016	Carol Service 11.15am Autumn Term ends 12.15pm