



NTS NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Compiled by
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School Librarian

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AT HOME

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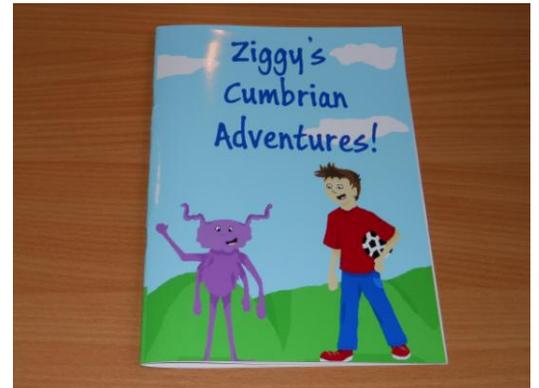
Headmaster:
Mr D.S.
Northwood



Young Enterprise Miss Walker



The School's Young Enterprise team, KickStart, attended the County Final at Carlisle Racecourse on Wednesday 15th May. The team set up a trade stand using a giant book and a miniature version of Carlisle Castle, to help promote this year's product of a children's book called 'Ziggy's Cumbrian Adventures.' The company is aiming to tackle the national problem of poor literacy amongst some boys, by trying to engage them in reading using an interactive book with a local Cumbrian theme. The paperback book has now been adapted into an e-book which can be downloaded onto Kindle or Ipad from the global retailers Amazon and IBooks. During the day, members of the team were questioned by the judges about their product, marketing and finances. In the evening the team then went on to deliver a presentation to a room of over 200 people including numerous local mayors and representatives from the Cumbrian business community. The judges were very impressed by the product and admired the team's use of technology to help encourage more young boys to enjoy reading. We were delighted when the team won the awards for Best Presentation as well as Champion Company. This means that KickStart are now into the North West finals event at Manchester Airport, where they will be presenting their business concept underneath the wings of Concorde! We congratulate them on their outstanding performance winning the title of County Champions and wish them every success in the next round of the competition in June. Please support Young Enterprise by downloading the e-book by simply typing in 'Ziggy's Cumbrian Adventures' into Amazon or IBooks to purchase a copy.



World Book Night Mrs Crone

World Book Night was held on Tuesday 23rd April, a symbolic date for world literature being the birth and death date of William Shakespeare as well as the death date of Cervantes. During this special day people can volunteer to be a 'Giver' and if chosen they can choose a book from a selection of 20 titles to give to people in the community who, in turn, are encouraged to give to someone else once they have read it.

We were fortunate in that, Tricia Nelson, one of our local 'Givers', chose to visit the School and present some of our 6th Form students with a free copy of 'The Reader' by Bernhard Schlink. Ms Nelson chose this book because she thought it was a challenging read and she wanted to encourage our students to read more widely. The books were well received by our students and some started reading them almost immediately! Thanks must go to Ms Nelson for this kind gesture.

World Book Night is an excellent way to spread the word about the joy of reading amongst members of the community and if anyone is interested in taking part next year and volunteering to be a 'Giver' the website address is: www.worldbooknight.org.



(Tricia Nelson, Shona Walker and 6th Formers)

Music Department News

Mrs Small



It has been a busy time for the Music Department. In March, three new pianos were purchased including a Grand piano, which was placed in the main hall and was used for pupils and staff to busk on during lunchtime to raise money for Red Nose Day. The other two upright pianos are in the Music Department and are very popular at break and lunchtimes and can be booked via the music office.

Piano lessons are now available thanks to our new member of staff, Ruth Ravalde. Contracts for piano lessons are available from the music office.

Rock School exams took place during the first week of March and we had some good results from pupils ranging from Year 7 through to Year 13.

Woodwind exams took place throughout March. Joseph Harrison gained a distinction in his Grade 5 saxophone exam, and Emma Wolstencroft a merit in Grade 3 clarinet. Lewis Bewley Taylor achieved a distinction in his grade 5 trumpet exam.

Some of our pupils were also involved in the Carlisle Music Festival where Bryony Whitehead came second in her group. Well done to her!

The Spring Concert was on 25th April. This included FHAF, Big Band, Saxophone Quartet, Choir and many others. The event was well attended.

Staff 'Stars in their Eyes' was held on Friday 19th April. This involved ten acts ranging from Robbie Williams to Adele and the event raised money for the Year 13 Tanzania trip, where students will attempt to build a classroom during their visit.

The Samba Band has a busy summer ahead. The band of 30 members has been invited to play at 5 carnivals and also at Cockermonth Rock Festival. So look out for the Samba Band, although you will hear us before you see us!

On May 8th we hosted the Chamber Concert in collaboration with the Art Department consisting of solo and group performances including strings, brass and woodwind.

Finally, the Music Department would like to thank all student musicians who are leaving for their dedication over the years and wish them all the best for the future.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Miss Reynolds and Dr Allam



(On the summit of Robinson)

Two groups completed the practice expedition. On the first day they climbed Hindscaith and Robinson in weather that changed every five minutes from snow to sunshine to sleet to sunshine to.... Day two involved climbing Bleaberry Fell then on to High Seat before dropping down to Watendlath and Rosthwaite. The final part of the day was a gruelling climb up to Tarn at Leaves for a wild camp. Luckily, the weather was sunny and warm throughout the day and the views from the wild camp were incredible. Day three was a walk along the west side of Derwentwater during which the pupils were met at check points. The pupils made good progress, especially considering the driving rain. The pupils all successfully completed their practice expedition and will undertake their qualifying expedition in July.



(View of the wildcamp)

NTS Chess

Owen Ogden



The NTS Chess Club was revived this year, following a request by a group of Year 10 students. Since then, the Club has been very active on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes where many members have improved their play and become more familiar with the game and the tactics surrounding it.

On 21st March, we took part in an inter-county competition consisting of 60 pupils from schools throughout the county. The competition took place at Richard Rose Central Academy and our team comprised of the following students: Owen Ogden, William Bayliff, Darius Kent, Jack Watson, Daniel Edgar, Simon Davison, Kyle Hall and Ross Ferguson. Although many of our players were unaccustomed to playing in competitions we played our best, but finished second-to-last on this occasion.

On Saturday 4th May, Owen Ogden and Darius Kent represented the School in the Mega final of the North West leg of the National Championships at Poulton Le Fylde. Both players won and lost 3 matches, just missing qualification to the next stage by one point. Nonetheless, both players made a good account of themselves playing against the best players in the North West of England.

On 19th May, Owen Ogden entered the U15 Cumbria Chess Championships, and by winning 5 out of 5 of his games, has become the first player from NTS to win that section and break the streak held by Trinity School.

The next inter-county competition will be hosted at NTS on 27th June. Keswick School have also now entered a team. Despite our previous results in the first inter-county competition, we have high hopes for the next tournament, as our players are always gaining experience and improving their play.

Technology News

Mr Chapman

REACT Foundation Award



It was really pleasing to see that the REACT Foundation recognised the outstanding engineering talent of Joseph Stockdale in Year 11. REACT is a foundation set up in Cumbria to promote careers in Science and Engineering. Joseph has spent a lot of time designing and making a formula 1 style gas propelled car for the Formula 1 in the Schools' Challenge. The vehicle has to be designed using the latest 3D modelling software and then machined out using our CNC Router. This has proved to be difficult and considerable persistence was needed to get it done. Joseph is now the leader of our 4x4 in Schools' Challenge team which involves designing and making a remote controlled 4 wheel drive vehicle. Joseph decided to apply for the REACT award which will give him £200 to spend towards his A-level studies and will, more importantly, get his name and face known amongst the local engineering community. The qualifying criterion required is that he goes on to study Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths subjects at A Level.

REACT Foundation Chairman, Pete Woolaghan, handed out the bursaries, while IMechE West Cumbria's, David McArthur, gave his organisation's prizes.

Mr Woolaghan said: "Our aim as a local engineering charity is to inspire and encourage young people from the area to follow a career in the industry. The whole purpose of the REACT Foundation Bursary Awards is for us to give them an opportunity to follow their goals and aspirations in science, technology, engineering and maths. This year we have had a fantastic response for both the Bursaries and the Year 11 Awards."

Mr McArthur said: "These young people are our scientists and engineers of tomorrow and it is imperative they are given every possible opportunity to help them through their education. The aim of the fund is to help and support talented youngsters into engineering, giving them the best possible start in their education."

4x4 In Schools Competition

As part of the Sixth Form enrichment programme a team of 6 students entered the 4x4 In Schools Competition which is a national challenge organised by Jaguar Landrover and Denford machine tools. This is an event we have entered in its previous form as Tracknav and been very successful at. The Year 12 team consisting of Elliot Johnston, Aaron Cockbain, Megan Wetherall, Warren Faunch, Oliver Skivington and Adrian Scott were backed up by Oliver Richardson as a reserve.

The task was to design and build a remote controlled 4 wheeled drive model vehicle that could traverse a test track specially designed and built by Landrover engineers. The team designed and made a superb vehicle which they christened Nash Yam as a nod to their roots. The roles of each team member were clearly defined and they spent from October until the final at the end of January meeting at lunchtimes and after school. They worked within a strict budget and had to justify all their expenditure.

On the day of the final each member of the team was required to drive a section of the track and penalties were incurred by not completing obstacles or for hitting strategically placed cones. The team did very well on this section with only one cone hit but a lesson was learnt when the battery went flat going up an incline and the team had to use the tinkering time to quickly remedy the situation. Also involved in the judging was a pit stop display, a 10 minute presentation to the judges and a towing challenge. The competition was stiff with 15 other teams also entered and, although our team did not progress to the national finals in London, they all felt that it had been an enjoyable and nerve-racking day and that they had learnt a lot about Engineering. They also had much to talk about on their personal statements and letters of application at the end of their time with us.

As Oliver Richardson said, "We want to make a vehicle that will get ya yam." In this they succeeded!

The day involved an early start at 6.30 am and a late finish after a long drive from the Landrover education centre at Halewood on Merseyside and I would like to thank the parents for their support and encouragement.



YFC Public Speaking Bethan Spencer 10SA reporting

Congratulations to Joanne Ridley 10SA and Beth Robson 11DRF as part of Caldbeck YFC, along with Oliver Burberry from Raughton Head YFC, for becoming the best Junior Public Speaking team in the North of England! To get to the Northern Area final they made it through the prelims, the Northern District final and the County final. Joanne and Beth say they have built up the confidence to speak in front of an audience, gained skills such as chairing a meeting and even learnt some interesting facts from other speeches.

It has been a lot of work for them, learning and adjusting the speeches and Joanne describes it as being "nail biting" but they are both extremely proud and rightly so!

Laser Cutting Machine

Mr Fitt



The Technology department recently took delivery of a Laser cutting machine which represents a significant investment in the department. This machine is one of the recent developments in computer aided manufacture and can cut and engrave a wide range of materials.

Due to the ease of use and versatility, a large number of students have benefited from using this machine including;

Key stage 3 pupils have made packaging for electronic products.

Key stage 4 pupils have made components for a clock project, a vehicle project, a lighting project and parts for GCSE coursework.

Sixth Form students have used the machine to model their project ideas and manufacture finished parts.

London 2013

Ms Williams

On Tuesday 2nd April myself, Ms Clay, Mrs Wyatt, Mr Holgate and ex NTS student Jamie Williams set off with 51 students on the annual trip to London. This predominantly Year 9 trip has been running successfully for seven years now. We had a packed itinerary and started as soon as we arrived; our first night saw us dining at the world famous Planet Hollywood in Piccadilly Circus. After burgers all round it was straight to our first visit of three to the theatre to see *Matilda the Musical*.

Wednesday morning saw us south of the River Thames at Greenwich. The morning spent at the Royal Observatory and a screening of *We are Aliens* in the planetarium. After a very cold and bracing boat trip down the Thames, we landed at the Tower of London for a thousand years of royal history. Highlights here were the Crown Jewels, a history of royal wedding and the site of Anne Boleyn's beheading! *Fire & Stone*, a pizzeria in Covent Garden was where we had dinner and then on to our second show, *Rock of Ages*. A musical described as "a potent mix of 80s themed hilarity and eyebrow scorching tunes" had everyone singing along to classics such as *'Don't Stop Believing'* and *'The Final Countdown'*.

There was no let up on Thursday to our hectic schedule. First stop was the British Music Experience at the O2 arena, although as One Direction were due to perform that evening, many of the girls were more interested in buying their life sized cardboard cut outs of the boys rather than the icons from the past! After a quick lunch it was off to the British Museum, with its collection of antiquities gathered from around the world including Egyptian mummies, The Rosetta Stone and the Lindow Man. Our final meal of burgers (again) was at the Hard Rock Cafe on Park Lane. The *Lion King* was the last show and with its spectacular display of puppets, choreography and lavish sets was definitely a case of saving the best 'til last.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the staff on the trip for all the hard work and efforts and without whom, these trips would not run as smoothly as they do.

Taiwan Expedition

Mr Broster

Preparations are afoot for a two week expedition to Taiwan starting during the half term break. Eight lucky Year 9 pupils are joining pupils from Cokermonth School, William Howard School, Stainburn School, Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and Ullswater School in a grand adventure to sample the culture of this far flung East Asian land, accompanied by Mr Broster and several other members of staff from the group of schools.

Whilst there, pupils expect to see the sights of Taipei, travel around the rural county of Hualien, visit several schools and spend a couple of nights staying in Taiwanese homes.

In preparation for this amazing experience, the pupils have taken part in two team building days, including a day spent at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith, working on a carousel of Chinese themed activities, such as traditional Chinese script, lantern making and Mandarin Chinese. Just recently, pupils also worked together completing challenges as they hiked around Derwent Water. Although the weather was drizzly and the sky was grey the pupils had a great time, building towers and maps of Taiwan from natural materials, writing raps and creating human sculptures.

The pupils from all of the schools are now the best of pals and are raring to get on the plane to the other side of the world where old friends who recently visited the UK and spent some time in NTS wait with excitement.

We will be sure to bring back gifts and stories of our adventures. Watch this space!

Berlin Trip

Mr Smith



In the Easter holiday the History Department took 80 GCSE students on its annual trip to Berlin. This year we went by coach instead of the usual flight. This meant a 24 hour overnight journey to get there, but it cut the cost of the trip dramatically.

We arrived in Berlin to find snow on the ground, and the temperature stayed close to freezing throughout. An exhausting but exhilarating 4 days followed in which the students saw many different things, ranging from the remains of the Berlin Wall, to the German Parliament building and the Jewish Museum. There was bowling, shopping and fast food to balance the serious academic nature of the trip. Most important of all was the visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, 30 miles north of Berlin where we could confront the terrible realities of the Nazi past. I am never more proud of the students from this school than when I see them visit this site. Their seriousness, sadness, and thoughtfulness while at Sachsenhausen were utterly appropriate. The students patiently stood in the freezing wind to listen to what had happened there in the full awareness that the prisoners had suffered this same cold and far, far worse.

My thanks go out to all on the trip; the students were superb, as were the staff (Miss Byers, Miss Cheshire, Mr G. Clark, Mr S. Clark, Mr Priddle, and Miss L. Wilson). Thanks should also go to Miss Wyatt, who plays such a vital role in organising things. I hope to see many of you in Years 7 to 10 going on this trip in future years.

Community and Enrichment

Mr Beechey

I write this after our recent Ofsted inspection visit and am filled with pride by the way the students, staff, parents and Governors pulled together to show the visiting inspection team what a fantastic community NTS is. We were able to show this through the full range of activities and opportunities we really celebrate in the School Newsletter.

Since the last Newsletter we have had the FONTS rides, further sporting successes, Young Enterprise, Hallewell competitions and preparations for the visits to Taiwan and Tanzania. All this is in addition to the hard work going into final coursework deadlines and the run up to GCSE, AS and A2 exams that involves so many of our students.

Year 11 and Year 13 are shortly to be leaving and I thank them for all their contributions to the School and wider community.

FONTS Bike Ride

At 5.30 am on 4th of May, 16 Friends of Nelson Thomlinson School aged between 16 and 60 set off to Tynemouth where they began a gruelling 182 mile bike ride across England along the Reivers Route in aid of FONTS funds.

This enormous feat could not have been achieved without the extremely attentive care of the FONTS Reivers Support Crew Supremo consisting of FONTS Treasurer, Lisa Moore, Bob Cullen, of Saunders Chocolates, Mandy Wilde, John Sewell, Catherine Coulthard and Louise Giles. Each member of the crew brought to it skills from their own area of expertise.

Without the help of this wonderful crew, the event would not have been such a great success and a pleasant experience for the cyclists.

The team are now in the process of collecting sponsorship money which will be used to buy such items as netbooks, library books, geography field trip equipment and audio visual equipment to enhance the learning of all students at Nelson Thomlinson School.

Special thanks to the cyclists: Jane Cullen, Ed Birkett, William Paterson, Luke Williams, Jack Williams, Mike Beechey, Samantha Willis, Zoe Ferguson, Mike Williams, Debbie Williams, Tony Paterson, Ian Harrison, Ian Coulthard, David Wilde, John Cumming and Paul Coldham.

If you wish to sponsor the team for its hard work and contribute to school funds, please send cheques or cash to the school office made payable to the Friends of Nelson Thomlinson School.



Hallewell Competition

The Hallewell annual competition took place this term with prizes for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Year 7 students had to complete an art piece whilst Year 8 students completed creative writing which tied in with a national competition. Year 9 students had to make a Dragons Den pitch on an innovative idea.

All students who entered were awarded certificates with the following winners:

Year 7 - Joint winners £25 - Emily Parker 7NH & John Bell 7SC.

Year 8 - Winner £30 - Imogen Delbourgo 8KD.
Runners-up £10 each - Philip Harper 8KD and Hannah Dodd 8SK.

Logo Competition

Currently students are being asked to submit entries in a logo competition for the Tercentenary. See Mr Beechey for details if you are interested in entering. There is a prize of £50 to the winner.

100 Club

The FONTS draw was made last month. The chance of Mrs Stanton being drawn twice in a row is 4000 to 1! (Mrs Stanton kindly used her winnings to sponsor the FONTS cyclists).

School Council

Many thanks to the Year 11 and Year 13 students who have contributed to School Council over the years and to Kate Hardman who has been a highly effective Chair this year.

Activities Day

Choice lists have now been prepared. There are a huge range of activities on offer for this year's Activity Day which is on Tuesday July 16th. We have a record number of students who have volunteered to help others and complete the 'extreme makeover' of a local site.

Please ensure you get your letters returned to the trip leaders with the cash payment, if required, as soon as you receive the trip letters.

Silver Spring

NTS are taking part in an innovative pilot energy programme that has been endorsed by Rory Stewart MP. The Silver Spring Organisation is currently monitoring the energy usage from selected local homes and organisations including NTS. The aim is that in the future, Wigton can secure cheaper electricity stemming from the bulk purchase of energy from companies.

Fundraising

Our annual non-uniform day will be July 5th with funds raised going to our usual charities of Knox Wood, Water Aid and CFM Cash for kids. Last minute fundraising has been taking place to raise funds for the Taiwan and Tanzania trips. The 'Stars in your Eyes' staff effort was particularly memorable. Teachers should really stick to their day jobs!

Sports News

Mrs Lee

Physical Education Awards Evening

This annual event has become an established part of the PE calendar. Over one hundred pupils mainly from Yrs 11 & U6th received awards in leadership, officiating, most improved player of the year in their particular sport, commitment to Nelson Thomlinson sport and National trials and National representation. Many of the students received their school colours in a variety of sports and the Top Team Award this year went to the U19 Netball team for their achievements in the North West Tournament.

Our guest presenting the awards was Sally Walton who represented Great Britain in Hockey at the London 2012 Olympics where the team won a Bronze medal.

Thanks go to all those involved, PE staff, the caterers and the business of Wigton who donated to the event making the evening special for the young sportspeople of Nelson Thomlinson School.

Athletics

The season began with the Multi events competition. Both girls and boys were entered into the Pentathlon competing in five athletic events. Three of the pupils were a year younger than the rest and showed good potential for next year. The Boys' team produced the best performances with Scott Wilson coming 1st with the title of County Champion and Keiron Moore finished 3rd. Both boys will compete for Cumbria at the North West round in June. We wish them well.

English Schools' Track and Field Cup Competition

All four competitions were entered and despite the poor weather all pupils gave their event their best effort with some pupils achieving a personal best. At the end of the match, the Junior Boy's team finished 2nd, Junior Girls' team finished 1st, Inter Girls' team was 2nd and Inter Boys' team was 1st. We now wait to see whether teams have qualified for the next round in Blackpool.

Allerdale Trials

Approximately thirty athletes travelled last Friday to compete for a place in the Allerdale athletics team. Many were successful and will compete on Saturday 8th June at the Sheepmount in Carlisle at the County Championships.

International Representation

Many congratulations to **Natasha Wilson** who has been selected to represent Great Britain in the Javelin. We wish her well!

Events to come:

County Championships - Saturday 8th June.

Inter Counties Championships - Saturday 15th June.

Round 2 of the Track and Field Cup Years 8, 9, & 10 - 12/13th June.

Tennis - Miss Wilson

Despite the weather, the school tennis teams have been recording some excellent results around the county. We have fielded 8 teams this year and over 20 pupils have represented the school so far. The U15 Boys' A team (William Bayliff, James Holyoake, Greg Ramsay and John Kemp) remain undefeated in their league with recent wins against local schools including QEGS, William Howard, Keswick and Appleby. The U15 Girls' teams have recently recorded victories over Keswick and Ullswater. The U13 Boys' teams have posted wins against William Howard and Appleby and Cartmel Priory Schools. The U13 Girls' teams have also recently defeated Appleby and Keswick. With several fixtures yet to play, all teams are performing well. Thanks to Mrs Gebbie who has been running tennis club after school on Mondays, so it can continue when members of staff are away with fixtures.

Football

Mr Clark

We did it again!!!



(The winning team)

Nelson Thomlinson U18 Boys' football team successfully retained the U18 County Cup trophy for the third year on the trot with a 5-1 victory over Queen Katherine Kendal. Captain, Hugh Hodgson, scored twice, as did Year 11 pupil Jake Bennett. Dale Gebbie scored the goal of the game with a superb chip over the keeper. The whole team played well with the back 4 solid and the midfield in control throughout. Can we make it four in a row next year?

SSCO

Mr Clark has continued to work his way around our Primary feeder schools – most recently attending Bowness-on-Solway School where he did 3 sessions on athletics.

The pupils of Bowness-on-Solway (Years 1 and 2) were enthusiastic and made significant progress throughout the sessions. Mr Hardie, from Thomlinson Junior School, ran yet another successful Swimming Gala with Year 13 students from NTS supporting in leading the event. Fell View School hosted the Year 5/6 Rounders Festival with 14 NTS GSCE

PE girls officiating, running and organising this festival - they all did an excellent job! The next primary festivals to run are the Years 1 & 2 Athletics with 25 NTS Year 9s organising and the Rugby Festival on the 4th June with 16 GSCE PE boys helping to run this event.

Cricket

The U12 Nelson Thomlinson cricket team has showed good promise so far this year - they won a county cup tie at RRMA, drew in a thriller against Caldew and unluckily - after showing some great fight in the field and when bowling lost a tight match against Trinity.

The U13 team continues to develop well and has so far won all its games this year in convincing style. The team goes to the county finals day on Wednesday 5th June with a good chance of reaching the final!!

The U15 team has also played successfully so far - beating Caldew and narrowly losing out to Trinity in the County C up.

Half-Term Holiday Monday 27th - Friday 31st May