



SPRING  
TERM

March 2012

Compiled by  
Mrs Crone  
School Librarian

KEEPING  
YOU  
INFORMED  
AT  
HOME

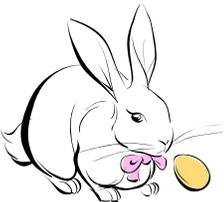
The Nelson  
Thomlinson School  
High Street  
Wigton  
Cumbria  
CA7 9PX

Tel. 016973 42160

Fax. 016973 49160

www.nts.cumbria.  
sch.uk

Headmistress:  
Mrs J Downes



# NTS NEWSLETTER



Alex Baird - Year 12 Student



Mr Beechey asked me to pen a short, concise statement detailing my involvement in the Parliamentary Press Gallery "Write Now" Competition, so here goes. In the tail end of 2011, a national competition called "Write Now" was brought to my attention by Mrs Johnson, and as I wanted to expand my horizons, I entered. I had to write a "provocative, even outrageous, possibly funny" blog on a topical news story of the time. I went for the easy target for satire that was Silvio Berlusconi. Somehow, I was one of five Year 12-13 finalists, and reaped my rewards; an all expenses paid trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament passing some famous faces in the process! (e.g. Dave himself), BBC Television Studios (Nick Robinson), Speaker's House (Rt Hon John Bercow), and Number 10 Downing Street with Nick Clegg. All in all, a fantastic finalist prize, made even sweeter by the unforeseen announcement at the Speaker's House by Mr Bercow that the overall winner of the competition in Years 12-13 was me! I now have a very nice trophy and the possibility of journalism waiting for me. I think my first foray into this industry has gone quite well.



**Pictured above** – Alex and the other 2012 winners with Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg.

**Pictured left** – Alex with Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons.

*"The fact that this competition has stimulated such interest is a sign of how engaged many young people want to be with political discussion and decision-making if given the chance. It's a great way to encourage a new generation to learn more about Parliament and the political process and I would like to wish you even greater success in the years to come."*

**David Cameron MP, Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party**

(Quote taken from the 'Write Now' website.)

To find out more visit - <http://www.writenow.org.uk>

## Rotary Youth Speaks Competition

Mr Proudfoot



Ron Duxbury – Rotary Area President  
Trent Warmate, Ben Wilde & Chloe Esslemont

Three of our most talented students, Trent Warmate, Chloe Esslemont (both in Year 11) and Ben Wilde (Year 12) were selected to compete in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. They went to Dallam School in Heversham to compete in the Cumbria and Lancashire District Finals. Competing against private institutions such as Stonyhurst College and Austin Friars, as well as a range of grammar schools and successful comprehensives, it was apparent that the NTS team would be in for a challenging time against some tough opponents. However, our students excelled, producing a superb performance which won the District Final.

As a consequence of this, our students were invited to perform in front of 500 people at the Rotary District Conference in Southport. They were taken to this event by the Headmistress and Mr. Downes, who were delighted with the way our students acquitted themselves. Our students were presented with a trophy which is on display in T Block.

(Mr Proudfoot with Ben, Chloe & Trent)



Ben, Chloe and Trent then went on to compete at the North of England Rotary Youth Speaks Regional Final in Frodsham last weekend where they acquitted themselves superbly.

They were competing against some very tough opponents from a range of outstanding schools and did very well indeed. They successfully finished in the top 3 and came very close to winning the competition. They have gone further in this competition than any other group of NTS students. They deserve warm congratulations for this achievement.

## Rotary Young Writer Competition



Pictured above are Matthew Middleton, the winner and runner-up, Jenni Raimes of the Rotary Young Writer Competition. It was a competition held by Wigton Rotary. They wrote poems on the theme of the Olympics. Matthew's entry now goes to the regional competition.

**McFly**  
Mrs Foster



Thanks to all who voted for The Alleys in the recent McFly Battle of The Bands competition.

The Alleys finished 26<sup>th</sup> out of more than 1000 bands and were chosen to open for McFly at their concert on 13<sup>th</sup> April at the Clydebank arena at the SECC.

## Library News

Mrs Crone

### Tesco Computers for Schools



We will, once again, be providing collection boxes for the Tesco computers for schools vouchers in the School Library and the main office. We hope you will continue to support this scheme which enables us to acquire educational equipment for the school in exchange for the vouchers.

### World Book Day 'Design a Bookmark' Competition

Pupils from Years 7 & 8 once again took part in the World Book Day 'Design a Bookmark' Competition. The winners for each category were as follows:

**Year 7** winners were Katie Hague & James Oldham.

Runners-up were Kyra Hebson, Tamara Heritage, Emma Huddart, Eddie Mullins, Madelaine Oliphant, Leah Pearson & Sarah Spowart.

**Year 8** winners were Sophie Bell & Adam Ferguson.

Runners-up were Hope Atherton, Lauren Blake, Polly Carruthers, Nikki Clark, Jade Gear, Ellie Parker, Kayleigh Rumney & Isaac Thompson.

### Connecting Cumbria Partnership Board Meeting

Mr Broster

This half term the Connecting Cumbria Partnership Board, which consists of governmental advisors, councillors and representatives of organisations across the county, held a meeting in the Conference Room. The meeting was to discuss the future of telecommunications in the county, with an eye to the introduction of high speed broadband and 4G technologies. During the meeting, a team of our Year 9 pupils gave a highly polished presentation describing what they thought of these technologies and how they affected their lives. The team consisted of Jenni Raimes, Kate Hoyles, Tara Dickson and Riona Key. These pupils were selected to give the presentation after going up against some of the brightest pupils in Year 11 and were a credit to the school, showing themselves to be thoughtful and professional. Their presentation used a wide range of ICT skills and even included some animation and recorded conversation using Skype between each of the pupils' homes. The pupils were thanked for the excellent standard of their presentation and have been invited to take part in future consultations.

## Cumbria Youth Alliance

Mr Broster



Over the last two terms, a group of Lower Sixth Formers have been taking part in after school training sessions with the Cumbria Youth Alliance in order to prepare them for delivering peer education on the topic of drugs and alcohol.

The students worked tirelessly in preparing resources and learning a wide range of teaching techniques before going into Year 10 PSHE lessons to deliver lessons to the pupils under the guidance of the class teacher. Feedback from the class teachers was hugely positive and the students involved were praised by the Cumbria Youth Alliance for their drive and maturity.

It is expected that these students will take their skills to other schools in Cumbria to give assemblies and some students are even considering getting involved in local youth organisations as peer educators. As an added bonus, each of the students who have taken part will receive a level 2 qualification in peer education.

### Sport Relief

Mr Walker

This year's Charity Challenge for the Sixth Form (between Monday 19th and Friday 23rd March) has so far raised in excess of £1600. Students were given one week to raise as much money as possible for Sport Relief. The Form that raises the most will win the Charity Cup. Activities included space hopper racing, penalty shootouts, arm wrestling, mass zumba, raffling a Carlisle United shirt and much more. There were also a number of hotdog and energy cake sales throughout the week. Students also took part in the Sport Relief mile in their own time along with other events. Sponsor money is still being collected so a definitive total will be announced in due course. Well done to all the students and Sixth Form tutors involved!

## RE Department Year 8 Buddhism Trip Mr Johnson



On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the RE department took 110 Year 8 students to the Manjushri Kadampa Buddhist Temple, Ulverston. The purpose of the trip was to gain an insight into Buddhist practice and worship and to look at the layout and design of a shrine. Pupils were able to speak with Buddhist nuns and lay teachers and gain a feel for what life is like for a Buddhist living in Britain today. Pupils were also able to experience the peace and stillness of engaging in 'meditation-type' exercises. The pupils were exceptionally well-behaved throughout. The questions asked were intriguing and inquisitive. As a result of the trip, they are able to bring back to the classroom a real sense of what Buddhism is about.

## Maths Trust Team Competition Miss Dennis

Miss Dennis took William Bayliff, Jack Watson, Daniel Edgar and Stefan Clarke to the Regional Finals of the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Team Competition at Caldwel School in Dalston. Schools attended from Dumfries and Galloway, Northumberland and North Cumbria. The boys performed brilliantly and won the event. They will now compete in the National Finals in London on the 18th June.

## Music Notes Mrs Small

Year 11 student, Cameron Mitchell, made headlines in the Cumberland News last week with the impressive collection of trophies he won at the Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival. He picked up six first places and a second. He also won the Cumberland News trophy which is competed for by a series of singing section winners and the Sam Bellingham Memorial Trophy. Cameron's remarkable singing talent has also resulted in him being accepted as a member of the National Youth Choir which will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall, London on Easter Monday. Well done, Cameron!

Also attending the Festival were Miss Peacock, our violin teacher in school, and 15 students from Year 8 through to Year 13. The Festival lasted the whole week and every day there were different categories and age groups competing.

NTS came away with several prizes which included:

David Mottershead 1st prize.

Penny Hodgson 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

Bryony Whitehead 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

Amy Nash 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.

Emily Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

Eleanor Servante 2<sup>nd</sup> prize.

In the last Newsletter, Cameron Cullen, one of our talented Year 12 musicians, was waiting for his diploma result which has now come through and we can proudly report that he has passed his ABRSM diploma in Flute Performance (which is a post grade 8 qualification) and is about to go on a course with the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain over the Easter Holidays.

The School Sambandits and the Brass Band were very proud to have been invited to play for Prince Charles when he visits Wigton on 3<sup>rd</sup> April - serious rehearsals are ongoing!

Last week NTS held a 'Stars in their Eyes' evening which was organised by Mr Eyrl and his committee. Judges were invited and pupils and staff competed to win the prize, which was to spend some time in a recording studio, where they can record their own CD. The winners of the evening were: Eliot Barley, Ben Wilde, Adam Draude and Sam Morley, all members of the band 'Cornered'. The band has been mentioned in several reports in local newspapers and the money raised from this event will be distributed between the North Air Ambulance and the Music Department.

## Community and Enrichment

Mr Beechey

This term has been a busy one with a range of competition and sporting successes, Wigton's Market Charter celebrations and frantic fund-raising activity for Sport Relief. You will get a real flavour of this in this issue of the Newsletter.

This term Business and School Council students completed a health survey looking at eating habits across the school.

Did you know?

- 193 NTS students do not have a regular breakfast before school.
- 99 students buy and eat something on the way to school.
- 116 students do not have any lunch.

All of these factors contribute to tiredness and lack of energy in lessons and of course impede effective learning.

### Community News

In March, the Wigton Festival Committee staged three exhibitions in the Market Hall focussing on Wigton's past. All three proved very popular with Mr Herbert's historical displays of our old war heroes being very popular. However, the real hit was the artefacts lent to the exhibition by NTS. Mrs Lynch's old school blazer and the photos of previous year groups were the star exhibits. Did you spot yourself in the old school photos?

Prince Charles has accepted an invitation from the Town Council to visit Wigton on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the 750th anniversary of Wigton's market charter. NTS musicians are practising hard for the day whilst some students will meet the Prince in person.

The Neighbourhood Forum hosted their spring meeting in the library in March. Alex Wood and Katie Bell confidently hosted this meeting which saw a number of young people presenting items. Students from our own school council made a presentation on a recent school health survey.

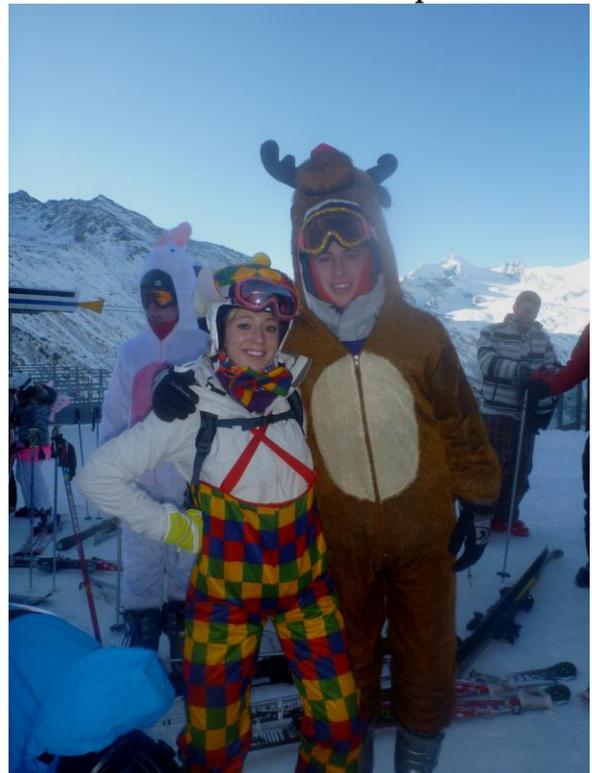
### After school supervision hours extended

Our successful after school homework club hours have now been extended to 3.30pm-5pm on Monday-Friday. This free provision provides after school supervision every night of the week.

### Activities Day Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012

Last year parents helped out with our activities day where the whole school is off timetable to complete 29 varied and exciting activities. We need help with a Keswick walk, a local renovation job, Maryport fishing, school based sport and a studios visit. If you can help please email or phone Mr. Beechey at school. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

### Sixth Form Ski Trip



Our 5<sup>th</sup> Sixth Form Ski Trip took place during the February half-term to Saas Fee in Switzerland. Thirty-seven students enjoyed good weather and skiing conditions in this beautiful resort. The dry slope sessions certainly helped our beginners' groups whilst our advanced and intermediate groups made great progress. The next trip is open to current Year 10 and 11 students and will go to Courmayeur in Italy. A payment plan operates. If interested see Mr Beechey.