



# NTS NEWSLETTER

May 2011

Compiled by  
Mrs Crone  
School Librarian

**KEEPING  
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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

## CHARITY EVENTS

Now all of the counting has been done we are delighted to report that during our Red Nose Week charity efforts the school raised £3,600. Students across the school organised a wide range of events. Read on to find out what they did.

### Comic Relief Sixth Form Charity Challenge 2011

Mr Walker & Mrs Lynch

The Sixth Form students of NTS were set the challenge by Mr Walker to raise as much money as they could for Comic Relief with each tutor group having from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March until 3.30pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March to carry out fundraising activities. During that period the students organised a range of events from cake sales and guess the number of sweets in the jar to leg waxing of four very brave Y12 boys. The event culminated with a 'Fun Fest' in J-Block Hall with over a dozen different stalls including more cakes, treasure hunt, egg dumping and Bradley Hewitt having his legs waxed! Outside, 12JPC had coerced Mr Chapman, Mr Beechey, Mr Kinsella, Mr Whelpdale and Mr Tyler to have sponges thrown at them in the stocks. There were also cake sales in L-Block, a hotdog sale organised by 13DJ in T6 and 13PJ organised Ice Cream Sundaes and episodes of 'Friends' which was an instant sell out.



One of the most memorable sights of the day had to be Mr, or should we say Miss Brockbank, whose form had persuaded him to spend the day dressed as a lady. This single, very courageous act raised £138.63.

→  
*Mr/Miss Brockbank?*



*Below - Mr Kinsella with a sponge in his mouth...well caught sir!*

13MLH managed to raise the most amount of money as a form – a very impressive £491.20 in total, a large proportion coming from the sales of the unforgettable charity album 'Living the Dream' featuring the vocal talents (?) of Adam Hocking, Jamie Harrison and Ken 'Cee-Lau-Green'. The Year 12 form who raised the most was JPC with a total of £222.99 – pupils couldn't resist the opportunity to pay £1 to throw 3 sponges at their favourite teachers!



*Mr Tyler – sporting the latest in shower caps - not sure about the red ribbons though!*

←



The total amount raised by the Sixth Form was £2,389.36 and it was decided that £600 will be used to provide a Rotary 'Shelter Box' for the victims of the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami leaving £1789.36 going to Comic Relief. We are all very proud of the efforts of the Sixth Form and thanks go to all students involved and their form tutors for their support and encouragement. We all hope it can become an annual feature of Sixth Form life at NTS.

## East Asia links

Mrs Johnson

NTS is a member of Connecting Classrooms, a programme run by the British Council and co-ordinated by Cumbria County Council, linking schools in Cumbria, UK with Schools in Sendai, Japan and Hualien, Taiwan. Owing to our links to both Japan and Taiwan, the pupils of NTS were particularly keen to help those affected by the recent earthquake.

Various events have taken place including a special fundraising day by the Sixth Form, some of the proceeds of which have been earmarked for Sendai.



During the Easter holiday, four of our youngest pupils set about organising a sponsored bike ride to help the people of Sendai. Polly Carruthers, Maia Welbourn, and twins, Emily and Charlotte Studholme, are all members of our Asia Club and desperately wanted to do something to make a difference. The girls have managed to raise over £400, meaning that in total we have enough to send two Shelter Boxes out to Sendai to bring much needed warmth and shelter to those in need. Co-ordinated by The Rotary, these boxes contain tents, cooking equipment, sleeping bags and other essentials such as tools, and are vital in providing support to victims of disasters. Mr Len Baseley and other members of the Rotary were kind enough to come into school and pitch the Shelterbox tent on the field so the students were able to see first-hand what was in the Shelter Box.

## School Council

Mr Beechey

From the money raised for charity, the School Council agreed that £600 would go to fund an emergency shelter box in Sendai Japan, £1300 would go to our 3 annual school charities which are North Air Ambulance, Cancer UK and Oxfam and £1700 would go to the Red Nose Day Appeal.

On a final note, this will be the last newsletter before many of our Year 13 and Year 11 students leave the school. Each tutor group elects annually a student to represent them in School Council meetings which are held every month. A recent suggestion was to allow students with packed lunches into the dinner hall without queuing up. This suggestion has been implemented and has proved a great success.

Many thanks to our outgoing class representatives who have given up their free time to represent others across the school.

## 'Safety Net' Win the Young Enterprise County Final

Miss Walker

After 15 years of trying to win this competition by various 6<sup>th</sup> form companies, 'Safety Net', this year's Lower Sixth Young Enterprise Company, has finally achieved this aim in the County Final. The successful team hit the headlines with their Internet Safety presentations on the dangers of cyber bullying. Their business is now busy posting over 200 Internet Safety DVDs to schools across the county. This followed on from the students pitching their DVD resource to Richard Butcher, Deputy CEO of the Stobart Group and to senior executives at the Cumberland Building Society who have bought the resource for use in schools.



The team (pictured above) will now progress to the North West County Final in the Concorde Business Suite at Manchester Airport in June. Despite tough competition at the County Final, the team came away with the best company report prize and the overall champion's award.

## E Safety Parents' Session

Following the postponement of our E Safety Parents' session this will now be held at school on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm. Parents will be able to learn from our ICT staff about some of the dangers facing their children on Facebook and what they can do to protect them. They will also see our award winning Young Enterprise team 'Safety Net' including their business presentation on cyber bullying.

We do need to know numbers so students need to inform tutors of their parents' intention to attend. We can then let you know where within the school the session will be held.

## Reading Week

Mrs Crone

During Reading Week (week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> May), pupils from years 7 & 8 will be booked in to the School Library for a 'Poetry Performance' session with their English teachers. The theme this year is 'Against War and Conflict'. The winners of the preliminary poster competition to advertise the event were:

Year 7 – Thomas Garner 7HS & Annabelle Love 7VB.

Year 8 - Sam Mead 8SA & Bethan Spencer 8SA.

They all received £10 book tokens.

## Gold and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice Expedition

Miss Allam, Mr Chapman, Dr Connell, Mr Knott,  
Miss Reynolds, Mr Smith, Mr Walsh



*(Gold Participants leaving their wild camp at Blea Tarn)*

18 Silver and 8 Gold participants took part in a practice expedition around Keswick over the Bank Holiday weekend. This involved walking with full packs and camping in between walks.



The Gold pupils also took responsibility for leading the Silver groups for a day and undertook a wild camp at Blea Tarn above Watendlath. The participants were really lucky with the weather having sunshine every day (unheard of in the Lakes!). The pupils all did really well coping with the heat as well as developing their skills for the final expeditions.



Their actual expeditions are at the end of the summer term. The silver expedition will take place in the Howgill fells and the Gold Expedition in the Lake District.

## Berlin Trip Dr Henley



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30am, NTS bus bay, 59 Year 11 pupils – it was the start of the 2011 Berlin trip. Smooth connections meant that we were at our hotel in Berlin before midday and we were able to meet Felix, our former German student who joined us for the trip. The weather was glorious for the first three days. We began with a guided tour around the German Parliament (the Reichstag) and viewed the fantastic blend of modern and historic architecture in the afternoon sun. During the days we visited sites of historical interest, many of which are related to the GCSE course. Some trips involved focusing on sites from Nazi Germany, for example an exhibition showing features of the police state which was followed by a moving visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Other highlights of the trip included visiting the world famous Jewish Museum, seeing an original stretch of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, an underground shelter used in WW2, a fascinating tour around the Stasi Jail and a visit to the impressive 1936 Olympic Stadium.



Evenings were a more relaxed affair with ten-pin bowling, an ice cream parlour and a fantastic meal out on the last night. The 4 day trip was a blend of learning and fun and for that we are most grateful for the hard work of Mr Smith, who spends so much time ensuring that not a minute or a penny is wasted on this trip. Further thanks should go to Mrs Wyatt who spends hours ensuring the paperwork is just right, and also the accompanying staff – Mr Hetherington, Mr Linton, Miss Thompson and Miss Wilson. Finally, Aimee Gray and Beth Wager did a sterling job organising trip hoodies for everyone which made the group look very smart. Berlin 2012 is now in the process of being organised for next year's Year 11 GCSE students.

## London Trip April 2011

Jamie Williams (former NTS student)



This was my fifth trip to London with NTS, the first three times as a student and for the last two years as a staff helper, and it seems like the trip gets better every year. We left early on a Monday morning with an itinerary packed full of exciting and interesting activities. Every night we went to see West End shows which were, as always, fantastic. *War Horse*, *Blood Brothers* and *Wicked* all had different qualities but were all greatly enjoyed by the students.

During the day there wasn't a moment to spare. Visits to the Science Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the magnificent Shri Swaminarayan Hindu Temple and St Paul's Cathedral were the main daytime activities. There was also a flight on the London Eye and time for some shopping in Covent Garden and even spotting a few celebrities. (We had a soap star staying in the same hotel.) The trip was a great success. We also ate at some of London's best known 'tourist' restaurants, including Hard Rock Café and Planet Hollywood. We arrived back in Wigton on Thursday evening with fifty-two very happy students and five exhausted staff!

## Dutch Student Visit

Mr Broster

On the 10th May a coach full of visiting Dutch students arrived at school for an action packed few days of fun and learning with our pupils. Four teachers and fifty eight Year 9 pupils arrived after school and after having dinner at the local community centre were introduced to host families who would be taking 34 of the Dutch pupils home with them to stay for three nights. The pupils spent 2 days in school, with some of them in normal lessons with our pupils and some of them taking separate lessons in multiculturalism. Each evening we held an event for the English and Dutch pupils to mix with everyone. These were a great success. Mrs Carroll put on, with the aid of her drama students, an evening packed with singing, dancing and some very serious drama, which was warmly welcomed on the first evening. On the second evening, the PE department put on some sports and our pupils played football and rounders with our guests. The final evening went with a bang as Mr Cooper and Mr Thorpe laid on a Rock Night, including a special guest band consisting of four very brave Dutch pupils. The whole week was a great success with the Dutch party leaving an excited buzz amongst the students and lots of international friendships being forged. The host families did a wonderful job of looking after our guests, who all had very positive things to say about their stay and were sad to leave.

The teachers involved in looking after our guests all did an excellent job and left a great impression on the visiting teachers. Most importantly, our children were a credit to the school and to Cumbria and we can be proud that they embraced our foreign visitors with such enthusiasm.

## Community and School Enrichment

Mr Beechey

### Logo Competition

Two exciting logo competitions are currently open to students:

1. Next year in 2012 Wigton celebrates the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being awarded a Market Charter. We were honoured with a request to design the logo for this year long celebration.
  2. Our new sports facility is currently being built. We need a logo to display at the front of the building. This could be a historical or sporting theme. The architects await your designs!
- Hand your entries in to Mr Beechey by Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Getting Involved

We will shortly be conducting our curricular annual survey to see how many students have got involved in extra activities across the school and in the local community. It is a fact that employers are looking for students who have stretched themselves, worked co-operatively together and shown determination and dynamism in and out of lessons. You can see from our school newsletters excellent examples of this.

## The Bolton Low Houses School Wall Hanging

Mrs Summerfield



Numerous pupils and students from both NTS and Bolton Low Houses School have worked diligently over the summer and autumn terms last year, helped by staff and parents from both schools, to produce a textile wall hanging that is to be hung in the main hall of BLH School and also to be used in some church services/events. Groups from Years 5, 6, 8 and 12 discussed, designed and decorated the various sections; the pieces were then stitched together to create a quilted textile decoration which contains the elements that pupils from Bolton Low Houses felt were the most important in their lives – "the natural environment" (hills, water and sky) and "the heart" (which sums up their personal feelings for their school and home community). A splendid result, I think you'll agree!

## PTA News

**Debbie Willaims (PTA Secretary)**

### 100 Club

Thank you to everyone who bought a 100 Club ticket. The winners of the first 4 draws were:

JANUARY – 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Gilroy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Templeton, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jane Swainson.

FEBRUARY – 1<sup>st</sup> Alison Birkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Spowart, 3<sup>rd</sup> Mr & Mrs Jackson.

MARCH – 1<sup>st</sup> Alison Birkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Louis Dickson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Steph Leeson.

APRIL – 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Templeton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ruth Wright, 3<sup>rd</sup> Susanne Lightfoot.

### Change of Name

During the 2011/12 school year, the PTA will be changing its name to FONTS or 'Friends of Nelson Thomlinson School'. The reason for this is to involve a wider group of people and include the whole school community, including extended family members, all non-teaching staff and past and present pupils as well as the parents and teachers of Nelson Thomlinson School.

### Future Fundraisers

The PTA plans to hold another 'Murder Mystery Evening' featuring a play by local playwright, Rick Thomas, early in the autumn term 2011. Tickets will be on sale in the new school year – don't miss out!

Money raised by the PTA is put towards new equipment for all the various school departments. This month, £180 of PTA funds went to the Technology Department to buy a stand for their new welder, making it possible to move it from room to room. The PTA is also putting money aside to purchase equipment for the new Sports Hall.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at the Wigton Rugby Club. Newcomers are always very welcome.

## Activities Day, July 19<sup>th</sup>

**Mr Beechey**

Many thanks to all parents who have offered to help us on this day. It will be great to see so many parents coming back to school - don't worry you will not get any homework!

Mr Beechey is currently allocating groups for each activity. Year 8 will be receiving information shortly about their Keswick walk with detailed information for parents. Other students will be informed of their activity and may well be contacted to attend a meeting with the group leader.

## Samba Band

**Mr Walker**

The Samba Band will be performing at the following events this summer:

11th June - Aspatria Carnival

25th June - Wigton Carnival

16th July - Great Broughton Carnival

Year 11 pupils will also be delivering a workshop to Y6 pupils at St Michael's Primary School, Bothel on Tuesday 5th July (after their exams!)

## Rugby

**Mr Hamilton**

Year 8 and 9 rugby players were treated to a training session led by former Great Britain and St Helens rugby league legend, Paul Sculthorpe. Sculthorpe was at NTS to present the prizes and colours at the annual Sports Awards evening. The group of around 18 boys were first subjected to a punishing warm-up and then drilled on honing their passing, catching and decision making skills. The pupils, all keen rugby players, were all very attentive and keen to learn.

The next drill included a series of 3 versus 2 drills designed to test the skills the players had just practised. The two defenders armed with some tackle shields took great delight in meting out punishment to anyone who made the wrong decision or kept hold of the ball too long. After several runs through, the standard of passing rose significantly and the boys looked much more confident.

The final activity was a small game and this gave the players an opportunity to put what they had learned into practice. Although in the heat of battle, certain technical subtleties can be quickly forgotten and some of the lads, used to playing rugby union sometimes forgot to keep hold of the ball after the tackle for the play-the-ball!

The boys finished the session well and all were positive and enthusiastic about the session; it certainly is not every day that one gets the opportunity to train with a rugby legend (of any code). The two Year 11s, Dan Foy and Luke Crossman, who attended also deserve a mention as they set the standard and helped the younger pupils along at every opportunity.

## Tennis

**Miss Wilson**

Jack Peile & Tom Peile are U15 North Cumbria Doubles champions. Beth Gebbie & Emma Gebbie are U15 North Cumbria Doubles champions. They will go on to represent NTS at the county finals in June alongside the U19 boys' and girls' teams.

We have nine teams entered in tennis leagues this year, with many pupils getting the opportunity to take part in competitive games. They have all recorded several good results in recent matches, including wins against Appleby, Austin Friars, Keswick and Trinity.

The school Junior Wimbledon competition will start after half term (weather dependant) and is open to anyone who wishes to take part. Wigton Tennis Club are also keen to recruit new junior players. If you are interested in joining please see Miss Wilson.

## Race for Life

**Penny Wilson**

Twenty-four girls from Year 10 have signed up for the "Race for Life" which is a nationwide 5k run event in July. The race will take place in Carlisle and raises money for Cancer Research through sponsorship. The girls have embarked upon a regime of training sessions in order to prepare for the race, being encouraged and supervised by volunteer staff members. Any sponsorship would be very gratefully received, as would any support on the day - please contact Miss P. Wilson (Head of Year 10) at the school.

Thank you, and wish us luck!

## Cricket

**Mr Hetherington**

We have won all of our first 6 cricket games this season: 2 for U12s, 1 for U13s, 1 for U14s and 2 for U15s. Just another 23 games to go!