



Issue 28

AUTUMN
TERM
October 2010

Compiled by
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HOME

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NTS NEWSLETTER

Geography Department News Miss Reynolds

BTEC Travel and Tourism Trip to Center Parcs & Rheged



20 year 11 students visited Center Parcs to find out more about how they train their staff in order to provide good customer service and what facilities were available to different types of customer. The staff gave the pupils a detailed talk about this before treating the pupils to a visit to Soccer Circus. In the afternoon the pupils visited Rheged and surveyed the customer services and facilities there. The pupils found out a lot of useful information which they will incorporate into their portfolios. We have also received praise about their effort and conduct during the trip from the team at Center Parcs.

Y12 Geography fieldtrip to Mungrisdale



The pupils went to Mungrisdale and Keswick to study the River Greta. They were investigating the river characteristics and how they changed downstream. They also took a guided tour around the flood defences in Keswick finding out about how they work, their advantages and disadvantages. Despite the abysmal weather the group were cheerful and enthusiastic throughout.

It was good to see the pupils getting to know each other, working effectively as a team and taking responsibility for accurate data collection.



Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Miss Allam

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

Eighteen Year 11 pupils successfully completed their initial practice expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award during the third weekend in September. The pupils walked about 30km, carrying all their equipment for an overnight camp in Braithwaite. On the Saturday we walked up Causey Pike in fair weather but the pupils certainly had a taste of wetter weather and navigational challenge on the Sunday, though they coped reasonably well with it. They were a fantastic bunch to go away with and I am also really grateful to Miss Wilson (PE), Miss Wilson (Science), Miss Reynolds and Mr Smith for their help over the weekend, and also to Mr Beechey who turned up at the campsite for a barbeque in the drizzle!

Pupils are currently undertaking training and route planning and will go on to do a further practice expedition in the Lake District at the end of April and a qualifying expedition in the Howgill Fells in late June.

Gold Duke of Edinburgh

There are currently twelve Year 12 and 13 students working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. They are planning their qualifying expedition which will take place in July in the Lake District, although they will also undertake a practice expedition at the end of April. The expeditions will involve carrying all their equipment for a 3 night expedition, including a wild camp over about 80km. Pupils will also carry out 12 months of service to their local community, 6 months working towards a skill and 6 months working towards a sport.

Community, Extended Schools and Enrichment

Mr Beechey

This summer saw students complete NTS and 'Megacamps' holiday activity sessions as well as a Cyclewise 'Bikeability' qualification. Congratulations to all who completed these extended schools activities.

Students who bike to school and are sensible enough to wear a helmet get to use our new bike sheds and qualify for a free school locker to keep their equipment in. See Mr Beechey for details.

September saw us return to St Mary's church (after last year's renovations) for our annual Founders' Day Celebration. Year 7 and local visitors were told about the history of the school and our Wigton benefactors. We also staged our prize ceremonies. This year, 139 students received prizes for their academic and non-academic endeavours in addition to our 100% attendance awards.

Lunch time and after school activities

There are a wide range of activities on offer at lunch times and after school. This ranges from Greek to tap dancing. Across the year groups there are 22 after school activities and 54 lunch-time activities. Whether you are new to the school or an established veteran, getting involved in such activities is a great way to develop and meet new friends.

Charities

Our Student body is currently deciding on the 3 named charities for the year. Students have already raised £420 in our Founders' Day Service and £350 from our first Rock Night. This money will be sent to *Help for Heroes* this week. Students have already started promoting our annual *Operation Christmas Child Appeal* and our target is 350 boxes across the school.

School Website

During November, look out for the re-vamped School Website which will keep you informed about upcoming events.

Sign Language

Mrs L Johnston

Mr Whelpdale did a presentation and activity session on sign language for the two Health and Social Care groups at AS Level on Friday 1st October. The students actively conversed in sign language and learnt how to greet people and to communicate. They developed their skills with ease, gaining confidence and having much fun!

Over the years Mr Whelpdale has been a positive encourager and enabler of this skill with students in these lessons. These young people often continue into higher education to study for work in the Health and Social Care sector.

For those interested, the Sign Language Club is run on Wednesdays from 1pm in H18. Students learn the basics of British Sign Language, including the alphabet, numbers, colours, animals, food etc. Anyone is welcome to come along.

Library News

Mrs Crone

Booked-Up Scheme

For the third consecutive year, the Book Trust has invited all Year 7 pupils to choose a free book from the Booked-up catalogue. All our new starters should have placed their orders by the end of September and are now eagerly awaiting the books which should hopefully arrive sometime in November. In the meantime, parents/carers may want to encourage their children to have a look at the Booked-Up website, which not only provides lots of information about the books but features the Booked-Up DVD and news about various competitions. This can be found at: www.bookedup.org.uk.

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day was on Thursday 7th October. The theme this year was 'Home' and years 7-9 pupils were invited to take part in a poetry writing competition using this theme. The winners were:

Year 7 – Isaac Stoddart & Elizabeth Templeton

Year 8 – Callum Evans, Ryan Ferguson, Lauren Spowart & Isabella Toms.

Year 9 – Mark Bragg & Emma Wise

All pupils received a book prize and the poems are on display in the School Library.

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be held in the School Library from 6th - 10th December. All pupils will have a timetabled visit with their English teachers and books can be reserved and paid for the next day if students forget to bring money on the day of their visit. Parents are welcome to visit the Book Fair after school on Monday – Thursday from 3.30 - 4.15 pm.

P.E. Department

Mrs Lee

The department has had a very successful start to the 2010/11 season. Practices remain well attended and all pupils are welcome.

Cross-Country

The county round of the English Schools' Cup took place on 4th October. The Intermediate Girls' team finished first and the Junior Boys' team finished second. The Intermediate Boys' team was 5th and the junior girls, 6th. The Intermediate Girls' team and Junior Boys' team go through to the regional round on Saturday 13th November where they will compete against schools from Liverpool, Manchester and Lancashire. Everyone performed extremely well and showed great commitment and determination. Congratulations to Abbie Hetherington and Andrew Hill who both won their races.

Netball

The members of the U16 Girls' team are Copeland and Allerdale champions. They won their tournament due to skilful play and focus throughout. They go on to the County Tournament in November.

The other netball results are as follows:

U16s played 2 won 2

U15s played 2 won 2

U14s played 4 won 4

U13a played 4 won 4

U12a played 3 won 2 lost 1

U12b played 2 won 1

U13b played 1 won 1

U14b played 1 won 1

Hockey

The U14 hockey team won their tournament and go on to compete against schools from the South Lakes.

Tennis

Unfortunately, both the Girls' and Boys' teams lost to schools from Glasgow in the northern round of the English Schools' Tennis Competition.

Young Enterprise

Mr Beechey

With the dangers of Cyber Bullying and misuse of social web sites such as 'Facebook' constantly in the news, our new Young Enterprise team, Safety Net, is addressing the issue head on. The team will do a presentation to groups of children or adults for a nominal fee. The presentation can be tailored to your own needs. Contact Miss Walker for details if you are interested.