



**SPRING
TERM**

February 2012

**Compiled by
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NTS NEWSLETTER

A CUT ABOVE: SWEENEY TODD IS READY TO LEAVE THE OVEN!

Mrs Carroll



Well, we are almost there! Auditions began way back in July and after months of gruelling rehearsals, we are almost ready to unveil the most challenging piece we have offered in years! Our Cockney accents are primed, our props built (our extra fog machine hasn't yet arrived) and tickets to the blood-curdling school production by Stephen Sondheim, Sweeney Todd, have already gone on sale; we expect this popular musical to be sold out before you can say, 'more 'ot pies'. So, it seems only right to say, 'get 'em while they're 'ot!' (Sorry, it's embarrassing isn't it?)

We will be performing from Wednesday 22nd to Saturday 25th February and we hope that you will support your school by joining us. This play cost thousands to put on – the royalties alone cost us almost £2,000 (and more sweat that you could mop up with a mop and bucket) so we really need you! Donations gratefully accepted if you can't make it!

Some of you may have enjoyed the delights of the film – with the gorgeous Johnny Depp rather than the version with the rather less gorgeous Ray Winstone – and so you will know the story but for those who have missed it, here goes:

The story begins with a skilled barber named Benjamin Barker whose loving wife's beauty attracts the lustful attentions of the Judge Turpin and his slimy sidekick, the Beadle. They frame Barker and have him sent to Australia for his crime. But years later, he returns, with a new name, Sweeney Todd; he is mad as hell and bent on revenge.

Sweeney meets the delightful Mrs Lovett (who knew him from way back) and, telling him that his wife is dead, she helps him to start up his business as a barber above her pie shop, while he plots his revenge.

Meanwhile, his pretty daughter, Johanna, is being brought up by Judge Turpin as his ward and, he hopes, his future wife. But a young sailor, Anthony, who met Sweeney on his journey back to England, sees Johanna who longs for freedom and they fall for each other. He must get her away from the Judge.

Fame spreads of Sweeney's great skill after a competition with the great Pirelli, which Sweeney wins. But Pirelli gets more than he bargained for when he tries to blackmail Sweeney with telling all about his true identity. The lovely Mrs L comes up with a great plan to get rid of the corpse ... she will pop it in her 'orrible pies! It works a treat and, as Sweeney kills more and more in his blood lust, her business gets more and more popular – you will never look a meat and tatie pie in the face after this one!

Well, I don't want to give it all away but with a few swipes of the razors, all the baddies get what they deserve – and some of the goodies too. There are a lot of songs, a few surprises and a (very) little bad language but the gore is restrained; it is the school's edition so while there is a lot of killing, we think it is unlikely to shock all but the most gentle souls. (Give us a call and we will give you details if you are concerned.)



So, do we have you hooked? Tickets are £4.50 for children and £5.50 for adults with special rate for families (two adults and two children) for £17.50. It should be a great night out with performances by the Drama Club in the break, as well as refreshments and a raffle with prizes kindly donated by local businesses.

We hope to see you there!

Library News

Mrs Crone



Twenty-eight members of the NTS Reading Club have begun reading their way through the 10 shortlisted titles for 'Spellbinding', the Cumbria Schools' Book Award Scheme 2012. They have up to the end of May to read and review as many of the books as they can.



(Pictured above - 3 Year 8 Spellbinders: Charlotte Studholme, Maia Welbourn & Emily Studholme)

The shortlisted books are listed below for those who would like to try them out:

Too Much Trouble by Tom Avery
We can be Heroes by Catherine Burton
Night on Terror Island by Philip Caveney
Reckless by Cornelia Funke
Theodore Boone by John Grisham
Department 19 by Will Hill
Sky Hawk by Gill Lewis
My Sister lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher
Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys
Blood Red Road by Moira Young

World Book Day 2012



World Book Day is on Thursday 1st March this year and all pupils will receive WBD £1 tokens from their form tutors to be exchanged for one of the specially produced books or to use against the purchase of a book or audio book worth £2.99 or more at participating bookshops.

Rotary Chef Competition 2012

Miss Bryan

On Wednesday 19th January the following six pupils took part in the first round of the Rotary Young Chef Competition:

Rosie Groves
Olivia Davidson
Natalie Wood
Joe Scott
Cameron Anderson
Daniel Norman

Each pupil had to research, plan, prepare and serve a healthy two-course meal for two people within a budget of £8 using local produce. They had to demonstrate a variety of practical skills and work under pressure to prepare their meals within an hour and thirty minutes. The standard of the competition this year was very high and the judges commented that the pupils were all talented young people which made it difficult for them to choose a winner. Their menus were challenging and their table displays were simply elegant which reflected the amount of time that each pupil had invested in the competition.

Winners:

First place: Rosie Groves whose menu consisted of carrot and parsnip soup served with homemade bread followed by a layer of locally sourced Cumberland sausage, with apple sauce topped with creamy mashed potato served with braised red cabbage and sesame seeded carrots.

Second place: Natalie Wood

Third place: Olivia Davidson

Rosie, pictured below, will now go through to represent the school in the Cumbria final which will be hosted at St. Benedict's School in Whitehaven on Wednesday 8th February.



I would personally like to thank Len Baseley and Mr & Mrs North for giving up their time to judge the competition and for supporting the pupils and giving them advice based on years of experience.

As always this competition cannot run smoothly without the help and support of others. I would also like to thank Mrs Johnston and Mrs Litt for all their hard work and support in making this competition a success.

YFC Young Farmers Reading Competition

Mrs Bell



Congratulations to Joanne Ridley, Beth Robson and Samantha Bell of Caldbeck YFC, who won the County Finals of the Young Farmers' Reading Competition. They will now go on to the Northern Area Finals at Bridlington on 3rd March.

International Pupil Summit

Mrs Johnson

On Friday 27th November, pupils from St Matthew's School, Westnewton and Jericho School, Whitehaven came to school to participate in our first international pupil summit! The teachers from both schools had heard about our Asia club and wanted to find out more, with a view to taking ideas back to develop at their respective schools.

We had an excellent day. The 3 part programme included presentations from Mrs Johnson, Dr. Henley, Mr Broster and Mr Johnson in the morning, to give the staff perspective on our international activities. This was followed by a special Asia club that all our guests attended, run by the Asia club members themselves. They had arranged a superb carousel of activities, including Manga from Eilidh Murphy and Jessica Broster, Origami from Polly Carruthers and Emily Davison and Japanese Hiragana, led by Tom Garner and Maia Welbourn. This came after an excellent Chinese lunch put on by our fantastic canteen staff!

In the afternoon, it was back to the conference room for presentations in international mentoring from Megan Wetherell, Lydia Newton, Chelsea Postlethwaite, Tom Usher and Maisie Lear, who all spoke eloquently to give an excellent summary of their activities and experiences as mentors. Simon Davison and Glenn Doncaster gave a superb summary of the reasons to get involved in Asia Club - including an impromptu Chinese Mandarin lesson, where they got us all wishing one another Happy New Year in Chinese! The younger pupils rounded off the event by sharing what they had learned and telling us about their plans to spread the international word in their schools. Thanks to the ICT department for their technical support, Mrs Coates and Mrs Little and team for the delicious catering!

P.E. Report

Mrs Lee

CROSS-COUNTRY

Approximately 18 athletes represented Allerdale at the County Cross-Country Championships on Saturday 21st January at Cartmel, South Lakeland. The weather was appalling and all who ran deserve a huge pat on the back.

The following finished the race in the following places:

Ross Groves 10th, Jack Winter 17th, Harry Braithwaite 52nd, Morgan Jackson 57th

Scott Wilson 2nd, Sarah Brookes 11th, Laura Elliott 47th, Ellie Johnston 55th

Chelsea Nugent 1st, Natasha Hall 35th, Ellen Elliott 53rd, Louise Dennis 59th

Abbie Hetherington 1st, Emma Enon 24th, Ellie Clark 29th.

The following qualified to run for their county on the 4th February:

MINOR BOYS

Ross Groves

Steven Crake

MINOR GIRLS

Sarah Brookes

Katie Harkins

JUNIOR GIRLS

Chelsea Nugent - County Champion

JUNIOR BOYS

Scott Wilson

INTER GIRLS

Abbie Hetherington - County Champion

Good luck to them all.

GIRLS FOOTBALL RESULTS

U13/U15 Girls' teams are both in the semi-finals of the Cumbria Schools' Cup.

U16/U18 teams are both in the finals of the Cumbria Schools' Cup.

U13 reached the last 16 in the English Schools' Cup.

U18 reached the last 8 teams in the English Schools' Cup. They lost to St. Julies from Liverpool 4-1.

DANCE SHOW

An excellent evening of dance was held on the 2nd and 3rd February. The dances ranged from contemporary, to hip-hop: superb entertainment for all. Pupils from all age groups displayed agility, finesse, rhythm and expression and all have worked extremely hard to make the event a success. Pupils also choreographed their own dances. Thanks to all who participated and to Mrs Moody and her helpers for organising and producing the show.

As ever, thank you to all members of the P.E. Department for their time in running extra-curricular activities which range from organising teams to new activities in the new build.

N.B. Next term is a busy term for fixtures, please encourage pupils who represent or attend practices to check notice boards regularly. Anyone can come to any of the activities for their age group.

Ringing the bells for Christmas

Mr Brockbank



The bells of St Mary's Wigton were rung for the Senior Carol Service this year. The band of ringers assembled included Mr Brockbank, Miss Coan and members of Year 10. The English style of bell ringing is known as "change ringing". We rang 8 tuned bells, the aim being to change the order of the bells over in a logical way so that we never repeat the same sequence. Our thanks to the Tower Captain, Mr Martin Snape, and other local bell ringers who gathered to help, some of whom are pictured above.

Senior History Essay Competition

Dr Henley

Just to remind those who may be interested that the competition is open to all pupils in Year 11, 12 and 13. The deadline is 20th February 2012. Highly commended essays will receive a certificate and a book token will be awarded to the author of the best essay.

There are three questions to choose from:

1. History shows that there is no such thing as absolute power. Discuss.
2. Why should the taxpayer fund the study of humanities at university?
3. What would have happened if Lenin had lived longer?

Co-Head Prefects

Mr Walker

Following recent elections and the shortlisting and interviewing of the top 8 candidates, the 5 new Co-Head Prefects appointed this year are: Ben Wilde, Laura Bayliff, Kate Murrant, Joe Noblett and Josie Stoddart. They will take over from the existing Co-Heads along with their new teams after the February half term holiday. Well done to all involved. Thank you to the current Co-Head Prefects (Dan Cozens, Sadie Skivington, Lucy Tyson, Matt Gardner and Ben Farren) for all the work they have done over the past 12 months, helping to keep the school running smoothly during break and lunchtimes and also representing the school at formal occasions.

The Chiller Choir – Ingelwood Fest

Mrs Pearson

In November last year, Lewis Mulla, Nathan Whitehead and a group of boys from the Sixth Form set themselves the challenge of raising money for a local charity. Their aim was to raise £100 and they decided to donate the money to the Ingelwood Care Home in Wigton.

To raise the money, they formed their own Choir, 'The Chiller Choir' and started practising with a view to singing in assemblies and other venues over the Christmas period. Students and staff were asked for donations as the Choir sang their way around the school. Thursday 15th December was 'Mingling Festive Jumper Day', where Sixth Form students paid £1 to wear their best, or worst, festive jumper. Also that day the Chiller Choir, led by Lewis and Nathan, accompanied by Mrs Lynch and Mr Walker, visited Ingelwood and performed a melody of Christmas songs, old and new, for the residents.

After the entertainment had finished, Lewis Mulla, Chief Choir Boy, presented the residents with the £259.35 that had been raised.

A letter of thanks was received from Mr Edkins, Manager of Ingelwood Care Home, in which he said he had been asked by the staff on duty that day to pass on their thanks for a most enjoyable and different session, saying that the residents have commented on how much they enjoyed the entertainment.

Mrs Lynch and Mr Walker congratulated the members of the choir on their achievements and said that they were a credit to themselves and the Sixth Form as well as a great example of what teamwork and Christmas Spirit can achieve.



Music News

Mrs Small

Year 10 student, Isobel Kent, recently achieved a Grade 7 Distinction in her Oboe exam and has been accepted into the Scottish Children's Orchestra. This is a symphony orchestra for young musicians aged 8 to 14.

If you have attended any of the music concerts you will have heard the amazing voice of Cameron Mitchell, who has recently achieved a Grade 8 Distinction in Voice.

Cameron Cullen, who is waiting for his diploma result, has been accepted into the National Youth Wind Orchestra and will be playing at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall. The BBC Proms is the world's largest classical music festival, presenting some of the world's leading artists and orchestras. Cameron will also be playing at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games. I would like to thank Cameron for his dedication in teaching four Year 7 pupils to play the flute in his study periods and also for accompanying Kate Murrant in the dance show.