



# NTS NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN  
TERM  
November 2012

Compiled by  
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School Librarian

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## The International School 'Gold Medal' Award (ISA)

Mrs D Johnson and Mr G Broster



(Megan Wetherell at the Expo)

In September of this year, we were delighted to hear that we had achieved the International School 'Gold Medal' Award (ISA). This is the highest accolade that can be awarded to a school that prides itself upon the breadth and depth of its international dimension. We already had the intermediate award, reflecting our excellent range of activities, so to be accorded full Gold Medal Status was really the icing on the cake!

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

To get the award, Mr Broster and Mrs Johnson had to write to the British Council, letting them know all about our fantastic range of activities. These included our ever-popular Asia club, where pupils learn all about Asian culture, from having fun learning Chinese and Japanese to drawing superb Manga, and try their hand at anything from calligraphy to making tasty, healthy Bento boxes.

The British Council were also very pleased to hear about the sterling work of our international mentors, who taught a wide range of languages to our younger pupils including Italian, Latvian and Cumbrian!

The international Expo that we have hosted for the last two years at Nelson Thomlinson, enabling many Cumbrian schools to come together and share their exciting experiences of international education was truly a jewel in the crown of our application. Indeed,

John Rolfe from the British Council, (who also attended our Expo in the summer) said: "Many congratulations on your well deserved success in being accredited with the British Council International School Award. The school's fantastic international work is not only giving the young people a better understanding of the world around them, but it's really making a difference to their future prospects too. Employers are telling us that international skills are just as important as exam results – so everything the school is doing is vital preparation for life in a global society and work in a global economy. 2012 is a big year for the UK on the world's stage, and the school deserves a gold medal of its own for all its outstanding commitment to a range of fantastic international work".

And the work continues: in the summer of 2013, eight of our pupils will be going out to Taiwan to participate in an exchange with our partner schools in Taiwan. We were very fortunate that we were able to meet so many of our friends, both pupils and staff, from Hualien last summer, and our students are fund-raising to make the return trip out there. On their return they will act as ambassadors and international mentors, further strengthening our links with our friends abroad. This is a great opportunity and carries on the work undertaken in 2009 when Mrs Johnson, Maisie Lear and Tom Usher were able to make the trip to Hualien as ambassadors at the international Expo conference. Said Tom Usher, now a year 12 student, "Having had the amazing opportunity of visiting Taiwan for a British Council led Expo in 2009, I was delighted to hear of the school's new international status! I think it's absolutely brilliant that the school provides such great chances for international development, and the long lasting relationships that are formed between our school and others abroad are frankly indispensable. I've certainly benefitted from the internationalism of NTS, and I'm sure many others have been and will be. So, a massive thank you to all the staff involved is definitely appropriate!"

Kabuki at Expo 2012!



## Year 9 Science Exhibition by the National Science Museum

Miss Hayton



On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September, a team of professional scientists from the National Science Museum visited the school to deliver an exciting and innovative practical display to over 120 Year 9 pupils. The exhibition was sponsored by the REACT Foundation based at West Lakes Science Park, and gave the pupils an opportunity to experience a host of practical experiments and demonstrations that they normally couldn't access in a school environment. The 'Super Cool Show' focused on the differences between heat and temperature and delivered this somewhat 'dry' topic with creativity and flair. The use of liquid nitrogen excited the pupils and when homemade ice cream using this volatile liquid was on the menu, there was a host of willing volunteers ready to act as assistants! The enthusiasm shown by the team from the science museum certainly transmitted to the pupils and a number of interesting questions were waiting to be asked once the practical element of the show had finished. The interactive nature of the experiments meant the pupils were constantly kept on their toes and fully engaged throughout, particularly when balloons were exploded and bananas 'smashed'. 'Cool', 'excellent' and 'entertaining' were just some of the adjectives coming from the pupils as they left the hall and we all look forward to what the science museum has to offer on their return to the school in the future.

## Music Makers Orchestra

Mr Irving

Music Makers is an amateur group of enthusiastic musicians and we are always looking for additional players. If you can play an instrument you are welcome to come and join us. We are particularly anxious to recruit a **pianist**. This is a friendly, non-competitive group of musicians, primarily making music for our own pleasure, although we do perform our music publicly. Our current playlist includes extracts from Bizet's Carmen, Mozart, Peter and the Wolf, songs from shows, film scores and a beautifully haunting arrangement of Loch Lomond.

Why not come to a practice night? We meet every Tuesday evening at 7.15pm (ready to play at 7.30pm) at St Mark's Church in Belah, Carlisle. For further information you can contact our conductor, Michael Irving, a well-known local musician who works in the Technology Department at NTS tel. 01228 544376 or Nigel Carr on 01228 520190. We would be delighted to welcome you to our orchestra.

## Library News

Mrs Crone

### National Poetry Day Competition

National Poetry Day was on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October. The theme this year was STARS and pupils from Years 7-9 were invited to compose a poem related to that theme. There were some really outstanding entries and, after much deliberation, the six winners were awarded £10 book tokens. They were:

**Year 7** – Leo Dawson 7JGC & Chloe Waning 7CJ.

**Year 8** – Leah Parson 8RA & Conal Peck 8RCC.

**Year 8** – Thomas Garner 9HS & Emily Smith 9EH.

The fifteen runners-up received book & chocolate prizes.

### Book Fair

The annual Book Fair will take place in the School Library during the week beginning 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. Due to the fact that our supplier, Hills Books of Workington, no longer provide bags, could parents please remind pupils to bring along a bag of their own to place their purchases in so that the books do not get damaged on the way home? Parents are welcome to visit the Book Fair during that week after school - Monday – Thursday inclusive from 3.30 - 4.30 pm.

## Geography Department Fieldtrips

Autumn 2012

Dr Allam

The Department has enjoyed two fieldtrips so far in the autumn term. In mid-September the Year 10 GCSE Geographers went to Mungrisedale to measure the channel characteristics of the River Glenderamackin. This data will be used as part of their controlled assessment. They also visited Keswick to start to learn about the impact of flooding and river defences. Two classes enjoyed glorious sunny weather, for the other two classes, the weather was more typically Cumbrian!

Year 12 have also done a similar fieldtrip, though at a much higher level and with an exam in mind rather than writing up controlled assessment. They measured much more complex channel characteristics and were let loose with our new flowmeters; gratefully purchased with assistance from FONTS. Year 12 also visited Keswick to evaluate the impact of the flood defences.

Unfortunately, they were also unlucky with the weather.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> Form News

Mr Walker

Ex-student, Hugh Holton (who left in 2010) to study composition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama has recently been commissioned by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to compose a piece of music for a ballet to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky's 'Rite of Spring'. He will have his work performed by the orchestra (along with 36 dancers from the Royal Ballet, set designed by the Glasgow School of Art) next May.

Cameron Cullen (Year 13) recently performed with the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall during the 2012 'Proms' concert series. Cameron played flute in the orchestra and had the opportunity to perform the world premier of a BBC commission by Gavin Higgins titled 'Der Aufstand'.

## Curriculum Enrichment

Mr Beechey

### Get involved!

Our student survey from the end of last year reveals that 83% of students had taken part in an extra-curricular club or activity. The average number of activities was 3 per student with one student taking part in 30 activities during the year.

The question I would ask is what were the other 17% doing?

With 62 lunchtime clubs and 23 after school activities now is the time to get involved and make a difference in the life of the School.

When I meet Year 11 students who are intending to leave school or Sixth Formers who are seeking apprenticeships, employment or a place at university the first thing I ask them is, what do they do out of lessons to make their CVs look more interesting? For some it is an easy answer whilst for others there is an embarrassing silence. You can guess which ones employers would take a more active interest in.

So now is the time to join a club, get involved in a charity event or support your local community.

## School Council

Kate Hardman, Chair of School Council



I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be this year's chair for my final year at NTS. In our first formal meeting we had an excellent turn out and discussed issues concerning homework across the school. This information has now been passed on to staff. If you have any other concerns please pass them on to your form rep. and I will do everything I can to help with the situation.

### Community Accolades

At our annual prize ceremony Poppy Graham was awarded the Community Service Prize for her work over the last 2 years organising youth events in Wigton. Poppy, together with

Annabelle Raines, Abbie Rear, Hannah Graham and Nathan Rumney (leaver in July 2012), got together and organised the 'Something for the summer' concerts in Wigton in 2011 and 2012. This was a monumental effort which won the National Accolades. The team had to bid for funding and make presentations to a range of stakeholders to make the event a success and showcase the work of young people in our community.

Whilst Poppy was awarded the prize the congratulations also go to all four students.

### Charity News

The School Council has agreed upon its 3 charities for the year. At our School Council meeting, Jack Story in Year 11, requested charity funding for the Royal Dragoon Guards. Jack's uncle sadly lost his life serving in the British Army in 2010. In the first charity effort of the year £455 was raised from the Founders' Day collection with Jack raising a further £220 himself by selling wrist bands.

Work is already underway with the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal with 25 Sixth Form volunteers drumming up support for this worthy appeal. Our target this year is a whopping 350 boxes.

The deadline for completed boxes to be handed in is November 9<sup>th</sup> together with the £2.50 contribution. Additional forms are available from the School Office.

A number of other students are also working hard to raise money for their own worthy international fund raising efforts organised both within school and outside. This includes expeditions to Taiwan, Tanzania, Nepal, Gambia and Honduras. Good luck to them all.

## Heart Start

Mr Broster

During the past half term, all Year 10 pupils underwent first aid training as part of their weekly PSHE lessons. Fire Officers from Silloth and Wigton kindly offered to come into lessons over a period of 4 weeks and deliver the Heart Foundation's Heart Start course. Pupils gained skills in using the recovery position, what to do in the case of a heart attack, choking or bleeding, how to use a portable defibrillator and how to perform CPR. The pupils particularly enjoyed using the portable defibrillator and practising their CPR skills on our 'resuscitation Annie' dolls. At the end of the course, the pupils were awarded a certificate to show that they are now capable of performing basic first aid that could lead to lives being saved. The Fire Officers who were involved commented on how courteous, interested and enthusiastic our Year 10s were during the course and how we should be proud of them.



## Year Seven Halloween Cake Competition Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Mrs K Bryan, Mrs J Cass and Mrs L Johnston



Year seven pupils have been busy in Food Technology lessons recently making cakes and icing them with a Halloween theme. Two pupils from each of the twelve Technology groups were selected by their teachers to present three buns for the competition in T6. This was extremely difficult because the standard of icing bases, homemade decorations and assembly techniques was highly professional. Pupils piped butter cream, moulded fondant icing, piped spider's web lines with glaze icing and selected a range of decorations that they had sourced themselves with everything ranging from liquorice strips to shortbread tombstones as well as presentation backgrounds.

The final judging was made by Dr M Henley and Miss P Wilson who found the challenge exciting but enthralling. Pupils who made it through to the Grand Final were: Ciera Haggart, Adam Gordon, Sophie Edmondson, Emily Hagan, Chloe Waring, Bethan Hook, Eireann Devlin, Lear Turner, Ella Southwell, Preston Newton, Samuel Evans, Olivia Powell, Elle Brown, Joshua Myers, Misha Atkinson, Corrie Nattrass, Kayah Fiderkiewicz, Amber Robinson, Abbie Pigg, Jak Bell, Charlotte Bewley, Rosie Hogg, Luke Broster and Kirsty Deakin.

The final results were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize Eireann Devlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elle Brown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ella Southwell, and 4<sup>th</sup> Amber Robinson. Luke Broster was Highly Commended.

We extend our congratulations to those who took part and the winners and thank parents, carers and friends for supporting our pupils in this entertaining and skilled competition.

## National Science Competition Miss Coan

Four NTS pupils, Bethan Spencer, Astrud Turner, Jack Watson and Sarah Wolstencroft (all in year 10), have commendably volunteered to form a team involved in filming a science video, featuring themselves for entry into the National Physical Laboratory's (NPL's) School Science Film Challenge 2012. The NPL regularly helps TV programmes like the BBC's Horizon and Bang Goes the Theory. The idea of entering the competition came about as a result of an excellent group presentation made by the pupils in class during the recent academic year, with their particular group presentation taking the form of a video. The end product was scientifically rigorous, accessible and highly engaging, with pupils demonstrating real initiative, skill and effort over and above what I had expected. Having initially discovered and later discussed the potential for optional entry into this national competition, all parties were keen to go ahead. The group of four selected a new topic, 'Control in Plants' and have, in their own time filmed and edited this new 2.5 minute video in a similar style to the former, this time with the competition in mind. The prize for 'Best School Entry' is £500, which must be spent by the winning school's science department. In addition, I will endeavour to reward them for their hard work regardless of the outcome. It has been an absolute pleasure and they should be very proud of what they have achieved already.



(Above: Astrud Turner)

## FONTS (formerly PTA)

The Friends of NTS will be holding their annual quiz of the year on 30<sup>th</sup> November commencing at 7.30pm. The AGM for FONTS will be held on November 19<sup>th</sup> at Wigton Rugby Club commencing at 7.30pm. FONTS will be running a major fund raising event, cycling over 3 days on the Rievers' Cycle Route on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013. If you can help in any way we are keen to hear from you.

There are currently only 5 active parents in FONTS.

## Sport News

Mrs Lee

### Netball



**U19 North Cumbria Netball Champions**

The U16 Netball team won the Allerdale and Copeland Tournament and go through to the County Netball Tournament which will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. The U19s are the North Cumbria Champions after beating Keswick, Appleby Grammar, Kirkby Stephen Grammar, Cockermouth and QEGS Penrith, They will go on to play teams from the South Lakes this month and hopefully, qualify for the Northwest Regional Tournament.

All teams continue to play in the league and the results so far are as follows:

- U12 played 3 won 3
- U13 A played 4 won 4
- U13 B played 1 won 1
- U14 A played 3 won 2 lost 1
- U14 B played 4 won 2
- U15 A played 3 won 3
- U15 B played 2 won 1 lost 1
- U16 played 3 won 3
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form played 1 won 1

Individual achievements:

Helen Housby played in the England U21 V Jamaica.  
Holly Gordon and Sophie Scott were selected for the full county squad.

### Cross-country

As usual 4 teams, JG, JB, IB and IG, were entered in the county round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. The Junior Girls' team was placed 4<sup>th</sup> making the Northwest round and the Intermediate Boys' team was a close third to Lancaster Royal Grammar. Both teams run on the 10<sup>th</sup> November in Lancashire.

Robbie Bell and Lizzie Airey were selected to run for the county.

### Girls' Football

The U18s played Trinity in the first round of the English Schools' Cup and won through to play Durham Johnston in the next round.

### Boys' Football

The Year 11 football team won 6-1 v Cockermouth (J. Bennett 5 goals and B. Bouch 1). The whole team played impressively with the defence solid and the midfield composed and energetic. The team have also reached the last 128 in the country in the English Schools Cup where they will meet Trinity in the next round on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November in an attempt to make the last 64! Good luck from all at NTS!



**U16 Boys Allerdale Champions.**

Other football achievements: U12/U13/U14 - All have reached the Allerdale Cup finals and will play Keswick next at Cockermouth School!

The U16s have also reached Round 4 (last 128 in the country) in the English Schools' Cup where they next face Trinity away in what should be a very close match.

### Basketball

We have entered our first basketball competition. This will be run at lunchtime within school and the winning team will travel to Barrow for the next round.

### Rugby

There have been regular fixtures this half term for all age groups. The Year 8s have won 3 out of their 4 matches; the Year 9s have played 4 and lost 4. The Year 10s won 2, lost 1 and drew 1; the Year 11s played 2 and won 2 and the 1<sup>st</sup> 15 won the first round of the Daily Mail Cup but unfortunately, lost to Trinity in the second round in a close fought game.

### Junior Schools

The Multi-Skills Festival held at Wigton Infants' School in September ran extremely well with NTS GCSE PE pupils assisting with the running of the competition. There has also been a Year 6 Leader Training course held at NTS and in the future there will be netball, rugby and cross-country competitions.



