



NTS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER
TERM

May 2015

Compiled by
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School Librarian

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Young Enterprise

Miss Walker



Last week our Young Enterprise team, Cumbria Unwrapped, represented NTS at the Cumbria County Finals event. They were competing against the top six teams from the previous Cumbrian heats and as such, the standard was incredibly high. The team's Trade Stand stood out from the crowd, with many people looking on in surprise as the team hauled out four bales of hay on which to display their Cumbrian Product Collections. We were fortunate enough to have our very own sheep as part of the Trade Stand team, in the form of Daniel Robinson in a onesie! Moving on to the presentations, our team once again did us proud with a polished, professional performance describing their year in business. Having to fit such a wide range of activities into a short four minute presentation, is a challenge in itself. It was then on to the after dinner speakers, who at this event were none other than our very own Digi Pi team, who had another opportunity to describe their achievements and explain the value of the whole Young Enterprise experience.

Finally came the award ceremony, and it was a close call. Cumbria Unwrapped won the award for 'Best Presentation' but Best Report and Best Trade Stand went to Appleby Grammar and Netherhall respectively. The competition was then completely open and it came down to individual marks across the three categories as to which team would win Champion Company and on this occasion it went to Netherhall, with their innovative range of button themed gifts. This left 2nd place to Cumbria Unwrapped, who will now also go on to the North East and Cumbria Finals in Gateshead in June, where I am sure they will continue to do NTS proud!

UK Mathematics Trust Team into National Finals

Mrs Naylor



On Friday 20th March, Michael Lowther and Frances Nutley from Year 9 together with Charlotte Hetherington and Eve Routledge from Year 8, headed off to Caldey School to attend one of the regional finals for the UKMT team Maths Challenge. We left school minutes before the solar eclipse took place and had to pull over to see the best of it between the passing clouds wondering if this was to be a good omen!

The competition consisted of teams of four from fifteen other local schools battling out mathematical problems set over the day in three separate challenges. Initially, the team worked together, but split into pairs where each pair answered a question which then produced a clue for the following question. This not only required finely tuned mathematical thinking from those solving the problem but patience and trust from the two awaiting the next clue. At the end of each round the top three schools were announced but in no particular order, so the tension mounted as Nelson Thomlinson's name was repeatedly called out. The afternoon culminated in a 'relay' race which required the solution of a problem to be checked by staff and then a new question to be carried to the other half of the team. This process continued for over forty minutes and we all realised that success at this stage would be crucial to the final result. With bated breath we awaited the results and finally The Nelson Thomlinson School was announced as the winning team in the regional final!

It was a tremendous day out, everyone fully charged with mathematical thinking and the excitement of the competition. The team worked closely together and had already formed a bond from their lunchtime practices. Behaviour was impeccable and it was tremendous to see such enthusiasm from pupils who spent the day solving mathematical problems for fun!

The outcome of this success is that the team members have now been invited to attend the National Finals in London in June!

Art News

Miss Cheshire

On Thursday 7th May the Art Department held their annual GCSE and A-Level exhibition. This year some exceptional work was on display across all examination levels. As a department, we are very proud of the pupils and what they have achieved. There was a real buzz around the exhibition, with many visitors commenting on the work and how impressed they were by the level of skill on display.

We have some very ambitious students who are really trying to push the boundaries of creativity at school level. This has produced an exciting body of work in a wide variety of media including traditional painting and drawing media, photography, sculpture and digital media. Individual personalities are very evident in the work and their confidence to produce such diverse bodies of work is to be commended.

At this event we awarded our Year 11 and Year 13 Art Prizes. The Year 11 prize went to Claire Coates, whose work displays a wide range of skill in a variety of media. She has pushed herself to be more creative and explores ideas and media independently. She has been the driving force behind her projects and has taken advice on board, manipulating it effectively for her projects. Well done, Claire!

This year Mrs Jones and I were faced with a very challenging decision regarding the Art prize. Having a small group of 3 makes it very difficult to assess one against the other especially when you get to know them so well.

So with little to separate them in terms of dedication to the subject, amount of progress being made or complexity of concept appropriate to each individual – what were we to do?

For the first time ever, Mrs Jones and I decided that we could not pick out one individual as that would be hugely unfair to the other two. So Adam Story, Harriet Murrant and Joy Hindmoor were each presented with a prize.

A huge thank you goes to all of the staff that has supported these pupils throughout their GCSE and A-Level courses, especially Mrs Small who also plays a key role in our annual exhibition.

The Art Department would also like to thank the staff and pupils from the Music Department who held their Chamber Concert on the same evening. Guests commented on how nice it was to be able to celebrate the two art forms, with many visiting the exhibition before the concert started or in the interval.



Sixth Form 5-a-Side League and Cup

Mrs Pearson

This year's league was made up of 8 teams with every one of them making a magnificent effort and providing us with some great entertainment. The winners, Pork Vale, are to be congratulated on a clean sweep of 7 wins out of 7! The battle for second place was tightly contested by Tesco Customer Service and The Old Masters. In the end it was decided by a score draw – Tesco having won 5, drawn 1 and lost 1 game, while The Old Masters won 5 and lost two games.

League places:

1 st Pork Vale	-	21 points
2 nd Tesco Customer Service	-	16 points
3 rd Old Masters	-	15 points



League Winners: Pork Vale

For the cup games, teams are made up of players from the league, drawn into different teams. These teams then played for the 5-a-side Cup.

Cup result:

1st Keaton Barlow's Team

2nd Gareth Davenport's Team

Congratulations to the players on the winning teams and our thanks to all the students and staff who gave their time to take part. Thanks also to Phil Harris, for organising the League and Cup and refereeing when needed and Steven Rumney, for standing in for Phil when he was not available.



Cup Winners: Keaton Barlow's Team

Tom Foster on becoming a Co-Head Prefect

Becoming a Co-Head Prefect was a highlight moment for me as I had previously watched my brother, Jon, and my good friend, Ben, take on the role a few years back and so understood the responsibility the role entailed. I initially found it strange, as I hadn't had much influence over my peers for five and half years, whereas now, all of a sudden, I do, as I manage a team of Prefects. I feel that my experience in the Sixth Form will be all the more worthwhile through taking on this important role.

I am studying Applied Science, English Language, Business Studies and Religious Studies and am enjoying my time at NTS and will hopefully continue to do so.



You can catch me during my Prefect Duty on Fridays around the school but, like all of the Sixth Form, I am happy to help whenever I can!

Live Lounge and the Wonderful Young Gentlemen

Mr Cooper



10 years is a nearly a lifetime for some of the pupils at NTS and it is a lifetime in the context of Rock Night; because Rock Night is dead, long live Rock Night! Over the last 10 years, hundreds of pupils have had a chance to perform on stage to an appreciative audience two or three times a year with all the smoke, noise, lights and atmosphere of a real gig. A whole raft of teachers and our brilliant support staff have given up their time to allow this to happen, typically on rainy Friday nights long after the final school bell has been silenced. We are grateful to these teachers.

Every year we encourage a few organisers who are typically in Year 11 or the Sixth Form and they themselves often started out as timid musicians stepping into the limelight for the first time just a few years previously. We are delighted that these pupils take the organisation of the event so seriously and I am delighted that a few of these organisers have gone on to musical or stage production, lighting or sound engineering careers. They are fun to work with.

Over the years, we have raised and donated thousands of pounds to good causes, and this year we have helped purchase a patient-turning mattress for Inglewood care home. Our Sixth Form raised the bulk of the donation during our record breaking charity week in March. Two of our Sixth formers, Jack and Elliot, are pictured here handing over the cheque. They were described by Audrey Mackay from Inglewood as “wonderful young gentlemen”. Well done to these two and their chums who helped on the night!



Year 9 Rotary Textiles Competition 2015

Ms Mayer

Pupils in Year 9 have been working hard in their own time to design and make an item for the Rotary textiles competition. The theme this year was to design an accessory for a teenager based on the theme of 'Into the Light'.

Ideas included bags, ruck sacks made from recycled hoodies, hats and phone cases, and the two winning entries were from Mia Cooper and Misha Atkinson.

Mia made a bag showing lots of textiles skills, including designing her own pattern, patchwork and inserting a pocket. Misha made a felted beaded bracelet, which was bright and eye-catching and a very saleable product.

The judges, who came into school, awarded them joint first prize as there was nothing separating them. The two girls will now go forward to the Cumbrian final where they will be up against other pupils from other schools all around the county.



We all wish Misha & Mia (above) the best of luck!

FONTS 100 Club Mrs Hoskins

April 100 Club winners:

Ticket 50 – Beth Wilson

Ticket 32 – Ian Pearson (11VB)

Ticket 23 – Zoe Graham

The General Election

Ms Williams



About three months ago I began a series of political talks on Friday lunchtimes, open to students from Years 10-13. I invited a range of local Parliamentary candidates from the main parties to come and talk to students. With many of the Year 13s eligible to vote on 8th May, I hoped they would get an insight into the different policies and manifestos being put out by the parties. With so many people today either not voting or believing that MPs and politicians are “all the same” and “it doesn’t matter who you vote for” it was my aim that students should be able to see the different values and beliefs behind the parties, as well as having an opportunity to quiz them on a one-to-one.

Our guests were Miss Lee Sherriff (Labour Party), Neil Hughes (Liberal Democrats), Jill Perry (Green Party), John Stanyer (UKIP), Brent Kennedy (Trade Union Socialist Coalition), Lord Roger Liddle (Labour Peer and County Councillor for Wigton) and Rory Stewart MP (Conservatives). The talks were well supported by students, who asked thoughtful and often provocative questions that really challenged the candidates on their party lines. We were also lucky enough to be contacted by ITV Border Television who came into school and filmed one of the talks and interviewed some of the students who had attended.

Thanks to all the staff and students who attended the talks and to Mrs Crone and Mrs Symes for helping with the planning and organising of the talks.

We also ran our own mock election in school. There were no official candidates, although we did have a hustings the day before with representatives from the two main parties. Harry Edwards (Year 11) and Oliver Coulson (Year 12), representing Labour and Conservatives respectively. They answered questions from an audience of staff and students. Both had done their research and were able to present their party lines articulately and fluently. They both have promising careers on the green benches in Westminster, albeit on opposite sides.

The results from the NTS election were Conservatives 286 votes (30.7%), Labour 259 (27.8%), UKIP 236 (25.3%), Green 91 (9.7%), and Liberal Democrats 59 (6.3%). There were 36 spoiled papers. There was a turnout of 72.7%. Many thanks to all students who took part and Mr Beechey and the Year 13 students who formed the electoral/polling team.

Music Department News

Miss Raven

We have had yet another busy but successful half term in the Music department.

On the 30th April we held our annual Summer Term Concert which included performances from all the larger ensembles which included Choir, Wind Band, Big Band, Saxophone Quartet, Samba Band and Brass Duet and the Wind Quintet. We even hosted some special guests from Wiggonby Church of England Primary School and Thomlinson Junior School who had been coming to the Samba Band’s rehearsals on Tuesday nights after school for the whole half term. These pupils ranged from Year 3 to Year 6 and it was a delight to see them enjoy performing with our own pupils. The evening was very well attended and all of the pupils performed well. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the pupils who have given up their time this year to play/sing with the various groups we have to offer.

On Thursday 7th May we had a second concert which showcased the individual talents of many of the pupils who receive instrumental tuition both in and out of school. With 25 items on the programme it promised to be a jam packed evening and the pupils all performed exceptionally well, whether they were grade 1 or post grade 8. It was so lovely to see all the pupils supporting each other and showing what they have been learning all year.

And finally, any pupils interested in taking part in next year’s school production should keep a look out for information on auditions which will be happening shortly after the half-term holidays.

Year 12 Leisure Studies Fieldtrip Boustead Hill Equestrian Centre



Mr Knott

The weather was favourable and the pupils excited about the Year 12 fieldtrip to Boustead Hill Equestrian Centre. The aim was to understand how an organisation such as this is run and how then to apply their knowledge to their pre-exam case study.

Mr Knott, Mr Blackwell and five intrepid students jumped in the minibus and drove out to the coast near Burgh-by-Sands for a hoedown with some horses! We got suited and booted in all the appropriate safety equipment before being led out on a supervised ‘hack’ around the local area. Once back in the paddock, we helped lead the horses back to their respective stables and then got down to asking the owners of the centre some questions based on how it is operated, what types of business systems they use and the types of legislation they have to adhere to. They were excellent hosts and I’d like to say a big thank you to Sarah and Nicola at Boustead Hill for making us feel so welcome. Pupils really enjoyed themselves, mixing business with pleasure on a very productive and successful fieldtrip!



Accelerated Reader (AR)

Home Connect – Year 7 Parents

Mrs O’Grady

If you have a pupil in Year 7, you should have recently received a username and password to enable you to log in to AR Home Connect. AR Home Connect allows you to view your child’s progress in Accelerated Reader as well as all the books they have read and quizzes that they have taken. You can also request to receive email notifications when your child completes an AR quiz.

Sports News

Mr Clark

Cricket:

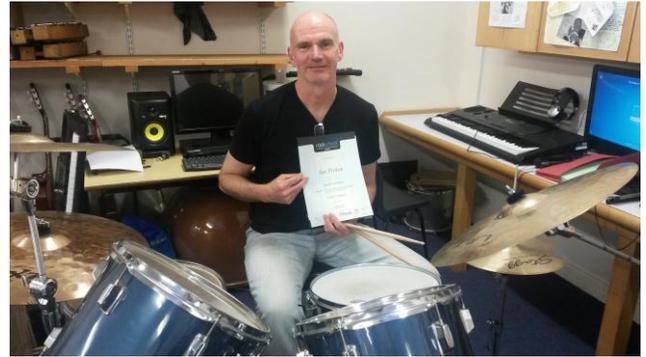
We have had a successful start to the 2015 cricket season with the U12s beating William Howard to reach the next round of the County Cup. Attendance at practice sessions has been excellent with many talented cricketers to select from. The U13s have also progressed to the next round of the County Cup after defeating RRCA in round 1. Their second round match will be against Trinity after half term. The U14s progressed to round two of the Cup by beating Trinity impressively by 10 wickets and will now play Austin Friars in round 2. Finally, our Year 10s have progressed against both William Howard and RRMA to reach round 3. We are hoping for more success after half term.

SSCO

We recently held a successful Primary Swimming Gala at Wigton Swimming Baths on 28th April where our Year 9 leaders: Misha Atkinson, Seth Blacklock, Hannah Nixon, Liam Edgar, Sam Evans, Daniel Evans, Reece Barton, Anya Coulthard and Beth Jennings were excellent in both their officiating roles and in terms of the level of encouragement, support and enthusiasm that they demonstrated towards the primary pupils. It was a close run event, with Thomlinson Juniors defeating a fantastic Ireby team by a single point to win the trophy! The next event is the Rounders tournament on the 19th May.

Adult Education Fiona Wasteney, Manager

We have come to the end of a busy year with large classes in our qualification courses - GCSE Maths and Certificate in Counselling Skills, as well as in some of our leisure courses such as Improve your Sewing Machine Skills, and the more unusual Mindfulness for Wellbeing. We are proud to say that two of our drumming students decided to take their Grades this year, for the first time ever, and achieved a merit.



Ian Picken holding up his Grade certificate for drumming!

Next year, we shall be offering GCSE Maths again as well as GCSE English, and both of these are free. We shall be offering our Counselling Skills course again, which also gives you the opportunity to improve your career prospects. We shall be running our usual leisure courses with additional ones such as Dressmaking for Beginners, Japanese, Singing, and many more. Please look out for our Course Guide which we shall be sending home. We will also email details to parents (Wigtonadulted@nts.cumbria.sch.uk), and we are now on Facebook (Wigton Adult Education Centre), and have our own website:

www.Wigtonadulteducationcentre.org.uk

You can also phone me on 0774 697 4806. Have a lovely summer and hopefully we will see you next year!

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Mr G. Clark

Careers guidance is available to all NTS students from home or at school:

1. From home, at: <http://vle.nts.cumbria.sch.uk/>. Please log on to ‘Moodle’, select ‘Careers Guidance’, and follow the blue links that interest you.
2. For personal help with finding out about Careers, or making choices about your future, please contact the Careers Education & Guidance Officer at NTS, Mr Graham Clark.
3. ‘Drop-in’ Careers Guidance sessions are available to NTS students on Monday and Friday lunchtimes, from 12.45. Please come to the Careers Education & Guidance Services office.
4. Parents or carers: if you have any queries about your child’s career options or choices, please feel free to contact the NTS Careers Education & Guidance Officer at Parents’ Evenings for Years 9-13, by phone (016973 42160, extension 250), or email at: careers@nts.cumbria.sch.uk.