



Belmont Community School

July 2016

Dear all,

It has been an exciting year here at Belmont Community School, but one which is now drawing to a close. Staff and students have worked exceedingly hard over the past 12 months. I hope you enjoy reading about all the students have been doing and the many successes they have achieved this year. This term, we are including a Belmont Stars booklet, that shows just how talented our students are.

We would like to wish the following staff well as they move on from Belmont:

Mrs Waldie, who is retiring after 13 years service to the school as Deputy Headteacher.

Mrs Jackson, who is moving schools to teach in Gateshead after 12 years at Belmont.

Miss Bulmer, who is moving schools to teach in Sunderland after 5 years at Belmont.

Mr Caygill, who is moving schools to teach in Sunderland after 3 years at Belmont.

Mrs Bentley, who is moving schools to teach back in Stoke, having only been with us a short while.

We will also welcome new members of staff starting in September:

Mrs Burton - Deputy Headteacher

Mr Mortimer - Assistant Headteacher Maths

Mrs Duarte - Assistant Headteacher English

Mr Davidson - Head of Science

Mrs Summers - Head of Music

Mrs Pickard - Head of History

Mrs Todd - History teacher

Mr Mills - PE teacher

Year 11 have left us following a great send off at the Prom. We wish them all the best in their future careers and look forward to seeing them on results day, the 25th August.

Y10 parents attended a Raising Achievement Evening to look at the specifications and help them support their children through GCSE revision. We plan to hold similar events in the autumn term for other year groups as the Government refocuses our priorities back to traditional examinations.

This year we have started using Parent Pay school text service so that we can communicate quickly and easily with you. Please make sure we have your correct mobile number so that you receive the latest information. In 2016/17 we are hoping to develop our own School App so that you can find out what is happening at the press of a button.

Looking forward, from September we will have a slight change to the school day as we move from 5 lessons to 6 lessons of 50 mins each. Following feedback from some parents we are consulting on the timing of the school day; looking at the start, finish and lunch timings. We will be consulting students, staff and parents to see if any alterations need to be made.

Do not forget that **Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th** are both **Teacher Training Days** and the students start back on **Wednesday 7th September 2016**. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and hope that the weather is favourable whether you are at home or abroad.

Thank you for your continued support.

UKMT Maths Challenge

Well done to the students in years 7 and 8 who took part in the UKMT Junior Challenge. Over 250,000 pupils from across the UK took the challenge to answer 25 multiple choice questions in one hour under exam conditions. Roughly the top 6% receive gold certificates, the next 13% silver and 21% bronze.

Special congratulations to Liam Bassett who achieved Gold and qualified for the follow-on competition the Junior Kangaroo.

Cameron Steer, James Ramm, Jack Booth, Trinity Robinson, Katherine Marsden-Bell, Grace Perez, Ben Clewes and Hannah Scrimger all achieved Silver.

Sam Dunbar, Joshua Charlton, Abby Jury Maia Hall, Callum Loughlin, Stephen Dooley, Caitlin Fenwick, Melissa Langmead, Alice Robson, Chelsea Parkin, Scott Hunter, Mackenzie Austin, Hannah Batty, Cameron Macdougall and Callum Bradley all achieved Bronze.

Congratulations also go to the students in years 9 who took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge.

Congratulations to Jake Thornton, Jamie Bartlett, Liam Clemmett who achieved Silver.

Luke Falkingham, Becky Bones, Luke Turnbull, Luke Rowland, Isabel Leck and Sophie baker all achieved Bronze.

The Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenges are run by the UK Mathematics Trust and supported by the Institute and faculty of Actuaries.



Friends of Belmont

Thanks to all of those who helped make the Summer Fair a success again this year. Planning is already underway for the Christmas Market which will take place on Saturday 3rd December.

If you would like to book a table please contact Elaine Morgan at Belmont School or Lynne Hirst via Facebook.

Durham Maths Challenge

Congratulations to Samantha Knightly, Rhianna Steer, Jake Thornton and Liam Clemmett, who represented the school in the Durham Local Authority Maths Challenge.

The team were awarded 3rd place in the Relay Challenge. They took part in a range of maths challenges and games against students from other schools in the area.



Physicist of the Year 2016

Rhianna Steer was awarded the Belmont Schools' physicists of 2016. Rhianna was awarded her prize at Durham University at an event hosted by The Ogden Trust & Durham University. The event celebrated the talent of exceptional school students and highlighted the excitement and opportunities of studying physics beyond year 11.

Rhianna, pictured here receiving her award from Professor Carlos Frenk, the Ogden Professor for the Institute of Computational Cosmology, is an exceptionally capable science student. She has excelled in Triple Science this year, especially at Physics where she has continually achieved top scoring marks in assessments. Her subject knowledge, which already goes beyond GCSE, is repeatedly demonstrated in the classroom performance and evidenced in all of her written work.

Rhianna is a very worthy winner of this award and has a bright future ahead of her in science.



Youth Work Projects

The Youth Work projects continue to be popular with students. This term a team of girls took part in the Race for Life at Herrington Park, running to raise money for Cancer UK. Congratulations to the girls pictured here on raising over £1000 for Cancer UK.

A group of our Year 7, 8 and 9 girls took part in an Internet Awareness Workshop. Dean and Andrea, from Durham Police worked with the girls giving them helpful information on staying safe online.



There have been trips to Beamish Museum to learn about how life was in days gone by, keeping fit and having fun mountain biking through Kielder Forest and Ice Skating fun at Billingham Ice Rink.



Project 110- World War 1

Rebekah Scrimger and Neave Laverick We recently had the opportunity through a Government funded scheme to visit WW1 battlefields in France and Belgium. This included the sites of the front lines in the Battle of the Somme, other historic battle sites, Commonwealth and German graveyards and British Trenches. This was in partnership with BBC Newsround to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. In the Great War, many people were affected around the world, not just the soldiers but families and friends of people near us. We were given two soldiers to research from our local area.

George William Williams who served in the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) and the Northumberland Fusiliers. Williams' body was never found so he doesn't have a grave in any of the cemeteries, He is, however, remembered by name in Tyne Cot Memorial.

George Kell who served with the Northumberland Fusiliers as a private. George's body was never found so he doesn't have a grave in any of the cemeteries. He is, however, remembered by name in Thiepval Memorial, France.

We heard the story and visited the grave of a nurse, Staff Nurse Nellie Spindler. She qualified and volunteered to go to the front line. She was deployed in between the military hospital and the front to assist a team in early medical intervention. This new strategy saved hundreds of lives. Sadly, she was killed by shrapnel and due to huge newspaper coverage at home over a woman being killed at War (she wasn't the first, but became a celebrity) they withdrew. Many men died as a result of this.

It was a very moving experience. Standing in the trenches that the young soldiers stood in just before they went over the top, visiting memorials that had thousands and thousands of names on, of men who have never been found was an opportunity of a lifetime. The memorials that were built to commemorate their lives had a profound effect. So many men were lost in battle that they ran out of room on the monuments. We both would like to recommend this trip to future generations so that we can remember them.

We visited 12 war cemeteries, memorials and churches.

Future Business Magnates

A team of Year 8 students took part in this year's county-wide Future Business Magnates competition which is an enterprise competition for schools in County Durham designed to introduce young people to the world of business and enterprise. Our team of Stephen Dooley, Alex Ellison, Faith Juniper, Jenny Piercy, Connor Robinson, Cameron Steer and Jordan Whittle took part in a series of 6 challenges throughout the year.

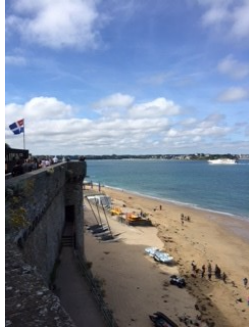
The theme of this year's competition was to improve something within the home. Their idea was "Wi-fire" which is an independent thermal detection unit with a synchronised smart mobile application. The aim of the product was to decrease house fires caused by combustion of household electrical appliances. At the final awards dinner the team won an award for Best Logo and Brand Name, with the logo designed by Stephen Dooley.



France 2016

35 students from Belmont went to France during REAL projects week. The group stayed in St Brieuc in Brittany at the Youth Hostel and from there, visited Armoriparc activity park and the traditional French market in Paimpol followed by bowling in the evening.

Students also had the chance to go sailing at Jugon les Lacs on two-man catamarans under the careful guidance of the Jugon sailing club. There were a lot of wet students!



During the week, students visited the D-Day landing beaches and associated cemeteries in Arromanches in Normandy.

En route to Paris, the group stopped off to the historic walled town of Saint-Malo (pictured here) for a spot of sightseeing and shopping. On arrival in Paris, the group went on a boat trip along the Seine to take in the magnificent monuments and architecture along the banks of the river in Paris. It was a hot 27C and the perfect evening for a spot of sightseeing.

The day after was a day in the Disney Parks and again the weather was a balmy 30C and sunny - a perfect day for a trip to see Mickey! Mr McMahon however was less enthused since it was his 15th time there!

After the American theme park of Disney, students were treated to a real French park in Parc Astérix on the Friday. Again, perfect weather with warm sunshine the whole day followed by a trip to the Aéroville mall so students could spend some of their parents' hard-earned cash!



The final day of the week was spent at the Somme battlefields, cemeteries and monuments around Thiepval in northern France which was especially poignant given the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

After a fun but tiring week, students boarded the bus back to Belmont and Mr McMahon began planning for France 2017.

Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Award

A group of Y10 students have been working all year on three of the sections with the Youth Service towards gaining a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The students have worked hard on various aspects of this award, including learning Bushcraft skills (including secret messaging as pictured below), learning cookery skills, making a music CD in aid of "Young Minds" (an organisation which supports young people with anxiety). Some students have worked with The Durham Wildlife trust, making bird feeders etc, another group have helped raise money for the RSPCA whilst some chose to work with children from local primary schools where they planned activities and quizzes for year 2 students. The Youth service partnership arrangement has come to an end this year as they are withdrawing from delivering the Award in school, we wish them well. The Expedition section is well under way and the students should have achieved the full Award by early September. Recruitment for 2016 D of E within school is underway and students going into year 10 are encouraged to sign up to an award that is renowned by employers and universities alike for the qualities instilled in young people who've achieved a D of E Award. It serves as recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development.



REAL Projects

From 4th-8th July, all students took part in our second REAL Projects week. Over 600 students took part in one of 15 projects, allowing a full week of Rigorous Engaging Authentic Learning. Projects students took part in were:

Would You Feed Your Hungry Neighbour- Students visited a local Foodbank to volunteer their services, raised money by holding a bake sale and a bag pack at Tesco and as well as collecting a colossal amount of food in school throughout the week, they raised £260 to do an online shop for foodbank items.

Zombie Apocalypse- Students learnt how to develop survival skills at Taught in the Woods as well as how to create survival diaries.

The Apprentice- Students had to complete a series of challenges and develop their own business idea as well pitch to a panel of local business leaders.



Belmont Superhero- Students investigated the history of comic-book heroes and created their own exciting characters based on their development and design ideas.

The Great Belmont Bake Off- Students worked hard on investigating and developing their techniques, skills and design to produce a show stopping cake for the "Great Belmont Bake Off".



Set, Props and Costumes- Students investigated the style of costume, set and make-up suitable for "Guys and Dolls" and created the entire set, props and costumes for the musical held the following week in school.

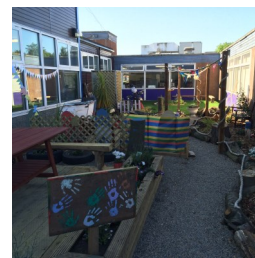
Uptown Funk- Students either learnt a new brass instrument or learnt one from scratch, performed many times as a group throughout the week in school, at a conference at Newcastle University and at Durham Miners Gala (pictured here, picture courtesy of Richard Kenworthy). They also worked with New York Brass Band throughout the week as well as looking at the mining heritage associated with brass bands in the North East.



Belmont Garden- Students worked with local experts to create a usable garden space in a disused area of the school. Students designed specific areas of the garden and cleared, dug out and build areas to create a beautiful area within the school grounds, as well as held a barbecue for their families to see their work.



Before



After

Do Films Dictate our Morals- Students investigated a variety of film themes to decide if films add to the pressure of stereotypes in modern society as well as where these ideas have come from.

Are You A Natural Born Leader- Students visited Durham Fire Service, Catterick Barracks and were visited in school by the police to investigate the realities of working in these type of career fields. Students were given exciting, rare hands-on opportunities on their visits to inspire them and to find out the “day to day” for people working in these jobs.



Computers Everywhere- Students used RaspberryPi and MicroBit to develop and programme their own computers out of interesting objects- the vegetable drum kit was a real “hit” at the exhibition!



Health and Fitness- Students were put through a series of gruelling fitness tests and competitive activities to find out what the realities are for professional sportspeople and if they could improve their fitness levels in a week of specifically designed challenges.

Trashion- Students used “junk” to turn it into specially designed and researched clothing articles. From concept to creation, students had to use only recycled or reclaimed materials to produce their “funky” new fashion items.



Who's in Your Backyard- Students worked with local experts to investigate the creatures who inhabit our local spaces, parks, gardens and “backyards” as well as ways in which these animals are tracked and monitored by professionals.

European Culture Week- Students took part in a variety of tasks and activities to investigate the influence European culture has on our day to day lives as well as parts of the culture we enjoy the most- food!

The culmination of the week was an exhibition of learning held in school on Friday 8th July. This gave students an opportunity to display, explain and demonstrate the work they had produced during their intensive week of study.

Star Radio project

As part of their Asdan/ Duke of Edinburgh award, completed with Mid Durham Projects, a group of our students worked on a project with Star Radio. Students had a great time planning and organising their own 2hr radio broadcast which was aired at the end of July.

Deputy Mayor of Durham City Bill Moir presented the students with certificates at an awards ceremony held at Star Radio in July, which was followed by a celebratory trip to Nandos.



Pic—Mark Marley practicing his presenting skills.



Year 10 students Katrina Mould and Samantha Knightley visited Star Radio to be interviewed by presenter Tim Lichfield and to record a song as part of the Local Talent Event which took place in May. The girls were promoting a CD they are producing in aid of Young Minds.

Dance Visitors

We were visited by local dance company “Synergy” in April who came to work with our MAT KS3 dancers. The company delivered a full workshop to 30 of our students then performed a full routine with the theme of “Animals”. The company were visiting from New College Durham as part of their BTEC Performing Arts course and we were pleased to see former students as part of the cast.

We were also visited by Debbie Harbin from the Centre for Advanced Training at Dance City in April, who came to work with our MAT KS4 students. Debbie put the students through a challenging contemporary workshop and gave students an insight of what it would be like to study contemporary dance beyond school, as well as making students aware of valuable opportunities in Durham and further afield in the North East.



Exam Successes

As well as taking academic exams, our students have been taking graded musical exams over the past few weeks.

Edward Mason (7M) passed his grade 1 drum exam and Faith Juniper (8B) passed her grade 2 violin exam with distinction (both students pictured here). Rhianna Steer (10O) passed her Grade 4 trombone with merit.



Madeleine Pritchard (11E) passed her Grade 8 singing with distinction, Katrina Mould (10E) passed her Grade 7 singing with merit, Gabrielle Smith (9B) passed her Grade 6 singing with merit, Tommy Higgins (9E) passed his Grade 5 singing with merit, Jessica Railton (9M) passed Grade 4 singing with distinction and Zoe Sprules (9M) passed Grade 4 singing with merit.

We are very proud of all these achievements which show the hard work and dedication by the students and their teachers. Congratulations to you all.



Guys and Dolls

Over 50 students took part in our annual summer musical. This year the musical "Guys and Dolls" was the chosen production. This is the third time the musical has graced the stage at Belmont, the last time being in 2006. Students worked from January to July to rehearse, choreograph, learn lines and finally get onto stage, performing to the local community on Wednesday 13th then their families on the evenings of Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July. Once again, the commitment and effort shown by students created an outstanding run of performances and we look forward to the next challenge ahead!



Girls Football

We have recently joined Washington, Chester-Le-Street and Derwentside District after previously being with Bishop Auckland District for many years. The main reason for moving Districts was travel related. We will miss the competition within our old area. However, positively, the change has meant there are many more schools with Girls teams.

We have entered U13, U14 and U16 teams in the County Cup and also the District has an active central venue league.

From September 13th 2016, Girls football training will restart, and run every Tuesday night, 14:30 - 16:00. All girls are welcome to train and play if they are interested. Please encourage the girls to sign up as we had a successful season this year and women's football has an extremely high profile at the moment.

Y10 Independent Living Skills Project.

Our Year 10 nurture group had a visit to Seaham beach where they collected sea glass in preparation for their Leisure project as part of their Independent Living Skills. They also visited Lickety Splits icecream palour a well earned reward for all their hard work.



The group also visited Beamish Museum, as part of their English and Independent Living Skills project. They were shocked when they realised boys of their age would not be at school they would be working down the mine earning a living for their parents. It helped them realise how lucky they are!

Belmont Bakespeare Competition

To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday and 400th anniversary, we had our very own birthday bash: the students watched a play over lunch, there was sword fighting and Shakespearean insults but the main event was 'Bakespeare'; our "Bake a birthday cake for Shakespeare competition". Our winning bakers were Rebekah Scrimger, Year 9, Stacey Taylor, Year 8 and our LSA Mrs France. Cakes were sold and raised around £50 for Cancer Research



Fundraising

This term we have raised over £1,400 for charity.

We have held a Help4Heroes fundraising day where we had a visit from Hero Bear. Y10 students Harry Raine and Jack Yusuf kindly volunteered to take turns in wearing the bear suit on what proved to be a very warm, sunny day! Hero Bear posed for photo's with students and staff in return for donations for the H4H charity.



Y7 students chose to do a fun run and obstacle course to raise money for their chosen charity - Dementia UK. It was great to see so many students getting into the spirit of the event by dressing up for the fun run and there was a great deal of competitive spirit in the team obstacle

course event.

Year 9 have also chose to organise and take part in a Fun Run in aid of Cancer Research.



Harry Potter Book Night



For Harry Potter Book Night, the LRC was transformed into Hogwarts and staff dressed up for the occasion.

A number of competitions ran alongside this event, the most popular being the BBC 500 Words competition whereby students had to write a story around the theme of magic. Our winners, pictured here, were Hannah Batty, McKenzie Austin and Mrs France.

Durham University Scholars Programme

We are very proud of our students who took part of Durham University's Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme.

The programme is delivered by a PhD tutor from Durham University to small groups of high performing students with the view to exposing them to university –style learning, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and ambition to help them secure places at highly selective universities.

This year the topic was "Weather that changed the course of history. How do we reconstruct the climate of the past?".

Each student was required to complete a 2,000 final assignment as part of the programme. These assignments are marked in the style of university grading and we are proud to say that 4 of our students gained a 1st, 2 received 2:1, 1 2:2 and 2 received 3rd class Hons).



Learning Resource Centre

There has been lots of things going on in the LRC this term. We have had a competition to find the most extreme, oddest, weirdest or craziest (but safe) place you can be found reading. Competition winners were:



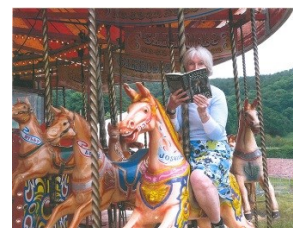
Damien Henderson



Stacey Taylor



Mrs France



Mrs Gander

We also have a #FridayReads on twitter. Students and staff can suggest books which they have read and enjoyed and Miss Roe shares one each Friday in tutor time and on the noticeboards in the LRC. This terms #FridayReads have included The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge and The Last of the Spirits by Chris Priestly.

This term we held a very successful Scholastic Book Fair where students had the opportunity to buy current popular fiction at half price. The next Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for December 2016, in ideal opportunity for buying Christmas presents.

Reminder to parents

Please remember to check uniform leaflet on the school website to ensure students return in September wearing the correct uniform. Please pay particular attention to trousers and footwear (trousers should not be tight fitting or denim and shoes should be formal black shoes and not trainers or plimsolls). Remember students are not permitted to wear any jewellery, other than a watch. No extreme hairstyles or colours are allowed. If students return in September wearing incorrect uniform parents will be contacted to rectify this immediately.

Could parents/carers please remember to contact school by 8:30am if their child is not coming into school. Please ring 0191 3865715 and select option 3.

Timings of the School Day

Following feedback at the Parents' Forum we are consulting all stakeholders on the timings of the school day. Please can all parents complete the online questionnaire via the following link <http://goo.gl/forms/hNCE2BTvr2bzHb1B2>

Students and staff have been consulted and in the autumn term we shall inform everyone of the results.



**Our students, staff and governors hope you have a great Summer break.
School re-opens to students on Wednesday 7th September 2016.**