



Belmont Community School

March 2016

This newsletter comes at the end of a short, but extremely busy Spring Term. Much has happened in the world of education as well as the world of Belmont Community School.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the things students have been doing and the many successes they have achieved this year. It was a delight for me to see so many students receiving rewards for good behaviour and attendance this week!

Despite it being only a short term, Y11 students have managed to attend over 1000 extra study support classes after school. I was equally pleased to see parents' support for the children in the improved turnouts at Y10 and Y11 Parents' Evenings. Y11 parents also attended a Raising Achievement Evening to show them how to support their children through GCSE revision. One parent said "It was extremely useful, I wish we had had it earlier!!", so we are going to hold a similar event in June for parents of Y10.

We are really keen to communicate with you and seek your views on the progress we are making and any concerns you would like us to address. To this end, I have enclosed a parental questionnaire which I hope you can complete and return to us by 15th April 2016. If parents wish to contact the school directly, then I am more than happy to meet with you; our contact details are on the website.

Following some suggestions from parents we have introduced the Parent Pay system, which allows you pay for meals and trips online, which means parents never have to hand over cash. Parent Pay also run a school text service so that we can communicate quickly and easily with you. We have already started to use this service, so if you haven't received a text, then please make sure we have your correct number.

Looking forward, we are introducing a three year Key Stage 4 so will have combined Options and Parents' Evenings for Y8 and the same for Y9 after Easter to guide you through the process. GCSE examinations are only a few weeks away once we return and we wish Y11 all the best, hoping the hard work pays off. As always the summer show Guys and Dolls is eagerly anticipated as is our popular Real Projects week in July.

Do not forget that the **Monday 11th is a Teacher Training Day** and the students start back on **Tuesday 12th April 2016**. I wish you a relaxing and enjoyable Easter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Headteacher

Singing Successes

Our singing students were rewarded with excellent examination passes in their recent Trinity singing exams.

Madeleine Pritchard (Y11) and Travis Ross (Y10) gained passes in their grade 7 exam whilst Y9 students Emily Bainbridge and Gabrielle Smith passed their grade 5 exam.

We wish every congratulations to these students and also to our vocal tutor, Mrs Kerridge.



Students at the Sage

Instrumental students Katrina Mould, Simon Mould, Faith Juniper, Poppy Humphrey and Paige Jenkins performed at The Sage Gateshead as part of Durham Music Service Showcase day on Saturday 19th March. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to join forces as part of a larger ensemble as well as perform in one of Britain's most prestigious concert halls.

Faith said "I really enjoyed the day and it was an excellent experience to be able to perform at The Sage, I was so excited when I got home I took ages to get to sleep".

Students performed very well.

Guys and Dolls

We will be performing the popular musical "Guys and Dolls" from Wednesday 13th- Friday 15th July 2016. The parts have been cast and rehearsals are underway. The cast have visited a touring performance of the show which was performed at Newcastle Theatre Royal on Wednesday 23rd March. This was an ideal opportunity for our cast to see exactly what happens in the story as well as develop ideas about their own characters and performance in role.

Grand opening of the Sportshall

We were pleased to have the Grand Opening of our refurbished Sportshall in February. Invited guests from Badminton England, Durham County Badminton, Belmont Parish Council, Belmont Community Association, School Governors and Durham University joined The Lady Mayor Jan Blakey, Deputy Mayor Bill Moir, Paul Marsden (Headteacher), Anita Steven (Assistant Headteacher) and Stuart Henderson (School Business Manager) attended the official opening.

After a spend of almost £100,000, three quarters of which was funded by Badminton England, Belmont Community School now boasts a state of the art facility and top class badminton venue that is home to Durham County Badminton, Durham Swifts, Belmont and Durham University badminton clubs.

In addition to being a top class venue for Badminton, it is also a multi-use facility for students of the school and for community use after 5pm each evening and at weekends. For community booking, follow the link on the school web-site.

The new facilities will become a regional hub with the aim of developing and attracting some elite athletes of the future as well as those who just play for leisure and exercise. The school hope to add badminton stars to our already proud history of sporting achievement.



Dance Fusion Academy

A number of our students have performed in a dance showcase at the Gala Theatre for Dance Fusion Academy. The following students attended: Bethany Hall, Sophie Boyd, Charlotte Armstrong, Hollie Pritchard, Katie Jenkins, Abbie Pritchard, Catherine Young, Ellie Metcalf, Amelia Pearson, Holly Brown, Hallie Jones, Olivia Beveridge and Brooke Stephenson.

Miss Curry runs an extracurricular dance club every Thursday in Performing Arts and a Zumba Class on Monday—new members are always welcome.

London Calling

On Wednesday 10th February 2016, 65 students and 5 staff set off before dawn for our annual trip to London.

Students visited the iconic "Shakespeare's Globe" for a tour, and were fortunate to see Dame Maggie Smith waiting to attend an afternoon performance as an audience member. Next stop on our tour, after having our evening meal at Hard Rock Café, was an evening performance of The Lion King and a follow up workshop the next morning at Dance-Works, where students were able to ask questions to cast members from the Lion King which - very exciting opportunity. After a quick lunch in Covent Garden, we watched a thrilling performance of Phantom of the Opera before travelling back to Belmont.

Each year our London trip has grown and grown and it is a privilege to take so many of our students to experience a very exciting and inspiring few days watching people who are performing at the top of their game, day in, day out.

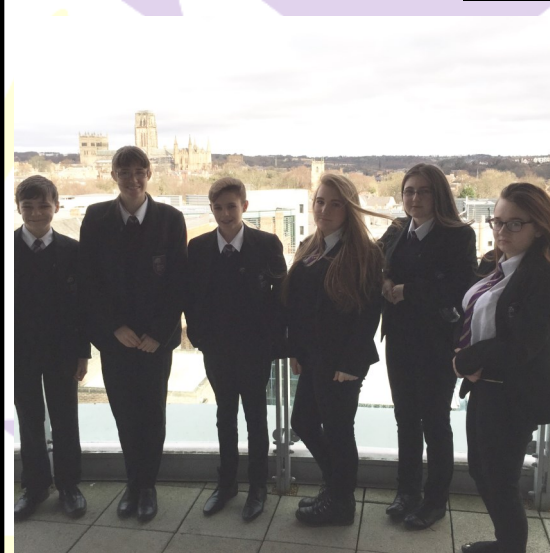


Pupil Librarian of the Year Award

Congratulations to Rebecca Alderson, who was a finalist in this years national Pupil Librarian of the Year Award. Rebecca, along with her parents and Miss Roe, attended the awards ceremony in London in March. Rebecca had the opportunity to meet some authors and was presented with her award by current Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell.

Rebecca has been a student librarian since Year 7 and it is her years of dedication to the LRC and supporting students with choosing books that made her a stand out choice to be finalist for this award.

Durham Future Graduates Award



Year 9 students Luke Turnbull, Jake Thornton, Kendra Ardle, Rebekah Scrimger, Amy Robison and Megan Rivett have attended their first trip to Durham University as part of the Future Graduates Programme. The project aims to give participants an insight into the benefits of higher education and experience of studying at university. The group are working on their first project and looking forward to returning to the university in April.

Leadership Academy

15 talented students in PE have been selected to take part in the Leadership Academy. The students have access to a range of National Governing Body coaching qualifications and will lead a series of sports events throughout the summer term. One of the leaders Joshua Carverhill has completed over 100 hours of voluntary work coaching. He has also completed his level 1 Basketball Coaching Award and level 1 Athletics Award.

Karting Sensation "Goundry Girls Racing"



Student Alicia Goundry, and her sisters, are making their mark in both national and regional karting competitions. The girls are competing in this year's national Super One karting championship. Alicia looks set to become the next karting sensation as she takes on, and beats, older more experienced drivers. We wish her, and her sisters, well in the coming season.



Hairspray!

Staff and students attended a performance of "Hairspray!" at Newcastle Theatre Royal on Thursday 28th January 2016.

Students were thrilled to see "TV legends" Claire Sweeney and Tony Maudsley grace the stage as well as watching the live band as a feature throughout the performance. It was the perfect warm up for the subsequent trip to London.

British Values

On the last Challenge Day, both Y7 and Y8 took part in a British Values project day and were introduced to a wide range of activities around rights, responsibilities, laws, fair trade and liberties from the UK and using case studies from Singapore, North Korea and Australia.

The results of this will be seen on a display being planned for reception at school and so if you are visiting the school, you may wish to see what students thought about the day and their attitudinal change based on the case studies. Students were asked also to design a school symbol for what 'British Values' means and the winners of that competition will be displayed in reception too, these winners will help design the next Challenge Day for Y7 and Y8 with the help of the pupil voice carried out.

Army Team Building

During the recent Challenge Day, we were lucky enough to have been able to secure a visit from the army to work with students around team building and situations the army find themselves in. The students involved found the day to be a very energetic day and we had some muscle aches the following day! Students also became very muddy as the army put them through their paces on an assault course on the school field.

If U Care Share

Having worked with the "If U Care Share" charity for a number of years, Y10 are about to become involved with the charity to develop a project in school. The charity deals with the mental health of young people and their website has further details should anyone be concerned about their own or someone else's mental health. ifucareshare.co.uk

Year 8 Football team

The year 8 football team have been on a successful run of form recently winning their last 4 games. With three games remaining, we are hoping for a strong finish to the season and we are looking forward to continuing the football team next season in year 9!

There are a few fixtures remaining this year for year 7, 8 and 9. Anybody interested in playing should see Mr Taylor.

SAFC Tournament

Eryn Stephenson, Jodie Moderate, Charly Phillips, Marianna Alves and Eboni Wilson all represented the school in a SAFC tournament at Goals Soccer Centre on the 3rd March 2016. They played 5 a side games against other schools. They won 1 game, drew 1 and lost 2. .

Durham Wildcats

Our Basketball team are currently being coached by Durham Wildcats. If you are interested in playing, the team train on a Thursday 3pm-4.30pm in the Sportshall. New players are always welcome.

Girls lead the way in football

Our Girls Football team, pictured here, train every Monday after school, 2:30-3:30pm. If you would like to join the team please see Mr Colledge or Mr Laverick.

The girls are well established team, most of whom play for external clubs. Charlotte Cooke, Becky Bones and Eryn Stephenson, who all play for Lumley Ladies FC, have been selected to represent England. They will compete against Wales in a National competition. They were chosen to play out of all of the U15 teams in the UK.



Sport Relief 2016

In aid of Sport Relief 2016 Mr Caygill, Mr Colledge and Mr Nesbitt took part in a "King of Sports" competition. The lads took part in a variety of sporting challenges which saw Mr Nesbitt the eventual winner. The whole proceedings were recorded and played to staff and students as part of the Sport Relief weekend. Through donations the school raised £100 for charity.



New College Durham Visit

Our Year 10 Nurture group were invited to visit New College Durham to have a look around the college and see the courses and their facilities.

Students visited areas of interest which included the salon, motor mechanics and the support area to help them make an informed choice about the options available to them after they leave Belmont.



Youth Club update

As part of their Youth Group some of our year 7 & 8 students applied for key fund grants which have given them the opportunity to visit places such as the Clothes Show Live in Birmingham (pictured here) and the Metro Radio Live concert in Newcastle.

As part of their Fun Fitness Project the lads visited Air Infinity

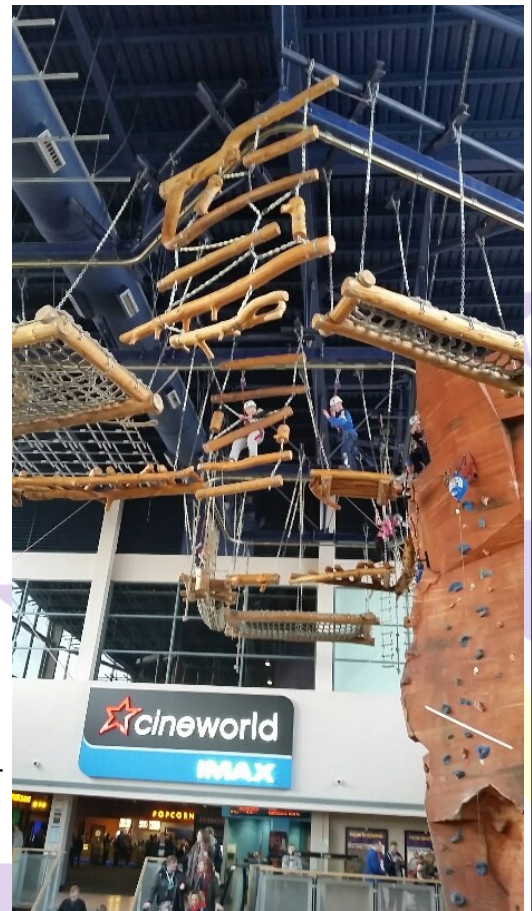


Laurel Avenue Lads Group were treated to a great night of racing and stunt riding at the Monster Arena Motorcross show at the Metro Arena in Newcastle.

The Team Around The School Young People won a keyfund grant to visit Xscape, in Castleford, where they took part in sledging, snow tubing, high wires (pictured here) and laser tag. They even managed to fit in time for some lunch !

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh group and Pitlington Youth Club girls attended a sports event during the half term break as part of their volunteering section. The girls took part in street dancing (pictured below), spinning, dodgeball and had an induction in the use of the gym.

Any one who is interested in joining any youth groups should contact Keely Fingleton on 0191 3865715.



eSafety

On 29th February, the whole school staff were involved in training on how to keep students safe online and in school. This training was delivered by the Local Authority and emphasised how risky it is for young people on-line and how, we as adults, can help protect them. Staff who are parents found this particularly enlightening and were unaware of some of the new social media platforms students access on their smart devices and how these platforms can be exploited.

On the school website, there are some useful links for parents around eSafety and some resources for any adult looking after a young person at any age.

There is a free booklet being made available at parents' evenings and has been distributed at both Y10 and Y11 parents' evenings which contains a good deal of reading matter on the subject of eSafety. If you were unavailable for either of these evenings and would like a copy, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we can send a copy home with your son/daughter.

If your son/daughter is in a younger year, these booklets will be available on registration at parents evening, but should you wish a copy in advance, please contact the school and we can arrange for a copy to be sent out to you.

Year 10 Independent Living skills trip to Sambuca

Our Year 10 Independent Living Skills group had a visit to Sambuca. The students gained experience in eating in a restaurant, and ordering their own food. They were also allowed behind the scenes to see a working kitchen and gain some understanding of the hygiene rules they follow.



Future Business Magnates

Our FBM team recently took part in Challenge 4 of the Future Business Magnates competition. This challenge was all about marketing our business. We visited Durham University and explored how we could advertise our product using social media and a range of other marketing ideas. We are currently eighth in the league table with a total of 338 points; however we have not used our joker card which doubles the points of one of our challenges and some of the schools above us have already done that. We have two more challenges: finance and the final presentations.

Taking part in the FBM competition has been a great experience so far. We believe winning FBM could support us get a job in the future. Previous teams have done well in the competition, 2 years ago the Belmont team won and last year they came runners up.

We are aiming high, we would like to get 1st place having produced an excellent idea of wi-fire.

We hope this is a winning idea!



Table Tennis Officiating

As part of the core PE programme students who selected the sports leadership option have completed the level 1 table tennis officials course. Over 50 students have gained this qualification and are able to officiate at school events.



Talented Athlete Programme

Over 50 students have been invited to attend the talented athlete programme to develop their skills and techniques and experience a range of sports that are not traditionally delivered in curriculum PE. The PE department has linked with table tennis coach Paul Henderson to teach students how to play table tennis. This term students will also take part in badminton, trampolining and fitness.

Basketball team

The year 8/9 basketball team have been involved in a number of competitions over the last term, most notably in the school games competition. We won 3 out of the 4 games and came head to head against a strong Durham Johnston team in the final qualifier. Unfortunately we lost the game 10-8, however our efforts were commended by other school staff who described the contest as the closest game in the past 20 years.



Athletics

Congratulations to Savannah Lloyd who made it through to National Final of Sportshall Athletics in Manchester. She competed in a range of events and was the overall winner in the U15 girls. She will attend the national final at Sport City in Manchester in April. Oliver Talyor also represented Durham in the regional round of this competition.

Key Stage three badminton

In March Belmont hosted the Durham County Key stage three badminton tournament. The event is one of many planned events to promote school club links and increase opportunities for participation in competitive sport. Belmont entered the most teams in the tournament and were particularly proud of Damien Henderson who captained Belmont B team and was awarded Player of the Tournament for which he received a medal.



Nikki Beaston—Raising the Bar



Congratulations to Y8 student Nikki Beaston who has been chosen as a finalist in the "Raising the Bar" competition. Raising the Bar is a competition for deaf musicians, dancers and actors organised by the National Deaf Children's Society.

The judges said that this year they had had an extremely high number of outstanding videos sent to them from all applicants making the judging panel's decision very tough.

Nikki has been invited to attend a weekend masterclass in June.

Infinite Air – This Girl Can



A new club has been set up forging links with Infinite Air. Each week students go to Infinite Air where staff lead sessions in trampolining, free running, martial arts tricking and bounce fit. We have negotiated exclusive use of the facility for the hour. Over 20 students attend the club each week with the numbers increasing to 30 places after Easter.

Friends of Belmont

A big thank you to everyone who supported this year's Easter Fair. It was, once again, a great success, with monies raised going towards the purchase of a school minibus.

Thanks to Mr Bungle for keeping the children entertained allowing parents to visit the massive array of arts and craft stalls.

Planning is already underway for the Summer Fair which will take place on Saturday 25th June. Stallholders—contact the school and get your name down early to secure a place.



**Our students, staff and governors would like to wish you a Happy Easter
School re-opens to students on Tuesday 12th April 2016.**

