



Belmont Community School

December 2014

Astellas Innovation Challenge

We were delighted to have a team of year 11 girls (Rachel Daniel, Ellie Hinds, Megan Wilkinson, Tilly Suddes and Samantha Davison) reach the national finals of the Astellas Innovation Challenge. This challenge tasks students to work in teams of up to 5 to develop the concept for a new mobile app to encourage healthy living to 5-7 year olds.

The all-girl team achieved first place in the North East regional contest and were invited to take their 'Penny & Friends' app to London where they presented their proposal to a panel of expert judges from the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Although the team did not win they had a brilliant and valuable experience.

The girls said: 'We are very pleased to be representing the North East in the finals. We think that living a healthy lifestyle is important and that our idea is a good way to help younger children develop healthy habits. We've also gained a lot of experience through the competition and learnt how Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are all combined to create an app'.

Julie Ryder who leads the Science team said: "I am delighted that five of our girls in year 11 have won the regional competition. At Belmont we are keen to promote the STEM subjects to all of our students and we offer a range of exciting opportunities for our students to explore the variety of career prospects available.



Our winning team pictured here with Rachel Riley from Countdown.

Christmas Truce

Some of our year 7 students performed The Christmas Truce at Belmont Community Centre on Wed 17th December.

The class have been rehearsing hard since October in their Drama lessons and are looking forward to their public performance of such a famous and exciting story.

STEM Café

This term heralded the beginning of after school STEM cafés.

Professor John Girkin, pictured here with colleague Halim Kasumaatmaja, helped launch the café. He spoke to students and staff about the science of everyday objects.

December's STEM café was hosted by Durham University's Rob Cramb who gave a very informative talk on "Why do athletes use a warm up before competing?"

These café's have proven to be very popular with both students and staff.



Belmont students perform in Holland

Students from year 8-11 became international performers after a trip to Valkenburg, Netherlands in September. Students were accompanied by Mrs Jackson, Mr Rowell and Miss Hazell.



Students gave two performances in Holland, one in Kerkrade and one in Vaals. Both performances included some soloists, group performances and dances and were extremely well received by their audiences. It gave our students an extra dimension to their performances as well as a chance to develop their confidence.

As well as performing, students visited local historic sites in Valkenburg and enjoyed a day at Phantasialand theme park.

Boys Moves!

Year 8 and 9 boys were treated to a series of dance workshops with a dance professional from Dance City. As a result of the workshops, Y8 students Jack Dance and Manraj Pabla were invited to visit Dance City to watch the Boyz Moves performance, with a view to taking part next year.

Mrs Jackson and the boys attended the performance at Dance City, which was impressive and gave us an opportunity to see where we need to aim to create excellence.

Brass at the Sage

Y7 brass students Kimberley Scott, Annabell Frewin-Wood and Trinity Robinson attended an exciting Brass Workshop at the Sage Gateshead on 15th November. Mrs Jackson was also a tutor at the event, hosted by World of Brass, and was part of the Brass in Concert festival. All students took part in a concert that was watched by over 500 people and were excellent ambassadors for the school and their families. Well done girls!



Year 11 students seal link with German partner school

From Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th December, 21 Year 11 students took part in a visit to Stuttgart in Germany. The aims of the visit were to strengthen our link with Wagenburg Grammar School, our German partner school, to experience traditional German Christmas Markets and to improve the students' spoken German and comprehension.

During the visit, the students took part in lessons at our partner school and visited the Mercedes-Benz Museum. They also saw a Christmas-themed laser show at the Carl Zeiss Planetarium, as well as having the opportunity to visit Tübingen, Durham's sister city. While there, the students went shopping at chocolART, Germany's biggest chocolate festival and a group of student visited the amazing museum at the town's prestigious university.

Mr Ferris and Miss Telfer led the visit and were highly impressed with the students' sustained effort to learn, both culturally and linguistically, over the course of the visit.



End of an Era

After 23 years as Chair of Governors, Ray Pye stepped down from this role at November's meeting of the Full Governing Body. Many of you know Ray, who lives in Sherburn and has been a Governor at the school for 27 years. He was a local Councillor and has given so much of his time to ensure Belmont has grown and developed to the school it is today. Ray continues in his role as Chair of Governors at Sherburn Hill and Sherburn Village Primary Schools. It has long been Ray's intention to retire this year but we were pleased that he agreed to remain on the Governing Body of our school until September 2015. We are delighted that Harriet Pritchard, Parent Governor, has taken on the role of Chair with Leigh Johnson remaining as Vice Chair. Parent Lynne Hirst has joined the Governing Body from September as has Fiona Wilson, as staff representative.

Youth Service Update

As part of the Volunteer Section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award a group of young people planned and organised a World War One themed Tea Party for Senior Citizens from the area. There was high tea, a quiz, singing, giving of gifts and a toast to all those who had given their lives in WW1.



As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award a group of young people planned a Frozen event for 120 families from local nurseries and primary schools. A great Sunday afternoon with lots of singing, crafts and fun.

Well done to the girls of West Rainton Youth Project and Sherburn Youth Group, pictured here, for completing their Fun Fitness Projects including activities like Zumba, Boxing, Metafit and Cardio Tennis. Well done girls !



Laurel Avenue Youth Club, pictured here, had the opportunity to take part in riot training with Durham Police. This is vital training undertaken by Police to prepare them for real life situations.



Gymnastics Gold Medal Winner

Congratulations to Megan Young who won the Gold Medal in her Gymnastics Competition in October. She completed Level 4 which takes her a step closer to getting into British squad. We wish her well for the competition in February.



Northern Echo School's Poetry Competition

Many of our students wrote war poems to commemorate the centenary of World War 1 as part of a competition run by the Northern Echo. We are very proud of year 9 student Katie Hirst who had her poem published in the Northern Echo Commemorative Supplement as part of the Remembrance Edition. She was picked as the editor's choice.

Friends of Belmont

This year's Christmas Fair was a brilliant event, thank you to all who supported it. We had over 60 stalls and raised nearly £1,200. We are now planning the Easter Fair, if you would like a stall please phone school or contact us through Facebook, Friends of Belmonts School.



We have also held a Bag Pack at Durham Marks and Spencer. Students, staff and volunteers worked very hard and the amount of money we made certainly reflects this. The total raised was £280.13 and 1 sixpence !

Thanks go to everyone who took part but special thanks go to the students who looked very smart in their uniform and gave up their Saturday to make money for their school.

We would also make a plea to any parents who work for companies who participate in match funding to contact us, companies which participate include: Santander, Alliance & Leicester, Asda, BAA, Bank of England, BP, BT, Camelot, Cornhill Insurance PLC, Debenhams, DHC, HBSC, Sainsbury, Kellogg's, Kingfisher, Littlewoods, M&S, Natwest group, Norwich Union, Peugeot Motor Company, Royal Bank of Scotland, Royal London Mutual Insurance, Stagecoach, Tesco, Woolwich PLC, American Express, Anglian Water, Argos, Bank of America, Bank of Scotland and Centrica

Jeans for Genes

Early this term students and staff took part in Jeans for Genes day to raise awareness, and money for Genetic Disorders UK. Students and staff replaced their usual trousers or skirts with Jeans. This event raised nearly £670 for the charity.



Transition Activities



This term we have had a number of younger visitors in school with lots of primary school pupils from our local primary schools taking part in transition opportunities. In October and November Mrs Latta, Mrs Hindmarch and Miss Telfer ran a number of computer programming workshops for year 5 and 6 students.

Mr Ferris, Curriculum Team Leader for Internationalism Language and Culture visited a number of feeder primary schools to deliver language learning sessions to KS2 students.

We welcomed a large number of year 4 students to Technology and Science where students were able to manufacture a football rattle and investigate sound with Mr A Hall, Mr Wake, Mr Derbyshire, Mr S Hall and Mr Caygill.

In Performing Arts Mrs Cooper, Miss Hazell and the year 10 Performing Arts class ran Drama and Dance workshops for year 4 and 5 students based on this year's Pantomime 'Cinderella gets her Fella'.

The Maths department held a maths challenge for year 6 students where students completed a number of tasks including designing a Christmas bauble using mathematical skills.



Mrs Corrigan, Miss Roe and Miss Bulmer welcomed year 5 and 6 students from a number of primary schools to the English department for a debating day.

Year 8 lead Sportshall Athletics

On Wednesday 12th November Belmont hosted the 3rd of the qualifying rounds of the sports hall athletics. Six of the feeder primary schools attended a fun packed afternoon of races, jumping events and throwing events. All of the events were led by students in year 8 who did a fantastic job and were praised by Cheveley Park School and the Competition manager Jennifer Lloyd Edwards for their mature attitude.



Future Business Magnates 2014-2015 10th Anniversary Competition -

A New Challenge.

A new team, a new challenge; attending the FBM Ten Year Anniversary Launch Event at the Excel Centre in Newton Aycliffe with our 2014 winning team and new 2014-2015 team we were delighted to find out we are working again with the same business partner from last year's competition, Waterstons. The theme this year is Discovering, Detecting, Developing a Different Use of Light

Our 2014-15 team opposite (Back row left to right – Jessica Blenkiron; Hollie Pritchard; Neave Laverick and Lauren Coates. Front Row left to right – Jake Thornton; Sam Wilson; Rebekah Scrimger and Abigail Colledge) flying through the challenges at the speed of light coming third in Challenge One, Teamwork scoring 104 points; this was announced on Star Radio. After attending an inspiring introduction to Challenge Two at the Sjøvoll Centre we are continuing to work on researching an idea for our business. Our report for this challenge is due on the 16th January 2015 so we still have lots of work to do.



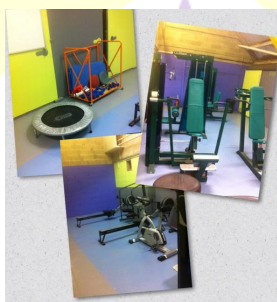
Young Volunteer Award Winner

Huge congratulations to year 9 student Bryce Denholm, pictured here with representatives from Durham Community Action, for winning the Young Volunteer Award this year. Bryce volunteers with the group Lads Together where he offers his support and care to young men who have additional needs. Bryce gives up much of his spare time to work with the group, many of whom, it is felt, would not attend if Bryce was not there. He was praised for his helpful, kind, caring and positive attitude.



Belmont win the U16 Table Tennis Tournament

A huge congratulations to Charlotte Cooke, Amy Prudhoe, Holly Pritchard and Kaitlin Richardson who were the winners of this year's U16 table tennis tournament.



Fitness Room

The new fitness room was completed during October half term and opened to students on the 3rd November 2014. The fitness room will be used for Key stage 3 and 4 lessons and is open after school on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. So far the room has been widely used and a Sports Committee has been set up as part of the school Council to continue raising funds to help improve and develop the sports facilities and equipment.

Cinderella Got Her Fella

A massive thank you to all students and staff, front of house, technical crew, make up and costume artists, bar staff and back stage helpers who worked together to make this a fantastic show.

Thanks to Friends of Belmont who served food and ran raffles.

Lastly, but by no means least, thanks to everyone who came and watched the brilliant performance.



Trip to Wembley

Thanks to Vision for Education who, through their partnership with Durham Women's FC, secured tickets for some of our girls to attend the first Wembley match for England's ladies team. The girls had a fantastic day.



School re-opens to students on Tuesday 6th January.

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Miss Judith Wilkinson, Head Teacher Mrs Veronica Waldie, Deputy Head Teacher
Mr Dan Brinton, Deputy Head Teacher Mr Stuart Henderson, School Business Manager

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