



# Belmont Community School

June 2015

## New Headteacher

Mr Paul Marsden has recently started visiting school in preparation for his new role as Headteacher of our school in September.

Mr Marsden, Head Designate, says "I am delighted to be taking up the position of Headteacher at Belmont Community School. As a leader and teacher with nearly two decades experience in secondary schools in the North-East, I look forward to continuing the great work already happening at Belmont. I have worked in three different schools, including primary and university sector, holding a variety of posts before joining the leadership team in my current school, where I have been Vice Principal for the past five years. I am aware Belmont Community School has a good reputation with rising pupil numbers and strong links in the community. It was evident from my initial visits that both staff and pupils are proud of their school, and it is clear that strong leadership has resulted in the high standards achieved to date. I am determined to keep the momentum going and push the school to new heights.

I am committed to ensuring we achieve the best for all our students".

## Belmont wins Badminton England bid

A major refurbishment of the sportshall will soon be underway at our school.

The badminton hub, which will serve the region's badminton clubs and local residents as well as the school's own students, has received a capital grant from Badminton England for £78,000, as well as financial support from the school and Belmont Community Association, for a major refurbishment.

The new facility will feature four badminton courts, state-of-the-art lighting, flooring and a wealth of high quality equipment.

Our school has also been set up as a hub for Badminton England's 'Smash Up!' initiative, the informal badminton sessions aimed at 12-17-year-olds in schools and leisure centres across the country. The launch event, pictured here, took place in April.

Julia Strong, Community Game Director at Badminton England, said: "We are delighted to help Belmont Community School fund this refurbishment, which will not only increase the number of people playing badminton but also provide a home venue for the Durham County Badminton Association.

"Badminton is played all year round at the school, but this project will enable them to develop more sessions before and after school, and during lunchtimes. The project will also benefit the county by feeding local junior clubs and we hope it will leave a lasting badminton legacy for many years to come."



### Future Business Magnates

Our team of Future Business Magnates, pictured here, recently met Miranda Krestovnikoff, a radio and television presenter specialising in natural history and archaeology for BBC's Coast and One Show .

They attended Miranda's talk to help them understand the skills they need to develop to give their final presentation successfully in front of a panel of judges in this years' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Future Business Magnates competition.

Miranda's top tip for our team is: 'Always believe in what you're doing and others will too!'

Our team of marketing gurus have also launched their live website, as part of Future Business Magnates Marketing and Communications Plan Challenge, for their business [prepair.solutions](http://prepair.solutions/).

They built their mobile compatible website with the help of Mr Thomson from local business Spynboxe. Visit the website to find out about our FBM team's business this year at:

<http://prepair.solutions/>



### Football U16 Success

Congratulations to our U16 boys who were recently crowned League Trophy winners. The team, managed by Mr Latta, are triple winners of the Small Schools' League, League and Cup competitions amongst all Durham Schools.

The winning squad was composed of Decklan Greenwood, Callum Greaves, Trent McMenam, Alexander Walker, Oliver Graham, Jack Ball, Josh Ashcroft-Brown, Adam Warrilow, Jay Wilson, James Wingfield, Andrei Ardelean, Louis Benthams, Daniel McGuire, Philip Smith and Niall Fingleton.



### Shrievally Award Winners

Congratulations to students Charlie Stagg, Bryce Denholm, Hayden Denholm and Matthew Highley who received Shrievally Awards from the High Sheriff of County Durham recently.



### UKMT Maths

Well done to Ben Fulton, Thomas James & Thomas Knight, pictured here, for taking part in the UKMT Mathematical Circle. These students showed a fantastic commitment to their mathematical studies by taking part in a number of challenging activities alongside other students from the North East.

Thomas McGranaghan, Ellen Richardson and Thomas Knight achieved Silver and Ben Fulton achieved Bronze in

the Intermediate

Challenge. These students demonstrated excellent problem solving skills and mathematical knowledge in the exam.



Becky Bones, Rhianna Steer, Oliver Taylor and Connor Travers, represented Belmont Community School against other teams in Durham. These students demonstrated excellent team work during a number of mathematical challenges.

### Y11 Theatre Trip



Year 11 English Literature students recently visited the Theatre Royal, Newcastle to see "To Kill a Mockingbird" in preparation for their GCSE examination as well as a spot of pre exam enjoyment!

### Pride of Performing Arts

We were extremely proud of our amazing PA technician, Mr Rowell, who was a finalist in the Northern Echo School's Awards Best Support Staff category. Although he was not the overall winner, we are still very proud of him and know that he has an impact on the learning and opportunities in our department, both past and present. Well done Mr Rowell.

Mr Rowell is photographed with ex student Nathan Clark and Thomas James from year 10 who have worked both with, and alongside, Mr Rowell on many school productions.



### In Hindsight visit Belmont

We were very lucky to be visited by popular band “In Hindsight” on 20th January. The band performed some of their new material for our Y8 students as a prize for excellent participation and effort in the Dance Off last term. The band also discussed online safety and cyber-bullying as well as signing posters and other items for students. It

was a fantastic opportunity for our students to watch a live band performing in our school and some students went to see them performing at Newcastle O2 Academy in April after being given free tickets.



### Sports Hall Athletics Final

Year 8 student Oliver Taylor, pictured here with his team, performed fantastically well recently at Manchester in the National Sports Hall athletics final. The competition was really strong and overall the team finished in 11th place.

Oliver was 10th in the 6 lap race and 11th in the Triple Jump. Coach Paul Donaghy said “He was a credit to himself and his school”.



### The Brilliant Club

Throughout the programme our students have had the chance to work closely with a PhD Tutor in a series of small group university-style tutorials, studying a ‘super-curricular’ course that explores topics not usually studied in the school curriculum. The students recently completed an extended final assignment that challenged them to work above their current key stage. Students are now awaiting feedback on their assignments.

A graduation event will take place on Saturday 30th May at Durham University, where pupils will take part in a formal ceremony to celebrate the completion of the programme



### Darlington Drama Festival Darlings.

Once again, Belmont students competed at the Darlington Festival of Performing Arts on Saturday 14th March and returned to Durham with a collection of trophies.



Y8 students Gabrielle Smith and Emily Bainbridge, pictured left, gained 1st place in the duologue class, with Y10 students Caitlin Moyse and Ellen Braban taking 2nd place in the same class.

Gabrielle also gained 1st place in the solo acting class and fellow Y8 student Tommy Higgins, pictured right, triumphed in the solo improvisation class.



### Shrek-tacular!

On Friday 13th March, a group of 60 students and staff descended on Newcastle Theatre Royal to watch "Shrek- The Musical".

The trip was greatly anticipated after a year long wait but students and staff were not disappointed. All the familiar characters from the Dreamworks animation were brought to life and raised the roof in the packed out Theatre Royal.

It was a thoroughly entertaining experience and it was fantastic to take such a large group of students to see the production.



### London Calling

February saw the largest trip to London so far from the PA department. 65 students and 5 staff spent 2 days visiting venues such as The London Eye and Covent Garden, enjoyed a meal at the Hard Rock Cafe as well as watched performances of musicals Charlie and The Chocolate Factory and Mamma Mia. They were also given an excellent workshop by West End musical star Jack Shalloo, who told our students "Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something- you can do anything you want to if you work hard enough for it" which was a very powerful message. Roll on next year!





## Youth Project News

Students involved with West Rainton's Youth Project have been very busy with all sorts of activities. The Laurel Avenue boys helping Durham Police with their training on dealing with a riot.



For all the hard work our village girls did around health and young people, they were rewarded with a brilliant day in London after being successful in gaining a 1st stage keyfund grant. Well done for all of their research and hard work



Our Pittington girls were successful in gaining a 2nd stage keyfund grant so they were able to go on a 2 day residential to Edinburgh. They visited the zoo, dungeons and Mary Kings Close experience



Around 30 young men from several of our youth projects came together to take part in a 5 a side football tournament. The young men picked teams out of a hat and all teams played each other. All young men who took part received a medal and prizes and special awards were given for top goal scorer and man of the tournament

Our footballers also took part in a 6 a side tournament at Soccarena, organised by Gateshead College. They got to the final but were beaten after extra time went into penalties which lead to the golden goal.



Some of our year 7 after school club visited Billingham ice arena.



Our Performing Arts Group visited Sunderland Empire to see Dirty Dancing as part of their Bronze D of E award.



Young women from our youth projects attended a keyfund fun day in Newcastle and took part in activities such as non alcoholic cocktail making, fun photobooth and competitions for prizes.



### Sport Leaders Award

Well done to; Josh Ashcroft Brown, Emma Dunn, Niall Fingleton, Decklan Greenwood, Lewis Graham, Lauren Yusuf, Ellie Robinson, Kayleigh McIlwraith, Mark Marley, Matthew Highley and Bryce Denholm who, during the Easter holidays, completed the Sports Leaders UK award with youth workers Keely Fingleton & Erika Denholm.



### Duke of Edinburgh Award



As part of their Bronze Duke Of Edinburgh the "Angels in Disguise" group were successful in gaining a 1st stage keyfund grant to complete their look good feel good project. They went to Seashells Beauty Salon so they could learn more about hair & beauty.

### U13 Football Festival

Yr 8 girls Becky Bones, Charlotte Cooke, Neave Laverick and Yr 7 Eryn Stephenson represented our school as part of the Bishop Auckland District team at the Annual Football Festival at Maiden Castle on 21st April. They joined girls from Durham Johnston, Bishop Barrington, Teesdale and Sedgfield.

The Senior referee in charge of the games commented "That is what I do it for. Good football, great attitudes and development opportunities!"

The girls played well in some close matches and due to some fantastic weather the festival was a great success.



### Basketball at Belmont

The Basketball team has increased in size since last term and we now have a KS3 and KS4 team who have been competing in many competitions coming 2nd in a recent competition. These players have come a long way and are enjoying our training sessions on a Wednesday after school.

### Belmont Students Display at National Trust Gibside

Some of our Year 10 triple science class had the opportunity to take 2 guests each to Gibside to show the display work they produced following their residential trip earlier this year.

If you are visiting Gibside do drop into the Discovery Room in the stables and see the great work produced by the year 10 group.



### Year 5 Transition

It has again been a busy term for transition activities.

Mr Ferris visited a large number of our feeder primary schools to deliver a language learning session. and Mrs Logawood delivered geography workshops.

In February Mrs Corrigan and Miss Bulmer hosted a Shakespeare Drama day where students used physical theatre to explore "The Tempest".

Science and Technology departments ran a STEM day for year 5 students. Students were able to make use of our laser cutter to create their own key rings and in science they carried out experiments to investigate light.



### Accelerated Reader

Year 7 students are going from strength to strength in Accelerated Reader, reaching some impressive milestones.

Nine students have achieved a reading age over 15: Liam Bassett, Lille Brash, Joshua Charlton, Caitlin Fenwick, Hope Proudlock, Trinity Robinson, Alice Robson, Cameron Steer and Lauren Stewart.

Seven students are 'Word Millionaires': Caitlin Fenwick, Maia Hall, Poppy Humphrey, Hope Proudlock, Cameron Steer, Lauren Stewart and Eleanor Stoves.

Year 7 students altogether have read 31,186,566 words since September and have passed 3,344 Accelerated Reader quizzes!



### **Year 7 at Dukeshouse Wood.**



125 year 7 students, Mrs Cooper and 12 staff spent 3 days and 2 nights at Duke House Wood Activity Centre near Hexham. They were there to take part in team building and confidence building activities as part of the ongoing transition programme in year 7.

The sun came out to shine and students and staff had 3 sunny days to try out all of the challenges. Working in groups of between 12 - 15 students and staff took part in a team challenge where they had to get through an army style obstacle course and Team Tech where they had to build the tallest tower. There was also Nightline where students were blindfolded and had to work together to get through a series of obstacles. This gave students an understanding of how they had to rely on their other senses to communicate with each other effectively.

There were high adrenaline activities such as Abseiling and the 3 G Swing where the encouragement of the rest of the team helped students and staff overcome their fears. Quad biking, aeroball and laser quest added to the excitement.



The food was great, the weather lovely and the students and staff all had a fabulous time!

### **BBC Radio 2 500 Words Competition**

It was a great honour for Miss Roe, our Learning Resource Centre Manager, to be involved in the first round of judging for the BBC Radio 2 500 Words competition.

Overall Miss Roe marked 62 short stories and read over 310,000 words.

### **Student Vacancy**

The LRC is looking for students to volunteer some free time (before school, break, lunch, after school) to help in the LRC. If you are interested see Miss Roe for an application form.