



From the Headteacher

As we come to the end of the first term of the year, the pace of school life doesn't let up! My thanks to all who work so hard to give the very best opportunities to our students, both staff and parents. As you read on in this edition you will be reminded of why we have every right to be so proud to be part of Beaumont: astro-physics, Billingsgate, Boccia winners, a visit to the Tower, our new telescope, our new cardboard compactor (!), visiting experts, GCSE awards, piles of wonderful Christmas boxes, over £5000 from the Christmas fair....the list goes on!

At the end of this term we say farewell to a number of support staff: Mrs Sproule, Mr Parren, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Peett and Mr Bower. We thank them all for their contribution to Beaumont and we wish them all the very best in the future.



This week I have sent home a letter about changes to the reception area and a reminder about uniform. This contains important information – please check the letter on the website if you have yet to receive it.

Finally I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas with time to enjoy being with family and friends.

Elizabeth Hitch

A huge thank you to the BSA for providing the Christmas trees in our Reception and Hall, and thank you to the students who spent a busy lunchtime decorating them. They look fantastic.



January Diary Dates

Tues	3	Students return to school – normal times
Weds	4	Dance Auditions 3.30-5pm Hall
Thurs	5	Awards Assemblies 'A' level, BTEC and IB Presentation Evening Hall 7pm
Tues	10	Into the 6 th Form Evening – Hall and other venues January exam series starts (til 27 Jan)
Weds	11	Year 10 Parent Information Evening Work Experience Hall 7pm
Thurs	12	November exam results to students Residents meeting 6pm library
Weds	18	BSA Committee meeting 7.30pm Library
Thurs	19	Curriculum Enrichment Day
Fri	20	Year 12 /13 Theatre Trip to Lyric, Hammersmith – evening
Mon	23	Beaumont Life Deadline
Tues	24	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Weds	25	Governors' Awayday 1.45-5.45pm, Library
Sat	28	Gym and Dance rehearsal all day – Hall



For details of sports fixtures please check the PE Blog www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com

Beaumont welcomes comments from parents/carers and families about any aspect of school life. Please contact us via our email admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk



Focus on.....

The Physics Department

A2 Physics practical investigations

As part of the A2 Physics students are presently completing an extended practical investigation. This piece of coursework allows students to exercise independent learning skills, choosing and researching an area of physics to study, designing their own experiments and meeting the challenges of trying to obtain meaningful data. Below are a few personal views of Beaumont students:

I am looking into magnetic damping which is the slowing of magnetic objects, specifically in my case how small rare earth magnets slow down as they fall down a copper tube. This is due to the electrical current they induce in the tube making a magnetic field which opposes the field of the magnet. I am enjoying it as I chose to do this investigation.

Nick Morgan



I am investigating how the angle of attack of a model swept wing affects lift. My challenge has been to determine a way to measure lift and I did this by seeing how the wings weight changes with an air flow over it. I found it useful to reaffirm theory with experiment.

Ollie Glyn

I am investigating the conductivity of metals and how they change with temperature. I have found the investigation difficult as it highlights the need for good experimental skills.

Holly Andrews

I am investigating magnetic hysteresis and whether the effect is significant with low strength applied magnetic fields. It has been interesting and challenging.

Ellie Mestel

I have been looking into how hull shape affects the drag coefficient by using a pulley system to apply a constant force to pull different shaped hulls through the water. I have used electronic light gates to measure the velocity. It has been one of the most interesting experiments I have done and involves an area I wish to study further at university.

Hugh Mc Harry



I have been testing the characteristics of a model parachute and how they are affected by weight and surface area. It has been interesting to see how unpredictable the path of the parachute is. I have learnt how important it is to have knowledge of all the variables.

Josh Hayward

I have been investigating how the deflection of a water droplet is affected by the electric field it experiences between two metal plates. The experiment looks simple when you think about it in theory but more difficult to actually do. You have to think about different ways to make it work.

Shaquil Trotman

Astronomy Evenings



Astronomy is always a fascinating subject. There are so many wonders to see in space. As well as being integral to Science, it is also one of the seven liberal arts (the others being grammar, logic, rhetoric, music, arithmetic and geometry) which were considered essential education to produce excellent citizens. We are lucky to have an excellent amateur astronomer who hosts sessions with us. Mr Lewis, a Beaumont parent, always brings his enthusiasm for astronomy along with excellent equipment for viewing the stars.

We had clear skies on 5 December and enjoyed looking at the Moon and Jupiter close up. We also saw the Crab Nebula, Orion and many other astronomical beauties. We will be doing more astronomy on 20 February. For more details, see Mr Lloyd in room 42. For more wonderful astronomical pictures, or if you would like to become an amateur astronomer, you can have a look at Mr Lewis's website, <http://www.skyinspector.co.uk/>.

Mr Lloyd

Year 7 Science Club



Science Club has continued its great experiments with all aspects of Science and the Science Department continues to be popular as *the* place to be on a Tuesday lunchtime. We have done a lot of great Physics based experiments. Our students built marble runs and used their ingenuity to make sure that the marbles spent a minute on the run. We have also built elastic powered cars, learnt about the fascinating properties of water and discovered that different compounds have their own distinct colours.

This is what we will be doing next half term:

- 03/01/12:** Making helicopters.
- 10/01/12:** Making cabbage indicator.
- 17/01/12:** No Science Club (CED activities).
- 24/01/12:** Science Club Quiz.
- 31/01/12:** Bath bomb competition.
- 07/02/12:** Domestic Science.

Mr Lloyd



Beaumont Mission to the National Space Centre – “To infinity, Leicester and Beyond!”

On 8 November a large group of Year 10s went to the National Space Centre. It was a great learning experience in which we did many activities throughout the day including a ‘training missions to space’ simulator, a viewing of ‘We are Astronomers’ in the IMAX theatre and an interactive space mission called ‘Voyage to Mars’. The ‘Voyage to Mars’ was a fun interactive activity that we did at the start of the day. We were split into two groups and given different jobs to do in either the spacecraft or the Mars control room. Our mission was to relieve a crew who had been living and working on Mars for two years and to send a probe to one of the two Martian moons.

My job was communications and I had to deliver the information from the rest of my groups to the spacecraft. I enjoyed it but it did get very stressful due to many messages coming in together. Overall the day was fun and I would love to go again.

Holly Moorton 10A



Our New Telescope



(source: f1 telescopes Ltd)

Thanks to the generosity of the BSA, Beaumont has bought its first telescope! We bought a model designed by the grand-daddy of telescope-makers, Isaac Newton. The design is 350 years old but, even today, it still represents the cheapest way of building a high quality telescope.

Our first observations

Just like another great astronomer, Galileo, the first sight through our telescope was Jupiter and its moons. This photograph gives you the idea, only what we could see was better. All four moons were on one side of the planet, which is unusual



(source: astronomyonline.org)



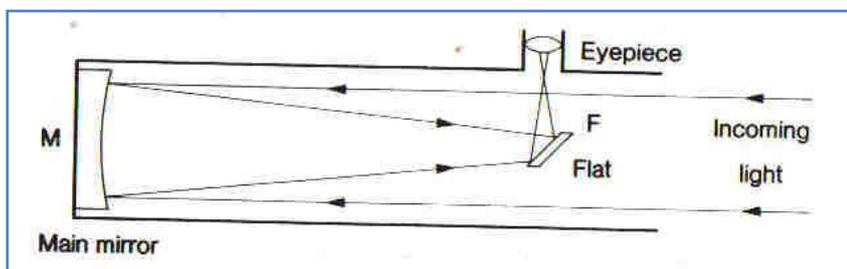
(source: Astronomy Picture of the Day website / Pic du Midi observatory)

We could also see much more detail of Jupiter itself. We could easily make out the red bands in the planet’s stormy atmosphere.

Galileo observed Jupiter over several nights in January 1610 and soon realised that the moons orbited the planet with a regular motion, just like our moon. At the time, everybody believed that all the heavenly bodies orbited the earth, so it was a shock to find out that the Earth was not the centre of universe. In fact, most people refused to believe him. But we saw the evidence with our own eyes!

How it works

The main mirror at the base of the tube collects light from the stars and reflects it towards a flat mirror near the top, which diverts the focussed beam into the eyepiece where the image is magnified.



Our telescope’s main mirror has a diameter of 6 inches. This means it can detect stars about 300 times dimmer than can be seen with the naked eye. Our lowest power eyepiece will magnify the image 48 times: this is ideal for looking at star clusters. We have another eyepiece that will magnify by 120 times: this is great for observing mountains on the moon and

detail on planets. We also have an eyepiece combination that will magnify by 240 times, but this is tricky. Because the earth is rotating, the stars appear to move from east to west. When this movement is magnified 240 times, it’s hard to keep the image in view for more than a few seconds!

Thank you

We want to say thank you to Mr Lloyd for arranging our astronomy evenings. We also want to say thank you to Mr Lewis, a parent, who is an expert astronomer and has been so generous with his time. He has built the largest, most impressive telescope that you will ever see outside a professional astronomy department. **Come along to our next Astronomy Evening and join in!**

Mr Sargen



Curriculum Enrichment Day November 2011

Year 7: The Tower of London Visit

On Tuesday 8 November the whole of Year 7 invaded the Tower of London as part of their studies on Medieval England. The weather managed to hold off and the students were shown around the castle by the members of the History department and our honorary member for the day, Miss McCrorie. Students were able to enjoy the many features of the most famous fortification in the country and get lots of ideas for their castles homework (due in the last week of this half term). The White Tower had been revamped and had the outside cleaned since the last visit which enabled the students to get a more focussed look at some of the key military treasures that are held there such as several of Henry VIII's suits of armour, an array of weapons from medieval to the modern era and of course, the famous block used for executions.

The interactive displays were also popular: learning how to draw a bow, feeling the weight of a musket and seeing the damage it could do to a sheet of metal. The Medieval Palace was another favourite, particularly as there were costumed experts present in the King's bedchamber - a lady and two knights. As a result many of the students ended up being dubbed knights themselves, and were taught the significance of the actions and words in the very brief ceremony.



The wall walk showed just how impenetrable the castle had been; it allowed the students to understand how the castle would have been defended and imagine how the archers would have aimed and been protected by the clever design. The Crown Jewels wowed again this year, and although I have seen them on around 20 various trips I, like the students, was still in awe of the sheer volume of jewels and



precious metals that are on display. There were still the usual displays of wide eyes and gaping mouths as they saw some of the largest cut stones in the world.

The Year group was a pleasure to guide around the Tower and we hope that they enjoyed it as much as we did. Special thanks to Ms Esmizadeh who was the lead teacher for the trip, Ms Wensley, Mr Greenhaf and Miss McCrorie for leading the groups, Mrs Pellington for administering the trip and the (many) staff who supported too.

Miss Pearson

7L in the White Tower in front of a dragon made entirely from weapons and armour



I highly enjoyed the trip to the Tower of London because it was very interesting and I really liked seeing the ravens and old armour. I learnt that some of the mythical stories about the ravens were not true, and I also learnt that there were lots of different types of weapons they used back then.

Taya Patel 7L

I really enjoyed the trip to the Tower because I learnt so much and I didn't realise that the Tower of London was so complicated. I think that the most amazing thing I learnt was that when they built the Tower of London it cost about as much as the king owned. The crown jewels were brilliant as I didn't realise how many crowns there were.

Tom Sherwood 7L

I really enjoyed the Tower of London, even though I had been there with my parents, because the teachers knew lots about the history and culture of the Tower. The most interesting thing that I learnt on the trip was that the stairs to the Tower were wooden so that when someone invaded they could burn the stairs down. This would prevent the attackers from getting the crown jewels or taking the throne.

Ella Wilton 7L

I enjoyed the trip to the Tower. The most important thing we learnt was that not many people were executed inside the Tower – most were executed in the grounds outside.

Bethan Brohn 7E

The visit to the Tower was better than I expected. The most important thing I learnt was how they tortured people for answers that they most likely didn't have! The torture equipment was clever because they had designed it to cause pain but not to kill people.

Carolyn Barnard 7L



Year 10: Drama Day - The Woman in Black



On 8 November 2011, 51 Year 10 students took part in a Drama CED. The day involved workshops based around tension, followed by a trip to London to see *The Woman in Black* at the theatre.

We arrived at school at twelve thirty (always a bonus!) and got going with some drama almost straight away. The afternoon was jam packed with games and improvisations all based around the theme of tension. Actually all the improvisations were based on *The Woman in Black*, but we didn't know that at the time. We acted out ghost stories, and created characters using hats, before doing a final improvisation using a line from the play as a stimulus. Some improvisations were confusing, some were really creepy, and some were just plain silly, but it was all great fun!

The theatre was in London, so we set off from school at five thirty to give us plenty of time to get there. We arrived just in time, and once we were all seated, the play soon began. There were only two actors in 'Woman in Black' and I was amazed at how good the multi-roling was. The story is of Arthur Kipps, a solicitor who has to deal with the case of a recently deceased Mrs Alice Drablow. All is going well until he begins to see the Woman in Black.

I can honestly say that it was the scariest thing that I have ever seen! The show was so amazing; I got so involved with the story that I was almost yelling at the characters to stop what they were doing but they didn't listen to me! I would recommend the show if you don't mind being scared out of your wits or having your fear of the dark re-established! It was a wonderful day, and I loved every second of it.

Beth Wilson 10E

Year 13 Independent Living

The recent CED gave Year 13 the opportunity to learn skills needed for living independently. We were able to choose from learning cooking, first aid, learning about different cultures or sewing. Choosing sewing gave me the opportunity to alter a large collection of oversized jeans I had collected from charity shops very long ago. With the help of the other people taking sewing we turned them into fashionable denim hot pants. I was even able to make a small profit from some people wanting to keep the pair they made and am now looking to sell the remaining shorts.

Archie Wilson



Year 9: GCSE Taster Day - Ethics

Year 9 had the opportunity to experience different subjects that will be on offer to them when they make their GCSE choices early next year. To give the pupils a taste of Philosophy and Ethics (RE) GCSE they all took part in three Ethics-based sessions. They created posters on 'The emotional state of the world' by surveying newspapers and magazines, devised a chat-show on the different responses to abortion and discussed and debated forced and arranged marriages.

The teachers involved were very impressed with the high level of thinking and sensitivity shown by Year 9 during these sessions. Thank you to all those involved.

Mrs L Sidney, Head of RE



Year 11 Moving On Day

As part of their **Careers Education, Information and Guidance** programme, Year 11 students took part in a range of workshops and activities to prepare them for making their post 16 choices. These included students practising their interview techniques and learning how to make a good impression with future employers or admissions staff. Students also learnt how to make positive and informed life choices as well as completing assessment tasks to identify their skills and values relating to future employment.

Jackie Duffy from *Youth Connexions* took students through a range of careers, training and higher education websites (listed on the school website <http://www.beaumontschool.com> – go to the Careers page under the 'School Life' tab) and also introduced them to the latest resources kept in the school's careers library. Many thanks to Jackie Duffy for her invaluable help and support. .

The highlight of the day was the "Careers & Training Fair" where students could visit stalls and displays hosted by 24 local and national employers, Apprenticeship providers, universities and colleges. We would like to thank all those organisations and individuals who came along and spent the morning with our students:



Oaklands College	Barbara de la Salle	DLA Planning Consultants
Herts Police	Waitrose	University of Hertfordshire
West Herts College	Bedfordshire University	Brunel University
JHP Apprenticeships	AECOM	AD Architects
Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue	Ladybirds Nursery	College of Animal Welfare
Leisure Connection	National IT Partnership	Naomi Simmons
Catherine Dyster	Rod Turnbull	Andrew Wilks
Edward Brown	Barbie Wheatcroft	Nigel Broom



Mr Cross, Assistant Head





Student Voice - Eco Schools



The school has recently gained a new cardboard compactor which allows us to crush and sell on any waste cardboard. The school gets £80 per tonne and since the beginning of term we have already collected over a tonne of cardboard. If you have any spare or waste cardboard at home please bring it in so that the school can make money and save the planet at the same time.

In other news the school has recently applied for a grant that will allow us to purchase solar panels to generate free electricity. They won't supply all the school's needs but we hope they will provide a substantial reduction in our electricity bill. Remember to do your bit and turn off lights when you leave the room!!

Sam Hodgson, Student Voice

GCSE Presentation Evening

The annual GCSE Presentation Evening took place this year on the evening of Thursday 1 December. It was well-attended with over 80 former Year 11s (including several students who have left Beaumont) and around 120 parents and staff enjoying the evening. We were privileged to have the Mayor of St Albans - Aislinn Lee - in attendance as she had kindly agreed to say a few words and hand out the certificates and awards to the students. She spoke warmly of the school and of the students' GCSE success and personal endeavour.

This year, for the first time, the following four Awards were made:

- ✿ **Outstanding Achievement**, awarded to **Yannick Mayaud**;
- ✿ **Outstanding Contribution to the School**, awarded to **Will Dean**;
- ✿ **Outstanding Contribution to the Community**, awarded to **Rowen Seglah**;
- ✿ **Head Teacher's Award**, awarded to **Emily Almond**.

Each recipient received a cup, certificate and voucher.

The other nominees in each category received a certificate and voucher. These were:

- ✿ **Contribution to the School Award:** Hannah Perryman, Harriet Clifford, Henry Clendon, Isabel Thompson, Anna Fordham;
- ✿ **Contribution to the Community Award:** Emma Doherty, Louise Taylor, Chloe Haynes;
- ✿ **Headteacher's Award:** Yannick Mayaud, Luke Bainbridge, Tulsi Khanna.



The achievements of all the winners and nominees spanned every aspect of school life from fundraising and mentoring to sporting prowess and work in the community; from contribution to music and drama through to personal bravery and success. Without wishing to revert to clichés, it should be said that these students represent every member of the Year group - for all they have seen, done and experienced, and for everything in which they have taken part and to which they have contributed.

The evening was relaxed and celebratory and participants stayed at the end to congratulate, enjoy the refreshments and reminisce. A standing ovation for the winner of the Head Teacher's Award was a fitting finale to the five-year travails of the Year group and was just one wonderful example of how optimism, support, friendship and hard work can marry together to breed success and mutual admiration. Well done Year 11, 2011!

The efforts of many individuals brought the evening together but special thanks should go to Councillor Aislinn Lee, Mayor of St Albans for giving up her time to come and help make it a special and enjoyable evening.

Mr Sievwright

School Uniform available on-line

School uniform is now available to order online from Stevensons' online shop www.stevensons.co.uk. Ordering online is simple and is backed up by secure payment processing. Ordered items can be delivered to home.

Parents need to simply register, and then add items of uniform to their basket, at which point they can then proceed to the checkout for payment processing.

- ✗ Stevensons offer a phone help facility for anyone experiencing problems Tel: 01727 814355
- ✗ Parents can still order the usual way in the shops or via Mail Order on 01727 853262 if they prefer.

Please note that many of the standard items of uniform can also be bought at other stores.

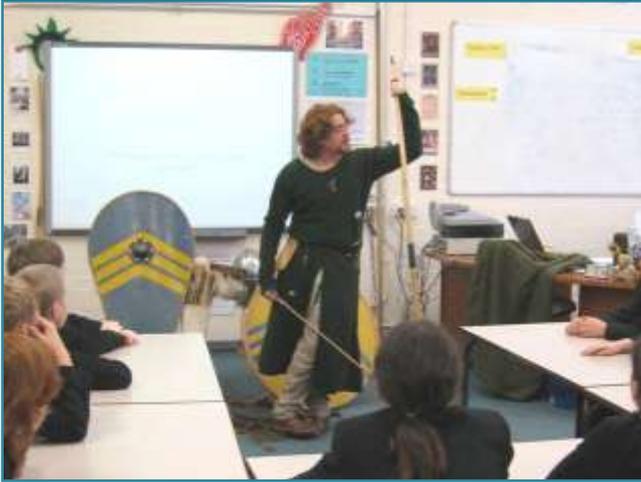




History News

On 17 November the students of Year 7 were treated to a mini invasion from an ex-student Lawrence Alman to give them a greater insight into the experience of fighting in the Battle of Hastings. The students were preparing for their assessment on this significant event and the presentation allowed them greater understanding of what it was like to fight in a battle and how it would have looked in reality. Several students from each class got to dress up in some of the reconstructions of clothing from the time: as a wealthy woman, an ordinary housecarl from the Anglo-Saxon army and a wealthy Anglo-Saxon lord. The students enjoyed the experience and were particularly wowed by the size and weight of some of the weapons such as the spear and the helmets that were worn in battle.

Miss Pearson



I loved watching the re-enactors' talk because not only did they share facts about the medieval times, but they acted out how the weapons were used. The most interesting thing that I learnt was that the spear was nine feet tall, and the bow for shooting arrows was taller than an average full-grown man.

Ella Wilton 7L

It was very believable that the re-enactors were from the time of the Battle of Hastings.

Taya Patel 7L

I think that when the re-enactors came in it was actually like they were Saxons. The weapons were so big and I didn't realise that they cost so much. The most important thing I learnt was that in battle you weren't meant to kill the enemy but just injure them.

Tom Sherwood 7L

I enjoyed the enthusiasm of the actors. **Marcus McGovern 7E**

I liked the re-enactors' visit to the school. The way they passed round bits and pieces and involved us by dressing people up was good. I learnt that weapons would injure warriors and rarely kill them. **Robyn Brooks 7E**

I quite enjoyed the re-enactors. They were interesting because they showed us how heavy the armour was so you would have to be strong to wear it. **Carolyn Barnard 7L**

I enjoyed the 1066 re-enactors coming in because it was interesting and fun. The most important thing I learnt was the prices of all the armour and weapons when compared to other items eg a proper suit of armour would cost the equivalent of three houses today. **Bethan Brohm 7E**



Library News

This term the library has had two exciting author visits. In October Simon Scarrow came to talk to Year 7, and more recently Paul Dowswell spoke to Year 9.

Paul Dowswell began his writing career as a researcher for a publisher. It was obvious from his talk that he now carries out meticulous research for his own books. He talked about the background research he did in Berlin for his historical adventure story *Auslander* and the audience was gripped by the tales he told. A small group of students also had the opportunity to take part in a writing workshop, where Paul shared his tips for turning fact into fiction.

Copies of *Auslander* and Paul's latest book, *Sektion20*, are available to borrow from the school library.

Mrs Dudgeon, Librarian





Boccia Success

On Thursday 8 December, two Beaumont teams represented St Albans and Harpenden at the Hertfordshire leg of the U19 Boccia Championships at the University of Hertfordshire. Having taken Gold last year the pressure was on both teams – confusingly named ‘St Albans’ and ‘Harpenden’ – to put in a strong performance. St Albans had a shaky group stage, two comfortable wins being followed by a hard-earned draw with Watford, and a shock defeat at the hands of Dacorum to finish second in their group.



Meanwhile, Harpenden came out on top of some high scoring group games including an 8-7 thriller against Stevenage to top theirs. This meant an all Beaumont semi-final, St Albans taking the game 6-4 despite a very strong finish from Harpenden who would probably have taken the game if we'd been able to play another end. Harpenden ended a long day by facing up to old enemies Watford: they took control of the game in the first end and played some excellent defensive shots to secure a 4-2 victory and bronze medals. St Albans showed their class in the final, putting in an assured performance against Stevenage and easing to a 5-2 win in which they scarcely put a foot wrong.

This meant it was medals all round, a nice trophy and a very happy bus ride home. The team will be back in action at the end of February for the South East Region finals, competing for a place at the Nationals in Nottingham. Huge thanks must go to Mr Willsher and Mrs Peett for their hard work and vocal support throughout the day and to everybody who was supporting us back at school. Most of all, well done to both teams for two exceptional performances.

Mr Bratley



I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the staff and students that contributed towards Operation Christmas Child. I was really proud to see the 121 boxes as they were packed into the cages to be sent off. It's nice to know that there will be 121 more smiles at Christmas!

Miss Jackson

Calling Year 7 footballers

A parent of a Year 7 Verulam student has submitted this request:

Keen footballers in Year 7 are wanted by Sandridge Rovers FC's under 12 team, who play on Sunday mornings in the yellow (fifth) division of the Watford Friendly League. Manager Aaron Clarke is looking to boost his squad with three more players. Interested boys or parents can ring or text Aaron on 07765 688073.



Beyond Beaumont

We welcome news of students or former students that you would like to share with other members of the school community. Contact

ann.darnell@beaumont.herts.sch.uk

Chris Yapp has completed an MSc degree in Management at Warwick Business School and is now working as a data analyst for Ladbrokes in London.

Congratulations!

Tim Deal is studying English Literature at Southampton University but has also found time to co-write a Number Three UK chart hit released recently by The Saturdays.



Billingsgate Seafood Training School visit

On Wednesday 7 December, the Design Technology Department was delighted to host to the Billingsgate Market Cookery School. At 8am, two of their professional instructors Eithne Neame and Joanna De Courcy-Ireland, arrived to unpack LOTS of fish. Pupils were instructed by Eithne on how to choose good quality fish and shellfish from sustainable, environmentally friendly stocks. They were taught how to identify different species and to prepare samples of white, oily and flat fish ready for cooking - including heading and gutting! After the fish was prepared, Jo took each sample of fish including seabass, gurnard, mackerel and salmon and expertly prepared some fabulous dishes. She cooked them in less than 10 minutes by scoring and infusing, grilling, baking or steaming them 'en papillote' – all really simple but impressive techniques. She used different combinations of ingredients such as chilli, soy, lemon, chorizo and fresh herbs. The (very little) quantity of fish left at the end of the day was testimony to just how much the students enjoyed the dishes! Students took away with them a recipe booklet provided by the school.



There were many memorable quotes, but to sum up, Ryan Harte 11E remarked "I didn't ever really enjoy eating fish ... but this was AMAZING!!!"

Mrs Johnson

News from the Governors

In September when the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee met for the first time this academic year, I was pleased to be elected as the new Chair.

Our first meeting focussed on the headlines of the external examination results, which we were delighted to note were a new school record at both GCSE and A level. We looked at our A level students outcomes for university applications and were pleased to note that 90% of our students went to a university of their choice, with 75% going to their first choice university. We also looked at the number of students going to "Top 30" universities and noted that an impressive 70 students were included in this group.



In our second meeting of the year we spent most of our time looking at the results in detail, by subject, by group, at A level, AS level and GCSE. We not only examined the results, but also the progress of all students from entering the school, including those at the end of Year 9 as although we are no longer required to do KS3 tests, it is of critical importance to know exactly where students are at this stage.

Particular highlights for Beaumont in the 2011 exam season are the English Baccalaureate results at 56% A* to C, and AS results which are looking very promising for A level results in 2012.

Next we will be concentrating on more distinct curriculum areas and focussing on the Plan for School Improvement.

Alison Wallis, Chair of the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee

BeauSandVer Community Programme 2012

Take up a new activity in the New Year – make friends and learn new skills! We have a wide range of activities available on the BeauSandVer Community Programme :

Modern Foreign Languages for Adults

You can still sign up for current classes in Spanish, German, French and Italian if you already have some experience in these languages. This includes a GCSE Class on Monday evenings for adults who have learnt Spanish for about two years. Fees are £80 per term for BeauSandVer parents. If you would like to learn Spanish, Italian or French as a beginner, do contact Carole to register your interest.

Arts and Crafts: Art Textiles/Creative Embroidery.

Lynsey Lloyd will be continuing her popular course. Experiment with a wide range of decorative techniques to make your own unique piece. £48 for six weeks Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.30 pm 25 Jan to 7 March.

Introduction to Criminology – aged 16 and above - Sandringham School

Ideal for A level students of law, psychology and sociology as well as adults, with criminologist Dr Katherine Weston. Discounted rates for students – see community programme for more details.

Other courses include watercolour painting, creative writing, flower arranging, Pilates, Body Sculpt and jewellery making and singing with the Community Choir. Go to www.beausandver.org.uk, call Carole Heselton on 01727 754113 or email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk for more information or to book a course.



Hello and Welcome to the first editorial of Vista St Albans Community Interest Company.

As you may know Nexus/Alban Way extended schools funding came to an end in August. **Vista St Albans** has been set up by Jo Maher and Vista will be serving the new Fleetville Partnership of schools for the next two years starting 1 January 2012.

Vista will be offering support services for children, young people, parents, families and schools in the St Albans community. We have a team of dedicated staff qualified to assist with a variety of needs. We are receptive to new ideas on how to improve things for children and young people so do let us know your thoughts.

WE AIM TO BE:

- Providing access to Life Skills programmes for our young people
- Offering emotional support to those children and young people in need
- Supporting parents
- Running training programmes
- Entertaining your children outside school hours and during the holidays

Parent Support

Being a parent can be challenging at times – we can offer individual support as well as a variety of information and guidance to services. We will be offering courses and workshops over the next two years. Call Jo Maher and her team for further information on **01727 855134 Ex. 2**

Communicating with Teenagers – 23 January – 5 March 2012 (excluding 13 Feb)

To help you understand your teen, run by Parent Centred Support and Vista on Monday evenings 7.30-9.30pm (venue to be confirmed). A small fee of £15.00 for the course will be charged.

Understanding Your Child's Anger – 6 March – 27 March 2012

Help to cope with anger and behaviour issues, run by Parent Centred Support and Vista on Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm. A small fee of £15.00 for the course will be charged.

Dyslexia Workshop – Thursday, 22 March 2012

Run by Tricia Cotton, Specific Learning Difficulties Base Manager. Workshop covers * help at home * homework * multi-sensory learning * specific problems. Understand the issues children and young people with dyslexia face. A small fee of £5.00 for the workshop will be charged.

Street Defence – Thursday, 16 February 2012 @ Verulam School, AL1 4PR – Years 7 and 8

The latest and most effective reality based self defence system. Helps you to counter any new threats that may arise on the streets of today. The session runs from 10.00am-12.00pm led by experienced and inspirational coaches for a fee of £12.00 per person.

First Aid for Teenagers – Saturday, 25 February 2012, 9.00am-1.00pm

A four hour accredited course for young people aged 13 years and over who babysit or care for children run by MGM Training. It will be held at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, AL1 4LW. Cost £25.00 per person payable to secure booking.

To book a place on any of these courses or workshops call the Booking Line on **01727 855134 Ex 2** or **07557 361246**.

Do take time to visit our website to find out more or contact Jo Maher on 07939 111152.
Website: www.vistastalbans.org.uk **Email:** vistastalbans@gmail.com

Absence

Please remember to ring the school Absence Line before 9.30am if your child is absent for any reason:

Years 7-11: 01727 732987

Sixth Form: 01727 732962

MEDLINK X

Parents may already be aware of the Medlink and Vet-Medlink courses available to Year 12 and 13 students who are thinking of taking a degree in Medicine or Veterinary Science. Medlink are now offering one day conferences for Year 9 and 10 students and their parents to offer advice and information on issues such as GCSE and AS-level courses and work experience.

For more information, visit www.medlink-uk.net

Careers Education, Information & Guidance

News from the Beaumont School Association



Many of you attended the **Christmas Fair** or were involved in some other way such as making cakes, donating goods and prizes, purchasing raffle tickets, printing programmes and more. In supporting the Fair you helped to raise the amazing total of over **£5000** (final figure to be confirmed). All Departments at school will be forwarding their "Wish Lists" in the New Year for allocation of funds.

The BSA would like to thank all the parents, staff and students who gave up their time to help in so many different ways at the Fair, resulting in a very successful and enjoyable day. Many long hours are dedicated to the preparation and running of the Fair; we are very grateful to all those who helped.

Many of you will have purchased Raffle **Tickets** either before, or during, the Fair. This year we tried a new initiative whereby every student was issued with a book of raffle tickets to sell in the weeks leading up to the Fair. One student who will be very glad he bought some raffle tickets is **Ed Anders, 9S**. Ed won the **1st prize of £100** – Congratulations!

The other lucky prize winners were:

2nd Prize - **£50** : Mandy Watt

3rd – 7th Prizes – **Large Luxury Hampers:**

Davina Thomas; D Lloyd; Mr Cross; Mrs J Rowe; N Fletcher

8th -12th Prizes – **Small Luxury Hampers :**

Margaret Lynsey; Ward Family; Stuart Renfrew; Chris O'Dell; Sarah Saunders

13th Prize – **Luxury Christmas Door Wreath:**

Mrs Rowlands

14th Prize – **Anatolia Restaurant Voucher:** Lambert Family

15th Prize – **Willows Farm Vouchers:** Clementine Almond

16th Prize – **Selection of Cakes:** Michael Oliver

Congratulations to **NEWTON** for being the House that sold the most Raffle Tickets - your House Points will be awarded.

Congratulations also to **7S**, the tutor group to sell the most tickets - we hope you have enjoyed your class prize!



The event was well attended and visitors were treated to a wide variety of stalls. The Hall boasted a very festive atmosphere with the beautiful Christmas Tree, the aroma of **mulled wine** and **Christmas Carols** sung by the Vocal Ensemble - led by Miss Doan and accompanied by Alex Hall. The **Beaumont Craft Stall** was, as always, brimming with beautifully made items whilst the **Dragons' Apprentice Students** ran a biscuit decorating stall (which we understand the members of the Vocal Ensemble enjoyed eating!)

The traditional **Beaumont Quiz**, devised by our "Famous Sheriffs," was as popular as always. Many thanks to our enthusiastic Year 8 student volunteers who toured the Fair with quizzes successfully applying their persuasive selling technique! Don't forget to complete your quizzes over the Christmas Holidays and be in with a chance of winning the **£25 prize!** More quizzes are available from Reception.

The **Tombola Stall** was very popular throughout the whole afternoon with an enormous number of donated prizes on offer and kept the helpers very busy. Meanwhile, more leisurely purchases of Christmas Gifts could be made at the **Plants** and **Toiletries** Stalls.

In addition, thank you to the team of Ladies who ran the Lost Property/Second Hand Uniform Stall. We hope some items were re-united with their owners!

There were a variety of games to try in the **Gym** and the prize winners were the following:

Basketball Shooting - Boys: Jacob Bockenbauer 8E; Lewis Montgomery-Moore 8E (who probably spent the equivalent of their prizes having their own mini-competition!) Well done boys!

Basketball Shooting – Girls: Lucy Homer 8N; Bo (can anyone help identify her?)

Rowing – Vic Wells, Jacob Bockenbauer 8E

Congratulations to all the above!

The **Student "House Games" Classrooms** were a hub of activity with the usual fierce competition between the Houses to try and make the most profit from their stalls. There were some interesting tactics on display to lure visitors to try their stalls and not those of their "rival Houses!" Well done, and thank you, to all the enthusiastic students and House Heads! The winners of the House competition will be announced in January's Beaumont Life.

We would particularly like to thank the hardworking team in the **Kitchen** who spent the duration of the Fair slaving over hot stoves - your hard work was appreciated by all our hungry visitors. The **Cake Stall** had a particularly impressive display of home-made goodies – many thanks to all the talented bakers amongst us!

New for this year was the **Christmas Market** where we were delighted to host a variety of stalls selling Painted Glassware, Cards, Christmas Wreaths and Table Decorations, Jewellery, Artwork, and Footballs.



Happy Christmas from the BSA and thank you for your continued support.

For more information, the BSA can be contacted at bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk or visit our page on the school website which can be accessed from the "Quick Links" on the school Home Page www.beaumontschool.com