

From the Headteacher

As I write, information is being released by the Department for Education about changes for GCSE and equivalent courses starting in September 2012. This is timely as we also have our Year 9 Options Evening this week but it would have been helpful to schools for such decisions to be made somewhat earlier! Nevertheless, the impact should be fairly limited at Beaumont as we deliver very few courses that are not GCSEs. To this end, I am delighted to inform you that on the performance tables released this month by the Department for Education, Beaumont is the top non-selective school in Hertfordshire for the English Baccalaureate demonstrating our continued commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum for all our students. Do take a look at the detailed performance tables on the Department for Education website and be careful to look for GCSEs only (ie not including equivalencies) to get a fair reflection of performance.

There is so much inside Beaumont Life this month that is very important for parents and students. Please do have a careful look through and especially consider offering help for football coaching (page 6), for second-hand uniform sales (page 8) and for the BSA Committee (page 12). In addition, please look at the information about free school meals on page 10, the admissions consultation on page 11 and Peel2Save on page 12. A further opportunity for parents to support the school is through being nominated as a Parent Governor in the forthcoming Parent Governor elections, please look out for details after half term.

We have several members of staff leaving us at half term. Our thanks and best wishes for the future go to Mrs Lonie, Consortium Administrator, Mrs Monnan, Maths teacher, and Mrs Ward, Drama teacher.

As hopefully most of you are now aware, the Governing Body has been investigating the conversion of the school to Academy status and has registered its interest with the DfE in becoming an Academy. We are now consulting staff, parents, students and the local community. Full details are available on the school website (see Quicklinks) and we hope to see many of you at the Open Meeting at 7.00pm on **Wednesday 22 February 2012** which forms part of this consultation.

I hope you find, as I do, that Beaumont Life is an excellent read. I am very proud of everything that the school achieves in so many different ways. You may like to know that we are in the middle of building a new website and I anticipate that much of Beaumont Life will move on to the website as articles and that the hard copy of Beaumont Life may be re-vamped as a result; I would value your comments on this.

Elizabeth Hitch

February Diary Dates

Weds	1	Year 9 Options Evening 7pm
Thurs	2	Intermediate Maths Challenge French Exchange Information Evening 7pm room 60/61 Full Governing Body followed by Governor Resources meeting 6.30pm Library
Fri	3	Gym and Dance Display Matinee - Hall Year 11 Applications for 6 th form courses to be submitted
Sun	5	Choir of the Year round 1
Mon	6	Year 12 Geography Fieldwork trip (return 8 Feb) Gym and Dance Display 7pm Hall
Tues	7	Gym and Dance Display 7pm Hall
Weds	8	Gym and Dance Display 7pm Hall
Thurs	9	INSET DAY - STAFF ONLY
Fri	10	INSET DAY - STAFF ONLY
Mon	13	HALF TERM STARTS
Mon	20	Students return to school, normal time Governor CTL meeting 6.30pm Boardroom Astronomy evening 7-9pm
Tues	21	Beaumont Life deadline Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening
Weds	22	Iceland Information Evening 7pm room 40 Academy Consultation – Open Meeting 7pm Hall
Thurs	23	Arts event in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital – Hall 6pm for 7pm
Fri	24	Student Voice Conference - University of Hertfordshire 9am Deadline for receipt of comments on Academy consultation
Mon	27	Year 9 Senior Team interviews Book Week this week
Tues	28	Year 9 Senior Team interviews
Weds	29	Year 9 Senior Team interviews BSA Committee meeting 7.30pm Library A2 Practical Drama Exam Vocal Ensemble workshop at Cunningham Hill Primary School 2-3pm

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 Art Department

Beaumont at the Schools Art Exhibition

This year for the first time all the schools in this area were offered the chance to showcase two pieces of art from their students at an Exhibition. The exhibition was a tremendous success, and was a great opportunity for the public to see the outstanding work achieved across the schools and art departments.

Beaumont's pieces included a set of four portraits by Joshua Patterson (last year's Year 13 'A' Level Art and Design, now at Oakland's college completing his Art Foundation), based on the theme of family relationships through the generations. The second was a sculpture by Maia Kelly (last year's Year 13 'A' Level Art and Design), and is based on the Mount Rushmore Presidential Sculpture in the Cliffside, but represents the American Indians who lost their land and begun burning the local landscape.



Great news about Beaumont Art and Design Past Students...

Paul Donnellan was studying A Level Art and Design at Beaumont four years ago and went on to study BA (Hons) Computer Animation and Visualisation at Bournemouth University Media School.

Paul has achieved great success, and is now Technical Director in Visual Effects at The Mill in London.

The Mill create visual effects for UK Commercials, TV series (Dr Who, Sherlock and Merlin) and Film (Chronicles of Narnia, Voyage of the Dawn Treader).

Paul has just finished working on the TV series Merlin and is currently working on three new commercials.

YEAR 10 AND 11

COURSEWORK SUPPORT SESSIONS

WEDNESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL AND

FRIDAYS 2.40 - 3.40PM

ART DEPARTMENT



YEAR 7-9

AMAZING ART CLUB

TUESDAY LUNCHTIMES

ROOM 55.



Joey gets in the Tate!

Huge congratulations to Joey Baker in Year 13 who has had a piece of his work selected to go on display in the Tate Liverpool. He was selected from a group of finalists for an exhibition called 'New Perspectives' and was the youngest member to get his work on display in the Gallery which is an outstanding achievement. Joey says,

"I became very interested in time and how we manage it within our own lives. This piece shows how we construct our time using daily routines, boxing our heads into a work, rest, and play mentality. I tried to show how our dreams are related to our daily routines, as well as depicting that the only time we can live with no boundaries is when we are asleep. In this piece I wanted to let my imagination take over as there should be no boundaries in art". Joey is hoping to gain a place at University next September to study Fine Art.



Focus on.....

The Photography Department

What are the aims of the AS & A2 course?

Photography A level aims to develop a student's creative, critical and practical skills in art photography. Students investigate a range of different 'genres' (styles) of photography, including cinema, to support the development of ideas for their own work.

Students are taught how to use an SLR camera and how to process film and make prints in the darkroom. Some work could look quite traditional, other work could be very experimental, not using a camera at all!!



Students produce a 'portfolio' of individual, creative visual work which can be supported by artist research. End of year work is celebrated with a public exhibition of work (see these posters from previous years).

Requirements for the course?

You don't need Art GCSE to be accepted for the Photography A level; many excellent Photography students are not 'drawers', but you do have to consider yourself a 'visual' student and be very motivated to produce creative imagery.

Where does it lead?

As the subject develops complex analytical skills as well as high quality practical, creative and visual skills that are essential in many creative and cultural studies at a higher level, students go on to be accepted for a wide range of courses at university. Our students have been accepted to study Photography, Art, Fashion, Photojournalism,

Film Studies, Video Production, Graphic Design, American Studies, Animation and many more related courses.



Ex students talk to 6th form Photography

Recently ex Photography student **Oliver Garner**, who achieved an A* in his Photography A level, returned along with **Lekha Nanavati** who achieved an A, to show their current work to Year 13 students. Oliver is studying at Middlesex University on the Photography/Fashion course and is already achieving a first for his coursework. Lekha is doing Graphic Design at DeMontford and is loving her course. Both students were able to inform the sixth formers about life beyond school and the relative joys of the courses they had chosen!

We hope to have another ex student, **Annie Pillbeam**, who graduated with a BA honours First Class in Photography from DeMontford last summer, come to show her work to photography students in Spring.

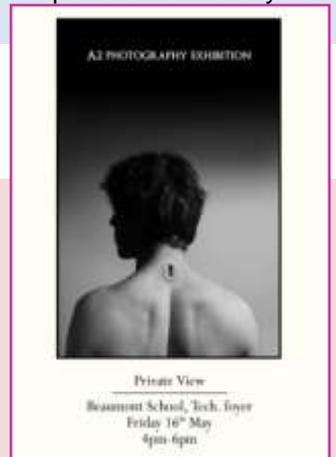




Photo by Shia Eliashar

News of Past Photography Students

Some ex students of photography have used their photographic skills to directly enter the world of work. **Ben Jacobs** who left three years ago worked fulltime at a photographic printers for two years. Meanwhile he built up his own photographic freelancing work. He is currently starting his own filming and media company. He is also working in partnership with **Zoe Jackson** for her company 'Living the Dream', producing publicity shots. Zoe also took AS Photography and recently came to speak at the 6th form Presentation evening (after seeing the Prime Minister David Cameron!). Ben and Zoe are soon to have their own app on Virgin's Tivo!



Harry Watkinson, a talented documentary photographer who left last year, has been taken on by a video production company as a cameraman.

Photo by Harry Watkinson



Huw Hopkins, another A* student, is Staff Photographer and Writer with the online aviation magazine Global Aviation Resource. In November he became a member of and gained his first distinction from the *Royal Photographic Society*. Huw also had a solo exhibition last year (highly unusual for someone that young) of his very high quality photographic landscapes and has a very accomplished website selling his stunning work – huwhopkinsphotography.co.uk. Huw is currently shooting a new body of work for his next solo exhibition which is being held at the Radlett Centre in December 2012.

Swiss Alps by Huw Hopkins

Ms Burns, Head of Photography

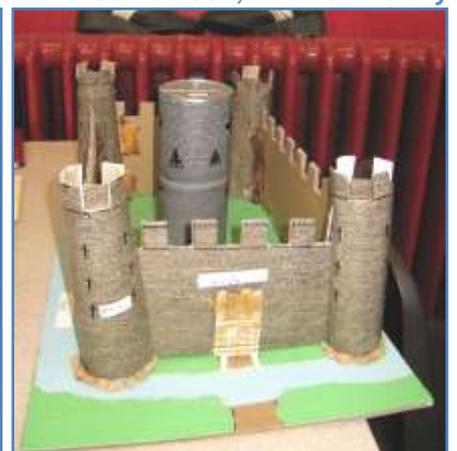
History News



Year 7 Castle creations

Following on from the success of last years' castle building homework this year's Year 7 have pulled out all the stops to create some fantastic homework. As parents of Year 7 will be aware, last half term's history homework was to create a model of a medieval castle and to try to make it as realistic as possible. The students had to research the topics themselves so that they could label the building accurately and score as highly as possible when they were assessed by their peers. This year the annual Year 7 trip to the Tower coincided well with the homework allowing the students to see 'in the flesh' how imposing a castle could be and how the key features of its defence worked close up. The enthusiasm from the students was again inspiring for us as teachers and it was a wonderful final lesson before the Christmas break allowing the students to show their knowledge and creative skills.

Miss Pearson, Head of History



Music News

Looking back

Whilst the Christmas Concert and Carol Service feel like a distant memory, I would like to congratulate all the students who took part in either or both events. This year's Christmas Concert saw record numbers in the Choir and Concert Band in particular and it was exciting to introduce more student-led ensembles, expertly run by our Music Captains. The return of the 6th form Consortium Orchestra conducted by Yannick Mayaud was a highlight for many, especially since the founder members of this group were also in the audience!



Parce mihi domine
(Vocal Ensemble)



Dancing Day (Choir)

Use your smartphone to scan the QR codes to listen to excerpts from the Carol Service

Miss Doan, Head of Music

The Choir and Vocal Ensemble pushed through to the penultimate day of term, performing carols by a variety of composers from Christobal de Morales to John Rutter. Luke Bainbridge's saxophone improvisations on the motet *Parce mihi domine* (by the former) provided a sublime introit to the service, which included readings interspersed with carols (both choir and congregational) and beautiful solos by Emily Almond, Emma Doherty and Anna Fordham. Thank you to our 85 singers, 5 readers, the congregation and all at St Peter's Church for making it a beautiful service.



Vocal Ensemble at the London A Cappella Festival 2012.

Sidney has been a member of Vocal Ensemble since the beginning of this year and Emma has been singing with the Ensemble for four years. However, we can both say that singing with the Swingle Singers at the London A Cappella Festival on Friday 13 January was an absolute highlight. After being discovered by Voices Festival (who run the schools workshop of the London A Cappella Festival) and the Swingle Singers through the Beaumont Music Twitter page (@BeaumontMusic), we were asked to join them and VOCES8, two extremely well known A Cappella groups, to join three other schools at Kings Place in London in order to take part in a schools' workshop and performance.

The day involved masterclasses and workshops with various members of the group on our own performance, *Hide and Seek*, as well as learning an arrangement of *Lady Madonna* by the Beatles to sing as a whole group. The day included sitting in a circle singing with our eyes closed to learning how to beat box! We were even allowed to sit in on some sound checks for other prestigious A Cappella acts like Cadence and Fork – who were singing arrangements of everything from Lady Gaga to Coldplay.



The Vocal Ensemble with Paul Smith from VOCES8

We received tips from both the A Cappella groups on how to improve our performance as well as to prepare for our entrance to Choir of the Year competition (for which we are auditioning in February). The day itself was a huge success and everyone really loved the opportunity to work with professional singers who were not only extremely talented, but also really nice! Teachers, family and friends came to support us in the final concert which went extremely well and after lots of thank yous and goodbyes, we left for some well deserved chicken at Nandos.



The day was not only exciting and a great opportunity but also a lovely occasion for the Ensemble to spend time together and get to know each other better outside of the school environment. Thanks to Miss Doan and Mr Guinane for such a fun day out and we are all very much looking forward to the A Cappella festival 2013!

Emma Doherty (Year 12) and Sidney Brass (9L)

Beaumont students providing some vocal percussion with Kevin Fox from the Swingle Singers

Congratulations to Tom Pate who has just been made Head Chorister of St Peter's Church Choir. As well as being an excellent singer, Tom is a superb role model for younger choristers in the choir. Well done, Tom!



PE News

Beaumont School Basketball round up

The Basketball season is now well under way with a number of teams performing well in District, County and National competitions.

The Year 7 boys team has started with one win (Sir John Lawes) and one defeat (Verulam) in the District League whilst the Under 13 and Under 18 girls are both unbeaten in the County League with Beaumont scoring 150 points and conceding 42 in the three games so far.

The Under 13 boys have won three (Sheredes, Chauncey and Hitchin) and lost one in the County League and are one win from the semi finals. The Under 15 boys are in a similar position. The team has struggled with injury this season, this being a key reason for us finishing runners up in the District League after winning it last year.

The Under 16 Boys are unbeaten, having beaten Sandringham twice in both the County and National competitions and Westfield in the Nationals. We aim to qualify for the regional round of the Nationals. We have won 14 of our 22 games so far and average 51 points for and 41 against.

Cleme Lewis, Kieran Gastaldi Davies, Lewis Montgomery Moore, Jamie Moroney, Aidan Gastaldi Davies and Olivia Almond are all averaging over 20 points. The teams have made a very good start to the season which suggests we will have a number of teams in semi finals and hopefully finals by the end of term.

Help for School Football

At present the seven Beaumont School football teams are coached by four members of staff. On Saturday mornings during the first and fourth half terms we field four teams, which we are doing with three staff; this means we cannot give each team the time we would like to on match days. Ideally we would like to have additional help with either coaching or refereeing on Saturday mornings. If you are a qualified coach or referee and would be willing to help on Saturday mornings we would really like to hear from you. If you can help, please contact Reception, leave a number and I will call you back. Many thanks.



Mr Stewart

Sports Awards Evening

On Wednesday 27 June the PE department will be hosting its annual Sports Presentation Evening. Pupils who are nominated for awards for commitment or improvement or are selected as player of the year for their chosen sport will be invited to receive an award. Last year over 150 pupils were nominated for an award. Parents are also invited, and during the evening there is a raffle and hopefully this year an auction. If you feel that you could offer a prize for either the raffle or auction please contact Mr Stewart in the PE department.



Date change

The Parents' Information Evening 'Keeping your Child Safe' planned for 28 February has been postponed and will now be held later in the year at a date to be arranged.

Year 12 Study visit to France

From 21-25 November 2011, 11 A2 French students took part in a study visit to the Moulin de Kergoual in Brittany. Our hosts Alan and H  l  ne were very welcoming and did a great job of organising our various visits. They are also excellent cooks and we were treated to a three course meal every night. Many of the visits were designed to enhance our understanding of the A2 topics including the environment and World War II. Whilst studying the environment we visited a wind farm, a hydroelectric station and an ecovillage. None of our guides spoke English so we had to listen hard!



On Wednesday, which was definitely our favourite day, we got the opportunity to help out at a "centre de loisirs". Our group helped with a music themed day which involved teaching some nursery rhymes to three to five year olds. The group at the other centre also taught some basic English as well as playing sport with the children.

Every evening we had the pleasure of a dinner guest to whom we talked over our meal. One of our guests was Daniel who talked to us about the book he had written on the Resistance in Brittany and answered our questions. We also had a visitor from the tourist office as well as Lo  c, who performed some Breton music and taught us Breton dancing which was hilarious and a highlight of the week.

Constantly speaking French was of course tiring, but definitely worthwhile as everyone's French speaking and listening improved massively, as did our confidence.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Miss McCrorie who arranged the trip. On ne peut pas nier que c'  tait une semaine incroyable!

Claire Nicholson and Harriet Clifford, Year 12

Competition Winners

Father Christmas would like to thank all the students who wrote letters to him in the MFL letter to Father Christmas competition.

Congratulations to the winners who have all received gift vouchers:

Davina Battersby 7A, Lily Katterhorn-Black 8N, and Gemma Day 9A.

Mrs Lutz

Parent View

Your chance to comment on how happy you are with Beaumont

You may be aware that Ofsted has set up a Parent View page to take comments from parents in advance of an inspection. Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school and asks for your opinion on 12 aspects of your child's school. At Beaumont we would be very pleased if you could log in and complete the short questionnaire to give both us (and Ofsted!) some feedback.

<http://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



Maths News

Best GCSE Results so far!

I have to say that we were really pleased with our GCSE results in the summer examination session of 2011, a fantastic 84%. I can honestly say that all of the students who made the effort to take up the support which was offered managed to attain that all important C grade. Good qualifications are all the more vital in these difficult times and helping our young people take the next rung up the ladder really is the main priority of the department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students for all of their hard work; the parents for the fantastic support that they give to the school and their offspring, and the teachers of the mathematics department who unstintingly give their time and energy in providing extra support to the students who require it.

Mr Smith, Head of Maths

Why have we changed from modular to linear?

Year 11 will be the last year for which we will be using the modular exam system as we are moving back to using the linear option. This means that the fast track students will sit the whole examination in the summer of Year 10 and the rest of the students will sit it in the summer of Year 11.

The linear examination consists of two papers, each worth 50%, sat over two separate days one with calculator and one without. When we changed to the modular exam we did it with the idea that it would take some of the pressure off the students because it would mean that they would be able to focus on a smaller amount to revise and also that they would have the opportunity to retake. Unfortunately, rather than taking pressure off, it meant that students were always preparing for an examination and it felt that we were continually just prepping them for assessment rather than developing their understanding of mathematics. Also the opportunity to retake was not as fruitful as originally hoped as it was rare that a student significantly improved their points when re-sitting a module. Also, as you may be aware, the political will has turned against modular exams and the exam boards are withdrawing them as an option. The actual content for both the modular and the linear exam is the same.



Maths & Computing

Changes to the Mathematics GCSE

As from 2012 the mathematics GCSE is changing to include questions which will be less structured than has previously been the case. This decision has been made by the QCA in response to the complaint that students are leaving school with good mathematical qualifications but that they are not then able to apply their skills to situations outside the classroom. We look forward to rising to this new challenge as I believe at Beaumont we try to make our students think about their mathematics and not simply apply rules.



The return of Mrs Davies

I would like to welcome back Mrs Davies who returned at the beginning of this term from maternity leave after giving birth to a lovely bouncing baby boy.

Revision materials

I shall be making an order of revision materials for those students who would like to purchase them. We will be making an order for the Letts GCSE revision workbook, the Letts GCSE revision guide and the CGP revision CD. The advantage of purchasing them through the school is that you get them at a greatly reduced rate. If you would like to purchase any of these items then please fill in and return the form available from the school website and the Mathematics Department. We will also be making past paper materials available on the departmental website; we may have to change our web address so please see your teacher for details.

Responsible learning

We are trying to get the students to take full responsibility for their learning and to this end all students in Key Stage 3 have been provided with a list of topics that they will be covering each term. These were given to each class at the beginning of the school year and we hope that this will help students to review their work and reflect on what their strengths and weaknesses are so that they can make full progress.

Equipment

It is essential to come properly equipped for maths lessons. Every student should come equipped with the following items: a protractor; a compass; a pencil; a pen; a ruler and a calculator. All of these items are available at cost from the maths department and so there is no excuse for not being properly equipped. Lending out equipment means a loss of valuable learning time and there is really no good reason for not having a well equipped pencil case.

Primary maths

We continue to develop our relationships with our primary feeder schools by running classes for Year 5 and 6 pupils with a focus on gifted and talented students. Miss Benn teaches the classes, giving the students a taste of secondary school mathematics. These classes have been very well received by both parents and pupils and the new sessions will be starting very soon.

Results plus progress

Every student in Year 11 has been assigned a password and login details for a website which we are trialling this year for the first time which is called 'Results plus progress' (www.resultsplusprogress.com). The idea of the website is that there are tests lasting approximately 30 minutes which when completed will generate a progress report, giving the students a profile of their strengths and weaknesses. This can then be used to target revision appropriately. The tests are ready and set up for all the students in Year 11 to use and there are 10 tests in total covering all of the areas of the curriculum. This will prove to be a very useful resource if used properly.

Helpers needed for lost property

If you could spare an hour between 10.30am and 11.30am any morning (s) to help sort and distribute items of lost property at breaktime(s) the BSA would love to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Hamer on Reception in the first instance. As well as arranging the return of lost property to its owners, you will be helping raise funds for the school as unclaimed items are sold to parents/pupils needing replacement items of kit/clothing.

BSV Community Jazz Band

The BeauSandVer Community Jazz band comprises of parents and friends of the consortium schools. We currently practise every Thursday evening 7-8pm at either Sandringham or Verulam, and play at local community and charity events. We are currently looking for new members. If you have not played for a while and would like to dust off your jazz instrument, please come along and give us a try. It is a very supportive environment and more importantly, great fun.

For more information please contact Anne Hanvey at anne.hanvey@verulam.herts.sch.uk



Wheelchair success

Beaumont PE department and Beaumont BSA have managed to secure a grant of £3000 from St Albans City and District Council for the purchase of four new wheelchairs for the PE department to support our wheelchair basketball clubs and to allow us to introduce wheelchair basketball within the curriculum too. These chairs will add to our current ones giving us eight chairs to use in and out of lessons.

We hope to have the chairs by the end of February 2012.

Thanks must go to the BSA for their exceptional support in the application process.



Steve Jump, Head of PE

Come to Beaumont School for an evening of arts and entertainment, all in aid of raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital!

An evening of dance, gymnastics, bands and music, and caricatures alongside a silent auction of wonderful artwork.

All money goes towards helping children at Great Ormond Street Hospital!

Where? Beaumont School, Oakwood Drive
When? Thursday 23rd February
What time? Doors open at 6pm and performances commence at 7pm.

Tickets are £4.00

For more information speak to Adele Robinson or Emily Bates or email gosh.artsevening@gmail.com

Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity

Even if you cannot attend, you will still have the ability to bid on some beautiful artwork!



Beyond Beaumont

Congratulations to **Holly Seglah** and **Olivia Almond** who have been selected to represent Hertfordshire, at U15 and U13 respectively, at the East of England sportshall athletics finals in Norwich on 4 February. They were selected after two afternoons of trials at the Gosling Sports Park earlier this month.

Duncan Williams 10N won a National Badminton U15 Tournament recently, winning the Final 21-10 against the favourite. There were 55 entries from boys all over the country. Very well done to Duncan.



VLE Launch

We are pleased to announce the launch of Beaumont School's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). The VLE has tremendous potential to assist in teaching and learning alongside improving communication and engaging pupils in their learning wherever they may be.

At its most basic, the VLE gives access for students to their network area from home alongside resources produced by staff that, up until now, had only been available when in school. We will look to develop the functionality of the VLE over the coming years and will keep you updated on new developments as and when we are in a position to do so. The VLE is a great tool to aid organisation and brings together a number of ICT functions e.g. diaries, setting and submitting work.

The VLE has been launched to staff and Years 7 and 8 over recent weeks. We will look to introduce the system to Years 9 – 11 over the coming half term with the sixth form gaining access in the new academic year.

The VLE is accessed through the schools website www.beaumontschool.com under the Quick Links tab. Students log in using the school network username and password. The VLE is designed to work on Internet Explorer, but will also work on Firefox and Google Chrome. Those who use Safari as their web browser may experience some difficulties. You can download all of the web browsers listed for free from their corporate websites. If your child experiences any difficulties accessing the VLE then please ask them to see me, Mr Robinson (Head of ICT) or Miss Doan (Head of Music).

If your child does not have access to the Internet at home, then please be aware that computer rooms are open at lunch time to enable students to use the VLE.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the VLE, please contact me at the school.

Mr Goodwin, Assistant Headteacher



From the Governors

The Community Committee met in November 2011. We had a discussion about Staff Training and were pleased to learn about the creative ways in which very limited resources are being used to maximise training opportunities for staff.

The Committee had a discussion about effective ways of communicating with parents using media such as Twitter, a Chat Forum on the Virtual Learning Environment, etc. This issue will be looked at in more detail in the coming months.

The Committee received information regarding a recent Parent Survey. Governors were pleased to note the positive responses from parents to the questions about the children enjoying school and the school keeping the children safe.

Governors asked about the mixed responses to the questions about the school informing parents about the progress of students and the school helping parents to support their child's learning; as a consequence of this initiatives have already been put in place including:

- a change to the reports in the Autumn term of Year 7 to include an assessment by the student of their progress (signed off by the school). This is currently just for Year 7 but if it is successful it could be used in the rest of the school;
- involving students in their target setting in Year 8 which is included within the planners so parents can see it;
- there are already four parental contacts per year (compared to the statutory requirement of three); we will be looking at whether these are at appropriate times of the year.

Yvonne Deal, Chair of Community Committee

BeauSandVer Community Programme

Evening Classes for Adults

Language Classes

We are currently running a GCSE Class on Monday evenings for adults who have learnt Spanish for about two years so if you are interested, please contact Carole Heselton. If you would like to learn Spanish, Italian or French as a beginner, do also contact Carole to register your interest.

Jewellery Making Classes (Over 16) All workshops on Saturdays from 10am – 12.30 pm, cost £30 Design and make a unique necklace/bracelet/earrings. All materials and refreshments supplied. No previous experience necessary.

- **Multiple strand and loop necklaces (using nylon coated wire) 25 Feb 2012**
- **Wirework, including charm-style bracelets and wire wrapping 10 March 2012**
- **Cobweb Necklace and twisted wire bracelet 24 March 2012**

Spring Fever Flower Arranging (over 18) Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm 29 Feb, 7 and 21 March £45 for three sessions. Creative a beautiful goldfish bowl arrangement and design a new approach for a traditional basket. All materials, foliage and beautiful seasonal flowers will be provided for the first workshop. You will be advised what to bring for the other sessions.

Please download the programme at www.beausandver.org.uk and call Carole Heselton on 01727 754113 or email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk for more information or to book a course.

Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money and you could be eligible for help with other educational expenses?

The Government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a 'Pupil Premium'. **For every child registered the school gets £488.**

With this money we could buy additional resources such as laptops for pupils who need them and also support more pupils for trips and visits such as going to the theatre. If you are registered for Free School Meals **your child** could also get access to **free music tuition** and **free school trips** such as those on Curriculum Enrichment Days **AND** a free, healthy meal at lunchtime, saving you more than £350 a year.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify: you can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Pupils can also register for Free School Meals if they get any of these benefits themselves.

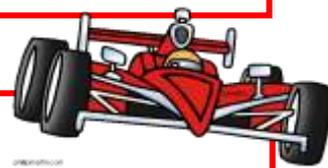
2. Registering is really quick and easy - visit www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals or call the *How Can We Help You?* team at Hertfordshire on 0300 123 4048. The Free School Meal allowance is automatically credited to your child's account each day and he/she can use the 'fingerprint' system in exactly the same way as all other pupils.

3. If you don't want your child to have the free school meals they can continue as normal – as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets £488 extra and you could be eligible for the other assistance.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming. Please talk to the Finance Department in school about registering your child today.

Parking near school

Please can all students and parents who park in Oakwood Drive or the other roads in the school environs take care not to inconvenience local residents? We do receive complaints from residents that inconsiderate parking is making it difficult or impossible for them to get into and out of their drives. We do work hard to be good neighbours to those who live in the area and would ask all our students and parents to be vigilant and check that when they park – either when dropping or collecting, or when coming into school for a longer period of time – that they have not blocked, or made access difficult to any driveway. **Thank you.**



Vista will be offering support services for children, young people, parents, families and schools in the St Albans community. We will be developing new services over the next two years and we value your thoughts and comments. Do feel free to contact Jo Maher at any time on **01727 855134 Option 2** or **07939 111152**.

SCHOOL FAMILY WORKER

Beaumont now has a dedicated School Family Worker Sarah Ellis to help you with supporting your child/ren. She can be contacted on 07557 354620 sarah.ellis@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk or via Beaumont.

PARENT SUPPORT

Individual support, 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 Option 2**

MARSHALSWICK YOUTH PROJECT – New Drop-In for Young People in Years 7, 8 and 9

Wednesdays in the Park - new Drop-in for young people every Wednesday from 3.30-5.30pm at the Alban Way and Marshalswick Childrens' Centre facility in Sherwood Park, Sherwood Avenue, Marshalswick. FREE Entry and FREE Refreshments. Contact Sean Regan for more information: sean.Regan@ymcacentralherts.org.uk

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

The latest and most effective reality based self defence system. 10.00am-12.00pm. Run by experienced and inspirational coaches for a fee of £12.00 per person. Call the Booking Line on 07557 361246 or 07939 111152.

Herts Coaching Programme for 14-18 Year Olds

A wide and varied programme of coaching opportunities in sports such as Gymnastics, Badminton, Tag Rugby, Trampoline, Fencing and Dance and many, many more. Courses, workshops, seminars and lectures for young people and adults. For further information contact 01707 284229 or visit www.sportinherts.org.uk

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 at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, AL1 4LW. Cost £25.00 per person payable to secure booking – call 01727 855134 or 07939 111152.

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

Hope to cope with anger and behaviour issues, run by Parent Centred Support and Vista on Tuesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm. Fee £15.00. Call the Booking Line on 01727 855134 Option 2 or 07557 361246.

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. £5.00 fee. To book a place call the Booking Line on 01727 855134 Option 2 or 07557 361246.

Website: www.vistastalbans.org.uk

Email: vistastalbans@gmail.com

Hertfordshire CC: consultation on admissions arrangements for 2013/14

Hertfordshire County Council is running a consultation on the proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2013/14 and is seeking responses from parent/carers, schools and community groups.

The main change proposed is to allow an increase in the number of preferences from three to four, i.e. parents will be able to apply to four schools, as opposed to only three as currently. Views are also being sought on:

- A rule to prioritise children of school staff
- Amending the priority area rules and "nearest" school definitions
- Other proposals for the treatment of twins/multiple births, a single sex priority area and in-year admissions



The consultation period runs until 29 February 2012. Please visit www.hertsdirect.org/admissions2013 for more information and to respond online or call Mini Harish on 01992 555840 for a copy of the consultation document.

Go to <https://consult.hertsdirect.org/admissions2013/assets/documents/admissions-consultation-2013-14> for a copy of their flier.

Bad Weather arrangements

In the event of bad weather forcing a closure of the school information will be available on the school website www.beaumontschool.com, the school telephone number **01727 854726** and also on the Hertfordshire County Council website www.hertsdirect.org. Information should also be available on Three Counties Radio (95.5FM, 103.8 FM, 104.5 FM).



Changes to the QEII's adult and childrens' A&E services

Services available at QEII Hospital in Welwyn have changed. You can find out which NHS services are available in your area by visiting a new online resource for Hertfordshire – www.wheredoigo.org.uk – or by contacting NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 for more information.

Christmas Fair

The BSA is delighted to announce that the final figure for the Christmas Fair stands at a magnificent **£5130**. This is an outstanding total and the committee would like to reiterate their thanks to the parents, staff and students who made the Fair such a success. As detailed in November's Beaumont Life, BSA funds - to the value of £4500 - were distributed in the Autumn Term to various departments throughout the school. Following the submission of further departmental requests, the BSA is currently in the process of allocating funds raised at the Fair.

Thank you to all the students who ran "House Stalls" at the Fair - you raised an amazing total of £317. The profit made by the various Houses was very closely contested with **Austen** just coming out on top with a profit of £69.44. They were closely followed by Luther-King, Newton, Seacole, Redgrave and Elgar. Well done everyone - House Points have been awarded. For our Christmas **Grand Raffle** congratulations to **Newton** for selling the most tickets and to **7S** who were the top-selling tutor group.



The overall House winners for the Christmas Fayre were **Austen**, followed by Luther King, Redgrave, Seacole, Newton and Elgar in that order.

Don't forget to return your **Christmas Quiz** for a chance to win the £25 prize!

Beaumont Christmas Carol Service - Mulled Wine

For the first time the BSA served mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies following the wonderful School Carol Service held at St Peter's Church on 15 December. From the kind comments received by the BSA, it would seem that this may now become a regular event after the service! Thank you to Alex Hall and Miss Doan for the suggestion and for organising the use of the Octagon Room. Contributions to cover costs were collected but due to everyone's generosity we were able to donate £75.70 to Grove House. This has been added to the retiring collection following the service. Thank you to everyone who supported this event and we hope you will agree that it was a wonderful evening.

New Committee Members

We would love to encourage some more parents and staff onto the committee. If you have any available time and could offer some ideas or help at even one function a year, then we would love to hear from you! The next committee meeting is on Wednesday 29 February at 7.30pm in the School Library.

Other ways to help our school?

If at any time you or your company can offer services eg catering supplies, printing, marquees, sports equipment/kit or raffle prizes then we would be delighted to hear from you.



Beaumont Celebrates Rob's Festival

Planning is underway for the third 'Beaumont Celebrates Rob's Festival' which will take place on the afternoon of **Saturday 30 June 2012 (date to be confirmed)**. This is a family event with sports, live bands, BBQ, stalls and much more! The Festival is held in memory of former student and entrepreneur, Rob Williams, who died tragically in a ski-ing accident in 2009. The money raised is divided between the Princes Trust and Rob Williams Enterprise Fund and the BSA.



Beaumont Year 12 students, led by the Rob's Festival 6th Form Committee, play a major part in the organisation of this event together with Rob's friends, staff and the BSA. More details soon!

Peel2Save Fundraiser

This is a new fundraising initiative introduced by the BSA at the Christmas Fair. The Peel2Save scheme is a National Franchise which was introduced into the UK in the summer of 2011. It is a fundraising scheme designed for non-profit making organisations such as schools. Various local businesses have signed up to the scheme and offer a reduction/incentive to use their business eg 20% off meal bill, free product with a purchase, money off driving lessons etc. Each card, full of stickers for each offer, costs £10 and 50% of every card sold goes into BSA funds. The card pays for itself very quickly, even if the purchaser does not use all the offers. The current card is valid until Sept 2012 which runs well with the academic year. For more information, or to purchase a card - please contact the BSA at bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk

Dates for your diary:

Sat 24 March: BSA Quiz 7pm for 7.30pm start (more details soon). Start thinking about your tables of eight!

Weds 23 May: BSA AGM. Have you considered joining the committee?

Sat 30 June (tbc): Beaumont Celebrates Rob's Festival (Music and Sports Festival for all the Family). More details to follow.

For more information, the BSA may be contacted at bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk or visit our page on the school website, (accessed from the "Quick Links" on the Home Page) <http://www.beaumontschool.com/>