

## Secondary Transfer Special Edition

**Welcome** to this Special Edition of Beaumont Life, our monthly newsletter which is circulated to all families at the school. We have selected a range of news items which have featured during the last year to give you a flavour of what life as part of the Beaumont community is like. We hope you enjoy it.

Elizabeth Hitch

### History News

In 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

### Year 7 Chocolate Factory

**Today** we made chocolates! For the first part of the day we watched how people in factories work and how collaborating makes a difference. We learnt about batch production then set off to make the chocolate.

Dara, 7E



### Amazing Olympic Artwork!

A fantastic painting day took place in the Art Department on CED Day with Mrs Burns, Miss May and Miss Findlay.

**Students** worked in their Houses in groups of 10 with two students representing each Year group. It was lovely to see the students working together and the Year 11 students who took the lead in helping their teams were exemplary.

**Each** house was given a British Olympian who is taking part in the games in the summer, and they were given the task of doing giant paintings on to huge pieces of board. The results were absolutely incredible and the work is currently on display in the Tech Foyer.



### Year 7 Rivers Trip

In September Year 7 Geography pupils went on an amazing fieldwork trip in the lovely sunshine to the River Lea. All Year 7 pupils enjoyed testing the speed of the river using dog biscuits and learning how to do fieldwork.



**There** were some amazing Wellies worn on the day and everyone had a wonderful time learning by doing. Their experience from the day will help the Year 7 students in their Rivers and Flooding Unit Assessment next term.

**Some** of the fieldwork highlights from the day included measuring the depth, width and angle of the river at three sites in Wheathampstead, and measuring the size of pebbles at various points in the river. Many practised their field sketching abilities whilst on the banks of the river and will use their results to inform their assessment answers after half term.

**Awesome** work was accomplished by all and a really big well done must be said to all the Year 7s - especially as none managed to float away on the day!

Mrs Mitchell

## Exchange trips to France and Germany



**The** French Exchange was by far the best trip I have been on so far. I had such a good time and I would do it again anytime. After visiting Paris I would agree it's one of the most beautiful places in the world. My favourite day was Friday.

**We** met at the school in the morning ready for the Eiffel tower. Once we had got on the train we were all excited. We arrived under the Eiffel tower and I was getting nervous, but I knew it would be fun. After experiencing one of the most amazing sights of my life we headed to the Champs Elysees. We walked down the main street and saw some amazing shops, unfortunately quite expensive. After an amazing start the trip got better and better. I hope I will visit Paris again many times in my life and enjoy as much as I did on the Exchange. Overall the trip was really fun and I felt welcomed into the family. I will always remember the trip and the fun we had on it.

**Ben 9L**



**I** had such an amazing time on the German Exchange. As a group, we did so many things and I learned so much! We had tours around Speyer, Heidelberg, Frankfurt and Mannheim. We visited Speyer cathedral, churches in Heidelberg and Frankfurt, the Goethe Museum in Frankfurt, a castle, and the IMAX cinema in Speyer, to name just a few places!

**I** think we were matched up to our partners really well! We had three days with our host families and they did some really lovely activities with me! At the end all the German parents had organised a farewell party for everyone and it was great!

**When** I first arrived in Speyer I was scared, but excited at the same time! Over the week I began to understand a lot more German and I really improved. It was a really great experience and I can't wait for my partner to come back in April!

**The** Exchange was really well organised and I want to say a big 'thank you' to Mrs Yapp and Miss Doan!

**Megan 9N**

### 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**



### Being in Choir

**My** experience of Choir at Beaumont school so far has been absolutely incredible, not just because the teachers are nice, but because the music we learn is always fun to sing.

We have sung numerous songs and have done the Christmas concert, the Carol service and the Easter concert and we've still got more to go! I enjoy coming to Choir because the music teachers always pick great songs that the young generation love and their teaching makes it easier to sing.

**Throughout** the last seven months I've learnt a lot of things; one of them is that if everyone works hard and tries their best, you can produce a perfect song.

**Overall**, I would recommend Choir to all music lovers and it is open for Year 7s to sixth formers.

**Karan 7S**





## Computer Club for Girls

is a lunchtime club that runs every Thursday lunchtime with Miss Dundjerovic in Room 49.

**Rather** alarmingly, females only account for 17% of the IT sector. The sector is missing out on a significant proportion of the talent pool, and girls are missing out on rewarding careers.

**Computer Club for Girls** (CC4G) helps girls develop their skills in IT through a series of carefully-graded challenges, themed around their interests – like fashion, music, sport and celebrity. It supports girls' learning in IT and across the curriculum, and benefits their confidence and self-esteem.

**All** girls from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 are welcome to attend.



## Wheelchair success

**Beaumont** PE department and the Beaumont School Association (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.

**Mr Jump, Head of PE**

## Fundraising for GOSH

**Well** done to **Adele Robinson** and **Emily Bates** who organised an Arts Evening in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital.



**They** raised around £1000 from the evening of dance, drama, gymnastics, music and art. Naomi Angel from GOSH spoke to a Sixth form Assembly about the work of the hospital recently, and was delighted to receive a cheque for £1000, presented by Adele and Emily.

## Lower School Musical



**I** have been a fan of the Dr. Seuss books since I was a very small child. The stories are fun, crazy and imaginative and of course brilliant! The musical is just like that, if not better!

**I** have to say Seussical is one of my favourite musicals as the characters are so vivid and real and the songs are great! The rehearsals are really fun to be a part of too and we all take on board the advice given to us so that the next rehearsal becomes better.

**In** Seussical I play a Wickersham monkey (A monkey that is part of a trio who live in the jungle of Nool) and it is great fun. I love singing the songs to Seussical because they are so catchy and have great lyrics. I am really excited about being part of the production and I can't wait until everyone gets to see it. I can honestly say that this show will be AMAZING!

**Poppy 7A**

## Writing project

**Students** from Beaumont have been involved in a writing project jointly with Verulam and Onslow St Audrey schools. The project aimed to inspire and encourage students with English as an additional language to write, and the result is a book of poems about the experiences and people that have shaped their lives.

**At** the start of the programme award-winning poet Dean Atta ran a series of workshops. Around 70 poems were selected for inclusion in a book 'We Come From' which has now been published.



**Around** a dozen Beaumont students have contributed.

## Cake Sale for Bone Cancer Research Trust

**Recently** we held a cake sale to raise money for the Bone Cancer Research Trust. With over 200 cakes made we raised £250. A huge success! Many thanks to Mr Sievewright and Miss May for helping us and to Alicia, Lois, Esme, Ellie, Georgina, Becca, Laura, Olivia and Kristal for baking cakes and helping me. But a big thanks must go to everyone who came and bought cakes: we hope you enjoyed them, whilst supporting a charity that helps so many young people.

**Maisie 8A**



**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**

## Beaumont School Parent Survey – March 2012

**Thank you** to every parent and carer who contributed to the survey in March of this year. The survey was carried out by Kirkland Rowell on behalf of the school. Kirkland Rowell benchmarks many of the results against at least 160 similar schools. There were 360 respondents, which corresponds to a 'good' rate of response. The report demonstrated that parents are overwhelmingly positive about the work that school does. There are always aspects of our work that we can improve on; however, it is reassuring to know that the hard work put in by staff and students is recognised by the parent body.

### Key Findings:

- **Beaumont Parents gave the school an 'excellent' overall rating**
- The vast majority of subjects were rated as good or excellent
- All of the core parent priorities are rated as good or exceptional with particular progress made in Careers advice
- The three areas for development in core priorities were identified as ensuring students receive the 'right' level of homework, computer access and school facilities. The school is already taking action and investing time and money in these areas.

**We** are very pleased with the overall picture that this survey reports, in particular with the response to 'would parents would recommend the school?' which is judged **outstanding**. The data will be analysed and evaluated by the Governors, Leadership Team, Heads of Department, and the Heads of Year. The school will continue to work hard at achieving outstanding outcomes for all students in all aspects of our work.

**Andy Goodwin – Assistant Headteacher**

## Olympic visitor to Year 7s

**Former** Beaumont student and Olympic torch bearer Katherine Deal visited Year 7 sports enthusiasts at Beaumont. Kat, who left Beaumont in 2010 and is now studying Philosophy at UCL, came dressed in her official kit and brought her torch for students to see at close quarters.



**Rob's festival**  
**Beaumont school**  
**Saturday 23 June 2012**  
**2pm – 8pm**

An event held to commemorate Rob Williams to raise money for the Prince's Trust Charity and BSA.

Prince's Trust

Come along and enjoy a day of music, dance, sport and much more entertainment!

**rob williams FESTIVAL N**

Follow us! @RobsFestival

## Teacher Awards

An impressive total of 11 teachers at Beaumont School were nominated for the **Pearson Teaching Awards** this year, and one of them has received a Certificate of Distinction.



**The** Beaumont teachers were nominated for the Pearson Teaching Awards after receiving 'Thanks' from pupils as part of 'Thank A Teacher Day' on 20 June. The 'Thank A Teacher' campaign recognises and celebrates the difference a teacher, teaching assistant or head teacher can make by asking pupils past and present, as well as parents to simply say 'thank you' on-line.

**11** Beaumont teachers were nominated in the 'Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School' category and have all received certificates, and Miss Doan was awarded a Certificate of Distinction for 'Outstanding Use of Technology in Education.'

**Beaumont** had an amazing 19 nominations in the **Herts Advertiser School Awards** this year, with nominations being received in Teacher of the Year, Academic Achiever of the Year, Sporting Achiever, Innovation Project of the Year and School of the Year categories. We are delighted that

- Miss Shepherd and Miss Doan were finalists in the Teacher of the Year category,
- Elizabeth Worswick was the winner of the Academic Achiever of the Year
- Beaumont was a finalist in the School of the Year category, coming second to a local primary school

**Very** well done to all nominees and winners, and a huge thank you to all those who have supported the school and made nominations.