

Sixth Form 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 items which have featured during the last academic year to give you a flavour of what life as part of the Beaumont Sixth Form community is like. We hope you enjoy it.

Elizabeth Hitch, Headteacher

Rob's Festival

In its fourth year of running, the sun finally shone for the students organising Rob's Festival, resulting in the most successful festival ever!

Crowds of almost 1,000 people flocked to Beaumont to enjoy a fantastic day of sports and music. The crowds were blown away by performances from many Beaumont students including Ana McCartney and Kieran Gastaldi- Davies and The Ages. Aja Whittingham astounded crowds with her amazing voice and Method in the Madness kicked off their festival weekend before going on to play at Larks in the Parks the following day.

Twitter feeds went crazy during and after the day including tweets from @obsession_uk 'thanks for having us, we really enjoyed it! Sign us up for next year!'

I was delighted with the smooth running and lively atmosphere of the day. 'The students have worked so hard this year and conducted themselves in a professional manner which is excellent preparation for their future careers. Rob was a huge fan of supporting young people in enterprise which is why The Prince's Trust and Rob's family support this event each and every year. This, without doubt, has been the most anticipated festival yet and the competition for performers and students involved in next year's festival is already hotting up.

Miss Dundjerovic, Organiser



It was a stressful few months before the festival with school work, exams, and revision but worth it in the end.

This has been a valuable learning experience for me and a reality check finding out how hard it is to manage people who aren't being paid and to organise every aspect of the festival. Thankfully I had a brilliant team of sixth formers and Miss D helping me along the way, as well as the BSA. The final week before the festival was the hardest with some bands dropping out at the last minute and worrying about ticket sales, but the day was an absolute success with around 1000 people turning up and £6000 being raised on the day. The unexpected thing was that it was actually sunny on the day so we had a lot of red faced people after the festival but it was all worth it!

Ben Hughes, Rob's Festival Sixth Form Committee Chair

Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Three Year 12 students took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge at the end of June. This involved sitting a 90 minute exam based on the AS course, but designed to stretch and challenge students' thinking further than AS exams.

There were more than 6200 entries into the competition and all three Beaumont students scored highly enough to receive certificates - Will Biggs and Andrew Tung Yep received Gold (top 7%) and Matt Knight Silver (top 14%) awards - well done to them for this excellent achievement!



The Cambridge Chemistry Challenge runs a monthly online competition which is open to anyone - visit <http://www.c3i6.org/> if you would like to take part!

Miss Skelton

Year 7 English Club

It's nice as a Sixth former to interact with a younger Year group. So far we have read a play and created student films. I think the Year 7s really enjoy the club, as it allows them to interact with other forms and shows them that English doesn't just have to be about spelling.

Rosie, Year 12

English Club is amazing; it's one of my favourite clubs. I'm new to this club as I've only been here for five weeks but already I've met amazing people, helped to complete a catastrophic Morning Show and eaten a rather large quantity of biscuits. I love it so much. I really look forward to Mondays.

Matilda, Year 7

St Albans Young Musicians of the Year

It was another proud afternoon for both Mr Guinane and I as we watched Beaumont students go up in each secondary school category and perform beautifully to an Abbey packed with hundreds of people. We were delighted that Beaumont students won four out of the seven categories but every performer must be commended for their musicality and professionalism throughout the competition.

At the end of the competition, the adjudicator, Paul Harris came straight over to us and congratulated us on having such a talented bunch of students. His Performance of the Day went to the Year 13 Girls for their haunting singing, in fact later on that day he posted the following on one of his social networks:

"Adjudicated the St Alban's Young Musicians of the Year at St Albans Abbey yesterday. An amazing event - there were about 1000 people there. The quality of music making was exceptional. There was one choir who sang a movement from Britten's Ceremony of Carols with some of the most beautiful soft singing I've ever heard. The future of culture is not lost..."

Congratulations to everyone who took part, and a special mention must go to the winners of their categories:

Emily Almond and Emma Doherty

Yannick Mayaud

Year 13 Girls

Vocal Ensemble

- joint winners of the Secondary Vocal Solo category

- winner of the Secondary String category

- winners of the Vocal Ensemble category

- winners of the Secondary School Choir category



Ms Doan

Literary Success

The literary skills of Year 13 student Alexandra Pugh have been recognised by Cambridge University's Newnham College. Ally entered the University's 2013 Virginia Woolf Essay Prize competition and was delighted to make the shortlist and be awarded a 'Highly Commended' certificate. Ally hopes to read History at University. Her interest in taking part in the competition was sparked by attending a Newnham College taster day for potential university applicants, and a tweet from Head of Sixth Form at Beaumont Paul de Kort telling students about the opportunity.

Using Virginia Woolf's text 'A Room One's Own' as a stimulus, entrants were given a choice of several questions to which they could write a response of between 1500 and 2500 words. Ally chose to tackle the proposition that women are the 'most discussed animal in the universe'; she focussed on the extent to which female members of royalty have, through history, been more talked about than their male counterparts. In a fascinating walk through the years from the Empress Matilda, 12th century wife of Holy Roman Emperor Henry V and claimant to the English throne, through to Kate Middleton, current day Duchess of Cambridge, Ally examined issues around the place of women in society and culture which have always interested her.



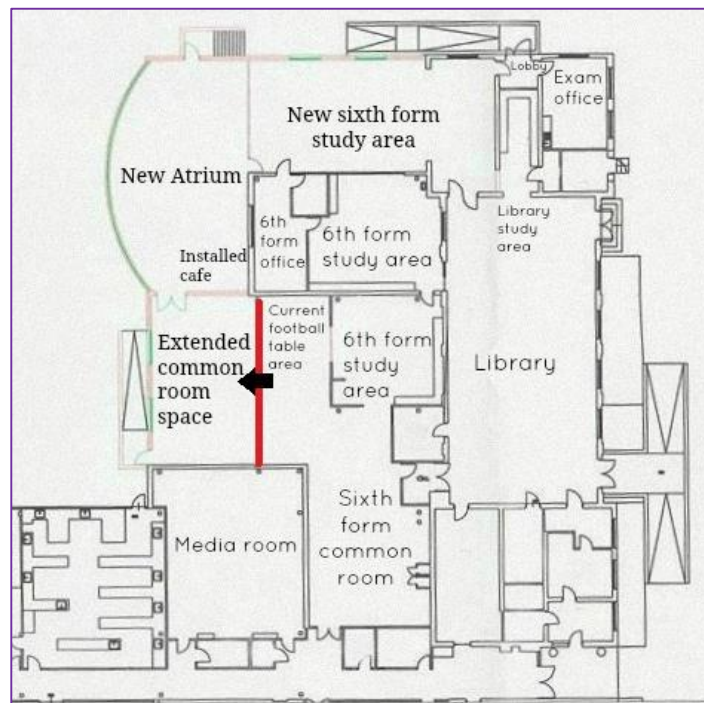
Sixth Form Life

New Sixth Form Accommodation: Zoe Early reports on her talks with Mr Jones, Premises Manager

On 16 June 2013 an application was submitted to St Albans District Council (SADC) for planning permission to proceed with the new building works. After around four months of waiting, plans for the sixth form common room can now go ahead.

Tenders for the Sixth form Library extension project were due to be opened on 11 October. Tendering involves five or six companies submitting their price for the work.

They submit their bids in envelopes which are all opened at the same time to ensure the process is fair, open and transparent. The school has employed a Company to carry out the tendering process and to manage the project for us.



One of a series of contributions from Sixth formers on various aspects of Sixth form life.

After the decision of who to employ to do the work has been made, works will begin in the October half term. Firstly, safety precautions will be set up around the Sixth form area. Furthermore, in the sixth form common room, near the current location of the table football, boards will be put up to separate the work area from students. Trenches and bulldozers will appear in order for placement of foundations. The plan is for the building works to be finished by April 2014, during the Easter holidays.

I spoke to Mr Jones to see what benefits and impacts this new scheme would have on sixth form life. He gave me an insight into what sort of new facilities are being installed...

Firstly, the general common room where the lockers, table football and snack store are at present, will be extended. (As seen in the diagram left) This will make the whole area more flexible. Those who want to socialise and those who want to study won't get into each other's way.

One exciting new part of the extension is the new atrium. This will have elegant glass-curve architecture with facilities including a café. And finally, there will be a new library study area, similar to the one next to the Sixth form office.

I hope to speak to Mr Jones as the building work proceeds and get updates from him on its progress.

Zoe Early, Year 12

Sixth Form Awards, 2013

Student of the Year	Ally Pugh
Most improved performance in Sixth Form	Sophie Heselton
Contribution to the School	Ana McCartney
Contribution to the Community	Beth Clements

Sports' Awards Evening

Hatfield House was the regal backdrop for this year's Beaumont Sports' Awards Evening, where sports participation and achievement were celebrated in abundance.

The awards encompassed many activities spanning from boccia to basketball, focussing on commitment, improvement and elite performance; thus reflecting an inspired generation. Described as "fantastic" by those present it was a magnificent opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of both staff and pupils, throughout the year.

Pictured: Jacob Bockenbauer, Sportsman of the Year; Mayor Annie Brewster; Holly Seglah, Sportswoman of the Year; Mr Jump.

Mrs Riggott-Jones



Beyond Beaumont: News of some of our former students

We enjoy hearing from past students about their successes. Here is a selection:

<p>Beth Templeton has been awarded a 2:1 in Theatre and Performance from Leeds University.</p>	<p>Daniel Irvine achieved First Class honours for his degree in Air Transport Management at Loughborough University.</p>	<p>Jane Langley achieved a 2:1 in English and Spanish at Leeds University.</p>
<p>Ruth King left Beaumont in 2010 to study Psychology at UEA. She has graduated with a BSc honours 2:1 in Psychology. She was also awarded the class prize for the best Final Year Quantitative Project, and also the Cambridge University Press Award for the Best Final Year Project overall, out of 92 Students. She has secured a Job in Norwich, working as a Teaching Assistant in a complex needs school.</p>	<p>Ex-student Anna Jones, having first worked as a volunteer physiotherapist in Thailand before doing her rotation at Watford General Hospital, is now travelling and working in Australia in a school for autistic children. She hopes to specialise in paediatric physiotherapy back here, after a voluntary physiotherapy placement in Peru in the New Year.</p>	<p>Harry Graham has secured a 2:1 Honours degree in History from the University of York. York University said "In a department such as ours it is the students themselves who make our work continually stimulating and interesting. We have enjoyed having Harry with us for the last three years and we very much hope that we may continue to receive applications to read history from your school."</p>
<p>Ex-student Rich Jones graduated from Leeds with a 1st class Masters in Artificial Intelligence, and having travelled in India and Nepal where he did some volunteer teaching, he is now working for a leading Data Technology Company, Criteo.</p>	<p>Donald Bogle has graduated with a 2:1 from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; he is doing a Masters next year in planning legislation at Cambridge. Donald also continued his football at University: he scored the winning penalty in a second team university match against Oxford and captained his college team to win both the university cup and league (a first for Fitzwilliam and something only two other colleges have ever done in one season) so was honoured for this as Sporting Personality of the Year.</p>	<p>Anne-Sophie Pavan has obtained a BA in law (LLB) with French. She is now working as an Accessories Account Executive for the British subsidiary of Avenir Telecom.</p> 
<p>Joe Yussuf and James Blake in Year 12 have both been accepted into Herts County Youth Theatre and will be appearing in a production of Fantastic Mr Fox in the Autumn at Watford palace.</p>		<p>Ben Lazarus has been awarded a 2:1 in Politics from Bristol University. His dissertation on Tony Blair's Foreign Policy merited a First.</p>
<p>Chyna Tobias has achieved a 1st in Equine Studies.</p>		<p>Joe Medforth has achieved a 1st class degree in Film Studies from the University of Kent</p> <p>Susannah Murphy has a Geography 2:1 from the University of Southampton</p>

Aidan shines for England

Congratulations to Aidan Gastaldi-Davies who represented England this summer in the European Basketball Championships. England finished sixth out of 22 countries and Aidan was ranked third out of 250 in the tournament for successful three point shots made per game. He started and finished every game and averaged an incredible 28.5 minutes on court per game. He was also accredited with getting the team's most steels and was one of England's highest scorers overall.



To play for your Country is an amazing experience and testament to the huge amount of hard work he has put in. We are very pleased and extremely proud to have a Beaumont student playing such a high level of sport. Well done Aidan, an outstanding and well deserved achievement!

Mr Stewart

Year 13 Biology trip

'A' level Biology students spent five days in Pembroke recently. Despite the fact that we were in Wales in November a productive week was had covering the Ecology aspects of Year 13 Biology and some controlled assessment. We even managed to visit the beach where some scenes from Harry Potter were filmed! The trip went down well with students: "I really enjoyed the biology field trip, despite the fact that it was quite tiring! The fieldwork was really helpful and made it easier to remember how the different types of equipment work!"

Mr Lavin

KS5 trip to Iceland

Geography students experienced 'Cold Climates' first hand on the biennial study visit to Iceland. Visits to the Blue Lagoon, frozen waterfalls, glaciers and other impressive sights brought the A level syllabus to life!

