



October 2014

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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 community is like, especially for our new students and their families. We hope you enjoy it. **Elizabeth Hitch, Headteacher**

OFSTED 2014 – “OUTSTANDING”

The governing body was immensely pleased and proud finally to be able to announce the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection on the final day of the Spring Term. We have been convinced for some time that Beaumont is an outstanding school, but it is hugely gratifying that this has been officially recognised - at last! Our particular thanks and congratulations to Mrs Hitch and all of the staff for working so hard over a number of years, as well as on the inspection days themselves, to achieve this result. Thank you too to the students (whose behaviour was at no time less than outstanding, according to the inspectors) and also to parents, for the unprecedented and overwhelmingly positive response on the Parentview website. It really felt as if the outcome was as a result of a community effort. Whilst the Ofsted report itself is glowing, there are a few points that I would like to highlight: **Beaumont has been found to be outstanding in ALL respects: achievement; teaching & learning; behaviour & safety; and leadership & management.**, this was under Ofsted's most stringent inspection framework to date, **very few schools in Hertfordshire have attained "outstanding" status since September 2012**, the Lead Inspector told governors that the inspection team found Beaumont to be "a breath of fresh air", and we were told that some of the classroom practice they observed was some of the best they had seen in their inspecting careers. Well done again to everyone. **Alex Hall, Chair of Governors**

Geography Rocks!

October 2013, 88 of our Year 11s went to Norfolk to gather the data required for their GCSE Controlled Assessment. They all worked hard and thoroughly enjoyed the trip.

In March 2014, 55 of our Year 12 students went to Dorset to gather data to use in their final Unit 2 exam. The sun was shining, and the Year 12s worked hard to discover whether Bournemouth is in need of rebranding, how crowded the Jurassic Coast is and how we can manage this problem. In contrast to GCSE fieldwork, where students are guided step by step through their data collection by their geography teachers, at AS level the onus is on students to decide which data collection techniques they wish to use, design the recording sheets and then carry out the data collection in the locations visited.



Christmas Fair 2013

There was plenty to attract visitors to the school Hall, including the aroma of mulled wine for the adults and popcorn for kids young and old at the Beaumont Christmas Fair. To set the scene the entertainment



was provided by Louisa Briguglio's Choir, who sang Carols at regular intervals. The Beaumont Craft Stall was, as always, brimming with beautiful hand-made items from Nicky Reardon and her team. The Tombola Stall was hugely popular throughout the whole afternoon with an enormous number of donated prizes on offer, thanks to the generosity of Beaumont families and staff.

Meanwhile, more leisurely purchases of Christmas gifts could be made at other stalls including the delicious Beaumont Christmas puddings! New this year was the Bric-a-Brac stall— a wonderful chance to pick up some alternative gifts and treasures! Younger visitors also had their own raffle with a chance to win some fabulous prizes. Meanwhile Heads of House and pupils ran a range of House Stalls, featuring games to win prizes.

Production of “A Christmas Carol” 2013

On a cold December evening in the last week of term, I was one of many piling into the Hall to watch *A Christmas Carol*. Excitement filled the air, but I had very little idea of how the story was going to be told. As the cast came out onto the stage, moving about under numerous black umbrellas, Miss Doan's remark: "This is so Beaumont Drama" was just perfect. Of course we weren't expecting your average school rendition of the classic Christmas tale, but I was blown away by the professionalism and commitment of the actors - Beth, Year 11

When I found out I had got a part in *A Christmas Carol* I was so excited! Each person had their own character but the majority of our time spent on stage was in our flocks. Working in flocks was like having a little team to work with and when all those teams came

together we were able to create some spectacular moments! As with all Beaumont shows, one of my favourite parts was being able to meet and work with new people from other Year Groups with whom I would otherwise never have spoken. Everyone worked hard to create a performance of which we were all proud - Bethan, Year 9



Beaumont Bake-Off 2013

To celebrate National Baking Week, which this year is linked to Great Ormond Street Hospital, Beaumont held its own 'Bake Off' on 18 October. Students from each House brought in their contributions which were judged on creativity and artistic representation of their cakes which were then sold to raise money for Great Ormond Street. The competition was judged by Mrs 'Mary Berry' Hitch and Mr 'Paul Hollywood' de Kort.

A total of £322.90 was raised for Great Ormond Street Hospital, with Austen raising the highest amount - £79.75. Thank you to everyone who took part – this was the most we've ever raised doing a cake sale and the money will be greatly appreciated by Great Ormond Street Hospital. Mrs Hawkins



Visit of Author Nikki Sheehan

Author Nikki Sheehan visited Beaumont School on 24th March and talked about her thought-provoking and moving debut novel "Who framed Klaris Cliff", where imaginary friends are the enemy. Meeting the author left many Year 7 and 8 students inspired to write their own stories:

"We learnt that to write a brilliant book you need to use your imagination. Nikki Sheehan told us that she draws her ideas for stories from everyday life and from being observant and "borrowing" ideas from other people. It was interesting to hear how much research the author had to do to write the story and how much work she had put into this novel. We found the talk very interesting and can't wait to read the book! Alice and Justine 7E



Here are some of the students' highlights:

"I loved going on the chair lift and looking at the views" Kayleigh, 7R

"My favourite bit was getting six samples of chocolate at the Lindt factory" Will, 7R

"I liked the Germany trip because we had loads of ice-cream" Ashleigh, 7S

Salters Chemistry 2014



On 24 April four Year 8, students went to UCL to take part in a Chemistry Competition, the Salters' Chemistry Festival. They were asked to complete two practical tasks, one which involved completing chemical tests to identify a criminal using evidence collected from a crime scene. The second required them to use a selection of chemicals to make a timer which would time exactly 60 seconds. The students all worked together really well and achieved excellent results in both challenges. After completing the practical challenges the students were treated to a demonstration lecture by the famous Andre Sella, which culminated in ice cream being made from liquid nitrogen which we were all able to sample!! - Dr Skelton

CED Day Hampton Court Trip Year 8

In May, 180 Year 8 took a trip back in time to the court of Henry VIII by visiting one of his favourite palaces at Hampton Court. Such was the occasion that Henry even greeted some of the students around his palace. The Year 8s introduced his majesty to the "selfie" something the King was most taken by, although they were lucky as his friends and wives were executed for less!

Whilst at the Grand Palace, the students visited Henry's apartments, the Great Hall and the kitchens that fed the King and his royal guests. Students followed the footsteps of Henry and his many wives across the years around the house even into the royal chapel where he married his last wife Catherine Parr. As the students discovered the Palace was home to many wives over the years and signs of Henry's many marriages still remain in the carvings and tapestries across the Palace. Mr Cronie.

Some quotes from the students:

"Getting lost in the maze, seeing the magnificent rooms and learning about the Palace were the best bits" Hannah 8E,

"A fun and interesting day in a very quiet Palace" Sam 8N



Year 8 Trip to Germany

During Enrichment week, 83 students and 11 staff went to Germany. For many students, it was their first visit to Germany. They had a great week, blessed with glorious sunshine. They visited the beautiful town of Cochem on the Moselle where they rode on the chairlift and had a tour of the castle. The following day they were in the bustling city of Cologne, home to the impressive cathedral and also, many students' highlight of the trip, the Lindt chocolate museum. There was also an opportunity to look around the town of Bad Marienberg where they stayed and ordered ice-cream in German! Thank you to all the staff and students for making the trip such a great success.

Fleetville Transition 2014

On Monday 23 June Year 8 and 9 students took part in a transition activity day at Fleetville School, involving a number of local primary schools and led by a professional theatre group. Their role was to work with a small group of Year 6 students on a variety of tasks. They needed to use all their Drama skills to get their groups working together and to encourage them to contribute and share their experiences. They also led dance routines with their groups and learned a number of phrases in sign language. The aim of the day was to make Year 6s feel more confident about their transition to secondary school and to build up their self-esteem in general. All the Beaumont students were a credit to themselves and the school. They were enthusiastic and friendly and we received great feedback from Mrs Williams from the Basildon Youth Theatre. Mrs Hawkins



Rob's Festival 2014

It has been such a privilege to work with so many talented and committed Year 12 students for the past five festivals. Seeing them develop their ideas through to fruition is incredibly rewarding both as a teacher at Beaumont and also as Rob's school friend. I know he would have been delighted to see their entrepreneurial skills put into action. The Prince's Trust was a charity that Rob was involved with which is why the festival is so significant. It is the only festival in the district, perhaps the county, that is run by young people for the local community where they are given the freedom to create an event using their own imagination and vision. Each year, we are able to make a donation to the trust, or more specifically the Rob Williams Enterprise Fund that supports young people in the music and IT industries. On behalf of Rob's family and friends, I would like to express my thanks to everyone that supports and attends the event each year. I would also like to thank the BSA for the hours and hours of work they do to support us in the running of the festival each and every year. Miss Dundjerovic



Summer Concert 2014

The Summer Concert ends the year on a musical high. It features a wide range of music from our auditioned and non-auditioned ensembles, ranging from big band jazz to orchestral classics, passing through rousing choir numbers and haunting chamber pieces along the way. The Summer Concert also provides an opportunity for our Year 13 leavers to perform a farewell solo before departing to pastures new. The passion and commitment of our young musicians always leaves a lasting impression on our audiences. Mr Guinane



Million Makers 2014

Year 9 once again surpassed all expectations in the Million Makers Challenge this year where they raise money for The Prince's Trust. They spent their PSHCEE lessons planning the enterprise which culminated in them selling their 'products' to willing customers from Years 7-10. This is the fifth year that the challenge has taken place, with some very interesting and original ideas being put forward. Ideas such as Sponging the Teacher always go down well, through to the originality of the Balloon Sling Shot and having the opportunity to wax another student's legs!! The ability of students to design their own cakes was also a highlight.

I am really proud of the fact that the year group managed to raise nearly £3000....a feat that I really did not think would happen. So congratulations to them all. They have set down the gauntlet for next year!! Although the money raised is one key target in the challenge, it is also the process the students go through that is important. They all have to work independently with minimum input from staff. Shown are some comments made by students when they evaluated what they had learned from their enterprise. There was also a House competition between the forms to see who could raise the most money. Well done to everyone involved and thank you to the Form Tutors and all staff who helped in any way to make it another successful year -

Miss Cleverly, Head of Year 9. Some quotes from the students: *"You have to grab people's attention"* Harvey 9N, *"Knowing how to price things and putting catchy music on attracted customers to the stall"* Amber 9N, *"Trying to find out what kind of things people would like to buy is important"* Jennifer 9N *"People are extremely interested in teachers being sponged!"* 9S

**MILLION
MAKERS**



Prince's Trust

Primary School Tea 2014

The annual Primary Schools' Tea gives Year 7 students and their teachers from primary school a chance to catch up. It is a really enjoyable event. Many thanks to all students, members of staff.



Team transition

Our Mission Transition Summer School ran for the second successful year in the final week of the summer holidays. 21 new Beaumont students supported by 4 wonderful GO2s completed activities that supported the exciting but sometimes scary transition to secondary school.

We are very proud of all the students involved and the positive start they have made to their Beaumont lives. Miss Shepherd, Miss Jackson and Mr Wynne. Some students commented:

"In the three days I have been here I have become more and more confident." Joe 7N, *"The three days at Beaumont Summer School have taught me a lot of stuff, such as finding our way around the school. Most people's fear was that they would get lost but after Summer School that wasn't really a fear anymore. Beaumont Summer School has made me confident about joining in September."* Sam 7R, *"Here at Beaumont Summer School it has been great fun with all the amazing and crazy activities we have done. We also learnt all about the skills for success and played an assortment of different games. It's also been a great way to make new friends. Some of my favourite things we did was writing a letter to Mr Taylor and also I enjoyed making the scavenger hunt for the parents and writing our log everyday as well."* Jacob 7E



Beaumont GCSE Results 2014

Beaumont GCSE students anxiously collected their results envelopes before erupting into smiles and shouts of joy as many of them had exceeded their demanding target grades. Head of Year 11, Ed Panting, said, "I am so delighted for all the students who have surpassed themselves with such excellent results. They were a delight to lead and I wish them all the best next year." Headteacher, Elizabeth Hitch commented, "Despite the concern over volatility of results nationally, this has had no impact on the outstanding results at Beaumont and we look forward to welcoming our largest ever intake into our Sixth Form."



Year 7 France 2014

In the first week of July 2014, Year 7 forms LEA packed their year 7 French phrases and fancy dress before embarking on a residential trip to Normandy. Day one was the epic journey to Carentan, followed by dinner at Hotel Aire de la Baie. By day two they were on a Market Mission, wowing the traders with their grasp of the language as they bought ingredients for a traditional French lunch. The day was rounded off with a trip to a honey farm



– what busy bees! Day three took them to the cobbled streets of the iconic Mont Saint Michel, followed by a visit to the less iconic (but very exotic) Alligator Bay. Day four was an historic adventure. Starting with the 360 cinema in Arromanches the students relived the battle of Normandy, before travelling back in time to the Norman Conquest with a visit to the Bayeux Tapestry. To celebrate their time in France, they rounded off day four with a fancy dress disco. The VIP guest list included Tintin, Brigitte Bardot, the Three Musketeers and many other French icons. Finally, on day five it was time to say *au revoir* and return to sunny St Albans.

PGL 2014

During CED week in July Year 9 were given the opportunity to go to PGL Liddington. 104 intrepid 14 year olds embarked on a week comprising of a large amount of physical and mental challenges. From Mountain Biking, to Giant Swing, Jacobs Ladder, Fencing and Canoeing, the groups seemed to relish the challenges that were set for them. The week also gave the students an opportunity to work with people that they did not normally work with and it seemed to bond the group together. The staff who went all have said what a great week it was and also how well the students approached the different activities they took part in. But don't take my word for it.....here are what a few students thought of the week in Wiltshire: "The instructors are so friendly and enthusiastic, and the activities and facilities are great.", "I had a wonderful time and it was a great experience.", "I had a great time at PGL. The staff and instructors were very helpful", "There was top banter all week!"

Miss Cleverly



Sports Awards 2014

Congratulations to the following individuals and teams who were recognised for their achievements and contributions at the St Albans City and District Sports Awards which took place on Wednesday 17 September.

Young Performer of the Year - Dan Angus (Visually Impaired Football)

Young Performer of the Year - Aiden Gastaldi Davies (Basketball)

Team of the Year - U15 Girls' Rugby Team

Disability Coach of the Year – Mr Jump, Head of PE

The following were winners in their category:

Lawrence Wilson - U21 Volunteer of the Year (football)

Beaumont School PE Department - Secondary School of the Year

A great night of Beaumont representation all round!!

