



# BEAUMONT LIFE

## SECONDARY TRANSFER SPECIAL EDITION 2016

SEPTEMBER 2016 [WWW.BEAUMONTSCHOOL.COM](http://WWW.BEAUMONTSCHOOL.COM)

**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. We hope you enjoy it.

**Elizabeth Hitch, Headteacher**

### South African Olympian Visits

**Students** from Years 7, 8 and 9 were fortunate enough to receive a special coaching session when Beaumont welcomed South African International hockey player Lance Louw recently.

**With** 92 international caps including playing in the London 2012 Olympics and 2010 Commonwealth Games, Lance did a question and answer session before taking an elite training exercise full of hockey tips and tricks. Lance was delighted to be able to pass on his knowledge and inspire our girls. **Miss Mobbs**



### Salters Festival of Chemistry

**On** Thursday 21 April I had the pleasure of taking, Jasmine Udomjit (8S), Felix Walton (8N), Alexander Ward (8A) and Laura Robinson (8L) to University College London to compete in the Salters Chemistry festival. The students had an opportunity to conduct practical challenges in a university lab competing against other schools in the South West. Jasmine, Felix, Alexander and Laura worked excellently as a team and did Beaumont proud gaining second place overall.



**Miss Pinkerton**

**"I** really enjoyed going to the Salters Festival of Chemistry. At the event we took part in two competitions, first was a mock crime scene where we had to find out who committed a crime with guess work, clue-solving and chemical reactions. In the second half of the day we had to do a timed chemical reaction that had to take 60 seconds exactly. Our reaction took 59 seconds and due to our accurate and detailed method we came second of which we were very proud. I am very grateful to have been able to take part". **Laura Robinson**



### Year Geography Field Trip to the Jurassic Coast

**In** February, forty Year 12 Students attended a residential trip to the Jurassic coast as part of their preparation for the 'Geographical Investigations' AS examination. During an intense three days of data collection, students investigated the impacts of tourism on this beautiful coastline, Britain's only natural UNESCO world heritage site. Their fieldwork also involved evaluating the success of re branding strategies in Boscombe. Other than a short hailstorm on the sand dunes of Studland Bay, the sun shone on a fantastic trip!

**Mrs Macdonald**

### Monsters, Inc.

**On** a very rainy evening in June, over 50 Monsters descended on Beaumont. Our wonderful Year 7 students were highly professional about the fact that their dress rehearsal had taken place in the field and then we had to move the show inside. Families, staff and students set up blankets on the floor to watch our talented creatures in an entertaining, colourful performance. As a reward for their commitment we are all going to see the brand new West End production of Disney's *Aladdin*. We look forward to seeing many of these talented youngsters audition for *Oliver!* in September.



**Miss Shepherd**

## BSA Christmas Fair raises over £5300

**The** BSA would like to thank all the students, families, staff and local businesses who supported the Christmas Fair on Saturday 5 December.

**The** Fair was officially opened by the Mayor Cllr Salih Gaygusuz, and visitors were welcomed by the fantastic Beaumont Brass Band - B Cubed playing Christmas Music! The enticing aroma of mulled wine and Carol singing from the Beaumont Choir brought visitors into the Hall where there were plenty of stalls to peruse. Once again, we would like to thank Ginette O'Higgins for co-ordinating sales of Christmas Puddings; regular purchasers will know how utterly delicious these are! We are looking for a replacement for Ginette for next year's Fair as she will be 'retiring'! We also need someone to co-ordinate the BSA Craft Stall. Can you help?



**The** Dining Room was home to the food and drinks stalls and the Christmas Market which hosted a variety of art and crafts stalls. We would particularly like to mention the team in the Kitchen, led by one of our Governors, who spent the duration of the Fair slaving over hot stoves behind the scenes - your hard work was appreciated by all our hungry visitors. Thank you to all!



## Peter Pan

**In** June the wonderful Year 8 Drama Club took us on a magical journey to Neverland in their production of *Peter Pan*. Directed by three outstanding Sixth Form Drama Captains, and supported by hard-working Year 10 assistants, the piece was an energetic ensemble piece, with standout performances from the swashbuckling pirates, to the innocent Lost Boys.

**Every** cast member performed with commitment and skill. As a reward for their dedication to the Drama Department, the group attended the London production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* this month. We look forward to seeing students at auditions for the whole school show in September!

## Mr Messios



## Beaumont Bake-Off

**Congratulations** to everyone involved in the Beaumont Bake-Off which was held on Friday 23 October. It highlighted just how many talented bakers and artists there are in this school (and cake eaters!!). It may take some time for the Heads of House to recover from the sugar rush and selling frenzy! This year the Bake-Off raised nearly £1000 in just over half an hour of cake selling. A huge thank you to all students involved, those who bought cakes, ate cakes, helped man the stalls, swept and cleaned up afterwards. The results were as follows: **Results for appearance: N, R, E, A, L, S** **Results for money raised: E, A, R, N, L, S.** **Ms Hawkins**



## Beaumont comes second in National University Challenge Final!

**Beaumont's** 2015 University Challenge Champions (pictured here with their trophy and Mr de Kort, Head of Sixth Form) have recently won second place in the national final of the University of Lincoln's tournament for Sixth Forms.



**After** eighty questions played out, they were just one answer short of forcing a tie with the winning team (Hills Road, Cambridge). This is a tremendous achievement as they were competing against twelve teams, who, like them, had qualified from regional finals across the country. The team consisted of Nick Brett, James Errington, Dominic Lincoln and Joseph Ferguson-Reynolds. We hope, and expect, to be able to watch them compete in the real thing in the years ahead as they move on to their university courses.

**Mr de Kort**

## Vocal Ensemble Tenth Anniversary Concert



**Since** its formation in 2005, the Beaumont School Vocal Ensemble has earned itself an enviable reputation in the local and national community. Having started out as a small, all-female ensemble, the group has developed its repertoire over the years and performed alongside some world class *a cappella* groups including the Swingle Singers and VOCES8. It was a real pleasure to celebrate the ten Year Anniversary with a concert in St Peter's Church in October 2015, to which the alumni members of the ensemble were invited to sing.

**The** current Vocal Ensemble performed a selection of their repertoire in the first half, and were then joined by alumni members in the second half. The Beaumont Vocal Ensemble (past and present) performed a selection of their favourite music from the past ten years to a packed audience at St Peter's Church, St Albans. As well as being a beautiful concert, it was lovely to catch up with our former students and hear their news. I look forward to the 20-year concert!

**Ms Doan**

## History Department Remembers to Fallen from St Albans

**On** Tuesday 22 September, the History Department hosted Year 9 during their CED day activities. Once again, the ever-popular 'Corporal Knight' gave an informative and entertaining presentation and students also had the opportunity to research local soldiers who were among the 640 St Albans men who were lost as a result of the Great War. Corporal Knight was, for many, a highlight as you can see from the photographs, with opportunities for the students to volunteer and try out the uniforms and learn about the awful conditions and how warfare evolved as a result. For example, gas masks were only introduced after the Germans started to use gas, and after a more practical solution was needed other than gripping a urine soaked sock between your teeth to combat the effects of the chemicals. Students were surveyed to find out their opinions on the activities, and this is what a selection of them said.

**Miss Pearson**

### What did you enjoy?

"I liked that the activities were interactive and interesting to the students."  
 "I enjoyed making the tributes to the fallen soldiers."  
 "I enjoyed finding out about life in World War I and about specific soldiers as it made the war seem a lot closer and more real."

### What did you learn from Corporal Knight?

"I enjoyed listening to Corporal Knight and just hearing different facts."  
 "I have learned various unpleasant medical conditions which could develop in the trenches such as trench foot. I also liked that his visit was a more immersive way to learn."



### What did you learn from the local research?

"It made me realise just how awful the war was and how it affected everyone greatly."  
 "I learned that a lot of soldiers came from St Albans and that St Albans pays a lot of respect to them."

## Sixth Form Geography Trip to Iceland April 2016

**On** Tuesday 12 April, 44 very excited sixth form students and their equally excited teachers flew out of Gatwick Airport to visit Iceland, Europe's most westerly nation with a population of just 320,000, similar in size to the majestic city of Leicester. We were met by our charismatic Icelandic coach driver who whisked us away to The Blue Lagoon. Students basked in the milky white waters of this geothermal spa with temperatures reaching 37-39°C whilst the air was a cool 5°C.

**In** our new home near the Arctic Circle there was still reasonable light at 10pm. With clear skies overhead, Mrs Hitch, Mr Smith, Miss Anderson and I, accompanied by a few hardy Sixth Formers, who were willing to brave the falling temperatures, looked upwards. Was that a cloud? Did the sky move? As the sky darkened word reached those indoors that things were happening in the sky and before long students were gasping, clapping hands and even jumping up and down as the Northern Light gave us a wonderful end to our first day. The 'early night' somehow didn't seem to matter. Awesome!



**This** trip was a fantastic combination; volcanic landscapes, The Northern Lights (twice), a walk on the glacier and the pleasure of wonderful Beaumont students and colleagues. Thankfully Eyjafjallajökull didn't erupt but I can truly say this trip was a real blast! A huge thank you to all the sixth form students and staff who made this trip into a wonderful adventure.

**Mr Osborne**



## Rob's Festival 2016

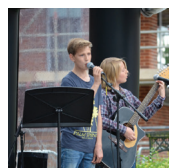
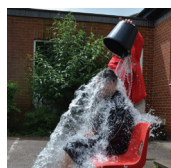
**The** 7th Annual Rob's Festival took place on Saturday 25 June to raise money for the Prince's Trust and the Beaumont School Association (BSA). A small team of dedicated sixth formers worked incredibly hard to create one of the best festivals in recent years. They collected more raffle and auction donations than in previous years, created a fantastic line-up of bands and for the first year ever the Beaumont Big Band performed in the evening.

**Beaumont** staff were out in force running and participating in netball and football, running house stalls and helping out with the BBQ and other stalls. In addition, a big thank you must go to all the parents who turned up on the day to help out on the stalls but in particular those that are on the Rob's Festival team on the BSA.

**As** well as being a fantastic day out for the whole family, Rob's Festival also raises thousands of pounds for charity. Rob's family and friends are an integral part of the day and Rob's friend, Steve Machell, gave a moving speech to remind us of the reason why the event takes place: in memory of Rob Williams, an ex-Beaumont student. The event offers a wonderful opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and to know that they have made a lasting contribution to the school and to the Prince's Trust. We are looking forward to recruiting the next Year 12 Rob's Festival team in September 2016.

**If** you think that you would like to be on the BSA or be part of a Rob's Festival working committee or just have ideas on how we could make the event even better, please email [bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk](mailto:bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk). It's hard work but incredibly rewarding. Most importantly, save the date for next year: 24 June 2017.

**Mrs Hawkins**



## Jessica Hynes visits Beaumont

**BAFTA** winner, actress and writer Jessica Hynes visited Beaumont on Tuesday 15 March to the delight of Beaumont's drama students. After she 'Tweeted' last summer that she was willing to donate 20 days of her time to visiting Arts departments in state schools, Miss Shepherd was keen to be first in the queue for a visit. Beaumont was fortunate enough to be one of her chosen schools and she spent the day in the Drama department.

**She** observed lessons, she spoke to children from Years 7-13 and joined in a slow motion race! This is what Jessica said on Twitter following her day with us. "It was a complete pleasure - fantastic students and great department! Such a fun day! X"

**Miss Shepherd, Head of Drama**



## Girls Rugby

**The** under 13 Girls' Rugby team are County Champion winners and then went on to come fifth in the South East Region. The team beat Kings Langley 10-5 in the final. The under 15s were runners up in the County Championship and came eighth in the South East Region. The under 18s competed in a regional showcase playing Parkhurst and King Edward School, finishing second. All good preparation for the impending tour of Canada next July!

**Mr Panting**



## Great Art!

**The** Art Department was again delighted to be invited to take part in the fifth Schools Art Exhibition at the Samuel Ryder Academy over the weekend of 25 and 26 January.

**This** year we were asked to put in four pieces of work and students were selected from Beaumont to have their work displayed. The Exhibition was a great success with both staff and students visiting the show and we were pleased to be told that Sarah Chrisp's piece titled 'Memories' was selected as the chosen artwork from the exhibition about which children from Primary schools were invited to write Poetry. Well done to all the students involved, from the Art Department.

**Miss Findlay**

