



If you have anything you would like included in future newsletters, or would like to write an article for it, please contact Mrs S. Atkinson at school, or email [admin@bedlingtonshire.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bedlingtonshire.northumberland.sch.uk)



### Year 9 Students visit St James' Park



On 22 November, 15 Year 9 students were lucky enough to be invited to visit Newcastle United's St James park. The visit started in the education area of St James' Park where the young people were given a short talk then the tour of the stadium started. While they were being taken round the stadium they asked lots of questions and had photographs taken. They weren't very impressed with the away dressing room but when they went into home dressing room they wanted to have their pictures taken next to the named shirts hung up.

After the stadium tour they went back



to the education centre and produced a comic strip for themselves using the photographs taken on the tour using the programme Comic Life, which they were able to take home. A fun day was had by all.

Thanks to the Newcastle United Foundation who made this visit possible.

### Not Going to Uni Event

It may still be early in the school year but students were given the opportunity to consider and plan for their future in November. Whilst the focus of the school is on the students when they are here we realise that their future success is determined by providing further opportunities to grow and improve when they leave the school, and for many that route is not university. To that end a market place event was arranged which gave students access to some of the many



apprenticeship providers in the area ranging from the NHS and the County Council, to global companies of the likes of Proctor and Gamble and Audi, and then local companies such as BL Hairdressing. Additionally representatives from the armed services and local colleges attended giving support and advice to students with opportunities to further their education or start their careers with them.



Students from Years 11 to 13 and their parents were invited in to discuss the future prospects as well as being given the opportunity to make vital initial contact with the people who can make a difference when they leave the school.



Now is indeed the time to consider that next step and it is essential that they do not wait until the exam results have been received in August. If you feel that you have missed an opportunity please don't hesitate to contact the school to discuss it further.



### Science Club

Our new Science Club is going strong, with MSD from Cramlington assisting Mr Simpson and Mrs Bates in the running of the club, as well as supplying all the equipment and resources free of charge to the school. The club runs for Years 7, 8 and 9 every Tuesday after school from 3.30—4.30pm.



The beginning of December saw the students making rockets, which they set off on the school yard afterwards. Unfortunately, they were far too quick for the camera to catch them!



Trevor Crooks and Rachel Smith building their rockets.

Past activities have included spaghetti towers, bouncing custard and elephants toothpaste! All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 are welcome.

Mr Simpson and Mrs Bates and the students with their rockets before blast-off



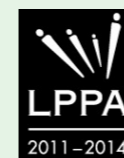
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Maths & Computing



LPPA  
2011-2014

## Bedlingtonshire Community High School



### Newsletter Autumn Term 2011

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of a long term and reflect on the last few months I am very pleased with the start to this year. There have been a couple of big changes this term; firstly, our new uniform has made a great impression in the local community, and it is a pleasure to see our lower school students looking so smart around school. Secondly, we took over the running of the catering service in school, giving us greater flexibility to offer students the food they want, choosing our own menus and suppliers. We have been delighted with the success of this, and hope this continues, as any profits are diverted directly back into school now.

Another big change we are in the process of implementing is that from January, our Reception area will be based in the old sixth form centre beside the Learning Resource Centre. This should provide more security for our students, as visitors will not be walking through the site unaccompanied, as well as being a more welcoming area for parents.

I would like to close by wishing everyone a relaxing, peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Kieran McGrane, Principal

### BCHS achieves prestigious award for work with parents



LPPA  
2011-2014

BCHS has achieved the prestigious 'Leading Parent Partnership Award' for our work in engaging parents.

We have worked hard over a two year period to develop the relationship and experience that parents have when contacting the school. A lot of work has been done to improve the quality of parents' evenings and letters parents receive as well as improving communication, introducing parent newsletters and information about what their child is studying each half term in every subject.

We have also been running a parent focus group to discuss and provide an opportunity to voice their opinions on key issues such as reports and uniform. The main areas of success were outlined in the report as:

- The school's openness about its strengths and areas for development and due to this a very trusting relationship has been built up between the school and the parent body
- Communication has been vastly improved
- The induction process provided by the school is very thorough. Parents feel fully informed about the progress of their children
- The school contacts the parents about positive things which have happened and these messages are gratefully received.

If you would like to attend future parent focus groups, please contact Mrs Pritchard or Mrs Lawson in school—dates are 30 January, 20 March, 21 May and 9 July, all beginning at 5.30pm.

### Saturday School for GCSE students

Our GCSE results in the summer were the best we have had. The students said that one of the key factors in their success was the four Saturday sessions that we ran.

This year we aim for the results to be even higher and are running five Saturday School sessions. The first will be in January and there will be one per month up until May. Last year we had upwards of 70 students attending. Dates will follow and we would welcome your support in making this year even more successful.

### Parent Governors needed

Three vacancies have arisen on the Governing Body for Parent Governors. Parent Governors must be elected by the parents or carers of pupils at the school and must have children at the school. The period of office is three years. A Parent Governor is not obliged to resign from office if his/her child leaves the school and may remain on the Governing Body until his/her period of office expires.

I will be willing to advise any parent who is interested in the possibility of standing for election, on the style and work of the Governing Body.

If more nominations are received than are required to fill the vacancies, prospective candidates will be given the opportunity of providing me with a brief election address which I will arrange to have circulated with the ballot papers.

Any parent or carer who wishes to stand for election should return the nomination form enclosed, duly completed, not later than Monday 16 January 2012.

**N.B** It is a legal requirement that Governors are checked to ensure they are not disqualified from working with children by section 35 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000, or because they contravene one of the disqualification conditions imposed in the school governance regulations. For the successful candidate this will entail providing proof of identity and the completion of a declaration form to enable the necessary checks to be carried out.

Kieran McGrane, Principal



**The students, staff and governors would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2012**



**Senior UK Maths Challenge**

The Senior UKMT Maths Challenge was held on Tuesday 8 November 2011 with the A-Level Maths students from years 12 & 13 taking part, managing to gain two silver certificates and nine bronze certificates.

**Best in School:**

Jack Blackburn

**Silver certificates:**

Jack Blackburn and Adam Hall

**Bronze certificates:**

Adam Joice, Shaun Jamieson, Kezia Rapley, Andrew Hayton, James Howey, Joshua Miller, Stephanie Paxton, Andrew Crake and Lauren Pamplin

The Senior Maths (Team) challenge was also held early in November at St Thomas Moore High School in North Shields where the team of four - Shaun Jamieson, Adam Joice, Lauren Pamplin and Stephanie Paxton, were up against tough opposition from another 25 schools around the region. After a shaky start they came back well in the second round achieving a special mention from the organiser and a round of applause from fellow competing teams. Unfortunately the last round proved a little bit tricky for the them and they slipped back into the bottom half. Congratulations to all team members for putting up such a good show.

Still to come is the Intermediate UKMT Challenge (Feb 2012), the Junior UKMT Challenge (April 2012) and the Junior (Team) Challenge in March 2012—reports to follow in our Easter newsletter.

**X Box Kinect Club**



I think everyone should come to the Xbox 360 Kinect Club because it gives people something to do other than just sit waiting for school to start. Not only does the school have a selection of Kinect games to play, but you can bring your own in as well!



It also encourages people to move around more instead of sitting doing nothing and is actually more social.

Everyone who comes to school early and finds themselves bored with nothing to do, why not come

*Kieran Miller, Daniel Jamieson, Amy Evans and Caitlyn Parker enjoying the Kinect Club school.*

over to the Kinect Club? It's in A4 every Tuesday to Friday from 8:15 to 8:45!

**Alex Price, Year 9**

**Senior Citizen's Annual Christmas Lunch**

The Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch has been held at BCHS since we became a high school in 1974, and has become one of our best loved festive traditions. Our guests come from across our catchment area and are nominated by students and staff.

Our guests first attended a welcoming reception, including some games of bingo, before sitting down to a traditional Christmas lunch served by our students. During the meal entertainment was provided by no less than 15 different sets of student musical performers led by Mr Bell and Mrs Landles, from soloists to the unique sound of our steel pans band. Mr Thompson then whipped up a final bit of excitement with the "everyone wins a prize" raffle!

Thanks and congratulations are due to five students in particular this year – Anthony Barratt, Megan Charlton, James Crooks, Jordan Mole and Molly Ramsey. They raised the money for the raffle prizes through a variety of activities, bought the prizes



*The guests enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings*

(including two enormous hampers), ran the bingo and served the meals. Thanks also to Mrs Charlton, assisted by Mrs Fairhurst and Miss McBride, to our driver Mrs MacDonald and to our kitchen staff for another superb meal.

If you know of a senior citizen who would like to attend next year, please ask your son or daughter to nominate them. There is no charge and we provide transport for those who are unable to get themselves to the school. The only restriction is that nominees must live within the catchment area (Bedlington, Bedlington Station, Choppington, Guidepost, Stakeford, Cambois and North Blyth).



*The guests with their gifts*



*Enjoying the entertainment*



**Mr Hinshaw's naff joke of the term:**

**What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite!**



**Mr McGrane heads back to the classroom**

We had two new headteachers for the day in November, when Mr McGrane swapped places with two Year 9 students, Lauren Lowrie and Matthew Hankinson as part of 'Takeover Day'. The aim of the day is to give young people the opportunity to gain skills, knowledge, inspiration and a better understanding of the processes behind decisions.

Mr McGrane donned a school uniform and attended lessons in English, Maths, Music and Humanities, whilst Lauren and Matthew met with the Chair of Governors, discussed data with one of the Deputy Heads, took an assembly at the Junior High School and carried out break and lunch duties in the school.



*Mr McGrane in his English lesson*



*Lauren and Matthew discuss school issues with the Chair of governors, Ann McKay*

Lauren said "It was brilliant meeting with the Chair of Governors, she's going to take some of our ideas to the next governing body meeting for discussion, which is really exciting".



*Mr McGrane with Lauren and Matthew at the start of Takeover Day*

Mr McGrane said, 'I really enjoyed the day, it was nice to see the school from a student's perspective. I'm told Lauren and Matthew did a great job in my absence, I'd better watch out if I want to keep my job!'

**Art Auction in aid of Northumbria Police aid to Romanian Children**

Talented students have been doing their bit to raise much needed funds for Romanian orphans. The students spent the weeks leading up to the summer holidays producing art work to be sold at a charity art auction which took place in September at the Village Hotel, North Shields. The auction was in support of Northumbria Police aid to Romanian Children, which sends much needed education and medical resources to orphaned children in Romania. The charity, which has been running for over ten years, is the brain child of former Northumbria Police Officer Robbie Burn. "We always get a huge amount of support from the young people at BCHS," he said.

The art work was displayed in the Metrocentre during the summer holidays before being prepared for the art auction. On the evening, the auction raised of £2500. "It was a fantastic event, made possible by the hard work of the young artists who took part," event organiser, Jill Kinghorn said.

On the night, a piece of work by young artist Rhyarna Illey sold for £85, the highest bid made on the night. Rhyarna said, "I was amazed that my work sold for so much; I was really glad that it did and that the money will go towards a good cause."

Mr McGrane, said, "Once again, the students have shown dedication and commitment to helping others, with an outstanding amount of money raised. We are extremely proud of all those who took part, and look forward to working with the charity again".



*Rhyarna Illey*

**New Term – New uniform!**

Our students have made an excellent start back this year and many parents and members of the local community have commented on how smart our new uniform looks.

With the winter firmly settling in, it's worth remembering a few things with regards to school uniform. Students must wear black shoes, not boots. Shoes with sensible grips would be useful in the icy conditions. Boots may be worn to travel to school, but once on school site they are not permitted.

If girls want to wear a skirt, it must be knee length; tube skirts are not permitted and students wearing tube skirts will be sent home to change.

With the colder weather coming, it would be worth investing in a school jumper; the new grey jumpers are the only item of additional clothing that can be worn underneath the blazer.

Uniform items are available to order from [www.emblematic.com](http://www.emblematic.com) or telephoning 0191 270 1449 - we do not sell uniform in school.

It might be worth adding these items to your Christmas list!