

Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No.15



December 2012

Sad Farewell

The end of this busy term marks the retirement of Assistant Head **Colin Campbell**, who has taught here at Solway School for the past 34 years and in Cumbria since 1975. Many of you and your parents no doubt, will remember Mr Campbell's outstanding lessons, team trips, matches galore, foreign travel and inspiring leadership. He will be sorely missed, but apparently the years of running and jumping in all weathers have taken their toll! We also say farewell to **Miss Riddell** who has been with us teaching Humanities since September, to **Mrs Harrison** who will be returning in April to teach Maths and to Jean Irwin who has been cleaning the school since 1994, we wish a long and happy retirement.

We end this autumn term with a school fund non uniform day on Friday 21st December finishing at 1pm and start afresh after a well deserved break on Monday 7th January 2013.

Year 11s will have their Mock exam results collated on our return, in a similar way to the real August Exam results day, before the Parents' Evening on Tuesday 22nd January at 6:30 where all the post 16 providers will be

available to talk to pupils and Parents about the choices to be made and the requirements for each course or opportunity. It would be sensible if Year 10 pupils and their Parents wished to attend they would be most welcome. It is always useful to get ahead of the game in such competitive times.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in the new term.

Mrs Lois Baird
Headteacher



Living the Olympic
and Paralympic Values



TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGES



Specialist Schools Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY



Healthy Schools
Cumbria



West Cumbria
14-19 partnership



Rural
ACADEMY
of Cumbria



Solway Community Technology College
EST 19



food
for life
PARTNERSHIP





Enterprise activity for Years 7 to 10 Soap Making

Last week all Year 7 to 10 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a one day enterprise activity. Pupils worked in mixed age teams representing their House and successfully completed all the business related activities including planning, marketing, finance and production of a final product, novelty soaps. Pupils developed an understanding of the elements required to start a business and worked well in their teams producing their products. Towards the end of the activity, each team presented their products to the school and were justifiably proud of their day's work. Our thanks to Matt Kerslake who is the schools development manager for Innovative enterprise for organising and facilitating this unique enterprise activity.

Congratulations to the winning team; Sharman





Year 9s discover all about the work of Silloth Town Council

We would like to thank the members of Silloth Town Council who gave up their time to spend an hour with our year 9 pupils and answer all their questions about the work of Silloth Town Council.

Pupils found the session fascinating and developed an understanding of the important work done by our local council, as well as finding out how the Council supports and develops our town and facilities. Working in small groups, pupils spent time with each of the Council representatives asking pre-prepared questions and then invited the council members to stay for lunch with them.

We hope to make this successful activity an annual event for year 9 and develop further links with our Town Council through future work.



Shoe Box Appeal

Once again our pupils proved to be thoughtful and generous producing in excess of 38 filled shoeboxes to be delivered to children in need in another country. This year it was Newton that led the way with the number of shoeboxes completed earning the 25 house points for this activity. However, competition notwithstanding this is a really deserving project to be involved in and serves to remind us all that there are many children in this world less fortunate than ourselves here in the UK.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this project.



Airline Day 2012

Monday 19th of November was certainly a day to remember for all Year 9 pupils participating in this year's Airline Day activity. The weeks of planning and preparation undertaken by the pupils came to fruition with the production of a range of appetizing and delicious three course meals. I was very impressed with all our Year 9 pupils, they were not only very well organised, but had obviously given much thought to the presentation of their work and had in a large number of cases practised their meals at home prior to the event.

The skill level demonstrated was high as was the level of cooperation and team working that enabled all pupils to be ready to display by 2.30pm. The standard this year was also high with the vast majority of pupils receiving a Silver or Gold Award and two pupils; **Bryony Sturrock** and **Jessica Swan** achieved the Diamond Award.

Very well done to all who took part.



Rotary Junior Master Chef and Spring-board Future Chef Competition

Thursday 29th November was a very busy morning for our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering pupils as they demonstrated their practical skills, producing a two course meal for the first heat of the Rotary Junior Master Chef and the Springboard Future Chef competitions.

This year for the first time our local Rotarian judges were joined by Joanne Wood from the Springboard Future chef team and I should like to thank all the judges for making this competition such a pleasure to take part in.

All pupils completed this task exceptionally well and gave the judges a real challenge to decide on the top places. I am very proud of all Year 10 pupils who took part and would like to say well done to them all for producing such a range of nicely presented, tasty meals.

The results of this competition are as follows: **Amy Armstrong** and **Stacey Strick** will represent Silloth Rotary Club and Solway Community Technology College in the forthcoming Rotary district heats and **Carmen Neilly** and **Lucy Winter** will develop a third course to be judged before one of them will represent our school in the Cumbrian heats of Future Chef at the Lakes College in January.



Prize Giving 2012

Mrs Baird was delighted to welcome pupils, parents, governors, ex pupils and guests to the annual Prize Giving evening. She spoke of the achievements of last year's Year 11 pupils, 70% of whom achieved 5 A*-C GCSE, the highest ever at

the school. A fabulous achievement with 79% of them meeting or exceeding their personal target, which could not have happened without the dedicated staff and the hard work of pupils supported by their parents.

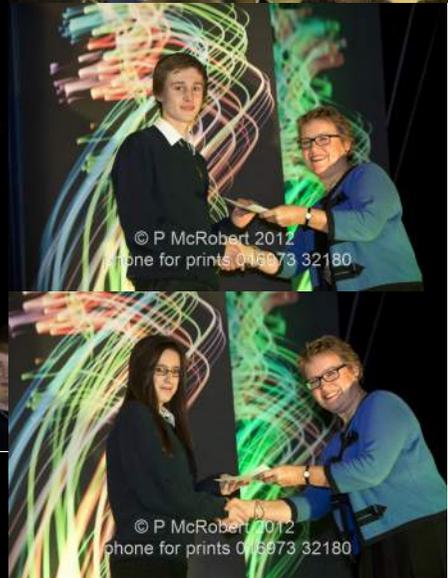
100% of pupils achieved 8 A*-G grades including English and Maths. 100% of pupils achieved at least 1 GCSE at grade B or above. 50% of pupils achieved at least one GCSE at grade A* or A. Over a quarter

achieved at least 3 A*/A grades. 79.3% of pupils achieved better than their own personal target for 8 GCSEs. No pressure then for our current Yr11s! It was a great privilege to have Caroline Thomson as our Guest of Honour. Caroline began her career in broadcasting over 30 years ago becoming deputy Director General of the BBC in 2006, and until quite recently, oversaw a staff of 2,400 with a budget of £800 million. She is also Deputy Chair of The National Gallery, a trustee of Tullie House, a non executive director of the CN group and Chair of Digital UK. She spoke warmly of the fantastic achievements of the school, congratulating pupils on all their wonderful qualifications and pointed out to the audience how this was so dependent on good leadership from the Headteacher. She then described how important it is to put back what

you can into the community.

Head Girl, **Tabby Graham** and Head Boy, **Ellis Coulthard** made their speech of thanks before presenting Caroline with a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

The evening was rounded off as Guests and prize winners moved into the meeting room for seasonal refreshments and a chance to admire the tremendous GCSE Art work on display.





Thanks go to **John Cook** signs and **Peter and Paul Gilmour** for our new fabulous, colourful stage panels and the lighting. Such good friends of the school. Many thanks.



All the photos will be on the website of the Solway Buzz, kindly taken by **Peter McRobert**
www.solwaybuzz.co.uk



P

Prize winners 2012



Christmas Cake Club
2012

Well done everyone!







Christmas Banquet 2012

Saturday the 8th of December is certainly a day that the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering pupils will never forget. Arriving in school at 9am, this enthusiastic group of pupils immediately got to work preparing the food for their Christmas Banquet. In an amazingly calm atmosphere, pupils worked exceptionally well together prepping their own courses and helping each other to ensure all the food was of a very high standard and indeed ready for the arrival of our 104 customers. As well as preparing and cooking the food, pupils also had to transform the school hall into a banquet venue, setting up the tables and work areas and preparing our school canteen for the evening service. By 6pm the excitement was really growing, half an hour left to the arrival of our customers and this last few minutes passed exceptionally quickly ensuring everything was brought up to the hall area ready for service. 6.30pm and this was it, the first customers arrived to be greeted by those pupils waiting on for the evening.

The atmosphere was wonderful, and from the comments made by our customers, everyone had a really good time and thoroughly enjoyed the food. Pupils, now very tired, dug deep into their reserves and discovered what the real world of work is like as they cleaned up and set the canteen back to rights for use on Monday morning. 11.15pm, exceptionally tired but with a huge sense of achievement we all went home.

Our thanks need to go to **Shona** for organising and running the bar for the evening and to **Mrs Hoodless and Mrs Heath** for working throughout the evening in the canteen, with our kitchen pupils, enabling this event to take place. I should also like to thank **Mrs Bell, Mrs Cuthell and Mrs Martin** for helping during the day, providing encouragement and assistance to the whole group.

Well done Year 11.





Master class

Lucy and I were invited to a morning out at the Lakes College, Workington on the 20th November 2012, with Lewis and Mr Harris.

We had the opportunity to see the master chef **Simon Rogan**, not only did we see him cook but we also got a photo and autograph with him. He also provided us with an insight into how his career unfolded.

It was interesting and enlightening, and I learned lots of new skills in food which would help me in my GCSE. At the end of the day I topped it off with a lovely hot chocolate, then on the trip home couldn't hear anything but Mr Harris singing away!
Carmen Neilly

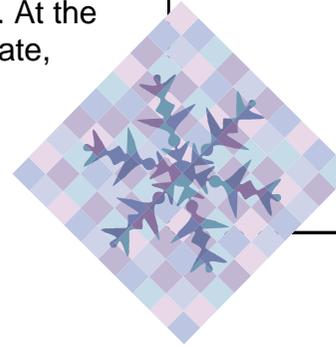
SOS

Art Materials needed

If you have any of the following items that you could donate to the art department, I would be very grateful:

- A working blender
- Fancy cups and saucers
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Card
- Craft Paper

Many thanks, Mrs K Bell
Art Department.



Meet Our Staff

Mr Sunter is our Cover Supervisor, he joined us in 2011 after a successful move from a large secondary school in Bradford. Mr Sunter also took over as the Head of Franklin and had a very successful year in 2011/2012 leading his house to winning the trophies for House quiz and also for the overall points for inter-house competitions. He is fond lover of the outdoors and has already run a successful trip to Dunolly for the Year 11 white water rafting trip and is in the process of organising the same trip for this year's cohort, although his real excitement is building to the School ski trip which leaves for Bormio in Italy, in 50 days.



Tennis

On the 22nd of November, I travelled to Prestwick in Scotland to represent Cumbria in the women's county tennis cup. This meant that we stayed in Prestwick for the weekend competing against 3 other counties to get promoted into the better division. On the Friday, we played against Lincolnshire, who were the strongest team in the competition. We lost to them 7-2 in matches. The next day, we played the South of Scotland. This match was expected to be very close, but we all played really well and beat them quite easily, winning 8-1. On the final day, we played Bedfordshire. We just managed to beat them 5-4 but the matches were all very close. Overall, we came 2nd and I won 2 out of the 4 matches that I played. I really enjoyed the weekend and it was a great experience.

Emily Wise



Ski Tour 2013



With the ski tour less than 50 days away the group is entering the final preparation stages before departing for Italy. During the last week of this half term the group, which is made up entirely of Beginners, is going for an introductory lesson at Carlisle dry ski slope to familiarise themselves with the equipment they will be using in Bormio.



Whilst we have endured the Arctic conditions in Britain the same can be said for the Alps, the average temperature in Bormio over the last week has been -9°C , however this has been excellent news for the snow conditions! Bormio has been able to open 2 weeks earlier than planned due to heavy snowfall. Mr Sunter and all the pupils involved are very excited and raring to go!



Year 5 Maths Day:

On the 22th of November, many pupils from our feeder primary schools joined us in a 'Get Rich Quick' day. The pupils needed to buy and sell answers to questions in order to make a profit. With this growing profit, they then traded in treasure hunt clues to solve a logic puzzle. Working in teams, they had to decide how to effectively manage the tasks in hand and were all very successful in doing so. The pupils had a great time! When giving feedback they thought that, 'they had great fun and enjoyed the day.' We look forward to challenging these pupils further in the years to come. Well done also to **Alicia, Jess, Jamie and Chloe** from Year 9 who helped through the day and did an excellent job of running the bank and shop!

Rotary Art Competition

Thursday evening saw the judging of the local heat of the Rotary Art competition.

Two members of our local Rotary club came and spent a couple of hours deliberating over our pupils work.

This year the theme is `Peace` and the judges had a wide variety of high standard finished pieces to look at making their job quite difficult.

After much discussion and deliberating first place in the junior category was awarded to **Jessica Swan**, second place was

Eve Scott and third place went to **Peyton Minnican**.

Jake Nichol's work will receive a highly commended certificate.



In the Senior section, first place was awarded to **Jonathan Blackburn**, second was **Caitlyn Bonomy** and third went to **Sophie-Lea Moran**.

These wonderful pieces of work will now be submitted to the Area Final early next year.

Well done to all those who took part and congratulations to the finalists.

Mrs. K. Bell

Certificates

Pupils who have earned their Bronze, Silver or Gold Smart mark certificates will be presented with them during our final assembly on Friday 21st December. Those reaching the top categories will also receive a £10 token. Just perfect for Christmas.

We also reward those pupils who have 100% attendance with certificates and each name will be entered for the monthly draw for £10. It is vital to maintain your attendance at or above 95% in order to achieve your potential.

Attendance

When your child is absent from school you must make 1st day contact with the school office to report the absence. If you leave a message on the school answer machine you need to tell us the pupil's name and reason for absence.



Stamps

Please continue to collect and bring in to school, old used stamps from any letters or parcels you receive. **Mrs Baird** sends them off to raise money for Eden Valley Hospice. A worthy cause.

Water Bottles

Please note that we have water freely available in the foyer, both cooled and ambient. However cups for water will not be provided for the water dispenser. Pupils **MUST** bring their own bottle to fill when required.

Examinations

BLACK pens only, are required for examinations! Not blue..... Bring a spare, just in case! Water bottles must be clear with NO LABEL.



Aerosols are banned

They cause our asthmatic pupils great distress so I would urge parents to ensure that pupils leave aerosols at home.



Fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed in school; they will be confiscated. We are a Healthy school, providing pupils with plenty of choice at breakfast club, break and lunch time. Pupils have no need to bring in unhealthy items to eat. **Chewing gum is also banned;** it makes such a mess of the carpets and is disgusting when found stuck under tables.



Business Manager Update

Heating

The contractors have now completed the works on the heating system the school is now (mostly) toasty warm again. Although we still have a few glitches to iron out we are pleased that the school is a much more pleasant place to be now. We hope to see our gas bills reduce as a result of much more efficient boilers, which will enable us to re-direct funds to benefit learning in the school.

School roof

One of the problems with a flat roof is that as the coating fails over time, it develops leaks. We have secured funding from Cumbria County Council to renew the roof in the Hall and Room 17, which will mean no more leaks. We hope that the work will start early in the new year. We do have an ongoing problem with minor leaks elsewhere, so hope to be able to repair the damage in those areas in the coming months. Once again, a reminder to everyone that flat roofs are dangerous, and we do not allow anyone to go on our roof at all, the roof is especially slippery at this time of year.



S PAND

Mrs Baird was delighted to welcome **Professor Stuart Hazeldine**, a geophysicist formerly of Glasgow University, to speak to our pupils about the geology of the Silloth area, following proposals to use it for a radioactive waste depository. The pupils were given a demonstration of permeability and watched an extremely thorough presentation describing geological time, the process of nuclear fission as well as a description of the types of rock layers in Cumbria.

In the evening over 250 people attended a Solway Plain Against Nuclear Dump meeting to hear both **Professor Hazeldine** and **Professor David Smythe** discuss the pros and cons of siting the depository in Silloth. As you can see from the two slides here, it is not suitable even though it is flat, as the rock type is too permeable and contamination of ground water would result.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants are available for your child(ren) if you receive one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided you **do not receive Working Tax Credit** and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC).
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

There are currently 2 ways to apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants:

- By sending a completed Application Form to the Free School Meals Service, Children's Services, Blencathra House, Tangier Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7JW. Applicant's eligibility will be checked on the Department for Education's Free School Meals ECS (Electronic Checking Service). Where eligibility cannot be confirmed applicants may be asked to provide evidence of their current benefit entitlement. Application forms are available from Children's Services offices, Schools or on the [Cumbria County Council website](#).
- By applying online <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/dotonline/applyform.asp>. Applicants receive an immediate response advising them whether they are eligible or not.

Once eligibility is confirmed the applicant and the relevant School(s) are notified.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

No Need to Re-Apply Annually - Regular electronic checks of all applicants currently claiming Free School Meals will be carried out by the Free School Meals Service to confirm continued eligibility. Claimants will only be contacted if we are unable to confirm your eligibility and will request further information is provided.

New Starters - Where a child requires free school meals for the first time in September (i.e. new starters in Reception), a new application will need to be submitted for that child only, regardless of whether other siblings are in receipt of free school meals.

Seasonal Work - For those applicants whose circumstances change regularly (i.e. seasonal workers) completion of a new application form is not always necessary. In these circumstances you can contact the Free School Meals Service on 01946 506200 to have your claim re-assessed.

Change in Circumstances - If you stop receiving a qualifying benefit you must inform the Free School Meals Service immediately as Free School Meals will stop. You must also advise us if you cease to be the primary carer of the child(ren) you are claiming for or you change address.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

Children's Services
Blencathra House
Tangier Street
Whitehaven
CA28 7JW

Tel: 01946 506200





THANK YOU

This certificate is in recognition of the outstanding fundraising achievement of:

Solway Community Technology College

for

£410.41

EVERY PENNY COUNTS, BECAUSE EVERY BREAKTHROUGH COUNTS

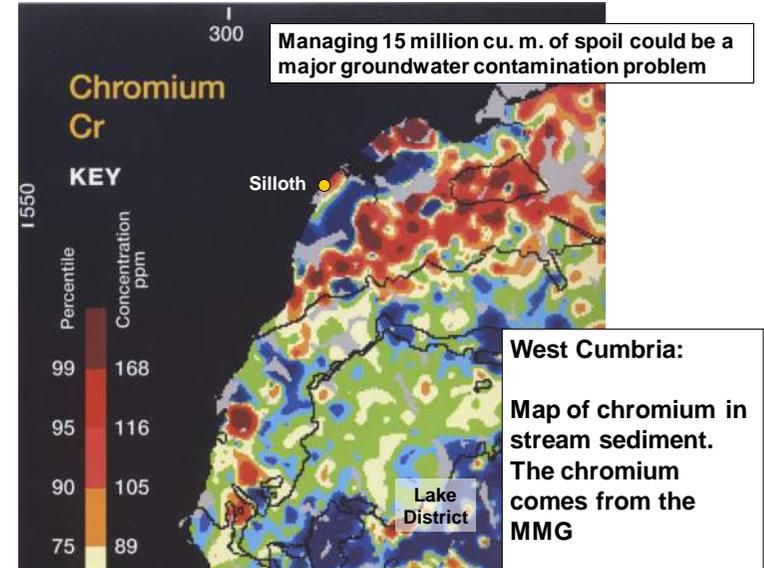
Breakthrough Breast Cancer's mission is to save lives through enabling and ensuring access to improvements in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The Go Pink Team

Breakthrough Breast Cancer

breakthrough.org.uk

Charity No. 1032205 & 5203903E
Registered charity 1032205 & 5203903E

To finish:

- Northern Allerdale is NOT a suitable place
- The Mercia Mudstones are far too permeable
- So the repository will leak to the surface too
- The spoil waste will be a major problem
- Don't believe what the engineers say

But there are many suitable areas in the east





Christmas Card competition Congratulations to our winners

1st Sophie Pinguey

2nd Macy Baker & Abbygail Peacock

3rd Natalie Whitfield



Our Catering ladies have now passed their **Intermediate Level Apprenticeship** in Food Production and Cooking, and also Functional Skills in Maths and English.



Congratulations!

W eird & Wonderful choices

On Friday 30th November all year 8 pupils visited the University of Cumbria to enjoy a seminar and workshop day. We arrived at the University at 10.15am and were greeted by 3 well presented ambassadors from the university. We were given a taster of what life is like being a student at the University of Cumbria and looked in depth at the vast variety of different courses that you can study at University. It was a very enlightening day and thoroughly enjoyable, although for some of the boys the highlight of the day was the free lunch provided by the university. The whole year group's behaviour was exemplary and they should be proud of themselves.

D ates for your diary

20/12/2012	Th	Y7 - 10 L & M home to Parents
21/12/2012	F	Talent show am / 1 pm finish
16/01/2013	W	BACs controlled assignment 1-5pm
17/01/2013	Th	BACs controlled assignment 1-5pm Mike Priestly Yr 11 National Citizenship scheme
21/01/2013	M	Yr11 ROAs to parents
22/01/2013	T	Yr11 Parents Evening-Destinations 6.30pm
25/01/2013	F	Yr10 L&M to parents SOS Non uniform day soak our student/
28/01/2013	M	Physics 1 - am
29/01/2013	T	Yr10 Subject Parents evening 6.30
01/02/2013	F	Yr 7-9 Levels & Motivations home
05/02/2013	T	Yr9 Options Evening Internet safety day
06/02/2013	W	Community Roast Dinner Day 1.15
08/02/2013	F	Literacy Day
10/02/2013	Su	Ski trip to Bormio

**WIDENING
PARTICIPATION
ACTIVITY**

Inspiring progression to university

