

Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No.22

Transport

As you may know, Cumbria County Council is currently consulting on a range of savings proposals because its budget will be reduced by 25% between 2010 and 2017. It needs to find £80m in savings during the next three years. A letter was sent by the County Council, before Christmas, to make all current Year 11s and their parents/carers fully aware of one of the savings proposals that may directly affect them should they continue into Post-16 education from September 2014.

I was very concerned when we received this letter. Two years ago when the original decision was made to cut concessionary bus passes for Sixth Formers, I made strong representations and letters from the Headteachers' Association were sent. This was part of the major spending review that the Council had to make in 2011: this further cut is in response to major budget issues. I understand that no final decision has been made, and this is only one of several major potential cuts.

I urge all parents who would be impacted by this potential decision to respond to the proposal by visiting www.cumbria.gov.uk/ourfuture (for reference, this is Proposition 19) and any representations to your local MP and/or District or County Councillors would help. It is especially important that Parents' voices from sparsely populated rural areas attending 11-16 schools, are heard. We do not wish to be discriminated against. Our pupils should have subsidised transport.



February 2014

We were delighted to see our pupils' results in the value added table, from summer 2013. There are still some results to add which, when the validated data is published will see our position move higher up the table.

Mrs L Baird
Headteacher

School	Percentage
W.Lakes Academy, Egremont	1041.3
Millom School	1014.8
Ullswater Community, Penrith	1014.5
Kirkby Stephen Grammar	1013.6
Queen Elizabeth, Penrith	1009.5
Netherhall, Maryport	1009.3
Queen Elizabeth, K.Lonsdale	1009.1
Settlebeck, Sedbergh	1009
Caldew School, Dalston	1006.7
Southfield, Workington	1005
Keswick School	1000.9
Dowdales, Dalton	999.7
Kirkbie Kendal School	999.6
Newman, Carlisle	996.9
Solway, Silloth	996.1
William Howard, Brampton	994.4
Ulverston Victoria High	992.9
John Ruskin, Coniston	990.9
Lakes School, Windermere	989.7
Appleby Grammar School	989.7
Nelson Thomlinson, Wigton	989.5
Cockermouth School	988.9
Queen Katherine, Kendal	986.8
Dallam, Milnthorpe	985.8
Whitehaven School	984.9
St Benedict's, Whitehaven	984.2
Cartmel, Carnforth	983.4
St Joseph's, Workington	978.4
Richard Rose Morton	973
Trinity School, Carlisle	971.9
St Bernard's, Barrow	969.9
Richard Rose Central	966.4
Stainburn, Workington	965.9
Samuel King's, Alston	965.3
Furness Academy, Barrow	965.2
Beacon Hill, Aspatria	961.1
Walney, Barrow	955.3

* Data from the Department for Education.



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



BBC School Report 2014

A group of Year 10 pupils visited BBC Radio Cumbria on 30th January as part of the preparation for their exciting venture into radio journalism in March.

This year we are taking part in the BBC Schools' Report initiative which will see schools all around the country producing live news in their schools.

The important date to listen out for is **27th March** when the pupils will be broadcasting on BBC Radio Cumbria's breakfast show, as well as producing news stories to publish not only on the school web site but which will also be uploaded to the BBC website as they happen!

BBC
RADIO CUMBRIA

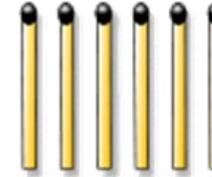


The pupils have been commissioned by Radio Cumbria to produce a three minute feature on Cumbria's 40th birthday celebrations which will take place in April. During the visit to the BBC we met the journalists who will be working with the pupils both in school and at the station in March. We will be using their recording and editing equipment to produce our story. We enjoyed a tour of the studios and watched the presenters on air, and visited the news room where stories were being reported and edited. We even got a shout out and a song played live! Remember to tune your radios to **BBC Radio Cumbria on the 27th March** to hear the pupils on air, and log on to the BBC website to read their news stories!



Maths problem:

Add five matches to these six matches to make nine matches.



Praise postcard to the first answer back with the correct solution.

Competition winners

Congratulations to **Mrs Dickinson** who was the lucky winner in our **£200** cycle accessories raffle and to runner up **Mrs Richardson** who won a Tree top trek gift voucher.

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.



Diary of events for CVQO Schools Partnership Project (SPP) with Solway Community Technology College

Tuesday 7th January 2014

Day 1 of delivery and **Mr Cant** and **Mr Starmer** are given a warm welcome by the school and set up to receive their first cohort of 16 learners. There are several long faces amongst the group but soon all parties are on board with the idea of the project however and we finish a session of ice breakers with a firm hand shake and the challenge set for the learners to shake the hand of a member of their staff. Many achieve this task, which will be tested again in coming weeks.

Ground rules for the course are set in the next session, with the learners being empowered and given ownership of their experience. This is done by way of writing a formal contract with all points being agreed by learners and instructors. A valuable session which has set the tone for weeks to come. We finish the morning with some communication tasks (Chinese whispers) and everyone leaves for lunch happy.

The obligatory lull in the battle greets us in the afternoon (though not surprising after a fantastic lunch) and so we decide to try out some more exercises to lighten the mood. All the learners are surprised at their ability to complete the tasks, further reinforcing the aim of the afternoon session which covers working as part of a group. We are also starting to identify some personal goals.

We finish the day by evidencing some of the work we have covered and a look forward to the next session. The success of the day is measurable as we were able to meet some of the parents, one of whom stated "when (my son) got home he told me what a great day he had". A sure sign that the project can and will achieve its aim.

Tuesday 14th January 2014

Today is like Christmas all over again with our learners (hereafter, and in keeping with military ethos known as troops) receiving their boots and after a quick fit check, with boots fitting and mail getting through, we are ready to forge ahead with the day.

We start with a rallying "Good morning" and it's clear that most are in good spirit. After a brief revision of all that we covered previously, we sign the contract drafted in week one and move on to some more interesting confirmatory exercises with a game of blind football. This exercise not only reinforces and practices some of our communication skills, but also serves to prove which of the group is willing to cheat at the tasks rather than challenge themselves to their fullest potential.



Our first cohort of Year 9s has been fitted out with kit and boots to undertake their Tuesday sessions with **Mr Cant** and **Mr Starmer**, who along with **Mr Sunter** are leading them towards their BTEC Level 1 qualification in Teamwork, Citizenship and Personal Skills. It is great that the staff have fitted so well into Solway life.

Some of their exploits are described in the diary entries for the first 2 sessions. We are delighted to be able to work with the charity and that all of our Year 9s will be included; I am sure the pupils will benefit enormously from the project. I am sure the second cohort are excitedly awaiting their turn.

Solway Community Technology College has recently joined EduVoice, an exciting and innovative scheme which not only raises money for your child's school, but also enables YOU and your children to earn extra cash and some pocket money.

Fundraising is important for us as it allows the school to purchase materials we would not otherwise be able to afford, with these benefits being directly passed on to the children. EduVoice is a great scheme because it does not require parents to part with any money at all - the money comes from companies who need members of the public to feedback through online surveys, their opinions on services and products.

All the surveys are monitored and filtered by EduVoice, which in turn is governed by the Market Research Society.

This is a positive money raising approach and we would really like you to register with EduVoice to participate in helping raise funds for the schools account. If you have a son/daughter aged 11 - 18 years old, they may also have received information about the scheme as they are also able to participate. However, if they are under the age of 16 it is necessary for EduVoice to have your consent as a parent for their involvement. To achieve this your son/daughter will be asked to provide a contact number for you so verbal consent can be obtained via a quick telephone call.

The surveys sent to you from EduVoice are often fun and you will genuinely influence companies, local authorities, governments and charities with your opinions.

As part of this school's research community, you will be rewarded for your precious time not only with great cash incentives, but also with regular prize draws. This gives you the opportunity to create a little extra spending power, raise funds for the school and win fantastic prizes! Don't miss this great opportunity. Sign up at www.eduvoice.co.uk TODAY and start making a difference.

The school's unique code is **404433042** which you will need when submitting your application to join (it is important to keep hold of this code as it will connect your EduVoice account to our school's account).

Thank you
Mrs L Baird
Headteacher

The EduVoice scheme

is now open to anyone that is over the age of 11. This means that we can now involve pupils; it's a brilliant way of getting the children to fund raise themselves for school and earn a bit of pocket money for themselves!

EduVoice are part of the Marketing Research Society and adhere to all the rules and regulations drawn by this society. They are also all CRB/DBS checked and work closely with major charities such as the NSPCC and The Children's Society.

School code : 404433042



Science Club

I really enjoy going to Science club because it is loads of fun and we do lots of experiments. We have made bath bombs, rockets, big bubbles and more. It's on every Monday after school at 3pm until 4pm. We do something different every week. It's good fun!

Leah Richardson

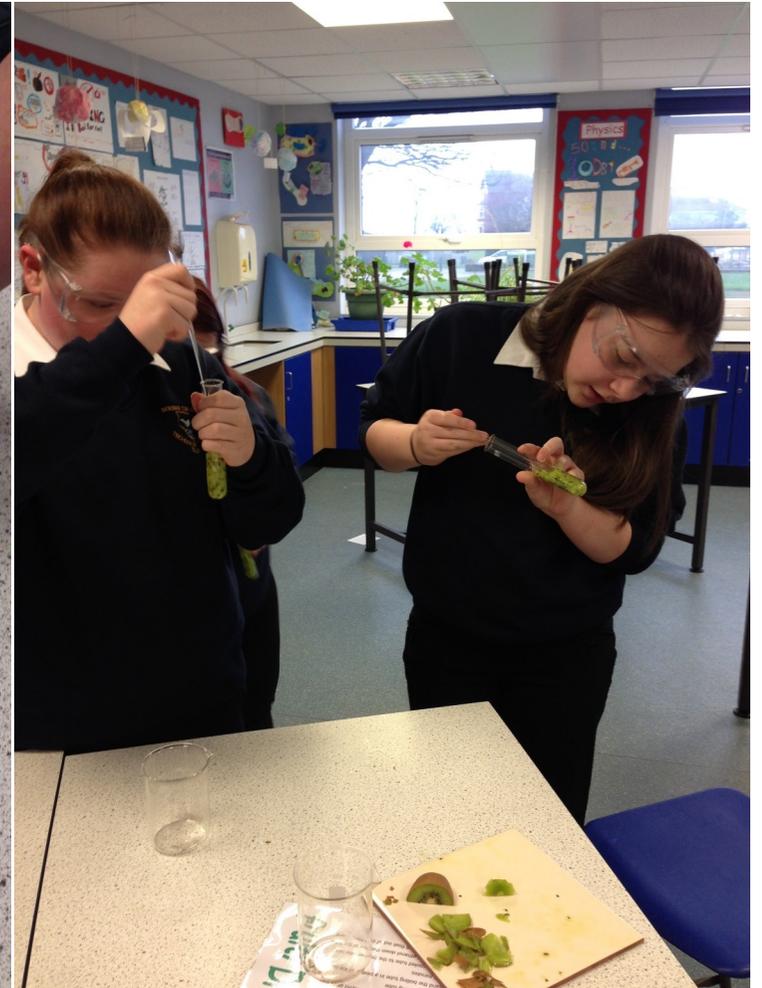
Science Club

Every Monday after school young scientists gather with Mrs Potts to take part in fabulous investigations and make wonderful discoveries. It is open to all.



External Candidates

We are happy to enable external candidates to enter and sit any examinations which we are currently offering. Please contact **Mrs H Long** for details.



Our very own Mr Sunter is embarking on a life changing challenge in 2014; read about his reasons and what he's doing below:

"After possibly the lowest point in my life, I have set myself a monumental goal of losing over 5 stones and once again competing in the High Terrain Events Whinlatter Duathlon!(Running & Cycling)
In November 2013, I finished in last position (203rd out of 203), only beating the people who got injured! However with the help of Trail Running Magazine UK & New Balance I am aiming to finish in the top 75 in 2014 which means completing in 1hour 20mins faster than I managed in 2013!

You can follow my progress via my Facebook page. It will be updated very regularly with tips of how to eat healthily, exercise efficiently and stay injury free but most of all hopefully helping people stay motivated! Some events will be organised within the community to get people moving and get the pupils involved.

It's going to be a long hard road but one that I hope other people out there are taking as well!

www.facebook.com/trailrunweightloss
www.trimbytrail.co.uk



Meet our Staff : Mrs Heath

I started at Solway School in May 2005 as a kitchen assistant and also recently I have taken a cleaning job within the school. I have always worked in the catering industry, starting out at The Golf Hotel in Silloth at the age of 16. I was there for a total of 22 years, cooking etc.

In the nine years I have worked at the school it has been as part of a great team.

We won an award for **National Secondary Schools Catering team of the year 2010/2011**. Then in 2013 I was put forward for **Catering/ Kitchen assistant of the year** in which I came runner up which was great. I have learned a lot while working here. I completed an Intermediate level apprenticeship in Food Production and Cooking in October 2012. You're never too old to learn!

I attended Solway School and also both of my children, Matthew now 20 who is working at Caltech in Silloth and Megan in Yr 7, who is just starting her journey through Secondary School.



Zoe Forster update

Zoe Forster, a former pupil from Solway Community Technology College continued with her Art and Design education at 'A' level after gaining an A* in the subject at GCSE level with us. She has frequently visited the school over these past two years, impressing us with her talent and determination to succeed. It has been a real pleasure to help support the development of her work and for us to share our expertise. We have put together a portfolio of Zoe's work which 'stands out from the crowd'.

Her first interview is on February 20th at Camberwell College of Art in London, we wish her all the very best!



BBL Final

On Sunday 12th January a minibus packed full of enthusiastic boys, from Year 7 to 11, headed down the M6 to the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, with Mr Hansel and Mr Sunter. We spent the afternoon being WOW'd by the size and athleticism of the UK's basket-balling elite.

We saw an international game between England & Ireland and then we witnessed a very close British Basketball league final between Newcastle Eagles & Leicester Riders. Newcastle were leading for the entire game until Leicester Riders clawed back to clinch a victory with a last second buzzer beater.

"This has been the best day of my life" – Adam Johnston (Year 8).

All were safely returned home by 10:30. Many thanks to the staff involved.

Boys.... you still have some growing to do!



Dodgeball

KS4 girls dodgeball competition was won overall by Franklin. (After a spider alert!)

Sharman and Dalton tie for 2nd, and Newton came 3rd.

The next two matches, for Uni hoc, will run after half term.



Fund raising

We raised **£167** for the local RNLI Life boat, from our non-uniform day and the change collected by the canteen staff. Many thanks to **Mrs Kent** and **Mr Stalker** who came into school to be presented with a cheque during Dalton's assembly organised by **Luke Rumney**.

A worthy cause.

Music

Instrumental lessons are now well underway. At present there are 7 pupils studying guitar and 3 studying violin. There are still opportunities to start lessons, if interested see Mr Kirby.

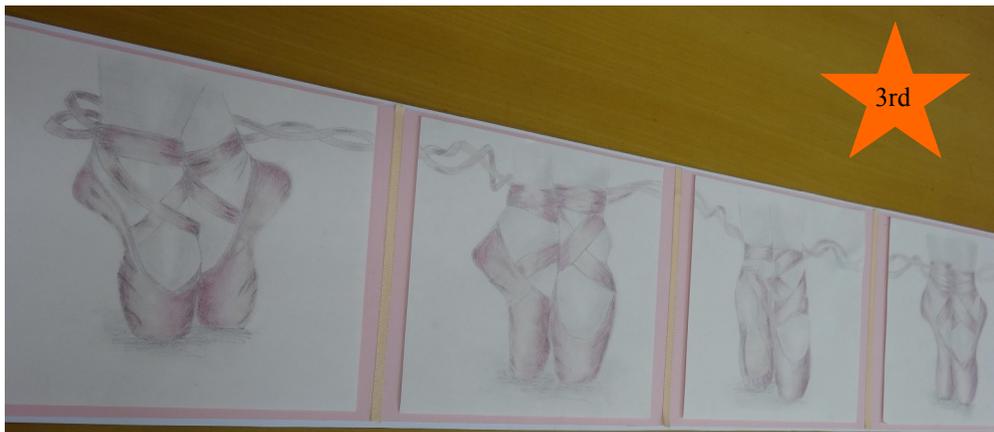
The end of term Christmas service saw the whole of Year 11 perform the Mariah Carey song, "All I Want for Christmas". Well done to all of you, you have set a precedent and started a tradition for future Year 11s to live up to!

All Year 7 gave a performance of "Frosty the Snowman" and the Year 11 examination group gave us their performance of "Do They Know it's Christmas" from the original 1984 Live Aid. Pupils and visitors were treated to a lively performance of "The Twelve Days of Solway" performed by staff. The lyrics were especially written by Mrs Schafer.

Year 7s and 8s have been learning to sing and sign the song "Get Up and Sign", in order to take part on February 5th in an attempt by schools throughout Britain to break the existing Guinness World Record for the number of people singing and signing a song simultaneously. At present the record is 116,980, let us hope our contribution helps add up to a new record. The purpose is to raise awareness for childhood deafness for whom the organisers, the national charity **Sign2Sing** work.

A drum and percussion club is to start on Wednesday lunchtimes, if you would like to take part, please see Mr Kirby.

Pupils who wish to improve their singing or playing, forming a band or see themselves as the next "X Factor" finalist should come along on a Tuesday at 3.00pm to the music room to join the After School Music Club, run by our visiting musician, **Ian Kellett**.



Rotary Art Competition

The standard for the Rotary Art Competition was high again this year and because of this the three judges took an hour deliberating the outcome. Finally they decided that in the **Senior** category ...

1st=Ell'e Jackson, 2nd=Jessica Swan and 3rd=Jenny Sim.

In the **Intermediate** category ...

1st=Grace Wedgwood, 2nd=Charlie McGuirk and 3rd=Daniel Carr.

First place pictures from each category will be sent to Lancashire to be judged at District level.



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



Durham Move Project

Durham University invited our school to take part in the "Move Project". The aim of the Move Project is to encourage our Year 7 pupils to make physical activity part of their daily routine. The benefits of regular daily physical activity in children are well studied by scientists and include:

- Increased social, emotional and behavioural well-being
- Improved self-esteem
- Improved concentration and attention
- Reduced risk of overweight, obesity and high blood pressure
- Lower levels of risk factor for heart disease and Type II diabetes
- Improved cardiovascular functioning
- Improved muscle strength and endurance
- Improved bone density

For the last six weeks our Year 7 pupils have been working closely with a mentor from Year 9. The Year 9 mentors had to help their mentees complete a series of activities, listen to their ideas, make suggestions, check understanding, give positive encouragement and regular praise.



The mentees had to monitor their own levels of activity, set themselves weekly goals, identify barriers to physical activity and then do some problem solving to overcome those barriers.



The majority of our pupils participated in this project positively and enthusiastically. There were some very strong peer mentors and this helped the project to be so successful.

The Year 7s have each been fitted with an activity tracker which they will be wearing for 7 days. The data from the tracker will then be analysed to see how active our pupils actually are. The pupil who is the most active and wears their tracker for the most hours will win a £10 voucher. We look forward to seeing how they do!

Miss Jones

Head Start

Active Travel's promotion of safe cycling encourages cyclists to understand the importance of keeping their bike in good condition, the value of high-visibility materials and the correct use of lights.



Above all we encourage the wearing of helmets. Wearing a helmet has been proven to reduce the impact of injury in accidents. Helmets are designed to absorb some of the impact energy that occurs if the head hits a solid object. The energy absorption, approximately 10-14 MPH has the potential to make a difference to the injury outcome to the head/brain in many of the accidents that children and young people are involved in, such as stunt taking and falling due to immature cycling skills.

We run a national award winning cycle helmet discount purchase scheme, in conjunction with the national charity Bicycle Helmet Initiative Trust.

Top quality helmets are available to young people in Cumbria at a greatly reduced price. To find out more and how to buy one, download the [Head Start Cycle Helmet Order Form PDF \(64KB\)](#).

FAQs

What else can I do to protect children whilst cycling?

Cycle training, wearing reflector strips/jacket, lights on the back and front of the bike, ensure their bike is roadworthy, be a role model, cycle as a family and don't let them listen to an iPod whilst cycling

Do children need to wear a helmet when they are cycling off-road for example in the park or the garden as well as on the road?

Yes! Accidents can happen anywhere at any time. Every time a child gets on a bike he/she should wear a helmet so it becomes the norm.

What should I do if a child falls off his/her bike and the helmet gets dented or scraped?

You must replace it.

Does a BMX-style of helmet offer as much protection as a traditional vented helmet?

Yes. BMX-style helmets have to meet the same safety standards as more traditional style helmets. If a child wants to wear a BMX style helmet and it fits that should be the one you buy.

Should adults wear helmets too?

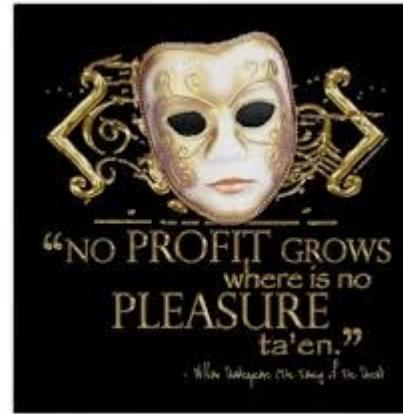
Yes! Adults can have accidents too and you should be a role model for children. Your brain is just as important as a child's!

Shakespeare Schools' Festival 2014

2014 sees the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and we shall be celebrating it in style at Solway. Following the success of our production of *Macbeth* last November at the Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, we are delighted to announce that we will be taking part in the Shakespeare Schools' Festival once again in 2014. *Macbeth* was described as visually stunning and the acting ability and confidence of the pupils who took part was fabulous to watch. The

enthusiasm of the pupils to repeat the experience is infectious, and they are already lining up to audition for parts in the next production.

Rehearsals will begin after Easter for our production of *The Taming of the Shrew* – a very different prospect to *Macbeth*! The play tells the story of Katherine and Bianca, two very different sisters – one looking for a husband, the other stubbornly refusing to accept any suitor at all. But will true love triumph? Will Kate find the man of her dreams? To find out, book your seat at the performance in Keswick next November! The Festival this year expects 40,000 pupils to take to the stage up and down the country in various productions and we are proud to be part of such an impressive cultural event.



Accelerated Reader

Solway CTC has recently become an Accelerated Reader school. The programme, aimed at Years 7 and 8, means that all pupils will read in English lessons regularly, and use a system of targeted books and on-line quizzes to accelerate learning and reading ability. The system provides instant feedback for the pupils on their understanding and lets them, with the guidance of teaching staff, set targets for themselves.

Pupils will select books according to their interests and to their target level of reading, from our library. Once they have finished a book, they will have the opportunity to complete reading practice quizzes to assess comprehension, and literacy skills quizzes that test higher order thinking. There will also be an opportunity for parents to see their child's results and track their progress at home.

We are hoping to develop and improve the culture of school reading across the curriculum and at home through using the scheme. We hope parents will support their child's reading by encouraging them to actively use the system and of course by providing opportunities for reading at home. We hope the system will be up and running soon, so watch this space for more information!



This is to certify that we are an
Accelerated Reader School

Signed: 
Dirk Foch, Managing Director, Renaissance Learning UK

www.renlearn.co.uk

RENAISSANCE LEARNING

**Year 11s
Revision
Revision
Revision!**

Is your child using all the subject revision guides?

Have they made use of the AQA Activelearn site for English and Maths?

**Are they revising each evening?
5 nights / week and 3 subjects per night over 2 hours or so.**

Do they attend after school revision classes?

If not then they will not be accessing the higher grades they are capable of in the summer!

Time is running out. There are only 11 school weeks left !!

SOLWAY COMMUNITY

SPORTS HALL

YOGA

EVERY TUESDAY IN THE
SCHOOL HALL FROM
7PM – 8.30PM



ROLLER SKATING

EVERY FRIDAY 3.15PM – 4.15PM
ONLY £1 PER CHILD AND £2 PER ADULT
PRIMARY AGE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
PARENT/CARER
(TERM TIME ONLY)

JUNIOR FOOTBALL TRAINING

5-7 YEARS 4PM – 5PM
8-12 YEARS 5PM – 6PM



Ladies Netball

Every Thursday from 6.30pm – 7.30pm



TRAMPOLINING

RUN BY WIGTON TRAMPOLINE CLUB

Fridays 7pm - 9pm

Sessions cost £2.50 per hour



BOOKING IS REQUIRED – PLEASE CONTACT THE SPORTS HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

LEGS, BUMS & TUMS

Every Monday at 9am-only £3 per person
For all levels of fitness-see results in just weeks

METAFIT

Every Wednesday at 6.30pm –
7pm

KETTLEBLAST

Designed to shape and sculpt your
body in as little as 50 minutes for
rapid fat loss and a lean toned body.

Every Wednesday 7pm – 8pm
£4 per session

Mats and kettle bells are provided
(16 years and over)

Badminton/Tennis/Table tennis

Do you like to play badminton tennis or table tennis or all 3?
Slots available every evening
Courts including all equipment - £10 per hour

AVAILABLE TO HIRE

To enquire about any of the above or
for any more information on private
hire please call into the Sports Hall or
speak to Angela on 016973 31234

Calendar 2013-14

February

04/02/2014	T	Yr 9 Options Evening
05/02/2014	W	Yr 10 Netball tournament Whitehaven/ Roast Dinner Day 1.15
07/02/2014	F	Literacy Day
11/02/2014	T	Internet Safety day: 'Let's create a better internet together'

Half Term Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February & Inset Mon 24th February

25/02/2014	T	Yr 11 BACs CA sessions 1pm-5pm
26/02/2014	W	Vicar assembly - Honesty Yr 10 Booster
28/02/2014	F	Yr 10 University of Cumbria workshop p2.



March

03/03/2014	M	John Crouch p1,2 &3 with Yr 7&8
04/03/2014	T	Yr 11 BACs CA sessions 1pm-5pm Yr 7 & 8 Parents' Evening 6:30 Shrove Tuesday
06/03/2014	Th	Ambassador Day World Book Day Yr11 Hospitality and catering, task 2 practical exam. 1/2 group /1pm-5pm
10/03/2014	M	Yr 11 English GCSE Course The Golf Hotel
11/03/2014	T	Yr 11 English GCSE Course The Golf Hotel / Year 7-11 Netball away to Keswick
12/03/2014	F	Yr 5 Science Day
13/03/2014	Th	Yr11 Hospitality and catering, task 2 practical exam. 1/2 group 1pm - 5pm
17/03/2014	M	National Science and Engineering Week
19/03/2014	W	Yr 11 GCSE PE Moderation
20/03/2014	Th	Y7, 8, 9 + 11 L&M to parents Yr 8 Netball tournament WLA
24/03/2014	M	Eng Mock p1&2 Lang for all 2hrs 15 mins
27/03/2014	Th	BBC School news report Yr 10 Girls
28/03/2014	F	Eng Mock p1&2 Poetry 1hr 30 min / Dunolly week end at Boulder
29/03/2014	S	Dunolly week end at Boulder
30/03/2014	S	Dunolly week end at Boulder Mothering Sunday British summer time - Clocks forward
31/03/2014	M	PETXi High 5 Maths for some Yr 11 all week / U12 boys 9 a side/ U12 girls 7 a side - Cockermouth



Email
If you wish to receive school letters and the newsletter by email and you are not already on our mailing list, or should you wish to comment on anything in this newsletter, or give us your views on any other school matters please email office@solway.cumbria.sch.uk

April

01/04/2014	T	PETXi High 5 Maths / Yr 10 Hospitality and catering, task 1 practical exam, p 1-3 / Yr 7 Netball tournament WLA / U13 boys Tournament -NTS
02/04/2014	W	PETXi High 5 Maths /U14 boys Tournament -NTS
03/04/2014	Th	PETXi High 5 Maths / U15 boys Tournament -Stainburn
04/04/2014	F	PETXi High 5 Maths / Yr 10 ROA out to Parents / Maths Yr 11 mock p1+2 1hr 45m
07/04/2014	M	Maths Yr 11 mock p4&5 1hr 45m Vicar - assembly - Easter
09/04/2014	W	Roast dinner day 1.15pm for the Community
10/04/2014	Th	Non uniform Fundraising for Lifeboat

Easter Holidays Friday 11th April - Tuesday 22nd April



Solway Community Technology College

Liddell Street, Silloth
Cumbria CA7 4DD
T: 016973 31234
F: 016973 32749
E: office@solway.cumbria.sch.uk
www.solwayschool.co.uk

Head teacher: Mrs. Lois Baird B.A.