

Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No.14

October 2012

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to our new staff and a welcome back to everyone.

Miss Shepperd is taking over the Music department and teaching some English, **Miss Riddell** will be teaching Humanities, **Mrs Hurst** will be teaching Technology,

Miss Malkinson will be teaching PE, **Mrs Harrison** will be teaching Maths and **Miss Ivson** has joined the Admin dept.

Also a warm welcome to all the new pupils who have joined us across all the year groups from Year 7 upwards.

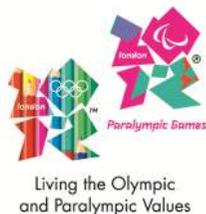


We are delighted to say that the Local Authority is investing heavily in our school. Our heating system, which was replaced over the summer holidays is due to be connected over the half term break, at a cost of **£300,000**. We watched with interest the new boiler house being craned into position, as you can see inside this publication. Hopefully we will return to a warm, cosy school in November. The contract for the school roof too is due to go out to tender, thanks again to the Local Authority we will have a dry school before long.

As you will know by now our Year 11 exam results were the best ever at **70% 5A* to C and 100% 8A* to G. 79% met or exceeded their targets.** No pressure then for our current Year 11s.

The Olympic week activities went extremely well back in July, photos inside, as you can see by this wonderful image of creative artists in action! The School goes from strength to strength, encompassing as many areas as possible. I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we did putting them on.

Mrs Lois Baird
Headteacher





FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If a child is currently receiving free school meals then their parent/carer **does not** need to fill in a new form to apply for the 2012/13 school year.

However, if a child requires a free school meals for the first time in September then a new application will need to be submitted for that child only.

SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANTS

Claimants will also automatically receive their school clothing grant payment if they are entitled to it.

Pink plumber Jaymie-lea has

been getting in house lessons in plumbing, from Mr Tatlock as part of her Yr 11 course. She assures me she wants to continue at college.; she certainly has made a great start.



Thanks

We are grateful to **Thomas Armstrong** for the work they have done in school. The team, managed by **Steve**, has been cheerful and helpful, even when causing a mess! We will miss them !

Our cleaners too have been stars, working around the chaos to ensure the school was ready for pupils in September.

Crane works



The new Boiler house is craned into place watched by Mrs Hurst's technology class. From the safety of the taped off playground.

Year 7 trip to Borrowdale 2012

On Wednesday 26th of September 2012, the Year 7 class of Solway Community Technology College went to Borrowdale, a town near Keswick. They stayed for two nights and returned back to Silloth on the 28th of September.

We stayed in the Borrowdale Youth Hostel. The rooms there had three bunk beds. Some rooms didn't have enough people to have six in a room so some only had five people in them. The bus journey took about an hour and a half. When we got there, we got sent to the rooms we were in and had twenty minutes to unpack, explore the Youth Hostel and then we had to meet in the lounge. We climbed a mountain not long after we were there. We had to drive there because it was quite far away. The mountain was called Honister. It was quite

tall, and everyone was complaining because when it looked like you were at the top, another layer came. We finally got to the top, our teacher, Mr Sunter, told us we only walked up the mountain so he could get a phone signal.

By the end of that day, everybody was really tired. We all had tea at 7.30pm. After that we went to the lounge and played parachute and other games. It was a long day for everyone, so by the time the parachute games were finished everybody went to their rooms. At 10.30pm, it was lights out, but most people talked anyway. Room F, with Hannah Gilmour, Summer Cottam, Grace Wedgewood, Megan Wilson, Mary Williamson and me, were the loudest room by far.

In the morning we woke up when we heard everybody shouting in the hallways. We all looked dead in the morning because we were so tired. At 7.30am we went down to the dining room for breakfast.



This is the Borrowdale Youth Hostel.

Borrowdale was really fun, I would definitely go back.

By Madison

My trip to Borrowdale



On Wednesday 26 of September 2012 Year 7 went on a fantastic trip to Borrowdale in Keswick. On the morning before they went they had a normal morning then set off to Borrowdale.

On Wednesday afternoon we had our dinner then we had registration, then it was time! We grabbed our stuff and ran to the bus. Then the trip to Borrowdale began. As we got there we went to our rooms sorted our stuff, got in a mini bus and went up one of the Honister mountains. It took ages. When we were coming down near the end we started to slide down. Right at the end me, Shea and Bailey slid down a really steep of the mountain. Then when we got back changed and had our tea then played some games.

I enjoyed my trip to Borrowdale very much.

By Charlie G

University Summer school

These lucky girls spent the first few days of term at the University of Lancaster as part of their summer school programme.

My Lancaster University experience.

I went to Lancaster University to experience university life and the day to day tasks. My personal experience was brilliant because I got to meet new and interesting people from all over the country and work with people I wouldn't normally have chosen to work with. Whilst we were there we had to attend a lecture on academic writing and how to reference your work to avoid plagiarism.

We did team building exercises which was to help us all mix and meet new people. For the duration of the trip we were put into colleges. I was put into Grizedale College, where it was all people that I didn't know and I wasn't sure about it as I was the only person from my school in the college and everyone else in my college knew at least one other person and as I didn't know anyone I was a bit worried about how I would cope with my Hearing Impairment around people who didn't really understand much about it, but I coped well and they all helped me out if I missed something or I didn't understand. We chose which subject we wanted to do and I chose art and within the large art group we were split into smaller groups. On the last day we had to deliver a presentation on the work which we had done in our group over the two days. Having a deadline like that on such a big project put university life into perspective that it is a big step from secondary school life.

On the last night we had a graduation dinner which consisted of a 3 course meal and then a dance afterwards with a DJ and karaoke. I really enjoyed my university life experience and if I ever get another chance to do it again I would definitely do it because I benefited from so much there and I learned so many new skills from the people who are at or leaving Lancaster University. This trip has made me decide that I definitely want to go to university.



Year 10 residential to Lancaster University

We were told that the University of Lancaster had invited anyone who was predicted 50% A-C grades in GCSEs for a four day residential. After applying for the trip the day before flying out to Barcelona I was buzzing with excitement. It took no time for the University to get back in touch saying my application had been accepted, later on finding out that I was going to be accompanied by Stacey, Caitlyn, Beth, Carmen, Katie and Molly on the trip. On the 6th

September having only being back at school for one day we all came into school with our suit cases ready to go, come 9 o'clock the mini bus was waiting for us in the car park so we buckled up and set off. After nearly 2 hours drive and missing the turn in to the University, sending Katie to ask for directions! we arrived on campus. Our first activity was a site tour where we were told when and who founded the university etc, we then had a welcome speech then taken to dinner. Then we were sent to a building where we had to do team building where we were put into our houses: Lonsdale, Furness, County or Grizedale. We then had a lecture on Academic Writing for an hour, and then we got our room keys and were sent to unpack. Come 6 o'clock it was time for supper so we all set off for café 2010 to eat. Each night we had an activity to do in our houses so the first night it was a quiz so we all settled down, then at 10 we all departed for our rooms.

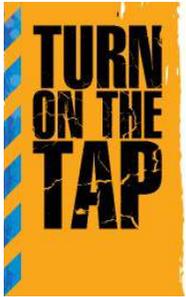
After a morning call at 7, we all got up and set off for a fry up. On the first day we got to choose from four subjects: art, social science, management or politics. I went for art, so

we had to start by researching what contemporary art is and then write an essay on an artist and make a Power Point presentation that would be shown to all the other schools there. After we did some research we went into an art room where we watched a video on an artist called Sol Lewitt, we then moved into another room that had bits of paper all over the walls and our task was to use charcoal stuck onto the end of a stick of willow and we had to create our own work using this method it was a messy but fun task! We then went back to café 2010 for our dinner and then back to the art room to make a sculpture out of willow, wool, straws and other resources that we could use. We then had time in the sports centre to go swimming, play football, badminton, tennis, table tennis and squash, after that we went back to our accommodation to get changed then for supper and into a lecture theatre for our evening activity where we had the choice to do a trash bash or watch a film, in the trash bash we had a bag of paper, plastic bags, string, tape and other things that we could use. Lonsdale decided on doing Harry Potter, so we had Harry, Ron, Hagrid, Hermione and Voldemort. We were joint first with another house. We were then sent back to our rooms to sleep.

On day three we were woken and sent for our breakfast for a fry up then back into the lecture theatre for a talk on presentation skills, then we were sent to finish our work from the day before. By this time we only had two hours left to finish everything and to hand everything in. Once everything was handed in we were allowed to back to our accommodation to prepare for the graduation ball. pto

Samaritan's Purse

Mrs Baird was delighted to host an assembly for both the Primary and the Secondary school at Solway Community Technology College to welcome **Ian Taylor**, the NW regional Manager for the Walk for Water - Turn on the tap programme for Samaritan's Purse charity.



The pupils from both schools along with **Jellytots Nursery** had undertaken a sponsored 'Walk for water' in June, from school to Grune point and back to raise the pupils' awareness of how far people in Africa have to walk to collect water for the day which may already be dirty and contaminated causing 4000 children to die every day, as well as to collect money to help the project. Women and children in Africa have to walk up to three hours for dirty water. There are still 884 million people who don't have access to clean water in our world today

Ian was able to show the staff and pupils where in Africa, Uganda was and what the money they had raised would go towards; new sanitation units, water cleaning filters for domestic use, hand washing units and repair of water pumps and spring wells.

All in all the pupils raised a massive £1103.93.

Helping to hand over the cheque were **Dean Hewitson** and **Reece Edmondson**, who were first back to school on the day, **Cole Gibson** who achieved the fastest time, **Abbygail Peacock** and **Sophie Pinguey** who raised the most money, £90 and £45 respectively and representing the Primary school **Daniel Goodman** and **Amber Hagan**.

We are so pleased that this will be a joint venture for the schools in future years too. Our thanks go to Mrs Cooper, the force behind this charity work.



At 7 o'clock we were taken to where we were going to eat and have our disco, a lot of time had gone into the preparation of the graduation ball with balloon arches and different color cloth across the roof beams. We all sat down for our three course meal with all our friends and that was when we got told which house was the winner of all the evening activities and the winning house got red Lancaster University jumpers and a person out of each group was awarded a hoodie for the best work, then the lights were turned off and the disco started with songs that everyone were jumping around to and also some people sang in the karaoke, once the night was over it became apparent that some people enjoyed themselves because Stacey lost her voice! Once the last song was played everyone made their way back to the flats for the last time.

After making new friends and spending time with them, the weekend was drawing to an end but we had one last task to do and that was to show our presentations to everyone that was there. The room went silent as each group went up to the front, watching everyone talking in front of the lecture theatre made me more and more nervous but it was soon my groups time to do the presentation, standing up in front of everyone to talk about art was the last thing that I wanted to do but I did it! Afterwards we had in inspirational talk by Gail Neville the woman who set the weekend up for us. But it was now time to depart from the campus, we all sat on a bank eating our dinner with the people that we became friends with and group by group they were all setting off as did we, we loaded the taxi up with our bags and suitcases and set off for home.

Over all I had a phenomenal weekend meeting new people and doing new things and I would recommend this opportunity to anyone who got the chance because of the experience of the university life away from home and meeting new people, it is an experience that I will never forget.

Amy Armstrong, year 10.

Durham University Information Evening

Year 10 pupils and Parents.

There is an information evening on Tuesday 30th October at Carlisle Racecourse from 7pm – 9pm. This event is for students, parents and teachers. The University will be delivering a presentation on the programme and answering any questions about the programme that are raised.

At the event we will also have copies of the eligibility form for students to fill in, however, it would be very useful for us if any students who have filled in the form in advance could bring the completed form to the event.

You can still download the form from our website: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/supported.progression/pre16/>

The deadline for eligibility forms is 2nd November.

For booking purposes, it would be really helpful if parents could give us an approximate number of students/parents that will be attending the information evening or advise students/parents to contact us on 0191 3349122 or e-mail richard.coldwell@durham.ac.uk to confirm their booking.

Rik Coldwell



My Adventure DAY 1

On Wednesday we set off to Borrowdale because it was our school trip. In my room there was seven beds and seven people including me. In my room there was: Dan, Shea, Jack, Tyler, Adam, Charlie and me. Our first activity was climbing a mountain. Oh no!! We climbed up a mountain called Honister mountain near the slate mines. When we were half way up my legs were tired!! When we got to the top it was a stunning view and you could see the slate mines and then we walk down (well me, Shea and Charlie slid down!!) and it was fun but we were soaked but we didn't really care!!!!



By Bailey



Cold Feet

Quickly, we ran up a huge hill, dying to get in the water. As we saw another group plunging themselves down a rapid waterfall, suddenly my heart sank. I felt as though I was going to be sick. Soon, we came to the top of the waterfall for a last equipment check before the big moment! Firstly, we sat in the freezing cold water to get used to it. The man had to shout because the waterfalls made quite a loud noise. He shouted ' When you go down keep your arms crossed and your knees bent'. Next, we came to our first slide, Hannah went first. It looked scary but the look on Hannah's face when she hit the water head first cheered us all up! Then it was my turn and the water was baltic! Less then five minutes in the water and I my hands were already starting to go numb.



After that there was many more fantastic slide, jumps and dives but my favourite had to be 'The Coffin Drop!' It was where you had to lie back on some large smooth rocks and go down backwards. It was EPIC!

I wish I could go there again!



By Megan Wilson

Borrowdale

On a normal Wednesday afternoon all the year sevens set off on a thrill ridden trip to Borrowdale. On the first day we settled into our luxurious room in the youth hostel, had a visit to the tuck shop where Adam spent £18 on the first night!!! We also had a climb up Gale Head in the Lake District.

That evening we had a brilliant supper, the next day after a noisy night we went to hawses end where we did ghyll scrambling and canoeing they were both epic

On the second night the teachers told us a teeth chattering ghost story about miners who got trapped in the slate.

On the last day we had a long and wet climb up Skiddaw we made it about three quarters of the way up but it was too hard, wet and cold to carry on. Afterwards we stopped off at Dodd wood and had a hot Chococolate and I had some orange Overall it was a fantastic, epic and memorable trip!

By Harvey

I nternational Day of Peace

Over the past couple of weeks pupils in year 9 have been working hard on the first challenge from their new “Beliefs and Values” course; To plan activities and create displays for the International Day of Peace. Pupils worked independently researching and writing case studies about the conflicts that are currently happening in our world. These detailed pieces of work then formed an impressive display in our reception area, clearly illustrating that Peace is a state we all need to strive towards. Various activities were planned and practised to be undertaken with year 3,4, 5 and 6 pupils from Silloth. These young pupils really enjoyed their time with us making origami for peace and adding their hands to the “Peace Hands around the world” display. A number of year 9 pupils helped these younger pupils and were an invaluable help on the day.

During the week building up to World Peace day, year 7, 8 and 9 pupils worked hard in their English lessons producing some really inspirational pieces of poetry that are now displayed in the hall next to the very large Hands for Peace display.





Olympic week 2012

“Olympic Week” is a time when pupils take part in a curriculum enrichment programme primarily aimed at developing skills of team working and communication as well as an understanding of community cohesion. Through a variety of planned activities and visits pupils have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the importance of these skills and the need to both respect and understand the views of others to be able to work together in our ever changing modern world.

As usual, our pupils entered into the spirit of Olympic week and took part in a wide variety of activities from working with members of our local community including the Silloth Lifeboat crew and members of the Silloth First Responders completing the Heart Start basic first aid course, to team building activities like Cave Rescue and Fashion. All activities are run as a house competition with points for completing the task and participating fully.

We would like to thank **Innovia** and **Genll** for organising a year 10 STEM activity day at the Innovia Research and Development building. The opportunity to see the state of the art scientific equipment is invaluable for both staff and pupils.

We would also like to thank all the local community organisations who give their time and expertise to us and make Olympic week the success it is.

This year all the houses worked extremely hard and by the end of the week the results were really close and are as follows: **Franklin 330 points, Newton 305 points, Sharman 300 points and Dalton 280 points.**





E CITB School Roadshow 2012

We were delighted to host the Engineering and construction roadshow which enabled all pupils in Years 9 to 11 to find out about Apprenticeships through the theatre in education roadshow `Be a part of Engineering Construction` sponsored by Genll.

Mrs Cooper has delivered a pre event lesson in technology to support the programme and will have a post event lesson following it.

Pupils certainly enjoyed the session.



Olympic week images



Year 9 Design and make an Olympic Beacon competition.

Thursday 12th July was a really exciting day for our year 9 pupils, the culmination of the 4 weeks of preparation work in the “Design and make an Olympic Beacon” Competition. Pupils were focussed and worked consistently hard throughout the day producing their prototype models to their design ideas. Wood was cut, plastic moulded and cardboard cut to shape as the designs began to take shape. By the end of the day, all the teams were ready for the judging section and had their finished models and completed design folders in clear view for the judges to comment on. I am really grateful to the staff from **Innovia and Gen II** for taking time to chat with pupils about their models and deciding on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in this in-house competition. In third place was the Teacup design complete with golden Lions and moving teacup. In second place was the iconic British Red Phone Box complete with light and missing cat poster and in first place came the golden Crown with rotating glitter Orb and cross.

Very well done to all pupils taking part.



The Super Cool Show

Year 7, 8 and 9 all got to watch the Super Cool Show from the Science Museum in London a few weeks ago! They showed us some awesome experiments and taught us some great things. The show was all about warming things up and cooling this down. They did some amazing things like making ice cream sing liquid nitrogen, heated a banana up, cooled plasticine down and loads more!

Out of all the experiments they did, the best one was when they put some liquid nitrogen into a plastic bottle and put a rocket balloon over the lid area. It started to get bigger and bigger until it popped! It made a really loud noise and some people even screamed!

Overall, the Super Cool Show was fantastic and I would give it 10/10!! Thank you to all the people that organised the event and to the people from the Science Museum for coming to Solway School and performing the show to us.

By Emily Smith



The Big Bang

When arriving at Carlisle race course we were greeted by Oscar, the robot. Oscar told us what we would be doing whilst there. After our chat with Oscar we went up a floor to look around some stands.

There were many stands, with lots of different things: There was a stand with nurses who took people's blood pressure and had scrubs and surgeon aprons, masks, gloves and hats to dress up in; A stand that showed how nuclear power works; a stand with hair dressers, and many more. The biggest stand was a radio stand that played music, before we went up to the next floor 'gangnam' style came on and everyone danced to it.

Then we went up to the next floor and in to a room where we had a talk about different types of scientific engineering sources.

We then ate our packed lunch and had the rest of the afternoon to ourselves to look at the other stands.

On the ground floor there were more stands, from Sellafield, Lancaster University, University of Cumbria and there was even a stand giving free haircuts.

We saw Oscar again and he was lucky enough to get two kisses off Chloe!

Before going home 'gangnam style' came back on and everybody had a dance again.

By Stacey Strick

Attendance headlines – Mrs Quinn

We understand that this is the time of the year when a lot of children catch colds and other bugs that are around. Given that, the attendance of some pupils is exemplary. After 6 weeks at school we have 50 pupils on 100% attendance which is fantastic. But we also have 20 pupils who have less than 80% , which is not good news for school or them.

12 pupils have missed 85 sessions through holidays over and above school holidays. We are very understanding as we acknowledge that some parents can only take their holidays out of tourist time but we do need to make sure that we have attendance of at least 95% or we come under close scrutiny from the LA and Ofsted.

Currently our school attendance is 93.6%. I will be in contact with the parents of some pupils and be giving them a target attendance for the next 6 weeks.

For your interest you can see how your son or daughters group is doing.

| <u>By House</u> | | <u>By Year Group</u> | | <u>By Tutor Group</u> | |
|-----------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Newton | 94.6% | Yr 8 | 94.5% | Newton | 94.4% |
| Franklin | 94.6% | Yr 10 | 94.3% | Franklin | 94.1% |
| Dalton | 93.5% | Yr 11 | 93.6% | 11AQ | 94% |
| Sharman | 91.6% | Yr 7 | 92.8% | 11KJ | 93.1% |
| | | Yr 9 | 92.1% | Dalton | 93.9% |

Meet Our Staff SIMs Manager/ Exam Officer

Mrs Long has worked at Solway for 6 years. She is responsible for the Schools Information Management system, Examinations, collating assessment data and assembling the whole school timetable. This includes daily absence, updating pupil records, levels and motivation sheets, records of achievement, reception duty and telephone calls.

Before Solway she worked in Thomlinson Junior Community Development Centre, teaching adults in the community a wider range of IT based courses. In September she went on the Borrowdale residential trip where she got to know most of our new Year 7 intake well. She was involved in fell walking, canoeing, and gill scrambling from which her favourite activity was gill scrambling, as you can see by this fabulous photo.



RACE NIGHT – Mrs Quinn

On Friday 5 October the PTA held a Race Night in the Golf Hotel. We raised a fantastic amount of money which all goes back into school to fund things for all children. It does not pay for, or subsidise trips. We do use some of it as an incentive to achieve.



The total raised was **£880.20** and we have to thank several people:

- The Golf Hotel who let us use the room free of charge
- Graham Little for running the night
- Ray Holyoak, DA Harrison, David Allan, Carrs Flour, Friends of Holme St Cuthberts School and Carrs Coaches for sponsoring races
- Everyone who sponsored a horse, attended or gave a donation
- Brian McAvoy who ran the disco free of charge
- It was an excellent night and we really appreciate the support from everyone who came and helped to make it so successful.

SHOPPING TO NEWCASTLE – Mrs Quinn

We are intending to take Yr 11 shopping to the sales in Newcastle on Saturday January 5. Cost is dependent on numbers so the more that go the better. Leaving Silloth at 8am and leaving Newcastle at 4pm.

CAREERS NIGHT – Mrs Quinn

A date for your diary if you are the parent of a Yr 11 or 10 pupil. There will be a Careers Night in School on Tuesday 22 January. Teachers will be here for you to talk to but so will Post 16 providers of 6th Forms, College and Apprenticeships. All pupils who leave school this year will have to go into some form of training. They are no longer allowed to leave school and get a job that does not involve some type of formal training.

ENERGUS

There is an Engineering Awareness Day at the Energus Building at Lilyhall, Workington on Saturday 17 November from 10 – 3pm. This is an opportunity to see the facilities that are there and to speak to employers from the Engineering sector. You never know what might motivate your son or daughter!

Engineering Awareness Day

CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB

**Starts Wednesday 7th November 2012
3pm – 5pm in the Food Room**

If you are a pupil at our school or a Parent of a pupil at our school and would like to make a Christmas cake this year, do come and join us on a Thursday after school. Please bring with you the following ingredients for your cake and remember to also bring an 8" loose bottomed cake tin. All cakes will be finished in time for the annual Christmas Cake Exhibition on Wednesday 5th December.



Recipe-

225g flour
5ml (1tbp) mixed spice
2.5ml (1/2 tsp) ground nutmeg
5ml (1tsp) cocoa powder
175g butter
175g soft brown sugar
15ml (1tbsp) black treacle
5ml (1tsp) each grated orange and lemon rind
4 eggs
550g mixed dried fruit (currants, sultanas and raisins)
100g chopped mixed peel
50g chopped walnuts or blanched almonds
50g dates, chopped
50g glazed cherries chopped
15ml (1tbsp fresh milk



We look forward to seeing you.



SCHOOL SOCCER RESULTS

The Solway soccer season started slowly with the U13 6 aside team competing in the Allerdale trials; winning one game, drawing one and losing one. As a result of playing very well, **Spencer Irving** was selected for the full Allerdale Schools Soccer Squad. Well done, Spencer

The U13 team had a difficult start with a slightly depleted team losing 7-1 to St Joseph's, but made a splendid recovery in the County Cup to beat Beacon Hill 8-0.

They now play Samuel King's school Alston in the second round of the County Cup over the next few weeks.

Our U16 team faced our nemesis, Nelson Thomlinson, in the first game of the Allerdale league, sadly losing 5-0 to a very good Nelson team. The same team then had resounding victories v Southfield (8-1) and St Joseph's (6-1). The U16 team are now through to the second round of the school's County Cup, playing Cockermouth as soon as the pitches dry out.

The U15 team had a superb game in the Allerdale Cup, narrowly losing to Netherhall 1-2. Their next game is against Beacon Hill next week.

Our U12 team have had their first friendly game of the season, playing Beacon Hill at home and losing 2-4 in a great game and playing extremely well.

Good luck to all the teams for the start of the Allerdale league fixtures after Christmas. Mr C

YEAR 9 CREATIVE CHOICES

Creative Choices is dedicated to helping young people develop a career in the creative and cultural industries.

The aim is to provide information, advice and resources to help young people find new opportunities, or get a better idea about a particular job or career path.

All of Solway pupils were given such an opportunity at The Theatre by the Lake in Keswick on Friday 12th October.

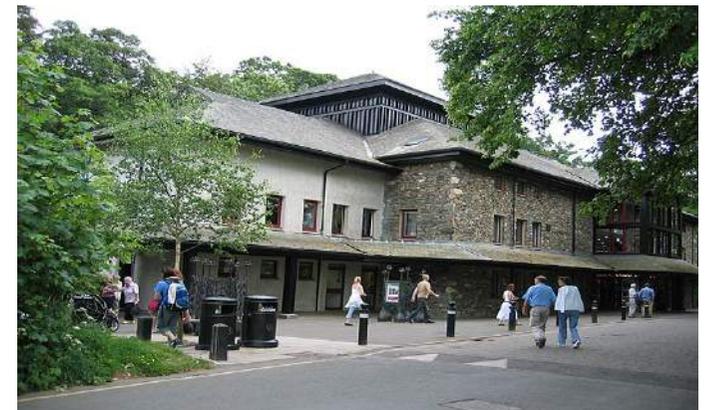
Our pupils were put into groups with pupils from other local schools and given a range of opportunities that are available at the theatre.

Activities included:-

Acting, lighting, sound, stage management, costume, props, front of house, make up etc.

All had a fantastic day gaining a massive insight into the industry; were wonderfully behaved and seemed to enjoy most of the activities on offer.

CC



My Week in the Army - By Stuart Johnson

My week in the army started off with a big fat greasy cheeseburger from the scoff house also known as the cook house. We then went back to the main office and gathered our bedding for our rooms. Later on during the day we did the assault course which was amazing jumping over 6ft-12ft walls, army crawling for about 80 meters and doing the good old fashion rope swing. We then went to a classroom where we all did our ice breakers which were basically giving us an idea about each other and then get to talk to each other after.

The next day was Tuesday and ironically it was my birthday... I got absolutely terrified by the staff having to do a 1.5 mile run in under 9.30 seconds which is really good, then having to run up a zig zagged hill which was quite steep and about 100 meters long, I got grenaded which is where you have to run then the staff shout "grenade " and you have to fall on the floor and army crawl then get back up and do it again repeatedly. To add on to all of this madness, I got the worst meal possible, oh and I can't forget the early start to the day at 5.50am. After all this madness we had military lessons, learning tactics, formations and basically what you had to do on a patrol.

Wednesday also came with an early start at 6.30am, we then got showered had something to eat, and then brushed our teeth. We then headed to the assault course and got put in sections of four or five. In our section we had to race over the assault course with our section commander screaming down our ear, we got a time of 2.09 and came first with a 30 second difference over our opponents. After dinner we revised on some of the formations and had to partner up and act as if you were in a gunfight with an enemy, this involved shouting "CONTACT FRONT" which obviously means the enemy is in front. We then dived to the floor and aimed down sight, and then one of us had to shout "PREPARE TO MOVE-MOVE!" You then checked for grenades or any other equipment and sprinted up and had to zig zag to avoid incoming enemy fire and get down after 3 seconds, after you were down you would shout the same for your partner. Later on we did a night exercise using all the skills we learned from Tuesday and the following lessons beforehand. We were still in our sections and had set up a route were to go. It was raining as well but I didn't mind because it reminded me of the game call of duty which was pretty awesome. The mission was to gain as many glow sticks as possible, but considering we were against ex infantries who could hear things a mile away they made our job extremely hard. I ended up getting lost due to the guard shining the light on me pretty much all the time. This was one of the best experiences of my life so far as it was so intense and if you got caught you would get questioned and interrogated. Also the face camo we had to put on was a nightmare to get off, taking at least half an hour to get off, but due to the showers being warm I didn't mind too much.

Thursday came flying round the corner but due to what we had been briefed it didn't sound good, we had to march and learn heart start which I have already done like a thousand times at school. However we got to the activities and it turned out to be pretty fun, we all had a laugh (especially at Aaron for his straight leg marching). Later that day we had to do a few challenges like take objects under a massive net and the build like a canon type thing with them. We then just chilled out at night with one of the staff crew coming in and openly telling us some of his experiences and answering questions some of us were really dying to know.

Friday came and the staff member from the night before was on duty and came in shouting "GET UP GET UP GET UP!" I got up and sat on my bed which was the top bunk, about 5 seconds later he shouted at the top of his voice "STAND TO!" and I literally jumped off the bed in fright and shock and almost face planted the floor. We then had breakfast and set off to sunny Silloth and surprisingly it was!

Overall this week has been one of the hardest weeks of my life undoubtedly, but yet one of the best, most fun experiences I've ever had, I've gained more information on the Army and now has a better look at what it will be like. I'm still going into the Army despite the early mornings, and room inspections and I believe I'll be going to the Duke of Lancs. and heading towards an infantry career. I have also gained many friends I'm sure I'll keep in touch with over the years through Xbox and face book and stuff which is great..

My week in the army– By Jonathan Dubberley

My week started off by turning up at the base and then we had to head to the scoff house which is what they call the dinner room and the food we had was amazing once we had all finished up we headed down to the office to collect our bedding and we put all of that in the rooms and we had a brief on what we were doing this week. We started with the huge assault course which was really hard there was huge wall which varied from 6ft to 12ft and on this we leopard crawled through long grass for about 50 metres.

The next day we were woken up at 6 in the morning and we got all ready for scoff at half 7 after scoff we had about a hour to chill in but we mostly tidied the room up for the room inspection which was everyday at half 8. That day the whole group got terrerod through the whole day we had to run up and down this massive hill about 5 times. We all got a thing called grenade which is where you have to run around and drop to the floor and the crawl and then get back up and do it all again it was very tiring Tuesday was very hard and annoying at times.

Wednesday was another early start which we were all woken up at half 6 and we did the same thing as Tuesday. And were headed up to this massive field where we were doing command task which is where you learn the basics of a infantry patrol and we all were in the grass pretending there was enemy in front of us and we had to shout at the top of our voice ENEMY AHEAD and one person had to command the patrol. We done a night activity which was where we put all our skills in to one. We had to pick a route which we knew well and all our team had to collect the glow sticks. Our team had to collect the red one they were scattered about the place but there was a patrol on duty and we had to sneak around them to get the glow sticks that night was the best one of the trip



loved it.

Thursday was a fairly relaxing day compared to the others we did everything as usual but we were doing classroom work which was heart start on how to do CPR and stuff like that then we were asking questions about the army with some officers and soldiers. And in the afternoon we did three activities where you had to move all this kit though a field and under this net that was very difficult, and there was a mind game which you had to use a rope and hook and had to get the sticks in to this hole and you weren't allowed to go in the box it was very difficult and the other one is the tyre one you had to move all these tyres stacked up and you had to put the numbers in order; that was very mind challenging and the night time in the room was the best night we all just messed about through the night.

Friday was another good morning we were all woken up by loud shouting from the infantry man his shout was the loudest I have ever heard everyone in the room jumped out of their beds so fast it was unreal then we handed all our bed in. I had the best time there and I wouldn't change a thing I did, I



MY Week in the Army– Aaron Pattinson

My week in the army was a mixed experience. It started out as me hating the activities due to the strict discipline. Every time that we were deemed misbehaving or answering back we were made to run 100 vertical metres. We had several activities to do through the days and so we got up at 6.30 per day, got ready, then cleaned the barracks and they were inspected at 8.30, if a single bed was wrong then they were flipped, beds took around 20 minutes to make when done properly. At 9am we went for breakfast which for some reasons was nicknamed 'Scoff', the food was nice.

Activities included things like Team building exercises, assault courses, Night covert exercises, running, fitness building, and many more. We split a barracks with a school from the Isle of Man and Preston, we went to sleep.

During the night activity which was covert we had to put the skills that we had been taught in the week to secure a set of objectives, we worked as a set 3 squads and competed to get the most objectives, my team won with 2 people being captured and 1 of them escaped, we had 2 people left to secure objectives (me and one of the lads from the Isle of man) we managed to capture 2 objectives silently without raising any alarm, our section commander was a paratrooper and he was a good person to work with. Because the operation was at night we had to be quiet and move slowly to avoid detection by enemy patrols.

By mid week I was beginning to feel the effects of lack of sleep and fatigue, I didn't have the energy to run for as long and was begging to think that the arm wasn't for me, that changed after a good night's sleep and I really began to push myself and enjoy it, the discipline began to become minimal as we began to learn from our mistakes and know how to avoid trouble.

We got told lots of stories by the sergeants and staff members about their Afghanistan experiences, one told us of how he was on patrol and had Intel that in a crop field Taliban were lurking, he heard a rustling and assumed that it was enemies, he fixed his bayonet and prepared to attack only to find a wild dog bounding at him, he stabbed it in the neck and killed it, the wild dogs in Afghanistan are like pitbulls but x5 bigger.

Overall I thourally enjoyed it and didn't want to come home, I'm happy to be home though.



Pupil Leadership group 2012– 13

| Lead prefects | Lead learners | Lead Peer mentor | House Captain | Sports Captains | Head Girl / Boy | School Council leaders |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Irwin, Clara | Bell, Kirsty | Forster, Ashleigh | Wilson, Georgia | Blackburn, Jonathan | Graham, Tabitha | Whitfield, Bradley |
| Montgomerie, John | Greig, Jaymie- Lea | | Collins, Rachel | Strick, Stacey | Coulthard, Ellis | Bicknell Alana |
| De Mello, Harris | Little, Samantha | | Moore, Reece | Wood, Adele | | |
| | Smith, Hannah | | Pape, Cameron | Green, Joshua | | |
| | Whitfield, Bradley | | | Hart, Katie | | |
| | | | | Wallace, Jack | | |
| | | | | Johnson, Stuart | | |
| | | | | Wise, Emily | | |



| Olympic week Results 2012-12 | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Dalton | 280 | 4 th |
| Franklin | 330 | 1 st |
| Newton | 305 | 2 nd |
| Sharman | 300 | 3 rd |

Well done Franklin

| Quiz results All the Tuesday quizzes from 2011-12 | | |
|---|-----|-----------------|
| Dalton | 280 | 3 rd |
| Franklin | 330 | 1 st |
| Newton | 305 | 4 th |
| Sharman | 300 | 2 nd |

Date: September 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian

FAMILY HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

Time lost by children and young people due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to their education. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time.

We advise that wherever possible, absence from school should be avoided as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. If, after serious consideration of this, you still propose to take your child away from school for a holiday, it is important to note that **only the Headteacher can authorise that absence. Parents/Guardians cannot authorise the absence themselves.**

Whenever possible therefore we would ask that family holidays should be arranged to take place during school holidays. Schools do have discretion to grant up to 10 days leave during term time, but only in exceptional circumstances doing so they will consider your child's situation carefully.

In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child, before any decision to book a holiday during term time is made.

Where a child is looked after by the Local Authority, only the Local Authority can seek the agreement of the Headteacher to a term time holiday. Our policy is to seek such agreement only in exceptional circumstances. If you are a foster carer, please discuss your holiday plans with the child's Social Worker who will forward the request to the appropriate decision maker.

We have drafted a policy document to clarify existing policy for staff and carers.

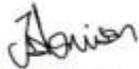
Where a family holiday during term time is agreed to be unavoidable, **it is vital** that it does not coincide with examinations or other important tests that your child has to take.

The dates of examinations in 2012/13 are:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Key Stage 2 SATs | May – contact school for exact dates |
| GCSE | November/ May/June – contact school for exact dates |
| 'A' and 'AS' | Throughout January, May and June – contact School for exact dates |

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school.

Yours sincerely



Julia Morrison
Corporate Director – Children's Services



Nia Taster Session!
with Wendy Hessel-Richardson 

Have fun with Nia
(non-impact aerobics)
15 mins standing
Or 15 mins seated version
(why not try both?)

Thursday 1st November
3.30pm in the Sports Hall
At Solway Community Technology College
Liddel Street, Silloth

Donation for refreshments

Contact:
Hazel Stewart 07895 064 581
Angela Irving 07738 167 406
Local Office 016973 42279
Client Helpline 08443 843 843



Registered Charity Number 1122049

SOLWAY COMMUNITY SPORTS HALL

MONDAY

Roller Skating 4pm - 5pm

Karate (school hall) 6.30pm - 9pm



WEDNESDAY

Badminton 6pm - 7pm

Boxercise (school hall) 8pm - 9pm



FRIDAY

Kettlercise 9.30am - 10.30am

Trampolining 7pm - 9pm



TUESDAY

Roller Skating 3.15pm - 4.15pm

Tennis Coaching 4.30pm - 8.30pm

Yoga (school hall) 7pm - 8.30pm



THURSDAY

Netball 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Trampolining 7.30pm - 9pm



SUNDAY

Abbeytown Football Practise 10am - 12pm



THE SPORTS HALL IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE HIRE

FOR ANY MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SPORTS HALL STAFF ON 016973 31234

CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2012/2013

AUTUMN TERM 2012

| STARTS | ENDS | HALF – TERM HOLIDAY |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 5 September | Friday 21 December | Monday 29 October – Friday 2 November INSET Day Monday 5 th November |

Number of school days in term – 72

SPRING TERM 2013

| STARTS | ENDS | HALF – TERM HOLIDAY |
|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| Monday 7 January | Thursday 28 March | Monday 11 February – Friday 15 February Good Friday – 29 March Easter Sunday – 31 March |

Number of school days in term – 54

SUMMER TERM 2013

| STARTS | ENDS | HALF – TERM HOLIDAY |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Monday 15 April | Friday 19 July | Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May Early May Bank Holiday Monday 6 May |

Number of schools days in term – 64

Number of days in year – 190

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.

Sweets and drinks in school

We only allow water in school; we have a water dispenser which supplies cold or ambient water. Pupils need their own bottles. Pupils are not to bring in sweets or fizzy drinks or gum.

Uniform

Black school trousers or a black school knee length skirt, are essential items; not fashion items but sensible school wear, as listed in the planner and prospectus.

Reminder: One pair of stud earrings only.

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

Dates for your diary

| | | |
|------------|----|---|
| 09/11/2012 | F | Remembrance Day assembly 10.40am- late break after 11.02 |
| 12/11/2012 | M | Uni Cumbria event Year 8 ? |
| 15/11/2012 | Th | Yr 8 girls HPV vaccination |
| 17/11/2012 | S | Energus - Engineering Awareness Day 10-3pm |
| 20/11/2012 | T | SSC0 Soccer Challenge Y1/2 9.30-12pm |
| 21/11/2012 | W | Ambassador Day Airline Day Yr 9s all day |
| 22/11/2012 | Th | Year 5 Maths day |
| 23/11/2012 | F | G&T Maths Yr 7/8 4 pupils & GW 10:30 - 2:30 Newcastle |
| 27/11/2012 | T | Yr 11 Art mock |
| 28/11/2012 | W | Yr 11 Art mock |
| 29/11/2012 | Th | Yr 10 Rotary Comp in Hosp & Catering p 1&2 |
| 30/11/2012 | F | Yr 8 Weird & wonderful courses Uni of Cumbria |
| 03/12/2012 | M | Yr 10 (possible) + 11 Mock exams |
| 04/12/2012 | T | Yr 10 ((possible) + 11 Mock exams |
| 05/12/2012 | W | Christmas Lunch Yr 10 (possible) + 11 Mock exams Xmas Cake display |
| 06/12/2012 | Th | Yr 10 (possible) + 11 Mock exams Awards' Evening 7pm |
| 07/12/2012 | F | Yr11 Food P3-5 controlled assessment Yr 10 (possible) + 11 Mocks |
| 08/12/2012 | S | GCSE Hospitality Banquet |
| 12/12/2012 | W | XMAS Community Roast Dinner Day 1:15 |
| 18/12/2012 | T | Carol Service - pm |
| 20/12/2012 | Th | Y7 - 10 L & M home to Parents |
| 21/12/2012 | F | Talent show am / Finish 1.05pm |

Autumn Term
to Christmas

| | | |
|------------|----|--|
| 14/01/2013 | M | Mike Priestly Yr 11 National Citizenship scheme Hall p1 |
| 15/01/2013 | T | Ambassador Day |
| 16/01/2013 | W | BACs controlled assignment 1-5pm |
| 17/01/2013 | Th | BACs controlled assignment 1-5pm |
| 21/01/2013 | M | Yr11 ROAs to parents |
| 22/01/2013 | T | Yr11 Parents Evening-Destinations 6.30pm SSCO Quick Sticks Hockey Y3/4 9.30-12pm |
| 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 6.30pm |
| 01/02/2013 | F | Yr 7-9 Levels & Motivations to Parents |
| 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 |

First half of
Spring term

Local links

The Library service has used the school as a community library for many years, however they have now vacated our space and moved across the drive to the Discovery Centre.

Our Solway School musical ensemble was invited to perform at the Opening Ceremony yesterday in front of the Mayor of Allerdale, Deputy Mayor of Silloth and other local dignitaries.

I was so proud of them; the performance was fabulous.

Many thanks to Miss Shepperd and Ian Kellett for all their hard work as well as pupils from Year 8 to 11.

Rachel sang her sole splendidly!

Bookings are now pouring in for Christmas events. Do look out for them and show your support.



Punctuality

We do try to instil in pupils the importance of punctuality, not just to school in the mornings but also to lessons.

We will put any repeat offenders into detention to enforce this but would appreciate parents checking pupils are up and ready in plenty of time to get to school for 08:40.

Sleep deprivation

It is vital that all pupils receive the requisite amount of uninterrupted sleep on a school night especially, for them to function at their best when in school. We hear of lots of pupils who are still texting or gaming at 2 or 3 am. This is not appropriate.

Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children arrive at school on time and refreshed by a good night's sleep.

Some useful guidelines:

- No phones in the bedroom
- No electronic games/activities including watching TV in the last half hour before bed
- Bedtime before 10pm.

Pupils will need all their energies to reach their potential, so this guidance is not just sensible advice it is essential.

Revision Guides

For those parents who missed our recent tutor evening, we do have revision guides in school to buy to support your child in their work at home in years 10 and 11. Please contact reception.

They are not expensive and they will easily pack into a Christmas stocking if you are looking for ideas.

There are also many revision sessions on in school so do check that your child attends, staff do take lists if you need to know when your child attends.