

Solway Community Technology College Newsletter No:3



Spring term 2011

Performance tables

Mrs Baird, the staff and governors were justifiably proud when the recent publication of performance tables ranked Solway Community Technology College as best in Allerdale and fourth overall in the whole county. That means we have again been recognised for our CVA. Value added measures were introduced into the secondary Achievement and Attainment Tables in 2002, to give a better and fairer measure of school effectiveness than raw results alone. CVA allows meaningful comparisons to be made between schools with different intakes, by taking into account prior attainment, the biggest single predictor of pupil results. This is a very important measure which compares the grades pupils are expected to achieve, based on their KS2 SATs, with what they actually achieve in their Yr 11 exams. Measures above 1000 represent schools where pupils on average made more progress than pupils nationally, while measures below 1000 represent schools where pupils made less progress. A measure of 1006 means the school's KS4 cohort has, on average, achieved one GCSE grade higher than the national average. Our CVA, of 1015 demonstrates that whatever ability pupils have when they join us they make 2 grades better than expected progress. We have been in the top 10% of high achieving schools nationally for the past 3 years. This is no mean feat; a reflection of all the hard work and dedication of staff and pupils involved.

We wish our current Year 11s every success as they move towards their examinations.

Lois Baird
Headteacher



Peer mentor night.

A group of 29 pupils from different year groups went bowling to get to know each other as part of the peer mentoring system.

The group, from year 11, 10 and year 7 enjoyed a buffet of mainly Italian food before getting competitive at the bowling alley at Stanwix Park.

Year seven pupil **Ellie Scott** kept up with the Year 10 bowlers by winning her group on lane one while **Lisa Bervoerts** rolled a winning score overall.



The peer mentoring system was set up to give younger pupils an older buddy in the school. Many of those who took part said

they had enjoyed the evening and felt that it helped bring the mentors and younger pupils together.

Head Boy

Being Head Boy gives me the opportunity to change my school in ways that will improve it and move it forward. I enjoy working with a bright and co-operative school council and hearing their ideas for the school. I like the fact that I am given opportunities to give presentations and go to events to improve my skills and gain confidence.



Solway meets the PM at Life!

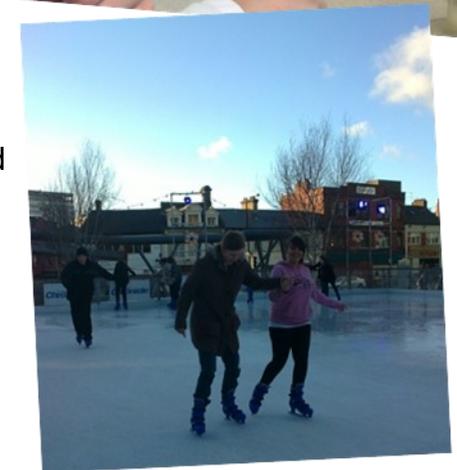
Friday January 14th 2011. Not a very special day, you may ask yourself? But for Y11 it was!

After taking their B2 science modular exam on the 13th, they embarked upon a trip to the Centre for Life in Newcastle, the North 's biggest science centre, which looks at human life at the extremes - from the frozen arctic wastes to the baking deserts. After having being postponed due to the snowy conditions in December, they were in for a post-exam treat on the outdoor ice rink and a bit of brain-testing science in the Lifelab ' chromosomes & DNA ' workshop. With their dedicated team of expert scientist presenters and well equipped lab, the centre offers an experience that pupils cannot

get in the average classroom.

Extracting and viewing dividing garlic root tip cells was interspersed with a visit from the Prime Minister, David Cameron (left) on his first trip to the region since taking office. He said: " The Centre for Life is an outstanding example of social enterprise. The medical research is cutting edge and has led to real patient benefit and biotech businesses. And it ' s all backed by a fantastic programme of science activities for schoolchildren and the public. "

Following this surprise interjection, the remainder of the day was packed with activities from learning to navigate through constellations of the Winter nights in the fabulous planetarium, to a motion ride which took you on a (bumpy and stomach turning...) journey though our solar system, with the wrap-around screen adding to the sensory immersion and finally topped off by fantastic clear blue skies overhead and some fun on the ice rink! A great day had by all!



**FOR
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-
Q
Q**

Coming soon...

National Science and Engineering Week
March 14th to 18th 2011

Programme of events:
Year 7 - Crest in a Day (Bronze award)
Year 8 - Maryport Aquarium visit
Year 9 - Robotics Event
Years 10 and 11- Inventors competition

Plus daily science quiz during registration and an individual science competition

PRIZES AND SMART MARKS FOR THE WINNERS

Part Funded by NSEW Kick-Start Grant



Citizenship: Road Safety Report

We have citizenship once a week and for the past two weeks we have been learning about road safety with two women from Young Cumbria. We filled in a booklet over the two lessons, showing what we already knew about road safety and our opinions on what is more safe or not. We also had a log to fill in two journeys we have made, we put in the details of our journey; e.g. Where to, how long it took and who with. We also added the factors that may have affected the journey, like weather and the actions of other drivers.



During the two weeks my knowledge of road safety has improved as I now know what the real consequences of dangerous driving and who it affects (parents, family, the damage of property). We were shown a short clip of a young male with a fast car who was racing a mate, overtook and had a head on collision with an innocent driver. Someone ' s garden was destroyed and the wall surrounding, the car was a wreck and he had died instantly. I now know how to try to prevent an accident as they happen too easily.



I have enjoyed many parts of the lessons about road safety; I enjoyed discussing the things in groups and listening to everybody sharing their journey with the class. I also enjoyed showing what I had learnt over the two lessons. It would be useful to see how the government tries to cut speed and how much it all costs.



Overall I have enjoyed the lessons and they have been very informative about road safety and learning what the main causes of road accidents and how they could be prevented. Thank you to the two women from Young Cumbria.

By Bradley Whitfield



Solway Community Technology College
Liddell Street
Silloth
Wigton
Cumbria
CA7 4DD

26th January 2011

The Dinner Ladies
Dear All

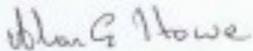
Very many thanks for your extremely kind donation of £54.00 to the funds of Silloth Lifeboat Station. It is always particularly heartening to receive such support within the local community and we are all most appreciative of your continuing interest and your generosity.

As Treasurer, I write on behalf of the crew and all at the Lifeboat Station, to express that appreciation.

Please find enclosed Official Lifeboats Receipt No. AA 2147933.

Our thanks again.

Yours sincerely

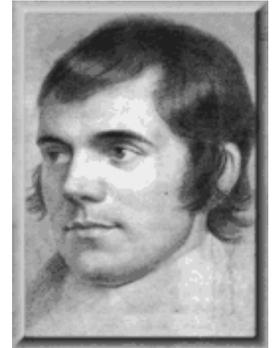


Alan G. Howe
Treasurer: Silloth Lifeboat Station

enc

Burns Night

On January the 25th we had Haggis, neeps and tatties as one of the choices on the menu and those brave enough to try it enjoyed it, unfortunately there wasn't a piper on hand to pipe in the haggis we may have to work on that for next year. A donation of £54 was given to the Silloth Lifeboat the money coming from a collecting box which is on the hatch.



Regional finalists

Mrs Baird and the School Council entered the 'Design my break' competition before Christmas. They interviewed pupils across all year groups to see what they would like to see available at lunchtime then planned a more attractive break time involving the Olympic and paralympic values. Our competition bid was successful, beating 130 other schools from across the region to the regional finals which will be held in Cramlington next month. The Design My Break judges will be looking for entries which not only meet the minimum criteria of including healthy food, physical activity and emotional well-being; they are also anxious to see evidence of individual as well as team development. We have been allocated an advisor from GE, the firm sponsoring the 2012 Olympics to help us through the next stage. Best of luck to all involved.



SOS RNLI fund raising

The links between Solway Community Technology College and the Silloth Life boat are strong; our catering team has a collecting tin permanently on the servery for loose change from pupils and staff. On top of that the School Council decided to hold a non uniform day in school to raise even more funds for this wonderful charity. **Mrs Baird** started the week off by showing a video in assembly of young volunteers training to be life boat crew and explaining how much it costs to maintain such a valuable service, which rescues on average 4 children every day from one of the 230 lifeboat stations or one of the over 150 lifeguarded beaches. However the School Council wanted something a little more memorable, something more reflective of the service than simply non-uniform.

So they asked for volunteers from the staff and managed to persuade **Mr Campbell, Mr Down, Mr Green, Mr Hailwood and Mr Harris** to take part in a `Soak our Staff` session at lunchtime.

Although it was sunny it is still January and a wet sponge in the face isn't pleasant in the height of summer so we were grateful to be able to borrow 3 dry suits from the Silloth Lifeboat station while Mr Hailwood braved the elements in shorts and a T shirt !!

Pupils paid 20p to throw a wet sponge at the staff who had to endure over 160 throws as the pupils for some reason seemed to enjoy the activity! Due to the generosity of staff and pupils we managed to raise over

£190 for the RNLI.




Lifeboats



Access to Higher Education
 Engineering
 Plumbing
 Business, Administration and Finance
 Catering & hospitality/ professional cookery
 IT @ Work, ICT Practitioners
 Childcare, children's care learning
 & development
 Sport and Leisure
 Art, crafts, design & media
 Brickwork, Construction
 Health & Social care
 Horticulture
 Travel & Tourism
 Sports and Leisure
 Public Services
 Carpentry & Joinery
 Painting and Decorating
 Electrical
 Vehicle Maintenance

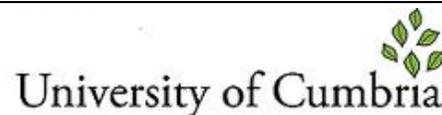


Hairdressing
 Beauty, Beauty therapy
 Nuclear decommissioning
 Skills for Life -Literacy &
 Numeracy
 Princes Trust
 Renewable Energy
 Customer Service
 Retail
 Teaching
 Horticulture
 Advice and Guidance
 Warehousing and Storage



University of Cumbria
 Subjects/Apprenticeships offered:

Access to Higher Education
 Agriculture
 Animal Care/Management
 Applied Science
 Art and design
 Children's care learning & development
 Countryside management
 Floristry
 Forestry
 Game Keeping & Wildlife management
 Health and Social Care
 Horse Care/Management
 Horticulture
 Land Based Studies/ Engineering/
 Technology



Media Production
 Music
 Performing Arts
 Public Services &
 uniformed public services
 Motor Vehicle
 Skills for working life– Animals,
 Land & plants, Health & Social Care
 Society, health and development
 Sport
 Vehicle technology



Aimhigher...Cumbria works in partnership with schools, colleges, universities, employers and the community to help raise the aspirations of people in Cumbria and ensure they reach their full potential. We organise campus visits to various universities and each year we offer summer school places where young people can experience student life first hand when they have to stay away from home in student accommodation and attend lectures.

Army careers



Innovia Films
 Wigton



Nelson Thomlinson Sixth Form

Applied Science	PE
Art & Design (Fine Art)	Physics
Biology	Product Design
Business Studies	Religious Studies
Chemistry	Sociology
Computing	Spanish
English Language	Textiles
English Literature	General Studies
French	
Further Maths	AS Only Leisure Studies
Geography	
Health & Social Care	GCSE:
History	Maths
ICT	English
Maths	Science
Music	



Carlisle College

Subjects offered:
 Business, retail & administration
 Hospitality and catering, professional
 cookery
 Bricklaying, joinery, plastering, carpentry
 Beauty therapy, salon management
 IT @ work, IT practitioners
 Childcare, Caring for children
 Complimentary therapy
 Construction skills
 Engineering



- Plumbing
- Hairdressing
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and Tourism
- Public Services
- Health and Social care

Gen II

Apprenticeships in:

- Electrical Advanced
- Fabrication
- Mechanical
- Nuclear Worker
- Process
- Printing
- Systems and Control



RWP Carlisle

Apprenticeships in:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Business Admin | • Hairdressing |
| • Child care and Early Years | • Teaching Assistant |
| • Customer Service | • Youth Work |



Rathbone (Foundation Learning)

Working with the elderly
 Child Development and Well Being
 Building and construction
 Performing Arts
 Painting and Decorating, Sport and Leisure



JTL



Training provider in the building engineering services industry, offering Advanced Modern Apprenticeships in electrical installation, plumbing, heating and ventilation, and Engineering Maintenance

Systems Training



Systems (based at Carlisle Airport) mainly deals with vehicle/logistic type apprenticeships including:

- Warehouse and storage
- Motor vehicle
- Logistics
- Accounting (based at English Gate Plaza)
- IT apprenticeship (based at Warwick Bridge)

Parents` Evenings

Yr 11 Destinations evening was a busy, successful event with both pupils and parents focussed on finding out where they currently were in relation to their targets and what options were available post 16.

All our Year 11s have received their mock results, on Mock Results day, followed by individual interviews with Mrs Baird where their targets and how to get there were the main topics of conversation.

Our Connexions advisers, **Kim Kinsella** and **Jo Dean**, invited local post 16 providers and employers to explain to pupils and parents what they could offer and what pupils should aim for. Lots to think about.

We have since had visits from **Mrs C Atkinson**, Netherhall sixth form and after half term **Mr R King** will visit from Cockermouth sixth form to give our Yr 11s all the information they need to make an informed choice regarding their future.

JTL will be holding their entrance exam next Wednesday for those interested in training opportunities.

Mrs Baird welcomed parents of Yr 10s who have recently embarked upon their GCSE courses to an introductory session about GCSEs and revision before the Yr 10 Parents` evening.

Year 9 Options Evening

The main topic of conversation was the new measure introduced by Michael Gove, secretary of state for Education, the English Baccalaureate. This is a measure of how many pupils achieve 5 subjects at GCSE, grade 'C' and above; English, Maths, Science, a language and a humanities subject. Pupils at Solway will be able to achieve the English Bacc, which may in future be used by universities as one of the selection criteria.

Pupils were informed about their current achievement levels across all subjects and guided towards their options choices for next year.

Year 10 Science Exam
plus resits

Wednesday 2nd
March

For revision sessions check
Science board

Netball Success!

The annual U15 Allerdale and Copeland Netball Tournament took place on Thursday 10th February. There were 10 teams competing, split into two sections.

Solway had very good results in their round robin pool, beating Whitehaven 9-0, West Lakes Academy 8-1, St Benedict's 4-2 but losing to Keswick 6-2.

As semi finalists, being 2nd in our section, we played the winner of section 2 Southfield and narrowly beat them by 3-2 in extra time.

Keswick were beaten by Cockermouth in the other semi final 5-4.

So we were in the final versus Cockermouth. Our team put up an outstanding performance playing a fast clean game with very few errors and won 4-3.

Congratulations to all the squad.

Megan Wise (captain)

Dionne Blake

Zoe Forster

Emily Scott

Hannah Kent

Sophie Harrison

Tanya Provence

Kayley Wilson



House Competition

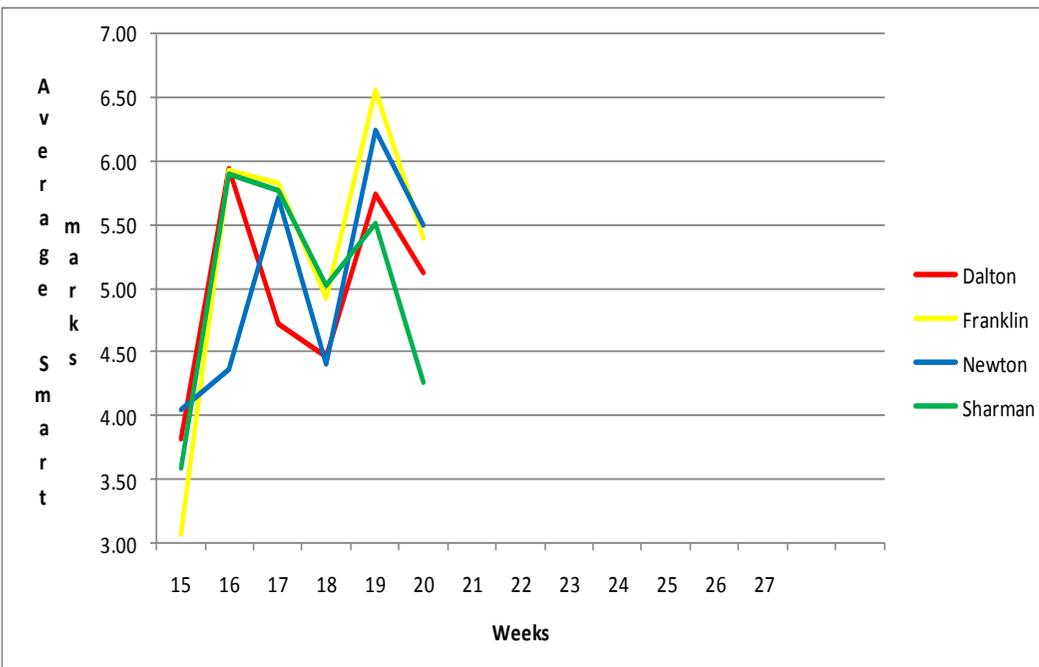
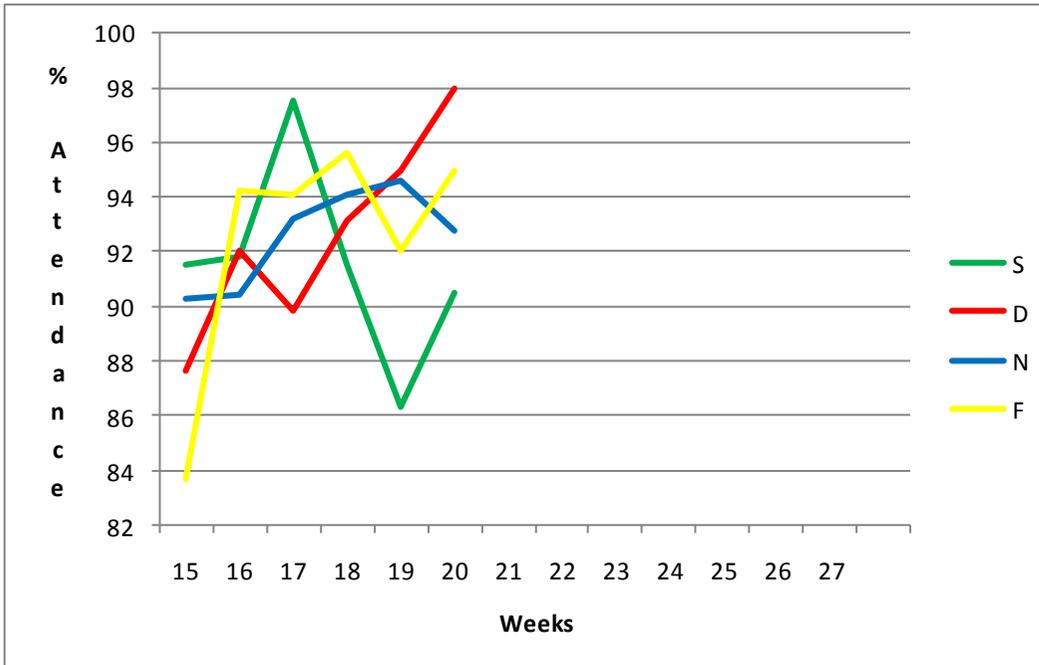
As you can see from the graphs this term, the competition is hotting up between the houses for both smart marks and attendance.

So far **Sharman** has won the weekly attendance cup 8 times Dalton 5, Franklin 4 and Newton 3 times.

In the smart marks race **Franklin** has won 9 times, Sharman 6, Newton 4 and Dalton once.

The individual smart marks are being fought for with pupils now regularly gaining over 10 each week. The same names are cropping up at the top too as the PTA is offering an ipod touch, or equivalent, for the pupil who achieves the highest number of smart marks by the end of the year. A super prize!

Any pupil is capable of winning, they simply need to gain smart marks.



February

Tues 15th Connexions talk to Yr 11

Wed 16th JTL Assessment Yr 11s U14/16 netball & hockey home v Cockermouth , Rotary Young chef 1.30 onwards St Benedicts

Fri 18th Yr 10 Young Firefighters interviews. Joint school council with Connexions @ Copeland council chamber

21st - 25th Half term

March

Tues 1st Maths B - 4307 Y11 Re-sits

Wed 2nd Science A - 4461 Objective tests Yr 10 & 11 Yrs 7 & 8 More than dreams 1-3pm

Thurs 3rd World Book Day Y7 & 8 Parents Evening 7-11 netball home v St Bens / Yr 10s to Lancaster University

Mr R King, Cockermouth sixth form in to talk to Yr 11s

Fri 4th Yr 10 Eden Camp History trip possibly

Tues 8th School council to Cramlington Design my break regional finals

Wed 9th Yr 10 Art BBC Multimedia workshop Ulverston / U13 netball tournament Keswick

Thurs 10th Yr 11 BACS resit Controlled Assessment starts - 8 hours in lessons

Science & Engineering week 14th - 18th March

Mon 14th Yr8 to Maryport aquarium Science pm

Tues 15th Yr7 Crest day - Bronze Award Science

Wed 16th Yr 9 to Sellafield Robotics , Yrs7-11 netball home v NTS

Thurs 17th U14 & 16 hockey away v Stainburn

Fri 18th Yr9 Learning maze to Beacon Hill p1-3 Red Nose day

Tues 22nd Yr9&10 Army day at school planned

Thurs 24th Netball & Hockey v Keswick

Yr 11 study skill sessions . These will run after half term for 2 weeks, Monday to Thursday. 3-7pm , with tea at 5pm. Vital for improving grades. Book now !

April

Fri 8th Yr 10 ROAs home to parents

Easter Holidays 11th - 25th April

Tues 26th Staff inset Day

Wed 27th Normal School

Thurs 28th Normal School

Fri 29th Bank Holiday - school closed

May

Mon 2nd Bank Holiday - school closed

Tues 3rd Normal school

Exams for Yrs 7-9

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