

SOLWAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

December 2015 Newsletter No. 2

Dear Parents/Carers

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... the tree is up, the Banquet is approaching, the food room is covered with beautiful Christmas cakes, sparkly lights have turned my office into a grotto and there have been several positive sightings of you-know-who training up the reindeer around Silloth Green. As I write, just 16 shopping days to Christmas!

We have had yet another hectic half term: lots of fund raising for charity – Pink Day, Children in Need, Shoe Box appeal – all supported as enthusiastically and generously as always by students and staff. Still to come in the last week of term is Christmas jumper day on the 17th, which will be raising money for the flood appeal, our carol service in the church at 2.15pm on Tuesday 15th to which you are all cordially and warmly invited to join us, Community Christmas Roast Dinner day on Wednesday 16th and, on the last day of term, a special talent contest organised by GCSE Performing Arts students (with possible surprise appearances from talented staff!). We finish at 1:00 on Thursday 17th.

I am delighted with the positive atmosphere in school and the level of hard work and commitment from everyone in the building since September. I am in and out of everyone's classrooms and it's fantastic to see the students focused and working hard, and most importantly, enjoying being in school. We are not about to rest on our laurels, however: next term will see changes in school as we build on what we have achieved so far. I am planning some timetable changes, a new look at options for Year 9, and, as promised following consultation with parents, more options for uniform both in school and for PE (see inside for sneak preview of new PE kit!). I will of course keep you all informed of what is going on – but in the meantime, as always, if you have any concerns or questions, come in and see me – I will be pleased to help.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year. New term begins Tuesday 5th January!

J. Schafer

Judith Schafer
Headteacher



Solway Community School's Prize giving Evening

Our school prize giving evening was held on 25th November and was a fantastic night. Celebrating success is always good, and this year was no exception. New Headteacher Judith Schafer welcomed everyone to school with a suitably festive speech reminding the audience about the school's new vision and values. Guest speaker was BBC TV journalist Caroline Hawley who entertained a hall packed with parents and guests with accounts of her (not traditional!) route from school to the top of her career before presenting this year's prizes.

Prizes for academic achievement were presented to the highest achieving students in all year groups, and it was as always lovely to see almost all last year's Year 11 students coming back to collect their GCSE certificates and awards. All the students who have stayed on to Sixth Form with us won awards which was great to see. Success for us is more than just academic brilliance however, and awards were presented for effort, community service and of course our outstanding sports performers.

Delicious mince pies and shortbread from our award winning canteen finished off a lovely evening – we are as always tremendously well supported by the community and it was great to see so many guests, parents and ex-students catching up, and to hear so many positive comments about the school and its students.

A big thank you to Caroline for her time and to all our sponsors who help make this annual event so successful. See you next year!

(Following a fierce debate in the staff room there were in fact no winners in the how-many-carols-were-there-in-the-Head's-speech sweepstake (there were 10!) as announced on our Facebook page.)



School Council

The School Council has been making large steps recently to improve the school and the Council itself. The School Council has adopted new members this year, and these members hope to change the school; hopefully for the best. Mrs Wise has been a big help during the School Council meetings keeping us all in our places. The Council is a very relaxed group and also VERY enthusiastic. We are very independent as a student body, with Mrs Wise passing on our ideas and communicating with the staff; this is a big improvement from last year, giving the students a much more effective voice. The goal of the Council is to improve the lives of the students and also try to help decrease the piling stress on the teaching staff. The new Council members have adapted well to the responsibilities they now hold and all have proven to be valuable members of the team. The Council has already begun planning for next year, thinking about potential activities and ideas for things to change, from menus in the canteen to sports fixtures and school trips.

We are also working with the local council; Michael Sonnabend has been a big help to the Council in terms of showing us how to work as a democratic and efficient unit so our meetings are well run. Michael Sonnabend is also running the UKYP (United Kingdom Youth Parliament) for Allerdale, where young people get the chance to stand up for what they think right and have a role that can make history and shape this country. There is a chance to travel to parliament and debate matters we think are important to the local area and the country. If any students are looking to join the Council, or would like to get involved in the Youth Parliament, please ask a current Council member about the job, or approach Mrs Wise at the main office for advice.

Josh Wilson

Head Boy, School Council Member

Our Head boy and Head girl receiving a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of our contribution to Make Your Mark 2015 from The Mayor of Allerdale, Councillor Len Davies.



Sharman News

What a busy term we have had! During the summer holidays **Miss Jones** got married at the beautiful Inn on the Lake in Glenridding and is now **Mrs Woodman!** **Mr Hailwood** and his wife welcomed their beautiful twin boys into the world over the half-term holiday. **Mrs Smith** joined the school in September to be our new Geography teacher. We welcomed eight lovely Year 7 students, a Year 8 from another school (not too far from us!) and a Year 10 transfer from team Dalton. We are thrilled to have so many new members of team Sharman!



On the last day of the October half term we held our annual Pink Day cake sale to support Cancer Research, a charity close to many of our hearts. Team Sharman were extremely well-organised and between us we baked so many treats. We had an excellent team of sellers on our stall and we were delighted to be the house to raise the most money for charity. Well done, Sharman! Thank you to all the students, parents and grandparents who helped to support this cause.

We have battled valiantly in every inter-house competition as we try to retain our title of Solway School Champions! We have four excellent sports captains this year in **Charlie Garner**, **Macy Baker**, **Ben Wilson** and **Megan Penrice**. Many of our students won awards at Awards Evening and we were so proud of all of their achievements. A particular mention must go to **Charlie McGuirk** for winning that huge trophy we all envy! Our two school council reps, **Hannah Gilmour** and **Kian Watson**, have been attending the council meetings regularly and are doing a sterling job of reporting back to the rest of Sharman. They particularly enjoyed tasting the mezzalunas! After Christmas we have plans to organise our own charity event in school and we will keep you posted with more details in the new year.

Mrs Woodman

Year 9 CSI Lesson



Year 9s spent a fascinating week in Science with Mrs Thorp, investigating a suspicious crime that had occurred in the Art room! They had to search the crime scene for evidence, and then analyse the evidence back in the forensics lab. Once analysed they produced a report pointing the finger at a guilty suspect!



Lots of groups rightfully suspected MR SUNTER as the guilty party – well done!

Dalton House

It's been a fantastic term, and a brilliant start to the year in Dalton. The pupils have made me very welcome as their new Head of House – Thank you! My favourite week so far has been when we won ALL THE TROPHIES in assembly! I've promised sweets and back flips if we do it again – so I need to get practising!

We have a very sporty house, and we have yet to lose a house competition – coming first or joint second in everything so far. The students are amazing at all working together, supporting each other and taking turns, and have brought out the competitive side in me.

A huge number of girls in our house play netball for the school, and all volunteer their time after school to go to matches and practice. Carley, Chelsey and Aeryn have all been chosen to be captains which is a great achievement and shows what good leaders in sport they are becoming.

Our new year 7s have settled in brilliantly, and all love their lessons, naming Spanish, Art and P.E as favourites. Colouring club, and Biscuit club are also very popular in our house with KS4.

Charity plays a big role in Dalton - we are currently making hundreds of pom poms for Eden Valley Hospice, and raised lots of money for the Breast Cancer Awareness bake sale. The attitude and empathy shown by the pupils is amazing, and makes me very proud to be their Head of House.

After Christmas the pupils are excited about the return of house competitions and looking ahead to the prom- it's going to be a busy year, but we are all looking forward to it.

Have a merry Christmas, and a happy new year – see you all in January!

Mrs Thorp

Newton News



Leading by example
Max Brough and
Natalie Wood

Newton Sport Captains

KS3 Lucy Penrice and Will Scott

KS4 Natalie Whitfield and Tom Nixon



CURRENT LEADER IN
HOUSE SMART MARKS
WEEKLY TOTAL.



In the spirit of Pudsey



Sophie Graham

Kia Barnes

Soon to represent

Cumbria in CROSS
COUNTRY—Leon
Hewitson



Students of Newton House have had a busy and successful term this autumn. Up to this week the total number of smart marks achieved is 1760 and is evidence of effort and progress in lessons. Well done all. Max Brough and Natalie Wood are currently leading the individual smart mark competition and we have high hopes for all members of our house in the coming term.

Not always the most sporty of houses, we are known for our team spirit and fundraising enthusiasm. I am really proud of the response to this year's appeals including Shoe Box and Pink Day. Our table of cakes looked really wonderful and we sold out completely and contributed to the substantial overall total. Producing Shoe Boxes was our forte and Newton students rose magnificently to the challenge, producing 17 filled boxes. Very well done.

Our Year 7 pupils have settled really quickly into the life of our House and are active participants in all house activities. I have no doubt that all of Newton pupils will do their very best over the coming year and I will be very proud of them.

Mrs Cooper

FRANKLIN NEWS

The days and weeks leading towards the Christmas holidays have been very strong for Franklin house. We have entered every single house competition! Although we do not always win, we always turn up and give it our all.

As a house we have selected our school council representatives. We had 8 students put themselves forward for the role. We conducted an in-house vote and **Harvey Smith** of Year 10 and **Emily Hodgson** of Year 7 were selected.

Three of our Year 7 girls were selected to play in the Allerdale girls Year 7 5-aside tournament in Workington. After a few hard fought matches they emerged as Allerdale champions. A massive well done to **Amy Carr**, **Lucy Carr** and **Jodie-Anne Frith**.

To date we have achieved 1938 Smart Marks as a house. Our top 5 achieving house members are:

Name	Praise Postcard	Smart Mark	Total
Cara de Mello	3	67	82
Amy Carr	2	71	81
Kaci-Leigh Marsh	2	62	79
Emily Smith	1	64	69
Scott Wilson	1	62	67

The whole house is looking forward to a well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays. We'll be back and ready to go on Tuesday 5th January.

Mr Sunter

Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all the Christmas card entries. The winners are: 1st place Rebecca Weightman (Sharman) for the snowman card; inside is a cleverly constructed Christmas tree. 2nd place Grace Hodgson (Dalton), 3rd place Sadie Henderson (Franklin) and 4th place Sophie Graham (Newton).



1st



Catering Price List - September 2015			Price
Chicken Tikka & Rice			£1.45
Chicken Korma & Rice			£1.45
Chilli Con Carne & Rice			£1.45
Sweet 'n' Sour & Rice			£1.45
Roast Dinner			£2.00
Spaghetti Bolognese			£1.45
Hotpot & Veg			£1.45
Shepherds Pie & Veg			£1.45
Lasagne & Veg			£1.45
Pie & Potatoes, Veg			£1.45
Meatballs & Potatoes, Veg			£1.45
Creamed Potato, Rice or Pasta			£0.80
Mexican Chicken & Rice / Pasta			£1.45
Pasta, Cauliflower, Broccoli in Cheese Sauce			£1.00
Veg with a main meal			Free!
Bacon Sandwich			£1.00
All Pies & Pasties			£1.20
Fish & Chips			£2.00
Fish			£1.20
Pizza			£1.20
Meatballs			£1.20
Chicken Drumsticks			£0.75
Quiche			£1.00
Soup			£0.75 / £0.40
Rolls			£0.25
Beans			£0.50
Vegetables			£0.50
Jacket Potatoes			£0.80
Jacket Potatoes, Cheese or Beans			£1.25
Jacket Potatoes, Cheese & Beans			£1.50
Jacket Potatoes with Tuna			£1.50
Beans on Toast			£1.00
Cheese and Beans on Toast			£1.25
Hot Baguettes			£1.50
Baguettes			£1.40
Sandwiches			£1.40
Wraps			£1.40
Salads - Cheese / Ham / Tuna			£1.50
Pasta Pots			£1.50
Toast			£0.20
All Cakes			£0.75
Cake & Custard			£1.00
Custard			£0.40
Rice Pudding			£0.60
Semolina			£0.60
Yoghurt			£0.60
Fruit			£0.60



The menu shows just a fraction of the meal choices the students have; the menu is constantly evolving as new dishes are tried. Those that are successful are added to our repertoire. We will always try to cater for individual requirements where we can.

Where possible ingredients are sourced locally. I never go out to eat or watch a cookery programme without looking for new ideas! Of course new ideas must fit within the legislation that I have to adhere to which dictates how often certain foods can be served and what kind of drinks we are allowed but we do our best to keep everyone happy!

A Hoodless, Canteen Manager

Silloth Six start Duke of Edinburgh's Award

With Halloween approaching, six students from Solway Community Technology College undertook their preparation for an expedition.



What is the Duke of Edinburgh's Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the premier International Social Education Award for young people aged 14 to 24. Since its inception in 1956 many millions of young people in over 120 countries of the world have taken up the challenge to complete the Award. There are 3 levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. The 6 pupils at Solway Community Technology College are taking part at the Bronze level. This involves them completing all 4 sections, volunteering, skill, physical and expedition.

What did the students do for their expedition?

During the weekend of 31st October and 1st November the 6 boys successfully completed the 2 day expedition that they had planned from Maryport Harbour to the Skinburness Hotel, via Grune Point. Every expedition must have a purpose, the boys decided their purpose would be to clean up the foreshore as they walked. Suitably equipped with black bin bags, gloves and "pickers", from their school, each day they created a strange site for onlookers, picking up rubbish with a big rucksack on their backs. The Expedition Assessor was impressed with the group's determination throughout the 2 days and their teamwork on the campsite. Now to complete the other 3 sections!



Duke of Edinburgh Exhibition



Year 11 Music and Performing Arts

The year 11 Music and Performing Arts GCSE group visited Allonby, Holm Cultram and Holme St. Cuthbert primary schools, to promote Solway Community Technology College. On the tour we had so much fun and we and the primary pupils all enjoyed it, even though in the beginning we were nervous to participate. We contributed in different ways to the performance, Erin and I did a PowerPoint presentation and talk about our school and what it offers and what we do in lessons and after school. Billy and Abby did a few drama games which involved the primary pupils. Vincent and Peter both did an electric guitar performance and Calum did an acoustic guitar performance; then Andrew and Oliver did a presentation about lighting. At the end of each visit the primary pupils were able to talk to us, ask questions about the music and life at secondary school and try the instruments. We did all try our best and enjoyed it so very much, just seeing new faces and telling them how great and fun our school is. We hope to see all the primary pupils at Solway School one day.

Bayli Cottam

Carlisle College Music and Media Course Concert

On the 4th of November we played host to the first year students from Carlisle College who are studying music and media. As part of their course they have to organise and take out on the road a musical performance.

This year we were treated to performances from four different bands, including ex Solway student Luke Rumney. The quality of the bands was very good and belied the fact that they had been together for such a short time.

The links between the various acts was slick and very professional.

The school hall was certainly rocking all morning, aided by pupils from neighbouring Silloth Primary School and all went away happy and wanting more.



Fundraising

We have had a busy time fundraising this term, with lots of delicious cakes baked for Pink Day to support Breast Cancer Research and pupils dressing up for Children in Need. We raised a total of £354.44 for Cancer Research and £153.00 for Children in Need.

A big thank you to all who donated.



CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB 2015

Shoe Box Appeal 2015

Once again our pupils proved to be thoughtful and generous producing in excess of 24 filled shoeboxes to be delivered to children in need in another country. This year it was Newton that led the way with the number of shoeboxes completed, earning the 25 house points for this activity. However, competition notwithstanding this is a really deserving project to be involved in and serves to remind us all that there are many children in this world not as fortunate as we are here in the UK. Thank you to everyone who took part in this project.



Radicalisation in Cumbria – The PREVENT Strategy.

Back in November I wrote to all parents explaining the new duties and expectations of schools under the new Prevent strategy. In light of the terrorist attacks in Paris, Turkey, Egypt and elsewhere over the last few months, and the ongoing refugee and migrant crisis across Europe, I wanted to update you on what we are doing in school to make sure our students are safe and well informed.

We are continuing as always to teach a broad and balanced curriculum focused on our values of tolerance, equality, respect and compassion. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, have this term completed training to give us the knowledge and confidence to identify students at risk and challenge expressions of support for terrorism or extremist views of any nature. Our priority continues to be teaching students to think critically so as to understand and tolerate differences, especially those of other faiths.

This is becoming more and more important, especially as Cumbria will, like every other area of the country, be welcoming refugees from Syria into our communities over the next few months. If families arrive in Silloth, we want to be sure all children in our school community are safe, secure, and supported equally and we will work hard to make sure this is the case.

This is a difficult topic; and should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at school. Mrs Schafer

Train to Teach

7th January 2016 @ 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

If you are interested in a career in teaching either primary or secondary, please join us for an informal drop in session any time between 3.30-6.30 p.m. at Cumbria Primary Teacher Training Centre.

Talk to representatives from both Primary and Secondary School-led Teacher Training programmes based in West Cumbria and the North Lakes.

Cumbria Primary Teacher Training Centre High Street
Workington, CA14 4ES

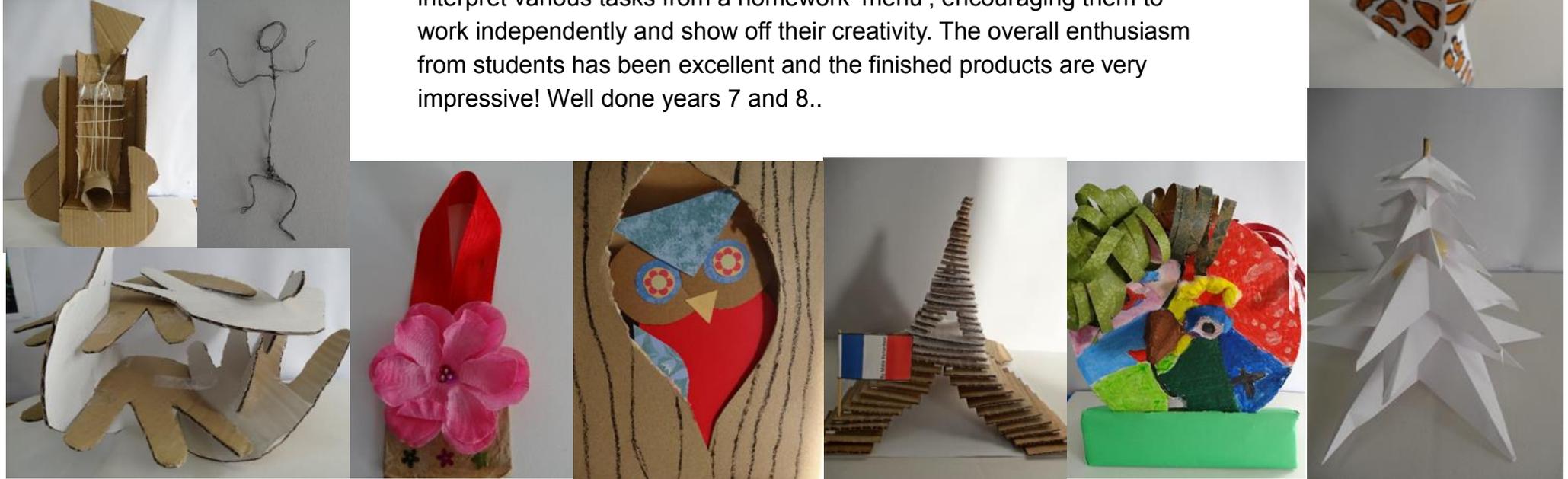
For further details see:

<http://www.westernlakesteachingschool.co.uk/>



Art and Design Year 7 and 8 Homework Menu

This term years 7 and 8 have been given the opportunity to select and interpret various tasks from a homework 'menu', encouraging them to work independently and show off their creativity. The overall enthusiasm from students has been excellent and the finished products are very impressive! Well done years 7 and 8..



PE NEWS

Congratulations!

The Year 7 5-a-side girls football team have become the 2016 Allerdale champions!!

Massive well done to the year 7 boys who competed as well; some fantastic play from both teams, keep up the hard work!

Boys team: Reegan, Liam, Kian, Cameron, Jack, Nathan.

Girls Team: Carley Walsh, Amy Carr (Captain), Lucy Carr, Jasmin Irwin, Ella Baker & Jodie Firth .



Miss Cross & Mr Hansel took a bus full of students to compete in the Allerdale cross country competition held at Cockermouth on 3rd December.

Well done to all the runners who battled rain, mud and strong winds to compete and represent Solway. We are very proud of all of the students who took part and would certainly win the award for the loudest and most encouraging school!

Extra special mention to Carley Walsh and Leon Hewitson who have been chosen to represent Allerdale in the new year. Well done and keep training!

Outdoor PE kit

After popular demand from the pupils of Solway school, we are now offering out door kit which can be worn during PE lessons and for sporting fixtures.

All jackets and bottoms will have pupils name/initials embroidered on them to minimise the chance of them going missing, long with the school name.

Jacket: £33, Bottoms: £18

The new outdoor kit is not compulsory, however next year if students wish to wear tracksuits & jackets outside only these will be permitted during lesson time.

Girls are now allowed to wear **PLAIN black SPORT leggings** (not everyday leggings) during PE lessons. We want to promote a positive attitude towards PE and aim to provide comfortable/modern PE kit for girls to encourage participation and improve confidence.



England v Australia– 20th January 2016

Basketball– BBL Trophy final– 27th February– Glasgow. Letter will be released in the new term, this is now the 3rd year running!

Netball tour weekend (Butlins, Skegness)– 21st-25th April 2016

Lots of kids will get a new smartphone with a built-in camera this Christmas...



Although they may not admit it, children are also worried about things that can happen *by-phone*.

Engaging with your kids can help build the confidence & resilience they need to cope.



For kids who need extra help with new technology, *Parental Controls* can also be useful.

For example, the Parental Control *SelfieCop* teaches kids to use their phone's built-in camera safely.



It allows them to chat more freely about things they like on their phones, as well as things they don't.



SelfieCop reminds kids that any photos or videos they take may ultimately be seen by anyone.

SelfieCop also allows parents to monitor their child's images to help safeguard behaviour.

Download the *SelfieCop* apps for free at www.selfiecop.com



Download now at
www.selfiecop.com

'SelfieCop is a useful tool to help parents safeguard their children's online activities.'

Andrew Jackson, AntiBullying
Co-ordinator, ISPPC.



SelfieCop is FREE
till January 2016