

SOLWAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

December 2016 Newsletter No. 7

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas..... so welcome to our Christmas newsletter!

This term has yet again passed in a flash, with the students taking part in lots of activities, as well as working hard in lessons – see inside!

Christmas is a magical time full of traditions and history. At school, our Christmas really starts with Prizegiving when the tree goes up and mince pies are served. Then there is Christmas dinner – for the students and staff and then the community – with delicious turkey and all the trimmings. The Banquet last weekend was as usual fantastic and it's great to be able to host so many of you in the hall for good food and great company. This week, our carol service is at 2:15 on Wednesday and tutor groups have been practising carol singing with great enthusiasm. Some of them like singing more than others, but since Christmas is compulsory, and we all go through it together, we are all joining in!

Christmas is also a time for us to think about the world beyond Silloth. The world has seemed to be a dark, chaotic and uncertain place at times over the last 12 months. That Christmas comes around regardless, with the promise of better days to come, and brings with it good will and peace to all men gives us all hope for the future.

We are all looking forward to a successful 2017 – especially for our year 11s as exams loom on the horizon – and wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Judith Schafer

Headteacher



Prize Evening

Solway Community School's annual prizegiving on Wednesday 30th November was, as always, a fantastic evening event. Police and Crime Commissioner Colonel Peter McCall gave the keynote address and, as a local boy himself, the theme was how the students should look beyond their horizons and how, with hard work and commitment, anything is achievable. Certainly the evening celebrated achievement across every year group with proud parents looking on as many students were awarded prizes for outstanding achievement in academic results, sporting excellence and community work. New this year was an award sponsored by the RNLI for our Junior Lifeboat Crew who volunteered to take part in a six week training course, supported by the lifeboat station, and who were very proud to accept the award for community service.

Perhaps the most moving part of the evening came when former student Emily Smith, now studying for A levels, spoke to current students with advice for how to make the most of the Solway experience. She explained how the care and hard work of Solway staff had helped her achieve her goals and the excellent exam results she enjoyed in August - but with a warning that you only get one chance at GCSEs, so make the most of the help and advice available! It was lovely that Emily had, unprompted, asked to speak, and of course advice from an ex student outranks anything teachers can say to current students!

Delicious mince pies and shortbread were on offer to everyone after the formal proceedings were concluded, and a good evening was had by all.



Many more images can be found on the Solway Buzz facebook page.

Rock Challenge update

What is Rock Challenge? While the result is a professional event staged in some of the UK's top venues, the main aim of Rock Challenge is to encourage participants to have fun while enjoying a 100% drug-free, alcohol-free and smoke-free experience. Each team creates a 5 to 8 minute dance-drama-based performance on a theme of their choice. Schools can create whatever set, props, costumes, hair and make-up, lighting, choreography, drama, and soundtrack that they wish for their theme.

Since October our Rock Challenge team have been rehearsing hard and we are really getting into our theme of dreams and nightmares. Due to so many events happening recently we have had some very small rehearsals, but the team have been practising and choreographing hard to make our first entry the best it can be. Rehearsals are steadily picking up and it's great to see when the cast have obviously been rehearsing in their own time.

Our performance will take place on Thursday 16th March at the Sands Centre, Carlisle. This will be an event open to the public, with friends and family more than welcome to come along and support the team. Details regarding tickets will be sent out closer to the time.



BASKETBALL LEAGUE FINALS

Once again we have reserved quality tickets for the BBL finals at the Emirates Arena, Glasgow.

This is a full day out at a superb arena, showcasing a Scottish National League play-off game, followed by the BBL final.....and of course, the BBL babes and the aerial extravaganza of the Slam Dunk show!!

Tickets will be £15

Date: Sunday 19th March 2017

Mr Hansel



Attendance

We are coming to the end of a long term and one where there have been a lot of bugs going about. Please can I emphasise the importance of contacting school on the first day of any illness. If a child does not turn up to school and we cannot contact home we begin to worry, in case they set off for school and did not get here. So if your child is not coming into school, for whatever reason, can you please contact us before 9am and if you change any of your contact details please let us know as soon as possible.

In general, can I bring to your notice the following information on the Cumbria County Council website (<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/ils/attendance.asp>)

What is regular school attendance?

- Attending school everyday unless there is a very good reason for absence.
- Getting to school on time.
- Being present at school for both morning and afternoon sessions.

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Keep up with school work.
- Develop good habits and important life skills.
- Maintain friendships.
- Gain better qualifications.
- Have access to a wider range of opportunities when they leave school.
- Stay away from harm.

What does the law say about parental duty concerning children's education?

- Parents must make sure that their children receive efficient full time education in school or elsewhere.
- Once a child is registered at school, the parent must make sure that the child attends regularly.
- Parents should inform the school of the reasons for any unavoidable absence on the first day.
- Parents may request term time absence only in special or exceptional circumstances; this should be made in writing to the Headteacher.
- Giving as much notice as possible.

If you have any other attendance concerns please contact Mrs Long or Mr Wigginton. Thank you.

Holocaust Survivor Talk - Harry Bibring

We were kindly invited by Austin Friars School in Carlisle to hear the testimony of Harry Bibring. Mr Green and Miss Dakers took a group of senior students for a fascinating but harrowing evening listening to someone who had actually lived through the events that we can only imagine now.

Harry told us how he was born in 1925, in Vienna. His father owned a clothing shop. Harry was obsessed with ice skating, swimming and learning about mechanics, and with his sister, Gerta, led a normal, happy childhood until the German Anschluss of Austria in 1938. He told us in detail about all the ways that his life worsened with their persecution, the humiliation of being shunned and outcast, turned away from the ice rink, the swimming pool and not even being allowed in the park he had played in.

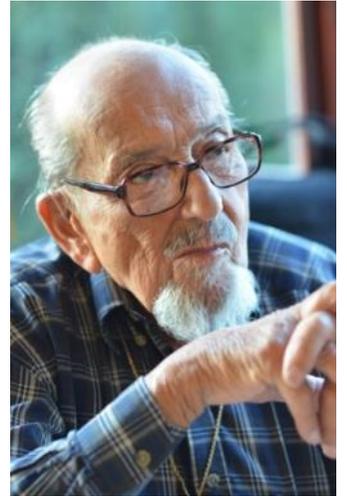
In November 1938 Harry's father's business was destroyed during *Kristallnacht*, and he was arrested soon after. The family were evicted and herded into a small flat with other families with nothing to eat or drink, but released after ten days. Harry was transferred to a school that permitted Jews to attend, but explained that the teachers made them sit on the floor at the back so they could not see or be seen. After his father was released from prison, the family intended to flee to Shanghai. His father was robbed on his way to pay for the tickets. Thinking of the safety of their children, Harry's parents arranged for him and his sister to flee to the United Kingdom on a *Kindertransport* train, where they would be sponsored by a family friend. He let us imagine the scene where 300 children had to say goodbye to their parents, not knowing if they'd ever see them again, and in fact, Harry and Gerta never did see their mother and father again.

Particularly moving were the Red Cross letters which he passed round: they were only allowed 25 words, but despite the fact that his mother was trying to shield them from the truth, the shakiness of the handwriting and the wording in her last letter hint of the death of their father and her imminent deportation to a death camp in Poland.

Harry went to school in London until the Blitz, when he was evacuated to the country. On his 14th birthday, he had to return to London, where he worked as a shop boy in his sponsor's clothing store. He later moved out of his sponsor's house and found work as a mechanic's apprentice until the end of the war.

In May 1945 Harry met his wife-to-be; they married two years later. He went to night school in order to become a professional engineer. During this time he and his wife had a son. By 1958 Harry had three degrees and worked as an engineer, and later he taught engineering until he retired in 1991. He was impressively modest about his achievements and determination to succeed in his adoptive country.

As survivors are all getting older, it was a rare and privileged opportunity for all of us to meet him. The survivors' stories should always stand as a warning about what happens when society allows minorities to be persecuted.



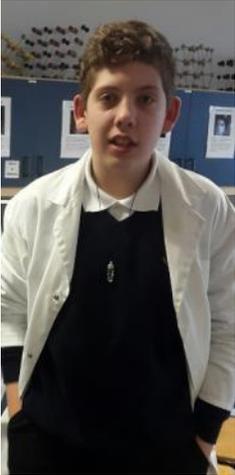


**Duke of Edinburgh
Silver Qualifying
Expedition**

Jack Donald
Leon Rudd
Shea Wilson
Archie Wise



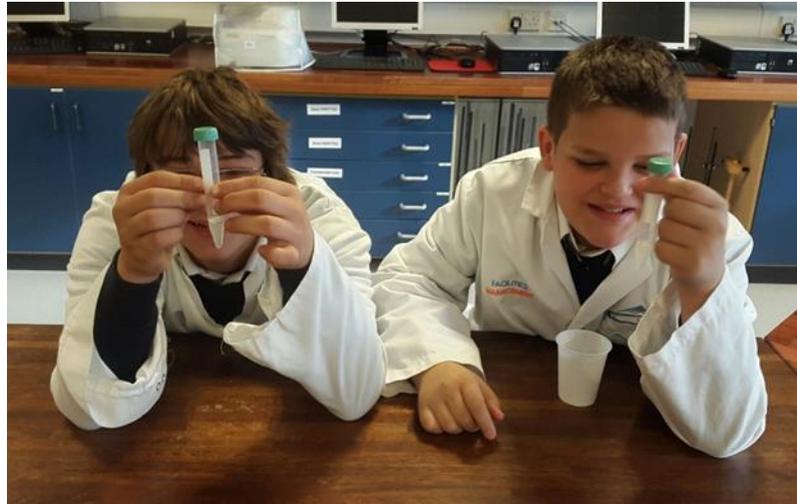
STEM careers day



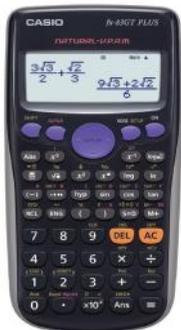
On Monday 31st October all of Year 8 went to Lakes College to take part in a STEM careers day along with Ullswater Community College. They enjoyed a tour of the college where they could watch lessons and have a taster of what further education might be like. The students all enjoyed themselves, and took advantage of the opportunity to meet and talk with people in the STEM industries.

One of the final activities involved the students extracting their own DNA from their cheek cells and make it into a pendant to keep.

The students' exemplary behaviour was remarked upon by Lakes College, and they did the school and the Science department proud.



Stocking filler idea from the Mathematics Department!



If Santa doesn't put one in your stocking, you can purchase one from the maths department for £5.

A little puzzle for you

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cylinder} + \text{Cylinder} + \text{Cylinder} &= 24 \\ \text{Cylinder} + \text{Cross} &= 25 \\ \text{Cross} - \text{Cup} &= 8 \\ \text{Cross} + \text{Cylinder} + \text{Cup} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

Legacy 110

After our trip to Belgium, we came home to start our Legacy 110 project. To do this we visited local schools and told them about our trip. We also had articles published in a few local newspapers! The whole idea of the Legacy 110 project was to tell 110 people about our time in France with the hope of promoting understanding and raising awareness about the Great War.

When we completed the project we sent it away to be assessed by those that organised the programme. After a few nervous months we finally received the news that we had successfully completed our project and have now received our certificate and pins!

Natalie Wood, Jenny Harrison and Chelsey Wilson (Year 10)



Carlisle Music College

We were also entertained earlier this term by various performances of musicians in several bands from Carlisle college, who along with their tutors and team of roadies and crew of sound engineers demonstrated their expertise to the school. The applause said it all! It was all very professional.

Many thanks to all involved.

Remembrance Service

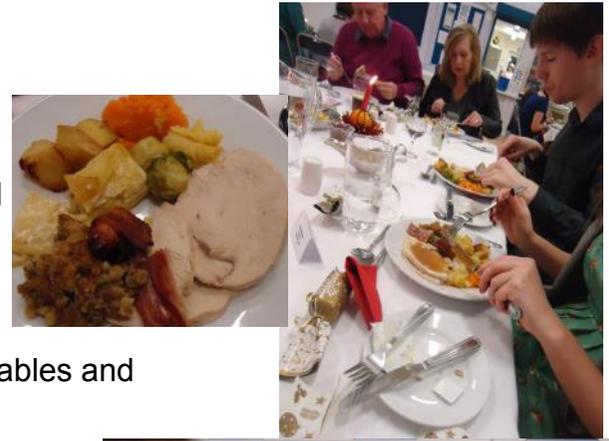
Our Remembrance service was organised by Miss Daker's with help from Max Brough and Ben Mattinson, cadets from Aspatria who led proceedings with pride and maturity as we remembered all those who have given their lives for our freedom.



In the next term, Miss Cross and Miss Steel will be joining forces to bring you the best of both PE and Spanish. Watch this space...

Christmas Banquet 2016

Saturday the 10th of December is certainly a day that the Year 10 and 11 Hospitality students will never forget. Arriving in school between 8 and 9am, yes some were early, this enthusiastic group of students immediately got to work preparing the food for their Christmas Banquet. In a busy organised atmosphere, students worked exceptionally well together prepping the multitude of products required for the evening service. Their team work was superb and they maintained an incredible level of helpfulness and cooperation throughout the very long day and evening. As well as preparing and cooking the food, students also had to transform the school hall into a banquet venue, setting up the tables and work areas and preparing our school canteen for the evening service.



The atmosphere throughout the evening was wonderful, and from the comments made by our customers, everyone had a really good time and thoroughly enjoyed the food. Students were congratulated on the standard of service and the quality of the food and the comments on the customer satisfaction cards were extremely complimentary. By the end of the evening we were all very tired, however students did not lose their determination to finish the event well and they worked really hard putting the hall back to rights for school on Monday morning.

This year the raffle proceeds were in aid of the Silloth Lifeboat and I should like to thank everyone who purchased tickets and raised a huge £210.

Our special thanks need to go to the following people for helping us with this really important event: Shona and her two helpers for organising and running the bar. Fausto for all his help and enthusiasm over the two days. Mrs Hoodless and Mrs Heath for working throughout the evening in the canteen with our kitchen brigade enabling this event to take place. Tony Markley for writing and delivering the Grace and expressing thanks to all students and staff involved at the end of the evening. I should also like to thank Mrs Martin for helping during the two days, providing encouragement and assistance to the whole group and working tirelessly throughout the evening. Finally I should like to thank our customers, many of whom reserve their tables a year in advance and never fail to support us in our efforts. This has been a really worthwhile annual event with students developing not only practical skills in the production of the food, but also developing confidence and experience in the requirements of good customer care. It is a great pity that this course does not now appear in the new national curriculum and is therefore not available for future year groups.



Well done Year 10 and 11, you make my job a pleasure and I am very proud of you all.

J Cooper





Children In Need



All the fun of the Fair



Friday 18th November was certainly a day to remember for our students, who, armed with bags of 10p coins, flocked to the hall at 2pm to take part in the Fair. Old fashioned activities including Tin Can Knockdown, Bottle Toss, Sweet Pong, Cone Hoop, Apple Bob and Pin the Tail on the Donkey proved really popular and both the face painting and hair plaiting were winners with many of the girls. By the end of the afternoon a whopping total of £255.50 was raised, including the out of uniform donation. I should like to thank the Silloth Macmillan Charity Shop, Co op, Spar and JayBee's for their help providing prizes for students to win.



CHRISTMAS CAKE CLUB



Christmas lunch

Once again, Mrs Hoodless and her team excelled themselves; Christmas lunch was delicious and clearly enjoyed by staff and students, accompanied by festive music .



Shoebox Appeal - Operation Christmas Child

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.

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SPRING TERM 2017

STARTS

Thursday

5 January

Number of school days in term—62

ENDS

Friday

7 April

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 20 February—Friday 24 February

Good Friday-14 April

Easter Sunday - 16 April

SUMMER TERM 2017

STARTS

Monday

24 April

Number of school days in term—58

ENDS

Thursday

20 July

HALF-TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 29 May— Friday 2 June

Early May Bank Holiday

Monday 1 May

