

SOLWAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

February 2016 Newsletter No. 3



Dear Parents/Carers

This term, I have begun to realise how important the 'Community' part of our school name is. A school is often thought of as being at the heart of a community, a town, a village – and that's what we need to be.

The beginning of term saw us the victim of mindless vandalism; elsewhere in Silloth damage was done to Christmas lights and the Pagoda. A fierce debate began on social media about who was responsible.

The debate was joined by some of our students, concerned and even angry that they were being blamed for something that was not their fault. The vandalism at school got progressively worse. Then, it seemed to reach a tipping point; staff and students at school, supported by the local police, decided enough was enough. The police have taken action against some of the perpetrators, and a groundswell of opinion in school gathered momentum. This is our school. We should be protecting it, and proud of it, and not allowing a few individuals to damage and spoil what belongs to us all.

And the streets of Silloth are our streets. We want them to be safe, welcoming streets, not intimidating places for residents to avoid.

Last Thursday, some of our Year 10 boys arranged a meeting with Silloth Mayor Tony Markley. Although attendance was optional, almost the whole school turned up. We talked about how we can, as a school, put ourselves firmly at the centre of the community and make a difference to everyone's lives – for the better. Since then, the school council has come up with plans to start fundraising to replace the damaged Christmas lights; to put in place projects for our students to get involved in around the town – for starters, our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh boys will be volunteering with the coastguard on Saturday mornings.

Since Thursday, vandalism at school has stopped. We are not expecting to turn everything around instantaneously. But we are taking steps in the right direction to show we care about Silloth and we are indeed, a Community school. Read on to find out more about our school community this term.

J. Schafer

Mrs J Schafer
Headteacher

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Wednesday, 27th January Year 9, 10 and 12 History students at Solway took part in a live webcast organised by the Holocaust Education Trust to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. Solway students were among more than 30,000 students from 600 schools around the country who listened to a Holocaust survivor, Rudi Oppenheimer, tell his fascinating story. Born in Germany to Jewish parents, Rudi and his younger brother and sister fled Nazi persecution first to England and then to neutral Holland. Unfortunately for Rudi and his family, they were picked up by the Nazis when Holland was occupied by the Germans in 1940 and sent to a series of concentration camps. Eventually they were interned at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in northern Germany where more than 50,000 prisoners died of starvation and disease before the camp was liberated by the British Army in April, 1945. Though he never met them, Rudi was at Bergen-Belsen at the same time as Anne Frank and her sister Margot who both died of typhus in early 1945. Sadly, Rudi lost both his mother and father at Bergen-Belsen. Once the camp was liberated, Rudi and his brother and sister were sent to London where they were taken in and cared for by an uncle. Rudi Oppenheimer's tale of survival is an extraordinary one and to hear him tell it in person was moving, inspirational and a privilege.



S.O.S. Fundraising for the Silloth Lifeboat



SOS Day is all about getting together to have fun and beat the Winter blues while raising funds for the RNLI. Every penny raised helps our volunteer lifeboat crew save lives in 2016 and beyond.

Fund raising for our local boathouse is really important to us, as we appreciate the work our local volunteer lifeboat crew do helping people in need whether that be out in the Solway or indeed during the recent floods.



As usual, we held an "out of uniform" day plus this year we arranged a "soak the teacher" activity at lunchtime. In the cold windy weather of Friday lunch, five very brave teachers sat as human targets for large wet sponges. This proved to be a great success with our students who willingly paid the huge sum of 20p per sponge or 6 sponges for £1 for the privilege.



We were really pleased to be able to present representatives from our Lifeboat Crew with a cheque for £200.45 during the following Monday's assembly.



Year 5 Maths Day



On Wednesday 20th January, some of the Year 5 pupils from Allonby, Mawbray, Abbeytown and Silloth came to our school to have a fun, educating maths day. Four Year 7 students helped out with the maths day. They were Tia Henderson, Kian Orchard, Holly Smith and Becky Weightman. The task was Get Rich Quick!! There were 4 groups and they each started off with 20p. The aim was to have the most money. There were three types of cards easy, medium and hard. The easy card cost 5p, medium 10p and hard 20p. If you got the question right you would make a profit. If you got the easy right you got 10p, medium 20p and the hard 40p. Once they had enough money they could buy a clue to find a puzzle piece. Here is a quote from 2 of the year 5 pupils, “We thought some questions were easy and hard, but that was a good thing.” The first team to solve the puzzle won the biggest bonus. In 4th place was Team 1 with £1.35, 3rd place was Team 3 with £1.90, 2nd place was Team 4 with £2 and the winners were Team 2 with £2.10. Overall the maths day was great fun and really educating. All the Year 5 pupils seemed to of enjoyed it.

(Our Year 7 helpers)

What's on for Year 11

Day		
Monday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Science Rm13
Tuesday	3.00 – 4.00pm	English revision
Wednesday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Foundation Maths revision
Thursday	3.00 - 5.00pm	Revision, catch up, coursework
Friday	3.00 – 4.00pm	Higher Maths revision



Christmas Banquet 2015

Saturday the 12th of December is certainly a day that the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students will never forget.

Arriving in school between 8 and 9am, this enthusiastic group of pupils 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 very good 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.

At 5pm our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering pupils arrived to assist with the Front of House service and they proved an invaluable help throughout the evening. Thank you, Year 10.

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. At the end of service, we were surprised by the Lifeboat crew, who had brought a large certificate for the school in recognition of the fundraising we do for them over the year. This was presented to Josh, Emily and Natalie who accepted it on behalf of our student population.

The banquet was followed this year by the "Auction of Promises" and Tony Markley did a sterling job as the auctioneer, raising a total of £875 by the end of the night.

The raffle money this year was donated to the Cumbria Flood Relief. 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.

Our special thanks need to go to the following people for helping us with this really important event: Shona for organising and running the bar; Fausto for his help with the setting up of the hall and ensuring that our students produced hotel standard place settings; 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 our Chair of Governors, Professor Pimblott who expressed thanks to all students and staff involved at the end of 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.

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

J Cooper



Book Buying Trip

On Thursday the 28th of January Mr Green and Mrs Thompson took a group of Year ten girls to Hills' bookstores in Workington to choose books for the school library. The ten of us had to choose books that boys and girls of all stages would enjoy and find books that might intrigue people who don't enjoy reading very much. A lot of books we chose matched the KS3 Accelerated Reader scheme which the year seven, eight and nine students follow.

Parents and children can access the Accelerated Reader website through the school website and find out more.



Trip to University of Cumbria (Carlisle)



As part of our raising aspirations project at school a group of Year 9 students have been part of a five week program looking at University life and the opportunities higher education can offer. The Year 9 group worked with Bradley (a second year criminology student) and Judy (a final year law student) to look at all aspects of university life. As the final part of this program we were invited to take the students to a taster day at the University of Cumbria (Carlisle) on Wednesday 3rd February 2016. On the day we were treated to a comprehensive campus tour and given the opportunity to sample the University cuisine. It was a very informative day that has hopefully inspired our students to continue into further education.

Cumbria Cross Country Championships

Following on from the success at the Allerdale Cross Country Competition before Christmas, 7 of our students were selected to represent Allerdale at the Cumbria Cross Country Championships. On the 13th January 2016 Carley Walsh, Liam Tyrer, Cara de Mello, Leon Hewitson, Aeryn Clark, Macy Baker & Spencer Irving headed off to Sedbergh with Mr Sunter to compete against Cumbria's Cross Country elite. The weather was against everyone on the day and it even started snowing during a couple of the girls' races. Although we didn't have any victors, it was a fantastic experience and all the students did themselves and the school proud.



Netball trip - Liverpool

What a fantastic trip! Firstly a massive 'thank you' for the support from the parents and staff involved. The students had a fantastic time and we now have a large group of future England Netball stars on our hands! The trip was organised to encourage and inspire students and I believe this has definitely been achieved. Well done to all pupils who attended as you were a credit to the school and your parents. I cannot praise you all enough, well done.



Coaches in school

The girls have had a very exciting term so far in PE. We have worked hard this term to introduce some new and exciting sports into the curriculum, in order to provide new sporting experiences for the girls! Each week they have been working with two fantastic coaches: Tracey Gannon, girls coach for Carlisle United; and Trevor Richardson for Cumbria Rugby Union. Although a few showed worried faces when we told them they would have no Netball this term, the girls have very much enjoyed it and some are considering finding clubs nearby to continue training. They would certainly give the boys a run for their money! Keep working hard.



Butlin's Netball tour

Butlin's is fast approaching and all the girls involved are very excited! We will be having a trip meeting in February/March to discuss more details. Payment letters have already been handed out with deadline dates, if you have not received one or have any questions, please let me know.

BBL Final- Basketball

Thank you to all of those students who handed in money for the BBL basketball trip, this is now full and we currently have a long reserve list! Don't worry if you missed out, as this trip runs each year!



Absence Procedure Reminder

Our school attendance must be above 95%! It's a priority for us to make sure students are in school and learning to do as well as they can. We understand sometimes absence is unavoidable.

A quick reminder: if a child is unfit for school, parents should contact the school on the first day before 9am, in person or by telephone.

When the child returns, he or she must bring a written note, signed by a parent, for each period of absence. Absences will not be authorised without this procedure. Other reasons for absence must be discussed with the school each time. Leave may be granted in an emergency, or for medical appointments which are unavoidably in school time, provided a written explanation is received. Students need to bring a note to show the Office as they sign out. Copies of all medical appointments are stored in the child's personal file and recorded on the school's database.

If a child is absent for longer than 3 days without a valid reason, this will initiate a welfare check request by the police.

It's important to be here on time! Children must attend on time to be given a mark for a session. Parents please ensure that your children are present at registration (8.40am). Arriving more than thirty minutes after the start of the session without good reason is counted as unauthorised absence.



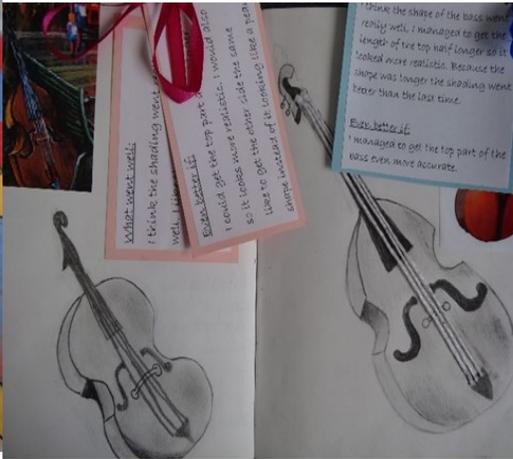
School starts at 8.40am

Students who arrive after registration must sign in at the Office with a good reason to get their mark. Parents will be notified if there is a recurring pattern of lateness. After 3 lates, a detention is issued.

Please be aware! If your child's attendance drops **below 90%** the school is now legally obliged to inform the Local Authority attendance department and this may start formal prosecution proceedings by Cumbria County Council.

Reminder for students who travel to school via School Transport Services

Students who travel to school using school transport must come straight into school when they are dropped off by the driver; from this time you are in our care and must not leave school premises. This means you must not then visit either the Co-op or the garage. This is for your own protection, and ours - we are responsible for you. You should come straight in to school where you can go to breakfast club in the hall where Angie and her team serve tea and the best toast and bacon rolls in the county!



A new online Art and Design Gallery will be launched soon.
 The new Gallery will showcase a selection of students' work from all year groups.

