



Teesdale School Science College and Sixth Form Centre



**Spring
Newsletter
2011**

Much of this term has been dominated by our consultation over conversion to Academy status. This was completed by February half-term after which Governors resolved to apply for conversion. The application was submitted to the DfE after half-term and we are still awaiting a decision.

You will see from the newsletter that we have also been very active internationally. During the Easter holidays we will have a group travelling to China to visit our partner school. We also have a group of 16 students in Bulgaria working on a Construction project, having hosted 17 Bulgarians at Teesdale School for 10 days. We have a link with a French Lycée, have a bid for €25,000 pending to develop joint Science projects next year and are also developing links with a school in Spain.



February saw our postponed production of 'The Wiz'. This was again of a high standard and played to appreciative audiences over the four nights. The Performing Arts department have already turned their attention to next year.



For the last year we have run with temporary arrangements in the management of the Maths and ICT faculty, however I am pleased to inform you that we have appointed a new Director of Maths and ICT for this coming September. He is Christopher Whitehead, who is currently at Park View School in Chester-le-Street.



As with all other public services we are having to manage another very difficult budget this coming year. Many of the 'ring fenced' grants are disappearing—one of these is for Extended Services. You will see however, what a fantastic contribution Extended Services, led by Eve Galloway, has made to the school. We are doing all we can to ensure that this continues despite budget cuts.

You will also have received a consultation document about school transport. I have included a covering letter to help you respond to this consultation. The implications for Teesdale are severe.



This has been a long term and after Easter we will be straight into the exam season. We wish those doing exams every success and are looking forward to another good year once the results are published.



Paul Harrison

School re-opens for students on Wednesday 4th May 2011



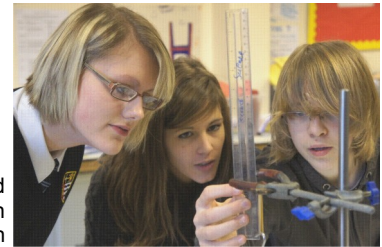


International
School Award
2009-2012

International Links

A Visit from France

Early in the Spring term 27 Students from the Lycee Lamarck in Albert, France visited Teesdale School for a cultural and scientific experience, with each student being hosted in school by a Year 11 student. During the week students engaged in team building activities such as bowling and visited the Bowes Museum, Durham City and Beamish Museum.



Rebecca Duffy Year 11 with 2 French Students

At the end of the week teams of French and English students completed Science challenges to test their language and Science skills with themed prizes for the most successful groups.

Throughout the week teachers from Teesdale and Lamarck met to put together a Comenius bid which, if successful, will give students the opportunity to visit France in Year 12 as part of a Physics and Science project. Neil Williams, Assistant Headteacher commented, 'The week has been very enjoyable for both sets of students, exploring linguistic, scientific and cultural differences. The French students received a welcoming stay and hopefully the partnership will flourish with exchanges in both directions in future years'.

Colin Cartwright our Business Manager added 'the enrichment opportunities we seek to provide our students are numerous and in austere times we are continuously exploring other opportunities to give these outstanding experiences to the students at Teesdale School'.

Sharing Construction Skills with Bulgarian Visitors

We hosted a group of 17 Bulgarian students from our partner school in Koprivshitsa for 10 days. The students are part of an exchange programme funded by the EU through the Comenius programme. The Bulgarian students worked with their English colleagues, who are following the school's Construction course, on designing and making a giant outdoor chess set. The work involved preparing and laying the foundations of the site and creating the board using paving flags. The students then went on to create all 32 pieces and weather-proofed them.



L—R Krastina Skenderova and Teodora Tzolokova

Our Headteacher, Paul Harrison said: 'This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students of two different cultures and countries to work together and they have produced a super piece of work which can be enjoyed by all our students.' The link between the two schools was created by a former Teesdale student who is now permanently living in the Eastern European country. The Bulgarian Project Coordinator, Viktor Markov added: 'This project has been a life changing experience for our students, most of whom have never left Bulgaria. It has undoubtedly stimulated them not only to improve their English but also to broaden their horizons.'

During their 10 day visit to the UK, the students, who were staying at High Force Outdoor Centre at Langdon Beck, also experienced a range of social activities including bowling, visiting Durham and Beamish Museum and a day of outdoor Activities. 16 Year 11 Teesdale students returned with the Bulgarians to Koprivshitsa to apply their construction skills to help to build a classroom using local sustainable building techniques. Both projects have contributed to the students' experience of various building trades and sharing of diverse cultures. The EU grant has meant that both sets of students have been able to experience each other's country all expenses paid.

TEESDALE SCHOOL GOES TO CHINA



After many months of planning, a group of Year 8 and 9 students are getting ready to go on a trip of a lifetime to China this Easter. The trip has been organised in collaboration with Tudhoe Grange School. Based in Beijing, we will have the chance to see some of the world famous sights that the city has to offer, including The Great Wall, the Summer Palace and the Ming Tombs.

As well as getting to see around Beijing we will be spending two days based at our partner school, of 5,000 pupils in Schijiazhuang which is south west of Beijing.

As preparation for the trip, a Chinese Club has been running every Friday lunchtime since September where we have learned, among other things to speak Chinese, use chopsticks and to do origami. We have also had a tea ceremony, learned about Chinese New Year, the Chinese culture and many other things from our two Chinese teachers.

We have also been working hard to fundraise for the trip and between the home-made cakes sales, the bike ride and the non-uniform day, we have done very well.

Student Ambassador wins top award

Alex Doyle one of our Year 11 students has won a prestigious Lions award for his contribution to society and leadership skills. The award, nominated by Teesdale Lions (a charity who aims to support people in the local area), resulted in Alex winning the area award to represent Scotland and the North East of England in the National heats in Dudley. At this event Alex won the Jubilee Sailors trust award, narrowly missing out on the overall young ambassadors prize to represent England at the international awards in Holland.

Mr Pilling (Assistant Head of Newton House) commented, "Alex is a tremendous role model for our younger students and contributes fully to the life of the school. He is proactive and always looking for ways to positively influence young people in the community. He is an excellent example of student leadership at its best and exactly what we are trying to create at Teesdale through vertical tutoring."

Alex's contribution to young people also extends into the community through his work with Barnard Castle Scouts and the YMCA. Recently, alongside 3 other students (Jack Whitbread, Sarah

Teesdale and Jess Hesp) Alex made a DVD comparing life for young people in Barnard Castle with those in Sunderland. This involved working alongside young people from Sunderland as well as hosting them from the city before visiting Sunderland to complete the DVD.

Head of Newton House, Nicole Read remarked 'Alex's example is one for others to follow. As part of his Jubilee Sailors award Alex is shortly going on a trip on the tall ships where he will have a choice of voyages around the UK and I'm sure he will have a great time.'

Assistant Headteacher, John Southeran added 'Given the tremendous leadership opportunities afforded by our unique vertical tutoring system, it is no surprise that Teesdale School's young people are showing tremendous community initiative and are destined to be active adult citizens of this locality in the future.'



Arts News

Fantastic Show

Now in December brought our annual show into February this year, and the main hall was filled with colour, technical wizardry and wonderful singing, dancing and music in our production of **The Wiz**. Accomplished and engaging performances were the order of the five showings with Jess Trevett (Dorothy), Natasha Holland (The Wiz), Dean Tomlinson (Scarecrow), Ryan Taylor (Tin Man) and Aidan Moreton (Lion) acting and singing with great professionalism.



The Wiz and Dorothy—
Natasha Harding and Jess
Trevett

Liam Hutchinson worked wonders with our new projection system. We are grateful for the energetic direction of teachers Miss Withill and Miss Windsor-Smith for bringing this wonderful production to life.

Musicians

Our Year 9 Music classes are busy preparing their own rock and pop for performances at the **Big Year 9 Gig** which will take place in the Drama Studio on the afternoon of Friday May 27.

Miss Withill has begun rehearsing with the singing group **The Pink Stilettoes** again and they plan to make a CD soon.

49 very excited students are also preparing to attend a performance of **Wicked** in the West End in July.

Drama

In Drama our exam groups gave thoughtful and entertaining performances with Year 12's interpretation of **Blue Remembered Hills** being a highlight.

Our Drama teacher Mrs Nergaard has left recently to begin her maternity leave. We wish her well and welcome Mrs Heitler who will teach her timetable for the time being.



Skilful Designs

In Design and Technology, final exam pieces have seen some extraordinarily high levels of skill in design and production. As an example, see the photograph above of Tom Sabey's light which he created for his AS Level exam.



New Members for Soul Band

Teesdale School Soul Band welcomed 10 new members recently and the band is now 29-strong. They also have our first ever electric violins!

On 31st March they gave a fantastic performance at Bowes Village Hall in aid of Friends of Bowes School. The concert also included notable solo performances from, among others, singers Anna Stainton and Jayde Richardson.



Busy in the Art Department too

Through extended services and former Teesdale student Jenny Cartwright, who gained a degree from Sunderland University in Animation, the Art Department has offered a **Manga Club** this term. These sessions have been very well received by all students involved.

Sixth form Art students have just completed their art exam and have worked very hard with some outstanding outcomes being created.



Successful Sixth Form Artists

We are celebrating Sixth Form art work with an **exhibition at the NEST** in the summer term with a private viewing on the evening of Friday 8th July 6pm-8pm. This will feature entertainment from The Pink Stilettoes and light refreshments. The exhibition will be open to all for the following week.

All students who have applied to study art at university have gained a place for September. Well done and good luck.

School Delighted with League Table Performance

Staff and students at school are delighted with their performance in the new school league tables released by the Department for Education. For the first time the new tables highlight the number of students achieving the English Baccalaureate which requires good GCSE grades in English, Maths, Science, a language and a humanities subject. 26% of students at Teesdale achieved the Baccalaureate, which resulted in the school being ranked fifth among state schools in County Durham. The school also had the fifth highest number of students in the county (68%) achieving five good GCSEs overall including English and Maths.

Paul Harrison, our Headteacher commented, 'As an International School, we have always recognised languages as an essential element of a curriculum designed to prepare students for success in the wider world. We are pleased that while other schools might have been tempted to reduce their language provision in recent years, we

have continued to support and promote this curriculum area and this is reflected in our high ranking in these new tables.'

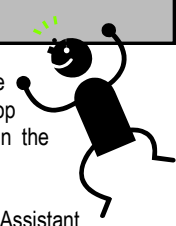
Simon Maguire, Assistant Headteacher expanded, 'These new league tables provide a further indication of the progress we are making in moving towards becoming an outstanding school, and reflect our commitment to provide the highest quality education. Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed to ensure that all students leave Teesdale with a portfolio of success, whether they choose an academic pathway, as indicated by our new rankings, or a vocational one in which increasing numbers of students are also attaining impressive results.'

Andy Childe, our Director of Humanities, added, 'Obviously I'm delighted at the new importance given to humanities subjects in these tables. History and Geography provide a fantastic opportunity to help

students understand the world we live in and develop essential academic skills in the process.'

Sue Beasley our Assistant Director of Languages and Literature, explained, 'In the global market of the 21st century, a second or even third language can be immensely useful. Moreover, study of a foreign language encourages a deeper understanding of the culture of other countries. We anticipate even greater success this summer as our first GCSE Spanish cohort sit their final exams.'

Sophie Metcalf, currently studying A-levels in the Sixth Form, expressed surprise at the retrospective award of her Baccalaureate, but said 'I'm pleased to receive another qualification; I enjoyed my Baccalaureate subjects at GCSE and I am really enjoying continuing my History studies at A-level.'



Extended Services

Table Games

A table football game and a pool table have been purchased from the 'Tell Us' survey funding which has allowed the development of popular new lunchtime and after school activities. Pastoral staff have organised lunchtime tournaments involving staff as well as pupils! Fridays have become girls-only days, to enable them to build up their skills and confidence on the pool table.



Relax in Comfort

Bean bags have been bought to create an informal seating area in the library. This has become known as the 'snug cinema' with its growing popularity as a lunchtime destination to watch films!



Gardening Club Raise Funds with a Festive Raffle

Following a visit to Ravensworth Nursery before Christmas, members of the gardening club made festive floral decorations and raffled them in school to raise funds for the club. The gardening club is grateful to staff at Ravensworth Nursery for demonstrating the techniques and providing the materials and plants to create festive baskets and wreaths.



Recently, when local primary schools visited Teesdale to see the Anne Frank Exhibition and watch a short film about Anne Frank in 'the snug', the Year 6 pupils rated the bean bags as being the best part of the morning!



First Aid Course

Certificates were awarded to 13 students, on completion of a 6 hour basic first aid course which took place after school earlier this term.



Radio Teesdale Workshops

The local radio workshops promised this term have been postponed and will begin in May, at Enterprise House on Wednesdays from 4pm-5.30pm.

Community Events

Teesdale School recently hosted the much acclaimed Anne Frank Exhibition, and on the Thursday evening when it was open to the community we also welcomed a guest speaker, Musa Hassan Ali, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. He told an audience of 75 people the very harrowing story of how he survived the atrocities of the late 90's. Our Year 9 peer mentors offered guided tours of the exhibition.

Family Cookery

The cookery course got underway again this term, with 5 families taking part each Thursday after school. Young people from Teesdale and Staindrop Secondary schools, joined by their siblings from Green Lane and Cotherstone Primary schools, under the watchful eye of school chef Nick Copson, have learned how to make soup, various pasta dishes, melon cocktail and banoffee pie!



Flawless at The Hub

Whilst we all wait with baited breath for the Hub to open its doors to the young people of Teesdale, our lucky students have already had a couple of opportunities to look around and get a feel for its potential. Probably the most exciting was last month when the dance group Flawless (of Britain's got Talent fame) dropped in for a visit and to be entertained by TCR's very own street dancers, Dance Zone, performing a routine they've been perfecting in recent months at TCR. Most of the dancers are Teesdale School students and they were totally blown away by the experience, and rewarded for it by a visit to The Civic Theatre in Darlington to watch Flawless in action!



Manga Art, Animation and Crafty things...

Following the success of the lunchtime Manga Art sessions (some 20 or so pupils taking part), Jenny and Wendy from Reality Studios have been offering a more in depth short course on Animation, on Wednesdays after school this term. 12 young people, including a pupil from Staindrop School, have been taking part, learning how to develop characters and basic animation techniques. Textile enthusiasts have been doing a spot of soft toy making using recycled materials at lunchtime each Monday. C5 is also the venue for a well attended textiles and embroidery club on Thursdays.



Night Aces

A new social club for Year 7 pupils has been meeting on a Thursday after school, run by staff from TCR. The young people attending have called it Night Aces, as it is really an after school version of the very popular lunchtime 'Ace of Clubs'. We have re-activated the school's membership of the Film Club through this group and in the future at least once a month will be film night! On Thursday 5th May we will be doing Lego robotics which promises to be a popular activity and others are welcome to join us! Club meets in the Cache hut at 3.45pm until 5.30pm. Activities are chosen by those attending.



Self Defence

16 young women signed up to learn self defence techniques and increase their awareness about personal safety with Taekwondo instructor Katie Wallace, over a six week course after school. At the request of some of the lads, we will be offering a series of martial arts sessions next term.



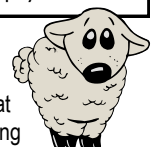
No Added Sugar

The Community choir led by Jane Ford continue to go from strength to strength, but would still welcome newcomers to the group. If you love to sing then do come along to join No Added Sugar on Tuesdays from 5-6pm. A £5 per half term fee is payable.

Parents' Day Off!

Parents have been having a fun time this term by taking part in 'Parent's Day Off!'. A small group of parents, Parent Support Advisors and Extended Schools' Coordinators from local schools went to Hamsterley Forest for a day of challenging, problem solving and team focused activities. This included some sheep herding, bomb diffusing and crossing a piranha infested river!! The day ended with den building in the forest. The parents all earned themselves a 'surviving the challenge'

certificate and offered some feedback that included "I've had so much fun. Its been great to get out and do something different with other Mum's rather than just being on my own all day. I'm really looking forward to the next day out."



The Parents have also gone on to enjoy an organised walk and are planning lots more adventure days off. If you are interested in joining one of the days out or want to find out more, please contact Nicola or Eve for further information"

Computer Know-how

"Do you know how to use a computer and can you keep up with what your child is doing on it? We are looking to organise a computer course that will work to give you the information you need. It is hoped the course will be for a period of time and will allow people to work at their own pace and get from it what they wish. Downloads, emails, social networks, file management, security measures are just some examples of what will be on offer. Get in touch with Nicola or Eve to find out more and express your interest."



For details of any of the extended services offered here in Teesdale school please contact me, Eve Galloway (eve.galloway@teesdaleschool.com) or on 01833 638166 ex 238. Mobile 07522034171. As always, I'm open to ideas and suggestions from parents and pupils!

Faraday House News



Happy Easter to everyone in Faraday. Many thanks for all the hard work this year – we know many Year 11 students have their exams coming up and hope they will use the Easter holiday to draw up a good revision plan – with rest breaks built in and a plan for what to cover by when! It's a tough time and we are trying to help where we can – please let us know if there is more help needed.

We wish Ms Nergaard all the best in her forthcoming maternity absence – those in her form will miss her dreadfully but I know you will all make Ms Heitler welcome in the meantime.

Many thanks to everyone who has helped with the planning of the breakfast bazaar – at the time of writing this has not yet taken place but we hope it will form the basis of a growing set of traditional whole school events which, as well as helping others, will bring the community and ourselves closer together. (I hope Mrs Wiseman manages to sell the contents of our spare room!)

Finally, a big well done to those Year 11's who have already got some GCSEs under their belts for Maths and English this year. It must take some of the pressure off you and it is an excellent achievement to reach target grades at this early stage. Brilliant!

Mr A Wiseman and Mrs A Pine



Newton House News

Newton House has had a fantastic although busy term. We have been working hard collecting merits and are still out in first place!

The student council have also worked hard making a display board in the entrance hall - so please stop and have a look at what they've been doing (and making us do!).

We would like to make a special mention to a couple of students— Anna Stainton for her performance in the regional unsigned talent showcase at the Tyne Theatre in front of 500 people! Her singing was amazing and it is another example of the talented students that we have both within our house and the school. We would also like to congratulate Alex

Doyle on his recent Lions award for outstanding community support and leadership, it was fantastic to see one of our students receive external recognition for the support that he offers to students both within and outside of our school community. Well done to both of you!

As we move towards the exam season we would like to wish all students who are sitting exams the best of luck. We are sure that with the amount of work that you have put in you should attain the grades you are capable of. If however you do feel that you need additional support please ensure that you see us in the pastoral office.

It is also the time of year when our Year 11 students flee the Newton nest! We would like to thank you for your input into

Newton House and wish you every success for the future and look forward to working again with those students staying on in our Sixth Form. We also hope that you are able to attend the Year 11 Prom on the 27th May, it is always a fantastic evening of celebration and we hope to see you there!

Finally, it has been a long and fruitful term; all our students have worked well and been an asset to the school. We wish both them and yourselves a very good and well earned Easter break.

Mrs N Read and Mr D Pilling

Goodall House News



Happy Easter to all Goodall students and parents. We hope those of you in Year 11, and your parents, realise how close Easter is to the exam season and are beginning to start revision – or are at least beginning to think about it!

Over the last term Goodall students have been involved in two challenges. One of which was the weekly inter-house and inter-form Eggheads challenge with questions set by Teesdale's very own BBC Egghead, Mrs Hebdon. Running over several weeks this resulted in a Goodall win.

Our students, during pastoral time, have also been involved in a Science Challenge in which students and forms were asked to invent or innovate a new scientific idea or device. A wide variety of ideas were put forward including on-line planners, a friend finder app for a mobile phone to tell you where your friends are, an electronic exercise book and an electronic device for getting a teacher's attention in class. After much deliberation the winners were Katherine Harding, Chris Woods and Andrew Gold from form GRA with their holographic 3D mobile phone. Well done to them and everyone who took part in the competition.

Can we thank all parents and students for their help and support over the last term especially with regard to helping us enforce the school uniform policy.

Mr I Falconer and Mrs J Bissicks

Who's the best?

	House Points	Merits
Newton	5335	26674
Faraday	4851	24252
Goodall	4299	21480

Geography Educational Visit to Collect Data

As part of their GCSE Geography course 45 Year 10 students attended a three day residential course with staff from the Field Studies Council based at Blencathra in Cumbria.

The students were collecting primary data 'in the field' for the controlled assessment element of their course. They visited the tourist 'honeypot' of Grasmere and collected data on topics such as traffic management, service provision, footpath erosion and the effects of tourism on the local environment. During the evenings the students were given expert advice from the Field Study staff on how to present their findings to maximise their potential grade. Unfortunately a proposed visit to nearby Glenderaterra Beck to study river processes had to be abandoned due to the extremely high winds which

were affecting the region at the time.

Ken Griffiths, Assistant Director of Humanities, explained, 'This residential not only provides students with an exceptional geographical experience, but it is also an opportunity to develop their social and personal skills which are essential in today's ever changing world.' Assistant Headteacher, Simon Maguire added, 'It is really important that students get the opportunity to supplement their theoretical understanding with practical experience in the real world. In this way we can continue to bring the new English Baccalaureate to life for our students.'



Cleo O'Callaghan - Yeoman, Libby Duffy, Megan Wilkinson, Hannah Shield and Cheri Louise Sowerby

STUDENTS RAISE £150 FOR COMIC RELIEF



Ellie Chapman a Year 10 student at school has successfully organised her team of Year 10 Health and Social Care students to carry out a cake sale in the school to raise money for Comic Relief. Ellie was disappointed that nothing had been organised for Red Nose Day and took it upon herself to write a letter to Mr Southeran (Assistant Headteacher) to ask permission for the cake sale to go ahead. She then asked several members of staff to donate cakes for her stall as well as the team making some home made creations. The team consisted of Ellie Chapman, Launa Blackburn, Tara Parkin, Danielle Williams, Nicole Rudge, Katie Gipps, Lauren Lockwood and Alisha McGinley. Ellie organised the students into two teams, arranged meetings to keep them up to date with their progress and sent off for Comic Relief resources to advertise the event.

Ellie showed outstanding leadership skills by independently organising her team with military precision but all the girls made great efforts which were very impressive. They worked well as a team and were very efficient. This group are a great example to other students who are thinking of raising money for charity and have demonstrated that this is achievable with minimum adult support.

The girls sold out within 20 minutes at break time on Friday the 17th March and raised £150 for their efforts. They had envisaged selling more at lunch time but instead went around the forms at pastoral selling red nose stickers demonstrating true business acumen. Well done girls!

Ms Moody (Health and Social Care Teacher)

PE News

Football Success At last!

Following on from the Christmas newsletter, the Year 11 football team are still progressing very well in the league. Since Christmas, under Mr Pilling's guidance, the team have won 4 of their last 5 games and have only a couple of games remaining to ensure Teesdale's highest position in the league for a very long time.

Our only defeat of the season came away at Durham Johnston School on a very, very dodgy pitch and a few slack errors from our defence caused us to lose the game 3-1! It was a game which we dominated, but we couldn't convert our chances. We also unfortunately lost Scott Cooper with a broken ankle during the first half and for the rest of the season. Therefore, with one lad still thinking up excuses (he had a meeting one week, 14 years old and he has meetings already! - brilliant!), another with a broken ankle, a broken wrist, one off to Teesside Park, one being ill and a few lads complaining of grazed knees we had to draft in some Year 10 boys for a couple of games!

They did really well with Reece Tully scoring twice on his debut, Jake Hogg looking very comfortable and strong at centre-back and Curtis Brunell in goal, as reliable as ever.

Our games have always had goals in them beating Sunnydale 4-1, Gilesgate 2-0, King James 4-1 and more recently, Parkside 7-1. Also, congratulations must go to Brandon Wearmouth who opened his account for the school with a spectacular goal at Sunnydale.

We have played some great games, keeping the ball from the opposition with good passing and I'm sure with more composure in front of goal (Mikey, Maysy, Laffey!) we could have had many more goals but I can't fault the lads for the way they have played this season.

Ryan May is currently top scorer with a few scuffed efforts, Robbo continues to



Footballers in the making!—Year 11 team when they were starting out in Year 9.

take out the man rather than the ball but a special mention goes to Sam Laffey who almost put a ball in Glaxo's back yard from 10 yards out - a truly spectacular effort!

Overall it's been a very good season and I hope that you continue to play football when you move up to Sixth Form or if you are moving on from Teesdale. It's been great to be involved with this team and I hope that we get the top three finish that we deserve. Well done lads!

Mr Pilling

SKIP FOR HEART HEALTH

During Teesdale School's recent Science week the PE department have raised £977 for the British Heart Foundation. The department were in action raising awareness of the importance of a healthy heart. Lessons focused on the structure and function of the heart and ways in which to improve its health and efficiency through exercise. The remainder of the weeks lessons were spent having mini skipping competitions which culminated in a sponsored skip for all pupils in Years 7 to 9.



The sponsored skip involved a continuous skipping element in relays followed by pair and group skipping using very long ropes to accommodate up to 10 pupils at a time!

Head of PE, Jean Brennan said "The idea of the week was to contribute to the whole school Science week. It seemed appropriate to raise awareness of healthy hearts whilst raising some money for a very worthy cause. The pupils have shown extreme generosity in their efforts for charity. Top fundraisers include Tabitha Gillard (over £80) Sian Mitchell (£72) and Lewis Kesterton (£53). However, I am proud of all our students whether they raised £1 or £80".

REVISED SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2010 / 2011

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Easter 2011 (Easter, May day + Training day)	Friday 15 April 2011	Wednesday 4 May 2011
Summer Half-term 2011	Friday 27 May 2011	Monday 6 June 2011
Summer 2011	Wednesday 20 July 2011	Tuesday 6 September 2011 For Years 7, 12 & 13
		Wednesday 7 September 2011 For Years 8, 9, 10 & 11
Teacher Training Day	Thursday 21 July 2011—school closed to students	
Royal Wedding (holiday in lieu)	Friday 22 July 2011—school closed	

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2011 / 2012

Holiday	Closing Date	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2011		Tuesday 6 September 2011 For Years 7, 12 & 13
		Wednesday 7 September 2011 For Years 8, 9, 10 & 11
Autumn half term 2011	Thursday 20 October 2011	Monday 31 October 2011
Christmas 2011	Friday 16 December 2011	Wednesday 4 January 2012
Spring half-term 2012	Friday 10 February 2011	Monday 20 February 2012
Easter 2012	Friday 30 March 2012	Monday 16 April 2012
Training Day (Friday 4 May 2012) & May Day 2012	Thursday 3 May 2012	Tuesday 8 May 2012
Summer Half-term 2012	Friday 1 June 2012	Monday 11 June 2012
Summer 2012	Friday 20 July 2012	To be determined

Duke of Edinburgh

This year we have a group of 38 pupils between the age of 14 and 17 completing either the bronze or silver awards. Students are currently getting involved with volunteering in the community and taking up new skills and sports. To complete the award students will plan and lead a two day expedition through the Lake District on foot, using canoes or mountain bikes.



At the beginning of the year we set up a partnership between Staindrop School and Teesdale Community Resources. The idea is, by combining students and staff, we will be able to offer more skills and training to the participants. The groups currently meet fortnightly at Teesdale but will soon make full use of the newly built Hub and all the facilities on offer.

Important note:

Teacher training days for 2011 / 2012 will be:

Monday 5 September 2011
Friday 21 October 2011
Tuesday 3 January 2012
Friday 4 May 2012

Therefore the school will be closed to students

Sixth Form News



Business Studies

A group of six Year 13 students represented the school in the Institute of Chartered Accountants annual business competition held at Northumbria University on 9th March.

The students worked as a team on a case study about a jewellery business that was experiencing a number of internal and external problems. The students gave a 5 minute presentation to a panel of judges with their justified recommendations of actions the business should take. Whilst waiting for the judges decisions, the students were given an interesting presentation about careers in chartered accountancy, and the entry routes into the profession.

The team of Matthew Brough, Diane Harrison, James Wilson, Jamie Holder, Jack Edenborough and Ashleigh Kettlewell gave an impressive presentation, but unfortunately were not successful in reaching the national finals in Birmingham.



Ready Steady Cook

With the increasing costs of student life, Year 13 students have been challenged to produce a recipe for a 2 course meal for 4 for a tenner. The recipes are being collected together, and will be published in a booklet for each Year 13 student when they leave school next term. In addition to finding recipes, students have also had the opportunity to cook and eat a meal together using the school's cookery room on a Friday lunchtime.

Visitors from Lesotho

On Wednesday 2nd March the Humanities faculty welcomed to school a group of eight adult visitors from Lesotho. The visitors were in Durham with the link between Durham Diocese and the Anglican Church in Lesotho.

After being given a tour of the school by Jess Trevett and Libby Harding, both of whom will be going to Lesotho in October, the visitors worked with small groups of students from Year 7 to investigate and compare family life in Teesdale with life in Lesotho. After completing the session with Year 7 students, our guests led an assembly for Goodall House, which included the performance of some traditional songs used in their worship in Lesotho.



University Applications



Nearly 50 of our current Year 13 students have completed applications to start degree courses in September 2011, and are currently making the difficult decision of which place to accept as their firm offer.

With the government's changes to tuition fees for degrees starting in 2011, competition for places has been fierce this year, and a considerable number of students have been invited for interviews. We have been very grateful to members of Barnard Castle Rotary Club who have once again assisted our students in preparing for their interviews by holding mock interviews in school.



Sixth Form Council

The 6th form council has continued to meet regularly this term. The main areas for discussion have included the facilities in the Common Room, and a decision was taken to purchase a pool table for the Common Room. This has proved extremely popular, and it has already paid for itself. Further revenue from the table will be used by the council to purchase additional resources for the 6th form, with a new stereo at the top of the shopping list.

The Council are also in discussion with the school's Business Manager investigating school catering. The students organised a questionnaire to establish what 6th form students wanted to purchase, and how items could be best made available for students.

Year 13 members of the Council are beginning to turn their attention to their last few weeks at school. They are working with Sue Littlefair, who has supplied Hoodies for 6th form students for the last two years, on a design for a Leavers' hoody.

Information from the Exams Department

Summer Examinations Information for Years 9 – 13

All students taking examinations in May/June 2011 have been issued with an examination timetable and a master copy is on the Examinations section of the school website. The website also has information regarding JCQ regulations and school policy regarding examinations. Please find below a brief outline of regulations which must be followed:

- Pupils should arrive in school 15mins before the start of the exam for registration.
- Pupils must wear school uniform.
- If pupils are going to be late, parents must phone the school immediately.
- Mobile phones are not allowed in an examination room.
- Pupils must bring the correct equipment i.e. black pens, calculators, coloured pencils—these must be in a clear pencil case or plastic bag.
- Pupils may have a bottle of water with the label removed (no juice, pop etc).

GCE results will be issued on Thursday 18 August and GCSE results on Thursday 25 August 2011.

If you have any queries about examinations, please contact the Examinations Department on 01833 638166.



Looking for a part time job? Then read on.... Exam Invigilators Required



Exams are among the most important and stressful events in the life of any learner. That's why it's so important they are conducted in the correct way. Invigilators are crucial to this process. Invigilators help to make sure the right candidates are in the right places. They give out vital information such as start and finish times of exams and ensure candidates have all the materials and information needed for each exam. They also help to prevent cheating.

Working as a team, invigilators contribute to ensuring students have a calm environment for the exams which gives candidates confidence in the process.

We are looking for more invigilators to help oversee our exams. Invigilators need to be reliable and punctual, highly flexible, able to relate to learners and comfortable in a high pressure environment. It's a part-time role, but one that can make a real difference.

For more details, contact the Exams Department at school.



Science

Teensdale School's Science College News



Sean Hockney and Sophie Metcalf hard at work.



William Harvey
(1 April 1578 – 3 June 1657)

The NHS in County Durham offer a unique opportunity to Year 10 pupils to begin a programme which gives them access to NHS training and facilities. The purpose is to promote the NHS as a career option for pupils in the North East. The programme, called The William Harvey Project, began in October 2010 with four Year 10 and one Year 11 pupils attending an afternoon training course on First Aid at the Science Learning Centre, North East.

The course covered:-

- Resuscitation
- CPR
- The Recovery Position
- Dealing with Heart Attacks
- Attending the scene of Strokes and Shocks

The pupils practised on life like dummies, each other and were given advanced background science about myocardial infarction, the sino-atrial node, fibrillation, defibrillation, tachycardia and ventricular tachycardia.

This is the third cycle of the William Harvey Project. The first cycle left school in July 2010. Remarkably, THREE out of the four Teensdale pupils in the first cycle are now studying Medicine at University: one at Oxford, one at Imperial College London and one at Sheffield University.

BUDDING ENGINEERS

In December a team of engineering students went to Lancaster University to build a prototype hydroelectric model to prove that water can produce electricity. After a briefing by Dr George Aggadis, senior lecturer in renewable energy engineering, the team were given a short tour of the hydroelectricity research area to visualise how hydroelectric technology works.

Following the induction the team set about making their prototype. They had to build the model from scratch. During the workshop the team learned a lot of new skills and knowledge on proving the concept of hydro power. By the end of the three days the team had a working model of how hydroelectricity can be produced.



Libby Harding and Jonathan Coll visit MEDlink

Students visit conferences

At Teensdale School we are passionate about giving students opportunities to help them with their careers. As part of this commitment we have sponsored five students in Year 12 to visit the MEDlink and VETlink conferences. Students have had the chance to meet like minded students, take part in hands on activities and gain useful experiences that will help them as part of their UCAS applications.



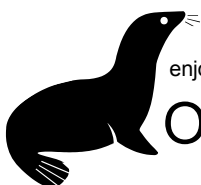
medlink
www.medlink-uk.com



YEAR 11 STUDENTS DOING DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE TAKE A TRIP TO TYNEMOUTH

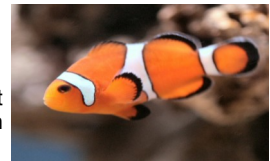
The trip was for the Year 11 Double Award Science group and when we arrived at the Blue Reef Aquarium it looked small on the outside but when we got inside realised that the building had a wealth of information about what the underwater world had to offer and there was plenty to see.

There were numerous displays showing the sea-life of the British coast, the underwater gardens of the Mediterranean and the dazzling beauty of a spectacular coral reef.



The huge variety of displays were amazing. The students attended a touch pool workshop where they were allowed to touch different species and find out about their diet, habitat, and survival strategies. This was also enjoyed by the French exchange students who were here.

Outside of the aquarium, students were invited to watch the seals and find out about some of the problems they face in the wild for survival. They also attended otter feeding and a talk on sharks and rays in the glass tunnel under the sea.



The Truth is Out There!

The truth is out there as students from Teensdale School found out when they took part in the BBC School Report Day on Thursday 24th March. The Year 7 students produced a tongue-in-cheek bulletin for the BBC when they reported on Alien sightings in the area.

The students planned, created and performed their own spoof bulletin giving excellent performances by role-playing as eyewitnesses and scientific experts on the Alien sightings. The idea evolved from the recent very successful science themed week that had taken place in Year 7; the students had learnt about the discovery of planets and technology advancements which they carried into their school



report. Although there was no apparent footage of aliens recorded, as Year 7 know, the truth is out there!



Mr Neil Williams, Assistant Headteacher (Science College) stated that 'it was fantastic that the Science themed week gave the students the opportunity to expand their learning of science into other areas of the curriculum'. English Teacher, Nicole Read added: 'The students worked extremely hard throughout the project doing a fantastic job, they are a credit to themselves and the school, well done!' Courtney Sowerby in Year 7 said 'I really enjoyed the filming and it was good to be on the television!'

The film can still be viewed through the school website, www.teesdaleschool.com/students.

Visit to the Life Centre

Students in Year 9 visited the Life Centre in Newcastle for an all singing and dancing Science day. Pupils had the chance to visit the exhibition at the life centre and engage in lots of different activities. They were treated to a demonstration of solids, liquids and gases, took a tour of the solar system in the Life Centre's Planetarium, went on a "virtual ride" and finished off with ice skating followed by a hot chocolate. By the end of the day pupils had learned a lot about how Science links into many different things.



Keeping cool in the desert
L-R Amy Gold, Adam Wheeler, Ben Robinson & James Wilcox