

## From the Headteacher

**This** edition of Beaumont Life has come around very quickly due to the Easter break since the last; hence it is a little shorter than usual. I mentioned last month that our tremendous U15 Boys' Basketball team had just become national champions so in this edition we have some more detail. Well done to all our basketball teams – boys and girls - all of whom have had great successes this year, and also to our Year 11 Boys' Football squad who are District champions. Congratulations!

**Please** do read as well, the text of the letter from Her Majesty's Inspector, James McNeillie, giving feedback on the 'outstanding' outcome following the English Ofsted inspection. The letter itself is on the school website too and should be on the Ofsted website by the time you read this.

**It** was a very busy half term leading up to Easter, culminating in the Appeal against the decision of the St Albans District Council regarding the refusal of planning permission for the new access and school development proposals. We expect to hear the outcome at the start of May (earlier than originally anticipated), and I will inform you all as soon as I know it. We have no idea whether the Inspector will find in our favour or not but whatever the outcome, the attention to detail of our team was second to none.

**Members** of our school community are frequently involved in raising awareness of and funds for various charities; a special mention must be made in this respect of Louise and Andrew Taylor's recent Assembly and fund-raising for Wayne's Fund – a charity which purchases defibrillators for schools. See page 4 for more details.

**Finally** please do keep an eye on the website for information about the start of summer uniform. I anticipate that this will be prior to May half term but it will depend on the weather.

I wish you all a happy 'long weekend' and hope the sun shines on the royal wedding!

Elizabeth Hitch

## May Diary Dates

Mon	2	BANK HOLIDAY – school closed 1st Day of Home Study begins for Year 13 IB students. IB External Examinations begin
Weds	4	BSA Committee Meeting 7.30pm Library
Thurs	5	Year 11 Performing Arts performance 5pm, room 60/61
Fri	6	Junior Maths Challenge
Mon	9	GCSE Art Examination Years 7, 8 and 9 Internal exams all week (in lessons). Maths exams will be w/c 16 May.
Tues	10	GCSE Art Examination AS Drama examination 3.25pm onwards Hall + room 60/61
Weds	11	AS/A2 Art and Design Examination Governor Resources meeting 4.30pm Board Room GCSE Drama examination 3.25pm onwards Hall + room 60/61
Thurs	12	Residents meeting 6pm Library AS/A2 Art and Design Examination GCSE Drama examination 3.25pm onwards Hall + room 60/61
Fri	13	AS/A2 Art and Design Examination
Mon	16	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Home Study begins for Year 12 AS level students 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Home Study for Year 11 students AS and GCSE examinations start Governor Community Committee 6.30pm Board Room
Tues	17	Curriculum Enrichment Day
Weds	18	Beaumont Life Deadline
Fri	20	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime
Mon	23	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime
Tues	24	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime Full Governors meeting 7.00pm Library
Weds	25	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime <b>BSA AGM 7.30pm Library – all welcome. Come and try out the new Outdoor Gym!</b>
Thurs	26	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Home Study for Year 13 A2 students
Fri	27	Year 9 Millionaire Makers charity event at lunchtime
Mon	30	HALF TERM – School closed

For details of sports fixtures please check the PE Blog [www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com](http://www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com)

Beaumont welcomes comments from parents/carers and families about any aspect of school life.  
Please contact us via our email [admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beaumont.herts.sch.uk)

## Sports News

### Basketball Successes

**Beaumont** Basketball teams have had a fantastic season, culminating in four of the teams being crowned County Champions in their respective age groups, one team taking runners up place in the National Championships, and the Under 15 Boys finishing the season as undefeated District, County, and National Champions.

**The girls** won an outstanding victory in the Senior County Cup Final, beating Queens School to retain the trophy. Being a young team (two Year 9s and seven Year 11s) they were understandably a little nervous about playing a senior final. Some excellent play however saw the team home in the tightest of games, beating Queens School 42 to 41 points. The girls showed a lot of character in a very well deserved victory. Beaumont Player of the Match was Cleme Lewis.

**The U14 boys** also took the County Championship crown in their age group, by beating local rivals St Columba's 66-64. Having played and lost to the same opponents in last year's final, the Beaumont boys led for most of the game and came out eventual winners of a close and competitive match. Beaumont Man of the Match was Aidan Gastaldi Davies. Unbeaten throughout season, the squad are now both District and County Champions.



**The Under 18 boys** squad went into their County Final match against St George's School, aiming to retain their position as County Champions which they had achieved last year in a close game with St Columba's. This year's win was a relatively comfortably 59 – 37 affair, with Tayo Oyefusi being Beaumont's Man of the Match. The boys also ended what has been a very successful season as runners up in both the National championships and County Rally.

**The U15 Boys** have also had an extremely successful season. Like the U14s, they are unbeaten throughout the season. They became County Champions by beating St Columba's 57-54 in their County final, Beaumont Man of the Match being Kieran Gastaldi Davies.

**The U15 boys** also achieved major success in the National Championships, winning through at the end of March to the final in Nottingham against last year's winners Bluecoat School from Liverpool. The Beaumont squad played an excellent game, winning 69 - 57 to become National Champions. Kieran Gastaldi Davies played superbly and again earned the Beaumont Man of the Match award. The whole squad deserve great credit for their performances this season. They have remained undefeated all season, winning 15 games, scoring over 1000 points and becoming District, County and National Champions.



**The** school's remaining teams also had successful seasons, with the U12 mixed squad being County rally finalists, and the U15 girls being runners up in the County championships. Thank you to all the players for their hard work and commitment this season that has led to such outstanding results.

**Match** reports and statistics can be found on the PE Blog <http://beaumontschoolbasketball.blogspot.com/>

Mr Stewart

## District Football Success

**Beaumont Under 16s** beat Marlborough 2-0 in the District Cup final at Woollams on 5 April. James Kaloczi and Jack Woods were the scorers, The boys played a controlled first half and as the game progressed began to hit on the break, particularly down the left. The second half saw us play into the wind but we still had control of the game and scored midway through the half with captain James Kaloczi hitting an unstoppable first time shot from over 20 yards. Marlborough then conceded a free kick around 30 yards out. Tom Li drove the ball into the penalty area which was met perfectly by Jack who headed it home. The boys deserve this win after two very good seasons where they have stuck together and worked hard as a squad.



**Congratulations** to Year 11 on becoming District Champions in their final match together. Parents have expressed their thanks to Mr Willsher and Mr Stewart for their continuing support for the team.



**The Under 15s** also reached their District Cup final but unfortunately lost to Townsend at the final hurdle. The Under 15 team had done very well to reach the final for the second time in four years. Although we were dangerous on the break and worked the Townsend keeper on a number of occasions, Townsend played the more fluent football in general and scored twice in the second half to take the District Championship. Hopefully the boys will take encouragement from their results this year and emulate the Year 11 team to win the cup next season.

**Mr Stewart**

## Beaumont Students do the Business

**Business minded** Year 12 students trading under the name 'Ares' recently attended a Young Enterprise Programme workshop run by Price Waterhouse Cooper at their offices in St Albans under their 'PwC in the Community' programme. They attended as part of their preparation for the next stage of the Young Enterprise Competition which will be held in May when they will be competing against other local schools in the St Albans & Harpenden District round of the competition, hoping to win through to the County finals.



**Along** with students from other local schools who are also taking part in the Young Enterprise programme, they spent an evening learning about report writing and presentation skills which will stand them in good stead for preparing their presentations in May.

**Ares** are focusing on the gift market. They successfully created and sold local-scene, seasonal cards at Christmas (generating over £800 profit) and are following up with innovative pop-art portraits of local residents. Artist Roger Harlow who designed the Christmas cards for Ares has trained the team of eight to translate a digital photograph into an 'I-Portrait', using Andy Warhol/Julian Opie texture and colouring techniques. Each 'I-Portrait' will be unique to the person who commissioned it, be professionally mounted ready for framing and will sell for £10.

**Ares** hope to be successful in future rounds of the Young Enterprise competition. 24 local South Herts Young Enterprise companies will compete soon to go through to the county round of the 2011 Young Enterprise National competition. From there two teams will be chosen for the East of England 'semi-final'. The national final is in London in July with 10 teams in contention. Good luck to Beaumont's team!

## Charity Fundraising



**Year 9** students recently handed over the proceeds from their cake sale and Talent competition to Sophia Masood from McMillan Cancer Support



**The** non-school uniform day on Friday 1 April raised money for Wayne's Fund. Wayne's Fund raises money to get defibrillators in schools. As well as the non-uniform, there was also a cake sale, with cakes made and sold by our friends, which also helped a lot towards the total amount of money raised. Altogether the school raised around £1800, which is the most the school has ever raised on a charity day. Wayne's Fund is extremely grateful for the donation towards their charity. Thank you so much for everyone's contributions. We hoped to raise enough money to buy one defibrillator but due to everyone's kind donations we raised enough money for almost two. Hope you all had a good day!

**Louise and Andrew Taylor**

## House Icons

**During** the last House Day some students worked in Houses to create giant size representations of their House Heroes - Luther King, Elgar, Austen, Redgrave, Newton, and Seacole. Each student completed a section of their House picture; the posters are on display in the Hall and are well worth a look. They are amazing!



Dear Mrs Hitch

## Ofsted 2010–11 subject survey inspection programme: English

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of the staff and students, during my visit on 7 and 8 March 2011 to look at work in English.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our national evaluation and reporting. Published reports are likely to list the names of the contributing institutions but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

The evidence used to inform the judgements included: interviews with staff and students; scrutiny of relevant documentation; analysis of students' work; and observation of eight lessons.

The overall effectiveness of English is outstanding.

### Achievement in English

Achievement in English is outstanding.

- Attainment in English has been consistently well above average at the end of Key Stage 4, with 90% of students obtaining A\* to C grades in 2010. Almost all students are also entered for GCSE English Literature. The proportion of students attaining the highest grades in English and English Literature is significantly above the national average. Attainment at Key Stage 5 is similarly strong for all groups of students. No significant gaps exist in the attainment of different groups.
- Standards on entry to the school are above average. Students' progress is good overall and some make exceptional progress. As a result of one-to-one tuition, students who enter school with low literacy levels are supported very well and make good progress. Boys' progress in 2010 was stronger than girls' progress.
- Progress in the lessons observed was good overall and outstanding when students were able to develop as independent learners. Students have positive attitudes to English and apply themselves well to the work set.

### Quality of teaching in English

The quality of teaching in English is good.

- Students enjoy English and respond well to their teachers' high expectations. Very positive relationships exist. Teachers have excellent subject knowledge and use this with striking impact during lessons. When teaching was particularly strong, it enabled students to become actively involved in their own learning.
- Teaching observed in Key Stage 5 was strong and gave students good opportunities to develop as independent learners. Recent staff training has been focused on strategies to support independent learning even further.
- High-quality questioning is used to probe students' understanding and extend their thinking. This also enables teachers to assess effectively how well students are learning in lessons. Marking is consistently accurate and of a high quality, with many examples of precise feedback on how to improve.

### Quality of the curriculum in English

The curriculum in English is outstanding.

- The high-quality curriculum meets the needs of all students and has an excellent balance of reading, writing and speaking and listening opportunities. Year 7 English begins with an innovative focus on engaging students in creative and imaginative writing. This is extended in Year 8 with students writing a story for a child they met while visiting the local primary schools. Students have explicit opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills, for example in public speaking units of work. The topics chosen in this unit are both interesting and challenging, ranging from footballers' pay to 'What is art?' and natural selection.
- Students study a wide range of poetry, prose fiction, drama, media and non-fiction texts across the key stages. These text choices include substantial examples from the English literary heritage as well as modern, thought-provoking texts. The school's librarian supports students' access to an increasing number of high-quality high quality literature including novels in translation. Students are given some opportunities to engage with new technologies in lessons.

- Sixth-form consortium arrangements mean that students can study both English Language and English Literature to A-level standard. Students and teachers speak extremely highly of the impact of the International Baccalaureate although the course is no longer a viable option for the consortium.
- A wide range of enrichment activities increases students' experience of English. Opportunities for live theatre benefit almost all students in each year group. For example, during the inspection a theatre company was performing an adaptation of *Macbeth* to all Year 9 students and frequent trips to theatres involve whole year groups. One of the school's curriculum enrichment days allowed Year 8 students to apply their knowledge and skills as part of a newspaper editorial team. Key Stage 5 students attend lectures given by university academics.

### Effectiveness of leadership and management in English

Leadership and management in English are outstanding.

- The head of department leads a team that has a shared goal of ensuring that students leave school with high standards of attainment but also with an appreciation of English language and literature. The range of experience and expertise of the team adds to its success. Some teachers bring with them a significant amount of teaching and assessment experience. Those newer to the profession add value with their ideas of how to increase student engagement even further.
- The department is held in high regard and has been extremely well-supported by the senior leadership team. Professional development is encouraged and enabled. For example, one member of the department is currently seconded to a higher education institution.
- The school's self-evaluation in English is thorough and accurate. Monitoring and evaluation are exceptionally well developed and this results in areas for improvement being addressed with rigour. An example of this is the recent review of AS teaching and learning because of the department's disappointment in one aspect of the 2010 results.

### Areas for improvement, which we discussed, include:

- increasing the proportion of outstanding teaching by ensuring that all lessons give frequent and relevant opportunities for students to be actively engaged in their own learning
- extending the opportunities for students to engage with new technologies, such as using blogs and podcasting, as a routine part of English lessons.

I hope that these observations are useful as you continue to develop English in the school.

As I explained previously, a copy of this letter will be published on the Ofsted website. It may be used to inform decisions about any future inspection. Except in the case of academies, a copy of this letter is also being sent to your local authority.

Yours sincerely

**James McNeillie**  
Her Majesty's Inspector



## A Message from Maths

The Maths Department will be placing an order for GCSE Revision guides: watch out for the letter coming home (a copy will also be on the school website) and place your order if you would like one for your child.



## Beyond Beaumont

**Huw Hopkins**, a student who completed his A levels at Beaumont in 2010, has just had his first solo exhibition at the age of 18! He achieved an A\* in Photography A level and has continued his passion for the subject, specialising in landscape photography. His subject matter ranges from the Hertfordshire countryside to the Lake District, and from Swiss mountains to the stunning landscape of Iceland. Huw's exhibition was at the Aphorh Gallery at the Radlett Centre.

## History News

### Hampton Court 2011

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March the whole of Year 8 set off on the annual History Department trip to Hampton Court, home to one of England's most famous monarchs, Henry VIII. It was a beautiful spring day and the parkland outside the Maze looked particularly seasonal with its blanket of daffodils. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day at the Historic Royal Palace and represented Beaumont impeccably. Many students were lucky to experience experts talking to them in the various areas of the palace such as the magnificent kitchens (8R), describing how the food for the 600 members of the court was prepared, cooked, and served twice a day. Meat was served frequently and even the lowliest of servants would have eaten it. Many of the meals featured pies - the early English take away (you only ate the contents and returned the pie case so it could be used again, like a cooking pot). Henry's meals were not cooked here, but elsewhere in the palace in his own private kitchen; the fact that he could afford to feed and house so many people was a statement of his benevolence and his power. There was also no waste from the kitchen; any left-overs went to the poor that waited outside the palace gates every day. This of course, meant that for those who ate in the Great Hall or the Great Watching Chamber it was rude to eat all the food that they had been served as this would mean nothing for the poor. A complete contrast to anything your mum or dad may tell you today!

**Some** were lucky enough to meet the great man Henry VIII himself, who was very busy, giving an audience to the members of the public in the Great Hall. He did, however, stop to have a break from his busy day to talk to 8A and 8L, particularly commenting on how busy Miss McCrorie and Miss Pearson must have been to have so many children! Students had to greet the King in the accepted manner (on bended knee and exclaiming "God save the King!") and he invited questions from them.

**Overall**, this was another fantastic visit to the palace, enjoyed by staff and students alike and we look forward to the return visit, this time next year. Many thanks to all the staff involved, both on the trip and back at school. Special thanks to Mr Greenhaf for organising it, Ms Wensley and Ms Esmizadeh for guiding their groups and Miss McCrorie and Mrs Masters for guest-starring as History teachers and for guiding groups on the day. And not forgetting Mrs Pellington's sterling works in the finance office organising the administration of the trip.

**Coming** next CED day: Year 7 invade the Tower of London!

Miss Pearson

## History Department and Student Voice Team Up

**Last** year the History Department trialled various ways of seeking more student views and participation in their History curriculum.

**We** have continued this year. Building on work started in Year 10, we recently surveyed our **Year 11** students regarding their views of the new GCSE. 60 students completed the questionnaire; examples of some of the questions follow with a summary of the responses in italics.

### Are you still glad you picked GCSE History?

**Yes - 54, mostly** *"because it is so interesting;"* **some said** *"the most interesting subject that I have chosen."*

**No - 3** *"I didn't realise how much you had to remember and I think it just gets boring." "Courses weren't as good as I hoped."*

### How did you find the Controlled Assessment?

**16 said** *"good or ok because we could have our notes to help us."*

**15 said** *"hard, because we had to find the sources."*

**Some commented they** *"wished it was like the old system of coursework."*

**Some said** *"it's easier because we can only write a certain amount in the time given."*

**Whereas some other students found this** *"restrictive."*

### Have you chosen History at A level? Why/why not?

**Yes - 28. Reasons included:** *"I enjoyed GCSE course; History is interesting and fun; it is a good subject to have and has a high status; liked the look of the AS course."*

**No - 31; Not sure - 1. Reasons included:** *"didn't fit in with other choices; no link to University choices; too hard; doing too many other essay based subjects at AS."*

**Overall**, the History Department was pleased that the course was enjoyed by the vast majority of the students. Many made valuable and interesting comments that will help with our future planning.

**We** also filmed some of our **Year 12s** answering questions that pertain to the AS course. Thanks to some of our History Captains for their input here. Again, their views can aid future planning.

**We** will undertake another Student Consultation with **Key Stage 3 pupils** in the Summer Term.

**Thanks** to all the students involved. It shows that with an appropriate structure, Student Voice can be very informative for the curriculum. Our students are very astute and erudite.

Ms Wensley, History Department, Student Voice.

## From the Governors

**Since** my last report in Beaumont Life Ofsted has been in to review the work of the English department. I am pleased to report that Ofsted decided to rate the English Department as Outstanding, the highest possible rating. The Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee members would like to pass on their congratulations to the English Department for this incredible achievement. Members would also like to thank the staff in the library who received a special commendation in the Ofsted report.

**Over** the past three months the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee has looked at a number of issues, which are important to the school. Highlights include:

- Putting in place new Curriculum and Teaching and Learning Policies to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school and comply with our legal obligations;
- Reviewing and approving some amendments to simplify procedures for admission to Sixth Form;
- Discussing the proposed English Baccalaureate and the impact of this on future league tables.

**At** the next meeting of the Committee members are due to analyse results of the student survey and consider changes to the School Improvement Plan.

**Paul Glithero-West, Chair of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Committee**

## BSA News

**The BSA** is delighted to announce the winner of the BSA 2010 Christmas Quiz as Mrs M McDonald. Congratulations on your £25 prize! Thank you to everyone who took part in this much-loved and sought-after quiz. Many thanks also to those who set and mark the quiz. All entrants should have now received the answers to the 2010 quiz if they requested them. Please contact the BSA if you have not yet received your answer sheet.

**Janet Almond, BSA**

## BeauSandVer Community Programme

**Sign up for summer!** We have a wide range of arts and crafts courses, modern foreign languages, Community Choir and Jazz Band, and cookery classes. For full details visit [www.beausandver.org.uk](http://www.beausandver.org.uk) and click on Community Programme under Quick Links.

**Classes running at Beaumont next term include:**

Art Textiles/Creative Embroidery class on Wednesday evenings, Continental Cookery on Thursday evenings, and Modern Foreign Languages for Adults.

**For more information** or to book a course, contact Carole Heselton on 01727 754113 or email [carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk](mailto:carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk). Book early to avoid disappointment.

## Nexus News

Extended Schools



Linking Schools and the Community



01727 855134



01727 811541

c/o Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 4LW

e-mail [jo.maher@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jo.maher@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk)

[www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans](http://www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans)

### PARENT SUPPORT

For support and guidance don't forget to book an appointment or call the HELPLINE on **07984 436939**.

### EXTRAS YOUTH CLUB – Year 7s

Extras runs on a Wednesday from 6.15-7.45pm. Sports activities, music, relaxation and tuck.



### FREE WORKSHOP - HELP FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (DYSLEXIA) – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 7pm – 9pm at Fleetville Junior School.

Tricia Cotton (Specific Learning Difficulties Base Manager) talking about specific problems, general help at home, homework, multi sensory learning. Q&A session at the end. Please book a free place on 01727 855134 or 07984 436939.

### YOUNG CARERS – Summer Party

Nexus is organising another community gathering for Young Carers from Beaumont, Sandringham, STAGS and Verulam on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> July. For further information on the support we give Young Carers please contact Jo.

**For details of the above please contact Jo Maher on 01727 855134 or 07939 111152.**