



From the Headteacher

Our school play last week, "The Nativity", was an outstanding success. One of our staff said to me that this was a brave choice for a secondary school in terms of its theme but for many people, including myself, we found it moving and thought-provoking and, of course, so appropriate for the lead up to Christmas. I quote from one of the audience, "What struck me most was the sheer power of the story telling.....the enthusiasm and commitment of the cast to the story that they were telling meant that you could not but be taken along with them." May I add my congratulations and thanks to all those involved, staff, students and parents for what was a truly delightful evening.....even if one of the lanterns went into a tree!!

A huge thank you also to the BSA for organising a wonderful Christmas Fayre; we are extremely fortunate to have such a committed and talented group of parents supporting the school and putting in so much hard work both to raise funds and build our community. Thank you also to all the staff, students, parents and friends who were involved in any way in making it such a successful event. Do read all about it on the back pages of this edition.

The latest update on the New Access plans for Beaumont is that we are preparing to go to the Secretary of State next year, probably in April. Some reports in the local press have mentioned 'building on school playing fields' as if the fields were then lost. In our case, we will gain a bigger and better field to the east of the school. With regard to Academies, along with other schools in Hertfordshire, our governors continue to investigate the best way forward for Beaumont and they will be discussing this again at their meeting in January. Look out for further information coming home in the New Year.

Our best wishes go to two staff leavers at the end of this term, Mrs Fung, Latin, and Mr Acquah, Teaching Assistant, and to Mrs Davies and Mrs Mitchell who begin maternity leaves.

I hope many of you will have taken the opportunity to join us at the school Carol Service this week and that all of us, of whatever faith or none, will enjoy a truly peaceful Christmas.

Elizabeth Hitch



January Diary Dates

Mon	3	BREAK – school closed
Tues	4	Students return
Thurs	6	Awards Assemblies 'A' Level and IB Presentation Evening for past students – Hall – 7pm
Fri	7	Evening Theatre trip for Year 12 students
Tues	11	'Into the 6 th Form' Evening, 7pm
Weds	12	Year 10 Parent Information Evening – Work Experience – Hall 7pm Residents Meeting 6pm - Library
Sat	15	Gym and Dance rehearsals all day - Hall
Mon	17	Year 11 Leadership Team Interviews
Tues	18	Year 11 Leadership Team Interviews
Weds	19	Year 11 Leadership Team Interviews BSA Committee Meeting 7.30pm Library
Thurs	20	Curriculum Enrichment Day Beaumont Life Deadline Full Governors meeting 7pm
Fri	21	Year 11 Leadership Team Interviews
Sat	22	Gym and Dance rehearsals all day
Mon	24	Optional AS/A2 Internal Rehearsal Exams in lessons until 28 th
Tues	25	Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening
Weds	26	A2 Drama practical 6pm, Room 60/61
Thurs	27	Year 10 Poetry Day Governor Resources meeting (3) 6.30pm, Board Room
Sat	29	Gym and Dance rehearsals all day - Hall
Mon	31	Governor Curriculum Teaching and Learning meeting (3) 6.30pm, Board Room



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

Year 7 Theatre Trip to see 'Wicked'



Year 7 went to see Wicked on 25 November at the Apollo Theatre. Here is a selection of their comments on the experience.

Wicked is the prequel to the Wizard of Oz. Our favourite parts were when the witch sang a song after flying on her broomstick, and when the wizard was using his giant mechanical head.

The play was amazing; some of our favourite things were the costumes, the brilliant singers and the scenery. It was a wicked play and we loved it!

Before the show I saw the Oxford Street lights which were beautiful.

There was green lighting which gave the whole place an eerie setting. There was a short agonizing wait but it was worth it!

The acting and the performances from Lee Mead, Sarah Earnshaw and the rest of the characters were wonderful to watch. The Wizard's head was frightening as he had a loud bellowing voice. Overall it was a really successful evening and we had a lot of fun.

The show was about a girl who was born with green skin and she goes to college with her sister and whilst she is at college she becomes the Wicked Witch of the West.

Through the play you found out how the Tin Man and Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz were formed.

The show was phenomenal and the actors were stunning and very talented.

It was an amazing play which you could watch over and over again and not get bored.

Contributions by Thomas Bates, Jack Elliott, Lorenzo Federici, Eleana Hackwood, Jacob Bockenbauer, Jenna Tudtud, Jasmine Spinks, Rebecca King, Michael Winter, Kane White, Elliot Mason, Laura Hobbs, Simon Jones, Sarah Chrisp and Cassius Almond.

Rotary Club Youth Speaks Debating Competition



The evening of Monday 22 November didn't start well as we arrived at a deserted Sandpit Theatre, wondering whether we were early, shockingly late or in completely the wrong place! Thankfully we were in the right place. We used the hour before to compose our nerves, and certainly not for Sam to learn the last two paragraphs of his speech!

When it was our turn the walk from our seats to the stage felt like an eternity. When we took our places we handled the fear in our own way. John sat nervously beaming at the audience, Sam drank all the water and Hugh..... well, he had to speak first.

Introducing himself, Sam and John, Hugh spoke briefly to introduce the topic of discussion for the team, 'Elitism in Education', focusing on private education and how it can and does affect the employment prospects of any individual.

Sam followed Hugh with the team's main speech. He began by telling a suitably surprised audience the results of a National Employers' Society survey that found that employers would choose a privately educated candidate for a job over a more highly qualified state educated one. Sam then expanded on the discrimination exhibited in University, employment and Government against the 93% of young people in the UK who are state educated. He concluded that the only way to mend the class gulf and discrimination in education was to nationalise private schools and abolish (the very current issue of) tuition fees.



The judges then asked their question about the Government's commitment to improve the current education system. Sam skilfully answered by saying that the education system will not improve for anyone until we have equality.

To close, John gave the vote of thanks. He told a story of his life in east London and hammered home Sam's point on equality. Of course, he lived up to his role and thanked everyone he could possibly think of.

The team finished to rapturous applause and the occasional 'woop!' After a long deliberation the judges decided that Beaumont had won the senior competition. We attribute our victory to our confident speaking style and our controversial but necessary topic that ripped our audience out of their comfort zone. We go on with Verulam (who came second) to the next round in February.

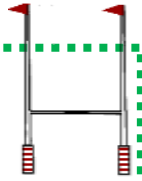
We would like to thank our teachers Mrs Enstone and Mrs Rowlands without whose support and coaching we could not have achieved our victory.

Sam Went, Hugh Ingamells and John Clough

Rugby Reports

Beaumont Top Try Scorers up to 20 Nov

1. Alex Rich (8) - 13 tries
2. Jack Nevin (10) - 11 tries
3. Calum Peet (10) - 9 tries
4. Will Curtis (9) - 6 tries
4. Nathan Orsmond (8) - 6 tries
4. Max Cross (12) - 6 tries
4. Josh Berry (10) - 6 tries
8. Jack Gage (9) - 5 tries
9. Aaron Exley (10) - 5 tries
10. Bryn Williams (7) - 3 tries



U13 Team v STABS 'B'

Saturday 13 November

Result: W50-0

Try Scorers: Freddie Sapone, Guilio Pipe, Jonny Stone, Alex Rich (4)

MoM: Alex Rich

Beaumont started the match brightly as Alex Rich powered through the defence to score the first try of the game. Will Sherwood added the extra. Unfortunately during the build up to the try Jacob Ponte was injured at a ruck, having made a great run, and forced to leave the field. Alex Rich scored two more tries in quick succession. Sherwood converting the first and narrowly missing the second. Just before the end of the half Beaumont scored again from an excellent backs move finished off by Jonny Stone. The try was again successfully converted Beaumont going into half time with a 29-0 lead.

After half time St Albans responded with some early attacks which were equalled by some fantastic tackling by the Beaumont team. Beaumont quickly replied with two tries from Freddie Sapone and Billy Barrett, both involving great work from the backs and an unselfish assist from Danny Cutmore. After kick off the ball was kicked into the St Albans corner. Beaumont then won the line out and Guilio Pipe finished an excellent passing move involving both backs and forwards. The conversion brought the score to 54-0 and the end of the match.

This was a great win for Beaumont with great performances from Alex Rich, scoring 4 tries, and Danny Cutmore who was an inspired captain.

Will Sherwood



U12 Squad Nicholas Breakspear Tournament: Saturday 20 November Results: Plate Champions MoT Alex Curtis



On Saturday 20 November the Beaumont under 12s took part in the Nicholas Breakspear School rugby Tournament. Our first pool game got off to a bad start as we gave away a try in the first minute. After that they kept on scoring, adding three more tries. We ended up losing against a very good Roundwood team 20-0. However we played really well in our second match and bagged five tries. 25-0 was a good victory against Latymer B and it meant we could still go through to the cup semi final.

When the whistle blew for the start of the third and final pool game we were all ready and up for it. Unfortunately a good line out by Dame Alice Owens followed by a sneaky kick behind our back line meant there winger was through and scored the try to put them 5-0 up. Despite our pressure it stayed the same for the rest of the match and we were narrowly beaten.

Although we lost we could still compete for the plate and in our semi final we were up against the hosts, Nicholas Breakspear. The game was really tight but we scored two early tries and even though they got one back we held on comfortably to win 10-5 and go into the final.

Halfway through the final against Mount Grace we scored a fantastic try that came from our forwards. We knew we were on top and we defended really well. Soon after another good attack by our forwards we went 10-0. The clock reached zero and we knew we had won the plate. We congratulated the Mount Grace players and then celebrated an excellent win. It was an excellent performance by everyone especially Jacob Grisenthwaite and Alex Curtis who each scored a hat trick of tries during the Tournament.

Bryn Williams



Boccia Tournament

Hot off the press!!

On 7th December the County Boccia Tournament took place at the University of Hertfordshire. Five Beaumont pupils entered: **Liam Baskett, Connor Waters, Thomas-Louis Bates, Peter Errington** and **Daniel Angus**.



The team put in a fantastic performance and won the tournament. They are through the regional finals in February.

Well Done!

Mrs Fox, School Sports Coordinator

Operation Christmas Child

For several years Year 9 students at Beaumont have sent shoe boxes packed with a range of items to needy children in far distant corners of the globe. On November 25 a stack of 95 shoe boxes wrapped in brightly coloured Christmas paper were collected by Samaritan's Purse who run the Operation Christmas Child scheme. This is a great opportunity for students (and their families) to give to children they will never meet; Beaumont students will know that somewhere in the world on Christmas day there will be a children who will be very thankful for their kind acts. Indeed receiving pens, pencils and paper can enable young people to attend school, something we take for granted. In addition the inclusion of toothpaste, soap as well as toys can make a big difference to lives in locations where suffering is common place.



On behalf of Samaritan's Purse can I express a huge thank you to every Year 9 pupils and their families for taking the time and effort to pack their shoe boxes? This is a tradition we hope will continue for years to come.

Ron Osborne (Head of Year 9)



BeauSandVer Community Programme

We are launching three fantastic new evening courses at Beaumont School starting in January 2011.

Art Textiles/Creative Embroidery £48 for 6 weeks (Age 16 and over)

Create your own individual one off textile pieces experimenting with a range of decorative techniques including: fabric painting, free machine embroidery, hand embroidery, applique-painted bondaweb, dissolvable fabric. Make a bag, table runner, cushion cover, or decorative wall hanging.

Classes run Wednesdays 7.30–9.30 pm 12 Jan to 16 Feb 2011. You may need to provide some of your own materials depending on what you are making.

Continental Cookery £66 for six weeks. Ingredients included. (Age 18 and over)

Make a wide range of delicious dishes on our Mediterranean -inspired cookery course including Juicy Lemon Pudding, Lamb Kofta, Seasonal Risotto & Pasta, Tiramisu, Profiteroles & Portuguese Custard Tarts. Suitable for beginners & more experienced cooks. **Classes run Thursdays 6-8 pm 13 Jan-17 Feb 2011.**

Wood Working Course £98 for ten weeks (Age 16 and over)

Ideal for anyone wanting to develop wood working skills. Work under expert guidance with a wide range of tools and equipment, to produce a wooden item of your choice. Beginners will be guided and advised on what to make and which materials to buy. More experienced students can bring their own materials or a work in progress to the first session. You will need to supply your own materials. **Classes run on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm from 13 Jan to 24 March.**

Modern Foreign Languages for Adults 2011

If you're thinking of booking your holidays and you want to learn Spanish from the beginning or brush up on other languages, why not join our evening classes? We are offering a new class for beginners in Spanish on Tuesday evenings and a starter course in Japanese on Wednesday evenings. **If you already speak some French, German or Italian and would like to refresh your knowledge**, why not join one of the classes that have been running since September. Fees: £80 per term for BeauSandVer Consortium parents, £90 for non-Consortium parents.


For all courses fees are non-refundable should a student drop out., and minimum numbers are required for the class to run. Classes start w/c 10 January. **For more information or to book a course, contact Carole Heselton on 01727 754113 or email carole.heselton@verulam.herts.sch.uk. Book early to avoid disappointment.**




Governors

The Governing Body's Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL) Committee focuses on the academic standards of the school and the effective delivery of the national curriculum. At the last meeting the committee was presented with a thorough analysis of the GCSE and A Level results and identified areas of comparative strength as well as areas for development in the future. Members of the committee were extremely impressed with the general improvement in results from last year and agreed ambitious targets for the future. The committee would like to relay its congratulations on to the pupils and teachers of Beaumont.

Other key areas that the Committee has explored over the last four months have been:

 The impact of the Academy Status on the curriculum – The Committee looked at the information available to understand what the curriculum requirements are for an Academy School and determine the advantages and disadvantages of this approach. It was agreed that this issue would need to be explored again in the New Year when more information is available from central government. The outcome of this work stream will feed into the wider work on whether to apply for Academy Status.

 Report on numbers of GCSEs taken by students – The Committee discussed the number and value of the different qualifications at GCSE level including BTECs and the corresponding impact on pupil stress +in the curriculum over the past six years which have increased the range of choices for students, improved examination outcomes and improved levels of student engagement throughout Key Stage 4 (KS4). We wish to retain a flexible approach to the KS4 curriculum which enables students to take on a range of subjects and level of workload appropriate to their abilities and aspirations. We do not wish to impose a cap on the number of qualifications taken which might end up restricting students.

In September I was elected as chair of the CTL committee. I have a background working in central government and intend to kick off the New Year by reviewing how the CTL committee has previously added value, and set out priorities over the next 12 months.

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

Cricket success

Congratulations to **Lewis Glasscoe** and **Tom Pate** who have been selected for the U13 West Herts County Cricket squad.
Well done!

Sickness

There is an increase in the number of pupils at school with diarrhoea and vomiting consistent with symptoms of Norovirus.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, headache and fever. The condition usually resolves within 24 to 48 hours.

Norovirus is very infectious. If your child develops these symptoms and to prevent further cases in school we would ask you to keep your child at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting (this is national guidance)

Encourage your child to drink plenty of fluids to prevent dehydration. If you are concerned, please contact your GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647.

Mr Cross, Assistant Head, Pastoral

Congratulations



to
Beaumont Young Enterprise Company
'ARES'

for winning the 'Best Overall Company' trophy at the Harpenden Christmas Carnival on Sunday 29 November. The Team worked hard in the very cold conditions and sold nearly 800 Christmas cards on the day, earning over £300.

Mrs Hannay, Link Teacher Young Enterprise



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

www.hertsextendedschools.org.uk/nestalbans

NEXUS NEWS

PARENT SUPPORT

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

EXTRAS YOUTH CLUB – New Year 7s

Extras runs on a Wednesday from 6.15-7.45pm. Please encourage your child to come along with friends and to make new friends. We have sports activities, music, relaxation and tuck on offer – come to chill and chat! Only £2.00 entrance. See you soon!



TUNE IN TO RADIO VERULAM – HELP FOR PARENTS

A new Parent Show has been launched on Radio Verulam – 92.6FM. Join Kathy and Lydia for discussion on issues with a special focus on families living in Hertfordshire. Every Thursday evening at 8.00pm. You can listen live on the web too at: www.radioverulam.com. Nexus is supporting this new exciting venture and Jo will be on Air sometime in January! Suggestions for topics please contact on: showforparents@gmail.com

FIRST AID COURSE FOR TEENAGERS (Age 14 +) - 5 Feb 2011

A four hour accredited course for young people who babysit or care for children run by **MGM Training**. It will be held on Saturday 5th February 2011 from 9.00am to 1.00pm at Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Rd, St Albans, AL1 4LW. Cost £20.00 payable to secure booking.

COME DINE WITH ME (Not Pot Noodle!) – Teenagers in Years 11, 12 and 13

Following the success of our previous course, we have planned another two!

Tuesdays, 6.45 – 8.15pm starting at STAGS on 8th February

Thursdays, 6.45 – 8.15pm starting at Francis Bacon on 24th February.


This exciting project for young people planning to live away from home covers cooking starters, main courses and puddings, shopping on a budget, health and hygiene for only £10.00. If you would like to persuade your teenager to sign up then contact Jo to reserve a place.


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


Message from Jo: Thank you so much to all the staff, pupils and parents who have supported us this year – a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!


Year 8 Theatre Trip to see 'The Railway Children'

On Thursday 19th November, fifty Year 8 pupils were taken to see 'The Railway Children' at Waterloo Station in London. This is what some of them had to say:

 "It was an interesting and original idea and I really enjoyed it." Louis Stagg, 8R

 "The Railway Children was brilliant! I enjoyed it very much as it was funny and entertaining. I recommend it to everyone and anyone." Matthew Wilton, 8R

 "It was very interesting and imaginative. I thought it was a very good idea to use a real train; it made it very effective. I enjoyed it very much."

 "The play was amazing and I really enjoyed it. It was a great idea using the movable staging on the rails. Definitely worth it; I would recommend it to anyone."





Family Quiz Night

In October, the BSA held their traditional annual Quiz Night. This year we changed the format slightly making it a family event with "bring your own picnic." The hall was packed to capacity with over 150 adults and students attending.

Our Quizmasters for the evening were Vic Wells and Tim Pugh to whom we are very grateful for the hours of question-setting and for their double-act as compères for the evening. Many thanks also to the team who marked answer sheets and kept score.

As is customary, competition was fierce with the inevitable disputes over points awarded and apparently "dodgy" questions! A sudden-death question had to be posed to deal with one major dispute! The eventual winners were "Back of the class". Congratulations!

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 4th December



Parents and Students – if you missed the **Beaumont Christmas Fayre** this year, then you missed a real treat! It was very well attended and there was a wonderful festive atmosphere.

For the first time, each of the **Houses** used their entrepreneurial skills to run profit-making stalls such as roll-a-penny, table football, swan hoopla, splat the Santa, "Bop-It", nail painting and cake selling. There was healthy competition between L, E, A, R, N and S as they made every effort to attract customers and raise the most money. Well done and thank you to all the enthusiastic students who ran these stalls. Thank you also to the "Heads of Houses" who supported the students and, of course, to everyone who visited them and spent money! A tremendous total of **£392** was raised by these stalls alone. Congratulations to Newton House who raised the most money - a magnificent **£98.31**.



Upper School students also played a role in raising money for their chosen charities. The **Young Enterprise Group**, comprising Year 12 students, sold their own unique designs of Christmas Cards to raise capital for their Young Enterprise company which is competing with other local groups for a place in the regional finals. Another group of students raised £150 for the "**Open Door**" Charity by selling Jesus/Saints Bracelets and holding a bottle raffle.

Beautiful wrapped **gifts** were to be found on the toiletries, crafts and plant stalls solving many a Christmas present problem. A team of very talented "crafty" parents have worked for months to produce an amazing display of splendid **craft gifts**. Thank you to them for all their hard work. Festive **plant arrangements** and filled tubs were popular too along with some delightful festive table decorations which had kindly been made and donated by a parent. Thank you also to our additional stall-holders who sold a wonderful selection of **cards** and **hand-painted glassware**. There was even a chance to be pampered at the **beauty stall**.



The lucky winners of the famous **Beaumont Hamper Raffle** had trouble carrying away their enormous hampers of festive goodies! We are indebted to Anita Maguire who is "retiring" from Hamper Production after many years. Thank you, Anita, for setting up this popular Christmas Fayre tradition. Fortunately, we have two new willing parents who will take up the reins. We are very grateful, also, to the generous parents who donated additional raffle prizes again this year, including a massage, a meal for two at Anatolia's and a Neals Yard Voucher. Morrisons also donated some plants.

For those unlucky in the hamper raffle, there was always the chance to win a bottle or another prize gift on the very popular **Tombola** Stall.

