

From the Headteacher

The articles from the History Department inside this month's edition of Beaumont Life give you a flavour of how we as staff work closely with the students in obtaining feedback and developing lessons that the students enjoy. This week I had the pleasure of being interviewed by members of the Student Voice. I was really encouraged by the bubbling enthusiasm of my interviewer as she spoke about learning being such fun at Beaumont and that this was one of many reasons that Beaumont is so special (her words, not mine!).

Times have clearly changed from when John and David Sidnell were at Beaumont during the war; their account in their book (see page 3) shows how times have changed. John continues to visit Beaumont and most students will have met him in their history lessons – an amazing retired Primary School Headteacher with such enthusiasm for life.

Our New Access plans continue to develop (see the Governors Report on page 8) and we are hoping that the work on the new field to the east of the school will begin early in 2012. The works on the field will take two years and we will continue to use the current field until they are finished. During this time we are likely to begin work on the new buildings. I would be pleased to hear of any parents or friends who are able to offer their skills and time as planners, surveyors, architects or energy consultants to help us gain the very best facilities for Beaumont. Please contact me via head@beaumont.herts.sch.uk so that we can build up a small group of experts who may be able to advise us. Thank you.

Thank you for your continuing support of our wonderful school!

Elizabeth Hitch

July Diary Dates

Fri	1	Year 9 Final Reports issued Sixth Form Induction
Mon	4	Curriculum Enrichment Week including Year10 Work Experience
Tues	5	Curriculum Enrichment Week including Year10 Work Experience
Weds	6	Curriculum Enrichment Week including Year10 Work Experience
Thurs	7	Curriculum Enrichment Week including Year10 Work Experience
Fri	8	Curriculum Enrichment Week including Year10 Work Experience
Mon	11	Rosas trip all week History Primary School morning Language Primary School day this week Tangled Feet Theatre Company in school
Tues	12	Tangled Feet Theatre Company in school
Weds	13	Beaumont Life Deadline Tangled Feet Theatre Company in school Summer Concert, 7pm, Hall
Thurs	14	New Year 7 Day visit
Fri	15	Years 7 and 8 final reports issued Young Carers' Party
Tues	19	Sports Day (afternoon)
Fri	22	End of Term - Awards assemblies – students dismissed from 12.30pm

For details of sports fixtures please check the PE Blog www.beaumontpe.blogspot.com

Exam results

AS/A2 results will be available on 18 August 2011

GCSE results will be available on 25 August 2011. Further details will be available nearer the time

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

The History Department

The History department has had another very successful year. This year we have chosen to focus on two aspects to highlight in our section of Beaumont life: Student Voice and the trip to the USA in April this year. Miss Wensley has collated opinions of the students from across the year groups and this information will be used to inform teaching and learning within the department over the coming years. We do listen and take the comments that you make seriously, for instance the courses and resources that we have chosen at Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 have been influenced by student opinion, and especially views on homework at Key Stage 3 this year.

Miss Pearson

Year 9 History Student Voice

The History Department has continued to consult pupils regarding their Teaching and Learning; here are some edited highlights from the survey that 145 Year 9 students completed in May.

Most popular topics Year 9 students have enjoyed studying: The Suffragettes; World War One; World War Two; The Holocaust; Apartheid in South Africa and Nelson Mandela.

Why did you choose GCSE History? I like the GCSE topics; it is interesting/enjoyable/fun; it is considered a good option by universities; it is fabulous and interesting and my mum and dad have the same passion as me.

Why didn't you choose GCSE History? I'm not good at essay and source work; I prefer current affairs; I prefer Geography; It is too hard; We've already done all the good subjects - war! Too much writing.

What skills do you need to be good at History? - Writing, using PEEL; using and evaluating sources; being able to justify your opinion; analysing; being argumentative.

An overwhelming majority preferred our new six week homeworks citing reasons such as: it enabled them to produce more interesting, higher quality work, of which they felt more ownership. We as a Department, concur with this.

Thanks to the Year 9 students for their perceptive insights.

Ms Wensley



Year 12 AS Survey

AS historians who have now returned to begin their A2 course were asked to evaluate the AS course. Budding historians in Year 11 might be particularly interested in reading the following edited highlights....

What did you enjoy studying in the AS course?

- The personalities of the four kings studied (Henry VI, Edward IV, Richard III, Henry VII)
- The slavery topic in the American Civil War
- When we got to do role play/thinking activities
- The knowledge gained from the course
- All of it!

What didn't you enjoy?

- The huge difference between GCSE and 'A' Level
- Having to do independent learning
- Having to do our own revision notes

How does AS differ from GCSE?

- More complex; sources skills harder; more interesting; much more analysis; harder, but more interesting as a whole

What advice would you give to students considering studying AS History?

- You have to be prepared to work independently, and hard; even more important to keep good organised, neat notes from the very beginning; more need to work on source questions; more skills and more involved work; you have to REALLY LIKE History, just because you got an A at GCSE doesn't mean you will at AS!



Thanks to the Year 12 students for their comments

Ms Wensley

Year 13 – Views about A level History

Year 13 Students were asked to complete a detailed questionnaire at the end of their course in order to inform future planning in the History Department. We will also feedback some of the results to AS students and also to Year 11 students attending the Sixth Form Conference. Here is a small, collated sample of responses:

What do you think about the structure of the A2 History course? Russia 1855-1964 (terminal exam), The War in Vietnam 1959-74 (coursework).

- We like the choice of topics, which are very different and interesting
- We think the questions are hard, but fair, and there is a reasonable choice. The questions are a good preparation for university work
- We don't like the fact that the exam board puts such a large emphasis on the structuring of the coursework, at the expense of the knowledge
- We like the fact that the Russia exam focuses on themes, but some questions are broader than others.

What advice would you give to AS Students about studying A2 History?

- Do it!
- You will have fun and interesting teachers who give you more responsibility and independence
- Come to lessons prepared for difficult work, but it does get easier
- Only do it if YOU are prepared to put in the work

Any final comments?

- Ensure you practise essays right throughout the course
- I LOVE History. It is a really useful subject, much respected. It is not too hard as long as you are prepared to work for it
- Keep the courses, I chose Beaumont History because of them
- I've enjoyed the courses. It helped to firm up my decision to study History at University

Thanks to the Students who completed the survey

Ms Wensley

History Homework Show Case

The History Homework Show Case was held on 20th June. Oliver Davies, Gemma Day, Edward Anders and Ben Allen from Year 8, and Conor Moore and Will Moroney from Year 7, came to show the History Department examples of their half termly homeworks. The History Department has introduced half termly homeworks in Years 7-9 this academic year. There is a different theme each half term – eg Source Skills, Research, Creativity, Wider Reading, ICT and Presentation. Students are set a task linking with the relevant programmes of study in Years 7 - 9.

Mrs Hitch, Ms McCrorie, Mr Cross and Mr Sabato joined the meeting. We were all extremely impressed with the feedback the pupils provided about the homework tasks. They had clearly enjoyed the challenges and made some very insightful and helpful comments. It is clear that the variety of tasks has provided an excellent training in History skills and the quality of much of the work that students showed was outstanding. Ms Esmizdeh also showed us the website created by Tom Fogerty (8R) which is about New Zealand when it was a British colony. It is a superb combination of History and ICT skills.

The student feedback has helped us with our future planning of homework tasks. We plan to incorporate some elements into our Upper School homework in September.

Ms Wensley

I'm Afraid He's Doing his Best – John and David Sidnell

Old Beaumontians John and David began writing this together. When David passed away, John finished the book. It chronicles the fascinating tale of the twins' careers in Education and includes a chapter of what it was like to be at Beaumont as a pupil during World War Two. John and David, followed by John alone, have visited many pupils when they are in Year 9 to give an insight into this. If you would be interested in ordering a copy of the book (£9.99 hard back) please contact Ms Wensley.



History Trip to USA



On the first day in Washington we saw many of the iconic sites in American History. Lincoln towers over the History department in the Lincoln memorial (you may recognise a slight variation on it in the Planet of the Apes film). The view that we had is the middle image towards the Washington Memorial, and the location of Martin Luther King’s “I have a Dream” speech. And of course we couldn’t resist a typical tourist picture outside the White House, currently home to the Obamas.



Will, Gareth, Ben and James pose for a photo in a Washington shopping mall on the first evening. One of the many shoppotunities that we had: we had an evening in the Pentagon Heights Mall and of course in New York, in and around Macey’s which was just around the corner from the hotel.



The memorial to the women who were part of the American effort in the infamous Vietnam War. The fact that there were still many wreaths at the memorial highlighted the effect the war still has on America today.



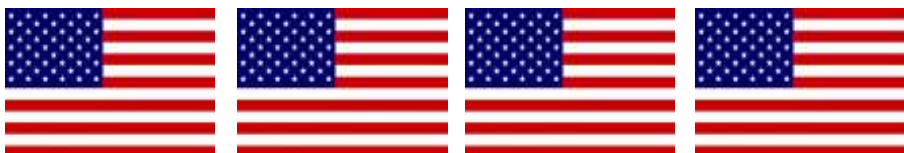
The iconic Manhattan Island skyline from the Liberty Island Ferry showing the skyscrapers for which it is so famous. On the first night in New York, the students went up the most famous of all - the Empire State Building.



On the last morning we visited the famous African-American neighbourhood of Harlem for a walking tour of sites related to the Civil Rights movement and a talk from Civil Rights veteran Colia Clark. She told us of her beliefs and experiences in the struggle for equality in the USA.



As part of the walking tour in New York we saw Wall Street as well as Ground Zero.



Stephanie and Gabi waiting for the ferry from Liberty Island (home of the Statue of Liberty) to Ellis Island through which the vast majority of immigrants to America used to go before they were admitted to their new life in the United States.



The Year 10s and the 6th formers support the Washington Nationals vs the Philadelphia Phillies waving foam hands enthusiastically. Many managed to just about grasp the rules of the game, but it didn't diminish the enjoyment (and mountains of food) enjoyed by all!



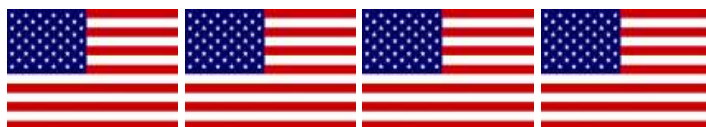
The group on their way out of the ball game: the Nationals won! Was it the Beaumont support that helped them out?

*Washington and New York, April 2011
by Miss Pearson*

In the background you can see the United States Capitol, the centre of American Government. Later in the week we had a tour of parts of this and stood in the central part of the building and visited parts of the Senate.



Georgia, Izzy, Henry, Olly and Maddy stand in the breadline, part of the Roosevelt memorial in Washington. Parts of this memorial recreated iconic images from his presidencies as seen here; just out of shot to the left is a man listening to one of the fireside chats and to the right is an impoverished farming family.

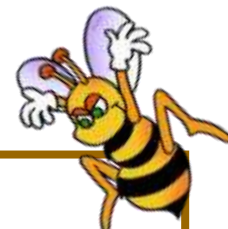


En route to New York we stopped off at Gettysburg, the site of a famous civil war battle and a speech by Lincoln. The History department however saw it as an opportunity to restock the costume cupboard. Even one of America's most famous presidents is forced to join in!

On target to win a prize?

The Modern Languages Department will be holding a weekly raffle prize draw. Students can gain raffle tickets by impressing their Languages teachers with spontaneous speech in the target language. So, next time you need a new exercise book or want to open the window, try asking in the target language. The more you speak, the more tickets you will have in the raffle!

The draw will take place every Friday breaktime. The winning ticket numbers will be on display on the board outside Room 67 (Modern Languages block). Find Mrs Lutz to receive your prize!



News from the English Department

Spelling Bee

In March, three Year 7 pupils took part in a Times Spelling Bee contest in Stevenage, accompanied by myself and Mr Goodwin. The pupils who were chosen (Olivia Almond 7R; Edward (Issy) Doyle 7R; and Stephen Heather 7R) were those who performed the best in heats that were organised within Beaumont school. Whilst they did not return from Stevenage with the winning trophy, they enjoyed the overall experience. Olivia's impression of the competition was included in last month's Beaumont Life. This is what Issy and Stephen had to say:

Mrs Enstone, English Department

The Spelling Bee competition in Stevenage was an amazing but nerve-wracking experience. There were lots of long and hard words. We came third in the first round but eighth in the last round. But we all had a lot of fun!

Edward (Issy) Doyle, 7R

I enjoyed my Spelling Bee experience because it was something new and different to do. I enjoyed the fact that we competed against other schools. If I got asked to, I would definitely do Spelling Bee again!

Stephen Heather, 7R

Beaumont Students to Carry Olympic Torch?

Lloyds TSB are running a competition, the winners of which will carry the OLYMPIC torch for our community. Please pledge your support for Beaumont School; it takes no more than two minutes!! If you enter you are entered in to a draw to win yourself some Olympic tickets too.

Follow this link:

<https://www.lloydstsb.london2012.co.uk/en/In-your-community/National-School-Sport-Week/Pledge-Registration/?SID=3849>

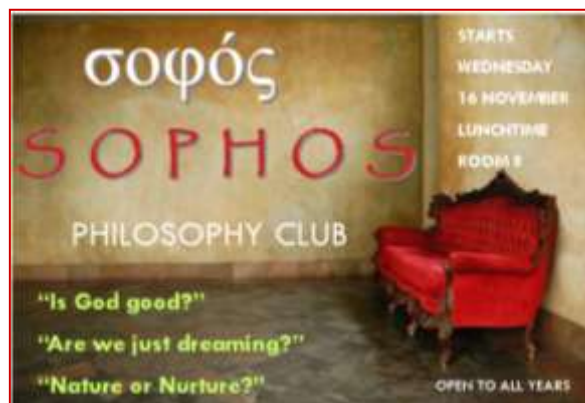
Why pledge your support?

- Your support for Beaumont School will help us be in with a chance to carry the Olympic Flame in the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay !!
- With your support we could be in with a chance of winning £500 worth of sports equipment vouchers
- You could win four tickets to an event at London 2012 just for pledging your support. Terms and conditions apply.

Sophos – Philosophy Club

Philosophy – it's an art older than Christ himself; it was once the primary way of answering an inexplicable problem, doing so in a logical way. Unfortunately many philosophers' theories have been disproved over the centuries by science, a subject that makes sense to a certain extent. However, I believe that many of the explanations that science gives are not easy to understand because they are not believable. In short, they do not make sense. For example, scientists would disprove the existence of God by proving that life came from tiny little proteins that formed a finished puzzle to create organisms. Philosophers would think about why someone would create a God, finding reasons along the way, and then come to a conclusion. This means that philosophy gives a believable solution to the problem that makes sense, whereas science on this occasion proves that God did not create life, but does not disprove the existence of God.

As you may know, last September a Philosophy club started, known as *Sophos* (Greek for wise). Jensen Tudu, an IB student in Year 13 is the founder and leader. I found it a source of inspiration for the public speaking competition. We currently have less than ten members and Jensen will be leaving to go to University so I would really like more members to join and a new leader to come forward. If you would like to answer questions about the world in a logical way, if you have an open mind and would like to use it, come to Philosophy Club. It is on Wednesday lunchtimes in room 8. Packed lunches are optional, but it is recommended you bring one. The dates are found on the door of room 8. We at Philosophy Club would be very happy and grateful if you could come.



Cameron Halsall 8S



Linking Schools and the Community

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01727 811541
c/o Fleetville Junior School, 228 Hatfield Road , St Albans,
AL1 4LW
e-mail jo.maher@fleetvillejm.herts.sch.uk
www.hertsextingschools.org.uk/nestalbans

NEXUS NEWS

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

The current funding for extended services is coming to an end on 31st August 2011.

We are sorry to tell you that Nexus will not be offering any services beyond that time. There will hopefully be new opportunities in the future of which you will be informed in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone – parents, carers, grandparents, children – for all the support you have given us over the years.

Myself and the Nexus Team have enjoyed our work immensely and wish you all the best for the future.

Jo Maher
Extended Schools Co-ordinator

YOUNG CARERS – Summer Party

Nexus is organising another community gathering for Young Carers from Beaumont, Sandringham, STAGS and Verulam. This year the party is taking place on **Friday 15th July**. If you would like further information on the support we are giving Young Carers please contact Jo.

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

Beyond Beaumont

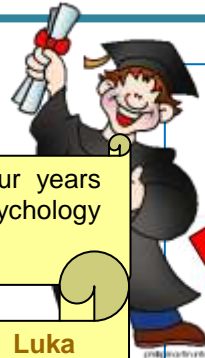
Adam Taylor, who left Beaumont four years ago, has been awarded a II(i) in Psychology from Royal Holloway University.

Jacob Lockhart Lister and **Luka Fadrique** did well with Herts U15 boys hockey this year. Herts came third (one point behind the winning two counties) and actually beat the champions Essex. This was the best ever position over the last 4-5 years whilst the two boys have played for their county.

Both boys have been nominated by Hertfordshire for the East of England regional training JRPC too – they are just waiting to hear if they get accepted.

Silks needed

If anyone has any skeins of embroidery silk sitting in cupboards, unloved and unused, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Rowlands would be grateful for them as they will be used in a CED week activity. Please bring them to Reception before Monday 4 July.



NEW STA Sports

St Albans Sports Project
Francis Bacon School
Drakes Drive
AL1 5AR
(in the Sports hall)



Football, Basketball, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Dance, Trampolining, Dodge Ball, Badminton, Uni hoc, and Trips Out

Day : Saturdays

Time: 6.30pm to 8.30pm

Entry Fee: 50p

NEW



For more information contact Kate Barry on 01442 454060 or Kate.barry@hertscc.gov.uk

youth
connexions

For all 13-19 year olds
(up to 25 if you have a learning difficulty or a disability)

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www.chanuelmogo.org

News from the BSA

Dates for your diary

Saturday 17 Sept 2011	New Year 7 Family BBQ and Games Event, 4-6pm Many of the current Year 7 will remember this wonderful event last year. We would be very grateful for any offers from parents or students to assist at this event for the New Year 7.
Sunday 9 October 2011	Songs from the West End Evening featuring Ms Shepherd.
Saturday 3 December 2011	Christmas Fayre

We are also looking for new members for the BSA committee. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the BSA on bsa@beaumont.herts.sch.uk

The McDonnell Gym – grand opening

The new outdoor gym facility was opened on 25 May. Antonia McDonnell's mother won £10000 towards the cost of the equipment in a competition run by United Biscuits in conjunction with Morrisons. The BSA was delighted to make a further substantial donation towards the full cost of the equipment and committee members are pictured here with their cheque during the opening celebrations.



Mrs McDonnell picked up the application form in the Fleetville branch of Morrisons whilst buying cake ingredients. Her winning slogan was: "After taxing our brains, we love to play games."

Following an afternoon cheque presentation and Press photocall event at which United Biscuits were also represented, there was a continuation of the celebrations with a ribbon cutting event at the BSA's Annual General Meeting. Former PE teacher Elena Dundjerovic demonstrated the use of the equipment, and students put on a short display.

From the Governors

The most important news at this time is the success of our planning appeal. This brings to an end a long running saga over the past 14 years. This approval will transform the school in many ways and give us an excellent base to plan ahead for the long term.

The new access road will mean improved safety for students coming to or leaving the school, separating pedestrians from drivers. It will minimise the impact upon long suffering Oakwood Drive which is often chaotic at the moment. New playing fields will transform our PE facilities and bring them up to standard at last.

The new school buildings and additional classrooms will also ease the pressure illustrated by the two portacabins that we have and the inadequate science labs.

Though buildings are not everything - and the core of Beaumont is the quality of its teaching and the wide ranging achievement of its students - nonetheless it is at best unhelpful to have inadequate facilities for our students and staff.

There remains a great deal of detailed work to be done, including getting detailed planning approval. The Governing Body will be looking ahead very carefully at the options and the timescales for making these plans a reality. We will let you have more news on this when more work has been undertaken.

Over the last few months Governors and senior staff at Beaumont have been jointly investigating the advantages and disadvantages of academy status in relation to a number of aspects of the work of the school. These cover curriculum matters, the legal context, ICT systems, land and property, revenue and capital finance, the implications for students with special educational needs, human resources and the consequences for staff and students. The results of these careful investigations were discussed at our last Governing Body meeting on 24 May and this work will continue into the autumn.

Mike Tidball, Chair of Governors