

Autumn
2009

Beech House News

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Reports

Enclosed with this newsletter you should find your child's report. The documentation provides a clear profile of your child's progress throughout the last academic term.

The staff and I have had the opportunity during the course of the last academic term to discuss individual children's progress with parents on a formal and informal basis. I hope many of you will continue to take advantage of our "open door" policy next term. Please contact the school immediately if you have not received your child's school report. I would ask you to return the receipt slip to the school office in the New Year.

School Awards

The following pupils have been appointed:-

Prefects : James Dixon

Form Captains :-

Reception Alfie Mayer,
Y 1 Nicole Healey,
Y2 Hera Iqbal,
Y3 Yusef Siddique,
Y4 Megan Klymowec,
Y5 Colleen Bingham,
Y6 Yolanda Cruz,
7C Victoria Burnett
7G Kingsley Benson
8B Josh Stanek,
8G Anusia Battersby
8S Joe Smith-Butler
9C Jackson Cowie,
9R Jessica Timperley,
10G Dominic Neild,

Examination Results

Beech House pupils celebrate their excellent GCSE results.



For the fourth time in as many years the published GCSE results were incorrect. Nine pupils had their GCSE English grades upgraded due to an error by the examination board. The error was spotted by Beech House staff on analysis of the published results. The time spent checking the results, prior to their release has obviously paid dividends to a large number of pupils who have had their results upgraded due to staff diligence.

10W Jack Noon,
11N Jordan Tracey
11T Luke Senior

The Progress Awards are given to pupils who have excelled in attitude, behaviour and performance. The honours for the Autumn term went to :-

Nursery Rachael Banks
Reception DaVena Orr
Year 1 Issam Mushtaq
Year 2 Jimmy Dalziel
Year 3 Sara Karim
Year 4 Harry Hamilton
Year 5 Toby Dodman
Year 6 Yolanda Cruz

Staffing

This term sees the departure of Miss Potter, who has gained promotion at Bolton Girls School. It also sees the retirement of Mr Carnegie. We send both of them our best wishes for their respective futures.

The school would like to welcome Mr Hargreaves who will be teaching boys physical education.

British Young Naturalists

This year the school was represented in the British Young Naturalists Finals in two categories. The event was held at the University of Northampton and involved twelve finalists from all parts of the country. The Upper Prep team was placed third in the Ward Cup for their work on the rainforests. The Senior team went one better in the Blake Shield, finishing as runners up for their investigation into habitats of Rochdale. Both teams were presented with their prizes by Professor David Bellamy. During the exciting day the pupils attended a workshop on 'Defensive Colour Patterns in Insects' by Dr Ware of Cambridge University. The school was the proud winner of the 'Bug' competition held on the day. This was followed by a presentation by the Shepreth Wildlife Park. 'Lucky' pupils got to hold scorpions, snakes and skunks, as well as being thrilled by the low flying owl. All the competitors had a wonderful, if tiring day and would like to thank Mrs Grange, their science teacher, for all her support.



The Blake Shield runners up with Professor David Bellamy

Parents' Questionnaire

The tri-annual parents' questionnaire is enclosed with this newsletter. Please return to the school with any positive or negative comments you wish to add. The closing date for returns will Friday 8th January 2010.



Speech Night

Speech Night was at Rochdale Town Hall in October. As usual the hall was full to overflowing with both proud pupils and parents. The Mayor of Rochdale, Councillor Keith Swift presented the academic prizes, whilst in a full programme, the Sporting Awards were presented by Craig Dawson from Rochdale Football Club. This year has been the school's most successful, as was clearly evident from the number of trophies and awards present on stage. The schools talents are recognised at a local, regional and national level.

Left – Victoria Burnett receives her award from Councillor Keith Swift

School Holidays

As stated this time last year, a number of local authorities were starting fixed term holidays. Parents were balloted and the consensus was for Beech House to do the same. As a result the school will reopen on a Monday. Autumn half term will be the last two weeks of October, Spring Half term, the third week in February, and Spring Break, the first two full weeks in April. Unless Good Friday and Easter Monday fall during the Spring Break, these days will be taken as Bank Holidays. When this occurs the Autumn term will commence on a Thursday to compensate. Unfortunately Rochdale decided, late in October, not to change. As a result next year, for local schools, the summer first half term will only be four weeks in length, one of the reasons for the change. This will mean that for the academic year 2010 -11 the Spring Half term and Spring Break will be different from other schools in Rochdale.

ERRATUM – the Autumn term ends on Friday 10th December 2010, not as originally stated 12th December.

Events

The Lower Prep children loved having the opportunity recently to find out about what the police do, try on uniforms and learn about police cars. PC Grange gave a very informative assembly which linked into the Foundation Stage theme of 'People who help us'. All children loved being given their 'Police homework'! The Year 4 class went to visit Touchstones Museum. They visited the new art gallery to enhance their class project on vivid imagery paintings and viewed the local studies exhibits. The Nursery and Reception children had a wonderful time when they visited the Rochdale Fire Station Museum. The children have had the opportunity to find out about what the fire service do, try on uniforms and learn about the vehicles. The new starters' disco was a great success, with around 50 pupils attending this event from Years 3-8. Thanks to all the parent and staff volunteers and to Friends of Beech House for paying for this event.

Global Entrepreneurship Week

As part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week, Year 11 went to Pall Mall Court, Manchester for a morning activity to try and tackle Global Poverty in the Enterprising Solutions to Global Poverty workshop. Enzo Calamita was the guest speaker at the event and introduced the students to the world of Enterprise and Social Enterprise - discussing Global Poverty. Students watched a short film of case studies surrounding global poverty and social enterprise. Mr Calamita gave the students involved a brief insight in to the world of business. Students were then given 1 1/4 hours to come up with a scheme or product to tackle Global Poverty. The winning team was Group 2, which included Ellis Greenwood, Victoria Byrne, Danielle Crewe-Lingard and Jordan Tracey with their solution of a touchscreen education system at a low cost for children in developing countries. Runners up were group 4, which included Tara Sultan, Sofia Cruz and Georgia Kinder who came up with a scheme to fund proms for underprivileged year 11 students in the UK with a promise of all remaining funds going towards well developments in Ghana. A close third was Group 5, which included George Salt, Luke Senior, Billy Drumm and James Garrity, who came up with the idea of a week long event in Manchester city centre with go-karting to raise money for wells in Uganda whilst also providing family fun.



Winter Fayre

For the first time the Friends of Beech House Winter Fayre was held at the Main building. Over 150 parents, pupils and friends attended the event. Thanks to the support of the Committee and the many helpers over £809 was raised. Special thanks goes to Ms Barker who organised the School Calender – copies are still for sale from the school office.

Members of the Choir perform on stage at the Christmas Fayre



Open Evening

The Open Evening was well attended and at one point there was a queue, stretching to the road, of prospective parents and their children waiting to get in. Many thanks to the pupils who stayed behind to act as guides and were great ambassadors for the school.

Personal Finance

Year 10 and 11 pupils took part in a one day course on Personal Finance organised by Young Enterprise. They learned about budgeting, saving, investing, consumer law and the best and safest ways of obtaining credit. They were also taught how best to conduct themselves in interviews. All this was done through games, quizzes and role play. The Business Partners, who delivered the course, made a point of telling us how impressed they were by the pupils knowledge, cooperation and contributions. They made special mention of 9 pupils, all of whom will receive a card of congratulations. All pupils received a Certificate of Achievements from Young Enterprise.

Stationery

An increasing number of pupils are arriving at school without the basic stationery. We do ask that pupils in the Upper Prep and Seniors bring at least a pen (where used), a pencil, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, a ruler, pencil crayons and, when asked, mathematical instruments. In addition the Upper Prep open a stationery shop during lunch times. Do bear in mind that in external examinations the borrowing of stationery is not allowed and pupils must use a black pen.

Parents' Evenings

These will be taking place during the Spring Term. Letters will be sent home inviting parents to make appointments with staff. Should these go astray, they are posted on the school website.

Old Boys

Bilal Shahid – Biochemistry at Manchester
Madeline Kenworthy studying nursing at a university in Australia

Merits

The following three pupils in the Senior department have gained 20 merits and been awarded their Bronze certificates. They are Henna Akhtar and Rebecca Whitaker in Year 7 and Bethan Sowerby in Year 8.



Hira Iqbal in Year Two recently wrote a letter to the Queen asking why we do not have a King as well as a Queen. She also invited the Queen to come to her house for tea as she would like her to meet her family. The Queen's Lady-in-Waiting wrote back to Hira for the Queen, thanking her for her lovely letter. The Queen was unable to come for tea but thanked Hira for her thoughtfulness. She also explained why we do not have a King. Hira was thrilled to get a letter from the Queen and her Mum has framed it for her to keep.

Uniform

Several parents have brought it to our attention that the quality of the school blazer is not as it was. It would seem that a new manufacturer is being used. If you do have any issues with the quality of the uniform, please bring it to our attention as well as informing Monkhouse / Top Form so we can collate the problems and feed back to them.

Winter is now definitely upon us and we are surprised by the number of children who arrive at school with just their blazer. We do expect children to go outside at break times and lunch times to get some fresh air and we would hope that parents will provide them with suitable outdoor clothes. Senior children are expected to wear the black anorak as supplied by Monkhouse / Top Form and the Prep children the grey duffel coat. In addition we do have a school scarf; only this style is allowed to be worn. If children arrive wearing boots because of conditions under foot, they are expected to bring a pair of shoes to change into. On numerous occasions our pupils are praised for looking smart. This can only continue if parents make sure that their son or daughter follows our rules, not just with uniform but also with hairstyles, makeup and jewellery. The school rules are very clear on these; if you are unsure, the best maxim is to play safe and not allow any extreme hairstyle or piercing. It would be impractical to provide a list of 'do's and don'ts' so we ask parents to use their discretion or to speak to a senior member of staff.



Christmas Parade

Children from the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes, accompanied by staff from the Lower Prep, participated in the Rochdale Town Centre Christmas Lights Switch-On Parade. All pupils really enjoyed taking part (they particularly loved the 'snow' that fell during the parade!!!) and looked fantastic in the 'king' and 'queen' costumes that they had made themselves.

Book Fair

This year's Book Fair was held at both sites. It was another successful event. As a result of these sales, the classrooms now have a large number of brand new books to the value of £800. Staff would like to thank both parents and pupils for their support.

Charity

Pupils on 'Jeans for Genes Day', were able to wear non-uniform for the day. A total of £ 217 was raised. The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal raised a total of £68.58.

Fees

Due to increased bank charges, it is with regret that any returned cheques now incur a £35.00 fee.

ISA North West Arts

This term, a number of students from Beech House were entered into the ISA Northwest Arts competition held at Cheadle Hulme. Congratulations to Hannah Sultan for coming second in the over 16s category and Jacob Molyneux for coming 3rd in the under 14s 3D category. Well done to everyone who participated.

Swimming

ISA

This year the North of England Championships Senior finals were held in Middleton. A fine team performance saw the school placed an excellent fourth with 115 points.

They medal winners were :-

Under 20 Girls Freestyle -

Bronze – Sofia Cruz

Under 20 Boys Backstroke –

Bronze – George Salt

Under 16 Girls Breaststroke –

Bronze – Olivia Fryer

Under 16 Boys 4x2 IM – Silver

– Jacob Molyneux

Under 14 4x2 Freestyle Relay -

Bronze– Jacob Wright, Daniel

Matthews, Jack Brook, Greg

Preston

Under 13 4x2 Freestyle Relay-

Bronze – Amy Fryer, Rebecca

Whittaker, Alice Davies, Vicky

Burnett

Under 14 4x2 Medley Relay -

Bronze – Jacob Wright, Harry

Hayden, Jack Brook, Greg

Preson

Under 14 4x2 Freestyle Relay-

Bronze – Harrison Groome,

Kingsley Benson, Piers

Smithies, James Riley

Under 16 4x2 Freestyle Relay

–Bronze - Jacob Molyneux,

Jack Higginson, James Wright,

Jack Brook

Overall Positions

1st - Grange 345

2nd - Abbeygate 287

3rd - Hill House 140

4th - Beech House 115

5th - St James 114

6th - Tower College 111

7th - Hillcrest 70

8th - Bridgewater 64

The Junior event was held in Stockport. The swim of the day was by James Hart who won a

bronze medal in under 11

breaststroke. The under 11

boys were placed 5th and the

under 10 boys 7th.

Independent Schools Gala

The 13th running of the Independent Prep Schools gala was the biggest ever with nine teams competing. The schools travelled from all over the North of England to participate. As a result the gala was split into two events based on school size.

Chetwyn retained the championship in the larger school event. Beech House were placed third in the smaller schools event.

1st Farrowdale -73

2nd Firwood Manor - 62

3rd Beech House -57

4th Clarendon Cottage - 30

v Bolton School

The Prep team travelled to Bolton School for the annual gala. For the first year the school failed to win one of the age groups.

Under 9

Beech House 21 Bolton 44

Under 10

Beech House 26 Bolton 44

Under 11

Beech House 29 Bolton 46

Cross Country

The Senior cross country events this year were once again run over three races at Falinge Park. The best placed runner was Jackson Cowie with an excellent silver medallist in the U14 event.

Biathlon

The school entered two teams in the North of England Biathlon championships, held this year in Liverpool.

The Year 6 team of Aston Buckley, James Hart and George Preston scored a total of 6624 points and were placed fourth.

The Year 9 team of Jackson Cowie, Daniel Charlson and James Wright scored a total of 2704 points and were the team silver medalists.

Remembrance Day

The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes walked down to Rochdale Cenotaph on Wednesday to join the Remembrance Day Service. All children observed the two minute silence beautifully, and members of the congregation, including the police and retired servicemen, commented on how well behaved the children were and how lovely it was that the children had come to take part. A member of the British Legion very kindly took the time after the service to explain to the children why we wear poppies on this day – the children were very interested by this.

Senior Regional Championships

As usual this event was held at Salford Baths. Beech House were once again Rochdale's only representatives in the event. The under 14 boys team of Jack Brook, Harrison Groome, Greg Preston, Daniel Matthews, and James Wright were placed 9th in both the 4 x 2 medley and freestyle relays.

Handball

This term saw the first competitive fixtures in this sport.

Under 11 Friendly

v St. James (h) lost 11:13

Basketball

Under 11 League

With the next round of the basketball being played in the school holidays, the team are riding high in the league.

v St. Vincent's lost 0:8

v Holy Family lost 0:4

v Caldershaw won 4:0

v Marland Hill won 12:0

v St. John Thornham won 12:0

v Caldershaw won 4:0

v Elmwood lost 2:4

v St. Margaret's won 6:0

v Holy Family won 6:0

Soccer

This term the school has played in both local and National competitions, with varying results.

Boys

Under 9 Friendly

v St. Joseph's (a) lost 0:4
v Huddersfield (h) lost 5:8

Under 11 Friendly

v Hulme Court (h) lost 4:6
v Healey (h) lost 9:11
v Farrowdale (a) won 9:1
v Hulme Court (h) lost 4:6
v Huddersfield (h) won 13:2
v Farrowdale (a) won 11:3
v St. James (h) lost 6:8

Under 11 League

v Lower Place (a) lost 6:14

Under 11 ISA Cup

v Ladybarn House (h) lost 1:5

Under 12 English Schools

v Hollingworth lost 0:6
v Falinge drew 2:2
v Oulder Hill won 5:1
v Middleton lost 0:6

Under 14 English Schools

v Siddall Moor (h) lost 0:4

Under 14 League

v Waterloo Lodge (h) won 6:2
v Brownhill (a) won 9:4
v Belmont (h) lost 10:15
v WHS (h) won 6:0

Under 15 English Schools

v Oulder Hill (a) lost 0:10

Under 16 League

v Belmont (h) lost 22:23
v WHS (h) won 4:2
v Brownhill (a) won 12:8

Prep House Soccer

1st Neptune – 9pts
2nd Saturn – 3pts
Mercury
Jupiter

Girls

Under 12 English Schools

v Middleton lost 0:6 v Oulder Hill lost 0:1
v Matthew Moss lost 0:2 v Hollingworth lost 0:8

Under 12 League

v Oulder Hill drew 0:0 v Matthew Moss lost 0:2
v St. Cuthbert's lost 0:3

Under 14 League

v Matthew Moss lost 0:2 v Holy Family won 2:0
v Hollingworth lost 0:8

Water Polo

Under 11 ISA

Beech House U11 8 v 1 Beech House U10
Beech House U10 2 v 7 Prenton
Beech House U11 1 v 1 Prenton
Beech House U10 2 v 9 Beech House U11
Prenton 14 v 4 Beech House U10
Prenton 5 v 9 Beech House U11
Beech House under 11 team were the event winners

Under 13 Manchester Schools

v Icebergs won 5:1 v MHS lost 1:2
v MGS A lost 1:2 v MGS B lost 0:2
v Lymm won 2:0
Beech House were placed fifth.

Rugby

Under 13 Rochdale Championships

v Hollingworth lost 1:5 v Matthew Moss lost 3:5
v St. Cuthbert's lost 2:3

Under 14 Friendly

v WHS (a) lost 5:6 v Huddersfield (h) lost 2:6

Under 14 Rochdale Championships

v Hollingworth lost 1:3 v Falinge lost 2:3
v St. Cuthbert's lost 1:5

House Points

The Combined Lower Prep and Upper Prep House Point totals this term are as follows :-
1st Neptune – 967
2nd Saturn – 958
3rd Jupiter – 797
4th Mercury – 666

Netball

The results of last season's Under 11 league saw Beech House placed third, their highest ever position.

Under 9 Friendly

v Wilmslow (a) lost 0:3

Under 10 Friendly

v Wilmslow (a) lost 0:6

Under 11 Friendly

v Wilmslow (a) lost 8:6
v St. James (h) lost 1:2

Under 11 Tournament

v St. James lost 1:2
v St. Mary's lost 0:2

Under 13 Friendly

v Huddersfield (a) lost 3:21

Under 13 League

v Holy Family (a) lost 3:17
v Wardle (a) lost 1:14
v Falinge (a) won 9:1
v Cardinal Langley (a) lost 1:28
v Hollingworth (a) lost 1:34
v St. Cuthbert's (a) lost 2:17
v Oulder Hill (a) lost 0:3

Under 15 Friendly

v Huddersfield (a) lost 1:17

Under 15 League

v Balderstone (a) lost 6:7
v Falinge (a) lost 1:8
v Wardle (a) lost 0:10
v Hollingworth (a) lost 3:24
v St. Cuthbert's (a) lost 0:24
v Holy Family (a) lost 3:14

Under 16 ISA North of England

v The Grange lost 1:13
v Hillcrest lost 0:16
v Tower College lost 2:10
v Cranley drew 2:2
v Hulme Hall won 6:4
v Hill House lost 0:12
Placed 5th in the event.