

**Merry Christmas Everyone!**

Once again we have all had the Christmas rush upon us. The Autumn term is always a busy one but this one seems to have been especially so.

This edition of the newsletter covers many of the activities and events the young people have been involved with over the course of the last few months:

National maths competition, sportability competition, fell-racing, football matches, boccia (look it up!), work experience week, national careers service residential and college weeks, mock exams, sailing and lots of weekend trips. All of that was on the back of a very successful summer which culminated in the holiday to Whitby.

It's a testament to young people and staff alike that all of these things have been somehow slotted into an already hectic schedule and everyone has coped with the inevitable changes to routine and multitude of unknowns.

Over the period we have also welcomed Dylan and Guy to the Whinfell family along with new staff Gemma, Paul at Shap Road and most popularly of all Julie, our new chef!

Sadly we also say bye-bye to our senior student, Liam who has now been with us for 8 years. Liam was a high-energy bundle of mischief when he first arrived and it is with enormous admiration that we have watched him grow into the mature and confident young man he has become. He leaves us as a planned move on becoming 19 to go to a new home in the North East where we hope he will be very happy and will enjoy his work. Good luck for the future Liam and stay in touch. Ha' wae the lads!

We also mark the retirement of Ken who has not been here as long as Liam but has transformed the teaching of English. We all hope that we can transform the lives of the young people we work with and Ken will leave in the knowledge that he has planted the seed of literature and reading in the minds of all his students. A more worthy achievement it is difficult to think of and on behalf of us all Ken, we wish you a very happy new lease of life. Thank you for all you have done.

As I write this, I am now looking forward to Christmas with a great deal of excited anticipation, tinged, it has to be said, by some anxiety around what the annual talent show is likely to throw up!

I hope you all have a very well-deserved break, enjoy spending time with your families and go into 2019 with renewed vigour and optimism.

Very best wishes

Chris



**What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?**

Claustrophobia!

**Why does Santa have three gardens?**

So he can 'ho ho ho'!

**What does Miley Cyrus have at Christmas?**

Twerky!

**Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?**

Because the pupils were too bright

**Dates for your diary:**

**Start back: 7 January**

**Half Term: 18 - 22 February**

**End of Term: 28 March**

**Ski Trip: 2-9 March**

## Whitby Holiday 2018

After several months of planning and some final checks on the day of departure, we set off for High Hawsker with 5 young people, for a week of fun activities

The young people adapted well to their temporary environment - respecting the owners of the property, other holidaymakers in the surrounding accommodation and the cottage they were staying in.

Throughout the week we took part in a wide range of activities which pushed all our boundaries and provided new and exciting experiences.

Opportunities arose for the young people to demonstrate their greatly improved social skills, for example, waiting patiently and encouraging a member of staff who was battling with their fear of heights.

The activities included:

- Paddle boarding
- Alpamare Waterpark
- Go Ape
- Crabbing
- Speed boat ride
- Flamingo land
- Amusements Arcades
- A day out in Scarborough



## Blackwell Sailing Club

Blackwell is a Windermere based charity that provides sailing experiences and self-development for groups with special educational needs and disabilities.

During the summer months several Whinfell students attended the club and over 6 sessions, were pitched against the elements to hone new skills and overcome sailing challenges. A big well done to the Whinfell Students who worked towards achieving sailability bronze and silver awards. Skills learnt included: nautical knots; turning the boat in different ways; and using a variety of sails and rigging. A big thankyou to David and his team of volunteers at Blackwell Sailing who provided endless amounts of encouragement and support.

One of the students, who also received his silver award, attended the Blackwell AGM to learn more about the charity and the work they do in the community - it isn't just a local charity, groups from across Europe use the facilities as a way of immersing themselves in the Lake District.

Whinfell are now running a school Café on Fridays to raise money for the Blackwell Sailing charity.

Simon Barton



**This term has been our busiest yet in the PE department at Whinfell. Over the last year a new PE curriculum has been introduced so pupils can choose from a variety of different and inclusive sports.**

## Athletics

Five year 11 GCSE pupils and one Year 13 pupils visited Salt Ayre athletics track in Lancaster for a school athletic competition. The first event was the 800m, where pupils implemented techniques on starts, arm and leg action and finishing they had learnt in their PE lessons. Pupils had to also implement strategies of endurance for medium distance running. Throwing events included the shotput and javelin, focussing on grip and technique of throwing action. Finally pupils got to have a go on a long jump track and landing in the sand pit, where pupils were able to try out their sprinting run ups, taking off and landing techniques.



## Boccia

Six key stage four pupils competed in the first Cumbria Boccia competition. Boccia is one of the new sports that has been introduced to Whinfell School. Boccia means *bowl* in Italian and is a game of strategy and precision. This involves taking it in turns to bowl different coloured balls to get closest to a jack. Pupils has been learning Boccia in PE lessons prior to the event and have really embraced trying a new sport. At the competition at Kendal Leisure Centre pupils played six matches against pupils from both mainstream and SEN schools from across the county. There was a fantastic team effort and won five out of six matches. Unfortunately as the standard on the day was so high Whinfell School just missed out on a place in the quarter finals.

## Work Experience - Peter Billing

2 weeks ago the year 11s all went on work experience for a week, which I think, everyone enjoyed. My week was, admittedly, cut short but I still enjoyed it. On Monday I worked at Taylor Made doggy day care where I hid pasta for the dogs, I also kept company with them and went on a walk and threw balls for them and on the Tuesday I was with Castle Dog walking where Buster ran off (I caught him) and Alfie hurt his foot, then in the evening Poppy tied me in a knot and Phoebe pulled me along. The Wednesday was like Tuesday but less exciting. I really enjoyed the week and wish to do it again.

## Work Experience - Anthony Davey

I went to the Rugby Club to do my work experience for 5 days. It was a good laugh because I learnt how to sweep, mop and even wink. I did a lot of litter picking. I learnt how to use a computer and a hot chocolate machine. I got to the rugby club and back on my bike, on the first day I had a near miss that scared me a lot. Luckily enough, I survived to tell the story today and am now back in Whinfell learning Maths and English with fabulous Ken and the amazing Luke ready for my GCSE's.





## BBC GOOD FOOD SHOW BIRMINGHAM

On 30<sup>th</sup> November several students had a day trip to the BBC Good Food Show in Birmingham, complimenting the Hospitality and Catering qualification they are working towards in school.

During the morning we watched a demonstration by Tom Kerridge who holds 2 Michelin Stars for his pub The Hand and Flowers; the first pub to be awarded 2 stars. Afterwards, we purchased Tom's new book and Joshua waited patiently in the queue to meet him and get it signed.



During the afternoon we attended an interview with Michel Roux Jnr, also a 2 star Michelin Chef at the London restaurant Le Gavroche. Throughout the day there was an abundance of food and drink to sample, presenting a great opportunity for the young people to taste food items they hadn't tried before. All enjoyed rooting through their free goody bags and their prizes won on the Parmigiano Reggiano stall. Although both the day and the journey there were long, we could not have asked for better company. Everyone chatted and laughed throughout the whole day which made it extremely enjoyable for everyone. Fingers crossed we will be going again next year!

Over the last term, all of the students achieved lots from their TOL sessions. Together, we shared some exciting and enjoyable experiences, enhanced by some fantastic dry days leading up to December.

# TOL



The students have accomplished the heights of fells such as Wharfedale in North Yorkshire and Conistone Old Man and Loughrigg in the Lakeland fells. Sessions have ranged from rock climbing near Brothers Water to kayaking on the cold canals of Crooklands along with lots of mountain biking. The biking involved a great deal of effort to get up the steep hills around the Kentmere fells but worth it for the excitement, thrills and fun experienced on the way down.



Our dynamic high sessions have also been complimented with low level woodland sessions, cooking flat breads on open fires in the heart of the Langdale Valley.

*Merry*  
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
*New Year*