



Pendle Community High School & College

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Welcome to the first of our summer term newsletters 2017 – another incredibly busy half-term and once again there has been a tremendous amount of hard work across all aspects of school and college, resulting in some very positive outcomes.

Earlier this week we held our Year 11 and 14 parents' evening and it was such a joy to share with parents and carers the amazing progress that has been made by all of our students. As they draw nearer to the end of their time in school and college, they begin to plan the transition into the next phase of their lives. Although we have a handful of Year 11 students who will be accessing local colleges from September, the vast majority of these students have selected to remain at Pendle Community College. As such we will be expanding to around fifty student places next academic year. We are delighted to have appointed a new assistant headteacher, Andrea Scott to lead our college provision from September onwards. We will refresh our existing curriculum offer to reflect the highly personalised 'Preparing for Adulthood' outcomes of employment, independent living, community inclusion and health.

In addition to our core curriculum offer across school and college, there have been some amazing opportunities offered this half-term in relation to our enriched curriculum, including an Erasmus+ trip to Lithuania, a weekend residential to Ulswater and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, all of which I am sure you will enjoy reading more about in this newsletter.

Best wishes as always

Chris Lingard

To view this newsletter in a larger format
please visit our website at:

www.pchs.lancs.sch.uk



Noticeboard

Cygnnet Course for Parents

We are organising a course for parents/carers who have a child with a diagnosis of Autism and/or social communication difficulties. There are 5 sessions which take place on Fridays from 9.30am-12pm on the following dates :-

Friday 9th June – Introduction

Friday 16th June - Communication

Friday 23rd June – Sensory Issues

Friday 30th June – Understanding Behaviour

Friday 7th July – Managing Behaviour

If you would like to attend please contact school on 01282 682260 or reception@pchs.lancs.sch.uk

More information about autism can be found at www.autism.org.uk

Uniform Sale

We have previously informed you that we will be starting to phase out our school uniform with the previous school logo and replacing it with our new school logo.

We still have excess stock in school which we are selling at discounted prices. Stock is limited, and there are no polo shirts left in sizes 32 and 34.

No order is guaranteed and any money paid will be refunded if the uniform cannot be provided.

Please contact the school office for more information and an order form.

Coffee Afternoon for Parents

Pendle Community College are holding a coffee morning for parents on **Thursday 15th June at 2pm – 2:45pm**. This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the college.

You will also meet Andrea Scott, the new assistant headteacher for post 16 who will take on the role from September.

If you are unable to attend but would still like to visit at another time, please contact reception to arrange.

Erasmus+ Make Every Step Count, Lithuania Trip May 2017

At 2am on a Sunday morning some very sleepy staff and pupils set off on the project's first short term exchange to Lithuania and by lunchtime that day we had been in 3 countries! We started in England, travelled through Latvia and finally arrived at the hotel in Lithuania where we did manage to catch up on some much needed sleep!

The next day we were warmly welcomed by our hosts at Baisogala Gymnasium and were introduced to the staff, pupils and important members of the town, including the mayor! This was before being invited to unveil a monument to the project; a signpost with directions to all the countries involved.

We had a multitude of experiences during our stay, learning traditional dances, trying new foods (most of us!), learning new words, making new friends, visiting a castle with almost 400 steps, looking in traditional houses and windmills and joining in activities such as making handicrafts and presentations, learning more about internet safety and trying out some new relaxation techniques. We even managed to visit the infamous Hill of Crosses!

It was hard to say goodbye to our new friends but we still had a further adventure to begin in Latvia, where we stayed in the capital Riga for a day. Everyone took it in turns to choose which streets we explored in the old town and then we ventured up the steeple of St. Peter's Basilica to look at Riga from above and relaxed on a canal boat around the city. Just over a week later we dropped off some tired and well-travelled students back to their parents. The students were amazing and made us so proud, as ALWAYS!



Wenning's Woodland Adventure

As part of our Science topic this term, we are looking at different plants and animals and their habitats. We visited Towneley Park where we investigated different habitats to see what we could find.

We took pictures and recorded our results. Of course the trip wouldn't have been complete without an ice cream in the sunshine.

We had a great time!



Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is the world's leading youth achievement award, giving millions of 14 to 24 years the opportunity to be the very best they can be. This year, nine students from Years 11 to 13 are taking on the challenge of the Silver Award. On Wednesday 26th April the group, accompanied by supporting staff, set off on their practice expedition. The group had previously practiced camping and navigations skills and understandably there was a mixture of emotions as we packed the minibus. The morning was bright and we headed for Gisburn Forest where the group thoroughly enjoyed completing the Gruffalo Trail as a warm up activity. After lunch we increased the challenge level, setting off on a 3 mile walk through the forest. Although described as moderate, we were appreciative we didn't attempt the severe route!

At camp, everyone mucked in putting up tents, cooking meals of pasta and meatballs, lighting a fire, making brews and getting two sleeping bags inside each other as the forecast was for a cold night. Another learning curve involved cooking rice pudding over the incredibly fierce flames on the tiny gas stoves! After a cold night at camp it was time for breakfast and to pack up before embarking on the most challenging aspect of the expedition so far; navigating a circular route through open farmland. Just as the last tents were coming down the heavens opened and continued for the rest of the day. Spirits dipped through the cold, wet morning and were momentarily raised whenever there was a snack break or a break in the downpour.



This team of young people worked incredibly hard in tough conditions to complete this practice expedition. Our next expedition is on the 23rd of May and is the three day, two night, qualifying expedition. Cross your fingers for better weather!

Special thanks to Stephanie, Jordan, Adnan, Emma and Ken. Without them, this expedition would not have been possible.

Ribble and Wyre go to War!

From Ribble and Wyre to the Marne and the Somme – we go to War!

On 16 May 2017, Ribble and Wyre went to Preston to sign up as new recruits in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and found out just what it was like to become a soldier in the First World War. We visited the Lancashire Infantry Museum and the Museum of Lancashire, learning about what we'd need to wear and carry into battle; there was a lot of kit! We did lots of practice with our Lee-Enfield 303 Rifles; 'sloping arms', 'porting arms' and issuing blood-curdling cries when we put them into 'fix bayonets' mode!

We huddled in a First World War trench in France, checking for rats (which were as big as cats!), sounding the alarm and yelling 'GAS! GAS! GAS!' when we smelled the dreaded mustard gas or phosgene blowing over from no man's land, wondering if we'd ever see dear old England again!

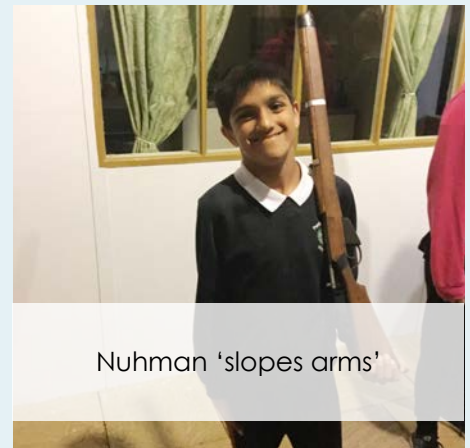
Huge thanks go to Sergeants Owen Powell and Tony Durber of Lancashire County Council's Museums Service's Heritage Learning Team for giving us a history lesson like no other! A learning experience that is not available from books, films or the internet, but is worth its weight in gold!

*Gas! GAS! Quick, boys! - An ecstasy of fumbling,
Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time;
But someone still was yelling out and stumbling
And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime...*

(From the poem Dulce et Decorum Est, written by Wilfred Owen during the First World War)



Sergeant Powell declares "Ifras, you're in the army now!"



Nuhman 'slopes arms'



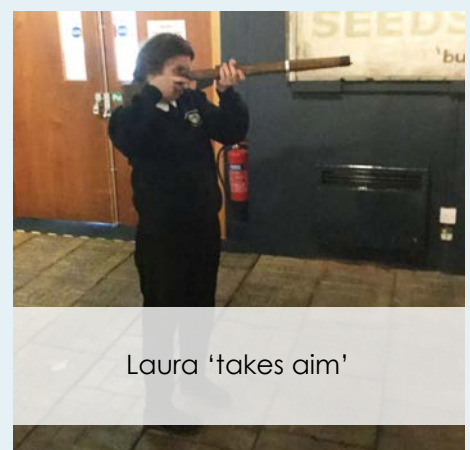
Sulaman thinks 'These hobnailed boots are definitely heavier than my shoes!'



Rifle Drill - Asad, Amina, Ifras, Nabil, Sulaman, Miki and Qadir are put through their paces!



Down in the Trench where it's dank and dark



Laura 'takes aim'

Firefighters

Throughout the year we've had a small group of pupils from years 10, 11 and Post 16 visiting Nelson Fire Station. It's been an enjoyable and worthwhile experience for everyone involved. It was great to witness the rapport between the students and the experienced firefighters.



It was great to see Faye conquer her fears about climbing a ladder and Harry managing the imposing three levels of the 50ft tower which was very impressive. Each pupil was assigned their own equipment which they had to be responsible for. They undertook a wide variety of exercises including health and safety, limiting fire hazards, using hydraulic cutting equipment, using fire hoses and much more.

The value this experience offers our students is unique, giving them a chance to improve their self-confidence, develop their communication skills and work as part of a team within a disciplined environment.

A big thank you to all the staff at Nelson Fire Station who worked with our students.

Exams

It's been a pretty hectic half term for Year 11 as they have completed all their Step Up To English coursework and exams. We have sent their best 3 units of work to the moderator which covers spoken language, reading and writing.

The topics we covered ranged from detective work, sports studies, voluntary sector studies and reading for pleasure.

The students have worked exceptionally hard as this is the first year we have studied this course.

We eagerly await our results on 24th August 2017.



Scouts

This term Scouts have again been really active and have taken part in a number of activities.

The Scouts are currently getting ready for Scout Camp in June and are learning new skills to help them when they get to camp. This has included learning how to erect a tent and how campsites operate. We have also looked at some international aspects and the Scouts were able to try Norwegian food and drink.

We would like to invite you to the **Scouts Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 28th June 2017** in the school hall at **4:45pm**. This is an opportunity for you to see what we have achieved over the last year.

Autism Awareness Week

Everyone was involved in Autism Awareness Week and each class researched famous people with autism and displayed their work on a display in the library. It was an informative exercise and certainly increased our knowledge and understanding of autism.



Trip to Ullswater

The Outward Bound Trust is an educational charity that uses the outdoors to help develop young people from all walks of life.

This year, twelve intrepid adventurers from Years 8 to 10 set off with three staff for a weekend on the shores of the beautiful Ullswater in the Lake District. The sun was shining and a lovely picnic was enjoyed by all at Tenby Services, where we said hello to the ducks!

We were greeted on arrival at Outward Bound by Katie, who had previously delivered a getting to know you session at school. Some of the young people remembered her and she received a wonderful hello from all.

The first challenge was for the young people to make their own beds and what a challenge this proved to be! There were duvet covers being used as bed sheets in one room and as pillow cases in the next! Eventually, with a little guidance, the job was done and it was time to head outside for some team challenges.

The team challenges pushed some of our young people outside their comfort zones, but everyone did the school proud by giving it all a good go. The whole group managed to conquer their fears and crawl through some very small tunnels!

Saturday started bright and turned a little colder as we headed across the lake in a speed boat to catch the steam ferry to Glenridding. We met the minibus, sampled some Kendal Mint Cake and headed to the Angle Tarn for some ghyll scrambling. Every single person managed to climb up through the stream and they made a wonderful team. If the amount of water in the river was anything to go by, we may well be in for a drought, it was the lowest I have ever seen.

Saturday night we opted for a nice chilled campfire, toasting marshmallows and learning the basics of fire lighting. There were no 5am wake ups on Sunday morning, everyone was still snoring when woken up at 7am. The sun was out again as we headed back to the lake for some canoeing. There was a very competitive race and some excellent paddling skills on display. A huge thanks to Tom and Laura for making the trip possible.



Erasmus DIY

On Friday afternoons the Erasmus group of DIY students have been working together to build curriculum resources. The six super students are constructing some large wooden balance scales for using inside the school and are hopefully going to make an outdoor version for the sensory garden.



Work Related Learning

College students have been cooking up a treat as part of their work experience. Expectations are high as echoes of "Yes Chef" around the kitchen follow when instructions are given for chopping, peeling, weighing and setting tables ready for our V.I.P guests.

Menu choices vary each week with bread and butter pudding being a favorite. Incidents have happened along the way, but this was a great learning curve for our students to understand the needs and requirements of a working kitchen. This time we made sure to be back on time so the brownies wouldn't be burnt like last time!



School's out for half term

School will break for half term on Friday 26th May and will return on Monday 5th June.

Have a lovely break!