



# Beaconhurst E-news

THE SCHOOL'S LATEST NEWS ON LINE

## Welcome

Welcome to this, the first edition of the Beaconhurst E-news. We are aiming to produce these bulletins throughout the school year in order to keep pupils and parents informed about the many things that take place in the term across Beaconhurst. I hope you enjoy this edition and would be grateful of any feedback. Please get in touch through the school office on 01786 832146 or by e-mail on [headmaster@beaconhurst.stirling.sch.uk](mailto:headmaster@beaconhurst.stirling.sch.uk). As I am sure you will agree, already this has been a busy and productive start to the year and with the October holiday just around the corner, I wish all those in the Beaconhurst community, a relaxing break and look forward to even more to report at the end of term.

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## SQA Examination Results

As in previous years, Beaconhurst pupils have continued to out-perform national averages across subjects at Standard Grade, Intermediate, Higher and Advanced Higher. Congratulations go to all our Senior 4, 5 and 6 pupils, with special mention to the following who came top of their year groups: **Verity Beckham** and **Mungo Dewar** (Senior 5), **Alasdair Law, Oliver Lowrie** and **Holly Wilkinson** (Senior 4) and **Emma Shaw** in Senior 6 who achieved two A grades at Advanced Higher and an A at Higher. In a year that saw university entrance more competitive than ever, 65% of our senior pupils secured a place at their first choice of university. A full breakdown of examination results and leavers' destinations can be found in the parents section of the school website.

## Staffing

The new session has seen some new faces coming to Beaconhurst on the teaching staff. **Miss Wendy Wotherspoon** has joined the Science Department, **Mr Grant Norcross** the Mathematics Department and **Miss Lisa Nicholas** has joined Junior Start as an Early Years Practitioner. **Mr Stuart Imrie**, a former pupil of Beaconhurst, has joined the staff of the PE department as a teaching assistant and I am delighted to welcome back **Mrs Susan King** to the English Department to replace Mr Gold, who left over the summer. The office staff has been complemented by **Mrs Linda Cunningham**, who replaces Mrs Davies as administrative officer.

Our prefects had a weekend of team bonding at the Youth Hostel in Callander. This was to enable the newly appointed leaders a chance to get together and enter into the type of team spirit required by those chosen for these leadership positions within the school.

## School Authority

School and House prefects were appointed at the start of the year as well as Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies and House Captains. Well done to the following for gaining their places in School Authority:

Head Boy – **Mungo Dewar**; Head Girl – **Amy MacKenzie**; Deputy Head Boy – **McGregor Campbell**; Deputy Head Girl – **Verity Beckham**. House Captains: **Michella Hogg** (Brown), **Lewis Blaney** (Cameron), **Jordan Differ** (Morton) and **Verity Beckham** (Plant). **School Prefects** are Lewis Blaney, Lauren Clayden, Michella Hogg, Douglas Johnston and Jamie Sivewright and **House Prefects**: Stuart Black, Flora Hogg and Michael Taylor (Brown); Sam Kerr, Jenson More, Max Schaefli, Holly Strang and Holly Wilkinson (Cameron); Casey Crooks, Alex Finlay and Scott Patrick (Morton); Emily Barr and Umar Quyaam (Plant).

### **WOSIS Orchestral Weekend**

**Thomas Barker, Oliver Lowrie, Joanna Lowrie and Rachael Harbinson** took part in the West of Scotland Independent School orchestral course in September. The rehearsal weekend culminated in a concert at Glasgow Academy, which was of a very high standard and enjoyed by all who attended. Rachel has also recently passed Grade 7 Flute with Merit in the ABRSM examinations.

### **Wellies for Pakistan**

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September, we held a “Wellies for Pakistan” day where staff and pupils were encouraged to wear their wellies to school and donate money for the Pakistan Disaster Fund. It was a great day and we raised in the region of £450 for the charity. A big thank you to all who participated.

### **Charity Cycle Ride**

Senior 3 student Edward Salthouse cycled 100 miles on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September for Maggie’s Cancer Charity. An extremely brave achievement and a big congratulations to him from everyone at school.

### **Business Dynamics**

Our S5 pupils took part in a Business Dynamics Business Awareness Programme on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The event was hosted by Diageo in Alloa and proved to be interesting and lively with a number of people from local businesses leading the seminars.

### **Young Enterprise**

Four representatives from our Young Enterprise Team attended an event at Prudential in Stirling on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September along with 3 other teams. **Holly Strang** from Senior 6 was asked to present Beaconsburst’s idea to a group of Business Advisors – “the dragons”. Holly did an excellent presentation and put her case across very clearly and as a result, her idea was the one chosen by “the dragons”. **Gregor Harley** and **Jordan Differ**, also from Senior 6, did an equally good job of tackling the weekly effectiveness meetings. Their mature and professional approach is to be highly commended.

### **Butterfly and Insect World**

Our Junior 4 and 5 classes went to Butterfly and Insect World on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and they have come back with a lot of tales and photographs of beautiful butterflies, scary snakes and big bugs!

### **Russian TV Stars**

**Angus and Bruce Baillie-Hamilton** from our S3 and S2 classes recently appeared on Russian National TV. The boys read excerpts from an unpublished Walter Scott poem their parents have, in Russian and Angus even gave a vocal rendition of a Russian folk song. The boys recently received results from Mandarin and Russian exams they sat and both achieved A\* for both languages in 3 out of 4 of the parts and only just missed out on full marks. The school is extremely proud of their wonderful achievement and congratulate them both on their faultless TV performance.

### **Cameron Hall**

The Cameron Hall has been through a metamorphosis over the summer holidays and the building work is nearing completion. The renovation work will leave us with a refurbished auditorium, studio theatre and four new classrooms. Work should complete during the October break, with the new facilities being ready when pupils return in November.

### **Proposed New School Transport Routes**

As part of Beaconsburst School’s ongoing programme of improvements for parents and pupils, we are hoping to extend the school transport provision; thus facilitating easier and safer access to the school for our pupils, lessening the strains and stresses of the school run for parents, and also making a small contribution to the reduction of everyone’s carbon footprint. We have contacted parents in these areas to gauge interest in running return services from the Trossachs and Dunblane areas to Beaconsburst School. Further routes are being planned for other areas so watch this space.

## Headmaster's Certificates

Headmaster's Certificates of Distinction have been presented to the following pupils so far this term:

Junior School: **Liam Russell, Elise Newall, Tara Mathewson, Luke Haughton, Ella Roger, Ben Malcolm, Emma Kilpatrick, Bronwen McGuire, Logan Eason** and **Brandon Thomson-Hoare**.

Senior School: **Holly Strang, Gregor Harley, Jordan Differ, Edward Salthouse, Fraser Morrison, Sophie El-Nahas, Jarrad Haywood** and **Kirsty Shaw**.

Well done to all those pupils who have distinguished themselves in their work and in their contribution to school life.

## Chernobyl Life Line

The pupils at Beaconhurst School are all too young to remember the horrendous news of the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, but unfortunately, their contemporaries in the Ukraine are still living with the consequences on a daily basis. Last week we had a visit which everyone will remember.

The Chernobyl Life Line Charity works with children from Belarus and the Ukraine who are living in an area which is still very high in radioactivity. Children born in this part of the world have a much higher likelihood of developing cancer or being born with abnormalities. Even those born healthy have to struggle with consuming food which could damage their health. The Charity brings the children over to this country for a four week respite and even this short period of time can add two years on to a young person's life expectancy.

Thanks to an ex-pupil, Emma Struthers, we were able to have the charity come school to speak to us at assembly. We were so moved by what we heard that we extended an invitation to the 9 Ukrainian children and their teacher to come and spend a day with us in Senior 1. We had a wonderful day with them. None of us will forget the traditional thank you concert they sang for us in their national costumes and hope to have many more links with this organization in the future.

## Other News

**Emma Devine** (Senior 4) continues her tennis career and was selected to play for Scotland at U18 level in the four nations championships. Emma had a very successful summer, winning the Scottish U16 and U18 singles titles as well as winning International U18 Grade 4 ITF tournament. She now ranks 323 in world U18 rankings!

**Holly Wilkinson** (Senior 5) was selected for the Scotland U17 cricket squad and has just completed a successful season.

**Fraser Morrison** (Senior 3) was one of the driving forces behind the mPower programme that ran at the MacRobert over the summer. This is a youth-based arts programme, the first of its kind in Scotland, run by and for young people working alongside theatre professionals.

**Hanna Howland** (Junior 4) has continued to add to her collection of prizes from dance competitions by most recently winning the Grampian Stage Festival for 7-8 year olds, where she was also judged 'most classical dancer' in the event.

The following Junior 2 pupils received pre-primary dance awards from the Royal Academy of Dance: **Gabrielle Blackie, Abigail Jones, Millie Dillon** and **Sophie Ure**. Whilst **Megan Knight**, also in Junior 2, has been awarded Levels 1 and 2 from the National Ice Skating Association.

Congratulations to all our pupils on their many and varied achievements. Apologies to anyone we have missed out – please let us know for inclusion in the next bulletin.

This bulletin is available on the school website – [www.beaconhurst.com](http://www.beaconhurst.com)