

Exam Tips

Helpful hints to help your child during their exams:

- **GCSE POD** – a free app and site they can access
- **Revision sessions** – check the Berwick Academy website to see what sessions are being held in the holidays and after school
- Ask teachers for revision books, extra work and practice papers
- Timings in exams are crucial – time your child doing one of the questions
- Make a revision timetable
- Making flash cards, revision posters and quizzes can be a really helpful way to revise
- Use a computer room after school
- Please feel free to communicate with staff



L: Cameron gets the victory!



R: The proud winner

'The Best Sprinter in Scotland'

Cameron Tindle swept through the field to claim victory in 2015's New Year Sprint. The race, held at Musselburgh Racecourse, is an annual competition that pits the best of the area against each other, with a grand prize of £4000 and a spectacular trophy.

After sailing through his qualifying round, Cameron faced tough competition from his own training partner, Jane Tomlinson. The race ending was so close, judges had to scrutinise the photo finish; but in the end it was Berwick Academy's own, Cameron, who managed to get his head across the line to win the title.

Journalists all over the region are calling Cameron 'the best sprinter in Scotland' and the £4000 winnings are going towards helping him continue his substantial training and competition expenses.... and maybe a new car!

Careers/Work Experience

Year 10 will have the opportunity to go on Work Experience during the summer term. Work Experience is a fantastic opportunity to get a taste of any career that you are interested in. It provides students with knowledge about what life may be like after education. Miss Barron is leading the Work Experience Initiative. If your child has any questions or queries about this, please send them to her or Susan Kent for an appointment.

Sixth Form

Congratulations to all of the sixth formers who have had offers from a range of universities already. Well done!

Congratulations should also go to the following Y12 students for being awarded a place at Lancaster University's summer school. Completion of the summer school will result in an automatic place there. Lancaster is a prestigious university and this is the first time Berwick Academy has participated in this scheme.

Alanis Jackson David Critchlow Euan Ringland Tiffany Ramsay Alex Muir
Nathan Jackson Sam Bearhope Levi Kay

Newspaper Group

Keep looking out for Berwick Academy's news team, who get their articles and interviews published on a regular basis in the Berwick Advertiser.

www.berwickacademy.co.uk / Berwick.Headteacher@AlexisWiddowson

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ISSUE 3 - Spring Term

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Headteacher's Welcome...

This has been a busy Spring term as we start to step up the revision and intervention support for all our students sitting examinations in the summer.

Notwithstanding, you will see from the activities described in this newsletter that we continue to explore ways to enhance the learning of pupils in all areas by offering opportunities for visits directly related to their studies.

It has also been pleasing this term to see students developing their social awareness. The work of Psychology students around mental health illness in young people is pertinent and timely. Inappropriate celebrity role models, 24/7 bombardment by social media and an increasing lack of resilience to the knocks of life make this a difficult time to be navigating the choppy waters of adolescence. It is up to all of us to reassure, support and advise our children if we are to see them grow up healthy and happy. We welcome dialogue with parents on this topic and I would encourage you to get in touch if you have thoughts or ideas on how we can support our young people.

Happy Easter to you all! **Alexis Widdowson**

Berwick Youth Theatre 'Shines' on Stage

Berwick Academy's drama team has recently treated audiences to yet another magnificent production. The student's interpretation of *Sunshine on Leith*: The story of two soldiers returning to Edinburgh after extended stays in Afghanistan; dazzled the public and left everyone clamouring for more.

With refined Scottish accents and immaculately crafted singing skills, the talented students created a fantastic, atmospheric performance. Special mentions must go to Patrick Davenport and Carl Laidlaw who excelled in the main character roles of Ally and Davy; Rachel Johnston and Abigail Hood, performing as Liz and Yvonne, the onstage companions to the leading men; and Max Manning and Kyla Dean who added a touch of class to the characters of Rab and Jean.

Even though this was a small stage production, the show filled everyone with a big West-End vibe. When the entire cast came together in the finale to sing well known number 'I'm Gonna Be (500 miles)', the audience erupted in applause to appreciate yet another fantastic performance.

Berwick Means Business!

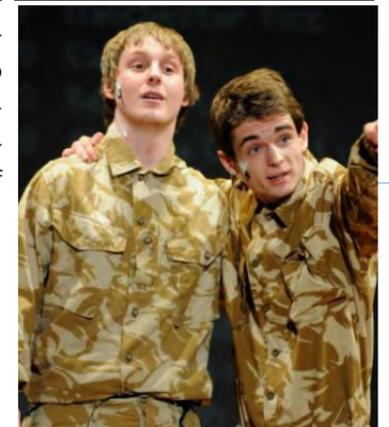
On Friday 6th February, a team of six Year 10 entrepreneurs participated in the regional finals of the Coca-Cola Real Business Challenge. Expectations of the group were high, having excelled in the previous round, where they finished in the top 1% of all North East schools.

In the first round, the team made a marketing campaign for a sports drink they designed themselves. From the packaging to the athlete promoting their product, everything had to be included in their plans. After a morning of hard work, they developed an excellent product worthy of a place in the next round of the challenge!

In the second round, the stakes were high; only ten schools in the whole North East made it this far. This time, the objective was to design a campaign to raise money for the Special Olympics. Unfortunately, they didn't make it to the following round, but the experience was massively valuable to each student and they should all be very proud of their achievements.



'Sunshine on Leith' cast dazzled!



Carl Laidlaw and Patrick Davenport as Davy and Ally in 'Sunshine on Leith'.



Berwick Academy's Y10 entrepreneurs

Key Dates

13/04/2015–
Year 12 UCAS Convention
14/04/2015–
Year 7 Liaison Day
22/04/2015–
Re-focus Parents Evening
(Invitation only)
30/04/2015–
UCAS Convention
04/05/2015–
May Bank Holiday
11/05/2015–
Year 11 and Sixth Form
examinations begin
19/05/2015–
Year 10 Parents Evening
21/05-26/05–
Paris Trip



Sixth Form students held a very successful Christmas Fair for The Trussell Trust.

Charity Begins at School

Berwick Academy students have been busy raising money for a number of charities over the last few months. Zoe Rimmer and a group of Sixth Form students held a Christmas Fair in order to raise money for The Trussell Trust. Founded in 1997, The Trussell Trust endeavours to develop, run, and enable communities to replicate sustainable projects that combat poverty and exclusion, all whilst sharing experiences to raise awareness of the issues. Stalls in the fair ranged from: Hot Chocolate, bake sales, game stalls to sending a candy cane. The fair was a great success and raised £178.72 for the charity. Also, a further £276.55 was raised from an own clothes day.

More recently, students participated in a number of activities to raise money for Comic Relief. The school raised nearly £600, a fantastic effort from everybody involved!

Sports Corner

Berwick Academy students have had an extremely successful term in relation to sporting events. The Year 11 hockey girls had an amazing season, getting into the semi final of the County Tournament. They played extremely well and were only knocked out when it came to penalties. Year 9 and 10 also had successful seasons, winning the majority of their games. League places will be released at the end of March. Well done, girls!

Nathan Cox had a tremendous term, finishing in an astounding second place in the Inter Counties Cross Country race. An excellent feat!

Both our KS3 and KS4 Badminton teams travelled to Ashington this term to compete for a place in the County Tournament. The KS3 played well, competing in some close games, but unfortunately they didn't make it through to the County finals.

The KS4 teams did get through to the finals and competed in some edge-of-your-seat games that had some phenomenal play from our young players. Up against some stiff competition, the girls came a highly creditable third, whereas the boys finished second overall. A fantastic achievement from all the players involved. Mrs Arthur, who took the teams down to Ashington said, 'As always, our players were gracious in victory and defeat and they are all a credit to the school.'

In rugby, Berwick Academy teams performed exceptionally throughout the term with Year 9 boys finishing top of their group in the league. Not to be outdone, the Year 10 boys also reached the summit of their league, giving the school a double whammy of wins.

The football teams also played well this term. The Year 11 team managed to get to the quarter finals of the County Cup and the Year 10 boys were joint top of their league on points, but unfortunately, they narrowly lost out on goal difference. Well done to all of the players.



BA's Sporting Stars



Key Dates Continued

11/06-12/06–
Y9 and Y10 Sports Day
15/06-19/06 –
Geography Field Work
22/06-26/06–
Year 9 Mock Exam
Week/ Year 11 Transi-
tions
03/07/2015–
Year 11 Prom
07/07/2015–
Y8-Y9 Transition Day
08/07/2015–
London Trip
10/07/2015–
Y13 Prom
13/07-17/07–
Enterprise Week and
End of School Year



Y11 coders at the HP Headquart



Mr Dickson cuts the ribbon to officially open Berwick Academy's Reading Room



Reading Room Officially Opened!

A brand new reading facility has been opened in the M Block this term. Rehousing many of the books from the Old Library, this freshly renovated room will allow main school students to relax with a book in a peaceful environment. With homely furniture and an electric scanning system, pupils are able to borrow books or bring work and personal reading material if they wish. The room is going to be open for half an hour most lunchtimes and will be supervised by Mr Dickson, who is hoping that the room can be opened 5 days a week, including lunch and break, in the near future. The room is situated next door to Miss Barron's room and anyone with a passion for reading and learning is welcome.

Berwick Academy also recently promoted World Book Day by getting everybody in school to 'Drop Everything And Read', the DEAR initiative, to promote how important reading is. This was a wonderful and peaceful opportunity to bury our noses in a good book!

Time To Change

Berwick Academy Psychology students have decided to stand up against the stigma, that 9 out of 10 people with mental illnesses experience, by teaming up with the mental health charity Time to Change.

On February 5th, Psychology students helped spread the word on mental health by running a small stand outside reception. This gave pupils and staff from across the school the perfect opportunity to access key information on the facts and questions surrounding mental health issues.

Having prepared everything themselves, the stand was covered in all sorts of informative materials and hand outs. With cases of illnesses like depression and anorexia on the rise, students must be well informed in order to understand the wide reaching effects of those living with mental health issues.

A big thank you to all the students and staff who spent five minutes talking about mental health. One step at a time, we will help eradicate the stigma attached to mental health.

Cracking the Codes!

Mr Johnson recently took a group of Year 11 Computing enthusiasts to a coding event at Hewlett Packard's European Headquarters in Newcastle. The students competed in a series of coding challenges against other North East schools and listened to Alan Campbell MP as well as several start-up directors give them advice about potential careers. A great day was had by all and students were spoiled by HP, receiving goody bags and all the food they could eat!