



# THE NETHERHALL ECHO



Welcome to the newsletter, bringing you up-to-date information about the school.

4 September to 18 October 2019

Issue 16

## Golden Apples

**Rewarding excellence in education**  
**'How do you like them apples?'**



**Winner of Best Secondary School 2018,  
Best Teaching Professional 2019 and  
Best Student 2019**

Mr D W Tromans  
Head Teacher

# Golden Apples 2019

*Rewarding excellence in education*



**Congratulations to**  
**Mark Bailey**  
**who won**  
**'Best Teaching Professional'**  
**at the coveted Golden Apples**  
**Education Awards on Friday Night**

*Mr Bailey won the award for 'receiving a remarkable number of nominations, which were of the highest quality from many of the students that Mr Bailey has taught throughout his career'. As the host announced, 'Mr Bailey is a very worthy winner and a great example of a consummate teaching professional.'*

Well done to Mr Bailey on behalf of the school, the governing body and the community of Maryport.

**Mr D W Tromans**  
**Head Teacher**

# Golden Apples 2019

*Rewarding excellence in education*



**Congratulations to**  
**Harrison Savage**  
**who won**  
**'Best Student'**  
**at the coveted Golden Apples**  
**Education Awards on Friday Night**

Harrison Savage won the award for *'his unstinting dedication and commitment to the school, he is in school at 7.30am every morning to coach the tennis teams, who progressed to the northern schools' tennis semi-finals. After this, he supports students with literacy through the school's paired reading programme. He has just completed his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, is excelling in his studies of A level French, maths and history and has already been offered places at Russell Group universities and scholarships in the USA'.*

As the host announced, *'Harrison is a fabulous student and a credit to his school and his family.'*

Well done to Harrison on behalf of the school, the governing body and the community of Maryport.

**Mr D W Tromans**  
**Head Teacher**

# World Challenge, India Expedition 2019

## An Amazing Experience!

World Challenge are an international company that works with schools to participate in overseas travel, they believe it is one of the most empowering, life-altering forms of learning possible.

These experiences complement school learning, giving students the opportunity to become true life-learners and true global citizens.

Seven adventurous students from Netherhall and a very lucky Mrs Bishop went on an experience of a lifetime this summer with World Challenge: a trip to India to trek in the foothills of the Himalayan mountains.

Caitlan Fletcher, Shannon Holt, Jodie Stamper, Alicia Pearson, Liam Denwood, Charlie Roche and Kelsey Barr have spent the last two years raising money for the expedition. This has ranged from dog walking to breeding fish, from cake sales to selling Christmas decorations. All this hard work and preparation paid off, and on the 13th July 2019 we set off for India. Here are some of the amazing things we got up to whilst we were there:

**Mrs D Bishop**  
**Trip Organiser**



**Trekking and camping in the Himalayas in Northern India**



**Went on an open top jeep wildlife safari and saw a herd of wild elephants**



**Taking part in a community project in which we built drainage to collect rain water and a barbecue for a rural Indian family**



**We got to experience the overnight train to Delhi**



**Visiting the cities of Jaipur, Delhi and Agra**



**Visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra**



**And yes, we all got our picture taken on the 'Diana seat'!**

**Plus, much, much, more!**

## Horrible Histories 'The Terrible Tudors'

I organised an educational trip for 49 year 8 students who are studying this period as part of their history syllabus, to the Sands Centre in Carlisle to watch 'The Terrible Tudors' from the Horrible Histories show. A great time was had by all, particularly the 3D part of the show, which had the students ducking for cover and wincing as heads rolled out of the screen!

Once again, the students were superbly behaved and a pleasure to be with.

**Mr M Barlow**  
**Head of History**



## Senhouse Roman Museum

I organised an educational trip for year 7 students who are studying this period as part of their history syllabus, to the fabulous Senhouse Roman Museum in Maryport. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learned loads about the Romans and about the history of their town!

A huge thank you to the staff of the Senhouse Museum - who are all volunteers – as they were excellent and held the students in rapture throughout their visit.

Once again, the students were superbly behaved and a pleasure to be with.

**Mr M Barlow**  
**Head of History**



## Careers Events at Netherhall

During this half term, there have been several visitors speaking to students about careers and employability.



Year 10 students participated in a workshop run by the London Museum and the React Foundation to design and build devices for transporting water. Students developed their employability skills during the workshop, including teamwork, communicating effectively, negotiation and using their initiative.



Year 9 students had an assembly led by Sophie Palmer from the Nuclear Decommissioning Agency (NDA) to encourage young people to be 'Social Media Savvy'. Employers are increasingly using social media profiles to discover more about potential candidates. As well as finding out

about safe use of social media, students were asked to consider how they can use their accounts positively in the years to come to ensure they give the best possible impression to future employers.



Year 9 students have also participated in a forensics workshop with the British Army. Students had to review evidence in order to identify the correct suspect. Students' teamwork, analytical skills and organisation were tested. The winning group with the best teamwork and communication were Stephen Magee, Harvey Clifford and Jack Thompson – well done!

**Mrs S Bateson**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



## London Science Museum Roadshow

It was that time of year again when the London Science Museum roadshow came to Netherhall School. The year 7 and 8 students were treated to another fantastic show, this year on the theme of "Space". Students learnt about the difficulties of space travel, eating in space, the effects of cold temperature and a whole host of other space related topics. It was great to see how enthusiastic both year groups were, particularly the year 7 students who are currently learning about the Solar System in Physics.

Special thanks to the REACT Foundation who make this visit possible. Looking forward to seeing what next year's show is all about!

**Mr M Hearn**  
**Joint Head of Science**



## "The power of the Sun in the palm of my hand!"



On Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September we had a visit from Morton Lennholm from JET labs near Oxford. Morton has the illustrious task of flipping the switch that turns on the only nuclear fusion reactor in the UK! Nuclear fusion is thought to be the future of electricity generation to answer the world's needs. It produces no long-lived radioactive isotopes and the ingredients are readily available from sea-water. Morton has been part of the development of this reactor; the only one in the world that has actually output more electricity than was used to start nuclear fusion (think "Doc Ock" in Spiderman).

Morton gave a talk to physics groups in years 9, 10 11, 12 and 13, and then answered questions from a small group of sixth formers.

**Mrs J Ferris-Worth**  
**Head of Physics**

## **Sellafield Apprenticeships 2020 - Careers presentation**

On Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> October year 13 students took part in a highly informative careers afternoon with Sellafield's Head of Student Recruitment, John Woodhouse. The afternoon gave our students a great deal of information on apprenticeships in the varying fields of Project Management, Nuclear Engineering and Nuclear Science amongst others. The schemes will allow students to read for degrees while gaining invaluable workplace experience.

Netherhall School Sixth Form is committed to enabling all of its students to fulfil their considerable potential and we are delighted that the opportunity provided has prompted a number of current year 13 students to consider an application to Sellafield in the January recruitment window, with a view to beginning their apprenticeships in the autumn of 2020 following their A level examinations. We are delighted with the success that last year's leavers had in gaining an apprenticeship with Sellafield this year, as 9 students have just begun their careers there last month. Our thanks to John Woodhouse of Sellafield for an excellent and informative afternoon, for the ongoing support of the students of Netherhall School and for the opportunity provided.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**



**Left to right: Mr John Woodhouse, Jessica Hanley, Abbie Hagan, Tamzin Carruthers, Jessica Timney, Ben Atkinson, Rosie Hodgson, Jodie Stamper, Ryan Forsyth, Sophie Holliday, Jamie Wilcock, Macey Fearon, Chloe Routledge, Emily Plummer, Ellie Dempster, Chloe Lambert, Lindsey Hewitt, Emily Steel.**

## Dream Placement 2020

Sixth form students had the fantastic opportunity to listen to an introductory presentation on the Dream Placement programme for 2020 on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September. We are extremely grateful to Mrs Nicola Woolley of the Centre for Leadership Performance for coming into school during the students' lunch time to explain the outstanding opportunity that awaits them.

The Dream Placement programme is available to all students aged between 16-18 who would like to take part in a well-respected leadership development programme that connects students with some of the most forward looking and successful businesses in Cumbria. Successful applicants will be offered a week-long leadership placement in industry during the spring half term and an invaluable opportunity to gain experience of working with senior leaders in industry, to further enhance their CV's ahead of applications to university and for apprenticeships over the coming year.

Netherhall School is committed to providing all students with a wide range of opportunities to enhance their personal, social and wider work experience skills, to ensure they are in a fantastic position to achieve their future career ambitions; the success that year 13 students had in securing a record number of apprenticeships and positions through GEN II and with Sellafield in the last academic year has proven to current sixth form students the absolute value of getting involved in as many extra-curricular activities as possible to secure their future career dreams.

We are delighted that so many students decided to attend the introductory presentation delivered by Mrs Woolley and wish them well in their applications for a Dream Placement in 2020. The closing date for applications is Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and I will let you know in due course how many of our young people have been successful in their applications.

**Mr M D Bailey**

**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**



**Back row: Tolson Carruthers, Jamie Wilcock, Megan Spurr, Jessica Ffoulkes, Abigail Jackson.**

**Middle row: Nathan Amos, Eve Dearlove, Emily Huddart Cable, Tamzin Carruthers, Rosie Hodgson, Natasha Bennett.**

**Front row: Mrs Nicola Woolley of the Centre for Leadership Performance, Jessica Timney, Jessica Hanley, Keah Lawson, Jodie Stamper.**

## Year 13 visit to Northumbria University

On Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 44 of our year 13 students took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a visit to Northumbria University, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. Leaving school at 7.45am, we arrived at the Northumbria University Business School for 10am and were met by Graduate Ambassadors Sam Read, Mark Pilley and Amy McGowan.

A series of interesting activities were to follow, including a talk on student life at Northumbria University, a presentation skills workshop entitled "Stand and Deliver", where year 13 students had the opportunity to impress the Graduate Ambassadors with their public speaking skills, before we enjoyed a campus tour.

At 1pm we concluded the tour of the university and had time to take a look around the city centre which is right next to the university campus and have lunch. We were delighted to bump into 'Class of 2019' leavers Emily Akehurst and Jody Ferris on Northumberland Street who told us they were absolutely loving their time in 'The Toon'. Northumbria University is always a popular university destination for Netherhall School Sixth Form students and we have five students who have just begun their undergraduate studies in Newcastle, the other three students being Scott Bradley, Brad King and Charlie Purdy, who are also loving their time at Northumbria.

Before we knew it, it was time to head back to Maryport and we left Newcastle at 3pm, arriving back at Netherhall shortly after 5pm. We all agreed that it had been a fantastic day out and we hope the experience will give students further food for thought as they continue with the university application process through UCAS this term. As ever, I would like to thank our students for proving to be such fabulous ambassadors for our school and I would also like to thank Mrs Gill Olley and Mrs Sam Potts for accompanying us on the trip and for being such excellent company. I would also like to thank Northumbria University for hosting us and would particularly like to thank Graduate Ambassadors Sam Read, Mark Pilley and Amy McGowan for providing such an interesting range of activities and for expertly fielding the many questions we had for them about university life on the day.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**



**Year 13 students outside the Business School at Northumbria University.**

## Year 13 - UCAS application day

Year 13 students have had a fantastic start to the new term and enjoyed a university application day on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Students have been hard at work researching university courses and future careers, while also drafting their university application personal statements. They have been inspired by the Year 13 leavers of 2019 who will begin to read for degrees at universities across the country this month in a wide range of courses including English language and literature, medicine, business management, politics and modern history, social work, biology, physical education, operating department practice, illustration, sport and exercise science, events management, IT, mechanical engineering, humanities and primary education.

I would like to thank all Year 13 pupils for their highly professional attitude on UCAS application day and am excited at the prospect of all that can be achieved by the students this year.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**

**Year 13 students researching  
university courses and drafting  
their personal statements.**



## Class of 2016 – Honours board update

Netherhall School is looking to update the school honours board with the details of university courses completed by our Year 13 leavers from the summer of 2016. Please could all Year 13 leavers from that year who attended university email Mr Bailey at school [m.bailey@netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:m.bailey@netherhall.cumbria.sch.uk) with their full name, the university they attended and the full name of the degree taken. It will be great to hear how all our former students have progressed during their time at university and we will ensure the honours board is updated in the near future. Please share this post or pass on the message to all those students in your year group.

Best wishes to you all!

**Mr M D Bailey**  
**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**



**Year 13 students at the  
Bethesda Fountain in  
Central Park,  
New York City,  
January 2016**

## Soundwave presentation to sixth form students

Many thanks to Chloe Harkness from the Soundwave organisation who kindly came to give a presentation to year 13 students on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October. Soundwave is a youth organisation which manages a digital media project called 'HOLLR'. The project provides invaluable work experience opportunities to those students who are interested in a future career in the media industry, meeting weekly in Workington to produce online advertisements and campaigns. The opportunity to get involved with HOLLR will further enhance our students' CV's and range of experiences as they move on to the next stage in their careers following their A level exams next summer.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form



**Chloe Harkness and Calvin Thornborrow from HOLLR with year 13 students Alex Robertson, Olivi Southward and Lindsey Hewitt.**

## Sixth form charity fundraising for Macmillan cancer support

I would like to thank the sixth form charity team for arranging a cake sale on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September in aid of Macmillan cancer support on the occasion of "The World's Biggest Coffee Morning". The event was very well organised and took place at break and lunch time in the year 10 area, managing to raise a total of £170.00p. Congratulations to the charity team for organising such a successful event and thanks to all students and staff who donated and purchased cakes on the morning.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form



**Netherhall School students enjoying the cake sale organised by the sixth form charity team.**



**Sixth form charity team members: Jordon Dakers, Lindsey Hewitt, Emily Plummer and Olivia Southward who helped to raise £170 for Macmillan cancer support.**



# Netherhall School

An Ambitious, Caring Community



Dear Parent/Guardian

## **PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION**

I am writing to inform you of a vacancy on the school governing body for a parent governor. Details of the process to fill the vacancy follow.

### **THE NOMINATION OF PARENTS AS CANDIDATES**

Each parent\* of a pupil attending the school is to be given the opportunity of putting their name forward with a view to becoming a parent governor. If you want to submit a nomination on your behalf you should do so, in writing, to the Clerk. Letters of nomination must be countersigned by two sponsors, who must also be parents of children currently attending the school. The closing date for the receipt of nominations by the school is Wednesday, 30 October 2019. Please note that incomplete nominations will not be accepted.

In the event of there being no more than one nomination, the person nominated will automatically be elected, unopposed as a parent governor.

### **THE ELECTION PROCEDURE**

If the school receives more nominations than vacancies, an election by secret ballot will be held as soon as possible. Each parent\* of a child who at the time of the election is a pupil at the school will be entitled to vote.

In the event of an election, the Clerk will issue all parents with further details concerning the way in which the ballot (which will be entirely secret and as fool proof as possible) is to be organised and supply the official ballot papers.

### **CANDIDATES' CONTRIBUTION TO THE ELECTION**

Candidates will be given the opportunity to write a short statement, which will be circulated to all parents of the school. Should candidates wish to seek support in any other way, this will be entirely their own responsibility.

Following an election, parents will be told the name of the successful candidate.

### **TERM OF OFFICE OF PARENT GOVERNORS**

An elected parent governor will hold office for a period of four years.

### **PARENTS' PARTICIPATION**

It is very important for the efficiency and effectiveness of schools that parents should be encouraged to have an active involvement in their children's education. Consequently, parents are encouraged to participate and take an interest in the election process whether as candidates or voters.

If you have any queries at this stage regarding the subject of parent governors, would you please contact the Clerk, who will be pleased to try to help you.

Yours sincerely

Jan Clarke, Chair of Governors

### **\*DEFINITION OF "PARENT"**

Section 576 of the Education Act 1996 defines "parent" to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not; and
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has *parental responsibility* for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative; and
- any person who, although not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility, *has care* of a child or young person.



## **Managing Medication Procedures - Important information for parents/carers**



We recognise that from time to time students may require medication within the school day. However, we do have to adhere to guidelines to ensure the safety of our students.

With this in mind, we would like to point out some procedures that we must follow:

- Some students may need to take prescribed medicines during their time in school. This will usually only be for a short time period, e.g. to finish a course of antibiotics. Parents/guardians must come into school and arrange this with reception.
- Children should not be sent to school with their own medicine (prescribed or non-prescribed) as this poses a health and safety risk to other children.
- Staff will not administer non-prescribed medication i.e. paracetamol, unless there are exceptional circumstances and where there is specific prior written permission from a parent/guardian.
- If a child suffers regularly from frequent or acute pain parents should refer the matter to their child's GP.

Parents/guardians have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with timely, complete information about their child's medical condition. If your child has a medical condition that we do not know about, please contact the school, your child's Head of Year or

Mrs B Johnstone.

| <b>AUTUMN TERM 2018</b>                   |                                     |                                       |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>STARTS</b>                             | <b>ENDS</b>                         | <b>HALF – TERM HOLIDAY</b>            |
| Monday 4 September                        | Friday 20 December                  | Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October |
| <b>Number of school days in term – 74</b> |                                     |                                       |
| <b>KEY DATES</b>                          |                                     |                                       |
| Wednesday 30 October                      | Year 7 Parents Evening              |                                       |
| Thursday 21 November                      | Year 11 Parents Evening             |                                       |
| Friday 20 December                        | Christmas Service St. Mary's Church |                                       |

## **Exam News**

The new academic year is well underway now and I am looking at mock exams and external exams for the next few months.

Preparation for Year 11 and 13 students is very much the order of the day, students should be changing up a gear to prepare for the May/June 2020 exams.

### **November 2019 External Exams**

*GCSE English and Maths re-sit examinations for Year 12 and 13 students.*

All parents and students have been issued with a timetable.

Please ensure lots of revision is planned to enable you to reach the required grade, this will then enable you to concentrate more on your sixth form studies.

### **December 2019 Mock Exams**

*Year 10, 11 and 13 (not all subjects)*

Timetables will be issued to students and parents by early November 2019.

All students should plan a rigorous revision timetable to ensure they complete their mock to the best of their ability.

Mock exams show teachers exactly where students are with their learning and gives everyone an opportunity to discuss any areas that may need work.

### **January 2020 External Exams**

*Vocational examinations which contribute towards the final grade in May/June.*

H&SC and Sport Year 13.

Timetables will be issued to students and parents before the end of November.

### **Certificates Summer 2019**

Certificates will be available for collection from the main reception week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

### **Netherhall Website**

The website will be updated with all 2019/2020 examination information after October half term.

**Mrs K Haigh**  
**Exams Officer**



# SPORTS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION NEWS



## Year 7 Allerdale Cup Winners



A tense match saw Netherhall School as the eventual winners of the Year 7 Allerdale cup. Well done to all the boys, who played exceptionally well and were deserved winners; hopefully, this is the first cup of many! A big thank you to Mr Steve Douglas for his expert coaching and assistance with the team; it is very much appreciated.

**Mr N Fulton**  
Head of PE / Year 7



## **Sixth form first XI football - County Cup first round v Trinity School, Carlisle**

The new football season got off to a flying start for the Netherhall School first XI football team with a convincing 4-0 away victory at Trinity School, Carlisle in the first round of the county cup on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The first half saw a fairly even contest but the Netherhall boys really made their class tell in the second period with goals from Keenan Musgrave, Jack Brown, Ciaran Booty and Ewan Ivison sealing the win.

The victory was secured against the largest secondary school in the county, which gives the boys great hope for a good run in this season's competition, where we are scheduled to meet either Queen Elizabeth Grammar School or Ullswater Community College, Penrith in the quarter finals in early November.

Congratulations to all the boys involved and good luck in the next round of the competition.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
**Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form**



**Back row: Jack Shepherd, Attlee-Jack Skillen, Tyler Beales, Ciaran Booty, Ewan Ivison and Ben Atkinson**

**Front row: Adam Lambert, Keenan Musgrave, Ryan Forsyth (captain), Jack Brown and Jack Burns**



**Keenan Musgrave slots home the first goal in the 4-0 victory over Trinity School, Carlisle.**

## English Schools U16 FA Cup round two v Carnforth High School

Congratulations to the year 11 football team for their superb performance in a 6-0 victory at home to Carnforth High School, Lancashire, in the second round of the ESFA U16 Cup. The Netherhall boys dominated from the very first minute when Jack Burns smashed home a 30-yard thunderbolt and the boys added two further goals from Keenan Musgrave and Ciaran Booty to reach the half time interval 3-0 ahead.

The second half continued in the same relentless manner and Liam Anderson soon made the score 4-0, before Keenan Musgrave and Ciaran Booty completed the rout in fine style to end the game 6-0 victors. Well done to all the year 11 boys involved and good luck in the next round of the competition.

**Mr M D Bailey**  
Deputy Headteacher / Head of Sixth Form

**Back row: Ben Atherton,  
Mitchell Hanley, Luke Cremins,  
Jack Anderson, Thomas Crellin,  
Jack Rogerson**

**Front row: Keenan Musgrave,  
Jack Burns, Ciaran Booty (captain),  
Leon Ackerlay and Ciaran Laverty**



## Northern Schools Tennis Finals

The U15 boys tennis team, under the coaching expertise of Harrison Savage won the Cumbria league, therefore qualifying for the northern schools' tennis finals on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> of September at the John Charles sports centre in Leeds. The boys are the first team from Netherhall School to qualify for this event and did themselves and the school proud on the day by reaching the semi-finals, beating Ashville College from Harrogate in the quarter finals.

Harrison and I couldn't have been prouder of the boys, who represented themselves, the school and Maryport superbly.

**Mr D W Tromans**  
Head Teacher



## English Schools' Fell Running Championships

At 8 o'clock on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> October, when most of us were still enjoying a Sunday lie-in, a group of fell runners from Netherhall School set off for Giggleswick in Yorkshire to compete in **the English Schools Fell Running Championships**. Year 7s; Ryan Moore, Daniel Drozdowski, Lucas Hetherington and year 8; Noah Hearn have all been training both in school time and at the Friday after school Cross-Country and Fell Running Club.



Whilst the running distances they did were 1.68 miles for the year 7s and 2.61 miles for the year 8s, the height gain for each race was an enormous 428ft for the year 7s and 675ft for the year 8s! The students had to run through rivers and up and back down a very slippery hill and through a muddy wood. After an equipment check (they had to carry a waterproof and hat in a bum-bag or rucksack) and safety briefing (what to do on the fell if someone fell down and was injured), all four students threw themselves off into the mud and did fantastically well and everyone even managed a sprint finish!

A big thank you to Mrs Hearn for looking after the students and managing so many safety pins and braving the mud!



We will be competing in local cross-country races over the coming months and any students who would like to train with us on a Friday after school should see Mrs Ferris-Worth in room 726.

**Mrs Ferris-Worth**  
**Head of Physics**

## Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

### Another swimmingly successful Duke of Edinburgh Expedition!

For those of you who may have missed our previous article on our Duke of Edinburgh award expeditions, here is a short insight:

The Duke of Edinburgh award requires participants to allocate a proportion of their time to volunteering, sport and skill (distinct from sport) as well as an expedition which they must plan appropriately. This requires some real tenacious individuals who have a lust to succeed in the face of adversity; the award is a challenge and those who complete it should be proud of their achievements.

The group of students had completed their practice expedition in the beautiful summer of 2019 in an area near Cockermouth. Throughout the practice, they had impressed and shown real aptitude for navigation and proven their endurance. Now, all that they needed to complete was their assessed practical. As we counted down to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September, all eyes were on the weather forecast; rain had been forecast and typically, the prediction was true.

Students checked their bags carefully early on the morning of Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September, ensuring that everything had been protected from the rain. Particular attention was paid to their phones and their food, and after loading up the transport, the group headed into the valley of wet, otherwise known as Borrowdale.

Despite the unfortunately wet start to the expedition, spirits were high and the group of students donned waterproofs with seemingly excited faces. They were happily chatting about the route, the sweets they had stashed away in pockets and what they were going to get up to at the campsite that evening. Maps and compasses were sorted between the groups, and debates on the correct direction to set off in began.



After only a few minutes of discussion, the students located their positions on the maps, and set about the route they had planned; everyone wanted to get under the cover of the trees as quickly as possible. The students made good progress and helped each other through some tricky points of navigation. Throughout the day, they discussed the route in their groups and ensured they were on the right track; nobody wanted to walk the wrong direction through a deluge only to have to do an about turn!

The group made good progress, staying on time and on track and engaged well with other walkers; staff were full of pride each time the groups interacted with the public, whether it be holding gates open, giving right of way or indeed with one particular student helping another walker cross a flooded section of path. Throughout the day, spirits remained high despite the squelching feet and slippery mud; often sections of path were submerged and somewhat difficult to navigate.

Whilst all maintained a positive outlook, it was a relief when the campsite came into sight, and the lure of warm showers, food and dry tents became the favourite topic of discussion. On the campsite, the students made sure each other were well, warm and as comfortable as could be, and enjoyed cooking their food under cover. Once all were fed and happy, and the debate of why one of the tents smelled of cheesy pasta sauce was put to rest, the students settled into activities, and it appears hide and seek in failing light is still a favourite past time.

The next day, much delight was taken by some students when waking the others, and after a groggy start for some, breakfast was underway; the never-ending search for matches, cutlery and can openers began. Students slowly got ready, finding pieces of kit from the previous day and got ready for another full day's walking, with the added benefit that today, there was sun!



Students separated into their groups and set off at a good pace; they navigated themselves well, and enjoyed some brilliant views along their walk. Again, they showed utmost respect to other walkers and when asked displayed pride in their school. They completed the day in good time and with good spirits.

All in all, the students were, as always, a real credit to themselves; they were polite, respectful and enthusiastic, expressing a real enthusiasm to succeed. They should be proud of their achievements, and many have stated a desire to complete future expeditions, showing a true appreciation of the award.

Lastly, we should like to express how proud we are of the groups, and thank them for their positive, heart-warming actions over the two-day expedition. It is a true delight to work with such effervescent young people.

**Mr Norris & Ms Lloyd**  
**Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinators**

## Silver Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, myself, along with 3 other Netherhall staff had the pleasure of accompanying 18 of our wonderful year 11 students on their Silver Duke of Edinburgh qualification expedition. After a quick kit check we set off for Ullswater and the eastern fells that would be our home for the next 3 days.

Day one was a loop round Boredale Hause and back to Side Farm campsite for the first night. All students completed day one in good spirits with only a few aches and pains from the days exploring. Arriving into the nights camp, students all pitched their tents and were keen to get fed and chat until the lack of light slowly encouraged them all to their beds.

The second day started bright if not a little cool. After breakfast and sorting their tents and packs we all set out towards our wild camp at Angle Tarn. A steady climb led to a stunning view of Hayeswater.

From here it was a steady stroll through Satura Craggs and lots of happy faces when the camp at Angle Tarn came into sight.

After pitching tents and getting fed we were treated to a stunning sunset and a clear view of Jupiter on a cloudless night.



The final day was an early start and everyone was fed and packed and ready to leave camp by 8am. It was a quick trot back across Satura Craggs and then the hard work of climbing The Knott and then onto High Street before the short climb to the Beacon.



Before descending back into Hartsop, and catching the minibus back to school, all groups had the chance to reflect on the last 3 days and what they had achieved either as a group or as individuals. I can safely say that all students exceeded what they thought was possible and were a credit to both our school and our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who give their time freely to accompany students and allow us to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Without their hard work and commitment, this would not be possible.

As a school we believe in facilitating students to challenge themselves and to achieve, to this end we lend a considerable amount of equipment to our students (tents, stoves, packs, first aid kits). Unfortunately, over time, wear and tear takes its toll and equipment needs replacing. If you are able, or know of individuals or organisations that would be willing to support the award at Netherhall as it continues to develop, then please get in touch with either myself or Mr Tromans.

**Lee Wassell**  
**Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator**

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award



Chloe Routledge, Angel McCormick, Harrison Savage and Shannon Holt recently completed their gold qualifying Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition in gruelling conditions of heavy rain, low cloud and freezing temperatures!



Well done for completing the prestigious award, and most importantly for demonstrating great skill, great character, resilience, determination, fortitude and optimism.

**Mr D W Tromans**  
**Head Teacher**