



every child matters
every child matters to us
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every child

BEACON HILL
Specialist Technology College
Member of the Rural Academy of Cumbria

PROSPECTUS 2013-2014



Everyone in Learning Matters



*"Students and their parents are very appreciative of the good personal support the school gives."
OFSTED May 2013*

*"Students have good attitudes to learning and are keen to succeed."
OFSTED May 2013*



*"Students respond well to the good teaching they receive both in full classes and small groups and this is now having a real impact on raising their achievement."
OFSTED May 2013*



Welcome to Beacon Hill Community School

A Member of the Rural Academy

Dear Parents and Students,

I am delighted to welcome you to our school.

We are a very small, happy learning community set on the West Coast of Cumbria. Learning is at the very heart of everything we do and we work really hard to make sure that all our students are excited and curious about the world about them and develop the life skills they will need to be happy, successful, confident and resilient young people.

At Beacon Hill Community School we consider that the success of the school lies in striving for the very highest achievements - '**Reaching for the Stars**' - and we encourage all our students to go further in all areas.

We are proud of our inclusive approach and our excellent pastoral care based on strong student identity and friendship.

We expect the highest standards of behaviour from our students and make sure all our students know and follow our code of conduct.

We know that our success depends on providing inspirational teaching and learning and in the close working relationships that we have with our parents. We do all we can to develop and encourage this.

Our school is outward looking and it is our vision that all young people at Beacon Hill will benefit greatly from the strong partnerships and sense of common purpose which the school has developed with our parents, local and regional communities.

This prospectus can only give you a brief 'flavour' of our school, so I encourage you to come along to visit us to see the school in action and judge for yourself. We think you will be impressed!

Mrs. J E Richardson – Headteacher



Beacon Hill Community School is a fully comprehensive co-educational, 11-16 school controlled by the Cumbria Education Authority.

- It serves the area of Aspatria and surrounding villages of Westnewton, Oughterside, Bothel, Blennerhasset and Plumbland. We often take students from out of catchment and have good transport links.
- There are currently 162 students on roll.
- This prospectus covers the Academic Year 2013 – 2014
- The number of places available in September 2014 is 67.

“The headteacher knows the strengths and weaknesses of the school very well and, with very good support from governors, leaders and managers and all staff, has been instrumental in bringing about improvements.”
OFSTED May 2013

Transport

Students within our catchment, living in rural villages, will be informed if they are eligible for transport by the education authority.

Aims and Values of the School

We aim to provide the very best education and care to enable all our students to leave Beacon Hill Community School as successful, responsible and resilient young adults.

Beacon Hill Community School is a school at the heart of its community; providing a wide range of facilities and activities for local people.

The successful life of our community rests on the following aims which are promoted by the governors, headteacher, staff and students:

We aim to:

- Be an inclusive school where all students are supported and encouraged to be successful.
- Provide a stimulating, rich learning environment and develop a desire for lifelong learning.
- Be a caring community based on mutual tolerance and respect; where everyone is recognised, valued and supported.
- Develop independence and self-discipline in our students.

Care and Guidance

At Beacon Hill School our aims are to encourage responsible, cooperative behaviour and self-discipline in our young people.

We have a committed pastoral team that support all students, particularly those who may find certain aspects of school life difficult.

We encourage the support of parents in promoting good behaviour and have a positive attitude towards their child's school work.

We have a rewards system which encourages students to achieve their best and take pride in their work, parents will be informed by text or praise postcard.

We also have sanctions for unacceptable behaviour which will be discussed with parents if it becomes a concern.

Form groups

The school is organised on a vertical system. This means there are a small number of students from each year group in the same forms, this leads to a greater responsibility for all students.

There are two form tutors to each form group who will pass on all relevant information and have regular meetings with each student to discuss any concerns they may have.

We have Year 10 Peer Mentors in each form group that work specifically with year 7 students to support them with all aspects of secondary school life.

Attendance

Beacon Hill Community School has consistently achieved high attendance and very low truancy rates, we are determined to continue this. We treat absence from school seriously and will investigate any unexplained absence. Our whole school target for attendance is 95% and we operate a BRAG (Blue, Red, Amber, Green) system in school.

School meals

At Beacon Hill Community School we have our own catering team and run our own catering service. This enables us to have complete control over the food we offer in our dining room. We source all our food from local suppliers and everything is home cooked freshly in our kitchens. We control the cost of our meals to make sure that we are a non-profit organisation. We encourage all our students to take part in our dining service and most students say the meals are tasty and nutritious with a wide variety of hot and cold food. The average cost of a meal is £2.50 although individuals can spend as much or as little as they wish. Students may bring a packed lunch, if they so prefer.

The school has received the Cumbria Healthy Schools Award mark and is committed to providing healthy, nutritious meals for all our students. We do not sell any fizzy drinks or sweets in school and would encourage parents to support us by not allowing fizzy drinks to be brought into school.

Behaviour for Learning

Behaviour at Beacon Hill Community School is good. We believe in high standards of work and behaviour for everyone: students and teachers. Students who set high standards for themselves in terms of self-discipline and behaviour will learn more in school, become responsible citizens and succeed in life.

The Beacon Hill Community School code of conduct is as follows:

At Beacon Hill Community School we expect that our students will always

- **Do their best to learn**
- **Help others to learn**
- **Respect each other**
- **Care for each other and for our school**

Students, parents, staff and governors must work together to achieve good standards of behaviour.

At Beacon Hill we want students to accept responsibility for their own behaviour, to work hard and to use their talents to the full. Our aims are to encourage responsible, cooperative behaviour and self discipline. These aims are reflected in our Behaviour for Learning policy.

“In this very small secondary school the views and talents of individual students are equally valued; discrimination of any kind is not tolerated and all have equal opportunities to succeed. A welcoming, friendly atmosphere pervades the school.”

OFSTED May 2013

Anti-Bullying Policy

All parents with children about to go up to secondary education want to be sure that their child will be happy and free from bullying. We believe that all our students have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without the fear of being bullied.

We have a clear policy on the promotion of good citizenship, where it is made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It is wrong and unacceptable. We aim to be proactive and educate all our students about bullying through our work in Personal Development lessons and our assemblies. When bullying happens, as it occasionally does, we aim to tackle it immediately and work with parents and students to resolve the issues as quickly as possible.

“Students say they feel safe in school. They are knowledgeable about different types of bullying, including cyber-bullying but say that these are rare in school and are quickly dealt with.”

OFSTED May 2013

School Uniform

We have a strict uniform code which we believe gives our students a sense of identity and belonging to the school. It also helps students to take pride in their appearance and helps to project a positive image of our school.

Girls' Uniform

- Black skirt (knee length);
- Black tailored trousers;
- Light blue school polo shirt;
- Black or white ankle or knee socks: black tights.

Boys' Uniform:

- Black tailored trousers;
- Light blue school polo shirt;
- Black or white socks.

Both:

- Navy v-necked sweatshirt with embroidered school crest;
- Black shoes or plain black trainers;
- We expect outdoor wear to be sensible and protect the children from the elements.



Curriculum

Beacon Hill Community School provides a calm and ordered learning environment where all students are treated as individuals. This allows the students to enjoy high quality learning and transform their life chances. Our curriculum allows children to be well rounded individuals, ready to face the world in the future; we aim to give them the necessary skills, confidence and a sense of pride that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

“Beacon Hill Community School has established a positive culture of learning throughout”

Local Authority 2013

As all class sizes are much smaller than other local schools so all students receive personalised teaching that meets their needs and are taught at a pace which allows challenge and ensures that they continue to make excellent progress. Our broad and balanced curriculum follows the national model with a very keen attention to the basics of literacy and numeracy underpinning every subject.

“Students receive timely and well-focused help from both teachers and Teaching Assistants.”

OFSTED May 2013

We work towards our goal of **accelerated progress for all** by placing a strong emphasis on differentiated teaching and resources that ensures each pupil is fully stretched and challenged. Students learn through the enquiry process which develops resourcefulness, reasoning skills and curiosity that enables lifelong learning.

As a Community school we follow the National Curriculum.

Key Stage 3: Years 7 - 9

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Design Technology/Home Economics
- Modern Foreign Languages - French
- Learn 2 Learn Humanities (Geography, History, R.E)
- Physical Education - PE
- Art & Design
- Information Communication Technology – ICT
- Music
- Personal Development (Citizenship & PHSE)
- Drama





Key Stage 4: Years 10 and 11

All students continue to study a core of subjects:

- English GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science: Dual or Triple Award GCSE
- Physical Education—PE
- Personal Development – Citizenship, PHSE, Careers and RE
- Information Communication Technology—ICT
- Design Technology Product Design or GCSE Home Economics

In addition to compulsory subjects, students choose further courses from:

- Media Studies—GCSE
- English Literature—GCSE
- Design Technology – Resistant Materials—GCSE
- Physical Education (Sports Science) - BTEC
- History—GCSE
- Leisure and Tourism—GCSE
- Graphics—GCSE
- Art & Design—GCSE
- Modern Foreign Languages—French GCSE
- Foundation Learning

NB: Subjects for options will depend on demand in any one year and are under constant review.

Post 16

For every student an appropriate transition pathway is carefully planned to a range of Sixth Form, College and apprenticeship providers by our own staff and in collaboration with local careers experts. Students in Year 10 and 11 are thoroughly prepared for their post 16 experience through Beacon Hill's extensive careers programme including work experience, college visits and a careers fair.

From Year 8 onwards students receive careers advice and vocational education as part of their Personal Development programme.

The school objectives for careers education and guidance are:

- Helping to ensure that every student has a curriculum that is broad and balanced and appropriate to his/her career pathway.
- Helping students to make informed decisions about their future.
- Helping students to raise their expectations and have ambition.
- Maintaining readily available and current information on training, jobs and further education.
- Working with Inspira to provide individual counselling and guidance to students and their parents.
- To promote equality of opportunity for all students.
- To be a part of the personal and social development of the student as they prepare for adulthood.



Assessment

Termly assessment for all age groups ensures that students' progress is carefully monitored and achievement is celebrated and underachievement challenged so that **"no child slips behind."** Progress is reported to parents regularly in a clear informative format. Our Year 10 and 11 students are thoroughly prepared and entered for GCSE qualifications from over 20 subject areas.

At Beacon Hill we promote our success through supportive praise and encouragement, with rewards for sustained effort, good work, praiseworthy conduct and improvement.

"Progress is tracked effectively and extra help given quickly to students who need it."
OFSTED May 2013



Tracking Progress

Students are assessed both formally and informally throughout their courses.

Work is set, assessed and targets set for future work. Students are involved in setting their own challenging targets.

Internal examinations are set towards the end of each academic year for years 7, 8 and 9. Year 10 internal exams and Mock examinations for year 11 take place in December.

Parents are informed formally of their child's progress at least every term. If we have concerns about the progress of students we will make sure that parents are contacted so that together we can ensure that the student gets back on track quickly.

At parents evenings there is the opportunity to talk to teaching staff about the progress of their child. We believe these meetings are extremely important and urge parents to attend. If, for some reason that is not possible we can make arrangements to talk with parents at an alternative time. There are a number of other meetings throughout the year such as an open evening, settling in evening and option evening. Parents are informed and invited to these by letter.

There is access to the school and facilities for people who are disabled. Parents are welcome to visit the school to see the learning support provision and to discuss any information they have about their child's needs prior to entry.

Special Educational Needs

Students with Special educational needs are fully included in all aspects of school life and we make sure that they have the same opportunities as other students. In line with the Government's code of practice, we have adopted a staged approach to the identification, assessment, monitoring and review of all students with Special Educational Needs.

At Beacon Hill Community School, we recognise the need for early identification and intervention for students with special educational needs. We work closely with our partner primary schools to identify early on those students that require additional support.

Students with learning difficulties have access to support, which enables them to participate in main-stream lessons. This support is given in a variety of ways: from in class support to withdrawal from lessons for small group work or individual teaching.

Students with statements have individual action plans with targets for each term. These are made with parents in partnership with the school.

"Groups of students, including disabled students and those with special educational needs, achieve well because work is challenging and they move on quickly to the next task when they are ready."

OFSTED May 2013

Physical Education

Beacon Hill Community School offers a wide range of physical activities for all students. These include: Climbing, Hockey, Rugby, Football, Cricket, Dance Cycling and Tennis. Some of these are covered in the normal PE lessons, others are offered as an out of school hours club. Beacon Hill Community School recognises the importance of PE and Physical Health and PE has a high profile in school.



"Teachers and teaching assistants use praise well and through a range of interesting activities they engage students in learning and give them the confidence to succeed." OFSTED May 2013

The School Library

**“Reading is to the mind,
what exercise is to the
body.”
Joseph Addison**



The school library is open every day during school hours. Students may visit the library individually, in small groups or as a whole class during lessons. The library is a quiet area for homework, research and leisure reading; adequately stocked with relevant resources for both the curriculum and students' leisure needs including monitored access to ICT facilities.

Throughout the academic year a variety of interesting and stimulating activities are held in the school library with the main aims of promoting and increasing library usage, enhancing individual learning skills, improving literacy and ultimately a life-long passion for reading.

Enrichment

The school offers many different clubs and visits throughout the year. The aim is to broaden and extend the experiences of our students and enrich their learning experiences outside the normal classroom. We know that all students can gain huge benefits from these educational visits, and would encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities offer.

These may include:

- Sports training and teams
- Workshops and theatre visits
- Visits to local points of interest
- Visits abroad
- Summer school
- Booster classes for year 9 students
- Extra-curricular clubs—Young engineers clubs, Bike clubs and Science clubs



Breakfast Club

Breakfast 8 – 8:25am

Activities 8:25 – 8:50am

The Breakfast Club is open to ALL years. Breakfast is at present FREE to all students who sign up for any of the activities organised each term. Students are notified of the activities on offer during tutor time at the beginning of each term. Students may sign up at any time throughout the school year and for as many or as few days as they would like.

The Breakfast Club also enables students from outlying areas who have transport problems to have somewhere safe to go and something constructive to do if they need to arrive before the start of the school day.

Homework

We believe homework is very important as it builds on and consolidates work students have done in class. All students are set homework on a regular basis. We ask parents for their support with homework. Checking that it has been done and talking about the tasks that have been set enables parents to monitor and influence the progress of their child.

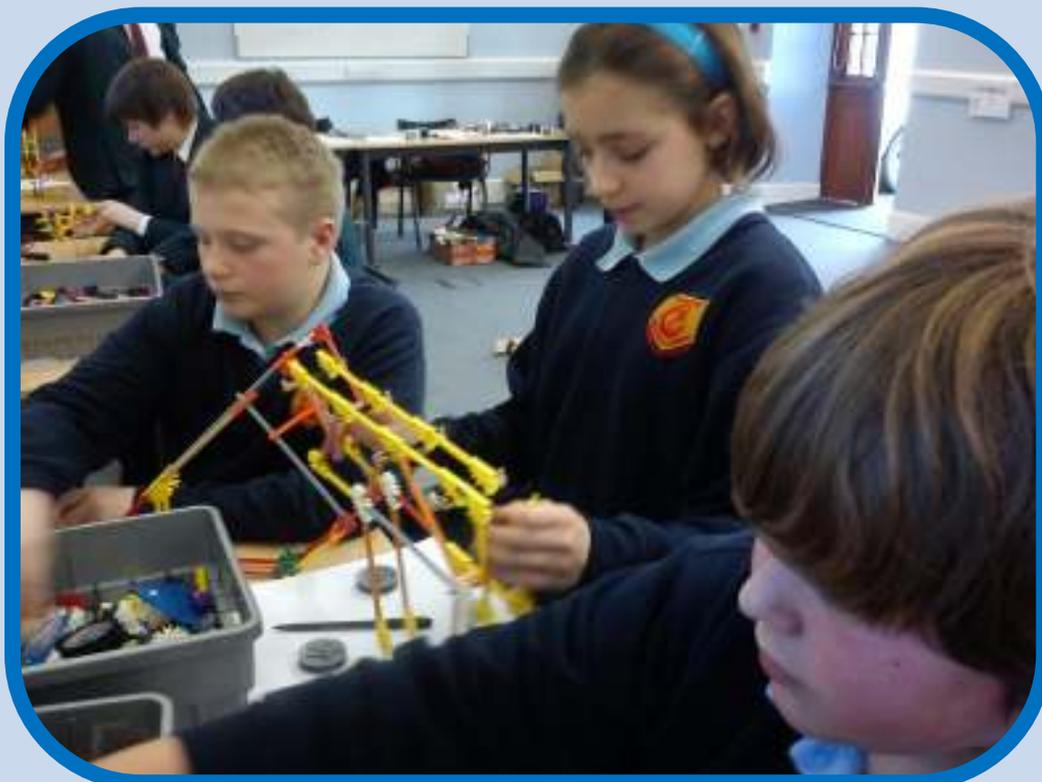
All students record their work in a homework planner, which is checked by the Form Tutor and signed by the parent. Students who consistently work hard at their homework are rewarded.

Homework Club

The school runs a homework club from 3:15 – 4:00 pm every day of the week apart from Friday.

Students have the opportunity to work quietly, alone or with adult support. Some may choose to do all their homework at this time.

Others might need library facilities/resources or help with a particular topic.



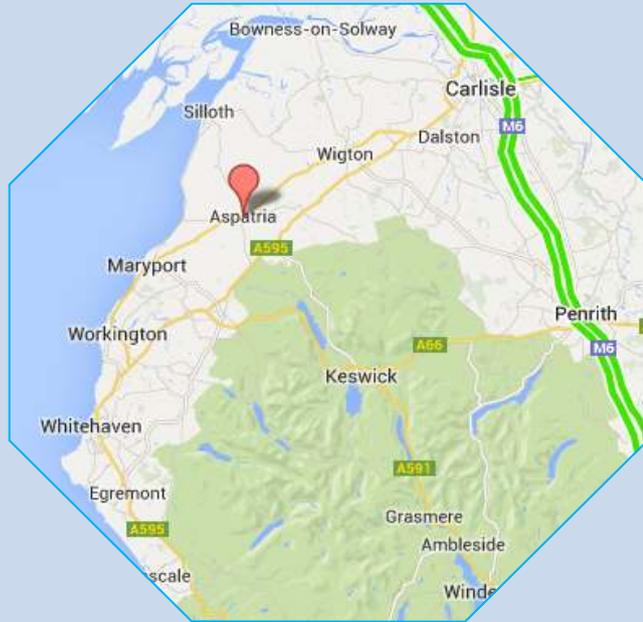
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“The curriculum meets the needs of individual students particularly well and also very successfully promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The school has a good focus on English and Mathematics but also provides a balance of academic and vocational courses for students to study at GCSE level.”

OFSTED May 2013



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