

Solway Community School

The Rural Academy of Cumbria – a new sort of Technology College

Nine schools in one

There was a distinctly jubilant mood in Penrith, when the Headteachers of nine rural secondary schools in Cumbria, assembled for a strategy meeting. In the list of Specialist Schools announced recently by Schools Standards Minister David Miliband is The Rural Academy of Cumbria Technology College.

This is the first award of specialist status to such a partnership in a joint bid. The schools represent considerable diversity of character within a non-selective framework. Many are involved in teacher training with strong college links and all place a high priority upon educational research.

The nine schools that make up the Rural Academy are: Appleby Grammar School; Beacon Hill Community School, Aspatria; Cartmel Priory Church of England School; Edenside Community School, Cleator; John Ruskin School, Coniston; Lochinvar School, Longtown; Samuel King's School, Alston; Settlebeck High School, Sedbergh; and **Solway Community School**,

Silloth-on-Solway.

The Headteachers and a number of Heads of Department were briefed by the Department for Education & Skills in London on Wednesday. The Chair of the Academy and Head of Edenside Community School, Sara Gaston-Parry, comments; "These are exciting times for us. No longer will our students and communities need to feel disadvantaged because of isolation or shortage of resources. Our nine schools, working together as a Technology College, will be able to offer a platform of entitlement from which all will benefit."

A model for education in a rural setting

The Rural Academy of Cumbria aspires to be a model for the delivery of educational culture which is scientific, technological, enterprising and vocational in a rural setting. There is a determination to transform learning opportunities, raise expectations, and reduce isolation in their communities. The focus on the specialist

subjects will increase and improve the technological skills of the community away from traditional basic skills. This in turn will lead not only to a more highly and appropriately trained and employable work force; it will also widen horizons.

The schools are committed to lifelong learning and have the strategies and local knowledge to make this a reality - each school has an Adult Education Centre, and together they currently provide courses for over 3,000 adults. As local community schools, there are strong links with partner primary schools.

So far, the cost of transport between establishments has inhibited development. The additional funding granted as a Specialist Technology College will enable the development of 'cross-phase' and partnership projects, with the economies of scale arising from centralised resources and enhanced ICT. Extended use of e-mail and video-conferencing facilities will allow easier access to subject network meetings, and lead to greater sharing

of good practice.

Supporting regeneration through education

Development as a specialist Technology College will be a major contribution to the well-being and regeneration of rural Cumbria. As community leaders, the Academy will provide a window of opportunity for all ages and abilities, from the 'gifted and talented' to those with basic skills needs. By combining to create an infrastructure to serve over 2,300 students, the Rural Academy will strive for recognition in terms of its performance, innovation and care for the individual's learning.

The bid for Specialist status was supported by sponsorship from national and local organisations and businesses. A total of £150,000 of financial support has been pledged to date by: the HSBC Education Trust, Cumbria Community Foundation, BNFL, Cumberland Building Society, the Carlisle Diocesan Board, Carrs Milling Industries, The Queen's College, Oxford and Furness Building Society. BT has also provided significant sponsorship in kind.

24/7 Childcare Service

A First for Cumbria 24 hours a Day - 7 Days a Week

Jumping Jacks Childcare in Wigton are planning to open a Childrens Hotel on 29th March, subject to an OFSTED inspection at the start of March.

Jumping Jacks are an OFSTED registered Children's Day Care Centre catering for children aged from 0 to 14 years, Monday to Friday, 7am to 6pm. They have a Baby Unit, Day Nursery, Grant Registered Pre-School, Out of School Club and Youth Centre. They also offer Breakfast Clubs, Holiday Clubs along with Wrap Around Care using their own minibus.

With a 24/7 service



available, they will be able to provide these services anytime, which is what today's parents sometimes need.

The 24/7 service will comprise six bedrooms, two bathrooms, a disabled bathroom and a staff bathroom, as well as a living area and kitchen. This is on the first floor of the centre and can be accessed through our newly fitted lift or stairs.

Busy Bees Been Busy

Here at the Solway Buzz we have a great big appetite for bee drawings, our local schools have been really good at getting the children to draw bees - but we always need more.....

For the first time this year, we are now printing some pages in colour, so coloured bees are very welcome. If you are sending bees to us (our address is on page 2) please try to make them bold and not too small. Use plain white paper, not lined or coloured paper and don't fold the drawing.

We need to know your name, date of birth, school (and town if you are not local) and a name for your bee.

Did you know?

Every issue of the Buzz appears on the Solway Buzz web site, so your bee drawing will be admired by people all around the world. There are also lots of pictures of events from this area - take a look.

Silloth Tennis Club #1

AVAILABLE TO ALL

Report by: Ricki T Racket

The common perception that Tennis is a "Summer only" sport is slowly being eroded away in Silloth as more and more of our junior members are becoming what's known as "full-time" players. With indoor coaching sessions being held twice a week over the winter months and over 50 players attending we are gradually starting to break down those draconian beliefs and a whole generation are being brought up on Tennis as an all year round sport. The advent of the indoor sports centre will only enhance what we are trying to do.

The Monday evening sessions, held at the

community school are proving to be very successful and have produced a beginners group that has great potential and a huge zest for the game. To keep the competitive



Queen Bee
by
Charlotte Hetherington
aged 5
from
Holm Cultram Abbey School

element alive for the older groups we have introduced monthly "mini" tournaments with winners for November and December being Ryan Bervoets, Gareth Davenport, Dawn Graham and Lisa Bervoets respectively.

December also saw four of our most promising players venture outside the confines of the club environment to take

part in the indoor event at Chatsworth Tennis Club in Carlisle. Nadyne Cole, Dawn Graham, Joe and Billy Smith all performed well with each player winning at least one match and also proving to be excellent ambassadors for the club and the town to boot.

2003's Bounceathon win and subsequent Wimbledon trip and national press and television coverage could prove to be a hard act to follow for the coming year, however, with an



Sunny
by
Anthony Williamson
aged 10
from
Holm Cultram Abbey School



Bonker Bee
by
Megan Kendall
aged 6
from
Holm Cultram Abbey School

increase in activities and competition, an open day, a summer camp, the possibility of matches against other clubs, a mini tennis awards programme in place and, of course, the Bounceathon again, 2004 should see Silloth Tennis Club going from strength to strength.



Honey Bee
by
Sadie Lewis
aged 4 from
Holme St. Cuthbert School

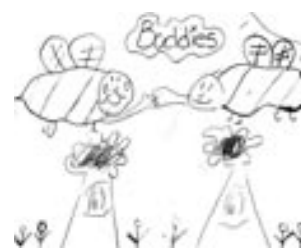


Bionical Bee!
by
Oliver Carr
aged 8 from
Holme St. Cuthbert School



TJ & JJ (The Boys)
Once in a land called Beesville, there lived an intelligent land of bees. In that land there was a tall building and it was a School. There were two boys in the School called TJ and JJ. They were twins who were very identical. Everyone kept getting them mixed up. They even shared one girlfriend who thought she was going out with JJ.

by
Megan Kingsbury
aged 10 from
Silloth Primary School



Buddy Bees
by
Kerry Logan
aged 11 from
Holm Cultram Abbey School



Mexican Bee
by
Holly Felix
aged 11 from
Holme St. Cuthbert School



Fredy the Drummer
by
Christopher Holliday
aged 11
from
Holm Cultram Abbey School

P. Scott

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