

# Headteacher Newsletter Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## Highlights of the week

Yesterday was World Book Day –that involved our Year 7 and 8 students reading an entire book in a day. We also got to see some of the staff dressed up as great literary characters. The Year 7 football team had a huge win on Wednesday evening – well done! I continue to see great work in lessons daily and my inbox has been full with work of the week examples. Next week we look forward to welcoming year 8 families to our parents evening. We are also running a revision support session for Y11 parents. Over the last few weeks we have been recruiting some really talented staff to join the team and the students who have supported the recruitment processes have been incredible ambassadors for the school bringing to life our values and sharing how they enjoy, learn and succeed at Beckfoot Oakbank.

We love to hear about our students' successes beyond the school day so if you have any good news stories, successes (and of course any pictures!) that you want to share with us about your children's amazing talents please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing Danielle Clifford, Exec Assistant to the Headteacher on [DClifford01@beckfootoakbank.org](mailto:DClifford01@beckfootoakbank.org)

## Upcoming events/Diary dates

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March
  - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
  - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March
  - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April
  - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April
  - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- World Book Day
  - Y8 Parents evening 3.30pm -6.30pm
  - Revision Support for Parents
  - Ski Trip begins.
  - Easter Holiday begins.
  - Summer Term begins.
  - Open event for Y7 students joining us in September 2024
  - Parent Forum 6.30pm

## Golden Tickets

Year to date		Last Week	
Year 7	5662	Year 7	365
Year 8	5159	Year 8	276
Year 9	5670	Year 9	442
Year 10	4869	Year 10	240
Year 11	3498	Year 11	222



## Positive achievement points for learning habit 3

Year to date		Last Week	
Year 7	31634	Year 7	2004
Year 8	27784	Year 8	1584
Year 9	32902	Year 9	2162
Year 10	29389	Year 10	1632
Year 11	25923	Year 11	1497

## Personal Development and Tutor Lesson

### Attendance

	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Year 7</b>	84.7	90.2	90.1	88.2	87.9
<b>Year 8</b>	83.2	83.6	82.5	84.3	85
<b>Year 9</b>	83.8	87.6	84.8	87.3	85.9
<b>Year 10</b>	81.3	85.4	79.4	81.2	81.9
<b>Year 11</b>	77.6	82.8	84.2	84.7	83
<b>Year 12</b>	95.7	96.9	100	98.5	95.7
<b>Year 13</b>	95.8	92.9	92	92.3	96.4

#### Key

94+% (National Average 2019)*	
92-93.9%	
<92%	

Our half-termly attendance challenge is ongoing – lots of little prizes and some big family voucher prizes are up for grabs for 100% students who maintain their attendance until the last day of term.

There is a national push on school attendance this term, with lots of resources and adverts you might have seen or heard already.

Click below for the guidance about whether children are too ill to attend school (unsurprisingly, most of the time the answer is no). Is my child too ill for school? - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

And in terms of children's mental health, Professor Chris Whitty advises that "Worry and mild or moderate anxiety, whilst sometimes difficult emotions, can be a normal part of growing up for many children and young people. Being in school can often help alleviate the underlying issues. A prolonged period of absence is likely to heighten a child's anxiety about attending in the future, rather than reduce it." In our experience, this is certainly the case for nearly all students but please get in touch if you need our support or are worried about your child's attendance.

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

## Our expectations

We regularly share our expectations with students so that they know how they can be successful in their learning and so that we can remove any barriers to this success. It is important for us all to understand that when in school students are expected to be in lessons learning unless it is break or lunchtime. Time out of lessons should not be the norm or the expectation and we know that as we have increased our expectations of what students learn and what they do in lessons some students are finding the increased challenge difficult at times. We know that being expected to know more, remember more and do more is hard and staff will support students with this in a variety of ways.

The majority of our students get it right day in day out and make positive choices – the small number who do not are given opportunities to make the right choice but are clear of the consequences if they do not meet our very simple learning habits. We have now moved to same day detentions for lateness to school and lessons and already we can see the impact on punctuality across the school. Thank you to our families for your continued support.

## Extra-curricular activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Debate club (Y8, 10, 12, 13) <b>LUNCH TIME</b> F51 MED	Debate club (Y7, 9, 11) <b>LUNCH TIME</b> F51 MED	Girls Football All year groups DWH	Year 7/8 Football CBE/JGI	
Fitness Suite KS4 FBR	Year 9 Football DRI	Dodgeball KS3 MFL	Netball Year 7/8 DCH	Rugby year 7/8/9 JFL
Lego Club (all years - till 3.30) No new members until Spring term S34 C. Moore / J. Hird	Girls Rugby KS3 DCH/RST	Healthy Active ME Activity Room	Netball Year 9/10 DWH	Badminton All year groups TSH
	KS4 Football Astro GBO	Basketball KS3 CBE	Year 11 BTEC Intervention JIC/DRI	Fitness Suite KS3 JIC
	Drama Club (all years) G28 RSI		Dance/Cheerleading KS3 CFL	
	Science Club (Y7 and 8) MMI / ECO S43		Gardening Club (all years) S33 E. Cowham / S. Cooke	

A huge well done to our Football team with a convincing 7-2 victory against Carlton Bolling. Taking us to the semi-finals!

Standout performances from Charlie in goal (saving a penalty), Bronen in attack (Scoring a wonder goal) and Jack in the midfield (Working his socks off)!



## Year Group News

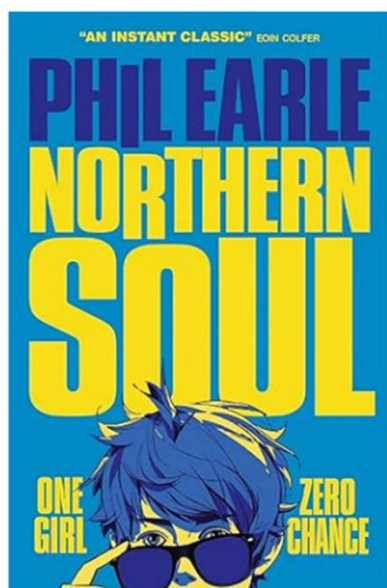
### Y7 News

This week for world book day year 7 read *I am the Minotaur* by Carnegie winning author Anthony McGowan – a brief blurb is included below. Students read in each lesson throughout the day with the goal of reading the whole book from cover to cover. Thanks to the English department who organised this fantastic event and threw themselves into the day by dressing up as characters from Harry Potter. Special mention to Mr Reeves who was stalked the school corridors as Voldemort. Reading is an integral part of our school and year 7 thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

*Matthew is 14 and is struggling to fit in - something that's extra hard when you're taking care of your mum, being bullied at school, and have earned the nickname Stinky Mog because of your poor personal hygiene. On top of all that, he wants to catch the attention of one of the coolest girls in school, Ari. Ari doesn't walk: she floats, like mist on the water. And she's as sporty as she is cool. When Ari's brand new bike is stolen, Matthew spots his chance to make a good impression by getting it back for her... But will he just end up in even more trouble or is Matthew is about to learn that friendship and heroes can be found in unlikely places?*

### Y8 News

Year 8 have had an exciting week as they were given the opportunity to read a book in a day as part of our World Book Day celebrations! This year *Northern Soul* was chosen as the exciting novel for student to sink their teeth into! *Northern Soul* is a book written by Phil Earle.



**From award-winning author Phil Earle comes the hilariously agonising account of one teenage boy's disastrous attempts to win the heart of the cool new girl at school.**

Marv's fourteen and his life is simple. There's football. And his best mate, Jimmy. Perfect.

Nothing else matters until a new girl at school called Carly crashes into his life. For Marv, it's love at first sight, his emotions flipped upside down, as he knows a girl like Carly will never notice him.

He needs help – lots of it – but when it miraculously arrives in the shape of a musical idol from the past, the path to Carly's heart proves anything but easy ...

First love is unforgettable, and poor Marv is about to learn this the hard way – him, and his northern soul ...

At Beckfoot Oakbank we wanted our Year 8s to have a whole text experience on World Book Day for several reasons:

1. Reading a book in a day requires sustained focus and concentration, which can help improve reading comprehension skills. Students have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the story without interruptions, allowing for better understanding and retention of the content.
2. By completing a book in a single day, students experience the satisfaction of finishing a story from start to finish. This can instil a sense of accomplishment and pride, encouraging them to read more books in the future.
3. Planning and managing time effectively are essential skills for academic success. Reading a book within a set timeframe teaches students how to allocate their time wisely and prioritise tasks, which are valuable skills they can apply to various aspects of their lives.
4. Analysing characters, themes, and plot developments within a condensed timeframe encourages critical thinking skills. Students may need to make connections between different parts of the story quickly, leading to deeper insights and understanding.
5. Many books, including "Northern Soul," explore themes of love, friendship, and personal growth. By immersing themselves in the characters' experiences, students can develop empathy and a better understanding of diverse perspectives and emotions.

Please speak to your young people at home about the novel and their World Book Day experience 😊

Congratulations to 8AA for their improved attendance! They received the attendance breakfast award this week.

The upcoming Year 8 Parents Evening on Thursday, 14th March, which can be booked via the 'Parent' section of the school website.

## Y9 News

Well done Year 9 for a brilliant week of learning and attendance this week. As a year group, you have been in school and focused during your lessons which is fab to see! A reminder to all students interested in Activity week to let their tutors know.

Congratulations to 9AA for the most improved attendance this week – super !

## Y10 News

Year 10 students have been completing assessments for their BTEC courses this week, with the vast majority of students being well prepared and really focused on doing the best they can – well done BTEC students!

We have also had lots of students completing the final paperwork for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. We look forward to celebrating with them when they receive their awards later this term – it is a great achievement and excellent for their CVs!

## Y11 News

Two-time national karate Champion and British Open runner up Paige McLoughlin continues to shine in Karate. Paige is currently a black belt dan 1 and is working hard to add her 2<sup>nd</sup> dan, she is going from strength to strength in the sport. At this time of year, with exams around the corner, it is important that year 11 students have a release and an outlet to take their mind off exams, Paige is certainly doing this and some!



## Post 16

This week Saara receive an offer to study dentistry at Birmingham University – we are absolutely delighted for her and wish her all the best in her exams – you've got this Saara.

On Wednesday we had a group of Y13 attended a Sociology Revision event at the White Rose centre – the aim of this event was to engage students with a range of revision techniques in preparation for their summer exam



In preparation for UCAS applications 2025 Y12 went to the UCAS and Apprenticeship Fair at Elland Road – the students said the day was great – below are some pictures of the day



## SPARX Reader and SPARX Maths.

All students in years 7 to 11 have access to Sparx Maths and all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have access to Sparx Reader. Students can access these programmes with the same login that they use for Teams and logging at school. You can log on here. [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Maths](#)

- Sparx maths is now live so all students in Y7-11 have weekly online homework linked to the maths curriculum being followed. It's due in each Wednesday! Your child's tutor can help them if they do not know their login / password.

## Educake

In Science we are launching a new online homework platform for years 10 and 11 called Educake where students can answer online quizzes set by their science teachers. Educake is also a fantastic tool for revision as students can log on and test themselves on their science knowledge. All students should have received their login details in class as a sticker in their planners but if they have any problems logging on they should speak to their science teacher or Mr Hazelgreen. Log on at <http://www.educake.co.uk> or download the app.

## CEIAG – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

Future Ready Learners – then please do so by clicking the link below

**Beckfoot Oakbank School - Future Ready**

[futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/](http://futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/) - find out more about opportunities in West Yorkshire

[futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/lmi-resources-regions/](http://futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/lmi-resources-regions/) find out about Labour Market Information in West Yorkshire

Use these links to navigate our pages easily.

**Work Experience (booked by Students)**

**Discovery Workshops (reserved by Educators)**

**Upcoming Broadcasts**

**Host a Speaker at your school**

**VTalks Library**

**National Teen Book Club**

**Past Imperfect Podcasts**

**4 Skills Work Experience:** A virtual work experience program exploring the creative industry. Link to 4Skills Work Experience – Further details here: [4Skills Work Experience](#)

• **Get into Digital:** Explore careers and opportunities in the digital sector with the help of AI technology. [Link to Microsoft Connector](#)

• **My Furniture Career:** A website with inspirational information and live vacancies in the furniture industry. Link to My Furniture Career | Furniture Jobs and Training: <https://www.myfurniturecareer.com/>

• **WWF Sustainable future Webinar Opportunities:** A series of live Q&As with some of the biggest names in industries across the UK, running 6pm 4th-12th March. WWF are inviting young people (age 13-21) to discover how sustainability can play a role in all types of careers – even ones they might not expect! Panellists include: Tottenham Hotspur's player Amy Turner; Sustainability Director at Depop Justine Porterie; and Executive Chef of Ottolenghi restaurants Neil Campbell. Secure a FREE spot by signing up to one or ALL of the talks. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/sustainable-futures/showcase>

## Some Useful links

### **Bradford Parenting Cygnet Service**

This programme is designed for parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-18 with an autistic spectrum condition.

This is a core Cygnet programme which is delivered over six, two and a half - three-hour sessions which sequentially work towards behaviour management and covers a number of topics.

[Bradford Parenting Cygnet Service | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

01274 513300

### **Child Autism UK**

Child Autism UK helps children with autism achieve their potential. We provide services to enable children to overcome difficulties with communication, learning and life skills and give families the techniques and strategies to cope with autism through the use of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA).

[Support, advice and services for children with autism - Child Autism UK - releasing potential](#)

Help line:01344 882248

### **ADHD UK**

Providing emotional and informational support for people with ADHD and their carers via telephone, email, social media and support groups.

<https://adhduk.co.uk/>

### **Creative Support – Bradford**

Providing person-centred services for people with a learning disability, autism and mental health needs.

[Creative Support](#)

### **Janssen with me**

Advice on ADHD for teenagers and parents.

[Home | Janssen With Me UK](#)

## Contact Us

Follow us on X **@BeckfootOakbank**

Contact us at **office@beckfootoakbank.org**

**For prospective families wanting specific transition information contact us on**

**Transition24@beckfootoakbank.org**



## Our Beckfoot Trust mission:

*Creating remarkable schools where no child is left behind.*

## Our Beckfoot Oakbank School sentence:

*"Beckfoot Oakbank School ensured that every child succeeded in education, had a great career and enjoyed life".*

## Our Beckfoot Oakbank values:

**Enjoy:** We **enjoy** belonging to Beckfoot Oakbank

**Learn:** We are all here to **learn**

**Succeed:** We are determined to **succeed**

## Our Beckfoot Oakbank learning habits:

### **The Oakbank Way: Our Learning Habits**

**Learning Habit 1. Positive response:** *Opening doors, tidying up, using good manners; 'please' and 'thank you'.*

**Learning Habit 2. Perfect uniform**

**Learning Habit 3. On task behaviour:** *Working hard, taking part, following Learning Modes*

**Learning Habit 4. Punctual to school and lessons:** *Arrive to school before 08:20, arrive to lesson before the bell.*

**Learning Habit 5. Equipped for success:** *bag, pen, pencil, ruler, planner, mobile phones not seen or heard.*