

Headteacher Newsletter Friday 22nd March 2024

Highlights of the week

This has been a short but very busy Spring term! The celebration assemblies this week have been an absolute pleasure to see and hear as was the work from visiting author Alan Bisset. Year 11 are days away from their final examinations with lots of opportunities on offer for them both in lessons and beyond that can help them secure the best grades possible. There are a number of additional revision sessions over the holiday. Some of our staff have been visiting our new Year 7 intake ahead of September – we hope to meet many of our new families on 17th April. The much anticipated ski trip departed today – and we had some very excited students (and staff) prior to departure! We cant wait to see the pictures and hear all about it. Later in the bulletin is the reminder about our expectations and our learning habits which are a vital part of how we do things at Beckfoot Oakbank. The 8th April gives us a chance to reset and be ready to get the most out of the summer term. We hope that students have a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing them at **8.15am on Monday 8th April** – on time, in full uniform ready to **enjoy, learn and succeed**.

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

Upcoming events/Diary dates

- Friday 22nd March Ski Trip begins
- Monday 25th March Easter Holiday begins
- Wednesday 17th April Open event for Y7 students joining us in September 2024 6.30pm
- Wednesday 17th April Parent Forum 6.30pm
-

Golden Tickets

| Year to date | |
|--------------|------|
| Year 7 | 6418 |
| Year 8 | 5777 |
| Year 9 | 6266 |
| Year 10 | 5403 |
| Year 11 | 3951 |

| Last Week | |
|-----------|------|
| Year 7 | 2457 |
| Year 8 | 2175 |
| Year 9 | 2141 |
| Year 10 | 1954 |
| Year 11 | 1933 |



Positive achievement points for learning habit 3

| Year to date | |
|--------------|-------|
| Year 7 | 35814 |
| Year 8 | 30686 |
| Year 9 | 36644 |
| Year 10 | 32684 |
| Year 11 | 28794 |

| Last Week | |
|-----------|------|
| Year 7 | 1976 |
| Year 8 | 1723 |
| Year 9 | 1683 |
| Year 10 | 1565 |
| Year 11 | 1540 |

Personal Development and Tutor Lesson

This week all assemblies have been celebrating students' huge achievement and won lots of varied prizes. All the Year Teams worked really hard to put together lovely rewards and prizes for a lot of deserving winners!



Author Alan Bissett Visit

Y7, Y8 and Y9 were really lucky to hear from visiting author Alan who'd travelled from Scotland to speak to students about consent, respect and how to treat others with respect and care. He spoke to almost a thousand students about the dangers of misogyny and how everyone can be on their guard against the early stages of worrying behaviour.



Attendance

| | Friday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|
| Year 7 | 79.6 | 90.5 | 89.5 | 86.2 | 87.3 |
| Year 8 | 82.2 | 86 | 84.2 | 83.1 | 82.6 |
| Year 9 | 84.8 | 91.6 | 88.6 | 87.6 | 88.6 |
| Year 10 | 80.9 | 83.8 | 83.6 | 83 | 82.3 |
| Year 11 | 79.5 | 84.6 | 83.7 | 83.9 | 80.7 |
| Year 12 | 95.7 | 94.6 | 96.9 | 97.8 | 97.8 |
| Year 13 | 93.3 | 95.9 | 96.4 | 94.5 | 94.2 |

Key

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

Lots of treats were given out today to more than 500 students who managed to maintain 100% attendance this half-term, with no lates to school – an achievement that demonstrates how they and their families are developing the habits that will bring them success. And £50 Shimla Spice vouchers went to a lucky winner from each year group; congratulations to the families of Seth F (Y7), Rowan B (Y8), Kayani (Y9), Aayan A (Y10) and Paige M (Y11) - enjoy!

Our expectations including those around uniform

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 can see the impact on punctuality across the school.

Our uniform is not complicated but we have seen a small rise in students wanting to wear trainers and or leggings over the last couple of weeks. Neither of these form part of the Beckfoot Oakbank uniform and students will be asked to change. Over the break than you for ensuring that your child is ready to return in the correct uniform on Monday April 8th. Students who arrive without the correct uniform will be given the option to borrow clean items of uniform or go home to change. Students who arrive with excess jewellery not in line with our published expectations will be asked to remove said items. Those who do not will be placed in one of our internal removal spaces until this is addressed. If you need support with uniform please contact the school office where a member of the team will be happy to help office@beckfootoakbank.org

Thank you to our families for your continued support.

Extra-curricular activities

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Debate club (Y8, 10, 12, 13) LUNCH TIME F51 MED | Debate club (Y7, 9, 11) LUNCH TIME 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 | |

Year Group News

Y7 News

Year 7 have a fantastic spring term where they have been successful across the board. Hundreds of golden tickets have been earned, thousands of learning habit 3 points have been registered, and they have produced some incredible creative work. Outside of the classroom the year 7 boys rugby team have continued their winning ways and the Lego club continued to excel in their nationally recognised competition. We held a wonderful rewards assembly on Monday where we recognised the achievements of our wonderful year group. We hope they all have a wonderful and restful break and we look forward to welcoming them back for the summer term in a few weeks' time.

Y8 News

Year 8 has just wrapped up an absolutely fantastic term, filled with hard work, dedication, and countless achievements! We couldn't be prouder of our incredible students who have truly gone above and beyond, earning themselves hundreds of Golden Tickets along the way. This week, we had the pleasure of celebrating the outstanding efforts of many students in our Year 8 rewards assembly, where we applauded those who have made positive contributions to our school community.

A huge round of applause goes to 8AT for clinching the title of best attendance this half term! We can't stress enough the importance of regular attendance, as it plays a pivotal role in academic success. We're committed to supporting our students and their families in ensuring that every school day counts, providing them with the best opportunities for learning and growth.

Special congratulations are in order for Lucas, Jannah, and Alex R, who have soared to the top by achieving the most Sparx Reader points in the year group! With Sparx Reader accessible to all Year 8 students at home, this programme not only enhances reading skills but also broadens horizons by offering captivating stories that deepen understanding of the world around us. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!



Y9 News

A fabulous Spring themed rewards assembly this week celebrated Year 9 achievements for this half term. I was amazed by how many Golden tickets our students have earned to-date, a real testament to your super learning habits Year 9. An incredible experience took place this week for eleven Year 9 students, who visited a community radio station to work on their podcasts. They interviewed a climate activist and an ambassador from MIND (who was an ex Oakbanker)! The finished podcast will be with us in two weeks' time – well done to all involved.

Also, a huge well done to Stanley in year 9 who has been working towards his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award by supporting a local Homeless Shelter, as one of the youngest chefs!

And finally, a huge well done to 9 AL for winning the most improved attendance prize this week.

Wishing all our students and families a well-earned rest, hope you have an enjoyable holiday and look forward to welcoming you back after Easter.



Y10 News

We had a great celebration assembly this week, with Kian T and Olivia C getting the Year team award and Freya C winning the star prize for the Golden Ticket draw. Well done to everyone who has made us proud this half-term, especially all the wonderful students who received their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award badges and certificates. Keep aiming high, Year 10! And we hope you have a restful break over Easter with your families.

Y11 News

Fantastic end to the half term culminating in our rewards assembly, acknowledging those students who have made positive contributions across the different subjects and around school. Miss Rhodes did a fantastic job in creating a wonderful presentation that also had some useful revision strategies. As part of the rewards there were 89 students who had 100% attendance for this half term, those students had a special lunch to recognise their efforts. Enjoy the Easter break, our GCSE exams await us when we get back.



Post 16

A huge well done to Y12/13 students this half term – attendance has remained strong in both year groups. Y12 have sat their first round of exams and the results were good, meaning we should have a bumper round of university applications in September. Y13 have had all their university offers back and we are working hard to secure

apprenticeships and jobs for those students who are not applying. We have had our first dentistry offer, well done Saara.

[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/ - find out more about opportunities in West Yorkshire

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

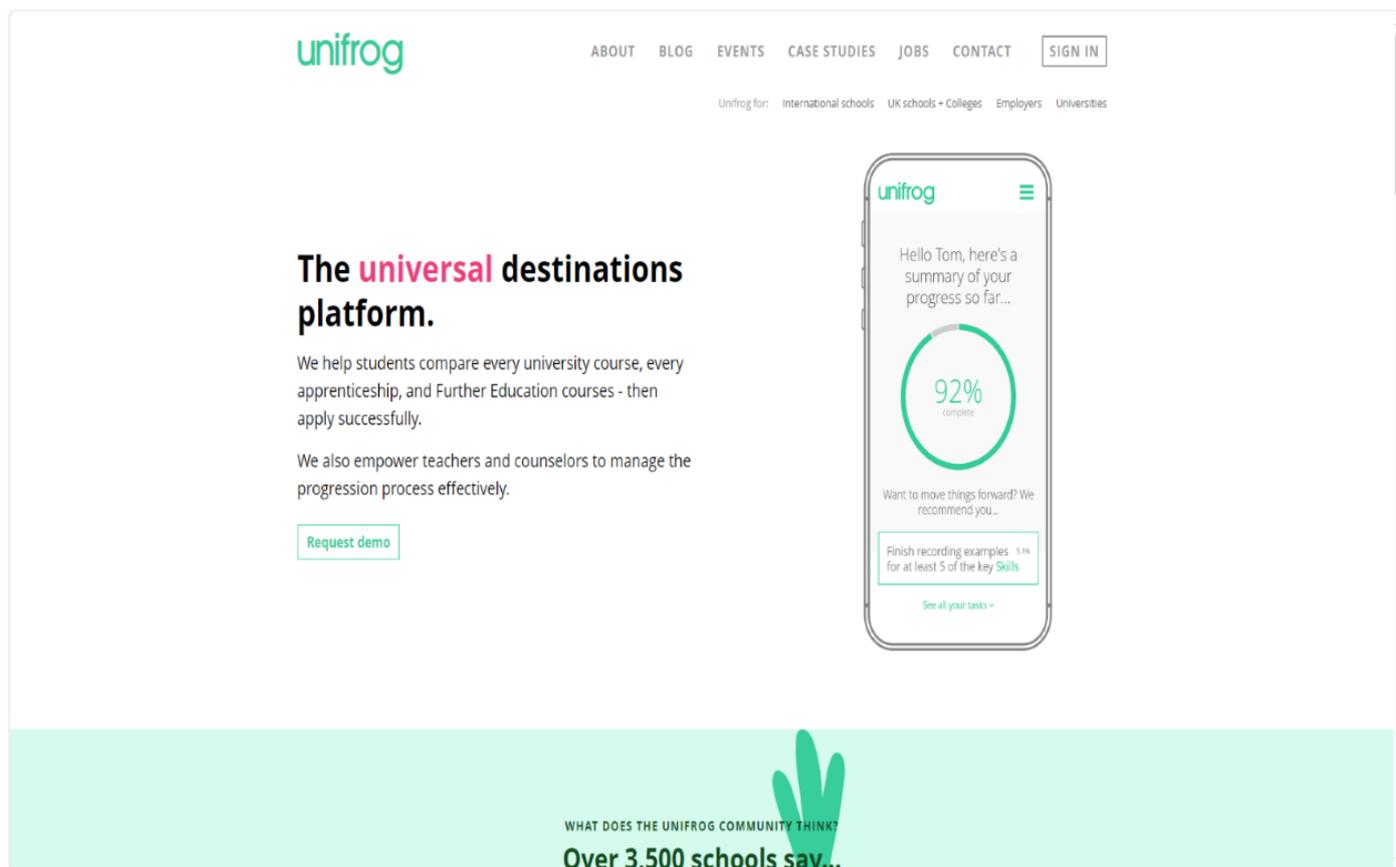
Host a Speaker at your school

VTalks Library

National Teen Book Club

Past Imperfect Podcasts

Unifrog guide for students and parents.pptx



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The **universal** destinations platform.

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Hello Tom, here's a summary of your progress so far...

92% complete

Want to move things forward? We recommend you...

Finish recording examples ^{5/16} for at least 5 of the key Skills

[See all your tasks](#)

WHAT DOES THE UNIFROG COMMUNITY THINK?
Over 3,500 schools say...

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.

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

At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal development, in one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further information and resources.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction: that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal; materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65809924>

nationalcollege.com @thenatcollege /thenationalcollege

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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 Oakbank values:

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

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

Succeed: We are determined to **succeed**

Our 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.*