

## Head's Blog Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September

### Highlights of the week

It's been another busy week at Beckfoot Oakbank!

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September was a very special day for a talented group of writers at Beckfoot Oakbank: the launch of our latest creative writing anthology. *The Rumours Were Right* and *Killed by the Coconut, not by the Shark* is a double header anthology containing pieces of writing from 54 of our year 8, year 9 and year 10 students. Together, they worked with our First Story writer-in-residence, Ben Mellor, on Wednesdays between January and June, including a trip for some to Huddersfield University to work with other local First Story schools. As published writers, the students all received their own copy of the anthology, copies of which will now also be held not only in our library at Beckfoot Oakbank but will also be retained as part of British Library collection - an incredible achievement! We are so proud of all the students. A huge thank you to Miss Brown who supported the sessions every week and to Ben, from First Story, for being the creative inspiration behind the anthology. Our new cohort starts on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October for our next set of budding writers!



I had the chance to meet with Heath (Y7) Austin (Y8) Adam (Y9), Olivia (Y10) and Evie (Y11) about their excellent start to the school year – all nominated by their year team leaders. They spoke to me about their lessons and what they have been learning and the support they receive from staff that helps them to succeed. They also each took the time to write a thank you post card to a member of staff – I will be delivering those postcards next week to the staff.

Y8 in particular seem to be smashing it in the world of sport – see later in the news below. We have some extremely talented young people in our school community.

### Attendance for the week

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Year 7</b>	92.9	93.4	91.0	92.4	91.2
<b>Year 8</b>	88.8	90.3	89.8	89.5	90.3
<b>Year 9</b>	89.6	88.7	88.5	88.1	84.5
<b>Year 10</b>	85.6	85.8	86.6	87	86.6
<b>Year 11</b>	85.9	83.7	82.5	82.5	79.9
<b>Year 12</b>	91.2	97.3	100	98.3	95.9
<b>Year 13</b>	91.3	86.4	88.9	90.6	91.4

#### Key

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

Currently our rate of absence is higher than the average for our local authority, so next week we need all students to show their resilience and attend school every day. Please note that if attendance is already below 95%, we will not authorise absence for illness without medical evidence. **Every day, every lesson, every minute, counts!**

## Tutor time and assembly (Personal Development) this week

Assembly this week has gone down a storm with staff and students. Mrs Walsh treated us to an assembly on the recent European Day of Languages and their importance to our everyday lives.



### Right to Read

Students have also been busy during their Tutor lessons first thing every morning; Y7 and Y8 are now well into their new reading books which are proving exciting and thought-provoking. Ghostboys (Y7) is a heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a white police officer, drawing connections with real-life history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes. Without giving away the ending, Jerome the key

character starts to see other ghostboys and recognise their stories. In Year 8, Kick is a football novel with a twist. Whilst Budi dreams of being a star he is trapped in a Jakarta sweatshop making football boots. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

In their Future Ready Learner sessions Y9 have explored individual liberty and rights and Y10 are embarked upon Terrorism whilst Y11 are fully focussed on 'being future ready' looking at topics to boost their independence and better-informed pathways choices. They have covered 'globalisation' this week and previous topics have included climate change, the environment and their responsibilities as well as study skills and revision strategies.

We have also been revisiting with all students why it is so important to be fully equipped for school each day. How they can help themselves to be even more successful at Beckfoot Oakbank.

26th September is.....



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## We are all here to learn

- Having all our equipment increases **learning** time, it means there are no interruptions to the lesson, or to your hard work. **Marginal gains add and make a big impact.**
- Your planner is an important organising and communicating tool. Use it everyday to record homework and your weekly attendance and achievement scores.

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## Y11 News

This week saw the start of our after-school revision sessions for the year group, across most of the subjects...only 3 working weeks before the mock exams! It was fantastic to see all the pupils at these sessions, close to 100 pupils attended these sessions across the week. We celebrated this in today's assembly and the three lucky winners of the intervention attendance prizes were Thomas R, Matilda W, and Lottie A.

## Y8 News

Lucy in Year 8 is Bradford City Girls U12 Coaches player of the year! She has been training with City for just over a year and scored an astronomical 39 goals last season, making her the top goal scorer! Lucy went on a trial day and got signed up on the spot. She started playing football when she was 9, alongside her brother and her dad. She trains 3 times a week at Apperley bridge. Go Lucy!



Annaya in Year 8 has won this amazing award for her Taekwondo skills! She has only been training for 2 years but has already secured her yellow belt by training 2 times a week. Annaya finds the sport very rewarding but very tiring. Keep up the good work Annaya!



Jessica S in Year 8 has completed the Final Points Dressage Test at Aire Valley Riding Club and came 6<sup>th</sup> place overall. In addition, she was awarded best tack and turn out for the Juniors which resulted in her winning a voucher and other goodies for both her and her pony. The final award was also presented to her which was the Endeavour Award 2022. This was an amazing trophy and a wonderful rosette too. This award goes to somebody who has shown great progress, determination, perseverance, not necessarily somebody who has got top marks all the time, not given up and always has a smile on their face despite the outcome over the season. Jessica's pony is not the easiest to manoeuvre being the stubborn grand age of 19 and very much of a plodder that he is, but with patience and the endless love that she has for Sollie, her efforts certainly paid off and were recognised.

## Y9 News

Wonderful to see the published poetry anthology comprising poems that Year 9 students wrote last year. It is absolutely fantastic! It can also be found in the British Library.

I have seen fantastic learning and baking this week in the shape of cookies made by Year 9 earlier this week. Well done everyone.

## Y10 News

Year 10 students have had another great week, with excellent uniform and behaviour. And we caught these History students smashing their 16-mark answers in class this week with Mr Finlay. Well done team!



## Post 16 news

Good luck to Jaamal Rehman who has made it through to the Yorkshire Amateur Boxing finals in Bridlington – we wish him all the best.

## **Staying safe online: 12 ways to champion equality**

Most of us use the internet daily and it is so important to remember to give everyone the respect they deserve online – regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, or anything else. This simple guide gives top tips on a number of issues such as ‘pack mentality’, haters and discrimination. Make sure that when you are engaging in social media you are being kind and using your interactions to build people up and not spend time putting people down.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 12 Ways to Champion EQUALITY ONLINE

In terms of the esteem it's held in, women's football has made impressive progress in a short space of time. That's a bit like the online world: it's come a long way, but that doesn't mean we should stop trying to make it even better. The Women's European Football Championships are underway, and that's a timely reminder of how important it is to give everyone the respect they deserve online – regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion or anything else. In partnership with the Global Equality Commission, we've produced a special guide to help young fans kick online discrimination into touch!

## 1 KNOW IT WHEN YOU SEE IT

Expressing views based on prejudice about a part of someone's identity – their race, gender or a disability, say – counts as online hate.

## 2 WHEN "BANTER" ISN'T FUNNY

Discrimination is sometimes disguised as humour: some memes, clips or gifs that certain people try to pass off as "funny" might actually be offensive.

## 3 BE YOUR OWN PERSON

Set a good example through your own online communication. Think whether you'd say a thing in real life before posting or sharing it online for the world to see.

## 4 SEEING SHOULDN'T EQUAL BELIEVING

Sneakier, less obvious types of online abuse can stay on the internet for longer, so don't assume that something's OK just because it's not been taken down yet.

## 5 SEXISM CAN BE ILLEGAL

As well as being extremely hurtful to a person or a group, online sexism and prejudice against women (known as misogyny) can be recorded as a hate crime in some cases.

## 6 ONLINE HATE, USED AS BAIT

Sadly, it's not just that being exposed to prejudice online is upsetting – some extreme organisations even try to recruit young people to their cause.

## 7 GET SOME DISTANCE

If you see messages online that upset you, it's probably time to give yourself some space from that site or app. Talk to a trusted adult about how you're feeling.

## 8 TURN OFF THE HATERS

If someone you follow on social media is posting sexist content, you could always mute them or block them – or unfollow them altogether.

## 9 PLAY IT BY THE BOOK

If you see someone discriminating online, you don't have to challenge them yourself. Screenshot their post and report them to the app or site you saw it on.

## 10 EXPLOITING 'PACK MENTALITY'

Sexist messages aren't always sent to a target directly: sometimes, they're posts designed to provoke misogyny among other people.

## 11 POSITIVITY ALWAYS WINS

Go the extra mile and spread some positive vibes! Instead of just reacting to a post and scrolling past, you could add a message of support and encouragement, too.

## 12 CREATE THE WORLD YOU WANT

Remember, you're the boss of your online world. Engage with posts or accounts that celebrate equality and understanding: block or unfollow the ones that don't.

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### FURTHER SUPPORT

If you've been affected by any of the issues mentioned in this guide, there are some excellent resources that can offer further help and support.

NOS Mental Health Guides: [nationalonlinesafety.com/guides](http://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides)  
Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)  
Stop Hate UK: [stophateuk.org](http://stophateuk.org)  
Ditch the Label: [www.ditchthelabel.org](http://www.ditchthelabel.org)  
Childline: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



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