

Head's Blog Friday 21st October

Highlights of the week

There has been much to celebrate this week and over the half term. This week has seen year teams deliver their rewards assemblies celebrating this half term's successes. We had an incredibly powerful and moving visit on Tuesday who spoke with our year 9 earlier in the week – more details further down but the attitude and engagement of the Year 9 group was hugely impressive. Year 11 are working hard for their mock examinations which begin immediately after half term and Year 13 have been busy studying and their university applications. Year 7 have found their feet and are enjoying learning and engaging in our extra-curricular activities. Year 10 have really impressed me with the start they have made to their GCSEs and BTECS as have our new Y12 cohort. It's been particularly pleasing for me to see peer reading and our sixth formers acting as role models across the school. Year 8 and 9 have been working to show us how they know more and can remember more because of the work they do in lessons. There is so much to be proud of and I am looking forward to the next half term. Thank you to our families for your ongoing support.

Attendance for the week

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Year 7	91.9	90.5	91.4	90.7	85.8
Year 8	92.6	91.4	91.2	89.5	86.7
Year 9	89.6	89.3	86.2	85.3	83.2
Year 10	88.1	87	88.3	85.3	80.5
Year 11	81.8	84.7	84.8	79.7	76.6
Year 12	92.5	91.8	94.7	95.2	96
Year 13	86.9	96.7	91.8	87.5	85.9

Key

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

1171 of our students had 100% attendance this week.

547 of our students had 100% attendance and 100% punctuality this week – WELL DONE!

597 students have had 100% attendance for all 7 weeks.

411 students have had 100% attendance and been on time every day this year.

We have had a disappointing week for attendance with lots of students not in who are usually good attenders, and fewer in on Friday than earlier in the week. Let's all make sure we have a restful week (students, families and staff!), ready to come back and be successful on Monday 31st October at the usual time. And don't forget: **Every day, every lesson, every minute, counts!**

The best attending form each year group have attended their rewards breakfast each day this week. A great way to start the day. Well done to **7RMO, 8DRI, 9RGO, 10JBO, 11MMA, 12 DOC and 13BWH**.

Positive achievements

Year 8 remain top of the charts overall for positive achievements with Y7 close behind... well done Year 8 but will you still be top at the end of next half term? Year 8 were also top scoring year group last week .

Year to date	
Year 8	30727
Year 7	28893
Year 10	22288
Year 11	20579
Year 9	19692

Last week	
Year 8	4175
Year 7	3602
Year 10	3137
Year 9	2584
Year 11	2574

Tutor time and assembly (Personal Development) this week



We were honoured to welcome into school on Tuesday Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines, one of the last children saved from the Nazis on the *kindertransport* trains. Lady Milena was eight-years old when she was put on the eighth train, the last train, from Nazi-occupied Prague heading for safety in Great Britain. A later ninth train of children was stopped and the children never heard from again. Lady Milena came to speak to Year 9 in a special assembly that will linger with us, and left us a lot to reflect upon.

You could have heard a pin drop in the assembly hall of over 300 students when Milena told us her story. She showed us the autograph book her Grandfather gave to her on the platform of the central railway station in Prague as she left eighty year ago. It has a touching inscription not to forget, and to remain true to the land of her birth and her parents and grandfather who loved her so much. It was the last time she saw her Grandfather. In 1942 he, and her cousin Boris, and uncles and aunts were rounded up and taken to Auschwitz extermination camp where they were murdered. As she left Lady Milena was full of praise for students remarking "I enjoyed my talk," and our "pupil's behaviour was exemplary a credit to your school." Henry, Year 9, said

afterwards "I really enjoyed that, it was very interesting." Lady Milena gifted the school a special commemorative stamp of Sir Nicholas as memento of her visit for students to see on display in school.

Tutor Time this week



LADY MILENA GRENFELL-BAINES MBE

Lady Milena was born in Czechoslovakia in 1929. Her father was recommended to leave Czechoslovakia the day before the Nazis invaded because he was both Jewish and a supporter of an anti-Nazi author.

She visited us this week to speak to Y9 and explain her remarkable story.

DO NOW

1. What would it be like to be sent away by your parents, no adults taking care of your younger sister, to cross Europe on a train?
2. What do you know about how the Nazis treated minority groups in the 1930s and 1940s?
3. Why should we be learning about it now?



Milena was on the eighth, and last, train from Prague. She was among the last he saved.



1. Why do you think Winton kept quiet about what he had done?
2. What would have happened to Milena if she was not on that train?
3. How do the actions of Winton apply to us with conflicts in the Ukraine and elsewhere?

In addition to the usual weekly look into current affairs and our Votes for Schools, all students have heard a fantastic series of reward assemblies to celebrate students' achievements.

Students also spent a session picking up threads from our Holocaust survivor's visit on Tuesday. The main focus was on Sir Nicholas Winton and how he organised the *kindertransport* trains to bring children to safety from Nazi occupied Europe.

Students have learned about how Sir Nicholas Winton was both an ordinary and an extra-ordinary man who was an everyday citizen but acted decisively to save the lives over 669 children from the Nazis. He quietly set up an organisation to bring trainloads of children from danger to safety in the UK where they were fostered with strangers until permanent arrangements were made. Milena was on these *kindertransport*. After, he served in WW2 and then returned to civilian life, not claiming credit for his actions until his story was uncovered accidentally by his wife in 1988.

Y11 News

What a half term year 11! We have been so impressed with how the year group have responded and stepped up to the task ahead. Consistently throughout this half term classrooms across all the subjects have been purposeful and full of motivated students wanting to learn and succeed. In addition to this we have had record numbers accessing our after-school interventions. It is important that over the next week the year group strike the right balance between rest and revision ready for our mock exams.

Y7 News

Another brilliant week for Y7 culminating in our rewards assembly. Well done to 'top attenders' 7GB0. Lots of extra-curricular attendee's from Y7, over 25 students at cheerleading with Miss Pearce. Fixtures have also taken place in football, rugby and netball.

Y8 News

Year 8 have got off to a cracking start! They have gone above and beyond in lessons and are currently the highest-ranking year group for achievement stamps.

Year 8 have thoroughly enjoyed reading 'When the Sky Falls' this half term! Students have been immersed in the novel and there have been lots of intriguing conversations during social times about the story over the past 7 weeks. We look forward to hearing about the next novel to be devoured within English lessons next half term.

Harry A in Year 8 has turned into a detective! He has recently been intrigued by his past and how been researching his family tree with his Dad. Harry has traced his family tree and had discovered that he is a distant relative of Anne Boleyn. We have royalty in year 8.



A very special week for Year 9 this week, their behaviour was exemplary during the assembly by Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines. We were very proud of the way they represented our school, here they are listening intently.

A couple of weeks ago we told you about Quinn who competed in the Yorkshire Short Course Swimming Finals in Leeds. He qualified for all 10 races and finished in the top 4 in both the 50m and 100m breaststroke. He will now compete in the North East Regional Championships on 5&6th November. We look forward to seeing how he does! We also had a fantastic reward assembly celebrating the hard work, attendance and contribution of our award-winning students.



Well done Y9 and hope you have a fantastic half-term holiday.

Y10 News It was great to celebrate with the Year group during their rewards assembly on Thursday, seeing lots of individual students who have stood out one way or another over the past six weeks in terms of positive points (Eisha, Clodagh, Chloe, Wakeel, Jessica, Mia, Cameron, Evie, Hassan and Isabella), Miss Melia's awards (Riley, Arooj, Owen, Angel and Bobby), Mr Hopkins' attendance improvers (Brooke, Megan, Jack, Abigail and Brodie) and Miss Rhodes' awards (Lena, Freya, Hassan, Jack and Tayyeb). We also recognised the top attending tutor group (Top = 10GHO, 2nd = 10JBO) and the top tutor group overall (10ASH). They really have embraced the start to the GCSEs and have finished the half-term strongly, demonstrating some brilliant learning in the final week. Year 10 continue to demonstrate good manners and positive behaviours as they interact with staff around school; they are a credit to all their parents!

Post 16 news It's been a great start to the year for Post 16 – here are a few of our successes:

- Jamaal R- Won his quarter final lightweight national boxing match. Semi-final and Final matches are this weekend- good luck!
- 2 current students and 2 ex-students sat their BMAT (BioMedical Admissions Tests) this week. They are hoping to secure places at university to study Medicine and Dentistry
- 18 UCAS applications have already been sent and students in Y13 are starting to receive offers back. So far students have received offers from Newcastle University, Warwick, Nottingham, Liverpool and UCLA – congratulations to those students
- YEAR 12 Student Leadership has been launched, and all students have been assigned to an area to develop their leadership and confidence, as well as providing enriching opportunities to develop skills for employability and life.
- 5 Y12 students already signed up for Realising Opportunities. Deadline 4th November if students are still wanting to apply
- Year 12 have made a great start and have the best attendance in the whole school at 97.3%

Our expectations

Below are the expectations that we share with students and families regularly. Most of our students meet these expectations every lesson every day. If your child has no planner, they need to purchase a new one via Parent Pay and the school office as the planner is an essential piece of school equipment. If there are any barriers to your child having the correct uniform, please let us know so that we can support you and your child. Email the school office office@beckfootoakbank.org or contact your child's year team leader.

Next term we will be having a real push on punctuality both to school and to lessons. Students need to be at all lessons **before** the bell rings and for the very small minority who don't manage this we will be introducing after school detentions. However, before we start to do this we will speak to our students in assemblies and their tutor lesson about the importance of being on time, why it matters so much to us and we will also communicate the details to our families after the half term break.



Have your **planner** with you at all times



Have your **timetable** in your planner



Have the correct **equipment** with you



Wear the correct **uniform** at all times



Be **on time** for school (**8.15am**) and **every lesson, every day** (**before** the late bell)

Staying safe over the holiday

We want everyone to have an enjoyable holiday and want everyone to return rested and ready for the next half term.

However, it is that time of year just before bonfire night that sometimes encourages young people to make poor choices with fireworks.

Around 2000 firework injuries were recorded in 2020 in the UK and 22% of these were to children. The Children's burns trust research identified that more boys are injured than girls and most injuries occur when young people are discharging fireworks without appropriate supervision.

Remember that it is illegal for children under 18 to buy fireworks and it is also illegal to set off fireworks in the street or other public spaces.

Stay safe and have a great half term.

See you all at 8.15 Monday 31st October – ready for line up!

#enjoylearnsucceed

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