

Headteacher End of Term Newsletter December 19th

Highlights of the week

It was another busy week at Oakbank last week in the run up to the end of term. It was great to welcome Year 11 students and their families to our Post 16 Open Evening/Y11 Parents' evening. They received their mock results, received feedback on how to improve further and started planning their next steps. The team of existing Post 16 students who came to share their experiences and promote our excellent sixth form offer were amazing. Applications to the sixth form are now open. Year 9 students received their options booklets in advance of their parent event in the new year and are already thinking about their options for Year 10. Our strong tradition of excelling in the Lego competitions continued with our new Year 7 team winning the overall event! Staff and students have been spending time showing their gratitude and thanks in tutor time and celebration assemblies have taken place all week. I had the privilege of meeting Oliver and Lacey Lou who had been involved in some festive community outreach work – delivering Christmas presents in the freezing temperatures. Finally, I want to thank all the families who have supported us this term and wish all our families a restful break and a happy new year.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday December 20th

- last day of term
- Closing date for Sixth Form Applications
- It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Bake Sale for Manorlands, cakes and biscuits can be bought with cash to raise funds. All students can wear Christmas hats and tinsel on the last day of term.

Wednesday January 4th – school reopens for all students. Be at line up for 8.15am in full uniform ready and equipped to learn !

In January we will be sharing with parents and students news about the launch of our **Golden Tickets and Community Tickets** where students will gain recognition for great learning in lessons and modelling great community behaviours. More on this and how it fits with '**The Oakbank Way**' in the new year!

Attendance for the week

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Year 7	80.3	78.4	80.1	78	73.4
Year 8	70.2	70.4	68.1	65.9	63.5
Year 9	78.9	73.5	74.2	74.1	73.5
Year 10	73.3	70.6	72.8	71.1	70.7
Year 11	75.5	69.4	67.2	73.2	72
Year 12	87.1	87.9	90.8	90.5	*
Year 13	81.3	80.4	81.5	81.8	*

Key

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

781 of our students had 100% attendance this week.

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

206 students have had 100% attendance for the term to date.

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

What a tough two weeks we've had in terms of attendance; many of our students in all years have been off for the first time all term with illness, which can't be helped. Well done to everyone who managed to maintain 100% attendance this past three weeks (and been on time to school every day). It has been a great effort, and a little bit of luck, to avoid the horrible bugs and colds that lots of students and families have suffered from. A special mention to all students who have had an excellent attendance record up until this point in the term – we will find a way to reward you too after Christmas.

We hope that everyone has a really good rest over the break, recharges the batteries and comes back to school on Wednesday 4th ready to be in on time every day next term. **Because, every day, every lesson, every minute, counts!**

Positive achievements

Year to date		Last week	
Year 8	55305	Year 8	2564
Year 7	52198	Year 7	2563
Year 10	39564	Year 9	1742
Year 9	36890	Year 10	1487
Year 11	30699	Year 11	1209

Just the one point in it last week!

A term in these are the top achievers by year group who are contributing to the totals above. The following students have received certificates and Headteacher commendation letters are on their way. Its no coincidence that these students also have good attendance too. Well done to the following students!!

Year 7	Olivia W	Josh G	James A
Year 8	Reilly M	Daniel K	
Year 9	Tom H	Ben L	
Year 10	Isabelle E	Cameron W	
Year 11	Spencer A	Katie L	Freya Z

Headteacher meetings

Each week we celebrate students across school who are enjoying learning and succeeding, doing themselves proud and being great role models to others.

This week's thanks and congratulations go to:

- Ruby D Yr 8
- Oliver H Yr10
- Lacey Lou Yr7

Well done to you all.

Assembly and Tutor lessons (Personal Development)

This week students have invested time in practising their gratitude during Tutor lessons, and whilst so many students are always really gracious and grateful to all the adults in school we wanted to take the end of term opportunity to write some Thank You! postcards for all members of staff.



Another ongoing piece of work this week has been spending more time on our entries to the Show Racism the Red Card competition 2023. We want to be prepared and gather together a collection of prize winning entries to send in.

National Competition – all Schools

- We want everyone to think about racism and produce their own work about this serious issue. Young people are welcome to produce work:
 - Creative writing
 - T-shirt design (front and back)
 - Artwork (not bigger than A3)
- If it's about racism we want to see it!
- This is the UK's largest school competition and we're looking for winning entries. **We will also display entries in assembly, around school and online.**
- Pass all entries to Mr Moules (NMO) by Fri 3rd Jan
- **This work can be undertaken between now and Christmas – don't try and complete it today. A little bit each week will lead to a winning entry! Use today's lesson to plan out ideas, themes and share your thoughts.**



In our Tutor lessons we have also studied and reflected on the importance of being well-planned and prepared. This serves as a reminder that students can really help themselves by being even more organised and well-prepared. It is another way we can all work together to be better tomorrow than we are today.



We are all here to **learn**

What do we have to do to help us **learn** and make every minute count?

- Packing your school bag the night before helps you to be **on time** and ready to **learn**.
- Checking you have all the essentials: learning equipment, dinner money and PE kit; these all increase your readiness to **learn**.
- Remembering everything you need reduces feelings of anxiety and worry, leaving you to focus on your **learning**.
- Being **fully equipped** every day means we can all be **learning** as soon as we arrive.
- Remember **learning is hard** – every positive routine helps us to **learn more and remember more**.

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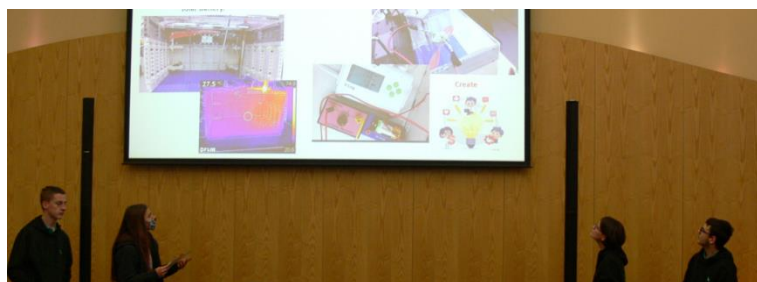
Recent tragic news from Solihull about the youngsters who died in the lake has brought home how important it is to stay safe in the holidays. In assembly this week Ms Towler has delivered another really important set of safety

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message about road safety, rail safety and bike safety. As we approach the holidays and the darker nights it is a timely reminder for all students about taking a little extra care on the roads, near the railway lines and near water to keep safe.

Y11 News

Our year 11 Lego team with the addition of a year 9 student went to Bradford University to compete against other schools on Thursday. One part of the competition was a presentation (which you can see below) on an innovation project which our team won, massive well done. It looks like this pioneering group of year 11s will be leaving a legacy at Oakbank, as our other team competing comprised of a Year 7 students who went onto win the whole competition!!



Y7 News

The Year 7 team who took part in the Lego Robotics competition at Bradford University on Thursday were absolutely incredible. They won the overall event, beating schools from across the area, and students much older than themselves – including our very own Year 11 team!

Y8 News

Year 8 have really been working hard during their lesson line-ups. Students have been punctual and ready to learn. We are incredibly proud of you.

Commando Joe's have started working with a group of our year 8 students to develop life skills, improve attendance, develop a growth mindset and build resilience. The programme is proving to be a lot of fun. The students are engaging well and have started to work in small teams with Will Kirkbright.

Commando Joes have given the school a large box which contains all sorts of goodies such as camouflage nets, poles, tyres and even a Commando Joe's teddy, but he has been kidnapped! we have been sent the following photos showing where he has been around school... Year 8 it is your job to find him.





Y9 News

Thank you, Year 9 team, (Mrs Whitehead and Mr Laycock) and our amazing Year 9 Christmas band for organising such a brilliant Reward assembly. It is always so wonderful to celebrate the hard work and effort you have consistently shown with your learning Year 9! So proud of you all. The band and vocals were amazing, so much talent.

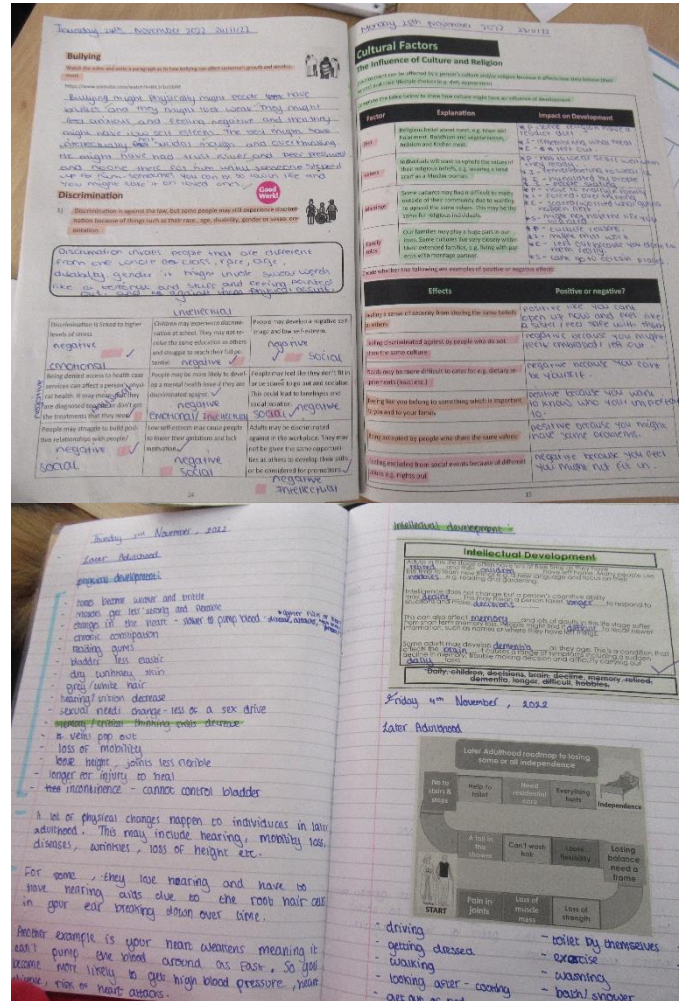
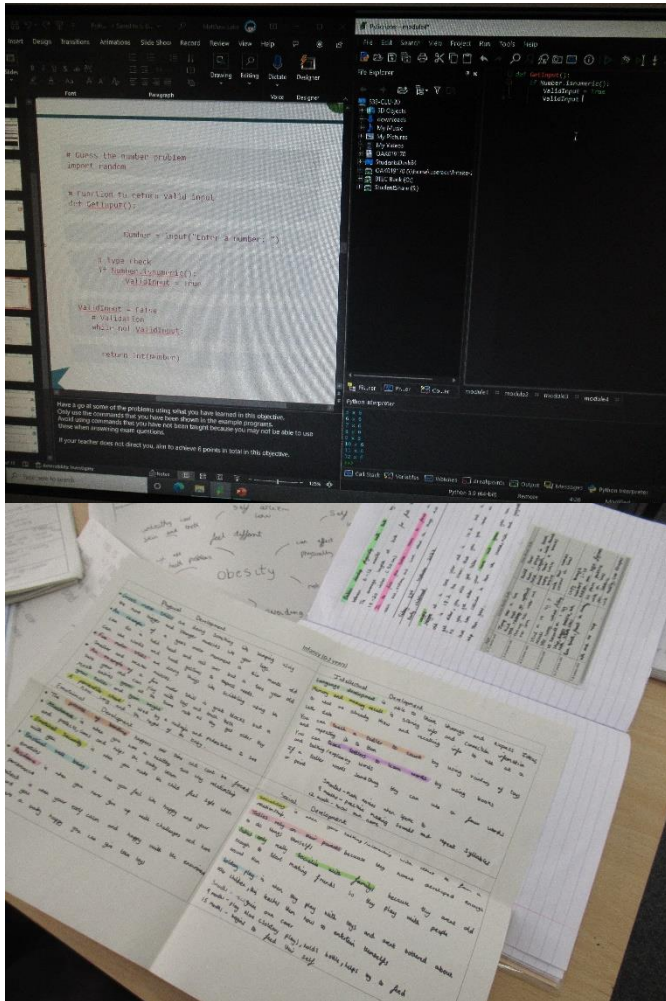


Y10 News

Well done to all those students who have managed to brave the cold weather and all of the horrible bugs out there and come in every day this week, on time – not an easy task this week!

We also want to recognise Oliver H in 10STU who has been out delivering food parcels to those who need them most in the local community – a great example to all of us!

See below for an example of coding using Python in Computer Science from Matthew L (10KGA) and some lovely book work from Muqaddas (10GHO), Kaitlyn (10JBO) and Phoebe (10GHO).



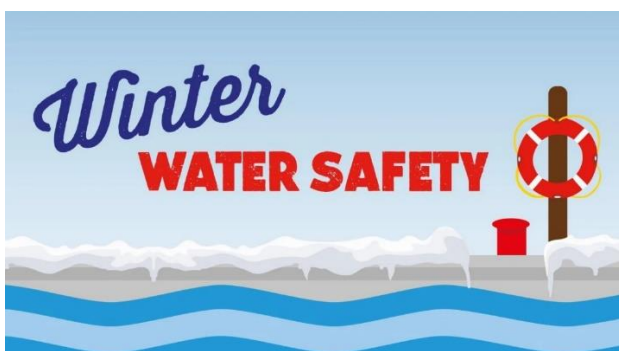
Are your contact details up to date?

It is really important to us that we have the correct telephone number and email addresses **for more than 1 emergency contact** for each student. This is in line with "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2022 Statutory Guidance for Schools (para 102)

We have some students where we only have one emergency contact and are getting in touch so that you can share additional information with us where possible.

You can update your details with us by contacting the school office 01535 21011 or email office@beckfootoakbank.org

Staying safe and supporting your children



[Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

Winter Water Safety

Stay safe in winter – the dangers of frozen waters

In winter, children and pets are particularly at risk when tempted to play on the ice formed on open water, and adults can find themselves at risk in attempting to save them.

Taking a nice walk, in cold weather with your family, friends or dogs in tow can be really refreshing, just make sure you know some simple tips on how to stay safe in winter.

Areas with frozen lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs can be beautiful places to visit during the winter months but all too often many people risk their lives by venturing onto frozen water. Here are some useful tips to help you know what to do in an emergency.

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