

Headteacher Blog Friday 20th January

Highlights of the week

It was great to see so many Year 9 students last night with their families at our Y9 Options evening there was a real buzz about the evening and some great questions asked by families. Earlier in the week on Tuesday afternoon our Year 9 students attended a careers fair with over 20 external providers. Our visitors were really impressed with how the students conducted themselves. Thank you to all those who took the time to visit our school and our young people for making us proud.

Thank you to the parents who came to the Ofsted feedback meeting and for those who have rung and contacted us as they couldn't make the event. The letter that accompanied the report sets out some of what we have already been doing and will continue to do. We have also included a list of frequently asked questions. All information can be found here [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Ofsted News](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday 2nd February Y8 Parents' Evening** 3.30pm-6.30pm
- **Thursday 2nd Feb Headteacher drop-in sessions** 2.30pm -6.15pm. Details to follow about how to book an appointment.
- **Monday 6th February Year 9 Options Deadline**
- **March 15th to 17th Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – Annie Jr the Musical – tickets available now on ParentPay!**

Attendance for the week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	92.2	88.8	84	89.8	89.4
Year 8	90.7	90.1	87.9	87.2	88.9
Year 9	89.5	87	82.4	85.3	85.5
Year 10	86.6	82.7	80.5	83.6	83.1
Year 11	86.1	82.1	77.5	83.7	81.7
Year 12	98	98.6	99.2	93.8	100
Year 13	98.5	93.9	93.5	95.8	97.1

Key

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

*National Year to date attendance at Secondary Schools on 16.12.22 was 90.7%.

1046 of our students had 100% attendance this week.

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

151 students have had 100% attendance for the year to date.

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

This term started well with lots more students in school than we had at the end of December, but this week has slipped a bit. Let's make sure that all students are in and on time every day next week – whatever the weather!

Positive achievements

Year to date		Last Week	
Year 8	62944	Year 8	2698
Year 7	58096	Year 11	1783
Year 10	43709	Year 7	1656
Year 9	40837	Year 10	1270
Year 11	34775	Year 9	1197

Golden tickets awarded over the last week

Last Week	
Year 8	247
Year 9	236
Year 7	235
Year 10	199
Year 11	181

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:

George E – Year 8

Alfie B – Year 8

Well done!

The Oakbank Way and our Learning Habits

The Oakbank Way is our shared framework for how we expect children and adults to interact with each other, it is where we strive to create a remarkable school where all are able to 'Enjoy, Learn and Succeed'. It is the foundation of our school culture; *"the way we do things here"*. Our five learning habits are in the table below.

The Oakbank Way: Our Learning Habits

1. **Positive response:** *Opening doors, tidying up, using good manners; 'please' and 'thank you',*
2. **Perfect uniform**
3. **On task behaviour:** *Working hard, taking part, following Learning Modes*
4. **Punctual to school and lessons:** *Arrive to school before 08:20, arrive to lesson before the bell*
5. **Equipped for success:** *bag, pen, pencil, ruler, planner, mobile phones not seen or heard*

Learning habit 3 refers to students following our learning modes. These are on display in all classrooms and students have had these shared, explained and modelled during assemblies over this academic year but we would like to share them with you as parents again.

We use learning modes throughout the lesson, pupils are very clear on the expectations as we transition through the lesson, these also help to build ratio, our learning modes are:



Individual Focus

- I work in silence
- I try my personal best
- I am resilient and don't give up easily
- I am resourceful



Respectful whole class

- I speak clearly and politely
- I am actively listening
- I am being fair to others
- I am thinking about what my teachers and others are saying



Learning with others

- I speak clearly and politely
- I contribute and participate
- I am actively listening
- I respect others' point of view

Students are expected to follow the learning modes throughout all lessons and 'track' the person speaking in class whether that be the teacher or another student.

Our learning modes help us to establish disruption free classrooms where teachers can teach and all students are able to learn. Not following the learning modes in classrooms leads to less progress being made and will result in sanctions. What has been great to see over the last two weeks is the number of students modelling learning habit 3 and this being recognised by golden tickets being awarded.

Assembly and Tutor lessons (Personal Development)

We have become aware of a TikTok personality called Andrew Tate who is becoming increasingly prominent on Social Media. He holds some very extreme views and as a school we want to make parents and carers aware of him in case your child makes comments about him at home. This letter will give you some more support if you enter into conversations about Andrew Tate with your child, [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Letters Home](#)

Within school this week and last, the Executive Head and the Safeguarding lead have addressed the impact of Tate issues of misogyny and toxic masculinity in separate assemblies. Our bespoke Open Minds curriculum and the Tutor lessons for all years discusses issues of discrimination and hatred towards women. Teachers have also been sent the information below to make them aware of Andrew Tate's beliefs and Year Teams are meeting with individual students if class teachers have heard discussion in lessons that are supporting of Andrew Tate's views.

Our message to students regarding Andrew Tate

At Beckfoot Oakbank everyone is valued, this means that we do not view any one type of person as less than another. Andrew Tate has openly said in the past that women are less than men - and he is an extremist in these views. He uses the internet to exploit the natural curiosities and fears of young men and to groom them into a radicalised view of women in society as less than men. He does this to make money (millions) from them and the hits on his sites/videos. This goes completely against the ethos of our school where everyone is valued equally.

Y11 News

Just wanted to acknowledge a couple of students who are working hard at their pastimes outside of school. Kane G and Callum T are excelling in their boxing and football respectively. I always try to stress to pupils that sports and hobbies are crucial to have during their exam year: good for the mind and soul, releasing those necessary endorphins.

Y7 News

Year 7 student, Olivia B is completing a 12-mile swim for the 'Two Ridings Community Foundation'. The charity helps support lots of grassroot community schemes and charitable organisations. Its main aim is to alleviate poverty and improve wellbeing in these challenging times. Well done, Olivia.

Y8 News

Mr Roberts saw some fantastic learning in Mr Mody's Maths lesson; the students were learning sequences. The student we spoke to said it was 'fun and really enjoyable'.

Yvie of Beanland Taekwondo in Year 8 has the chance of winning the 'Young Sportswoman Award' in the Bradford Sports Awards. Good luck Yvie!





Congratulations to Mille D who competed in the Table Tennis West Yorkshire individual championships who put in an amazing performance reaching the U13 finals. Brilliant.

Y9 News

So wonderful to see Year 9 students and families at Parents and Options evening last night. Thank you all for attending. A big week for Year 9 involved in the Careers event on Tuesday – they asked our visiting Post 16 providers and industries lots of excellent questions.

A big week for Year 9 involved in the Careers event on Tuesday, this is part of their Careers assembly with Mr Delgado. They asked our visiting Post 16 providers and industries lots of excellent questions. Finally, congratulations to 9 MEN for winning the attendance prize this week.

Congratulations to Nik K who competed in the Table Tennis u16 West Yorkshire individual championships. He played brilliantly, achieving fourth out of 32 students despite playing against competitors mostly 2 years older than him. We are very proud of you Nik.



Y10 News

Our Year 10 followed on from Year 9 at the in-school careers event this week with a great range of employers and higher and further education providers here to give advice and guidance on possible future destinations for young people. A great event for our students as they begin to make choices about their futures. Thank you to all who took part and made the event happen.

Year 10 had a great week, pulling together as a team and ensuring that their behaviour and punctuality around school was a highlight. Well done to Fozail for getting three Community ticket rewards in a row – and well done to all the many students who have been racking up the Golden tickets in class and Community tickets around school. It goes to show just how many of the year group get it right all day, every day. The Year team are not at all surprised, but it's great to see – keep it up!

Post 16 News

This week has been a momentous week for Post 16 attendance and another successful week of UCAS offers. Congratulations to Emily who received an offer from the University of Leeds, on the same day as her application was submitted, this is fantastic! Also, congratulations to Megan and Nainy who have both received unconditional offers York, St John – well done.

Our Y12 Criminologists have successfully completed their first Controlled Assessment and Y13 have also been completing exams in Business, Health and Social Care and Applied Science.

Finally, Y12 and continuing their search for Work Experience Placements – a plea from the team – If you are a company in the local reading this and can offer any work experience placement in June, can you contact Mr Delgado/Mrs Ellis

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

CEIAG – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

A huge thanks to the local businesses and HE+ Education providers who supported our annual Y9/10 Careers and HE+ fair on Tuesday. It was a great success and Y9/10 were a credit to the school.

If you are interested in a career in the NHS then hopefully this information will be useful:



NHS
Bradford District Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Step into the NHS with Bradford District Care Trust.

The Bradford Hotel,
Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 5SH
Saturday 4th March 2023
10.00 - 3.00pm

better lives, together

www.bdct.nhs.uk @BDCT



Are you a young person thinking about your subject or career choices which might open up a variety of NHS opportunities both clinical and non clinical?

Or are you a student on a programme of study leading to a professional registrable qualification and considering your first destination role?

Or are you looking to move into a clinical role, a support worker or registrant looking to change career path or are you looking at continued professional development opportunities through college university courses?

Thinking of returning to nursing or the allied health professions via a return to practice course?

Then our collaborative event is for You!

Step into the NHS with Bradford District Care Trust
The Bradford Hotel, Hall Ings, Bradford BD1 5SH
Saturday 4th March 2023
10.00 - 3.00pm

- There will be representation from a variety of services and teams across clinical and non clinical areas including nursing (mental health, adult physical health community teams, childrens services and learning disability services), occupational therapy, physiotherapy, social work, medicine, pharmacy, speech and language, dental and clinical psychology
- Pop up information sessions on various apprenticeships
- Pop up workshops for young people on choosing your subjects and completing UCAS applications
- Pop up sessions from our regional universities and local colleges around study days, modules and courses
- Simulation stands
- Interviews on the day for various roles and early interviews for mid point 2nd year student nurses
- Talks on a range of topics from our market place stands

And lots more...

Please book your place today via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/step-into-the-nhs-with-bradford-district-care-trust-tickets-489381462127> or register on the day.

NHS
Bradford District Care
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Staying Safe Online: Twitter

Twitter is a social media network which allows users to post short messages ('tweets') of up to 280 characters. Tweets can consist of text, photos, videos, audio, links, polls and GIFs – often linked by hashtags if they share a common theme or message. Hashtags receiving high levels of interest are said to be 'trending'. Twitter users can engage with other people's posts by liking, retweeting (sharing) or tweeting back (commenting on). Twitter is a very useful tool for finding information on a wide range of topics and can spark some very meaningful and purposeful debate. However there are a number of risks to be aware of to ensure that everyone stays safe on the platform.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as trolls and bullying, fixation on view count and interaction with strangers.

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 apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITTER

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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INTERACTION WITH STRANGERS

Tweets are public by default, meaning that anyone can view and interact with posts, follow someone and send direct messages. The concern here is that young people may therefore connect and communicate with strangers. Some individuals may follow a young person's Twitter account simply because they have similar interests; however, others may turn out to have more sinister intentions.

FIXATION ON VIEW COUNT

Twitter has recently introduced a 'view count' feature – telling users how many people have seen their tweet (even if they haven't reacted to it). Previous research has found that unfavourable comparisons with other social media users can cause young people to experience feelings of insecurity, jealousy and low self-esteem – leading to an obsession with increasing their numbers.

TROLLS AND BULLYING

The anonymity offered by fake profiles encourages some users to send tweets designed to provoke a reaction; to disrupt conversations; to spark an argument; or to harass the recipient. Such trolling and bullying can impact the mental wellbeing of both the target and anyone who witnesses it. Encourage your child to come to you if they experience such behaviour on Twitter, or if they see it taking place.

PAID-FOR VERIFICATION

Previously, if a Twitter profile displayed a blue tick icon, it meant that the owner – usually a celebrity or a major organisation – had been verified as genuine. Now, however, anyone can pay for a Twitter Blue subscription to receive the tick, with the platform carrying out limited checks on the account's authenticity. This could easily lead to more fake accounts impersonating real people or companies.

CONTENT MODERATION CHANGES

In late 2022, Twitter stated that their 'policy enforcement will rely more heavily on de-amplification of violative content: freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach'. No policies have changed yet, but this wording suggests they may limit who can see posts rather than removing them. While supporting free speech, this could encourage an environment where some toxic content remains online.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

The hashtag (#) is one of Twitter's most recognisable facets, allowing users to find specific trends or topics. But the sheer volume of tweets each hour can rapidly distort a hashtag's meaning: an initially innocent search term can quickly end up returning inappropriate results. This is common with 'trending' hashtags, as people know that using them will get their tweet seen by a larger audience.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SET ACCOUNTS TO PRIVATE

To reduce some of the fear of your child's tweets being seen and shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that your child has to give approval for another user to view their posts. You can change Twitter's privacy settings so that your child can't be messaged directly by other people on the platform and their geographical location won't be shared.

FOSTER CRITICAL THINKING

It can be difficult for anyone to ascertain if something online is real or false, but particularly for young people. Encourage your child to check several reputable sources to determine if a story they've seen is true; remind them to watch out for scams and think about the message's possible motive. Emphasise that it's not a good idea to retweet something if they aren't sure it's correct.

ENGAGE SAFETY MODE

When Safety Mode is activated, Twitter checks for abusive or spammy behaviour such as hurtful language or repeated negative replies. The platform then flags these suspect accounts and blocks them from responding to your child's tweets. The autoblock function then prevents these accounts from interacting with your child's again for seven days.

EXPLORE THE NEW SETTINGS

Previously, any user could reply to anyone else's tweets. However, the new conversation settings let your child determine who can reply to their posts – either by selecting everyone (the default option), people they follow or only people they mention (using the @ symbol). This improvement has given users extra control, providing them with more protection from trolls and online abuse.

PAUSE BEFORE POSTING

It's important that young people think about what they're about to post and whether they might regret it later. Twitter has developed 'nudges': little prompts which appear if someone is about to tweet using harmful or offensive language. These nudges promote more positive online behaviour by giving users an opportunity to pause and consider their words before they post something.

BLOCK, REPORT OR MUTE

If someone is upsetting your child on Twitter, you can block and report them. Blocking stops them from messaging or following your child, while reporting an account alerts Twitter to investigate possible misuse. The 'mute' feature, meanwhile, keeps tweets from a specific account (or which include certain words) out of your child's timeline. The other user won't know that they've been muted.

BE CAREFUL WHO TO FOLLOW

As accounts are no longer being as rigorously verified under the 'blue tick' system, it's essential that young Twitter users understand what this means, in terms of people not necessarily being who they claim. Anyone who your child only knows online is still a stranger, regardless of how long they've been communicating for. Remind your child never to disclose personal information on social media.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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