

Headteacher Newsletter Friday 24th February

Highlights of the week

We have really enjoyed seeing our students back in school this week after the half term break. I was lucky enough to see some of our incredibly talented students perform in the Oakworth panto on the Friday of half term – a thoroughly enjoyable evening. This week I've seen great learning taking place in lots of lessons including Y8 Humanities, Y10 Maths, Y9 Spanish, Y7 Art and A level English. Year 11 have been completing their mock exams this week and these continue into next week. Lots of golden tickets awarded this week for those excelling with our learning habit 3: ***On Task Behaviour: Working hard, taking part, following Learning Modes.***

Thank you to the parents who gave us feedback via our online survey - we had over 250 responses. The survey is now closed; I will share a summary of your feedback with you in next week's newsletter along with some dates for follow up events. For those parents who left us contact details for follow up we will be in touch over coming days,

We are aware of messages being distributed via Snapchat and TikTok relating to shoes and access to toilets. Please let me reiterate that we are not, nor have we ever wanted to deny children the opportunity to use toilets. It is important that we control how this is done as we always want to ensure that children use toilets before school, breaks, lunches and if needed between lessons as we have built in movement time to allow children to use the facilities and still get to lessons. We have, sadly, had a very recent spate of damage which is very unfortunate and means that children have less cubicles available. When this happens our hard-working site team and cleaners have to spend time resolving the issues caused by those very selfish individuals who have chosen to treat their school in a poor manner.

Our school is for all of our children to learn and succeed in. We are so very proud of how the vast majority of children have responded to our recent work on Learning Habits; being polite, working hard, being responsible and respectful. As an example, we have issued such an incredible high number of Golden Tickets and Community Awards since our return after Christmas it has been so wonderful to share with students daily, weekly and half termly rewards for all their hard work.

Industrial action next week. Please find information in the attached link regarding Industrial action on Tuesday 28th February [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Industrial Action Tuesday February 28th 2023](#)

Upcoming Events

27 th February	Year 11 Mocks continue.
28 th February	Industrial Action – Strike – partial closure letter above
2 nd March	Year 10 Parents' Evening 3.30pm -6.30pm
2 nd March	World Book Day
6 th March	Year 13 Mocks begin.
8 th , 9 th and 10 th March	The school performance of Annie Jr the Musical takes place.
23 rd March	Y7 Parents' Evening 3.30pm -6.30pm
Friday 31st March*	Partial school closure day for additional staff training. Years 11 and Y13 will attend all lessons as normal. School will be closed to Years 7,8,9,10,12 who will have access to remote learning materials for the day.

**This is a change to the calendar originally published at the start of the year.*

Attendance for the week

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7	90.5	88.5	83.2	88.9	85.1
Year 8	90.2	89.9	89.5	88.1	88.3
Year 9	89.5	88.2	86.8	88.6	82.1
Year 10	88.1	87.1	86.4	85.6	85.2
Year 11	90	85.5	85.7	86.9	81.6
Year 12	98.6	95.2	100	100	95.9
Year 13	88.8	93.2	92.1	95.8	83.7

Key

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

*National YTD attendance at 27.1.23 was 90.9% (DfE).

1075 of our students had 100% attendance this week.

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

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

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

Well done to Y12 who continue to maintain very good attendance;

Golden Tickets

This week	
Year 8	154
Year 7	115
Year 10	91
Year 9	83
Year 11	29

Positive achievements

This week		Year to date	
Year 8	2790	Year 8	73310
Year 7	1764	Year 7	65571
Year 9	1675	Year 10	49528
Year 10	1606	Year 9	46844
Year 11	430	Year 11	37885

Homework

Just a reminder of our homework timetable for this half term; not only are there changes to how homework is set but also how we communicate with parents when homework is set, and we are currently discussing how best to reward those students who engage fully in their homework. Please find more details here:

[Beckfoot Oakbank School - Homework Timetable](#)

Don't forget that **Sparx maths** is here for years 7-11! We now have the capacity to set all students personalised maths homework linked to the scheme they are following in class. Over the next 2 weeks your child will be given a Sparx homework book to complete their weekly homework. Their maths teacher will have shown them how to log on and what to do. As parents you can access further details on the website

Students can complete on any device including a smart phone. Students without access to a device at home can always access our LRC which is open every break time, every lunch time and daily after school.

Assembly and Tutor lessons (Personal Development)

This week students have spent their Tutor lessons exploring careers-related information as we build up toward British Science Week next week and National Careers Week the week after. Students have explored enterprise and entrepreneurship. The focus of the news article this week was Apprenticeships and gave students an opportunity to delve into whether the growing numbers of apprentices might be due to the cost of living crisis or other factors. Our Votes for School topic, in which we all vote with hundreds of other schools nationally was focussed on 'Should non-LGBTQ+ people tell LGBTQ+ stories?' This is both a topical issue particularly in showbusiness, it was also a chance to pick up threads from Mr O'Connell's popular assembly before half term on LGBTQ+ History Month of February.

Mrs Hart's assemblies have run all week reminding students of our clear and high expectations of all students so they can learn more and remember more. In Tutor time this we also broke news of the Ski trip 2024 which has caused huge excitement, and over 125 letters have flown out to eager students keen to know about that opportunity. Students also discussed the information about World Book Day on 2nd March, and the upcoming Annie production is nearly upon us!! It's starting to look like a busy few weeks ahead.



Y7 News

A warm welcome back to our wonderful Y7 students! It's been a pleasure to visit lessons this week and see the students beginning the new term with enthusiasm. Our new attendance challenge starts this week, who will have 100% attendance in the run up to Easter?

Y8 News

Thank you to Jess B who met with Mrs Hart this week. We are proud of what Jess is achieving in school and that she is such a great example of our positive learning habits. Well done Jess!

We're also delighted and grateful to Sullivan for his help with the daily draw of green community awards in Y8. He deserves a special mention for noticing how he could help Mrs Askham and Mr Moules and got right on with it. Well done Sullivan, top job!

Most of this week Year Eight have proudly being the winners of the most Golden Tickets, and it is given out on the step in Line Up every morning – it's thrilling to see we won the week as well with 154 golden tickets!! This really shows the brilliant hard work and effort that goes into each lesson from students. Fantastic!

Y9 News

Fabulous to see you back Y9- I have enjoyed catching up with your half term adventures and seeing you back in the swing of things, learning and working hard in lessons. I have seen some fantastic work and analysis of text in English, meanwhile in Science we are looking at why recycling is so important. Well done to Ms MacPherson's tutor group for this week's attendance prize.

Y10 News

Parents Evening on Thursday March 2nd 3.30-6.30pm for our year 10 students and families. Please find out more about booking your appointments here: [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Parents Evening](#). It is a fantastic opportunity to speak to subject teachers about where they're up to, understand how they can make even more progress, and celebrate the hard work and positive attitudes they have shown in the first half of Year 10 (most of them will have some really positive feedback for you to enjoy!).

Thank you to Year 10 who have displayed polite kind behaviours volunteering to help staff this week. Special mention to Jack who noticed Mrs Bain needed some help on the corridor and was keen to help. Displaying behaviours make a difference to himself and others around. Thank you Jack.

Y11 News

Well done to year 11 who have made a fantastic start to their mock examinations, their attitude and focus has been exemplary, half-way there, 1 week to go! More information on the mocks can be found here: [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Year 11 Support](#)



On a completely different but amazing note Charlotte was asked to carry the North East England Region Girlguiding Standard in Keighley's Thinking Day parade and service. In addition, Charlotte is due to be part of the Colour Party for West Yorkshire North Guiding County Standard at a special service in York Minster tomorrow as well. Well done Charlotte both are such an honour to be asked to do.

Post 16 News

All students at Post you have applied for university have now received one or more offers. This is a great achievement, and we are proud of all our Y13 in securing some fantastic offers.

A year 12 student has completed a 5-day work experience placement over February half term on the Orthopaedic Ward at Bradford Royal Infirmary. The student had face to face contact with patients, even taking blood pressure and observing medical professionals in a professional environment. She hopes to study medicine at university from September 2024, so this experience will stand her in good stead when completing applications.

A year 13 student sat Aberystwyth university entrance exams. Passing these will provide her with a scholarship and/or an unconditional offer.

We have our Y11 Post 16 Taster Day on Monday 13 March – students who have applied to continue at Beckfoot Oakbank will have an opportunity to take part in taster A Level and BTEC lessons P1-3 and then have a talk by Leeds Beckett University P4. Students who have not applied will have a HE+ and Apprenticeship workshops P1-3, which will be delivered by Craven College, Bradford College and Keighley College – if you have still not applied to Beckfoot Oakbank applications can be picked up from the Sixth Form office – or visit the website for further details.

1. [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Sixth Form](#)
2. Or email a member of the Sixth Form team directly if you any queries or questions:
post16beckfootoakbank@becbd.onmicrosoft.com

Staying safe and supporting your children

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. See the tips below for children to have a safe gaming experience.

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fall or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



Source: <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf>

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CEIAG – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

Take a minute to have a look at the Future Ready section – up-to-date Career information and Guidance

[Beckfoot Oakbank School - Future Ready](#)

[Beckfoot Oakbank School - Careers - Job of the Week](#)



Beckfoot Oakbank

Job Of The Week
20th February

BUSINESS PROJECT MANAGER

Salary
The salary of a Business Project Manager can range from £28,000 to £75,000

Typical Hours
37-39 hours a week. You could work between 8am and 6pm

Entry Requirements
You can get into this job through:

- A University Course - Getting a degree in any subject can help you get into this type of job. In order to increase your understanding, you can take a post graduate qualification in project management to increase your understanding. For entry requirements, you'll usually need 2-3 A-Levels
- An Apprenticeship - You could get into this career through a higher apprenticeship in project management, lasting around 4 years. For entry requirements, you'll usually need 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and A-levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship
- Working towards the role - You may be able to work your way up if you've got several years' experience in a project support or administration role
- A graduate training scheme - You could get into this career through a graduate training scheme, where you'll usually start off as a junior project manager

Keighley Community News – Have your say with our new Community Development Officer

I'm the new Community Development Officer for Keighley Town Council.

Keighley Town Council are doing a consultation survey we've named Your Vision for Keighley. The survey is to refresh our Town Plan which we use as a focus for our resources. We want to make it as relevant as possible to the residents and community groups & organisations in Keighley.

Parents and Sixth Form students can complete the survey. There is a free prize draw for residents who respond to win an iPad. The consultation closes on 31st March.

This is a link to our online survey: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/OGR7VI/>

Kind Regards, **Louise Soothill, Community Development & Policy Officer**
Keighley Town Council

Visit our website www.beckfootoakbank.org

Follow us on twitter **@BeckfootOakbank**

Contact us at office@beckfootoakbank.org