

Headteacher Newsletter Friday 2nd February 2024

Highlights of the week

Thank you to our Year 7 families who joined us last night at parents’ evening – there was a real buzz about the place – and thank you for all of the feedback you gave us. Each week staff can nominate students **work of the week** (WOW). On Wednesday I spoke with this week’s WOW nominees and was hugely impressed with their ability to talk about their learning and their future ambitions. Can’t wait to see who is nominated next week.

We love to hear about our students’ successes beyond the school day so if you have any good news stories, successes (and of course any pictures!) that you want to share with us about your children’s amazing talents please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing Danielle Clifford, Exec Assistant to the Headteacher on DClifford01@beckfootoakbank.org

Upcoming events/Diary dates

- Week beginning 5th February Y11 Mocks continue
- Wednesday 7th February Parent Forum Meeting (re-arranged) 6.30pm
- Monday 12th February Half Term Starts
- Monday 19th February Students return to school
- Thursday 22nd February Y10 Parents Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm

Golden Tickets

Year to date		Last Week	
Year 7	4342	Year 7	337
Year 8	4036	Year 8	357
Year 9	4299	Year 9	387
Year 10	3722	Year 10	387
Year 11	2660	Year 11	111



Positive achievement points for learning habit 3

Year to date		Last Week	
Year 7	23516	Year 7	2510
Year 8	21351	Year 8	1898
Year 9	24782	Year 9	2360
Year 10	22008	Year 10	2444
Year 11	20604	Year 11	948

Attendance

	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 7	88.3	89.2	86.2	92	90.6
Year 8	86.3	86.3	84.5	84.2	86.6
Year 9	84.4	87.9	88.5	87.3	84.4
Year 10	85.5	83.2	85.2	83.9	81.3
Year 11	85	89.9	87.6	86.2	88.1
Year 12	98.3	95.5	95.4	97.1	92
Year 13	90.8	95.9	94.9	89.1	97.1

Key

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

Our attendance challenge continues until Thursday next week: all students who have attended every day since Monday 29th January have an opportunity to win a mystery prize. Authorised absences during this point will not count against them (like medical appointments or illness with evidence). The winners will receive their mystery prizes on Friday 9th February. Good luck everyone!

Work of the Week Nominees

Lily G Year 7– Nominated by Mr O'Connell for her excellent work in Geography
 Annie M Year 8- Nominated by Mrs Grayson for her excellent work in Geography
 Tanya R- Year 9 – Nominated by Mrs Grayson for her excellent work in Geography
 Anisa S Year 7 – Nominated by Mrs Flemming for her do now task and great teamwork in Drama
 Bailey M Year 8 – Nominated by Mrs Ellwood for his Artwork

Personal Development and Tutor Lesson

This week a team of 28 students successfully completed their Bradford Citizens listening training and are now ready to take forward the listening project to the rest of school.

This week's powerful assemblies were from Mr O'Connell on LGBTQ+ History month with a focus on medicine as this years theme. This was also a great opportunity to showcase the work done by the Student LGBTQ+ group which meets again next week.

In Votes for School all students were asked to take to the ballot to give their views on whether they learn from 'history' months on Black History, Women's history and so on. Our students were really well-placed to put Mr O'Connell's assembly firmly in the educational and purposeful group – voting resoundingly to agree that these themed history months highlight and promote understanding of a range of important topics.

This week's oracy news article non-fiction reading centred on the Yemeni pirate who has become a viral sensation, not for this illegal piracy stealing ships in the Red Sea, but his good looks. This has allowed some thought-provoking conversations and debates on the dangers of viral content online, the dangers of piracy as well as the thoughts and feelings of students around judging people by their looks.

Now's your chance to vote on: "Do you learn during history months?"

Yes

- Some history months highlight communities I do not know enough about.
- Different history month themes highlight different stories and periods of history.
- I do learn during history months, but usually the area highlighted is something that needs to be thought about more often.
- There isn't enough time to learn about these important topics alongside our schoolwork.
- There's so many, it's easier to ignore them and focus on learning that you're more interested in.
- You can't learn some of these advanced topics in a few lessons during a month.

No

We will be sharing your thoughts on this topic with LGBT+ History Month, Just Like Us, The Proud Trust, Stonewall and Galop. Log in to your VotesforSchools account to [submit your vote](#) and leave a comment.

©OTES/©SCHOOLS

Oracy and Current affairs | What is going in the world?

- Yemeni** - From Yemen, a country of nearly 33 million people, bordering Saudi Arabia on the Arabian peninsula.
- Houthi** - The Houthis represent a Shia Muslim minority, but have won support from other Yemenis dissatisfied with the government.
- Red Sea** - A seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean. To its right is Saudi Arabia, to its left the coast of north Africa.
- Che Guevara** - An Argentine Marxist revolutionary, a major figure of the Cuban revolution. He died in 1967.
- Camila Vallejo** - Chilean Communist Party politician, led student protests in the 2010s.
- Botticelli** - A 15th-Century Florentine artist best known for his The Birth of Venus and Primavera.
- Jesse James** - A 19th Century American outlaw, bank and train robber and gang leader.
- Napoleon Bonaparte** - The French military commander and political leader who rose to prominence during the French Revolution.



Reciprocal Reading

Whilst your Tutor reads the article out loud to you, follow it on your own copy:

Clarify: Circle any words or phrases you don't understand.

Clarify: Underline the most important parts of the article.

Question: Place a tick near parts of the article you want to ask questions about.

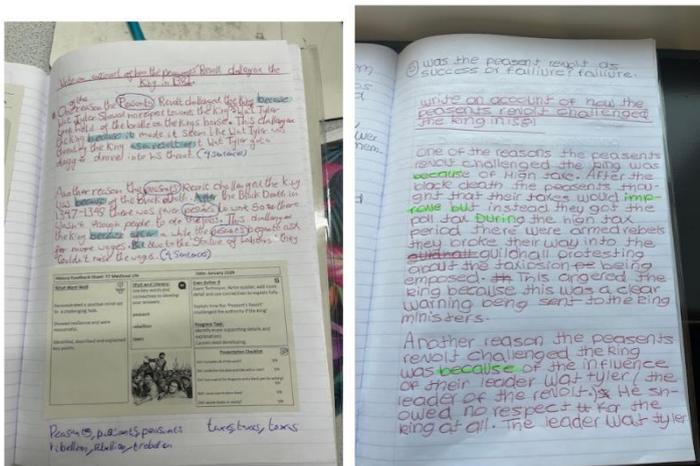
[Snow is good for mental health scientists say - The Day](#)

Extra-curricular activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Debate club (Y8, 10, 12, 13) LUNCH TIME F51 MED	Debate club (Y7, 9, 11) LUNCH TIME F51 MED	Girls Football All year groups DWH	Year 7/8 Football CBE/JGI	
Fitness Suite KS4 FBR	Year 9 Football DRI	Dodgeball KS3 MFL	Netball Year 7/8 DCH	Rugby year 7/8/9 JFL
Lego Club (all years - till 3.30) No new members until Spring term S34 C. Moore / J. Hird	Girls Rugby KS3 DCH/RST	Healthy Active ME Activity Room	Netball Year 9/10 DWH	Badminton All year groups TSH
	KS4 Football Astro GBO	Basketball KS3 CBE	Year 11 BTEC Intervention JIC/DRI	Fitness Suite KS3 JIC
	Drama Club (all years) G28 RSI		Dance/Cheerleading KS3 CFL	
	Science Club (Y7 and 8) MMI / ECO S43		Gardening Club (all years) S33 E. Cowham / S. Cooke	

Year Group News

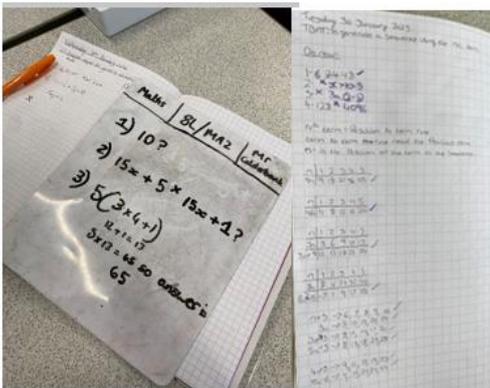
Y7 News



Year 7 have been increasing the quantity and the quality of their writing over their time at Oakbank. A big well done to Ivy S and Yusuf A for their brilliant work in History about the Peasants' Revolt. We continue to reward students with Golden Tickets for good work.

Y8 News

It has been another busy week for Year 8 as we head towards half term. Students have been working hard on algebra in Maths using mini white boards to learn with others. Well done to Layten and Hollie for their hard work this week.



In Language lessons students have been learning about holidays, Hamish’s book showcases the challenge and development of their learning.



Attendance reward breakfast for most improved in Y8 last week – well done 8MY!

Y9 News

So much to celebrate this week Year 9, a huge thank you to everyone that has handed their Options Forms into student reception, and a reminder that the deadline for all forms is this Monday 5th February. Congratulations to 9AA for winning the attendance award this week. Brilliant!

Also to let you know that Yvie has been nominated for Yorkshire Choice awards Gala 2024 so please vote her, link below! Well done Yvie on your nomination for sporting achievements.

<https://www.yorkshirechoiceawards.co.uk/votehere>



Y10 News

Well done on a good week Year 10 – second in Learning Habit 3 rewards and joint first in Golden Tickets. We also got a brilliant assembly from Mr O’Connell to mark LGBTQ+ month – informative, professional and with a fantastic message of tolerance and support for everyone. Thank you, sir!

Y11 News

Pictured are our year 11 debating team Evie K, Hassan M, Mary-Jane J, Jasper R, Finley S. The team qualified and competed in a regional tournament on Monday arguing whether we should abolish the House of Lords. Although they didn't go onto win the tournament they did extremely well and represented Beckfoot Oakbank in such a good light. Well done guys we are so proud.



Moving into the second week of mocks, all Y11 students can get a free breakfast (drink and snack) every day next week. This is available between 8 and 8:10 am. It is our way of saying well done for a busy week last week, and keep going with your mocks this week!

Post 16

SPARX Reader and SPARX Maths.

All students in years 7 to 11 have access to Sparx Maths and all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have access to Sparx Reader. Students can access these programmes with the same login that they use for Teams and logging at school. You can log on here. [Beckfoot Oakbank School - Maths](#)

Sparx maths is now live so all students in Y7-11 have weekly online homework linked to the maths curriculum being followed. It's due in each Wednesday! Your child's tutor can help them if they do not know their login / password.

Our KS3 students have excelled this year so far with their home learning! If you or your child have any questions about Sparx, please contact their English teacher for help accessing the homework.

Beckfoot Oakbank

Your students have completed

493 hours

of careful reading this year in Sparx Reader.
Great effort!

Beckfoot Oakbank

Your students have read

57 books

this year in Sparx Reader. Well done!

Educake

In Science we are launching a new online homework platform for years 10 and 11 called Educake where students can answer online quizzes set by their science teachers. Educake is also a fantastic tool for revision as students can log on and test themselves on their science knowledge. All students should have received their login details in class as a sticker in their planners but if they have any problems logging on they should speak to their science teacher or Mr Hazelgreen. Log on at <http://www.educake.co.uk> or download the app.

CEIAG – Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

Future Ready Learners – then please do so by clicking the link below

Beckfoot Oakbank School - Future Ready

futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/ - find out more about opportunities in West Yorkshire

futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/lmi-resources-regions/ find out about Labour Market Information in West Yorkshire

Use these links to navigate our pages easily.

[Work Experience \(booked by Students\)](#)

[Discovery Workshops \(reserved by Educators\)](#)

[Upcoming Broadcasts](#)

[Host a Speaker at your school](#)

[VTalks Library](#)

[National Teen Book Club](#)

[Past Imperfect Podcasts](#)

Some Useful links

Bradford Parenting Cygnet Service

This programme is designed for parents and carers of children and young people aged 5-18 with an autistic spectrum condition.

This is a core Cygnet programme which is delivered over six, two and a half - three-hour sessions which sequentially work towards behaviour management and covers a number of topics.

[Bradford Parenting Cygnet Service | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

01274 513300

Child Autism UK

Child Autism UK helps children with autism achieve their potential. We provide services to enable children to overcome difficulties with communication, learning and life skills and give families the techniques and strategies to cope with autism through the use of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA).

[Support, advice and services for children with autism - Child Autism UK - releasing potential](#)

Help line:01344 882248

ADHD UK

Providing emotional and informational support for people with ADHD and their carers via telephone, email, social media and support groups.

<https://adhduk.co.uk/>

Creative Support – Bradford

Providing person-centred services for people with a learning disability, autism and mental health needs.

[Creative Support](#)

Janssen with me

Advice on ADHD for teenagers and parents.

[Home | Janssen With Me UK](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Follow us on X **@BeckfootOakbank**

Contact us at **office@beckfootoakbank.org**

For prospective families wanting specific transition information contact us on

Transition24@beckfootoakbank.org

Our expectations

We regularly share our expectations with students so that they know how they can be successful in their learning and so that we can remove any barriers to this success. It is important for us all to understand that when in school students are expected to be in lessons learning unless it is break or lunchtime. Time out of lessons should not be the norm or the expectation and we know that as we have increased our expectations of what students learn and what they do in lessons some students are finding the increased challenge difficult at times. We know that being expected to know more, remember more and do more is hard and staff will support students with this in a variety of ways.

The majority of our students get it right day in day out and make positive choices – the small number who do not are given opportunities to make the right choice but are clear of the consequences if they do not meet our very simple learning habits. We have now moved to same day detentions for lateness to school and lessons and already we can see the impact on punctuality across the school. Thank you to our families for your continued support.

Our Beckfoot Trust Mission:

Creating remarkable schools where no child is left behind.

Our Beckfoot Oakbank school sentence:

“Beckfoot Oakbank School ensured that every child succeeded in education, had a great career and enjoyed life”.

Our Oakbank values:

Enjoy: We **enjoy** belonging to Beckfoot Oakbank

Learn: We are all here to **learn**

Succeed: We are determined to **succeed**

Our Oakbank learning habits:

The Oakbank Way: Our Learning Habits

Learning Habit 1. Positive response: *Opening doors, tidying up, using good manners; 'please' and 'thank you'.*

Learning Habit 2. Perfect uniform

Learning Habit 3. On task behaviour: *Working hard, taking part, following Learning Modes*

Learning Habit 4. Punctual to school and lessons: *Arrive to school before 08:20, arrive to lesson before the bell.*

Learning Habit 5. Equipped for success: *bag, pen, pencil, ruler, planner, mobile phones not seen or heard.*