

# Headteacher Newsletter Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Highlights of the week

Our year 10 students on the residential last week had an absolutely superb time and were a credit to themselves and their families. We look forward to more students having similar experiences in the future. I've seen great work in art and technology this week from year 7 and 8. We ran a 'meet the team' evening for our new year 7 who join us in September. The hall was full and we had over two hundred and twenty people who joined us. It was great to meet you all! Thank you to all who attended and thank you to the members of our parent forum who were also on hand to answer questions. Congratulations to Yvie in Y9 who was competing Taekwon-do in Holland last weekend and again excelled missing out on gold by a single point! Next stop the European Championships.

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

- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> May                      Parent Forum 6.30pm
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> May                     Year 11 Exams start
- Wb 20<sup>th</sup> May                     Y7 Assessments start
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> May                    Spring Bank Half term
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June                     School reopens
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June                     Y8/9/10 Assessment window opens
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June                     Y12 Mocks
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> June                  Parent Forum 6.30pm
- Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> July                     New Y7 Transition Day and transition evening

## Golden Tickets

Year to date	
Year 7	6912
Year 8	6211
Year 9	6805
Year 10	5807
Year 11	4299

Last Week	
Year 7	279
Year 8	256
Year 9	304
Year 10	255
Year 11	187



## On task behaviour points (learning habit 3)

Year to date	
Year 7	39241
Year 8	33222
Year 9	39764
Year 10	35338
Year 11	31041

Last Week	
Year 7	2020
Year 8	1743
Year 9	2020
Year 10	1810
Year 11	1411

## Personal Development and Tutor Lesson

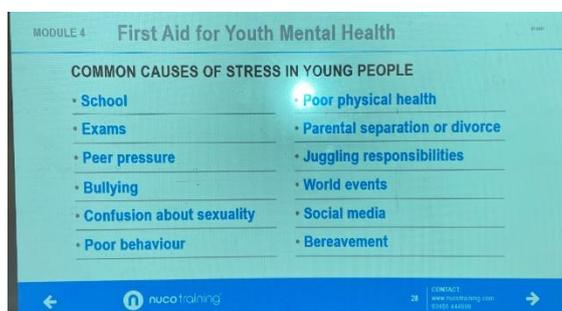
This week's Assemblies from Mr Ray have enabled students to build on the reset day last week to focus on positive learning habits, how to learn more and remember more and how to win golden tickets as well as success in learning.

Elsewhere in the Tutor lessons Monday's Personal Coaching looked at John Cooper Clark turning his poetic back on technology famously writing his poems with a quill by candlelight! This enabled to students to consider the dangers of too much technology, the addictive nature of smartphones and a culture that 'always switched on' without time for rest and reflection.

Students also voted this week to decide whether they would like more wildlife in their area – certainly a split vote. Many feared pests whilst others preferred the benefit more animals in their streets would bring.

Today, Friday, 16 Year Ten students completed a GCSE-equivalent qualification in

Mental Health, the students worked really hard throughout the day with Ashleigh Pain, including sitting an exam to prove their new-learned skills and were presented with a certificate for their portfolios. A really impressive showing from our students.



## Attendance

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Year 7</b>	86.6	88.8	89.3	86.6	84.8
<b>Year 8</b>	88.3	87.5	86.3	85.9	88
<b>Year 9</b>	91.6	89.8	91	89.5	87.2
<b>Year 10</b>	87.2	84.9	87.2	84.4	81.8
<b>Year 11</b>	84.2	86.1	87.7	87	86.5
<b>Year 12</b>	93.1	96.2	96.3	93.5	94.3
<b>Year 13</b>	95.9	95.6	90.8	96.3	92.5

### Key

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

Although attendance has improved for some year groups, there is still a long way to go to ensure that all students are in school enough to be as successful as they can be. Several students in each year group remain off too often; it is worth remembering that absences are not authorised once attendance drops below 95% unless we receive medical evidence. And any students who arrive later than 9.30 in the morning are missing their AM session mark, as well as missing out on invaluable learning time in their morning lessons.

## 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.

We have seen a noticeable difference and reduction in the numbers of students losing learning time through visits to the toilet in lesson time – thank you for your support with this.

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 can see the impact on punctuality across the school.

Students who arrive without the correct uniform will be given the option to borrow clean items of uniform or go home to change. Students who arrive with excess jewellery not in line with our published expectations will be asked to remove said items. Those who do not will be placed in one of our internal removal spaces until this is addressed. If you need support with uniform, please contact the school office where a member of the team will be happy to help [office@beckfootoakbank.org](mailto:office@beckfootoakbank.org)

Thank you to our families for your continued support.

## Extra-curricular activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Debate club (Y8, 10, 12, 13) <b>LUNCH TIME</b> F51 MED	Debate club (Y7, 9, 11) <b>LUNCH TIME</b> 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

Well done to 7HK for winning the attendance award this break. They got extra toast due to our additional assembly last Friday. Congratulations to Aimee-Paige B for representing the school so brilliantly at the football tournament this week. The girls team thrashed Thornton 5-0. Work in progress to beat South Craven and Beckfoot next time!

## Y8 News

Last week, 8EB absolutely smashed it with their attendance, earning themselves the reward breakfast for the most improved! Well done, 8EB! It's fantastic to see everyone making the effort to show up and make their school days count. Keep up the great work, and who knows? Perhaps your class will be next in line for some delicious breakfast treats.

This week, we're getting into the spirit of Earth Day! With Earth Day 2024 just around the corner on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we've teamed up with Eco-Schools to commemorate the occasion. It's an opportunity for us to reflect on how we can make a positive impact on our planet and tackle climate change. Let's show some love to Mother Earth



and brainstorm ways to protect our environment together. A big shoutout to Year 8 for their impeccable manners and community spirit – you lot are doing brilliantly! And a huge well done to the students diving into the Lexonik Advance Scheme to boost their reading skills. Keep up the fantastic work, everyone!

## Y9 News

A super week for Year 9 students who have impressed us with their attendance most of the week. We have been focusing on punctuality to lessons and polite response to everyone in our school. Well done to 9RG for winning the Year group attendance prize! Hope you enjoyed your reward breakfast. Well done to Yvie competing internationally again!

## Y10 News

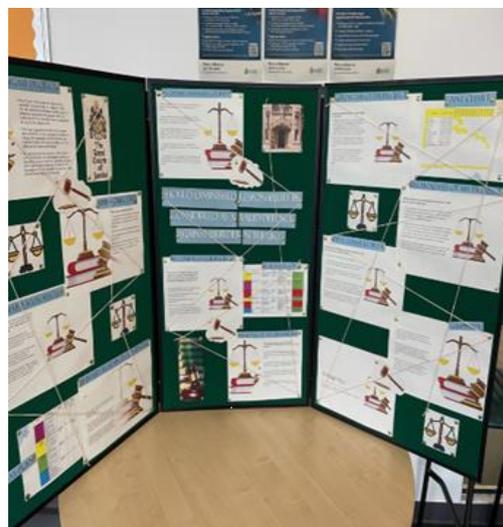
Another week of hard work and progress for Year 10 students, with assessments in class for anthology poetry for the English Literature GCSE. Big teach lessons continued in some Maths and Science lessons, providing students with expert input from our most experienced teachers. 10AT were the most improved tutor group last week for attendance – well done 10AT!

## Y11 News

It is always exciting to hear about the ambitions of our students in year 11, especially with next steps so close now. Since January Aisha has been volunteering for St. John's ambulance in Keighley; Aisha wants to be a paramedic when she is older and realised this would not only better her chances for that career but would also give her an invaluable first aid skill set. She is currently a cadet and attends sessions every Wednesday, well done Aisha – keep it up, I am sure with level of commitment you will achieve your goals.

## Post 16

Well done to Y13 EPQ students who completed their Market Stall presentations yesterday. The EPQ students, as part of their formal assessment, had to present their projects to an audience, and then answer a range of questions around their EPQ. The students were amazing – well done to all of you!



Finally, congratulations to Abi (Y13) who was chosen by the YMCA EV to do her final assessment when she visited school. She was an absolute credit to the school. Well done Abi.

## **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/](https://futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/) - find out more about opportunities in West Yorkshire

[futuregoals.co.uk/learn/our-region/lmi-resources-regions/](https://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**

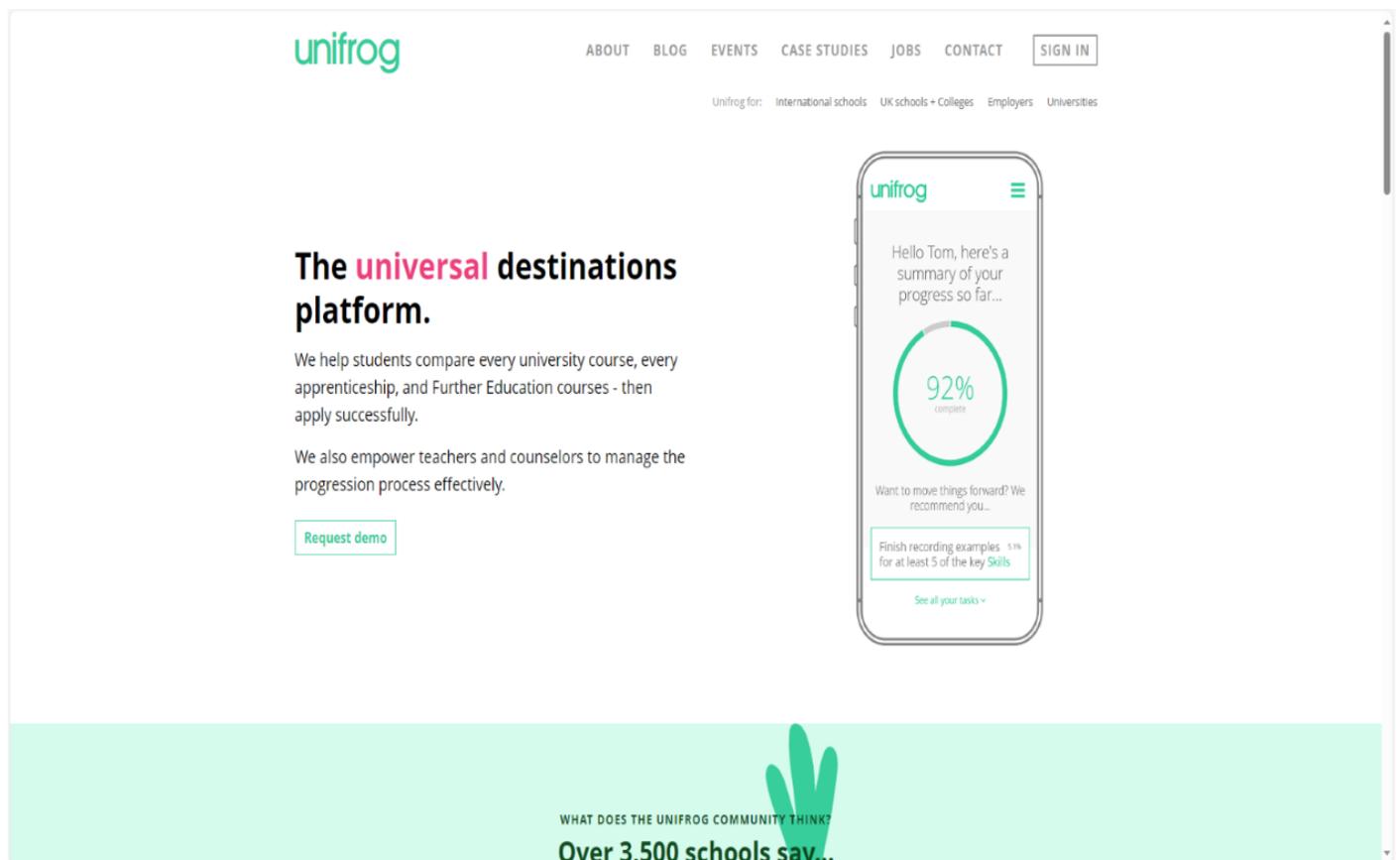
**Host a Speaker at your school**

**VTalks Library**

**National Teen Book Club**

**Past Imperfect Podcasts**

## **Unifrog guide for students and parents.pptx**



The screenshot shows the Unifrog website homepage. At the top left is the Unifrog logo. To the right is a navigation menu with links for ABOUT, BLOG, EVENTS, CASE STUDIES, JOBS, CONTACT, and a SIGN IN button. Below the navigation is a sub-menu: Unifrog for: International schools, UK schools + Colleges, Employers, Universities. The main content area features the headline "The **universal** destinations platform." followed by two paragraphs of text and a "Request demo" button. To the right is a mobile phone mockup displaying a user interface with a 92% progress indicator and a task list. At the bottom, a green banner contains the text "WHAT DOES THE UNIFROG COMMUNITY THINK?" and "Over 3,500 schools say..." with a hand icon.

## **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.

## **Educake**

In Science we are launching a new online homework platform 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.

### **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**

At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal development, in one place, on one platform. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further information and resources.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE DANGERS OF VAPING

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### NICOTINE ADDICTION

Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult.

## WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be disposable (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or rechargeable (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

### LACK OF AWARENESS

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction; that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

### POTENTIAL TOXICITY

Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

### WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing a link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the development of asthma, a persistent cough and breathing difficulties.

### UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

The liquids in vapes also contain solvents, which can create carcinogens at the point of evaporation. Vapes were only introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, because of the relatively short timeframe involved, there is insufficient medical evidence to assess the long-term harms that regular inhalation of these chemical fluids might have on the human body.

### UNREGULATED VAPING PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

### ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, frequently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

### SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause an allergic reaction or anaphylactic shock. To date, medical warnings aren't required on vape packaging – with only medical disclaimers being found on the websites of the various brands.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being recycled, their components – a lithium battery and a chemical liquid – pose a toxic risk to the environment, the ecosystem and wildlife. Vapes are also predominantly made of plastic and metal: materials that, of course, do not naturally decompose.

### VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS

Early research has suggested that the chemicals used to produce some strawberry and banana flavour e-liquids can kill cells in the blood vessels and heart. These ingredients aren't identified on the packaging, instead falling under the umbrella term 'natural and artificial flavourings'. Such vague listings mean that consumers aren't aware of the liquid's content so can't identify potential risks.

## Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Schools Service (Commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council), Catch Your Breath is a school-based project aimed at young people. Its goal is to embed a proactive, coordinated approach among both primary and secondary schools in discouraging smoking and vaping behaviours.



Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-65808924>

[nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) [@thenatcollege](https://twitter.com/thenatcollege) [/thenationalcollege](https://www.facebook.com/thenationalcollege)

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## 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.*