



**Bankside
School**

Headteacher: Kate Jasper
The Rhydd (on B4211 Road), Hanley
Castle, Worcestershire, WR8 0AD
Telephone: 01905 388 897
Email: info@banksidecollege.co.uk
Website: www.banksideschool.co.uk

Newsletter: 14th November 2025

Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Despite a wet, inclement week, Pupils at Bankside School have made some positive strides forward with their learning and engagement as has been recognised in our Congratulations Assembly today.

Pupils have been involved in writing playscripts and creating spooky scenes in English, contemplating set designs for the *Jabberwocky* in Drama, solving algebraic problems in Maths, developing magnets in Science, analysing WW1 propaganda posters in History to name but a few of the excellent work outcomes that are taking place here at school.

We are very proud of your young people this week and the respect they showed on Tuesday 11th November as they listened to a Remembrance Assembly presented by Kate and then joined in with the minutes silence. Some of the key thoughts and questions included 'For your tomorrow they gave our today', what does our 'tomorrow' look like? Are we using our freedom wisely? Are we honouring their sacrifice in the way that we live? In the way we act at school and at home?

Powerful thought provoking questions which would be good to share at home too.

Our Kindness Club are visiting the Foodbank this coming Tuesday so any more donations would be gratefully received. Thank you to you all for the donations to date – very much appreciated.

We also have come exciting events going on in the last week of term to get into the festive spirit. Lots of Christmas themed activities and decoration making. The Panto at Malvern Theatre, parents day for coffee and mince pies, Christmas Jumper Day and a movie afternoon. More information on all of these dates will be sent out a bit closer to the time.

Despite the weather, we hope you have a positive weekend.

Just as a reminder we are a **NO NUT** School, we have a number of pupils who have allergies, this includes for some pupils, coconut allergy, please be mindful of pupils using sprays or body lotions as they can be sensitive to this.

Important Dates

Autumn Term

Autumn Term: 3rd September 2025 – 19th December 2025

Please note that our TED day is the **21st of November**

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Zak R** - For great work during his art session. Initially apprehensive of the task given but he pushed outside his comfort zone and persevered to create an artist inspired artwork.
- **Ren H** - You put in maximum effort and commitment to every PSHE lesson. Your work is always beautifully presented. Well done Ren.
- **Millie B** – For always being on time, engaged and giving your best effort. A brilliant role model in maths!
- **Archie C** – For showing fantastic enthusiasm this week, taking a real interest in set design for our *Jabberwocky* theme. You've been much more present and engaged in class, contributing creative ideas and working really well with others. Well done Archie, a brilliant effort and well-deserved
- **Kay E, Clare Mc & Ren H** - For being star learners for their excellent engagement with our playscript in English.
- **Ren P** – You have been engaging fully during art sessions and has been able to create some fantastic artist inspired pieces. He worked really hard this week, even staying to ensure he finished his two Patrick Heron art pieces. I am really proud of him for showing this commitment and pride in his fantastic artwork.
- **Tom N** - For great focus, good engagement in discussions, and incorporating valid justification and reasoning in his answers when participating in his KS4 History Options lesson.

Kindness Champions:

For showing compassion, helping others and lifting the mood of those around you:

- **Ren H** - For being a kindness champion this week, she's been leaving positive messages and drawings for students in class to make them smile.

Progress Heroes: Special Mention:

For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:

- **Kay E** - For giving it her all in her participation and attendance this week and doing some absolutely fabulous writing work in English.
- **Jess I** – For persevering with difficult maths and accepting help to make sure she is making progress. Well done!
- **Archie Ho & Ewan L** – For their independent hard work, commitment and enthusiasm in science is nothing short of EPIC.
- **Millie F** – For a fantastic week, she fully engaged with a PE session in the gym, produced 3 pieces of work in PSHE and played an active part in her science lesson about Magnets. She was also fully engaged in an English lesson using descriptive words and created a beautiful passport for Honey the Bee! Well done Millie!
- **Erin B** - She has been trying so hard with engagement and participated in lots more lessons this week. What a star!!!!
- **Clare Mc & Kay E** - For working together, building confidence, and showing some fantastic musical ability this week!
- **Reuben H** - For showing massive improvement in attendance to maths this week.
- **Owen D** – For attending lessons more consistently this week and engaging better as well. You have done very well in science and computing, it has been great to have him in the lessons.
- **Rupert L** - For an amazing Maths lesson on Tuesday. Rupert worked really hard and made excellent progress with some difficult Algebra.

Special Mention

I'd like to nominate all the students in **Group 2 and Group 3** Drama for their amazing work devising plays this week. Every student took part in reading their lines out loud, showing a huge boost in confidence, teamwork, and creativity. The progress they've made as a group is fantastic and deserves to be celebrated!

Children In Need



PFA Workshop



Friday 28th November 09:30 - 12:30 at Bankside School in the Lodge.

Navigating the transition to adulthood can feel overwhelming for young people with SEND—and for their families. This **free interactive workshop**, run by SENDIASS and hosted by Learning Services Worcestershire, is designed to equip parents and carers with the knowledge, tools, and confidence to support their young person in planning for the future.

Who is it for?: This session is most relevant for parents and carers of young people aged 13 and over, though early preparation can be beneficial.

What to Expect:

- Practical guidance on key areas such as education, employment, independent living, health, and finances.
- Interactive activities to help create a personalised action plan.
- The opportunity to ask questions and discuss real-life scenarios.

Before attending, participants will receive a resource pack to help explore their young person's views, wishes, and aspirations, ensuring they remain at the heart of future planning.

Session Details: This is a **three-hour interactive workshop** with breaks.

Takeaway: By the end of the session, participants will have a clear, actionable plan to help their young person take the next steps into adulthood with confidence.

[PFA Booking Form](#)

Word of the Week

As a school we continue to follow our 'Word Aware' focus. Each week we pick a word and explore it's meaning to extend vocabulary and to develop understanding of more complex words.

Next week, our Word of the week will be '**Unity**'

Autism Unpack Podcast

[Options Autism - YouTube](#)

Please see above link to all episodes of the Autism Unpacked. Episodes discuss different topics around autism. Please have a listen.





Options Autism: Autism Strategy

Author:

Dr Freya Spicer-White, Head of Autism and Neurodiversity Practice

The main objective of the Autism Strategy is to strengthen and continually progress our approach to the provision of care, education and clinical services to autistic individuals in an environment which is conducive to their strengths and needs.

Options Autism is one part of the family of services under the Outcomes First Group. This Autism Strategy informs the wider groups' approach, including Acorn Education and Care, regarding best autism practice.

The strategy recognizes that despite underlying shared traits, autistic individuals are vastly different from one another. Some autistic individuals are cognitively talented, some autistic individuals have a significant intellectual impairment; this strategy has been written to ensure all abilities levels have been considered and included, although some parts of the strategy may be more relevant to specific needs.

The Autism Strategy takes inspiration from positive, optimistic person-centred approaches. Psychological models, such as PBS, PERMA (Seligman) and PACE (Hughes) combined with clear communication standards from Royal College of SLT's principles of 5 good communication, all emphasize the importance of genuine engagement, empathic relationships, increasing an individual's experiences of positive emotions and meaningful achievements.

The Strategy has been created and refined through a review of the current autism literature and consultation from the lived experience expert panel, a clinical multi-disciplinary (Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Psychology) team and the OFG advisory board. The Strategy has also been through a focus group of teacher's and teaching assistant to test reliability and acceptability.

The foundation of the Autism Strategy is based upon the principals of Ask, Accept and Develop.

Ask

First and foremost the Autism Strategy wants to hear the voices of the autistic individuals in their services. This means above all else we must learn to Ask. Wherever possible the autistic individuals in our services will be consulted about their choices and preferences; these choices need to be wide ranging, including supporting individuals to provide meaningful input into their own care and education plans at whatever level is appropriate for their cognitive ability. Ask is the top priority of our Autism strategy because we recognise the importance of consulting to the autistic individual above anything else; we listen to their perspectives and our staff will treat the autistic person as a unique individual with their own likes, dislikes, wants and needs.

"As a mum, for him to have more safe choices is very important the older he gets"

Autistic Individual's parent.

Accept

Accept within the Autism Strategy means that our staff will have an understanding of autism that is intellectual, practical and cultural. They will understand the strengths and needs associated with an autism diagnosis, whilst also appreciating each individual's own personal strengths and needs. The Autism Strategy does not seek to cure/treat autism or supports approaches/interventions in which the goal is to attempt to make an autistic individual behave in a more neurotypical way or involves any form of punishment. The focus of Accept is to create environments, communication systems and activities which meet the needs of the autistic individual, and enable that individual to thrive and experience positive emotions.

"Accepting is about embracing, and that is very important to me"

Autistic Lived Experience Expert

Develop

Develop within the Autism Strategy means our staff will teach and scaffold the development of new skills, abilities and strategies for the autistic individuals in our services. The teaching and development of new skills will be derived from an individual's personal goals, informed by their family's views and driven to improve their quality of life and their wellbeing. The focus is to enable and empower an individual to increase their independence and flourish.

Kindness Club / Kindness Day: Thursday 13th November



Urgently needed items:

- ✓ Hot dogs (tins)
- ✓ Laundry - liquid/sheets
- ✓ Laundry - powder/tabs
- ✓ Microwave rice packets
- ✓ Packet pasta sauce
- ✓ Tins of ham
- ✓ Tins of meat - spicy/chilli
- ✓ Dog food, tins/pouches
- ✓ Cat food, tins/pouches

They are also short of:

- ✓ Biscuits
- ✓ Coffee 100g and 200g
- ✓ Meaty soup, tins
- ✓ Tins of corned beef
- ✓ Tins of fruit cocktail
- ✓ Tins of mandarins
- ✓ Tins of meat - stew/sauce
- ✓ Tins of pears
- ✓ Tins of pineapples

They have got plenty of:

- Porridge, porridge pots
- Cereal
- Bottled/flavoured water
- Baby food
- Noodles

THINGS THEY CANNOT ACCEPT:

- × Formula milk
- × Food past its use by date
- × Toys, books, clothes, baby equipment
- × Medicines
- × Bleach
- × Home made items

"We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis."

World Kindness Day is on Thursday 13th November.

Bankside Kindness Club are asking for food donations for the Malvern Hills Foodbank.

We would love to be able to collect donations from now until the day. Members of the club will take your donations to the foodbank on behalf of the school.

If you have anything you can donate, please bring it into school and put it in the box in reception when you arrive.





We want to



connect with



children and young people



with



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



to gain



their opinions,



views and feedback



on the services



they use!

If you are someone, or know of someone who would love to take part in projects such as redesigning this leaflet or helping design a logo, contribute to a SEND newsletter or be part of a SEND forum to improve services in Worcestershire, please contact us on:



FIND OUT MORE



SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk



www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction



Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System



Herefordshire and Worcestershire



worcestershire county council



YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT!



your voice

is



important



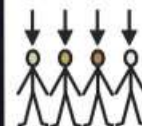
Chanika Benain

We are Co-production Officers for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) up to 25 years old.



Amy Knight

We would love to have children and young people with additional needs working closely with SEND services, to help inform decisions.



everyone working together on an equal basis to improve services



Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System



Herefordshire and Worcestershire



worcestershire county council