



**Bankside
School**

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Newsletter: 12th December 2025

Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

This last penultimate week before the Christmas holidays has seen lots of exciting developments and achievements.

First and foremost, as a school, we have been recognised for our positive and successful adoption of the AQA Award scheme and have been congratulated for being one of the leading schools in the OFG Group with regards to pupil attainment of awards. **Congratulations** to Dawn, who has led the programme, as well as all the teachers and pupils who are achieving so many purposeful awards. We will host another AQA Awards ceremony next week and invite parents to join us. Well done everyone!

On Monday, we had a fantastic result at a local Boccia event at Hanley Castle. **Congratulations** to all the pupils who participated in the competition. You represented the school brilliantly so well done! And thank you to Jade for giving our young people this opportunity.

On Thursday, we enjoyed getting involved in the National Christmas Jumper Day Event. Lots of pupils and staff wore their favourite jumpers or tops for the occasion. Thank you to the Kindness Club for organising and promoting the event and please donate if you can. Please see the photo and link below.

This week, Teaching Groups 2 and 3 went to Gloucester to visit a Hindu temple and all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They were a credit to the school and asked lots of valuable questions. Upon their return they made some special Hindu delicacies which sounded very tasty!

Our very own food critics, the Swag Chip Shop boys, visited Pickersleigh Takeaway and Diner this week and we look forward to reading the review when it is ready.

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for the Parents/family Christmas Open afternoon. You will be invited into the school chapel for an initial presentation with Kate and then will have the opportunity to join your youngster to engage in various Christmas themed activities taking place across the school.

Hope you have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Important Dates

Panto Trip: Tuesday 16th December

Parents Christmas Celebrations: Wednesday 17th December – **from 1.30pm**

Christmas Jumper Day: Thursday 18th December

Christmas Party / Last Day: Friday 19th December

Last Day of Term: Friday 19th December

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 '**Compassion**'

Nominations

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Ren H** - For taking inspiration from a play script she has studied in English to create her own incredibly creative playscript in her own time!
- **William E** - For commitment and enthusiasm for his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Wi always attends, always on time and gives his best and is making brilliant progress in the 'skills' section of his award.

Kindness Champions:

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

- **Jake J & Joe B** - Both demonstrated kindness and patience with a younger student when they wanted to play football.
- **Erin B** – For supporting another student in our class whilst also making the right choices herself! AMAZING!!!!

Progress Heroes: Special Mention:

For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:

- **Rupert L** – For excellent first cooking lesson with me where he threw himself into what we were doing
- **Owen D** – For fantastic enthusiasm, positive attitude, knowledge and skills in the kitchen
- **Lily R** – you have made lots of progress in the last few weeks by being resilient when needed and continuing to attend lessons. Huge improvement seen in her joining in games and activities with her class and having fun - well done Lily!

Special Mentions

Please can I nominate **Ren H, Jayden B, Archie C, Betty B, Bradley T, Sammy T, Kay E** for their outstanding behaviour, politeness and attitude whilst visiting the Hindu Temple this morning. They were an absolute credit. They listened with great focus and asked lots of questions and I'm very impressed.

To the Boccia pupils for their amazing efforts and attitudes at the Boccia festival on Monday. For many of them this was there first time participating in a sports fixture and they represented Bankside school with pride. **Jayden B, Sammy T, Ren H, Clare Mc, Elsa S, Jake L, Harrison S, William E & Hannah W**



To make donating easier we've set up a Bankside JustGiving page. The minimum donation is £1 (remember, you don't have to add the tip if you don't want to!)

[Bankside School Secondary - Christmas Jumper Day is raising money for Save The Children!](#)

- 🗄 For frequently asked questions about Christmas Jumper Day:
<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/faq>
- 🗄 For upcycling inspiration and sustainability information:
<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/sustainability-and-inclusivity>
- 🗄 For more information on how your donations help:
<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/how-you-help>



Careers Visit Request



We are excited to invite you to participate in a special learning opportunity for our students. As part of our ongoing effort to help our young people learn about the world around them and explore future possibilities, PSHE lessons in the new year will all have a careers focus.

We would be delighted if you would consider coming in to speak with our students about your job, career path and the skills you use in your work. Hearing from a variety of adults about different professions helps students build awareness of the many opportunities available to them and inspires them to think about their own interests and goals.

If you are willing to take part in any way, please contact **Dominique Childs** via email: dominique.childs@banksidecollege.co.uk. We will work with you to schedule a convenient time to visit Bankside. Your presentation can be brief (10 to 15 minutes) and may include a simple explanation of what you do, tools or materials you use, or a story about what inspired you to choose your career. If you are unable to come into school but would still like to take part, a one-page profile or an overview of your career would be valuable to students.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to support our students' learning. We greatly appreciate your involvement and look forward to welcoming many of you to Bankside School in the new year.

Best wishes,

Dominique Childs
Lead PSHE



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.

Clinical

How much self-soothing are you doing? Focusing on creating a content, safe and connected space every so often is important for helping us manage our emotions. This comes from a therapy called 'compassion focused therapy' which explains we have three systems: 1) our resource focused system- focused on giving us emotions that guide and motivate us to seek resources to survive and prosper 2) threat system- focused on picking up threats and giving us emotions such as anxiety to self-protect 3) soothing and contentment system- focused on bringing peace and soothing to restore balance.

In today's world it's easy for these to be out of balance- we probably notice we are much more engaged with managing our anxiety as part of our threat system and trying to keep on top of things using our resource focused system! Introducing our soothing system can maintain a balance, make things feel more manageable and keep our emotions regulated. Here's some things we can do to self-soothe

- Talk to ourselves in a gentle way- as we would speak to those we love or our pets
- Spend some time thinking about a place that makes us feel calm and at peace- this may be your favourite beach or a meadow filled with your favourite flowers.
- Do one kind deed for yourself- this may be taking a quick walk in the afternoon.
- Pause and smell something that brings you peace and comfort- this may be your favourite candle or your pet.



Are you a family member of an autistic person? Join us for one of our reflective sessions to come together with other families.

These are free online events where you can share your experiences and connect with others who 'get it'.

Just some of the things guests have said they've enjoyed about past sessions:

- ✓ Listening to others
- ✓ Feeling part of a community
- ✓ The sense of not being judged
- ✓ Feeling positive and motivated

This month, we're exploring topics such as working with crisis teams, building autism and ADHD pride and supporting identity development in adolescence.

Book your place: <https://orlo.uk/RMCUw>

Autism Central is delivered by Anna Freud and commissioned by NHS England Workforce, Training and Education #AutismAcceptance



Boccia Tournament

On Monday 8th December, some of our KS3 and 4 pupils visited Hanley Castle High School to participate in a Boccia tournament. For many of our pupils this was their first experience of representing Bankside School in a sports fixture and we couldn't be prouder of their fantastic behaviour, efforts, and attitudes. A good time was had by all and pupils were able to demonstrate their co-ordination and accuracy skills. Pupils showed excellent levels of teamwork and respect, especially when working with the young leaders who officiated the event.

A huge well done to Jake and Harrison for placing 3rd in the KS4 tournament. And congratulations to our KS3 tournament winners - Elsa, Clare and Ren who have also qualified for a regional boccia tournament.



Pickersleigh Cafe



 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!

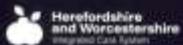
If you are someone, or know of someone who would love to take part in projects such as redesigning this leaflet or helping design a logo, contribute to a SEND newsletter or be part of a SEND forum to improve services in Worcestershire, please contact us on:

 **FIND OUT MORE**

 SENDco-productionteam@worcestershire.gov.uk

 www.worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDcoproduction



 **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.

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

 **Amy Knight**

 everyone  working together on an  equal basis  to improve  services



Christmas Tree Donation

We would like to say a massive Thank you for the Christmas trees which were donated by some of our lovely parents and Little Monksfield Farm. The students have been busy decorating them today ready for a week of festivities for our final week. Please see their hard work below. The school tree looks brilliant!



Christmas Tree #2

Some students from TrPr class helped decorate the Christmas tree in the back office. The tree looks absolutely fab.



Spare Clothes

Please remind pupils to bring a spare change of clothes with them when participating in PE and outdoor activities. We will be able to store individual spare kits in school if pupils would prefer to bring one to leave here rather than each week. If you are having a clear out, please feel free to send any old sports clothes, coats, trainers etc into school as donations that we can loan out.

