



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 1st May 2026

Congratulations to Dom and Paul for completing the London Marathon last weekend and achieving very respectable times. It was amazing to be able to track their progress around the course and 'be there' as they crossed the finishing line. It was a treat to see and touch their medals this week. Well done to you both and congratulations on raising lots of money for the National Autistic Society. We are very proud of both of you.

Trips this week included D of E pupils, plus extras, undertaking canoeing and the Kindness Club visiting the RSPCA.

Exam season is upon us! We start next week with some pupils undertaking their Functional skills exams in English and Maths. We then have a number of pupils taking GCSEs in English, Maths and Statistics. They have all been revising well and working hard. We wish them all the very best of luck.

As you may have heard, the Government has announced it will be introducing a complete ban of phones in schools. Please read the letter included in this newsletter regarding this proposal. We thank you for your continued support in this area.

With a bank holiday ahead of us, we hope the weather is kind and makes the three days as enjoyable as possible. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday.

Best wishes from the bankside Team!

Important Dates

Monday 4th May	-	May Bank Holiday (School Closed)
Tuesday 13th May	-	Game Changer Van visit to school
Friday 22nd May	-	Last Day of Term
Monday 1st June	-	School reopens after half term

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.

Nominations

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Tom N** - Tom has been really motivated this week and completed all the tasks I have asked of him. Well Done Tom - Great to see you enjoying your Maths this week!
- **Rupert L** - Your attendance, attainment and attention in science have been nothing short of amazing. Your knowledge around pathogens, diseases and the scientific vocabulary for this is really very good indeed. Your ability to understand, retain and interrogate the information you're given in science has been really impressive.
- **Vinny G** - Vinny asked for some maths similar to the work he'd done with Emma earlier in the week, as he had enjoyed this and wanted to continue with it. He completed lots of work in the session, asking questions to make sure he was understanding and able to develop his multiplication skills. Vinny took a movement break between tasks and returned to class, showing great maturity to not get distracted while he was out of the room. Well done Vinny!
- **Erin B** - For her determination and perseverance in completing the star learner maths assessment. Well -done Erin!
- **Sammy T** - For reading confidently and clearly during today's reading lesson!
- **Millie B** - Millie Br completed a fabulous Marathon Fact File during her independent working time in our English lesson this week. She showed great interest and worked so hard on her presentation of key facts. A super job!

Progress Heroes: Special Mention:

For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:

- **Harrison S** - H has made great progress in PE. He is demonstrating great hand eye coordination for tennis and badminton and is starting to implement tactics to outwit opponents.
- **Daisy H** - Daisy completed her spoken language presentation this week and did an absolutely phenomenal job! She told me she felt ready to record it straightaway despite not having had a practice run and managed to do it all in just one take! Brilliant work, Daisy!
- **Lily R** – For Being a quiet superstar who always gives things a go. She is patient, thoughtful, follows instructions carefully, and gets on with tasks independently. It has been lovely to see her confidence blossom in Art 🌸 Well done Lily - keep shining.
- **Cyrus C** - For his descriptive writing using the senses to describe a magical forest.
- **Betty B** - For her fantastic improvement of working independently to create extended answers in both English and History
- **Roo H** - You are engaging in PSHE sessions and making fantastic contributions to class discussions. Well done Roo!

Mobile Phone Ban



Government announce a legal ban on smartphones in schools in England.

Dear parents,

As you may have seen in the news over the past couple of weeks, Education Minister Baroness Jacqui Smith confirmed on Monday 20th April that the government would table an amendment to the *Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill* "**creating a clear legal requirement for schools to ban the use of mobile phones throughout the school day**". The Department for Education said this would give "legal force to what schools are already doing in practice".

This week, a pilot scheme to prevent mobile phone use in schools in Northern Ireland has been hailed for "highly positive" results, including a reduction in bullying and disruption to learning, as well as better social interaction.

The pilot involved the use of secure lockable phone pouches, with pupils placing their phone in a signal-blocking pouch upon arrival in school. The pouches are unlocked using magnetic 'detachers'.

We recognise that devices can be a useful tool to help our learners regulate, manage anxiety and maintain contact with loved ones. We also must recognise that mobile phones pose a significant safeguarding risk to our children and have a detrimental impact on bullying and emotional wellbeing. Increasingly, the risks of excessive screen time and smartphone addiction are affecting the health of UK children.

At Bankside School, we do not permit students to use mobile phones during the school day. This is something we have sought to manage sensitively and with due regard to our learners' needs. However, when the legislation above goes live, this will no longer be something we can make allowances or reasonable adjustments on.

We ask that parents support us by:

- Encouraging their child to leave their mobile phone at home, if this can be managed, or;
- Supporting the safekeeping of mobile devices during the school day.

Currently, the school provides lockboxes at Reception and in Form Rooms that devices can be placed in during the school day. We are currently exploring whether the phone pouches used across many settings in England are suitable for our learners.

We ask for your support to help our young people acclimatise to time away from the 'small screen'. Doing so now will ease the transition and prevent the challenge that this Bill will create for them when it becomes law, if they are not suitably prepared.

We must support ALL of our students to develop the ability to enjoy freedom from the negative impacts that devices bring to their safety, relationships and dopamine receptors. Empowering them to be present in the moment will improve their wellbeing, social interactions, engagement in learning and lead to happier and more fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Kindness Club – RSPCA Visit

On Tuesday, members of Bankside Kindness Club went to the RSPCA centre to drop off donations and monies raised during their bake sale.

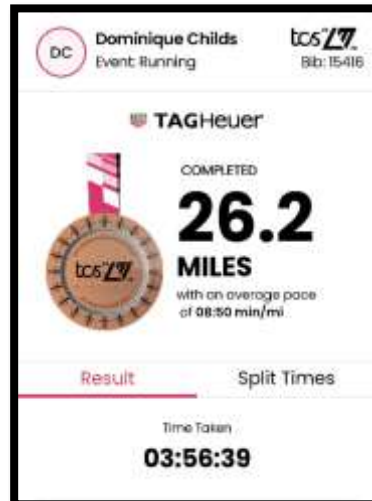
The centre was so thankful for the kindness shown by the Bankside Community.

Kindness Club had a tour and enjoyed listening to the staff and volunteers.



London Marathon 2026 – National Autistic Society

A HUGE thank you for the words of support, donations and dot watching on Sunday. We had the most wonderful day. As they say, 'a picture speaks a thousand words', so here are a few memories that will stay with us forever.



A special mention to Tom and Jake for calculating my finish time (3hrs 56mins) in their maths lessons last week!

There is still time to donate:

[Dominique Childs is fundraising for National Autistic Society](#)

Zoom out (Ctrl+Minus key)

BANKSIDE'S GOT TALENT

**FRIDAY
22ND MAY**

**AUDITION VIDEOS
TO BE SENT TO TOM
BY THE 1ST OF MAY**

**CAN YOU SING, DANCE, OR MAKE
US LAUGH? ARE YOU A POET, A
GYMNAST, OR A MAGICIAN? WE'D
LOVE TO SEE YOUR ENTRIES FOR
BANKSIDE'S GOT TALENT!**

