



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 8th May 2026

A very busy week for our pupils, with some amazing achievements.

Firstly, many congratulations to all of Group 9 who have all sat Functional Skills exams this week and passed. We are all very proud of them!

Secondly, well done to all the pupils who have achieved certificates this week. It is always a pleasure to read the nominations and see what our young people have achieved, both academically and with regards to their personal development and EHCP targets.

This week saw Group 2 and 3 visit the Black Country Museum as part of their History curriculum, focussing on the Industrial Revolution. The class team have worked really hard over the course of the year to build the pupils' confidence and inspire them to participate in these trips, from short local off site visits to today's full day trip. It was heart warming to see all pupils attend school and go on the trip and see their smiles upon their return. Well done to the staff team and well done to our pupils who should be very proud of themselves – we are very proud of you!

Finally, we wish Nick well as he leaves us for the next 6 weeks to undertake a school placement as part of his teacher training programme. We will all miss him but look forward to welcoming him back next term. In this respect, other members of our teaching team will be covering Nick's timetable in the interim and we are introducing some alternative educational challenges, such as involvement in some thought-provoking STEM projects. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, representing an integrated approach to education and problem-solving. Timetables and changes have all been shared with pupils.

We wish you all a lovely weekend.

Important Dates

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| Tuesday 12th May | - | Game Changer Van visit to school |
| | - | Bikeability |
| Friday 22nd May | - | Bankside Talent Show for pupils and staff |
| | - | 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.

David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

We planted a small garden of flowers in honour of David Attenborough's 100th birthday, celebrating his lifelong dedication to protecting the natural world and inspiring generations to cherish nature. It was lovely to see students getting involved and contributing to the school community.



Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- Hayward F - as he stayed and cooked his BBQ chicken and vegetable kebabs this morning when his friends left.
- Group 9 - who have all sat Functional Skills exams this week and passed. We are all very proud of them!
- Bradley T - for coming up with some excellent descriptive ideas to compare Oliver Twist and The Artful Dodger!
- Roo H - he has attended punctually and engaged excellently during both PSHE and Life skills this week. He has been able to evidence understanding and insight into topics in a mature manner during discussion and has been able to meet his targets within session successfully! Well done Roo 😊

Kindness Champions:

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

- Cat B - Cat has shown to be a very thoughtful and compassionate friend helping a peer in a challenging moment by cheering her up. Sometimes, a sincere act of kindness from a friend it's all we need to lift our spirit and make our day a better day.
- Rupert L - He accidentally kicked the ball into Fay and apologised and gave her a hug. It was lovely to see.
- Zak R - you have shown that you're a loyal and devoted friend, standing by and showing support when times were tricky. Everyone needs a 'Zak' in their life! 💖

Nominations

Progress Heroes: Special Mention: **For making visible strides in learning, behaviour and confidence:**

- Oliver H & Dan F - On their trip to the gym, both boys showed really good responsibility and independence in being given more freedom to complete their individual workouts. They ensured they remained safe, worked a range of exercises effectively, and were even so polite to other gym-goers that a member of the public thanked them, and complimented their behaviour to staff!
- Jake J - as he has attended and engaged in more lessons this week, despite having to leave his friends to do so.
- Millie B - She continues to work hard in her BTEC sport lessons and has made some incredible progress! Millie is always willing to give everything a go, we are super proud of you!
- Caleb W - He has attended more lessons this week and completed some very thoughtful writing in English that we are all very proud of. Great Work!
- Archie Ho - for showing resilience, determination and the ability to reflect and share about emotions effectively.
- Becca C - For some excellent algebra progress Becca has retained what we have learnt and built up her knowledge over a series of sessions, she is now completing complex algebraic equations independently.
- Tom N - Tom, you've done amazing work recently and we can really see your efforts and resilience in lessons! Well done, Tom.
- Lily R - Lily, what you have achieved is genuinely huge. Over the last few attempts to complete your spoken language presentation, your anxiety understandably made it feel almost impossible to get the words out, so the fact that you came in and not only spoke, but spoke confidently for a full ten minutes with such thoughtful and beautifully developed responses was amazing to see.

What has impressed us most is your determination. Even when you were worried you might not manage five minutes, you kept going and proved to yourself that you were capable of far more than you believed, and that took an enormous amount of courage and resilience. You should be really proud of the way you handled yourself. You spoke with maturity, insight and confidence, and you absolutely 'pulled it out of the bag' at the last minute.

We know how much you had to overcome to do that, which makes your achievement even more impressive. It goes to show that although anxiety can make us doubt ourselves, it does not define what we are capable of achieving. HUGE well done!

Black Country Museum Trip

On Thursday Groups 2 and 3 went on a trip to the Black Country Museum. This was to link with our History topic 'The Industrial Revolution' and also our English study of 'Oliver Twist' which was set during Victorian times. We had a fabulous time! The museum is a living museum, so the students were able to see reenactments of how things were during the Industrial Revolution to help put their learning into context. We even had our own tour guide who was dressed in Victorian costume.

We started with a visit to the colliery and learnt all about the extraction of coal. Then we looked at steam engines and how they were used to extract the coal. We learnt about the conditions that people lived and worked in and visited an Victorian style period house which was set up as it would have been with a guide to explain how living conditions were. We learnt that 10 people slept in one bed!

Some of us went on a narrow boat trip to explore the limestone mines and learn all about its extraction and use in making iron. We even got to 'leg' the boat through the tunnel! The others visited the 'Old Fashioned Sweet Shop' and Cake shop and played Victorian street games. We then all went to the Victorian Fun Fayre and had a go on a ride.

We are so proud of each one of the 8 students that came, often overcoming their fears, and we were very pleased with their amazing participation in the visit. The only complaint was that we didn't have enough time and they all want to go again!!



Canoeing Trip

As part of our Duke of Edinburgh Award offering this year, students have decided to improve on their canoeing skills for the 'physical' section of the award. On Monday last week, our DofE group and a few other excited students (and staff!) took to the waters from Upton Marina and then onto the River Severn. The students showed great teamwork and coordination to get a good distance up the river before turning back, listening to instructions well to stay safe and have a fun morning in the sunshine.



Malvern Well Dressing

Thank you to all the students and staff who contributed to the Malvern Well Dressing 2026 project. We are very proud to have been awarded the Silver Rosette and certificate!

A special thank you to Harrison, Ola, Etta, Betty, and Lily for their hard work and creativity.



Forest School

This week, the young learners of forest school have been busy cooking “damper bread” and marshmallows on the fire! They first helped look for sticks of the right size for the fire, and then whittled down willow sticks to use as skewers. They made their dough from scratch using ingredients that the aboriginals would have used. The students were very engaged, asking questions to extend their understanding of constructing a fire and the safety rules associated with this. They all had a lot of fun out in the forest and have already started to look forward to next week’s activities - offering their creative ideas and suggestions.



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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!**

