



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 11th September 2026

What an amazing start to the new academic year - we are so proud of all our pupils, from our Post 16 'oldies' to our 14 new starters and all those in between! The focus and engagement in lessons has truly created a buzz around school. It is wonderful to see.

Curriculum newsletters will be circulated on Monday which outline the curriculum focus for all Tutor Groups and subjects. Those pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 will also receive newsletters reflecting the initial course content for the BTEC courses that students have opted to follow. If you have any questions, then please contact your child's Tutor via Class Dojo.

We have lots of exciting trips and activities planned for this Autumn term, such as Coffee Mornings, trips to the theatre, Christmas Tree decorative competitions, our annual Christmas open afternoon as well as organising our first residential!

Pupils have embraced their new Timetables and Options choices positively and have acclimatised well to the different timings of the day. We now have a longer Tutor period first thing in the morning to allow youngsters more time to regulate and prepare for their day's learning and have staggered break and lunch times so that Key Stage 3 and 4/5 have their separate time periods. It has worked well this week.

Finally, we want to say a huge 'Welcome' to our new staff who already feel part of the Bankside family and are going to be a great asset. Jo Rogers, Head of Outdoor Learning, Jo Noyes, Head of Computing, Roxy Lewis-Hopkins, Head of PSHE, Sarah Emson, Head of Math, Liz Williams, Animal Care Instructor, Amelia Wade, TA and Eleanor Morrissey, Administrative assistant. We look forward to working with you.

We wish you all a very positive weekend.

Important Dates

Tuesday 15th September – New Parent Welcome – Meet the teacher

Friday 25th September – Macmillan coffee morning

Half Term – Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

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.

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Owen D** - You have worked so hard during lessons and adapted well to the changes. You have been amazing!
- **Joseph B** - For attending all his lessons and for participating amazingly well in class discussions, always with a smile on his face, being polite and showing a real willingness to learn...well done.
- **Rupert L** - Rupert's enthusiasm for science knows no bounds, and his ability to ask and answer pertinent and relevant science-knowledge in class is superb. In a double-lesson, Rupert had completed his worksheet (and had answered everything correctly), he then took the time to talk another student through the answers, explaining in detail the science behind the answers.
- **Scarlett L & Annabelle S** – The girls worked collaboratively during their maths lesson on 'Estimation'; sharing estimates, comparing ideas, and discussing their reasoning to reach accurate measurements. Well done girls!
- **Harley M** - Fantastic approach to work in Maths this week.
- **Hayward F** - Started the term talking about 'locking in' this year so that he's ready for exams, and he showed he is taking this seriously in English this week, writing a brilliant newspaper article in class, and following his success criteria to make sure it had all the features we'd discussed. Great start to the year Hayward!
- **Robin C** - Robin engaged excellently in PE where he demonstrated fantastic skills in dodgeball whilst showing teamwork skills and a positive attitude. Well done Robin!
- **Sophie M** – For having 100% engagement in all lessons and activities.
- **Joseph B** -He made the positive choice to attend the lesson even though his friends did not, and worked incredibly hard on the programming task. He remained focused, persevered when presented with a challenge, and should be really proud of the effort and attitude he demonstrated.
- **Jess B** – For engaging really well in PSHE in today's lesson and remaining in the class for the duration
- **Clare M** – For engaging fantastically in PSHE today, answering lots of questions and giving great detail in her work.
- **Sylvie U** – For showing maturity and independence with her learning throughout this week. She has applied herself with confidence and has been happy to work collaboratively with others to further her learning.
- **Group 8** - You have come back into school ready to learn, and all worked so hard this week to produce some fantastic work. Proud of you all.

Kindness Champions:

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

- **Scarlett L** - Scarlett demonstrated such kindness and support in a forest school session toward another student. She communicated confidently, showing her partner how to tackle tasks safely. I was very impressed by her mature attitude.
- **Amelia A, Sophie M, Faye M, Elodie M** - It's lovely to see you all socializing and getting to know everyone in the group, making everyone feel welcomed and included. You have been collaborating and developing a lovely friendship and it's delightful to see you all developing a great team spirit in your classroom. Also, you are kind and respectful to all around the school.

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

- **Betty B** - For being amazingly brave to sit near the fire in forest school this morning. She has come such a long way and we are so very proud of her! Well done
- **Group 4** - They've started the year with a new approach and have adapted really well. And have shown some really good work along the way. Well done to all!
- **Catalina B & Becca C** – They completed an excellent piece of GCSE work and this is huge progress.
- **Liam O** - Liam has settled in really well into his new class attending and engaging in all of his lessons.
- **Kay E** – For attending school every day this week and attending every one of her lessons as well. Well Done!

Forrest School activities!

Group 3 had great fun at Forest School, lighting a fire, making hot chocolate, and roasting marshmallows over the fire!

They have also visited the animals, enjoying feeding the rats, and meeting the guinea pigs





**Bankside
School**

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Friday 25th September.



930–1030am.



at Bankside School.



All parents/carers welcome.



**Cakes and tea/coffee/
squash available for
a donation.**



**An opportunity to meet
other families.**

**LET'S BREW
SOMETHING
AMAZING**

TOGETHER



In support of

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**



The Big Future Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England is currently running The Big Future survey, a national project gathering children's views about growing up, school, and their hopes for the future. Only a very small number of pupils from our school have taken part so far, and we want to make sure our children's voices are included.

The survey takes just a few minutes and can be completed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

We would be grateful if you could support your child to complete it at home. Their views will help shape the picture of childhood that is shared with Government this year.

Thank you for helping ensure our pupils' voices are heard.

Science practical

Our first KS4 science practical of the new term! The Onion Cell practical is decidedly tricky to complete, as it requires supreme fine motor skills and a lot (and I mean a lot) of patience to get it just right. You'll be pleased to hear that this group did (mostly)!



KS3 – Monday PE Lessons

This half term our Monday PE lessons will take place offsite at a local sports centre. This is to allow pupils to explore a wider range of activities. Please remind your young person to arrive to school in PE Kit. They are welcome to bring a change of clothes with them for after the session if they would like. This week groups 3 & 4 attended MSJ for their first offsite PE lesson of the year and all involved had a great time. Pupils had the opportunity to take part in football or team building challenges. Pupils also set a Bankside record for the shrinking island challenge by completing 13 folds on the mat before anyone fell off! Well done!





Welcome from the SENCO



Welcome to our latest SENCO Newsletter!

I hope you and your families have had a lovely summer break and that everyone is feeling ready for the new school year ahead.



September brings new opportunities and new challenges. Returning to school, moving into a new year group, changes to routines, different staff and new expectations can all bring a mixture of excitement and uncertainty.

As SENCO, I work closely with our young people, families, teaching teams, wellbeing staff, therapists and other professionals to make sure that each young person's individual needs are understood and that the support identified within their EHCP is reflected in their everyday experience at Bankside.



★ CELEBRATING SUCCESS ★

At Bankside, success looks different for every young person, and we believe the small steps deserve just as much recognition as the big ones.



Coming into school when it has felt difficult



Trying something new



Communicating a worry or asking for help



Using a strategy to regulate independently



Joining a new lesson or activity



Developing a friendship



Working towards greater independence



Achieving a personal or academic goal



I look forward to working alongside our young people and families throughout the year. Please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to discuss.

Here's to a positive year of progress, partnership and celebrating **every step forward.**

