



Bankside School

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Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 16th October 2026

A busy week here at Bankside.

Our D of E pupils have been busy practising their skills at Mulligan's and clocking up their walking miles on the Malvern Hills. As part of their 'charity commitment' aspect of their course, they are organising this year's Harvest Festival donation event. Please see below for their Harvest Posters and donate as much as you can towards our local foodbank, a worthy and much needed cause.

Other trips have included our Post 16s visiting the Hive and discovering lots more about what this Library can offer and independently using their personal Library cards to return and take out new books.

As you will see below, our Bankside Art Exhibition is back and the pupil contributions are as amazing as always.

Assembly today focused on Black History Month which is an annual event each year. It is an opportunity for everyone to learn about the achievements and contributions of Black and Mixed Heritage people in Britain and around the world. Black History Month has been celebrated in the UK since 1987.

We have recently elected our new School Council for this year and we will share the results with you next week.

We can't believe that next week is the last one of our first term back at school as it has flown by.

We wish you all a restful and positive weekend.

Important Dates

Week beginning 19th October	-	Harvest Festival Donations week
Wednesday/Thursday 21st/22nd October	-	Private Peaceful Malvern Theatre Trip for KS3 and the BTEC Performing Arts Students
Friday 23rd October	-	Wear it Pink day
Half Term	-	Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th 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.

Kindness Champions:

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

- **Hayward F** - You have shown love, kindness and maturity to your friends and been a great example to younger students. It's a joy to see! Well done!
- **Betty B** - She showed kindness to her peers by noticing they needed something and went out of her way to get it.

Star Learners: For outstanding effort and focus in lessons:

- **Vinny G and Joseph B** - For their consistent and hardworking approach to GCSE History. They have been engaging with the lessons with a fantastic work ethic and they have applied themselves every lesson, producing some great essay-based work this week in particular. Great job both, keep it up.
- **Reuben H** - I would like to nominate Roo for hard work in maths. He completed his work with no support and the completed a higher level too. Great work Roo!
- **Lola P** - Lola's artwork demonstrates creativity in the pattern she has included both in her background and within her silhouette. I can't wait to see your finished artwork Lola, it is already looking fantastic!
- **Harrison S** - During PE, Harrison independently designed and completed a circuit training session. He remembered key learning from previous lessons, and demonstrated excellent determination throughout, challenging himself at each station. Amazing work Harrison!
- **Reuben H** - For coming into the kitchen and cooking a banging curry this morning, despite being unsure of the recipe or whether he would like it. Great positive attitude, Roo!
- **Caleb W** - Caleb, you made a mature decision to join the rest of your group in cooking, where you made the most phenomenal curry. have proven that you're an amazing team player, who is kind and considerate and for this, you make us proud! Keep it up, Caleb!
- **Vinny G** - Vinny you attended science with group 5 this week and had a go at all the worksheets on genetics, even though you had missed the input lesson on Monday. You worked quietly within the class and asked for help when needed. It was a pleasure to have you in the group. Well done Vinny!

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

- **Catalina B** - She attended a full, double forest school session this week, was very helpful and engaged while we made pancakes and hot drinks on the fire and told spooky stories together. We loved having you this week, Cat!
- **Sammy T and Thomas C** - For showing excellent consistency in PSHE over the last 2 weeks. They have worked extremely hard and applied themselves wholeheartedly to finish every piece of work given.
- **Archie H** - Independent work at forest school. Making safe decisions with fire lighting and 3 different tools.
- **Harley M** - He removed himself from a situation before it escalated and has been helping the maintenance team doing jobs around school in the afternoon.

- **Tyler K** - Showing perseverance and determination during English session, working hard to put together some great sentences to produce a fantastic 'Stanley's letter home'. Well done, Tyler.
- **Jess B** - We are really proud of the effort and attitude J is putting into her BTEC Sport lessons. She is remaining in lessons, showing a mature attitude to her learning, and confidently umpired a badminton game this week.
- **Archie H and Harrison S** - For making progress with their writing skills over the last few weeks. They have shown resilience and a greater level of independence, both with the generation of ideas and the stamina to write at greater length.
- **Lucas S** - Lucas, you made me really proud on Monday when after a challenging start you listened to the TA's instructions and had a go at the activities in PE. You managed to get the ball through the hoop many times, including twice in a row as you kept being determined, resilient and patient. You had a great PE session joining in with the team games after that. Well done for showing good sportsmanship even when the other team won the game!
- **Etta M** - I'd like to nominate Etta for phenomenal progress in her attendance and engagement in school this term. She has overcome quite a few hurdles and has shown great determination to succeed at school and as a result, she is making fabulous progress- and having a pretty good time too with her class!

Mobile Phones

To meet DfE expectations and ensure consistency:

- Pupils must hand in their phones at the designated collection point each morning.
- Failure to comply will result in parental contact and temporary phone bans.
- Repeat non-compliance will lead to longer-term restrictions, and may require parents to collect phones directly from school.
- Phones must remain switched off and out of sight throughout the school day.

Thank you for your support.

Clinical Team

October is Sensory Awareness Month - Sensory Processing and Yoga

Yoga can be a wonderful activity for young people who experience sensory processing differences. It supports balance, coordination, flexibility and body awareness, while also encouraging mindfulness and calming breathing techniques. These activities can help our young people feel more regulated, focused and connected to their bodies.

Many yoga poses provide gentle movement and pressure through the muscles and joints, as well as movements that support the body's balance system. This can help our young people develop greater awareness of how their body moves and where it is in space, which can support sensory processing and self-regulation.

There are lots of fun, accessible yoga videos available online that can easily be incorporated into your young person's daily routine at home. Even a few minutes each day can be a great way to support wellbeing and relaxation. Here are a couple of examples:

- **5-Minute Yoga for Teens with Jess**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qplrh5u7Ghk>
- **Easy Yoga for Kids | Improve Posture & Flexibility | Yoga Guppy**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2oAFc9feYc>

WEAR IT

PINK



FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Show your support by
wearing pink and make
difference!

£1
DONATION



Wear pink
(whatever shade
you like!)



Support our
local breast
cancer service



Help change
lives in our
community

In support of



Worcestershire
Breast Unit
Haven

Here for today. Brighter tomorrows.

Small
donations
make a big
difference

D of E Active Hours

Owen, Hayward and Jake all enjoyed exploring new areas of the Malvern Hills this week as part of their DofE active hours. We walked to and explored Earnslaw Quarry, following footpaths and looking out for signs of wildlife. The group showed great enthusiasm and enjoyed being out in the countryside!



The Bankside Art Exhibition is back!



"Sunset with Poppies" by Reuben H., acrylic paint on paper



"Customized Cards" by Fynn M., Acrylic paint pens on cards



"Colourful Abstract" by Lucas S., colouring pens on paper



"Abstract Composition" by Emily H., colouring pencils on paper



"Untitled" by Ash H., Mixed Media

Calling all Artists! BANKSIDE SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION

Do you like drawing, painting,
sketching, photography, digital art,
or any art and crafts?

Share some of your art work at the:

Bankside School! Art Exhibition!

Prizes given for every entry 😊



For more information
contact Paula.

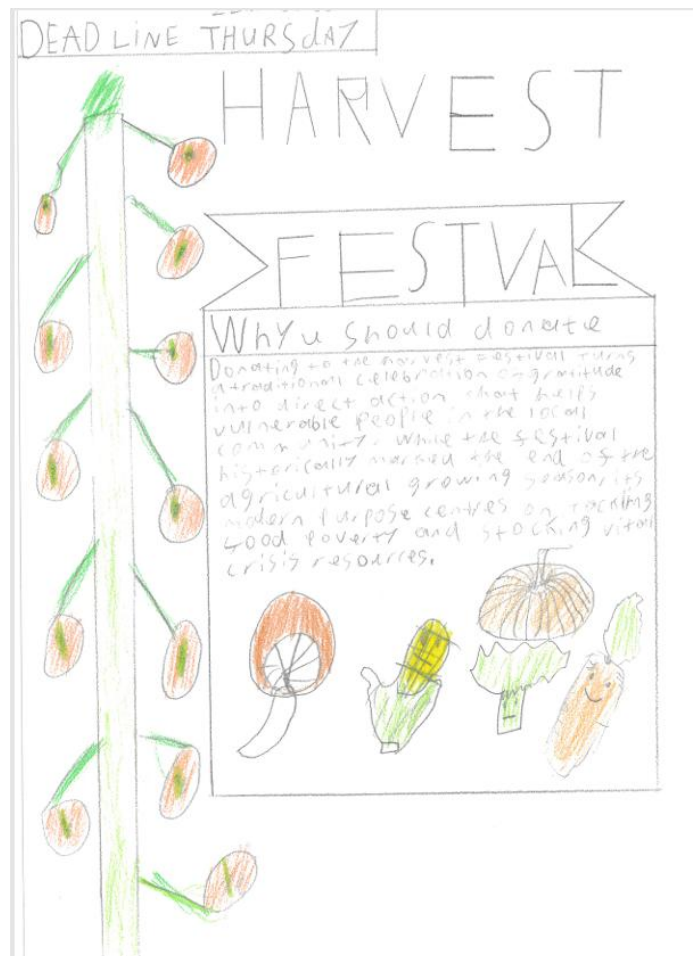
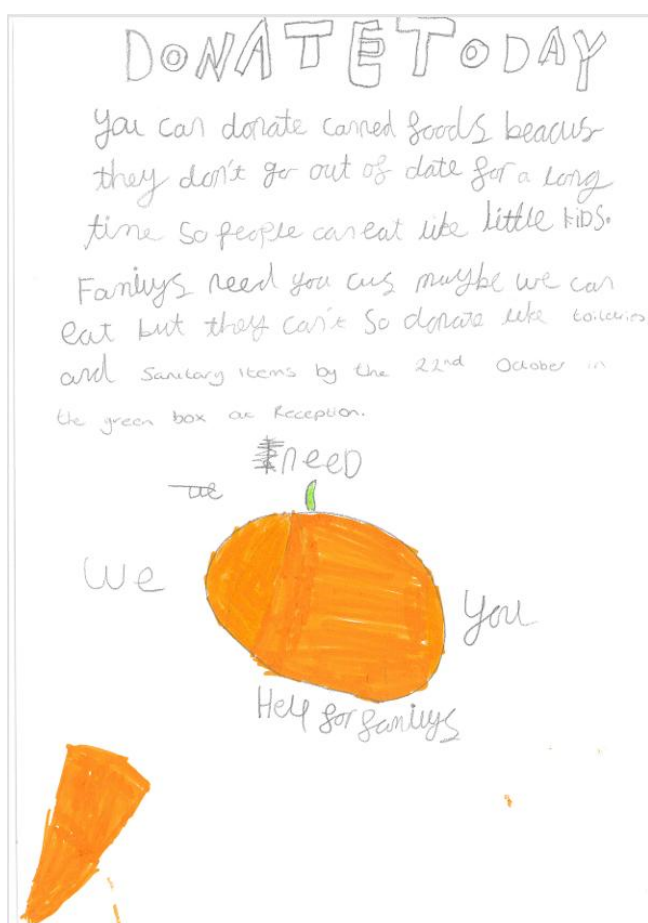


Harvest Festival

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) programme, our KS4 DofE group has created these Harvest Festival posters to support a local food bank. We recognise that times are challenging for many families, so whilst any donations would be greatly appreciated, there is absolutely no obligation to contribute. If you are in a position to donate, even a small item can make a difference to someone in our community. Donations can be brought into school by Thursday 22nd October, ready for the group to deliver them to the food bank on Friday 23rd October.

Suggested items to donate:

- Tinned vegetables, fruit and soup
- Tinned meat, fish and beans
- Pasta and rice
- Cereal and porridge oats
- UHT milk
- Tea, coffee and sugar
- Biscuits and other long-life snacks
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Toiletries, such as shampoo, shower gel and toothpaste
- Sanitary products
- Nappies in a range of sizes
- Baby wipes



For Ages 11-16

SEND Holiday Club with the HUB!

October Half Term

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
27th, 28th & 29th**

9am - 3pm £30 per day

OR

8.30am - 5pm £42 per day

**Join us for Arts, Outside Activities,
Crafts, Music, Sports, Games, & More!**

SEND Group, held at The Hub

22 Market Street, Bromsgrove,
B61 8DA

**Book and
Pay here:**



contact: info@thehubbromsgrove.org

07353 739896

THE HUB

Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub

D of E Trip to Mr Mulligans

The DofE group returned to Mulligans this week, but this time opted for crazy golf rather than darts! They all showed great precision, with some unbelievable skill shown for hole in ones! The group didn't stop smiling and pushing themselves to a very close finish, making it a very enjoyable experience!



A Visit to The Hive

Today, the students enjoyed an exciting educational trip to The Hive in Worcester. During their visit, they explored some of the fascinating history held within the building, including learning about Roman stoves.

The group also investigated how The Hive has been designed with sustainability in mind. They learned about the innovative underground pipe system that helps bring cool air into the building during the summer months, reducing the need for air conditioning and helping to keep the building environmentally friendly.

As part of their research, learners found out that The Hive has 5 floors and discovered that it was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2012. They enjoyed finding answers to a range of questions about The Hive's history, design and purpose.

After their investigations, learners spent some time browsing the library shelves and enjoyed searching for new books to borrow. The visit concluded with a well-earned break in the café, where students enjoyed hot chocolates, biscuits and cake while reflecting on what they had learned throughout the day.

It was a fantastic trip that combined learning, exploration and social opportunities. Well done to everyone involved!



7-Minute Briefing for Parents and Carers

Modern slavery and trafficking

Understanding modern slavery and exploitation

Anti-Slavery Day: 18 October 2026

Modern slavery and trafficking can be difficult to think about. Understanding how exploitation happens can help us recognise concerns and seek support. A child may be made to carry drugs or money, steal, carry out forced work in a home or business, or be sexually abused.

Trafficking can happen within the UK, even through a short journey across town. Children of any nationality or background can be affected. These are forms of child abuse.

The person involved may initially seem to be a friend, partner or helpful adult. Other young people or family members may also be involved. Gifts, lifts or favours can later be used to make a child feel they owe something in return. Threats, fear or emotional attachment can make it difficult to ask for help.

Your child may care about the person exploiting them or want to protect them. This does not mean they are safe or responsible for what is happening. Exploitation is never their fault. Please speak with us if something concerns you.

What might you notice?

Changes may include:

- unexplained money, gifts or phones;
- missing episodes or unusual travel;
- worrying messages or fear of someone;
- tiredness, hunger or unexplained injuries;
- missing school or work that disrupts education;
- talk of debts, packages or favours.

One sign is not proof that something is happening. Consider changes over time and share worries, even if your child has not told you what is happening.

If your child tells you something

Try to respond calmly and give your child time. You could say:

"Thank you for telling me. I'm glad you came to me. This is not your fault. We will get some help together."

Ask only what you need to understand their immediate safety:

- Are you safe now?
- Is anyone threatening you?
- Is someone waiting for you?
- Are you hurt?

Listen without blame and try to avoid repeated questioning or asking your child to prove what happened.

Explain who you need to share information with and why.

They do not need to tell you everything before you seek help.

Keeping the conversation open

Everyday moments, such as a walk, drive or doing something together, can make conversations feel more comfortable. Talk about friendships, online contacts, gifts, lifts and "jobs" with interest and without judgement. Keep offering support, even if your child is not ready to talk.

Each child communicates differently. Ask what helps them feel comfortable, use clear language and allow them time to process. Respect their preferred communication, including writing, visuals or a communication device. A quieter space may also help. All forms of communication matter.

How professionals can help

The school, children's social care and police can work together to consider safety and support for you and your child.

A potential child victim must be referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), the UK system for identifying modern slavery victims and arranging support. An authorised agency makes the referral; a child's consent is not required.

Professionals should explain next steps clearly and listen to your child's views. The NRM runs alongside child protection.

Getting help without delay

If you believe your child is in immediate danger, please call 999. This also applies if your child is missing and is young or vulnerable to harm.

For non-emergency police concerns, call 101. You do not need to wait 24 hours to report someone missing.

If something is worrying you, please speak with Bankside's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Paul Childs or a Deputy DSL. You can also contact Worcestershire Family Front Door directly. You do not need to be certain about what is happening before asking for help.

We can listen to your concerns and consider the next steps together.

It is understandable that you may want to act straight away to protect your child. However, confronting someone you suspect is exploiting them, or trying to bring them away yourself, could put you both at greater risk. Instead, seek advice and make a note of anything your child has already shared, such as names, places or threats. While help is being arranged, offer reassurance and let your child know that they do not have to manage this alone.

Local support and information

Worcestershire Get Safe brings local services together to support and protect children at risk of exploitation. Its website offers information for families. If you are worried about a child's safety, contact Family Front Door.

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/get-safe

You do not need to have all the answers before asking for help. Please speak with us so we can consider the next steps together.

Bankside School contacts

Ask for the DSL or Deputy DSL.
School: 01905 388897

Sensitive/confidential concerns:
dsl@banksideschool.co.uk

Paul Childs, Lead DSL: non-sensitive queries only
paul.childs@banksideschool.co.uk

For urgent danger, call 999 rather than waiting for an email reply.

Worcestershire Family Front Door

Parents and carers can contact **Family Front Door** directly about a child's safety or welfare.
01905 822666: Mon-Thu 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4.30pm.

Out-of-hours safeguarding emergencies: 01905 768020.

Immediate danger: 999. **Police non-emergency:** 101.

Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline

The Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline offers advice if you are worried that someone is being exploited. You can also report concerns online.

Telephone: 08000 121 700
Temporarily open 8am-6pm daily.
www.modernslaveryhelpline.org

If there is immediate danger, call 999.

Support for children and adults

Childline: support for children and young people.
Telephone: 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk/get-support

NSPCC: advice for adults worried about a child.
Telephone: 0808 800 5000, Mon-Fri 10am-4pm.
www.nspcc.org.uk

Further information

NSPCC: Trafficking Guidance:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/types-of-abuse/child-trafficking/>

Anti-Slavery International:
Information about modern slavery.
www.antislavery.org



In the heart of
Worcestershire with the
beautiful Malvern Hills
just on the doorstep.

Bankside College is a specialist provision offering high-quality further education for autistic young adults and those with learning difficulties and/or complex needs, who are aged 16-25.

We believe in education as a driver for personal development and social improvement. Our values of growth, resilience & respect underpin all we do in all aspects of our provision. We trust that if our community embodies these qualities then success will be inevitable.

Bankside College offers a broad curriculum consisting of academic and vocational learning and life skills within a wide range of personalised pathways. With small class sizes, learners benefit from a holistic, person-centred approach and clinical support.

The college has been designed to include spaces where students can socialise and meet with their friends, as well as quieter areas for those who need more space and calmness.

We have purpose-built vocational areas, including construction and IT, as well as individualised learning kitchens, a forest school and horticulture area which helps students improve their practical skills.

Through enacting our values of growth, resilience & respect our vision is to create a safe and supportive environment where every young person feels valued, builds confidence, achieves their potential, and develops the skills needed to succeed in life.

www.banksidecollege.co.uk



Open Evening at Bankside College

on **Thursday 19th November** from 3:30pm.

If you would like to attend

please contact Claire.Miecznikowski@ofgl.uk.