Bankside School

Headteacher: Kate Jasper
The Rhydd (on B4211 Road), Hanley Castle, Worcestershire, WR8 0AD
Telephone: 01905 388 897
Email: info@banksideschool.co.uk
Website: www.banksideschool.co.uk

Visible Consistency, Visible Kindness

Newsletter: 20th November 2026

A busy time this week, as you can observe through the plethora of certificates awarded this week.

We are delighted to announce that our application to take part in the Malvern Spring Show's RHS Garden Project competition has been accepted.

Our Post 16 cohort will be leading on this project and, in this respect, attended the introductory workshop at the Three Counties Showground. As the programme and planning develops, please watch out for announcements and requests from this 'Organising Committee'. Enjoy the write up and photos below!

We wish all those youngsters attending our first Residential next week a fabulous time. We look forward to seeing the photos and hearing all the stories. At the same time, we can't wait to support our pupils who will stay on site and we look forward to engaging in some alternative activities, with some interesting highlights such as a visit from the Fire Service!

We wish you an enjoyable and positive weekend.

Important Dates

Residential Trip to Malvern Boundless Outdoor Centre	-	Wednesday 25th – Friday 27th Nov
Christmas celebration week (details to follow)	-	Week beginning 14th December
School closes for Christmas	-	Friday 18th December

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:

- **Ola D -** For being an absolute star and fabulous team player in working to help clean the guinea pigs last week and help feed/check on the other animals too, and for doing it with a big smile on her face and having a laugh at the same time 😊
- **Archie H, Millie B, Harrison S and Sylvie U -** Well done for showing great independence during our Tesco shopping trip, last week! You confidently followed your shopping list, located the items you needed and made sensible choices to ensure you stayed within your £10 budget. Fantastic work!
- **Annabelle S -** For staying up at the forest for the entire session despite the cold. She made a fire, cooked bacon for breakfast sandwiches and even created a reindeer out of wood using various tools. Well done Annabelle, you're excellent!
- **Caleb W, Sammy T, Thomas C and Archie C -** For fantastic focus, engagement and attention in PSHE. They worked tremendously for the whole lesson and produced excellent work. Great job!
- **Archie H -** for some fantastic thoughtful evidence analysis in History!
- **Archie H, Millie B, Harrison S and Sylvie U -** For completing some fantastic work in English throughout this week (Group Reading, writing and completing a FS practice exam in Reading). All have worked with enthusiasm and resilience, and showed a brilliant application of acquired skills to the different tasks they have worked on. I am very proud of them!
- **Catalina B -** For working really well on 'best buys' in maths. She is really impressing me with her skills and understanding. Great job.
- **Mia W –** For excellent work in Maths.
- **Tyler K -** For his hard work in Maths when completing assessment. Tyler worked independently with determination and remained 100% focused on the task. Well done Tyler, you should be proud of yourself!
- **Ren H and Caleb W -**The boys have displayed great skills in football tennis, helping each other improve by teaching different techniques and having fun, competitive games.
- **Amelia A -** For doing brilliantly in her science lessons, striving to compete all her work and persisting even when it feels challenging. I am very impressed with the progress you've made!
- **Harley M -** Harley developed sewing skills and made a fantastic, printed pillow style decoration for the school Christmas tree. Harley showed amazing focus creating his decoration and needed little instruction. I was blown away by Harley's hard work, well done Harley!

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

- **Jayden B -** Jayden you were fantastic in Computing, showing perseverance with your coding, when it didn't always work first time! I was really impressed with how you checked the instructions again, and corrected any errors. Well done!
- **Betty B -** We are really proud of you Betty for your progress in forest school. You have overcome challenges and it was great to see your safe use of tools to make a reindeer.
- **Faye M -** Great engagement in lessons on Tuesday completing a PowerPoint on Anne Frank and finishing her app tutorial in Computing. Faye, you were also amazing in the kitchen this week showing your cooking skills while making delicious chocolate chip pancakes! Well done and keep up with the good work!
- **Ola D –** For great progress with straight line graphs.

- **Kay E -** It has been lovely to see her grow in confidence, find her voice and establish herself as a valued member of our small performing arts group. Kay has shown greater engagement in lessons, actively contributing to group discussions, sharing her ideas and enthusiastically participating in practical work.
- **Sammy T** -Sammy, this week in cooking, you showed a fantastic, proactive attitude to your learning, showing initiative, enthusiasm and a willing to get involved and work independently. Great effort, we're super proud of you!
- **Emily H** - Emily had created a polystyrene print that she was unhappy with, she did not give up. Emily went on to create a creative Christmas pizza design and successfully printed her design on both paper and material. Emily has worked hard to create a paper hanging decoration and is also making a material one too. I am proud of Emily's engagement and perseverance; it has paid off as her design looks fantastic! Well done.

Kindness Champions:

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

- **Harley M -** During our session in forest school this morning he verbally and practically showed myself (Debs) how to make a wooden reindeer. His instructions were super clear. Well done Harley, we are so proud of how far you have come!
- **Sophie M -** Sophie noticed that a member of staff was having a tricky day and she chose to lend that member of staff her teddy for emotional support. And even tried to check in at the end of the day to see how they were. So kind and considerate! You're a lovely person Sophie!
- **Tyler K -** Tyler showed brilliant kindness and initiative by helping another student who was struggling to put their seatbelt on in the car. He provided support without being asked, showing fantastic consideration for his peer. Well done Tyler!
- **Annabelle S -** Annabelle created two detailed metal embossed decorations during her art session. Annabelle created one design with a special meaning to give someone else to provide comfort that day. It was a very thoughtful thing to do and showed great kindness.
- **Joseph B -** You have been kind, worked well in the football team and always made sure you made your team mates feel valued!!! Well Done and keep being amazing!

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.

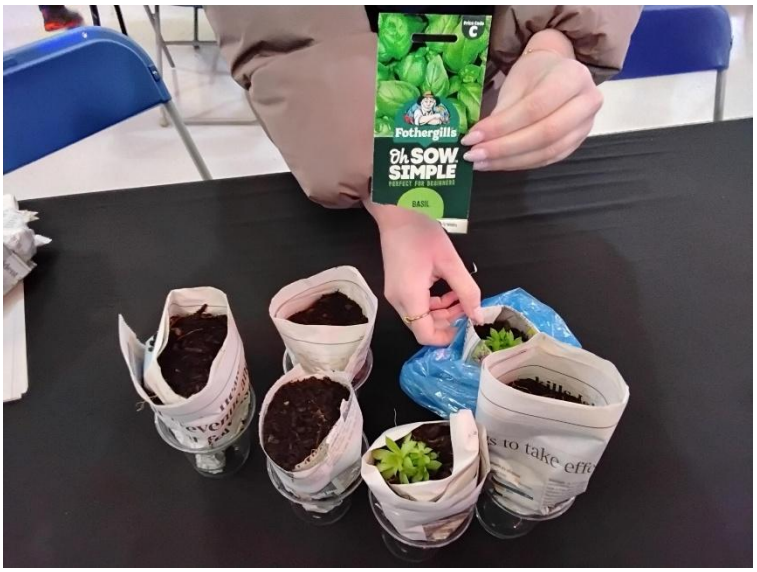
Thank you for your support.

RHS Spring Show Garden Workshop

Students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Three Counties to take part in the RHS Spring Show School Garden Challenge Workshop, in preparation for the RHS Malvern Spring Festival in May. During the workshop, students planted basil seeds and created their own biodegradable pots using newspaper. They also watched a slideshow showcasing creative garden ideas and examples of what their finished garden could look like. To build on their learning, students developed further design ideas, reflecting on the inspiration and knowledge they had gained throughout the session.

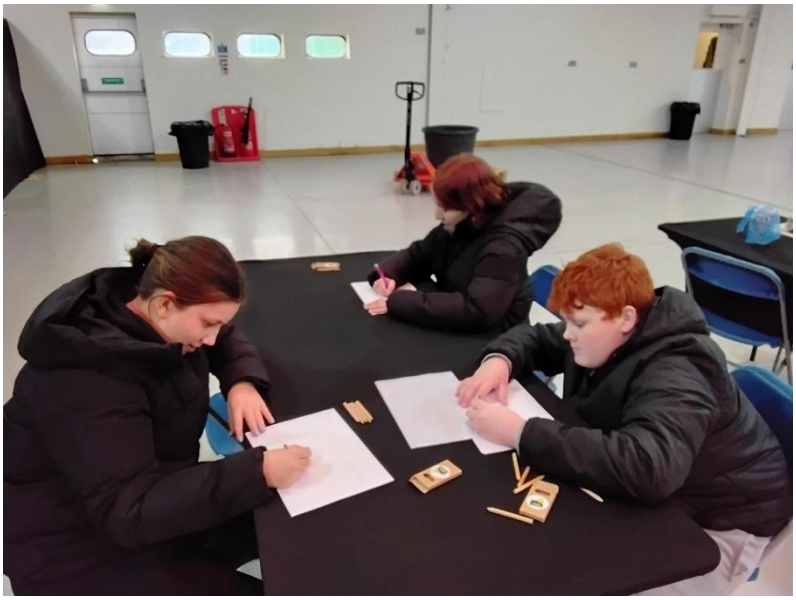
It was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their gardening skills, creativity and confidence while contributing towards an exciting project. Well done to everyone who took part!











MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



Thank you for getting together for good.

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Morning

This certificate is presented to
Bankside School
and friends.

In 2026, you fundraised £171.85

Congratulations on your fundraising.

Your kind support helps Macmillan provide better cancer care for everyone, whoever and wherever they are.

Thank you.

Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland. Printed on sustainable material. Please recycle. MAC28605_Thanking

Animal Care

If your child attends animal care...



please make sure they are dressed appropriately as it is wet and muddy!

Wet and muddy!



Waterproof coat



Waterproof trousers



Wellies (or sturdy boots)



Warm layers (e.g. hoodie or fleece)



Gloves (optional but helpful)



Appropriate clothing keeps your child warm, dry and safe – and helps them enjoy the animals!

Thank you for your support!

Off Site Visit to Tesco

Our Post 16 students enjoyed another practical budgeting trip to Tesco, where they were set a mystery shopping mission! Some students were challenged to budget for two days' worth of meals, while others had to select healthy snacks to last for three days. Building on their confidence from last week's visit, students progressed from using shopping baskets to independently navigating the shop with trolleys.

Throughout the activity, students carefully monitored their spending, made sensible choices and adapted their shopping plans by changing items where necessary to ensure they stayed within their allocated budget.

These activities are fantastic for developing essential independent living and preparation for adulthood skills, including budgeting, healthy eating, decision making and problem solving.
Well done to all our Post 16 students for their fantastic effort, growing confidence and developing independence!










For Ages 11 - 18
SEND
Christmas Holiday Club
with the HUB!
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
21st, 22nd & 23rd December
9am - 3pm £30 per day
OR
8.30am - 5pm £42 per day
Join us for Arts, Outside Activities,
Crafts, Music, Sports, Games, & More!
HAF it!
HELD AT THE HUB
22 MARKET STREET
Book and
Pay here:
contact: info@thehubbromsgrove.org
07353 739896
THE HUB

Bankside School

ONLINE HARMS

Parent and carer briefing

Why we are sharing this

We're sharing this briefing to help you feel informed and supported when talking with your child about their online experiences. Recent conversations in school have included videos and content such as 'Giggleland' and 'Don't Hug Me I'm Scared', so we felt it would be helpful to share some guidance alongside wider online safety information. We appreciate that keeping up with what children see online can feel overwhelming, and hope this offers a useful starting point for gentle conversations at home. If anything raises a concern, or you would like to talk something through, please do get in touch.

Possible signs and changes

Distress after messages, worry about leaving a group, changes in sleep, mood, eating or attendance, requests for secrecy, money or images, or feeling obliged to keep an online friendship going may prompt a conversation. Changes can have many causes. Ask gently about what is happening.

A calm conversation helps

Ask what they enjoy online and who they spend time with. Try "Has anything online made you feel worried or uncomfortable?" Thank them for telling you and listen without blame. Allow time and offer typing, drawing or another familiar way to communicate. Explain how you will help and involve them in the next steps.

Support that works for your child

Online friendships can be very important. Ask what the relationship means to your child. Give clear explanations and check understanding at their pace. Notice changes from their usual presentation. Eye contact, tone or delayed disclosure cannot tell you how much something has affected them. Agree a predictable way to ask for help and check in again later.

ONLINE HARMS

Parent and carer briefing

Apps, games and private chats

Contact can move from apps or games into private chats. Examples include Roblox, TikTok, Discord and Instagram. Gloucestershire has shared reports of concerning group activity, including on Snapchat. Details remain unverified. Ask gently about who your child talks to online. If they mention weapons, drugs, threats or violence, encourage them to tell a trusted adult and contact school. Avoid forwarding the content.

Online pressure and Com groups

Recognise the concern. Some harmful networks, called Com groups, use friendship to gain trust and then control a child.
Notice pressure. Threats may involve sharing intimate images or demands to hurt themselves or someone else.
Seek help. Contact police and the school promptly if you suspect coercion. Any child can be targeted.

Frightening clips and online trends

Safer Schools has highlighted unsettling Cat in the Hat clips on TikTok and Instagram, including AI-generated videos and false claims. If your child has seen them, acknowledge their feelings and check claims together. Use report or “not interested” tools. Avoid introducing the trend to children who have not encountered it or sharing the clips.

If something has happened

Check safety. Stay with your child if they feel unsafe. Call 999 if anyone is in immediate danger. Reassure them that you will help.
Keep useful details. Note usernames, dates and links. Leave intimate images in place and seek advice. Avoid copying, forwarding or asking to see them.
Contact Bankside. Please contact your child’s tutor for support. Share safeguarding worries promptly with Paul Childs, DSL, or a deputy DSL. Use 101 or the police website for non-emergency crime. Use in-app reporting alongside the safeguarding response.

Bankside School

ONLINE HARMS

Parent and carer briefing

Reporting and further help

CEOP Safety Centre

Online sexual abuse or grooming.
www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/

West Mercia Police

Non-emergency crime, threats or suspected Com group activity.
www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/

Worcestershire Family Front Door

Concerns about a child's safety or welfare.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/refer-childrens-social-care

Report Harmful Content

Links to platform reporting tools.
reportharmfulcontent.com

Childline Report Remove

Helps under-18s seek removal of their intimate images from the public internet.
www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/

Internet Matters reporting guide

Choose an issue to find reporting routes and practical family advice.
www.internetmatters.org/REPORT-ISSUE/

Safer Schools safeguarding alerts

Updates on online risks and emerging trends. App access depends on school arrangements.
oursaferschools.co.uk/england-app/#safeguarding-alerts

Safer Schools Cat in the Hat alert

Information on unsettling clips and how families can respond.
oursaferschools.co.uk/2026/08/25/cat-in-the-hat-trend/

Gloucestershire Schoolsnet notice

Reported group activity and suggested communication for families.
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/noticeboard/schoolsnet-bulletin-board/safeguarding-awareness-reported-online-group-activity-involving-young-people/

Safer Schools Com Networks guidance

Family information on online coercion.
oursaferschools.co.uk/2026/10/09/understanding-com-networks/

Com Networks

Watch out **Speak out** **Get out**

The Dark Side of Online Communities

Some strangers online can seem like your best friends when really, they could be part of a dangerous network who use fake friendships and profiles to target you, gain control and cause harm.

What are Com Networks?

Com Networks (sometimes called "The Com") are online groups that look harmless from the outside, chatting in public spaces about gaming, music, memes or digital art. Then things get darker as you're added into private group chats, where status is everything. Members compete for power and respect and in the worst groups, that means doing or sharing harmful or illegal things.

How They Work

The Com members hang out on popular platforms - Discord servers, Roblox games, fandom chats, comment sections, social media messaging and platforms you wouldn't even think of - **looking to recruit.** They find common ground, start a 'friendship' and gain your trust. They may make you feel important, special or understood. **The people who run these groups know exactly what they're doing**

You get invited into more private chats where, over time, the tone starts to change. Jokes start to get darker. Rules get established. Fitting in starts to mean doing dares, sharing harmful content, or proving your loyalty. What felt like a friendly chat can quickly lead to real harm, including sextortion, cyber-attacks, radicalisation, extremist views, even inciting violence.

Who is Affected?

These groups often target young girls but the reality is anyone could be targeted. By the time something feels wrong, victims might already feel close to the people in the chat and under pressure to comply - and that's exactly what they want, because it makes **leaving feel impossible.**

Red Flags

- Someone you've met online wants to **chat somewhere more private.**
- Jokes, dares or content **keep getting darker** and chats get deleted.
- **Platform hopping** - a backup platform is lined up in case of bans, often somewhere adults don't monitor (e.g. Spotify, Pinterest).
- There's a **clear hierarchy** in the group and lots of slang and in-jokes.
- You're pressured into sending **personal information or pictures of yourself.**
- **You worry about your status in the group**, stepping out of line or getting kicked out.
- Someone you barely know is gift bombing you – often used to **pressure you into repaying them** in harmful ways.
- You're **pressured to prove yourself** - sharing something private or hurting yourself or someone else.

These signs don't always mean you've been targeted but they're all worth talking to a trusted adult about.

If you're asked to do something you know is wrong - Pause. Stay Calm. Don't do it. Speak to a trusted adult ASAP.

Are They Really Your Friends?

Members might feel like the closest friends you've ever had. The only ones who 'get' you, encourage you and never judge. This is exactly what the members want to do. Build 'friendships' to gain control, inflict harm and earn clout in the group. Real friends don't ask you to prove yourself in harmful ways, keep secrets from your family or get angry when you're offline. If any of that sounds familiar, what you're in isn't a friendship.

Leaving safely

Trust your gut early - if something feels off in a new group, block the people involved and step away.

If a group has gone too far - stay calm, there's always a way out. Tell an adult you trust (a parent/carer or professional) so they can help plan a safe exit.

The Police Advise:

- **Screenshot threatening messages** as evidence (but never screenshot any nude/semi-nude images).
- Consider **deactivating, not deleting** - it's helpful to show some information to a trusted adult.
- The slow fade - **gradually reduce contact** before leaving to avoid retaliation.
- **Report abusive users on the platform before blocking them.** Remember - being targeted isn't your fault and doesn't make you weak. Support is always there. Just reach out.



Getting Help

- **Speak out - Talk to a trusted adult immediately**
- **childline - 0800 1111 - free, confidential, under-19s**
- **CEOP - report online sexual abuse or grooming**
- **IWF / Report Remove - if you're under 18, get a nude or semi-nude image or video of yourself taken down from the internet**
- **999 - immediate danger**
- **101 - non-emergency police reports**

Helping a Friend

Listen and support them but remember you don't need to know all the details. Always encourage them to speak to a trusted adult and never add, follow or confront any of the members.

Online Safety Shareable by SAFER SCHOOLS inege.com