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: 27th November 2026

This week has been a wonderful example of what can be achieved when pupils, staff, and families work together to support one another.

Our recent residential trip was a tremendous success, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make it such a positive experience. To our staff team, thank you for your commitment, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond to ensure the trip ran smoothly from start to finish. To our parents and carers, thank you for your trust, support, and preparation, which played a vital role in making the experience successful. Most importantly, thank you to our pupils, who represented Bankside brilliantly throughout the week.

Whether pupils were attending the residential, participating in activities on site, or taking part in off-site learning opportunities, we have seen countless examples of resilience, determination, and personal growth. Many of our young people stepped outside their comfort zones, embraced new experiences, managed changes to routine, and successfully navigated challenges that they may previously have found difficult. We are incredibly proud of the way they supported one another and demonstrated our school values throughout the week.

The opportunities continue next week, with further exciting trips planned, including visits to Norton and activities as part of our RHS project. These experiences provide valuable opportunities for learning, personal development, and building confidence in new environments.
Finally, as we begin to look ahead to the festive season, please keep an eye out for information about our Christmas Week activities. We have lots of exciting events planned and look forward to sharing these with pupils and families over the coming days.
Thank you once again for your ongoing support and for helping to make our school community such a positive and special place.

Important Dates

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:

- **Vinny G -** Vinny gave a tremendous effort in History last week. He worked with concentration and resilience throughout the lesson and produced his first GCSE History essay. Well done! You should be as enormously proud of yourself, as I am.
- **Joseph B -** Joe worked fantastically well in History last week, locking in to review previous learning and applying his knowledge and understanding to a GCSE essay. He concentrated and show fantastic perseverance to produce a well-structured essay. Great job, Joe, you should be really proud of yourself.
- **Ash H -** For being consistently engaged and focused in History throughout this half term. Keep up the great work.
- **Annabelle S -** For making it all the way to the top of the beacon in Malvern in only 22 minutes! Well done for your determination.
- **Zak R, Ollie V, Thomas N -** For an amazing effort in BTEC music this week. Producing some fantastic hip-hop inspired beats that all sounded incredible!
- **Annabelle S -** You always show a tenacious spirit to tackle challenges that you face in the outdoors. Well done, you are a fantastic role model.
- **Elsa S -** For working consistently hard on her Maths this term. She has got down to work and really managed to make some great progress. We're very proud of her!
- **Ash H -** For scoring 96% on a maths assessment by listening to feedback throughout the topic and working on errors. Amazing!
- **Ollie V and Zak R -** For making an excellent start on indices and surds work. Outstanding!
- **Clare M -** For working really well on number properties and showing excellent understanding of multiples and factors.
- **Harley M -** For his fantastic input during maths this morning, working with real money. He used his knowledge to work out different amounts given and also worked out how much change was needed when buying different items. Well done Superstar!!
- **Sophie M, Elodie M and Amelia A -** For working well as a team, great communication skills, discussing the recipe steps and taking turns sharing the work while baking fruit scones together on Tuesday. You also showed fantastic team work while elaborating and executing a large painting of the Grinch to display in the classroom. Team work makes the dream work! Well done!

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

- **Etta M -** Well done for persevering with your diary entry, despite being reluctant. You tackled a tricky, triggering task and stuck with it, proving you CAN do things that are challenging…We're so proud of you Etta!
- **Robin C -** For being the first person in the school to 'level up' on Freckle - amazing work Robin!
- **Bran H and Kay E -** For really improving their work on rounding to significant figures - well done.

Kindness Champions:

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

- **Robin C -** For patiently holding the door open for me while I was chatting away. Thank you, Robin, you are so incredibly patient and kind.

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 School Garden Challenge

"Our school has a place in the RHS School Garden Challenge at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival, Three Counties Showground, 6 to 9 May 2027. Learners across the school are designing, growing, and building a garden on the theme of Wildlife and Habitats, while managing a £500 budget.

Can you help? We'd love donations of anything garden related: plants, seedlings, seeds, bulbs, tools, pots, ornaments, or anything else relevant you can think of! Whatever you could offer would be greatly appreciated!"

World War 2 in History

Group 3 have been learning about the World Wars this term and focussing particularly on the Home Front in World War 2. This week we were learning all about rationing and which foods were difficult to get hold of. We experimented by making and tasting some 'mock banana sandwiches' - these are made with mashed parsnip to replace the sugar and bananas. The class were not convinced! Next week we will be visiting Norton Barracks, War Memorial, Commemorative Gardens and meeting some Veterans from the Worcester Regiment to further our studies.





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!

Post 16 Visit to The Hive Library

Some of Post 16 students visited The Hive Library today within their Offsite lessons to collect a selection of RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) resources and books about gardening and planting in preparation for next week's lesson. Students will use these resources to research different plants, explore which varieties would be suitable for our Three Counties RHS School Garden Challenge design and investigate planting costs to support our budgeting activities.

During the visit, students also discovered a range of creative art and design ideas that they felt could be incorporated into their garden designs, particularly features that could help attract and support local wildlife. This was a valuable opportunity to develop their research skills, gather inspiration and begin making informed decisions about their garden project.









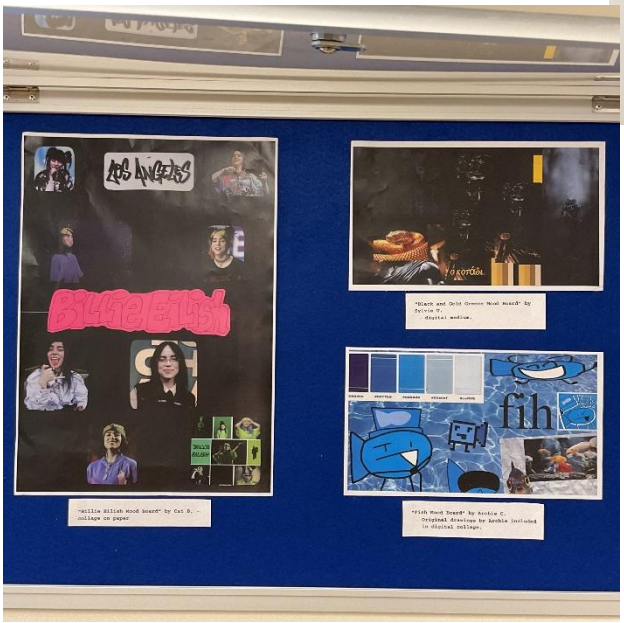


Art Exhibition Week

The students have been learning about mood boards working towards their BTEC qualifications. We've been learning that artists and designers may choose to use mood boards to explain their ideas using images, colours, textures, materials and labels. They may choose to do a physical collage using cuts outs and physical materials to show their visual idea or they may choose do a digital collage.








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

Acton Mill Care Farm

During the trip to the farm, Matt took Erin to feed all the sheep on the farm. He explained about the pregnant ewes and how many lambs they have due in January. We then went on to see the 3 calves that were born not so long ago, and one of them was nibbling on Erin's hand.









FAMILY SUPPORT

Parent and carer briefing

Why we are sharing this

When things are getting harder at home or at school, it can be difficult to know who to speak to. We've put together some of the support available in Worcestershire. If you're unsure where to start, please get in touch and we can talk it through.

A first conversation with Bankside

Your child's tutor is a good place to start if you'd like some help. You can also call school on **01905 388 897**. It helps us to hear what's going well, what's been harder lately and what your child thinks would make a difference. We'll give them time to tell us in a way that works for them.

Everyday advice and early help

You can contact a **Best Start Family Hub** directly. Local hubs can offer or help you find support with parenting, wellbeing, finances and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Services vary by location. The **Virtual Family Hub** brings together online advice on topics such as housing, money and support for young carers.

If different people are already helping, or you feel more support is needed, we can talk about an Early Help Assessment. With your agreement, we can work out together what would help and who will do what.

Family Help when several services are needed

If a few things are happening at once and it would help to bring services together, ask your child's tutor or another professional you know about **Family Help**. With your agreement, they can make a request to the council.

A named worker can help you and your child agree a plan and check how it's going. Family Help includes targeted support and, if the council assesses that it's needed, support for a child in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

Your choices and how information is shared

Early Help and Family Help are offered with your agreement. Please ask if you'd like to know more about what the support might look like for you and your child.

Under the Information Sharing Duty, in force since 30th September 2026, services must share relevant information without needing permission when the legal conditions for safeguarding or promoting a child's welfare are met. Where safe, we'll explain what we're sharing, with whom and why.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Parent and carer briefing

Support for children and young people with SEND

The **SEND Local Offer** lists education, health and social care support, activities and services for ages 0 to 25. It includes information for families whose child does not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan.

SENDIASS provides free, impartial and confidential advice on SEND, including EHC plans and preparing for meetings. Worcestershire families can contact the service directly on **01905 768153**.

Practical help for parent carers

If you're 18 or over, have parental responsibility for a disabled child under 18 and care for them or plan to, you can ask Worcestershire's **Family Front Door** for a parent carer assessment. It gives you a chance to talk about your caring role and what support might help.

The council's **Short Breaks** pages are a good place to look for activities your child might enjoy and for more specialist support. How you apply depends on the type of help your child needs.

If you're worried about a child's safety

If a child is in immediate danger, call **999**.

For a child living in Worcestershire, anyone can raise a safety or welfare concern with the **Family Front Door** on **01905 822666** (Mon–Thu 9am–5pm, Fri 9am–4.30pm). Outside those hours, if a safeguarding concern cannot wait until the next working day, call the **Emergency Duty Team** on **01905 768020**.

If your child lives outside Worcestershire, we can help you find the right service in your area.

Our safeguarding team at Bankside

Paul Childs (Designated Safeguarding Lead, DSL)
Kate Jasper (Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, DDSL)
Tracey Hodgkins (Deputy Head and DDSL)
Sian Ackerley (Deputy Head and DDSL)
Natalie Jakeman (Pastoral Team and DDSL)

If you're worried about your child or would like to talk something through, please call school on **01905 388 897** and ask to speak to Paul, or email paul.childs@banksideschool.co.uk.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Parent and carer briefing

Useful contacts and websites

Bankside School

Speak to your child's tutor or call school on 01905 388 897.
www.banksideschool.co.uk/contact-us/

Worcestershire Virtual Family Hub

Find local Family Hubs and advice on parenting, money, housing and support for young carers.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/virtual-family-hub

Sunshine Best Start Family Hub, Malvern

Malvern Vale Community Centre, Swinyard Road, WR14 1GU. Call 01684 577442.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/virtual-family-hub/best-start-worcestershire/whats-and-things-do/best-start-family-hubs/best-start-family-1

Worcestershire SEND Local Offer

Local SEND services and activities, including information about short breaks.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/send-local-offer

Worcestershire Short Breaks

Find out about activities and how to access more specialist support.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/schools-education-and-learning/send-local-offer/all-age-disability-0-25-years-service-send/short-breaks

Worcestershire SENDIASS

Free SEND advice. Call 01905 768153 or email sendiass@worcestershire.gov.uk.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendiass/contact-sendiass

Family Front Door

Report a concern about a child or ask for a parent carer assessment. Call 01905 822666.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/childrens-social-care/refer-childrens-social-care

Worcestershire cost of living support

Help with bills, benefits and other household costs.
www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/communities/cost-living-support/local-and-national-cost-living-support

Information Sharing Duty

Department for Education guidance on sharing information to safeguard children.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-sharing-to-safeguard-children-and-young-people