

18th March 2024

Dear families

After 25 years in teaching, I have never witnessed a quiet term!

We continue with our resolve in providing the best curriculum that we possibly can to our young people. Teaching and learning is what we do best and will always be at the heart of what we are about at Beckfoot Upper Heaton. You will be aware of national staff shortages in some subject areas, namely, in history and in music. Despite the national challenges, we have managed to reduce supply agency staff this year to ensure our students are taught by a subject specialist and familiar face as much as possible. At times, this has meant merged group teaching to avoid supply staff cover lessons.

Our examinations data clearly show that, when students attend school over 90% of the times, they achieve significantly better results than those students who attend less than 90%. **What is your child's overall attendance?** We, therefore, have 5-simple habits to help your child achieve:

- 100% Perfect uniform
- 100% Equipped for learning with a school bag and a reading book
- 100% Punctuality and attendance
- 100% On task
- 100% Polite responses

A few weeks ago, we collapsed our normal school timetable for the whole day so that students could engage with careers and health education. Please see our school newsletter for some highlights of student engagement. The day was filled with fun and interactive sessions led by our talented staff and several external agencies. I hope that you were able to discuss with your child what they got out of the day when they returned home. Some of the themes were:

- Year 7: Unifrog – careers predictor software, dangers around vaping, finance
- Year 8: Unifrog, NHS careers, public health concerns (vaping), NHS competitions
- Year 9: Health and fitness, careers in fitness, creative careers, careers research
- Year 10: Why go to university, CV writing, Bradford College Apprenticeships, construction
- Year 11: University of Bradford, Works and Pensions, National Citizen Service (NCS) programme, interview skills

We were visited by our local Member of Parliament's team. They received a presentation from our students on sustainable environment through our student leadership programme called the 'Next Generation'. Our students are working hard to make our school and local community a 'litter-free' area. This is a joint venture with our local partner Beckfoot Heaton Primary School.

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On 1st of March, families whose child is in Year 6 received their secondary school offer letter. I am sure that you recall the time when you eagerly waited for the letter/email confirmation! **I am pleased to inform you that we are an oversubscribed school – meaning, every year group is full.**

Over 90% of our students have secured their places because they stated Beckfoot Upper Heaton as their 1st or 2nd preference on their application form. More interestingly, we are growing in the number of female students attending our wonderful school. In our new Year 7 cohort in September, **45% of our students will be female** and 55% male. This is the highest percentage of female students we have ever had!

Year 11 students received their mock examinations results. Thank you for attending this event. I am reliably informed by our exams officer, that we had highest number of parents attend this event to see their son/daughter open their results envelopes! THE REAL GCSE RESULTS ENVELOPES WILL BE OPENED ON THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST 2024!

When we return after the Easter holidays, Year 11 students shall only have 20-school days left before their first GCSE examination. I am sure that when your child opened their mock result envelopes, you and your child had mixed emotions. This was the purpose of holding this event. Please send your child to school every day and on time, so that we can do our best to help them achieve higher GCSE grades. This is so important for everyone, as nothing will give us more pleasure than to see your child succeed. We want to see every Year 11 student secure their appropriate Post-16 courses with the grades that they need. It is paramount that your child works hard to achieve grade 5+ in English and maths. Furthermore, they need to achieve 8-GCSE qualifications at good GCSE grades to ensure that they can challenge the best students in the region.

The holy month of Ramadan began on 11th March. A letter was sent to families which can be found on our website. We spoke to all our students about the importance of Ramadan. Whilst normal school life continues, we are mindful of some of the key messages during the month of Ramadan. Key messages such as, it is a time for reflection of self, showing tolerance, restraint, forgiveness, and charity.

As we break up for Easter holidays which coincides with Ramadan, we also remember the key messages in this important Christian calendar. Like Ramadan, Christianity engages in Lent, which is 40 days of fasting and prayers leading up to Easter. We remember to forgive one another, look after our neighbours, show compassion, reflect on life, and donate to charity.

Thank you for all your support as we strive to make Beckfoot Upper Heaton one of the best schools in the country. Our staff work hard to support every young people, so that they can act with integrity and kindness, so that they can demonstrate excellence in everything they do. It is where we all belong.

We can only create a school where no child is left behind with your support in ensuring every child attends school every day and on time.

The school will close on Friday 22nd March 2024 at 3.05pm and re-open on Monday 8th April 2024 at 8.05am.

The school is closed on Wednesday 10th April 2024 as it is a staff training day and in recognition of Eid-UI-Fitr.

We wish you Happy Easter holidays and Ramadan Mubarak!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'B K Dey'.

Mr B K Dey

Headteacher

