



## Beckmead School Newsletter Autumn Term



What a positive start to this academic year the autumn term has been! It has been brilliant to be able to welcome pupils back to school and resume face to face learning for all. I am incredibly proud of how hard the staff team and pupils have worked to uphold our new Covid-19 rules and expectations in order to keep everybody safe.

We have had several new pupils and staff members join us this academic year. It has been great to see positive relationships being built with the newest members of our team. As ever, our existing pupils and staff members have gone out of their way to make sure everybody feels welcome!

My team and I would like to wish you a restful break followed by a wonderful 2021.

Miss Leah Bernard

### TERM DATES



**End of Term** – Thursday 17th December

#### **Spring Term**

Tuesday 5th January – Wednesday 31st March 2021

**Half term** Monday 15th Feb – Friday 19th Feb 2021

**Summer Term** Monday 19th April – Friday 23rd July 2021

**Half term** Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June

May Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2021

### **INSET DAYS**

Monday 4th January 2021

Students return on **Tuesday 5th January**

### **Football Beyond Borders – FBB**

During this term we have continued our relationship with Football Beyond Borders (FBB). FBB is a charity that works with pupils to assist them with their personal, academic and social development via a football coaching programme. FBB sessions take place on a weekly basis and has proven to be a huge success with pupils. All sessions take place on a Thursday afternoon. KS2 pupils' access FBB during period 5&6 and our KS3 pupil access FBB after school.

The FBB sessions are split in to two sections, the first takes place in one of our classrooms and the second on the pitch. During the classroom sessions pupils cover a range of topics that include discussing their personal values, considering what it takes to be a leader, thinking about their future selves and participating in debates on key topics. Once the classroom session is over pupils and the coaches move on to the pitch where they play football. During game time pupils develop key skills required for the game such as passing, shooting and dribbling, in addition to this, they also work on skills that can be used in other aspects of their lives such as communicating effectively, working collaboratively and supporting their team mates.

These sessions will continue to run after the Christmas break. We are hoping to increase the offer to more students across KS3. If your child has a keen interest in football and joining FBB is something that you feel will benefit them then please contact Mr Dean Rose.

## Black History Month

During the month of October, we had many activities planned within the classes to commemorate Black History month. We had four weeks and each week was dedicated to a different topic. In the first week classes chose a significant person in Black history to study. Some classes used the opportunity to find about black people who have made significant contributions to their community e.g. Doreen Lawrence. In the second week the classes looked at Black heroes and Leaders e.g. Barack Obama. The students had lively discussions about efforts made by some leaders and the positive impacts that they have made. During the third week, there was a focus on art, food and culture. Students had a tasty experience during cooking lessons where they were able to taste African Caribbean food cooked by themselves. Visits were planned for the markets and although they could not happen due to the Covid-19 restrictions, some students were able to visit the market virtually. During the last week we had a focus on black people that originate from our locality, Croydon. Pupils focused on the contributions made by people like Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Stormzy. We ended our Black History Month by celebrating with a 'dress in your own cultural outfit day'. This was a resounding success and we were able to raise money for the Sickle Cell Society in London.

Kakra Sackey

## Jeans for Genes Day

Thanks to parents, carers, staff members and pupils that participated in this year's Jeans for Genes Day, the event was a success! This year our total sum raised was £25.53.

### **What is Jeans for Genes Day all about?**

Jeans for Genes Day is all about raising money for some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. The charity focuses on raising money and awareness about life-altering genetic disorders that affect around half a million children in the UK. On Jeans for Genes Day both staff and pupils rocked their best denims in the name of charity.

Beckmead School feels that enabling the pupils to take part in fundraising events such as 'Jeans for Genes Day' helps to raise awareness about the selected charity, encourages pupils to develop an awareness about issues that face members of society and promotes a broader awareness of the world in which they live. By participating in charity events pupils are developing compassion and empathy which are fundamental traits to support them in becoming positive members of society themselves.

## Career Support

This term Beckmead School has begun to roll out a new career support program called 'Fast Tomato' with our year 8 and 9 pupils. Fast Tomato has been designed to help young people broaden their horizons and consider a broader spectrum of career and education options.

In order to test the accuracy of the questionnaire I decided to do it myself, I was very surprised with my findings. The results stated that I would be most suited in education teaching secondary or adults, BINGO! It also stated that a career in engineering may also suit my level of aptitude. Interestingly, before I became a teacher I worked for six years as a hydraulic engineer. The program's accuracy did not stop at my assessment. Each pupil who completed it found that the program presented at least one career path that they had previously shown an interest in. For example, one pupil stated very clearly before taking the quiz that he has a very keen interest in the Royal Navy. I thought that this was a particularly specific interest, but low and behold one of the very first icons that presented itself in his results was the Royal Navy. It then mapped specific criteria and routes that the pupil could take in order to put him on the right path to achieve his career aspirations. Thankfully he was one of many that had received results that directly correlated with their personal aspirations. So far, this has been a brilliant resource, each pupil who has taken the quiz so far has shown interest and excitement in planning for their futures.

We are currently in the process of completing the questionnaire with all year 8 and 9 pupils. Our aim is to arrange a career guidance day where the pupils will get to meet a range of professionals stemming from different careers and backgrounds to offer career guidance and advice.

At Beckmead School we endeavour to push our pupils towards achieving their potential and looking towards the future. We believe that this program will give us a keen insight into career paths that suit and interest each pupil.