

Bringing home the gold!



Well done to our KS4 football team who have won their last two competitions at the special league tournament. Congratulations to all involved, let's hope they can keep up this amazing run into the Spring term!

AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER

Message from our Headteacher

As another busy term draws to a close, we can reflect on the successes we have had. The Autumn Term has been a very challenging period and the students and staff have shown resilience and a positive attitude. There have been many positives; Beckmead College Football Team keeping up their unbeaten run, Beckmead Choir singing at Brookhurst Residential home, RSE workshops for students and most importantly students enjoying their time at Beckmead College.

Finally, I wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR. Keep Safe!

No Pens Day Wednesday!

We know that speaking and understanding skills underpin everything we do (learning, making friends, having good mental health, and ultimately getting a job) and directly affect pupils' education and life chances. On 24th November we had a day dedicated to speaking and understanding language. Our Speech and Language therapist even joined in with the fun and some prizes were won too!



Boxing at Beckmead

Beckmead students are fortunate to be taught by James Cook MBE (boxing Champion and professional boxing coach). This term he has been teaching boxing technique, students also work on their physical fitness and increasing strength as Mr Cook puts them through very demanding workouts. Most importantly, through training students will be challenged to go beyond their own personal limitations. These challenges help them to build their resilience as they strive towards becoming their best.

Next year we will be forming our very own Beckmead Basketball team - watch this space for details of try outs!



Beautiful Hearts, Beautiful Voices

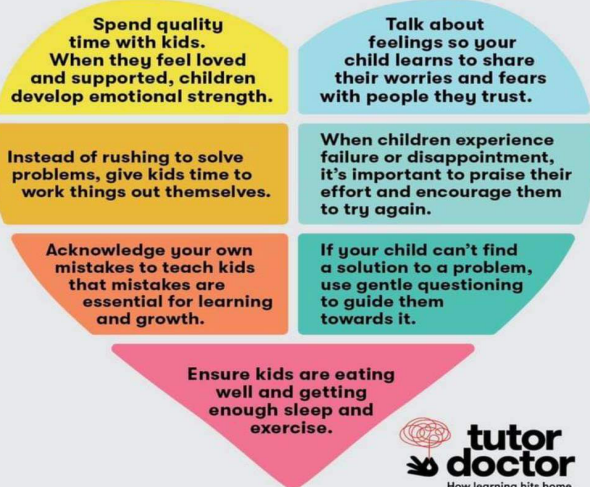
Beckmead College has this year formed a choir as a means of supporting staff wellbeing. We have identified music as a vehicle for supporting mental health, be it our own or that of the community around us. Since the onset of covid 19, we believe now more than ever, there is a need to support each other with respect to our mental health. As it is the Christmas period, a season for sharing good cheer, we approached Brookhurst Court a nursing home next door to Beckmead College. They were delighted with the idea of the choir coming to perform. It was a huge success! We all had the most joyous time performing to their residents, seeing them join in with the carols and clapping along was certainly good for wellbeing!

Exams

We are very proud of all the students who participated in our exams week! We are hoping some great results come from all their hard work this term.



TIPS TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE IN KIDS



COVID-19

With new guidelines in place we will continue to promote handwashing, the use of masks and regular home testing. The DfE asks that schools encourage pupils to test over the holiday in line with national guidance. This means that they should test if they have been in a high-risk situation and also before visiting people who are at higher risk and vulnerable.



Marvel Film Club

Since the start of our lunch time Marvel Film Club, we have had a growing number of students participate. This currently takes place every Wednesday & Friday in the music room, 12:15pm - 12:55pm. Please let staff know if you would like to attend as there are limited spaces.



Curriculum:

PSD

Students have been working on the *Preparation for work* unit. They have identified their own skills and matched these with those required by real employers. They have also looked at jobs online and the requirements needed for particular jobs. As well as identifying their skills and qualities, they have started to draft their C.V's which will become useful when they start looking for employment. These activities prepare our students for the world of work.

Some employability skills are:

- excellent communication skills
- being well organized
- working well in a team
- time management skills
- resilience

Science

Despite all the challenges from lockdown and the pandemic, science can celebrate a 100% pass rate for all pupils entered for Entry Level Award in science. This is the most success Alverston Gardens site has had since science has been offered! Through hard work and determination students were able to complete the externally set test and assignment to achieve a pass. Looking back at the difficulties the boys had to overcome, their efforts have paid off. One pupil only joined us in March 2021 and he too was able to put in the extra work to catch up and achieve a pass! This is a testament to how focused, hardworking and resilient our students are.

*"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it
If you can dream it, you can become it." William Arthur Ward*

English

What a busy term! We have been looking at transactional writing, in particular formal letters, emails and reports. Students have been using persuasive techniques to ensure that their writing is convincing. We even had a competition to win a VR headset and I am pleased to announce that the winner is Cameron Elliot year 10 Alverston Gardens site! Congratulations Cameron for your detailed report on Millwall and well done to all who took part - all reports were very impressive!

Several students have also completed and passed their entry level functional skills assessments, I am proud of you all! In addition, there has also been some really good results with practise assessments and some students sitting Level one reading assessments - we have everything crossed for the results!

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated." R. Collier

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all peace and joy at this time of year. We hope it gives students and staff the opportunity to rest and enjoy precious time with friends and family.

Please note the students' first day back is **Wednesday 5th January 2021**.