

# Beckmead College

## Summer Newsletter 2025



July/August

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### Tribute to Mr. James Cook MBE



We are deeply grateful for the community's understanding and support following the loss of our beloved former Boxing Instructor, James Cook MBE. A cornerstone of our institution, Mr Cook was one of the longest-serving staff members across both Beckmead School and the College.

To his students, he was more than an instructor; he was a mentor who offered unwavering guidance and support. Beyond our walls, he was a beacon for his local community, transforming the lives of countless young people in Hackney through the Pedro Youth Club. The incredible turnout for his funeral—with well over 1,000 people celebrating his life—was a powerful and humbling testament to the many lives he touched.

The air was filled with stories of a man who offered a steady hand in troubled times and who could always make people laugh. He was the epitome of a gentleman, and his absence will be profoundly felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. We are committed to creating a lasting tribute to honour Mr Cook and will share our plans with you soon.

Mark Allen



### Youth Leaders

Youth Leaders at Beckmead have been exceptional in their commitment to attending meetings every two weeks and coming together to discuss improvements.

They have put wheels in motion for the college to invest in indoor and outdoor equipment so watch this space! They have also listened to students who voiced their opinions regarding the school menu coming up with alternative options. Students then voted, opting to have burritos/tacos instead of jacket potatoes.

The menu has now been changed. A great example of the difference our youth leaders can make. I would like to say a special goodbye and thank you to Youth Leaders: Monica Dougi, Keneil Matthews, Shawn Johnson, Kyrell Charles, and Kyan Brunwin who are moving on and starting new chapters in their lives.

I wish them all the best. In the new Academic Year September 2025 the remaining Youth Leaders Kai Henry, Abraham Johnson, and Charlie Thompson will be recruiting for more individuals to join our team and make a difference.



## Transition

All staff and students engaged in a two week transition period of taster sessions in preparation for next academic year. Our year 10 boys got the chance to move into the year 11s shoes and many of them used this opportunity to set a positive example for our new year 9s who visited us from other schools. All in all it was a great experience for everyone and we are looking forward to welcoming the year 9s back in September.



## End of year exams

We would like to say a huge well done to all of our students who studied hard and sat their GCSE and Functional Skills exams this summer. So many of our students showed dedication and maturity in being able to organise their revision and attendance in order to complete such important qualifications.

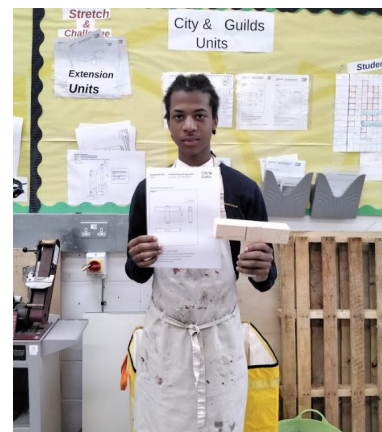
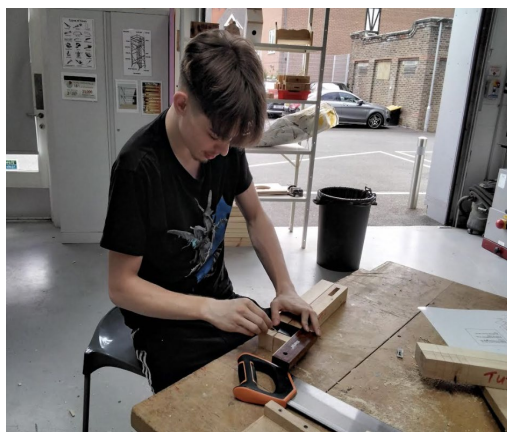
## English

What a busy term it has been! I am so proud of the stupendous efforts from students who worked so hard to complete their planning and to finish all their functional skills speaking and listening assessments. We have had some outstanding results with so many of the cohort achieving their set targets for the year and gaining Level 1 and Level 2 functional skills qualifications. It has been fantastic working with you all. For my leavers - I know there were times when the work felt endless but look what you have achieved! Now



## Carpentry and Electrical photos

In Construction our students have been improving hard skills like measuring and cutting a variety of materials, such as brick, block, wood, and electrical cables and also assembling them with accessories. Soft skills get developed alongside this such as teamwork, communication, problem solving, maths and being safety conscious by learning how to use hand tools, power tools and machinery safely.



## Sports Day

Sports Day 2025 was a blast as we saw fleet-footed sprinters, endurance middle distance runners, prolific jumpers and incredible throwers in action! It was a great pleasure to see the Beckmead Trust showcasing the talents of **Tharreo House, Beckmead Park, Chaffinch** and **Beckmead College** who all participated.

There were outstanding performances from Giovanni Santana, Owen Ehi-isiwele and Luke Collins from Beckmead College and Shamai Abrams from Chaffinch. Zephaniah Goddard-Boakye, Shamai Abrams, Keneil Matthews and Baileigh Lee ran incredibly well in the short sprints. From our female students we had a magnificent run from Giselle Wallder-Towersey, Monica Dogui and Syria Hazel. The field events saw exciting performances across the board. Zephaniah proved that he could compete against national youth in his age group with a 1.70 metres high jump leap and Baileigh Lee was very competitive also with a 1.55 metres jump. Jose McCarthy took the American Football throw competition and Zephaniah took the long jump, shot put and javelin.

The 800 metres was won by Reon Nelson-Palmer from Chaffinch and Owen brought victory for Beckmead College with a 1500 metres victory. Thanks to the athletes, staff members who worked as officials and the other supporting staff who helped to make it such an exciting day.



## Artwork from Rasharne Springer

Rasharne Springer studied the work of London based graffiti artist, 'Mr Cenz' as part of his Bronze Arts Award Qualification. This piece of work is inspired by him and uses spray painting with masking and stencilling techniques.



## Edible Gardens

6 students from year 10; Lakai, Kai, Myles, Aston, Luke and Kieran were given the exciting opportunity to attend an Edible Garden workshop at Grangewood Park where they were introduced to a variety of plants and fruits that are edible and learned how growing your own food has both health and financial benefits.



The organisers Ella Philips and Daryl Gadzekpo are volunteers working on the edible gardens as a community space by securing funding with various organisations which in turn gives schools in the area the opportunity to complete a student workshop. We were delighted that they came into college to run an assembly, introducing themselves to the Year 10s and preparing them for their visit.

The students participated by eating a variety of the fruits that were growing in the space, such as gooseberries, raspberries, strawberries and they even familiarised themselves with certain plants such as Woolly lambs ear and Pineapple sage - which does actually smell of pineapples! Students gladly explored and enjoyed learning about the various plants as well as helping to water crops and plant seeds.

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## September arrangements

Monday 1st September 2025 - **Inset Day for staff**

Tuesday 2nd September 2025 - **Inset Day for staff**

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - **Academic Review Day for parents and carers**

Thursday 4th September 2025 - **Academic Review Day for parents and carers**

Friday 5th September 2025 - **Y10 and Y11 students start back at school**

Monday 8th September 2025 - **Y12 and Y13 students start back at school**