

# Beckmead College

## Spring Term Newsletter 2025

March/April



Phone number: 020 8289 4701 - Email: [CollegeOffice@beckmeadtrust.org](mailto:CollegeOffice@beckmeadtrust.org)  
[www.beckmeadtrust.org/College](http://www.beckmeadtrust.org/College) - Tennison Road, South Norwood SE25 5RR



### Science Department

This year's theme for British Science Week was 'Change and Adapt'. Beckmead young scientists enthusiastically discovered various life cycles using quadrats and transects in the school garden. They looked into Global Warming and Climate change and chemical change performing intriguing chemical reactions in the Beckmead laboratory. We discussed how we can adapt to changes via conservation programs and watched some brilliant livestreams from UCL. We also had Data Science visitors from EVERI and explored STEM careers.

### Employer Brunch

This term we hosted an employer brunch that focused on highlighting the benefits of business owners becoming more inclusive of students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The event was a great success, showcasing the capabilities and skills of our fantastic young people and demonstrating how integrating them into the workforce can enhance an organisation's innovation, productivity, and overall culture. We were honoured to hear keynote addresses from prominent councillors and advocates who shared valuable insights on the positive impact of inclusive employment practices.



### Dallaglio Rugby Works Intervention Programme

This term Dallaglio Rugby Works have been delivering some fantastic employability intervention workshops for our KS5 students. The sessions have been focused on CV writing, presentation skills and interview techniques. They also connected our students with external employers and further training organisations.

### Home Cooking Skills

Year 11 students have been completing their final assessment for BTEC Level 1 Home Cooking Skills award. All are working really hard, and we are confident that they will pass. Here is Joshua's delicious steak with mushroom sauce.

I can confirm it was magnificent, well done Josh!



## John Hajdu MBE holocaust survivor

To ensure that we honour the memory of those whose lives were lost and take forward the lessons taught by those who survived, students heard testimony from Holocaust survivor, John Hadju MBE as part of a visit organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). The testimony was followed by a question and answer session to enable students to better understand the nature of the Holocaust and to explore its lessons in more depth. It was a privilege for us to welcome John Hadju MBE to our school and his testimony will remain a powerful reminder of the horrors so many experienced.

We are grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for co-ordinating the visit and we hope that by hearing John's testimony, it will have encouraged our students to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust and make a positive difference in their own lives. John's story is one of tremendous courage during horrific circumstances and by hearing his testimony, students had the opportunity to learn where prejudice and racism can ultimately lead. This visit also reminds us of our own responsibility to support each other regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation etc. We are an inclusive space and want all staff and students to feel safe to be who they are. Tolerance and community are values we are proud to promote.



## Reaching Higher Assembly

The Reaching Higher organisation delivered a fantastic KS4 assembly that included activities designed to help students unlock their potential. The team at RH also encouraged them to explore their passions and make a difference in their community.



## Ashdon Jazz Academy

Ashdon Jazz Academy had set up a girls group in the college to lead a Stronger Minds workshop scheduled for three sessions. They looked into improving self-esteem, managing emotions, and relationships. They meet every two weeks on a Monday.

**Ashdon Jazz Academy is a registered charity dedicated to the emotional wellbeing of young women aged 11- 21.**

The Stronger minds project aims to support the mental health of young people aged between 11 and 24. The content of this resource was informed by a review of research into psychological and mental health resilience and a series of consultation events

The programme covers the following topics:

- Motivation**
- Relationships**
- Faith, Religion & Spirituality**
- Managing Emotions**

This programme is intended to be preventative. It is not intended as a treatment for any mental health condition, although people who are managing a mental health condition may, like anyone else, benefit from learning about ways to support their wellbeing

In collaboration with the Resilience Foundry, we have received National Lottery Funding to provide wellbeing workshops that introduce techniques to improve emotional resilience.

**Session Time: 45-60 min**

  

## Athletics Department

Beckmead College put on Series 1 & 2 of the Interhouse Indoor Athletics competition at Crystal Palace in January and March. We saw some quality performances from our athletes that would rank the boys very highly in the UKA ranking, especially in the first meet! It was a closely contested 60m dash, with Owen prevailing in a lightning 7.11. Zeph got sweet revenge comfortably soaring to victory in the high jump with a towering clearance of 1.78m. Charlie also threw 12.09 metres for the shot put, Giovanni achieved 5.65 metres in the long jump and Zeph jumped to 1.65 metres in the high jump.

The second meet had Owen dominating the 60m in 7.36 seconds. Zeph and Baleigh went Head-to-head in the high jump both clearing 1.65 metres. Zeph took the shot put in 11.20 metres and Giovanni took the long jump in 5.54 metres. The other boys were very competitive, and we look forward to the next series, sports day and the Lee Valley Cup, which are all coming up within the next couple of months. Our boys don't just have talent, they also displayed excellent sporting attitudes.

Congratulations to all our young athletes for their progression and achievement.



## The Amy Winehouse foundation

The foundation visited the college twice in February to deliver a talk about resilience and consequences. They also delivered a workshop on the challenges and pressures young people face on a day-to-day basis, and discussed strategies they can use to cope. This was a great awareness opportunity for students to openly talk about their own pressures and have ideas raised by their peers on how to cope. Their final visit is scheduled for April 23rd as an assembly around vaping to raise awareness around the effects and the impact on health. We hope to continue links with the Amy Winehouse Foundation.



## Revision sessions during the holidays

Please note there will be Maths and English GCSE revision sessions taking place at the Tennison Road site on Monday 7th April. Year 11 GCSE students are welcome to attend. Please speak to Andrew Johnson or Sam Rose to arrange this.

Session 1: 10am-11:30am - Session 2: 12-1.30pm

## Youth Leaders

The Youth Leaders have been dedicated in providing a voice for all the students in the college by holding class meetings every two weeks. The class meetings are to give each student a voice by voting on an issue that has been raised. The Youth Leaders then act on the issue and if needed make changes.



## Art Department

Our Art students here at the college have been producing some amazing work in the run up to their exams. As part of his Silver Arts Award course, Zen has produced this set of linocut prints based on a symbol from anime.

## Careers

Charlie worked at our careers fair which was a huge success and was attended by many local employers. This gave our students a chance to showcase their skills in public speaking. We are also delighted to announce that Charlie has gained his CSCS card which enables him to work on any construction site. Well done Charlie!



## Mind Apples

An organisation called Mindapples that specialises in wellbeing awareness and positive emotional health came to deliver an assembly on 'Feed the Mind' looking at how to improve overall wellbeing and to discuss with the students what wellbeing truly means. Students were engaged and interactive and wrote on a Mind Apple card what they do to improve their own wellbeing. Their contributions are on our Mindapples tree in the reception area.

## Maths Department

Students have been making excellent progress this term. This year we are proud to have some very capable students in year 10 who will be sitting the Maths Foundation GCSE exam. A year early! We also have one student taking the Maths Higher GCSE exam. What a great achievement! We have been revising and completing exam style questions to prepare them, and students feel confident for the GCSE exams in May.

## English Department

All pupils have been working towards their exams which took place on Monday 31st March. Some have completed a range of fantastic transactional writing pieces specifically using persuasive techniques, complex sentences and cohesion in their paragraphs (in preparation for their writing exams). Others have been working on language analysis and comparing texts ready for their reading exams. I am so proud of them all and the mature attitude they have displayed throughout this term.

## Academic Review Day

On Tuesday 22nd April from 9.30am to 2.30pm, we are holding our second Academic Review Day at the Tension Road site. Parents and carers are invited to accompany their child to the event which provides an opportunity to discuss their Spring Term Report with your child's class team and subject teachers. Your child's Spring Term Report will be available to be collected on the day. You are welcome to attend anytime between 9.30am-12pm and 1pm-2.30pm, no appointment is required. A letter with these details has been sent out, please confirm your attendance by scanning the QR code at the bottom of the letter and completing the brief questionnaire or contacting the class team.

Aside from meeting the teachers, The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) will also be available offering advice on employment and benefits. In addition to this, they will also be running a workshop at 10am on Employability Skills. In the afternoon Mindapples, a mental health charity, will be on-site running a workshop about supporting mental health at 1pm.