Beckmead College

Winter Newsletter 2025

November/December

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A Message from the Executive Headteacher

As we reach the end of a busy and productive autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress our school community has made. It has been a truly **excellent term**, filled with energy, growth and high standards.

Hard Work and Dedication

Our students have consistently impressed me with their commitment to their studies. Whether in the classroom or during independent study, the level of focus across all year groups has been exemplary. It is wonderful to see so many young people taking such pride in their academic journey.

Honoring James Cook & Arindella Allen

One of the highlights of this term was the privilege of honoring two remarkable individuals. We were proud to unveil new memorials for **James Cook (MBE)** and **Arindella Allen**. Both served as inspirations to our community and these tributes ensure that their legacies of leadership, resilience and service continue to inspire our students for years to come.

Season's Greetings

Finally, I would like to thank our parents, carers and staff for your unwavering support. I wish you all a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. I hope the holiday break provides a well-deserved rest for our students, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in January.

Warm regards,

Work Experience

A special mention must go to our **Year 12 and Year 13 students**, who have been actively engaged in **work experience** placements this term. These opportunities are vital for bridging the gap between education and the professional world, and the feedback from employers has been fantastic. Our students have represented the school with professionalism and maturity.

Mind apples

October 8th KS4 and Year 12 students were invited for a Mindapples assembly 'Feed Your Mind' hosted by Andrea Corbett Mindapples specialise in wellbeing awareness and positive emotional health. They also came in to do a workshop with staff 25th November 'Master Your Moods which staff found very informative.

November 26th KS4 and year 12 also attended the 'Importance of Sleep' assembly hosted by Andrea Corbett. The students were informed about the benefits and importance of sleep to help with a positive mental health.

Speed Zone
Beckmead College Athletics

In the first week of October we started off the new school year with the London Schools Indoor competition at the Lee Valley Indoor Track, where they competed amongst 350 other athletes from 24 mainstream schools. The athletes were Kai Gordon-Henry, Kyro Theaker-Jones, Giovanni Santana, Kieran Francis, Myles St Ford Moylan, Kye Joseph Daay, Charlie Thompson and Deniel Hristov. They competed at a very high level and proved that they can compete amongst the best. We had excellent performances from Charlie Thompson in the Shot Put, Kai Gordon Henry in the 60 metres and High Jump, Kyro Theaker-Jones in the 200 metres and Giovanni Santana in the 60 metres hurdles. The boys enjoyed the competition and they are looking forward to the next competition.

We also have the inter-school indoor competition at Crystal Palace, which started in October with series 1 and the second series was on Friday 12 December. We have the 60 metres heats and final, Long Jump, High Jump and Shot Put. We have some classical performances so far from the pupils with the likes of Kai Gordon Henry with a time of 7.38 seconds for 60 metres, Kyro Theaker-Jones 5.20 metres in the Long Jump and 1.60 metres in the High Jump and Riley May 5.02 metres in the Long Jump.

Congratulations to all of the students/athletes for their excellent progression and achievement.

Mock exams

This term we have had our Mock GCSEs and Functional Skills exams for a lot of our year 11 students and a few year 10s. This has been a vital exercise in practising for the real thing next year and also, for the Functional Skills, a valuable first attempt for many of our students.

As we know, exams can be a daunting experience for many people and this is why it is so important that we ensure everyone has the right conditions to meet their needs. It can take some getting used to and requires a lot of concentration and self discipline, but most of our students did themselves proud with their conduct and behaviour. Well done everyone.

Celebrating Achievement: Record Rewards and Improved Behaviour Mark a Triumphant Autumn Term

The Autumn Term at Beckmead College has concluded on a high, characterised by significant improvements in overall student behaviour, the successful integration of our new cohorts and a robust rewards system that recognises outstanding commitment and effort. This term sets a strong foundation for the year ahead.

Our students participated in a diverse and impactful series of assemblies designed to foster awareness, promote well-being and inspire aspirational thinking. These events played a crucial role in reinforcing the college's ethos and supporting a positive learning environment:

- Mental Health Awareness: Students benefited from focused sessions aimed at building resilience and providing strategies for managing well-being.
- Black History Month: Assemblies celebrated the achievements and culture of the Black community, enriching historical knowledge and promoting inclusivity.
- Career Assembly: These sessions provided invaluable guidance, connecting students' current studies with future pathways and opportunities.
- Anti-Bullying Week (Power of Good): Focused on fostering a supportive community, these assemblies empowered students to be proactive in promoting kindness and intervening positively.

We are thrilled to report that the overall behaviour within the College has shown improvement this term. We particularly commend our newest students:

Both Year 10 and Year 12 cohorts have settled quickly and successfully absorbed the ethos and culture of the College. Their commitment to positive conduct has contributed significantly to the improved atmosphere across sites.

To celebrate and sustain this positive momentum, the College rewards program continues to focus on key areas essential for success: Attendance and In-Class Effort. These rewards acknowledge the consistent dedication shown by our students. The All4One Vouchers for high attendance, and recognise students' efforts and positive contributions within the classroom.

This successful Autumn Term, built on meaningful assemblies and a proactive reward structure, underscores the commitment of our students and staff to academic and personal excellence. We look forward to carrying this momentum into the Spring Term!

School Priorities

This term we have spent a long time evaluating our progress over the last year and thinking about what we want to focus on moving forward. It has been positive to reflect on all of the hard work that goes into providing the best experience possible for our students and to acknowledge the ongoing commitment, skills and motivation that is demonstrated by all of our staff, every day.

As a whole school we have shared thoughts and ideas about our practice and how we want to develop in the coming year. We collated all feedback and condensed our focus into four key areas; Improve Pupil Attendance, Develop Personalised Learning, Widen Our Links with Local Community, Increase Enrichment Opportunities.
Over the next year we will implement opportunities throughout every aspect of our practice to create space for these four priorities to flourish. We seek to consistently analyse our impact and continue to do all possible to enrich the experience of our students.

Scan Me

KS5 Art Workshop

The Art students in 12A attended a workshop at the South London Gallery. They made Japanese wall hangings (called Norens) using calico and vegetable dyes.
All of the students made the most of the experience, asking questions and working hard and the gallery staff were super-impressed!