



"OUTSTANDING!"

Putting students first is paying off in our best-ever grades and a great report from government inspectors



***** Welcome to a fantastic edition of the Buzz, illustrating what our students have been up to recently. First, I'd like to congratulate last summer's exam students, who delivered a set of record-breaking results. We're really proud of all of you.

Second, in late September, we invited an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspectorate) team into our school for two days. The team of inspectors was led by Education Consultant Tony Thornley, who is nationally recognised for his work with schools. We made the invitation because we believe that schools should open themselves up to outside scrutiny. And we wanted an independent view on the progress we are making.

We were thrilled with the outcomes of the HMI report, which you can read on our school website. Please note that we now have a new website address: www.beckfoot.org

- Here's a sample of complimentary quotes:
- 'Many aspects of the school's work are outstanding.'*
 - 'Behaviour, as seen around the building and in lessons, was outstanding.'*
 - 'Attitudes to learning are outstanding.'*
 - 'Teaching is good with some outstanding elements.'*
 - 'Capacity for improvement is outstanding.'*
 - 'Leadership and management are outstanding.'*

I could have included many more. This positive feedback has given the school a tremendous confidence boost. We have come a long way and stayed true to putting our students at the centre of all that we do – more and more of whom are achieving great things. So we push on further!

Enjoy the Buzz!
David Horn
Headteacher

YOU'RE A PARENT . . . WANT TO BE A GOVERNOR?

There are currently vacancies on our Governing Body for Parent Governors. If you are interested, you can nominate yourself, or another parent with their permission. The term of office is normally four years. A job description outlining your responsibilities is available from Helen Christmas-Willan at the school. You can also download a copy from the Parent Information page of our website. In the first instance, please complete and sign the nomination form overleaf. Should we receive several nominations, a ballot will be held.

NEWS

BEARS, FROGS, CHICKENS, DUCKS, PIRANHAS/YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS/BREATHTAKING LAKES TRIP/GOVERNOR NOMINATION FORM

BEARS, FROGS, CHICKENS, DUCKS, PIRANHAS – IT CAN ONLY BE . . .



It was a beautiful sunny day when Year 7 students set off for the island of Nellbania (spelt Ilkley). Our mission? To feed the almost extinct Great Nellbanian Brown Bear and equally rare Wide Mouthed Green Frog with colourful, high-energy food pellets.

After crash landing, we had to exit the plane via the safety chute, avoid the forest of toxic trees and other dangerous obstacles on this dark, mysterious island. Next, climb the Great Nellbanian mountain range, carrying a baguette, a chicken and water. Finally, cross the piranha-infested pink custard lake.

Our surprise landing had frightened the local wildlife and we had to rescue the local ducks who had sought refuge inside the rare and beautiful 'greyus drainpipeus' plant.

Trust and team working led to a successful conclusion. We fed the bear and frog, no-one fell victim to the toxic trees, everyone survived the pink custard lake, the ducks were rescued and the chicken crossed the mountain road safely. Our journey home was far less eventful and several students even managed a post-Nell Bank nap.



Breathtaking Lakes trip



In September, a group of 76 Geography students enjoyed all that Grasmere in the Lake District had to offer – fells, gingerbread, Wordsworth and, naturally, the rain.

Students collected valuable data for their assessment, due at the end of October, which counts for 25% of their final grade. Our dedicated bunch worked hard from 8am till 6pm, completing land-use maps, environmental research and footpath erosion surveys.

Students also hiked 550m up to Easedale Tarn to see first-hand the effects of glaciation, uttering gasps of "wow" as the literally breathtaking lake came into view.

Young Firefighters' passing out parade



In the summer term, our Year 11 Young Firefighters and their families were invited to attend a graduation ceremony at the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service HQ in Birkenshaw.

The event, staged in exactly the same way as for real trainee firefighters, was attended by the Chief Fire Officer and other high-ranking dignitaries.

Beckfoot were first to display their skills, making a fantastic entrance in fire engines with sirens blaring and blue lights flashing. The Young Firefighters put on breathing apparatus to perform a rescue from a smoke-filled house and connected up the hoses, soaking all in their path. They then jumped back into the fire engines and did a slow drive past the stand to the applause of the appreciative audience.

At the end of all the displays, the firefighters marched on to the parade ground to be greeted individually by the Chief Fire Officer.

Our students were great ambassadors for the school and all achieved a BTEC Level 2 in Fire and Rescue in the Community, equivalent to a Grade B GCSE.

Finally, to the firefighter tutors - an amazing bunch of guys - thank you for passing on your skills and knowledge to our young people.

Our Beckfoot Firefighters:

Nathan Blake, Rachel Convery, Matty Finch, Steve Hudson, Paul Kelly-Lofts, Shabaa Khan, Steph Mehan, Kasim Mir, Shaunna Mulley, Hasan Rakha, Hannah Thompson, Josh Thompson.



Parent Governor Nomination Form

I wish to nominate

as a Parent Governor (please print name)

Signed

Parent/Guardian of

Tutor Group

Please return to:

Mr John Winkley, Chair of Governors
Beckfoot School, Wagon Lane, Bingley
Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD16 1EE
by Friday 4 November 2011

NEWS

ENRICHMENT WEEK

BEST EVER ENRICHMENT WEEK

Our new school building hosted Enrichment Week 2011; students and staff said it was our most successful yet, despite a downpour on the first day. Years 8 and 9 chose from over 20 activities, while Year 10 opted for a residential or non-residential camp trip. We are expanding the programme next year; keep an eye out for the booklets in early November.

Read now what our students got up to . . .

Colourful impressions of Paris



A group of 25 Art students set off to Paris, laden with watercolour sketchbooks and crayons. Our journey was filled with excitement and anticipation of the wonderful things we would do in the French capital over the four days. We visited the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Tuileries Gardens, Paris Plage (beaches, pools and other attractions built along the banks of the Seine) and took a night-time boat trip along the river. Highlight of the trip was our visit to Monet's garden in Giverny. The sun shone making the natural colours come alive and giving us the perfect opportunity to sketch as the great Impressionist himself did.

Zippering along to Kielder



The motto of Calvert Trust Kielder, which challenges disability through outdoor adventure, is 'forget your wheelchair'. Once you've visited the centre you realise what is meant. This was our third visit to the Trust's woodland site in the Kielder Water and Forest Park. We took eight students, including five who use wheelchairs and everybody did the same activities, including canoeing, sailing, geocaching and hurtling down the dreaded zip-wire, at speed, 20 feet above ground. One of the students summed up for all when he said, with a smile on his face: "I never in my life thought I would do that!"

Re-cycling mechanics



Eight students chose to complete the Build-a-Bike workshop, where over the course of the four days the students made a fully-functioning mountain bike. There were some technical difficulties sorting out the challenging braking and gearing systems but all managed to complete the build with enough time to spare for some high quality cycling around the school.

Joseph musical goes like a dream



On the first morning of Enrichment Week, 25 young actors gathered to put on a show of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in just three days. The fear in the air from Mr Simpson and Ms Golding was tangible. Astonishingly, by lunchtime, we had cast the play and rehearsed the first two songs. The hard work continued and by Wednesday we were all proud of the show we had created. On Thursday afternoon, we played to a packed house of students from Hazelbeck School and from our feeder primary schools. Everyone performed to their best with Asher Nutting 809 as Joseph and Charlotte Wetherall 905 as narrator. Performing the show in such a short time was an amazing dream that became a fantastic reality!

Scouting for boys and girls



More than 80 Year 10 students ventured to the Hesley Wood Scout site at Sheffield for some... survival skills, crate stacking, wall climbing, navigating a pitch black 3D maze, orienteering, shelter building, bush crafting, buggy building, aerial zip-wiring, barbecuing, camp fire chanting and, of course, sleeping outdoors. Students and staff had a fantastic week and survived without even getting wet!



Beauty activities go down a bomb

Health and Beauty students enjoyed making their own glittery bath bombs, and decorating gift boxes, along with doing hair care sessions, dancing the Zumba and visiting the Lush cosmetics store in Leeds.



SPORTS NEWS . . .

SPORTS AWARDS



Attended by Danny our Champion of the Football World

Our annual Sports Awards evening was the first event to be held in our new school. The VIP guest was our very own Danny Ward, currently a professional footballer with Huddersfield Town. Danny left Beckfoot in 2007 to take up a professional contract with Premiership side Bolton Wanderers and has since been on loan to Swindon Town and Coventry City. We wish Danny the best of luck with his football career and hope he returns to visit us soon.

Over 75 students were congratulated for their sporting efforts and achievements on the night and our special awards winners were:

Team of the Year: U14 Basketball
Head of PE: Sam Forster
Sports Personality: Usama Mujtaba

DIARY DATES

Friday 21 October

2.45pm: School closes for half term

Monday 31 October

8.30am: School re-opens

Tuesday 1 November

Student Self Review Day - Years 7, 8 and 9
 Wider Learning Day - Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

Tuesday 8 November

4-6.30pm: Year 13 Consultation Evening

Tuesday 15 November

4-7pm: Year 11 Consultation Evening

Thursday 24 November

6-8pm: Ski trip meeting for parents

Thursday 1 December

6.45pm: Fairtrade Evening

Tuesday 13 December

6.45pm: Christmas Concert

Wednesday 14 December

6.45pm: Christmas Concert

Friday 16 December

2.45pm: School closes for Christmas

2012

Tuesday 3 January

School closed: staff training day

Wednesday 4 January

8.30am: School re-opens

Marks, set, go for another record breaking Sports Day



Sports Day took place on 7 June at the Princess Mary Stadium, Cleckheaton. We had a fantastic turnout and students excelled, not only in their performances but in their attitude, enthusiasm and support for one another.

Records once again tumbled with the following athletes setting new times and distances:

Year 7

Anna Redmond – Discus: 13.10m; Louis Ogol – 200m: 29.00s

Year 8

Katie Bennett – 200m: 30.53s; Jake Coulter – 400m: 1 min 7s

Year 9

Lily Dooks – 800m: 2min 41.87s; 80m Hurdles: 13.72s

Athletes of the Year awards, based on achievement and sportsmanship:

Year 7 – Ben Davis and Isabel Holmes; Year 8 – Jake Coulter and Jestina Deane

Year 9 – Oscar Hickson and Lucia Sherlock

Team results:

1st – Camelot 514 points; Joint 2nd – Excalibur and Merlin 494; 4th – Avalon 426; 5th – Lancelot 392

Well done to all who took part and we hope to see you participating next year.



OWZAT! BILL PICKS UP TOP CRICKET CROWN

Congratulations to Bill Livingstone for his cricketing achievements with Saltaire Cricket Club, Bradford Inner City Taverners and Bradford Schools, and his award of Best Junior Wicketkeeper in the Bradford League 2011.

End-to-end football ends well

Our Year 11 football team played Hanson School in the first round of the English Schools Football Cup. Within 15 seconds of the start, Beckfoot were 1-0 down... but their heads did not go down and Abdul Hakimy finished off a brilliant team effort to equalise. Beckfoot, despite being the better team, could not capitalise on their chances and just before half time Hanson went 2-1 up. Alex Wood (Captain) put in a mammoth performance in defence and within five minutes Beckfoot scored twice to lead 3-2. Victory seemed assured only for Hanson to level the match, which then went into extra time. Within a minute of the restart, Abdul Hakimy claimed his hat-trick, and Jayden Richards rapidly scored again. Beckfoot ended up winning the nail-biting encounter 5-3. Phew!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Debating Matters – no it doesn't, yes it does...

The Leeds/Bradford qualifying round for Debating Matters will be held in school on Monday 7 November. We have been drawn against Harrogate Grammar, Woodhouse Grove and Allerton High.

Topics and timetable:

4.45pm: 'It is irresponsible to offer IVF to women in their 50s.'

Beckfoot will be arguing against the motion, against Allerton High.

5.55pm: 'The British press requires tougher regulation.'

Harrogate Grammar will be arguing for the motion against Woodhouse Grove.

Final, 7.25pm: 'Supermarkets are bad for local communities.'

If Beckfoot makes the final we will be arguing for the motion.

Good luck to our debating team.

We Will Rock You – looking for rockers soon...

We are proud to announce that our next whole-school production will be We Will Rock You and will be staged at Beckfoot in October 2012. Plans are well underway and auditions will be held later this term - watch this space!

Sounds of Summer...

What would the first concert in our new school hall be like? The Summer Serenade Concert gave our younger students the chance to showcase their talents, while our older ones are on study leave. Our Samba Band were first to test out the acoustics in the new hall and did their best to loosen the roof tiles. They were followed by solo singers, trumpeters, flautists, guitar duets, pianists and trombonists. Groovetubes, with Miss Challoner leading Harmony for the final time on English soil, played in preparation for their Belgian tour and brought our premier concert to a fantastic close. The acoustics are wonderful, and we know the new hall will be a sound friend to the Music Department in the coming years.

Musicians are Belgium-bound



We squeezed 10 staff, 80 students and all our musical equipment into two coaches and set off to Belgium for our third bi-annual foreign tour. Over the three action-packed days, we mixed social activities with high profile concerts.

Our first performance took us to the seaside and a huge stage in Ostend to entertain a lunchtime crowd, before travelling to Bruges in the afternoon.

The next day, we went to see the Atomium exhibition centre in Brussels then headed to the Ghent Festival, Europe's largest open air music event.

Our ensembles did themselves proud, playing confidently alongside many professional groups. In the evening, our students excelled themselves at the most exciting concert of the tour in the Belgian capital, Brussels.

On our final day, we ventured to the Bobbejaanland Theme Park for some fantastic rides, where a few of us got a little wetter than we would have liked.

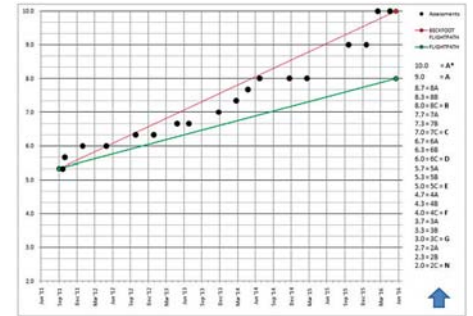
We returned home tired, proud and with many happy memories. A huge thank you to all staff involved – taking 80 students on tour is a fantastic achievement. Look out for our next tour abroad in 2013.



TOP TIP: EAT HEALTHILY AND HAVE A Wii

Summer term's Healthy Rewards prizes go to Zara Javed, Elliot Jordan and Jamie Parker. Congratulations to our healthy trio, who through eating wisely at break and lunch, scooped a Nintendo Wii, iPod nano and iPod shuffle.

BECKFOOT FLIGHTPATH TAKES OFF



Students can now track their own progress

Just launched, Beckfoot Flightpath allows students to record their test and assessment scores against their target grades to ensure they are making good progress in all their subjects.

Flightpath includes a spreadsheet containing marks and targets, as well as a graph visually tracking progress in each subject. Students will be able to update their Flightpath during tutor time and reflect on their performance in lessons.

Parents will soon receive information about Flightpath, so they can help support their child.

Years 7 to 9 students seem to love it . . . on the whole:

"I like it because no one else has it in any other schools in England."

"It's good because if you do well the teachers can give you a red Beckfoot line."

"I'm a bit worried about it because if you are not trying hard and being a bit lazy your tutor and learning leader will know!"

"I can't wait to use it as I can see how it will help me."

Following shortly will be the Attendance Flightpath and Positive Behaviour Flightpath. For more details on all our Flightpaths, please contact Miss Smith (email bectss@bec.bradford.sch.uk) or Miss Hudson (email becslh@bec.bradford.sch.uk).



NEWS

DUKE OF EDINBURGH HARD WORK, LAUGHS AND FULFILMENT/LEARNING ABOUT WORKING LIFE/FUNDRAISING FOR UGANDA/BAND AT ROBERTS PARK

> DUKE OF EDINBURGH: A 'TENTS' WEEK OF HARD WORK, LAUGHS AND FULFILMENT

Report by Elliott Higgins and Umair Qureshi

Doing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition wasn't easy but it was a great chance to develop our skills and enjoy ourselves as we worked as a team.

We started with training at the beginning of the week. We planned our routes and checked our equipment. However, when we arrived at the first campsite we already had problems as one group had forgotten their tent! Luckily a 'spare' arrived and the group members escaped sleeping in a field in the cold and rain.

Trekking through Burley Moor on our training days was tiring. We also got lost quite a few times, which didn't make life easy but we did complete the trek. We returned back to Bingley feeling exhausted but ready for the next adventure.



For the final expedition on the Wednesday and Thursday, we walked through the picturesque scenery of the Wharfe Valley. The route was really enjoyable but on arrival at the campsite the weather took a turn for the worse as torrential rain began to fall. Although it soon looked as though some of our tents were floating, our spirits were not dampened.

FOOD! We all began to appreciate food because when you are walking all day you get so hungry even grass can look delectable. Walking through Ilkley with its fish and chip shops, and cafes definitely didn't help.

All in all the week was a success and one to remember. The expedition team would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Keeler, Mrs Ratahi and Mr Holroyd for making the trip possible.



Learning about working life

Our Work Experience placements in July were a resounding success. Architects, mechanics, caterers and web designers were among the vast variety of businesses that kindly offered week-long placements to our students. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the employers who continue to support us.

Students learned much about the world of work... some confirmed their future career, some developed their aspirations, others learned their chosen route was perhaps not for them.



Crucially, all gained valuable life skills that will stay with them for life – about being independent, working with people and taking responsibility.

Thanks Year 11, you should be very proud of what you achieved.

Could you provide a placement?

If you feel you could offer work experience to one of our students, please get in touch with Lisa Bain, Work Experience Administrator: (email beclbb@bec.bradford.sch.uk).



Fundraising starts for Uganda expedition

Report by Lottie Roberts

Next year, a team of 19 Beckfoot students is going to Uganda for our fifth overseas expedition with Wilderness Expertise. We are taking on this massive challenge, with the hope that a month spent in Africa will be an exceptional experience for us all.

As the deadlines and expedition date approach, the prospect of the trip is becoming more real and even more exciting. We will be trekking, exploring the country and doing community work in disadvantaged areas.

Although the month abroad is going to be challenging, the hard work has already begun as fundraising has started. We have all been organising individual events, as well as group efforts, such as at the Saltaire Festival, where we ran a stall and attempted to do face painting and games in the rain.



We would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far with fundraising; there will be more opportunities to

get involved over the next few months. Watch out for forthcoming events on the noticeboard in the atrium.

Band stands the rain at Roberts Park

When you think of an English summer, you think of bands playing in the park beneath a brilliant sun. This was certainly our idea when we were offered the chance to perform at Saltaire's Roberts Park Bandstand in June.

When we arrived it was clear (so to speak) this wasn't going to be the glorious day we had hoped for. We had pegs at the ready to keep the music on the stands. What we hadn't brought were ropes to hold down the stands. Our students, professional as ever, played for an hour despite the wind and rain, in front of a large, appreciative and encouraging audience.

We hope to be back at Roberts Park next year, let's hope the weather is kinder to us next time.