



17th October 2011

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PARENT/CARERS EVENTS

20th October Yr11 Consultation Evening
17th Nov Annual Celebration Evening
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23rd Feb KS4 Options Evening
1st March 2012 Yr 10 Consultation Evening
29th March Yr 11 Progress Check Evening
26th April Yr 7 Consultation Evening
3rd July Yr 6 Induction Evening

TERM DATES 2011/2012

Friday 21st October
School closes for October Half Term
Monday 31st October
School re-opens to students
Friday 16th December
Close for Christmas
Tuesday 3rd January
School re-opens to students
Friday 10th February
School closes for half term
Tuesday 21st February
School re-opens to students
Friday 30th March
School closes for Spring Break
Tuesday 17th April
School re-opens to students
Monday 7th May
School closed for May Day
Friday 1st June
School closed for half term
Monday 11th June
School re-opens to students
Thursday 19th July
School closes for summer

INSET DAYS

Monday 20th February 2012
Monday 16th April 2012
Friday 29th June 2012

Headteacher's News

Dear Parent/Carer

Our Gifted & Talented Event for Parents/Carers took place on Tuesday evening and I know that Mr Molloy (G&T Co-ordinator), Mr Iddon (KS4 Learning Manager) and Senior staff were delighted at the response of students and parents. Other special events will take place throughout the year.

Year 11 Consultation Evening—Thursday 20th October

Just a reminder that letters should have been received with the details of Thursday Evening. In addition to information about student work and progress, grade cards will also be issued on the night as well as invitation letters to The Bankfield Ball next June. We look forward to seeing you there.

Half Term

A busy half term has come to a speedy end and school will close on **Friday 21st October** at 2.50pm. School will open on **Monday 31st October** at 8.50am to staff and students and I hope everyone will have an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Owen

Headteacher

European Day of Languages

On **Monday 26th September**, Year 7 students celebrated the European Day of Languages. A huge number of them entered a competition to design a t-shirt which would encourage people to learn languages. There were some fantastic entries which made it very difficult for Miss Esposito to choose a winner; so she chose two!!



The winning entries were designed by **Cheryl-Lee Scheepers (7BH)** and **Katy Barber (7FJ)**. Their prize is to have their design put onto t-shirts. There were lots of runners-up too who have won pens and badges;

Joseph Scott 7FJ, Shannon Swain 7BH, Jordan Robinson 7FJ, Courtney McDonald 7WL, Autumn Tupshafski 7FJ, Georgia Brown 7BH, Kyle Jackson 7PK, Nathan Filkins 7FJ, Chantelle Stewart 7BH, Eden Vaughan 7FJ, Amy Stephens 7JL and Morgan Chesters 7FJ.

Congratulations to those students and well done to everyone who entered the competition.

Ms C Halcrow (Subject Leader – Modern Languages)



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Silver



Attendance Matters at The Bankfield School

As we near the end of our first Term at school, it is important to stress the need for students to maximise their attendance at school. The Bankfield School is committed to maximising the potential of every child and good attendance and punctuality are essential to this aim. Students who attend regularly make better progress in all their subjects and are able to make the most of the opportunities on offer outside the classroom. Any absence from school results in students missing out on their education, which can lead to students losing out on their predicted grades. Last year, the 20 highest achievers at GCSE who gained the best 5 A* - C grades, including English and Maths had an average attendance of **97.5%** for the year.

Our Attendance Team (Mr Rice – Key Stage 3 and Miss Thompson – Key Stage 4) constantly monitor student attendance in order to reduce student absence. Absence for any reason interrupts the continuity of learning, disrupts the educational progress of students and must be minimised.

Holidays in Term Time

At Bankfield, we fully endorse the Law which requires parents/carers to send their child to school unless there is a good reason. Parents/carers are not automatically entitled to take their child out of school on holiday, however, the Head teacher has the discretion to approve holidays in exceptional circumstances providing certain criteria are met. The Education (Schools and Further Education) Regulations 1981 gives schools the discretionary power to grant leave for the purpose of an annual holiday during term time. The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 clarifies that the granting of a term time holiday (of up to ten days) is subject to the 'special circumstances' of the request. Requests for holidays in term time exceeding ten days are only to be granted in these circumstances. When a student is taken out of school for the purpose of a holiday in term time without prior permission of the school, the parent/carer of the student may be issued with a £50.00 Penalty Notice per parent per child. If the notice remains unpaid after 28 days the penalty increases to £100.00. If the notice remains unpaid after 42 days the Local Authority will commence proceedings under Section 444 (1) of the 1996 Education Act in the Magistrates Court.

The School's policy on Holidays in Term Time can be found on our website and a summary of the conditions for approval of term time holidays is as follows:

- i) The Bankfield School will not routinely grant permission for holidays or extended leave to be taken in term time and discourage parents/carers making an application for term time holidays/extended leave within an academic year
- ii) The Bankfield School will only consider leave of absence for one period of absence due to holidays/extended leave within an academic year up to a maximum of ten days

The Bankfield School will not grant permission for holidays to be taken in term time during:

- ☒ Transition time when a student is settling into school
- ☒ Preparation time for examinations
- ☒ Examination periods and in the period of time surrounding course work deadline dates for Years 10 and 11

Also:

- ☒ When the student's attendance has been below 95% for the previous 38 weeks
- ☒ The student already has unauthorised absence

Punctuality Matters

For the reasons above good punctuality is also essential to ensure student preparedness for learning. They must arrive to school by 8.50 am every day. After 8.50am, the Attendance Team will register students as being late and the following procedure is in place to deal with poor punctuality:

- 1 late – Student will be recorded
- 2 lates - Parents/carers will be sent a text. Student placed in Year Detention
- 3 lates - Parents/carers contacted and warned of a possible £50 Penalty Notice
- 5 lates - Parents/carers invited to a Punctuality Surgery
- 5+ lates - Parents/carers issued with a Penalty Notice warning letter
- 10 lates - Referred to Education Welfare Team for poor attendance



Operation Christmas Child



Students of The Bankfield School are proudly supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year which aims to deliver gifts to disadvantaged children in a variety of countries in Eastern Europe and Africa. Some of these children will never have received a toy or present in their lives and our students feel it is important to let them know that they have not been forgotten and to give them a very special Christmas. Students are invited to decorate a shoebox for either a boy or girl and put appropriate items in. Any sweets/chocolates that are packed must have a sell by date past March 2012.

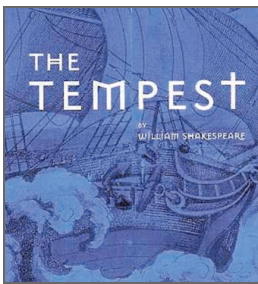


Shoeboxes can be handed in to Mr. Moss in his classroom (H16) and we are asking that they be brought to school by **Monday 14th November** to ensure that they are collected by the charity before Christmas. We are aiming to collect over 100 boxes this year.

For more information about Operation Christmas Child please visit their website <http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/OCC/> which gives full details of the operation, how to prepare a shoebox and even how to donate online and track your shoebox.

Mr Moss

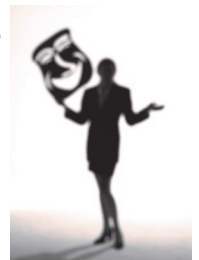
Shakespeare Schools Festival



The Bankfield School will be staging William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' at The Brindley Arts Theatre, Runcorn, on **Wednesday 2nd November 2011 at 7pm**. Tickets are priced £8/£6 (concessions) and are available from the Box Office on 0151 907 8360. The theme of this year's production will be 'dreams'.

The Shakespeare Schools Festival is an annual event and is the UK's largest Youth Drama Festival. 600 schools perform 30 minute versions of Shakespeare at 80 theatres.

This is The Bankfield's 6th production for the Festival.



Science Fact of The Week

Food can stay in your stomach for 6—8 hours!



Jade Cosgrove 8CBW

Olympic Fact of The Week

The first black athlete to compete at the Olympics was Constantin Henriquez de Zubiera, competing for France in 1900



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Walk to School Month

1st—31st October is Walk to School Month. This is a month long awareness event held in October every year where schools across the world join forces to promote walking to school. Living Streets, which run and organise the Walk to School events have approximately 2,250 schools that take part, raising awareness to over 750,000 children. Because it is in October, it is the perfect time to start new travel habits or try something new.

Taking part in the event can also meet criteria for Healthy Living and Transport Eco-Schools topics and Sustainable Schools Doorways.

Students should look out for more information in school regarding this event.



Kenya 2012

In July 2012, ten Year 11 students will be going to Kenya with Camps International Team Expedition. This is the first time that students from The Bankfield School have been involved with such a unique project.. The expedition will last for four weeks during which students will be engaged in various community projects. They will also have the opportunity to integrate with new cultures, speak new languages and gain a deeper understanding of other communities as well as having the chance to improve their leadership and team-working skills.



The expedition starts at Camp Tsavo, which is set in the middle of an 80,000 acre conservation area bordering the world famous Tsavo National Parks. Students will live in thatched buildings in a permanent camp set out like a traditional African village. They will be surrounded by Rukinga sanctuary, which inhabits more than 50 species of large mammals, including lions, cheetahs, giraffes and elephants.

In rural Kenya, around 70% of people are living below the poverty line and access to proper sanitation, clean drinking water, healthcare and an education are often limited or non-existent. Students will be involved in low-level construction of classrooms & classroom furniture, painting classrooms, constructing water tanks, teaching pupils and even making paper out of elephant dung!



Kenya has over 50 National Parks and Reserves and students will have the chance to go on working Safaris which aim to restore and protect some of Kenya's most vulnerable habitats and animals – but the students will have to get up nice and early to see the Big 5!!

Marine Conservation aims to protect marine ecosystems and will involve students in beach clean-ups. All of these projects are aimed at improving the educational standards of local people and assist in wildlife conservation, both achieving an enormous amount of developmental opportunities. In their final week, students will have the opportunity to gain the internationally recognised PADI Scuba Diving qualification.

Fundraising:

All ten students have been busy raising the necessary £30,000 to fund this expedition and are now at the half way stage! Future events will be publicised via the School's Newsletter. Those coming up include:

Friday 28th October

Tuesday 1st November

Friday 9th December

Halloween Fancy Dress Party at Our Ladies Social Club (£2 ticket price), at 7.30pm

Bags to School Collection

Kenya Fundraising Band Night at The Bankfield School at 7pm



Bags2School

The second collection of clothes, bedding & textiles will take place from **Tuesday 1st November** until **Friday 4th November**. Any donations can be brought in bin bags to C9. If dropping off by car, please drive round to the rear of the school between **3.30pm – 4.30pm** during that week; not during the school day! For more information about either Camps International or Bags2school please see the addresses www.bag2school.com or www.campsinternational.com

The Bankfield party of students are::

Ricky Nestor, Luke Gorry, Alex Lynch, Zac Littler, Katherine Plumb, Natalie Howard, Alicia Beesley, Paige Fisher, Molly O'Toole & Laura McDowell led by **Miss Flavin**. We hope you can support our fundraising activities in order to help such a worthwhile cause.

Football Match Results

The positive start to the football season continued with 2 victories, for Yr 10 and Mr Ackers' Yr 8 team maintaining their 100% record against Helsby High School. The Yr 10 team claimed a victory from the start as Helsby arrived with only 7 players. Our students took it in turns to play for their team so that a football match could take place. Our students played excellently throughout and in the right spirit, whether for The Bankfield team or for the opposition. The game finished in a fair 2-2 draw, (we claim the win though!). One member of staff from Helsby commented that in his 35 years of teaching he had never seen a school act the way our students did and in such good spirit and he did not believe that any other school in the area would act like that. He was thrilled by how pleasant and good natured our boys were and couldn't speak highly enough of them. A very proud moment for our school!



The Yr 8 team were very impressive as they overcame a strong football team with a 6-3 triumph! After a slow start the team got to grips with the game with the impressive **Andrew Williamson** holding things together at the back, **Connor Andrews** being a terrier in midfield and **Mason Campbell** scoring 3 goals. Hopefully the team can continue to improve their skills and go on to further success!!

Our Yr 7's participated in a Round Robin tournament against Helsby and showed their potential with 2 victories out of 4 in their mini games. Mr Lewis was most impressed by the talent at his disposal and is looking forward to further successes with the team.

Football Fixtures This Week

Wed 19th October

Yr 9 Bankfield vs Ormiston (H) 3.30pm

Yr 10 St Chads vs Bankfield (A) 4.00pm

Yr 11 Bankfield vs Ormiston (H) 3.30pm



Netball Fixtures This Week

Wed 19th October

Yrs 7—10 Bankfield vs St. Chads (A) 3.30pm

