

# BUZZ

WINTER 2021



**CHRISTMAS CONCERT!**



**GIVING BACK**



**CURRICULUM DAYS!**



**TEACHER FEATURE!**



**SHOUT IT OUT!**

# We've Gone Digital!

Welcome to the this year's first edition of the Buzz! You might have noticed something slightly different about this edition...we've gone paperless! The Buzz is now going to be sent out digitally to all students, staff and parents via email so that you have access to it whenever you want to read it. Doing this is going to save an incredible amount of paper and will be great for the environment. In this edition of the Buzz you'll be able to read about all the Drop Down Days we've had this term as well as a behind the scenes look at the Christmas Concert. You'll also find out about our new BSL team and how they want to help the school and you can read about some of the amazing accomplishments from our students on our Shout it Out page. Head over to Teacher Feature to read all about Miss Hammond or flip towards the back to complete our Winter-themed puzzles and enter the competition for the chance to win a Love2Shop voucher! We hope you enjoy this edition of the Buzz and we'll be back in the New Year with more content!

*The Buzz Team*

## Word from the Head

Welcome to our school magazine. I am delighted that this edition has made it to 'press' because we have missed out for so long now due to Covid. We have decided to go digital this time and I am excited that, as a result, we will get it out to so many more students and families.

As you know I love Beckfoot and I have never been prouder of what we have achieved as a community these past twenty months. Despite everything we have endured, the school feels like a great place to be because our community is dedicated to looking after one another and focussed on the things that matter and make the biggest difference to young people.

This new digital edition is very celebratory and is almost entirely focussed on students and their achievements. That is what I love most about the Buzz. This edition sets out the incredible term we've had, and I really hope you will enjoy reading it.

We have a wonderful school, full of the most incredible and interesting young people. We have so much talent here and this is just one of the many ways we try to celebrate that. Other ways include our Red-Carpet events and, last week, we celebrated over 92% of students being rewarded for their hard work and commitment to learning. That is special!

I am looking forward to the Christmas concert this week; it's been too long! But I am also excited and optimistic for 2022 and the opportunities and challenges that it will undoubtedly bring.

Have a wonderful Christmas. Be safe and happy and we will see you all in the new year!

Best wishes.

Simon



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Out**

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# Christmas Concert Rehearsals



The Creative Arts department is very busy preparing for this year's Christmas concert: Christmas Is Beck! Many students have been rehearsing all term in groups such as Groovetubes, Rock Group and Samba. Year 9 student Mia said: 'I am very excited to be performing at the Christmas concert again, especially as it was cancelled last year'. The concert will be held on the 15th and 16th December and tickets have now sold out for both nights!

By Poppy and Lara, Y9





# MEET YOUR BSL GROUP

Hi, I'm Imogen and I lead the extra-curricular BSL group with Halima. our aim is to make sure that school is enjoyable and offers enriching activities to everyone. If you want to join, please email either [bec180022@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec180022@beckfoot.org) or [bec180192@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec180192@beckfoot.org)

Hi, I'm Izzy and I run the Before and Beyond Beckfoot steering group. This year we are working on improving the year 9 options process and the June-to-June transition for all years. If anyone is interested in joining, please email [bec180174@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec180174@beckfoot.org) or [becsaw@beckfoot.org](mailto:becsaw@beckfoot.org)

Hi, I'm Poppy and I am the leader of the Mental Health Group. I would love to have some more members to help me with my ambitions for the group. The Mental Health Group is looking at creating a quiet room, running a mental health fair and more! If you are interested, please email me at [bec190142@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec190142@beckfoot.org)

Hi I'm Naffie and I run the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group. If you are interested in getting involved please email me at [bec190323@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec190323@beckfoot.org)

Hi, I am Adam and I am the Charity Lead with Miss Shaw. We work on events in School such as Children In Need and Bringing Christmas To Care Homes. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [bec190205@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec190205@beckfoot.org)



Hi I'm Alekss and I lead the Tutor Time BSL Group. We want to quality assure tutor time to make sure the time is used productively and We will use focus groups and student surveys to determine what KS3 and KS4 believe could be improved. We will also form a SPA PSHCE debate club during break and/or lunch for people to debate PSHCE topics that they feel passionate about. If you are interested in getting involved please email me at [bec170032@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec170032@beckfoot.org)

Hi, I'm Halima and I lead the extra-curricular BSL group with Imogen. our aim is to make sure that school is enjoyable and offers enriching activities to everyone . If you want to join, please email either [bec180022@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec180022@beckfoot.org) or [bec180192@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec180192@beckfoot.org)

Hi my name is Mia. My group is the Disability Awareness group, If you want to join then my email is [bec190090@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec190090@beckfoot.org)

Hi my name is Erin. I am the student leader for Eco Group and if you would like to join, my email address is [bec170162@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec170162@beckfoot.org)

Hi, I'm Amy and I lead the *Our School*/group at Beckfoot. The group is focusing on improving the accessibility to water fountains for all and improving the school meal options and making sure all food and healthy eating programmes are advertised in the atrium as well as much more. If you have any questions or are interested in getting involved, please contact me at [bec200048@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec200048@beckfoot.org)

Hi I'm Eden and I run the PLS (positive learning strategy) group here. We try to make sure that everyone is happy and comfortable at school - if you're interested in joining the group email [bec190082@beckfoot.org](mailto:bec190082@beckfoot.org)



# Your Mental Health Matters

A Guide to  
Self-Care



SCAN ME

Visit the Beckfoot  
website for more  
help and resources  
regarding your  
mental health

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WELLNESS PLANNER

Take time  
off social  
media

Fuel your body  
with food you  
enjoy

Spend time  
with people you  
love

Find the self-  
care routine  
that works  
for you

Engage in  
mood lifting  
exercises

Remember to  
relax and  
recharge

Set ambitious  
but attainable  
goals

No more  
negative self-  
talk!

Reflect on the  
year and all you  
have  
accomplished

## New Year Resolutions: Self-Care Edition

- Go for a walk every day
- Read a book regularly
- Try out meditation
- Practice Journaling
- Get creative
- Show Kindness
- Listen to podcasts
- Learn a new skill
- Drink 1.6 litres of water a day
- Have fun
- Rest and Relax
- Spend more time with family
- Spend more time with friends
- Find what makes you happy
- Unfollow negative social media accounts

# DROP DOWN DAYS AND TRIPS

Articles written by Maisy, Sienna, Dylan & Oliver

## Year 9 Graffiti Day

In October, we welcomed graffiti artist Mohammed Ali from Birmingham. He spent the day in the hall working with forty Year 9 students on a collaborative mural. Our students produced some of the best graffiti the visiting artist had seen in a school setting. He spoke very highly of our students and said they were a credit to us and the community. The murals will be permanently displayed in the Art department for all to see.

STEM Day stands for science, technology, engineering and maths day. This term, our Year 7s had a day off timetable to do a full day of science where they had to discover which teacher was a drugs cheat! It was an exciting insight into what Beckfoot has to offer.

Here are some quotes from the students that took part:

'I loved that it was so scientific!' - Olivia

'It was a fun, good experience.' - Zoe

'It was fun and I got to socialise with my tutor group.' - Alfie

'I liked testing all the substances to discover the drugs cheat.' - Melody

'I liked how they created an entire day just for Year 7s.' - Chloe

## Year 7 STEM Day

## Year 7 Oracy Day

The company called Talk the Talk came in to talk to the Year 7s about their transition into secondary school and the challenges that we faced. We worked in class groups and were put into groups with people we might not usually associate with. We spoke about our experience moving from primary school to secondary school along with the various challenges we were to overcome.

In November, Year 8 students spent the day taking part in various creative activities and they had such a great day! We learnt how to cook dishes from all over the world (and got to eat them too!) as well as creating art inspired by different cultures. We also got to take part in performances in the Drama department and perform musical pieces that we composed! We learnt so much and had lots of fun doing it. It was great taking a whole day to do something different and do things we wouldn't normally spend our time doing at school!

## Year 8 Creativity Day

## Year 11 Aspirations Day

On Thursday 23 September, Year 11 students took part in Aspirations Day with Revolution Hive (an external company from London). The day involved being part of sessions based on developing confidence and defining a vision, preparing students for situations and challenges they will encounter in education and life.

Seventy students from Years 11 and 13 visited Elland Road for the Autumn UK University and Apprenticeship Fair. This exciting and informative event provided them with the opportunity to speak to a multitude of universities including Russell Group, Red Brick, Specialist and Modern Universities. Students were also able to talk to some of the UK's best apprenticeship providers, HE colleges, specialist institutions, and student related organisations. The fair was for students of all abilities and its aim was to widen participation as well as cater for higher academic achievers. They came away with lots of information (and lots of freebies), along with an increased knowledge of the options available to them in the future. If any students would like to speak to the Careers Team or book an appointment with our Careers Adviser, please email [becsaw@beckfoot.org](mailto:becsaw@beckfoot.org) or call into SR4.

## University & Apprenticeship Fair

## A Level Geography Trip to Blencathra

Geography A level students enjoyed a 2 day field trip to Blencathra last month. Day 1 centred around the water and carbon cycle, with students working on how to measure rates of infiltration, interception, and surface run-off for the water cycle. Day 2 was a pilot study on the Solway Firth, where students had to create their own investigation title, data collection methods and consider ethics/risks of fieldwork, followed by work on measuring the carbon capture of trees and soil. Everyone worked incredibly hard, and well into the evening on both nights. Finally, no trip would be complete without the obligatory photo at the Beckfoot sign! (See gallery page)

What a truly special day Year 9 Humanities Wider Learning Day was! It is always a great day, focused on World War I and it was even more meaningful to actually be able to do this day on Armistice Day this year. We started the day with an army boot camp and all the students performed admirably under the orders of Mr Donlan, Mr Cooley and Miss Bannon - although some students marching left much to be desired! Coming inside to warm up, all the students continued to impress us by getting fully involved in their RE debate session around the morality of war, their Geography session around changing borders after the war, and finally their willingness to crawl through our trench recreation - even some of the teachers got involved too! Well done to all our Year 9s for a super learning day!

## Year 9 Humanities Day



# DROP DOWN DAYS AND TRIPS

## GALLERY





# Playing Our Part!



Every year, our Beckfoot students come together to raise money for Children in Need. This year, we held a bake sale and a raffle and our students were also encouraged to donate £1 and take part in a non-uniform day. The total raised was an amazing £1525.50! Adam, Y9 said: 'Thank you to the charity group and the staff who helped organise this event and to those who donated - the money will all be given to a brilliant cause.'

Jeans for Genes is a fantastic event that Beckfooters take part in every year by wearing their jeans and donating to a great cause. A big thank you to all the students and families who supported Jeans for Genes this year. The bake sale, non uniform day and Just Dance event raised a fantastic £1124. The money goes towards supporting young people and their families dealing with the effects of genetic disorders.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In October, we celebrated Black History Month. So, what is Black History Month? Black History Month celebrates the contribution of black people in history and in the UK was organised by Akyaaba Addai-Seibo, a Ghanaian analyst who worked as a coordinator of special projects for the Greater London Council and collaborated with them to get it underway. It was first celebrated in London on October 1st, 1987, when Dr Maulana Karenga from the US was invited to an event at County Hall to mark the contributions of black people throughout history. Akyaaba Addai-Seibo made a plan to recognise those who had made contributions to cultural, economic, and political life in the UK. At present, the National Curriculum is supporting the teaching of black history in UK schools. Some famous black people who have made great contributions to history include Mary Seacole, Martin Luther King Jr, Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela, and Marsha P Johnson. Some modern-day figures include Marcus Rashford MBE, Sir Lenny Henry, and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE. At Beckfoot, we celebrated Black History Month with informative stands near the LRC and a dedicated assembly.

**By Zahra, Year 8**



# Teacher Feature

## What inspired you to get into drama and teaching?

Right – two separate questions there! So I'll quickly tell you about my experience getting into performing arts. Ever since I was very, very young, I loved watching people dancing around and singing. I remember Britney Spears being on the TV and I thought: that's what I want to do. It was all because of Britney! As I grew older I did ballroom lessons, I did a lot of dancing and then my mum said to me "Sophie you can sing!" and I said "Oh, can I?!" So then I went and trained in musical theatre and went to drama school in London and I performed in the performing arts industry and that was my career for four years. I was on the TV, I did lots of stage work, lots of voice recordings and then I decided I didn't want to live in London anymore... I'm a Yorkshire girl at heart! So I moved back home and I decided I wanted to teach younger people and talk about my experiences and hopefully inspire them which is how I became a teacher.

## When you were younger, what job did you want to have when you grew up?

I wanted to be Britney Spears! Shall I tell you something really funny? I was in primary school and they did a talent competition and I said "I want to be Britney Spears". My Mum and Dad got me a costume and I learnt the whole routine to 'Oops...I did it again', all of it, and I performed it in front of the whole school and I loved it, every bit of it! So I said: "When I grow up I want to be Britney Spears!" and that's exactly what I tried to become.

## What would you do if you were invisible for a day?

I really, really, really, really love doughnuts. It's a big thing – everybody knows I love doughnuts. So if I was invisible for a day, I'd go to a doughnut factory and eat ALL of the doughnuts and dunk them in all the different flavours and just spend the whole day in the doughnut factory. That's what I'd do. Sounds weird, right?

## What is your greatest achievement?

My greatest achievement is being able to move away from home and do my own thing. Being able to do what I've always wanted to do which is perform. It's a big deal isn't it? You live your whole life with your parents or your family or your carers and then you move away and do something you want to do. The day I stepped foot into drama school was my biggest achievement because I started to live my dream.

## What is your funniest memory from secondary school?

How long have we got? I was in my Food Technology lesson, so what you call DT, and we were making a dish – I can't even remember what the dish was! We had to put something in the microwave and I put it on the wrong setting – it was something that had a milky texture I think. I pressed 'OK' and *ding!* off we went. And then all of a sudden, this smoke started appearing and I'm looking around thinking '*tut, who's done that?*' Then I realized, it was my microwave. Everybody is shouting '*Quick get out of the classroom!*' and all I can think about is what about my milk?! Everybody was laughing at me and then the fire alarm starts going off and obviously my recipe was a disaster and I did not finish my dish. I did nearly cry but looking back it's actually really funny. But yes, the fire alarm went off because of me. Oh, the shame.

## What is your favourite type of soup?

So, I'm not a soup person. However, I do like homemade soup and a relative makes curried pea soup and it's wonderful. Sounds weird right? But it's really nice and tasty. But yes that's some of the only soup I eat. Pea and ham soup is nice as well. Tasty. Healthy. Full of protein.

## What is the best thing about working at Beckfoot?

You wonderful people. It's the students. I love working with



# MISS HAMMOND

## *THE PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER TALKS BRITNEY, HER LOVE OF DOUGHNUTS AND ALMOST SETTING FIRE TO HER SCHOOL!*

BY MAISY, ZAHRA AND AYESHA

so massive I'm scared of them. But, positively, I guess they're wonderfully big and they're beautiful creatures but

they're scary. And greedy. Really greedy. They scare me. But I love that question!

## If you could swap places with any teacher, who would it be and why?

I would swap roles with Dr. Wright. Do you know why? So, he teaches Science and they do lots of experiments in Science and I love experimenting. I think using all these different chemicals and putting them all together and making explosions is great. I'm good at that by the way – making explosions! I think being a science teacher would be really fun as long as it's practical and I get to do the experiments. Although I'm not sure they'd let me in the science room after they read this interview. I am quite clumsy! I'm not allowed to use the expensive crockery at home, you'll always see me with a paper cup instead!

young people who want to be here and I love listening to your stories and seeing you all grow up. I love seeing you in Year 7 and watching you go all the way up to Sixth Form and watching you grow into the people you become. I love the atmosphere in school, I think it's great. I love the smiles and I love it when everybody talks to each other and just has a really nice time. That to me is really important. Being able to talk to each other and tell our stories to each other. The students know a lot about me which I think makes a really nice relationship

## What is your favourite thing about seagulls?

Right, listen. I'm a little bit scared of seagulls, I'm not going to lie. I went to Scarborough about 5 years ago and I had fish and chips on the front with Jessie, my bulldog, and my family. These seagulls start walking up to me and it's like they're saying '*Oh what's that you've got there then?*' '*Oh fish and chips...give us some.*' And they are HUGE. And because they're

# PUZZLE PAGE

CHRISTMAS EDITION

## WINTER WORDSEARCH

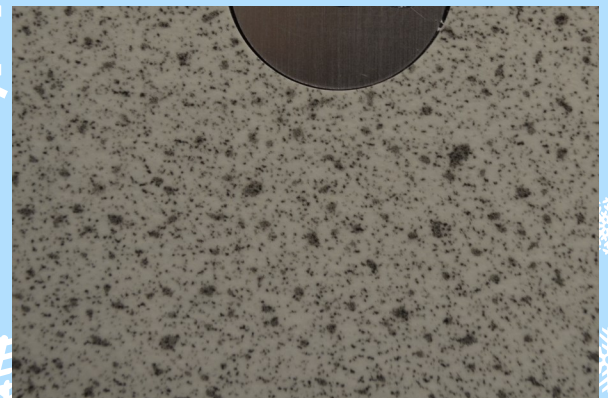
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BLIZZARD FIREPLACE HOLIDAYS PINECONE SNOWBALL  
 CHESTNUTS FREEZING ICE SKATING ROBIN SNOWMAN  
 CHILLY FROST JACK FROST SHIVERING SOUP  
 DARK GINGERBREAD MAN MITTENS SLUSH WINTER

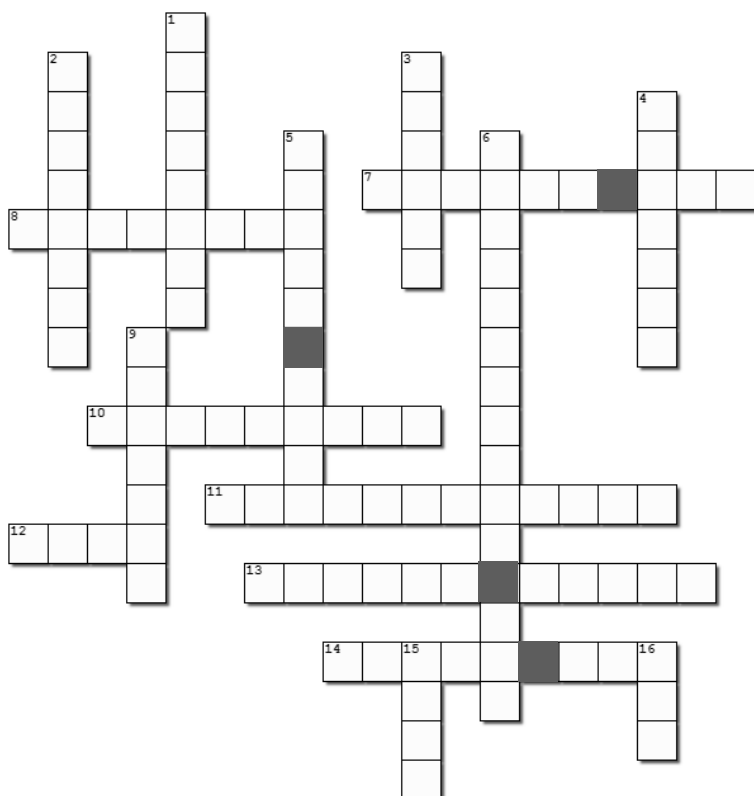
## WHERE IN THE SCHOOL?

CAN YOU GUESS FROM THE PHOTOGRAPH  
 WHEREABOUTS IN THE SCHOOL WE ARE?

EMAIL WHERE YOU THINK TO  
[BUZZTEAM@BECKFOOT.ORG](mailto:BUZZTEAM@BECKFOOT.ORG) TO BE IN WITH  
 A CHANCE OF WINNING A £10 LOVE2SHOP  
 VOUCHER!



## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



## CLUES

### ACROSS

7. DECEMBER 26TH
8. A DAY OR PERIOD OF CELEBRATION
10. WHAT PEOPLE KISS UNDER AT CHRISTMAS
11. A FAMOUS RELIGION ASSOCIATED WITH CHRISTMAS
12. THE NUMBER OF REINDEER THAT SANTA HAS
13. ONE OF THE OLDEST CAROLS STILL SUNG TODAY
14. FOOD WE LEAVE OUT FOR SANTA

### DOWN

1. AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING THAT IS SIMILAR TO A SOCK
2. WHAT WE MIGHT OPEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY
3. SONGS, OFTEN RELIGIOUS, SUNG MAINLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME
4. THIS REINDEER IS SANTA'S MOST FAMOUS ONE!
5. ANIMAL LIVING IN THE SAME PLACE AS SANTA
6. SMALL PEOPLE-LIKE FIGURES MADE OF CRUNCHY BISCUIT
9. SANTA CLIMBS DOWN THIS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
15. FRENCH WORD FOR CHRISTMAS
16. SMALL, JAUNTY CHARACTER THAT OFTEN HELP SANTA MAKE HIS PRESENTS





# SHOUT IT OUT!

Shining the spotlight on some of our fantastic students



ALANNAH, YEAR 7, COMPETED IN THE YORKSHIRE WOMEN'S ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS FOUR PIECE COMPETITION AND WON A SILVER MEDAL FOR HER FLOOR ROUTINE! WELL DONE, ALANNAH!

ANNIE, YEAR 11, ENTERED THE RDA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TWO EVENTS; SHOW JUMPING AND THE COUNTRYSIDE CHALLENGE. SHE WENT THROUGH TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE SHE WAS RANKED 1ST PLACE IN BOTH HER EVENTS, MEANING SHE IS NOW A DOUBLE NATIONAL CHAMPION!



CARTER, YEAR 8, RECENTLY COMPETED IN BARCELONA AT THE WORLD SCOOTER CHAMPIONSHIPS. HE FINISHED IN THE TOP 12 RIDERS IN THE U16 COMPETITION AND IS CURRENTLY RANKED 11TH IN THE WORLD! HOW AMAZING!

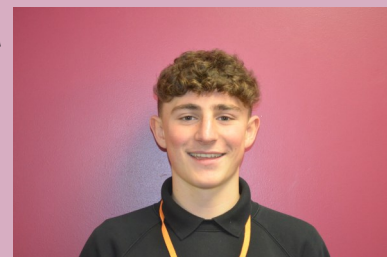


LOIS AND ALICE, YEAR 12, HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR A GERMAN EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP! CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU!



FEARNE, YEAR 9, HAS RECENTLY BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT WEST YORKSHIRE IN NETBALL. THIS IS A HUGE ACHIEVEMENT - CONGRATS, FEARNE!

DYLAN, YEAR 11, HAS JUST SIGNED A SCHOLARSHIP WITH BRADFORD CITY! HE'S WORKED SO HARD FOR THIS AND WE'RE ALL INCREDIBLY PROUD OF HIM HERE AT BECKFOOT!



BEN, YEAR 11, HAS RECENTLY SIGNED SCHOLARSHIP FORMS WITH BLACKBURN ROVERS AND WILL WORK WITH THEM OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS! CONGRATS, BEN!



ABBIE, YEAR 12, RECENTLY COMPETED AT A SWIMMING GALA AND WON A SILVER AND BRONZE MEDAL! SHE IS RANKED 2ND IN YORKSHIRE AND 15TH NATIONALLY! WELL DONE, ABBIE!



IN NOVEMBER, SIÂN IN YEAR 12 PLAYED GIRLS DOUBLES & MIXED DOUBLES IN THE U17 NATIONALS HELD AT BADMINTON ENGLAND IN MILTON KEYNES. SHE REACHED THE SECOND ROUND IN THE GIRLS DOUBLES AND FACED THE ENGLAND NUMBER 1 SEEDS. WELL DONE SIÂN, WE ARE VERY PROUD TO CALL YOU A BECKFOOTER!

EVE, YEAR 13, HAS BEEN SELECTED TO BE PART OF THE LEEDS RHINOS U19 NATIONAL PERFORMANCE LEAGUE NETBALL SQUAD FOR THE FORTHCOMING SEASON. WELL DONE, EVE!



# GET INVOLVED!

A selection of just some of our favourite extra-curricular activities that you can get involved in at Beckfoot.

## YEAR 9

### GRAPHICS CLUB

Every Wednesday  
3-4pm  
Creative Arts Block

### ROCK GROUP

Every Tuesday  
3-4pm  
Creative Arts Block

### HOCKEY

Every Thursday  
3-4pm  
PE Block

### LGBTQ+SPACE

Every Tuesday  
SPA Time  
CD3

### CHEERLEADING

Every Friday  
3-4pm  
PE Block

### DEBATE CLUB

Every Tuesday  
2:45-3:30pm  
H4

### NETBALL

Every Tuesday  
Year 7-9  
Every Thursday  
Year 10-13  
3-4pm

### KS3 ART CLUB

Every Tuesday  
3-4pm  
Creative Arts Block

### CLIMBING CLUB

Begins after  
Christmas!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW ALL OF  
OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND TIMETABLES.

