

enjoy learn succeed



**Aim for Eight
Exam Success
in 2017**

Welcome to our Aim for Eight, Year 11 strategy for student exam success. At Beckfoot we take pride in the fact that our students perform above national averages and that we prepare them well for their next steps be it here, in our sixth form, or elsewhere. The next eight months are all about ensuring this success for all of our students. In this time nothing is more important to us than making sure every single one of our cohort makes the progress they should and attains the outcomes they need.

We are now fourteen months into your child's GCSE programme and at this point each year we have a close look at where each student is and create a personalised approach that suits each of them. Alongside our supportive pastoral systems, we employ a range of strategies to ensure that we help to maximise each student's outcomes whilst minimising their stresses and anxieties. These include:

- Outstanding teaching in every lesson every day
- Period six provision - after school sessions delivered by specialist staff in a range of subjects aimed at specific areas of improvement
- Personalising the curriculum on offer - adjusting the selection of the subjects some students take to ensure they achieve the best overall outcomes
- Intervention groups in tutor time - with a focus on ensuring progress in the core subjects (English and maths)
- Mentoring - students who have identified areas they need extra support in are mentored by a range of staff including learning leaders and senior leaders
- Reward strategies - as well as a focus on the final goals of great GCSE results, we aim to make sure that there are small targets for students to aim for in the short term
- Parental support - We all have a part to play in this and I hope this booklet helps you to understand our overall strategy but also what we need you need to do to ensure this - your support for your child is critical!

David Horn - Headteacher

'When you open the envelope - well, it's just all worth it'

What can you do?

- Talk to your child about their learning - give them a chance to talk through what they are doing in each subject. It really helps them to firm up their understanding
- Look at their books and praise their achievements. The next 23 weeks will be tough, they will need reminding to keep smiling!
- Make sure they take time away from study to de-stress
- Help them with their organisation - are they taking everything they need each day? Are they meeting all of their deadlines? Are they recording all of their homework?
- Support them with their homework - make sure it is done on time and that it is done well
- Encourage them to attend all of the extra sessions we offer - your backing is vital with this
- Help them create a quiet study with all the resources they need and help them to keep it quiet while they are studying
- Ensure when they are studying that all temptations like their phone are removed
- Attend all parents evenings and student review days
- The learning in every single lesson counts towards their GCSEs - please ensure your child attends every day and is on time
- If you want any more information, or are concerned about anything to do with your child's education, please don't hesitate to get in contact

What will we do?

- We will provide opportunities for outstanding learning every day across all lessons
- We will provide high quality and relevant home learning tasks
- We will provide regular constructive feedback for your child telling them how to improve
- We will collect and analyse data to show us if your child is making the progress they should be and share this with you
- We will celebrate the successes of each your child's progress
- We will provide targeted interventions for those that need it

Attendance - Every lesson counts

Attendance every day is vital. Every lesson from now on will have a focus on the exams in May and June. Missing that lesson may mean that a question in the exam cannot be answered. Please make sure that your child is in school every day between now and the exams!

Students who are not attending school will be given attendance challenges and will be closely monitored. We make no apologies for this as we know the impact that missing one day can have.

We do however understand that at times illness does lead to absence. Please see the advice below from the NHS about when students should and should not miss school.

- **Cough and cold.** A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school
- **Raised temperature.** If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school
- **Headache.** A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP
- **Vomiting and diarrhoea.** Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school
- **Sore throat.** A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school

Punctuality

Being late for school reduces learning time

If your child is five minutes late everyday they will miss three days of learning this year. If your child is fifteen minutes late every day this means they are missing two weeks of learning each year.

'It is a stressful time, but I was supported all the way through and always knew that my mentor was there if I needed a bit of encouragement'

Targeted interventions

- Period six provision - for students that would benefit from extra teaching time we have a weekly timetable of additional lessons that run between 2:45 and 4pm. Students will be chosen for this and it is an expectation they attend. There will be a weekly timetable on our website
- Personalising the curriculum on offer - in order to ensure all of our students achieve the best overall outcomes we review their timetables following data collections. In some cases we will make changes to the subjects they study. Both you and your child would be involved in discussions before any changes are made
- Intervention groups in tutor time - for students needing shorter intervention sessions we will be running small classes in the core subjects (maths and English) during tutor time each week. Students will be chosen for this and it is an expectation they attend
- Smaller tutor groups - we have added three new tutor groups to Year 11. Two of these will have targeted English support and one maths support. It will also allow better pastoral support across the year group as tutors will be able to provide more focussed support
- Mentoring - closer to the exams each member of the senior leadership team will each be assigned a small group of students who would benefit from mentoring sessions in the run up to exams
- Exam focussed master classes - our teaching staff will run master classes in their timetabled lessons to ensure each student receives the teaching they need to be successful. (15th May 2017 - 9th June 2017 with additional sessions available up until the end of the exam session)
- “De-stress for Success” sessions will be offered to the whole year group for tips and ideas on avoiding stress

'I wasn't in the right place until I got into a mentoring group. It was tough because Mr Horn was looking at what I was doing and talking to my teachers all the time - but it was worth it. My results were better than I expected'

Number of school weeks to GCSE exams

Key Dates

	Week beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Half Term - 1 week - Have you organised your Maths and English revision?						
23	31 st Oct	English and Maths support Tutor Groups begin		English Mock Literature paper 2- (am)	Year 11 Parents' Subject Consultation Evening 4-7pm	
22	7 th Nov					
21	14 th Nov		KS4 WLD - Learning skills			Maths Mock paper 1 (am)
20	21 st Nov	Maths Mock paper 2 (am)				Maths Mock paper 3 (am)
19	28 th Nov	Science Triple / ISA day	GCSE Art/Fine Art/ Graphics mocks this week Tues - Fri			
18	5 th Dec			MFL Coursework support periods 2, 3, 4.	Science Coursework review periods 1-3	
17	12 th Dec	Progress data issued this week MFL Coursework support periods 2 + 3				
End of term - 2 weeks - Have you got a past paper and /or home learning tasks for every subject?						
2017						
16	2 nd Jan					
15	9 th Jan	GCSE Music Solo Performance Exams this week English Mock - Language this week				
14	16 th Jan	GCSE Music Ensemble Performance Exams this week			Post 16 Open Evening - Applying to Beckfoot Sixth Form	
13	23 rd Jan					
12	30 th Jan			Year 11 Student Self Review Day		GCSE Exam entries - final date
11	6 th Feb					Post 16 Application deadline
10	13 th Feb	Sixth Form Interviews this week.	English Literature paper 1 mock in class	English Literature paper 1 mock in class		'An Inspector Calls'- performance to support GCSE English Literature Course

Key Dates continued

Half Term - 1 week - Is your mock revision timetable up and running? Are you sticking to it?						
9	27 th Feb	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS
8	6 th Mar	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS	GCSE MOCKS
7	13 th Mar	GCSE Music Performance Exams this week				
6	20 th Mar	GCSE PE Moderation	GCSE PE Moderation			
5	27 th Mar	GCSE Art/Fine art/Graphics Controlled Exams this week				Mock Results Issue event
4	3 rd Apr				Year 11 Parental Engagement and Progress Data Issue - 6pm	
End of Term - 2 weeks - All systems go! Full revision programme under way and the Prom and Flamingo Land coming up soon						
3	24 th Apr	GCSE Drama Practical Exams this week			Year 11 Super Learning Day	
2	1 st May	May Day Holiday			Year 11 Prom	Year 11 Flamingo Land Trip
1	8 th May					
	15 th May	GCSE Exams begin Exam focused 'Master Classes'				
	22 nd May	English Literature paper 1 (am)			Maths paper 1 (am)	English Literature paper 2 (am)
	5 th June		English Language paper 1 (am)		Maths paper 2 (am)	
	12 th June	English Language paper 2 (am)	Maths paper 3 (am)			
GCSE exams finish: 29 th June 2017 Results issue: Thursday 24 th August 2017						
A more detailed exam timetable will be released closer to the start of the exams						

'I moved up more than a grade in every subject between January and the exams. I couldn't have done it without being pushed - to attend period 6, to do past papers, to revise and to re-do my Science coursework to improve the marks'

'If I did Year 11 again, I would work on revision earlier. That would make it easier'

Thank you for reading this booklet and I hope you will find the information useful. The next 24 school weeks are absolutely vital. We want every single one of our wonderful Year 11 students to use this time, with our and your support, to secure their future. Everything that our students, our teachers, and you as parents and carers do in the coming months will ensure that your child can access the next steps in their learning and their future career. Working together to support every individual, we can ensure that they succeed at their highest personal level. Thursday 24th August 2017, GCSE results day, will be an amazing day. It always is. We will celebrate the success of a brilliant group of young people who have determinedly worked towards their individual goals.

David Horn and I will both be available to chat with you at the Year 11 Parents' Evening. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about our Year 11 programme to support learning.

Gill Halls - Head of School

becgch@beckfoot.org

'Loved the Prom and Flamingo Land. It set me up for the exams!'