

Sixth Form Bulletin September 2024 – Year 13



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a pleasure to welcome students back after a well-deserved summer break, and it's been wonderful to see them quickly re-engage with their lessons with such dedication and focus. Year 13 moves by incredibly fast, making it crucial for students to seize every opportunity available to them over the next nine months to ensure they leave Beckfoot with a range of exciting options.

As they contemplate their next steps, whether it be university, apprenticeships, or employment, please know that we are here to support them every step of the way. Both the Sixth Form and Futures teams are experienced in guiding students through this pivotal transition, and we strongly encourage students to seek our advice and assistance whenever they need it.

Many of our students will be applying to university through UCAS in the coming months. They made an excellent start on their applications during the Futures Day in July, and we'll continue building on this in tutor time. Students are welcome to submit their applications as soon as they feel ready.

We are excited for what promises to be a productive and busy term ahead, and we deeply appreciate your continued support in helping our students succeed.

Warm regards,

Dr Glenn Wright

Key dates

| | |
|--|---|
| 2nd October | Deadline for Conservatoire Music Applications |
| 15th October | Early Entry UCAS deadline (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science) |
| 4th-8th November | Year 13 Mocks |
| 7th November | Year 13 Parents Consultation Evening (online) |
| 7th November – 5th December | Futures Month |
| 13th December | Careers Networking event for Law |
| 29th January | UCAS deadline for all non-early entry applications |
| 3rd – 14th February | Year 13 Mocks |
| 12th May – 25th June | A-Level exams |
| 23rd May | Year 13 Last day before study leave |
| 14th August | A-Level Results day |

Attendance

One of the most significant factors influencing students' academic success in Year 13 is their attendance. On average, students with attendance below 90% achieve three grades lower than those with attendance above 90%. We truly appreciate your ongoing support in encouraging your child to attend all lessons, tutor sessions, and private study periods. These sessions provide crucial opportunities to benefit from the expertise of their teachers and tutors during this critical stage of their education.

If your child is absent for any reason, we kindly ask that you inform us through Class Charts or by emailing the Sixth Form team directly.

Dress code

We would like to remind you of our Sixth Form Dress Code, which is found at [Beckfoot School - Sixth Form Expectations](#). Following the dress code is important as it helps students present themselves appropriately for a professional working environment. If a student's attire is deemed unsuitable, they may be asked to return home to change. We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring your child adheres to these expectations.

Careers

During Year 13, students will have numerous opportunities to engage with professionals from various industries, enhance their CV-writing and interview skills, and explore a wide range of post-18 options. We are also fortunate to have the expertise of Elizabeth Palmer, our dedicated Careers Advisor, who offers tailored guidance. Students are encouraged to book an appointment with Liz by emailing her at epalmer01@beckfoot.org for personalised advice on their next steps.

Place2Be

Sixth Form can be a demanding period for students, balancing the pressures of university and apprenticeship applications, coursework deadlines, revision, A-Level exams, and maintaining a personal and social life. For those who may be struggling or feeling concerned about their mental health, we are pleased to offer access to Place2Be, a professional counselling service available in school. If your child would like to speak with someone, they can reach out directly to Place2Be at becplace2be@beckfoot.org or talk to a member of the Sixth Form team for support.

16-19 Bursary

The 16-19 Bursary is available to support students from low-income households with expenses such as textbooks, revision guides, stationery, transport, and school trips. If you believe your child may be eligible, please complete an application form and submit it to Ms. Smith in the Sixth Form office.

For students who received the 16-19 Bursary in Year 12, please visit Ms. Smith to complete an updated circumstances form to ensure continued eligibility for Year 13.

UCAS

For students applying to Oxford or Cambridge, or for courses in Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Science, completed applications must be submitted to school by October 8th. This allows time for reference writing, application checks, and submission to UCAS before the external deadline of October 15th. All other UCAS applications should be submitted to school by January 15th.

To assist you in supporting your child through the university application process, we recommend reviewing the [Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide](#) created by UCAS. This guide provides valuable information on the application process, writing a personal statement, student finance, and preparing for university. For those interested in apprenticeships, additional guidance can be found in the [Parent and guardian guide to apprenticeships](#), available on the UCAS website.