

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

From September 2022, we will be launching a 'Book Club'. Research tells us that children who read at least 20 minutes a day encounter 1.8 million words a year and are more likely to secure results in the top 10% of any standardised test. Improving reading is our priority.

The purpose of the 'book club' is to:

- a) Increase children's reading ability, fluency and vocabulary
- b) To develop empathy and help children experience living a life beyond their own
- c) To foster a lifelong love of reading

Every student in Year 7 to 10 will have a 30-minute Book Club session at 1:30pm every day, Monday to Thursday in addition to their timetabled lessons. Y11 will not have book club but will attend additional daily revision sessions instead.

In Book Club, students spend time reading a quality, challenging book, which their tutor reads aloud to the group. The vision for Book Club is to ensure that every student reads high quality and challenging texts, so they are instilled with the knowledge to think critically and creatively. We also want our students to enjoy reading and become confident readers who read both at school and at home. The books range from classic Victorian novels to modern dystopian thrillers and reflect the diversity of the society we live in.

**As a result, from September 2022, school will finish at 3pm Monday to Thursday and 2:30pm on a Friday.**

We are working with the bus company to ensure that bus times are modified accordingly. I will contact you when we have further details. Period 6 and after school clubs will continue but with the later starting time of 3pm on Monday–Thursday. On Fridays, these events will start at 2:30pm.

I appreciate that these changes may affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. For this reason, I would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to:

**[responses@beckfootthornton.org](mailto:responses@beckfootthornton.org)**

Yours sincerely



Mr J Richardson  
Headteacher  
Beckfoot Thornton

**Headteacher:** Jeremy Richardson  
**Chair of Academy Trustees:**  
John Winkley