

12 July 2022

Dear Families,

### **Last day of term arrangements, Memorial Event for Mr Richardson, and expectations for September 2022**

As we draw near to the summer holidays, we would like to wish you and your family a wonderful a summer holiday and thank you for your continued support, particularly over the last few weeks. It has been lovely to have the students back in school for a whole academic year after the disruption we have faced previously; we were so proud of the positive approach to the external exams that our students took during the Summer examinations series. The resilience that the students have shown over the past few weeks in particular has been remarkable.

The last day of term will be **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022** and, like previous years, it will be a 12 noon finish.

School buses will depart from school at 12.10pm.

We expect that most families will allow their child to leave at the midday finish. If the school has not received any communication, it will automatically be recorded as consent for your child to leave at the intended midday finish.

If you wish for your child to remain in school, or if your child is eligible for a free school meal and you would like them to be provided with a packed lunch prior to leaving, please complete the form below by 3pm on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2022:

<https://forms.office.com/r/H53f5mj31Y>

### **Memorial Event**

On the last day of term, we are holding a memorial for Mr Richardson, Headteacher, for current staff and students only. This will be an opportunity for our school community to reflect on his remarkable contribution to the lives of so many people.

During period 3, students will be led down to the astro-turf where they will line up in silence, as they do during a fire alarm practice. Memories of Mr Richardson will be shared and a period of silent reflection will be observed.

In addition to our staff and students, we are expecting some of Mr Richardson's family, friends and invited colleagues to be attending the memorial. We are confident that our students will represent the school and themselves positively, in both their behaviour and appearance - by following expectations, ensuring they look smart, and most importantly, showing Mr Richardson's family the utmost respect during the memorial. Unfortunately we are unable to open the invitation further to the wider community. If you would like to donate to Barnardo's, in memory of Mr Richardson, please click the link below:

[Tribute to Jeremy Richardson \(muchloved.com\)](https://muchloved.com/tribute-to-jeremy-richardson)

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**Beckfoot  
Trust**

Form tutors will ensure students are made aware of our high expectations for the day. I am sure that our students will not disappoint, however, any student that is disrespectful will receive a sanction upon their return to school in September.

### **Arrangements for the Autumn Term: Important information**

#### **Start of the school year**

Due to the passing of Mr Richardson, our training day on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 was postponed. As such, the training has been moved to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022, meaning school will be closed to students on this day.

The Autumn term will now begin on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 for students **in Year 7 only**.

**All other year** groups will now begin the Autumn term on Wednesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

As part of our continued efforts to achieve an outstanding learning environment for all students, we would like to remind you of some considerations to your preparation for your child's September return.

#### Student Planner

The student planner is an integral part of the behaviour system and a key tool for home-school communication. It is essential that students have a planner on them at all times. Students are asked to write their homework in their planner to help them keep track of key deadlines so it is important that they ensure that they have this with them at all times as part of their essential equipment.

#### Mobile Phones

Mobile phones can be a major distraction to a child's learning. Phones should not be seen or heard anywhere on the school site, this includes the canteen and playground. If they are, staff will confiscate it and it will be returned at 2:45pm that day on a first instance. If communication between parents and school is required during the school day, it should be done through the Pastoral teams.

#### Uniform

As we approach the summer holidays and parents are considering purchasing new uniform, please be mindful of the following guidelines:

- Please ensure your child is fully prepared to attend school each day on time and in the correct uniform, with a suitable sized bag, planner and equipment.
- Our uniform policy applies to all students. Exceptions will only be made where there is a certified medical reason from a professional.
- Sometimes, problems with uniform can occur. Please contact the Head of Year and let them know. The school will then assist the student in borrowing an item from the uniform store.
- Please note that some retailers badge some of their clothing as 'school uniform' but it does not meet our expectations. Please ensure that you check before purchasing new items.

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The required uniform is as follows:

- Plain black leather, or leatherette shoes are the only footwear permitted. There should be no visible logos, patterns or colours on them. High heels are not permitted as a safety precaution.
- Plain black trousers that are either loose or tailored fit. These should not be tight fitted, a denim material, have logos, patterns or zips on them.
- A school tie which is fastened to a sensible length (6 stripes showing).
- A plain white, collared shirt that has a fastening top button.
- A school blazer with the logo on.
- A navy blue school jumper is optional. However, it should never be used to replace a blazer.
- A coloured year group badge. These will be given out to students on the first day for free. Any subsequent replacements will cost 20p, and will be available to be purchased by students from our stationery shop.
- Any extreme haircuts or styles such as Mohicans, shaved patterns or lines, undercuts or unnatural hair colours are deemed inappropriate.
- Only one single set of small studded earrings are permitted in the lobe of the ear. No other piercings are permitted. Please be mindful of this if students are getting new piercings as they will be asked to remove them.
- No other jewellery besides a wristwatch is permitted.

We trust you understand our insistence in having the highest of standards and expectations of uniform for all our students.

#### Equipment packs

On their first day of the Autumn term, we will provide all students in year 7 with an equipment pack, full of additional items required to effectively learn each day: they will still be expected to bring their basic equipment, as outlined below. All other year groups are expected to bring theirs back and will be provided with replacement whiteboard pens and gluesticks up to 3 times per year, if required. Additional replacements, such as the wallet or whiteboard, can be purchased from our equipment shop.

Parents, carers, and students have previously highlighted that it is sometimes difficult to get to stationery shops, or supermarkets to purchase replacements at short notice. Also, that purchasing items on ParentPay can be problematic for small items. As a school, we have already created an onsite equipment shop that is open each day at 8:00-8:15am in reception and at break time. We sell all necessary items at cost price and offer free replacements throughout the year for some of the more expensive items. All basic items are available to buy with cash, at the cheapest rate possible.

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Over the holidays, we are asking you to support your child by ensuring they have the necessary equipment. The basic essentials are as follows:

- Blue or Black Pen
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Pencil
- Pencil Sharpener
- Red and Green Pen
- Year group coloured badge
- Calculator

Students can also collect free glue sticks, highlighters and whiteboard pens from reception before school or at breaktime (up to 3 times a year). If you need a whole replacement equipment pack, which includes the essentials above, these can be purchased on ParentPay for £3 and can be collected from reception.

All students must have a mini whiteboard in good condition. If your child's has been broken or damaged, they will need to get a replacement at the start of the academic year. All new students will be given one as part of their equipment pack.



Student Equipment		Equipment Pack Items		Year Group Badges	
Biro Pen		5p	Whiteboard Pen		£1
Pencil		5p	Glue Stick		50p
Small Ruler		5p	Highlighter Pen		50p
Sharpener		10p	Mini Whiteboard		£1
			Calculator		£6
				Year 7 Badge	 20p
				Year 8 Badge	 20p
				Year 9 Badge	 20p
				Year 10 Badge	 20p
				Year 11 Badge	 20p

Replacement Plastic Wallets for your equipment pack are also available for £1

Open in reception - 8:05-8:15 before school, and at break times.

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### Attendance

At Beckfoot Thornton we expect all students to have at **least 97% attendance**. We expect all students: to attend every day and arrive on time; to be punctual to all lessons; and to give messages from parents with regards to absence to Form Tutors. We also expect Parents/carers to ensure that your child understands the importance of good attendance and as such I would like to remind you of the following:

- It is a legal requirement to ensure your child attends regularly and punctually every day the school is open unless they are too ill to do so.
- You need to:
  - immediately inform the school if your child is unable to attend, the reason for absence and expected date of return (before 8.00 am).
  - confirm the reason in writing on your child's return. A space for absence notes is provided in the Student Planner.
- If no indication of a return date has been given, parents/carers should contact the school on each day of absence.
- Avoid keeping your child away from the school for any reason other than illness. **Routine dental/medical appointments need to be made outside of school hours.**
- Parents do not have the right to take their child out of school during term time so do not arrange holidays during term time.

**We cannot grant any request for holidays during term time.** Government legislation (Section 443/444 of the Education Act 1996) stipulates guidelines that all schools must follow, only authorising student absence under specific exceptional circumstances. As a parent, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly, **even if they are missing school without your knowledge.**

- Parents/Carers who take their children out of school during term time without authorisation or outside an agreed date risk being issued with a penalty fine or being prosecuted by the LA. If a leave of absence has been granted, under extenuating circumstances, then failure to return to school by the agreed date can lead to loss of the school place.
- If you choose to take your child out of school on holiday during school time you likely to be fined by the LA. This is £60 per parent per child and may rise to £120 per parent per child if you fail to pay within 21 days.
- If you fail to pay the fine after 28 days, you may be prosecuted for your child's absence. This can lead to a fine of up to £2500, a community service order or even a jail sentence of up to 3 months. You will also receive a parenting order from the court and may have to attend parenting classes.

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- It is also vital that **your child attends school on time**; if a child arrives after registration has closed this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. If this persists legal action in the form of Penalty Notice or Prosecution under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996 may follow.
- A student becomes a **persistent absentee when their attendance drops below 90%** at any point during the academic year. This is detrimental to a student's education and their prospects upon leaving school. If your child's attendance drops below 90% they will be missing at least 4 weeks an academic year and missing over ½ a year over 5 years.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, particularly over the last few weeks. We wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday and look forward to welcoming your child back at 8:15am on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 (Year 7 students only), or Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 (students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13), to continue our mission of creating a remarkable school where no child is left behind.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Trusselle

Acting Headteacher

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