

*'We build incredible futures by empowering young people to develop their **independence, self-esteem and confidence** through a relentless focus on learning and caring.'*

Newsletter: May 2023

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Message from the Principal:

As we near the end of another term, I would like to thank all of our students, families and staff for their continued support. Indeed, it has been an absolute pleasure to chat with parents as they visit the school for meetings or at the end of the day. We held a very successful Open Evening this term and it was fantastic to welcome potential new families and students to our Bankside Community. We are looking forward to holding another **Open Evening on Thursday 22nd June**.

Bankside College Curriculum

Our curriculum team have developed an exciting and personalised curriculum for students at Bankside College. While students will not study all aspects of our new curriculum, they will have the opportunity to learn across our **Enrichment, Formal and Preparation for Adulthood** Curricula.

Bankside's holistic curriculum is designed to empower our students to develop their **independence, self-esteem and confidence**. Our **Enrichment Curriculum** is an important part of students' learning and our team our committed to providing all students with opportunities for participate in Duke of Edinburgh, Horticulture, Design Technology, ICT and a variety of trips and visits.



Preparation for Adulthood

Students follow a bespoke pathway that includes employability, independent living, community, health, careers and PSHE. Students' EHCP outcomes will inform how students access this curriculum.

Formal Curriculum

In consultation with the student and family, students have the opportunity to study the following qualifications:

- ASDAN Personal Progress (E3/L1/L2)
- ASDAN Personal Social Development (E3/L1/L2)
- BTEC Land Based Studies (L1/L2)
- BTEC Art & Design (L1/L2)
- Functional Skills: English and Maths



OFG Autism Strategy

Bankside Staff have all been trained in OFG Autism Strategy – Ask, Accept, Develop. Please see the attached leaflet about how this strategy impacts upon our practice at Bankside College. Our Clinical team will now be supporting staff with Practice Impact Reviews, while the College works towards Accreditation over the next six months. This will include such aspects as Staff ongoing training, Student Communication Profiles, Use of Visual Supports, Student Sensory profiles and Promoting Independence. Please ask if you would like to know more.

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome our new Assistant Headteacher, Kate Jasper, to our Bankside team. Kate will be joining the college on Wednesday 7th June and has a wealth of experience of teaching and leading in a variety of specialist SEND settings across our community.

Trauma Informed Practice

Bankside staff have recently completed Trauma Informed Practice (TIP) training to support our therapeutic approach. We will continue to embed the model at Bankside by following the '3Cs' in all of our interactions with our students:

- **Connection** *Making connections and establishing relationships*
- **Co-Regulate** *Develop a sense of safety for students in the college*
- **Co-Reflect** *Support therapeutic boundaries for students to develop a safe and effective way of being*

Two members of staff are Bankside's TIP Champions and they will be sharing tips and strategies across our college and school community in the coming months.

Bankside School

While Bankside College continues to grow and work closely with families and other professionals in our locality, we are excited to inform you that Bankside School will open in the Autumn of 2023.

Bankside School will be a purpose built 11-18 school for pupils with a diagnosis of autism and a range of complex needs. Our new school will be located on the same site as the college but based within the existing Malvern View building.

Bankside College and School will provide students and their families with a pathway in education from the age of 11 to 25. Pupils at the school will benefit from the same high quality care, support and clinical input as students from the college.

Please contact reception at Bankside College if you would like further information.



Dates & Times: Term 6 start for students on Monday 5th June and ends on Friday 7th July. Term dates for the next two academic years can be found on our website: [Important Information - Bankside College](#)

Ask

Student Voice is our top priority. We treat each student as a unique individual with their own likes, dislikes, wants and needs. This is facilitated within a Total Communication Environment, including the use of augmentative and alternative communication. Central to this is our focus on relationship-building, connection and creating an environment of psychological and physical safety. Students are supported to collate their own Profile document to inform us in how we can best support them.

Accept

Our ethos and approach has a common language, consistency and understanding, based upon neuroscience. We have an empathic understanding based upon relating to the individual perspectives of each student, supported by PACE (Trauma Informed Practice). We respect each student's personal experience to inform what may frighten, preoccupy or distress them. Relationships, connection and belonging are central to our ethos. We create structured and predictable environments, and use communication systems and activities which meet the needs of each student and enable them to thrive and experience positive emotions. Support plans are formulated with the students, their families and our clinical team.

Develop

We teach our students new skills, abilities and strategies related to the Outcomes within their Education, Health and Care Plans. These are driven to improve their quality of life and well-being through a focus on enablement and empowerment to increase independence and flourish. We do this through positive, evidence-based approaches and positive expectations. We use sensitive but persistent intervention, based upon individual assessment, that uses and supports each student's capacity for emotional regulation and engagement. We accredit achievement using ASDAN qualifications and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. We work in partnership with the student, their family, and all involved professionals.