

Newsletter March 2026

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I know most people in education say this each term but.. this term has gone so quickly! It has been a great term for us at Bankside as we welcomed 3 new staff members including myself as Head of College. We already feel settled and established within the Bankside community and have really enjoyed getting to know all the students on a personal level. The motivation, enthusiasm and energy of all the staff team will ensure the College drives forward in the best interests of our young people. I will send home a video message giving more detail on our next steps after Easter.

We have continued with many exciting opportunities for our students, from work experience to fire and rescue workshops, art projects and making the most of our beautiful outdoors as the weather has been improving. We are delighted to bring you a small insight to what we have been up to over throughout this term.



Safeguarding

Misogyny and ‘The Manosphere’

Many of you may have seen the new Netflix documentary ‘Louis Theroux: Inside the Manosphere’ being advertised. The documentary is about exploring the online manosphere, its influencers, and the social impact of misogynistic digital subcultures.

What do we mean by misogyny and ‘The Manosphere’?

Misogyny is when someone hates or has an aversion to women and shows prejudice towards women. Someone might mistreat women or believe that women are not as important or capable as men.

The **manosphere** is a group of online communities where misogynistic views are shared. These groups discuss masculinity and promote anti-feminist and sexist beliefs. The communities also discuss everyday topics such as gaming, finance and politics. A lot of these groups use jokes and memes (pictures) to share their views, so it might not be obvious at a glance that they’re spreading hateful content.

Some vocabulary that may be used:

Vocabulary	Meaning
Incel	Short for involuntary celibate. This refers to a man who believes he is unable to form a romantic or sexual relationship with a woman, despite wanting to.
Red pill/Redpilled	Those who have ‘taken the red pill’ have ‘seen the truth’ (i.e they now believe that society treats women too well, and other ideas that undermine equality and fairness between genders).
Pickup Artists (PUA)	People who persuade, force or trick women into having sex with them.
The 80/20 rule	A (fake scientific) theory that 80% of women are only attracted to the top 20% of men. This is used to blame women for men’s feelings of inadequacy and rejection.
Chad	A boy/man who is very popular, good-looking and successful with women/girls.
Stacey	A girl/woman who is very popular and good-looking, and will usually only be attracted to ‘Chads’.

Where might people view this content?

Manosphere content is shared by various influencers across many different online services including:

- Social media platforms such as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram
- Podcasting platforms
- Online messaging boards such as 4Chan and Reddit
- Live streaming gaming platforms such as Twitch

Content from misogynistic influencers will often:

- Be combined with other, less controversial material including fitness and lifestyle advice, which can help attract a wider audience
- Include step-by-step instructions on how to improve social standing
- Showcase wealth, luxurious lifestyles and expensive possessions. This makes followers think they can have the same success if they adopt the same beliefs

What can we do?

Where might people view this content?

People are less likely to be vulnerable to this type of content if they are having similar conversations reinforced at home and college which is why it has been a topic of focus for us.

- Read recent news articles about toxic masculinity and the most famous influencers, if you're not already familiar with them you can find them with a simple internet search.
- Ask your young people what they're getting up to online – show genuine interest, try not to judge them or tell them what they should and shouldn't be doing. People are more likely to share if they feel you're interested, rather than trying to check up on them.
- Encourage your young people to question what they see online – a person who is naturally sceptical about what they see online is less likely to be influenced by things that aren't true. Have conversations about why they trust certain influencers and how they can double-check the information they're seeing.
- Have open discussions about toxic masculinity – don't tell your young people how to think, but question their thinking and understanding. Ask if they believe some of the views being shared, such as that women "belong" to men, and how that might make the women in their lives feel, or they themselves feel.
- Continue to be role models – encourage your young people to be open with their emotions. Show respect for women and girls, and encourage your young people to model this behaviour.

Values

Staff and students have been working on some core values to implement at college, we have all put a lot of thought and effort into what we believe Bankside College bases itself on and the core values that we feel are most important to each and every member of the Bankside College community.

The values are:

- Resilience
- Growth
- Respect



Recent activities

Art: students have been enjoying creating 3D prints, students worked with Penny (art and design teacher) to create some nice prints in the form of flowers/vases for students to take home as gifts. Many students have used the 3D printer as a form of mindfulness – if you have tried it, you will understand, its mesmerising!



RHS update:

As you will know from last year, we entered the Malvern Royal Horticulture Show School Gardens. We all enjoyed it so much, we have entered again this year. Without giving too much away, here is a sneak peek of the early stages.



Photography:

Photography students have been working on mini film making. This piece was made by a student as background for their work, the end result was brilliant and an enjoyable watch.



Horticulture:

We have been making the most of the warmer weather by growing carrots, spinach, peas, lettuces and radish. This produce will be used in the kitchen or as treats for the animals. Bankside is Green Mark Level 1 for sustainability and this is part of the reason why.





Pastoral drop ins

The pastoral team run pastoral drop ins each Thursday, please do encourage students to attend to discuss anything pastoral.



- Students will always be supervised at all times
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1
- Students will always be supervised by a member of staff with a ratio of 1:1

WARD
BILITY

PASTORAL DROP-INS
Time to talk to the pastoral team
Every Thursday
11:45am - 12:15pm
Laura's Rooms
WHY COME?
Time to talk to the pastoral team if you would like to