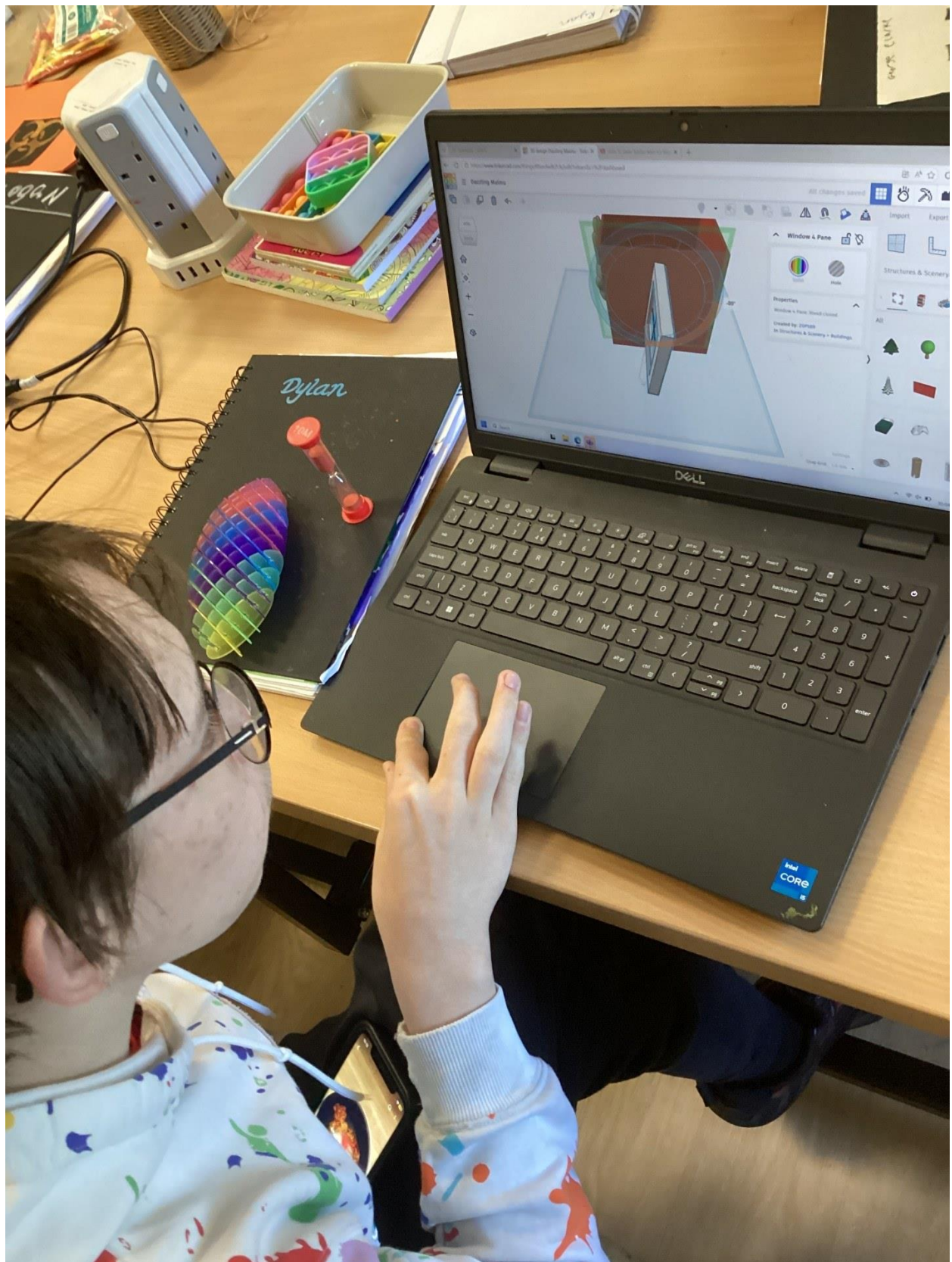




BANKSIDE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

In this edition



- New student & staff welcome
- Charity Bake Sale
- Work experience
- College Activities
- Clinical Lead Update
- Useful Contacts
- Key Dates

Welcome & Communication



It has been wonderful welcoming new staff and students into our community. The new students have shown such incredible strength of character adjusting to a new environment and different routines and staff are already building strong relationships with them. We have also welcomed a few new members of staff that have further strengthened our team:

- Briony & Sara are new learning support mentors
- Katie is our new careers and work placement lead
- Pip is our new clinical lead

Just a reminder that your young person's tutor is your first point of call for any queries, attendance issues and general communication. Tutor teams will be in touch fortnightly with an update on students' progress and attainment over those 2 weeks and newsletters are sent at the end of each half term. We look forward to welcoming you in for our next face to face family afternoon on 1st December where you will have the opportunity to speak with staff members.

Charity Bake Sale



World Mental Health Day was on Saturday 10th October. To coincide with this, students held a bake sale and a "wear something yellow day". This was lead by one of our amazing students that wanted to raise funds for suicide prevention charities. Over £600 was raised in total which is simply wonderful! Thank you to all of you that donated and a special 'well done' to the students that organised it all.





Work Experience



One student has been attending work experience at a care home and last week assisted with the 'Stay and Play' activity. This involved a group of nursery school children coming into the care home for an hour to interact with residents. In this session, the children helped the residents to make a scarecrow guided by our student. Incredible work Molly!

Other students have been attending successful work experience opportunities such as working at the Three Counties Showground, Acorns Hospice Shop, Worcestershire Fencing and Lodge Valais and friends. We are incredibly grateful to these employers for supporting our young

people, please do get in touch if you or anyone else you know can offer similar work placements and/or experiences.

College Activities & lessons this term



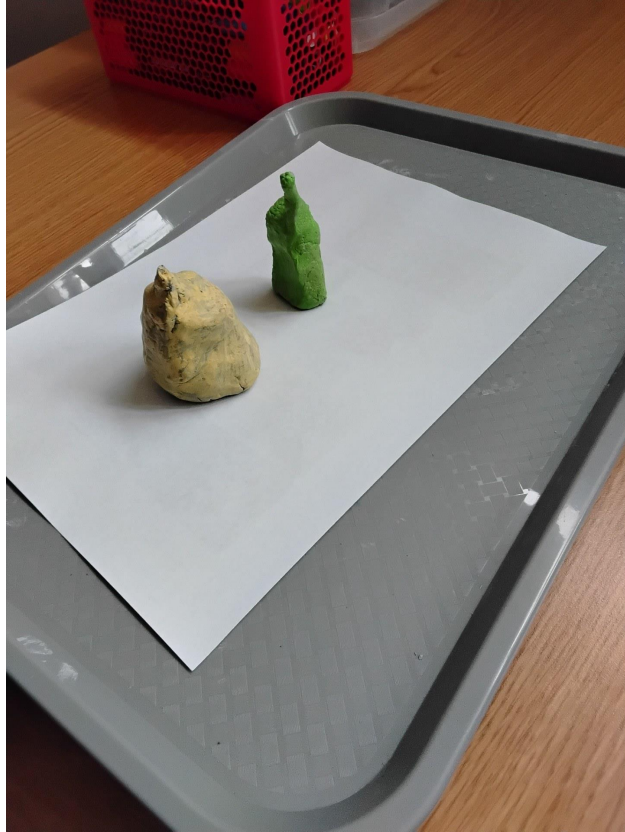
1 - Clay modelling from enrichment sessions



2 - Practical Skills - Fixing things around the home



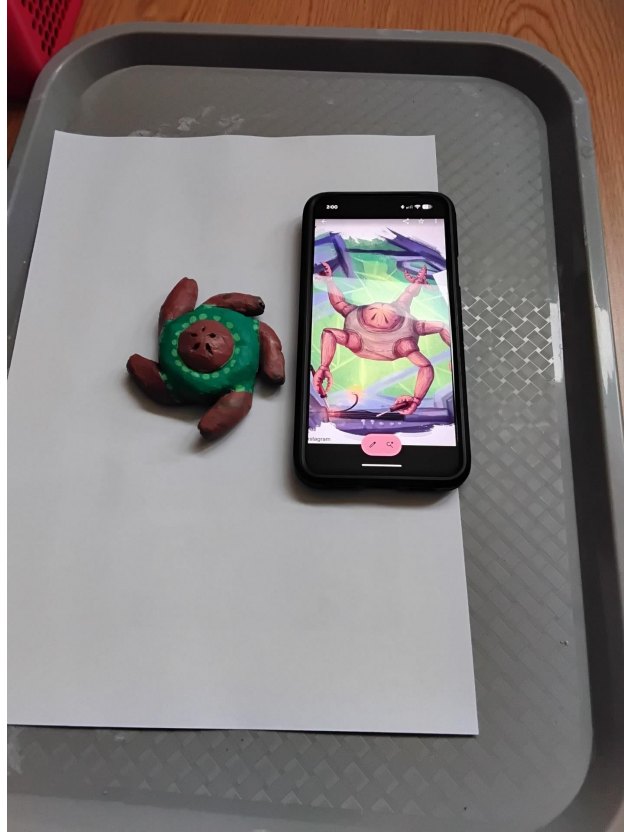
3 - Fantastic creations in art



4 - Clay modelling from enrichment sessions



5 - Practical Skills - Fixing things around the home



6 - Clay modelling from enrichment sessions

Message from our Clinical Lead



Hello. I have started as the new full-time Clinical Lead/Occupational Therapist and just wished to introduce myself to everyone. I work alongside the Speech and Language therapist and Psychologist and support our therapy assistants. I am in the process of getting to know all of the students on an individual basis.

As a clinical team, we work collaboratively with all of the other College staff as a one team approach. We access classrooms, vocational settings and provide training to staff to ensure that clinical objectives are integrated within every student's day to keep moving towards their goals.

I look forward to meeting with you at some stage.

Dr Pip White

Key Dates:

BANKSIDE COLLEGE TERM DATES 2026-2027

AUTUMN TERM

College Reopens for new starters – Thursday 3rd September 2026

College Reopens for all pupils –Monday 7th September 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2026

TED: Friday 20th November 2026

College Closes for Christmas: Friday 18th December 2026

SPRING TERM

College Reopens: Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February 2027

College Closes for Easter: Thursday 25th March 2027

SUMMER TERM

College Reopens: Monday 12th April 2027

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May 2027

Half Term: Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2027

TED: Mon 7th June 2027

College closes to current students: Friday 16th July

Monday 19th & Tuesday 20th July: Transition days for new students

6 TED Days

Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September,

Friday 20th November,

Monday 4th January 2027

Mon 7th June 2027

Weds 21st July (Disaggregated)

- College re-opens after half term Mon 2nd November
- Thursday 19th November: Open Evening for prospective students (3.30-6.30pm)
- Friday 20th November: College closed to students: TED
- Tuesday 1st December: Family afternoon 2- 4pm (more details to follow). College closes to students at 12.45pm
- Friday 18th December: College finishes for Christmas

Useful Contacts

Local and National Support Organisations

The [wellbeing and emotional support teams](#) in schools service is designed to help children and young people ages 5-18 years access mental health and wellbeing support early on in educational settings. It's all about ensuring children and young people can get access to the right help as early as possible.

The [Reach4Wellbeing](#) team supports and promotes the emotional wellbeing of young people and parents of primary school age children through interactive online group programmes, using cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) principles.

[CAMHS](#) provides mental health and wellbeing support for children and families in Worcestershire.

[WCF Educational Psychology Service](#) can provide a range of individual or whole school support for mental health and emotional wellbeing.

[Act On It from Onside Advocacy](#) provides wellbeing support for educational settings at individual and group level.

[Kooth](#) is an anonymous and personalised mental health support for Children and Young People that is available to all young people in Worcestershire.

[Young Minds](#). A really good website with expert articles, advice and blogs and a crisis text-line.

[Self-care tips for young people](#). Watch these videos on dealing with unhelpful thoughts, sleep, social media, anxiety, exercise and more

[Happy Maps](#) have produced reliable resources recommended by Parents and Professionals.

[BESTIE](#) is an exciting, interactive online platform, designed to help young people to find out more about emotional wellbeing and mental health and to get the right help when they need it.

[Here2Help](#) will provide support for people of all ages and is available for both residents and organisations to access information, advice, tools, guidance and local support available to them or others in the local community based on their needs.

7 - Emergency Help and Help Lines

NHS Crisis line

If the young person feels their mental health problems have become much worse or are experiencing problems for the first time, they may need help quickly.

The young person can phone the mental health helpline for urgent advice: 0808 196 9127 (free phone 24 hrs a day 365 days a year)

The team will offer advice, support and, if required, an assessment to understand how the young person is feeling. When calling the number, they can expect to speak to Mental Health Advisors and/or trained Mental Health Clinicians who will be able to listen to their concerns and help make appropriate plans with them to support.

[Childline](#) Not just for young children, Childline offers a helpline, online chat and e-mail advice for anyone up to the age of 19 years.

[Shout Crisis textline](#) Text for free 24/7 support across the UK if a young person is experiencing a mental health crisis. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors. Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus. Worcestershire users should use 'WOO' to 85258

[YoungMinds Textline](#) offers a free, 24/7 text messaging support wherever they are in the UK. If the young person needs someone to talk to about how their feeling, they can text YM to 85258.

Our promise & Vision

— THE PROMISE

Every student will be known as an individual.

Achieve more. Expand their world.

Discover their talents. Find at least one passion they want to keep developing.

Find their voice. Belong.

And leave ready for learning, work and life.



In keeping with OFG Education's Promise, ***through enacting our values of growth, resilience and respect, our vision at Bankside College is to create a safe and supportive environment where every young person feels valued, builds confidence, achieves their potential and develops the skills needed to succeed in life.***