

BECCLES news at ten

The newsletter for Beccles Free School | *"Providing a foundation for life"*

The 6 C's

- > Challenge
- > Community
- > Co-operation
- > Commitment
- > Confidence
- > Celebration



Forthcoming events

13-17 October

Open Mornings for prospective parents at school
(9am - 11.30am, appointment needed)

15 October

Full Governing Body meeting

21 October

Trust Christmas Card Competition

22 October

Year 11 Post 16 visit takes place
Year 7 Tutor evening

23 October

Parent Focus Group
(transition focus)
PCPI
Reports to Parents

5 November

Year 7 and Year 8 Flu Vaccine/
Year 8 Girls HPV (1)

6 November

Lads and Dads Reading event

10-14 November

Year 10 Mock Exams

news at ten

is launched!



John Lucas, Headteacher

Hello, welcome to the first, new look **News At Ten** of this school year. It has been a very busy start to the school year as we settle into our new home.

I am delighted with the approach that our students have taken. By arriving at school smartly dressed, well equipped and with a 'ready to learn' mind set, our students have helped to transport our ethos and culture from Carlton Colville. I would also like to thank all parents and carers for being so supportive of our school by making sure students are so well prepared.

Jim Bradley

Head of Upper School



The most important thing about starting on our new site was that the ethos and atmosphere we created at Carlton Colville was immediately transferred once we begun at Beccles.

Our students deserve great credit, since it is they who have made the transition so smooth. Undoubtedly, staff and students were both nervous on the first day but neither let it show and the new building quickly began to feel like Beccles Free School.

The students were involved in a number of settling in activities over the first few days, and the school invited external providers to run some of these sessions. Years 10 and 11 were treated to team building activities and a revision master-class.

Comments from students about these sessions were extremely positive, many feeling they had received a range of useful techniques and were now well equipped to face the upcoming exams. Our tutors were extremely impressed with many of our students during these few opening weeks. In particular, I would like to mention Stefan Remblance, Eve Waller, Tom Finch and Emelia Cole who have all set the bar as high as it should be, both in terms of achievement and what we expect from a Beccles student.

I have to thank the form tutors for ensuring our students settle in and connect with school, and I have used my extra time to get round to lessons to see our Upper School students in action. I have been impressed with the determination on display and with a nod to Geography, I am sure they can sustain this until the end.

John Crowfoot

Head of of Year 7



After a stimulating and challenging transition week at the end of July the Year 7 students have made a fantastic start to their time at Beccles Free School.

They demonstrated the 6C's in abundance during the first two days of the Michaelmas term taking part in a range of team building, confidence and academic workshop sessions to get the year started in a positive and focused manner. It was a real pleasure to see the new students come together and embody our ethos so quickly.

The curriculum began in earnest with the students going off around the site for their various lessons and, once again, they were a pleasure to behold. Without exception they

Enrichment

Nicola Best

Subject Leader for Creative Arts



Our Michaelmas Term Enrichment Day is focused on Multiculturalism. Students will experience a day devoted to the exploration of how different cultures celebrate at this time of year. Students will take part in activities such as Chinese lantern making, comparing poetry from around the world and taking part in the Victorian tradition of Carolling.

Melanie Matthews

Enrichment this term at Beccles has a choice of 13 activities ranging from creative film making, art and band, alongside gardening, Sky Sports leaders and Sustrans Bike it!. Others have chosen to learn about Japanese culture or to take part in a project involving planning to re-generate an area in Lowestoft. Our Year 11 students are studying Science to enhance their knowledge in preparation for their GCSE next summer.

Students love the variety of choices and they really gain confidence and skills from these extended classroom experiences.

embraced the increased expectations and demands of the lessons in a very positive way and there have been glowing reports about Year 7 from around the school.

It is genuinely difficult to single out any individual students as the whole year group has been so well settled but James Moir, Samuel Hart, Charleanne Elmy and Louise Hingston have been mentioned positively to me by a number of teachers so huge congratulations to them. Finally it was a real pleasure to see so many students and parents at the Welcome BBQ held on Monday 22 September and to hear directly how well your children are getting on at our school. I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year and sharing in your children's continued success.

Introductions from some New staff:

Melanie Matthews

Assistant Headteacher



Hello, my name is Melanie Matthews and I am the new Assistant Headteacher at Beccles Free School.

I have lived and taught in Suffolk for the last 20 years and am delighted to have joined Beccles at this exciting time as our first cohort Year 11 students prepare for their GCSEs.

I have been really impressed by the students at Beccles; they are fun, hard working and are walking and talking examples of the ethos of the 6Cs. The staff here are lovely and have shown themselves to be dedicated and hard working. They all pull together to improve outcomes for our students. I have also met quite a few parents and members of the community who support the school so well.

I am excited to be part of the Beccles Free School team and I can't wait to celebrate the successes of our Year 11 group in 2015 and after.

Amy Morfitt

Higher Level Teaching Assistant



Hi! My name is Mrs Amy Morfitt, the new HLTA, mum of two, Scout Leader and crocheting queen! I'd like to say how welcoming both staff and students have been, especially during those first scary days in my new job!

The students here at Beccles Free School are the best behaved, most polite I have ever come across, and hold high aspirations, upholding the school ethos.

I hope to find myself supporting many of you across the school, and helping you to achieve beyond your potential, ready for life after school.

Hannah Parkinson

English Teacher



I can't honestly remember my first day at Beccles. It feels like I have been here since the beginning!

The students and staff have been so welcoming that I instantly felt part of the community. That is what I love most about Beccles. We are one body, one community and we all work together. I am thoroughly enjoying discovering the Arctic with my Year 7s, defeating Dracula with my Year 8s and look forward to being terrified of The Woman in Black with my Year 9s.

Thank you!

Marshalee Brown

Mathematics Teacher



Hi, I am Marshalee Brown, a mathematician whose main objective is to continue to inspire young minds to develop

holistically towards the achievement of the education system. I will build on previous knowledge, thus, enhancing growth and development. My teaching career started in Jamaica, where I was born and raised.

I studied Teaching and Counselling at Northern Caribbean University. I have taught mathematics for a period of over eight years; five plus years in Jamaica and three years in the UK.

Absence Reporting

Parents should please ensure that any student absences are reported to the school office before 9am, stating the reason for the student's absence. Unless the student is to be absent for a long period of time, a call should be made on each day of the absence. This will ensure we can safeguard our students by completing registers quickly and help maintain the school's excellent 96% Attendance Record.

Communication with our school

We welcome and encourage communication with our school. Please note that initially this communication should be via your child's form tutor or, if the issue is curriculum based with the relevant teacher/subject leader. This will help us to respond as quickly as possible. We also hold Open Forums, the dates of which can be found on the school website. We will also hold our parent focus groups in the coming weeks. If any parent is interested in joining a Parent Focus Group please contact Mr Lucas at school who can explain a little about this Focus Group and its work.

Building work

Willmott Dixon continue to work on the second phase of our building which will be opened after half term. We have regular meetings with the team from Willmott Dixon and the work is progressing well.

Trust Christmas Card Competition

Whilst it still seems a long way off, there are aspects of preparation for Christmas that need to take place. One of these aspects is the Trust Christmas Card Competition.



All students from each of the three Trust schools are invited to design a Christmas card. Once all the entries from the schools have been collected and judged, the winning design is printed as the Trust's Christmas card for that year. The student whose design is chosen receives a framed copy of their card and ten of the cards to give out to family and friends. It would be wonderful if the winning card design came from Beccles Free School this year, so please look out for further information on this competition in a few weeks' time.

Remember the 6 C's (Poem)

If **Challenge** could change the way a **Community Co-operates**, if you **Commit** with **Confidence** then you'll have something to work towards so you can **Celebrate**.

Poem by Yanna Dodd
Year 11 Student



Travel to and from school

We have received lovely comments about the conduct of our students on their travels to and from school. As ever, students are our finest ambassadors and in their uniform are recognisable and often noticed.

Students who cycle to school should wear a cycle helmet and have working lights on their bike. As the time that light fades gets ever earlier it is important that all students have coats that have something highly visible on them.

Lunches

We have all been delighted with the maturity of all of our new students at lunch times. They have embraced the ethos of eating as a community. We are aware that the queues have been a little long in the initial weeks and we would like to commend all of our students for their behaviour. Letters explaining how to activate ParentPay accounts have been sent to parents of our new students. As ever, any parent who wishes to eat with us at lunch should contact the school office and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Volunteers

We have often been asked about the possibility of volunteering at school. We welcome this support. Safeguarding is a number one priority and if you wished to volunteer we follow a process that includes a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), taking up of references and relevant criminal record checks. Any parent / carer who wishes to volunteer at school please contact Ms Govender, Deputy Headteacher at school who will arrange for an initial meeting to take place.

contact us...

We welcome your feedback, news and comments... e-mail us at enquiries@becclesfreeschool.org.uk or on Twitter [@BecclesFS](https://twitter.com/BecclesFS)



www.becclesfreeschool.org.uk
Castle Hill, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7BQ