

BSF Newsletter—Autumn Half-Term 1



Spotlight: Personal development @BSF

The first half term of the academic year has got off to a strong start at Beal Sixth Form. Following on from enrolment on GCSE results day in August and induction at the start of term, our new Year 12 students have successfully settled into their studies and sixth form routines.

In addition to supporting students academically with the transition from GCSE from Level 3 courses, tutorial time, assemblies and PSHE lessons this half-term have been used to launch BSF's Personal Development Programme.

As an outstanding post-16 provider, BSF aims not only to provide students with a world class education but also to help students grow beyond the confines of their academic studies by supporting them to become well-rounded, responsible, confident, and capable individuals.

Students at BSF are encouraged to proactively engage with a wide range of personal development opportunities across the year. These include:



Super-Curricular (starting after half-term):

- High Fliers Programme (for students aspiring to Oxbridge or other Russell Group universities)
- MDV Programme (for students aiming for Medicine, Dentistry, or Veterinary Science)
- EPQ (for students looking to challenge themselves academically by undertaking a 5,000-word research project and develop valuable academic skills)
- Duke of Edinburgh Award (for students looking to increase their confidence and resilience, and to develop valuable life skills such as problem-solving, communication and teamwork).

Give-Back:

- Subject Captains (to act as subject ambassadors by supporting departments with academic enrichment and other outreach opportunities).
- Sixth Form Captains (to support the running of the sixth form and mentor students in lower years by modelling leadership skills).

Other Opportunities:

- Extracurricular clubs led by sixth form students
- Social action projects, including *Wings of Hope* and *First Give*
- In addition to the opportunities for personal development provided to students in school, a wide range of external opportunities is published weekly to students in the [BSF Padlet](#).

All personal development activities are logged by students on the Unifrog platform and contribute towards [BSF's Personal Development Award](#).

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Spotlight: PSHE @BSF

This half-term, BSF has hosted a wide range of external speakers to contribute to the sixth form's PSHE programme, which takes place period 1 on Wednesday (Year 12) and Friday (Year 13). PSHE at BSF is designed to develop students' understanding of the importance of health and wellbeing, healthy relationships and living in the wider world.

Highlights this half-term have included talks on:

- Budgeting, saving and investing (WizeUp)
- Independent learning and effective study habits (BSF alumni/former Head Boy)
- Personal statements and university/course selection (University of Leicester)
- Introduction to higher/degree apprenticeships (Uptree)
- Preparing our teens for the unspoken at university (Bold Voices)
- WOHA 2025/26 (Wings of Hope/Year 13 participants)
- Taking charge of your health/raising cancer awareness (Robin Cancer Trust)

As part of the work and careers strand of BSF's PSHE offer, students were also privileged to hear from alumna, Anjali Narbheram, about her journey from Beal to the Bar.

In an inspirational and motivating talk, Anjali spoke about the route that she followed to becoming a commercial barrister, including valuable advice around which degree to study and what additional experience to gain alongside.

Anjali outlined some of the benefits of working as a barrister, including the exciting, varied work, the freedom to specialise according to your interests, and provided students with tips on how to overcome the barriers to entry to this competitive field.

Thank you very much to Anjali for taking the time to come back to Beal and for sharing the benefit of her experience.

Spotlight: Careers @BSF

As part of our commitment to providing all students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life, and for the next stage of their education, training or employment, BSF provides all students with a comprehensive programme of careers independent advice and guidance.

In addition to talks and workshops explaining the different progression routes on offer to them, regular insight days provide students with the opportunity to find out more about specific careers in a range of different fields.



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In October, twenty Year 12 students visited the iconic Lloyd's of London building (an 'inside out' building designed by Richard Rogers designed to provide the perfect working environment for its clients) for an Insurance Insights Day held in conjunction with Future First.

Students first met in The Old Library for an initial talk and then split into groups where a host of volunteers from the insurance industry engaged with the groups covering various aspects of the insurance industry within London.

This was followed by a "dive-in" careers conference on the famous Lloyd's of London main underwriting floor. Here the attendees mingled with various underwriting and broking firms to learn about the types of business traded and met individuals from those very firms who explained various career paths to the Year 12s.

There were also tables with market supporting firms, including consultancy, compliance and legal areas, where attendees were able to find out about additional career paths that interlink with the insurance industry.



Student feedback from the visit was extremely positive, with one of the participants commenting that *"It was a fantastic day, and I found it very informative to learn about the insurance world directly from the professionals. Hearing from so many different companies about their experiences gave me a much broader understanding of the sector than I had before."*

Spotlight: UCAS @BSF

Following on from the UCAS launch during Year 12 progression week at the end of the summer term, Year 13 students are now in the process of completing their applications and finalising the university/course choices. The internal deadline for completed applications is Friday 5th December and the national UCAS deadline is 6.00pm on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

A total of 37 students submitted applications ahead of the deadline for early applications on 15th October, including 26 applications for MDV (21 medicine, 4 dentistry and 1 veterinary science) and 11 applications for Oxbridge to study a range of degree courses, including Architecture, English and History, Economics, Engineering, Psychology and Law.

MDV: To prepare students for competitive MDV applications, BSF's MDV coordinators, Mr Ahmad and Ms Bhalla, deliver a structured programme of support across the year. This includes weekly form time sessions, talks from guest speakers about different pathways within MDV, facilitating work experience placements, careers fairs, and preparation for the UCAT. Building on last summer's excellent destinations, which saw seven of our Year 13 leavers take up places to study Medicine at a range of prestigious institutions, the MDV team is hopeful for another strong year of interview invitations and subsequent university offers.

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Oxbridge: Students applying to Oxbridge and top Russell Group universities, are supported by BSF's innovative High Fliers programme, delivered by Ms Matharu and Mr Baker. As well as signposting suitable widening participation and other outreach opportunities, the programme, which is delivered in conjunction with partners at Oxbridge college and other local schools, encourages students to develop their engagement with super-curricular activities, provides interview skills workshops and support with preparing for admissions tests including the LNAT, ESAT, TYMUA, TSA and MAT.

Reminders and key dates

Attendance

A reminder that sixth former's attendance at school is essential for their overall success. As such, at BSF, we have a minimum target of 95% attendance to tutorials/lessons and for each sixth former to be on time, all the time, every day. Research proves there is a strong correlation between attendance and achievement. Students with an attendance rate of less than 90% risk achieving two grades lower than their target grade. It is the responsibility of students and parents/carers to ensure that if absences do occur, that the correct procedure is followed. Progression from Year 12 to Year 13 is also dependent upon students achieving a minimum of 90%

Year 13 Parents & Carers Evening

Following on from the Year 13 progression exams that students have sat across the last two weeks of this half-term, a reminder that the Year 13 Parents & Carers Evening will be taking place on Tuesday 2 December. Autumn reports, containing students' mock exam grades and revised UCAS predictions will be issued on Monday 1 December to inform conversations with parents and staff the following day.

Year 13 Study Leave 2026

Following the start of next summer's public exams w/b 11th May 2026, Year 13 lessons will continue through until Friday 23rd May. All students are expected to continue attending lesson through to half-term. Lessons prior to half-term, and targeted booster sessions after half-term, will be used to deliver a structured programme of revision and exam practice, including the re-teaching of key concepts and skills designed to maximise student progress. Further details of the revision programme that is being put in place next summer will be published and shared with students and parents after half-term.