

A Personal Perspective

Beckfoot School is a very popular, oversubscribed mixed comprehensive with 1600 students of all abilities, including approximately 300 within the Sixth Form studying advanced level courses. We converted to academy status in 2013 when we formed the 'Beckfoot Trust' which now has 9 Bradford schools within it (a combination of secondary, primary and special schools) all absolutely committed to comprehensive education. I am the CEO of the Trust and Gills Halls is the Headteacher at Beckfoot School.



Our core purpose is for all Beckfoot learners to enjoy school, become independent learners and to expect success. Indeed our school motto 'ENJOY – LEARN – SUCCEED' very much reflects our ethos and our image of the 'Beckfoot Learner' illustrates the skills and qualities we are seeking to nurture in our students.

We are very ambitious for Beckfoot School. Our aim has been for the last decade to become one of the finest examples of comprehensive education in the country. We educate whoever the local authority allocates to us. In 2014 we were graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in every category. It has inspired us to build and grow stronger still. In 2016 we were awarded the 'World Class Schools Quality Mark'.

In June 2011 we moved into our brand new school. It has had a noticeable impact on further developing the independent learning culture we want to nurture at Beckfoot. In addition to the new build we have refurbished a part of the old school to create a wonderful Creative Arts Faculty and a new Astroturf and playground space. We are very excited by the fact that we are co-located with Hazelbeck Special School who were the first school to join our Multi Academy Trust. This partnership provides even greater opportunities for inclusion.

Other features of the school include:

- ✓ We are a Teaching School. Awarded in 2015. We have been recognised nationally for our commitment to developing the next generation of teachers and we run a School Direct Training programme. We are also renowned for our leadership development programmes that apply to all schools within our Trust.
- ✓ Other awards include Artsmark Gold, Sportsmark, Fair Trade Status, Eco School, International Schools Award Gold and Inclusion Mark.
- ✓ We have Designated Special Provision for students with physical disability.
- ✓ We are renowned for our commitment to student leadership.

- ✓ We run a June to June curriculum where all our students moved up an academic year for the last 5 weeks of the year. This allows us to make better use of this time, launch new courses and re-energise students at the end of the year.
- ✓ We have a three year Strategic Vision (2015-18) which sets out our strategies to further improve and puts down in words the key principles that shape our ethos.

Strategically we focus exclusively on the following 4 priorities:

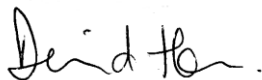
1. To ensure that the quality of teaching is consistently good – day in, day out;
2. To ensure the curriculum experience is truly personalised, relevant and exciting;
3. To ensure that the support and guidance structure cares for and encourages learners to take ownership of their learning.
4. To ensure that an outstanding leadership and management culture exists for all students and staff.

Obviously to work at Beckfoot you must aspire to be an outstanding colleague and be comfortable with high levels of accountability for the progress of our learners. You must be willing to share and to learn. You must be prepared to go the extra mile, be a leader and not a follower. Above all else, you must like young people and aspire to make them outstanding citizens. Schools are no place for cynics; we only appoint positive people who want to make a difference. In return we cherish our staff. We provide excellent working conditions, proper planning time, a structured professional development programme linked to our Teaching School and the resources to carry out a professional job. We have strong governance arrangements, excellent back office support and we are financially secure.

We are excited by what we are doing here and locally. There is a strong moral dimension to all our work. We believe that what we do at Beckfoot prepares our students to be the **leaders of tomorrow**. The Ofsted quote that most pleased us in 2014 was that which said:

'Students are confident, articulate and accomplished learners. There is a buzz of learning in the school and students take a genuine delight in mastering new skills'.

We want to continue to grow as a learning community. If you believe in comprehensive education, feel inspired by working alongside students and like-minded colleagues, and critically believe that you have the qualities needed to contribute towards Beckfoot's development, then please apply.



David Horn
CEO

Gill Halls
Headteacher