

A Personal Perspective

2019/2020

Beckfoot School is the lead school in the 'Beckfoot Trust'. I am the Headteacher and I have the privilege to lead Beckfoot day to day.

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.

We are very ambitious for our school. We want to become one of the finest examples of comprehensive education in the country and are very much on a journey that is determined to achieve that goal. In May 2014 Ofsted judged the school to be Outstanding and in 2016 we were awarded World Class School status and redesignated in 2019. We believe in never standing still and are ambitious to do even more for our students and the wider community.

In June 2011 we moved into our brand-new state of the art school and it is a wonderful place to work and learn. We are doing special things here and our progress has been fantastic. Indeed, our progress in the basics 9-5 put us in line with the top 20% of similar schools nationally.

As already stated, we are a part of the Beckfoot Trust which is made up of ten schools: four Secondary, four Primary and two Special making us a uniquely cross-phase MAT. Currently, two schools within the Trust, Beckfoot School and Hazelbeck Special School, are judged to be 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. All other schools are improving rapidly.

Key features of the Trust include:

- ✓ The award of 'Leading Edge' status.
- ✓ Recognition, nationally, for the commitment to developing the next generation of teachers.
- ✓ Establishment of the Beckfoot Teaching School in September 2015. The Trust has been recognised nationally for its commitment to developing the next generation of teachers and runs a School Direct Training programme. It is also renowned for its leadership development programmes that apply to all schools within the Trust.
- ✓ Renowned for the high quality of Leadership Training for all staff; for Research and Development into teaching practice and belief in the value of student leadership.
- ✓ We are renowned for our commitment to student leadership. Our core purpose is for all Beckfoot Trust 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.
- ✓ The establishment of a June to June curriculum where all students move up an academic year for the last 5 weeks of the traditional academic year. This allows us 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 (2019-22) 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 culture exists for all.

Obviously, to work with us you must aspire to be an outstanding colleague and be comfortable with high levels of accountability for the progress of 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 look after our staff. We provide excellent working conditions, proper planning time, a structured professional development programme and the resources to carry out a professional job. We are backed up by superb Trust Governance and we are financially secure.

We are excited by what we are doing here. 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**. We want to continue to grow as a learning community.

If you feel inspired by working alongside students and believe you have the qualities needed to contribute towards our development, then please apply.

Simon Wade
Headteacher