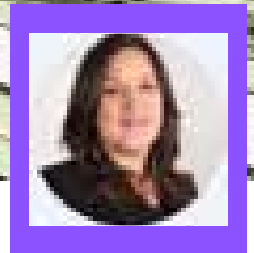


# NEWSLETTER

## BEACON ACADEMY



### Principal's Message

This term has been a whirlwind of activity! From inspiring careers events for Years 9, 10 and 11, to the empowering "Women into Welding" trip, and a vital Year 11 Geography field study, our pupils have been engaging in diverse learning experiences. Sporting fixtures have kept us on our toes, showcasing our students' talent and teamwork, and our rehearsals for the summer production of 'Annie' is well underway. The new mobile phone hand-in system has had a successful start, with pupils adapting well. It has sparked some good discussions. Teachers, meanwhile, are racking up their steps as they now move between lessons, adding a healthy dose of activity to their week. I hope you enjoy reading through our successes, reminders and important messages.

### Fire Alarms

Unfortunately, some pupils have made poor choices in continuing to set off fire alarms. Setting off fire alarms disrupts vital learning time and creates a dangerous environment. False alarms cause unnecessary stress and potentially divert emergency services from real incidents. This behaviour is unacceptable and will be met with serious consequences. We urge all pupils to respect safety protocols and prioritise learning. Pupils have been briefed in assemblies and are reminded of our Ready, Respect, Safe expectations.

# ONLINE PARENTAL WORKSHOPS

Just a reminder that there are free parental workshops available through FACE. The Parent Talks can be found on the PARENT webpage:

<https://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk/supportforparents>

At the payment stage of booking, add the code BA290125 where it says ADD PROMO CODE. This will drop the price from £24 to £0.

Current sessions include: Anxiety-based School Avoidance, Facing Defiance, Understanding Anger, Supporting Healthy Sleep and many others.



## NEW SCHOOL UPDATE



**Take a look at the new classroom design!**

On track for Sept 2025

The staff and Estates team are busy preparing for a move to the new school site.

We have been looking at classroom furniture and designs. We look forward to sharing our progress with you each month.



**Library Area**



# MOBILE PHONES

We've now been running our phone-hand-in system for a few days, and the positive changes are already clear. By collecting mobile phones at the start of the day and returning them at the end, we've created a more focused and engaging learning environment.

Teachers have stated that pupil concentration has already improved. While it's early days, pupils appear more 'present' in the lessons and are willing to engage in discussions and contribute ideas.

## Breaks & Lunch

Previously pupils were observed scrolling their phones during these times, whereas now, pupils are talking and laughing together. And there was a fantastic game of football observed by staff, where pupils across different year groups came together.

## Adjusting to the Change - advice for pupils

If you're finding the transition challenging, remember that it's normal to feel a little disconnected at first.

- Try engaging in activities you enjoy during break times, such as reading, drawing, or playing games with friends.
- Speak to your form tutor or a member of staff if you're struggling; we're here to support you.



**Our new storage boxes**

# PSHE SESSION

All pupils received a PSHE session that helped them to understand their feelings and thoughts around mobile phones.

**Swiped:** The School That Banned Smartphones is a two-part Channel 4 documentary that follows the impact of a 21-day smartphone ban on students at The Stanway School in Colchester. The documentary is presented by Emma and Matt Willis.

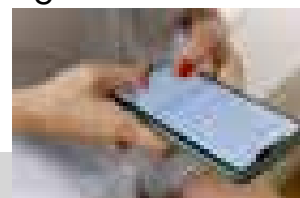
## What the documentary is about

Swiped explores how the ban affects the students' behaviour, attention, and sleep. The documentary also includes interviews with students about their phone usage and how they feel without their phones.

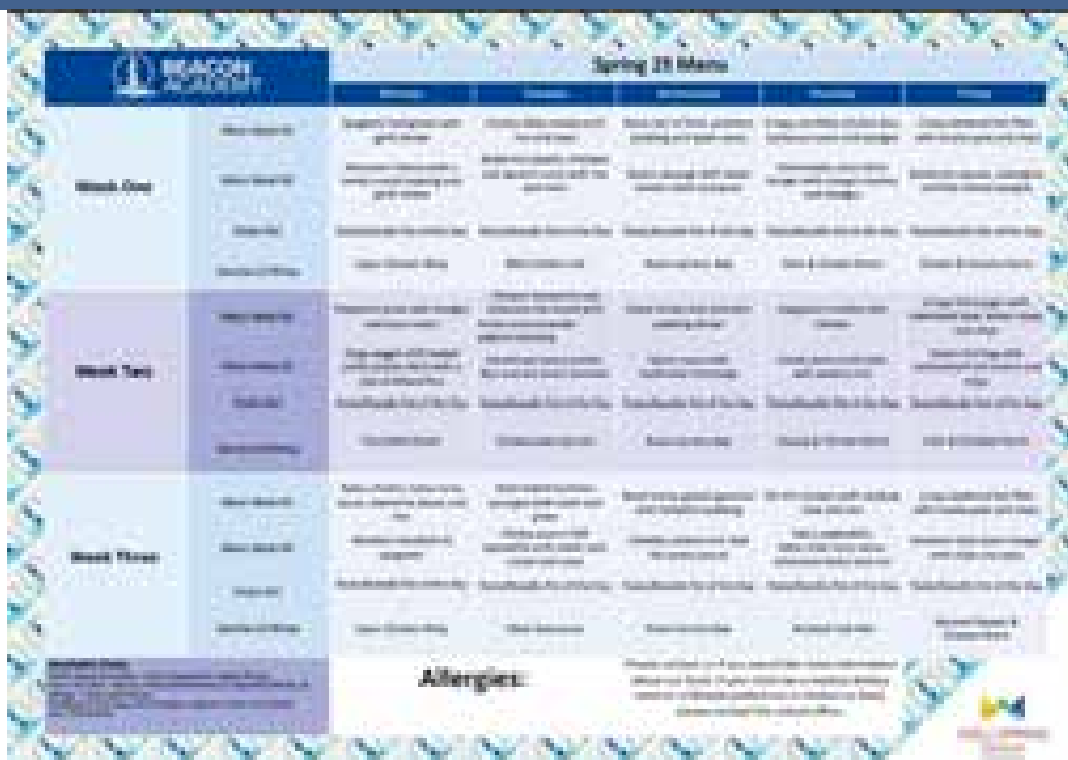
## Why it's important

The documentary highlights the concerns that many parents, teachers, and young people have about the damaging effects of smartphones. It also shows how removing smartphones can help students feel happier, healthier, and more ready to learn.

A link to the video can be found [here](#).



# BEACON MENU



BEACON		Spring 23 Menu				
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week One	Breakfast	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam
	Lunch	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots
	Dinner	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables
Week Two	Breakfast	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam
	Lunch	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots
	Dinner	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables
Week Three	Breakfast	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam	Wholemeal toast with butter and jam
	Lunch	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots	Roast beef, potatoes, peas, and carrots
	Dinner	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables	Chicken, rice, and vegetables

**Allergies:** Please inform the school of any allergies your child has. We will ensure the menu is safe for all children.

## YEAR 11 REVISION: PARENTAL SUPPORT

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting GCSE revision. Create a calm, distraction-free study space at home. Help your child establish a realistic revision timetable and encourage short, focused study sessions. Provide healthy snacks and ensure they get adequate sleep. Discuss their progress regularly, offering encouragement and praise. Help them access online resources like BBC Bitesize and past papers. Test them on key concepts using flashcards or practice questions. Most importantly, remind them that you're there to support them through this challenging time. Open communication and a positive, encouraging atmosphere are key to their success.

We've had an incredible month of sporting triumphs at the academy! Check out the amazing photos below, capturing the excitement and skill of our teams across a variety of sports. A huge well done to everyone who took part!

## 12.02.25 Y9/10 GIRLS FOOTBALL - SEMI-FINAL

The Y9/10 girls football team played against Ormiston Maritime Academy in the Semi Final of the Develop Cup on Wednesday 12 February. The girls played incredibly well as a team and won the game 4-1 with goals from Aiybha Jones, Isabella Marsden, Kira Ling and Halle Roberts. They showed excellent sportsmanship and represented the academy in the best way possible. The girls now progress to the Final against John Whitgift Academy on Wednesday 30 April.



## 25.02.25 LTA

KS4 Sports Leaders enjoyed the Youth Leadership Day at Louth Tennis and Sports Centre. Leaders developed transferable leadership and practical skills.

## 25.02.25 U14 Boys Basketball Tournament

Y8/9 boys competed in the U14 basketball tournament at Grimsby Institute. The boys represented the academy exceptionally, demonstrating good sportsmanship and communication throughout.



## 26.02.25 Y7/8 Girls Football - Semi-Final

The Y7/8 girls football team played against John Whitgift Academy in the Semi-Final of the Compete Cup and unfortunately lost the match to a very good team. All the girls played some excellent football and showed great sportsmanship.

## 04.03.2025 - Y11 Netball Tournament

The Y11 netball team competed in their last ever netball tournament on Tuesday finishing 8th out of 11 teams. The girls showed excellent teamwork and demonstrated some brilliant netball. It has been a pleasure to see them develop over the past 5 years and we hope they continue to enjoy netball throughout their lives.



# WOMEN INTO WELDING

Students participated in the 'Women into Welding' event, gaining first-hand experience in welding and discovering career opportunities through CATCH. They connected with apprentices and industry professionals, enjoyed a hands-on welding session, and toured the CATCH facility.

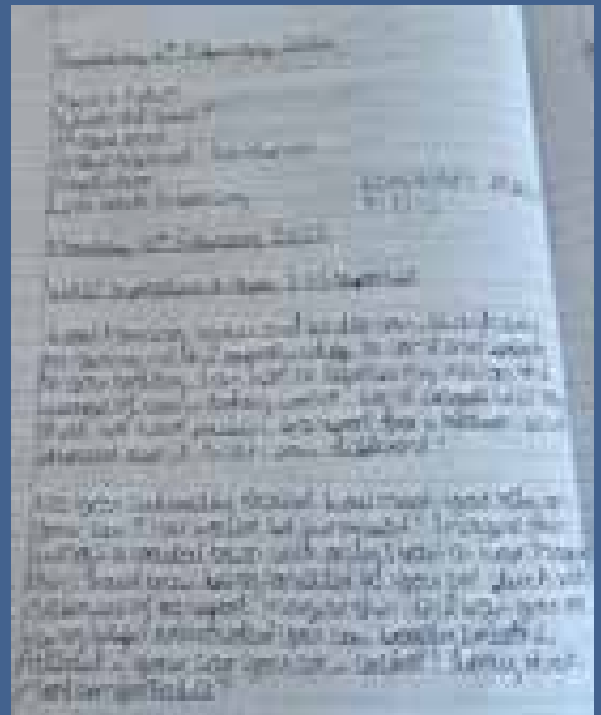
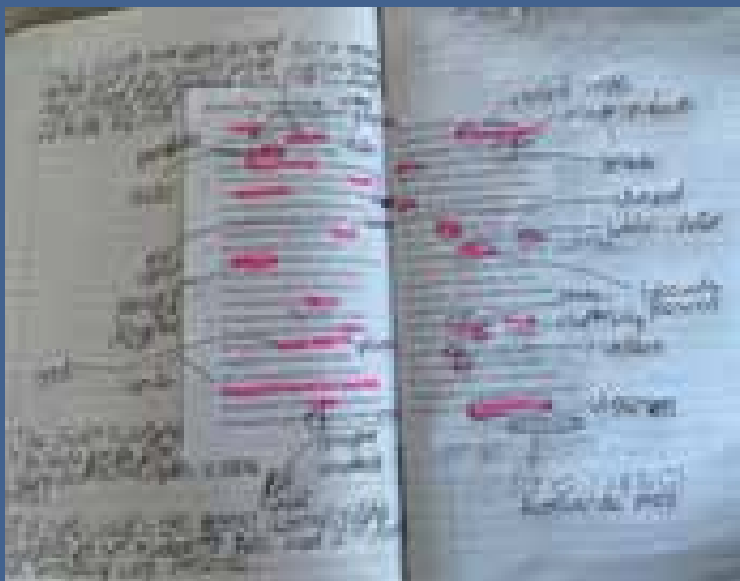
CATCH also conducted a Year 10 assembly to inform our students about the various post-16 pathways available to them, ensuring they are well-prepared for their future options.



# ENGLISH

We've been incredibly impressed with the exceptional quality of Year 11 English work recently. Students have demonstrated a strong command of poetry annotation's and extended writing that showcase their dedication and talent.

Here are some fantastic examples.



# HUMBER OUTREACH PROGRAMME



The Humber Outreach Programme (HOP) visited the academy, providing targeted sessions for different year groups.

Year 9 students explored university options, budgeting, and finance.

Year 10 learned about occupational training, apprenticeships, and both academic and vocational pathways.

Year 11 participated in revision skills sessions.

Watch this space! HOP will return to complete the remaining sessions.

## PERFORMANCE IN EDUCATION - #YOLO

Performance in Education attended the academy to deliver a road safety presentation called #YOLO, highlighting the dangers of being unsafe in a car when someone else is driving. By changing the way young people behave as passengers in cars, "#YOLO" encourages students to recognise risks and take responsibility for their actions.



## PARENT CONDUCT

We deeply value our partnership with parents and carers and believe in collaborative support for our pupils. However, we must reiterate that we do not tolerate abusive, threatening, or aggressive behaviour directed at our staff. This includes any form of communication, whether in person on school premises, via email, or telephone. Creating a safe and respectful environment for everyone within our school community is paramount. Any instances of such behaviour will be addressed appropriately, ensuring the wellbeing of our staff and pupils.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in maintaining a positive and respectful atmosphere. We are keen to work with all parents around any concerns they may have.

## #WATSportsFest 17th - 23rd March 2025



Colleagues from across our Wellspring Academies Trust are joining forces with **Show Racism the Red Card** to raise money to support school workshops and creating educational resources that empower young people and colleagues to challenge prejudice.

Colleagues will be aiming to achieve a total of 70,000 minutes of exercise.

Shaka Hislop (England ex-goalkeeper) has created a wonderful video for our Trust, which we will share on our social media sites.

Beacon's *Equality and Diversity* Representative, Mr Babatunde, will be in assemblies next week to talk about racism and how we can all play our part to show racism the **RED** card.

SHOW  
RACISM  
THE  
RED  
CARD



# Classroom Expectations

In November, we re-launched our classroom expectations and have updated our posters in classrooms.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS**

**READY**

- Have your equipment ready when the lesson starts.
- Listen carefully to instructions.
- Give it a go.

**RESPECT**

- Treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Use kind words and actions.
- Listen to others without interrupting.

**SAFE**

- Keep yourself and others safe.
- Use equipment and the environment safely.
- If you have a worry or concern, please inform an adult.

 **BEACON ACADEMY**  
Empowering young minds