



Bentley Wood High School



Newsletter October 2024

Author Sue Wallman visits Bentley Wood

On Wednesday, the 16th of October Bentley Wood High School welcomed author Sue Wallman to deliver a talk to students about her career as a writer. Sue has written seven exciting thrillers for teens and there was a great deal of anticipation about her visit as her books are popular with our students.

The Hall was buzzing with excitement as students from Years 7 to 9 assembled in turns to listen to Sue as she shared some of the key experiences that shaped her journey to becoming a writer and a published author. With warmth and humour, she recounted the reasons she decided to write thrillers and even some of the disappointments she faced before she eventually found success.

Students were particularly captivated by Sue's insights into the writing process. She encouraged them to embrace their unique voices and not to fear making mistakes, highlighting how every writer develops their craft over time.



Don't forget to check our website for regular news updates:

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the Headteacher

Dear students, parents, carers and staff,

As always, the first half term is a very busy time for all schools. We proudly welcome potential new families at our Open Evenings for Year 7 and Year 12, students and staff coming together to highlight all the positives about being part of the Bentley Wood community.

The Careers fair was a huge success, with all students able to spend time to talk to our professionals who came to visit us. Two of these professionals were Bentley Wood students themselves not so long ago.

This year we held our first English Symposium with 60 Year 13 students from across the collegiate schools joining us for the morning. It was academically stimulating and challenging for everyone involved.

I enjoyed listening to some Year 9 students who had created amazing reusable energy projects in science. They could articulate really well how the energy was generated, captured and then able to be used.

Glee Club goes from strength to strength, performing again at the Black History Month Celebrations at Harrow Arts centre in Hatch End.

Our Year 7 students have settled very well and I am so pleased to see how many of them have already caught the enrichment bug and are fully involved in Oliver rehearsals, choir, sports and science clubs.

As you are aware we are adjusting our approach to managing mobile phones on the school site. We want to instil even better habits with our students, their mobile phone and their social media use. We strongly believe separation from phones whilst on the school site benefits everyone and we thank you in supporting us in firmly establishing these boundaries with all students. We are also piloting with some of the older students and staff replacing smart phones with simple 'brick phones'. We are gathering reflections over their 'smart phone free time.'

Our 1 to 1 device initiative has been launched with Years 7, 9 and 12. Staff and students are enjoying their new routines and broader learning opportunities this enables them.

Enjoy your half term break! The school is open Monday to Thursday for Year 11 and 6th Form revision classes only.

Kindest regards,



Naseema Akbar
Headteacher

Sue Wallman talks about her inspirations and gives advice for budding authors

Sue engaged the students with a fascinating account of what goes on behind the scenes in the partnership between authors, their agents and publishing companies.

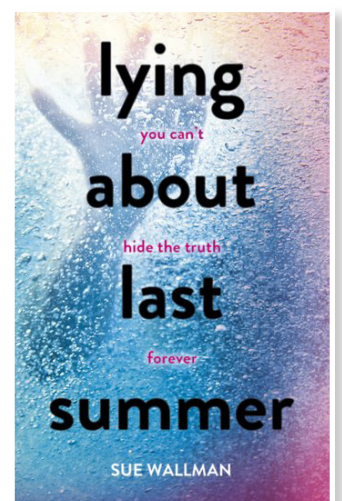
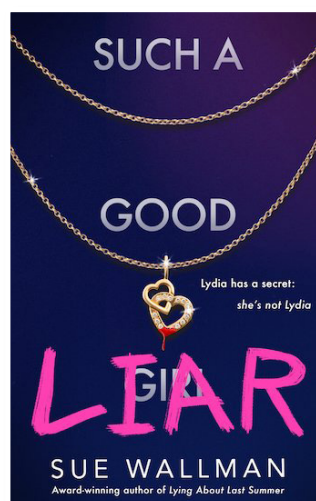
Students were surprised to discover how involved publishers can be with developing crucial elements of a book such as the cover design, character creation and even the plot!

The Q&A session that followed was lively, with students asking about her inspirations, favourite books, and advice for budding authors. At the end of the day Sue kindly took part in an impromptu session of signing autographs and posing for photos with her newest fans.

The visit not only ignited a passion for reading among our students but also demonstrated to them the importance of perseverance and resilience in the pursuit of one's aspirations in life.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sue Wallman for taking the time to visit Bentley Wood and for inspiring our young writers. We encourage our students to explore her books and consider the power of their own narratives.

Ms Khan Librarian



Two of the exciting thrillers for teens written by Sue Wallman

Autumn reads

The Judgement of Yoyo Gold by Isaac Blum

When Yoyo Gold's best friend is cast out of their Orthodox Jewish community over a minor transgression, she starts making videos on TikTok to vent her frustrations and speak out over the injustice faced by her friend. But then one of her videos goes viral, bringing upon her the wrath of her family and community. Will Yoyo lose the will to fight for what she feels is right?

The Night Fox by Ashley Wilda

Seventeen-year-old Eli is a reluctant guest at Raeth, a remote mountain retreat for teens with mental health issues. She decides to fake her recovery so she can return home quickly. What she soon learns is that the retreat itself has other ideas. The valley's magical surroundings transform each time she ventures out, playing with her mind and dredging up her grief-laden memories.

Wrath of the Triple Goddess by Rick Riordan

Percy needs three recommendation letters from the gods before his final year in high school comes to an end. To secure his second letter, Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover agree to a new quest – pet-sitting for the goddess Hecate while she's away over Halloween. Things don't go quite to plan and the trio find themselves with a giant goat, a destroyed house, and Hecate's (terrifying and potentially deadly) pets on the loose in New York City.

Cobweb by Michael Morpurgo

Britain. 1815. After years of loss and sacrifice, the end of the war with Napoleon is approaching. Cobweb is a young puppy who knows nothing of the war but he is taken away from his owner and sold to become a Drover's Dog – herding sheep and cattle for hundreds of miles on the long, treacherous journey to London. After the war, Cobweb meets an unexpected stranger with an incredible tale to tell on his journey home . . .

Sisters of Fire and Fury by Laura Bates

In this feminist Arthurian fantasy, Cass and the sisterhood have no time to rest on their laurels after defeating Mordaunt's men. Enemies threaten them from all sides and they must recruit new women to fight off invading forces. Meanwhile Cass' blossoming powers and destiny call to her but she struggles to face them without her mentor. How can she become a leader when she doesn't know who she is?

Red in Tooth and Claw by Lish McBride

Faolan Kelly's grandfather dies when she is only seventeen, and she is shipped off to the Settlement – a place rife with mystery and kept afloat by suspicious wealth. When Faolan finds the body of a Settlement boarder mangled by something that can't possibly be human, it's clear something vicious is stalking the palisades. And as Settlement boarders continue to drop like flies, Faolan knows she must escape to evade the creature's wrath.



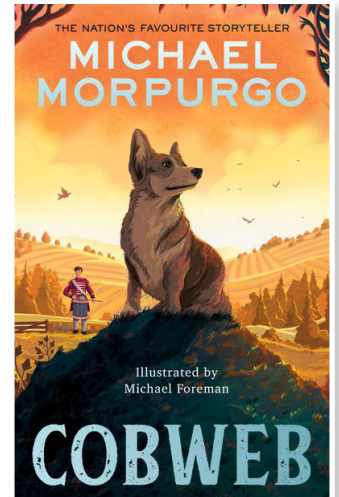
The Judgement of Yoyo Gold by Isaac Blum



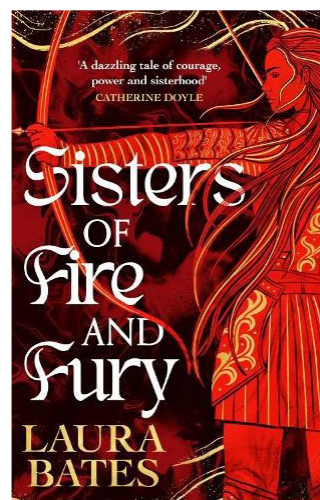
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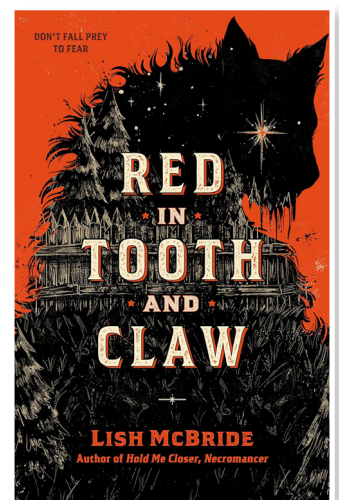
Wrath of the Triple Goddess by Rick Riordan



Cobweb by Michael Morpurgo



Sisters of Fire and Fury by Laura Bates



Red in Tooth and Claw by Lish McBride

Sixteen Minutes by K. J. Reilly

Nell's best friend Stevie B and boyfriend Cole are the two good things in her ordinary life in rural, dead-end Clawson, NY. Along comes Charlotte who draws Cole into her mysterious world, jeopardising Nell's happiness.

When Charlotte reveals that she is a time traveller and she wants Cole to jump to the future with her, Nell's world is upended. Will she find the courage to sacrifice her happiness to help a stranger from another time and place?

Super Sleuth by David Walliams

Dilly and her dog Watson are a dynamic duo. She is a huge Sherlock Holmes fan who loves solving mysteries. He has a nose for sniffing out clues and following trails. But now the detective duo find themselves on a luxury ocean liner bound for London. A thousand passengers. A thousand miles of ocean around them. It's the perfect place for a murder... Or two. Or three. Or four. Or MORE!

Turtle Moon by Hannah Gold

Silver Trevelon is thrilled when his dad is invited to paint at a turtle rescue centre in Costa Rica. Silver settles into life at the centre and even witnesses a rare sighting of a leatherback turtle nesting on the beach.

But when the turtle's eggs are stolen, events take a dark and dangerous turn. Can Silver and her new friends track them down before it's too late? It'll mean journeying into the heart of the jungle ...

Reckless by Lauren Roberts

Paedyn Gray has initiated a rebellion throughout the land and she's running from the one person she had wanted to run to. Kai Azer is loyal to his brother Kitt, the new King, and has vowed to find Paedyn and bring her to justice. Kai and Paedyn are rivals in a city where the balance between the hunter and hunted shifts - and the battle between duty and desire is deadly.

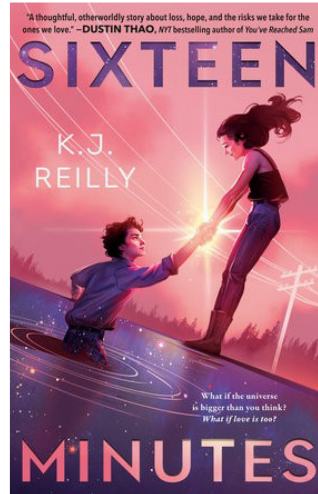
Heir by Sabaa Tahir

The Martial Empire is home to Aiz, a prisoner with a searing sense of justice, Sirsha, a tracker with magical powers and Quil, a crown prince who is loath to accede to the throne. The lives of these three young people interweave as they grapple with the burdens of power, the treachery of love and the devastating consequences of unchecked greed.

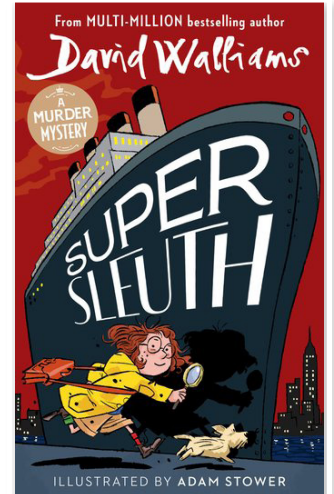
Sleep Like Death by Kalynn Bayron

Princess Eve was raised with one purpose: to destroy the Knight, an evil sorcerer who terrorises Queen's Bridge with his wicked magic. Eve's ability to conjure weapons from nature makes her a worthy adversary. As she approaches her seventeenth birthday, Eve is ready to battle.

But her mother, Queen Regina, has been acting bizarrely, talking to a strange mirror alone every night. Then one day a shocking revelation from a stranger about Eve's past sends her world into a tailspin.



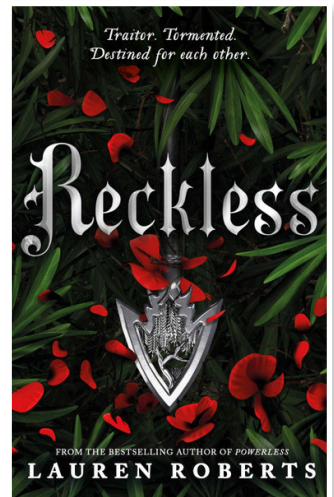
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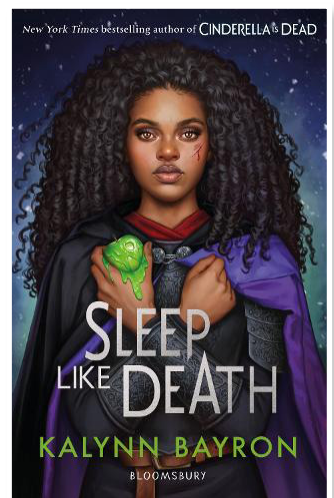
Turtle Moon
by Hannah Gold



Reckless
by Lauren Roberts



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Library leaders: literary and drama events this term



New Library Leaders recruited

The start of the school year in September saw the launch of Bentley Wood's search for new Library Leaders to join the team of helpers who play a vital role in making our library such a vibrant and exciting hub of learning.

Applications opened on the 17th of September and as usual there was a great deal of interest with over 50 applications received. A total of 24 students were shortlisted and they were interviewed for the role by our fantastic Head Girl team. A huge thank you to Baveena S, Abigail C, Britannia N, Mahi P, Fatima I, Jiya G, Hosai Y and Nermyn S for kindly volunteering their time to conduct interviews.

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in their application and are the newest members of the Library Leaders team:

Library Leaders
Zahra K 9AHU
Deivpra J 9KPO
Rumaisa A 9AHU
Joanna S 10TC
Iman O 10TC
Faryal O 8SZ
Aroush A 8SCH
Aalima F M 8CTA
Maryam A 8SZ
Esta D 8SCH
Serena A M 8SCH
Rachel R 8CTA

They join several students in Years 9 to 13 who are continuing in the role from last year. Library Leaders receive training in using the Reading Cloud and performing other tasks such as shelving and preparing new resources for circulation. They also help out with events in the very busy Library calendar such as Scholastic Book Fairs and World Book Day.

This is one of several leadership opportunities available to Bentley Wood students across all year groups. Leadership roles within school allow students to acquire valuable skills, harness their natural talents and cultivate a sense of pride in all they do. This benefits not just the students but the wider community as it shapes the responsible citizens of tomorrow.

Ms Khan Librarian





Year 8 engage in drama activities at UCL Shakespeare Workshop

Following their studies in Shakespeare, Year 8 took part in a workshop ran by UCL. Student teachers led a variety of drama activities that helped Year 8 explore the different themes in Much Ado About Nothing.

They were divided into ten groups where they got the chance to work together and produce freeze frames,

mini scenes and re-enact moments from the play. This activity helped students develop their understanding of the play, but also allowed them to have fun with the play they are studying.

Ms Mouskis

Inspire and innovate

English and Classics Symposium

The English and Classics department hosted a morning of lectures delivered by students for students.

On Friday 18th October, sixty year 13 students, from five Harrow secondary schools, joined Bentley Wood English Literature and Classics students for an exciting opportunity. The symposium consisted of students presenting short lectures on a range of topics/theories relating to their studies and/or area of interest.

Apart from providing a space for the students to share their views, perspectives, and knowledge, the symposium provided a great way for Year 13s to prepare for their upcoming mock and final Summer exams.

Mrs Azad



English and Classics Symposium

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:00 - 9:15	Introduction and ice breaker	N Mouskis and A Hussain
9:15 - 10:45	First round of talks	Presenter
Each lecture should be 5-7 mins long	1. Women: How far have we really come?	1. Bentley Wood
	2. Greek Mythology in Tragedies	2. Alperton
	3. Marx-feminist	3. Bentley Wood
	4. Freud's psychoanalytical theory/ecofeminist theory?	4. Alperton
	5. Are serial killers born or made?	5. Nower Hill
	6. The otherization of the Gothic	6. Rooks Heath
	7. Death of the author	7. Alperton
	8. Gender and Villainy	8. Nower Hill
	9. Freud and Hamlet	9. Park High
	10. Classics and Psychology	10. Bentley Wood
	11. The Parthenon	11. Bentley Wood
15 mins	Break for refreshments	
11:00 - 12:30	Second round of talks	Presenter
	1. Best and worst of the horror genre	1. Harrow High
	2. Ecocritical theory	2. Bentley Wood
	3. The Panopticon design	3. Bentley Wood
	4. The female gaze in Literature and media	4. Rooks Heath
	5. South Asian postcolonial lens	5. Alperton
	6. Orwell's 1984 and today's Neo-colonial enterprises.	6. Alperton
	7. Foucault's theory of power	7. Bentley Wood
	8. The Female experience in the Victorian era	8. Harrow High
	9. Nihilism and absurdism	9. Bentley Wood
	10. Death of the author	10. Bentley Wood
12:30 - 12:40	Closing	N Azad and A Hussain

English and Classics Symposium
Schedule for the day





Students embrace technology with new device roll-out

The school has enjoyed a fantastic start to the new academic year and we very are very pleased to announce the successful launch of 1:1 devices for students in Years 7, 9 and 12. This exciting programme has provided each student with their own device, ensuring that technology is an integral part of our educational experience.

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, it's crucial that our students have access to the tools they need to succeed. The rollout of 1:1 devices aligns with our commitment to fostering an engaging and inclusive learning environment. The scheme has been widely appreciated by students, staff and parents and they have all shared very positive feedback.

Here is some students experiences this term using the devices

Having these devices has immensely helped us during our lessons by giving us opportunities that we didn't have before; like doing research in lessons, and online activities. These electronics have aided us to broaden our knowledge with much more new information and these devices are more efficient in helping us to study in more ways than just writing on a page, with activities such as quizzes, and online revision cards.

Naomi T 9ROR & Barбора F 9JAZ

These devices have been boosting my confidence to answer as many questions as possible and are a great opportunity to expand your knowledge. I appreciate the fact that our beloved school has also given students that are unable to become part of the scheme the chance to obtain this laptop and experiment with it. These electronics have not only benefitted our knowledge and wisdom, but also our planet. It is much more efficient than printing out papers, worksheets, etc. Therefore, we are also aiding our environment! I would like to thank this school for allowing us to have the freedom to have these devices in order to provide a better curriculum support and additional information to students and providing better organisation skills.

Sara H 9JAZ

This year Bentley Wood has introduced 1 to 1 device to Year 7, Year 9 and Year 12. The devices are specifically given to us to help with our learning and homework. Personally, I love the devices! The teachers can set us online quizzes and they can share PowerPoints and websites with us. My favourite things to do with the devices are to play online quizzes and to do research activities. The devices have really helped us excel in our learning and I am excited to continue using them throughout high school.

Jessica W 7EAW

On Tuesday the 24th of September years 7, 9 and 12 received 1 to 1 devices for the sole purpose of helping us with our homework and class learning. Although we had them we did not start using them in lessons until the following Monday 30th September known as the official launch day. The devices allowed us - the students - to access Teams where our homework was posted and have a sense of responsibility. But the students weren't the only ones who benefitted, the teachers could post PowerPoints and lessons without the excuse of "I can't access Teams!" or "I don't have access to a device!". Overall the devices have been a privilege to receive and I cannot wait to see where it takes us.

Sophia S 7CMI

Year 7 students settle into school life this term

Welcome to Year 7 for the start of their new term

Firstly I'd like to say a massive WELL DONE to our brand new year 7's for settling into life at Bentley Wood so well. Even though they have only been with us for one half term, it already feels like they are all valued members of our community. A huge shout out to the incredible Year 7 pastoral team, who have been instrumental in ensuring the transition to secondary school has been as smooth as can be.

One of the biggest things that I have loved seeing as Head of Year 7 is how readily the girls are willing to support each other and volunteer to help, and are a true testament to the CARE values that we embody here at Bentley Wood. Walking around the school, into their form rooms, and even at Woody's at break and lunchtime, I am greeted by the most enthusiastic grins and excited chatter, and told all about the wonderful learning that the girls are doing in their lessons.

The theme for our year group is 'rainbows' - one of my favourite authors is Maya Angelou and her quote about trying to "Be The Rainbow In Someone Else's Cloud" is a motto that I strive to live by, and how I want the year group to also act. The Year 7s have already really embraced the theme by showing kindness and care to one another, and they truly do brighten up my day. Each week in assembly I award 6 rainbow points to the forms, and the competition is truly heating up to see which form will win the first end of term prize in December!

At Bentley Wood, our students not only excel academically but also always generously contribute their time to support the school community. A special thanks to our Year 7 students, who served as tour guides for prospective families during our Open Evening. Families were highly impressed by their knowledge of the school, despite their short time here, and their excellent communication skills. Well done ladies!



We have the highest expectations of our students in relation to uniform, attendance and punctuality. I am so pleased to say that the Year 7s have risen to the challenge in this respect. A big thank you must go to our families of Year 7 students who I know support their daughter in maintaining these high standards. Please do continue to support your daughter's learning by checking their Teams assignments regularly to check what homework they need to complete.

It's been wonderful to see so many of our Year 7 students taking full advantage of the enrichment opportunities at Bentley Wood. In just the past few days, I've heard students excitedly discussing Science Club, sports activities, Craft Club, and of course, our various music and arts programmes - including our upcoming school production of 'Oliver!'. Every student should be participating in at least one of these amazing enrichment activities each week and an incredible number of students have already received rows of enrichment stamps in their link books.

As I write this, we have already had over 50 students reaching the amazing milestone of getting 50 achievement points this half term, which is incredible! And we have also just today had our first 5 students achieving over 100 points!! A massive congratulations to all of these girls for their hard work and effort, this is a huge accomplishment and I know that the rest of the year group won't be far behind them.

After an exceptionally busy first half term, they all deserve to enjoy a well-earned break during the half-term holiday. Well done Year 7, I'm already so proud of you!

Mrs Burridge, Head of Year 7

Year 7 students learn about the importance of road safety at workshop

A few days ago, Year 7 had a workshop on Road Safety. We had a group called the 'Riot Act' come in and explain to us about dangers on the road.

They taught us about the distractions mobile phones, current technology and mis-behaviour can cause. Something that they taught me is when you are crossing a road and listening to music, turn it down as electric cars are harder to hear than diesel cars.

The messages they gave us really stuck out to everyone because they did not just talk at us, they gave a performance and acted out real-life scenarios for us to think about. I really enjoyed the workshop and now I feel confident and educated when on the road.

Jessica W 7EAW

THE RIOT ACT



GCSE Results 2024



GCSE Results 2024

Congratulations to all Year 11 students. Their hard work and determination has certainly paid off. **33%** of all grades awarded were **9 to 7** and **80%** of all grades awarded **9 to 4**



Arthika P achieved
12 x Grade 9



Sara A achieved
6 x Grade 9, 4 x Grade 8,
1 x Grade 5



Mithra R achieved
7 x Grade 9, 3 x Grade 8,
2 x Grade 7

A special well done to the 21 students who achieved an exceptional **eight** or more GCSE grade **8s** and **9s** and to all our students as they progress onto their next stage of their education

Naseema Akbar Headteacher

GCSE results in 2024

Student performance has continued to excel following on from the success from previous years. Our GCSE students have achieved a fantastic set of results.

GCSE Results

%	GCSEs	grades
33	All Results	9-7
78	English and Mathematics	9-4
57	English and Mathematics	9-5

A Level Results 2024

32% of student grades resulted in an A or A* grade, which is excellent. We are delighted that so many of our students have been accepted into their preferred universities including:

Oxford University, UCL, King's College London, Nottingham University, University of Cardiff, Newcastle University and Queen Mary University of London to study their first-choice courses including: Architecture, Dentistry, History, Medicine, Law, Pharmacy, Graphic Design, Midwifery, International Relations and Philosophy.

We are proud of their achievements and wish them and their families continuing success on their journeys. Our sincere thanks go out to all staff, parents / carers and governors for supporting the girls throughout their studies. Congratulations to all the students on their achievements.

A Level Results 2024

A Level Results 2024

Year 13 students celebrated exceptional A Level results.

32% of the A Level grades were A* or A grades. 18 students achieved A* or A grades across 3 or more subjects and 11 out of the 12 BTEC students were awarded a combination of Distinction* and Distinction



Nabeela S achieved
A* Chemistry,
A* Mathematics
A Further Mathematics
A Physics
 Studying Electrical
 Engineering at Queen Mary
 University of London



Nikita M achieved
A Classic Civilisation
A History
A Psychology
 Studying Ancient and
 Modern History at
 University of Oxford



Saja H achieved
A* Biology
A* Chemistry
A* Mathematics
 Taking a Gap Year

We are incredibly proud of all our students as they go onto their next steps including attending some of the country's top universities, apprenticeships and new careers

Naseema Akbar Headteacher

A Level Results

Key () = National figures

	2019 A Level Results	2022 A Level Results	2023 A Level Results	2024 A Level Results
A*-B	56% (52%)	70% (62%)	64% (54%)	59% (54%)
A*-C	87% (76%)	90% (82%)	88% (76%)	87% (76%)



Year 10 Psychology students get clever and creative for Brain Week



Brain posters, models and cakes

Psychology students in Ms Griffins Year 10 psychology classes enjoyed 'Brain Week' this October with projects designed by Ms Bloom. We are studying criminology this term, in particular what makes a criminal's brain different to a healthy brain. Students were given a project to create a poster and a model of the average human brain and research the differences to a criminal brain. Students used a variety of different materials and textures, even food!

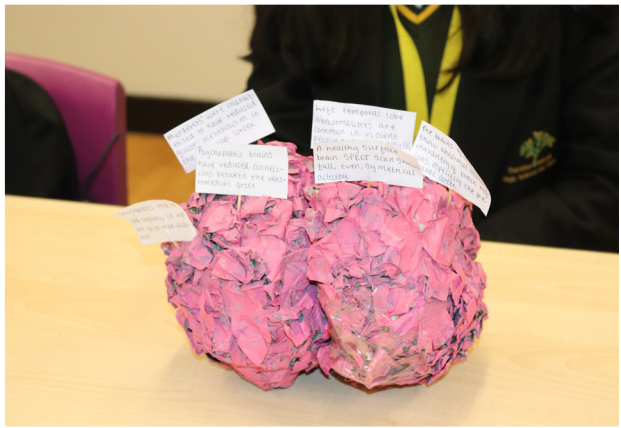
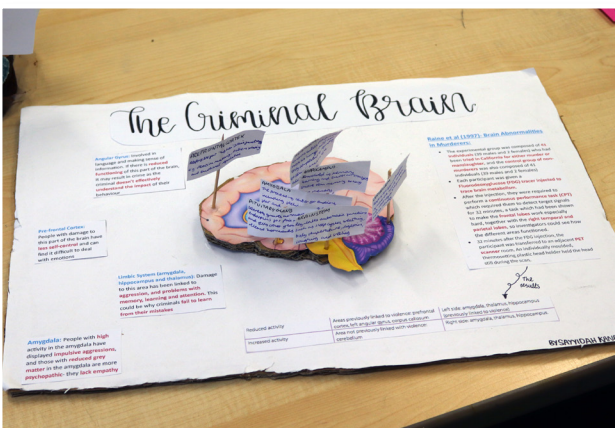
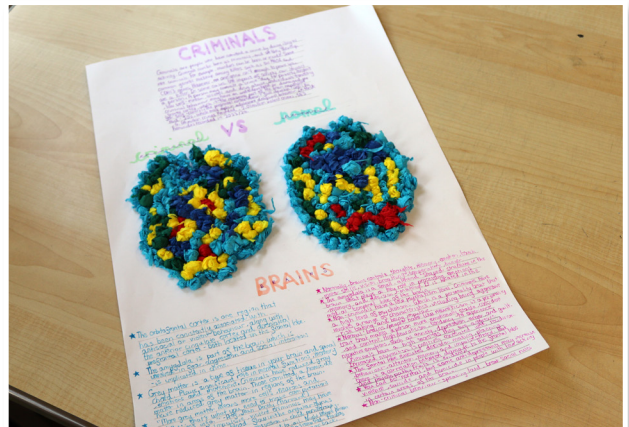
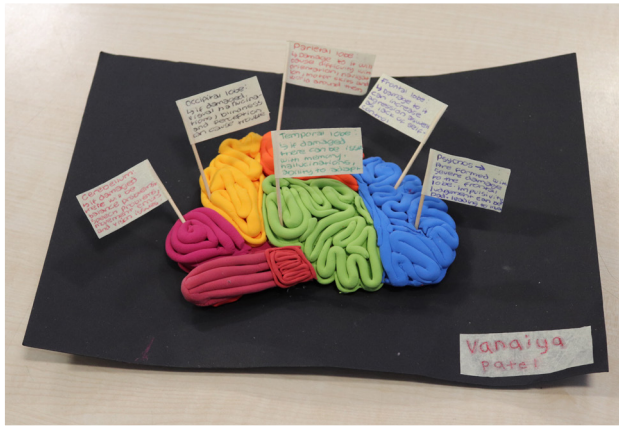
Three students baked different 'brain cakes' and iced them with different colours relating to brain areas or sweets on top for each brain area. One student had questions attached to various cupcakes relating to a particular part of the brain. When we answered the question correctly, we got to eat the cupcake!

Students presented interesting and well researched ideas and case studies. Some examples being, if a criminal has a shrunken pre-frontal cortex (which is sometimes the case) this can inhibit them from making logical and rational decisions and therefore this led to them to committing crimes. They are unable to manage impulse control or moral reasoning. If there are issues in their amygdala they will have trouble processing feelings such as guilt and empathy and so can often go on to commit multiple murders or

have psychopathic tendencies! Students had researched very interesting case studies and also found statistics such as the fact that criminals with low activity in the anterior cingulate gyrus have a higher risk of offending. Great work from all Year 10 Psychology students and a very enjoyable week of lessons.



Ms Bloom, Ms Griffin and Ms Naqvi
The psychology team



Students enjoy various activities on European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on the 26th of September, which celebrates the wealth of languages in Europe and beyond. This year, our school took part in many entertaining activities to promote languages around the world, some of which included: watching an Italian movie, Latin taster session, Spanish karaoke as well as many more.

In addition to this, everyone could also get involved by completing the 25 activities on the MFL passport. You had to do the activities stated; for example, eat a croissant and then show your form tutor, who would allocate you achievement points (25 were up for grabs)!

There were also many other activities that were taking place throughout the week and I really enjoyed participating and learning new facts about other countries. I would like to say thank you to Ms Sambo and to all the other MFL teachers and the teacher of Classics who helped this week become an amazing reality!

Jasmine 9LSB



Spanish karaoke session



European Day of Languages
26 September



Journée européenne des langues

www.coe.int/EDL



European Day of Languages
26 September
www.coe.int/EDL

Journée européenne des langues
26 septembre
www.coe.int/JEL





Romanian taster lesson

Portuguese taster lesson



Italian movie with popcorn

Bentley Wood Careers Fair 2024

Students gained careers information from universities, colleges and businesses

Bentley Wood High School Careers Fair 2024 provided students with a broader range of organisations in attendance to give the girls the opportunity to open their minds to occupational areas that they may not have considered. Healthcare continues to be the popular choice for students at Bentley Wood so the presence of both the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital and the National Blood and Transplant service provided more of an insight into specialist healthcare and health science jobs. Citygate car dealership brought an ID4 E-car which was a very popular experience for many students, increasing awareness of the range of jobs involved in the design, manufacture and selling of motor vehicles.

The British Army is the largest recruiter of apprentices in the UK. They challenge the stereotype of the army being about warfare and that its role is primarily to defend the UK and to maintain peace. The recent merger of City University & St Georges University combining the strengths of both institutions in healthcare, plus business, economics and law at City were very popular choices among our 6th form students, many of whom want to remain in London

for higher education. Former Bentley Wood student Hafsa Ahmed was able to provide excellent information and advice about her degree apprenticeship with KPMG, one of the big four accounting firms who receive 40,000 applications for their degree apprenticeship positions! First Rung is a local training provider offering education and training courses and apprenticeships in business, customer services and accounting from level 1-4.

We would like to thank the following: British Army, RNOH, NHS, NBTS, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Brunel, City, Winchester and Royal Holloway universities. Harrow College, Stanmore College, Point Blank Music College, Access Creative College, TFL (transport), KPMG (finance), Amazon, Meta (IT), First Rung, Equans (construction), Volker Fitzpatrick (construction), UCFB (sports), News Associates (journalism), Ministry of Justice (Law), HSBC, ASK (apprenticeships), Global Academy (media) and Citygate.

Lincoln Tapper
Careers Adviser

Students ask about careers in engineering.

Virtual blood testing in a virtual laboratory at the National Blood and Transplant stand.





Students ask about careers in the Army.

Students ask about careers in healthcare.



Student Rewards October 2024

Year 7

Students work really hard at Bentley Wood - we are really delighted at how well our students have achieved this half term and we want to celebrate some of their successes.



Art

Emeli T 7ZHA - For always pushing herself to be more creative and trying out the challenges.

Drama

Sienna P 7EAW - Working well in Drama, being such a good team player and being focused in lessons.

Kalsoom A 7HAS - For consistently giving effective and thoughtful feedback for her peers.

Sophia R 7MAK - For giving 100% effort in her performances and group work and being a kind and caring member of the form. **Milena G 7SGU** - For being incredibly dedicated to Drama and performing with excellent focus.

Aliza A 7MLE - For performing with excellent characterisation and putting thought in to her use of voice.

English

Kiah B 7HJG - For being so enthusiastic in lesson and always trying her best with a smile on her face! **Prisha H 7MAK** - for exemplary effort in lesson, classwork and homework.

Food

Sophia R7MAK - for always trying her best and completing homework tasks to an outstanding standard

French

Keshavi S 7HAS - for a lovely and well-presented exercise book as well as good participation in class and outstanding test results.

Graphics

Milli P 7MAK - for putting 100% effort in not only classwork but homework too. Well-done!

PE

Rahma M 7EAW - fantastic attitude and effort in PE lessons and being committed to Year 7 netball club.

Science

Mia P 7HAS - For always putting all her effort into every classwork and homework activity

Spanish

Judy A 7ZHA - for great engagement in lesson. MCO

Textiles

Zeenat G 7SGU - for skill and commitment. You show great enthusiasm for sewing techniques.

Zainab H7MAK - for fantastic effort for class and homework in Textiles



Student Rewards October 2024

Year 8



Art

Leah F 8SCH - For outstanding classwork and presentation in her sketchbook - Well done!

Drama

Jasmin K 8MEM - For consistently giving 100% effort in Drama and being incredibly creative with her ideas!

English

Khadija I 8SCH - for being so enthusiastic in the lessons. Always contributing and trying her best. She works hard and always has such a lovely smile on her face too - makes everyone happy!

Siana O 8MCO - such a hard worker, takes pride in her work and focuses so well the lesson - well done!

Food

Nadia B 8SZ - For outstanding classwork and using lots of creative thinking during her food practicals.

French

Urvi K 8MCO - for not only producing excellent work orally in class or homework but also showing wonderful care values.

Graphics

Kayla J 8EBD - For fantastic effort in STEAM. You are truly a young artist! keep it up!

Maths

Serena M 8SCH - Serena is committed to staying after school to get extra support when she is struggling with a concept and this shows great pride and ownership of her learning. In a such a short time of teaching you, it has been a pleasure! I look forward to the rest of the year ahead.

Fatima A 8SCH - for being a super star in every lesson, she thrives every day, participates in lesson, she likes to be challenged and doesn't give up easily.

PE

Bethany L 8LJO - brilliant effort and energy in all PE lessons. Regularly demonstrates CARE values by being very kind to other students as well as helping pack equipment away.

Science

Khadeeja S 8LJO - for always trying her best in lessons. She is a superstar!

Spanish

Aneri P 8CTA - for always being one step ahead in Spanish. MCO

Textiles

Amrita M 8LNO - excellent start to Year 8 Textiles. Amrita shows great enthusiasm and confidence using the sewing machine.



Maths competitions and enrichment

Bentley Wood Girls achieve excellent results in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge 2024

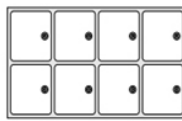
Earlier this month, our Year 11 Further Maths students along with Year 12 and 13 A level Maths students participated in the prestigious UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and their results were outstanding. Our senior mathematicians achieved 4 Silver BIs, 4 Silver and 24 Bronze medals.

Over 74,000 pupils from across the UK returned scripts for the Senior Maths Challenge with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze.

Below you can see a typical question that students would be given to solve in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, which demonstrates how difficult the competition actually is.

We are particularly delighted with the success of one student, Maryam Jadallah from Y12, who was invited to participate in the follow-on rounds of this prestigious competition – the first round of the British Mathematical Olympiad and the Senior Kangaroo respectively.

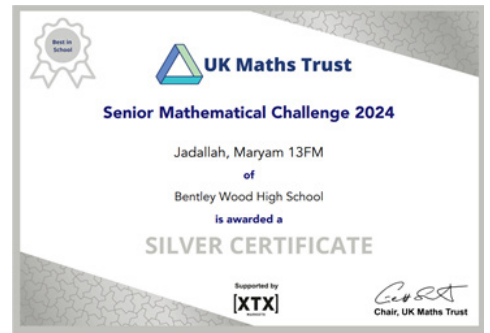
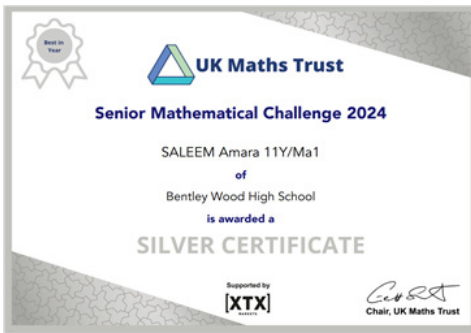
A set of cupboards containing eight identical blue doors is arranged in a 2 by 4 grid as shown. A fussy decorator wishes to paint three of the doors red such that at least one door in each row is painted red and at least two of the four corners are painted red.



How many ways are there to do this?

- A 12 B 24 C 36 D 40 E 56

Many congratulations to all our girls for their excellent results and a big thank you to our Maths Department for preparing the students.



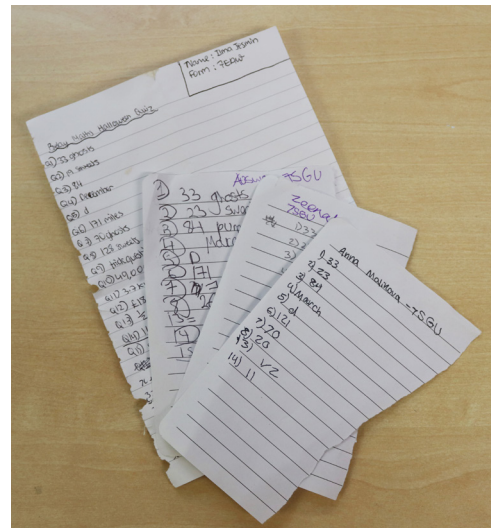
Halloween Relay

This year the Year 8 Maths Ambassadors had an exciting Halloween inspired competition planned for students in Years 7 to 10. There were wallets containing different Maths questions hung on the doors of the Maths classrooms and students were invited to complete the whole relay of 16 questions for a chance to win achievement points and prizes.



All participants were awarded 1 achievement point for taking part and each year group had one winner who was awarded 5 achievement points and a prize. The challenge was to complete the full relay of 16 questions in the fastest time and answering them correctly.

The competition generated a lot of excitement and it certainly brought the spirit of Halloween to Bentley Wood! We are very proud of our Maths Ambassadors for their enthusiasm and creativity in designing the competition. A huge thank you to Miss Vagi for so warmly supporting the students in planning these fun and engaging events throughout the year.

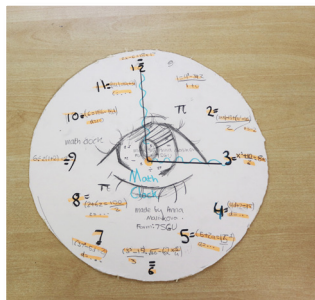
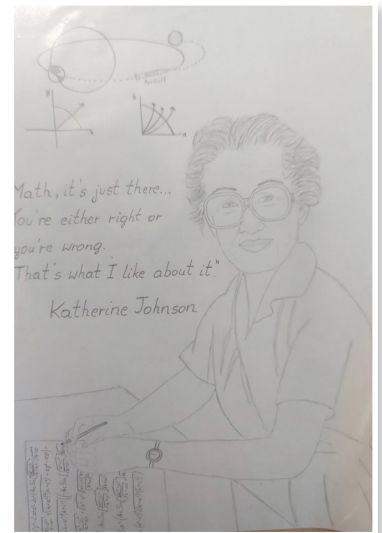
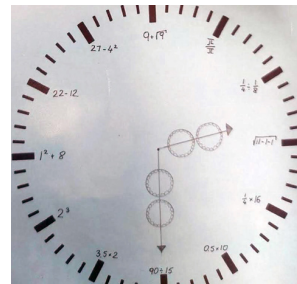
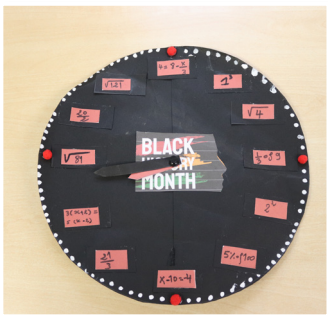


Student Winners of Halloween Quiz

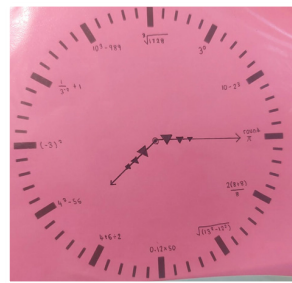
Black History Month Celebration in Maths

For this year's Black History Month, the competition for our girls was to draw their own clock and use mathematical expressions for the sequence of numbers. We drew inspiration for this competition from the achievements and legacy of Benjamin Banneker. The son of former slaves, Benjamin Banneker, worked on the family tobacco farm but received some education. At 15, he took over the farm and invented an irrigation system to control water flow to the crops from nearby springs, which led the farm to flourish even during droughts.

In the early 1950s, Benjamin borrowed a pocket watch from a neighbour, took the watch apart and studied its components. After returning the watch, he created a fully functioning clock entirely out of wooden pieces. The clock was amazingly precise and would keep ticking for decades. As a result of the attention his self-made clock received, Banneker was able to start his own watch and repair business.



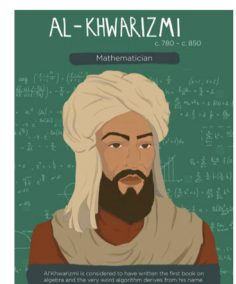
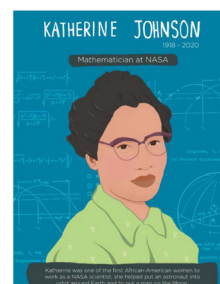
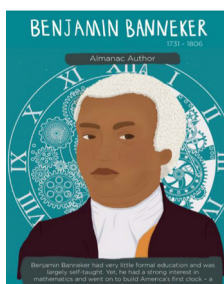
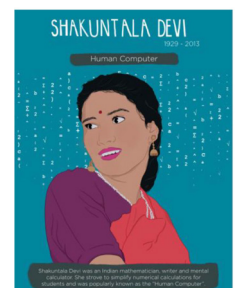
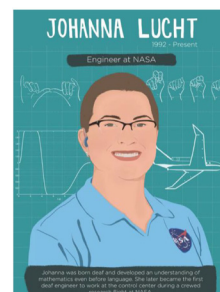
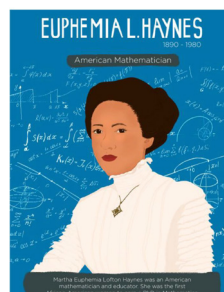
Student winners of the Black History Month competition with their clocks with mathematical expressions



Diversity and Inclusion in Maths

As part of a whole school focus on diversity and inclusion in Maths, students have been introduced to pioneering mathematicians throughout history who have made notable contributions to the development of mathematical knowledge and application.

All Maths classrooms have posters of these key mathematicians who have inspired us and positively impacted the way that we live today: from Katherine Johnson, the first African-American woman to work as a NASA scientist, to Al-Khwarizmi, the man who is considered to have written the first book on algebra.



Enrichment clubs this term

Poetry Club: Year 7 and 8 expand their imagination through writing

We like Poetry Club because it gives you a safe space to express your emotions through writing. Furthermore, it helps you build confidence and share your work with your peers.

We also use a wheel to decide what we are going to write about so that gives a sense of wonder about what it will be and really helps expand our imagination by giving us a set of options. Overall, we really enjoy poetry club.

Balqis and Isobel 8LNO

Poetry club runs every Wednesday in V8 from 3:15 - 4pm. Both KS3 & KS4 are welcome. Each week we write a range of poems that we then share with the group.

Here is a poem a student wrote at Poetry Club this Term.

KINDNESS

Kindness is among you all,
Ever since your started to crawl,
May be the first thing that you saw,
During the months of fall

Kindness is a piece of joy,
Just like your very first toy,
It teaches you how to not annoy
But learning how to enjoy

Kindness is key,
Makes you feel warm like drinking tea,
Not like when you would have to run and flee,
But more like when you go to the sea!

Jasmine 9LSB





Year 7 Science Club

In our science experiment we explored the effects of light and dark variables on the behaviour of maggots. When exposed to light, they tend to avoid bright areas, which can be for protection from predators (birds)and harsh environmental conditions. On the other hand, when in complete darkness, their movement may become more unpredictable as they search for food sources. By changing the light conditions - like using bright lights versus complete darkness - scientists can see how these changes impact the maggot's behaviour, helping us to understand how they adapt to their environment. By far, this was my favourite experiment and hope to do some more soon!

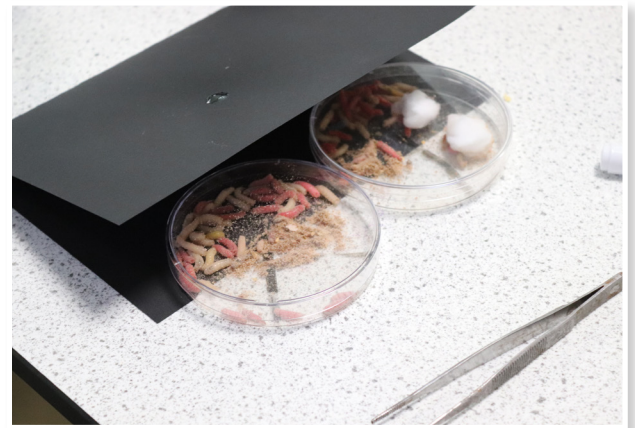
Zahra J 7SGU

At our recent Science Club, we conducted an intriguing experiment to explore the fascinating behaviour of maggots and their preference for darkness over the light! After putting on our safety goggles, we set up a container, one half in the light, and the other with a folded black paper on top. After releasing a group of maggots into the set up, we all eagerly observed their movements over a set period of time. To our surprise the majority of the maggots crawled towards the darkened area, showing us all their natural preference to find places with less light!

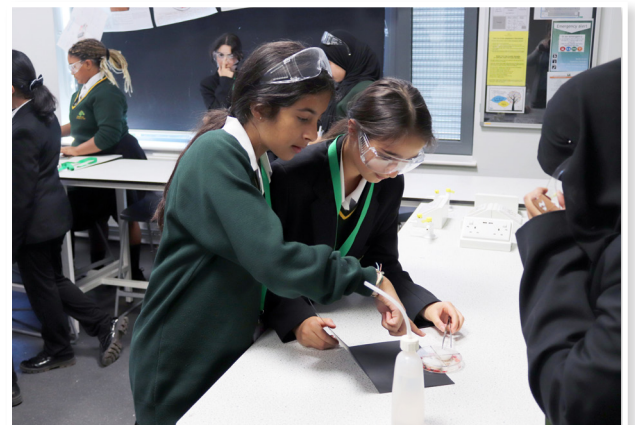
After watching the maggots crawl to the darker side, we decided to take it a step further and grab a cotton ball slightly dampened with water. We carefully opened the lid (making sure nothing jumps out at us) and placed the cotton ball near to the dark side. Almost immediately, the maggots started circling the cotton ball.

At the end of this experiment, we had all learnt a fascinating fact that maggots also have preferences, just like us! It was a fantastic and enlightening experience demonstrating even the smallest creatures have unique preferences. This experiment was definitely my favourite out of all the previous experiments we had done in Science Club!

Reme H 7SGU



The effects of light and dark variables on the behaviour of maggots.



Student Rewards October 2024



Year 9

Art

Isabella B 9GCP - For making an excellent start to GSCE art and motivating others during lesson time!

Biology

Zahra M - 9ABR - for always working hard in Biology lessons and doing HW at excellent level!

English

Christina C 9ABR - for an excellent start to Year 9.

Zaina R 9MD - for her thoughtful and mature contributions in lessons

French

Annabelle C 9ROR - for consistently producing amazing work be it class work or homework. Keep it up please.

Graphics

Sara K 9ABR - for her creative ideas and great execution of said ideas in lesson as well as homework. Well done!

Latin

Emily G 9KPO - for her enthusiastic start to Latin.

Maths

Ariana B 9ABR - for engaging in every lesson, she works really well with her peers, the teacher and independently.

PE

Damani A 9ROR - For always putting effort in practical lessons, and attempting to answer questions in GCSE theory. Also, for being a kind and helpful member of the class, by helping with the setting up or putting away of equipment needed in practical lessons.

Physics

Abigail C 9AHU - for an amazing model power station in Physics - you went above and beyond!

Psychology

Dharmista S 9KPO - for her amazing effort in her social influence self-care board project

Science

Ashanea R 9MD - She consistently works hard, shows a consciousness and mature attitude to her learning, contributes well and strives to do her very best in each Chemistry lesson.

Spanish

Yasmin A 9JAZ - for always completing her work and moving onto extension work. Such a hardworking individual.

Textiles

Jannat B 9MD - for fantastic effort and for supporting her peers in Textiles



Student Rewards October 2024



Year 10

Art

Aishah A 10SSH - For fantastic work on her natural forms art boards!

Biology

Hayfa O 10THA - for always working hard in her Biology lessons and being a helpful and kind student!

Chemistry

Jazmine S 10ESO - for the progress she is making and for coming to each lesson with a positive attitude and a curiosity to find out more about the Chemistry she is learning! **Skye H 10EOG** for her excellent contributions in class and her willingness to approach new learning with such a mature and positive mindset.

Drama

Meadow H 10ESO - Meadow puts all her effort in to her performances and written work. She is a kind and caring member of the class and always has a smile on her face!

English

Sayyidah K 10SSH - For giving 100% effort for Macbeth in both her written work and her contributions in discussion - very impressive! **Anniyah S 10CCH** - for her consistent effort and enthusiasm

Food

Natalie D 10CJG - For improving her effort and progress in practical lessons since year 9!

French

Nusrat A 10SAL - for always trying her best to succeed in French and to her credit achieving a really good grade in her Autumn assessment.

Graphics

Alina S 10ESO - for proactively trying to improve her standard of classwork and homework. You have been working really hard and it is showing in your work. Well done!

H&S

Nia B 10TC - Consistently persevering and taking on feedback for improving her work.

Latin

Sana S 10TC - for her fantastic start to Latin! Great work ethic and motivation - keep it up!

Maths

Mariam H 10CJG - for always meeting expectations, she works really well independently, she participates asks questions and she is engaged at all times.

PE

Mina S 10CGJ - for a fantastic start to Year 10 and is regularly demonstrating a positive attitude as well as doing very well on her end of unit test.

Physics

Maria B 10CCH - For her exceptional participation during her Physics lessons so far this year

Psychology

Diana I 10EOG - For her amazing brain cake contribution to Brain Week, truly incredible work!

Science

Sana S 10TC - for making an impressive and positive start to the year in Biology

Spanish

Sophie S 10THA - for great enthusiasm and participation in Spanish lessons and always challenging herself to the next level.

Textiles

Skye H 10EOG - excellent start to Year 10 Textiles. Skye shows great enthusiasm and confidence when using any of the textiles techniques that she is exposed to.

Eventful Sixth Form trips this term



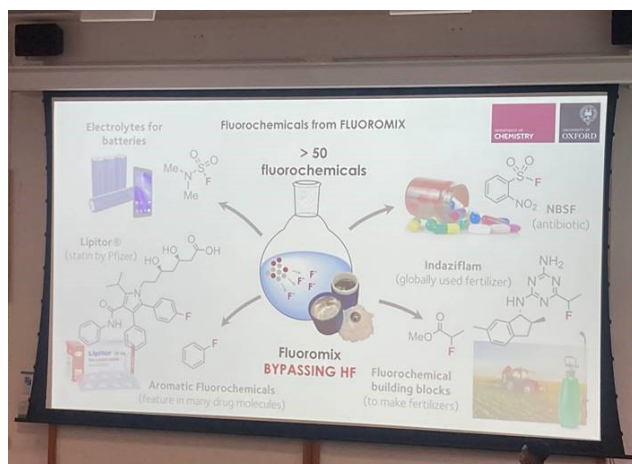
Chemistry students at University of Oxford



University of Oxford



NMR Machine



Students at a chemistry lecture

KS5 Chemistry students experience a stimulating visit to University of Oxford

Last week, our KS5 Chemistry students had the incredible opportunity to visit the prestigious University of Oxford for their annual KS5 Chemistry Conference: an in-depth exploration of cutting-edge chemistry research and facilities. The afternoon started with small group tours of the university's state-of-the-art undergraduate teaching laboratories, where students were able to see first-hand many of the advanced scientific instruments we have explored as part of KS5 learning.

Among the highlights, was the chance to observe an NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance) machine in action—equipment that plays a pivotal role in organic chemistry research, and one which students will recognise from our curriculum (see photo!).

Following the lab tours, students attended two fascinating lectures. The first, delivered by Dr. Amy Styring, focused on the intersection of science and anthropology: How Chemistry Can Tell Us About the Human Past.

It was eye-opening to see how chemical principles can be applied to uncover secrets about ancient civilisations and in this case, particularly about the diet and the food these communities ate.

The second lecture, *Shaking Up Fluorine Chemistry*, was given by Calum Patel (DPhil) and delved into novel areas of mechanochemistry. Students were excited to see how topics such as Born Haber Cycles, Nucleophilic Substitution, and NMR and Mass Spectrometry—all key concepts from our syllabus—are being applied to advance modern chemical research.

It was an inspiring and informative day, providing our students with a glimpse of the real-world applications of the topics we study in class. We are thrilled that they were able to take so much away from the experience, and we look forward to attending again at next year's conference!

Ms Robson (Head of Science), Mrs Sabir (Head of Chemistry) and Ms Manuel (Science Technician)

Year 13 Art trip to Buckingham Palace

On Wednesday, 2nd October seven Year 13 students had the privilege of visiting Buckingham Palace for an inspiring art focused Key Stage 5 event. The afternoon included an insightful talk by artist Jonathan Yeo, painter of the latest portrait of His Majesty the King.

In addition, there were talks by Royal Collection Trust curators about some of the wonderful paintings on display in the palace and about opportunities for careers in the sector. Students enjoyed learning about the history of some of the key works of art on display and about art conservation.

Students had the opportunity to examine works by Old Masters and to sketch from them in the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace. This was a very special, immersive experience for them and they found inspiration from not just the breathtaking art but also the magnificent surroundings.

Here is one student's account of their day.

We had the prestigious opportunity to visit Buckingham Palace for an event which featured talks by portrait artist Jonathan Yeo and the Royal Collection Trust curatorial team. In addition, we had the opportunity to sketch in the Picture Gallery and Marble Corridor, which has not been offered to the public prior to this event.

The architecture and interiors of Buckingham Palace were breathtaking, with their grandeur complementing the regal atmosphere.

We also had the chance to witness the famous Changing of the Guards ceremony. Standing among the crowd, we soaked in the hustle and bustle, the royal music, and the strict protocol surrounding the event.

The tour by the curatorial teams of the Picture Gallery and the Green Drawing Room focused on 5 key paintings from the collection and shared the history as well as highlighting the key details of the portrait and the clues it may holding.

Moreover, Jonathan Yeo talked about his painting of King Charles and his particular style of painting which he developed over time as well as the relevance of the colour red in his portrait symbolising various things such as power. What piqued my interest the most was the butterfly on his left shoulder. He highlighted the king's kind and humble nature and how well he is connected to the natural world.

Upon arriving at the location, everyone warmed up with delicious hot chocolate, which added a cosy touch to the experience.

Kavya 13NS



Year 13 history students visit Auschwitz in Poland

Two students took part in the Lessons from Auschwitz course, run by the Holocaust Educational Trust and as part of the course they visited Auschwitz in Poland.

Here is the article about their experience of the trip

Hello, my name is Britannia. Abigail and I have been fortunate enough to participate in an amazing opportunity to further our love for history, as well as deepen our historical knowledge, through the Lessons from Auschwitz (LFA) project by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

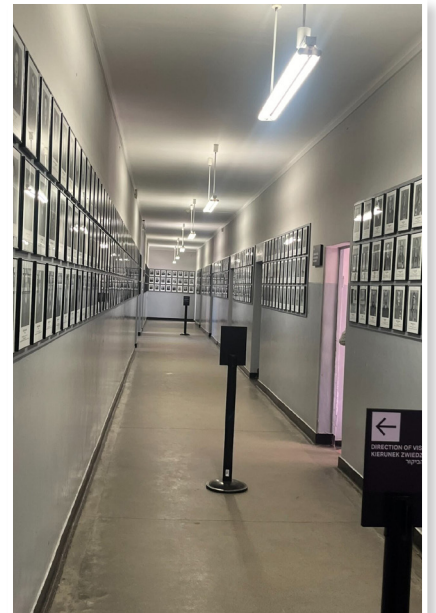
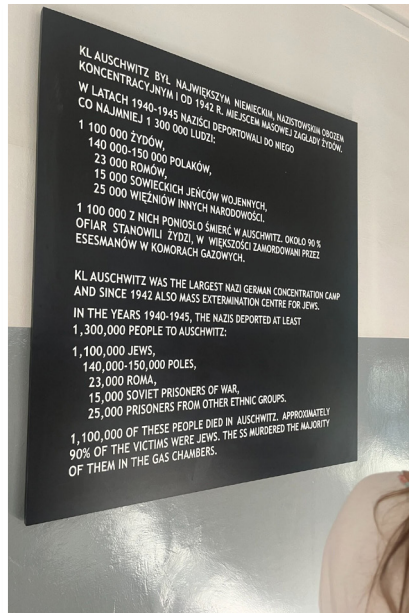
As part of this project, we attended a range of seminars with expert mentors and had access to extraordinary resources about the Holocaust. These included a rich hub of learning materials, historical texts, and survivor testimony, such as that of Steven Frank, who shared his story of being transported over 39 hours from Westerbork concentration camp in the Netherlands to Theresienstadt concentration camp in the Czech Republic.

We also explored archival materials, including photographs and films provided by the Trust, which covered various aspects of the Holocaust, the emblem of remembrance, and the pre-war lives of Jewish people across Europe. These resources detailed their assimilation and included case studies of specific groups, highlighting daily life and the rising tide of antisemitism, particularly under Nazi rule in Germany.

As part of this experience, we went on a one-day visit to Poland, where we embarked on an educational journey that deepened our understanding of the Holocaust. We learned about the history of the Holocaust and the role of camps such as Auschwitz-Birkenau.

We reflected on the individuals whose lives were impacted by the Holocaust, and lastly, considered its relevance today and how we could share what we learned with others. During this trip, we visited significant landmarks, such as the town of Oświęcim and the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, now a memorial and museum.

This included visits to Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi concentration and extermination camps, where over 1.1 million of the 6 million victims of the Holocaust lost their lives. We toured the premises, including the gas chambers, the reconstructed "Death Wall" between Block 10 and Block 11, where thousands of prisoners were executed, and the four crematoria at Auschwitz-Birkenau.



We also saw rooms filled with confiscated personal belongings that Jews had brought with them to Birkenau under the false pretence that they were being “resettled to the east”, including reading glasses, pots and pans, suitcases, shoes, and prosthetic limbs.

These belongings tragically represented the targeted disabled community, who were seen as a “useless and worthless burden” by the Nazis. Seeing the real human hair of Jewish men, women, and children, shaved upon arrival to prevent the spread of disease, further demonstrated the extreme suffering and dehumanization they endured. The Book Of Names was a key piece of empirical evidence of the Holocaust as it actualises the inconceivable number of Holocaust victims, and displays their names together with their dates of birth, hometowns and places of death – where known. The massive dimensions of the Book of Names testify to the enormity of the collective and unimaginable loss for humanity as a whole and for the Jewish people in particular. The last pages of the book are empty, symbolizing the names that are yet to be retrieved, documented and commemorated, and which perhaps never will be.

At Auschwitz-Birkenau, we also reflected on the camp’s vast size—spanning over 420 acres—and saw the unaltered train tracks that had transported thousands of Jews each day from across Europe. These people endured harsh conditions for long periods, often standing on the same ground we walked, awaiting their fates. The selection process, where individuals were chosen either for forced labor or immediate execution in the gas chambers, was particularly moving. Those who resisted were shot on sight by guards. We also learned about the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on January 27, 1945, and its profound effects.

At the end of our trip, we held a closing reflective meeting where we discussed the day’s experiences in depth. We lit candles in commemoration and remembrance of all the innocent lives tragically lost as well as Rabbi Epstein conducted a prayer and sang a few hymns. It is essential to remember the Holocaust as a stark reminder of where unchecked antisemitism, racism, and xenophobia can lead, encapsulated by the phrase “Never Again.” By studying this period, we recognize the dangers of hatred, intolerance, and scapegoating, encouraging us to combat these forces in society today. Our mentors consistently reinforced the importance of confronting Holocaust denial and emphasized that “Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it” — George Santayana.

Through our participation in Lessons from Auschwitz, we have been able to enhance my communication skills, work collaboratively with students from other schools, and demonstrate leadership by sharing the legacy of this dark period in history. Along with this newfound knowledge, we are both in the process of receiving an ASDAN-accredited certificate and the opportunity to become a Holocaust Educational Trust Ambassador.



Students take on the challenge of competitions this term



Year 11 netball team win first game of the year

On Thursday 26th September, the Bentley Wood Year 11 team had their first match of the year. They were playing against Hatch End who they have only played in the tournament before.

With the help of two Year 10's who were substitutes, the girls played very well and won 20-4! First win of the season! Shout out to Sophie who was nominated Players' Player from Hatch End.

Ms Collen

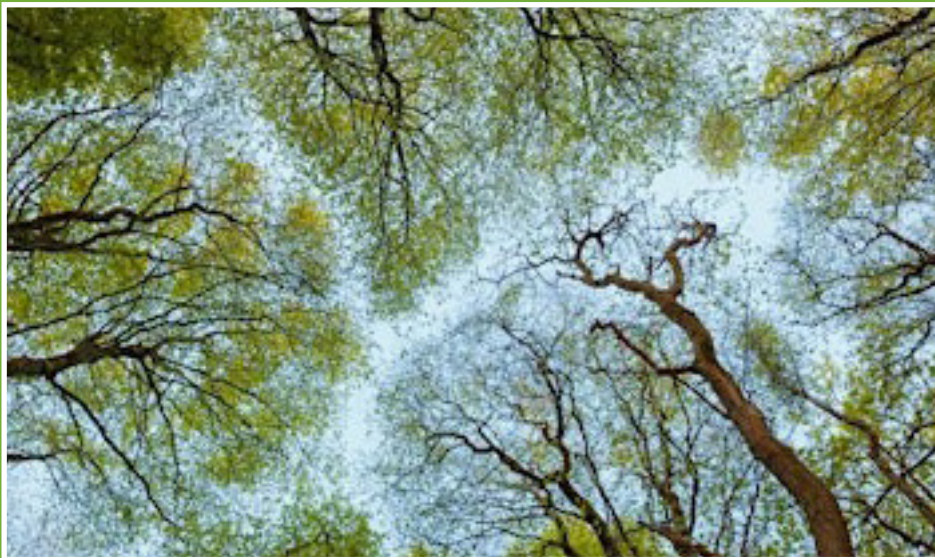
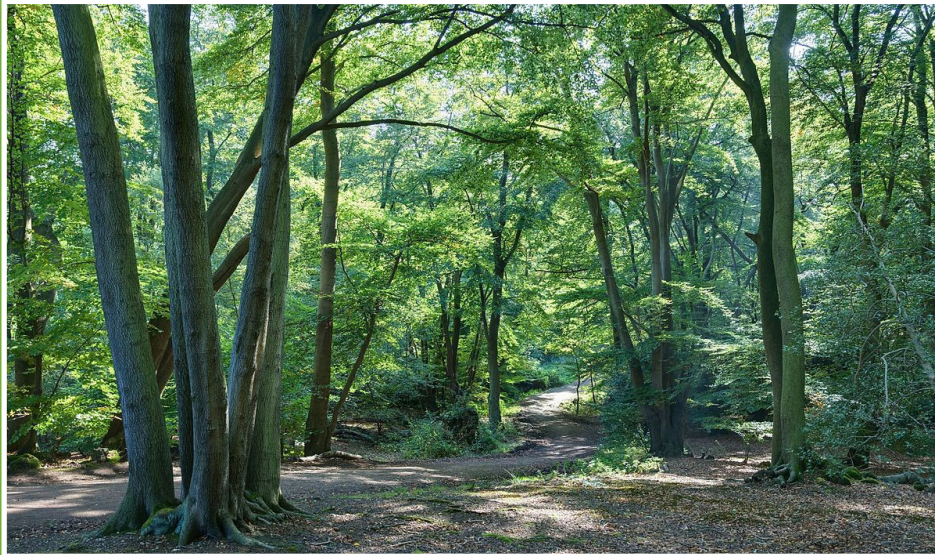
Under 14's Badminton Tournament

On Thursday 10th October, four students in Year 8 took part in an Under 14's badminton tournament at Park High School. These students include Yaalini, Shaanuja, Lamia, and Hella, all of whom happen to be in 8CTA.

They all played singles matches against boys and girls from three other schools, including Park High School (Teams A and B, Whitefriars School, and Avanti School). Despite not winning their games, the girls managed to maintain a positive mindset throughout, which helped them to enjoy the competitive nature of the tournament.

Also, it was enlightening to hear them discuss how observing more experienced players from other schools could enhance their own games, particularly in terms of tactics and decision-making.

Ms Halai



Year 9 geographers do fieldwork studies at Epping Forest

Two weeks ago, Year 9 geographers visited Epping Forest for a day of fieldwork. Although the weather was a bit cold, we avoided the rain, and students enjoyed being in the great outdoors for the day.

They were guided in the forest by tutors from the Field Studies Council and were able to observe different features of the ecosystem, including plenty of creepy-crawlies, which they could link to learning they had done in the classroom.

In the afternoon, students conducted fieldwork in two sites, comparing the characteristics of young and ancient woodland. This included measuring the heights of trees and taking soil samples. A follow up lesson in school focussed on presenting and analysing the data they had collected.

Mr Ferris

Student Rewards October 2024



Year 11

Art

Hadia J 11ALN - for attending afterschool session to finalise her natural forms project - Well done!

Sarah Baskaran 11SG for amazing work in Art. You have worked so hard to develop your skills and outcomes. Well done!!

Biology

Iman A 11ALD - for always asking questions in Biology lessons and exceptional participation in Biology lessons!

Chemistry

Alyah I 11ALN - for her consistently positive and resilient attitude towards her learning in Chemistry, and striving to do her very best. Keep it up!

Musawera T 11SEO - for her conscientious attitude and hard work towards her learning and going above and beyond to make progress with her Chemistry knowledge and understanding.

English

Michelle M 11SEO - for outstanding exam performance in Language.

Paige H 11CSN - for outstanding exam performance in Literature.

Food

Aneya S 11SG - for consistent effort in food preparation and nutrition.

French

Asla S 11JP - for consistently putting effort into French.

Graphics

Nishka T 11ABI - for making sure she tries her best. You have a creative way of problem solving and it shows in both your classwork and homework. Well done!

Latin

Morsal O 11ALN - for her excellent and accurate answers to exam questions for the civilisation paper.

Maths

Mariam M 11SEO - For not only working hard in class, but revising Math during form time, after school, at intervention and at home. Your commitment to your studies is admirable and your hard work WILL pay off! Keep it up.

PE

Daisy M 11ALN - for showing fantastic commitment to her GCSE PE as well as making fantastic contributions within theory lessons.

Psychology

Imana B 11BKO - for her increased effort in class by always offering insightful comments and answers to questions.

Science

Nadia M 11ABI - great contribution in Biology lessons and going further with her homework. Well done and keep it up.

Spanish

Sadaf K 11ALN - for showing a lot of hard work and determination in her classwork.

Textiles

Sadaf S in 11ABI - for her commitment and enthusiasm to try any techniques that she is shown in Textiles



Student Rewards October 2024

Year 12

Art

Sophie M 12SBA - For always thinking about how to improve her work and spending lots of time on her art, sketchbook drawings.

Biology

Sainthavi S 12JG - For a great start in A level Biology. She puts in a lot of effort and always ensures she does her best

Chemistry

Sadaf F 12SBA - she has made a very good start to her sixth form studies and has shown that with hard work and diligence, how much progress she is capable of - keep working hard!

Classical Civilisation

Sara A 12PS - for a great start to Classics! Intellectual, creative, curious and confident!

English

Nanette A 12CTW - for her promising start to A Levels, enthusiasm and demonstration of CARE values

Physics

Heba K 12GCO - For going above and beyond with her first core practical data analysis

Psychology

Shyomi J 12GCO - For a great start to the year in psychology, by participating positively in class

Sociology

Huda H 12SBA - For producing a brilliant first essay and starting the sociology course so well this year. Keep it up!

Spanish

Sara Alrefai 12PS - for great use of Spanish language in lessons. MCO

Year 13

Biology

Ruqayyah N 13NS - for her quiet and determined focus this term

Chemistry

Mahnoor A 13SNU - a truly excellent start to the academic year! It has been fantastic to see her grow in confidence by offering more in class contributions, and attempting Grade A* questions. Her hard work and diligence are further reflected in the efforts she makes to consistently attend all intervention sessions to support her learning in Chemistry.

Classical Civilisation

Shahed H 13 PBL - for her amazing talk for the Humanities symposium and setting the trend for using the podium to speak!

English

Mahnoor A 13SNU - for her excellent AS performance.

Physics

Hena H 13PBL - For being resilient and making astounding progress in Physics since last year

Psychology

Marwa A 13SN - for such a great start to the year, your effort is seen by all your psychology teachers.

Sociology

Daisy H 13NS - For representing sociology so well at Bentley Wood Open Evening and Sixth Form Open Evening. Well done! Super proud.

Spanish

Haja M Ext - for an incredible AS result, achieving almost a perfect score! Now applying for his dual English/Spanish Law Degree at Kings.

Student wellbeing

Mental Health and Wellbeing Updates from the Bentley Woods

At Bentley Wood, we're committed to supporting your daughter's emotional well-being and mental health, alongside her academic success and personal development, to the best of our ability.

As we reach the mid-point of the summer term, I wanted to share with you some strategies, developments, and advice for your daughters (and you). We want to help you, the very best we can, in fostering your daughter's resilience and emotional wellbeing.

Supporting Teenagers' Mental Health: Tips for Parents

As parents, it's crucial to support your teenagers' mental health during these challenging years. Here are three key tips to help you navigate this journey:

- **Open Communication:** Engage in meaningful conversations with your daughter. Give them your full attention, be curious about their feelings, and take their concerns seriously. This helps them feel understood and supported.
- **Empathy and Timing:** Show empathy by acknowledging their emotions and providing a safe space for them to express themselves. Choose appropriate times for discussions, ensuring you can focus on them without distractions.
- **Self-awareness:** Reflect on your own stress and negative feelings. Being mindful of these can help maintain a positive and supportive environment at home.

Your presence and understanding are vital during these formative years. For more resources and support, visit the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families at:

www.annafreud.org

Mental Health Awareness Week

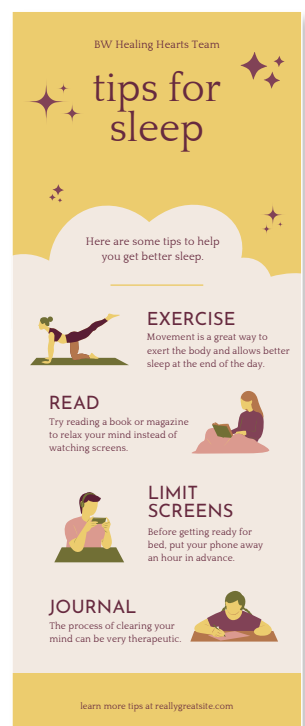
We recently celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week (May 13th) focusing on movement, exercise and developing resilience. As we always say to you, exercise - going for a walk, cycling, etc. is so helpful for your daughter's wellbeing. In this spirit, **Ms Bannon** (Associate Assistant Headteacher) organised a number of activities during MH Awareness Week - see her account below in this newsletter.

In the spirit of movement for wellbeing, **Ms Hussain**, Head of Classics, took the opportunity of the good weather to take her students onto our grounds for some outdoor learning. -see her account below in this newsletter.

Last year, to celebrate MH Awareness week we created and shared a series of **wellbeing infographics**. Your daughters are encouraged to download and print these infographics as posters, serving as reminders of practical, actionable advice to maintain good mental health throughout their school journey.

Infographics.

You can access and download a series of Infographics from the **Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams channel**.



Resource for Older Teenagers

Harrow Cove is a service where individuals can go if they are experiencing a mental health crisis. You can simply turn up, no appointment necessary.

They are a safe, inviting, and inclusive space for individuals who are struggling to cope with their mental health and daily life. It is for students aged 16+, the Cove offers support with drop-in sessions, arts and crafts groups, and a group specifically for ages 16-25. More details can be found [here](#).

New Book on Smartphones and Mental Health:

A recently published book, by the American scholar, Jonathan Haidt, delivers a damning verdict on smartphones, social media, and wellbeing, particularly for teenage girls. It is called, '**The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.**'

You can read more about it here:

[The Anxious Generation Out Now. Order the Book.](#)

Mental Health Hub for Teenagers and Parents - Harrow:

Harrow services have produced an excellent online hub of mental health services for Harrow teenagers, should you or your daughter ever need support.

<https://youngharrowfoundation.org/harrow-is-here>

They have a specific area for parents and carers, with links to lots of activities:

<https://youngharrowfoundation.org/parents>

Digital Wellbeing Platform - Govox:

This year, after a trial with Year 9 last year, we rolled out our **wellbeing check-in platform (Govox)** across Years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. This is a way to identify students in need of a 'check-in', to deliver them bespoke wellbeing resources, and to take the pulse of how our students are feeling each half-term.

We email them a survey link each half-term, which they are asked to complete. Please do encourage your daughter to complete the survey each half-term. The next one goes out **Monday June 10th** (the second Monday back after half-term).

Whether she's on top of the moon, or down in the dumps, we want to know how she's doing.

Stay Connected: Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams Channel

We often upload new resources, tips, and advice to the **Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams channel**. Here, you can find a repository of **videos, articles, guided meditations**, and more to help you and your daughter cope with stress and anxiety, and to become more resilient.

Select Mental Health & Wellbeing Support at Bentley Wood

We will continue to offer a wide range of support for your daughter at Bentley Wood, including our PSHE curriculum, Wise Thoughts discussions, sports and extra-curricular clubs. Some examples follow.

Our '**Healing Hearts Team**'. These are a group of staff trained in mental health and wellbeing strategies. These members of staff are available to connect with and speak to students, offering support and guidance for low-level concerns.

We have a fully-trained **Senior Mental Health Lead** who is a Senior Leader, in line with best Government-endorsed practice, and this includes support from the **Harrow Mental Health Support Team**. (MHST)

We have a number of **Counsellors in each week**, including a representative from the **Wish Centre**, in case your daughter requires higher-level intervention than the Healing Hearts Team can provide.

We have our own student **Wellbeing & Mental Health Ambassadors** to lead on whole-school initiatives such as Wise Thoughts, wellbeing Teams tips, and be a friendly face if needed.

For additional wellbeing and mindfulness resources, consider the **Headspace** and **Calm** apps, meditation MP3s in the Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams channel, or books such as "Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World" by Professor Mark Williams.

Useful Apps and Websites:

[Meditation and Sleep Made Simple - Headspace](#)

[Calm - The #1 App for Meditation and Sleep](#)

To wrap up, I'll share two favourite quotations on mental health once more. **Richard Burton**, in his '**Anatomy of Melancholy**' (1621), suggests that staying active can help alleviate melancholy:

"As fern grows in untilled grounds, and all manner of weeds, so do gross humours in an idle body...They that are idle are far more subject to melancholy than such as are conversant or employed about any office or business."

The Stoic philosopher Epictetus advises, "The first job in life is this. To distinguish between externals I cannot control, and the choices I make about them that I do control."

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact **Mr. O'Sullivan** (Assistant Headteacher) or your daughter's **Head of Year**.

Wishing a very happy half-term.

Mr O'Sullivan

Assistant Headteacher

Senior Mental Health Lead

Information and advice for students and parents

Online Parenting Courses in November 2024

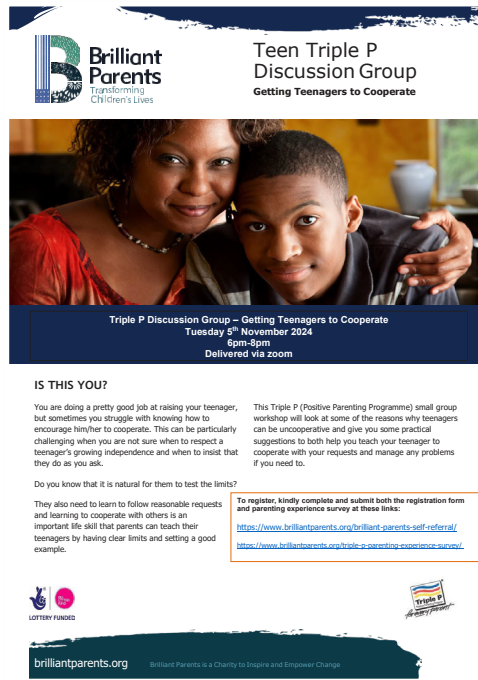
Brilliant Parents knows that most parents are brilliant, but we also know, as parents ourselves, that bringing up children is one of the most challenging and emotionally demanding jobs a parent will ever do.

Sometimes it can feel that parenting has turned into a battle, rather than an adventure.

Brilliant Parents runs Parenting Courses supporting families across London, working with parents to turn the experience back into something that is positive and rewarding.

For you, the parent, our courses make daily life a little less about conflict and more about fun, by introducing techniques we can help you break a negative cycle with an emotional toddler or a complex teen. For more information please go to

[Parenting Courses](#)



Brilliant Parents
Transforming Children's Lives

Teen Triple P Discussion Group
Getting Teenagers to Cooperate

Triple P Discussion Group – Getting Teenagers to Cooperate
Tuesday 5th November 2024
6pm-8pm
Delivered via zoom

IS THIS YOU?

You are doing a pretty good job at raising your teenager, but sometimes you struggle with knowing how to encourage him/her to cooperate. This can be particularly challenging when you are not sure when to respect a teenager's growing independence and when to insist that they do as you ask.

This Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) small group workshop will look at some of the reasons why teenagers can be uncooperative and give you some practical suggestions to both help you teach your teenager to cooperate with your requests and manage any problems if you need to.

Do you know that it is natural for them to test the limits?

They also need to learn to follow reasonable requests and learning to cooperate with others is an important life skill that parents can teach their teenagers by having clear limits and setting a good example.

To register, kindly complete and submit both the registration form and parenting experience survey at these links:
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-self-referral/>
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/triple-p-parenting-experience-survey/>

LOTTERY FUNDED

brilliantparents.org Brilliant Parents is a Charity to Inspire and Empower Change



Brilliant Parents
Transforming Children's Lives

Teen Triple P Discussion Group
Building Teenagers' Survival Skills

Triple P Discussion Group – Building Teenagers' Survival Skills
Friday 22nd November
10am-12noon
Delivered via zoom

IS THIS YOU?

You are doing a pretty good job at raising your teenager, but sometimes you struggle with knowing how best to help your teenager cope with the challenges of peer pressure.

Do you know that it is always difficult for parents, as teenage children begin to spend increasing amounts of time away from home and are influenced by friends to do things that might put their health or wellbeing in danger?

Parents can help prepare their teenager to cope with some of the challenges they may meet by helping them first recognise and manage situations where the risks are smaller. In this way you can teach your teenager to plan for situations that they might otherwise struggle to cope with.

This Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) small group workshop will look at some of the reasons why teenagers can get into trouble and gives some practical suggestions to help you teach your teenager how to anticipate and manage problem situations. It also provides a step-by-step guide on how to discuss this with your teenager in a positive and supportive way.

To register, kindly complete and submit the registration form at this link:
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-self-referral/>
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/triple-p-parenting-experience-survey/>

LOTTERY FUNDED

BRILLIANT PARENTS – November 2024					
Parent Support Programmes for the London Borough of Brent, Harrow & Hammersmith and Fulham					
S/N	PROGRAMME TITLE	WHO IS IT FOR	DELIVERY DATE	BOROUGH/TIME	LOCATION
1.	Dealing with Disobedience	Parents/Carers with 0–11-year-olds	Monday 4 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom
2.	Getting Teenagers to Cooperate	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+- 16-year-olds)	Tuesday 5 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom
3.	Managing Fighting & Aggression	Parents/Carers with 0–11-year-olds	Friday 8 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom
4.	Developing Good Bedtime Routines	Parents/Carers with 0–11-year-olds	Monday 11 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom
5.	Coping with Teenagers' Emotions	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+- 16-year-olds)	Tuesday 12 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom
6.	Hassle Free Shopping with Children	Parents/Carers with 0–11-year-olds	Friday 15 th November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom
7.	Reducing Family Conflict	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+- 16-year-olds)	Tuesday 19 th November	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom
8.	Building Teenagers' Survival Skills	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+- 16-year-olds)	Friday 22 nd November 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom

To register for any or all the Discussion Groups, kindly complete and submit the registration form at this link:

<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-self-referral/>



Staying Safe

Advice for Students:

- Talk to a trusted adult if anyone says or does anything that worries or frightens you. A **trusted adult** might be a family member or please contact the school – someone will be there to support you.
- **Always** tell a trusted adult where you are going and what time you will return.
- Don't lend your mobile phone to anyone unless it is an emergency
- Don't let anyone online trick you into doing something or sending pictures against your wishes.
- **Don't share** any passwords/login information – keep them private and use complex passwords, too.
- Never give personal information to any person you don't know.

Safety and your mobile phone:

- Speak to a parent/trusted adult about who you are connecting with and not to purchase anything online without gaining an adult's permission first.
- Age Ratings on Apps are **there to keep you safe**.
- **Only** connect online with friends and family you know in the physical world and not to accept 'friend play request' from strangers.
- Don't put up with abusive texts, photos or video. Show them to an adult and report them.
- You should **always** speak to a trusted adult if you see or hear anything online that makes you feel **scared** or **uncomfortable** and to **never** arrange to meet someone who they have met online.
- When sharing images: **you need consent** to take and share images/videos of others. People also need your **consent** to **take** and **share** your image.
- If an image shows the private parts of a person who is under 18; it IS an indecent image: It is an **offence** if you: save it, share it, keep it, print it, forward it, show it.

Safety and Social Media

With social media you can send messages, share pictures, videos and chat with people all over the world. ... **but who are you connecting with?**

Anyone can use the Internet. Not everyone is who they say they are and some people are not nice.

Most social media platforms require users to be of a minimum age to use their services:

Snapchat	13 years old
Instagram	13 years old
TikTok	13 Years old
You Tube	13 years old
FaceBook	13 Years old
WhatsApp	16 years old

Additional Support:

- Online Safety: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Staying safe online in the summer holidays – advice for parents and carers: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- How to recognise the signs of bullying and sexual exploitation: www.harrowlscb.co.uk
- Mental Health: www.youngminds.org and [Mental Health Support Services in Harrow](#)

Supportive Websites:

- [Childline](#): 0800 1111
- [NSPCC](#):
- [Samaritans](#): Call 116 123 (24 hours 7 days a week)
- [Campaign Against Living Miserably \(CALM\)](#) : Call 0800 58 58 58 – 5pm to midnight every day
- [Papyrus](#): Call 0800 068 41 41 – 9am to midnight every day Text 07860 039967
- [Childline](#): Call 0800 1111 (24 hours 7 days a week)
- [The Mix](#): Call 0808 808 4994 (3pm to 12am)

Useful contacts:

NSPCC report abuse line: 0808 800 5000
 Harrow's Golden Number: 020 8901 2690
 Harrow's Out of Hours Emergency Team: 020 8424 0999
 Emergency Services: 999

Other Useful Contacts:

Harrow Children's Services and Harrow Local Safeguarding Board www.harrowlscb.co.uk

In an emergency you must always call 999.

To report a non-emergency crime to the police call 101.

Information and advice for students and parents

Free School Meals eligibility

- Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.
- Universal Credit, provided they have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190, as assessed by HMRC
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

I don't currently claim free school meals - what does this mean for me?

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals, please see instructions here on how to check and apply.

I am currently claiming free school meals - what does this mean for me? Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but do not meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period.

This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2025. Once Universal Credit is fully rolled out, your

child will keep their free school meal until the end of their current phase of education, i.e. primary or secondary.

Where can I get more information?

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

If you need any further information, please speak to a member of school staff in the Data Office or the local authority. You can also visit the free school meal website:



Your information

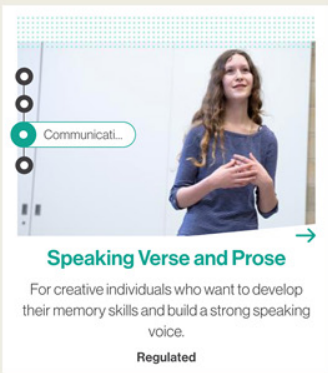
It is vital to check that we hold your most current and accurate data.

Please ensure that you inform the School Office/Data Office of any changes such as **student name/address/contact details/mobile number & email address.**

These must be kept up to date otherwise you may not be able to receive important information. When informing us of an address change, please provide proof of address such as Council Tax or Tenancy Agreement.

Ms Ramsay, Data Manager

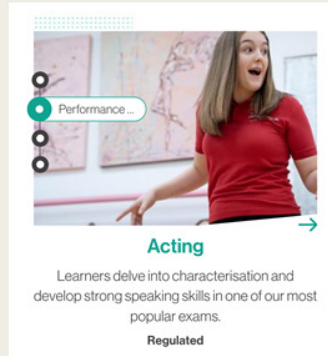




Speaking Verse and Prose →

For creative individuals who want to develop their memory skills and build a strong speaking voice.

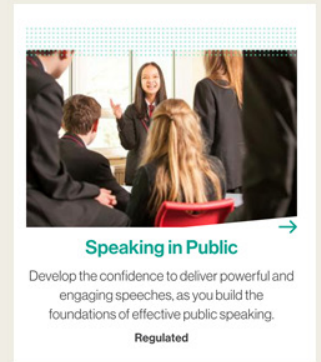
Regulated



Acting →

Learners delve into characterisation and develop strong speaking skills in one of our most popular exams.

Regulated



Speaking in Public →

Develop the confidence to deliver powerful and engaging speeches, as you build the foundations of effective public speaking.

Regulated

What is LAMDA? London Academy of Dramatic Art is a well-known establishment in qualifications in Speech of Verse & Prose, Acting, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking. It is well respected and recognised on a person's CV and offers UCAS points for Grade 6,7 & 8.

How much will it cost? Bentley Wood has partnered with the local Stagecoach providers and are able to offer the 10 sessions for £150 (FSM discounts can be offered). In addition, there is the cost of the exam, the price of the exam varies dependent on grade.

- At Bentley Wood you can receive 10 sessions to help you prepare for a graded **LAMDA** exam at the end of term.
- If you are interested in completing this in the Autumn term 2024 speak with your parents and then email **Mr Rankin**.

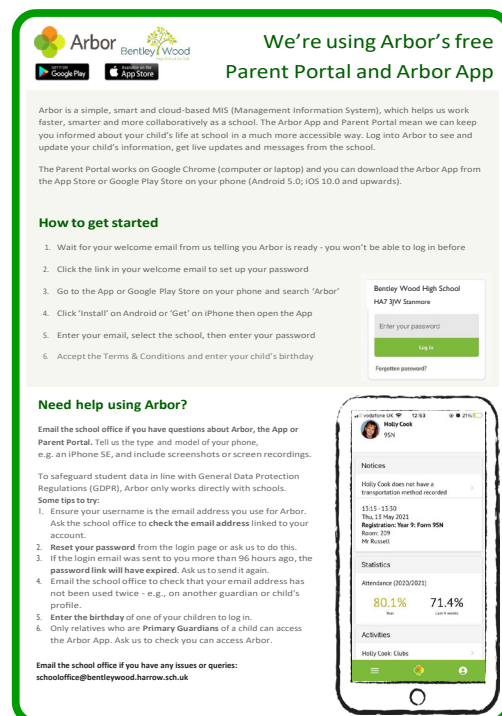
LAMDA



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Arbor App

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and messages from the school.

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Arbor App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).



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How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

Need help using Arbor?

Email the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask the school office to check the email address linked to your account.
2. Reset your password from the login page or ask us to do this. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired. Ask us to send it again.
3. Email the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g., on another guardian or child's profile.
4. Enter the birthday of one of your children to log in.
5. Only relatives who are Primary Guardians of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.

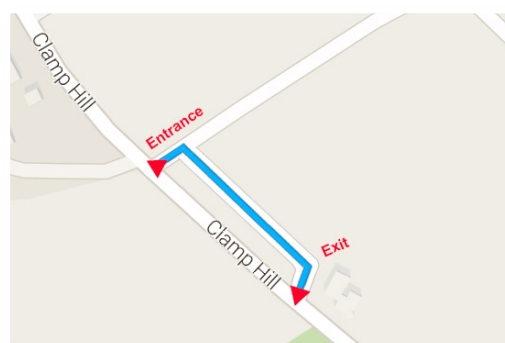
Email the school office if you have any issues or queries: schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

For student safety only use the Clamp Hill entrance to drop off and pick up your daughter from school. We would like to remind you that our Bridges Road gate is no longer in use for dropping off or collecting students from school by car.

We wish for all parents/carers to use the Clamp Hill entrance and the designated safe road/drop off point. Please note if the drop off point is full, parents should drive through the drop off area and park on Clamp Hill Road, on the left hand side facing Brockhurst Corner/Uxbridge Road. For any parents who are unsure where the drop off is, please use postcode HA7 3JW. Details can also be found on the school website under the 'Contact Us' section.

Please can parents/carers email the school office at schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk with their up to date contact details including mobile numbers and email addresses to be sure that they are receiving all the information being sent to parents from the school.



Dates for your Diary 2024

28th October to 1st November 2024

4th November 2024

11th November 2024

11th to 22nd November 2024

13th November 2024

14th November 2024

18th to 29th November 2024

25th to 28th November 2024

28th November 2024

29th November 2024

5th December 2024

5th December 2024

18th December 2024

20th December 2024

23rd December to 3rd January 2025

6th January 2025

7th January 2025

Half term

Start of term. 08:40 registration

Year 13 Geography Trip

Year 12 Internal Assessments

Year 10 Parents Evening. Early finish for students 13:25 / 13:30

Preloved Uniform Sale. 14:45 Woody's (parents only)

Year 13 Internal Assessments

Year 11 Art/Graphics/Textiles/Drama NEA

Year 12 Westminster Abbey Trip

An Inspector Calls Theatre Trip

Year 12 & 13 Spanish Study Day at BFI

Year 8 Parents Evening. Early finish for students 13:25 / 13:30

Winter Concert

End of term. Early finish for everyone 12:50 / 13:00

Christmas Holidays

Inset Day. School closed to students

Start of term. 08:40 registration

Don't forget to check our website for regular news updates:

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk