



Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter February 2025



Students take part in fantastic school production **Oliver!**

Bentley Wood's annual musical production is always a special highlight of the school calendar, and this year's performance of **Oliver!** was unforgettable. Six months of dedication, collaboration, and creativity culminated in outstanding performances that delighted audiences on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of February.

The production showcased the talent of the cast and celebrated the skill of those working hard behind the scenes on costumes, hair and makeup and set design. Special thanks go to our technical team for their lighting and sound expertise.

The production received rave reviews from families and also from Aylward Primary School students, who were treated to a performance on the 11th of February.

This success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our staff, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Bancroft and all the teachers in the Music, Drama, Art, and Design & Technology departments, whose passion and commitment made it such a spectacular and memorable event.



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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families, Staff, and Students,

It is my pleasure to share with you the latest edition of the BWHS newsletter. This issue is particularly dedicated as an homage to our school production of *Oliver!* Based on the classic novel by Charles Dickens, the students and staff at Bentley Wood did an outstanding job bringing the story of *Oliver Twist* to life. The performance showcased incredible talent—from the atmospheric scenery, props, and costumes to the makeup, lighting, and behind-the-scenes efforts. The singing, acting, and overall creative delivery were truly exceptional.

This newsletter is filled with moments of pride, celebrating the achievements of individuals, teams, and departments. It is a testament to the learning that extends far beyond the classroom, in line with our motto: *Learning today, Leading tomorrow.*

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our parents for their continued support, which makes these events possible. And, once again, to all the staff who dedicate so much of their time and energy to ensure that every student's journey at Bentley Wood is rich and rewarding.

At the end of the newsletter, you will find our usual section on drop-offs and pick-ups. I'd like to draw attention of all staff and families who use the Bridges Road entrance to an email we have forwarded you from Harrow Local Authority about a proposed School Streets Scheme on the roads around Bridges Road.

As always, there is significant building work and improvements taking place during the holidays. Year 11, 12, and 13 students, please remember to sign in and out, and follow all instructions when using the school site during the half-term break.

Wishing you all the very best over the half-term holiday.

Kind regards,



Naseema Akbar
Headteacher



Students' account of their thrilling experience taking part in Oliver!

I really love being Nancy! My character always tries to find the bright side of things and works for the good of others. I'm inspired to be more like her in the future. It makes me feel very proud when I am on the stage singing and acting as we all worked so hard to be there and I almost can't believe it's happening. It's a pleasure to have the opportunity to perform alongside such great people and performers! The costumes are amazing and so is the backstage team and staff, they all help the phenomenal production come together.

Rachel R 8CTA

I'm one of the characters in the Oliver Production. I play Nipper. I really appreciate and enjoy being Nipper (FYI he is also part of the 4 main gang members). For me I think that Nipper is a very cheeky and funny character. My favourite part was when after the song Pick A Pocket, Fagin says to put them all back in the box, and I slyly hide the handkerchief and awkwardly give it to Fagin. Here's a little spoiler about the production we're doing next year: ADDAMS FAMILY!!!!!! I really suggest you participate in that because, trust me, it's really fun to be a part of a production!

Saatvika V 7ZHA

This production has been such an amazing experience! Taking the role of Nancy has really helped me understand acting better and work on my singing. Nancy is a conflicted person - she wants to help Oliver have a better life but cannot due to her abusive husband, Bill Sikes. This is interesting to investigate and helped me understand how to implement the situation and thoughts of a character into the acting. I got to work with so many wonderful people, both on and off stage. Everyone has worked so hard to make this production the best that it can be!

Victoria G 8SCH

I am in the Oliver production and I enjoy it a lot, I am glad I have the opportunity to be in this production and have fun with my friends and act! My perspective as someone in Fagin's gang is that Oliver begins life in misery in a workhouse, where he dares to ask for more food. The line: 'Please sir, I want some more' has become one of the most famous in literature. This punishment leads him to flee to London, where he meets Fagin! I love how Oliver! brings people together and I have certainly made a lot of new friends and I am so glad to be part of this production.

Leila H 9AHU

Oliver! Great student performances

I love being in Oliver! It is so much fun to be able to go on stage every day and perform with such a talented group of people. Plus, it allows me to make great friends with people in the older year groups. I love playing the role of Bet as it allows me to step out of my comfort zone. She is a character that loves her best friend Nancy and always looks after Oliver! as if they were siblings. It is not just the actors that you see who make the production, the entire team is amazing: backstage, sound, lighting and the teachers that made it happen! I am so honoured to be a part of such a wonderful production.

Maya L 8EBD

Stepping into the menacing shoes of Bill Sikes for this year's production of Oliver! was an exciting yet challenging experience. From dissecting Bill's complex motivations and grappling with his dark nature, to portraying his physicality and interacting with other characters - Nancy in particular - made the journey intense but incredibly rewarding. Working with all the wonderful cast members, backstage crew, and teachers made this musical come to life. The energy and passion that went into making a play as amazing as this required a lot of hard work from everyone involved and I'm so grateful for all the people who contributed to this production. Sikes pushed me as an actor and taught me how character development is so important and solidified my love for theatre.

Sara S 8SZ

My time being Oliver in the production has been wonderful and exciting! I always enjoy the productions so much and am excited to do more in the future. At first I was a bit nervous about auditioning for Oliver! but as the time got closer and closer I saw my opportunity to shine and went for it; when the cast list was announced and I was Oliver, I was elated! From figuring out Oliver's personality to remembering dance moves and lines, the whole journey has been a joy. I look forward to many productions to come! One of the things that has helped me in productions from Year 7 to now is the saying - You can, you should and if you're brave enough to start, you will- Stephen King.

Camille W 9MD

In this year's production, I'm playing Fagin in Oliver! It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to express myself and play a character outside my comfort zone. I believe that being in Oliver! has made me more confident in my singing, acting, and dancing. Playing Fagin, I have a very funny character who brings light to the show! I get to have the funniest songs including "Pick a Pocket or Two" in which I teach Oliver the life of a pickpocket! I have a wonderful time embracing the jocosity of Fagin's character and his love of his pearls and tiaras and the way he interacts with different characters such as Bill or Nancy. Doing the production, has not only gained my confidence but I have gained amazing friendships which will last me a lifetime.



My character Fagin is a criminal mastermind who kidnaps orphaned children and trains them to be pickpockets in return for sheltering and feeding them. He has a great personality and has a great father son relationship with Dodger. I am so grateful for the opportunity

I have been given, and I am grateful for my cast, helping me through and through, the backstage crew, who keeps everyone in order, and last but not least the amazing teachers that have pushed us and we couldn't have done this production without them! Overall, doing the production has been the most wonderful experience and I am so excited for my night of Oliver!

Deivpra J 9KPO

This year, I had the honour of playing Mr Sowerberry, the funeral director and shady buyer of Oliver. Playing a character of the opposite gender has proved to be an exciting challenge and it's definitely pushed my abilities as an actor. I loved exploring different accents and working with other people in the scene to make it as entertaining as possible: death has never been so amusing.

Not only did I learn new techniques and skills, but I also enjoyed the friendships that blossomed throughout the months. Overall, the experience has been wonderful and I'm so glad I was able to share it with the rest of the extremely talented cast. It's been amazing and I can't wait to do it all again next year!

Khushi D 9MD

I, and many other students, got the opportunity to perform in this year's annual school production of 'Oliver!'. The play is centred around a workhouse boy who escapes to London, to make his fortune. There he is picked up by a pick-pocketing gang who, along with their leader, Fagin, teach Oliver the art of stealing from the upper crust. This play highlights the brutalities and oppression that workhouse children faced and the tough lives that the working-class lived.

I performed as the Artful Dodger, one of the protagonists. I would say that Dodger has various interesting attributes. He is very confident, charismatic, and loyal to his fellow pick-pocket gang members and has respect for Fagin, due to him being the main leader. This has been my first production, and it won't be my last! I have loved being a part of it. The afterschool and weekend rehearsals were something that I would always look forward to, as you get to let off steam, be in your element and become a fictional character, for that time.

Acting, for me, is a good outlet to express myself and a way to get into the mind and personality of a character. Performing in productions itself is a great way to enhance your drama and music skills further. You also get to perform with others who share this interest, which can lead to the creation of good friendships.

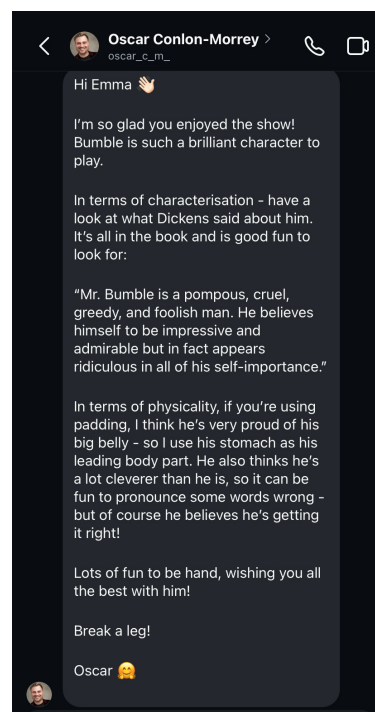
To conclude, I would like to thank my fellow cast members, teachers, backstage crew and all those involved in the making of this brilliant production, for all their hard work and dedication over these past five months, to bring this famous tale, and all its characters to life!

Alexa K 9GCP

In this year's production, I was given the honour of playing Mr Bumble! Through the early stages of rehearsals right to the dress runs, I absolutely loved embracing the characterisation and meaning behind this crucial character! I was even given tips on how to portray Mr Bumble's character by Oscar Conlon-Morrey, who plays him professionally in the West End!

I am incredibly grateful for the amazing cast, backstage crew, and teachers who have supported us massively through this hard, but rewarding process! This show will always have a place in my heart along with the incredible memories and friendships that have blossomed during it.

Emma A 9LSB



Behind the scenes: Oliver! production

Year 7 Art Club

Year 7 Art Club have also been supporting the set design and costume design for Oliver! They have been working hard for over 8 weeks making things such as the brickwork for the hall and objects such as the street lamp and tavern sign to make the stage look like Victorian London.

In recent weeks they have been turning their hands to making the orphans and Fagin's gang clothing by distressing shirts and trousers to make them look old and tattered. Here you can see it was quite a messy job and they had so much fun doing it, but they were great at cleaning up afterwards.

Ms Tebby



Year 7 Art Club busy distressing shirts and trousers for Oliver production



Students work on set design for Oliver

Being in set design for our school's production of Oliver! has been such a wonderful experience. Trying out new things and learning at the same time has really extended our knowledge about set design and productions in general. During this time, we got the amazing opportunity to test our skills and display them in our tasks. Doing this, we have also come across challenges, and each little thing allowed us to grow as a group and as people.

In set design, we have learned a handful of new skills, like how to plan and create different items and sets for shows. We have practised using different paints and unusual materials to build props for the set that look great, and it helped us tell the story of Oliver! We have also learned how to work with others and solve problems when things do not go the way we intended. By doing this, we also created small but meaningful bonds with the people around us by working together and giving tips along the way.

Some of my achievements in set design include making 20+ bowls for the lunch scene in Oliver! planning out banners, helping to paint, and more! As a whole group, we have achieved far more, such as making and fully painting the 'God is Love' banner, making different props for scenes, and creating a backdrop with cities from the 1800s to set the scene. Though our team has accomplished far more, these achievements are some of the largest. None of this would have been possible without every member of our team.

I have learnt many things throughout the months of being in set design, each with its own personal and individual experiences. Learning to use the right techniques and abilities guided me and others on what to improve in the future such as the ability to apply paint onto materials to achieve the right texture and appearance, know more about colour theory what colours will suit each other better than others, know how to properly apply paint and more.

Everyone working on set design for Oliver! has made such an enormous impact on the show!

Anna M 7SGU



Creative costume design and musical enrichment

Students skilfully prepared costumes for the Oliver production

It was an amazing experience working as a part of costume club. We had to work very hard including on Saturdays to finish the costumes.

From cutting out the patterns to sewing the final pieces, it took a lot of dedication, but it was worth it in the end. I would encourage others to join in and try even if you don't have much experience as you can learn many things.

Anvi K 11SEO



Student experience with the Bentley Wood Orchestra

As a student in the Bentley Wood Orchestra, I've learned so much about music, teamwork, and personal growth. When I first joined, I was nervous about playing alongside more experienced musicians, but from day one, I felt welcomed and supported. Rehearsals are a mix of hard work and fun. Our conductor helps break down difficult sections, and I've learned that practice is key to improving. It's also about more than just playing the notes—it's about creating a sound that flows together as a team. The most exciting part, though, is performing.

There's an energy when we play together that's hard to describe, and the audience's reaction makes all the effort worth it. Being part of this orchestra has taught me about discipline, confidence, and the value of working as a group. I've made great friends, and it's been amazing to see my skills improve over time. If you're a student thinking about joining, I'd highly recommend it. It's challenging, but the experience is incredibly rewarding.

Ayva P 10THA

String Group

If you're a violinist looking to grow your skills, make music with others, and showcase your talent, String Group is the perfect club for you! Held every Wednesday lunchtime in the Dance Studio, this club is open to students across the school of all ability levels, from beginners to advanced players. Members of the group have the exciting opportunity to perform at school concerts throughout the year, giving you a chance to shine in front of an audience and gain valuable performance experience.

"It's really nice because I get to meet and interact with different year groups and practise playing the violin with them."

Asla S 11JP

"It's a great opportunity to be exposed to different musical genres and to discover new music you might enjoy learning to perform."

Anna C 11JP



Junior Orchestra



String Group

Participation in various music clubs

Students enjoy attending Junior Choir Club

Year 7s to 13s from Bentley Wood High School have performed some beautiful songs. Year 7 & Year 8 have put a lot of effort by attending the Junior Choir Club on Friday where we learn songs and sing them in harmony.

The day of the Winter concert was full of rehearsals and excitement. We performed to Year 9 in the afternoon which was fun and also a bit nerve-wracking. In the evening it was the big moment we had all waited for, the concert where we got to perform to an external audience. We performed to many parents, relatives and friends. It was an amazing experience - I can't wait to do it again!

Zahara MB 7HJG

I really enjoy Junior Choir! It is an incredible enrichment experience with lots of my friends and a positive, fun environment. They are always welcoming to new participants and I really enjoy singing with all my friends!

Rachel R 8CTA

Senior Choir: A love for music and singing

Senior choir is a great way to connect with students at Bentley Wood. It gives us wonderful opportunities such as expressing our love for music and singing.

Another amazing opportunity it gives students in Year 10 and Year 11 is the chance to perform in the schools termly concerts as well as alongside other schools' Some key skills we gain from this club is are confidence boosts, communication, teamwork and social skills. I enjoy Senior Choir as it always challenges us (the songs get more challenging every term) to channel our inner potential and express what amazing talent we have here at Bentley Wood.

Preesha and Nia Year 10



Junior Choir





Year 9 Choir

Bentley Wood musicians improving their technique at Rock Band

Rock Band is an opportunity for musicians at Bentley Wood to develop the art of playing in a group - along with a bunch of other important skills!

The ability to persevere has been vital for me, as the band has been the first instance in three years where I've needed to get serious about being a guitarist. Despite how clumsily my fingers used to move along the fretboard, both of our teachers have been patient with me and all the others. With their help, I have managed to significantly improve both my confidence and technique.

We rehearse every Monday after school and every Tuesday lunchtime. Each song we perform seems to get progressively more challenging, but that doesn't take away from how much we enjoy ourselves! Termly school concerts are where we show off what we have been working hard on. I definitely would recommend the club to anyone who's passionate about rock music and wants a taste of what playing it is like.

Maria B 10CCH



Rock Band

Performance success & experiences



Talent show hosted by the Axis Educational Trust

Harrow Council Staff Stars Awards

Glee Club enjoy glowing success

Bentley Wood's Glee Club have enjoyed a triumphant start to 2025 with success at a talent show hosted by the Axis Educational Trust to mark the charity's 30th anniversary. They were also invited to perform once again at the Harrow Staff Stars Awards on the 30th January, an annual event celebrating the achievements of staff working for the London Borough of Harrow. Here are two students' accounts of their Glee Club experiences:

Glee is a very fun club and we have many opportunities to do fun concerts and competitions. Some examples are that we came third in the Axis Educational Trust's competition and won £200. We also have the chance to perform in Paris this July. Last week we went and performed to the Mayor of Harrow at the Harrow Staff Stars Awards ceremony. Every Wednesday we have rehearsal where we practise, learn and stage the songs but we also have a lot of fun and have a great time.

Jayni H 8EBD

Glee is a great opportunity, and we do many events. Recently, we attended the Axis Educational Trust competition where we performed and came third place. It was great as we won

£200 to put towards our Paris trip. We also performed at a Harrow Council staff award ceremony for the Mayor. In July, we are going to get the opportunity to go to Paris for a trip and perform many songs. We meet every Wednesday and sing together. It is really fun as we get to be with our friends and relax. The teachers are also very kind and make sure that we always have a great time.

Maya L 8EBD

Jen Denny from the London Borough of Harrow had warm praise for Bentley Wood Glee Club's performance at the Harrow Staff Stars Awards:

"I just wanted to express our gratitude for the wonderful choir performance of your talented students at our recent Staff Stars Awards Ceremony. The rendition of the 3 songs left a huge impression with everyone who attended. I could not help myself lip-syncing to "Total Praise", which I knew quite well! The talented display by the choir was great. The enthusiasm, passion and energy displayed by your students was palpable. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with you".


Ballet Shoes: Year 11 GCSE Drama Theatre Trip - January 2025

Year 11 Drama students visited the National Theatre in the first week back to watch a wonderful play, called Ballet Shoes. The performance was fantastic and utilised the full resources of the Olivier stage with special effects, huge scenery changes and dynamic lights.

The performance also included a pre-show with members of the ensemble amongst the audience, and Mr Rankin was put through a quick ballet lesson learning first, second and third position. He also revealed that he has ballet in his past and presented a passable curtsey.

The show is a stage adaptation of Noel Streatfeild's 1936 children's novel. The story is about three adopted sisters who navigate their lives in a world that doesn't always welcome ambitious women.

All the students really enjoyed this fantastic opportunity and will now be using their experience as part of their written exam, coming soon on Thursday 8th May!





Communicati...

Speaking Verse and Prose

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

Regulated




Performance...

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.

How to book

We have developed the enrolment process for LAMDA and would now ask that you use the below link to complete enrolment forms for the Summer term.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lamdawithstagecoachforschools/1565579>

If your daughter is in receipt of free school meals the school will offer support with your fees, please use this form:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/lamdawithstagecoachforschools/1565585>

LAMDA

Cultural Enrichment: Theatre Trips and Literature Quiz

Students see Oscar Wilde's most celebrated comedy: The Importance Of Being Earnest

On the 14th of January A Level students went to see Max Webster's production of The Importance Of Being Earnest production at the National Theatre downtown in Waterloo. The play was a great and fun way for us to consolidate what we had learnt in our A-level English Literature class.

The play was A-M-A-Z-I-N-G ! For A Level students attending this production it provided valuable insights into Wilde's satire of Victorian society, themes of identity, and the performative nature of social roles. Experiencing the play live enhanced our understanding of its language, humour, and enduring relevance.

The diversity of the cast and representation of the LGBTQ+ community was refreshing and reflective of how far we have come as a people since the play was written.

It provided insights into the stratified way society was at the time and the pressures a person had to face to maintain a place in society.

This play was not just educational, it truly taught us the importance of the truth which takes You far.

Nanette A 12CTW



Oliver! cast see production of Oliver at the Gielgud Theatre in London

I found Oliver! the musical absolutely astounding! It was an incredible experience to see professionals of all ages perform together and I was inspired. Not only was it amazing to watch but it helped me greatly in developing my character. I am very happy me and my friends got to enjoy this show together and hope we can enjoy even more in the future!!!

Rachel R 8CTA

Going to watch Oliver! in Piccadilly Circus with the school production's cast was so fun. The show was amazing, I loved seeing the different Victorian costumes and the super talented actors who brought every single character to life. Not only did I love the show but I really enjoyed walking though Piccadilly Circus with the cast, where I saw really pretty landmarks I haven't seen before!

Greta C 9LSB

The trip to the theatre was amazing, it is always a wonderful experience seeing the production on a

West End stage. As always we now have lots of new ideas for our own production so get your tickets and come and watch!

Camille W 9MD



Celebrating Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice Quiz

The year 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth, and the library proudly celebrated this literary milestone by hosting a Jane Austen-inspired quiz on the 3rd of February. Austen's timeless novels have captivated readers for over two centuries, and her enduring popularity is a testament to her masterful storytelling and keen insights into the complexities of human relationships. Renowned for her satirical wit and sharp critique of the social conventions of her time, Austen's legacy also includes a rich tapestry of unforgettable characters—flawed, yet endearingly human.

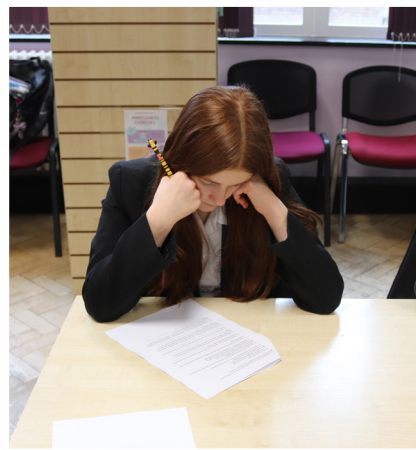
The quiz provided a wonderful opportunity to introduce a new generation of readers to the timeless charm of Austen's novels. As part of the lead-up to the competition, students were encouraged to read *Pride and Prejudice* or explore one of its many film adaptations. The quiz itself consisted of 25 questions covering the plot, characters, and settings of *Pride and Prejudice*.

The results were truly impressive, with several high-scoring entries. The four winners each received a £10 Amazon gift card, a luxury hardback edition of their favourite Austen novel, and 30 achievement points. Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding performance in the quiz:

Anna M 7SGU - 21/25
Zoya L 9JAZ - 19/25
Marwa F 8SCH - 19/25
Zara N 7ZHA - 19/25

Well done to all who participated! We hope you continue exploring the wonderful novels of Jane Austen!

Ms Khan Librarian



Students focus on Classics from theatre to themed events

Year 12 Classics trip to the theatre to see 'Oedipus Rex' at the Old Vic

On Thursday, February 6th, the KS5 Classics students had the incredible opportunity to watch one of the plays from our curriculum, Oedipus Rex, performed as Oedipus at the Old Vic Theatre. This experience was unforgettable, not only because we got to see the text we had studied brought to life, but also because it allowed us to feel the same thoughts and emotions that the play would have evoked in its original audience in ancient Athens during the City Dionysia (a festival in ancient Greece).

Key elements that shaped our experience were our prior knowledge of the text and the structure of ancient tragedies. This background enabled us to fully grasp the dramatic irony and the anguish of the characters as they discovered the devastating truth—that Oedipus unintentionally killed his father and married his mother. This revelation is the central plot of the play. Moreover, the performance gave us the chance to compare the structure and direction of the modern play with the form of ancient tragedies.

The experience was further enhanced by the stellar casting. Rami Malek, as Oedipus, brilliantly portrayed the evolution of the character, from the noble king of Thebes to a man facing the worst possible fate. Indira Varma's portrayal of Jocasta was equally impressive. She depicted the emotional depth of a woman trapped in an unbearable fate—first marrying a man she didn't love, then dealing with the tragic loss of a child due to her husband's fear of losing power, and ultimately marrying her own child, whom she believed was her true love. This tragic storyline, which may seem entirely unlucky and terrible to a modern audience, would have been more common and perhaps less emotionally stirring for the male audience in ancient Athens. However, the modern production made these elements even more poignant and relatable for today's viewers.

As for the structure of the play, there were some notable differences from the traditional tragedies we're used to. At first, as a lover of ancient tragedies, I was a bit disappointed by the changes, but this feeling quickly faded. The chorus, which typically sings and dances in a tragedy, instead only danced, but their performance, complemented by impressive lighting, rhythm, music, and choreography, conveyed the atmosphere beautifully. Regarding the play's structure, I had expected a classic monologue to begin the prologue, but that was missing, replaced by a different scene before Oedipus sends Creon to consult the oracle. Additionally, the famous line, "I am Oedipus," which in the original is part of the prologue monologue, was only spoken much later after the revelation of Oedipus's true identity.

There were also some special moments I'd like to mention. First, Tiresias, who was pictured as a woman, brought an

extra layer of complexity to the role, and I absolutely loved how she was portrayed. Secondly, Antigone, performed by an adorable young girl, was deeply moving—her performance brought me to tears in nearly every scene, especially in the final moments. I won't give any spoilers, but the portrayal of the father-daughter relationship, especially in the last scene, was heartbreaking and beautiful.

In conclusion, I thoroughly enjoyed the entire play—it made me laugh, cry, and left me with a lasting and powerful memory. The most significant lesson I took from this experience, one I had intellectually understood before but never fully grasped until watching the performance, is how timeless the works of Sophocles truly are. Even with slight adjustments, these plays can continue to resonate deeply with modern audiences, proving their enduring relevance and emotional impact.

I wish to thank Ms Hussain (Head of Classics and Latin) for organising the incredible event, and Ms Mohan and Ms Bidder for accompanying us on the trip.

Eleni Year 12



Classics Week 2025

Monday, 20th January, started on a high note with Y7 Classics Club, where we looked and discussed the theme - Being Human. This enrichment-packed week inspired everyone to learn and research about ancient Romans and Greeks. Ms Hussain (Head of Classics and Latin) organised a feast of activities for the week, so a big thank you to her for creating such fun and intellectually inspiring activities.

On Thursday, groups of 5 participated in a Quiz about the Roman and Greek world; Classics Bingo was packed with 25 amazing challenges, with 25 achievement points up for grabs. Lots of students took part in the activities.

I enjoyed looking for Classics links to Maths, Geography and Physics as well as finding out the names of brands with Classics-inspired names. For example, one of the most famous sporting brands is named after Nike, the Greek goddess of victory. Pandora is the "all gifted" woman in Greek mythology. She also happens to be the first human woman created by Hephaestus on the instructions of Zeus. It's no wonder that this jewellery brand is so famous as every woman out there wants a ring on their finger at one point.

The final date for the Creative Writing & Art Competitions is March 3rd. Hand in your entries to Mr O'Sullivan or Ms Hussain. Keep the good vibes going and let your imagination shine through!

Jasmine 9LSB

Timeless Reads for Classics Week

As Classics Week arrived, it was the perfect time to dive into the timeless books that have shaped literature and sparked creativity for generations. To celebrate Classics Week, Bentley Wood librarian, Ms Khan, curated a special display featuring noteworthy literature, inviting students to explore the ageless literary art that revolutionized poetry and books up to the modern day.

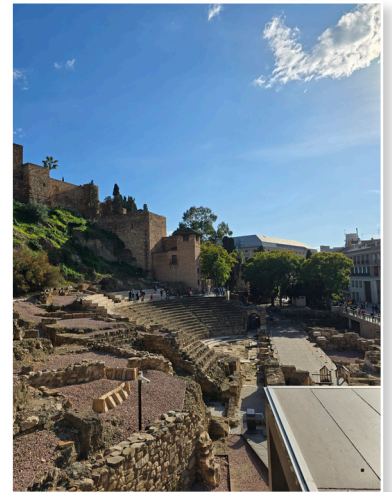
Apart from the pulchritudinous (did you know this word directly comes from the Latin word "pulcher" meaning beautiful?) display the library was thrilled to announce the arrival of the best-selling comic series written by George O'Connor: The Olympians! Ms Hussain (Head of Classics and Latin) ordered these books as soon as they were released and they arrived just in time for Classics Week. The Olympians is an electrifying comic series that brings the legends of Greek mythology to vivid life through its visionary graphic art.

Each volume dives deep into the iconic myths of ancient Greece, submerging you into the mythological realm of divine ancient Greek gods and goddesses. Whether it's the thunderous rise of Zeus to power or the heartbreaking tragedy of Persephone and Hades. It's the perfect mix of history and heroism where you can't help but be infatuated by the magic of the comic enchanting you page by page. So, don't miss out and run to the library!

In addition, there are a wealth of captivating and thought-provoking books and novels that offer equally enriching experiences. If you're looking to indulge in some enthralling read to explore the fascinating world of Greek mythology here are some suggestions by the award-winning author Madeline Miller. Did you know the best-selling author was previously a Latin teacher? 'The Song of Achilles', winner of the Orange Prize for Fiction, is a reimagined retelling of the relationship between Achilles and Patroclus, set against the backdrop of the Trojan war. The novel explores themes of love, friendship and fate. Also by Madeline Miller (it won the award of Goodreads choice award Best Fantasy); Circe is a captivating retelling of the story of the infamous witch from Homer's Odyssey. The novel gives voice to Circe, exploring her transformation from a misunderstood nymph into a powerful complex figure. This beautifully crafted tale reimagines a classical myth, offering a modern perspective on a timeless character. This book is certainly one to go on the bookshelf!

So, whether you're captivated by the vibrant world of 'The Olympians' or drawn into the emotional depths of Miller's masterpieces, there's no better time than the weeks after Classics Week to immerse yourself in these transformative works. Head over to Bentley Wood library to discover these literary works of art! Thank you to Ms Hussain for getting so many great books for our library!

Mariam S Year 10



Winter reads 2025

Catfish Rolling by Clara Kumagai

Beneath the islands of Japan lies a giant catfish whose movements trigger an earthquake that cracks time itself, taking Sora's mother and her home. Sora now lives near the dangerous zones where time warps, and after her father disappears, she sets off to find her parents, and possibly the catfish responsible for it all. As time bends and memories fracture, Sora discovers that her quest is more perilous than she foresaw.

EchoStar is always listening by Melinda Salisbury

Ruby and her best friend Deva have earned spots at the prestigious Ash Tree Foundation Performing Arts Camp, but only if their grades improve. When Deva's sudden academic success is linked to a mysterious app called EchoStar, Ruby is eager to join—but soon discovers the app's dark secret: it's always watching and listening, and it may be more dangerous than she ever imagined.

Oh What a Knight! By Maz Evans

Vesper and Aster need Excalibur to save the world. At the top of Glastonbury Tor, they find an elevator down to the enchanted realm of Camelot, where Arthur has been waiting for this day. The elderly King and his loyal knights snap to attention – at last they have a quest! But Excalibur will only serve its chosen master. What would anyone do with such power?

Storm Child by Ele Fountain

Maya's life is turned upside down when a violent storm destroys her dad's fishing boat, prompting her family to start anew on a tropical island. But as she struggles to adjust to her new life far from everything familiar, Maya discovers that paradise hides darker truths—and she must find a way to bring her family back together before they're lost forever.

Dust by Alison Stine

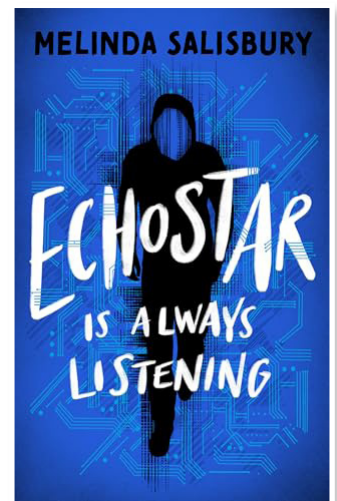
Thea's family moves to the desolate Bloodless Valley in southern Colorado, hoping for a fresh start. But as the land withers and her life feels increasingly restricted, Thea finds unexpected freedom in her new friendship with Ray, a deaf boy who teaches her sign language, helping her connect to a community and uncover new possibilities—both for herself and her heart.

All the Love Under the Vast Sky by Alexandra Alessandri

This captivating anthology explores love in all its forms. With a mix of myth, historical, speculative, and contemporary fiction, it brings together stories of unexpected love, from two princes in 15th-century Mesoamerica to a bearded lady seeking belonging at the circus, to a girl overcoming grief and chronic pain. Each tale offers a unique perspective, showcasing the powerful impact love has on the teenage experience.



Catfish Rolling
by Clara Kumagai



EchoStar is always
listening by Melinda
Salisbury



Oh What a Knight!
By Maz Evans



Storm Child
by Ele Fountain



Dust
by Alison Stine



All the Love
Under the Vast Sky
by Alexandra Alessandri

Little House by Katya Balen

Juno is angry about spending the summer with her grandfather, away from her friends and her mum. But when she discovers a forgotten family in his attic, she begins to build a new understanding—and, perhaps, find a way to forgive her mum for leaving.

The Meadowbrook Murders by Jessica Goodman

Amy's senior year at Meadowbrook Academy takes a dark turn when her best friend Sarah and her boyfriend are brutally murdered, and all eyes turn to Amy as the prime suspect. As Liz, a determined social outcast, investigates the case, she uncovers shocking secrets about Sarah and the dangerous truth behind the murders—secrets that could cost Liz everything if she's not careful.

Immortal by Sue Lynn Tan

When Liyen ascends the throne of Tianxia, she vows to break free from the immortals who once protected her kingdom. To safeguard her people, she must form a dangerous alliance with the ruthless God of War, sparking a treacherous attraction. As dark forces close in, Liyen must risk everything—including her heart—to save her kingdom from an unspeakable fate.

The Glass Girl by Kathleen Glasgow

Bella is drowning in the demands of life—her broken heart, her parents' divorce, and the loss of her grandmother. Alcohol is her escape, dulling the pain and making it easier to cope.

But after a night she can't remember, Bella wakes in the hospital and realizes she can no longer run from her problems. Now, she must face the harsh truth and embark on the difficult journey of rehab and recovery.

Where the Library Hides by Isabel Ibañez

In 1885 Egypt, Inez Olivera is shattered by the murder of her cousin Elvira and her mother's betrayal. When her uncle Tío Ricardo threatens her inheritance, she is forced to consider marriage to Whitford Hayes, a mysterious former British soldier. But as Inez becomes entangled with Whit's secrets, she risks binding her fate to the one man whose hidden plans could destroy her.

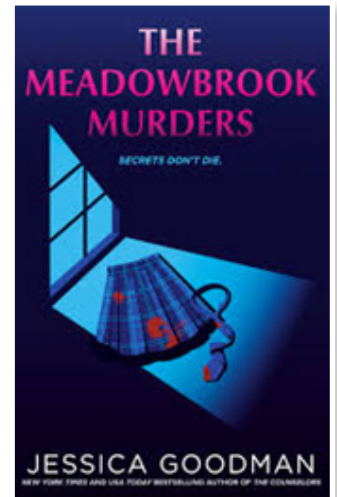
Thirst by Varsha Bajaj

Living in one of the poorest areas of Mumbai, Minni struggles with limited water access, long lines at communal taps, and the looming threat of water thieves. When she accidentally witnesses a theft, she uncovers a dangerous underworld involving the water mafia.

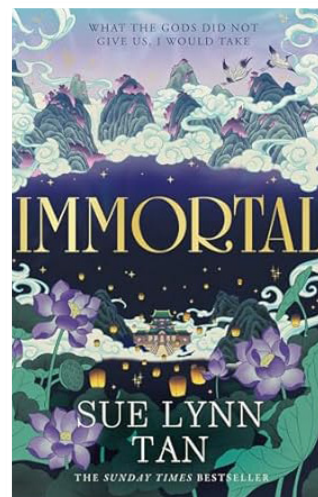
Her boss at her new job turns out to be one of the Mafia leaders. Now, Minni must decide whether to expose him, risking her job—and her life—in the process. How did a basic human right like water become so complicated?



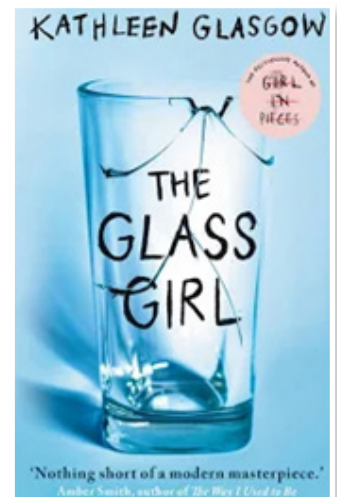
Little House
by Katya Balen



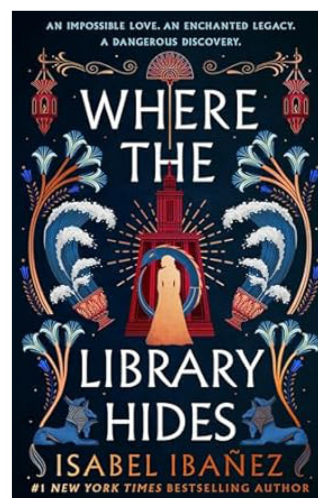
The Meadowbrook
Murders by Jessica
Goodman



Immortal
by Sue Lynn Tan



The Glass Girl
by Kathleen Glasgow



Where the Library
Hides by Isabel Ibañez



Thirst
by Varsha Bajaj

Events and CPD to advance learning

January Inset Day: Developing Oracy

On Monday 6th of January 2025, Bentley Wood High School welcomed Geoff Barton CBE (former Headteacher and General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders) to talk to teachers about the recent outcomes from the Oracy Commission which he chaired, and its subsequent report 'We need to talk'.

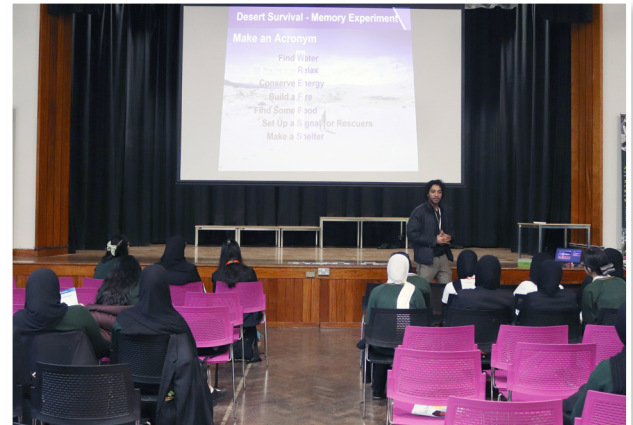
Teachers explored some of the classroom implications and opportunities of oracy across a range of subjects and are excited about further developing oracy at Bentley Wood High School.



Ms Karsan

Workshop: Studying With The Brain In Mind

In this study skills workshop, students discovered the secrets of optimising their brain's potential during revision. By understanding how the brain works students will be able to use it better.



Here is a students account of the day.

A workshop was held last week about revision, particularly on the most efficient ways to revise and how to use our time effectively in these crucial months prior to our exams. I would like to say it was very useful in terms of presenting to us ways in which you can retain the most knowledge by using backed up scientific studies of psychology and how the brain works.



We learnt, through a game of memorisation of a list of words, that the brain's short term memory capacity is + or - 7 units of information. Mikey also showed us the ways in which revision and memorising can be effective through the 2,3,5,7 method and past papers, instead of highlighting and re-reading.

Overall, the workshop was of great use and a critical reminder at this time for what type of revision we should be avoiding as it's passive.

We enjoyed many activities such as attempting to multitask, memorising a list of words in a few seconds and making our own mnemonics. It was a great add on to our usual PSHE lessons and we wish everyone benefits from this workshop, too.

Sarah A 11ALN





The Brilliant Club

Unlocking Potential: The Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme

Fourteen students from Year 9 have been selected to take part in the Scholars Programme which offers high-achieving students the opportunity to explore university-style learning and gain valuable skills to help them thrive academically and beyond.

This programme is a core provision of The Brilliant Club, an organisation committed to supporting students from state schools access the most competitive universities and to succeed when they get there.

The programme offers a challenging and rewarding learning experience through seven tutorials taught by a PhD tutor and a trip to a competitive university.

So far our students have enjoyed a very stimulating lecture on behavioural economics taught by PhD student Han Fan. Feedback from the students has shown that they found the lesson engaging and they very much look forward to completing the programme over the coming weeks.

Here's what some of the students on the programme had to say:

I am grateful to be selected for the Scholars Programme and I find it very interesting as it exposes us to stuff we normally wouldn't get to do in our lessons.

Christina K 9ABR

It was a very educational lecture and also fun. We learnt things we normally wouldn't learn in class. It challenged us to think about things which could help us in our future.

Sondus A 9AHU

A huge thank you to Miss Culloty who is our coordinator for the Scholars Programme for her commitment to supporting our students and for making a lasting impact on their learning and growth.



Competitions and annual events

Spelling Bee Competition January 2025

Bentley Wood's Head Girl Team organised a Spelling Bee competition in aid of the House Charities: Mind in Harrow, Harrow Community Kitchen, Wish and St John's Hospice. In Year 7, students were introduced to the Spelling Bee Charity Event with excitement about the novelty. The focus was on learning new words and building confidence, with students practising together, laughing over tricky words, and celebrating small successes. Peer support created an environment where the joy of learning outweighed the stress of competition, and even when a student stumbled, the room filled with cheers and reassurance.

By Years 8 and 9, the competition became more serious, but the fun remained. Students cheered each other on, and the energy was contagious. The competition was fierce, yet everyone took pride in their hard work and preparation.

By Years 10 and 11, students are seasoned spellers, and the event took on a deeper sense of excitement. The stakes were higher, but the enjoyment stayed at the heart of the experience. This year's competition was particularly special, as a significant amount of money was raised for charity, highlighting the event's impact beyond spelling. The competition celebrated learning, personal growth, and the joy of language. It offered a chance to step outside comfort zones, develop new skills, and have fun. The memories—laughing at difficult words, celebrating successes, and supporting each other—made the Spelling Bee a cherished experience. It was about building friendships, confidence, and embracing self-improvement, not just winning.

A huge congratulations to Asla S from 11JP, this year's Spelling Bee champion whose outstanding performance earned a well-deserved £10 Amazon voucher and 20 achievement points!



Year 8 Galentine's Day Card Competition

This term, to celebrate Galentine's Day on February 13th the Year 8s took part in a card competition. This was to celebrate the supportive friendships that have been formed in the past two years. Students from across the year group took part and really showed off their creative flair and their appreciation for one another through the design and meaningful messages that were included. Here are a selection of some of the cards that were created.

Big shout out to Aroush, Serena and Marwa in 8SCH, Jasmin in 8MEM and Sona in 8LJO who produced cards that were voted by the Year 8 team as the most celebratory of Galentine's Day. The whole pastoral team and so proud of all those that took part and the creativity that was shown.



Ms Bharj



Aroush
Marwa
Serena
8SCH

Jasmin
8MEM

Sona
8LJO

Galentines Day Card Competition winners

Holocaust talk to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day

This month, to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day, we hosted our annual talk from Hephzibah Rudofsky, who shared her mother's story of survival with Year 9. The students were deeply moved by the talk. She shared harrowing yet inspiring details of resilience, courage, and hope in the face of unimaginable suffering.

The girls listened intently, fascinated by the powerful story and the personal connection to history. The opportunity to see the rare artefacts collected by the family were once in a lifetime. The girls expressed that seeing the letters, the tiny photograph of Jehudi, and the yellow Jewish star were the most impactful.

They learned about the importance of remembrance, empathy, and standing against discrimination. Many students expressed how the talk changed their perspective, inspiring them to appreciate their freedoms and advocate for tolerance.

The experience left a lasting impact, ensuring that the lessons of the Holocaust are never forgotten.

Mrs Sinden



Philosophy and religion: debates, competitions and conferences

Year 12 show great skill and commitment at Ethics Cup

Each year, a dedicated team of our Year 12 students represents Bentley Wood at the prestigious St Andrews Ethics Cup, held at the London School of Economics (LSE). The competition challenges students to think critically, engage in rigorous debates, and explore complex ethical dilemmas.

This year, our team demonstrated exceptional skill and commitment, practising each week to become experts in a variety of ethical cases. Their hard work paid off as they performed phenomenally in the competition, securing victories against several schools, including Woodhouse and South Hampstead School.

The team's journey led them to a tense and thought-provoking final, where they debated on property rights after death. After an impressive display of reasoning and argumentation, they were narrowly defeated by Eton, who claimed victory by a 2-1 vote.

Despite this, we are incredibly proud of our students, who showcased their intellect, teamwork, and passion for ethical discussions. They represented Bentley Wood with distinction, leaving a lasting impression on judges and competitors alike.

Congratulations to the team for their fantastic achievement!

Ms Crosbie



Year 11 trip to the local church: St John's Church Stanmore

Over this half term, all Year 11 students visited St John's Church in Stanmore. Students listened to a talk by the vicar (Matthew Stone) or the curate (Wendy Wall), had the opportunity to ask questions and then, in small groups, were free to explore the church and the grounds. It was an experience all the students thoroughly enjoyed.

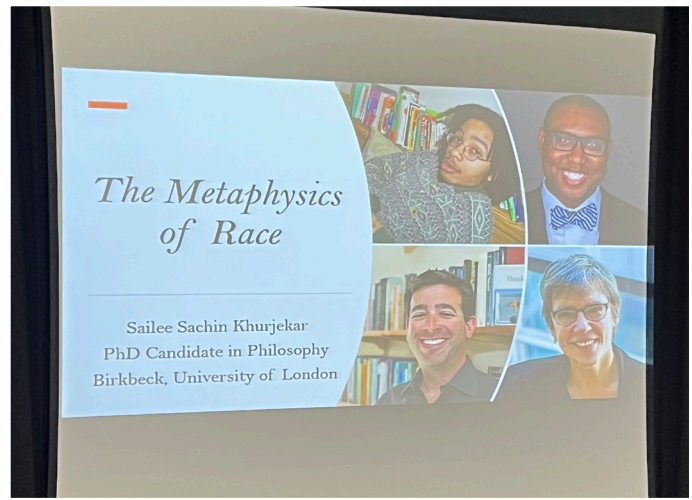
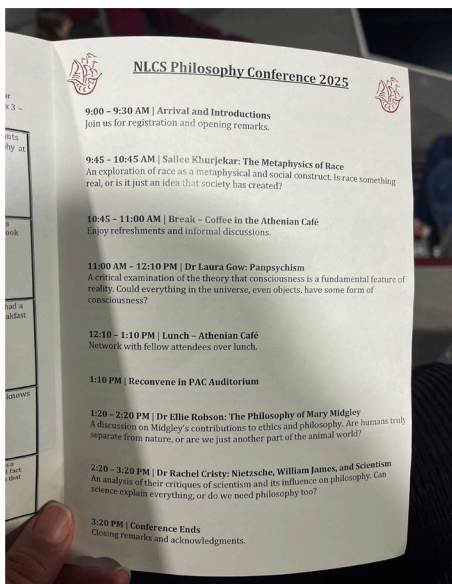
All students at Bentley Wood High School take GCSE Religious Studies; a decision that allows the students to consider different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. At least a quarter of the GCSE is on Christianity. The trip to the church enabled students, many of whom had never been inside a church before, to gain a deeper understanding of the religion.

There has been a church in the Stanmore area for around 1000 years. The current church was built in 1850, many students were impressed by how beautiful the building is.

The trip has run for over 5 years now and is a highlight to the Philosophy and Religious Studies department's calendar.

Ms Jones, Head of Sixth Form





Year 12 students listen to four brilliant lecturers at Philosophy Conference

Year 12 A Level philosophy classes took an incredible trip to the philosophy conference at North London Collegiate School, where we, along with other local prestigious schools, had the opportunity to listen to four brilliant lecturers, each offering their own fascinating insights about some interesting and varied philosophical topics.

First, we heard from Sailee Khurjekar, who explored the metaphysics of race as a social construct, diving into the deep, philosophical questions about identity and the nature of racial categories. It was fascinating to think about race not just as a social construct, but also hearing the arguments for and against race stemming from political and cultural constructionism. Then, Dr. Laura Gow presented on panpsychism, which is the idea that consciousness is a feature of all matter, not just human beings. It was fascinating to consider that consciousness might be present in everything around us, from rocks to trees, and it sparked so many questions. She also told us about all the exciting opportunities a philosophy degree could open up to us! Dr. Ellie Robson followed, discussing the myth of Beast and

Man and the philosophy of Mary Midgley, and spoke about key philosophers such as Immanuel Kant and Aristotle that we cover as part of our specification in philosophy and their take on our relationship with other non-animals. Lastly, we listened to Dr. Rachel Cristy's lecture on Nietzsche, William James, and scientism. She explained how these thinkers grappled with scientism as the truth of all aspects of knowledge. She also touched upon the aspects of reason and human experience, showing how both Nietzsche and James challenged traditional views in powerful ways.

What made the experience even more engaging was the chance for us to ask questions and hear different perspectives from other attendees, which made each lecture feel interactive. Overall, the day was really enriching, and we left with a much deeper understanding of some complex philosophical ideas, both within our A Level specification and far beyond.

Zina J and Rawda M 12SBA

Experiencing life in the rainforest

Zoo Lab visit brings animal adaptations to life

This half term, the Geography and the Science Department were delighted to welcome Emily from Zoo Lab, who treated our Year 8 students to a fascinating hands-on experience with a diverse collection of animals. The interactive session focused on how different creatures have adapted to thrive in various layers of their ecosystems.

Emily introduced students to an impressive array of animals, each demonstrating unique adaptations:

Ground Layer

- The corn bower constrictor snake showcased its smooth scales and muscular body, perfect for moving across the forest floor
- Giant African snails demonstrated their remarkable ability to traverse different surfaces using their specialised foot
- Gerbils exhibited their tunnelling adaptations and keen senses for detecting predators

Leaf Litter Layer

- The cockroach displayed its flattened body structure, ideal for navigating tight spaces
- Millipedes showed how their many legs and segmented bodies help them move through decomposing matter
- The stick insect demonstrated remarkable camouflage abilities, blending perfectly with plant material

Climbing Layer

- The gecko revealed its specialized toe pads that allow it to climb vertical surfaces
- The tarantula showed off its specialized hairs and strong legs adapted for climbing and sensing prey
- The tree frog demonstrated its sticky toe pads and streamlined body perfect for arboreal life

This hands-on experience provided students with a unique opportunity to observe and understand ecological adaptations first-hand. The session reinforced key concepts from our biology curriculum while bringing textbook learning to life through direct interaction with living creatures.

The visit sparked engaging discussions about habitat conservation and the importance of understanding how different species adapt to their environments. Students were particularly fascinated by the various defence mechanisms and survival strategies demonstrated by these amazing creatures.

We thank Emily and Zoo Lab for this enriching experience that has undoubtedly deepened our students' understanding of animal adaptations and ecosystem dynamics.

Every form in year 8 were all privileged to participate in a workshop with ZooLab. With our forms, we had an opportunity to see different species, learn about their

habitats and how their adaptations protect them. We even got to hold some of the animals!

Many of us loved learning about the rodent – gerbil, we enjoyed stroking it and studying how it survives in its ecosystem. One of the many abilities of a gerbil is that it can shed its tail as a self-defence mechanism! It was fascinating to see, and I really enjoyed this experience with my friends!

Tabarak A H 8SZ

The highlights of ZooLab were experiencing some tropical animals which live in hot climate i.e. Rainforests. Another highlight was seeing all different types of animals like reptiles, mammals amphibians etc.

Elisa P 8LJO

I loved the thought of having to see animals and learn lots of interesting facts about them. It was really fun, and I enjoyed holding and touching the different animals. There were a range of different animals such as reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and insects. It was extraordinary seeing all these adaptations that these animals had to live in its climate. It was a wonderful experience.

Kayla J 8EBD

I had fun in ZooLab as there were so many animals from all around the world and so many interesting facts about how they adapt to their environments around them, and it is really engaging as the staff are friendly and everyone around you too. It is always nice to gain opportunities like this to learn about new animals and even hold them in person.

Aanya R 8EBD

ZooLab was a wonderful experience, the animals were so cute and interesting and the amazing facts about them were incredible it was a fantastic workshop.

Kareena S 8EBD

For the ZooLab, I found it extremely fun and exciting. I really enjoyed learning new facts about the animals and about where they lived. I also really enjoyed how we were able to hold the animals with our hands and I loved the energy that the zoo lab lady gave. She made it so fun. lastly, I loved how we were able to sit next to our friends as it made it way more better and I loved the frog and how the zoo lab lady put it on the wall. I would give this experience a 100/10 of how fun it is.

Saba T 8EBD

On Thursday and Friday, many of the Year 8s got to participate in an amazing experience! We took part in a workshop called Zoo Lab and my time there was unforgettable! They bought in many rare animals including: a tree frog, a millipede, a leopard gecko, a snake, gerbils and even a tarantula! We got to touch and hold these animals as well as learn about their amazing habitat and lifestyle. I had a wonderful time at Zoo Lab and I would totally do it again!

Sohini M 8LJO



Year 8 interacting with rain forest animals

Student Rewards February 2025



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

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

Rasia N 7CMI - For working incredibly hard in Art lessons and always putting in 100%. Well done!

Anjali Patel 7HJG - for consistent effort and fantastic outcomes in Art

Computer science

Emily N 7EAW - For effort in classwork and coding in Computing

Aliyah M 7MAK - For effort in classwork and coding in Computing

Drama

Maya M 7CMI - for fantastic work on Silent Movies!

English

Ilma J 7EAW - For the very high standards she sets for herself, and her quality of expression and vocabulary; Sama A 7CMI for her excellent progress in the subject

Food

Renata P 7ZHA - for completing so many extension tasks in her HW assignments

French

Emma M 7MLE - for always participating and having a solid understanding of grammar in French. She is always enthusiastic

Geography

Sienna M P 7MLE - has shown tremendous Geographical talent and flair. She always puts in incredible effort and offers support to her peers.

Graphics

Anna M 7SGU - For being really creative with your design ideas. You show great enthusiasm for design and I would love to see how these progress over time. Well done!

Sumaya U 7HAS - For showing great attention to detail in your final design. Your designs were original and creative. Well done!

History

Milena G 7SG - for sharing your passion in History! Excellent effort in every lesson too!

Maths

Anna M 7SGU - for always bringing great enthusiasm to maths lessons, contributing thoughtful answers, and showing a strong commitment to improving her skills. Keep up the fantastic work!

Music

Jessica W P 7EAW and **Sophia S 7CMI** for their outstanding efforts and help backstage for our Oliver production.

PE

Kyra G 7MAK - Excellent badminton skills and joining the PE club afterschool.

Philosophy

Jessica W P 7EAW - for her excellent contributions to class discussions and her supportive attitude to other students. She truly embodies the school's care values.

Science

Sohpia S 7CMI - for consistent effort and engagement in lessons. A reliable, polite and responsible student I can always rely on. Even does homework when she has been off sick!

Krishni G 7HAS - for having the courage to present her work to the rest of the class and being an excellent role model to her peers."

Spanish

Keshavi S 7HAS - for her hard work and positive attitude to learning. Keep it up!



Student Rewards February 2025

Year 8



Art

Victoria G 8SCH - For her excellent final sculpture for the mythical creature's project.

Zofia O 8MCO - For really pushing yourself with the last project, you really trusted the process and got out of your comfort zone. Well done!

Sona Halai 8LJO - for fantastic work in art this term.
Bethany L 8LJO - for always being kind and helpful in art lessons.

Computer science

Shaista N 8LNO - For resilience in coding her Micro:Bit project in Computing

Shehnai S 8SZ - For effort in classwork, homework and coding a Micro:Bit in Computing

Drama

Amelia E 8SCH - for always being a supportive member of the class and ensuring everyone participates.

English

Sara S 8SZ - for her mature and thoughtful reflections on text and highly developed analysis;

Victoria G 8SCH - for her unwavering effort and enthusiasm for the subject

Food

Hiba M 8MEM - for her fantastic productivity in lessons and ability to help others when needed in practical's

French

Hafsa A 8EBD - for her diligence and continuous efforts in French. She always listens to French conversations and strives to speak French like a native

Geography

Imaan M 8LNO - for her diligence and continuous hard work. She keenly participates in all class discussions. Her hard work has paid off as she has consistently done well in all her knowledge tests.

Graphics

Urvi K 8MCO - For showing great enthusiasm for STEAM. Your attention to detail is incredible and your drive to do your best each time truly is inspiring for others around you. Well done!

Maths

Saarah M 8EBD - for demonstrating perseverance in her learning, actively engaging in class discussions, and consistently striving to challenge herself with extra practice. Well done!

Music

Rachel R 8CTA - for her enthusiastic personality and effort in Music. Strives to improve and listens to advice given.

PE

Lucia M 8MCO - excellent engagement and performance in all PE lessons.

Philosophy

Victoria G 8SCH - she shows real flair for philosophy and the logical connections she makes between philosophy and her other subjects are excellent. **Rayan A N 8MEM** excellent engagement in lessons.

Science

Rachel R 8CTA - for going above and beyond with her homework this half term (particularly for her revision!) and striving to achieve her best each lesson.

Akira D 8CTA - for improvement with her book organisation and homework effort in science and coming to each lesson with a positive attitude, keep it up!"

Spanish

Esta D J8SCH - for her perseverance in Spanish and motivation to catch up with missing work. Well done! Keep it up.

Textiles

Amber T 8MCO - for great work in Textiles

Student activities exploring culture and diversity

Culture Week 2025

We are excited to celebrate Culture Week 2025 from **Monday, 31st March to Friday, 4th April**, a week dedicated to embracing diversity and unity within our school community.

What's Happening?

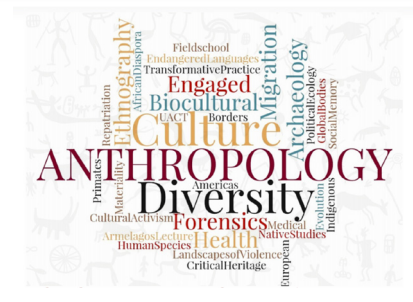
- **Monday, 31st March** - Diverse Community Showcase
Flags from around the world will be displayed to celebrate our multicultural school.
- **Tuesday, 1st April** - Culture Stall
Students will contribute to a charity fund-raiser through cultural-themed sales.
- **Wednesday, 2nd April** - Recipe Book Launch
The Head Student Team will host the launch of a collaborative recipe book, with students and teachers contributing family recipes to showcase global cuisine.
- **Thursday, 3rd April** - Cultural Attire & Performance Day
Students are encouraged to wear traditional clothing. The Performing Arts Department will arrange performances, and students can get involved by expressing their interest.
- **Friday, 4th April** - Culture Week Highlights
A reflection on the week's events, celebrating the best moments.

Culture Week is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn, share, and appreciate different cultures. We look forward to an exciting and enriching celebration!



Highlights - Cultural Day 2024





Anthropology Society: Exploring Globalisation and the Anthropology of Food

Last week, the Sixth Form Anthropology Society gathered for a fascinating session on globalisation and the anthropology of food. For this session, we took a hands-on approach, each member brought a dish from their own culture, creating a shared lunch that reflected the diversity of our group.

As we enjoyed everything from homemade curries to traditional pastries, we explored the significance of food beyond just nourishment. The anthropology of food examines how cuisine reflects identity, history, and social change. It looks at the role of food in rituals, traditions, and everyday life, as well as how globalisation has transformed diets and food production worldwide.

Our discussion covered everything from the origins of certain ingredients to the impact of fast food and multinational corporations on local food traditions. We also considered how migration has led to culinary fusion, creating new dishes and blending flavours from different

parts of the world. Food is more than just something we eat—it carries stories of trade, colonisation, adaptation, and cultural exchange.

The session was both insightful and delicious, highlighting how anthropology helps us see the deeper connections between food, history, and identity. Whether examining the symbolism behind certain meals or debating the ethics of global food production, our discussion was a perfect blend of academic exploration and personal storytelling.

We look forward to more engaging sessions as we continue to uncover the fascinating ways anthropology helps us understand the world!

Mr Maric

Engaging MFL activities this term

Students celebrate a French tradition and have crepes in class

Today we learnt about la chandeleur and the celebrations that take place in France on this day. Many people make crepes with grapes. We also learnt the superstition "Quand il pleut pour la chandeleur, il pleut pendant & Quarant jours," which means if it rains on this day, it will rain for 40 days after. We got to have our own crepes which were délicieux!

Sohini M 8LJO

Today in class we learnt about la chandeleur and its superstitions and origin. This celebration takes place in France on the 2nd of February. In France they have 2 types of pancake, savoury pancake and sweet pancake. The savoury pancake can be filled with mushrooms and spinach and the sweet one can be filled with strawberry and a famous cream in France called *la crème chantilly*. A superstition they say is when you flip a pancake with your right hand and a coin in your left and if the pancake lands on your pan it is good luck if not unfortunately it's bad luck. We had crêpes in class which were irresistible!

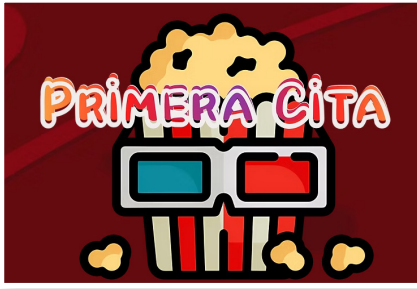
Akshayah P 8LNO

During our French lesson, we learned about crêpe!

Crêpe is French for "a thin pancake," which originated in France. As a class, we studied the superstitions & traditions related to crêpes. From paganism to Christianity, I was amazed by the history of crêpes & its deeper meaning. One of the superstitions we learned is that when flipping a pancake, chefs usually hold a gold coin in their left hand & flip the crêpe/pancake in their right hand as it's rumoured to bring good luck. We were all very privileged to try crêpes & even create combinations with sauces, condiments & fruit. I loved it very much & I'm eager to experience more opportunities such as this!

Tabarak A H 8SZ





KS3 students enjoy Spanish play

All pupils studying Spanish had the opportunity to watch an amusing comedy called, 'La Primera Cita', performed in Spanish by the Onatti Productions. Everyone eagerly took their seats to watch the play, which featured two characters preparing for their first date - a trip to the cinema. We were hooked to find out if this commotion turns into a success or a fiasco.

Throughout the play, it was clear what was happening due to the characters speaking clearly and using familiar words and phrases, which we have already come across in class (days of the week, parts of the body, colours). Watching the play was a fun way of consolidating our Spanish vocabulary. A big shout out to Mrs Codrean for organising this for us.

Sienna G 7ZHA

On Tuesday, 14th January, we welcomed Onatti Production to Bentley Wood High School to perform the play, "La primera cita", in Spanish. The title: "First Date" speaks for itself. This story is a hilarious observation of two teenagers getting ready for their first date. Maria has issues with her make-up and hair, while Carlos attempts his first ever shave.

The production was delightful, and the actors were very good at presenting themselves. They spoke slowly, making the play easy to follow by watching the action and gestures. I would definitely like to see more in the future!

Thank you to the MFL teachers for organising.

Jasmine G 9LSB

I really enjoyed the play and thought it was very interesting. It was simple and I understood most of what they were saying. Overall, it was a very fun experience.

Lois T 8LJO



Maths enrichment and competitions

Mathematical Star of New Year's Resolutions: A Maths School Competition

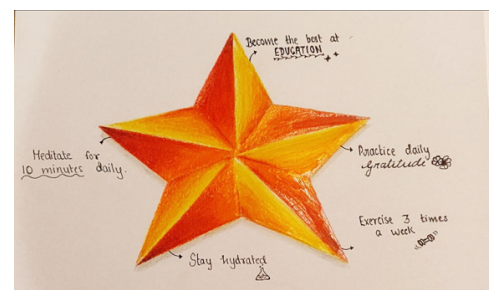
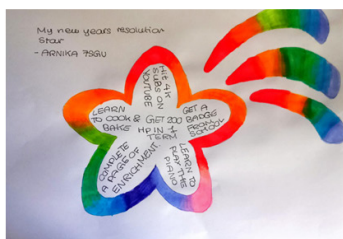
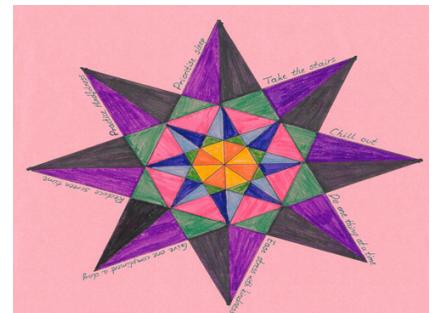
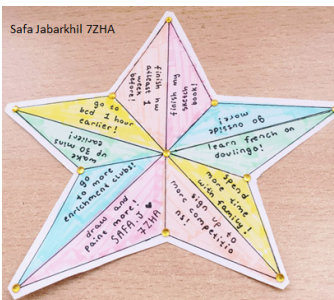
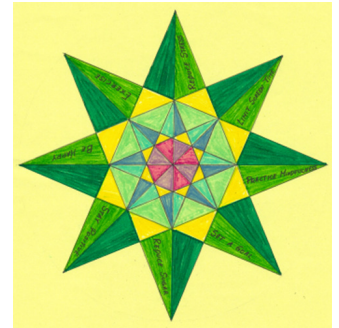
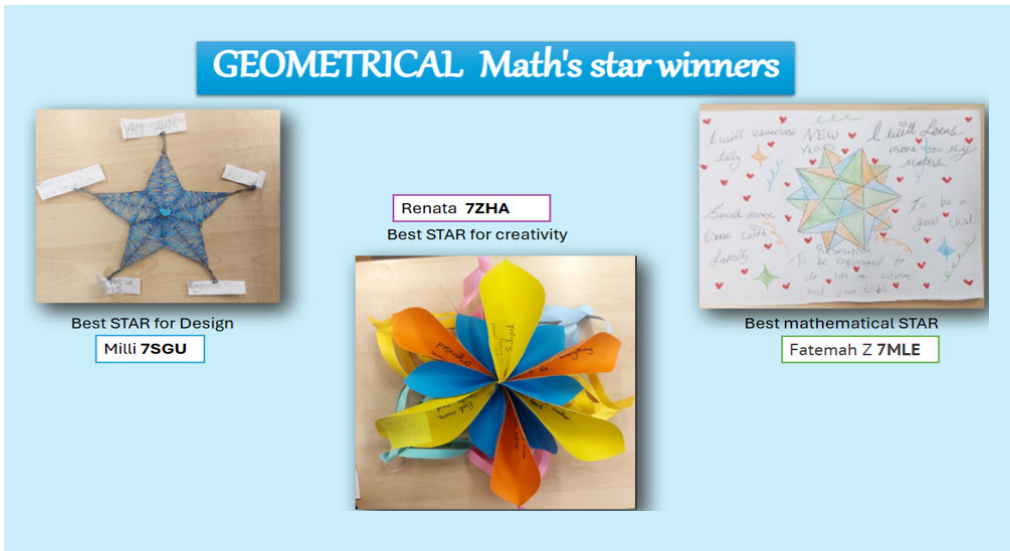
The maths department kicked off the new year with a fun and educational competition for the students by inviting them to create a geometric star featuring their new year's resolutions.

This competition was not only about recognising talent in mathematics but also about encouraging students to think critically about how mathematics can be used to solve real-world problems and express ideas. By integrating a personal element into the challenge, students were prompted to reflect on the practical applications of geometry and how these concepts can shape their thinking and goals.

Furthermore, the activity fostered a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of various fields of study, showing how creativity and critical thinking can be applied across disciplines.

The design aspect allowed students to engage with mathematics in a more hands-on, visual way, which can be a refreshing change from more traditional approaches.

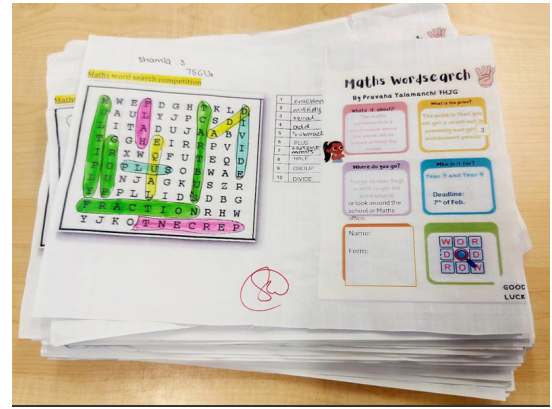
Here are some examples of the amazing designs produced by students.



Mathematical Word Search

The mathematical word search competition provided a delightful opportunity for participants to engage with mathematics in an interactive and enjoyable way. It offered a fresh approach to revising and learning mathematical terms while developing valuable cognitive skills. This competition created an inclusive environment where the love of maths was nurtured in a fun, non-intimidating format.

Girls were amazed at how much they can learn, all while having a good time. Well done to all the enthusiastic participants who submitted their entries and earned achievement points.

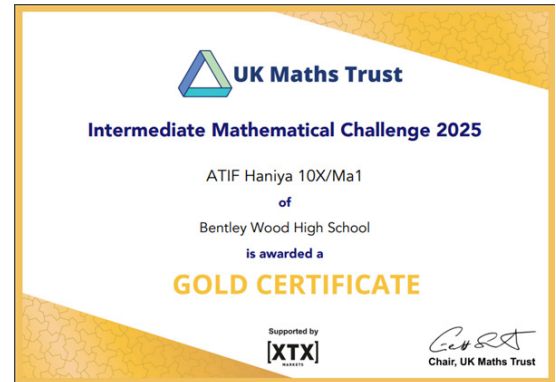
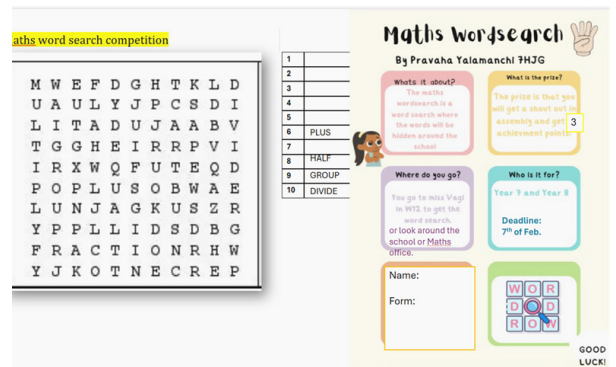


Mathematical Word Search

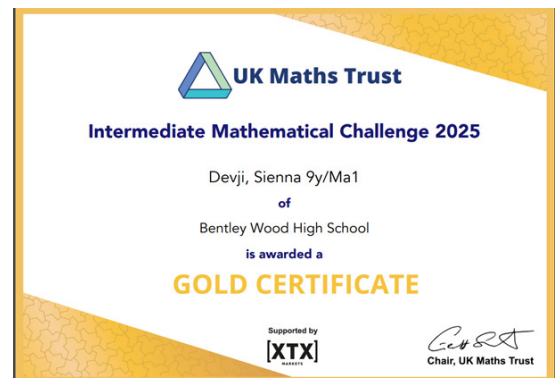
UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

The UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge is an exciting, challenging, and rewarding opportunity for young students across the UK to showcase their mathematical abilities. By participating, students not only deepen their understanding of mathematics but also cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a love for the subject. As the UK's most prestigious competition for intermediate-level students, the IMC continues to inspire and develop future generations of mathematicians, making an important contribution to the academic and professional landscape.

Congratulations to some of our most talented mathematicians who won certificates for their impressive performance.



Some of our best Mathematicians



New Maths Club run by Maths Ambassadors

Among the many shining examples of student leadership at our school, our Maths Ambassadors stand out as exceptional role models, contributing significantly to the vibrancy and success of our school community. Handpicked for their academic strengths, enthusiasm for mathematics, and natural leadership abilities, the Maths Ambassadors are a dedicated group of students who work alongside teachers to bring a passion for numbers and problem-solving to the wider school.

In February the Maths Ambassadors launched a new maths club which takes places in W12 on Thursdays during lunch break. Students are invited to drop by and take part in a host of fun activities which are sure to challenge and inspire. A huge thank you to Miss Vagi for supporting our young mathematicians and encouraging them to harness their passion and creativity through such positive contributions to the school community.

MATH WIZARDS UNITE!

Hey there, Bentleywood! Buckle up, because as one your maths ambassadors, I'm here to spill the tea on an epic maths club that's anything but dull! I know what you're thinking—math club? Yawn! But hold onto your calculators, because our club is a total blast! We dive into awesome activities like Blooket, maths mysteries, and so much more fun!

Day: Thursday
Where: Room W12
When: Lunchtimes

It's starts on Thu 6th Feb

Come join the maths party! 🎉📚

P.S—You also get a sign in your Link book

By: Maqfirah 7SGU

Rewarding psychology project

Year 10 create and look after sock babies in Psychology lessons

In Ms. Griffin's Year 10 Psychology lesson, we were studying developmental psychology, focusing on how babies' brains develop.

As part of a project, we created 'sock babies' in class and we were also given a diary to record certain observations each day related to the baby's development.

We linked our babies' progress to the theories we learned about such as Piaget's stages of development. We had to keep our sock baby with us at all times for two weeks and make sure they had a good babysitter if we needed to shower or had a PE lesson in school.

We had to ensure our baby got enrichment to develop their skills and make them happy. This included reading books, having play dates, listening to music, etc. We made clothes, cots, etc. at home for our baby and submitted a Power Point of photos, stories and the baby diary.

Here are some examples of the project questions and the answers submitted by students:

Student Diaries

Hayley's baby: Nora

Today is the day to send your baby off to nursery. Not such a baby anymore! What would Piaget say about your baby's development?

Piaget would say that Nora now understands object permanence so when I dropped her off to nursery, she knew I would come back.

How did you feel about your level of bond/attachment with your baby? What attachment style do you think you demonstrated in your relationship with your baby?

Mine and Nora's bond was healthy, and I taught her about object permanence, so she wasn't worried if I wasn't with her for a while. The attachment style I demonstrated in our relationship was secure attachment. At first Nora was upset when I left but when I came back, she was comforted.



Baby Nora, Introducing Nora to screen time

Introducing Nora to screen time!

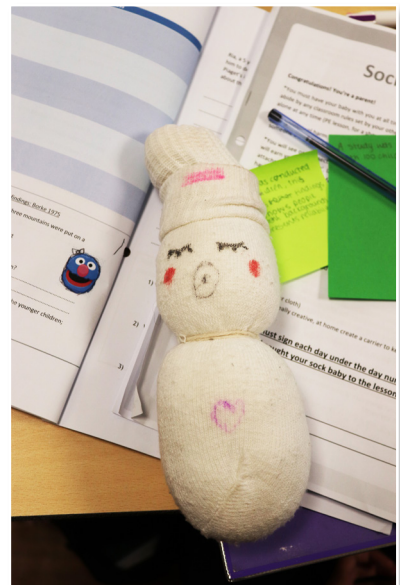


When I decided that Nora was old enough, I introduced her to screen time. I let her watch cartoons for half an hour every few days and she found her favourite cartoon!

In the image you can see Nora is enjoying some screen time while sitting peacefully on a blanket.

Baby Ethan, Introducing Ethan to nursery rhymes, singing and pouring liquid





Student's baby: Ethan.

What did you and your baby do today? What was easy and/or difficult about taking care of your baby today? Did you have to hire a sock babysitter at any point?

Today, we focused on speech development by singing along to nursery rhymes. I was an early speaker myself, forming relatively complex sentences by the age of around two. I found that Ethan worked around the sounds he couldn't yet form, such as Rs and Ls by replacing them with something that sounded similar. Throughout the day, I would catch him humming the melody of his favourites.

What activities have you done specifically to aid your baby's development?

Today, we did an activity to develop fine motor skills. Particularly, pouring. The cohesive and adhesive qualities of water mean that letting small children pour is a nightmare. Today, we aimed to minimise spillage and work around the liquid's tendency to run along the sides of the container. This photo was taken right at the end, after a long half-hour of working up a sweat in the middle of January cleaning up his spillages. Despite all the hard work, the pride in his smile was priceless.



Sixth Form conferences and primary workshops focusing on STEM



NLCS STEM Conference – Inspiring Future Innovators

On 14th November 2024, students from Computer Science, Mathematics, and Science attended the NLCS STEM Conference, an enriching event where professionals from diverse STEM fields shared their journeys and advice for success. The evening began with an inspiring opening speech delivered by our student leaders, followed by a series of engaging breakout sessions, discussions, and interactive activities.

This event was organised with great support from Miss Robson (Head of Science), Ms Massara (Head of Mathematics), and Mr Khan (Head of Computer Science), who continue to inspire and guide our students towards excellence in STEM.

Here's what some of our students had to say about their experiences:

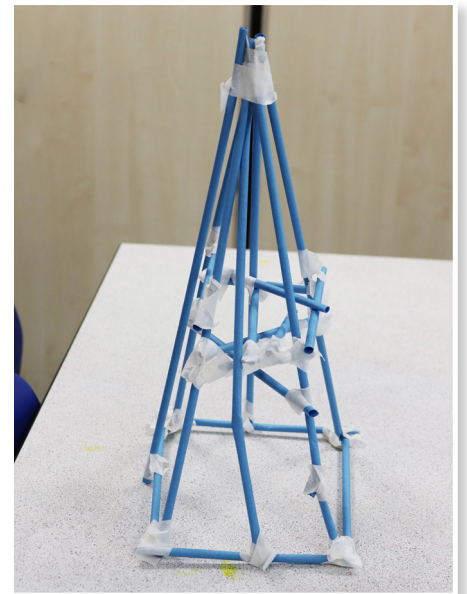
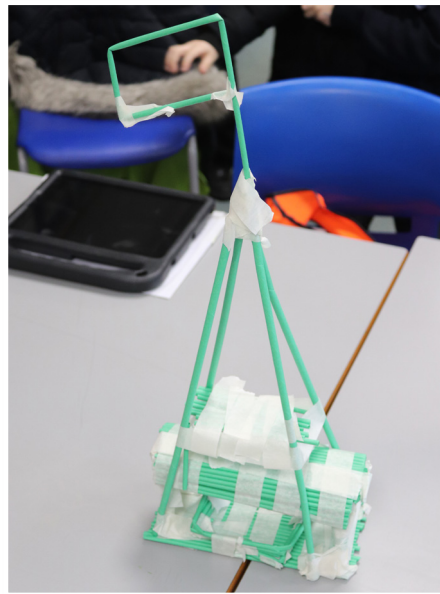
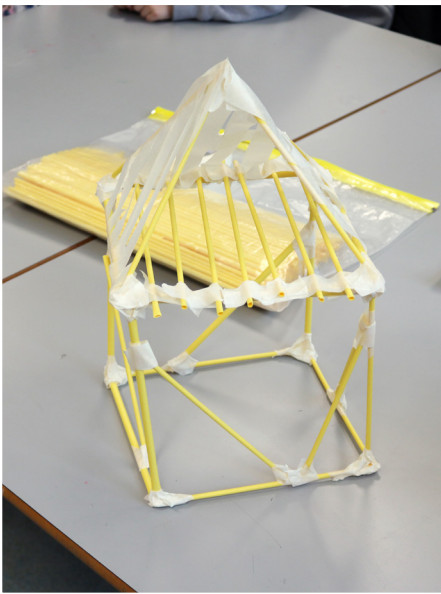
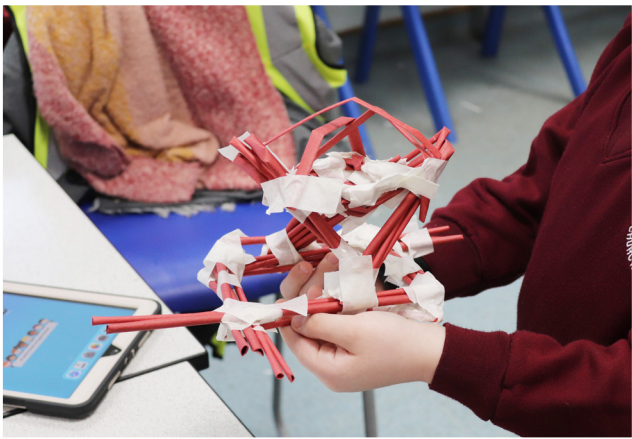
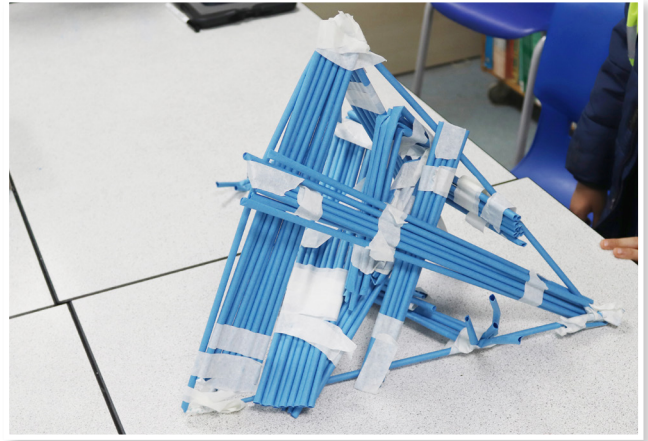
- *“One of the speakers spoke about her journey into computer science and the challenges she faced entering a male-dominated field. She inspired us to pursue computer science and highlighted the valuable skills we can bring to the industry.”*
- *“I really enjoyed the interactive part of the Computer Science talk where we played an AI password guessing game. It challenged me to think outside the box as a future computer scientist and linked well to the earlier discussions on AI.”*

- *“The debate on NHS obligations was engaging, and it was a great opportunity to collaborate with students from other schools. I also found the role-play activity helpful as it mirrored real-world scenarios.”*

This conference proved to be an invaluable experience, allowing students to deepen their knowledge, gain practical insights, and explore their future career aspirations in STEM.

Mr Khan , Associate Assistant Headteacher & Head of Computing





Primary Design and Technology Workshop

The Design and Technology department welcomed a group of Year 2 pupils from six local primary schools. The pupils engaged in a Design & Technology lesson, which involved constructing a tower to protect a Kinder's egg.

We certainly enjoyed delivering the lesson and hosting the primary pupils. The teachers and the pupils left Bentley Wood feeling inspired and challenged.

Here is a quote from the Headteacher from one of the primary schools that was involved in the day

'Many thanks for yesterday, the children loved it and I am getting lots of positive feedback from other schools, too.'

Ms March

Faraday Challenge: Students are challenged at Physics workshop

Year 8 show outstanding communication and teamwork and shine at Faraday Challenge

On 5th February, 2025 six of our Year 8 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Yavneh College and take part in the Faraday Challenge alongside students from six other schools. This national STEM competition, designed to inspire young minds, encouraged our students to think critically, collaborate effectively, and apply their knowledge in a dynamic and competitive environment.

Upon arrival, students were briefed on the structure of the day and introduced to their challenge, with one key instruction—they had to complete the task independently, without any assistance from teachers. The challenge required them to brainstorm, design, and construct an innovative model to support disabled individuals with everyday tasks, incorporating sustainable energy solutions using a solar battery. Throughout the day, they were assessed on their teamwork, problem-solving skills, and the development of their invention.

Our brilliant students demonstrated an excellent understanding of physics principles, applying them practically to their model. Despite coming from different forms, they showcased outstanding communication, teamwork, and enthusiasm for the challenge. They tackled each stage with determination, from conceptualising and designing a circuit to building, testing, and refining their model through trial and error. The day concluded with each team presenting their project to a panel of judges, explaining their thought process, and confidently answering questions.

The event was filled with energy, learning, and creative problem-solving. The students felt incredibly proud of their achievement and shared how much they enjoyed the challenge. Inspired by the experience, they are eager to take part in similar competitions in the future, further developing their skills and passion for STEM.

Ms Bhurani

I really enjoyed the Faraday Challenge and the trip to Yavneh college! It was great to experience to learn something new and meet new people. It was fun working as a team with other students and putting our ideas together even though we didn't know each other before the challenge. I'm glad I got to receive this opportunity, and I would love to try something like this again!

Bella P 8MEM

I really enjoyed taking part in the trip to Yavneh College. I got to work alongside many people which I don't usually get the chance to work with. It was also very exciting to plan and make circuits with a purpose that we made.

This is not something that we usually do, but it was absolutely wonderful! We were given the independence to feel proud of ourselves for working hard to figure out new things but still supported and encouraged. I loved it!

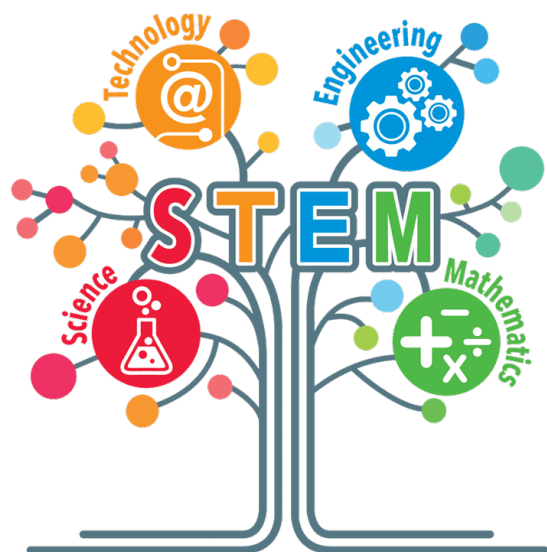
Victoria G 8SCH

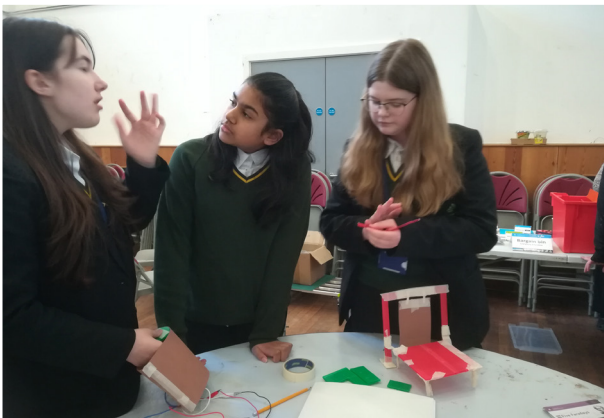
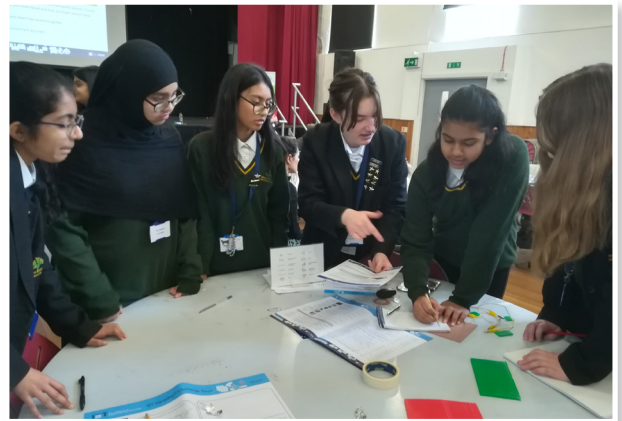
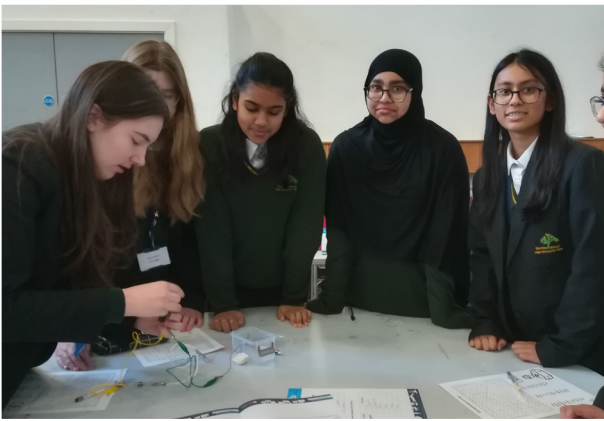
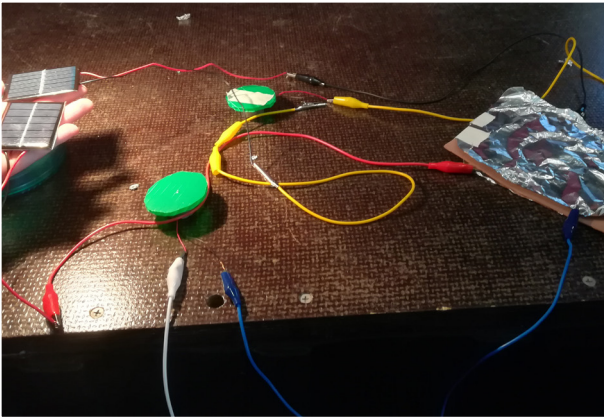
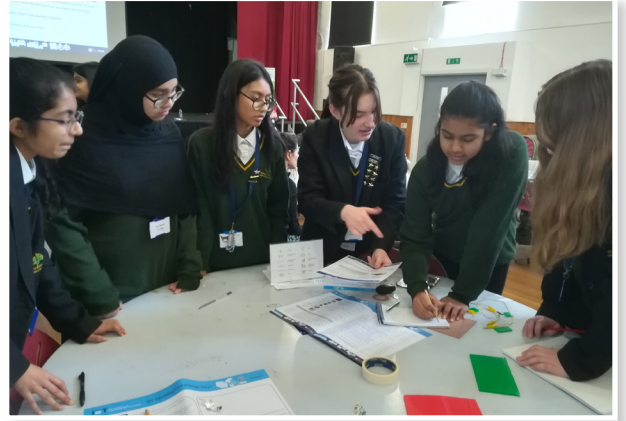
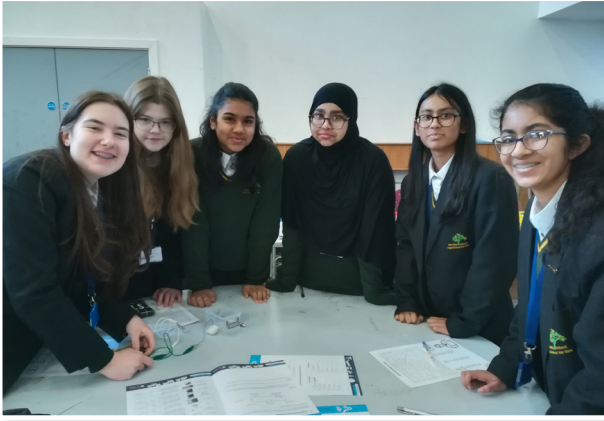
Going to Yavneh College to participate in the Faraday Challenge was extremely fun to experience from the very start right until the end. From the moment we entered the coach we were really excited, however, most of us were nervous as we did not know what we were going to expect.

When we arrived at the school, we sat at a table where we were kindly introduced to all of the staff that were hosting the Faraday Challenge. Not too long after, we were all told about the challenge that we would spend the day on: we had to plan and eventually build, out of circuits and other materials, a prototype of machinery that would benefit a specific set of people. Everything was explained clearly and I could tell that although the tasks were hard, we were all having so much fun, which was what I loved about the trip.

Towards the end of the day, we had to present our prototypes to all of the other schools that were competing as well so that the staff could give us scores that were based around many things: our planning ideas, teamwork during tasks and even our presentation skills. Going to Yavneh College to participate in the Faraday Challenge was truly a pleasure and I will not forget how we had the opportunity to represent Bentley Wood!

Yaalini B 8CTA





Year 8 working as a team to build circuits at Faraday Challenge

Sixth Formers enhance their medical knowledge at NHS Cadets

NHS Cadets: Empowering Future Healthcare Professionals at Bentley Wood

The NHS Cadets programme, delivered by St John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS Trust, offers students a unique opportunity to develop essential healthcare skills and gain real-world experience.

At Bentley Wood, the programme is co-led by Miss Bhurani and Miss Naqvi and is structured into two pathways: The Foundation Pathway for Year 10 students and the Advanced Pathway for Year 12 students. Both pathways are designed to equip students with key skills, leadership abilities, career insights, and fundamental clinical knowledge.

Through dynamic and hands-on sessions, students not only build confidence but also strengthen their teamwork and problem-solving abilities. The programme provides a deeper understanding of healthcare, helping students explore different NHS roles and responsibilities. Students find this experience invaluable in preparing for medical careers, as it introduces them to first aid, patient care, and essential clinical procedures.

By engaging in practical learning and guided mentorship, they feel more prepared for the demands of a future in healthcare, gaining both knowledge and the confidence to thrive in a professional environment.

What our lovely girls feel about the sessions:

I chose this club as it helps link to my A-level options such as psychology. I may want to work in the NHS sector in the future, and doing this club can be very beneficial for me. This is because I learn ways on how to treat a patient like an NHS worker should and what to do in stressful situations. It may also help me when we learn about mental health in the healthcare system. NHS Cadets can also help me learn a patient's behaviours and help me understand them and how to give the best care possible. It has also helped me develop more empathy and communication skills with people in a working environment.

Overall, this club can really help me in the future as it can help me prepare for a working environment and also help me in university applications. I enjoy this club as I may want to work in the NHS environment and I enjoy learning new things and how we should treat our future patients to ensure they receive the best care. I also enjoy learning about the NHS sector and what to do in certain situations.

At NHS Cadets, we do a lot of group work and discussions about what we should do in certain situations. We sometimes watch videos relating to NHS Cadets, do discussions on them, and do some reading using websites. It is very enjoyable as we are able to see others' thoughts, responses, and opinions.

Elsa T 12PS

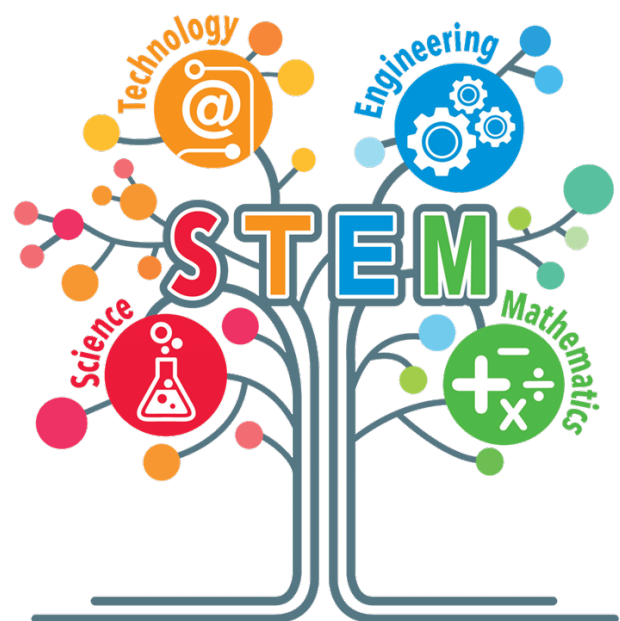
I joined NHS Cadets because I want to work in the NHS and learn more about healthcare. The programme helps me develop important skills like teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and first aid. It also gives me a deeper understanding of the NHS, its roles, and the challenges it faces. Through activities and volunteering, I can make a positive impact on my community, build confidence, and step out of my comfort zone while meeting new people.

I enjoy being in NHS Cadets because it offers a variety of activities, from first aid training to leadership challenges. I particularly like the opportunity to share ideas in a supportive group where we can express ourselves without judgment. The programme helps me improve my teamwork and leadership skills while also preparing me for future opportunities.

The portfolio aspect is useful as it allows me to track my progress and reflect on my experiences. During sessions, we cover topics such as safeguarding, reporting issues, and understanding core NHS values. We engage in discussions, group work, and video-based learning, which makes the sessions interactive and enjoyable.

This experience is helping me gain essential skills that will benefit me both personally and professionally.

Zina J 12SBA





Sixth Formers improving their medical knowledge at NHS Cadets

Student Rewards February 2025

Year 9



Art

Hana V 9MD - For a fantastic start to our artist project and for choosing a really interesting subject!

Biology

Hanan M 9MD - for the improvements she has made in both her classwork and homework efforts this half term and striving to achieve her best. **Nisbat B 9ROR** - for outstanding homework effort in Biology. **Aleena 9JAZ** - and **Huda J 9GCP** - for their mature and conscientious attitude towards their learning in each lesson, well done.

Business studies

Swara D 9KPO - for outstanding progress in Business studies and participation in class. Well done.

Chemistry

Emma S A 9LSB - For an excellent attitude and effort in lessons. Your enthusiasm is infectious!

Computer science

Sara H 9JAZ & Mihika T 9LSB - Excellent effort in the classroom, demonstrating strong engagement and enthusiasm

Drama

Maria U 9GCP - for fantastic progress in Drama from continued effort and participation.

English

Nisbat B 9ROR - for her active listening, contributions to discussions and effort in classwork; **Evie R 9AHU** for her continual progress and passion in English

French

Aqsa N 9JAZ - Always pushing herself to learn new grammar and be the best she can in French. She is enthusiastic and a pleasure to have in the classroom

Geography

Arya J 9ABR - is an awesome Geography student. Her natural curiosity and attention to detail have maintained good attainment and her diligence will insure great progression through her GCSE's.

Graphics

Zaina R 9MD - constantly striving for excellence in every single piece of work created. **Rihana S 9ABR** - For making a fantastic start to Graphics. Your attention to detail and natural curiosity will allow you to move swiftly through GCSE Graphics.

History

Khushi D 9MD - for sharing excellent knowledge in History every lesson that goes above and beyond!

Latin

Yusra G 9AHU - a brilliant and hard-working Ambassador for Classics and Latin (runs Classics Club with great passion!) **Jasmine G 9LSB** - a fantastic and passionate Ambassador for Latin and Classics (runs Classics Club brilliantly!)”

Maths

Yukta V 9ROR - For always being so energetic & helpful in all her Maths lessons.

PE

Holly H 9ROR - is praised for consistently maintaining a positive attitude in every Physical Education lesson. She demonstrates a commendable willingness to engage in all sports and approaches each activity with unwavering enthusiasm and dedication, giving 100% effort at all times. **Adeena A 9LSB** - for improved focus and engagement in both practical and theory GCSE PE lessons.

Philosophy

Ariana B 9ABR -outstanding engagement in lessons

Physics

Emma SA 9LSB - For an excellent attitude and effort in lessons. Your enthusiasm is infectious!

Psychology

Iara M A and **Ruby C 9KPO** always lesson ready, great attitude to learning. **Simran P 9GCP** - for always putting such good effort into everything and taking pride in her work

Science

Jannet B 9MD and **Umaymah A 9ROR** - both are conscientious and diligent students who have a mature and considered attitude to their learning and are working very hard to make progress in Chemistry this term. Keep it up girls!

Spanish

Venessa F 9AHU - for her outstanding effort to quickly reach the class level having been totally new to Spanish only a couple of months ago! Also, for her enthusiasm and positive, helpful attitude throughout every lesson.

Textiles

Dunya A 9ROR for improved effort and hard work in Textiles

Student Rewards February 2025

Year 10



Art

Naila U 10CCH - For working so hard to improve her skills and portfolio of art boards! Well done! **Ephthia M 10CCH** - for improved effort and regular attendance to art clubs

Biology

Neha M 10CCH - for making improvements in her classwork and homework and striving to achieve her best in Biology! Keep up the good work.

Business studies

Zeina H 10CJG - for fantastic focus, classwork and contribution to class. Well done and keep this up.

Chemistry

Rahima H 10TC - for consistently excellent effort and engagement in Chemistry. Always trying and offering answers. Huge improvement since the start of the year.

Computer science

Zahra S 10ESO and **Natalie D 10CJG** - Excellent effort in the classroom, demonstrating strong engagement and enthusiasm.

Drama

Vanaiya P-H 10EOG - for consistent high quality bookwork and practical work in devising.

English

Iman O 10TC - for her improved participation, and going above and beyond to ensure she is doing her best; **Momoko T 10LBM** - for her engaging narratives, and analytical write-ups on Macbeth with exceptional clarity

French

Kanisha P 10LBM - for her hard work and participation in French lessons.

Geography

Zeina H 10CJG - is consistently doing her best in GCSE Geography. She never falters in her CW and HW completion and supports her peers when necessary. She is incredible and will undoubtedly attain great results.

Graphics

Zahra S 10ESO - Excellent effort shown in recent homework tasks. Responding well to feedback given. **Fahmida H 10CCH** - For working really hard in Graphics. You have come such a long way. Keep it up!

Latin

Mariam S 10TC - a passionate Ambassador for Latin and Classics who always contributes brilliantly

Maths

Fatima A 10ESO - She is incredibly dedicated to Maths, always pushing herself to reach her full potential. Her perseverance and hard work have paid off, as her grades have improved significantly. She truly deserves recognition for her commitment and progress! Well done Fatima! **Aliyah Z 10TC** - She is super hard working - always just gets on with the work given. Always asks really good questions and her book is incredibly neat and beautiful as an added bonus!!"

Music

Rahima H 10TC - for practicing her vocals really hard and focusing on her composition

PE

Keira A M 10EOG - is commended for her unwavering commitment to her GCSE Physical Education club. She consistently goes above and beyond by attending the PE GCSE sessions and has demonstrated dedication by actively participating in a Trampolining Club outside of school. Kiera's perseverance and hard work have led to significant improvement across all areas of her GCSE PE course

Philosophy

Lauren M 10CCH - excellent focus and engagement in lessons

Psychology

Hayley D 10THA - puts her best effort into everything in the class, works hard and has a great attitude to learning

Science

Sharifa K 10SSH - for trying so hard in Chemistry! Really working hard in lessons, revising and explaining content to others. There are good results to come I'm sure! **Maryam M 10SSH** - for incredible enthusiasm and joy in science. What a joy to teach you. Thank you for your passion and excitement in every lesson. Always helping other students too! **Hayfa O 10THA** - for her outstanding engagement and involvement in all class activities."

Spanish

Zikra K 10ESO - for consistently aiming for the highest level in Spanish with great determination, whilst working well with classmates in a modest and helpful manner.

Sport competitions this term

Year 10 netball Team

The Year 10 netball team have competed this half term in the Borough Netball league. They have played against Nower Hill, Sacred Heart and Park High. The team have successfully won all their games, which means they are through to the semi-finals! Their hard work is paying off, but they need to continue practising to get ready for the next match!

Well done to the below students:

Sameera A, Isla A, Elga DS, Riddhi H, Diana I, Salwa S, Mina S, Aqdas Z, Sabrina H, Marwa H.

Ms Collen



Volleyball match win

On Thursday the 13th of February, Bentley Wood volleyball girls attended a volleyball tournament at Park High School. We showed up to the tournament quite nervous, as we felt intimidated by the other schools. No one expected to win, but after all the hard work and effort we put in, we triumphed, beating both Sacred Heart and Park High with scores of 15-12 and 15-6.

It was so well deserved, and we are all proud of ourselves. Although, our arms were so red, from all the powerful digs and volleys we attempted, and especially from the spectacular serves we played that won us the games. Overall, I am so happy to be part of the volleyball team and a bonus that we came out as winners.

Siena P 7EAW.



Netball Teams

Year 7 Indoor Athletics Competition

On Tuesday, 21st January, 5 students in Year 7 took part in an indoor athletics competition at Whitefriars School. These students included Ameena (7CMI), Iqra (7HJG), Pranisha (7CMI), Layla (7CMI), and Hadiya (7CMI).

Upon arrival, the Bentley Wood team started warming up and went around the sports hall to practise each station, some of which included standing long jump, shot put, speed bounce, and vertical jump. The competition then began, and the girls remained positive as they attempted each station.

Lastly, the indoor running events commenced. The Bentley Wood team tried their hardest in all events, and at the end the results were revealed!

Ms Halai

The results are as follows:

1st place - NLCS, **2nd place** - Nower Hill, **3rd place** - Pinner, **4th place** - Park High, **5th place** - Whitefriars, **6th place** - Bentley Wood, **7th place** - Cannons.



Volleyball Team
Year 7 Athletics Competition



Every Friday Sixth Formers play netball against teachers

Every Friday, the Sixth Formers and teachers come together for a lively and competitive game of netball, creating a fun and engaging school sports activity.

This weekly match not only promotes physical fitness but also strengthens relationships between students and staff, fostering teamwork and friendly competition.

Whether it's a fast-paced attack or a well-timed interception, both sides bring enthusiasm and energy to the court, making it a highlight of the week. The friendly rivalry adds excitement, while the shared experience helps build a positive and inclusive school community.

Mr Maric

Year 9 Borough Indoor Athletics Competition

On Tuesday 14th January, we entered the Borough indoor athletics competition. The team took part in a range of different events involving speed bounce, long jump, vertical jump, shot put and triple jump as well as running sprints, longer distance and the relay.

The girls tried their best and did more events than other schools. Congratulations to Evie who came 1st in her race.

Ms Collen



Student Rewards February 2025

Year 11

Art

Andra M 11EV - For working so hard on her transformations project and making a great start to her exam! **Faza K 11ABI** - for fantastic effort and consistent attendance to art clubs

Biology

Zainab S - 11ALN - for consistently working extremely hard in her classwork and homework. For striving to achieve her best and for being a pleasant student to teach! Keep up the good work! :)

Business studies

Ariqa F M 11BKO - for consistently producing outstanding work in Business studies. Well done.

Chemistry

Morsal O 11ALN - for an incredible boost in attainment and progress this year. Your hard work is paying off and it is wonderful to see your confidence grow this year!

Computer science

Iklas H 11C - For hard work and applying herself in Computer Science. **Sophia K 11C** - For hard work and applying herself in Computer Science

Drama

Kalpana M 11BKO - for continued hard work and effort in maximising her attainment.

English

Isabelle M 11EV - for her high standards and progress in English Language; **Mya A 11ALN** - for her achievement and contributions in the study of English Literature

French

Mursal 11CSN - for her knowledge of French vocabulary. She is a bilingual walking dictionary!

Geography

Honey S 11SEO - arrives to every Geography lesson looking bright eyed and bushy tailed. Her enthusiasm is contagious and refreshing. Her overall attainment and progress in Geography demonstrates just how awesome a student she is.



Student Rewards February 2025

Year 11

Graphics

Hafsah R 10SEO - shown a real effort in attending intervention sessions to boost her grade. **Zulfah R 11CSN** - For showing up to intervention every week to improve your coursework. Well done for being so dedicated!

H&S

Sritha K 11CSN - for a great attitude to learning, always being lesson ready in a mature way and **Aleena A 11ALN** - for consistently putting her best effort into everything

Latin

Morsal O 11ALN - for consistent hard work, diligence, and studiousness in Latin

Maths

Ankane A 11JP - For finding confidence in maths and overcoming what was holding her back from reaching her high potential. **Anila A 11CSN** - For always trying her best in Maths and not giving up. Keep up the good work!

Music

Mahi A 11ALN - for her commitment to her composition and singing

PE

Sarah B 11SG - excellent enthusiasm and engagement in practical and theory lessons in GCSE PE.

Philosophy

Sahida S 11SG - wise beyond her years. She is a born philosopher. **Faiza S 11SEO** - For being such a deep and critical thinker, always contributing great answers in lessons and sharing great cultural recommendations with us.

Science

Maureen Y 11EV - for immaculate effort and behaviour in every lesson. Always trying and helping others when she can **Nadia M 11ABI** - for showing that when you work hard you achieve so well. Well done for always contributing to lessons. “

Spanish

Michelle M 11SEO - for getting a perfect grade for the writing exam.



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

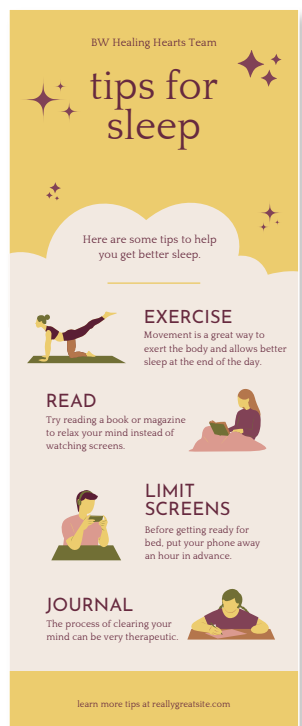
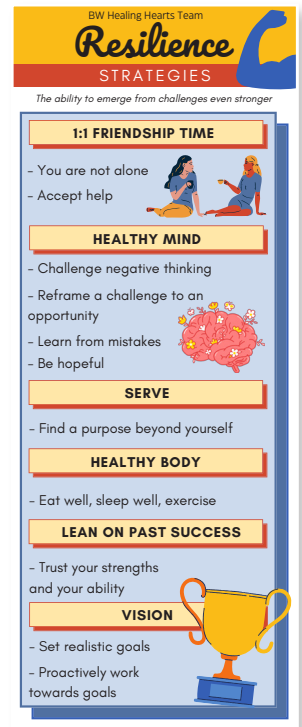
We recently celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week (May 13th) focusing on movement, exercise and developing resilience. As we always say to you, exercise - going for a walk, cycling, etc. is so helpful for your daughter's wellbeing. In this spirit, **Ms Bannon** (Associate Assistant Headteacher) organised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

Student Rewards February 2025

Year 12



Art

Sophie M 12SBA and **Rhawan E 12PS** - For using their artistic skills to help with the set design for Oliver.

Biology

Kowcer N 12SBA - for working so hard and reading around the subject. Your confidence to answer questions in class has grown so much - Very proud of you.

Business studies

Elsa T 12PS - for showing good progress in Business studies. Keep this up.

Chemistry

Heba K 12GCO - For consistently working hard and engaging in lessons. Your attitude to learning is excellent!

Classical Civilisation

Eleni M 12GCO - a passionate Ambassador for Latin and Classics who always contributes brilliantly to Assemblies, articles and more

Computer science

Hitesree R 12CTW - Hard working and continuous effort in Computer Science

Jaziba M 12D - Dedication to her studies in Computer Science

Economics

Sainthavi S 12JG - for demonstrating consistently excellent effort and focus in Economics. Well done

English

Mariah A 12CTW - for her high standards and consistent engagement

Maths

Khadeeja K 12SBA - For her contribution to lessons and for always being so supportive of others around her.

Philosophy

Zina J 12SBA - she is an exceptional student with an excellent work ethic and real flair for philosophy.

Physics

Khadeeja R 12JG - for her increasing confidence at the Harrow problem solving classes.

Psychology

Maria L 12PS - for her high standards and consistent engagement. **Huda H 12SBA** - for always putting great effort into all her work. **Fatima B 12CTW** - consistent great effort and organisation

Sociology

Humira G 12GCO - For making positive efforts in sociology this half term. She is consistently engaged, asks great questions and works well.

Spanish

Manar L K Ext - for consistently working extremely hard in Spanish and contributing to our lesson culture wise.

Politics

Nanette A 12CTW - for an amazing speech performance during our trip to Parliament last half term!



Student Rewards February 2025

Year 13



Art

Chhaya K D 13PBL - for making a significant improvement in her coursework project. Keep up the hard work.

Biology

Daisy H 13SN - For trying really hard and when you don't understand you seek for help. Well done on knowing respiration!

Business studies

Ruqayyah N 12NS - for making good progress in business studies. Well done.

Chemistry

Salma A 13NS - for a huge improvement in confidence, attitude and results since the start of the year.

Classical Civilisation

Shahed H 13PBL - always working hard and asking deep questions in Classics. Hiba Kola 13PBL - for working diligently and making big efforts with Classics.

Computer science

Mariam J 13B - For dedication and hard work in Computer Science. **Sarah O 13B** - For dedication and hard work in Computer Science

English

Nasra F 13KW - for her dedication to improvement and achieving at her best

Geography

Sahar M 13PBL - her resilience and determination to do well have proved fruitful. She has shown great character and ability. Her ability and confidence as a Geographer has grown, and this has been demonstrated through her progress and attainment.

Maths

Atefa M 13PBL - for her commitment to learning with practically no absences from September till now. Keep up the good work.

Philosophy

Baveena S 13SN - Baveena doesn't let setbacks affect her motivation and enthusiasm. She is a grafter who has gone above and beyond this half term.

Physics

Yashvi V 13NS - for her consistency and hard work.

Psychology

Lamees B 13KW - for great attitude to learning and always putting her best effort into everything

Sociology

Thusmena S 13SN - For amazing effort in sociology. She is determined, works hard and is always going the extra mile to succeed!

Spanish

Khadija N 13SNU - for her determination in Spanish A Level and an improved work ethic and contributions in speaking.

Politics

Tina F 13SNU - for your proactiveness this year with honing your essay skills and high quality class work!

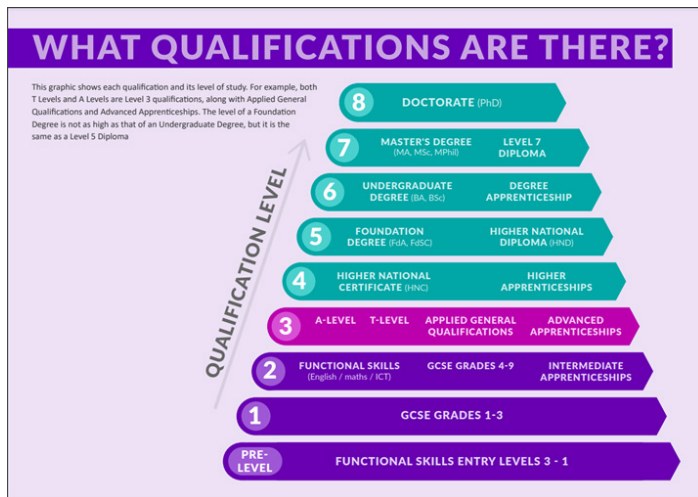


Information for students and parents

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance at Bentley Wood

(Full careers plan Years 7 to 13 on school website Curriculum/Careers)

For resources and information about student careers and further education paths please view the Careers page on our website. <https://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk/curriculum/careers/>



What are apprenticeships and how do I find about them?

- Paid jobs that offer you a salary to train and gain an education, debt free
- They are an excellent way to gain life skills and have a gateway into a job without having to attend university full time
- They allow you to build a network and gain work experience
- You can often find them in any sector, from business and finance to construction, science and healthcare

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#) – range of resources to help teachers, parents, pupils and employers navigate the changing world of apprenticeship.

[Find an apprenticeship](#) – a government website to find apprenticeships using your postcode

Notgoingtouni.co.uk

[Linkedin](#) and [Indeed](#)

Employers' Websites

Unifrog – The Careers and Destinations Platform

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school and further education, we are using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 7 to 13 already have access to this excellent website.

The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

- Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars
- Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills
- Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more
- Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)
- Placements – to add and administer your work experience placement

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They login to Unifrog using their school email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process.

The sign up code you need is: WONAParents and you can sign up via this link www.unifrog.org/code



Unifrog Apprenticeship fair For students
Get involved with National Apprenticeship Week by attending our apprenticeship fair and speaking to over 30 employers in just over two hours! Learn all about the world of work by exploring the latest opportunities, attending live sessions with employers, and chat to experts and apprentices from organisations including BBC, NHS, British Army, KPMG, Lloyds Banking Group, EY, and Unilever! Follow the sign up link to register on our exciting external events platform, iVent.

> Wednesday 12 February @ 16:00 UK time - 2hrs 30 mins - sign up >

Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience - 7th to the 11th July 2025
Year 12 Work Experience - 14th to the 18th July 2025

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1) To facilitate students' personal and social development. All students should have an opportunity to:

- Develop self-confidence
- Accept responsibility
- Develop communication skills
- Make appropriate relationships

2) To enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world of work.

All students should have an opportunity to:

- Experience a working environment
- Have a better understanding of individual's roles in the workplace
- Have a better understanding of how businesses are structured & organised
- Discover the similarities and differences between school and work
- Gain a general insight into 'work' to aid the transition from school to employment
- Realise the importance of health and safety regulations

Skills and personal qualities to demonstrate and develop

- Confidence
- Communication Skills
- Working as part of a team
- Identifying your strengths and weaknesses
- Ability to organise and take responsibility
- Listening and understanding information
- Make a positive contribution to the workplace

We need eight essential skills to succeed in education, work and life



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is the biggest week in the apprenticeships and skills calendar! It takes place from 10 to 16 February 2025.

The week brings together everyone passionate about apprenticeships and skills to celebrate the value, benefit, and opportunity that they bring.

The Department for Education are delighted to announce that the theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2025 is 'Skills For Life'. For more information, visit the [NAW website](#) and download the [NAW toolkit](#) and [T Level](#)

[Toolkit](#) - which are available to support the apprenticeship and skills community with planning their activity for National Apprenticeship Week 2025.

The annual week-long celebration will celebrate apprentices, employers, training providers, parents, schools, colleges, universities, End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAOs), ambassadors and related skills programmes; all contributing to the success of apprenticeships and skills across the country.

<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/events/>

<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/top-tips-from-an-apprentice-on-finding-an-apprenticeship/>

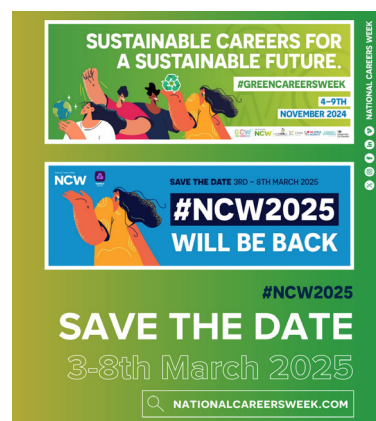
<https://nationalapprenticeshipweek.co.uk/apprenticeship-interview-questions-what-can-you-expect/>

National Careers Week

National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. Our aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways.

Get ready for the launch of the Virtual Careers Fair for 2025. It will go live on the first day of Careers Week (3rd March)

<https://nationalcareersweek.com/#media>

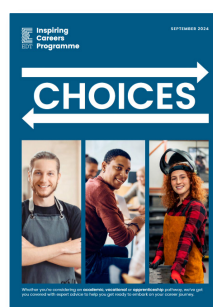


Choices Magazine

Choices Magazine is dedicated to helping you make important decisions after turning 16. Making post-16 choices can be both daunting and exciting. This book has included many useful sites that can help guide students

The Parents' Guide Green Career.

This magazine gives you lots of information about taking a path to green careers.



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



Staying Safe

If you need to speak to someone urgently, or have a safeguarding concern over the Christmas break, the School Office is open from 8:30-4pm on:

- 23rd December 2024,
- 2nd January 2025,
- 3rd January 2025

You can also email: schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk or call the school office on 0208 954 3623

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.

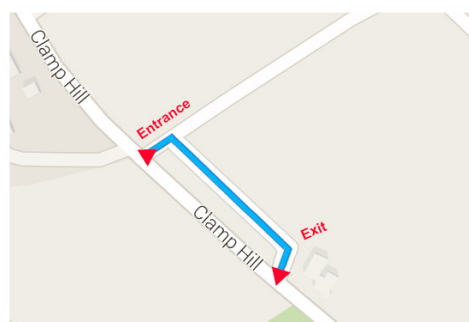
To report a non-emergency crime to the police call 101.



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 2025

17th to 21st February 2025	Half term
24th February 2025	Start of term, 08:40 registration
24th February to 7th March 2025	Year 11 Mocks
25th February & 27th February 2025	Year 10 Health & Social Care Exams
25th February 2025	Year 8 Careers Morning
26th February 2025	Year 10 Geography Field Trip
27th February 2025	Year 9 First Give, 16:00 – 19:00
<i>Ramadan is expected to begin on the evening of Friday 28 February 2025, and will conclude on the evening of Sunday 30 March 2025 (dates may be subject to change upon the sighting of the moon)</i>	
5th March 2025 to 19th March	Year 12/13 Mocks
19th March 2025	Year 11 Health & Social Care Exams
25th March 2025	Year 10 Interview Day
26th March 2025	Year 10 Health & Social Care Exams
26th March 2025	Year 8 Options Evening, 17:00 – 19:00
1st April to 4th April 2025	Culture Week
2nd April 2025	Spring Concert
3rd April 2025	School Cultural Day
4th April 2025 End of term	Early finish for everyone, 12:50 / 13:00
4th April to 11th April 2025	Ski Trip 2025 – France
7th April to 22nd April 2025	Easter Holidays
7th April to 11th April 2025	Easter University - Y7 and Y8 (invite only), 0:00 – 15:00
18th April to 21st April 2025	Easter Weekend, School Closed
22nd April 2025	Start of term, 08:40 registration
22nd April to 25th April 2025	GCSE Art Department Exams

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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk