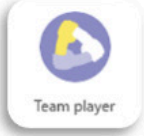
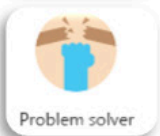
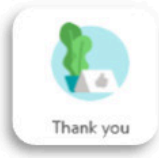
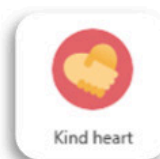
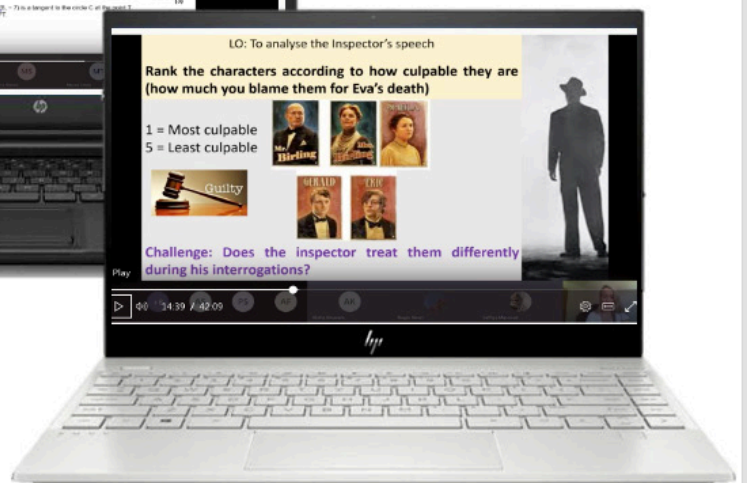
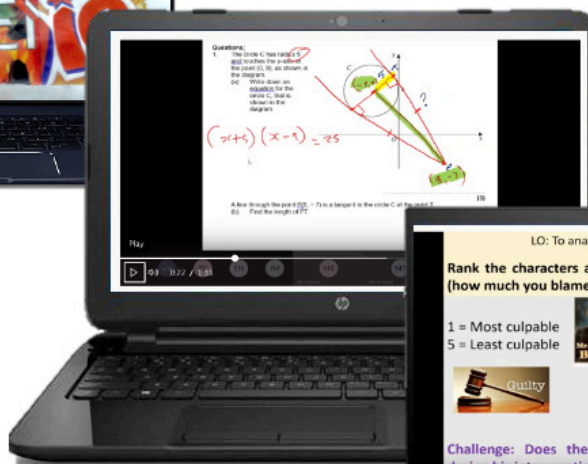


Bentley Wood Virtual School Newsletter



Learning today, leading tomorrow

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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the headteacher



Dear parents and carers

As a family school community, I pay tribute to you all for the support you have been giving your children with their education. I know you will join me in thanking teachers and support staff for their inspiration, hard work and care.

A sincere thank you to you all for your tremendous support with the girls and their initiation with our virtual school. They have risen to the challenge so well. We are very aware that you have been encouraging your daughters to engage. This is so important for their learning.

A key part of our virtual school is student, family and staff well-being. We hope that by providing a range of activities, including well-being sessions such as mindfulness, your daughter will continue to develop her character and her learning. Our aim is to engage all students and continue to share our great care through our extensive communication.

We want to continue to work closely with the girls and their families. In this very different time we have found strength in working together. Please do stay safe and take care. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

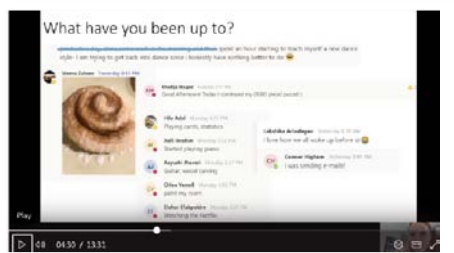
Dr Janice Howkins
Headteacher

Bentley Woods Virtual School

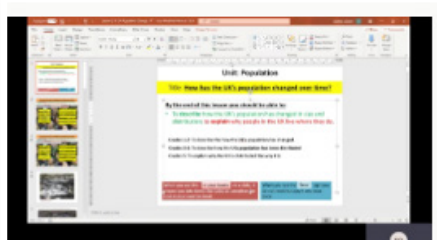
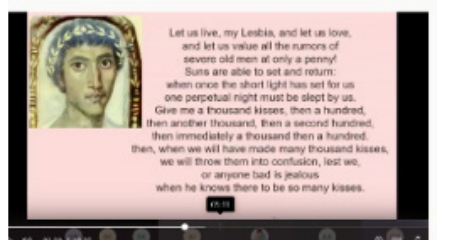
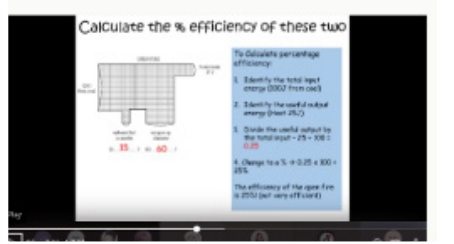
Keeping in touch

From the moment Bentley Wood launched its Virtual School platform the first thing we noticed was how everyone still wanted to stay in touch! Students chatted online noting who had logged on – and who had not, and sharing news on what everyone was doing.

Staff praised students' work through Shout Outs and MS Form Teams.



Innovative lessons

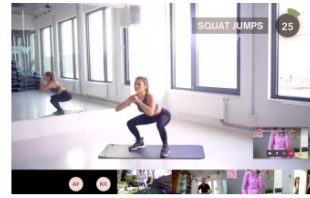


Student and staff wellbeing

Keeping Fit

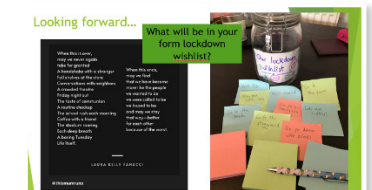
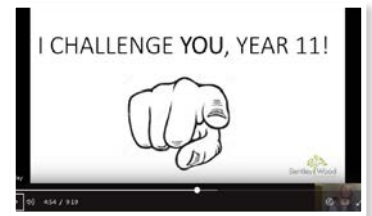
Students and teachers have been getting together daily logging into to video fitness sessions organised by our Head of Sixth Form. These are shared daily – everyone logs onto the Sixth Form group to extend, squat, jump and tone together at 12.30pm every day.

Exercises have ranged from high intensity interval training classes with Joe Wicks to relaxing Yoga and Pilates. Dr Howkins has also been tuning in for daily exercise! The exercise has worked to keep us all well physically and mentally during this time and represents an important break in our otherwise busy schedules.



Assemblies headed by Heads of Year keep everyone in touch

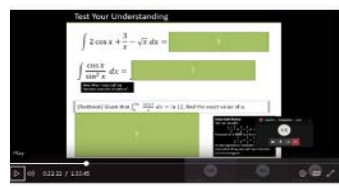
These started with reassurances about how things will carry on through the Virtual School and looking at the positives of this situation. Highlights from the past week are regularly shared showing examples of great learning by students.



Interactive teaching and learning

Video learning

Students enjoy the interactive nature of the virtual school and innovative learning through a diverse range of applications, sites and software.



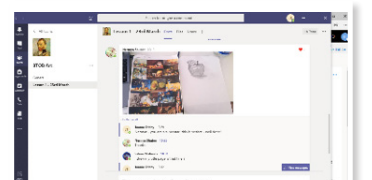
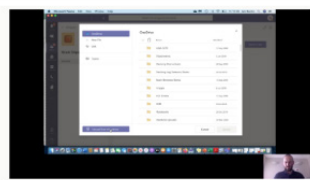
In English I learnt the difference between content and context.
In Science I learnt the parts of a flower.
In Maths I did Hegarty Maths and some worksheets.
In P.E I did a quiz and some exercising and I watched a video about it.

Handing in assignments

Some things never change – homework can be handed in quickly and simply and feedback returned to the student.

Engaging in lessons in Teams

Everyone gets the chance to speak, engage and question in lesson time.



Virtual tours of some of the world's best exhibitions and museums

[The Louvre](#)



The jewel in the crown of Paris's art scene, the Louvre offers three virtual tours. Exhibition: 'The Advent of the Artist'. For its fifth season, the Louvre's Petite Galerie—a space dedicated to art and cultural education—is holding an exhibition titled 'The Advent of the Artist'. Discover artworks from Delacroix, Rembrandt or Tintoretto.

[The Vatican museums](#)



There are seven 360° tours available through the wonders of the Vatican, each taking in a different gallery, all of which are still mind-blowing even on a computer screen. Visit the Sistine Chapel, Raphael's Rooms, the Niccoline Chapel, the Pio Clementino and Chiaramonti museums and more.

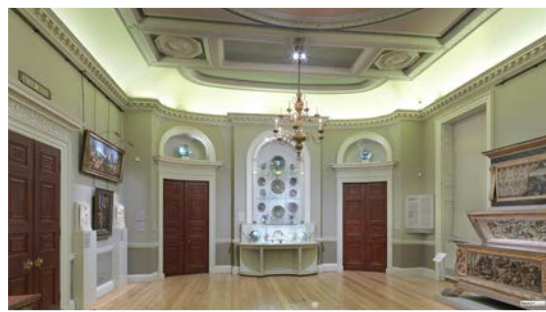
[The National Gallery](#)



Virtual reality tour of the Sainsbury Wing For a truly immersive experience, don your VR headset and enter the virtual world of the

Sainsbury Wing – home to our world-class collection of Early Renaissance paintings.

[The Courtauld Gallery](#)



You can roam each room of the Gallery and zoom in to look closely at masterpieces from our collection such as Vincent van Gogh's Self-Portrait and Édouard Manet's A Bar at the Folies-Bergère.

[Google Art and Culture](#)

Over 2,000 institutions around the world banded together with Google for the tech giant's fantastic online art resource. Journey through the halls of the Natural History Museum, the British Museum or take a stroll through the gardens at Versailles, all from your sofa. Or delve deeper into famous artworks such as The Girl With The Pearl Earring and Van Gogh's Terrace Of A Café At Night.



[The Whitney Museum of American Art](#)

The Manhattan gallery has a couple of fascinating virtual tools to explore, most notably its AV guide through recent exhibitions such as Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Recreate American Art. Click on each artwork in the collection for a fascinating look at the artist and the circumstances surrounding the work's creation.

[The Getty](#)

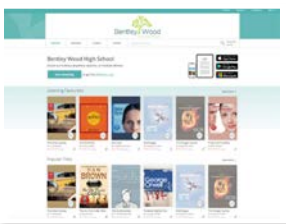
The Getty's has collated all of its virtual tours and online resources in one handy post with links. There are free audio tours for current exhibitions, a list of the highlights from its YouTube channel, episodes of the museum's two podcasts and an online library of 350 art books.

Virtual library and literacy

When things began to change and it was announced that schools in the UK would be closing, many students ran to the library, knowing they were about to get some opportunity for reading. Students were able to borrow extra books to take home. Some girls left with a huge pile of books, but this was encouraged; it is very important that they have access to reading material during this time.

The school library very quickly invested in an online library called ePlatform. Here, students have access to ebooks and audiobooks. To log on, students must click on this link:

<https://bentleywood.eplatform.co/>



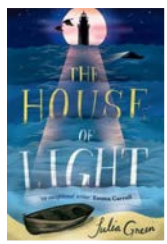
Enter their 4 digit admission number as their username. The password for our library is Library1. There is also an app which you can download to various devices.

I recommend that students look at Audible - they have a lot of books that are completely free during the quarantine period. They also have a free trial to be taken advantage of!

The Bentley Wood Year of Reading continues in our Virtual School

Keep your eyes on the Bentley Wood Library Teams. Here, you'll find links to activities, book recommendations, reading lists and more. Miss Mortimer has started a weekly 'podcast' of book recommendations.

We also have a channel for book reviews which students are encouraged to contribute to.



During these uncertain times, there has never been a better time to escape into a book. If you've never been a reader before, now is your time. If you have challenges around reading (and if you don't), treat yourself to a daily dose of story telling, courtesy of an audiobook. Enjoy!

Poetry Slam Videos

In the absence of Poetry Slam we decided on a digital alternative. We asked students to upload videos or audio of themselves reading poems to the Poetry Slam channel of the Library Team.

Here is an example of some students poems.

Adulthood

A young boy went to his mother once and spoke with ease

He said "mother dear may I ask thee a question?"

The mother looked down at her child, how he spoke with ease and how his eyes would plead.
The mother responded with "yes my child, go on and speak"

The boy responded with begging pleas "please mother dear you must tell me the answer. I have looked in books but none of that matters for I cannot find the answer to my query"

"Go on my child, I will answer fully"

"If life begins with childhood, which I know all about, and ends in elderly ages, then what comes in the middle?"

The mother looked down at her child, surprised he knew so little. She stayed calm and answered "adulthood, my child, adulthood"

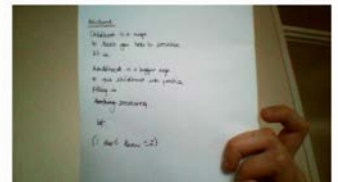
"and what is adulthood all about my dear mother?"

"well my dear, it's about closing shutters. Closing your mind to grudges you once used to hold. Growing up is a part of it all. Growing not just physically, but mentally too. This is what I should start teaching you. Becoming mature, strong and bold too and never forgetting the child side of you! But where there's an adult, there are responsibilities too! These responsibilities will be hard on you! But where there's an adult, perseverance always lies and where there's perseverance, a strong and bold heart lays. A heart that should be empathetic. A dream which makes life an edit. So my child, do you get it?"

By Imran

Ares Piu 15:41

It's the adulthood poem I tried to write, and I was too shy to read it out so hopefully other people post their poems



Short Story competition

We are holding a short story competition for all year groups - please see poster attached.

Ms Mortimer Librarian

Short Story Competition

There's never been a better time to escape into your Imagination. Why not enter our Short Story Competition? It's open to all year groups.

With your permission, selected entries will be shared with your year group, so you'll be entertaining your friends!

Try to keep your story less than 1000 words (that's roughly 2 pages of A4)

You could also WIN an Amazon Voucher!

Send Entries to
fmortimer@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk
 by Monday 20th April

Happy writing!

Further Online Resources

Download, free stream and flip for free resources, articles, podcasts and free online courses to further help with your studies.

Flipboard - Find the stories for your day, bringing together your favourite news sources with social content



The Conversation - a network of not-for-profit media outlets that publish news stories written by academics and researchers
<https://theconversation.com/uk>

Nature - is a British multi-disciplinary scientific journal, first published in 1869 and ranked the world's most cited scientific journal - one of the world's top academic journals.
<https://www.nature.com>

The Economist - An international weekly magazine focussing on world news, international business, and politics.



The Times Literary Supplement

An international weekly magazine focussing on world news, international business, and politics.



Competition time

[The School Reading List](#) - children's writing competitions, writing workshops and resources suitable for use in KS3 and KS4.

National Geographic - monthly prizes - brilliant book bundles, movie merch and much more, you'll find exciting new competitions for kids each and every month.



Sheffield University Essay Competition

The History department is sponsoring a Year 12 essay prize open to Year 12 or Lower Sixth students from schools and colleges in the UK.



National Psychology Competition

We run a national Psychology competition for schools, enabling Year 12 students to pit their psychology skills against pupils from across the UK

Key stage 3 and 4

Future Learn -

Brilliant free courses for anyone over the age of 13! Huge range of subjects from fashion to mindfulness. FutureLearn is a digital education platform founded in December 2012.



Khan Academy

Free resources and short video lessons to keep everyone learning. Daily schedules for students up to the age of-18 to keep them learning.

Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization created in 2008 with the goal of creating a set of online tools that help educate students.



STEM

[British Physics Olympiad](#)

Work to encourage the study of physics and recognise excellence in young physicist through ten annual physics competitions.

[British Biology Olympiad](#)

The BBO challenges and stimulates students with an interest in biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates and medals.

[iWantToStudyEngineering](#)

A website to help you compete for engineering places at top universities.

Isaac Physics

Physics insight and understanding comes through solving problems. Isaac is an Open Platform for Active Learning (OPAL) offers support and activities in physics problem solving to students transitioning from GCSE Year 11, to years 12 and 13 and transition to university. The site combines online study tools with face-to-face events at partner schools and institutions across the UK.



Zooniverse

Students of all ages and backgrounds the chance to participate in real research with over 50 active online citizen science projects. <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects>

Nrich Maths Project Cambridge. Mathematics resources for children, parents and teachers to enrich learning.



Corbett Maths -

Practice questions and videos



PixiMaths

Masses of free maths teaching resources from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5, including complete lesson packages and revision materials for the GCSE and IGCSE.



Weekly problems for years 7-10. Students will need to set up an account using school email address and the teacher code 'jgitj9'

<https://parallel.org.uk/>

Modern Foreign Languages

Websites and Mobile Apps Students already have accounts for Linguascope, ActiveLearn and Languagesonline and can log into Duolingo, Quizlet and Memrise too! The bbc.co.uk/languages site is also great with lots of fun things like video dramas and podcasts.



Research online newspapers and magazines for example



French/news BBC world news in French <http://www.tv5.org/> International channel about francophone countries.

<https://www.lefigaro.fr>

Arts and Humanities

Law in Action/BBC - Since 1984 has been leading the field lively, jargon-free but rigorous analysis of the legal stories in, behind, and ahead of the news, raising legal issues raised by cases in the news.

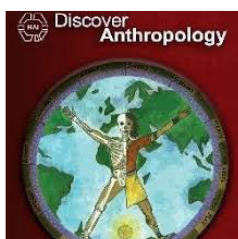
National Geographic - the best of the world's current issues to scroll through the eyes of National Geographic magazine

BBC4 In our Time - podcasts, episodes and loads of archive footage from the BBC



Historical Association - the voice of history - the UK National Charity for history - learning for all ages <https://www.history.org.uk>

Royal Anthropology Institute - studies on global perspectives of the study of mankind



Sixth Form

Explore online courses to continue studying, build professional skills, and connect with experts

MOOCs

Massive Open Online Courses are free online courses available for anyone to enrol. MOOCs provide an affordable and flexible way to learn new skills, advance your career and deliver quality educational experiences at scale. <https://www.mooc.org>

The Open University

The Open University is a public research university and the largest university in the UK for undergraduate education. <http://www.open.ac.uk>



Open Yale Courses

Open Yale Courses is a project of Yale University to share full video and course materials from its undergraduate courses. Open Yale Courses provides free access to a selection of introductory courses.



Cambridge HE+

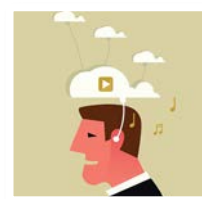
Thinking about applying to University and looking for ways to explore your subject beyond the curriculum?. Each topic is produced by Cambridge postgraduate students and academics at the cutting edge of research in their field. The topics provide guided activities, questions to think about and suggestions for further reading.



Harvard University Courses

Podcasts

InformedED - a learning and ideas hub for curious minds and a platform for passionate voices. It's an island of educational insight!



H podcast a growing list of podcasts on academic subjects or put out by academic institutions in the subjects of humanities and social sciences

The Academic Medicine Podcast

Meet medical students, educators, health care thought leaders and researchers. Episodes chronicle the stories of these individuals as they experience the science and the art of medicine.



Positive feedback we have received from parents in the last week

Finally we want to thank parents and carers! We know this can be a difficult time for parents and we are all facing new challenges at this time but please be assured that you can contact us with any questions about the Virtual School learning platform at any time.

Parents play a vital role in their children's education and we have heard many of you are connecting into your daughter's education by seeing and getting involved in lessons, plans and assessments and putting in your own time to supporting them! Well done and thank you for your support which we value as always!

Dear staff at Bentley Wood High School...

I just wanted to thank you for setting up a great online learning system. Our daughter reported that she is busier than she was on a face to face normal school day. Her day is structured, productive and enjoyable. I can't thank you, the teachers and your team enough.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all your efforts over the past 2 weeks and how amazingly you have supported students and their families through the virtual school.

Through times of great uncertainty and unprecedented anxiety about the unknown, you stepped up, showed leadership to our wonderful community and got the virtual school up and running in no time.

The fact that you have been able to facilitate the usual school timetable remotely, with class time and registration so that the girls can have time with fellow classmates and their form tutor, and continue the school day routine is appreciated and something to be proud of.

You have not allowed curriculum learning to be halted during this time, while other schools in Harrow are simply sending work home for pupils to get on with in their own time, you have fostered the community spirit and shown the girls that in times of adversity, creativity thrives and there is always a way through it.

I simply cannot thank your staff enough and wanted to just say how much all efforts are appreciated.

My daughter is in Year 9 at Bentley Wood. I have no words to express my gratitude to the school and all the teachers and the staff during this unprecedented and difficult period.

Thank you for replying, its much appreciated. Our daughter tells me she has been online with her form tutor in the mornings so that is good. She tells me she watched the assembly yesterday too.

The school's response to this unprecedented situation has really impressed me and has confirmed my view that Bentley Wood was the right choice for my daughter. I only wish I could send my son to the school in a few years' time...:-) Thank you for your encouraging words and for you and your team of wonderful teachers for structuring work and activities.

As we all struggle to come to terms with this new reality that has hit us, I reflect on the some of the positives to come from it.

I was so touched to receive an art workbook on the post from the school for her to do her sketches. In the room next door, I hear my daughter's frequent laughter with her friends as she works through the structures day to complete her work. The blessings of technology to keep us connected.

My daughter is kept busy with school for the most part of the day and the lessons are very beneficial. Thank you.

Having just received an email from you regarding the provision of care for the children of key workers ... or with regards to providing food for them... I would be very privileged to help.

Thank you once again to all your staff for all your hard work and efforts to keep the girls studying.

Thank you and I wish you a fantastic Easter break and pray that you, your families and loved ones are safe and healthy, today and always.

A large, stylized tree graphic in a light yellow color, set against a solid yellow background. The tree has a thick trunk and several branches with oval-shaped leaves. The text is centered over the tree.

Highlights of Spring Term 2020

Performance poet Adisa visits Bentley Wood

Back at the end of February, when life was a bit more normal, we had a visit from performance poet Adisa.

Adisa is a regular at Bentley Wood - he visits every year and performs to our year 7s.

Adisa performed to the whole year group in the Hall before doing a more intimate workshop in the afternoon with about 25 students. This poet's inventive style means his rhymes are often hilarious, but can also be very serious and moving. His poems focus on culture, food, kindness and global issues.

In the afternoon session, students worked with Adisa to create beautiful poems around the subject of 'Home'.

Ms Mortimer
Librarian



Staff Book Club

The staff book club met to talk about the latest novel discuss book *Now you See Her* by Heidi Perks.

Charlotte is looking after her best friend's daughter the day she disappears. She thought the little girl was playing with her own children. She swears she only took her eyes off them for a second. Now, Charlotte must do the unthinkable: tell her best friend Harriet that her only child is missing. The child she was meant to be watching. Devastated, Harriet can no longer bear to see Charlotte. No one could expect her to trust her friend again. Only now she needs to. Because two weeks later Harriet and Charlotte are both being questioned separately by the police. And secrets are about to surface.

Someone is hiding the truth.

So what really happened to Alice?

Our new books to read is *It's a Funny Kind of Story* by Ned Vizzini and *The Van* by Roddy Doyle.

Mr Marric Assistant Head



World Book Day 2020

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2020

On March 5th, Staff and students joined people across the globe in dressing up for World Book Day

There were some very creative costumes ranging from The Witcher to The Odyssey! We had Hogwarts students with wands, Matilda, Cruell De Vil, superheroes and the entire cast of Alice in Wonderland. Everyone joined for photographs during the day and had a lot of fun for a great cause!

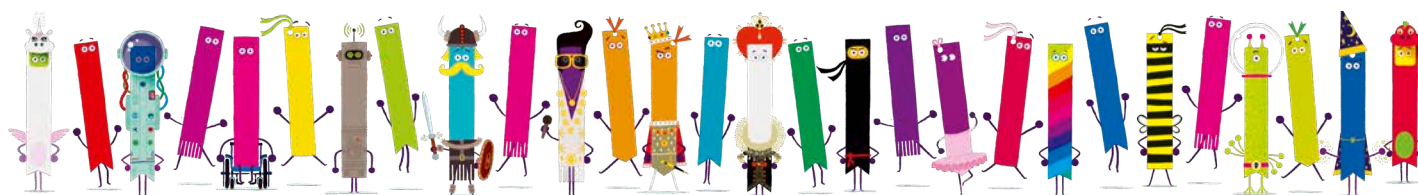
Students also participated in 'Drop Everything and Read', where years 7-9 took 5 minutes during their lesson to read a section of a small story.

Everyone in the school also received a World Book Day token, which entitles them to a free book from their local bookshop!

Ms Mortimer Librarian



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
5 MARCH 2020



BentleyWood High @BentleyWoodSch · Mar 6

As part of our @WorldBookDayUK World Book Day celebrations, Years 7-9 @BentleyWoodSch dressed up and engaged in reading instalments of favourite book titles every morning in class. #WorldBookDay



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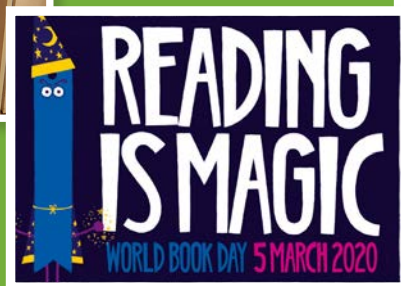
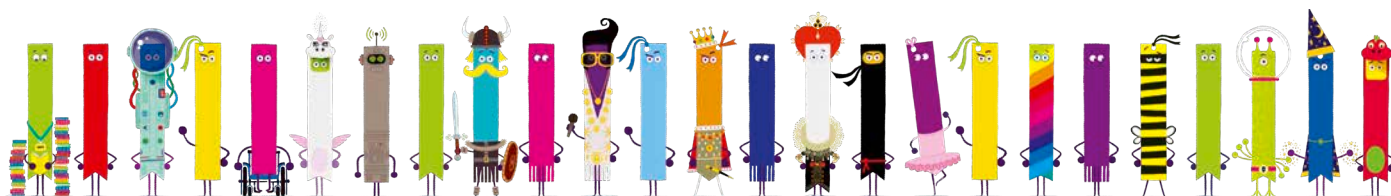


BentleyWood High @BentleyWoodSch · Mar 6

Staff and students @BentleyWoodSch dressed up to celebrate World Book Day @WorldBookDayUK yesterday sharing inspiration and laughter with a love of reading! Hogwarts students with wands, superheroes, Dr Seuss characters and the cast of Alice in Wonderland. #WorldBookDay



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MFL celebrations and traditions

Vive La Francophonie!

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 celebrated 'La Francophonie' in a week of celebration of French culture. French is the 5th most spoken language on the planet and the only one that is spoken on six continents. Students designed and wore amazing t-shirts which they decorated during their French lessons to promote French language. A big well done and thank you from the French Department

Miss Sambo

Below some comments from the students

On 20th March 2020, French people celebrate 'Francophonie'. Francophonie is a French celebration which rejoices the French speaking countries. In Bentley Wood, the French department decided to teach us about this celebration by writing on plain white t-shirts which helped us explore the beauty of the French speaking language. This was a fun experience and we hope to do it again

Nilofar and Lala 10AJ

Before we made our Francophonie T-shirts, the class separated into five groups and had a class competition. The quiz was about countries that speak French.

Amaal 10HIL



Our Year 8 class celebrated 'La Francophonie' on 20 March with ever-lasting memories consisting of competitions, T-shirt designing and a fashion show at the end. Teamwork was the key to success for this class, the class **8wxFr1**.

From my perspective, it is definitely about how much we enjoyed it. That means happiness! The day was celebrated with fun, happiness and laughter. We designed a T-shirt that we wore after that to promote the French language. We have also created calligrams which was very challenging and lots of fun! Thank you for this opportunity.

Jessyca 8RGR



Das Schlimmste Hotel (The Worst Hotel)

On Monday 16 March, years 7 to 11 came down to the school hall to enjoy a play in German by a theatre company which delivers innovative dramatic performances which engage students at all different levels of language ability.

Despite not understanding every word, the actions of the really good actors, made it very easy to follow the storyline. Some of our students were invited up on stage to play a role and in particular well done to Heena in Year 10 who really had her acting skills tested! She was quite the star!

The play is set at a hotel which has not had a guest at their hotel for months. So, they were excited when a man arrives wanting a room for a night. Their excitement is short lived when they read online of an escaped criminal fitting the description of their new guest. They try to act normally while they await the arrival of the police. But their fears get the better of them as they try to protect themselves. Then, another guest arrives. Then another one! But who is who?

It was a great performance and the players were warmly welcomed. The girls behaved really well in the hall and benefitted immensely from the experience. At the end of the show the actors came onto stage to answer a few

questions. It was great to have this interaction. Who knows, one day maybe one of our students may go off to Germany to act in a comedy play for schools there!

Frau Shah



German traditions: Easter Egg Painting

Along with learning vocabulary and phrases to do with Easter, year 7 also learn about some of the traditions, one being to paint eggs and make Easter bouquets. To make it more interesting, they are asked to bring in paints, colours, decorations in order to create some beautiful Easter bouquets. The teacher provides the blown-out eggs and blossom from which they are eventually tied. You can see the girls hard at work in the photos. Before starting the painting, the teacher runs through the process of blowing out the eggs and how to use a matchstick and string to hang them from the blossom once decorated (in German of course). This allows the pupils to go home and have another go if they wish.

I have to congratulate the girls on how well they managed to clear up after themselves at the end and on their lovely work.

Frau Shah



STEM: Students engage with maths and coding challenges



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**



Years 8 and 9 compete in Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 3 March 2020, a team of Year 8 and Year 9 students visited Preston Manor School to compete in maths challenges. UKMT Team Maths Challenge is a prestigious event where many schools participate including Grammar and Independent schools.

The challenge consisted of 4 rounds

Group Round: Students worked to solve ten questions of varying type and difficulty in the time allowed. As a team they decided to work in pairs to complete everything in the time allowed.

Crossnumber: This task was similar to a crossword but with numerical answers. Teams had to work in pairs using logic and deduction; one pair had the across clues and the other pair had the down clues to complete the grid.

Shuttle: Students competed against the clock to correctly answer a series of four questions. They were divided into Pair A (given Questions 1 and 3) and Pair B (given Questions 2 and 4). Question 1 could be solved independently of the others, but the other answer to each subsequent question was dependent on the answer to the previous one.

Relay: Students worked in pairs taking it in turns to solve problems in a race against the clock with lots of lively activities.

Some of the feedback from students included:

"I think that this challenge was really fun and mind opening. The questions were really challenging but as a team we were able to find the answers. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who enjoys maths".

Lenah Year 8

"I felt really great about the competition. The questions we did were quite similar to the ones we did in the lessons. We worked as a team and I think our teamwork boosted our marks up. I felt really great and proud of myself because it was my first time. I would love to do it again".

Sarah Year 8

"Overall I had lots of fun at the event and I think that this was a great experience for me and everyone else. I'm glad I was chosen to go and hopefully I can participate in similar maths challenges again in the upcoming years".

Sara Year 9

The girls really enjoyed the day and were buzzing with excitement throughout the event. It was a great pleasure for me to see them working so hard and having fun with Maths. Also worth mentioning that the girls improved the school's position from 26th last year to 21st, allowing some room for improvement for next year's team. Well done ladies keep up the good work!

Computer Science students visit Bletchley Park

On Monday 9 March, a group of 25 computer science students in years 10 to 12 had the opportunity visited Bletchley Park, the 19th century mansion and estate in Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during World War 2. Students were able to explore the fascinating history of the history of code-breaking. .

The day started with a tour around the grounds. In this tour we were told different stories about the code breakers and their personal experiences with the enemy. Throughout the day we learnt about the Enigma machine which is a famous encryption machine used by the Germans during the war to transmit coded messages. An Enigma machine allows for billions and billions of ways to encode a message, making it incredibly difficult for other nations to crack German codes to learn vital plans from the enemy and save lives - for a time the code seemed unbreakable! The total number of combinations, even for the simplest military Enigma, was 15,000,000,000,000,000,000, and then there is the ring-setting complication on top of that which means it was almost impossible to break the code before the code changed again!. It was shocking to hear that the key of the code would change every day and up until Alan Turing cracked the Enigma code, code breakers would have to attempt to crack a new code every day!

One of our favourite parts of the day was taking part in the workshop where we saw how the Enigma machine worked

and we were even given an opportunity to code a phrase using it! Part of the workshop was also to crack some new codes that we were introduced to on the day, to reveal the name of a code breaker.

We learnt during the trip that the code breakers played a vital part in stopping World War 2. Without them the war would have continued for many months and many more lives would have been lost. Those lives were saved thanks to the efforts of the code breakers, so we should appreciate their hard work!

Arathi and Amisha



BLETCHLEY PARK



At Hut 8 is Alan Turing's office. His mathematical skills enabled him to break ciphers. Together with fellow codebreaker Gordon Welchman, he developed the Bombe machine to help speed up the codebreaking process



Students were able to see an original Enigma Machine and work in teams to solve coded messages using Enigma software loaded onto ipads!

Students are immersed in Classics and the Arts on trips this term

Latin students visit Roman sites at Bath

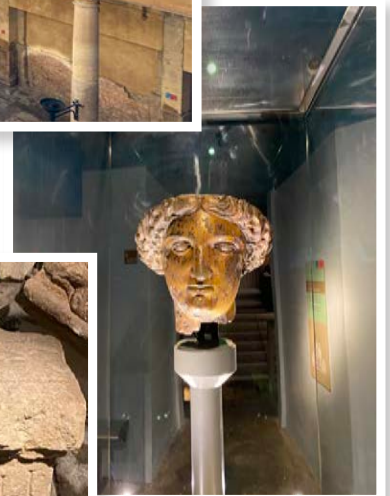
On Wednesday 11th March 60 Latin students from years 9 and 10 visited the Roman Baths in the glorious countryside of Avon. Year 10 started the day by going on a tour of the Roman Baths and learning about their inception and the Roman visitors at the baths.

Discovered in 1887, the baths were made to 'Romanise' the Britons and to bring the Romans a flavour of home where regular exercise regimes and bathing rituals formed an important part of maintaining physical wellbeing and formed a major part of daily social life. Students learned that the site in Bath was an important religious destination and, that men and women bathed separately.

At the same time, Year 9 attended a teaching session where they learnt about the gravestones that were found in the baths which revealed intimate details about the lives of the people who lived nearby and built the baths. Students used their best Latin skills to decipher the meanings of the stones! Students were later able to handle genuine Roman artefacts from the baths such as bricks, wine jars and jewellery.

After a quick lunch break, the groups swapped and experienced the the activities in reverse. After a quick taste of the spa water (which was deemed 'disgusting'!) and a visit to the gift shop, we returned to school. The trip was very memorable and the students are looking forward to using what they have learnt in their GCSE studies about magic and superstition in the Roman world.

Miss Rothwell Head of Sixth Form



**BATH ENGLAND
A ROMAN CITY**

Year 8 Trip to the British Museum to see the exhibition **Troy: Myth and Reality**

On Friday 14th February 2020 Year 8 went to the British Museum to see the acclaimed exhibition **Troy Myth and Reality** as well as the Egyptian Sculpture and Parthenon Galleries. The trip brought the Year 8's study of *The Odyssey* in their Philosophy and Religious Studies lessons to life.

The Odyssey is an ancient Greek epic poem by Homer; it is regarded as one of the oldest classic texts of Western civilisation. The story begins in Troy during the war between the Greek kingdoms and the Trojans. The Trojan Prince, Paris, stole 'the most beautiful women in the world', Helen, from the Greek King Menelaus. A thousand ships are launched by the Greek King Menelaus and his allies to get her back. The Greeks had been fighting the war for ten years to no avail, the walls of Troy seemed impenetrable, until the resourceful Greek King Odysseus (the hero of *The Odyssey*) comes up with a cunning plan. He tells the Greek army to sail out of city of the city and to leave behind a large wooden horse. The Trojans think the Greeks have given up and take the large wooden horse into their city, thinking it is a gift from the gods. At night, Odysseus and the top fighters of the Greek army escape from the secret trap door in the belly of the horse and open the gates of Troy from the inside, allowing the Greek army to flood in and take the city. The rest of the epic poem is about Odysseus trying to return home from the war. This takes much longer than he expected after he angers Poseidon, god of the sea.

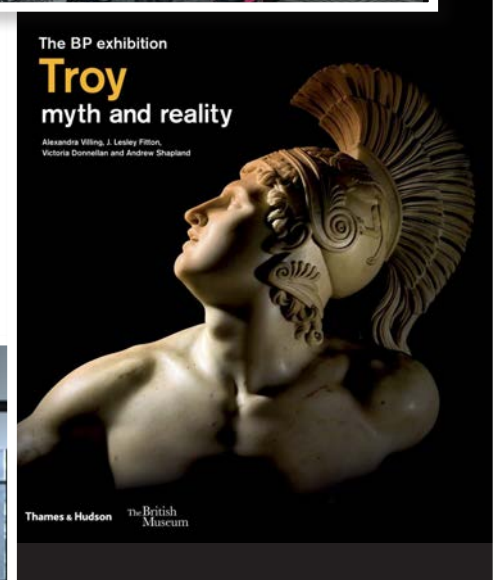
During the Winter term Year 8s studied a different part of the epic tale each week through a philosophical theme. Students were able to spot the depictions of *The Odyssey* in the paintings and sculptures on display in the exhibition. Highlights of the exhibition included a painting by Lucas Cranach the Elder called *The Judgement of Paris* from around 1530 and a two and half thousand-year old vase depicting Achilles killing the Amazon Queen, Penthesilea.

Year 8 students visited the Parthenon Galleries, and were introduced to the controversy of the British Museum's possession of the statues that come from the ancient Parthenon temple to Athena, Athens' most famous monument; the modern Greek government want these statues back!

The Egyptian sculpture gallery reminded students of their Year 7 studies of the Ancient Egyptian religion and enabled students to see one of the British Museum's most famous treasures: the Rosetta stone. This stone contains the same inscription in three languages: hieroglyphic, Demotic and Ancient Greek. This enabled scholars to decipher the meaning of hieroglyphs, a huge breakthrough for Egyptologists!

The British Museum contains more than 60 free galleries containing two million years of human history, art and culture. Although it some of the Year 8s first time in the British Museum, it will hopefully not be the last!

Ms Jones



Science Week: Bentley Wood

Year 9 and 10 students teach science at Priestmead Primary School during Science week

On Wednesday 11th March 2020, a passionate group of Year 9 and 10 scientists went to visit Priestmead Primary School to provide primary aged children an opportunity to carry out fun and exciting science experiments.

Over the course of three hours, our students visited each form group from Year 1-5 and showed off their knowledge and enthusiasm for science. Examples of the practical work that they carried out include chromatography, acid and alkali rainbows and density towers. Our students had great a time interacting with the primary school students, answering their questions and engaging them in discussions about science.

Ms Varsani

"I wanted to say thank you for all your efforts last week. The students from Bentley Wood were fantastic, leading the sessions and imparting a lot of knowledge to our kids. All the children really enjoyed the afternoon and the staff were really impressed with the way Bentley Wood students interacted with students from Priestmead. It would be great to do this again in the future."

**Many Thanks,
Sachin Patel, Assistant Headteacher (Early Phase)
Priestmead Primary School and Nursery**



Lunchtime Science week events

Throughout the week Year 7, Year 8 and Sixth formers attended lunchtime engineering challenges which tested their ingenuity and teamwork to design and build a variety of different structures to fulfill a given brief.

The lunchtime challenge culminated in a very competitive Science Spelling Bee.

Mr Alderton Assistant Head



Lunchtime Science week events
marble challenge



Science Club rat dissection





Science week: Royal Institution Lectures

Bentley Wood's celebration of science week involved a variety of exciting challenges and activities which engaged students from every year group.

The Royal Institution visited Bentley Wood to put on two spectacular shows. The first, "Energy Live", was for the whole of Year 7 and took the students on a fascinating journey through the different energy stores.

Many students volunteered to come up on stage and get involved in the explosive demonstrations. The second show, after school, was attended by students from all year groups, parents and siblings, again everybody joined in with what was an educational and entertaining experience.

Throughout the week students battled it out to have posters selected for the British Science Week national

competition and they also competed to win the interform science quiz.

Mr Alderton



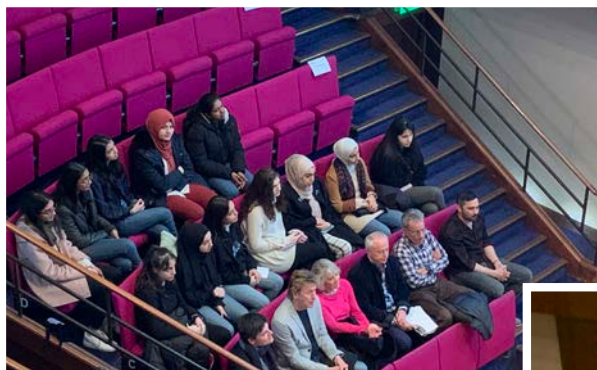
Students enjoy science lectures at Royal Institution

Sixth formers attend lecture at the Royal Institution during Science week

Later in the week 6th formers visited the Royal Institution in the evening to attend a lecture "The Idea of the Brain" by Professor Matthew Cobb.

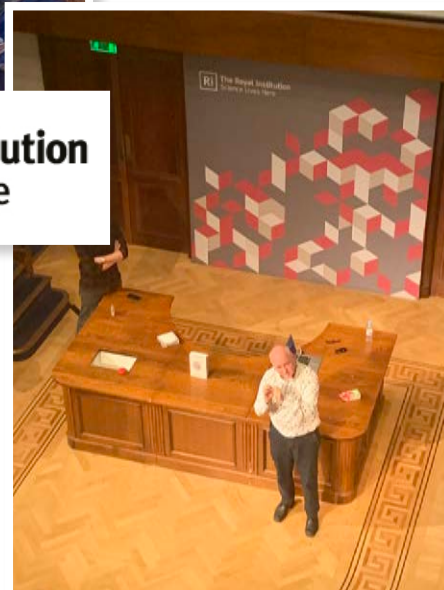
This was an amazing insight into what we now know, and more importantly, what we have yet to understand about how the brain works.

Mr Alderton Assistant Head



Royal Institution Lecture by Professor Matthew Cobb
"The Idea of the Brain"

Ri The Royal Institution
Science Lives Here

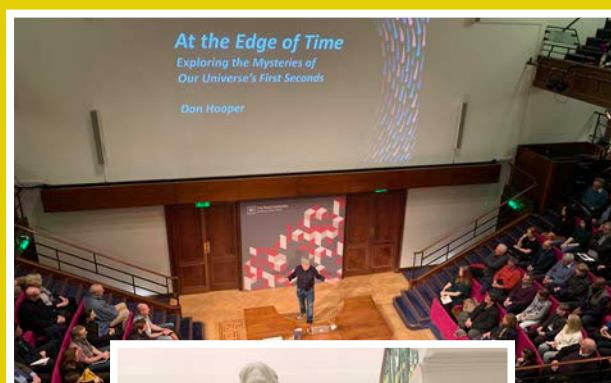


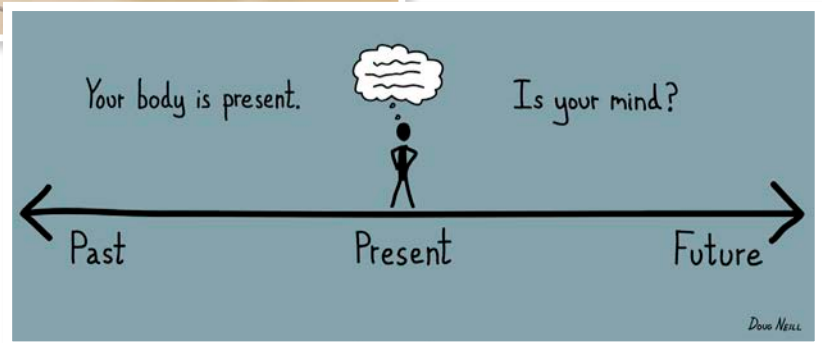
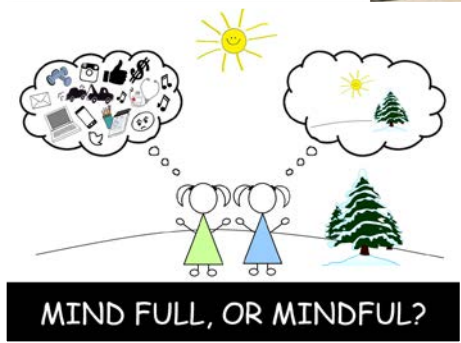
A Level Physics students attend lecture by American Cosmologist Daniel Hooper

On Monday 10th February our A-level Physics students spent an evening at the Royal Institution listening to a fascinating public lecture in the historic Faraday Lecture Theatre by Daniel Hooper, an American cosmologist and particle physicist specialising in the areas of dark matter, cosmic rays, and neutrino astrophysics. He is a Senior Scientist at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and an Associate Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of Chicago. The lecture was based on his book *At the Edge of Time: Exploring the Mysteries of Our Universe's First Seconds* and it explored what we know and, more importantly, what we don't know about the formation of our universe. The talk was inspirational and made the audience consider the frontiers of Physics we have yet to explore and how we may have to rethink everything we currently think we know.

This is the first of many opportunities for Bentley Wood Students to attend talks at the RI as one of the benefits of our membership of the Mayor's London Scientist Programme, watch this space...

Mr Alderton Assistant Head





Mindfulness practice At Bentley Wood

Bentley Wood is proud to be on a journey to becoming a 'mindful school'. Many young people today suffer from anxiety and stress in a way many of us adults never did in our childhoods. Our young people are under pressure from social media, peer pressure and exam performance expectations. The teenage years are crucial time in our development. Teenagers are becoming young adults, discovering and creating who they will become in later life. It is a vulnerable and impressionable age. Many of the experiences they have as teenagers will leave their mark on them for their whole life, whether for good or for ill. At Bentley Wood, your daughter's emotional well-being and mental health, as well as her academic success and her maturation into a civic-minded democratic citizen, are very dear to us.

We care tremendously for our students' well-being, and so one of the strategies we have introduced is Mindfulness practice.

Our offer of mindfulness practice at Bentley Wood, and other recommendations:

FORMAL MINDFULNESS COURSES: Three members of staff are trained to teach the 'b' Mindfulness course

for teenagers (10 weeks). This equips students to deal with their academic and personal life more effectively, with less stress and more concentration.
See Mr O'Sullivan Assistant Head Teacher

MEDITATION MP3s: We have placed a number of meditation mp3s in the 'Mindfulness' folder in the Student area of the school network.

HEADSPACE APP: The 'Headspace' app is available to use on your daughter's smartphone. This app includes a number of free guided meditations which your daughter can listen to in the evening or morning at her convenience.

<https://www.headspace.com/headspace-meditation-app>

MINDFULNESS BOOKS: The book 'Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World' by Professor Mark Williams of the Oxford Mindfulness Centre is highly recommended – it includes a course which you can follow, and guided meditations.

<http://franticworld.com/>

<http://franticworld.com/free-meditations-from-mindfulness/>

Annual events in the PE calendar

Around the World in Dance – Dance Interform February 2020

Year 9 and 10 Dance Interform

Year 9 and year 10 were mixing together and most forms were exited about the performance. It was very loud as they took 10 minutes to practice their routine. I was exited to see all the different styles of the performances.

10HIL had some really talented dancers and they knew they were ready and looked really confident. They had a wide range of dances and really understood the theme. 10MAS had taken time with their outfits which really worked with the music and the dance. The black to hats took us back in time and when they threw them into the audience everyone went wild. 9JM took the stage and everyone cheered - you could tell they spent lots of time practicing with really good performances of world dance and their amazing props added to the performance. I absolutely loved it.

10MKE started off strong with a tap solo from Celine. I also loved the energy they brought to the dance - especially at the African section everyone went wild. 9SH took the stage with two very strong duets - my favourite part was the contemporary duet with the song perfect, which really described the dance they performed. One of the dancers Cayanne really brought energy to the dance.

10EFM showed us who run the world. Very loud! The year 9s cheered for the fellow peers, hurting the teachers ears. They all had amazing dancing skills. There was definitely crowd favourites. I was really impressed when they got the audience involved. At the end they really got the audience cheering where they danced to a familiar sound by Stormzy. Next was 10AJ who started with a humorous entry onto the stage wearing Boris Johnson masks and urban theme. The very talented Lala was very good at belly dancing. They then threw their masks into the crowd and ended with the classic song Sweet Caroline. 10LMB's performance was very good as well. Last but not least was 9GCP who really used the stage floor area well with lots of challenging lifts and cools dances. Now for the results: 4th place 9SCA, 3rd place 9JM, 2nd place 10LMB, 1st place 10EFM.

Naomi, 9LSB

Year 8 Dance Interform

This week, the interform competition was held in the hall. Year 8s were competing against each other. 8RGR competed first with a musical theatre combination and using different remixes. After this form 8CCH performed. It was very clear it was movie theme with trending Tik Tok remixes and they had taken care to create very unique costumes. 8LBA performed with amazing and unique choreography! 8TOB then performed with pan Alice in Wonderland theme as a duet. 8SSE then performed an old fashioned movie musics, with great ideas. Following that 8EOG performed their dance with remixes of fun songs to go with creative choreography. 8SSE did the following

performance fantastically with happy dances. Now for the results: 4th place 8TOB, 3rd place 8LBA, 2nd place 8RGR and in first place was 8SZ! Overall everyone did fantastic and had fun!

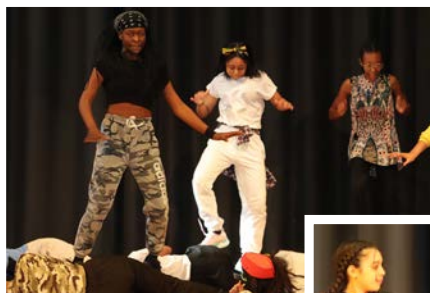
Luna, 7AWS

Year 7 Dance Interform

Year 7 took part in interform dance. As it was their first year here we had no idea what to expect from them. At the start, they were all working very hard and attempting to perfect their dances on their theme of 'Fairytales'. I saw them walk in and immediately noticed their amazing costumes. As Miss Jones called out 7PT, I only saw one girl go up to the stage! She was so brave to perform solo. 7BME also performed really well, their dance was based upon the Wizard of Oz which was really original. I absolutely loved 7NMA's performance, they had a good mash up of songs which added to it!

As Miss Chandler turned off the lights the mood was set and the final performances started. 7HJG certainly came out and gave it their all. The amazing acrobatic red riding hood definitely brought the whole performance together. 7CBB's performance was out of this world, literally - as they took us into their dream, we followed them around the whole dance. 7NMA took us on a journey under the sea on the snowy mountains and searing through the sky. The three main dancers, Ariel, Elsa and Jasmine showed the story line through their acting and funny expressions. 7DVA put a different spin on things. For their dance, it wasn't about the princesses, it was different. 7MSE, did something different to the theme but their energy levels were great! It was a tense announcement when the results were read aloud... 4th place was 7MSE, 3rd place was 7PT, 2nd place was 7DVA and in 1st place was 7BME!

Naomi 9LSB





PGL, Liddington Netball Tour 2020

On Friday 13th March Year 10 and 11 netball teams travelled to PGL Liddington to take part in the annual PGL netball tour. We started off with a training session on Friday evening before dinner. The weekend then consisted of a number of schools from all over the country playing against one another in a tournament across both Saturday and Sunday.

The girls played brilliantly, won many of their matches and showed excellent sportsmanship throughout the tournament. The Year 10 team (Bentley Wood 2) brought home bronze medals and the Year 11 team (Bentley Wood 1) came 5th overall- a fantastic result for both teams!

At the end of the tournament, England's Goal Defence, Eboni Usoro-Brown made a special appearance and presented the girls with their medals. The students had the opportunity to ask her about her experience as an elite athlete as well as balancing her career as an international netball player with her job as a solicitor.

When not on court, the girls had a chance to try out all the great activities at PGL such as the vertical challenge, abseiling and many more. The trip was great fun and

particularly beneficial for the Year 11s who will shortly be moderated for netball for GCSE PE.

Bentley Wood 2 Team:

Saffiya 10LMBe
Celine 10MKEw
Layla 10AJf
Sarah 11IRE
Prisha 10LMBe
Diya 11IRE

Bentley Wood 1 Team:

Yasameen 11EJa
Tianna 11SGa
Anna 11TRAf
Shanique 11IRE
Mya 11TRAf
Alisha 11SBaf
Leona 11TRAf

A special mention to Mya who sustained an injury after the first match for her resilience across throughout the weekend, and to Nadine Dermoune for filling in for both teams and playing a total of 10 matches across the weekend.

We are extremely proud of all of the girls who took part this weekend!

Ms Jones

School News

Information and advice for parents and students

Parent to School App

View your child's information on your mobile phone! An exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication between the school and yourselves is easier and more effective. The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to see information for your children.

What do I need to do now? Please ensure we have your correct mobile number and email address on our school database to ensure you can use the new app as soon as it is available. Forms are available from the school office to check and update your details or simply email them to the school. You'll need to make sure you keep these details up to date in future to maintain access to the service.

What happens next? Download The Xpressions app onto your phone. The app will go through a step by step registration with you. You will be asked to enter your email address and your mobile number. You must ensure the details you enter at registration are the same as the information we hold on the school database. When you have entered details correctly you will receive a text message to your mobile phone containing a 6 digit code. Enter the code and login.

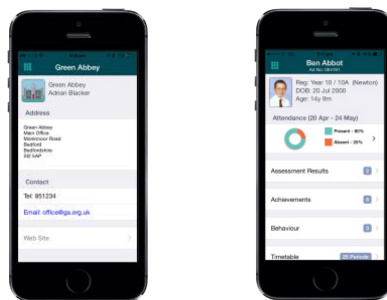
More information on registering can be found at <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/account-registration/>

Once installed and set up you will be able to see some or all of the following information.

- Attendance records and absences.
- Achievement records.
- Behaviour incidents – eg Lack of homework.

If you have any problems with registering it will be likely the details we have on our school database do not match to the details you are entering. You would need to inform the school immediately of these changes.

Please let the school know your up to date: email address, Mobile Phone number



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 with regards to the current situation.

Virtual School

Students follow their usual timetable. Access resources through **Show My Homework** and **Microsoft Teams**.

Each day students find their schedule of work posted on Show My Homework. Teachers will upload all instructions through this portal. Students would be expected to log in each morning, where they will find instructions for their lessons and signposts to any additional instructions and resources.

Students will also be required to login into Microsoft Teams to access further instructions and resources as this provides a greater range of functionality and engagement opportunities.

It is highly recommended to download the desktop, tablet or smartphone app rather than using a web browser online version as it is more robust.

This can be downloaded from:

<https://products.office.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/download-app>

For more information on how to access virtual school please go to the Bentley Wood website.

[Virtual School guide for students and parents](#)



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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk