

Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter July 2020



Spotlight on student success 2019-2020

It is with enormous pride that we celebrate the achievements of our Virtual school. Our Summer Newsletter details some of the innovative learning achieved by our students who have continued to thrive and learn through challenging times including the following

English and Library: The Library has continued offering students e-Library book titles and literary events for the Year of Reading and many students have taken time out to tell us about the books they have been enjoying and sharing news of enrichment activities online. Our Poetry Competition on the subject of gratitude showed our students' sensitive appreciation and of the things we really value in life - particularly resonant in today's challenging times.

Science: Students enjoyed Science Week. The Royal Institution visited us to involve our students to get hands on in "Energy Live" demonstrations and visits to lectures included a range of topics from neural science to cosmology.

Art and Culture: The school is proud of the hard work and creative art in a wide range of media which reflected the tranquility of nature, personal perspectives on "The View from my Window" to powerful and thought-provoking commentary on the pace of change this year. Earlier in the year students also enjoyed trips to the V&A and British Museums to support Year 8s RS and Philosophy studies, The Odyssey.

Computer Science: Students travelled backwards and forwards in time - visiting Bletchley Park to witness the code-breaking breakthroughs of the 20th century - and an Artificial Intelligence workshop hosted by Microsoft to learn about cutting edge technological developments and completing online workshops in the newest developments in cyber safety.

Politics: Politics students witnessed Boris Johnson in Parliament, interviewed David Dimbleby for the BBC and discussed the EU Withdrawal Bill with former prime minister, Theresa May. Geography students recorded a broadcast for Sky TV on the current issues of plastic in our oceans and other students committed to voluntary service such as for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Bentley Wood Virtual School has continued to share good news of our students' achievements through daily Assemblies which keep us all in touch and collaboration between staff, students and families. We are also delighted to keep receiving such positive feedback from our parents and carers and are privileged and proud of all our students who have continued to learn together at this time.



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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer,

This has been an extraordinary academic year. It is a time when we have valued the strong support from family and friends. Being part of our Bentley Wood Community has certainly been something that I have valued. Our girls at Bentley Wood have responded so well to the Virtual School. They have brought great joy to us in a variety of ways with all their great work, activities and contribution.

We were delighted to appoint our Head Girl Team and have already seen their exciting plans for this year. You will see their lovely introductions in this newsletter. We have been very impressed with the art work, poetry, writing and photography produced by the girls across all year groups. It is so good that we have decided to publish this as a book. We will of course let you know when this is published.

The girls have worked hard in the Virtual School. They have also experienced extra-curricular activities. The Murder Mystery Activity Days have been very popular with the girls this week. They have loved seeing their teachers perform as actresses and actors. They have also enjoyed their other activity day and the challenges set by their Tutors. We know there has been a lot of baking going on at home!

Thank you all for coming to our parent meetings. These have been very beneficial. We have been able to see the work that the girls have done since March. Overall, we have been very impressed at the quality and amount of work that

has been done. We have asked some girls to catch up and have checked their work again. We do want the girls to have a break during the summer. There is some bridging work for some year groups that they can complete and still have relaxation time.

We will all be back to school in September. If you are going away please do make sure you are back in time. A letter has been sent with the specific start times, please make sure that your daughter returns on the right day. We are really excited about seeing the girls.

A huge thank you to you all for being such wonderful Bentley Wood families. We know you have worked very hard in your different roles at home, including teaching. Our thoughts are very much with you. We hope you stay well and safe during the holiday. Finally thank you for your great feedback. Some extracts are below. We are very lucky at Bentley Wood to have a fantastic team of staff. They have really gone the extra mile in the Virtual School to ensure that the girls continue to have the best education. I know you would join me in saying thank you for their great work and care.

Take care

Janice Howkins
Head teacher

Parent Feedback

'I must commend you for the great job you're doing and the entire staff making the virtual school work! The regular communication and keeping us all informed has been absolutely helpful and reassuring. These has been very helpful, even though X now complains how she misses coming to school.'

'I would like to take this opportunity to Thank you and appreciate all your hard work during this pandemic. I really can't find words to express my appreciations and feelings. I am very proud and happy that my daughter is able to continue with her learning during these hard times.'

'You have all been working so hard to keep the girls on an even keel, which has helped during this time. Thank you all so much for your hard and dedicated work to the girls' education.'

'You're all amazing and on a Thursday clap not just for NHS staff, but for teachers and support staff.'

'I am writing specially to thank you and your staff for taking such good care of our girls. These are stressful times for all of us, and I know that you are all putting yourselves out there for the students. Earlier in the year, every Thursday as I clapped for the key workers, S's teachers were on the top of my list to clap for. You all are truly inspirational and appreciated, A BIG thank you!'

'I and my wife would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and your staff members for the enormous education and support works undertaken during the past few months.'

Virtual School Success: Achievement

At the start of lockdown in March, schools country-wide were faced with a uniquely challenging situation. Bentley Wood acted quickly, creating a virtual school in the weeks before lockdown and training teachers and staff in how to transfer their skills to a virtual environment. All staff had to learn how to create an online learning environment in which students could thrive.

The virtual school day continued to exist in the same structure: students attended registration, lessons and assemblies, with normal break and lunch times. The hard work of teaching was reflected in the high levels of engagement we

And finally - Video Enabling



- From next week, Year 9 will be enabled to have live video sessions with their Tutors and Teachers.
- This will allow you to have some long awaited, face to face contact with your Tutor Group, your Tutor and classmates!
- You must follow the Live video protocols which will be updated to our Year Group Team.
- If you don't follow these, we will have to remove this capability.
- I hope you are as excited as we are!!

Advice for students and staff before a video meeting

- Check that you have a good internet connection and that you are using the correct device (laptop or tablet).
- Make sure your camera and microphone are working correctly.
- Check that you have a quiet space to work in.
- Check that you have a good background image.
- Check that you have a good lighting setup.
- Check that you have a good audio setup.
- Check that you have a good video setup.
- Check that you have a good overall setup.

Bentley Wood High School for Girls

And finally...

- Remember, we know Virtual School is tough, it is on all of us.
- You have been working so hard.
- Keep up with your amazing effort!
- Don't forget to look after yourselves, mentally, physically and emotionally.
- I miss you all!
- We are always here for you.



saw from students working from home. It was not just outstanding teaching that continued to be delivered in virtual school - an extensive range of student enrichment continued, with clubs, activities and competitions. This is truly a year that will go down in Bentley Wood history which builds on the school's vision of CARE. for all students

Virtual School Success: Assemblies

Assemblies headed by HOYs keep everyone in touch, praising and sharing good news of student achievements and talking about current affairs that affect us all.

Year 9

Black Lives Matter Assembly



George Floyd

The most recent case that has sparked protests for 'anti-racism' and 'systemic change' was the killing of George Floyd.

George Floyd was a 46 year old father who was killed by a police officer on Monday 25th May 2020. He died as a result of the police officer kneeling on his neck for nearly 9 minutes. During this ordeal, George repeatedly said to the officer 'I can't breathe'.

The day after George's death, protests against racism and brutality by police began in Minneapolis and quickly spread to over 200 cities in the US.



Inspirational Women



Inspirational Women

This is just a short list of inspirational women from past and present.

- Research one woman and collect key facts on why she is inspirational
- Be prepared to present this back to the class in 10 minutes

- Amelia Earhart
- Katherine Johnson
- Ashley Graham
- Henrietta Swan Leavitt
- Helen Keller
- Malala Yousafzai
- Maya Angelou
- Ada Lovelace
- Sojourner Truth
- Greta Thunberg
- Mother Theresa
- Michelle Obama
- Jacinda Arden
- Kelly Holmes
- Billy Jean King

Refugee Week 2020

- Refugee Week is an umbrella festival, and anyone can get involved by holding or joining an event or activity. Refugee Week events happen in all kinds of different spaces and range from arts festivals, exhibitions, film screenings and museum tours to football tournaments, public talks and activities in schools.



How does this affect you?

- Some of our own students will have come to England as refugees or their parents will have fled from war, persecution or violence.
- Every week I hear news stories from around the world which make my heart hurt.
- We must do our part.



Virtual School Success: Collaboration

The success of the Bentley Wood Virtual School is underpinned by the collaboration between our staff and students which included keeping contact with parents and carers.

Students and parents have thanked us for the phone calls home and the time taken outside the school curriculum to ensure continuity and excellence of learning as well as helping with practical challenges that home schooling has sometimes presented.

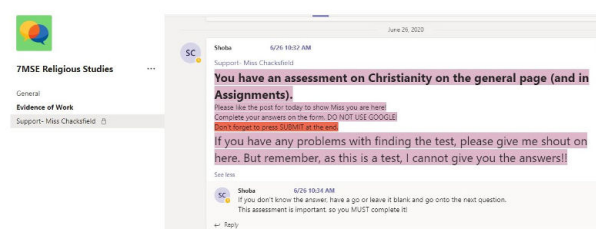
- NB talks with students with video on, often telling relevant stories e.g. How Mohammed Ali refused to fight in Vietnam War.



"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".

"I have no words to express my gratitude to the school and all the teachers and the staff during this unprecedented and difficult period."

- SC (TA) has been very helpful



"Bentley Wood was the right choice for my daughter. Thank you for your encouraging words and for you and your team of wonderful teachers."

We are so proud of all our students who have told us

"virtual school makes you more independent"

"My mum and I were pleased to hear from staff...to see how we are...and posted us spare exercise books which made us feel supported at home"

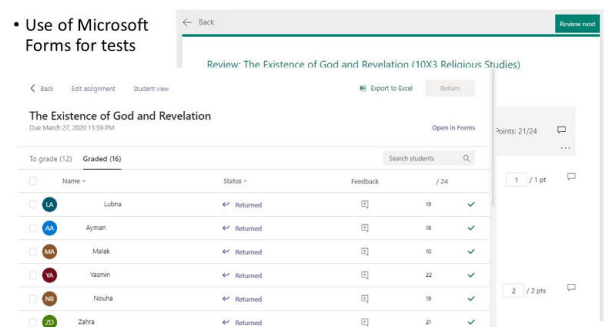
It's just like a school day - we have virtual assemblies, virtual work experience, online conversations and even an e-library"

"Our form tutors put in maximum effort to make our virtual school days amusing and not boring"

"All our teachers have been incredibly patient"

"We also have an enrichment page on MTeams to complete, which is a good way of using our spare time"

- Use of Microsoft Forms for tests

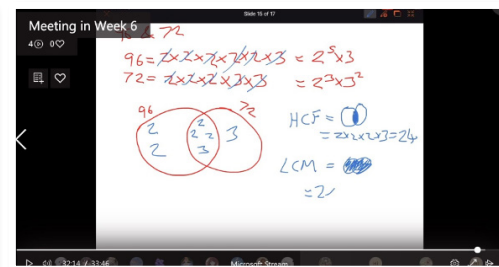
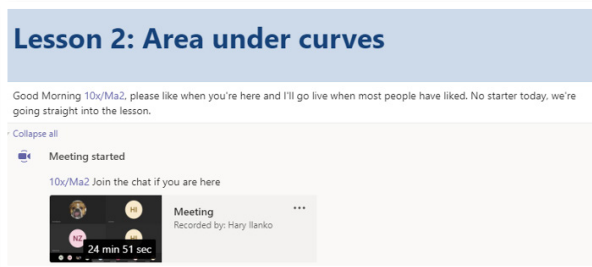


Virtual School Success: engagement

Maths

Live meetings, which were recorded for all to access in their own time...

...enabling students to post their work during live sessions.



German

Year 11 students deliver teaching to teach lower year groups

Year 11 students watched a video clip in German by Onatti Productions, in which actors talked about lockdown - a subject currently on everyone's mind! Using fairly simple language that most pupils were able to understand the task set questions and answers raised during the clip then the students were asked to design a "lesson" based on the clip for younger students. Some outstanding examples are shown below

Mrs Shah

"What I liked about this is that Rachna not only organised her lesson with a starter, main task and plenary but also thought about extension tasks".

"Anna designed a lovely PowerPoint and her plenary consisted of a word-search to further practice language heard in the video clip."

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Complete the starter task before watching the video
- Then watch the video 2 times and attempt to complete the gap fill task.
- Then complete the plenary task after watching the video.

STARTER: MATCH THE QUESTION PHRASES WITH THE APPROPRIATE ANSWERS

Wo wohnst du ? (Where do you live?)	Ich bin mit meiner Mama in Isolation.
Wie lang lebst du schon in Isolation? (How long have you been in isolation?)	Ich gehe raus laufen, Sport, Lesen, Kochen.
Mit wem bist du in Isolation? (with whom are you in isolation?)	Ich bin in Deutschland seit dem 20. März, also drei Wochen.
Was machst du den ganzen Tag? (What are you doing all day?)	Ich wohne gerade bei meiner Mama.

STRETCH AND CHALLENGE: THE QUESTION PHRASES HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE TRANSLATIONS THEREFORE NOW TRY TO TRANSLATE THE ANSWER PHRASES:

Zum Aussteigen Isolation in Deutschland: Wortsalat.

Finde die Wörter im Wortsalat.
Hake ab und schreib das Englische

friends

PREUNDE
FRISUR
GLÜCKLICH
KAUFEN
KUSCHEN
LAUFEN
LESEN
REGIERUNG
SCHÄTZEN
SICHER
TREFFEN
UMARMEN
VERMISSEN
VERÄNDERN
HELT

INT DEUNCNHEIY
LPEIZEKEDJFDC
AAXMFCSPOCY
RYUFRSGLÜCKLI
TEEFIASQVAXL
GRGMEINKDEUBS
TVRICNÜUNRFHH
DEZHEBÜUÄEWX
VAEKSRJSENNES
ZRICIXUGRDVVM
VZHWJSWNETX
NEZTÄHCGRNL
NFRISEURANFBE
VVKSFVLDLJX
BTJZLHBXSOJGF

Fragen?

Health and Social Care

Year 9 worked on a Baby Egg Project - a fun way to conclude the topics we have learnt this year. Everyone got creative by designing their eggs demonstrating the different stages of development from infancy to adolescence.

At infancy the baby egg needs a lot of care, support and social interaction as the baby is still developing. In early childhood the baby egg is developing physical skills and independence. At the stage of adolescence the egg child will be going through many changes emotionally and physically (our eggs might even change their hairstyles!). The Baby Egg Project has been a really fun and enjoyable activity to do during virtual school.

Sowmiya 9FH



Maths: Virtual Junior Maths Challenge

Years 7 and 8 have taken part in a virtual Maths Challenge. The Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC) is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK which develops mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. The problems on the Junior Mathematical Challenge are designed to make students think. Naturally, some students felt the pressure due to competing against other schools. However, with students' determination to do well, everyone was resolute in participating. On the day, I awoke early so that I could cram in some last-minute revision. Miss Jobling had given us revision papers which was super helpful, as it enabled me to go into the competition with confidence. The test itself initially began easy but got more difficult as it progressed. Once it was over, I felt an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and relief!

Student feedback included:

Rauva 8LBA

"You got to answer loads of math questions which were fun to solve. It was a great experience and I wish I could do it again!"

Nikhath 7HJG

"At first I was nervous to attend, but Miss C Jobling has helped me to overcome my fears. I practiced a lot and on the day it paid off. At first, I thought it would be a serious quiz but actually was wrong- It was a fun challenge with lots of puzzles.

Niva 7HJG

"Ranging from competitiveness to a fun and pleasurable time, the Math Challenge was a thrilling and exhilarating experience for me, with tonnes of puzzles and problems to be solved!"

Homaira 7CBB

"We had lots of fun. We came across interesting problems which we hadn't solved before but after lots of revision we managed to get it done."

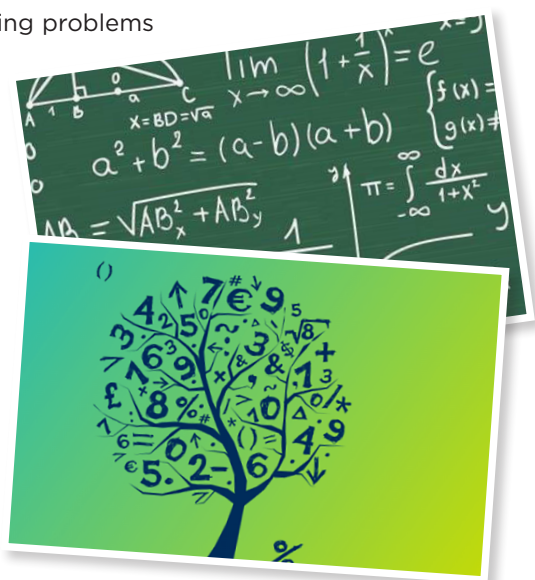
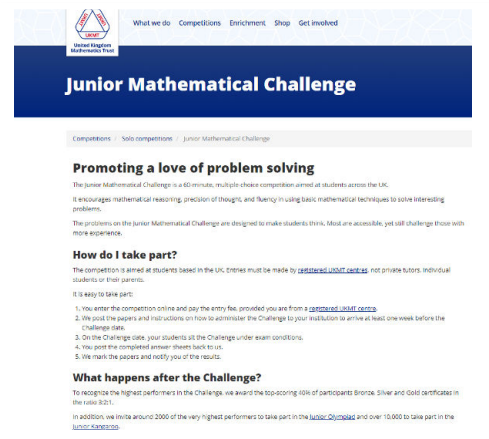
Diema 7MSE

"I was personally very excited and nervous at the same time because even though I really enjoy Maths and it is my favourite subject, I haven't really had the courage to join any competition. However, Miss C Jobling also helped me a lot to not worry too much about it since it was just for fun. Overall, I think that the whole virtual experience was very new and inspiring."

Jessalyn 8RGR

"UKMT Junior Math Challenge was really challenging indeed. Took me out of my comfort zone, my adrenaline kicked in and I was off answering the questions I found easy enough for me to answer. I stressed a bit but stressing is OK my mum says. When I clicked "I'm done." I felt a sense of satisfaction and relief."

By Kabissa 7MSE and Manal 8EOG

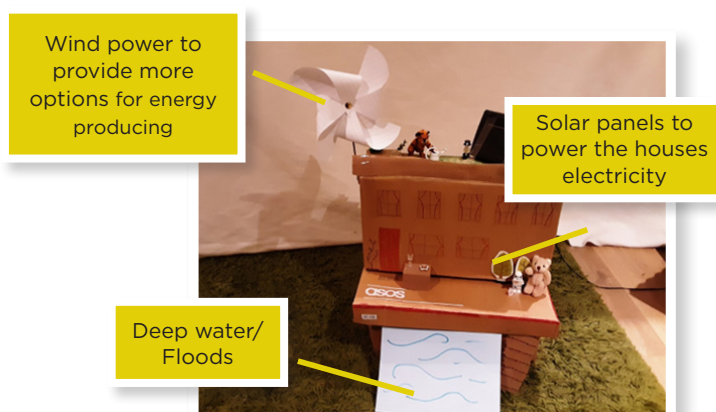


Geography: Sustainable Homes Project

During Geography virtual learning lessons Year 8 learnt about the causes and effects of climate change. Students also discussed methods of adaptation and mitigation that could alleviate and lessen the impact that climate change will have on all our lifestyles. During the Sustainable Homes Project, they used recycled materials to design prototypes of "sustainable homes" each facing different effects of climate change.

The department were thrilled at the results and some of the amazing entries, as well as the effort that some students put in to creating amazing pieces of work. We have sent out head teacher commendations and found it difficult to choose an overall winner- but we thought we would show you some of the remarkable designs our students created.

Mrs Gardee

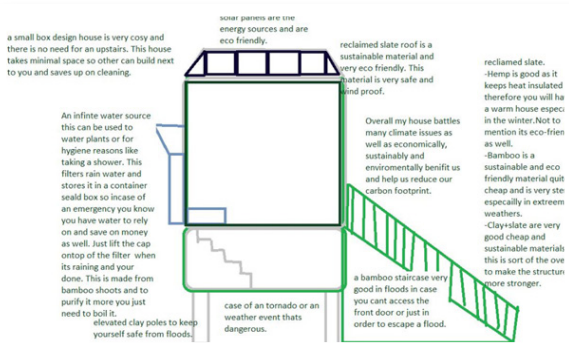


Rooftop Gardens to provide outside spaces against flooding. Gardens soak up rainwater and purify the air, it also keeps the warm air in.

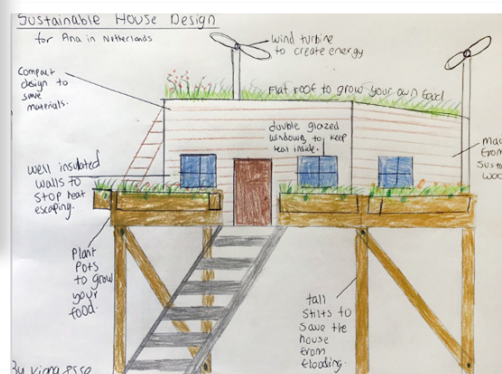
Pipes are found going around the house as guttering that attaches to the saving water system beneath the house



Amelie 8SSE



Grace 8SSE



Kiana 8SSE



Fun with sports challenges (and socks!) during National School Sports Week

With young people missing out on their main school sports day this summer, the Youth Sport Trust took its annual National School Sport Week campaign beyond the school gates to parents and families - reinvented as National School Sport Week at Home.

Sport Week is usually a week where all the students at Bentley Wood compete in various different tasks before Sports Day. The aim of this is to make sure that everyone is being active and is working towards their own personal best – and working together to make sure their team wins! Although there are 4 houses: Air (yellow) Water (blue) Earth (green) and Fire (red) each team is in it to win it! Bentley Wood hosted its first ever Virtual Sports Week! Every morning the teachers set up a new challenge for us to compete – and each challenge is one point for your house colour. Students were asked to video themselves completing the challenge and then send it to the teacher.

This year's challenges were:

Monday – Scholar Squat

Tuesday – Speed Bounce

Wednesday – Sock-er-ball

Thursday – Sock Target toss

Friday – Pentathlon

The sports challenges themselves were not too hard to complete and were actually quite fun - shooting socks into a hoop was exciting and refreshing and energetic as it made my heart pound faster. However can winning a solo activity ever be the same as winning as a team? One thing I miss the most about Sports Week is the rainbow of students in team colours sitting in lines waiting for their turn and shouting encouragement - it just reminds me of all the team spirit!

Virtual Sports Week 2020 was better than we expected it to be, as lots of people entered to do the challenges. This week was a week for students to feel free and relaxed after completing tests throughout the past weeks. This was a way for us to increase the amount of daily exercise.

I think that Virtual Sports Week was a great idea as it was a way for everyone to compete against each other and work hard to make sure their team wins.

Salena 8TOBa

Congratulations to Earth House who were the winners

Virtual Sports Week Results		
1st	Earth	434
2nd	Air	398
3rd	Water	285
4th	Fire	211

FireTech and ARM's AI workshop

In June I attended a free AI online workshop. My computing teacher Miss Terraza had recommended this workshop on Teams and was held to celebrate the International Day of Women in Engineering and included people worldwide.

I signed up for the 4pm to 6pm time slot on Zoom which was hosted by Cambridge University. The first lecture talked about how AI could spot cancer cells. Our first task was on a Google program called Teachable in which we taught the computer to recognise our facial expressions. One person got picked to present their work by sharing their screen. We then moved on by learning about how self-driving cars could follow directions and avoid pedestrians at the same time by teaching simple directions like left, right, up and down. This time I was asked to present my work in which I used an arrow I had drawn on a piece of paper. It was a great experience - I would really keep on eye out for future FireTech workshops!

Zahra 7MSE

Year 10 students join Microsoft Artificial Intelligence webinar

In May joined an AI webinar for 10-19 year olds hosted by Microsoft. It was a 2-part session held on line attended by people in the UK and USA. First we met Jane Pitt at Microsoft who hosted this program and she started by explaining new developments in artificial intelligence, how it works and where you will see it in action. We were explained concepts like ethical and responsible AI design and bias and transparency of data and then we were asked to go and do some research to find some examples of AI design and think about the impacts of them.

Robert Epstein then told us all about how we are already using AI every day in products, then two speakers told us about how data affects everything even ice cream when we were set a challenge to do some Internet research and report back during the week with our findings. There was also a Q&A section where we could ask questions with anything in a group chat.

I was very impressed with the event and attending the event has really motivated me and improved my understanding of artificial intelligence and I would really love to do it again - it was really worth spending time learning about AI.

Dana 9SHa

Year 11 students log online to develop cyber security skills

Year 11 students transitioning into Year 12 have been continuing to develop their learning about cyber security in Computer Science in an online challenge 'Virtual Cyber School'. This programme is an extra curricular activity aiming to test students' skills online to take the next steps to becoming a cyber security expert in an ever-changing and increasingly sophisticated online world. Taking part in this programme was eye-opening for me. I explored in-depth how easily cyber criminals can gain access to your data and the techniques they use, and I learned valuable skills that go way beyond GCSE.

Gain access to over 200 free cyber security challenges and learn from industry experts at the Virtual Cyber School <https://cyber-school.joincyberdiscovery.com/>

Negeen 11SJSe



Students attend Routes into Languages Summer School 2020

In June I was given an amazing opportunity to attend a one week course - Capital L - Routes into Languages Summer School. The workshop talked about some of the key skills that are needed to succeed in language studies and current undergraduate students illustrated some of the techniques that they found helpful for studying languages at university.

During the course we spoke with professors from Universities such as UCL, The University of Westminster, Queen Mary University of London, King's College London and SOAS. On the first day, and a student ambassador at SOAS University of London talked about Swahili and the structure of sentences and words.

On the second day, we learnt about the tones in Mandarin writing and the Catalan language. In the UCL talks, we learnt about the Serbo-Croatian language links and its history.

At the end of each day we had to complete tasks which asked us:

Facts: An objective account of what happened

Feelings: The emotional reactions to the situation

Findings: The concrete learning that you can take away from the situation

Future: Structuring your learning such that you can use it in the future

Throughout the talks, we also learnt about many of the students' experiences. King's College London explained the research they were doing about the pandemic and the fact that their research consisted of looking through different newspaper articles that were in so many different languages.

We were also informed of how Student Loans are paid off, how many students choose their courses and the subjects to choose in Sixth Form or college to study certain courses.

I am thankful for the experience that this workshop gave me and how it has broadened my views on where languages can help me in the future.

Patricia Year 10

ENS PRESENTEM!

Hola! Com va?

Em dic Laura

Soc de València

PERÒ

visc a Londres.

Tinc vint-i-sis anys.

Hi! How are you doing?

My name is Laura.

I'm from València

BUT

I live in Londres.

I'm 26 years old.

• I TU?

What about you?

- 你(Nǐ) 好(hǎo) ! Hello!
- 你(Nǐ) 好(hǎo), 中(Zhōng) 国(guó)! Hello, China!
- 你(Nǐ) 好(hǎo), 老(lǎo) 师(shī)! Hello, teacher!
- 对(Duì) 不(bù) 起(qǐ) ! Sorry.
- 没(Méi) 关(guān) 系(xi) 。 That's OK.
- 谢(Xiè) 谢(xiè) ! Thank you
- 不(Bú) 客(kè) 气(qì) 。 You're welcome.
- 再(Zài) 见(jiàn) ! Goodbye!

- 1 – Ek - एक
- 2 – Do - दो
- 3 – Teen - तीन
- 4 – Char - चार
- 5 – Panch - पांच
- 6 – Cheh - छह
- 7 – Saat - सात
- 8 – Aat - आठ
- 9 – Nau - नौ
- 10 – Das - दस
- 11 – Gyarah - ग्यारह
- 12 – Baarah - बारह
- 13 – Terah - तेरह

I found out about the University of SOAS Year 11 Language Study Skills Workshop thanks to Ms Ortega on MS Teams. I was a bit unsure about it first but they were small workshops where 6-8 people attended so it was less intimidating- so much so that I even talked a bit which I probably wouldn't have done if the group was larger.

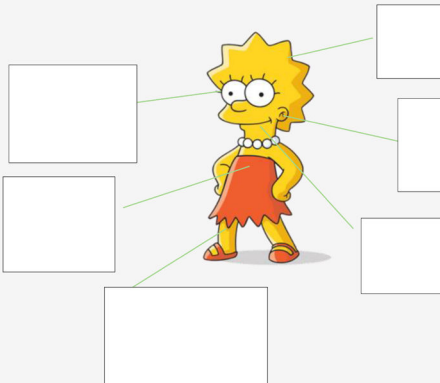
We started the session with audio clips of people speaking various languages and we had to guess from three options which one was the correct language. It was a nice way to start and I also got to learn a bit about the other people in the session with me, such as what language/s they're currently studying and I made notes as I went along as I'm thinking about taking A-Level Spanish next year.

I learned a lot about learning another language, such as the fact that you can study two languages at the same time, as long as they're not too similar (such as Spanish and Portuguese) to the point where you mix the vocabulary up. You're also meant to study a language in chunks or short sessions so you can remember things better, compared to spending two hours learning content that you could learn in four or five 25 minute sessions.

Sumaya Year 10

2. A picture of myself as a language learner:

Head - what language(s) would I like to learn?
 Ears - which languages have the best sounds?
 Eyes - which foreign countries would I like to visit?
 Mouth - what are my favourite foods from all over the world?
 Heart - any foreign actor/celebrity/singer/politician I deeply admire?
 Legs - where can languages take me in life?



SOAS
University of London

CAPITAL L LANGUAGES

Welcome to the CAPITAL L SUMMER SCHOOL!

Hello! Welcome to the **Capital L Summer School!**
 Are you passionate about languages? Would you like to find out more about what it is like to study at university? Would you like to discover new languages and cultures, and be taught by academics from different universities? If so, you are in the right place and with like-minded people! The Summer School will take place **from Monday 22 to Friday 26 June** and it is delivered by the University of SOAS, Queen Mary University, UCL, the University of Westminster and King's College London.

FINDINGS	FUTURE
What was most / least valuable? What have you found out? Would you do anything differently?	How do you imagine using what you have learned? How can you use the findings from today? What plan can you make for the future?

DAY TWO - QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY LONDON

1. What have you learnt about Queen Mary University? Is there one thing you didn't know? Anything unexpected or interesting? Write it in the box:

2. Language and Culture Workshops

Catalan, Chinese and German... today you had three language workshops! What did you think of these three, very different languages? Fill in the balloons with your thoughts.

I like the alphabet of...

I liked the sound of...

One interesting thing about...



Online reading access with e-Library

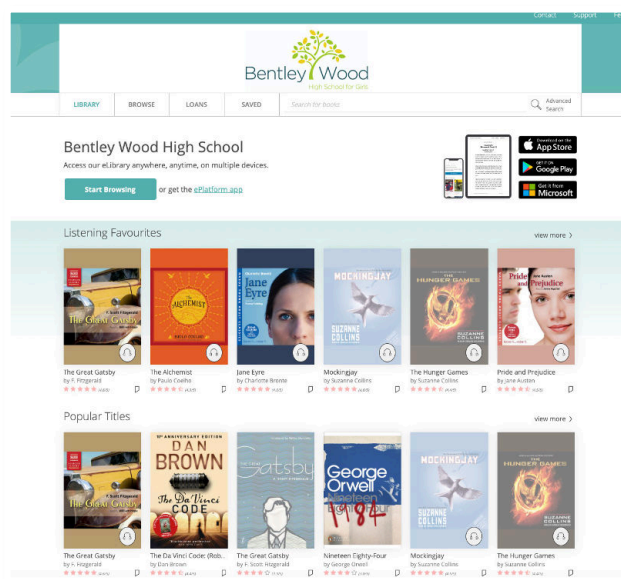
When schools had to close, we took some comfort in knowing that students might have a bit more time to read, and that they were extremely keen to take library books home on their last day. We invested in an e-Library, meaning that students were able to read books for free online.

Our online library, e-Platform, gives students access to e-books 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. They also have a free trial to be taken advantage of!

Some of our literacy events continued in the virtual school, not least the competitions. The Library held 2 short story competitions and a poetry competition, as well as a book cover design competition.



Ms Mortimer, Librarian

Book Clubs

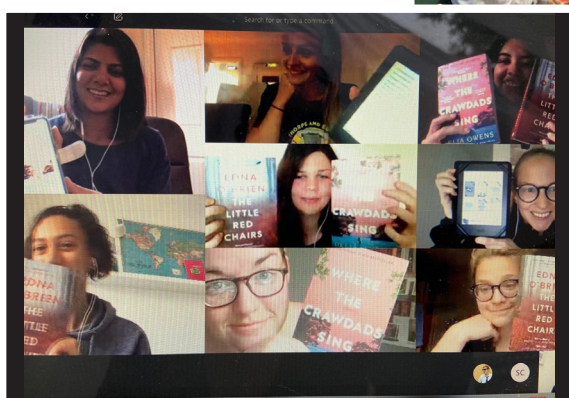
Reading is a solitary activity but when a book is exciting and moves you then it's only natural that we want to discuss it with someone else. Our Book Clubs give us that opportunity. Also, a group encourages you to think a bit more about the books you are reading (some you like and some you hate). Being a member of a Book Club enhances our reading for pleasure. This year we have been reading a wide range of books.

What do we talk about?

We start with our reaction to the book – did we love it or hate it or remained indifferent to it? Why? Are the characters real for you? Who do you sympathise with? Does the book have a message? What does it tell you about the author? Does it remind you of anything else? Do you want to read more by the same author?

These are some of the questions that we discussed in our meetings. Book Club is a great way of sharing the pleasure of reading and inspiring you to try something new. We are continuing with our Book Clubs into Summer during the holidays and in the new school year from September.

Mr Maric, Assistant Head



English poetry competition: reflections on gratitude

Some people say that gratitude is the secret to happiness. Students were encouraged to focus on things they are grateful for, particularly during such unprecedented times. Some lovely poems included appreciation for our NHS, family, community and nature.

It is so important to remember the things that are precious to us and these thought-provoking and sensitive poems remind us all that there is always something to be grateful for. With thanks to all students who shared their thoughts of their own blessings, we are happy to share a few of our favourites below.

A huge well done to all the girls who participated, and particularly those listed below.

Ms Bairstow

Family

First prize: Adina, Year 7

I was given a family who have surrounded me with lingering memories,
Of which I intend on keeping for centuries and centuries,
They are the reason I want to live today,
On the earths' surface and beneath the suns' rays.

They have given me hope and support knowing that I was in need of it,
But I was ignorant towards it, making me almost quit,
If only I could go back in time to show my appreciation,
It is the least I could do to return their dedication.

There will be many events to come in the next few years,
Cherish them too, whether they bring joy or tears,
You will always be here, within my heart,
Nobody can shatter this bond, even if we're miles apart.

Outside the Window

2nd prize: Soha, Year 8

Outside the window,
I can see,
A very very tall,
Green-leafed tree.

Outside the window,
Right up high,
Blankets over the earth,
A vast blue sky.

Outside the window,
Captured by sun rays,
I can see,
A few driveways.

Outside the window,
I see a cobbled pavement,
And sometimes on sunny evenings,
Children play with enjoyment.

Outside the window,
I see a church with a cross,
And parts of the roof
Are glowing with moss.

Outside the window,
Is my special street,
Where back before the virus,
People used to meet.
Outside the window,
As you can see,
Everything that surrounds us,
Has a value to me.

The Evening Colours

2nd prize: Sophie Year 7

The colours
They spread across the sky
A vast sea of what was once blue
Seen by people's eyes

Colours submerged
With a blue dark like space
Stars like diamonds
They give a warm embrace

The sky is filled with beauty
Not dark or bright
Then coming soon
Is the morning with dawns light.

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Addressed to our Lionhearts

1st prize: Grace, Year 8

During this caliginous time
Our smiles find it hard to shine
As I look up at the coruscating night sky
Each star in the sky represents our lionhearts eyes
Eyes beaming with ambition
And our hearts fill with ammunition
As we fire our support
And shield them with our supportive for
Words cannot express how much respect I feel
As your hard work was able to heal
Continuous hours of laborious work
Always with a certain perk
Knowing they are wrapped by the piercing emptiness of half of their hearts at home
Separated from loved ones by a glass dome
Inspirational as can be
That we have our lionhearts supporting many families

Claps

2nd prize, Fatima, Year 9

Clap, clap, clap
Go the citizens of Britain,
Praising, cheering, admiring the key workers.
Clapping like trained seals over and over again.
Ignorance isn't bliss,
Clap, clap, clap.
Workers walking past the robotic people outside their homes,
Face sore and red from their face mask,
Tired from working continuously, long, hard hours
In a place of high risk,
Their urge to go back to their families,
Into the safe.
Their bloodshot eyes wander around the surroundings
And all they hear is
Clap, clap, clap.

Clap, clap, clap
Go the citizens of Britain,
Praising, cheering, admiring the key workers.
Clapping like programmed machines over and over again.
Ignorance isn't bliss,
Clap, clap, clap.

To all the key workers, I won't clap,
Although I'm grateful, the brutal reality is that,
I can't do much but stay at home and say thanks in my head.
I hope your pay rises,
I hope you are safe,
I hope this all ends so.
I hope you do not need to listen to the dreadful claps anymore,
Yet this is all just hope,
Clap, clap, clap.

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What Am I Grateful For?**1st prize: Morgan, Year 9**

In a world stitched with threads of prejudice
 We must play the system's strings
 And use our vocal chords to challenge our nemesis.
 Let our words rearrange the melody and orchestrate our place.
 Let us peacefully protest and protect the rights we deserve.
 We are one human race.
 I'm grateful for my voice.

For centuries our carbon hue was looked down with revulsion
 But now is the time, for all of us to finish this revolution
 We must raise our fists coated with the same defiance as our ancestors
 And support cries for "No Justice! No Peace!" from the mouths of Black Lives protesters
 Our people who were once shackled
 Give us the power today to fight for those in a stranglehold of oppression –
 These issues must be tackled
 While we march with the spirits of our melanin Kings and Queens,
 We realise together we're a potent team,
 As Martin Luther King said "I have a Dream"
 And I'm grateful I'm free.

We won't sit in silence. We simply can't.
 We are returning to our wounded feet.
 And severing the ropes that've been gripping us, governing us, killing us.
 We refuse to hang like strange fruit.
 We are beautiful berries, with even deeper roots.
 Yet, racism kneels on our necks
 And we're left suffocated by bitter injustice.
 It's non-negotiable we need more than a month to discuss this.
 R.I.P George Floyd
 Just another figure to add to the harrowing statistics of innocent black people killed
 By law enforcement.
 His heart attacked by a corrupt institution
 What do you think is the solution?
 If someone has their knee or your neck
 It's not down to you
 The oppressor has to get up
 What else can we do?
 I'm grateful I can breathe.
 #BlackLivesMatter

I am Grateful for....**3rd prize: Nagin, Year 9**

The low pressure of the shower
 ... because I have clean water.
 When there is a passenger who insists on playing their music out loud
 ... because I realise that I was brought up well.

When there is a smudge on my glasses that I just can't clean
 ... because I realise how much my glasses mean to me.
 When the elevator is out of order
 ... because it reminds me that I am capable of walking up the stairs.
 When my shadow follows me around
 ... because I know that there is sunshine.
 When my alarm goes off in the early morning
 ... because I am alive.

Gratitude

2nd prize: Izma, Year 10

The sun rises bringing a new hope everyday
Each hue in the sky brings a new uplifting emotion
As the moon prepares to bring a shining light to fight the grey
And the waves echo happiness, as they crash towards the vast ocean

Blessed with endless food supplies available at the blink of an eye
What about the orphans who are victims of malnutrition, and in the end, they die?
In a home where we are blessed with peace in the comfort of family,
Think about those, who struggle to sleep, a result of brutality
Assured that we can sleep through the night, to relax, unwind and have some peace
What about those who cannot rest, due to hardship and unease?

Waking up to a new day, with new laughs and joys
Having the option of cereal or toast for a breakfast, that you can enjoy
Social media and technology are places of endless communication
Think about those whose lives are spent in cruel captivity

Stop for a minute and I plead you to take it all in-
A big breath of fresh and pure air and the Earth's hidden beauty within...
Being able to walk, talk, hear and see,
Is taken advantage of, by so many of us on the daily
Think of those who struggle as victims to disability
And their everyday struggles to accomplish simple tasks, due to immobility
Like going to school or the ability to read or write

Or the warmth when you hug a loved one, so powerful, so tight
And most importantly, your well-being and good health
Ask those who are sick, and they will reveal indeed it is the greatest wealth
Illness can destroy lives and ruin families
A silent killer for some, a deadly killer for many

That's why I urge you to see the hidden blessings, as there are plenty
I promise it will help to beam brightness into everything you do
There is someone who would sacrifice their everything to spend the day as you..

Surrounded by stars in the darkest of nights,
The comfort of knowing, indeed there is some form of light.

Poetry Competition results

Year 7

1st: Adina - Family
2nd: Sophie - The Evening Colours
3rd: Huda - Grateful for Everything

Year 8:

1st: Grace - Addressed to our Lionhearts
2nd: Soha - Outside the Window

Year 9:

1st: Morgan - What Am I Grateful For?
2nd: Fatima - Claps
3rd: Nagin - I am Grateful for...

Year 10:

1st: Alison - Untitled
2nd: Isma - Gratitude

Gratitude

1st prize: Alison, Year 10

As I sit on my desk with a roof over my head,
Sheltered from the Wind Rushing past my windows,
as it cools the ever-rising Heat of our hot-headed planet,
as the once anticipated 'Year of Vision' slowly Infects the world,
I say a quiet prayer of relief and thanks
and reflect upon my privilege.

Though I share not the colour of my idols in the media,
Though my race is blamed for indulgence in exotic eating,
Though we are condemned to doctorates and lives of lawyers,
That is scarce compared to the centuries of
Lynching;
Oppression;
and Slaughter that They faced.

I have the privilege of using profanities without people attributing this to bad morals.
I have the privilege of affluence with the judicial system.
I have the privilege to walk in shops without a shadow.
I am thankful for these privileges, because I know it is not shared amongst my friends.

Thank you for my voice:
I will promise to use it
to speak for the injustice
of which that murdered Floyd,
Such that murdered King,
Such that murdered fathers, mothers, sons and daughters,
and hundreds of thousands of those before.
And I am almost thankful to myself -- for speaking up,
Yet the question begs itself:
Why did it have to come to this?
Why did an ex-man, now martyr, have to die for us to raise our voices?
For this I
thank Chauvin.
Thanks to the four officers who stood by in silence, and
Cheers to all those who continue to stand in silence because
Your quiet is deafening.
Your actions lead us to revolution.
Your wrongs will have to be righted by the world,
When we will come together to
Erase race discrimination, so
Thank you.
Because of your hate, humanity is slowly awakening.

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Student art and enrichment

Bentley Wood students have been creating some wonderful pieces of artwork during lockdown. Here is an example of some of their artwork.

Negin in Year 10 and Morsal in Year 9 responded to the racism and black lives matter issues with this piece of artwork.

Neha in Year 9 is one of our students who has enjoyed learning a new skill of painting in lock down. Neha sent Mrs Manzi a beautiful acrylic painting of a golden lake surrounded by willows - a view possibly inspired by images of nature.



ART in LOCKDOWN Justice for George

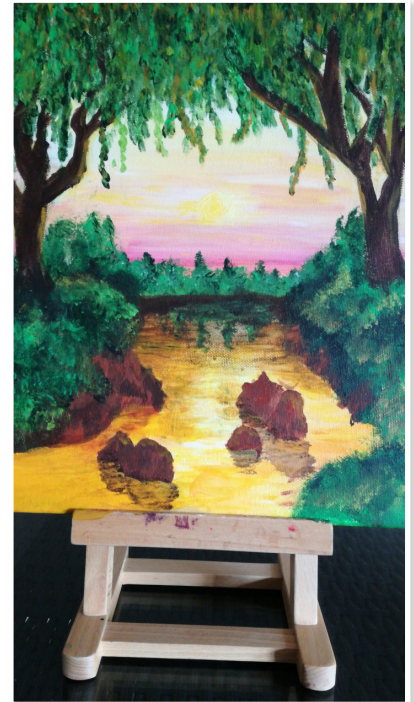
Artwork by
Negin Year 10 and Morsal Year 9

Acrylic Paint, Watercolour Paint & Collage 410 x 296 mm

"This artwork is a response to the injustice and racism going on in America. It's not just in America, its across the whole world.

We need to be heard because the world won't change itself, we need to be the ones that have to speak out." (Negin)

Artwork by
Negin Year 10 and
Morsal Year 9



Artwork by Neha
in Year 9

The story behind my version of "The View From My Window"

A Year 7 students creative piece of artwork created for Grayson Perry's - View from my Window competition.

"I chose to do an abstract version of "The View from My Window" instead of a literal view outside. I chose this to convey a message on the expectations of how people want the world outside to be. In the photo, you can see I used fun and pop colours (with tissue and glitter paper) to show the peoples desires for their view of the world to be like wonderland or a tropical place instead of what they see everyday."

"One window from my work is black with lightning on it to show the reality of our view which could be from a brick wall to a highstreet.

In conclusion, this work really shows us how we expect the world from our eyes to be to the reality of it."

Luna 7AWS



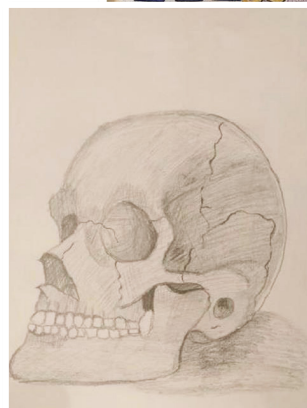
Year 8 creative enrichment projects

Year 8 are taking their home enrichment activities and challenges very seriously indeed!. Students are sharing ideas, competing in challenges and collaborating on projects as artists, fashion designers and eco-gardeners, creating knitted garments, bottle gardens, bread-making and bake-offs and growing plants from seeds in creative ways.

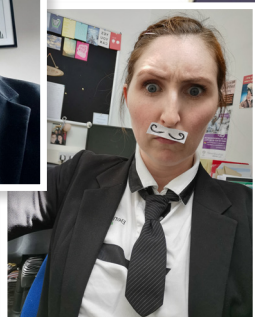
Mrs Bancroft and Mrs Parkes are so impressed with 8LBA's activities in lockdown. Mrs Bancroft commented as follows:

"We are being entertained and inspired by our amazing form through their art, baking, science experiments, knitting and their wonderful daily updates. It brightens our day when we receive their posts on teams and lifts our spirits."

Mrs Fletcher



Years 7, 8 and 9 had fun solving Murder Myster



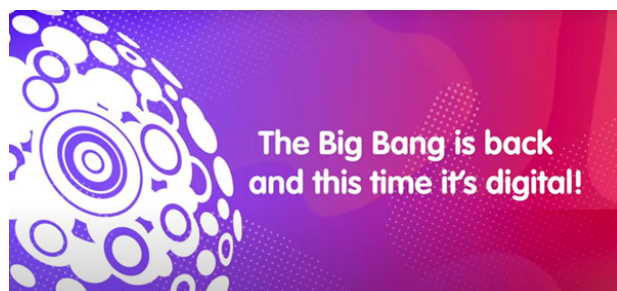
Years 7, 8 and 9 had fun for two days at the end of term solving a mysterious murder mystery. Our student sleuths watched a video of an impeccably perfect family enjoying a dinner celebration in which the young Frederick planned to propose marriage to the lovely Juliette but was interrupted by a harrowing, hideous crime by someone very mysterious! Staff, dressed suspiciously like suspects, were interrogated over a period of two days! Naturally everyone was a suspect! There were riddles, cryptic clues and code-cracking and our student sleuths had to work hard together communicating as a team, analysing motives, rhyme, reason and suspicions before the fearless fiend escaped for good!

There was no one winning team, in each year group several teams got the correct answer. Though students got the wrong answer swayed by convincing lies and tall tales from the suspects.

Thank you to Inspector Butler for arranging all the fun!

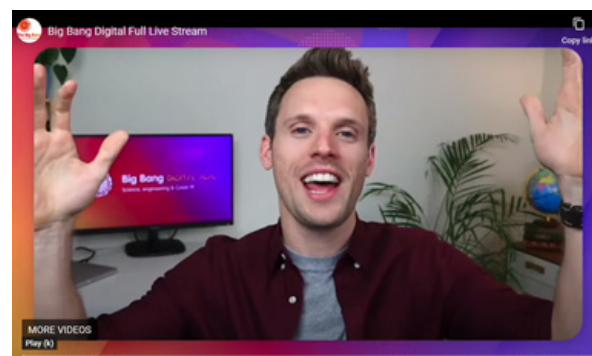
Live Digital Big Bang Fair

This year the Big Bang Fair went live and digital. Students enjoyed a fun interactive day hosted by Greg Foot, Science Journalist and BBC podcaster who was joined live by a succession of impressive guests such as leading scientists, politicians and STEM experts from many fields. Students were able to table questions in live chat, commentary ran under the video and they could also engage in live polls.



Big Bang Digital explored current subjects through activities, competitions and challenges led by bioengineering and design experts. Students could dip in and out of different activities throughout the day such as choosing to Meet the Future You, Ask the Experts and even meet a cyber avatar. Young scientists and engineers showcased their work and David Attenborough talked about the environmental impact of lockdown. It was a fun-packed and inspirational day.

Mr Alderton



STEAM activities give students Food for Thought

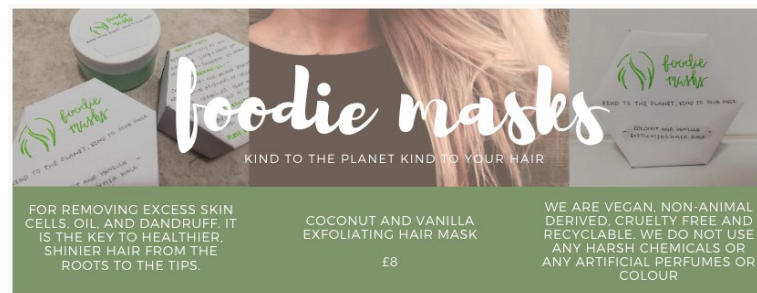
Year 7, 8 and 9 students looked and learnt new perspectives on familiar foods found at home in a fun activity day to create beauty products.

Historically women have learnt how to combine different oils, fragrances and anti-bacterial properties for medical and beauty remedies and students learnt practical applications of combining elements and skills from across the curriculum (Science, Technology, Enterprise, Art and Maths) to create a homemade hair mask.

The design brief included a variety of food products which you could find at home and then create a product to nourish stressed hair! Their challenge was developed to design and create suitable packaging and make an advertising pitch for their product.

The challenge combined skills from across the curriculum as well as testing students for resourcefulness, patience and practice! Pupils shared photographs of their progress with their class mates over teams and voted on who had won Best In Class. Thanks to Miss Woolford for organising such an enjoyable activity.

Mrs Fletcher



Head of Sixth Form reflects on the year 2019-2020

This year in the Sixth Form has been busy and varied and has ended in a situation that none of us could have foreseen, but one that has revealed the enormous resilience and strength of character of our students.

Our Year 13 students will be greatly missed when they go to pastures new in September. They are a wonderful group of intellectually curious students who are ambitious, interested and interesting. They have been academically very successful during their time at Bentley Wood and they have gained places at some of the UK's top institutions for their further study. We are very proud of all they have achieved and for the great resilience they have shown throughout school closure, exam cancellation and lockdown. They have been wonderfully creative and self-improving and their positivity has been infectious. We wish them all the very best in what lies ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Head Girls' Team for 2020-21. Arathi Prabharan, our new Head Girl, has been an excellent role model throughout her time at Bentley Wood and we feel sure that she will lead the team this year with the same community-minded spirit and care as she has in all endeavours before. Her deputy is Zara Kassum and the two other members of the team are Makkah Sharifi and Jiyan Uzun. The team has already started to work with the Senior Prefect Team in Y11 to prepare their priorities for leading with purpose from September and we are looking forward to seeing all of the great changes that they will bring about.

Ms Rothwell, Head of Sixth Form

Introducing The Head Girl Team 2020-2021

Hello! We are the Head Girl, Arathi Prabhakaran, and Co-Deputy Heads Alison Chang and Sheza Ali respectively. We have had the honour of being elected by our wonderful peers and the staff of Bentley Wood and would like to thank everyone for entrusting us with the responsibility of leading the school's future endeavours.

Our priority is to maintain the exemplary standards Bentley Wood has set itself as an institution. We plan to do this by embracing the diversity of our school by celebrating our differences through various student-led events, encouraging enrichment beyond the curriculum and upholding our remarkable academic reputation. In the upcoming academic year, we plan to introduce a peer-mentoring system prioritising support for Year 7s and Year 11s along with establishing a student-led newsletter.

Our strengths as a collective team include our ambition, enthusiasm, diligence and fantastic teamwork to propel our unified aspirations of bettering the school environment forward.

We hope to surpass the school's, yours and our own expectations through this role.

Head Girls and Senior Prefects:

Head Girl:

Arathi Prabhahara

2nd in Team:

Zara Kassum

Head Girls' Team:

Jiyan Uzun and Makkah Sharifi

Deputy Head Girls:

Alison Chang and Sheza Ali

Senior Prefect Team:

Avina Sabapathy

Amira Zeria

Charlotte Ajose

Fatimah Abbass

Isma Mirza

Isna Mohamed Ithfan

Maria Meziani

Mysha Hussain

Nkiah Blake

Ria Majid

Sajeda Sufizada

Spozmai Afghan

Yasmin Alkizwini

Co-deputy head girl's great achievement at work experience

Dear Dr Howkins,

I would like to thank you on behalf of Alison and myself for being nominated as being jointly elected co-deputy head girl. We are very proud for the privilege of being chosen for this honoured position. We strive to maintain the excellence for which our school is recognised.

I am also writing to you to share news of a recent achievement. Earlier this year, I was selected out of hundreds of students nationally to have half-term work experience at the London head office of the prestigious Wall Street Journal. After this work experience was finished a few of the staff had been so impressed with my ambition and work ethic, they offered to write me two reference letters for my Sixth Form application. Wall Street Journal employees strongly urged me to share their view that they are incredibly impressed with me with my headteacher and I am proud to attach their reference for your information. I just wanted to share this to show my utmost dedication and passion for learning and my education and to thank you for providing all students with such a fantastic learning environment. It is because of the support I receive from Bentley Wood, that I am able to have these amazing opportunities.

Best wishes

Sheza

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of having Sheza join the Communications team during her work experience at Dow Jones.

During her time, Sheza worked on putting together an incredibly useful competitor analysis spreadsheet. Taking the lead, Sheza worked with another student to help identify where other media outlets were appearing on TV / online and what topics they were discussing which included global politics, trade and more. Sheza then presented her work in a clear and concise manner which highlighted her strong communication skills and ability to work as part of a team. In addition to this, Sheza helped to identify stories that could be used for our CEO's weekly blog which focused on current affairs.

I was very impressed with Sheza's ability to understand a brief and to deliver high quality work in only two days. Whilst only being given a guide on "what to do", Sheza demonstrated her ability to use her initiative to think about the best way of delivering the project.

Sheza had a positive attitude and showed immense curiosity by asking great questions during her time with me. As her predicted grades and work experience show, Sheza is a smart, hard-working candidate who has a bright future ahead. She will be an asset to any Sixth Form.

Kind regards,

Elsa Makouezi

Reference: Elsa Makouezi
Title: Publicist, Dow Jones | The Wall Street Journal
Contact: +44(0)7825 902096 or Elsa.makouezi@dowjones.com

3rd July 2020

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of hosting Sheza Ali on my team for a number of days during a work experience week that she attended with us at Dow Jones International, Wall Street Journal Barrons Group in February 2020.

During her work experience, Sheza spent a considerable amount of time with me, observing and working closely with my creative team even though I believe it is not her usual field of interest; showing versatility and an openness to trying out new experiences. As part of her time with us, Sheza met different creative team members and was given an overview of the work that we do as part of The Wall Street Journal's in-house creative agency. During these meetings, she was courteous and attentive - asking many useful questions and showing an interest in gaining a deeper learning of the different aspects of our business. She was also set a D&AD design brief to tackle, which she undertook with great care and curiosity; as well as a genuine interest in coming up with a great design solution and presentation in the limited time she was given to work on the project.

With her mature attitude, her friendly demeanor and hunger to learn at every opportunity - Sheza made a great impression on everyone on my team that she met with. She made the most of the opportunities to learn that she was given in her week at the company and as a high performing student with 10 9s (A Stars) predicted and one 8 (A Star), I think that she would make a great, ambitious and successful addition to your sixth form college.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincere Regards,

Irmak Nur Sunal Lutkin
Design Director, The Trust
WSJ Barrons Group

irmak.sunal@wsjbarrons.com
0782 568 0970
The News Building
1 London Bridge Street, SE1 9GF
London

Sixth Form Induction Week 2020

Sixth Form held our inaugural Sixth Form Induction Week for Year 11 students at Bentley Wood from 13th-17th July. It was a great privilege to welcome our Year 11 students back for an exciting week of Sixth Form induction lessons and preview of Sixth Form lifestyle of our students. The students attended one 2.5 hour session for each of their chosen Sixth Form subjects across the week.

It was brilliant to see students so enthused about their learning and engaging with challenging A Level material. The content of lessons ranged from studying Superpowers in Geography to debating the removal of statues following the Black Lives Matter movement in History. The week was very well attended and it was lovely to see students catching up with friends over the lunch break whom they have not seen in many months. We are very much looking forward to seeing year 11 students again on Results Day and to welcoming them into our Sixth Form in September!

Miss Rothwell
Head of Sixth Form



Lockdown Through The Lens Photography Competition

The Sixth Form students took part in a photography competition where they were asked to enter a single photograph that they think depicted their experience of lockdown. We had several inventive and interesting entries, but the clear winner was Taymiya Almatroudi who submitted this wonderful picture. She accompanied the picture with this description:

"This photo is meant to represent the feeling of being trapped. Many children including my brother (in the picture) are used to roaming freely in the parks, being able to meet with their friends, have fun and go to school. However, during the lockdown, all of these things have been taken away, and the world that children knew had disappeared, causing many children not being able to understand and cope with these circumstances. I have edited the picture to give it a colder tone and feeling, representing the boredom and fatigue the children are facing and the spark and happiness that children usually portray, had disappeared as if someone had snatched it away."

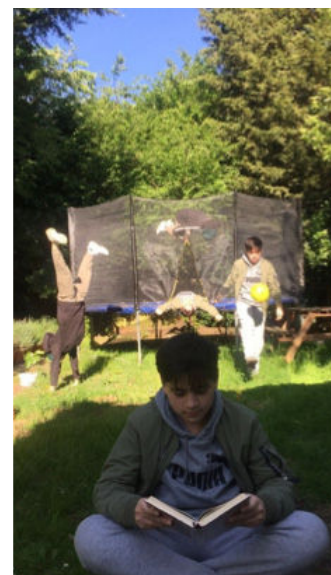
Fatima, our runner up, used some skillful editing to create her picture, which depicts the different activities she and her brother have been enjoying during lockdown to keep them active and physically fit.

Thank you to all students who submitted entries. It was very interesting to share your perspectives of life in lockdown.

Miss Rothwell
Head of Sixth Form



1st Place
Taymiya 12EWaf



2nd Place
Fatimah 12JORw

Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme



A selected group of Year 9 students at Bentley Wood have been participating at St John Pre-GCSE Inspire Programme from September 2019. During the lockdown period this programme has continued through digital media platforms.

The Inspire Programme at St John's College, Oxford encourage all pupils with exceptional promise to aim high, to stretch themselves academically and to be confident in making well-founded applications to a top university like Oxford.

The programme is tailored to each year group and 14 of our Y9 Bentley Wood girls have been thriving this year doing range of activities.

Ms Texiera organises and leads all of the activities. Students have fortnightly after-school clubs across a variety of subjects.

In addition to these after-school clubs, pupils will attend two of six Aspiration Days; these are full-day, interactive weekend workshops which allow pupils to get creative and to explore new subjects in depth across the arts and sciences.

Aspiration Days include trips to the London Science Museum, and workshops led by the Globe Theatre and the UK Parliament Education Team.

Students will also have the opportunity to visit St John's on Study Days and attend a week-long Summer School, where they will be able to explore St John's, experience university taster sessions, visit museums and more.

During the lockdown period students have been entering different competitions.

For the latest competition students looked at how languages and linguistics can help to make a game more immersive, and how games can help us to learn languages.

This class's competitions featured a tricky language puzzle, the question of whether or not we should all speak the same language and more. Bentley Wood student Sarah Kokhar has won the first price for this competition.

For anyone interested you can find out all about about St. John Inspire Programmes on <https://sjcinspire.com/>

Mr Maric, Assistant Head



Sixth formers step up to learn about STEM careers

On 6th July I had the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into STEM careers particularly as a female as it is widely acknowledged that majority of STEM fields are male dominated. According to "Women in STEM" statistics only 19% of women choose an engineering career. Don't be put off at this as the industry is changing and there are loads of opportunities such as this one for you and many others to kickstart your STEM career! We gained this opportunity from one of our own former Bentley Wood former students, who managed to arrange it for us with the help of Mr O'Sullivan!

Amey is a leading global supplier of consulting and infrastructure support services which looks at maximising the performance of the infrastructure we have today and planning for tomorrow. Many projects include working closely with railways, major airports and airlines and monitoring city infrastructure. Throughout the day we had multiple sessions, which were split into two, one of which we were given data and a problem. My group was given the task of "Government legislation is accelerating the shift towards electric vehicles.



How can we make sure the charging infrastructure is in the right place to support this and that it stays in good condition?". We had to devise a suitable long term plan. The other half of the meetings were talking to people who worked at Amey and consulting them about their routes into the job, through university and how they were drawn to it. There were many unconventional routes into Engineering - one individual graduated from university with a Biomedical Science degree and now worked on improving infrastructure that controlled sewage.

What I learnt from this event is that Engineering is not just simply maths (although it plays a huge role). There are different careers and I university is not the be all and end all, there are multiple routes to get into Engineering and at any age. Although I did underestimate the amount of data analysis involved, I've realised that a career in STEM is to be shared, and a lot of communication and networking is required to gain a further insight into it and in order to be successful.



I believe the best way you can get started is by looking online, for webinars like this one, a course online or reading up on the new technological advancements.

Sadia 12CHA

Abirami, Amisha, Sadia, Nitya and Hafsa were given a highly rewarding and valuable opportunity by Mr O'Sullivan to take part in a virtual work shadowing day hosted by Amey Strategic Consulting for students aiming for a STEM-related career.

The day consisted of an introductory presentation and then we were then split into groups where we were assigned collaborative activities. My first activity was based on the inspection of vehicles and was centered around data analytics and statistics which involved thinking on our feet, suggesting ideas through carrying out analysis and practice in presenting. Then we were given a networking break where we talked to professionals in STEM careers within the company. I found this hugely useful as these professional gave useful advice for students

aiming for STEM related degrees and careers in engineering. For me, my team mentor was a graduate of biomedical sciences, but had decided to pursue a more industry related career rather than a clinical one which gave me deep insight on the degree and how the skills obtained are applicable for careers in industry and data analytics.

In groups we were then assigned with an activity where we had to use technology to solve a problem in the Highways sector and my group had to consider the implications of a

shift away from public transport due to COVID-19 which for which we had to come up with solutions of how we can check that roads and highway infrastructure are in good condition without physically inspecting them or predict where dangerous failures may occur.

We came up with numerous solutions - one consisting of the creation of an app where road cleaners, the general public could rate the condition of the area and traffic cameras could be synced to observe traffic levels or using drones to observe the road and highway infrastructure.

The afternoon consisted of an interview panel of 3 women in STEM careers: Li-Vern - who had graduated with a Master's in mechanical engineering from Imperial College, Anca - a Principal Consultant working with Amey Strategic Consulting's data science and analytics team and Alex - a chartered engineer working on innovative approaches to managing engineering assets which involved data and technology and a Trustee on the Board of the Women's engineering society. We listened to their experiences and we were given the opportunity to ask questions.

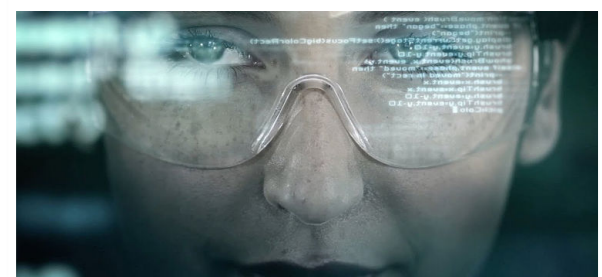
The day had ended with a closing presentation by Dipaly Savadia who gave background information on the activities we had completed, provided resources to help pursue a stem related career/ degree and suggested a variety of organisations which we might want to get involved with.

Overall, the experience was inspiring allowing us to have a form of hands on experience of a career in the industry which combined data analytics and engineering to make intelligent infrastructure real.

I had found the whole experience valuable, as it highlighted how many careers in industry involved a combination of engineering expertise alongside specialism of data and analytics to make informed decisions about asset management. Additionally, from the experience

I recognised the value of coming up with innovative ideas by the collaboration of people with different expertise for data driven problem solving.

Abirami, Year 12



Amey Consulting

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.

Events at Bentley Wood earlier in the year

Congratulations to Bentley Wood for winning 5 national SSAT awards

Bentley Wood High School was found to be among the best performing non-selective secondary schools and Sixth Forms in the country, receiving five awards for being in the top 10% nationally for attainment and for being in DfE Band 1 for student progress at key stage 4. For the fifth consecutive year Bentley Wood received 5 prestigious awards for outstanding key stage 4 and 5 results last year and for the school's commitment to collaboration, analysed by SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers network.

The school is once again recognised for being in the top 10% nationally for student attainment in applied general subject as well as for achieving significantly higher than national average student progress in both applied general and academic subjects at key stage 5.

"Congratulations to Bentley Wood High School on winning five SSAT Educational Outcomes awards."

This success is down to the superb learning and teaching, outstanding support and inspirational leadership of students, staff, parents and governors. You have made a huge difference to the lives of the young people in your school. Thank You"

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT



Students' voluntary service recognised by Duke of Edinburgh Award

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme students have shown amazing motivation and commitment to keep their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections going. Exceptionally this year, students that complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will be awarded the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement.

Well done to all students who participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and in particular to the hours of voluntary service they committed which made such a positive impact on our community. Students this year worked to build resilience and confidence learning vital first aid skills, being reading ambassadors to younger children and assisting vulnerable and elderly people, translating for a charity website and working to support Doctors Without Borders on Missing Maps.

In addition to all of the work they have been doing on their own, our students have been receiving weekly virtual sessions, on a vast range of topics: from appropriate footwear for an expedition, to preparing nutritious and easy to cook food, to learning a language.

They have all shown great commitment and resilience and we could not be more proud of them.

Ms Teixeira



Innovative trips in this school year

Year 8 visited the British Museum for exhibition Troy: Myth and Reality

Year 8 visited 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.

During the Winter term Year 8s studied a different part of Homer's 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 2,500 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 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



Victoria & Albert Museum – Experiencing the Arts

On Thursday 9th January Year 9 visited the V&A museum in Knightsbridge. Students were able to enjoy a range of exhibitions from around the world, including pieces from China, Britain, the Islamic Middle East and Korea.

Students also had the opportunity to see world famous pieces such as Michaelangelo's David and the Three Graces by Antonio Canova. The trip was very successful and has further helped develop our students' cultural capital and appreciation of the Arts. Year 9 students said they found it a very interesting and enjoyable day.

We look forward to our next 'Experiencing the Arts' day later this academic year.

Mr Robinson,
Associate Deputy Headteacher



Latin students trip to Bath

Years 9 and 10 visited the Roman Baths in the glorious countryside of Avon. Year 10 took a tour of the Roman Baths and learnt about their inception and the experience of Roman visitors at the baths.



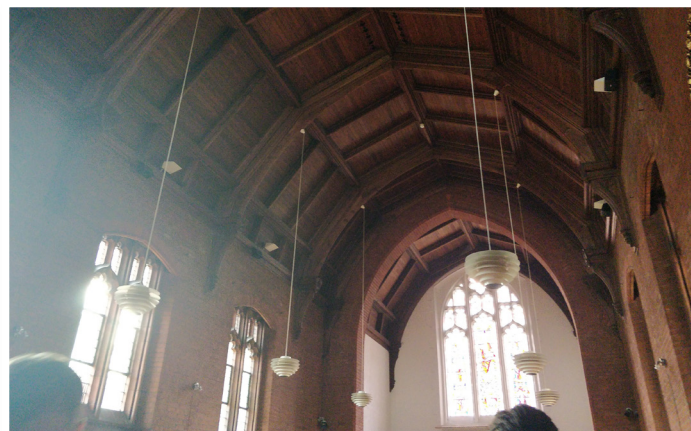
History students trip to Hatfield House

Year 9 and Year 13 took a trip back in time to Hatfield House. The guides were really informative about all aspects of Elizabethan life, including information about the architecture of the building.



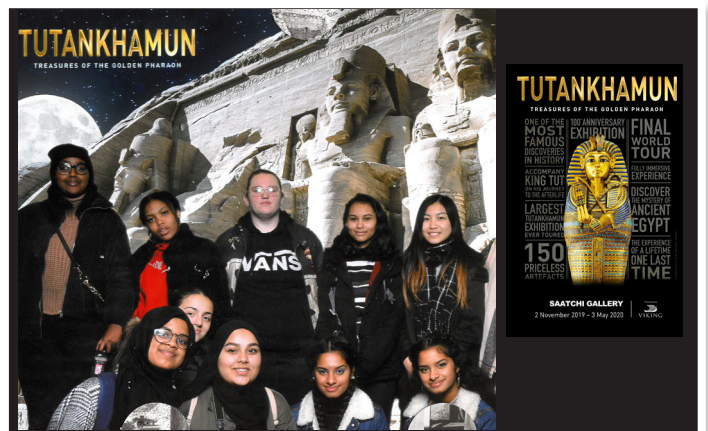
Religious Studies students visit Cambridge

Year 10 and 11 students visited Girton College, Cambridge University for a Philosophy and Theology Taster Day, learning about study at degree level.



Art students visit Tutankhamun Exhibition

A Level students had the once in a lifetime opportunity to experience the wonder and mystery of the objects and artefacts found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun at the Saatchi Gallery.



Year 11 and 12 attend speech at Harrow School

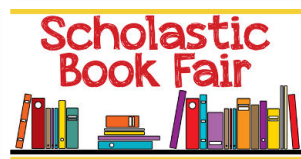
Our students attended a passionate speech by Cherie Blair about gender equality. Students were inspired by this lecture and are more determined in pursuing their career goals.



Art students visit Kew Gardens Year 10 Art and Graphics students visited Kew Gardens to experience and take part in a detailed study of nature and nature inspired architecture, to help with their art projects.



Bentley Wood Year of Reading



Magic and
everything
Hogwarts in the
first Harry Potter
Book Night



Library and literary news this school year

2019 - 2020 was Bentley Wood's Year of Reading. During this time, we focused on the importance of reading and the numerous benefits it has. Reading is incredibly important for your learning development; it improves your memory, vocabulary and capacity for empathy. Reading makes you much more likely to be successful both in life, and in your career. Reading also has a fantastic effect on your mental health - it is very relaxing and fiction is a great means of escapism! These are just a few of the reasons why we wanted to promote reading more than ever.

Throughout the year, several reading incentives, celebrations and competitions took place. The Library organised all its usual events: a visit from poet Adisa, a half-price Scholastic book sale, our monthly Poetry Slam, the sponsored read 'Read for Good', £1 Classics book sales, lunch-time storytelling, and World Book Day celebrations in March!

On top of this, we stepped it up some. The usual lower-school book clubs met in the library, but this year there were new ones too! A Sixth Form book club was run by Mr Maric, in which students in year 12 and 13 discussed notable literary works. A Staff Book Club also proved incredibly popular, with busy teachers proving that everyone needs to

make time to relax with a book.

'Little Libraries' sprouted up around the school, with bookcases appearing in classrooms, Woody's and reception! These shelves meant that anybody could help themselves to a book and place it back when they'd finished - it felt like the library had spread throughout the school.

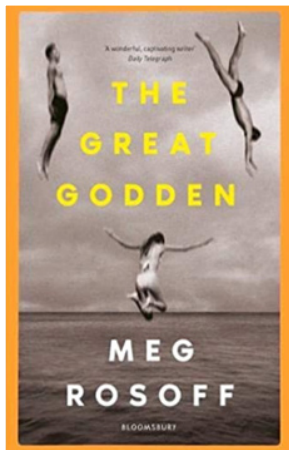
Year 7 Reading Ambassadors were assigned to work with the Library and share the books they loved with their peers. On Friday afternoons students in lower school did 'Drop Everything and Read' to have a bit of time in lessons to read together. Miss Blaimire started a paired reading project with Year 7 and 8 students and Sixth Formers reading together. Mr Nussbaum created a fun reading challenge for Year 8 students, while Miss Mouskis educated students on non-fiction reading.

In February, the library held its first Harry Potter Book Night, which proved incredibly popular. The Library was transformed into a magical Hogwarts-esque land with Harry Potter themed treats and games for all!

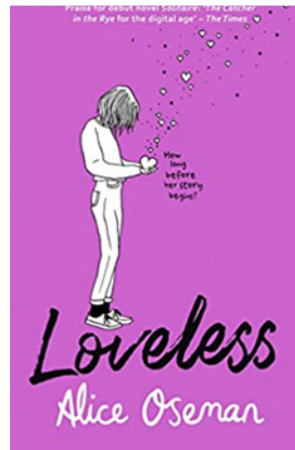
Ms Mortimer, Librarian



Recommended Summer reads



Holiday romance during one perfect dreamy summer when everything changes.



As she starts university is Georgia destined to remain loveless? Or has she been looking for the wrong thing all along?



The fairy tale of Sophie and Agatha comes to a dramatic conclusion in the final book of this bestselling fantasy series



Jamie meets Maya who is having the worst Ramadan ever. Now they have to navigate the cross-cultural crush of the century!



Epic fantasy tale of two warriors who compete in an ancient war between immortals which threatens humanity



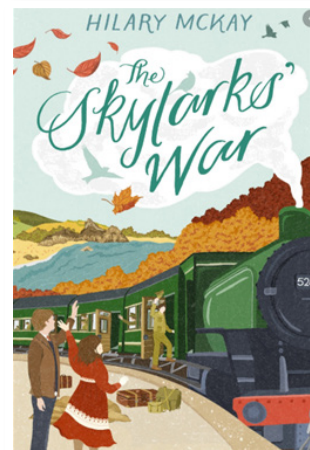
High school drama in a school obsessed by the annual prom!



Lost in the year 2473 in the Wonderscape, an epic in-reality adventure game, where players must play their way home.



Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next.



The Skylark family taking a holiday in Cornwall with their exciting cousin Rupert. But when the First World War begins lives?

Digital technology: past and present

Microsoft hosts a workshop at their flagship store

In November 2019 Year 9 Computer Science students visited Microsoft's brand new flagship store and offices in Oxford Circus with Mr Burnaby and Mr Varley to learn more about what Microsoft's latest advances in technology. The store is located on Oxford Circus and covers 22,000 square feet over three floors. We started the day by travelling to Central London by train, and were given a rousing welcome by the Microsoft staff. After the store opened we had a tour around the shop floor and we explored the different games and devices the store has to offer. This included a McLaren sports car worth £1.6 million which had been kitted out with a driving simulator which a lucky few got the chance to try.

After a short wait our workshop began and the beginning of the day was spent in the Game Lounge where we experienced some of the latest games on offer and we spent our time there competing against each other. Afterwards we returned to the workshop where we were issued with a Surface Pro device which we were tasked with taking pictures and videos all around the store. After a short tutorial we then made a short video of our day at Microsoft, and added special effects to the video with just a few button clicks. At the end of the day we were all given Microsoft bottles and made our way back to school. It was an amazing experience and I am glad to have been chosen to go on the trip.

Sara, 9LSB



Digital Day 2019 – insight into digital careers

The BIMA (British Interactive Media Association) Digital Day 2019 was hosted by a group of 3 amazing and experienced digital staff from the company called Cognifide. Digital Day was a really fun and interesting experience to learn about the different types of digital careers available and how technology and digital networks are increasing rapidly which means that more jobs in these fields will be available when we enter the world of work.

During the day, we took on a BIMA challenge and competed against other groups in our class which was really interesting and inspiring. The BIMA challenges were all about making society aware about a particular societal issue and we had to explore how technology could help provide a solution. The first challenge was inspired by Wimbledon and was to inspire young people to take part in sport with the world's greatest sporting events by Virtual Reality training sessions or activity trackers.

The second challenge was inspired by the Microbit Education Foundation, and tackled the geographical issue of plastic polluting the oceans by designing a robot/app. The last challenge was issued by EPAM which involved inspiring young people to choose a career in digital in the future to change the world through digital networks/ technology.

I really enjoyed Digital Day I loved the way we competed against our enthusiastic classmates which increased the feeling of competitiveness in the classroom and helped us widen our knowledge about the possibilities of future technology. We are also able to learn more about the digital field as a possible future career or degree through these interesting workshops. I look forward to more intriguing Computing/STEM events like this in the future as we are able to learn in a unique and fun environment.

Sohana Year 9



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!

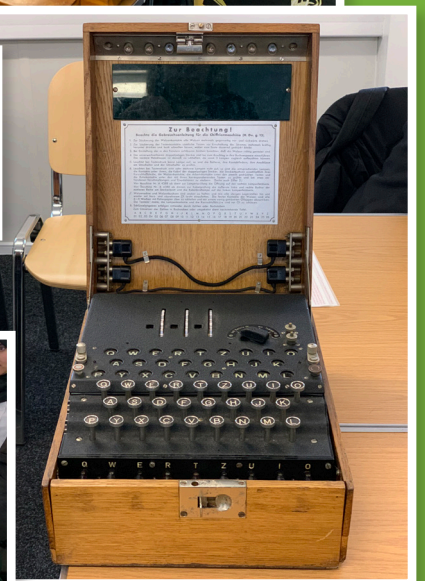
Arathi and Amisha



BLETCHLEYPARK



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



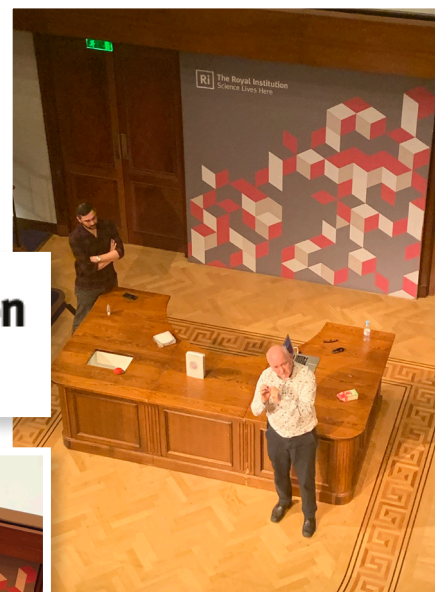
Students were able to see an original Enigma Machine and work in teams to solve coded messages using Enigma software loaded onto ipads!

Science lectures and demonstrations by the Royal Institution

Sixth formers attend lectures in Neural Science and Cosmology

Sixthformers 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"



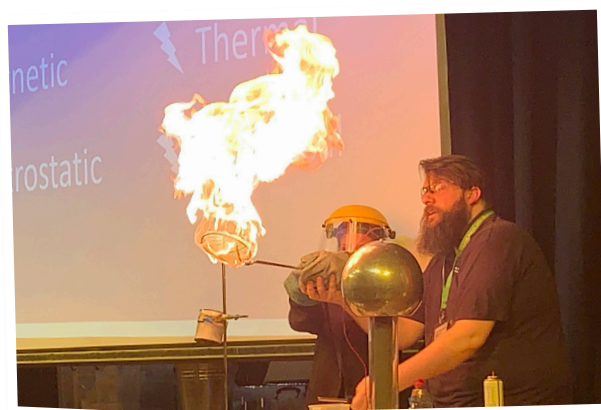
A Level Physics students attend lecture by American Cosmologist Daniel Hooper

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 benefits of our membership of the Mayor's London Scientist Programme, watch this space...

Mr Alderton Assistant Head





Students get involved in “Energy Live” demonstrations

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.



Science Week at Bentley Wood

Science Week: Lunchtime 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



Science Club rat dissection



Lunchtime Science week events
marble challenge

Science Week: Priestmead Primary School

A passionate group of Year 9 and 10 scientists visited Priestmead Primary School to provide primary aged children an opportunity to carry out fun and exciting science experiments during Science Week.

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 a great 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



Year 7 and 8 take part in workshops organised by the Linnean Society

On 30th January, we were invited to participate in an amazing Science Workshop ran by the Linnean Society. Miss Caherly ran a poster competition across Year 7 and Year 8 to pick the lucky students to take part. We really enjoyed this workshop as it increased our knowledge on unsung female scientists. We learnt about many different amazing women from different parts of the world from different eras and with different interests.

During this workshop, we were asked to create a print image of our chosen scientist by cutting out their facial features and then assembling the picture together. This was a really exciting experience as we had never done print artwork before. When we finished assembling, we covered the print with paint and then we pressed it onto paper to reveal our final product. We were lucky to be able to participate in this wonderful event.

After reading about the scientists, we discussed about why they were not known by others, and it was very inspiring to hear how some women scientists overcame many issues in their lives. We really learned a lot and it made us realise how much we can achieve in the future.

By Zuha and Meelan 8CCH



Year 8 students win first place in Faraday Challenge

December 2019, Year 8 students were able to participate in a science educational challenge, the Faraday Challenge. This is run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology and the Jack Petchey Foundation.

This challenge made us think creatively and explore more about engineering. We were competing with Hatch End and Whitmore to create a sustainable and energy efficient prototype to help aid workers and the people in need. We were in charge in designating team roles and then bought our product to life. We then presented our solutions to the judge where an award would be given for the best prototype.

Team 3 of Bentley wood won the award for our prototype of a parachute that would aid people stranded in open waters which also contained care packages that would contain essentials for those stranded. We were all very proud when we were crowned the winners! I believe this project strengthened our creativity, leadership and teamwork skills. Facing a variety of challenges also meant we had to be resilient. We would like to thank Mrs Dacosta for making this day fun and an exciting opportunity for all the students that took part in this fantastic workshop.

Baveena, 8SZa



Student geographers enjoy fieldwork trips and sustainability events

A Level Geography field trip to Epping Forest

Year 13 Geography students visited Epping Forest in November 2019 as part of their studies and enjoyed a fascinating day developing their knowledge about the carbon and water cycle. They spent the morning measuring the amount of carbon dioxide stored in the trees within Epping Forest, helping them understand the value trees have on our planet. Epping Forest is considered to be one of the most important areas of ancient woodland in Europe and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation by the UK government. They then spent the afternoon exploring how the geology of Epping Forest impacts the water cycle and surroundings. Despite the cold, the girls were lucky to go in Autumn to see the beautiful colours of autumn spread across Epping Forest. It was a very productive and enjoyable day.

Ms Haria



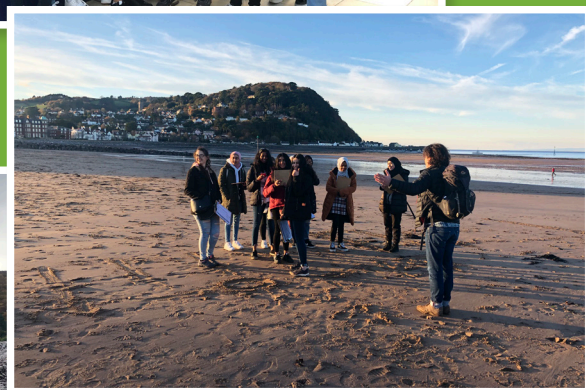
AS Level Geography field trip to Somerset

Year 12 AS Level Geography students visited Nettlecombe, Somerset on 18th November 2019 for two days as part of their physical geography fieldwork. Here is Batool explaining her experience of the trip.

Nettlecombe in Somerset, is an area that is known for its beaches and scenic views, both of which greatly aided our fieldwork investigation.

We visited the area to conduct data collection methods to prove or disprove our hypotheses; 'To what extent are the coastal management strategies in Minehead effective?' and 'how do natural processes such as long-shore drift affect coastal morphology (shape of the coast)?'.

Batool, Year 12



Geography ambassadors broadcast on Sky TV

In January, Geography Ambassadors visited Sky Studios in London in order to record their own news report based on the campaign set up by Sky: 'Sky Ocean Rescue'. The main aim of Sky's campaign is to reduce the use of single use plastics that end up in oceans, due to their inability to biodegrade. Prior to the trip we had two sessions where we were split into 4 studio groups each with our own roles to fulfil on the day of the trip.

Upon arriving, we got to see where all of Sky's main work took place, including their live news studio. We were then split into our four studio groups where each group filmed their own 90 second segment of the news report, which was based on our excessive plastic use.

After this enlightening experience, we were then introduced into different aspects of Sky's innovations including the foundation of the new sport, Drone Racing, as well as the idea of replacing single use plastic using seaweed.

The entire experience we had filming and putting together this report was wonderful. In addition, we were also allowed an insight into how reports are put together as we worked collaboratively behind the scenes to produce a coherent news report. The day spent at Sky studios was certainly rewarding; it would definitely be something that I would recommend someone to partake in. It was an extremely enriching day.

Tinhinan, Year 11

Year 8 interact with rainforest animals with Zoolab

Year 8s started 2020 off with a great insight into the natural world when they experienced Zoolab where they met and interacted with a variety of animals as part of their Ecosystems and Rainforests unit of learning in Geography. The speakers educated them about the rainforest environment and how the animals had adapted to it.

The students were lucky enough to interact with cornsnakes, giant African snails, Australian tree frogs, tarantulas, geckos, crickets and millipedes.

The girls were brave and some even held the animals in their hands and some even overcame their fears! The Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed their time with Zoolab and have been using the information learned throughout the unit.

Ms Haria

sky ocean rescue



Students filming their own 90 second segment of the news report



Language theatre plays and activities

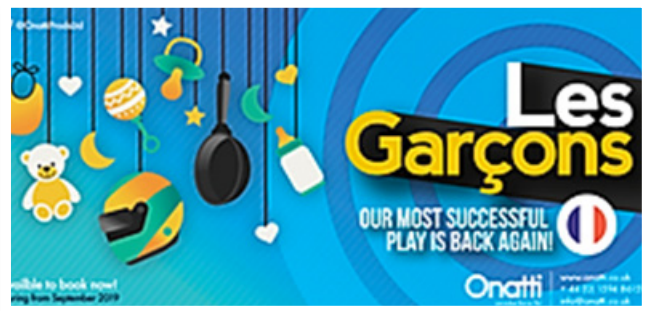
Visiting language theatre performances

Over the past few years we have enjoyed fantastic foreign language performances at Bentley Wood thanks to Onatti Productions, a theatre company who specialises in producing plays in foreign languages for secondary language learners. Their scripts contain vocabulary and phrases which students have come across in their language studies. The actors are native speakers who have come to the UK to perform for the students. Last year we had record numbers of attendance and the students enjoyed watching the plays while using their language skills.

French play - Les Garçons 21st November

So far this year students enjoyed a the hilarious French play called Les Garçons which was a sold out performance. The story is about Monsieur et Madame Dulin who were going to a fancy dress party and Natalie who was coming to babysit. Natalie's quiet evening with baby Bruno was interrupted by her ex-boyfriend Tristan, who wanted to get back together with her. Reluctantly she let him stay and help babysit. Natalie and Tristan argued and she stormed out leaving Tristan to look after the baby - then the Dulin's returned!

Ms Ortega



French Play - Les Garçons

Das Schlimmste Hotel (The Worst Hotel)

On Monday 16 March, years 7 to 11 enjoyed a play in German by a visiting 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 students were invited up on stage to play a role and in particular well done to Heena in Year 10 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. Then, another guest arrives. Then another one! But who is who?

It was a great performance and the players were warmly welcomed. The girls benefited 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 Play - Das Schlimmste Hotel

Vive La Francophonie!

Every year on 20 March, French-speaking countries around the world celebrate Francophonie through cultural events honouring the French language in fields such as art, drama, fashion and film. In the days before lockdown students in years 7-10 celebrated a week of 'La Francophonie' creating hand-decorated t-shirts promoting French language and culture - in the style of the very best haute couture! Students wore their amazing t-shirts during the week to promote the French language and included fashion shows and designing calligrams. A big thank you, girls from the French Department.

Miss Sambo

On 20 March 2020, French people celebrate Francophonie - 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 quiz which was about countries that speak French.

Amaal 10HIL

Our Year 8 class celebrated 'La Francophonie' on Thursday 19th of 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 yesterday, 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.

Jessyca 8RGR



Spanish play

As part of our study of a Spanish language literary work during our A Level Spanish course, Year 13 students attended a production in Spanish at the Cervantes Theatre in London of La Casa de Bernarda Alba. Directed by Jorge de Juan, a renowned Spanish producer, director, actor and co-founder of the Spanish Theatre Company (London) and Artistic Director of The Cervantes Theatre. The House of Bernarda Alba explores themes of repression, passion and conformity through the depiction of a matriarch's domination of her five daughters. Described by the author as "a drama of women in the villages of Spain", the play provided an excellent insight to our students studies.

Ms Ortega



German film study

Years 8 and 9 language students took part in a KS3 German Film Study Day at the British Film Institute at Southbank. I really enjoyed the German study day on Thursday 6th February at the BFI Southbank. It was very pleasant and there were lots of different activities. If I had the opportunity to go again, I definitely would do so, as it was really informative and entertaining. I learnt a lot on this study day and found it very useful. My favourite activity was watching a film. We saw the film called Berlin 36. The genre was a bit sad, but amusing and quite unusual. I loved the film because it was not too long and exciting. All in all I found the day really enjoyable.

Dana 9SH



Students compete in Sports Week challenges and PGL events

Year 7 and 8 take part in indoor athletics competition

Both Year 7 and Year 8 girls were part of a great indoor athletics competition at Park High with great competition versus others school in the Borough.

A few schools included were Whitmore, Cannons, Nower Hill and Harrow High. Year 7 girls attended the event on the 29th January and Year 8 girls competed on the 6th February.

There were two different parts to the competition; jumping and throwing events and then ended with the running events. The first half the students took part in the long jump, triple jump, speed bounce and vertical jumps and even shot put. Then to end, the girls each took part in a running event varying from 2 laps to 6 laps and also included a four person relay. It was fantastic to see all students competing to the best of their ability. Well done to all the girls that participated and competed in a wonderful manner!

Ms Sheelan



Year 7 Netball fixtures

The Year 7 netball team have been battling against the other schools in the North of the borough in the Harrow netball league. With a clean sheet after 3 matches, and a conceded match against Sacred Heart, they were defeated in their final match and therefore came 2nd in the first round.

I am extremely proud of their sportsmanship, quality of play and commitment throughout all of the matches. They go on to the Borough Semi finals where they will play the winners of the South of the borough and are still in with a good chance of winning the entire league. We wish them the best of luck!

Ms Lark



Year 7 netball teams

Tiba GS/GA
Sarah GS/GA
Maria WA
Naomi C
Maya WA/WD
Diema GD
Sayuri GK/WD
Fatemeh GK

Borough results

BW - Whitefriars (10-3)
BW - Canons (3-0)
BW - Park High (7-3)
BW - Sacred Heart
(conceded BW win)
BW - Avanti House (11-19)



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.

A special mention to Mya who sustained an injury after the first match for her resilience across throughout the weekend, and to Nadine 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

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

Amazing school production Annie



The sun came out at Bentley Wood's annual musical drama – Annie!

Students worked tirelessly preparing for Bentley Wood's annual musical production of Annie. Students produced everything – from putting together a huge wardrobe of costumes, painting and creating sets, learning and practising together technical sound and lighting – as well as performing! The production offered fantastic opportunities for students to show their skills not only in acting and music but to take part in the production teams – learning and sharing new skills, helping to direct and organise the production and choir as well as having fun learning the skills of the musical drama highlight of the year. The whole cast and production staff were busy into the twilight hours many evenings after school to polish the performance to perfection! Students eagerly anticipated performances – it was tremendous fun for all!

Well done to all our actors, student production teams and staff for a fantastic performance! We look forward to news of auditions for next year's performance.

Ms Fletcher





Annie JR. ...

With equal measures of pluck and positivity, little orphan Annie charms everyone's hearts despite a next-to-nothing start in 1930s New York City. Annie is determined to find the parents who abandoned her years ago on the doorstep of an orphanage run by the cruel Miss Hannigan.

Annie jr.

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Sixth Form students review referendum, and elections in a changing world

Politics students discuss Brexit with David Dimbleby for the BBC in Brussels

The Politics trip to Brussels was truly a memorable one. We learnt a great deal about the European Union while also getting an opportunity to experience the city.

On our first full day we visited the European Parliament, the European Council and the Commission. A civil servant talked to us about the structure of the European Union in the busy environment of Brussels. All the European leaders were in town to discuss Brexit! We learned that different sectors of the Commission and European Parliament create a complex system, for example in meetings all languages are translated so everybody can understand everyone else. We also learnt how the EU Commission is legislative and proposes new laws.

We got an opportunity to see where MEPs debate and discuss laws and problems within Europe. Brexit was a hot topic of discussion in which we spoke about some EU myths that were used by the Leave campaign. We were fortunate to have some of our questions answered including the opinions of what they thought about Brexit.

Once we were taught how the EU Parliament was set up, we then were taught about what the Union actually does. One of the programs they spoke about was the ERASMUS programme which meant that EU students could travel abroad to study. The EU also contributes to making sure that refugees can be distributed evenly amongst EU countries and some of the problems caused by immigration. It was interesting to really learn how the EU works specifically as it's rarely something people expand on or teach in schools.

Then came the highlight of the trip. We were interviewed by David Dimbleby for Panorama! It was great to see ourselves on television talking Brexit, an experience we will never forget!

That night, after our brush with fame, we went bowling. Mr Johnschwager lost and was not very happy about it.

Before we left the next day we went sightseeing. We saw the Manneken Pis (the best-known symbol of the people of Brussels which has a weird and wonderful history to it) and the Grand Square. We all really enjoyed our trip to Brussels, it was full of lots of excitement and fun. It was an amazing trip and one I will remember for a really long time.

Mr Johnschwager



Sixth Form political campaign follows the General Election – with interesting results...

Year 12 Bentley Wood Politics students organised a mock election to take place on the same day of the General Election. Each year group was allocated a party and a team was put together to campaign.

After a hard fought election campaign the results were in:

1st! **Labour** – 66 % - 594 votes

2nd! **Greens** – 14% - 125 votes

3rd! **Conservatives** – 8%- 73 votes

4th! **Brexit Party** – 8% - 71 votes

5th! **Liberal Democrats** – 4% - 34 votes

A total of 898 girls voted in the election. That is 73% of the school compared to 68 per cent nationally! The candidates and their teams are to be congratulated for their creativity and eloquence in their campaigning. The school came alive, students worked in teams to produce campaign literature and displays and debated key points in the corridors over lunchtime. It was great to hear students discussing politics in such a polite and positive way, better than some of our politicians. The overall winner of Best Campaign went to the Year 7 team who represented the Green Party. They made up shirts, did great speeches, had the best displays and even roped in teachers to the cause. Well done Shiffa and her team!



Mr Johnschwager

Sixth Form students discuss the EU Withdrawal Bill with former PM, Theresa May

On 21st January, only 10 days prior to Britain leaving the EU, Sixth Form politics students visited the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court. We started with a guided tour through the House of Commons where we experienced the atmosphere of Boris Johnson's daily life. As we were waiting to visit the House of Lords we were surprised to see former Prime Minister, Theresa May who was introduced to us by our politics teacher, Mr Johnschwager and we were able to ask her about her opinions on the EU Withdrawal Bill that was being debated in the House of Lords. She was very friendly and welcomed our comments and questions.

Fortunately, we were lucky enough to watch a live debate in the House of Lords where they were discussing the EU bill. After lunch, we made our way to the Supreme Court where we received a tour and found out about the trial process before sitting in

on a trial between Sainsbury's and Visa. Overall, it was a great experience that enriched our political knowledge.

Aiza and Preena, Year 12



Information and advice for students and parents

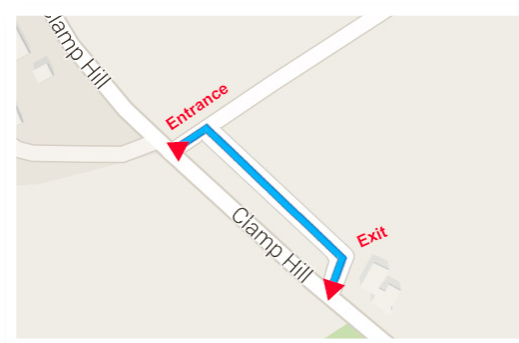
Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

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.



Fresh new look to student facilities

Following student feedback the recent school closure to most students gave the school the opportunity to review and improve the student WC facilities at Bentley Wood which is sure to meet everyone's approval.

Student toilets on the ground floor have been totally replaced and more work is planned for the summer break giving the start of the Autumn term a fresh start.



Unifrog

Unifrog is an online platform where students can create a lasting profile of all the activities and skills they have gained throughout school. Using the programme, they can research suitable careers and university courses as well as make a CV and UCAS Personal Statement.

Students can research a wide range of apprenticeships. Unifrog also includes university reading lists and links to MOOCs, which are online learning courses that can improve students' knowledge in certain areas. Sixth Form students have been creating their university applications on UniFrog for several years now.

We hope soon that the whole school will be able to log on and record all the wonderful things they are doing and the skills that they are gaining along the way.

Ms Rothwell



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 below 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 rollout period is currently scheduled to end on 31st March 2022.

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:

Parent Voice

Bentley Wood's PTA with a difference

We would like to introduce ourselves as the Parent Voice group at Bentley Wood. We are a friendly proactive group who support the school. We meet once every half-term, approximately six times a year with Dr Howkins and Ms Ferrer.

We have agreed that we will represent parents/families and we will raise funds for the school. This will benefit all of our daughters. To raise funds we sell refreshments at school events, for example concerts and drama productions.

Please come and join us from
7.00pm-8.00pm on the dates below:

14th	October	2020
25th	November	2020
27th	January	2021
31st	March	2021
9th	June	2021
7th	July	2021

The group is open to all parents. If you wish to join please contact Ms Howkins the Headteacher

Email: JHowkins@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

Phone: 0208 954 3623



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.

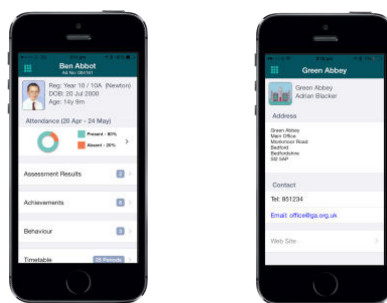
More information on registering can be found at <http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/account-registration/>

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 **Microsoft Teams**.

Each day students find their schedule of work posted. Teachers will upload all instructions through this portal. Students log in each morning, where they 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