



# Bentley Wood High School

## October Newsletter 2020



### Heads of Year welcome back their year group

'I would like to say a massive thank you for your support with the first weeks of your daughter's time at Bentley Wood. The year group have settled in so well, immediately taking in their stride our new systems and procedures designed to keep us all safe inside and outside of school. All Year 7 students have now experienced a wonderful variety of different lessons and experiences since the beginning of term, as can be seen in our Year 7 September newsletter.

They have become trained in using Microsoft Teams and are using this wonderfully at home to further support their learning. I am so proud of the way they have become part of our Bentley Wood family so quickly. I cannot wait to see what this year brings for them.'

**Ms Osborn, Head of Year 7**

Year 8, it has been absolutely wonderful to see you all return to school. We are so impressed at how you have immersed yourselves in your lessons. Your teachers have been informing us about all the great work you have been doing in your lessons.

Well done for following the new guidance so well and adapting to this with ease. What's even more exciting this year is that you are now in Year 8, which means you are role models to our Year 7 students who have joined us this year.

Please do continue to ensure they are settled at Bentley Wood and support them where possible. I look forward to all the new discoveries we will make this year and celebrating your amazing achievements.

**Mrs Valambhia and Mrs Dacosta, Head of Year 8**







# Message from the headteacher

Dear Parent /Carers

We are extremely proud of the girls and I am sure you agree, they are great. All of the girls have returned to school with such a positive attitude to learning. They have shown their appreciation of being back in school with their teachers and support staff. The appreciation is mutual. All of our staff have been saying how great it is to be back face to face with the girls.

We welcome our new Year 7 parents and carers to our newsletter. You will see that Year 7 feature across the pages. They are a delightful year group who are already very much part of our Bentley Wood family. Do see all of the different activities that Year 7 have been involved with in the following pages.

Students and staff across the school have been participating in Black History Month. The student Human Rights Ambassadors put together excellent 'Wise Thoughts' and a display to promote Black History in Woodys. Students have been learning about black history in many different ways across the curriculum and will be continuing to do throughout the year.

Our year of reading is continuing throughout 2020/21. The girls do visit the library on a rota basis during break and lunch. They really enjoy their time and are borrowing lots of books. Every Friday during registration the girls read their own novel for twenty minutes. They also do lots of reading throughout the day during their different lessons. We expect all students to read every day at home. 6th Form students, in particular, will be reading extensively around the subjects they are studying.

Lunchtime and after school clubs have started for some year groups. With all of the changes to systems and routines and having to keep to bubbles we decided to start these off gradually. More clubs and enrichment will be taking place after half term.

Students and staff continue to use Teams for homework activities, sharing resources and uploading assignments. There is also a lot of communication that takes place between students and staff. If we have to send students home to isolate we also facilitate live teaching. Thank you to all of you who have given us a lot of positive feedback, it is appreciated. We really love using Teams and think it has been a great development. We are continuing to develop our expertise in using Teams even further.

As parents/carers you should all be very proud of your daughters. They have embraced our health and safety procedures well and have been so respectful to their teachers and support staff. We have also noticed how well they are interacting with each other and overall meeting our expectation to be kind. We know this reflects how you are bringing them up to be respectful. Of course, we also set the same expectations. We have enjoyed seeing you in our Virtual Parents meetings but do miss seeing you face to face. Thank you for the tremendous support you give to us, we highly value our partnership with you.

I hope you and your family keep well and stay safe. I hope you enjoy some time together during the half term break.

With my very best wishes

Dr Janice Howkins

Head teacher

# Heads of Year welcome to students

Hello Year 9, It has been fantastic to see you all return to our physical school after months of online learning - you have come back with such maturity, determination and height (when did you all get taller than me!!).

I am extremely proud of the excellent start you are making on your GCSE studies. It is always a difficult step to take from KS3 learning into the level of study that your GCSE courses demand - let alone doing this in the middle of a global pandemic where your school has lots of new systems in place to keep people safe .

The resilience you are all showing is outstanding and you are giving it your best effort - I can't ask for more than that. It's so inspirational to see so many of you engaging in discussions at school about the social changes that are ongoing in our world today. I have every confidence that the students in Year 9 will be the ones that are successful in bringing about a better future for us all. Keep up the good work

## Ms Bannon, Head of Year 9

Welcome back Year 10s! It has been so wonderful having you back on site with us. We have missed seeing you all in our physical lessons and having a real conversation! You worked really hard during lockdown and showed us how resilient, determined and adaptable you can be. You taught yourselves new ways to learn, developed new skills and supported each other in many ways.

I have been delighted to hear how many of you were eager to return to school and how much you have embraced the value of your education. We have an exciting year ahead, with brand new projects including work experience. We prove everyday that we are a tremendous team. Onwards and upwards!

## Ms Manzi Head of Year 10

# Student leadership

*"Being a senior prefect is incredibly rewarding and a lot of responsibility comes with it. Honestly, I do not regret choosing to become a Senior Prefect; it was one of the best decisions I have made in Bentley Wood.*

*It feels amazing to be a part of such an integrated and open team, where you don't feel pressured and you are free to openly express your viewpoints and contribute to our school community.*

*Our visions involve creating an environment where we are all content, prosperous and successful individuals and I really value that we are already making significant progress towards this goal, including the Buddy system, embracing culture of our community and contributing to the Student Newsletter team.*

*During the recent lockdown we we worked with the Sixth Form Head Girl team, attending Teams meetings and organising our own meetings on Zoom and being increasingly interdependent in order to help us accomplish our goals. I am currently part of the school newsletter*

Hello my babies! I am still struggling to believe that you are in Year 11! You have taken to the challenges of Year 11 with such resilience and courage, even more admirable in these difficult times.

You all worked so hard in our Virtual School, and this has been shown by your dedication to your studies as you returned to physical school in September. You hit the ground running with your exams - I absolutely loved seeing you all studying together on the field at break and lunchtimes!

Not only that, but you have already started your prefect duties - we had over a third of the year group apply to be prefects this year, what a number! Lead by an outstanding Senior Prefect Team and two wonderful Deputy Head Girls, I am so impressed with how willing you are to give back to the wider school community.

You know how much I think of you all - I am absolutely confident that together with your fabulous tutors, we can get through this year just like we have all other years - more confident, more resilient, more ready for the world out there.

The question is, will the world be ready for this amazing bunch of young women??? Because I KNOW you are all going to change the world. Just remember my favourite quote - Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud, and trust me, you will change the world.

## Mrs Burrridge, Head of Year 11



*team as a result of my passion for writing and I enjoy the communication and organisation within our team! I await to see the wonderful things that our team will achieve."*

## Maria Year 11

# GCSE Results 2020



## Fantastic GCSE results in 2020

Bentley Wood High School are celebrating again with some exceptional GCSE results



**Vaheni**

10 x Grade 9  
1 x Grade 8



**Nabihah**

10 x Grade 9  
1 x Grade 8



**Zunairah**

10 x Grade 9  
1 x Grade 8

Once again our girls have gained excellent GCSE exam results.  
We are delighted that they have really achieved their best.  
Congratulations to all of our girls for their impressive achievement.  
We look forward to you joining our Sixth Form.

**Dr Janice Howkins Headteacher**

## GCSE results in 2020

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

%	GCSEs	grades
37	All results	9-7
83	English and mathematics	9-4
62	English and mathematics	9-5

Year 13 students are celebrating once again an excellent set of A level results with **66.7% A\*-B grades**, continuing a trend of **outstanding A-level outcomes**. We are delighted that many of our girls have been accepted into a wide range of prestigious universities including, Cambridge, Warwick, Birmingham, Loughborough, UCL, Kings College London and Queen Mary to study their first-choice courses including Economics, Mechanical Engineering and Medicine.

We are proud of their achievements and wish them and their families continuing success on their journeys.



# A Level Results 2020



**Bentley Wood Sixth Form are celebrating again**  
the continued success of Year 13 results.  
Students achieved **38% A\*-A** and **67% A\*-B**  
or equivalent at this level.



**Aayushi**

A\* Computer Science  
A\* Further Mathematics  
A\* Mathematics  
A\* Physics  
Studying Engineering at  
Cambridge University



**Shree**

A English Literature  
A Economics  
A History  
Studying Law at Warwick  
University



**Anisa**

A Biology  
A Chemistry  
A Mathematics  
Studying Medicine at  
Kings College London

All students are going on to further study at a wide range of  
prestigious institutions, including: Cambridge, UCL, LSE, Warwick,  
Cardiff, Birmingham and Loughborough University

**Dr Janice Howkins Headteacher**

Our sincere thanks go out to all staff, parents / carers  
and governors for supporting the girls throughout  
their studies. Congratulations to all the girls on their  
achievements.

## A Level results in 2020

	2020 A2 Results	2019 A2 Results	2018 A2 Results
A*-B	66.7%	54.7%	53.3%
A*-C	93.7%	53.3%	87.9%



# Bentley Wood Year of Reading

## Activities during Bentley Wood Year of Reading inspire students to pick up a book

In 2020 Bentley Wood celebrated our Year of Reading! with a calendar of events and activities inspiring students to pick up a book.

We had pop-up bookcases around the school, and more literary events including author visits, Poetry Slams and competitions as well as an unforgettable Harry Potter Book Night complete with all the magic of Hogwarts!

We've decided to continue the Year of Reading into 2021! Although it might look a little different, we're still going to make it great, so watch this space.

The extension of our reading celebration is particularly fantastic news for our Year 7s, who are already very keen library users. Our new students have learned about the importance of reading in their library induction sessions! The Year 7 Reading Challenge is in full swing. The first of several themed challenges, this one focuses on books that will make you laugh! This comedy challenge is centred around a tailored reading list from the library, full of exciting new books alongside a couple of classics.

We also held a Short Story Competition for Year 7 students. We had some great entries and I'm pleased to announce that the winner will be rewarded with a book token as well as a brand new book from us.

Our virtual libraries are going to continue this year. New students have been given access, and new titles are being added, to top up our collection. All the login information is on the BW Library Teams, and if anybody has any questions, come and speak to the librarian.

In times when we all have to distance from each other, books are a great way of bringing people together. That's why we're starting Book Clubs on Teams! More information coming soon. We've got lots of fantastic new books in the library - we're making up for lost time and ordering all of the books that were published during lockdown.

We've also got a brand new display in the library celebrating all the fantastic black authors who are writing at the moment. Come and check it out!

Ms Mortimer

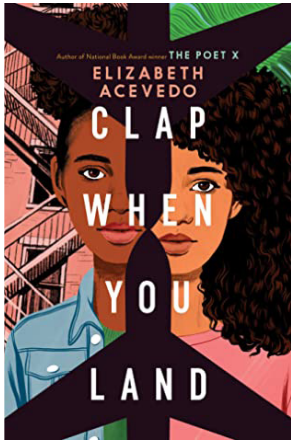


Library promotes Black authors in Black History Month





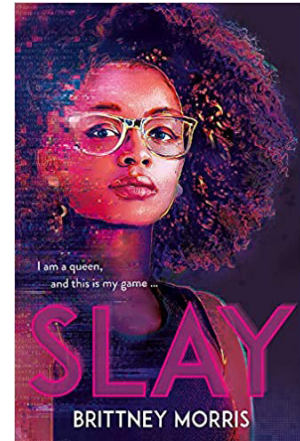
## Recommended Autumn reads 2020



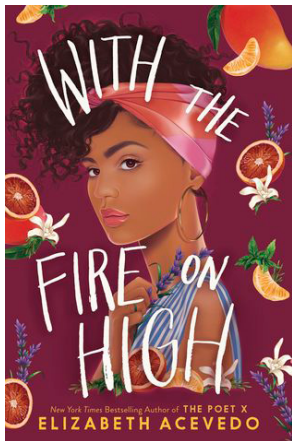
**Clap When You Land,** Elizabeth Acevedo An exploration of grief, love and family



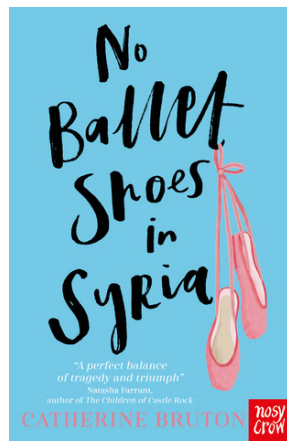
**The Battle for Perfect,** Helen Duggan The Last book of the 'Place Called Perfect' series is here!



**Slay,** Brittney Morris 'We are different ages, genders and traditions ... but tonight we all SLAY' Black Panther meets Ready Player One.



**With the Fire on High,** Elizabeth Acevedo A dazzling novel in prose about a girl with talent, pride, and a drive to feed the soul that keeps her fire burning bright.



**No Ballet Shoes in Syria,** Catherin Bruton Aya is a Syrian asylum seeker, looking after her mother and baby brother in Manchester she is also a talented ballet dancer.



**A Phoenix First Must Burn,** Patrice Caldwell Sixteen tales by bestselling and award-winning authors that explore the Black experience through fantasy, science fiction, and magic



**The Black Flamingo,** Dean Atta A fierce coming-of-age verse novel about identity and the power of drag, from acclaimed poet and performer Dean Atta



**The Kingdom of Back,** Marie Lu From #1 New York Times bestselling author Marie Lu comes a historical YA fantasy about a musical prodigy.



**The Boy Who Steals Houses,** C.G. Drews Can two broken boys find their perfect home? Both heartbreaking and heartwarming, this is a gorgeously told, powerful story



# Poetry and sustainability in a changing world

## Year 7 poetry Competition

Back when our new Year 7s were still in their transition Summer between Year 6 and Year 7, we held their first Bentley Wood competition.

Students were asked to write a poem about how they felt about starting high school. We had so many fantastic entries – deciding on a winner was a challenge! A lot of students spoke about similar feelings in their poems - a mixture of nerves and excitement about the next chapter in their lives. From seeing how well our Year 7s have settled in, it seems that the excitement has taken over from the nerves.

Congratulations to our winners.

Ms Mortimer

### *It's Time For a New Start*

*The first day of High School,  
can be really hard.  
Part of you feels excited,  
part of you feels sad.  
The joy of making new friends  
and the friendships you left behind  
just tears you up inside.  
It's time to step into a new atmosphere  
and put behind all of your fears.  
The corridors are packed with confused people all around  
As the bell goes it makes an ear-piercing sound.  
Pupils rushing around everywhere,  
and the new ones just stand and stare.  
Registration will begin, lessons will go one by one  
and by the time you know it,  
Play time will have already begun.  
Eating with new faces, could feel really strange,  
it will take you a lot of time for things to change.  
After lunchtime has come to an end  
You might have already found a new friend.  
The first day of High School  
can be really hard  
It's sadly time to end the day  
and time to put everything away.*

Ariana Year 7

Ariana's Poem

### Moving to year seven

Moving to year 7,  
A new chapter begun.  
Like opening a storybook,  
That sounds like fun.

Leaving my primary school,  
As I walked through those gates.  
Feeling sad but excited,  
As a new adventure awaits.

I'm sad to be leaving my friends,  
But they'll always be in my heart.  
Forever and beyond,  
We will never be apart.

Preparing for a new start,  
With my school bag ready to go.  
Filled with books and stationary,  
Dressed in my uniform from head to toe.

I've got butterflies in my tummy,  
Not knowing what to expect.  
But I've got my older sister,  
Whose there to protect.

Feelings, friends and more,  
Clutter up my mind.  
But I know that I'll settle in straight away,  
With lovely memories left behind.

Jayna's Poem



Congratulation to the winners of the  
Year 6 Transition to Year 7  
Poetry Competition  
Jayna 7JCT and Ariana 7SG





# Year 10 student receives Blue Peter Badge for resourceful and eco-friendly project

We are very proud to say that Neha in Year 10 was rewarded with a Blue Peter badge over lockdown.

Neha showed the world how eco-friendly she could be by planting orange and lemon seeds in egg shells, where she then reused plastic packaging to support them. She planted tomatoes which grew very well over lockdown and summer, and showed her excellent recycling skills by planting avocados into pots and tins.

Neha is an inspirational, eco-friendly student. We hope this encourages other students at Bentley Wood to be creative and have a go at planting their own fruits and vegetables using recycled scraps and materials. Well done, Neha!

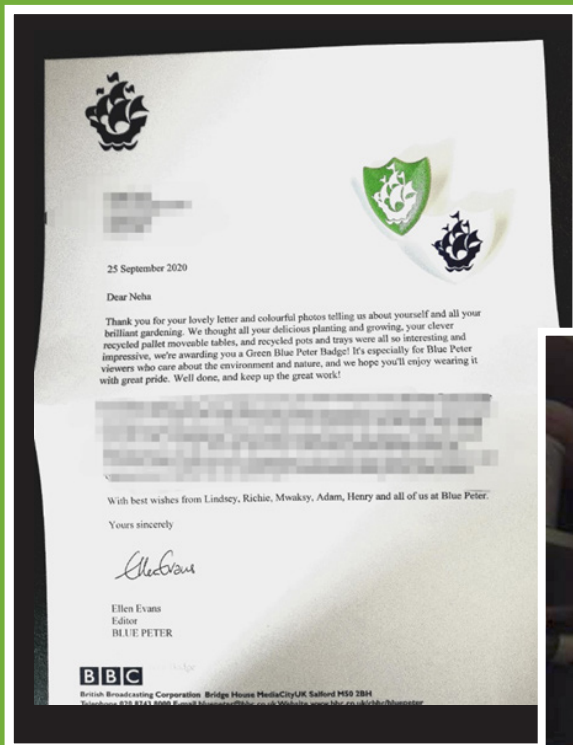
Thanks so much.

Ms Haria

Neha planting some orange and lemon seeds in egg shells and plastic packaging.



Neha received a green Blue Peter badge for being eco-friendly and resourceful





# Year 8 raise safety awareness

## Achievements of Year 8 this half-term

Some achievements of Year 8 this half-term are as follows:

8CBB created a very informative video on cyber-bullying to raise awareness of this to the whole of Year 8. The reason 8CBB won was because of their resolution, and the way they had pauses and questions for the audience to consider all the way through.

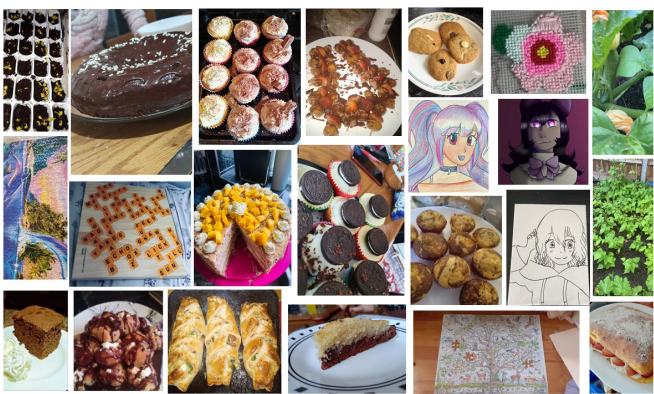
8CBB have engaged really well with Ms Ferrer's messages regarding Optimism October - they have been writing great messages of inspiration to each other on their Teams page

Dalia in 8PT has challenged herself to write a book - she has shared snippets of this with her form tutor, Ms Teixeira

All forms have been posting excellent Enrichment activities. Students have produced some fantastic leaflets on Hands, Face and Space

We have a new Year 8 Buddy Team who will be supporting the Year 7's this year:

- 8BME:** Keziah and Shiffa
- 8HJG:** Maria and Maya
- 8NMA:** Jasmine and Priyana
- 8PT:** Ritika
- 8LG:** Maria and Tiba
- 8CBB:** Kareena and Zina
- 8MSE:** Smiti and Diema
- 8AWS:** Georgia and Sanaa



Enrichment activities:  
artwork and baking  
Year 8 created during  
lock down



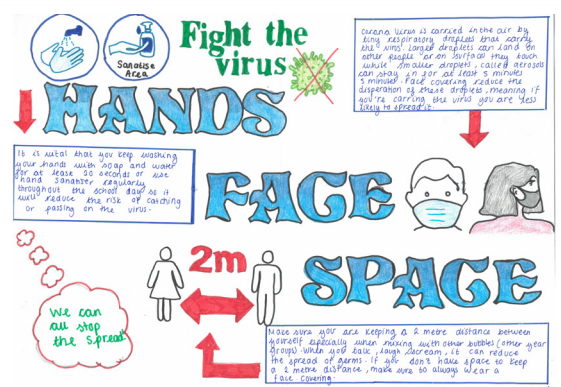
Tahira 8MNAw



Hila 8LG



Nada 8MSEa



Kabissa 8MSE



# Year 11 trip to St John's Church Stanmore

During the week before the October half term holidays, all Year 11 students visited St John's Church in Stanmore. Additional covid-19 related precautions were put in place to ensure that all staff and students were safe; students sanitised their hands before entering the church, wore masks in the church, and afterwards sanitised the pew they had been sat in.

Students were taken during their Religious Studies lessons so, over the week, four trips ran. Students did not miss any other lesson to go on the trip.

The students walked to the church, and then listened to a talk by the vicar (Matthew Stone) or the curate (Jonny Rapson), and had the opportunity to ask questions. It was an experience all the students thoroughly enjoyed. The trip links directly to the Religious Studies curriculum; one quarter of their GCSE exam will be on Christianity.

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

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

This was the second year the trip has run; it has become an annual tradition of the Philosophy and Religious Studies department.

Ms Jones



# Reflection and introspection - Poetry 2020

## Stuck at Home

Play games, all day and night,  
Getting angry with your might

Being at home,  
Makes you moan.

It feels like we're in jail,  
Getting lots of mail

Thinking "When is it going to end?"  
I don't even have a friend

The corona,  
Makes me a loner.

Looking outside,  
Squinting your eyes.

Some months later...

Being in a car  
Feels like we've never been in one before.  
With your ma  
Not breaking the law.

Being free,  
Getting lots of tea.

No mask,  
It's not a big task

Finely free as a bee

**Fadeela Year 7**

## Hope in lockdown

It seems that there is an inky silence  
Everywhere  
Hiding behind every corner  
But if you listen carefully...

The birds chatter on, oblivious  
Gossiping, singing, laughing  
The city is dormant  
Rush hour, Traffic jams, Crowded pavements

All a thing of the past  
Who knew they'd be missed so much?  
The city's essence of petrol  
It's nostalgic perfume  
Has faded away  
Ousted by fresh, clean air  
The steady reliable thrum  
Of everyday life  
Replaced by the fear of uncertainty  
I hear the ambulance sirens  
Wailing  
Screaming  
Grieving  
But...

The soft sway of the trees  
The playful screaming of foxes  
The honeyed melody of the nightingale  
The sighting of a robin, a chiffchaff, a wren  
The clink of the kitchenware  
The sizzling hiss of the frying pan  
The calm aroma of spices  
The snatches of laughter from your family  
Each one unique and recognizable  
And sometimes

The steady

Tick

Tick

Tick

Of the clock, as time wears on  
The days may seem long and draining  
But look for the little things and  
You won't be disappointed

**Maryam Year 10**

## Lockdown

People awaken  
As sanitizers are taken  
Food is stockpiled  
As people go wild  
It is so boring  
As cases are souring  
I hope they start falling  
Well done nurses and doctors!  
They are nice protectors  
Helping everyone  
When the virus had only begun  
It wasn't so fun  
But it is almost done!

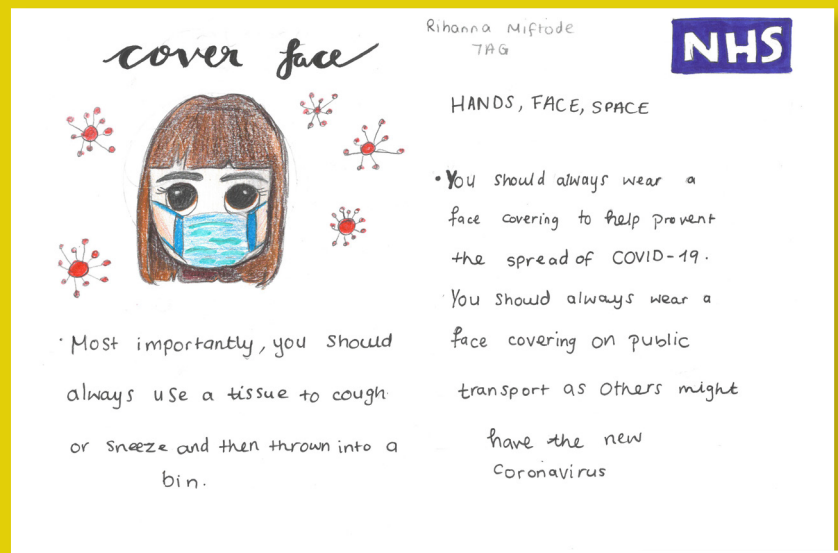
**Swaffiya Year 8**



# Hand, Face, Space posters by Year 7 students



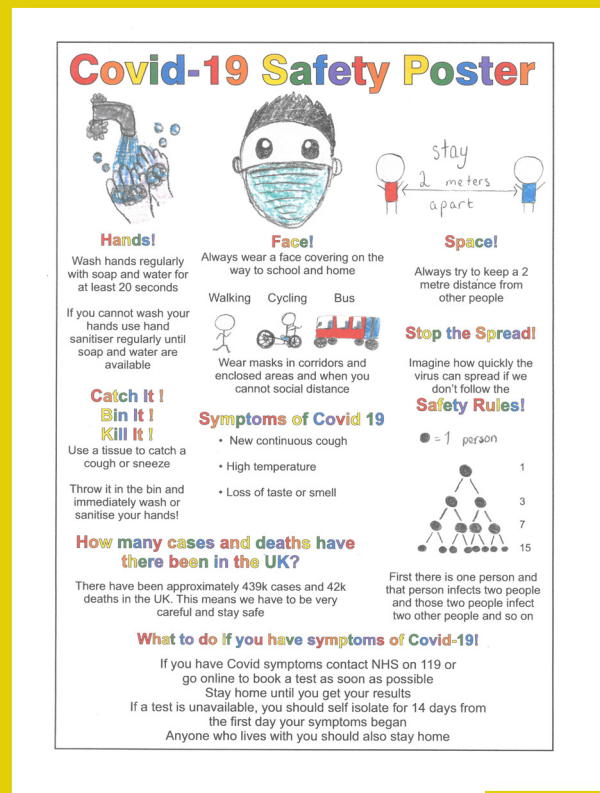
Hana



Rihana



Aleena



Sophie

# Black History Month and student year group assemblies

Students at Bentley Wood have been participating in Black History Month in a variety of ways. This year we have explored 'great black Britons'. Students have had the opportunity to reflect on the many accomplishments of black people from the times of the Romans to present day.

Through the whole school curriculum students have learnt about the great achievements contributed by black people from all levels of society such as sporting heroes and heroines, to scientists, to explorers and beyond.

The History department and the Human Rights Ambassadors have put together Wise Thoughts on black writers, there is a display of posters of black writers in Woody's and the School Library which pupils have been enthusiastically debating during their recreational time, a special display has been made of different quotations and pictures to do with black history and culture in Humanities, all students have completed a PSHE lesson on Black History Month, during form-time students have read fiction extracts / poems from black authors, 31 activities have been shared with students on how pupils can celebrate Black History each day during Black History month, History students are researching and creating a piece of writing based on the life of a black person in a specific era of History that they choose.

Students have a fantastic opportunity to participate in a competition where students will be researching and creating a poster on the life and achievements of a black person of their choice.

We are proud to see all our students participating in the activities put on by Bentley Wood High School. In the words of former US President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." As a society we have a shared history; all the stories students have learnt are a communal currency of humanity.

Mrs Jain

**31 things to do this BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**Week 1:**

- 1st** Read up on the Bristol Bus Boycott
- 2nd** Listen to poetry by John Agard
- 3rd** Watch 'Black and Scottish' on BBC iPlayer
- 4th** Enjoy KOKOROKO live at the BBC Proms

**Week 2:**

- 5th** Read Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
- 6th** Write a diary entry as if you were Harriet Tubman
- 7th** Learn about the killing of Stephen Lawrence on Newsround
- 8th** Read up on how the Windrush generation
- 9th** Celebrate 5 black British women who've changed the world
- 10th** Listen to hip hop and research its origins
- 11th** Watch CBBC presenters talking about growing up black in the UK

**Week 3:**

- 12th** Research Ignatius Sancho
- 13th** Discuss with family what people mean when they say 'anti-racist'
- 14th** Learn about Mary Seacole
- 15th** Look at photos of Notting Hill Carnival and discover its history
- 16th** Read about different race riots around the UK
- 17th** Relax to 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix and research the genre's origins
- 18th** Learn about Nelson Mandela

**Week 4:**

- 19th** Look up Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- 20th** Learn about the Black Power Salute at the 1968 Olympic Games
- 21st** Find out about Juneteenth
- 22nd** Ask your family about
- 23rd** Research Toussaint Louverture
- 24th** Listen to jazz music and explore its origins
- 25th** Tell a friend about 3 record-breaking black British athletes

**Week 5:**

- 26th** Learn about the life of Olaudah Equiano
- 27th** Research reggae's most respected artists and enjoy their music
- 28th** Read about Muhammad Ali
- 29th** Reflect on what you've learnt about black history this month
- 30th** Make a timeline of events in black British history
- 31st** Write a list of related books, films and shows you want to read/watch next

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH - COMPETITION**

**KEEP CALM IT'S COMPETITION TIME**

October marks Black History Month in the UK.

During your lessons over the next month teachers will be sharing their knowledge about great people who have contributed to Black achievement.

For a chance for your work to be showcased on display, select one person whose story has inspired you and produce a poster or fact file.

Make your poster engaging and educating.

Please e mail all entries to [sjain@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:sjain@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk)

The best poster will receive a £20 Amazon voucher.

**Bentley Wood**  
High School for Girls



## So proud of you!

- You coped so well with lockdown
- Most of engaged really well with Virtual School
- You looked after each other and your families
- You produced some excellent work
- You've adapted to the new systems



## GCSE's

- To work hard in ALL lessons
- To produce the best quality work you can in school and at home.
- To practice new revision techniques.
- To ask questions
- To work well with peers.
- Support each other



Year 10 assembly  
Welcome back Year 10

Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

## The power of kindness

No act of kindness,  
no matter how small,  
is ever wasted.



- Practicing kindness has a profound effect on our own mental & physiological health, helping us to become happier and compassionate towards others.
- Being kind to others has been known to help boost our own immune system, slow down aging, elevate our self esteem and improve blood pressure

Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

## Be grateful for what we have

- Having been away from school for so long, we hope you are all grateful to be back with your friends, teachers and classroom lessons.
- We want to see you with a new found respect for school
- We want to see you value the importance of your education
- We should be hearing how well behaved and respectful you are



Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

Year 10 assembly on the  
subject of kindness

## Hands. Face. Space.

The most important thing everyone can do is remember the basics:  
**Everyone should continue to follow guidance on:**

- Washing your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- Wearing a face covering in settings where it is required and where it is difficult to maintain social distancing e.g. gym (am reg), corridors
- Staying 2 metres apart from people you do not live with or 1 metre with extra precautions, such as a face covering



Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

## Teams etiquette

- You must adhere to good etiquette when using Teams
  - Use polite, well mannered language
  - Do not use slang terms like idk etc...
  - Address teachers formally e.g. @Mrs Manzi
  - Do not expect responses in the evenings or weekends. We need time off too!
  - Be patient when waiting for replies.
  - Teams is now for homework. We will not be posting lessons up if you miss school.

Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

Year 10 assembly on the  
subject of Staying Safe

# Assemblies – Autumn Term 2020

All year group assemblies have been on TEAMS this term. Students have covered lots of subjects with lots of items to motivate and reassure them about the sometimes complex issues of life outside school. Bentley Wood continues to value the importance of assemblies which bring the whole school community the opportunity to share and get involved in current events, form opinions on themes mirroring the School's CARE core values or celebrate in special days or events of significance.

Bentley Wood promotes learning through understanding, listening and sharing information allowing students to develop learning and form opinions of events which affect us all, build empathy for others and teach children the core values of life.

In assembly students develop self-esteem, learn about the needs of others and be inspired to excellence.

Following a Summer of virtual assemblies including all pupils from home Assemblies covered themes such as Gratitude and Spending Time with Families to coverage of the Black Lives Matter campaign, this terms assemblies have focused on kindness and a series of Wise Thoughts, this month featuring Black History Month. This term students have attended assemblies on the theme of Ambition, Kindness and looked forward with their shared hopes for an Optimistic October.

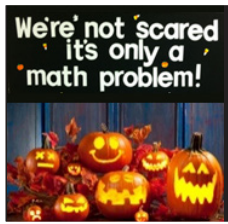
Ms Fletcher

# Year 7 enrichment activities

## Maths Club

The year 7s' Maths Club had a dynamic start 3 weeks ago and it has already become a lovely maths community!

Our aim is to develop the level of Math skills, love for the numbers and knowledge and we do this by playing games, activities, maths investigations, and general problem solving.



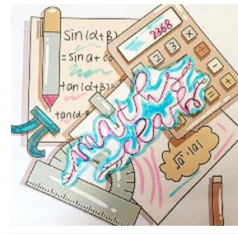
As the nights are getting longer and the weather is growing colder, what better way to brighten up our Maths office than with a variety of fang-tastic activities? Students have also been working on decorating our Maths office for Halloween celebration!!!



Year 7 enjoying Maths Club



Here is our Maths Logo designed by Viviana!



Maths can evoke extreme reactions, but it can actually be quite fun! Students have been working on the Architecture STEM area and perimeter city project which brings together science, math, engineering, city planning, maps, and art to make the perfect STEM/STEAM project! And it is SO much fun to create!!!

We are looking forward to making our community bigger!!!



## Virtual maths competition for real world challenges – UKMT 2020

On 6 October Year 11 and sixth form students completed in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) which is an international competition for High School students leading awarding mathematic champions for competing in mathematics challenges from algebra, calculus and branches of mathematics sometimes not even covered in schools. This prestigious event works on the principle that anyone with a basic understanding of mathematics should understand the problems but the solutions require ingenuity in applying their knowledge to solve the questions! The Bentley Wood team consisted of Year 11 pupils Sarah, Claudia, Marie and Heena and Sixth Formers Amira, Hiba, Nitya, Hafsah, Baano, Arani and Marafie. The event was held virtually this year and our students described the experience as a challenge which opened your eyes to the application of their maths learning to the real world.

**We look forward to receiving the results on 23 October.**



*“Does BW have talented and*

*committed mathematicians who are looking for a*

*new challenge? “*

The rarefied world of international mathematics competitions has traditionally been where brainy teenage boys show their genius for problem solving.

From 2011, however, for the first-time girls have made it into the UK squad for the Mathematical Olympiad, the largest, oldest and most prestigious of international maths contests.

This year 2020, 11 girls (4 year 11s, and 7 Sixth formers) entered to Mathematical Olympiad (MOG) from BENTLEY WOOD high school!!!

MOG's aim is to encourage enthusiastic girls to develop their passion for mathematics, particularly at Olympiad level. MOG also forms part of the process to identify potential squad members for the annual European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad.

*Congratulations to all those who participated!!!*

*We are looking forward to receive the results!!!*



# Year 7 PE extra curricular clubs

Our Year 7 have started Badminton and Netball Clubs this term. We had a great turn out for our Badminton Club where the girls have been able to practice their skills and rally with one another.

For Year 7 Netball Club, we have two training sessions on a Tuesday and Wednesday where the girls are working on skills such as footwork, passing and moving into space.

Both clubs have been very well attended and the PE department have been very impressed with the level of skill the girls are showing! Keep up the great work Year 7! 😊

Ms Chandler





# Sixth Form student life

## Message from Head of Sixth Form

Welcome back to our Year 13 students who achieved some brilliant results in the summer, which were testament to their hard work throughout the year. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Year 12 students and to congratulate them on their excellent GCSE results. Though they have only been part of the Sixth Form for 6 weeks, they are proving to be an intellectually curious, confident and charming group of young women. They have settled in seamlessly and it is a joy to see the Sixth Form in full swing again.

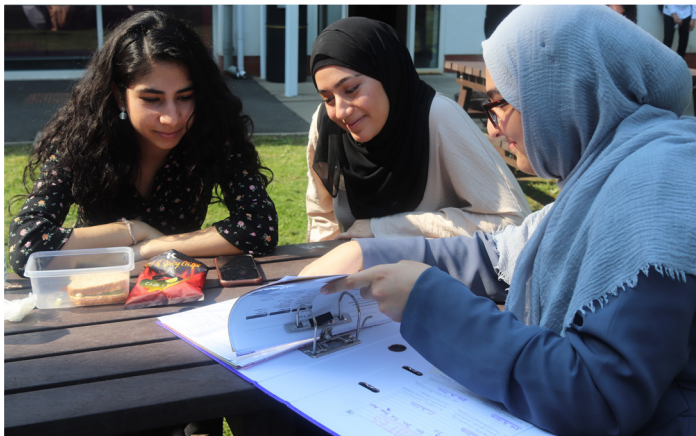
It is lovely to see the students supporting each other, studying together to achieve their best and reach their potential. In what has been a challenging year in education,

I am so proud of how resilient the Sixth Form students have been I am really looking forward to seeing all they will achieve this year.

**Ms Rothwell, Head of Sixth Form**



Sixth Form Head Girl Team 2020





# Sixth Form Open Evening

We held our Sixth Form Open Evening for prospective Y11 students this year on Thursday 8th of October. The year it was slightly different as we were only able to host our own students, due to social distancing measures in place.

Over the course of the evening Y11 students attended: a welcome talk by Miss Rothwell and Dr. Howkins about the Bentley Wood Sixth Form and our expectations; a student panel event where they learnt about student life and were able to ask questions to current students; and, a tour of the school where they were able to go to speak to the A Level teachers in each of the subjects offered and ask questions about the courses.

The Open Evening was a great success and the students were very excited about the prospect of joining the Bentley Wood Sixth Form. The students asked intelligent questions and learnt about the ways in which they can best prepare for A Level study and their chosen path after they leave school.

They learnt about which careers different subjects can take them and eagerly gathered the leaflets (and sweets!) that were shared by the teachers on their tour.

The Sixth Form are following up this event by sharing frequent subject information with the students to support their applications in the coming weeks.

If your daughter missed the Open Evening, we will be running a virtual event on Thursday 5th November from 4.30-7pm where you can speak with staff and students about our Sixth Form and what it offers. We look forward to you joining us.

The deadline for applications is: Friday 18th December. The application form can be found on our website.

Ms Rothwell



**Thursday 8th October 2020**  
**Sixth Form Open Evening**  
 We warmly invite **students only** to visit Bentley Wood Sixth Form on **Thursday 8th October 3.30 - 5.30 pm**  
 A virtual event for parents will be held at a later date  
 10 reasons to choose Bentley Wood Sixth Form

Dynamic 6th form	Multicultural environment
Outstanding pastoral team	High learning expectations
Excellent IT and library resources	Spacious grounds
High quality teaching	Academic excellence
Friendly student / teacher relationships	Welcoming students of all faiths



# University research, and skills programmes

## St John's Inspire Programme

St John's Inspire Programme runs events, seminars, and competitions for students in years 9 - 13 from the University of Oxford. Here Sadia, Year 13 talks about her experiences

I loved my experience of the Year 12 Virtual Summer School. STEM and Humanities students met to study the impact of fake news on our world which developed our skills for independent research. I personally focused on "the impact of fake news on the development of vaccines". I was taught how to reference material and identify good relevant material and I had to actively manage my time to stop from falling behind. However the hard work paid off and I got awarded second place!

There were also mini-competitions and challenges set throughout the week that consisted of a tutorial teaching you the basics to get your started and guide you. On our first day we were given a lecture on the R value of Covid-19 and had to complete a set activity on this data and scenario.

Challenges such as "Crossing the desert" asked you to provide solutions to seemingly impossible scenarios.

My greatest tip is to talk to your teachers because I got most of these opportunities from talking with teachers and make the most of them, go on - it's worth it!

Sadia 13BC

### HOW HAS FAKE NEWS IMPACTED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF VACCINES St John's inspire programme

Sadia, St John's Access and Outreach Team, St John's College

#### INTRODUCTION

##### What is fake news?

- Apart from being a term coined by President Donald J Trump
- According to the University of Michigan, "fake news" is referred to as those "news stories that are false: the story itself is fabricated, with no verifiable facts, sources or quotes." [1]

##### What is vaccine hesitancy?

- Due to the refusal or delay in acceptance of vaccinations.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) named it as one of the greatest global health issues of 2019. [2]

##### Why is there an increase in vaccine hesitancy?

- Due to the rise of social media and the ability to exchange materials with other people without proper accountability nor accurate fact-checking.
- Additionally with the World Wide Web (WWW) there are more publishers that don't necessarily have to be verified allowing freedom to spread this false/misleading information as fact.



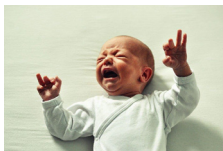
2 in 5 parents are exposed to negative messages about vaccines on social media [3]



#### KEY POINTS

##### How does "fake news" link to vaccinations?

- Misinformation was first spread in the UK on vaccines when the now discredited doctor, Andrew Wakefield, published a case of 12 children with Autism in 1998 claiming a link between the MMR vaccination and autism. [4]
- This false information was spread nation wide among parents who did not want to vaccinate their children out of fear of developing autism
- There have been multiple cases of Measles in Western countries that previously had eradicated Measles, with 2018 having 41,000 cases in children and adults, higher than any year this decade [5]



##### What is herd immunity and why is it important?

- In order for a vaccine to work significantly and protect a large population, there must be herd immunity
- Where most of the population is vaccinated against a disease and therefore indirectly protecting vulnerable members of the population e.g. elderly and new-born children



##### How does this affect the development of vaccines?

- It is a large issue within itself that there is more dependency on online resources rather than sources from the scientific community itself and a lack of trust in medical professionals and members of the scientific community
- Vaccine hesitancy makes it harder to introduce herd immunity to the public and protect vulnerable members of society.
- Additionally vaccine hesitancy causes deaths that would have been otherwise preventable.

##### How does social media play a key role in promoting vaccine hesitancy?

- Social media gives greater visibility to groups that spread scientifically unsound information.
- It allows like minded individuals to collect, reproduce and redistribute misinformation in the form of eye-catching posts and backed by fraudulent references.
- Majority of these groups arrange these activities on (but not limited to) Facebook, with many Facebook groups and thousands of members to spread misinformation.

##### Bots and Vaccines as a political tool:

- Bots are software that runs an automated action on the internet. They make up to 52% of internet traffic.
- Researchers that evaluated over 1.7 million posts related to vaccines have found that Twitter bots and trolls tweet about vaccines more frequently than average Twitter users do, particularly Russian bots that posted pro-vaccine and anti-vaccine posts in order to stir up controversial discussion and disagreement. [6]
- There have also been cases of vaccines being used in politics in rural areas of Pakistan, where the wild polio virus is still rife, however many villages refuse the mandatory vaccine claiming they will only take the polio vaccine in exchange for structural development and improvement on their water systems or electricity [7] [8]

#### CONCLUSION

##### What can be done to stop spread of "fake news"?

- It is important to recognise that the anti-vaccination campaign is driven by fear and therefore in order to safely avert a health crisis and regain trust from the public in the scientific community, the general public must be well informed of vaccines.
- Stricter government guidelines, like that of Italy, that has introduced a policy that all children must be vaccinated in order to enter school.
- Additionally the importance of vaccines can be taught in school PSNCE lessons.
- The reach of social media can be utilised by the scientific community in order to reach wider audiences and educate the public on vaccines, additionally social media sites themselves can aid this effort by banning, and not displaying content from anti-vaccine source.
- This can be seen through Pinterest that banned search results to do with anti-vaccines. [9]

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# Sixth Form Placements

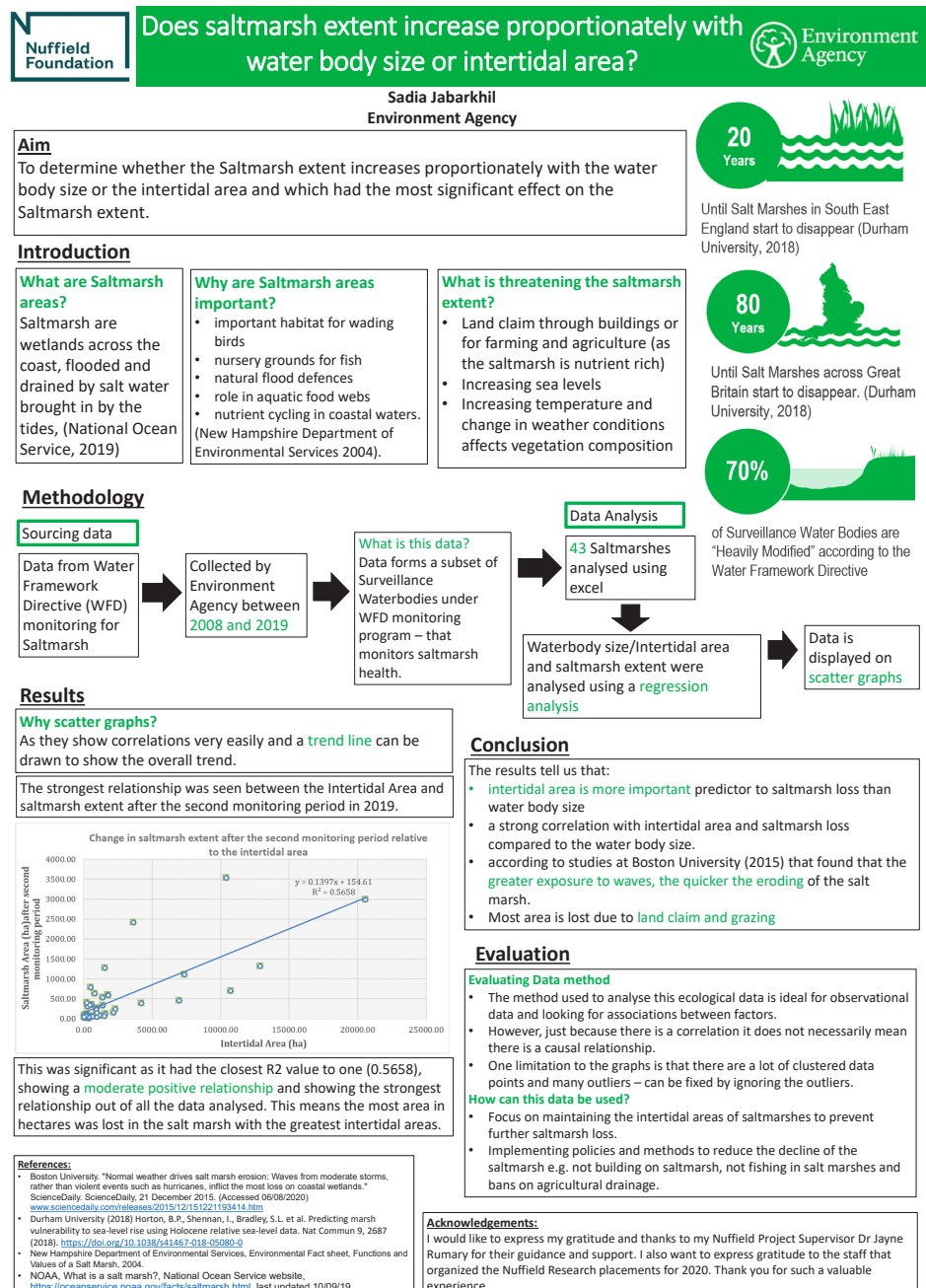
## Nuffield Research Placement

The Nuffield Research Placement is a national programme for Year 12 students that offers research experience in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) by working with a professional researcher in the field you want to go into. The program offers a bursary for students who meet the criteria and finish the whole placement fully.

I was allocated a place with the Environment Agency over 6 weeks in the summer holiday. I gained so many different research skills dealing with data representation, correct referencing and identifying good resources. My research was based on the causes of the loss of Saltmarsh area and the program pairs you with a specialist in that field, so in my case I got a supervisor from the Environment Agency that talked me through writing up my results and how to use excel for data analysis which was really fun and gave me insight into the work of the Environment Agency. If you don't find Saltmarshes appealing, don't worry - the program works across the UK with different universities in a range of different subjects!

My number one tip is to get the application out of the way early on, it is a really good to put on your personal statement, free (and you might get a bursary) and it is such a valuable experience!

Sadia 13BC



# Careers advice and Digital School information

## Careers advice for students at Bentley Wood

My name is Eugenia Mmireku and I am the new Careers adviser here at Bentley Wood School from the Education Development Trust. I have been appointed to work at the school, Monday to Thursday 8.30-4.00pm in the careers office next to V3 and V4. I offer an impartial, personalised and confidential service to all students at Bentley Wood.

Currently I am conducting 1-1 careers interviews with Year 11s for a 40 minute session. I still get the time to meet students from other years when required. I do however encourage Year 11s to email me or other Year groups who want to book an appointment who I will happily see.

I tend to have a drop in session between 2pm and 3pm each day for follow up career sessions sometimes booked for about half an hour and urgent queries. Students come to me for a range of issues from Sixth Form admissions, apprenticeships where I have access to updated apprenticeship providers and general information queries on Apprenticeships as well as giving advice on university applications, personal statements and subject specific advice.

I offer an inclusive service with a mentoring approach and ensuring there are clear and defined paths to careers where the students can make effective decisions. At the end of the session they will get an Action plan which highlights their career goals and a copy sent to the class teacher and head of year.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions I am not organising school work experience but asking students to find their own placements for the time being until the COVID pandemic is over however I do organise virtual employment and education encounter sessions across the year groups for students. I have a great supply of 2020/2021 prospectuses from a range of universities and colleges which I am happy to give out. There is also a range of books and careers literature which I can loan to students which make interesting reading.

There is also a section in the library for careers where there are a range of prospectuses and careers information available to all students which the careers leaders continually update and maintain. The careers leaders will also take part in assemblies and talks to present to others current achievements in careers and memorable events. Sometimes their role allows them to have exposure and publicity to the press and various media if desired promoting the excellent work and achievements of Bentley Wood School.

NEWS - The Autumn Annual Bentley Wood Careers Fair although will not be taking place as usual here at the school as a public event will be going ahead as a virtual Careers event. This October and running into December there will be Virtual talks from Employers, Russel Group Universities, Colleges and Apprenticeship providers. This will be happening as evening events and in the October half term

and school holidays.

Exciting News!!! Congratulations to five Year 9 students, five Year 10 and six Year 11s who qualified as Careers Leaders at Bentley Wood. The year 10s and 11 students were existing students but the year 9s and one of the year 10s faced tough competition after telling me why they wanted to be a Careers Leader.

For those of you who want to know a bit more about the role of the Careers Leaders. They are representatives and ambassadors of their year group facilitating the work of the careers service. They support me in Careers fairs by creating posters and leaflets to advertise the events and act as excellent role models to their peers helping where they can with students career aspirations.

We meet regularly to discuss changes and issues in the careers industry particularly during this pandemic of COVID. At the moment we will be meeting on teams or in small year groups. I am happy to announce the following students will be supporting me as Careers Leaders.

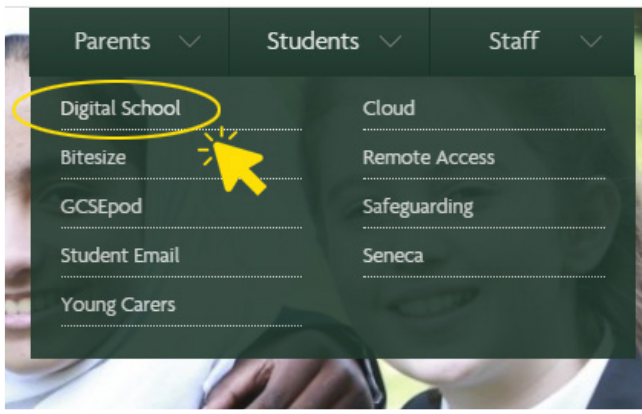
### Ms Mmireku, Career Adviser

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Bameena (9SZA)	Sohana (10RBe)	Sajeda (11AJf)
Rauvna (9LBAF)	Rabab (10GCPe)	Claudia (11JGe)
Imaan (9RGAJ)	Neha (10GCPe)	Ria (11HILw)
Husna (9RGRW)	Kareema (10LSBa)	Mysha (11HILw)
Hajra (9LBAE)	Palisha (10JCAf)	Hoeda (11LMBe)
		Avina (11HILw)



Virtual career fair poster by Rauva 9LBAE





## Digital platform and Blended Learning

Bentley Wood High School is proud of the programme of digital online learning delivered to students this year and has developed the MS platform to offer blended learning providing exceptional levels of student engagement, interaction, and communication with students as required.

The Microsoft digital school platform facilitates and supports learning through an infrastructure which enables a seamless transition between physical and digital teaching all underpinned by our values of CARE – Communication – Achievement – Respect – Empathy.

The digital platform which were used so successfully during lockdown are now utilised for online support, communication and the delivery of homework assignments, forming a rich content and a variety of touch points across different subjects for students to access and engage with content and resources as well as an easy and rapid transition process to support learning at home and various tiered provision as and when necessary.

Face to face teaching is the natural choice of learning and MS Teams is a flexible, interactive choice can be utilised as a parallel delivery resource which has received outstanding and widespread support of our parents and carers.

**Ms Fletcher**

## Microsoft TEAMS learning hub

Microsoft Teams in parallel other Office 365 applications provided an platform for teaching and learning and communication to continue in an online environment this year and the school is continuing to train our current year 7s on Teams as part of their induction process. Ongoing training on the use of specific elements as well as the sharing of best practice of Teams is part of the core training.

Features of Teams and best practice have been steadily introduced and shared over a period of time to provide a richer digital school experience.

This has included the Insights feature which tracks student engagement and Assignments which has replaced Show My Homework as the tool utilised to set and collect student homework and assignments. Insights provides analytics for each Team member including the length of engagement, contribution to posts and number of interactions whilst assignments provides a central point to provide and access student feedback to work submitted.

Although Bentley Wood students have returned to full face to face teaching in September, new Teams for each class have been created including pastoral Form teams which continue to share digital assemblies and PSHCE content.

**Ms Fletcher**

# Information and advice for students and parents



## Parent Governor Vacancies

We have 2 Parent Governor vacancies at Bentley Wood High School to join our Governing Body. Governors play a key role and work as a team to make sure every child gets the best possible education by providing support, challenge and insight as a 'critical friend'. Being a parent governor offers a unique opportunity to make a significant contribution to the school, and helps the Governing Body be aware of the views of parents and the wider community. The Governing Body meets at least 6 times a term, and governors also attend 6 committee meetings a year.

If you would like some further information about this rewarding role, and an application form, please email Isabel Arbisman, Clerk to The Bentley Wood Trust, at [iarbisman@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:iarbisman@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk). Please note closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **9th November 2020**



## 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:**

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

**Email:** [JHowkins@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:JHowkins@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk)

**Phone:** 0208 954 3623



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



# Year 7 Enrichment Activities



Bentley Wood High School Year 7 Enrichment Activities				
Before/During School				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Choir 1 Miss Leighton/Mrs Parkes Marquee 12.15 - 12.45pm		Choir 2 Miss Leighton/Mrs Parkes Marquee 12.15 - 12.45pm
		Year 7 Instrumental Group H Sekai Dance Studio 12.15-12.45pm		Drum Group Mr Temple Dance Studio 12.50-1.15pm
				Year 7 Open Practice Mrs Parkes Room 113 12.30-1.15pm
After School				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Year 7 Netball Group A Miss Chandler Netball Courts 3.10 - 4.10pm	EAL Homework Club Ms Gorecka 3:15 - 4:00pm Room tbc	Maths Club, Ms Vagi, Room V6 3.15 - 4.00pm	
	Code Club Miss Terraza Room 107 3.25 - 4:00pm	Year 7 Netball Group B Miss Chandler Netball Courts 3.10 - 4.10pm		
	Young Philosopher's Club Ms A Jones & Yr 11 Prefects Online on MS Teams 4:30 - 5.15pm	Year 7 Badminton Ms Sheelan/Mr Patel Sports Hall 3.10 - 4.10pm		

## October Half Term Revision Timetable

This Term Year 11 revision is going online via TEAMS below is the timetable for students to login into their sessions									
Date	Year 11			Year 12			Year 13		
	Subject	Time	Staff	Subject	Time	Staff	Subject	Time	Staff
Sat 24 October	MFL	9.00-10.30	Miss Codrean						
	MFL	11.00-12.30	Miss Codrean						
	Drama	9.00-10.30	Mr Rankin						
Mon 26 October	Maths	9.00-10.30am	Mr Mahay, Ms Massara, Mr Llanko, Miss Vagi, Mrs Bhimani	Biology	9.00-10.30am	Miss W Patel			
	Maths	11.00-12.30pm					Biology	11.00-12.30	Miss W Patel
	Maths	1.00-2.30pm							
	Chemistry (triple)	9.00-10.30	Miss Varsani, Miss Robson				Chemistry	9.00-10.30	Miss Robson
	Chemistry (comb H)	11.00-12.30	Miss Varsani						
	Chemistry (comb H)	9.00-10.30	Miss Vagi	Chemistry A Level	1.00-2.30pm	Miss Robson			
Tue 27 October	Chemistry (comb H)	11.00-12.30	Miss Robson						
	Science	9.00-10.30am	Miss W Patel, Mr Alderton	Maths	9.00-10.30am	Mr Mahay, Ms Massara, Mr Llanko, Miss Vagi, Mrs Bhimani	Maths	9.00-10.30am	Mr Mahay, Ms Massara, Mr Llanko, Miss Vagi, Mrs Bhimani
	Science	11.00-12.30pm	Mr Alderton	Maths	11.00-12.30		Maths	11.00-12.30	
	Science	1.30-2.30pm	Mr Alderton	Maths	1.00-2.30pm		Maths	1.00-2.30pm	
	History	9.00-10.30am	Mr Curtis				Economics	9.00-10.30am	Mr Rayner
	History	1.00-2.30pm	Mr Curtis				Economics	11.00-12.30	
	Philosophy	9.00-10.30am	Mrs Burrridge				Economics	1.00-2.30pm	
	Philosophy	11.00-12.30	Mrs Burrridge						
Wed 28 October	Philosophy	1.00-2.30pm	Mrs Burrridge						
	English	9.00-10.30	Miss Bairstow	Chemistry A Level	9.00-10.30am	TBA	Chemistry A Level	9.00-10.30am	Miss Robson
	English	11.00-12.30	Miss Mouskis	Chemistry A Level	11.00-12.30	Miss Robson	Chemistry A Level	11.00-12.30	TBA
	English	1.00-2.30pm	Miss Mouskis	Chemistry A Level	1.00-2.30pm	TBA	Chemistry A Level	1.00-2.30pm	TBA
	Health & Social Care	9.00-10.30	Mrs Blamire				Politics	9.00-10.30am	Ms Gorecka
	Health & Social Care	11.00-12.30	Mrs Blamire				Politics	11.00-12.30	
	English	9.00-10.30	Miss Ashraf				Politics	1.00-2.30pm	
	English	11.00-12.30	Miss Azad				History	9.00-10.30	Mr Curtis
	English	1.00-2.30pm	Miss Ashraf						
Thu 29 October	Geography	9.00-10.30	Miss Haria						
	Music	5.00-6.00pm	At students request						
	Philosophy and RS	9.00-10.30	Miss Jones	English	11.00-12.30	Ms Azad	Sociology	9.00-10.30am	Ms Fountain
	Philosophy and RS	11.00-12.30	Miss Jones				Sociology	11.00-12.30	Mr Maric
	Science	9.00-10.30	Mr Butler				Sociology	1.00-2.30pm	Miss Ward
	Science	11.00-12.30					Business Studies	11.00-12.30	Mr Rayner
	Science	1.00-2.30pm					English	9.00-10.30am	Ms Azad
	Science	9.30-10.30am	Mr Robinson						
	Science	11.00-12.30							
Fri 30 October	Science	1.00-2.30pm							
	Economics	9.00-10.30	Mr Rayner				English	11.00-12.30	Miss Mouskis
	Music	2.00-3.00pm	Mrs Bancroft						
	Computing	9.00-10.30am	Mr Ahmed and Mr Burnaby	Business Studies	11.00-12.30	Mr R Patel	Computing	1.00-2.30pm	Mr Burnaby
	Computing	11-12.30pm							
	Computing	11-2.30pm							
	German	1.00-2.30	Mrs Shah						

# Information and advice for students and parents

## Free School Meals eligibility

**Children are entitled to receive free school meals if they or their parents or guardians receive any of the benefits below.**

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

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

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

**I am currently claiming free school meals – what does this mean for me?**

Most people won't be affected by the new criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but do not meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period.

This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal Credit. The 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:

## 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.



## Ensuring we have your accurate information

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

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

These must be kept up to date otherwise you may not be able to receive important information.



**When informing us of an address change, please provide proof of address such as Council Tax or Tenancy Agreement.**



# We must keep on protecting each other.



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

## Coronavirus Updates

We are very proud of the way the Bentley Wood community responded to the measures put in place to ensure students and staff could return to school safely at the start of September.

We have adapted to new routines very quickly to ensure protocols and procedures, which are constantly refined, are followed in order to reduce the risk.

Information for parents can be found on our website. This includes the [DfE guidance for parents](#), [Public Health England's guidance](#) on what to do if you or someone you share your home with has coronavirus symptoms, and the schools' [site protocol for students](#).

A reminder of some of the safety measures in place at school:

- **Windows** and doors open to aid ventilation – we recommend students wear thermal layers under their school uniform and thick tights as the weather becomes colder.
- **Hands** – all wash or sanitise hands regularly throughout the day, including upon arrival, before and after eating, after using a tissue to catch a sneeze or cough
- **Face** – Face coverings worn by students and staff in all communal areas as well as in classrooms. Parents are asked to ensure their daughter has their mask with them each day
- **Space** – Timings of the day are staggered to minimise possibilities of year group bubbles mixing, with year group zones in place for break and lunchtimes and a 'movement around the school' system for all. All reminded to maintain a safe distance (2 metres) from adults and students from other year groups
- **Each student** comes to school with their own equipment so that they do not share with others
- **Cleaners** are on site throughout the day ensuring high touch surfaces, toilets and communal areas are washed down regularly
- **Students** use antibacterial surface wipes and hand sanitisers which are found in every classroom to ensure their work area is clean at the start of every lesson
- **Catch it – Bin it – Kill it** posters are in every room reminding all to prevent germs spreading easily

All parents are reminded to contact the school, ensure their daughter stays at home and arrange a COVID-19 test if they or anyone in their household has symptoms of coronavirus:

- a high temperature
- a new cough where you keep on coughing. This means coughing a lot for more than an hour or three or more episodes of coughing in a day  
Losing or there being a change to your sense of smell or taste

Any student who is required to self-isolate is able to continue with their learning through the school's digital learning provision.

**Mrs Boyadjian, Operation Manager**



# 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/>

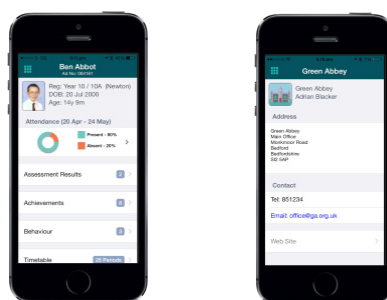
Once installed and set up you will be able to see some or all of the following information.

- 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](mailto: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.

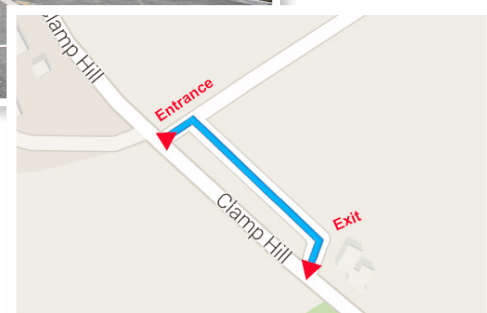
## Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

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.



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

[www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](http://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk)