

# **Bentley Wood** High School

**Newsletter October 2022** 



# **Jeremy Lemmon Project**

# Our Sixth Formers shine on stage at the Globe Theatre

Students from four schools across the Borough of Harrow (along with their teachers and Globe Theatre Education team) came together during the Summer and Autumn this year. There were lots of important workshops and career-development work for our Sixth formers

In 2019 the Jeremy Lemmon Project was established. At a special live event, it was announced that Harrow-based students from partner schools would work with the Globe theatre and Harrow School on this unique project that aims to support drama training in state schools across the Borough of Harrow, London.

This Summer and Autumn, Sixth form students from Bentley Wood High School, Nower Hill High School, Whitmore High School and Harrow School formed an acting company, under the direction of a Globe Education practitioner.

Students attended workshops focusing on building an ensemble, and accessing and exploring Shakespeare's language for a collaborative performance. The young company members many of whom aim to pursue formal actor training, or university pathways linked to drama and literature benefited from individual coaching sessions to develop their monologue performance skills.

Finally, in September 2022, they took to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse stage to showcase their hard work in front of a live audience, presenting their series of shared scenes and monologues.

Mr Maric, Assistant Headteacher









# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Bentley Wood Community,

This newsletter for our first half-term, really celebrates a very busy few weeks for us all. Highlights include some incredible enrichment activities: the 6th form performances at the Globe Theatre, awe inspiring Diwali dance performances and The Glee Club performing at Harrow Art Centre. We have had some inspirational visitors such as a Grand Chess Master and the famous author Chris Priestly. We've had a range of trips including 6th formers travelling to Poland, Year 11 Environmentalists litter picking on the Essex Coast and Year 13 Geography residential trip to Somerset. I hope all our students have taken an opportunity this half term to try something different and experience a new challenge.

Thank you to all staff and families for your relentless commitment to support the personal development of the students beyond the classroom.

I would like to wish you all a very well deserved and restful half-term break and look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 31st October.

Kind regards,

Naseema Akbar Headteacher

Nancena Allsa.

# Well done to our new Year 7's

It has been wonderful to see how well our new Year 7 students have settled into secondary school. They continue to impress us with their enthusiasm, confidence and ability to adapt to new surroundings. Students have been learning many new subjects that they may not have experienced before and are rising to the challenge brilliantly.

Our theme of 'flowers' continues to show that Year 7's are 'blooming' and we are proud of all the achievements they have been awarded.

I would like to give a personal thanks to all those students who were tour guides during our big Open Evening. Each one was friendly, helpful and kind to the younger students they showed around the school.

As parents, please continue to support your daughter with high expectations of attendance, punctuality, behaviour and uniform. We are also keen to ensure all Year 7 students are attending at least one enrichment club. This is a great way to experience something new or something they love, all while making new friends.

We look forward to welcoming them back after well deserved break over half term.

Mrs Manzi Head of Year 7











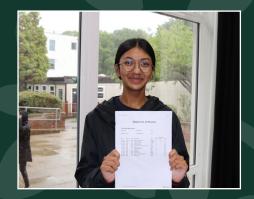


# GCSE Results 2022

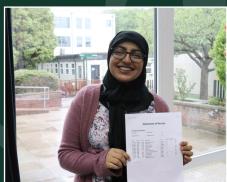


# **GCSE Results** 2022

Bentley Wood are once again celebrating some hugely successful GCSE results



Imana M achieved 12 x Grade 9



Sarah K achieved 10 x Grade 9, 1 x Grade 8, \*2



Jasmin Z achieved
9 x Grade 9, 1 x Grade 8,
1 x grade 7

We are delighted that our students will now be progressing onto the next stage of their learning with many students joining our Sixth Form to study A Levels or BTECs.

Naseema Akbar Headteacher

# GCSE results in 2022

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

%	GCSEs	grades
47	All results	9-7
82	English and mathematics	9-4
71	English and mathematics	9-5

# A Level Results in 2022

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

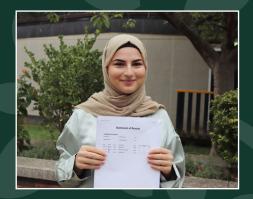
UCL, Kings College London, Nottingham University, University of Warwick, University of Southampton and Queen Mary to study their first-choice course including Architecture, Dentistry, Economics, Medicine, Law, Education, Graphic Design and Nursing.

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

# A Level Results 2022



Bentley Wood High School is incredibly proud of our Sixth Formers who have demonstrated zeal and determination throughout their studies. There were many notable successes amongst our Year 13 cohort in A level and BTEC

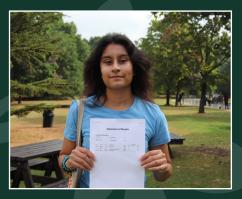


Heba A achieved
A\* Biology
A Chemistry
A\* Mathematics

Studying Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London



Vaheni A achieved
A\* Biology
A\* Chemistry
A\* Mathematics
Vaheni is taking a gap year



A Chemistry
A\* Computer Science
A\* Mathematics
Studying Digital and Technology
Solutions as a EY Degree
Apprenticeship with BPP

Zunairah K achieved

All students are going on to further study at a wide range of institutions including Russell Group universities and apprenticeships.

Naseema Akbar 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.

# **A2 Results**

	2022 A2 Results	2021 A2 Results	2020 A2 Results
A*-B	70%	69.8%	66.7%
A*-C	90%	93.2%	93.7%



# Bentley Wood Year of Reading

# Autumn reads

# Fireborn: Twelve and the Frozen Forest by Aisling Fowler

Twelve has spoken the Pledge and now she is a Huntling. She has given up her name to train in the art of fighting monsters, and she won't choose a new one until she has earned it. But when her friend is taken, Twelve sets off on a dangerous journey to rescue her. Teaming up with Dog, the stone Guardian of the Hunting Lodge, Twelve ends up on an epic adventure that will change her life, her name – and her entire world.

## Song of the Fae by Tricia O'Malley

Nolan is a royal warrior with a fiercely loyal heart who refuses to let a distraction like love get in the way of his ambition. Imogen is the unsuspecting woman prophesied to defeat the rising Dark Fae when she discovers her power. When their paths cross, they find themselves battling their inner demons as well as the external dark forces that threaten to destroy their world.

#### Secrets So Deep by Ginny Myers Sain

Seventeen-year-old Avril has lived for the past twelve years in the shadows of her mother's mysterious drowning at Whisper Cove. When she returns to the place that has haunted her memories to take part in a summer theatre camp, strange events unfold. Echoes from the past draw her to seek out the truth about what really happened to her mother. An atmospheric, captivating tale of the perils of digging up long buried secrets.

# Long Live the Pumpkin Queen by Shea Ernshaw

Sally Skellington, newly crowned Pumpkin Queen of Halloween Town, is not thrilled by her new life of queenly duties and public scrutiny. In the thrilling sequel to A Nightmare Before Christmas, Sally accidentally uncovers a long-hidden doorway to an ancient realm called Dream Town, unknowingly setting into motion a chain of sinister events. With her role as Queen and even the future of Halloween Town in jeopardy, can Sally discover what it means to be true to herself and save the town she's learned to call home?

# The Last Storyteller by Donna Barba Higuera

Petra longs to be storyteller but her dreams are put on hold when a comet collision is on course to destroy Earth. When Petra and her family are among the lucky few chosen to escape to another planet, she discovers there are even greater threats waiting to wipe out every trace of humanity's past. Can Petra save her people with the power of her storytelling to keep the past alive and give hope for the future?



Fireborn: Twelve and the Frozen Forest, **Aisling Fowler** 



Song of the Fae, Tricia O'Malley



Secrets So Deep,
Ginny Myers Sain



Long Live the Pumpkin Queen, **Shea Ernshaw** 



The Last Storyteller, **Donna Barba Higuera** 



The Way Past Winter, Kiran Millwood Hargrave

# The Way Past Winter by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Twelve-year-old Mila lives with her siblings in the Eldbjorn forest, a land locked in a state of perpetual winter. Her brother Oskar disappears in strange circumstances following the arrival of a strange fur-clad man and his band of men. Mila embarks on a quest to find her brother whereupon she discovers a world of danger and intrigue where all is not as it seems.

#### The Track of the Wind by Jamila Gavin

The final book in The Wheel of Surya trilogy finds Jaspal and Marvinder reunited with their mother in India after their search for their father first took them to England. In a tumultuous post-partition India, the siblings must come to terms with their difficult circumstances as they strive to fulfil their dreams. A heart-warming coming of age story about family ties and hope in the face of adversity.

#### You've reached Sam by Dustin Thao

Seventeen-year-old Julie has her future all planned out: move out of her small town with her boyfriend Sam, attend college in the city, spend a summer in Japan. But then Sam dies. And everything changes. Desperate to hear his voice one more time, Julie calls Sam's phone just to listen to his voicemail. And Sam picks up the phone. What would you do if you had a second chance at goodbye? A magical realism story about grief and loss which stays with you long after you've finished reading it.

# Birdsong by Katya Balen

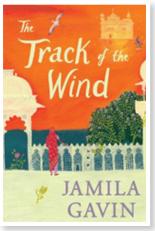
After a devastating car crash, Annie is unable to play her flute and retreats from the music she's always loved. She exists in a world of angry silence – furious with her mum and furious she can't seem to play her beloved flute anymore. Then she meets Noah, who shows her the blackbirds' nest hidden in the scrubland near their flats. As their friendship grows, the blackbirds' glorious song reignites Annie's passion for music. But when tragedy strikes again, will Annie have the fortitude to find her place in the world?

# The Book of Stolen Dreams by David Farr

When Rachel and Robert are passed a stolen book by their librarian father, they have to go on the run and protect it at all costs. With their father captured and everyone hunting for the Book, they must uncover its secrets and track down the final, missing page. But the cruel and calculating Charles Malstain is on their trail. When the children discover the astonishing, magical truth about the Book, they resolve to do everything in their power to stop it falling into his hands. A thrilling adventure ensues as the siblings race to save the world from the terrible fate of being ruled by Malstain forever.

# **New Arrivals**

We have an exciting range of fiction and non-fiction books arriving soon and we would love to invite the students to come and have a browse. Titles from authors such as Sosuke Natsukawa, Alan Garner, Aly Martinez, Celia Imrie and Alexandra Christo will be gracing our shelves in November.



The Track of the Wind, Jamila Gavin



You've reached Sam, **Dustin Thao** 



Birdsong, **Katya Balen** 



The Book of Stolen Dreams, **David Farr** 

Whether you are an avid reader or a picky one - there should be something to suit all tastes!

# **Library Leaders**

October saw the launch of our recruitment drive for the new batch of library leaders. This is a very popular role within the school and once again there was a very enthusiastic response, with a large number of applications submitted.

Our Library Leaders are trained in all the tasks involved in the running of the library, from shelving to issuing and returning books on the cloud-based information system.

Apart from being a valuable form of work experience it is

a great stepping stone for future roles in the school and beyond.

Interviews will take place in the first week after the halfterm break. Good luck to all our applicants!

Ms Khan



# Scary story challenge inspired by award-winning authors visit

# **Short Story Writing** Competition

The library kicked off October with a short story-writing competition, inviting students to pen a scary story between 500 and 3,000 words. We had some truly spine-tingling entries and the judging panel had the unenviable task of picking only three winners from the 45 short stories that were submitted. Our winners were as follows:

Bailee in Year 9 won first prize which was a £25 Amazon gift card for her gripping and original tale about distorted realities.

Aleeza in Year 7 came second and received a £15 gift card for an atmospheric piece with a blood curdling ending.

Asma in Year 10 won the third prize of a £10 gift card for a chilling fantasy horror story.

The following runners up were also highly commended for their stories and received a signed copy of a Chris Priestley hook

Khushi in Year 7 Alishba in Year 7 Vanshi in Year 8 Musawera in Year 9 Khadija in Year 11

The library will be launching another competition next term - so all our budding authors and poets best keep their quills poised!

Mrs Khan





Year 9 student wins First Prize with her gripping original tale about distorted realities.



Third prize student and runners up. Each student received a signed copy of a Chris Priestley book.



# Bentley Wood invites award winning author Chris Priestley

On Friday 14th October we were very excited to welcome award-winning author Chris Priestley to Bentley Wood High School. Chris has written over 30 books covering a wide range of genre from historical fiction to young adult books and he has also enjoyed a successful career as an illustrator. His illustrations have featured in The Economist and The Independent, and his books have been translated into several languages. He is best known for his horror stories for children and, with Halloween around the corner, it was the perfect occasion to have him visit the school to talk about his life and work.

Chris spent the day talking to our students in years 7, 8 and 9 about his background and the experiences that led him to his chosen career of writing fiction. The girls had lots of questions for him, and it was lovely to see their genuine interest and curiosity about the world of publishing and the process of becoming a writer. We hope that the experience has inspired our girls to follow the advice Chris shared of having the courage to follow their passion when choosing their future careers and not being daunted by the challenges ahead.

After lunch, 30 lucky students were selected to take part in a story writing workshop, where Chris Priestley talked to them about the creative process behind writing a scary story. The girls had fun planning a scary story set in a library and they enjoyed exploring the idea of what inspires fear in the reader.

It was an enjoyable and inspirational day and we look forward to welcoming Chris back to visit Bentley Wood in the future.

# Ms Khan



















# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 7

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



#### Art

Evelyn L 7LSB - Excellent contribution to class discussions and visual demonstration to class.

#### Drama

Aliza A 7AHU - For her hard work, enthusiasm and brilliant ethos in drama

### Food

Maliyka F 7LSB - for excellent contribution to class discussions and extending her knowledge and skills by cooking at home with her family.

# **French**

Yukta V 7ROR - for her unfailing enthusiasm for French, she always puts her hand up and puts in so much effort. She is determined to learn and contribute as much as possible.

# **Graphics**

Shanze S 7KPO - for putting in exceptional amounts of effort in class as well as for homework.

# **History**

Zaina R and Sana Z 7GCP - for excellent contributions to class discussions. Khushi D 7GCP - for showing great interest and curiosity for Historical content."

# Maths

Zara A 7ABR - She has made an excellent start in Maths; I am really proud of her as she will always contributes to the lessons and challenge herself by reaching the extension work in every Maths lesson!

#### Music

Deivpra J 7KPO - for her outstanding contribution to Matilda. She is also a committed and hardworking student in her music lessons.

#### PΕ

Camile W 7GCP - for her excellent attitude towards learning so far as well as stepping up as being a leader in gymnastics club.

# **Philosophy**

Emma A 7LSB - for some very thoughtful, philosophical comments in class



# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 8



#### Art

Leyla B 8LBM - for consistent commitment to classwork and for always helping others when tidying up.

#### Drama

Sophia P 8GI - for her fantastic abilities and always shining in performance tasks.

### Food

Sohada T 8TSG - for helping others, participating at every single opportunity and for providing an excellent standard of work.

# **French**

Agdasa Z 8FER - for her enthusiasm in the subject and participating so well in class oral work and discussions, not to mention some excellent work in her book.

# **Graphics**

Ghazal A 8LBM - for all the help you have offered your peers and for being my specialist in technology this term. Aqsa A 8CJG - Effort in classwork and homework."

Sofia S 8TSG - for great participation and enthusiasm in lessons.

# **Maths**

Tabassum N 8TSG - for always rising to the challenge with harder UKMT style questions as extension.

#### Music

Isla A 8FER - for her continued dedication to MUSIC. She is in the department before school, during breaks/ lunch and afterschool showing me the latest piece she has mastered, helping her friends, practicing and just helping me out. Her enthusiasm is a joy to behold! Long may it continue.

#### PE

Chayma Z 8CJG - for an incredible attitude towards her learning in PE. Demonstrating fantastic commitment to extra-curricular clubs

#### **Philosophy**

Kashvi M 8TC - for some excellent contributions to class discussion and a fantastic attitude to learning.

# **Science**

Safa D 8TSG - asking questions beyond the curriculum like a true scientist

# **Textiles**

Rukhsara R 8LBM - for an excellent start to the Year 8 Textiles project.



# Student guidance on future careers









# Student engagement with universities and careers at Bentley Wood Careers Fair 2022

The Bentley Wood Careers Fair 2022 was organised by Education Development Trust who gathered employers, universities and colleges to the event held on 6th October 2022. The atmosphere was excellent with many of the girls eager to speak to the variety of visitors in attendance.

The Year 12 students appeared to engage with all of the employer organisations with many wanting to discuss apprenticeships as an alternative career pathway, they also discussed degree courses with Brunel, Royal Holloway and University of West London. Some were eager to learn about digital animation careers with Escape studios whose alumni have worked on many of the Marvel films

Year 11 students appeared more willing to participate by wearing police helmets and specialist equipment that they brought along.

They spoke to Harrow college and Hammersmith and West London colleges about the different vocational courses available to study and to the different employers from the British Army, Royal Air Force and a variety of construction businesses including McGinley and Clancy group.

Harrow Law Centre presence meant that those young people interested in law careers were able to find out about an organisation that serves the wider community through legal representation in social welfare law.

The job centre representative provided information about apprenticeships in the civil service and working across all government departments which increased awareness to all the girls of the importance of public service roles.

If you would like your organisation to participate in the Careers Fair in 2023 then

email: <a href="mailto:ltapper@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk">ltapper@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk</a> with Name of organisation and contact details.

Lincoln Tapper Career Adviser Education Development Trust









Year 11 at Careers Fair 2022









# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 9



#### Art

**Tahmina U 9IRK** - for always trying to better her skills and knowledge in class and going above and beyond in H/W tasks.

# **Biology**

Fay D, Kalpana M and Abeeha R 9SHA for always enthusiastically contributing in biology.

# Chemistry

Jayna P 9ABI - making an amazing start to chemistry this year!

### **Drama**

Sayida A 9SAS - for showing a fantastic maturity and passion for the subject

# Food

Kenya P 9ABI - for working at a consistently high-level standard throughout the first half term, extremely efficient in her workspace and producing great dishes. Flavia G 9IRK - for working super hard in lessons and being well prepared for practical's (trying out recipes at home)

#### **French**

**Sara M 9EV** - for trying her best during French lessons and for having improved her participation in class.

#### **Graphics**

Ganah F 9ALN - has made an excellent start to her GCSE - Outstanding effort. Ayfar I 9BKB - has made a great start to her GCSE - Outstanding effort

# History

Faatima H 9ALN - for outstanding presentation in history even when she was by herself!

#### Latin

Fatima J 9SAS - for making a superb start to Latin. Your attention to detail is superb!

#### **Maths**

Mursal S 9ABI -Mursal is consistently amazing – her homework is always done early and to an excellent quality. Her classwork is outstanding as she consistently reaches extension work. She participates in class and asks really good questions when she doesn't understand something."

#### Music

**Faiza S 9MGR** - for her outstanding contribution and commitment to music, Matilda, her musical studies and practice.

# PΕ

**Precious M 9ALN** - for demonstrating a positive attitude in GCSE PE. She has demonstrated fantastic commitment both in curriculum time and extracurricular as well as asking questions on how she can improve already.

# Philosophy

Anastasia C 9ALN - for thinking hard in lessons and arguing eloquently.

# **Physics**

Abeeha R 9SHA - for her enthusiasm and brilliant class work

### **Psychology**

Sayida A 9SAS - for always having excellent contributions to class discussions and effort.

# **Textiles**

Zuliakha J 9SAS - for an excellent start to the Year 9 Textiles project.

# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 10



# Art

Zara O 10HJ - Consistent hard work in Art for classwork and homework. Parisa M 10HJ - Much improved effort, classwork and attendance to clubs

# **Biology**

Nina N 10PS - for showing determination by asking questions to develop knowledge when given a challenging situation in biology

### **Business studies**

Vidisha G - 10 HJ - demonstrating resilience and excellence in her Business work

# Chemistry

Noor A - 10EAW - for her dedication and commitment to chemistry and her thought-provoking comments and contributions in class.

#### Drama

Sainthavi S 10MEM - for fantastic commitment and effort in classwork, and creating the most detailed and well presented drama book.

# Food

Aisha F 10EAW - for working so incredibly hard always, being so efficient in the kitchen and helping others along the way as well.

#### French

Reem A 10EAW - for having made a lot of progress in French and always working at the best of her abilities. Bravo!

# German

Tifow H 10BME - for producing excellent work and clearly taking the time to learn vocabulary and grammar.

# **Graphics**

Hena H 10MAK - effort has been outstanding always going above and beyond!

# **History**

Avni R 10BME - for her outstanding commitment to History Ambassadors.

Haya M 10PS - for her unwavering dedication and hard work in Latin

#### Maths

Bhavika V 10HJG - An absolute star pupil! Her change in attitude to her learning is an absolute pleasure to witness. Her commitment to tackling GCSE questions in her spare time is evidence of this. If she continues like this, the only way is up!"

Abrish N 10MTM - for excellent revision in her recent

# **Philosophy**

Vidisha G 10HJ - for going beyond the curriculum to give informed answers.

# **Physics**

Diana H 10EAW - for fantastic engagement this term and for her beautiful revision poster!

# **Psychology**

Ikran H 10EAW - for a positive attitude and showing improvements through assessment

### **Textiles**

Sabah H 10BM - for an excellent start to the Year 10 Textiles project.

# **Enrichment Clubs this term**

# Science Club

Science Club is a weekly experience where Year 7 sign up and take part in various interactive experiments. We can make or build things like rockets or lip-balm. We can do dissections, of hearts, lungs kidneys or eyes. We can experiment with acids and carbonates to make a rainbow of colours in neutralisation reactions. We have also held fire in our hands... without getting burnt. Science Club runs every Friday and is free to join each week. Just sign up!

Mr Koyejo and the science team.

# Science Club Activities 2022 - 23

5 Nov Building and testing fruit batteries11-Nov Marble Challenge slowest marble wins

**18-Nov** Density layers

**26-Nov** Weird Microscopy Looking at slides

**2-Dec** Eye Dissection

9-Dec Popper Rocket Challenge

16-Dec Possible 1/2 day23-Dec Christmas Holiday30-Dec New years Holiday

**6-Jan** Electrolysis Copper plating **13-Jan** Making Bouncing balls

21-Jan Fish dissection27-Jan Egg drop challenge

**3-Feb** Making gold coins, nickle plating

**10-Feb** Mystery food test

**17-Feb** Half Term

**24-Feb** Making Lip Balm

**3-Mar** Building an electromagnet Building an electric motor

**17-Mar** Growing Microbes

**24-Mar** Testing antibiotics / soaps/ detergents

13-Mar Possible 1/2 day7-Apr Easter Break14-Apr Easter Break

21-Apr Van der Graff & static electricity28-Apr Making indicators & testing

acid or alkali

**5-May** Micro chemistry Precipitations

**12-May** Ooblecc. Walking on non-newtonian fluid

**19-May** Nature run capture and

identifying bugs

**26-May** Testing catalyst Elephants toothpaste

Half- term









# Criminology Club

Criminology Club has extended our understanding of why others are influenced by society and thought to become criminals.

In Criminology we have looked into crime cases and investigated the reasons for why these crimes have happened. We've also discussed the punishments that the criminals should face, depending on their involvement in the crime they have committed.

We explored the idea of prisons and debated how accessible things should be in prison; such as food, sleeping arrangements and contacting. We looked at the differences between prisons in England and Norway, how despite Norway's prisons being more luxurious, crimes by the prisoners weren't committed again compared to prisoners in England. In criminology we have debated a lot and extended our knowledge about how our surroundings and circumstances impact us positively and negatively.

## Manasika R 9IRK











# Involvement in environmental and chess challenges









# Student Eco Club

Bentley Wood students know that we are a part of the environment we live in. And the solution to many environmental problems lies in our attitude towards environment.

Be it awareness to keep our surroundings clean or the realisation to conserve natural resources by re-using and recycling wherever possible, they all are attitudinal.

On the surface it looks simple. But changing the attitudes of people is not going to happen overnight. The best way to attempt to bring about a change in the attitudes in the society is through students. They are our future. They are the single most important influence in any family or society.

- The objectives envisaged by the Students Eco-Club
- To make students understand environment and environmental problems.
- To provide environmental education opportunities for students.

- To utilize the unique position of students as conduits for awareness and agents of change of the society at
- To facilitate students' participation in decision making in areas related to environment and development.
- To bring students into direct contact with the environmental problems being faced by the society they live in and make them think of solutions.
- To involve students in action-based programmes related to environment in their surroundings.
- To enhance leadership skills and develop their social awareness and personality.

The first activity was collecting old uniforms from Year 11 students who are now in Year 12 and then reusing them and reselling them to those in lower schools.

The big sale will take place 20th October 2022.

Mr Maric, Assistant Headteacher

# Chess Master promotes chess for girls in his visit to **Bentley Wood**

International Master and coach of the England women's chess team, Lorin D'Costa, delighted pupils with some expert insights into the game of chess.

Girls from across all year groups attended his lunchtime coaching session where he combined instruction for complete beginners as well as more advanced players.

Lorin has been at the forefront of promoting chess for girls through his

'She Plays To Win' (www.sheplaystowin.co.uk) initiative a charitable organisation which looks to raise the profile of chess in girls' schools. Girls are underrepresented in chess and there is massive untapped potential in schools like Bentley Wood." says Lorin.

Bentley Wood will now look to enter teams into competitions run by 'She Plays To Win' under the guidance of the chess enthusiasts amongst the school staff: Mr N Shah and Ms S Omar. Could Bentley Wood produce the next female Grand Master?

# Mr Shah





# Chess Club

Students attending Chess Club Every Wednesday lunchtime. Room V11 /V13 Year 7 - 9 12.20 - 1.05 - Year 10 - 13 1.05 - 1.50







# Student motivation and fitness

# Winning Year 10 and 11 netball matches this term

Congratulations to both Year 10 and 11 netball teams. Both teams had very tight matches, as both games had 1 point difference. Unfortunately the Year 11 team lost by 1 point -8-9 and the Year 10 team won by 1 point - 6-7. Both teams represented Bentley Wood really well and demonstrated fantastic skills. The year 10 team have now won both of their netball games that they have played so far this season! When you see the students around school please congratulate them!

#### Ms Collen

# Year 10 netball team win against Whitefriars

The Year 10 netball team were victorious in their first game of the season this term against Whitefriars. After a scrappy first quarter from both teams, Bentley Wood settled into their own game.

Their teamwork shone through as they began to work together when getting some incredible passes into the goal third. With our player of the game, Madison C, playing Centre, and some incredible interceptions from Nia A in Goal Defence, Bentley Wood managed to keep the ball out of their defensive third and the team went on to win 9-4!!

We are really excited to see how the team gets on in the rest of the season.

## Ms Bannon

# **Another win for Bentley Wood!**

Year 10 and Year 11 played another fixture this week against Park High. The Year 10 Park High team put us through our paces and with the team two players short this week we were really appreciative of Precious (Year 9) and Naomi (Year 10) stepping in to help us out! Unfortunately, despite some stunning defending from Nia Anthony Dunn, the Year 10 team ended their game in defeat with a score of 11-4 to Park High.

However, our Year 11 team put their GCSE PE training into good use and were completely victorious with a score of 26 to 1! The whole team pulled together well and their strategy planning paid off.

Well done to both teams - your coach is very proud!

# Ms Bannon

# Table Tennis Club

Sixth formers join Table Tennis Club early on Friday mornings at 7:30am for early morning table tennis sessions, they have a Great time.

Ms Lomax, Head of Sixth Form









# Sixth Form Walking Club

Sixth Form Walking club has kicked off again this academic year and it consisted of conker collection competition! Sixth formers love to get some fresh air at lunch time and pause from studying to ensure they are refreshed and prepared for afternoon lessons! We are so lucky that we can make use of the Bentley Priory and enjoy the outdoors.

Ms Lomax, Head of Sixth Form













# Festivals: scary days out and dancing

# Sixth formers experience an adrenaline fuelled trip at Fright Might Thorpe Park

Every year we get the privilege of being able to strengthen student and teacher relationships through an incredible trip to Thorpe Park, organised by Mr O'Sullivan.

This year he managed to secure over 100 tickets to provide this opportunity to as many people as possible, gifting us a memory we will cherish for years to come. We got to experience a night of terror, adrenaline, and expensive food, all encased within the magic of 'Fright Night'.

It's always an exciting time, especially with the Sixth formers who decide to do spooky makeup looks to match the theme, as well as the Halloween actors at Thorpe park who make the experience even more thrilling.

Many of us booked mazes, went on over six rides and spent a lot of money attempting to win massive plushies... we were unsuccessful. I hope this tradition continues for years to come, as it gives us sixth form students a chance to relax in a very stressful time of our lives.

We are all very thankful to Mr O'Sullivan for making this possible every year!

Eleni P 13SNU















# Year 12 student dances at Diwali, a festival of lights in the heart of London

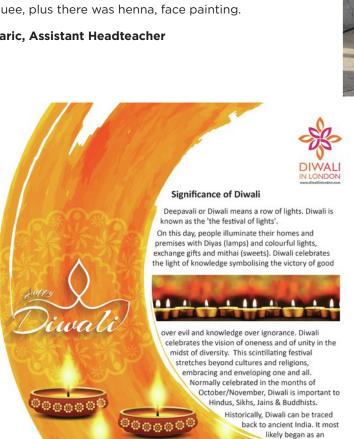
Trafalgar Square was alive with music, dancing and colourful outfits as the Mayor of London's annual Diwali celebrations returned. On 9th October It's always one of the capital's biggest celebrations of the Festival of Lights,

The Mayor of London's free annual family event was delivered in partnership with the Diwali in London committee and opened with 200 colourfully dressed dancers in the main square followed by an exciting mix of performances from the Hindu, Sikh and Jain community on the stage.

Our Sixth form student Neha P 12JT performed a Bharatnatyam fusion dance at Trafalgar Square.

There was a host of activities to enjoy including Neasden Temple's Diwali Festival Experience, dance workshops, yoga and meditation, Glimpse of Goddesses, Sari and Turban tying, the Diwali Culture Zone, the Unity Marquee, Soho Theatre Comedy and the ever-popular Children's marquee, plus there was henna, face painting.

Mr Maric, Assistant Headteacher









# Sixth formers helping and volunteering in the community

# Sixth formers enjoy volunteering at a pharmacy

On Thursday 21st September, I was able to take a few students to volunteer at a local pharmacy. This was such a fantastic opportunity for us future medics to learn new skills and apply them to our future careers.

We all had various tasks to do, meaning we all learnt something new, where some students will be working in pairs to stick labels onto medicine, doing admin work and restocking. We all had so much fun working together and it was a space where we could ask questions about the healthcare field and gain experience from talking to a pharmacist.

Volunteering at the pharmacy, was a good way to clear my head about my studies, as communicating with customers, meeting new people and doing something I love, just helped me be in my own haven.

Being able to provide the work experience that excited so many students has been truly rewarding and I am incredibly thankful to the pharmacist to give such a great opportunity to us students. We have a rota system where 5 students will work there each week, I can't wait to go back and take some new students next week!

Sarmiga 13SN

# Sixth form Helpers

Sixth formers were very keen to help promote and sell the school on Open Evening on 15th September. Parents and students were impressed and commented on how helpful our Sixth Formers were.

Ms Lomax, Head of Sixth Form









# Sixth formers continure the legacy of voluntering at Harrow Community Kitchen

In 2021, our Head Girl Team made excellent links with Harrow Community Kitchen. The opportunity to volunteer here was so popular that we had to run a rota system where 10 students attended each Tuesday after school to volunteer.

The team who work at HCK really value the speed at which our students work and how efficient they are in the food bank. This opportunity has remained from the previous Head Girl Team's legacy where the new Head Student Team of 2022 have continued to run this opportunity for Year 12 and Year 13 students. Rota systems are well organised and students make their way to volunteer every Tuesday after school. Students help to package food parcels for those in the local community who collect weekly from the food bank.

As you can see from the photos, the students make this a fun experience. They regularly play music and enjoy themselves, feeling rewarded for giving back to their local community. We are proud of them and know that this experience will remain the legacy of Bentley Wood Sixth Formers for many years now.

# Ms Lomax, Head of Sixth Form











# Sixth form engagement with history









# Year 13 reflective trip to Auschwitz

On the 13th October, we were given the opportunity of a lifetime, a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the site of perhaps the most notorious atrocity in history, the Holocaust. The visit was both enlightening and emotionally challenging. We visited the sites of Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau. The eerie chill of Auschwitz crawled through us as we walked from block to block, tracing the footsteps of all those who starved to death there. The looming gates of Auschwitz-Birkenau filled us with dread and anticipation. We walked along the rails and reflected; on what these people thought as they approached this place.

We were especially moved by the contrast of the weather, the scenery and the knowledge of the darkness that stained these places. It was a wonderful sunny day, and the grass was green. The sky looked beautiful, and we were in a relatively good mood. Stepping foot there, it somehow felt wrong to revel in the sun, it felt wrong to complain about a sudden chilly wind, wrong to complain that our feet hurt because the victims who were there before us were not given the privilege to revel in the sun, to complain about the wind or pain. They could only survive. That instinct to survive underpinned much of what we heard about Auschwitz. Victims fought over food rations and clothing; shoes especially were a prized possession. There were block leaders among the prisoners and even a hierarchy of jobs. Ironically, working in the toilets was perhaps the best option one could have. They were warm, away from the cold eyes of the guards and allowed to go to the toilet as much as they wished; a prospect we could never fathom but shows the desperate situations and how inhumane too.

We collectively agreed that the most chilling part was the gas chamber. The chambers in the latter site were destroyed but in the former, one was still intact. We walked through it, stood in it and it was there we had the awful realisation of "people died here". The next most chilling place was a room filled with hair. There is something so personal about hair, the way we style it, colour it and even play with it

characterises us. To see this hair shorn from the heads of their owners, hair that was braided lovingly, kissed and felt the wind; to see it behind glass sitting there, we felt a strange numbness. It was almost like seeing the bodies of the dead. This was the closest we could get to the people who were hurt most by this tragedy.

We were also particularly surprised by the size of the camp. It was so vast and endless that it gave us goosebumps. In particular, entering Camp 27 was the most moving because Hebrew songs were being played and it showed the strengthened faith of the Jews. The humanisation of the perpetrators was something we hadn't given much thought to before, like how Rudolf Hoss chose to locate his house next to the camp so he could see his family. Following the visit, we had a seminar where we heard from Janine (a holocaust survivor) and her personal experiences of how her life completely transformed and the innocence that was lost through the pictures of her childhood. Her experiences resonated with me, as a young girl who saw a role model in her mother. I found it heart-breaking how young children were separated from their mothers at the camp. Hearing these testimonies puts the atrocities into perspective and the unimaginable pain suffered by these individuals. The more positive aspect was that we were able to meet some new friends from other schools participating in the project and it was stimulating to hear their thoughts.

We all took away the key message that the whole project emphasised the importance of being kind. Despite the losses suffered by the survivors, they still spread the message of love and tolerance, and never to hate or persecute anyone for their beliefs. It is so inspiring to hear this message and the way the survivors rebuilt their lives. Overall, this experience has been eye-opening to us both and we look forward to spreading our knowledge in the Bentley Wood community!

Isma M 13LFO

# Year 12 students go on a historic journey of monarchs, in Westminster Abbey

Our Year 12 history class set about a journey through a time of monarchs, most notably King Henry VII, at Westminster Abbey. It was a riveting place with stunning architecture in the gothic style with coronation of monarchs dating back to William the Conqueror and the last one being the late queen Elizabeth II, and soon king Charles III. It was a merge of the ordinary and the royal with both being commemorated and celebrated in the Abbey.

When arriving at the Abbey we were greeted by a tour team that gave us a presentation on Henry VII and his Death will in which he wanted a statue of himself in armour and gold. After a brief presentation, which was interactive and engaging, we were set the task of finding this statue as we toured around the Abbey. This made the tour more exciting as we were attentive and observed the Abbey in more detail and in turn, we couldn't put our phones down from a constant need to capture the beauty of the rare historical monument.

First on our tour, we saw the grave of the unknown soldier, a grave that is forbidden to walk over, which commemorates the soldiers of WW1. It highlighted the soldiers sacrifices and shows us that you don't need to be rich or royal to be remembered in the Abbey. In fact, you didn't even need to be Christian.

Next, we saw the shrine of St. Edward where we found out that the statue of king Henry VII which we were keen to find, didn't exist. His will for the statue was never carried out otherwise it would have been in the shrine of St. Edward.

Afterwards, we visited the Lady Chapel, the most astonishing place in all the Abbey with a late medieval styled fanvaulted ceiling which was considered the wonder of the world at the time. The tombs of Elizabeth and her half-sister Queen Mary (most famously known as Bloody Mary) were placed in the Lady Chapel together although they loathed one another with the ironic inscription of:

"Partners in throne and grave, here we sleep Elizabeth and Mary, sisters **in hope of the Resurrection**"

On the other side, was the tomb of Mary Queen of Scots with her Stuart lineage surrounding her. The pinnacle of our tour was the entry and access to the effigy of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. This was enclosed and protected, given its importance, however we were given rare access to see it up close. It was more of a grand and detailed effigy in commemoration of himself and his wife compared to the solemn shrine of St. Edward.

Our day ended here as we walked away with the bells ringing from the Abbey dedicated to Edward the Confessor who constructed the church on the 13th of October 1296, the same day of our trip. It rung so loud and for such a length of time, you felt you could still hear it miles away.

Overall, it was an interesting and enjoyable experience of learning about Henry VII and building on our previous GCSE knowledge of the Tudors. It was especially exciting as we moved away from the classroom and instead found ourselves in a place of rich history and heritage.

# Bushra A 12TRAf





Effigy of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York.

The grave of the unknown soldier





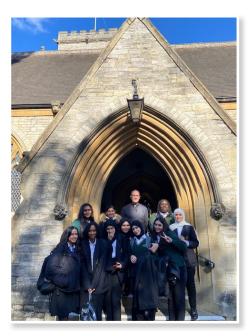


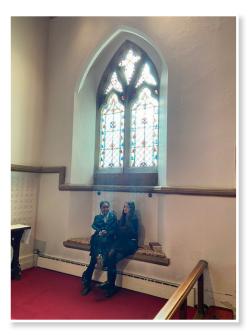




# RS students get a greater understanding of different faiths











# Year 11 Religious Studies students visit St John's Church in Stanmore

Our Year 11 students have made a visit to our local church in Stanmore as a part of their course learning about different aspects of Christianity. They visited St John's Church where The Revd Matthew Stone gave them lecture about history of the church as well as Christianity.

At least a quarter of the GCSE is on Christianity. The trip to the church enabled students, many of whom had never been inside a church before, to gain a deeper understanding of the religion.

All students at Bentley Wood High School take GCSE Religious Studies; a decision that allows the students to consider different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society.

This experiential learning is very important for our students to prepare for their Summer examinations. St John's church has an amazing history and has been part of local community since the 14th Century.

There has been a church in the Stanmore area for around 1000 years. The current church was built in 1850. We are lucky to be welcomed by rector Mathew Stone and his stories about the church were inspirational.

Mr Maric, Assistant Headteacher





# Year 10 students attend speech by ordained Buddhist

"On Friday 23rd September we welcomed an ordained Buddhist speaker, Amalanandi, for all Year 10 students.

Buddhism makes up half of the GCSE Religious Studies course and so this was an insightful experience for the students as most had not met an ordained Buddhist before.

Throughout the discussion, Amalanandi explored key Buddhist concepts, such as the life of the Buddha and the Dharma (teachings of the Buddha).

She also reflected on her own experience of becoming ordained as a woman and this led to an excellent discussion on gender equality in Buddhism.

As usual, the girls behaved excellently and asked some key questions regarding enlightenment, the cycle of rebirth and about the concept of dukkha (suffering) and whether it really can be overcome (as Buddhism teaches).

Overall, it was an invaluable and engaging experience for the Year 10 students, and we look forward to welcoming Amalanandi back in the future. "

# **Miss Crosbie**











# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 11

#### Art

Mahjabeen M 11AAL - Consistent hard work both in classwork and homework.

# **Biology**

Nilofer S 11EOG - for always asking questions and trying to better her knowledge every single lesson.

**Business studies** 

Hafsa Y 11SZa - For additional questions and showing determination in her studies to do well.

#### Chemistry

Donya S 11SZ - for showing perseverance in a new class and rising to the challenges of Year 11 Chemistry with an excellent attitude.

### **Drama**

Inaayah H 11AAL - for consistent hard work in drama and managing a complete audit and re-organisation of the drama department resources!

# Food

Fatima I 11SZ - for being bold and brave in her decisions and sticking by what she knows and not letting others influence her decisions. Works so incredibly hard.

#### French

Yashvi V 11MCO - for working at a consistently high level, being very committed to learn French. She has been fully engaged in learning French this term.

#### German

Georgia E 11RGR - for consistently contributing so well in lessons and producing some high-quality work.

Hailley P 11SEO - Outstanding effort which has improved her skill level and quality of outcome.

Sumaria J 11MCO - for helping and supporting others in the class.

# **History**

Britannia N 11AAL - for her dedication and high quality of work.

#### Latin

Baveena S 11SZ - for making a superb start to Latin and carefully taking all feedback onboard!

#### **Maths**

Kulthum H 11JBH -is a conscientious student who shows resilience and dedication in Maths lessons. She has shown real improvement from the beginning of term and always works hard and never fails to challenge herself. I am super proud of her and know she will only flourish.

# Music

Jessalyn A 11RGR - for her outstanding vocal solo assessment and the effort she has put into her compositions this half term.

#### PΕ

Inaayah H 11AAL - mature approach to her theoretical studies and working hard to ensure she can achieve her best.

# **Philosophy**

Noor A 11SZ - for consistently being a keen philosopher!

# **Physics**

Nermyn S 11JBH - for fantastic engagement in class and for always volunteering

# **Psychology**

Manal B 11EOG - for contributing so well in class

# **Textiles**

Husna U 11JBH - for an excellent start to the Year 11 Textiles project.

# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 12



Neha P 12JT - for excellence in skills and effort - going above and beyond

### **Business Studies**

Alanna Tucker 12 TRA

#### Chemistry

Saja H 12CSN - for making an excellent start with her A Level Chemistry work - keep shining!

#### **Classical Civilisation**

Charlotte O 12CSN - for making excellent contributions in class

# **Computer science**

Mariam U 12MTI - for her dedication and contribution to Computer Science and supporting in every Open Evening so far.

#### Drama

Neha P 12JT - for supporting this year's musical production and leading the KS3 Drama Club.

### **Economics**

Zohara H 12TRA

#### H&S

Zahra B 12JT - for making excellent contributions to class discussions.

#### **History**

Nikita M 12CSN - for excellent questioning and effort in class. Carina F 12CSN - settling in so well.



#### Maths,

Further Maths: Rinesa V 12TRA - for showing an eagerness to learn and develop by engaging with all aspects of her learning. She has shone in maths where she has shown great determination and persistence in order to get to an answer. Maths: Marium I 12GCO & Saja H 12CSN - for making an excellent start in their AS Maths by showing their resilience and commitment from the very beginning. Keep up the good work!

# **Philosophy**

Morgan D 12MTI - for her excellent, critical questions. Always thinking outside of the box. Keep it up!

Jasmin M 12GCO - for a consistently high standard of work and for always volunteering

# Spanish

Zara S 12JT - for making excellent contributions to class discussions.

# **Politics**

Esraa M 12MTI



# Investigating our environments

# Stratford trip 2022

We were taken on a trip to Stratford to see the difference between a regenerated and deprived part of London. We started the day of with a fun coach journey, at arrival we were greeted by a wonderful team who were kindly going to teach us about Stratford and give us a tour while educating us on all the geographical knowledge possible. We were given a booklet to explore all our knowledge, the booklet contained fun and experimental activities for all of us to do.

To start the day off we visited Carpenters Estate here we looked at certain locations and graded them on a scale of 1-5 on different qualities of the area. Making our way to lunch we got to enjoy the views of Stratford we all ate lunch together and continued our adventure.

We then visited a regenerated area in Stratford called East village We walked through Westfield getting as close as we could to getting in. At East village, we did a range of activities collecting information about the surrounding area and the environmental aspects. We did a survey asking the locals of Stafford their own opinion of the area, another task we did was tallying the total amount of luxuries or daily essentials we saw. For example, we tallied how many restaurants or how many schools we saw. Sadly, our day was coming to an end as we made our way back to the coach, we enjoyed the last few views of the giant slide and West Ham stadium.

But that wasn't the end of all the excitement as we made our way back to school the teachers didn't fail to entertain us on the coach. We had an absolute blast today and I would like to say a huge thanks to the whole geography department for planning a wonderful day out for us to enjoy.

Sanika V 11CCH

# **Environmental Action**

A fantastic group of caring Year 11 students have been giving up their time regularly over the last few months to clean up their environment by litter picking around school. After learning about the damage that littering can do to our environment, they wanted to give up their time to make a difference by supporting communities beyond their own.

On Sunday 9th October, the group joined Ms Bannon and Mr Curtis in a Beach Clean on the Essex Coast. Walking along the coast line (with a few stops for some photos of the scenery!) they picked up litter which included food wrappers, fishing rope and micro plastics.

Local residents stopped us to thank us for our time and told our students how crucial it is for young people to be interested in protecting their environment and taking action to make change for good. We are really proud of them and know that they will continue to take positive action that makes a difference.

Ms Bannon













# Geography fieldwork at Nettlecombe Court in Somerset

Exploring the Somerset area was such an enlivening and revitalising experience. Getting to work practically with different field study methods allowed us to have a better view of how different factors, such as climate change, affected both the coastline and the people who lived there.

We improved on several skills including teamwork, accuracy, and data management through the several investigations we carried out. For example, finding the beach profile of a coastline at different points.

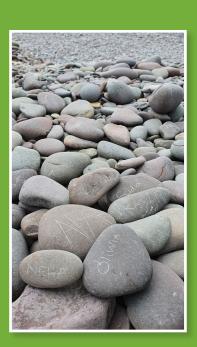
Working together with the Year 13s, we gathered valuable insight into the challenges as well as opportunities of coastal living.

We found that many sea defences such as revetments and beach nourishment had to be implemented. This was imperative to protect the population of Minehead and the several streams of income it had, such as Butlins (a popular holiday destination), which annually brings several millions of pounds to the local economy.

Furthermore, we had an unforgettable time attempting to climb, but ultimately sliding, down the steep berm of Porlock Ridge.

Overall, the experience was informative, super enjoyable and very memorable!

Kashi D 12TRAf













# Politics and Sociology lecture









# Year 13 students attend lecture led by Children's Commissioner, for England: Dame Rachel De Souza

On Tuesday 27th September, Year 13 Government and Politics, and Sociology students had the opportunity to attend a lecture at Harrow School, led by Children's Commissioner for England: Dame Rachel De Souza.

As Children's Commissioner, she has the responsibility of promoting and protecting the rights of all children in England, and this talk provided us with insight into all the issues surrounding children's protection, and what her next steps were to ensure that circumstances improve.

For example, "the Big Ask" survey that was sent to all children under 18, after the pandemic, and had over half a million responses. These responses produced statistics such as 20% of 9-17 year olds were unhappy, making mental health and wellbeing a significant problem today.

Despite this, the Children's Commissioner spoke inspiring and reassuring words, that action is being taken to help improve the lives of young children:

"It was interesting to see that behind the scenes there are people contributing to improving the inequalities of today's society, especially in the education system for less advantaged pupils.

Even though change to complete equality and fairness will not be very rapid, it's good to know it's a work in progress!"

Meena S 13SNU

# Student Rewards October 2022

# Year 13



#### Art

Rawan N 13SG - Effort and development of skill - started Year 13 well.

# **Biology**

Heena R 13 LFO - for just going above and beyond in the lesson. She is always willing to share interesting information

#### **Business studies**

# Zara A 13SG

# **Classical Civilisation**

Dilara P 13PBL - for creating the Classics Society and Myth club!

# H&S

Khadija G 13SBR -for being really focused this term and great Unit 4 practice questions!

# History

Mawada N 13PBL - for her commitment to extracurricular activities this term!

### Maths

Further Maths - Lubna A 13LFO - for her consistent approach to learning & always aiming higher. Well done Lubna! Maths Spozmai A 13SBR - for her unfazed determination & commitment to succeed at the highest level.

# **Philosophy**

Zeynab A 13LFO - for her fantastic class contributions so far this year.

# **Physics**

Mohadea S 13SBR - for her consistently high standard of work and brilliant enthusiasm

# **Psychology**

Lavana S 13LFO - for a new-found motivation this year



# Student Enrichment Timetable 2022

Bentley Wood High School Enrichment Autumn Term 2022							
Before Sch	- 1.50pm)						
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
Y10/11 Drama Club Mr Rankin Room: 111 1.30 - 2.20pm	Y7/8 Geography Ambassadors (Week A only) Ms Jain Room: 202 12.40 - 1.20pm	Business Board Games (Week B only) Mr Chopra Room: 211 12.30 - 1.00pm	Y9 Homework Club Miss Bairstow Room: 108 12.40 - 1.20pm	Criminology Club Ms Howes Y8/9/12/13 Room: 212 12.40 - 1.20pm			
KS4 Composition Drop In Mrs Bancroft Room: 113 1.45 - 2.15pm	Y7/8 Drama Club Mr Rankin Room: 111 12.40 - 1.20pm	Y7 - 9 History Club (Week A only) Miss Bharj Room: 216 12.30 - 1.00pm	Y12/13 Ethics Cup Club Miss Crosbie Room: W4 12.40- 1.20pm	6th Form Walking Club Mrs Ortega/ Ms Lomax Room: 6th Form Benches 12.40 - 1.30pm			
KS3 "Puzzles & Art in Maths" Club Mr Ilanko/Mr P Shah/Miss Pooni Room: V13 12.40 - 1.20pm	Y11 Latin Club Miss Illingworth Room: 207 1.30 - 2.20pm	Chess Club Mr N Shah/Miss Omar Room: V11/V13 Y7 - 9 12.20 - 1.05pm and Y10 - 13 1.05 - 1.50pm	Y7/8 Classics Club Ms Hussain Room: 207 12.50 - 1.20pm	Y9 Drama Club Mr Rankin Room: 111 12.40 - 1.20pm			
Young Person's Book Prize Reading & Review Club Miss Lambert Room: 303 3.15 - 4.15pm	Junior Orchestra Mrs Bancroft Room: Music Room 12.50 - 1.20pm	Y9 Choir Mrs Parkes/Ms Leighton Room: Dance Studio 12.50 - 1.20pm	KS3 Instrumental Practice Drop In Mrs Bancroft/Mrs Parkes Room: Music Room 12.50 - 1.20pm	KS3 Share a Story Reading Club (Week A only) Mr Zabielski Room: V2 12.40 - 1.30pm			
	Senior Orchestra Mrs Bancroft Room: Music Room 1.45 - 2.15pm	Senior Choir Mrs Bancroft/Ms Leighton Room: Dance Studio 1.30 - 2.15pm	Y7 Netball Ms Collen Room: Netball Courts 7.30 - 8.15am	Junior Choir Mrs Parkes/Ms Leighton Room: Music Room 12.50 - 1.20pm			
	Volleyball (All Years) Ms Collen Room: Sports Hall 7.30 - 8.15am	String Group Room: Drama Studio 12.50 - 1.20pm	Y7 - 9 Basketball Club Mr Curtis Room: Sports Hall 12.45 - 1.15pm	KS3 Samba Band/Drum Group Room: Dance Studio 12.50 - 1.20pm			
	Y7/8 Junior UKMT Maths Challenge Ms Massara/Ms Hagi Room: V13 12.40 - 1.20pm	Y7 - 9 Badminton Ms Wardlaw Room: Sports Hall 12.45 - 1.15pm	Y7/8 Culture Club Ms Codrean Room: 204 12.40 - 1.20pm	Table Tennis Club (All Yr Groups) Mr Curtis Room: Sports Hall 7.30 - 8.15am			
	Y10/11 French Book Club (Week A only, once a half term) Miss Simcox Room: 208/209 1.40 - 2.10pm	Y7 Maths Catch Up Club Ms Ali Room: V14 12.20 - 1.05pm	KS4 Share a Story Reading Club (Week A only) Ms Mohan Room: V8 1.30 - 2.20pm	Fitness Club (All Yr Groups) Ms Bannon Room: Gym 7.30 - 8.15am			
	Anime Club Miss Terraza Room: 108 12.40 - 2.20pm	Anthropology Society Mr Maric/Miss Mouskis Room: W6 1.15 - 1.50pm		Y7 - 9 Gymnastics Club Miss Chandler Room: Gym 12.45 - 1.15pm			
				Equality Team Club (Week B) Mrs Burridge Room: tbc 1.00 - 2.00pm			
				Y12/13 Senior UKMT Maths Challenge Mr N Shah Room: V13 12.40 - 1.20pm			
				KS4 Geography Ambassadors (Week A only) Mr Ferris Room: 215 1.40 - 2.20pm			

















# Information and advice for students and parents

# Mental Health and Wellbeing: Advice for Your Daughters

"Child mental health crisis holds nation back" (Jul '22) "Pills alone can't sure our mental health ills." (Oct '22)

These are just two recent headlines from newspapers reporting on mental health. Many young people today suffer from anxiety and stress in a way many of us adults never did in our childhoods. Our young people are under pressure from social media, peer pressure, and exam performance expectations. The teenage years are crucial time in our development.

Teenagers are becoming young adults, discovering and creating who they will become in later life. It is a vulnerable and impressionable age. Many of the experiences they have as teenagers will leave their mark on them for their whole life, whether for good or for ill. At Bentley Wood, your daughter's emotional well-being and mental health, as well as her academic success and her maturation into a civicminded democratic citizen, are very dear to us.

Some of our teenagers at Bentley Wood will be entering the exam season shortly. This may bring stress. We care tremendously for our students' well-being, and so would like to share with you some of the strategies we offer as a school to help your daughter be more resilient and feel better.

# Mindfulness Training:

One of the best-evidenced strategies we know of for wellbeing is developing your mindfulness. The Government's Mindfulness All-Party Parliamentary Group (MAAPPG) studied mindfulness meditation for one year, taking evidence from a variety of experts.

Their report, 'Mindful Nation' recommends a roll-out of Mindfulness training to schools (as well as hospitals and workplaces), including recommending a £1 million a year fund to train Teachers to teach Mindfulness to students. Many of my colleagues and I are passionate about promoting mental health and emotional robustness in our amazing Bentley Wood students. Therefore, to help combat the anxiety of our students (and staff), to help them be more resilient, as well as more focused, we introduced.

Mindfulness at Bentley Wood. Mindfulness means "paying attention to what's happening in the present moment in the mind, body and external environment, with an attitude of curiosity and kindness. It is typically cultivated by a range of simple meditation practices, which aim to bring a greater awareness of thinking, feeling and behaviour patterns, and to develop the capacity to manage these with greater skill and compassion." \* It involves exercising and improving our ability to focus and be involved, without distraction, in the





present moment. Potential benefits include greater calm and well-being, better focus, richer relationships, greater academic and sporting success, and more. Ten minutes per day of meditation practice can have great benefits long

# What can we offer regarding Mindfulness practice at Bentley Wood?

FORMAL MINDFULNESS COURSES: Three members of staff are trained to teach the '.b' Mindfulness course for teenagers (10 weeks). This equips students to deal with their academic and personal life more effectively, be more resilient, with less stress and more concentration. If your daughter would like to train her mind and emotions then ask her to sign up for a future course. The next courses will start after the Hallowe'en break and will be advertised on our Student Wellbeing Team.

MEDITATION CLUBS: Our Meditation Club runs Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime in W9. Your daughter is welcome to pop in and take part in a short meditation anytime. Look for the posters for details. Train the brain and feel better!

# **Sleep And Exercise:**

SLEEP: Sleep helps your brain work properly. While you're sleeping, your brain is preparing for the next day. It's forming new pathways to help you learn and remember information.

Studies show that a good night's sleep improves learning. Whether you're learning maths, how to play the piano, how to perfect your golf swing, or how to drive a car, sleep helps enhance your learning and problem-solving skills. Sleep also helps you pay attention, make decisions, and be creative. Studies also show that sleep deficiency alters activity in some parts of the brain. If you're sleep deficient, you may have trouble making decisions, solving problems, controlling your emotions and behaviour, and coping with change. Sleep deficiency also has been linked to depression, suicide, and risk-taking behaviour.

Teenagers who are sleep deficient may have problems getting along with others. They may feel angry and impulsive, have mood swings, feel sad or depressed, or lack

motivation. They also may have problems paying attention. and they may get lower grades and feel stressed." In short, make sure your daughter gets a good night's sleep! It is a basic but essential ingredient of emotional well-being. If your daughter finds it difficult to get to sleep, then practising a mindfulness meditation, like a 'Beditation' (!) can help take her mind off worries and allow her to drift off.

EXERCISE OF MIND AND BODY: Richard Burton, in his 'Anatomy of Melancholy' (1621) writes:

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

After four hundred years, the advice is much the same. Physical and mental exercise is a good way to alleviate stress and dark moods. Your daughter could go jogging, practice Aikido, go swimming, play croquet, go mountainclimbing, or any other sporting endeavour she enjoys. Similarly, she should pursue some passion or hobby, whether it be astronomy, role-playing games, magic, ancient history, knitting, or whatever it might be. Physical exercise can prevent stress, as can the mental exercise of being engrossed in a subject one is passionate about. Encourage your daughter in her passions, whether for physical or mental exercise, or, ideally, both. The pursuit of these passions will nurture her emotional well-being tremendously. To sum up then; to help with your daughter's well-being think of Mindfulness, sleeping well, physical and/ or mental exercise, and the pursuit of passions. All are easily achievable, enjoyable, and essential ingredients for a flourishing life.

# Other selected mental health provision at Bentley wood:





# PSHE:

Students learn about wellbeing, healthy eating, sleep, exercise and mental health in our PSHE curriculum.

# Wise Thoughts:

We discuss strategies for wellbeing across the whole school several times a year.

# Sports:

Bentley Wood has an amazing P.E. Department which runs lots of extra-curricular clubs.

# Student Wellbeing & Mental Health Team:

This is an online repository of wellbeing practices and advice that is updated regularly - you will find videos, articles, guided meditations, and more.

#### Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHP):

We are fortunate to work in partnership with the Harrow Mental Health Support Team, and for having a trained Senior Mental Health Lead on our team. As part of this advanced practice, we also benefit from the services of EMHP counselling for treating anxiety, low mood, and so on.

#### Counsellors:

We have the services of a number of Counsellors each week, organised by Ms Bannon, who can help our students in times of difficulties.

# Wellbeing & Mental Health Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors prepare whole-school discussions on mental health every few weeks in our Wise Thoughts. Students can speak to them about concerns if they need a chat and they can direct them to the right person.

# Other Recommendations:

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

# https://www.headspace.com/headspace-meditation-app

CALM APP: Also an app for developing mindfulness through meditation.

MEDITATION MP3s: We have placed a number of meditation mp3 in the Student Wellbeing and Enrichment Team. Your daughter can download and play anytime to build up a practice.

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

# http://franticworld.com/

# http://franticworld.com/free-meditations-frommindfulness/

If you have any questions on any of the above please contact Mr O'Sullivan or your Head of Year.

# Mr O'Sullivan **Assistant Headteacher** Senior Mental Health Lead





# Information and advice for 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
- 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

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

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school.

The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and messages from the

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



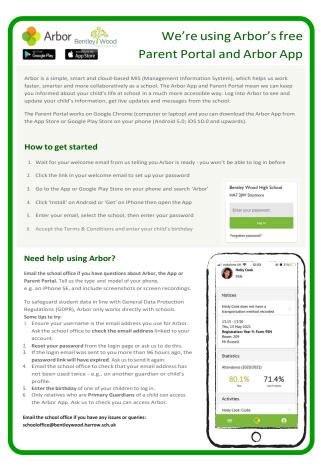
criteria. If you're currently claiming free school meals, but do not meet the new criteria, your child will continue to receive free school meals until the end of the Universal Credit rollout period. This will apply even if your earnings rise above the new threshold or if you stop being entitled to Universal 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

# 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:





# Staying Safe

# Some safety tips for students:

- Always tell someone where you are going and what time you will return.
- Talk to a trusted adult if anyone says or does anything that worries or frightens you. A trusted adult might be a family member or please contact the school – someone will be there to support you.
- Don't put up with abusive texts, photos or video. Show them to an adult and report them.
- Don't lend your mobile phone to anyone unless it is an emergency.
- Don't let anyone online trick you into doing something or sending pictures against your wishes.
- Never give personal information to any person you don't know.

# **Supportive Websites:**

Childline: Call 0800 1111

**NSPCC:** 

Samaritans: Call 116 123 (24 hours 7 days a week)

Papyrus: Call 0800 068 41 41 - 9am to midnight every day

Text 07860 039967

<u>Childline:</u> Call 0800 1111 (24 hours 7 days a week <u>The Mix:</u> Call 0808 808 4994 (3pm to 12am)

### **Useful contacts:**

NSPCC report abuse line: **0808 800 5000** Harrow's Golden Number: **020 8901 2690** 

Harrow's Out of Hours Emergency Team: 020 8424 0999

Emergency Services: 999

# A Social Worker at Bentley Wood

Hello. My name is Caitlin Neal and I am the Social Worker in School for Bentley Wood.

My role is to support children and young people's safety, welfare and wellbeing at home, at school and in the community.

I am here to work alongside the student support team and am available to students and their parents.

We will talk about what is worrying or upsetting you/your child, and together create some next steps. You can contact me by contacting the school office and asking for further details.

Ms Neal

# Advice for Parent/Carers:

# Online Safety:

- Staying safe online advice for parents and carers: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Staying safe online advice for parents and carers: www.saferinternet.org.uk
- How to recognise the signs of bullying and sexual exploitation: www.harrowlscb.co.uk
- Mental Health: <u>www.youngminds.org</u> and Mental Health Support Services in Harrow

# Other Useful Contacts:

- Harrow Children's Services and Harrow Local Safeguarding Board www.harrowlscb.co.uk
- In an emergency you must always call 999.
- To report a non-emergency crime to the police call 101.



# What, Who, Why, When and Where?

When and Where can you find me?

You can find me in school everyday. You can find me before school, during school or after school.

I sit with the school Student Support Team.

If you aren't sure where I am, ask any teacher, they will help you find me!

# What is a Social Worker?

- My role as a social worker is to support children to ensure that they are happy, safe and have everything they need at home, in school and out in the community.
- $\,{}^{\circ}\,$  This means my job is to focus on YOU!
- Your safety
- Your welfare
- Your wellbeing

#### Who do I work with?

- I work with children, young people and their families when they are going through difficult times.
- I work with children who witness unsafe relationships, for example arguments between parents or family members.
- I work with families where someone has a mental health issue or disability for which they might need some extra support.
- I also work with parents who have a dependency which means they may not always be able to care for their children to the best of their ability.
- Additionally, I work with children who are at risk outside of the family home. This could mean they are being forced by someone else to do something they don't want to. Perhaps this person is older or has a negative influence on them and they don't feel able to say 'no'.

# Why am I in your school?

- I am part of the new and exciting Social Worker In Schools Team
- I am here to work alongside the student support team.
- This means I am available to you if you need to talk to someone about something that is worrying or upsetting you.

# School News

# Information and advice for parents and students

# Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

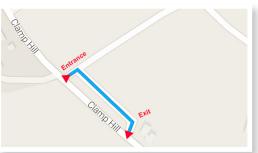
For student safety only use the Clamp Hill entrance to drop off and pick up your daughter from school. We would like to remind you that our Bridges Road gate is no longer in use for dropping off or collecting students from school by car.

We wish for all parents/carers to use the Clamp Hill entrance and the designated safe road/drop off point. Please note if the drop off point is full, parents should drive through the drop off area and park on Clamp Hill Road, on the left hand side facing Brockhurst Corner/Uxbridge Road.

For any parents who are unsure where the drop off is please use postcode HA7 3JW. Details can also be found on the school website under the 'Contact Us' section.

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





# **Parent Ambassadors**

Parent Ambassadors at Bentley Wood High School help parents and carers in many ways to ease communication between themselves and school. We can translate information about the school and their daughter's progress in Arabic, Pashto, French and Urdu.

Our role consists of helping to assist with induction and admission of new students and to help fill out forms. We support by helping parents and carers understand parent consultations, meetings and assemblies. We translate at meetings, act as interpreters and translate English into parent/carers native language. We like to involve parents in their daughter's education by inviting parents to coffee mornings, end of term meetings and parties.

Ms Halpin speaker of Arabic and French
Ms Usman speaker of Udru
(We can arrange translation for Pashto speakers)

Please contact us:

 $\textbf{Email:} \ SchoolOffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk$ 

Phone: 0208 954 3623



