

# Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter May 2023



## Victory for Bentley Wood in the Harrow Speak Out Challenge Regional Final

We are delighted to congratulate Bentley Wood High School students on their exceptional triumph in the Harrow Borough Final of the esteemed Speak Out Challenge! On the evening of 23rd March, Park High School graciously hosted this event, featuring talented speakers from various schools in the borough. Amidst an atmosphere of anticipation and excitement, our remarkable Year 10 students achieved an outstanding feat, securing both first and second place.

Sara A 10MAK emerged as the champion of the evening. With her engaging speech titled 'The Law of Attraction,' Sara captivated the audience with her thought-provoking and inspiring discourse. Delving into the depths of psychological knowledge, she skilfully demonstrated its potential for personal growth and self-improvement. Sara's eloquence and passion resonated deeply with everyone present, leaving a lasting impression and firmly establishing her as the deserving recipient of the first-place trophy.

Equally deserving of recognition, Maria L 10MTM secured an impressive second place with her speech entitled 'The Best Type of Intolerance.' Infusing her oration with humour, Maria shared her personal experiences and shed light on the challenges of living with lactose intolerance. Her witty anecdotes and captivating storytelling abilities kept the audience engaged and entertained throughout her speech. Maria's talent for transforming potentially frustrating situations into light-hearted narratives exemplified her exceptional ability and left a memorable impact on all in attendance.

Continued on page 3



Don't forget to check our website for regular news updates:  
[www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](http://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk)



# Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into our exam season I would like to start this letter by wishing our Year 11, 12 and 13 students all the best for their exams and thanking staff and families for the support they have given and continue to give. The students have worked really hard and have shown great resilience and determination over the course of the year. They are role models to us all.

In the Year 13 leavers assembly our head student Isma, moved us to tears as she spoke to her peers, looking back fondly over the past seven years at Bentley Wood. The Year 11s said good-bye to their uniform, collecting signatures and meaningful messages from everyone that has supported them along the way.

We have had a half term of new experiences, starting with live music from a professional string trio, a group of musicians opening our eyes to the beauty and emotions of classical music. We ended the half term with the Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition taking place one Saturday. Sixty-two Year 10 students explored routes from Stanmore to Aldenham and back, opening their eyes to local attractions while testing their strength, skill and perseverance along the way.

We have plenty to look forward to in the last half term with Sports Day, Awards Evening and Activity Days ahead of us.

Let us come together in encouraging all the students to continue to take full advantage of the wonderful extracurricular opportunities available to them at Bentley Wood.

Enjoy this half-term's Newsletter.

My very best wishes to you all.

Naseema Akbar

Headteacher

## **THANK YOU**

*Special thanks from me to all Parents and Carers who have contributed to Parent Voice through meetings, parent surveys and supporting events.*

# Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge

The judging panel, composed of local experts from various fields, faced the task of evaluating the exceptional performances of the talented speakers. Additionally, we were honoured to have the esteemed Mayor of Harrow present at the event, graciously bestowing the awards upon our deserving champions. We extend our appreciation to the school staff members and Year 10 students who attended the event and supported their peers with school spirit. Thanks also to Mr Nussbaum from the English Department, who runs the competition at Bentley Wood and has coached the students as they prepared for their final speeches.

The Speak Out Challenge serves as a testament to the significance of effective communication skills, empowering our young individuals to become confident and influential leaders of tomorrow. Congratulations once again to Sara, Maria, and all the participants who participated in the earlier round of the Challenge at Bentley Wood with passion and creativity. We eagerly anticipate the next chapter in your public speaking journeys.



Jack Petchey's  
**"SPEAK OUT"**  
 Challenge!

# Year 8 Trip to Aylward Primary

## Aylward Primary Big Top Circus

On Friday 12th May, 20 Year 8 Bentley Wood students went to Aylward Primary School to help run games and activities for their big top circus event. All students who participated volunteered their time and were very excited to support a local primary school.

The first task the Year 8s had to complete was moving all of the stalls inside due to the windy weather! Following this, our students supported with various activities such as: face painting, running games and serving at the tuck shop. They demonstrated excellent team work and leadership skills, which was fantastic to see.

As a thank you for helping, the students received tickets to watch the circus performance that followed. The performance was incredible with many talented circus performers. It was a lovely event and we were happy we could help.

Miss Bairstow



## Chess Club

Chess club continues to be a popular feature of Bentley Wood's broad programme of enrichment activities available to students throughout the year. This term our chess enthusiasts have further developed their skills and strategies through the use of Lichess, a platform they were introduced to when they first joined the club.

The students have shown a genuine appreciation for all aspects of the game and it's wonderful to see their confidence grow week by week. What's great about chess is that there is always something new to learn and a player can perfect their tactical skills, fine-tune their ability to read the strategies of their opponent and even pick up new jargon along the way! It is all this and the great atmosphere created by our very enthusiastic future grandmasters that makes chess club so special!

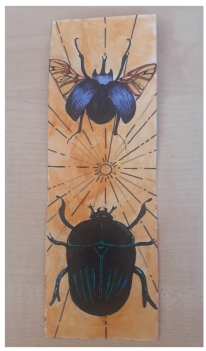


# Bookmark Design Competition!

In the run up to the Scholastic Half Price Book Fair the library ran a bookmark design competition for a chance to win one of five £5 book tokens to spend at the fair. There were some truly amazing entries and it was great to see the students' creativity and originality.

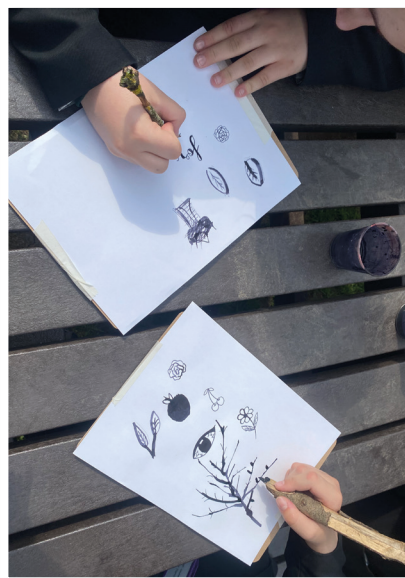
Well done to those who took part and congratulations to the following who all won a prize:

Zinaat B 8SSH  
Lakshya L 7GHO  
Mariam H 8CJG  
Sophie M 10NMA  
Zahra D 10HJ



***Congratulations to all students who entered the Bookmark Competition!***

## Year 7 Art Club:



'In Art Club we went outside where the beautiful trees are by the reception; we took paper and ink and started painting with twigs, leaves and tree branches. It was amazing! I think this is a way to connect with nature and express ourselves through art'.

Evelyn 7LSB

# Student Rewards May 2023

## Year 7



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

### Art

**Rokhsar S 7ABR** - for fantastic effort in class and homework assignments.

**Saanvi P 7YT** - great engagement in lesson, producing lovely work in her sketchbook.

### English

**Maryam H 7GHO** - for always going above and beyond in English and producing excellent work consistently.

### Food

**Ellenora M 7GCP** - for excellent extension tasks done in homework assignments.

### French

**Khushi D 7GCP** - for her enthusiasm towards all languages, her insights and effort in class.

### Geography

**Christina K 7ABR** - for outstanding consistent effort.

### History

**Leila W 7LSB** - for your excellent effort in History lessons.

### Maths

**Sofia K 7GHO** - I have seen a massive change in attitude to your learning since I have had the pleasure of teaching you. It is rewarding to see you enjoy Maths and feel proud of your achievements! Keep it up.

### Music

**Barbora 7LSB** - her commitment to music, her outstanding contribution in lessons and helping everyone!

### PE

**Lina 7YT** - for outstanding effort and engagement in PE lessons. For being a fantastic role model.

### Philosophy

**Jesmira M 7LSB** - for her excellent contributions to class discussion and fantastic effort in classwork and homework.

### Science

**Sara P 7AHU** - for fantastic participation in lessons and always working hard.

### Spanish

**Jasmine G 7LSB** - For her outstanding homeworks, and extensions all through the year.

### Textiles

**Guilietta L & Bianca G 7GHO** - excellent work and support in the lessons.

# Student Rewards May 2023

## Year 8



### Art

**Sam N 8LBM** - for her positive attitude towards her classwork.

**Aleena M 8TSG** - Hard work and beautiful outcomes for her recent book project.

### English

**Haifa B 8TC** - for being an enthusiastic learner who is always eager to participate in English.

### French

**Safa D 8TSG** - for excellent contribution in class. Keep up the wonderful enthusiasm.

### Geography

**Sophie S 8TSG** - Outstanding effort and achievement, makes fantastic and auable contributions to lessons.

### Graphics

**Rahaf A 8LBM** - for her outstanding hard work in class this term.

### History

**Aliyah Z 8TC** - excellent class contributions and has shown great progress this year.

### Maths

**Malaika Z 8ILf** - she recently joined the class and she is being very active, participating, engaged and quickly fitting into the new environment and rising to the challenge.

### Music

**Milaan 8GI** - for working really hard on her piano this term.

### PE

**Diana & Kiera 8FER** - for a fantastic positive attitude in all her lessons and good attendance at clubs.

### Philosophy

**Ghazal A 8LBM** - for her excellent contributions to class discussion.

### Science

**Elina A 8IL** - for her positive outlook and always working hard in lessons.

### Spanish

**Fatima R 8TSG** - Outstanding result in her end of unit exam and for working consistently hard in all her lessons.

### Textiles

**Sanah H 8CJG** - Excellent demonstration of skill and control on sewing machine.

# A Musical Performance!

## A String Trio Performance for the School



The beautiful piece performed using string and cello was an absolute masterpiece in the genre of music. I was in awe watching these simply fantastic human beings make music that sent shivers down my spine, and I'm sure the spines of everyone who could hear the blessed melody. These people put in so much hard work and dedication to their instruments, and then visiting our establishment really filled me up with an inexplicable joy that was shown in their practice.

Zainab 8IL



The string & cello performance was a thrilling experience for me. The performers were incredibly talented - this was evident throughout their performance. Having the opportunity to witness the hours of hard work behind their music was an honour in my eyes.

Maria 8IL





# The Gym, Dance and Music show...

I got the opportunity to help backstage with the gym dance music spring show. I particularly enjoyed this because I was able to witness a wide variety of hidden talents amongst the school. At the show there were performances like gymnastics, traditional dancing and musical performances. The year 7's and 8's featured in solos and the junior choir and orchestra. The evening was a fabulous way to see the different types of cultural dances and music. As part of the backstage team there were many things to remember but despite this, we managed to deliver a smooth and an amazing show! This was an incredible experience because this allowed me to experience how it would be like in music industry. It taught me skills such as communication, patience, and respect towards others. I would definitely love to be a part of these end of term shows again!

By Miriam P 10BME



## Upcoming Performances...



**Classics & Drama**  
**Present**

**ROMAN MYTHS**

**11<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**6pm**



**Tickets: £2**

**Storytelling, snacks and socialising!**



Bentley Wood  
High School for Girls

GLEE PRESENTS...

**A NIGHT  
AT THE  
MUSICAL**

6:30PM  
06/07/23

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON  
PARENT PAY

# Spring into Reading!

## Young Writers Competition

Participation in the Young Writers' competitions on poetry and creative writing is something Bentley Wood girls do very well. Last half term, seven pupils became published poets as their environmental pieces made it to the YW collection entitled *The Power of Poetry*. The subsequent half term, ten girls got published for stories involving numbers in the Integer competition. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements!

There is still a lot on offer as we have two upcoming competitions: *The Power of Poetry* for students aged 11-18, with the theme of *My World: My Voice* and a new event organised by the Poetry Society. *Foyle Poetry Competition* is an ongoing offer until the 31st of July - students can submit poems of any length and topic, as long as they feel it conveys something dear or important to their hearts. Even controversial topics are welcome. Submit your poem today.

For avid readers of poetry, we have a few special positions listed below.  
Happy reading, everyone!

Best overall - 'The Folio Book of Children's Poetry' introduced by Penelope Lively

Best for nature lovers - 'Wonder' chosen by Ana Sampson

Best for performing - 'Poems Aloud' by Joseph Coelho

Best for older teens - 'SLAM! You're Gonna Wanna Hear This' chosen by Nikita Gill

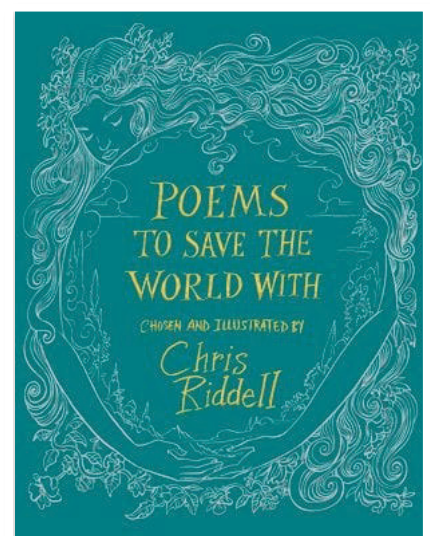
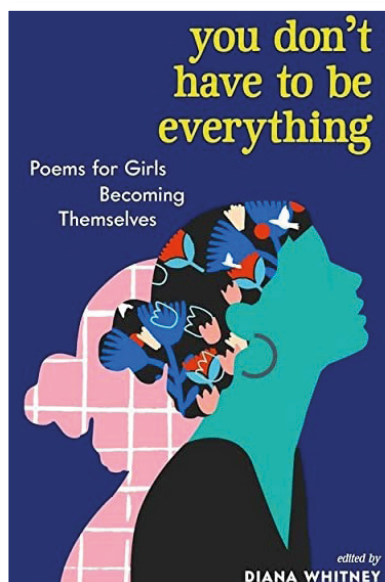
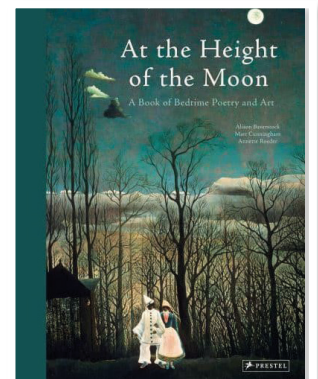
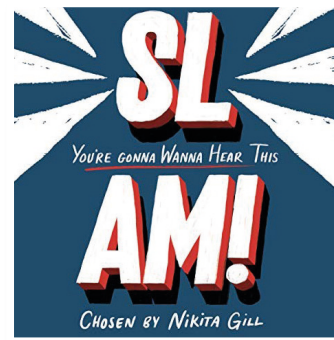
Best for bedtime reading - 'At the Height of the Moon: A Book of Bedtime Poetry and Art' edited by Alison Baverstock, Matt Cunningham and Annette Roeder

Best for the whole family - 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year' edited by Allie Esiri

Best for young children - 'If You Go Down to the Woods Today' by Rachel Piercey

Best for inspiring hope - 'Poems to Save the World With' by Chris Riddell, published by Pan Macmillan

Best gifts for teenage girls - 'You Don't Have to be Everything: Poems for Girls becoming Themselves' edited by Diana Whitney



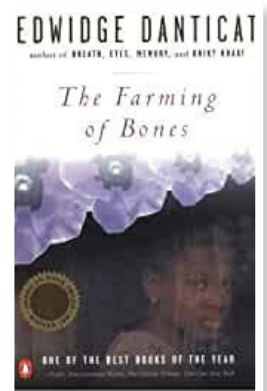
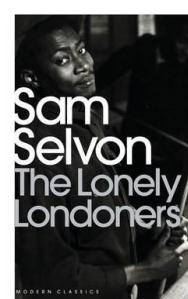
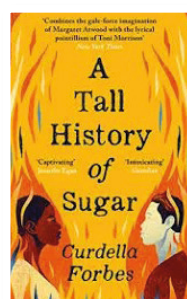
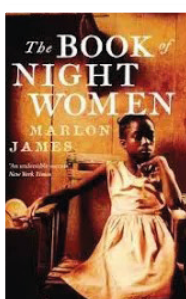
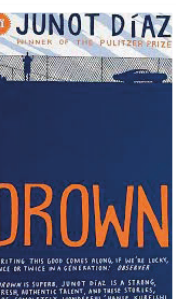
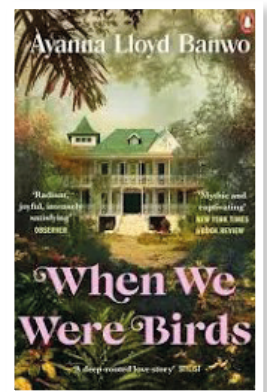
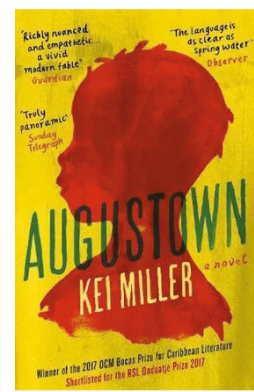
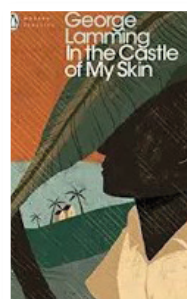
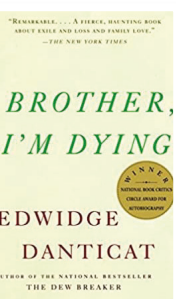
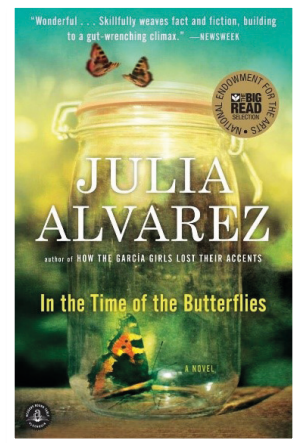
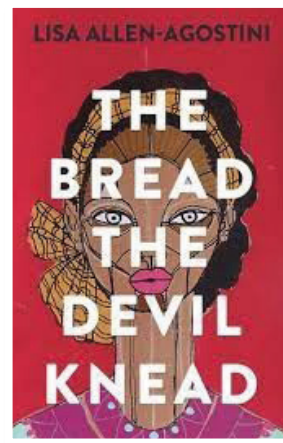
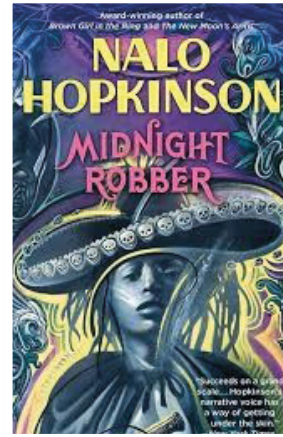
# Spotlight on International Fiction: Literature from the Caribbean

After a fascinating sojourn in Iran last half term, we are back on our literary trails once again. This half term we find ourselves in the Caribbean, one of the most culturally diverse regions of the world with a rich heritage of African origin as well as elements of British, Spanish, French and Dutch colonial heritage. The Caribbean consists of over 700 islands with thirteen sovereign island nations each boasting its own uniquely captivating geographical, political and literary landscape. We are therefore rather spoilt for choice in our exploration of the literature of the islands but will nevertheless do our best to sample a wide range of the delights on offer.

The library has books by Jamaican writer Marlon James, Trinidad-born Sam Selvon, Dominican poet and author Elizabeth Acevedo and many more. Some of the books are classics, others are award winning works by up-and-coming writers and there is much to enjoy and appreciate from the available selection.

*In the Castle of My Skin* by Barbadian novelist George Lamming is a moving autobiographical account of an innocent childhood overshadowed by the dark reality of oppression and tyranny. Kei Miller's *Augustown* is a lyrically told tale about the origins of Rastafarianism and the class struggle at the heart of political dissent in Jamaica. *Where the Rhythm Takes You* is a charming Young Adult retelling of Jane Austen's *Persuasion* with a tropical island setting. *The Farming of Bones* by renowned Haitian American writer Edwidge Danticat is set against the backdrop of the 1937 Parsley Massacre as it brutally unfolds, shattering the simple dreams of Annabelle Desir, a loyal maidservant to a Dominican family.

The anglophone literature of the islands offers perspectives from Caribbean writers living in the wake of colonial rule and more recently documents the experience of first- and second-generation migrants to America and Britain. Caribbean literature also has a strong tradition of magical realism which rivals that of neighbouring Latin America. Themes of alienation, endurance and self-determination are found alongside perennial themes of love, hope and self-discovery, lending the stories and poetry their own unique flavour. The library is proud to showcase a range of literature from the Caribbean and students are invited to drop in to take part in this literary adventure.



# Spring into Reading!

## Nightbirds by Kate J Armstrong

The Nightbirds are destined for lives of obedience and subservience in the magical world of Simta. When they discover their true powers and the lies that have been used to control them, a group of intrepid Nightbirds decide to break free from their gilded cage. They do so knowing they must face the inevitable challenge of building a new world for themselves once they succeed in their quest.

## The Stolen Heir by Holly Black

Suren, child queen of the Court of Teeth, lives in exile in the human world, far from the evil that is growing in the icy north. One fateful night Suren is saved from the storm hag Bogdana by none other than Prince Oak, heir to Elfhome. Suren must then decide if she will join the charming and manipulative Oak on his mission to the north, an undertaking which will mean guarding her heart against the boy she once knew and a prince she cannot trust, as well as confronting all the horrors she thought she had left behind.

## The Pledge by Cale Dietrich

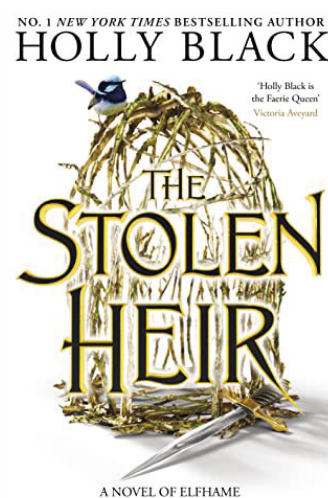
Freshman Sam is fleeing from a harrowing past, one where he survived a murderous spree at the hands of a masked killer. He sees college, and his new identity as a frat boy, as his best shot at living a life not defined by the killings. And then... one of his new frat brothers is found dead. A new masked murderer emerges, and starts stalking - and slaying - the frat boys of Munroe University. Sam finds himself in a race against time to track down the killer, painfully aware that this time the stakes are higher...

## The Light in Everything by Katya Balen

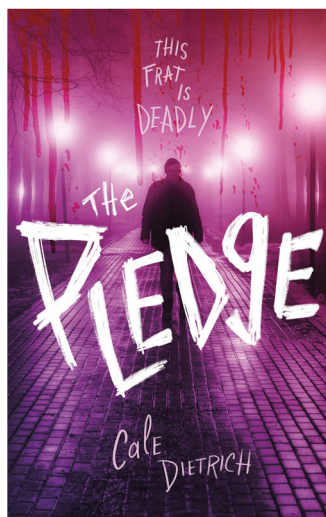
Tom is quiet and timid and has nothing in common with Zofia who has a raging storm within that makes her want to fight the whole world. But Tom's mum and Zofia's dad are in love and about to have a baby. Tom and Zofia resent having to live together as a family and start wishing the baby had never happened. When Tom's mum falls ill, it looks horribly like their wish might come true...



**Nightbirds**  
by Kate J Armstrong



**The Stolen Heir**  
by Holly Black



**The Pledge**  
by Cale Dietrich

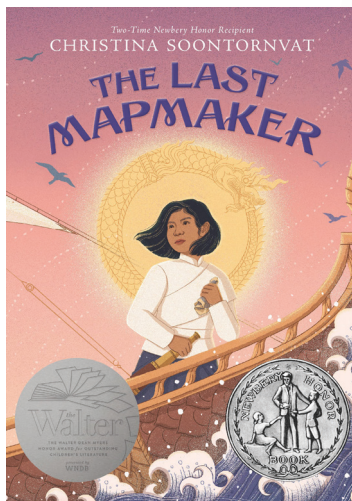


**The Light in Everything**  
by Katya Balen



**The Last Mapmaker** by Christina Soontornvat

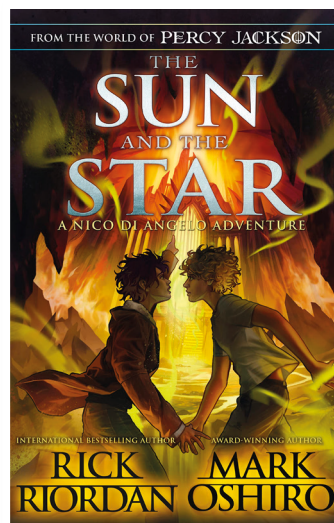
As assistant to Mangkon’s most celebrated mapmaker, 12-year-old Sai plays the part of a well-bred young lady with a glittering future. In reality, her father is a low-life conman – and the truth could ruin her. Sai joins an expedition to chart the southern seas, but she isn’t the only one aboard with secrets. When Sai learns that the ship is heading for the fabled Sunderlands – a land of dragons, dangers and riches beyond imagining – she must weigh the cost of her dreams.



**The Last Mapmaker**  
by Christina Soontornvat

**The Sun and the Star** by Rick Riordan & Mark Oshiro

As the son of Hades, Nico di Angelo is familiar with the realms of death and the Underworld. An ominous prophecy convinces Nico that Bob – a reformed Titan – is in trouble and needs to be rescued. Nico and his boyfriend Will embark on a quest that is more perilous than they imagined and they cannot ignore that the prophecy alludes to an unsettling outcome to their shared adventure.



**The Sun and the Star**  
by Rick Riordan & Mark Oshiro

**We Are All So Good at Smiling** by Amber McBride

Whimsy is back in the hospital for treatment of clinical depression. When she meets a boy named Faerry, she recognizes they both have magic in the marrow of their bones. And when Faerry and his family move to the same street, the two start to realize that their lifelines may have twined and untwined many times before. They are both terrified of the forest at the end of Marsh Creek Lane, which calls to them with promises of things they cannot escape from and also things which might just save them.



**We Are All So Good at Smiling**  
by Amber McBride

**Last Violent Call** by Chloe Gong

Featuring a cast of familiar characters from Gong’s previous books, the two novellas contained herein follow a group of intrepid friends as they investigate suspicious events, unearthing nefarious activities and sinister plots. The stories are fast-paced, with plenty of adventure and intrigue and a dash of romance thrown in for good measure.



**Last Violent Call**  
by Chloe Gong

# Scholastic Half Price Book Fair

The ever popular Scholastic Book Fair returned to Bentley Wood on 23rd May with a wide selection of half price books. There was a lot of excitement in the air and the library was abuzz with long queues of students at lunchtime eagerly awaiting their turn to buy books.

Some of the most recently published works by current favourites such as Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Holly Jackson, Onjali Q Raúf and Alice Oseman were available to buy. We also had titles by well-loved authors like Malorie Blackman, Patrice Lawrence and Philip Pullman as well as up and coming writers such as Nick Brooks and H. F. Askwith. There was something for everyone including a nice selection of non-fiction books and diaries in addition to the good range of literary and genre fiction.

As usual, students were also very keen to get their hands on the stationery and the tote bags that were on sale alongside the books. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they browsed, debated options with their peers and then finally made their selection. Many students were repeat customers who made several trips over the three days of the fair to also buy gifts for siblings and friends.



**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Fairs**  
 COME TO THE  
**HALF PRICE BOOK FAIR**  
 and earn FREE BOOKS for our school!\*

**CHOOSE FROM OVER 200 OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM ONLY £2.99!**  
 Tuesday 23rd to Friday 26th May

# Student Rewards May 2023



## Year 9

### Art

**Sophie O 9ALN** - for her commitment to Fine Art in attending extra curricular events.

### Chemistry

**Masie S 9IRK** - for her positive attitude and hard work in Chemistry.

### English

**Krishna P 9ABI** - for her consistent effort and perceptive approach in the subject

### French

**Bailee S 9BKB** - for her consistently positive attitude and amazing effort.

### Geography

**Manasika R 9IRK** - for being a superb member of the group. She is always enthusiastic and is keen to learn and share.

### Graphics

**Ganah F 9ALN** - Consistently works hard and engages proactively in lesson

### H&S

**Sritha K 9BKB** - for excellent classwork and independent learning.

### History

**Isabel M 9EV** - excellent contributions to class discussions and demonstration of subject knowledge.

### Latin

**Zulfah R 9BKB** - for always contributing to class discussions and her enthusiasm for the subject

### Maths

**Fatema R 9SAS** - for working super hard in Maths. Fatema is a conscientious student who takes pride in her work. She goes above and beyond in Maths and always completes any extension work given in class. Fatema has a positive attitude towards Maths and has shown real improvement throughout the year. Well done Fatema.

### Music

**Anna C 9IR** - for her outstanding commitment to everything music and her resilience with logic in lessons!

### PE

**Abiha 9IR** - for always trying her hardest in her PE lessons.

### Philosophy

**Skandaja K 9ABI** - for her fantastic achievement in RS assessments this year.

### Physics

**Haseena H 9BKB** - for her brilliant achievement in physics this year.

### Psychology

**Skandaja K 9ABI** - for her hard work and determination to excel in Psychology

### Spanish

**Aleena A 9ALN** - for her outstanding contribution in Spanish lessons and all her consistent hard work.

### Textiles

**Thamiisha D 9MGR** - for always giving her all to all classwork and homework.

# Employability Workshop

## Year 10 Employability Workshop 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



Thank you to our business staff, governors, ex-colleagues and other employers linked to our school for helping year 10 students have the experience of going through an interview process as part of our Employability Workshops on 31st March.

It was wonderful to see the students feel so positive about themselves after their interview and looking so smart in the interview formal dress. It was their first step into the world of work for most of the students. Thanks to our visitors' care and kindness many of their prior apprehensions were removed.

The students' feedback after their interviews was very positive and many commented on how they enjoyed taking part, how supportive their interviewer was, and how they were made to feel comfortable and able to showcase their skills.

Every year our students really appreciate the opportunity this exercise gives them to develop their interview skills and improve their CVs in preparation for their work experience placement later in the year. As part of our broad and balanced curriculum activities like this prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life, which includes preparation for working life.

We welcome any parents with industry contacts and Bentley Wood alumni wanting to take part and support us with our careers programme (please see our website <https://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk/curriculum/careers/>) to contact Mrs Ortega (Careers Leader/Assistant Headteacher) or Mr Lincoln Tapper (Careers Adviser)

### Useful websites for careers information

[National Careers Service](#) - a comprehensive careers website with job profiles, outlining the skills required, main tasks, pay levels and career prospects for hundreds of different jobs. In addition, valuable guidance on the different stages involved in getting a job.

[Icould](#) - helpful videos about a wide range of job roles

[UCAS](#) - a very helpful website for students thinking of applying to higher education. Also contains valuable information on different options, including apprenticeships.

[Apprenticeships](#) - a very helpful website for students and parents to explore apprenticeship opportunities, T Levels and traineeships.

[Careerzones](#) - From law and accountancy to science, healthcare and even animal welfare, there are loads of industries out there - each one with hundreds of career paths you could pursue. Check out what jobs you can find in each Career Zone and what you need to do to qualify for your dream profession.





# Year 9 Scholars Graduation Event

The Scholars program was such an amazing experience for all of us, having this experience ended meant that we had one last day to conclude our course. This was our Graduation ceremony and was held at Goldsmith university.

During the day, we got a tour of the University, had a Q&A session, and received our certificates!! Whilst receiving our certificates, Mahi and I delivered a speech, and we were both very grateful to be able to take part and share our course with the other schools. During the speech we mentioned what our course was on (Inside #10) and we also read short extracts from our final essays.



## Artist Talk with Aleesha Nandhra

On Monday 24th April, we were delighted to host an artist talk with the successful illustrator and printmaker Aleesha Nandhra. Aleesha is a local artist who grew up in Harrow and had previously studied at Nower Hill High school. Since graduating from the prestigious Cambridge school of Art she has created work for the Los Angeles Times, Google, the Barbican and has previously been shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards (2018).

The talk was aimed at KS4 and KS5 students who are interested in pursuing careers in the creative industries. The students were able to view artworks Aleesha had been commissioned for by various publishers and companies. Aleesha also brought along various publications and sketchbooks she has accumulated throughout her career. It was wonderful to see students have the opportunity to ask Aleesha personal questions about her art practice and how she stays motivated whilst working under self-employed status. Students were in awe of the sketchbooks Aleesha had developed independently to keep herself inspired and to hone her craft. We hope to have Aleesha back in the future to inspire our next generation of young artists at Bentley Wood!



Artist talk with

## ALEESHA NANDHRA

Artist & Illustrator

**Date:** Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
**Time:** KS4 lunch 13.30-14.15 (food permitted)  
**Location:** Conference room (opposite medical)

Aleesha Nandhra is an illustrator and printmaker from London. Since graduating from the Cambridge School of Art she has created work for the likes of Los Angeles Times, Google, The Barbican and has been shortlisted for The World Illustration Awards (2018).

Thematically she is drawn to work that deals with nature, culture, mental health, music and everyday life. Narratives and visual storytelling play a huge part in her creative practice, both within and away from commercial illustration.

Aleesha also co-runs 'Milk & Tea', an artist-led cafe which aims to create spaces that nurture friendship and enterprise across class, caste and religion. Collaboration, community projects and creative education are all also very important to Aleesha and these feed back into her work and process.

@aleesha\_n    aleeshanandhra.com

# Duke of Edinburgh

## Year 10 Take on thier Practice Expedition

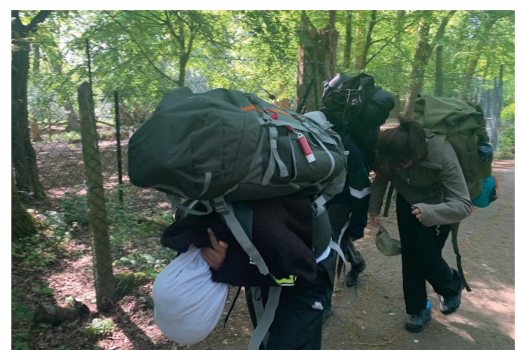


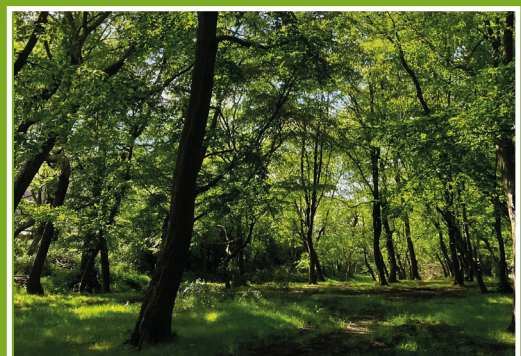
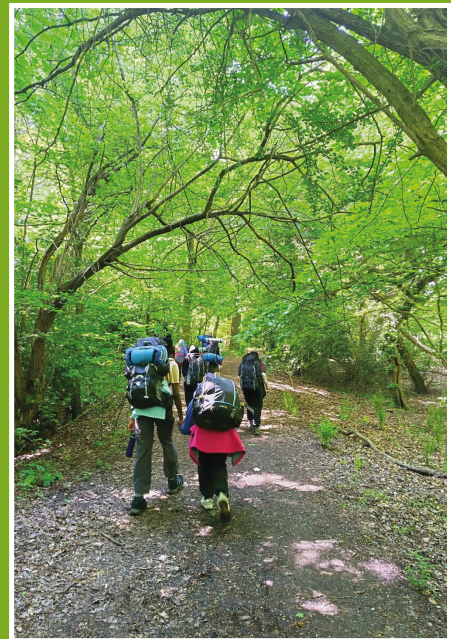
Congratulations to all the girls who completed their practice expedition on Saturday, we are so proud of them all. The resilience and encouragement they showed was inspiring. The hard work they put into the weekly sessions leading up to this was shown throughout the day as they navigated their way from school to Aldenham Country Park and back, with different checkpoints along the way! Not to forget all the work they are doing individually outside the sessions for the award with volunteering, physical activity and skills. We can't wait to see the girls complete their full expeditions in June!

Miss Howes

On Saturday 20th May, 60 of us year 10 students partook in our practice expedition for Duke of Edinburgh. For this we walked from Clamp Hill to Aldenham Country Park and back to Clamp Hill. Leading up to this we attended sessions every Wednesday after school, giving up our free time to work on the planning for this expedition. In these sessions we learnt how to use a compass, and planned our route for the expedition. In the last couple of weeks leading up to the day I prepared by buying the necessary equipment, like my bag and hiking boots. Last Saturday morning I woke up at 6:30 to prepare my lunch and get ready for the day. I arrived at Clamp Hill and soon started walking to the checkpoint with my group. As we started off, we were all happy to get the exercise and start our expedition. We reached our first checkpoint with little trouble. However, we did get lost on our way to Aldenham Country Park. we continued because despite the obstacles this was a commitment we'd made which we had to see through. As the day progressed it did get very tiring and it was a struggle to keep going; however as a group we persevered. Overall, we really enjoyed the experience and look forward to the real expedition in June.

Asma H 10NMA





# Year 11 Psychology Trip

## The Freud Museum

This term, the year 11 psychology students visited the Freud Museum in Finchley. This trip gave all students an insight into the amazing aspects of our last topic: Sleep and Dreaming. We learnt a lot about Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis and learnt much about how, without him, psychology may not be as advanced as it is now. Whilst participating in this workshop, we also continued learning about the Little Hans case and overall, it was a really interesting, fun-filled trip!

Salena 11JBH



## Year 10 & 11 Santander Talk



A few weeks ago, all of Year 10 and 11 received a talk about personal finance from Richard Morrow of Santander. We learned many different things such as: what student loans are and how we receive them, the growing rates of interest, inflation, and the cost of living. We all received an insight into how to save money and how we should be mindful about the amount we spend. This was a very interesting talk which opened up great conversations that we can now have about the next steps of our financial journey.

Salena M  
11JBH

## Year 10 History Trip to Bentley Priory

On Thursday 18th May, the year 10 historians undertook a visit to Bentley Priory Museum to find out about what work was undertaken there during the Cold War.

On arrival, they visited the now filled in bunker where cold war planning had taken place. Pupils then participated in workshops and undertook the same roles of the people than had done these jobs, 50 years ago. It is was very interesting to find out the crucial role that Bentley Priory had had during the War.

Miss Pulfer



# Student Rewards May 2023



## Year 10

### Art

**Tiba A 10MTM** - for consistent effort and excellent progress in Art.

### Chemistry

**Riday A 10HJ** - for 100% effort and always striving to better her understanding of Chemistry.

### Classical Civilisation

**Kareena M 10MEM** - for her dedication to taking this subject as her 10th GCSE!

### English

**Zara O 10HJG** - for always completing work to the highest standard.

### French

**Rawda M 10PS** - for being so ambitious and making remarkable contributions in lessons.

### Geography

**Nusayba M 10EAW** - For being an incredible student. Always trying her best and contributing. She is a ray of sunshine.

### German

**Hanaan T 10BME** - for her amazing enthusiasm and determination to do well in German.

### Graphics

**Hanna F 10EAW** - turning over a new leaf - keep herself up to date. **Haya M 9SH** - Showing great improvement and confidence in her work this term.

### H&S

**Sana S 10MEM** - for excellent contributions in class discussions.

### History

**Mithra R 10MTM** - amazing work ethic and commitment to her studies.

### Latin

**Avni R 10BME** - for attending extra Latin tuition and her willingness and effort to improve

### Maths

**Rosie A 10MTM** - Rosie has flourished over the last term. Your commitment to your class work and studies at home has resulted in amazing progress. I am super proud of you! Keep it up! **Vidisha G 10HJ** - for her amazing level of commitment to learning and her positive contributions to lessons.

### Music

**Zainab K 10PSF** - for trying really hard and coming every week to composition and choir.

### PE

**Nia A 10MAK** - for her resilience and consistently attending clubs. Hamida for having the highest attendance at GCSE clubs.

### Philosophy

**Zina J 10MEM** - for revising very thoroughly and writing an outstanding essay in her Philosophy test.

### Physics

**Riday A 10HJ** - for her excellent contributions in class and homework.

### Psychology

**Mithra R 10MTM** - for helping others to grasp key concepts and always completing her work to the best of her ability.

### Spanish

**Luna S in 10MAK** - for great participation in Spanish. Amazing knowledge and impressive skills.

### Textiles

**Fariha S 10NMA** - for always giving her all to all classwork and homework.

# Student Rewards May 2023



## Year 11

### Art

**Jamelia C 11RGR** - Worked incredibly hard to improve her coursework and knocked it out of the park for her exam!

### French

**Marjan A 11AAL** - for her consistency in effort and drive for excellence and to improve her knowledge.

### Geography

**Mahnoor** - for Outstanding work and effort at all times. Always tries her best.

### German

**Warda W 11RGR** - for consistently working hard both in class and at home.

### Graphics

**Amie W 11RGR** - effort and attainment.

### H&S

**Thusmena S 11CCH** - for working hard revising for her exam and completing coursework.

### History

**Israa A 11AAL** - for leaving no stone unturned in preparation for her exams.

### Latin

**Hena H 11BHA** - for ending the year well!

### Maths

**Ayesha A 11SZ** - for her commitment and determination to do her best in Maths. Keep going Ayesha.

### Music

All of my amazing year 11 music students you have all been amazing I wish you all the best luck in your MUSIC exam!

### PE

**Gayathri 11CCH** - for always putting 100% and for always being a positive member of the class.

### Philosophy

**Oorvi G 11JBH** - for her commitment and dedication to Religious Studies throughout the year.

### Physics

**Thusmena S 11CCH** - for working hard every single lesson.

### Spanish

**Sarosha D 11CCH** - for her hard work and preparation for the speaking exam, well done!

### Textiles

**Maryam H 11JBH** - for her improvement and effort both in her classwork and homework.

# Sixth Form

## Year 13 Leavers Assembly 2023



The Class of 2023 had their Leavers Assembly on Friday 12th May. The students came to the hall after school to reminisce on their happiest moments at Bentley Wood High School and to look forward to their exciting futures ahead of them.

Head Student, Isma Mirza, inspired her peers with an emotional speech (shown in the photo). In addition, there were speeches from the Headteacher Ms Akbar, form tutors (Ms Bloom, Mr Barrett, Ms Gardee, Ms Woolford and Mr Nussbaum), their former Head of Year Mrs Burridge, Assistant Head Teacher: Mrs Weaver and Mr Maric, as well as their current head of Year Ms Jones.

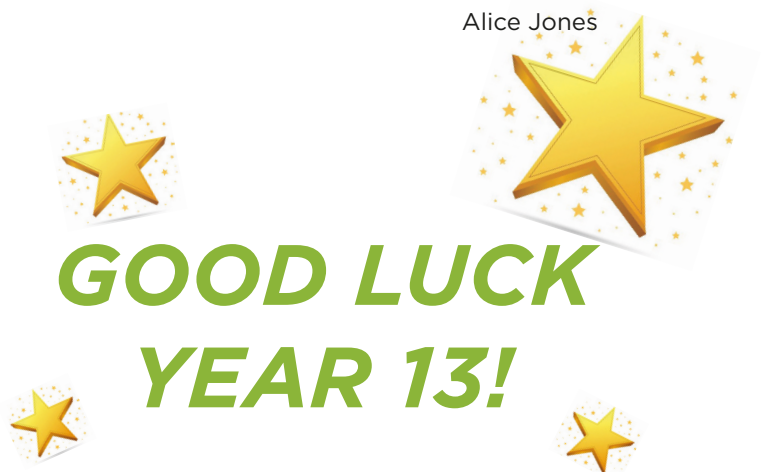
The extended assembly included student awards such as 'Student most likely to become Prime Minister' and 'Best Double Act'. Photos from their induction day in Year 7 were shared. Overall the

event ensured that students were excited about their next step beyond school and motivated to work hard in their A-level exams.

The Sixth Form Team are very proud of the Year 13 students this year. The cohort hold offers from many of the top Russell Group Universities including: Oxford, Cambridge, Warwick, and Nottingham, as well as for some very prestigious apprenticeships.

***Good luck for the future Year 13s- we can't wait to see you at your end of year Prom!***

Alice Jones



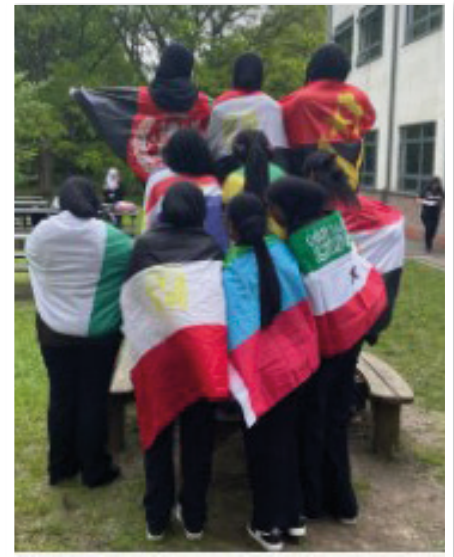


# Culture Day

The last Friday before the AS level and A-level exams was made light and cheerful for 6th formers by students in Year 12 and 13 dressing in clothes that reflected their cultural heritage. 'Culture Day' was also celebrated by students dancing at lunchtime; it was wonderful to see students showing each other dances from a wide variety of cultures.

We are so fortunate at Bentley Wood to have a diverse student body.

Alice Jones



# Sixth Form

## Year 12 RSC Chemistry Olympiad 2023

We are delighted to share the outstanding effort of our Year 12 students in the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), Chemistry Olympiad 2023. The competition is designed to probe students' understanding of complex chemistry concepts and their ability to apply this knowledge in novel and challenging ways. Participating in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad is an excellent opportunity for students to challenge their learning and showcase their knowledge and skills against other young chemists across the country.

All students received a certificate for their participation and in recognition of their excellent effort from the RSC. In addition, we are pleased to announce that three of our students, Hadiqah H (12CSN), Rinesa V (12TRA) and Saja H (12CSN), were successful at securing a Bronze Award in the competition this year

A huge congratulations to all our Year 12 students on their hard work and resilience with the competition - keep up the good work!

Mrs Sabir, Ms Robson and Mr Viala



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Celebrations for the Coronation

King Charles III was crowned on Saturday 6th May, 2023. To celebrate this historic event the 6th form team organised a week of fun events. This was part of a wider initiative Mrs Weaver (Assistant Head Teacher attached to the 6th Form) and Mrs Jones (Head of 6th Form) have started to 'create memories' for the students in Year 12 and 13.

The week began with a cake competition. The winner of a £30 Amazon voucher, Rebecca B in 12JT, created a throne out of cake

The competition was fierce!

Later in the week students had to find crowns hidden around the school in a treasure hunt. The week also included a Coronation Quiz during form time and dressing up in red, white and blue.

Alice Jones



# Anthropology Taster Day at Brunel University

What does it mean to be human? How do people from across the globe understand the world around them? Why do people do what they do? What makes people so different from each other, and can we find similarities? Anthropology Society attended Anthropology Taster Day to find out answers to these questions and more at Brunel University London – a department that has repeatedly been voted the number one place to study Anthropology in the UK, and which boasts one of the most diverse student populations in the country. This one-day event offered a series of interactive mini-lectures which draw directly from the experiences of Brunel Anthropologists, who between them conduct research in every continent on earth. We also heard from their own students about what it's like to study Anthropology at Brunel – and why students should choose it too!

The following are some of the wide and interesting topics covered in the workshops:

On the mobility of ghosts: spectral journeys in the South African lowveld

Does money equal happiness?

Anthropology gets to grips with poverty

Plane crash! An anthropology of airline disaster and the nature of the modern world

Would you eat your dog?

How to get angry in the Arctic: anthropological perspectives on emotion

Learning to play the game: how migrants become 'legal' in Italy

Are gods, spirits and ancestors just different kinds of persons?

After War: Doing anthropology in Syria and why it's important.



## Year 12 Geography Urban Fieldwork Day



For our geography field trip we visited two locations in West Ham that were linked to our case study in diverse places. At Upton Park and Forest Gate we collected data for an environmental survey, retail count and pedestrian count to see how global influences affected local high streets in London.

Overall, it was a fun and valuable learning experience.

Neha P 12JT

# Sixth Form Trip

## Cervantes Theatre Trip



On the 30th of March, as A-Level Spanish students, we had an incredible opportunity to visit the Cervantes Theatre in London. We got to see an insightful performance of *La Casa De Bernarda Alba*, a play written by Federico Garcia Lorca, a dramatist and one of Spain's most celebrated playwrights. The play provides insight into the extreme repression that women experienced in Andalusia just before the outbreak of the Spanish civil war in 1936. The play centres around Bernarda who is a matriarch and exerts absolute power and control over her five daughters after the death of her second husband by imposing a mourning period of eight long years. The story follows the complex interactions between the five sisters and the emerging jealousies by exploring themes like sexual freedom, repression, and gender roles. My favourite part about the play is Lorca's incorporation of historical, sociological, and literary elements which were all interpreted so well in the performance that we had the pleasure of seeing. The set, the costumes and the acting made the

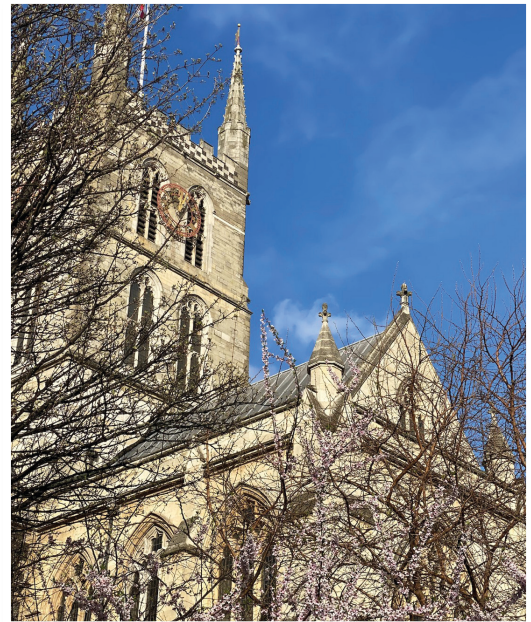


performance so moving and emotional, especially with the tragic ending in the final act. I was mesmerised by the acting of the main character, Bernarda, as she truly reflected the dominant and obsessive woman that Lorca depicted her to be. Overall, the play was truly insightful and an extremely valuable experience, especially leading up to our A-Level exams where we have to write an essay based on the themes or characters.

After the play, we had an incredible opportunity to explore London by seeing some fascinating historical areas in Southwark. We visited the Crossbones Cemetery which is a hidden gem and commemorates prostitutes and homeless people who suffered the judgements of society during the Middle Ages. This was thought-provoking and hearing of this atrocity made us appreciate the all-inclusive society that we live in today. After seeing this site, Mrs Ortega guided us to Borough Market and seeing the array of international foods allowed us to appreciate the scope of multi-culturalism we are blessed to have in London. We also visited a small Spanish shop, which sold purely Spanish goods like Spanish meats and wines, and this provided a stimulating insight into Spanish culture. My favourite part was the walk along the Southbank, allowing us to appreciate the views of London, such as St Paul's Cathedral. We had the pleasure of discovering more historical sites like the ruins of Winchester Palace, which was one of the largest and most important buildings to house bishops in Medieval London. We walked by the Clink Prison Museum too which is one of England's oldest prisons mainly used for offences like treason. Seeing Southwark Cathedral was remarkable, given that it is one of the only remaining Catholic cathedrals in England. We captured some impressive pictures of the breathtaking views of the cathedral alongside the Shard. We then took a quick stop to see the Ramadan lights, going into Piccadilly Circus, which was an extraordinary experience, as the display was wonderful, especially the lanterns. Overall, the historical sites that we saw during the trip were so fascinating from the perspective of a historian and exploring the history of Southwark made me keen to continue exploring hidden gems in London.



Isma M 13LFO



# Student Rewards May 2023

## Year 12



### Art

**Oliwia B 12JT** - Effort.

### Biology

**Marayam A 12TRA** - for always putting 100% into her work and not afraid to ask for help when unsure.

### Chemistry

**Medina M 12GCO** - for all of her hard work and always asking for help when she needs help.

### Classical Civilisation

**Oliwia B 12JT** - for putting in 100% effort in her revision powerpoints to the class!

### Geography

**Palisha S 12TRA** - She is an awesome student who has always worked hard and smiled in Geography.

### H&S

**Lenuga L 12JTF** - for her excellent exam results and hard work to complete coursework

### History

**Zohara H 12TRA** - for commitment to her studies in prep for exams.

### Maths

**Marium I 12GCO** - for always trying her best and having a positive attitude to learning. Keep up the good work.

### Physics

**Imaan H 12JT** - for taking control of her own learning and for pushing herself to ask questions.

### Psychology

**Zaara N 12CSN** - for an improvement in effort in Psychology.

### Spanish

**Zara S 12JT** - for continuous commitment to improve and develop her knowledge in Spanish

### Politics

**Hoda M 12TRA** - for your ongoing, excellent commitment in Politics!

# Student Rewards May 2023



## Year 13

### Art

**Khadija A 13PBL** - Effort.

### Biology

**Isna M 13SNU** - for trying so hard and having a go at answering any question thrown at her.

### Classical Civilisation

**Antonia L 13SGf** - for ending the year how she started; strong, dedicated and passionate.

### Geography

**Abeer 13LFO** - has worked hard and contributed well to all lessons. Always works hard.

### H&S

**Malak A 13SNU** - for her outstanding and consistent effort towards her coursework and exams and her excellent positive attitude.

### History

**Madeena M 13LFO** - for her continuous hardwork over the year and showing huge commitment to her studies.

### Music

**Faith M 13SGF** - for helping in every choir possible and arranging the summer musical extravaganza with Miss Leighton. We will miss you so much next year

### Philosophy

**Isma M 13LFO** - for her consistently fantastic effort in Philosophy this year.

### Physics

**Aishah M 13LFO** - for for taking control of her own learning and for pushing herself to ask questions.

### Spanish

**Zahra R 13PBL** - for her research on her Spanish independent research project and presentation to Senior Leaders.

### Politics

**Radhiya U 13PBL** - for showing excellent initiative in your studies of Politics this half term.

# Maths Events and Activities

## This Half Term

### Count On Us Maths Challenge...

The Count on Us Maths challenge 2023 is a unique maths tournament for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 across London, which aims to improve confidence and fluency in maths. Students practise in school and compete in an exciting maths competition against their peers with the aim of reaching the final in late June, which is held at a prestigious location.

Five students were selected to represent the school in the regional heats of the tournament on Wednesday, 10th of May. The girls trained for the event with a range of activities providing different and unusual ways to develop curriculum-focused skills. The mathematical topics covered included stats and probability, geometry, numbers, and algebra.

The tournament consists of 5 rounds: The Game of Hedgehog, Data-Chart-Statistics, Gridlines Geometry, the 24@Game, and the Algebraic problem-solving round. It will encourage them to see maths as more than calculations but also as something that requires the problem-solving skills of strategy and resilience.

A big congratulations to our outstanding maths students: Anvi, Saaliha, Amira, Swara & Jayna who represented Bentley Wood High School at the Mayor's Fund for London 'Count on Us Challenge' 2023.

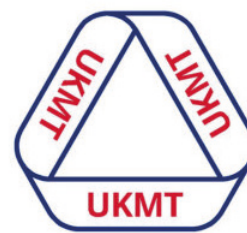


### UMKT: Junior Maths Challenge...

*United Kingdom Mathematics Trust*

We were extremely pleased to be able to enter pupils from Years 7 to 8 into the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Maths Challenge last month. This Challenge is aimed at Years 7 to 8 and there were several able, bright and enthusiastic pupils in the younger years group who benefitted from the opportunity. Congratulations to the Bentley Wood girls who achieved bronze, silver and gold certificates in this national competition.

Congratulations to all of our mathematicians who took part! We wish you the best of luck in the next rounds!



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**



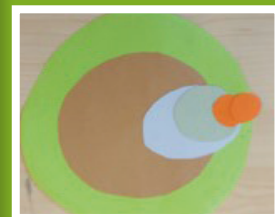
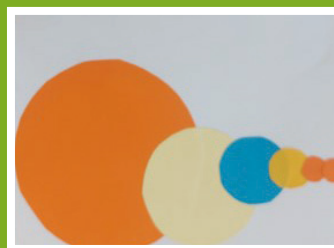
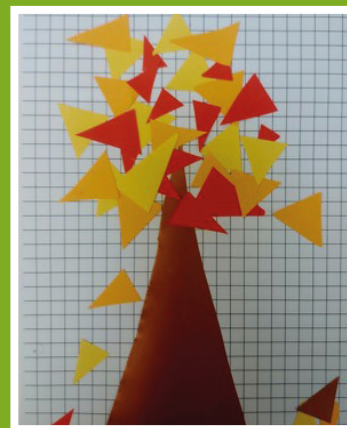
# Art in Maths...

This autumn tree math craft is a fun way to celebrate the colours of autumn with a mathematical theme. Our year 7 students made this triangle tree using coloured tissue paper while working on the mathematical concepts that underpin triangular shapes. This maths activity is a visually impactful approach for students to appreciate the spatial and geometrical properties of triangles as they create art with a variety of colours and sizes of a single shape.

## Fibonacci Sequence

Year 7s this term learnt about the Fibonacci number sequence. This a STEAM art task which encourages students to apply their knowledge of a concept in creating a fabulous piece of art! The Fibonacci sequence follows the rule that each number is equal to the sum of the preceding two numbers.

The sequence, which is found frequently in nature, is named after 12th century mathematician, Leonardo Fibonacci. It must be noted that Fibonacci did not "discover" the sequence; the number sequence had been part of Hindu-Arabic mathematics for centuries. Fibonacci is credited with introducing the sequence to Europe and he also introduced the Hindu-Arabic 10-digit place value that we use today (fun fact!).



# National Numeracy Week...

15<sup>th</sup> May- 19<sup>th</sup> May

One of the best ways to encourage children to feel positive about numbers is to make them feel confident in themselves. Our school took part in the National Numeracy Week 2023; it was a week of fun mathematical activities for years 7 to 9. We celebrated the importance of numbers for children and adults, inspiring them to improve their numeracy, something which in the long run is guaranteed to open up opportunities and lead to brighter futures.

Here are some of the fun activities that were running all week:

**Maths Treasure Hunt:** The treasure hunt was lots of fun and at the same time it encouraged leadership and communication. Teamwork was also a vital component as the girls had to work in groups to solve the maths puzzles. Congratulations to the winning team 7KPO who found the maths treasure & celebrated their achievement!

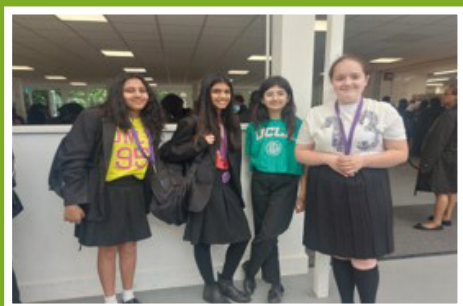


**Numeracy Wise Thoughts:** "Wise thoughts" are a regular feature in form time, affording students the opportunity to reflect on thoughts and ideas across a range of subjects and from a variety of viewpoints. During Numeracy Week we wanted the students to focus on how maths can be involved in everyday life, with the aim of discovering areas that they might initially not realise involve maths. Students thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the daily Numeracy wise thoughts, and then completed a 5-day challenge in a bid to win a Numeracy Passport.

**Congratulations to the winners of the Numeracy Passport: 7LSB, 7ABR, 9EV**

**Non-Uniform Day:** Our celebration of Numeracy Week ended with a non-uniform event on the final day. Students in years 7, 8 and 9 came in dressed up as Number Heroes on Friday, the 19th of May, wearing their numbers with pride on t-shirts and sweatshirts. Our Number Heroes had the opportunity to learn some fun maths dance moves from the one and only Katya Jones, who had the following to say about what maths and dance have in common:

"My dancing activities will help everyone to see that maths doesn't have to be scary. It's completely normal to find maths difficult. But just like dancing, if we break it down into manageable steps and keep practising, we can ALL get better."



# Information and advice for students and parents

## Mental Health and Wellbeing at Bentley Wood: Exciting Developments for Your Daughters

We are excited to share some significant updates, reminders, and resources regarding our school's commitment to nurturing the mental health and wellbeing of our students. In this fast-paced and sometimes cruel world, the emotional wellbeing of our girls is a top priority.

### Healing Hearts Team

We're thrilled to have formed our 'Healing Hearts Team', a group of staff trained in mental health and wellbeing strategies. These members of staff are available to connect with and speak to students, offering invaluable support and guidance. This is a significant step towards fostering a nurturing and understanding atmosphere for our girls.

### Govox- A Pathway to Understanding

Our innovative trial of the Govox wellbeing survey platform has been going very well. This unique tool isn't a mandatory chore for students to fill out each month, but rather a channel for our students to communicate their feelings, from the heights of joy to being down in the dumps. With this technology, students receive personalised wellbeing advice and resources based on their responses to the survey, allowing us to make more strategic and focused interventions.

### Mental Health Awareness week

We celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week (May 15th) with a Tip of the Day and five themed infographics shared across the week, focusing on resilience, sleep, and mindfulness practices. Your daughters are encouraged to download and print these infographics as posters, serving as constant reminders of practical, actionable advice to maintain good mental health throughout their school journey.

### Exam Time Support

Exam time can be a stressful period for students. To help with this, 'Mind' has released resources specifically designed to combat exam stress. [Find their resources here.](#)

For students aged 16+, **Harrow Cove** offers support for those experiencing mental health difficulties, with drop-in sessions, arts and crafts groups, and a group specifically for ages 16-25. [More details can be found here.](#)

### Mental Health Support

Our ongoing support includes our PSHE curriculum, Wise Thoughts conversations, sports, extra-curricular clubs, and the invaluable presence of our NHS Educational Mental Health Practitioner, Emma, two trained counsellors, and our student Wellbeing & Mental Health Ambassadors.

For additional resources, consider the Headspace and Calm apps, meditation MP3s in the Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams channel, or books such as "*Mindfulness: Finding Peace in a Frantic World*" by Professor Mark Williams.

## How Are You?



Miss D Ferrer  
Designated Safeguard Lead



Mr F O'Sullivan  
Senior Mental Health Lead



Ms C Angel



Miss E Gill



Mrs N Burrige



Ms A Hussain



Mr A Farquhar



Mr A Ferris



Miss L Bramble



Ms G Howes



Ms A Mayers

### "Hello! We're the BW 'Healing Hearts' Team

We all have expertise in mental health and wellbeing. If you are feeling a bit down, or worried, and would like to chat with someone, just come and see one of us and say 'Hello'.

Have a great day!"



### A Final Thought

I wanted to share with you that, as part of my role as Bentley Wood’s Senior Mental Health Lead, I am currently taking part in a Department for Education-funded working group. We are working with the Anna Freud Centre to create an online repository of mental health resources that schools all over England can access. It is both a privilege, and fascinating, to take part in a process that will result in better mental health resources, and thus outcomes, for students all across the country.

To wrap up, I’d like to share two quotes on mental health. Richard Burton, in his ‘Anatomy of Melancholy’ (1621), suggests that staying active can help alleviate melancholy.

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

And the Stoic philosopher Epictetus advises, “The first job in life is this. To distinguish between externals I cannot control, and the choices I make about them that I do control.”

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. O’Sullivan, our Senior Mental Health Lead, or your daughter’s Head of Year.

Here’s to a healthy and happy school community!

**Mr O’Sullivan**  
**Assistant Headteacher**  
**Senior Mental Health Lead**

## Parent Voice



Bentley Wood is underpinned by a community that cares and we highly value the excellent relationships between students, parent/carers and teachers.

We want to continue to build and improve these relationships. As a school we very much want our parents to contribute to the development and improvement of provisions for Bentley Wood students.

Our Parent Voice committee lets parents share ideas and have an input into the schools development. We welcome constructive feedback from our families and an opportunity to talk and share ideas.

In addition, Parent Voice supports the school at many important evenings like Open Evening and Concerts.



The group is open to all parents/carers. If you wish to join please email [parentvoice22@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk](mailto:parentvoice22@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk)

### Useful Apps and Websites:

[Meditation and Sleep Made Simple - Headspace](#)

[Calm - The #1 App for Meditation and Sleep](#)

[Home - Kooth](#)



# 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:



## Your information

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

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

These must be kept up to date otherwise you may not be able to receive important information. When informing us of an address change, please provide proof of address such as Council Tax or Tenancy Agreement.

**Ms Ramsay, Data Manager**



## Parent Ambassadors

Parent Ambassadors at Bentley Wood High School help parents and carers in many ways to facilitate 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 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 Urdu**  
**(We can arrange translation for Pashto speakers)**

**Please contact us:**

**Email:** SchoolOffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

**Phone:** 0208 954 3623



# Arbor

## 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.

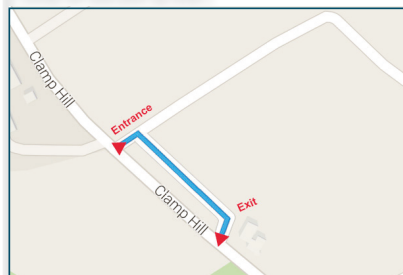
The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and messages from the school.

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).

## Bentley Wood Student drop-off road is now open



**Clamp Hill Entrance**  
(Drop off and pick up area)



### Safety Notice

For the safety of all students, please do not drive onto school grounds unless you have a valid permit. Please keep the bus stop area clear and do not block the school entrance. Vehicles which are leaving the school premises have priority.

### Student drop-off

Bentley Wood is pleased to announce the new student drop-off road at the Clamp Hill entrance is now open. The new road allows traffic to flow freely whilst providing a safe point for students to disembark away from the busy traffic on the main road.

The drive operates on a one-way basis, with designated pull-over areas. It has street-lighting and safe entry directions for traffic back onto the main Clamp Hill road.

**We ask parents please do not use Bridges Road which suffers severe congestion at busy times.**

**Only use the Clamp Hill entrance to drop off and pick up your daughter from school.**

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.

## Dates for your Diary 2023

- Monday 5th June** - Start of term Usual school timings  
**Monday 5th June** - External Exams continue  
**Monday 5th June** - Year 7 Trip to Windsor Castle 8:45am - 4:30pm  
**Tuesday 6th June** - Year 8 Geography Trip Bentley Priory- 9:00am- 10:40am 11:00am -12:40pm  
**Tuesday 6th June** - Glee Choir Trip Kadwa Patidar Centre 5:30pm - 20:15pm  
**Wednesday 7th June**- Year 8 Geography Trip Bentley Priory - 9:00am -10:40pm 1:30pm- 3:00pm  
**Wednesday 7th June**- Year 7 Netball Tournament, Nower Hill High School- 3:30pm -6:00pm  
**Thursday 8th June** - Year 12 Ecology Trip Perivale Wood 8:30am - 4:30pm  
**Thursday 8th June**- Year 8 Geography Trip Bentley Priory - 1:30pm- 3:00pm  
**Thursday 8th June** - Year 10 Drama trip to "The Crucible" at Gielgud Theatre 5:00pm - 11:00pm  
**Friday 9th June**- KS3 Theatre Trip- Inclusion for all Unicorn Theatre- 8:15am- 3:15pm  
**Monday 12th June**- Year 8 Geography Trip Bentley Priory - 1:30pm- 3:00pm  
**Monday 12th June**- Year 9 Netball Tournament, Nower Hill High School- 3:30pm- 6:00pm  
**Friday 15th June**- Year 8 Geography Trip Bentley Priory - 9:00am -10:40pm  
**Friday 15th June**- Year 12 Ecology Day, Perivale Wood- 8:30am- 4:30pm  
**Friday 15th June**- Borough Athletics Fixture, Bannisters- 3:30pm- 6:00pm  
**Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd June** - School's sports week  
**Friday 23rd June** - Sports Day at Banisters Times to be confirmed  
**Monday 26th June**- Year 12 Parliament & Supreme Court Trip- 8:00am- 3:30pm  
**Tuesday 27th June** - Year 8 Bentley Priory Museum trip- 9:00am- 3:00pm  
**Tuesday 27th June** - Year 10 Geography Trip West Wittering Beach 07:45am - 6:00pm  
**Wednesday 28th June**- Aylward Collaboration Concert- 12:00pm- 5:00pm  
**Thursday 29th June** - Year 8 Bentley Priory Museum trip- 9:00am- 3:00pm  
**Thursday 29th June**- Aylward Sports Day- 8:30am- 3:45pm  
**Thursday 29th June** - Year 13 Prom  
**Friday 30th June** - Year 11 Prom  
**Monday 3rd July** - The BWHS 2023 Awards Evening. 7:00pm- 9:00pm  
**Mainly for Year 8, 11 and 13 students, celebrating end of Key Stage achievements.**  
**Monday 3rd July to Friday 7th July** - Year 11 6th Form Taster Week- Schedule to be confirmed  
**Tuesday 4th July** - Year 8 Bentley Priory Museum trip- 9:00am- 3:00pm  
**Wednesday 5th July**- Year 6 to 7 Transition Day  
**Wednesday 5th July** - Instrumental Concert 6:00pm - 7:15pm  
**Thursday 6th July** - Year 9 Vaccinations  
**Thursday 6th July** - An Evening of Musicals 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
**Friday 7th July** - KS3 Film Night Reward 3:30pm - 6:00pm  
**Monday 10th to 14th July** - Year 10 Work Experience Week  
**Tuesday 11th July** - Year 8 Bentley Priory Museum Trip- 9:00am- 3:00pm  
**Tuesday 11th July** - Roman Myths Outdoor Event 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
**Wednesday 12th July - to Saturday 16th July** Year 9 Trip to Berlin  
**Monday 17th to 20th July** - Year 12 Work Experience Week  
**Wednesday 19th to 20th July** - Activity Days Times may vary from the usual school day  
**Thursday 20th July** - End of Academic Year for Students End of day TBC  
**Friday 21st July** - Staff Training Day End of the Academic Year for Staff  
**Thursday 17th August** - A/AS Level Results  
**Thursday 24th August**- GCSE Results Day  
**Thursday 24th - 25th August** - 6th Form Enrolment  
**Wednesday 6th September**- Year 7 & Year 12 Start of New Academic Year  
**Thursday 7th September**- Whole School Return

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

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