



Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter December 2023



Year 8 students interact with tropical rainforest animals

ZooLab popped in to see year 8 students this half term. They are an ethically responsible organisation that uses rescued pets, or those that are bred in captivity, to demonstrate the wonderful attributes of some species that have adapted to living in tropical rainforests.

Students had fun time learning about animal adaptations and made specific links to the rainforest environment ahead of their learning in Geography lessons. The key objectives were:

- Define tropical rainforest
- Determine the locations of tropical rainforests
- Explore the forest floor, under storey, canopy and emergent layer
- Discuss adaptations of rainforest animals

Students had the opportunity to hold some of the fascinating creatures and interact with the speaker, whilst learning.

The session allowed them to consider which layer of the rainforest the animal thrived in and how it survived.

Animals included: Giant African snails; tarantulas; corn snakes; Madagascar hissing cockroaches; millipedes; scorpions; tree frogs and even a gerbil!

Needless to say, the interaction was delightful and scary for some, but it was fantastic to see so many students challenge themselves and get involved.

Mrs Gardee



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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Bentley Wood Community,

I hope you are well. Enjoy the newsletter, it is packed full of fun, life and learning at Bentley Wood. There are some interactive information pages at the back. Take a look at page 52 'Getting to Know the Bentley Wood website'. This was an action point from our Parent Voice meeting. In each newsletter we will try and support you in navigating the website. Useful information for our new families or refreshers for others. This week Mr Ilkano has set up a page focusing on curriculum information.

I had the absolute pleasure of attending the Christmas concert last night where over 100 students performed and stage managed an amazing performance. We were given a short preview of our next school production, 'The Wizard of Oz'. Ms Bancroft, Ms Parks, Mr Rankin and the students are certainly promising another memorable performance. The tickets are on sale as of today and they will sell out very quickly.

I would like to wish you all a very restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you get the opportunity to share some time with your friends and families. Term will start with a staff training day on Monday 8th January, with some Year 12s in for exams, all students return on Tuesday 9th January. WE look forward to seeing then in the new year.

Kind regards,



Naseema Akbar
Headteacher



Students write about their enjoyable experience at ZooLab



Jasmine 8LSB

The ZooLab was an amazing experience! My favourite part was when we got to see all of the animals. We were able to touch them and had to write notes and draw sketches of them. Some examples of animals we saw were snakes, snails and lots more. I enjoyed listening to all of the facts about them and I had a fantastic time, it was a great opportunity!

Emma Alexa 8LSB

During one of our geography lessons we were very lucky to be visited by ZooLab. We got to see and touch a variety of animals such as snakes, frogs, and a spider. ZooLab instructor Lilly shared lots of interesting information with us. Overall, it was an incredible experience.

Ashalina 8LSB

The ZooLab was an extraordinary experience because they bought a variety of different animals that typically live in the rainforest. The animals were all in different shapes and sizes. I personally found it quite entertaining because each animal had a fascinating feature/fact that made them interesting. For example, did you know that the Giant African Snail can produce 1200 eggs in one year!

Sana Z 8MD

Such an amazing and unique experience seeing all of those creatures, getting to pet them was a highlight. Being able to pet the snake and learning about their background and natural environments was enlightening.

8MD

I had great fun but I never want to see a cockroach again! Despite that, the other animals were actually quite cute and I learned a lot of fascinating facts. The snake felt different to what I expected, it felt quite rubbery. Overall, I had a thrilling experience, it was very informative but it did get a bit gross though!

Khushi 8MD

When we walked into the room, I wasn't expecting much from the visit. I expected to see some small insects that we would barely see, let alone hold. HOWEVER... From that feeling to reality was completely different. I held that largest snail I'd ever seen before (the size of a massive humongous croissant), experienced a cockroach climb over my thumb, held a white snake in my hand and saw a frog walking up the whiteboard! The best part was feeling and holding all of the animals and learning interesting facts - like that the snail is related to an octopus. Overall, I think this visit was amazing experience. Thank you to the Geography department for organising this treat.

Ruby 8KPO

ZooLab was a great experience that allowed us to meet some of the animals from our next topic in geography 'The Rainforest'. It was so fun and everyone got involved in petting or holding the animals. We all learned about creatures from many different layers of the rainforest and a lot of cool facts about them.

Students embrace the festivities

Year 7 have a fun time at the pantomime

From the beginning to the end, we loved the pantomime! The characters were bubbly, engaging and they used a lot of humour to keep us involved in the action. We also really enjoyed the interactions and the chances to be able to shout, sing and dance, which made us feel involved and even more captivated throughout the show. We cannot forget to mention, their marvellous outfits and in some scenes the suspense was epic!

We loved the pantomime because of all the liveliness and the enthusiasm, it was so much fun! We really enjoyed it and our favourite character was Muddles. Our favourite part of the pantomime also involved Muddles, and was when he told us to scream when someone came near the present that was for Snow White. All of the dancing scenes were mesmerizing as well, making it also one of the best parts. We are thrilled to have been given the chance to experience this, and we are so glad we got to go!

Yaalini and Aisha 7NME

Last week Year Seven went on an amazing trip to go see the Christmas pantomime. The show brought laughter, joy and a lot of fun. We enjoyed it very much, as we sang along to all the songs that were played. If you haven't been to a pantomime, we strongly recommend that you go with your family (they do one every year). On the behalf of all the year sevens I'd like to say, HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sohini 7LJO

On the 14th December, to get into the Christmas spirit we went to Harrow Arts Centre to watch Snow White. The show consisted of the characters: Snow White, Muddles, The Evil Witch, Holly and Henry the Prince of Hatch End. The show was really fun as they included and interacted with the audience in ways such as: bringing people onto stage,

giving out sweets, spraying people with water guns and more. I was really happy because in the end, Snow White got the happy ending she deserved, and the evil witch got the punishment that she deserved. The show overall was very comedic as well, because of the hilarious duo of Muddles and Holly. THE SHOW WAS GREAT!!!

Joanne 7LJO



Sixth form Bake Off

The air was heavy with anticipation and excitement- the bakers had brought their carefully constructed cupcakes- round 2 of the bake off was about to begin! The winter themed cupcakes of our semi finalists were judged by staff as well as by our illustrious judges- Farha, Kareemah, Ms Lomax, Marium and I! The delectable treats were gauged by both appearance and taste. The team and I conferred and selected the 4 finalists, a very hard decision indeed, that involved lots of consideration.

Congratulations and a huge well done to all of the bakers! It takes a lot of courage and effort to partake in a competition like this, and I commend you all!

Each semifinalist will receive a prize and housepoints for reaching this point of the competition- as for our finalists, who will compete for the highly coveted surprise prize later on: felicitations!!!

Maryam A





Christmas Card House Competition

Our annual Christmas Card House Competition always brings out the best of the creative talent at Bentley Wood and this year was no exception. We had an amazing response with over 200 entries featuring original and eye-catching artwork from students in Years 7 to 9.

The following winners were awarded 20 house points each:

Dayana 7EBD - **Earth**
 Sahar 8KPO - **Air**
 Malaika 9NMO - **Fire**

Well done to 8ABR and 7MEM who had the most entries in each year group. After all the points were tallied, the house results were as follows:

1st - **Fire**
 2nd - **Air**
 3rd - **Earth & Water**

Students embrace the festive spirit

Sixth formers sing Christmas Carols at Woodland Hall Care Home

Our traditional annual event of singing Christmas carols to residents at a care home continued this year. A host of 6th form carol singers paid a visit to a nearby residential home to perform a festive concert.

Our Sixth formers sang their hearts out and managed to put a smile on the faces of all the residents and staff at Woodland Care Home. Residents really love the time they spend with our students, and the students always have a lovely time, too.

Mr Maric

Cultural Club with Miss Codrean

The Cultural Club is an amazing way to gather many people from many cultures and religions. During the club, we share traditions and we discuss different habits.

Every week, depending what holiday or season it is, we do activities based on it. So far we have made origami snowflakes, Halloween colouring, we watched movies and way more. The Cultural Club is an amazing club for people who are passionate about their cultures.

Yusra G 8AHU

Right now, in Cultural Club we are making Christmas decorations to decorate classrooms. In the past, we discussed about different food and traditions in other countries., as well as discussing Halloween and watching movies. This is a nice way of making new friends and enlarge our horizons.

Stefania T 7MCO



Christmas Jumper Day: Students wear colourful jumpers to school for charity

Staff and students embraced the festive spirit on Thursday, 7th December by donning their Christmas jumpers. Many took the opportunity to showcase their sartorial flair with bright and eye-catching knitwear.

Christmas Jumper Day is not just a fun event but also helps raise money for a good cause with students bringing in a £1 donation for charity. This year's donations went to Save the Children, which is committed to helping children in the UK and around the world who are facing poverty, hunger and war.



On **Thursday 7th December**, we are all invited to wear a **Christmas Jumper**

Please bring in a suggested £1 donation to *Save The Children* if you are able 😊

You must wear the rest of your uniform as usual! The Christmas jumper will replace your usual BW jumper



On Tuesday 19th December students enjoyed Christmas lunch at Woodys

Students enjoy enrichment opportunities this term

History Club: students learn about curses, Queens and Kings

What do we do?

At History Club, we do a lot of fun things. We learn about curses, Queens, Kings, leaders and even dictators. We discuss different topics like the curse of Tutankhamun, whether a snake caused the death of Cleopatra and the roles of Greek and Roman Gods. We do this through comparing evidence, and ultimately disprove and prove theories. It is a student led club so we request different topics to cover and Miss Bharj puts them into a list so we can cover them in different sessions. A couple of days before Thursday Week B, the topic is posted on teams so we can start thinking about what we might want to question.

How I find History club?

I personally find History Club as a way to push myself and my learning. I enjoy learning new things and topics I will not cover in my lessons. Joining History Club has benefited me in many ways and I cannot thank Miss Bharj and the school enough for all that. I am extremely interested in learning about the past and Miss Bharj is the perfect teacher for History club as she makes sure everyone is heard and all opinions are considered. I could not think of a better way for pupils to learn more about history and find out some shocking facts!

Why History club is great?

History Club is easy for pupils to attend because its only on a Week B Thursday which means students can go to different clubs on Week A. You can also bring your lunch to History club and eat there while learning. We feel comfortable asking questions and debating with other students in Year 8 and 9 and this is why History Club is a fantastic way for students to connect that love history!

Anna W 7MCO, Sabeen F 7MCO, Rachel R 7NME and Lucia M 7MCO



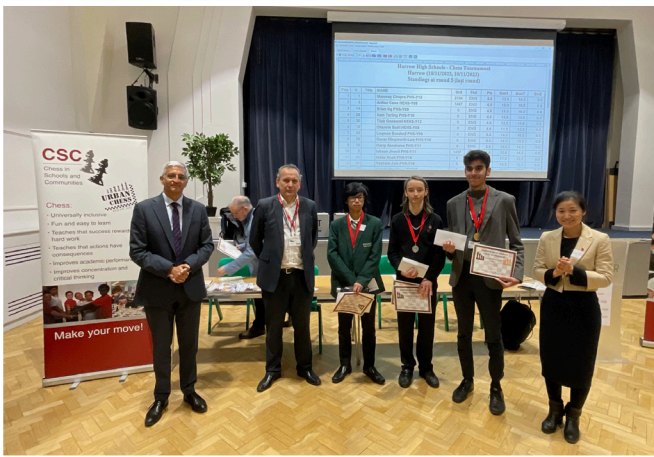
Harrow Inter Schools Chess Tournament

On Friday 10th November 2023 I competed in my first chess tournament at Pinner High School, and I was surprised to find that chess was clearly a sport to other contestants due to its competitive nature. The experience of sitting across the board from an ambitious & ruthless opponent as your clock ticks down and the game becomes more complex; gets really tense.

For me chess is unique as it increases my self-awareness and boosts my planning skills. I have been playing this timeless game for over one year now; I enjoy spotting the pattern, finding new opportunities, and of course attacking the opponents. Even though I didn't perform well, I am glad that I was given the opportunity to take part and broaden my knowledge,

Thank you to Mr. N Shah & Mr. P Shah for organising and supporting everyone throughout the evening.

Jasmine 8LSB



Castle Competition: Year 7 learn more about Norman history

Students create amazing motte-and-bailey and medieval stone keep castles

Last term, all students in Year 7 learnt about William the Conqueror and his takeover of England in 1066. After winning the Battle of Hastings, William was faced with several problems regarding how to maintain the power of this new land he had just conquered.

He dealt with these problems of finances, loyalty and trust by initiating the Harrying of the North which squashed rebellions in the North through force, creating a feudal system which gave everyone in society a role and responsibility and coordinating the Domesday Book which was an account of what people owned and informed William about the taxes he was going to collect.

The final problem he had to solve was how he was going to showcase his power. He did this through building castles such as a motte-and-bailey and stone keep castle.

Year 7 were given the challenge of building these castles and the top 6 were placed in the library for the whole school to see. The whole school then voted for the ones they thought were the most realistic.

The results of the vote were:

- **1st place:** Jasmin K 7MEM
- **2nd place:** Katy P and Mia V 7NME
- **3rd place:** Victoria G 7SCH

Well done to all the students that took part! Here are the winners, explaining how they built their castles.

Ms Bharj

Jasmin

In order to have a vision of what I wanted my castle to look like, I used inspiration from Harlech castle in Wales to see the structure of a medieval castle. I made my project by using materials such as cardboard and some skewers to create the accessories such as stairs.

I started by mapping out the base to roughly locate the individual walls and towers and then started to measure and cut the pieces of cardboard. It was challenging to get the measurements right because otherwise it wouldn't fit together the way I was hoping for, but I was successful.

After I got all the parts together, I stuck tiny cut up pieces of cardboard to create the texture of bricks and then started to paint them.

I wanted a more eerie look, so I went for a darker shade of grey and added lighter & darker strokes to it to show the different types of stone used. When this was all done, I could finally stick the parts together and finish any embellishments or touch ups as well as adding lights. I am really happy with how it turned out.

Katy and Mia

Our castle was inspired by the medieval stone keep castle. We used lots of materials such as cardboard, cloth, wooden lollipop sticks and string. It took us 2 weeks to complete our masterpiece. We used paint to give our castle colour and we tried to include lots of features that the actual stone keep castle would have had such as turrets and a drawbridge. We are both really proud of our finished product.

Victoria

I started with an idea - I wanted to build a motte-and-bailey castle because of the interesting design and how it was first used by William the Conqueror to become King of England. I thought about what materials were available and how it would be accurate to real motte-and-bailey castles.

I concluded with using popsicle sticks for the majority of the palisade and lining the buildings and keep. I used foam and Styrofoam to build the base of the castle and the motte. Thin pieces of foam were placed on the case and in the ditch to add colour and a realistic effect.

There was a lot of trial and error involved in the whole project - especially building the motte. With some resilience and hard work, everything managed to work out in the end. I am very pleased with the end result showing the aspects of a motte-and-bailey castle.





1st place: Jasmin K 7MEM



2nd place: Katy P and Mia V 7NME



3rd place: Victoria G 7SCH



Enrichment talks this term

Buddhist monk delivers enlightening talk to RS students

On Friday, 10th November, all Year 10 students were visited by an ordained Buddhist monk. The monk discussed some of the core Buddhist principles with the girls such as the Eightfold Path and the five moral precepts. Many of the students found the talk to be eye-opening and had this to say: "It was an interesting experience because we got an insight into what the life of a Buddhist monk is actually like. It was really interesting to hear the opinion of a monk on the wider world"

Tanisha Year 10

"A few weeks ago we were privileged to meet a Buddhist monk. This was a very inspirational opportunity as we got to learn many new things about the life of a monk and the Buddhist community as a whole. Overall it was a very enlightening experience."

Vibha Year 10

We look forward to welcoming the monk back next year.

Ms Crosbie



A truly mind-bending talk for Psychology students

The Bentley Wood Psychology department were delighted to welcome Professor Peter Ayton, who delivered an engaging and interesting talk on 'The Psychology of Illusions' and Q&A to 80 AS and A Level Psychology students. Professor Ayton solved some mysteries of the mind, by revealing the cognitive elements to how and why illusions can trick our brains, including the famous 'Bristol Café Wall Illusion' and 'Never Ending Staircase'.

Professor Ayton is both a lecturer and active researcher at the University of Leeds and City University, offering advice to our aspiring psychologists as to career paths and employability following A Levels.

The psychology students expressed how excited this talk made them feel for attending university, and how refreshing psychology can be when studied outside of the classroom as well. The students felt extremely lucky that Professor Ayton took the time out of his day to deliver his talk, and the students are looking forward to Professor Ayton's return!

Miss Bloom, Leader of Psychology

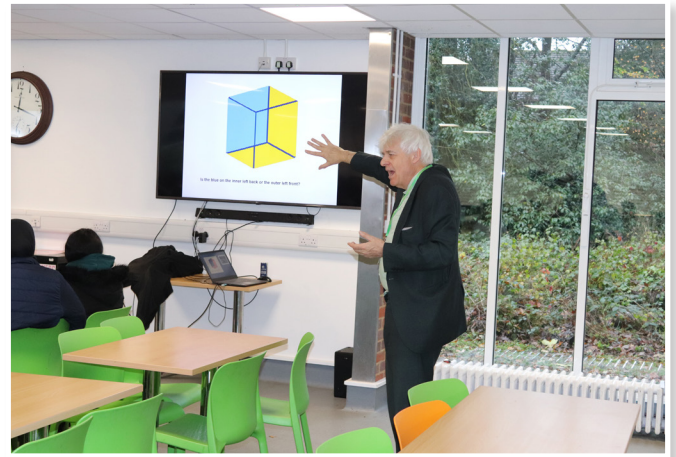
Quotes from students:

"The talk was extremely insightful because we learnt a lot about psychology not seen in the A Level specification, which was very eye opening."

Lubnah M Year 13

"The Q&A career information was very enriching and it gave me more information and context to consider when looking at psychology as a career path. The talk was also interesting on the theories of pattern recognition as a facet of psychology."

Julia C Year 13



Spotlight on politics: Student visits and Parliament Week

Politics students get inspiration from visit to Parliament and the Supreme Court

Every year our politics students visit the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court to enjoy politics and law at first hand. We have thoroughly enjoyed our tour of Parliament and our workshop on debating and legislating organised by the Parliament Education Centre. Not only do we come out knowing more about ins and outs of Parliament, but we hone our debate skills and become inspired by those who work in those two wonderful buildings!

Mrs Nye

Here is one account of a student's experience on the day.

"Visiting the Houses of Parliament yesterday with my politics class was really fascinating and enlightening. From being witnesses to a live debate in the House of Commons to learning facts about the history of UK Politics, we were able to enhance and apply our knowledge. I have highly benefited from this trip!

Additionally, visiting the Supreme Court and sitting in the same chairs some of the most prominent Supreme Court Justices have sat in - sparked a lot of inspiration for all of us.

As a class, we are appreciative to Mrs Nye & Mrs Jain for taking us!"

Hosai Y 12KW



Students at Westminster Hall. The oldest remaining part of the original Palace of Westminster



Students at the Supreme Court. The final court of appeal in the UK for civil cases, and for criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



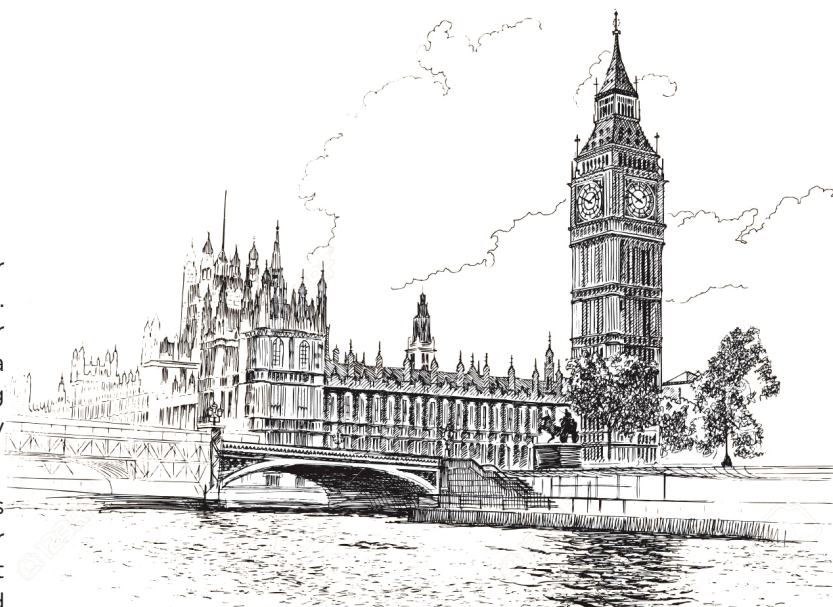
Bentley Wood High School celebrates Parliament Week

On Thursday 9th November, students across all year groups participated in the Bentley Wood Referendum. The question posed was- 'Should the Prime Minister delay green policies?' We have all found this to be a tricky question, in the midst of the 'Cost of Living Crisis', should the government prioritise the economy or the environment?

Following a series of assemblies introducing both sides of the debate, students had the opportunity to enter the voting booths and cast their vote! Whilst being part of an incredibly interesting debate, students learned how to vote and why voting is so important within any democracy.

The results of our referendum were very close- highlighting that every vote mattered! Thank you to all of our students who got involved and remember for the future that "By voting, we add our voice to the chorus that forms opinions and the basis for actions."

Mrs Nye



Vote only once by putting a cross <input type="checkbox"/> in the box next to your choice	
Should the Prime Minister delay several green policies?	
YES	49%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	51%



Geography field trips this term

Students gain valuable investigation skills on field trip to Somerset

Our geography class went on a residential trip to Somerset, and it was amazing. We spent the first day in Watchet and looked at the topic 'Place' in geography. Place describes the physical and human characteristics of any location on Earth.

There was a place in Watchet called East Quay which was regenerated and had lots of things to do inside, such as going to a restaurant, the paper mill and the local shops.

On the second day we went to Porlock Bay. This was a beach that had beautiful scenery. We looked at how the gradient and rock size changes over the coast. We then went up the cliff at around sunset and made a field sketch of what we could see.

On the third day we went to Minehead and did a coastal management investigation on the different management strategies which would best suit the area and which ones have been efficient. After the investigation we headed back home!

What we got out of the trip is, skills that we can use for our own investigations. I now know what type of methods to use to investigate an area and in this I had met and proved my hypothesis for our fieldwork.

This will also help me in my NEA because of all the primary data that I had collected. I would recommend going on any trips that have to do with your studies as it gives you a broader knowledge of the topic and makes you understand the work better.

Husna U Year 12



Students doing investigative work at Porlock Bay

A level geography students study the carbon and water cycle at Epping Forest

Our A-level geography class went on a field trip to Epping Forest in order to enhance our understanding of the water cycle and discover more about the carbon and water cycle.

We started by focussing on the carbon cycle and firstly created hypotheses and carried out an investigation to find out the how different species of trees in our natural deciduous woodland, sequester carbon and regulate our climate.

We were able to collect data from the woodland and use the quantitative data to make further calculations and analyse data. We considered the height of trees using a clinometer and tape measure and then we measured the circumference. Combined measures from our collection allowed us to deduce the biomass and financial value of the trees, respectively.

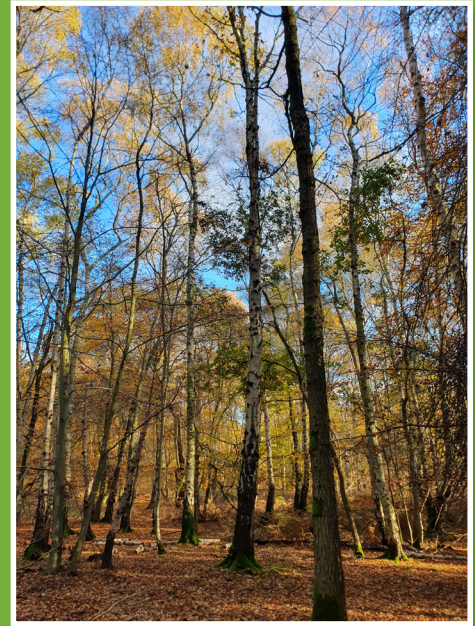
During the second half of the day we investigated the water cycle. We were able to observe the functions of this cycle from a macro (global scale) to a micro scale. We used models to simulate surface runoff comparisons between an urban and natural environment; and we considered interception, and infiltration rates from other simulations.

Finally, we were able to compare the composition of soils at three different locations and analyse how geology and in particular, permeability varies and impacts fluvial landscapes.

We were then able to combine both key elements of the day by field sketching and annotating carbon and water cycle factors in the Epping Forest environment.

Overall, this fieldtrip was insightful and beneficial in learning the dynamic relationships between carbon and water.

Neha P 13JT & Kashi D 13JG



Staying safe on TFL and road safety interactive production

TFL officers speak to Year 9 students about public transport safety

The TFL officers hosted an assembly promoting the safety and awareness when traveling by public transport. This intended to educate students about the hazards and risks that you might come across, and how to avoid them.

All those circumstances opened our minds and enabled us to recognise and spot if we or someone else might be in danger. The officers were extremely friendly and approachable if you wanted to discuss any particular issues. In my opinion, this was a beneficial presentation as it can help students become more confident when travelling by tube or train, etc, and how to deal with each situation.

Sophie S 9THA



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Year 7 students learn about road safety in a fun and humorous way

A few weeks ago, we took part in an interactive production about road safety. It was all about a child that wants to go to school by himself but the father is worried about the dangers of the road. In the production, some people were asked to come up and be volunteers to answer some questions.

I was chosen as a volunteer and when I went up on stage, I was given a fake iPhone and headphones. They had asked me to do one simple thing: to walk in a straight line, look only at the phone and to not listen to my surroundings.

Other people were asked to act as cars, bikes and buses and make loud noises. So, I simply started walking as the other volunteers started walking around me. Since I wasn't looking up, I had bumped into several of them.

This taught me to always look left and right before crossing the road. It taught me and Year 7 many ways to be safe when crossing the road such as being aware of your surroundings, not being too focused on your phone and not having your headphones volume too high that you cannot hear the road.

It was a very useful production especially as so many of us are now going home alone and taking the bus, so we need to know how to be safe. It was an important message delivered in a humorous way.

Hannan H 7SZ



Student Rewards December 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

Nebeeha F 7NME - for her beautiful watercolour shell piece! A fantastic start in term 1. **Jasmin K 7MEM** - such a talented student, but also puts in 110% effort Amy H 7EBD - for exceptional effort during lessons! Well done!"

Drama

Marwa F 7SCH - for brilliant performances in Drama, particularly her performance of Aunt Spiker in the recent assessment. **Hannan H & Faryal O 7SZ** - for their captivating and engaging performances of Aunt Spiker and Aunt Sponge. **Aliyaa A 7EBD** - Aliyaa has worked well in Drama, she is a great team player and creates interesting and lively characters. Well done!

English

Abeeha R 7MEM - for her thoughtful, intelligent and complex contributions to class discussions; Zahra P 7MCO for her engagement and insightful comments in class

Food

Isra M 7SZ - For her fantastic effort in her workbook and always completing the extension task

French

Zofia O 7MCO - for working really hard and producing outstanding classwork and homework. She is so well focused in lessons and makes valuable contributions.

Geography

Isabelle C 7MEM - for continuous engagement, passion and contribution within her Geography lessons

Graphics

Sara S - 7SZ - for working exceptionally hard in lessons and putting in 100% for homework tasks too. Well done!

History

Maya L 7EBD - always contributes and gives excellent answers

Maths

Hawa H 7EBD - For her hard work and dedication shown in class. She is always eager to push herself and tackles extremely challenging questions with such ease. It is wonderful to see your love for math shine through in the classroom! **Sofia G 7SZ** - She always works really hard and gives 110%. She is always putting up her hand, eager to get involved in the lesson and isn't afraid to ask for help if she needs it. She brings a great energy to the classroom!

Music

Victoria G 7SCH - for her total dedication and calming nature in both her music lessons and extra-curricular commitments.

PE

Chloe R 7LNO - for her dedication and outstanding effort in all PE lessons and at extra-curricular clubs.

Philosophy

Yasmin Z 7MEM - for producing outstanding homework in RS!

Science

Yasmin Z 7MEM - for producing an amazing Cell Model and giving 100% in every lesson, **Zofia O 7MCO** - For always listening so well in science and for asking lots of interesting questions outside of lesson time

Spanish

Mia V 7NME - for being so engaged in Spanish.



Student Rewards December 2023

Year 8



Art

Mihika T 8LSB - for always attending Art Club and for her session on how to create your own stickers your enthusiasm and effort is amazing to see! **Aasia S 8ROR** - for working super hard in lessons, helping new peers settle in and putting in 100% in to homework tasks too. You are a superstar!

Drama

Eiliyah M 8ROR - for fantastic work in Drama, learning all lines for performance and delivering with superb voice control and expression. **Emily G 8KPO** - for settling in so well, for being focused with her Drama work, working so well with others and lovely performance too, which illustrate good understanding of character and voice

English

Zolal A 8GHO - for her creative and well-crafted story writing. **Ameera-Zenab R 8AHU** - for improving in her confidence and showing a passion for creative writing

French

Ariana B 8ABR - clearly has a passion for French. She works with such enthusiasm and commitment, that it is a real pleasure to have her in the class.

Geography

Jasmine G 8LSB - for outstanding effort in homework and classwork throughout the term and participation in Geography club

Graphics

Qazal H 8LSB - Skills and dedication to getting her work completed. **Yasmin A - 8GHO** - for creative originality and thinking outside the box to challenge herself in lessons."

History

Evie R 8AHU - dedicated to her history studies

Maths

Kuther M 8ABR - A shoutout goes to Kuther for the hard work she has put in so far this year. It may not be her favourite subject, but I have seen such a positive change in attitude toward her learning. Keep it up!

Monisha K 8KPO - Monisha is a superstar, she finishes every piece of work I give her, to a really high standard and really quickly! She always makes sure to ask for more and not only that, but she's also super engaged in the lessons, with her hand up, ready to answer questions. **Mishkat R 8MD** - for going above and beyond on her homework. she was also doing a lot of extension work on Dr frost and scored the highest score in school in addition to scoring 100 % on all her tasks on Sparx.

PE

Yasmin A & Rahi A 8GHO, Serena P and Shiloh N 8ABR for being brave and attending netball trials and making it onto the netball team. They have demonstrated fantastic commitment to the netball team so far.

Science

Hanan M 8MD - for her outstanding contribution to science lessons. She is always producing high quality classwork and participates very well in lessons. Hanan works so well with others and individually

Spanish

Bianca G 8GHO - for always working hard and being kind helping others. Your commitment and effort in Spanish is outstanding.



Winter reads

The Snow Girl by Sophie Anderson

When Tasha builds a snow girl with her grandpa, all she wants is for her to be real. If only wishes on snow could come true... Then Tasha meets Alyana, a friend made of wishes, starlight, snowfall and magic. But when your best friend is made of winter, what do you do when spring comes?

HappyHead by Josh Silver

When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But the programme holds some dark challenges, and all is not as it seems at the retreat...

The Cats We Meet Along the Way by Nadia Mikail

Seventeen-year-old Aisha hasn't seen her sister June for two years. And now that a calamity is about to end the world in nine months' time, she and her mother decide that it's time to track her down and mend the hurts of the past. Along with Aisha's boyfriend, Walter and his parents (and Fleabag the stray cat), the group take a road trip through Malaysia in a wildly decorated camper-van - to put the past to rest, to come to terms with the present, and to hope for the future.

Murtagh by Christopher Paolini

The world is no longer safe for the Dragon Rider Murtagh and his dragon, Thorn. An evil king has been toppled, and they are left to face the consequences of the reluctant role they played in his reign of terror. Reviled and alone, they are exiled to the outskirts of society and wherever they go, Murtagh senses that something wicked lurks in the shadows of Alagaësia. So begins an epic journey into lands both familiar and untravelled, where Murtagh and Thorn must use every weapon in their arsenal to find and outwit a mysterious witch. A witch who is much more than she seems.

Babushka by Natasha Devon

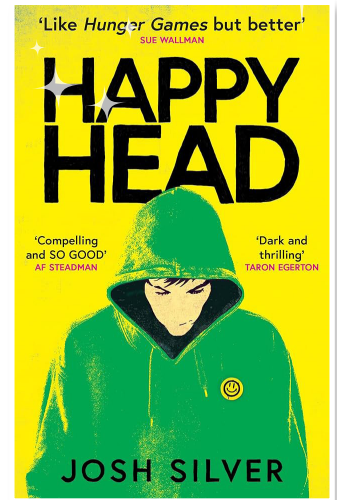
Cerys Williams has swapped her village in the Welsh Valleys for art college in London and the spare room in glamorous Auntie Wyn's flat. It's a new life for her and she is determined to fulfil her big dreams and unconventional aspirations. But Cerys's London is not glossy or cool or sophisticated, despite what Adept, her favourite magazine, has told her. It's lonely and overwhelming and confusing. Until, that is, she meets him...

Until the Road Ends by Phil Earle

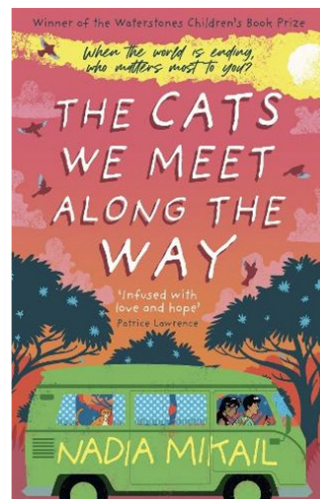
When Peggy saves a stray dog from near-death, a beautiful friendship begins. But when war breaks out, Peggy is evacuated to the coast and Beau is left behind. Night after night, as bombs rain down and communities are destroyed, Beau searches the streets, saving countless families. In a brutal twist of twist of fate, disaster strikes, changing Peggy's life forever. With her parents killed, both she and Beau are left alone, hundreds of miles apart. But Beau has a plan to reunite them at long last . . .



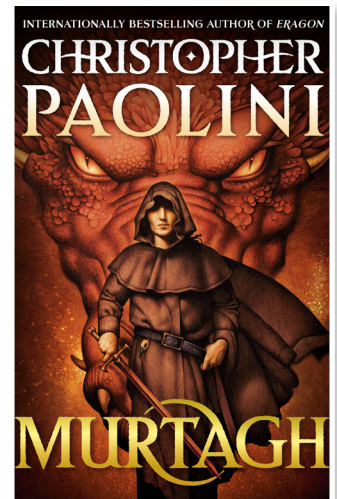
The Snow Girl
by Sophie Anderson



Happy Head
by Josh Silver



The Cats We Meet Along the Way
by Nadia Mikail



Murtagh
by Christopher Paolini



Babushka
by Natasha Devon



Until the Road Ends
by Phil Earle

The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow

Nate's final year of primary school isn't going according to plan. First, his best friend PS is put in a different class and goes on to befriend the class bully. Then, his youngest brother is rushed to hospital. He knows he is lucky to have a supportive and kind teacher but with anger rising inside him, will his love of reading and writing be enough to help him survive the final year?

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson

After an entire young life of enslavement, twelve-year-old Homer escapes Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving his beloved mother behind. Deep in the recesses of the swamp, they discover Freewater, a free society made up of escaped slaves and some born-free children. Homer is torn between making a new life here and risking it all to free his mother from enslavement.

Fourth Wing by Rebecca Yarros

Violet Sorrengail's dreams of a quiet life as a Scribe Quadrant are dashed when she is ordered to compete for the position of a Navarre, an elite dragon rider. With a shortage of dragons, the competition is brutal and Violet must use her wits to compensate for her physical weakness. An ongoing war makes matters worse and it is difficult to know who to trust, especially because she suspects the leadership is hiding a terrible secret...

The Forest Grimm by Kathryn Purdie

The Book of Fortunes used to help villagers realise their dreams until someone used it to further their evil ambitions. The branches of the Forest Grimm snatched away the book away and the village withered. Since then, anyone who crossed the border of the village was cursed to never return. Clara embarks on the journey into the deadly forest to procure the Book of Fortunes - to reverse the curse and save her mother and village.

Alas, the forest - alive with dark, deadly twists on some of our most well-known fairy tales - has a mind of its own...

Kicked Out by A. M. Dassu

Ali and Sami are living their dream, playing football for the school team and hanging out in their friend Mark's new luxury pool. But money goes missing and racism rears its ugly head when their friend Aadam is accused of the theft. Can the boys prove Aadam's innocence, keep their friendship - and help fight Aadam's threatened deportation? Can Ali navigate his emotions and stay focused now his dad is back on the scene and his half-brother has joined his school?

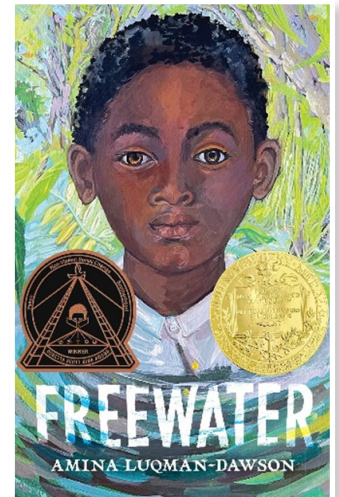
My Life as a Chameleon by Diana Anyakwo

Sixteen-year-old Lily plans to return from Manchester to her birthplace in Nigeria to reunite with her mother and siblings for the five-year anniversary of her father's death.

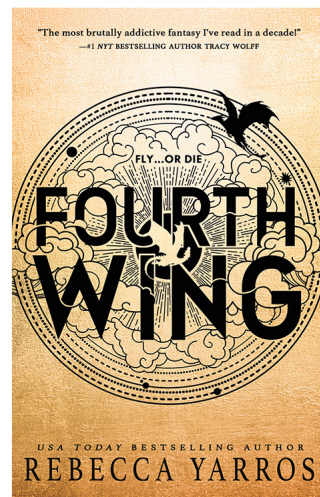
She reflects on her early childhood in Lagos as the daughter of a Nigerian father and Irish mother, growing up with a sense of somehow being an outsider. Political turmoil results in her being sent away to school in England, where Lily's sense of identity is challenged in even more painful ways.



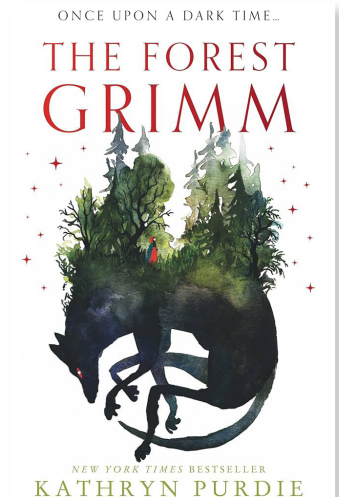
The Final Year
by Matt Goodfellow



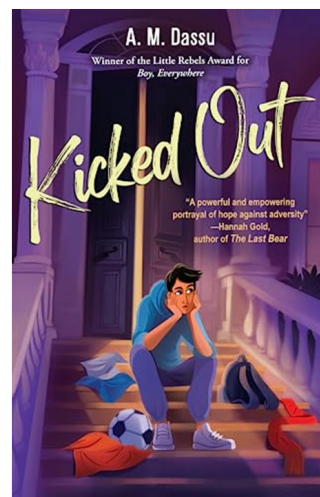
Freewater by Amina
Luqman-Dawson



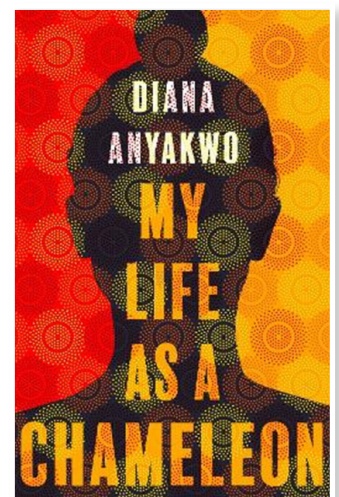
Fourth Wing
by Rebecca Yarros



The Forest Grimm
by Kathryn Purdie



Kicked Out
by A. M. Dassu



My Life as a Chameleon
by Diana Anyakwo

The joy of reading

The Scholastic Book Fair: Students browse some fantastic new books

The Scholastic Book Fair visited Bentley Wood in November with a fantastic selection of books and stationery for sale.

For a whole week the library was a hub of anticipation and excitement, with long queues of students eagerly awaiting their turn to browse and to buy the books on offer.

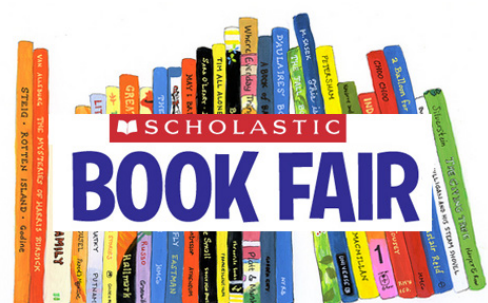
As usual, there were some exciting new titles as well as current favourites from authors such as Karen M. McManus, Jennifer Lynn Barnes, David Walliams and Adam Silvera. it was lovely to see the girls browse through the selection with their friends whilst having animated conversations about their favourite authors and books.

Book fairs are not only a great way to promote an interest in reading they also allow students to keep up-to-date with the latest trends in fiction for teens and young adults.

The advent of social media has revolutionised most aspects of human life and books are no exception. The world of publishing, particularly the teenage and YA market, has seen a surge in the popularity of fantasy, romance and crime books made famous by TikTok.

Scholastic offer the best of these trending books in combination with literary classics, which is why we are proud to host two book fairs every year in collaboration with them.

Mrs Khan Librarian



Blind Date with a Book

Curiosity is the key to reading for pleasure, it seems. The lines in front of room 105 every Friday appear to be palpable enough. If so, what makes Blind Date with a Book initiative so successful? Is it the delicate wrapping, the brown, inconspicuous twine around each book or maybe the labels with vague key words that make the students want to grab-and-run?

Blind Date with a Book was launched on 17 November 2023 and so far, it's been a very pleasant way to finish the week. The students at Bentley Wood truly love it as there is hardly ever a book left fifteen minutes after stocking the shelves, which happens at random times on Fridays. So far, the initiative started by the Erasmus+ School Improvement Group has given away 102 books for both students and staff. The latter may not be as successful in securing a book before the weekend as they are mostly beat to it by our voracious readers of different key stages.

Reading should be everyone's cup of tea. If you don't like reading, you haven't come across the right book yet. That is the core belief of Blind Date with a Book. We are also convinced curiosity mentioned at the beginning really helps with generating interest, joy, even passion for reading. Therefore, the initiative will continue next year.

So far, we have given out over one hundred books to staff and students (one hundred and two to be exact). If you would like to become a part of our whole school initiative, go through your bookshelves and see if there is anything that you loved and would like to pass on to others. It helps when the donated books look the part, too. If you are a student and would like to get involved, come to V2 every Thursday after school. Many things need to happen before all the donations are attractive enough to be displayed on the shelf.

A big thank you to our fantastic sixth form students – Abigail, Zara, Hafsa – and to Mya in Year 10 for enduring the challenging, practical tasks linked to presentation of the books. A massive thank you to all who donated the books. Without them, let's just face it, Fridays would be deprived of the magic of finding that perfect match.

Mr Zabielski



Book Buddies Competition

In the run up to the Scholastic Book Fair, the library ran a competition on Teams with the opportunity for 5 students to win a £5 book token each to spend at the fair.

Students were invited to propose a friendship between fictional characters from two different books of their choice, giving reasons why they believed the two characters would make great buddies.

The entries reflected a broad range of reading interests and students came up with some very original suggestions. The responses also showed that characters we read about often live on in our imaginations and our students had given thought to the motivations and personality traits of their chosen characters before pairing them up from their different fictional worlds. The following winners were chosen by the Head Girls and Sixth Form Library Leaders:

Book Buddies Competition Winners

Zara A 8ABR
Hosna K 8KPO
Sara S 8GHO
Nusayba M 11EAW
Saba T 7EBD

STEM challenges and activities provide broader learning

Students are tested by Bebras Computing Challenge

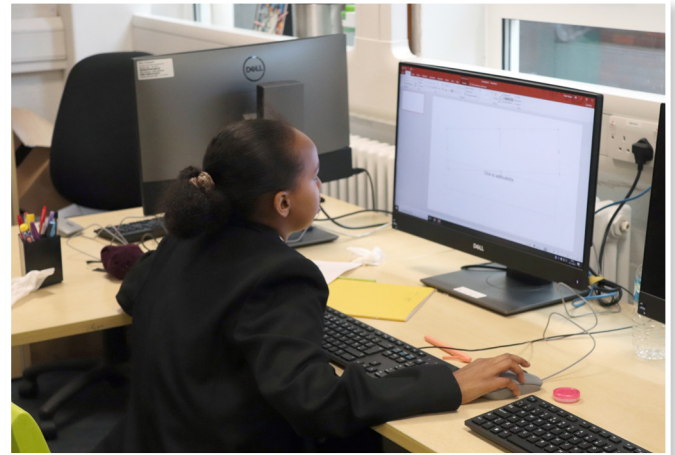
Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organized in over 60 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. Here is one student's account of taking part in the challenge

"Bebras offers a fun way to learn and compete against friends. It has a variety of different challenging questions to answer, giving your mind a great obstacle to face, making the experience much more enjoyable.

To add, it gives you a chance to put your competitive skills into action. And for some, their form of enjoyment is the simple idea of maths, which Bebras offers students to use.

For those who have an ambition to challenge their inner - self (mathematically). Bebras offers that once in a lifetime experience, providing students with unlimited entertainment, in a more healthy way than watching tv etc. Bebras is a great way to keep your mind active, while having fun!"

Abeeha R 7MEM



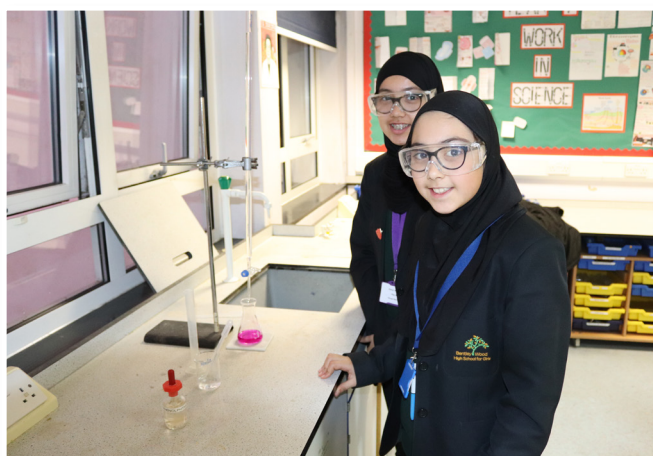
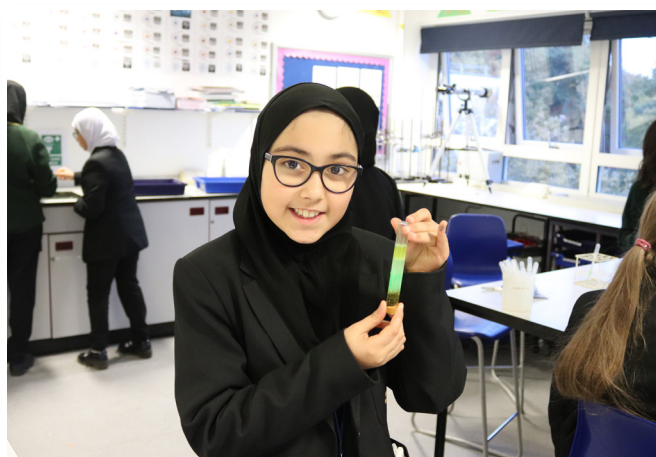
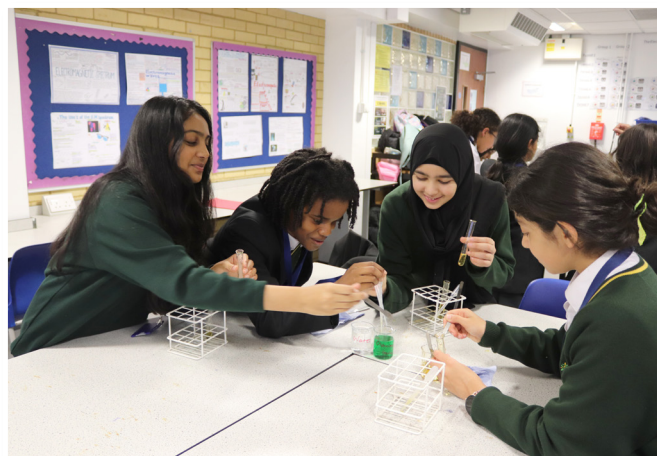
A lot of activities this term at Year 7 Science Club

It's been another amazing term for the science club. From dissecting a chicken wing to taking apart a whole eye (gross!) we really made sure to go out of our comfort zones.

We also explored the magic of making colour changing potions from acids and alkalis - of course being on brand with the Halloween season, as well as much more throughout the weeks. It's been great seeing the club members having an absolute blast.

If you don't want to miss out on all the fun, join us every Friday after school for more to come in the new year! Happy holidays!

Marium I 13GCO



Year 7 Maths Ambassadors have been busy organising competitions

End of Term Codebreaker Competition

Our Year 7 Maths Ambassadors also launched an end of term code breaker competition. Codes were displayed on the doors of four maths classrooms and students had to decipher the codes and submit their entries by the deadline for a chance to win house points.

The competition generated a lot of interest from students keen to hone their code breaking skills. Winners were as follows:

Earth House in 1st place

Air House in 2nd place

Well done to the winners and a huge thank you to the wonderful Maths Ambassadors who have demonstrated their commitment to their role and their creativity in designing such fun and exciting competitions.

A big thank you to Miss Vagi for her guidance and encouragement towards the Year 7 Maths Ambassadors who have just begun their roles and are eager to share their enthusiasm for maths with their peers.

An example of the Codebreaker Competition

Handwritten student work for a codebreaker competition. The work includes a grid of letters and numbers, a table of math problems with answers, and student details.

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	K	I	M	P	Q	R
24	No	121	6a	y ⁵	444	1/4	81	Yes	87	1/4	25%	2
S	T	U	V	W	X	Z						
0.72	32	3 ²	0.77	31/20	23	67%						

80 + 7 =	M	Does division come before adding?	1	400+40+4=	G
3 x 8 =	A	0.716 to 2dp	5	20 x 0.1 =	R
128 ÷ 4 =	T			y x y x y x y	E
Simplify 8/32	H			2 x 3 x 4 =	A
				(4+4)x(2+2)=	T

Name: Hawa Hujug
Form: 7EBD
HOUSE: Earth

End of term house competition!

By Urvi 7MCO and Aaliyah 7LNO
With the help of Mrs. Vagi

This end of term competition:

Good morning! To end of this terrific term, we are going to do a math related code breaker as our house competition.

They are going to be on the doors of W12, W13 and where V11 and V13 is. But there are a few rules

Rules:

DO

- Take your time
- Write your name, form and house on the back of the sheet
- Make sure you hand it in to Mrs. Vagi
- Write a math question on the back for an extra achievement point

DON'T

- Do more than one
- Tell people the answer
- Tell anyone if you did it or not
- Hand it in after the deadline
- Ask for the answer

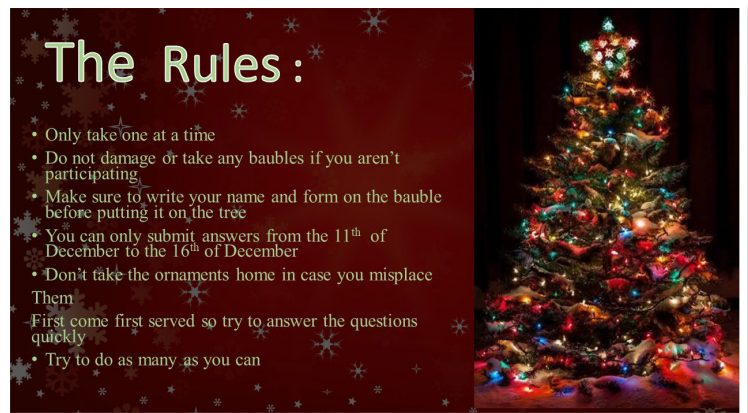
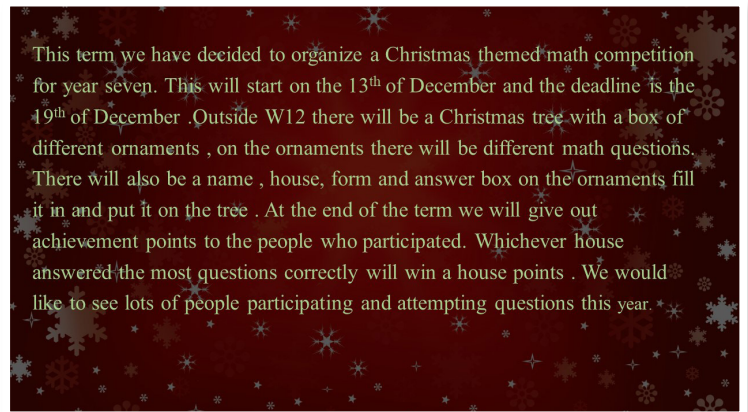
Christmas Tree Maths Challenge

In Year 7 we had lots of new maths competitions and quizzes this term. Our Maths Ambassadors, Aaliyah in 7LNO and Urvi in 7MCO, worked incredibly hard to come up with a very creative Christmas Tree Maths Challenge.

A Christmas tree was set up outside W12 with a box of tree ornaments featuring different maths questions. Students were invited to write their answers before decorating the tree with the baubles and ornaments. House points were awarded for participation and for correct answers and at final count the winners were:

Water House in 1st place

Earth House in 2nd place



Online maths tools to help learning

Maths Learning Boards and Dr Frost Maths

The Maths Department have made some important tools available to students to help their independent learning. The first of these is the Learning Boards which are available for each year group. These tools were developed by our own Mr. N Shah who wants students to see maths as a whole idea rather than a collection of isolated skills.

Students will be familiar with the Learning Board as they have been around for 2 years now. A major improvement has been the addition of past GCSE questions arranged by topic and difficulty. Students can use these to see how the topic is assessed.

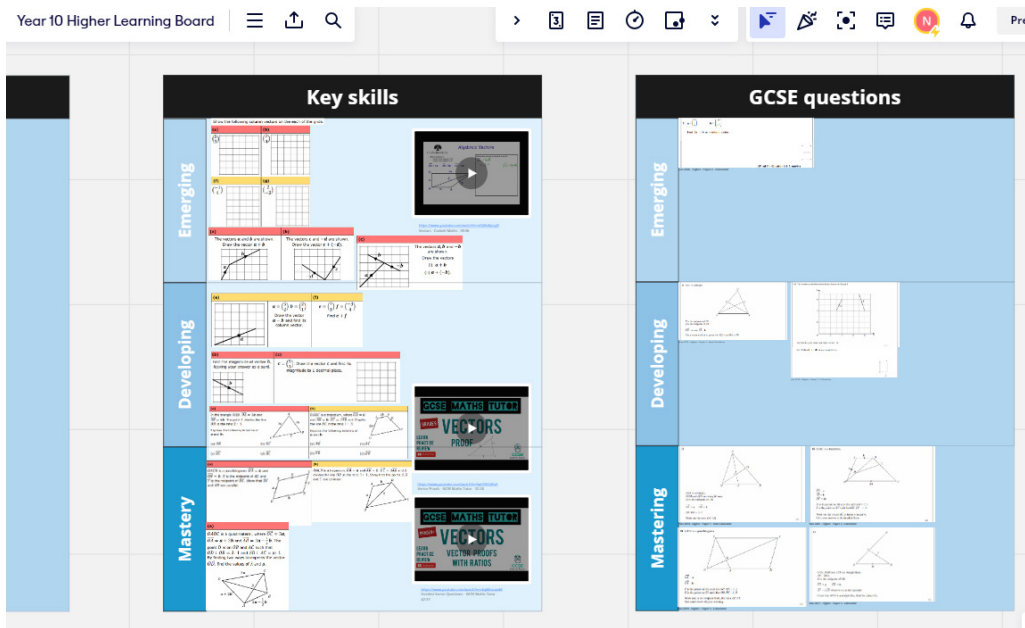
In addition, the Maths Department has made

<https://www.drfrostmaths.com/> available to students (contact N Shah in the maths department with logging in issues).

This is a fantastic tool with maths exercises and helpful videos to aide understanding. For students looking for stretch and challenge, this is definitely the tool for you. It also has all the UKMT maths competition questions for all age groups with solutions to help students to prepare for these annual tests.

Mr Shah Deputy Head of Maths

Learning Boards

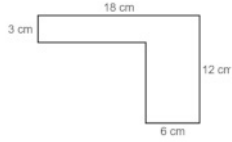


Dr Frost Maths

dfm KESM - Shape, Space & Measures - Area & Perimeter
K116: Find the perimeter of a composite rectilinear shape. Watch a worked example

Q1 Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Exit

Find the perimeter of the shape below.



Perimeter = 60 cm

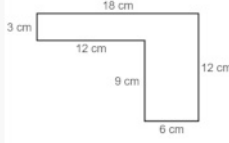
You can optionally leave a comment for your teacher about this question/your answer. Press Alt+Equals to insert mathematical expressions.

Send

✓ Correct

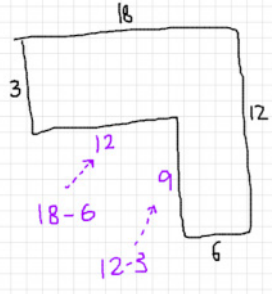
The answer is Perimeter = 60 cm

The perimeter is the total length around the outside of the shape.



Perimeter = $12 + 6 + 9 + 12 + 3 + 18$
= 60 cm

Alternatively:
Perimeter = $2 \times (12 + 18)$



Crazy Maths Facts

Two Year 7 Maths Ambassadors wrote these Crazy Maths Facts.

Aaliyah K 7LNO and
Urvi K 7MCO with the
help of Ms Vagi.

Crazy math facts

Did you know that Albert Einstein's brain was smaller than it should have been? This means having a small brain is good....

There is only one prime number that is and even number too. Email 8287@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk with your answer for achievement.

The word "hundred" is derived from the Old Norse word "hundrath," which means 120, not 100. More specifically, "hundrath," in Old Norse, means "long hundred," which equals 120, due to the duodecimal system. But good luck trying to argue that your \$100 bill is worth 20 percent more than it is.

There are a total of zero zeros in Roman numerals. While the ancient Greeks were *aware* of zero as a concept, they didn't consider zero to be a number at all. For example, Aristotle decided zero wasn't a number because you couldn't divide by zero. Instead of a Roman numeral, the Latin word "nulla" would have been used to represent the concept of zero. The reason no numeral existed for zero is because there was no need for a numeral to represent it.

You probably never thought about this before, but there is only one number spelled with the same number of letters as itself. Can you guess which one? No? Well, it's 4. Oh, and the number 4 on a calculator is made up of four light bars. Tell this fact at your next party! (You might not make many friends, though.)

By
**Aaliyah Kadar-7LNO
& Urvi Kulkarni-7MCO**
with the help of
Ms Vagi

Enrichment from the Modern Foreign Languages department

Language Nut Competition

Budding Bentley Wood linguists took part in a competition run by Language Nut. They used their language skills to complete various grammar and vocabulary based tasks in Spanish, French and German.

On behalf of the MFL department we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone who took part and earned some valuable points for their respective houses.

In the photo below you can see the top scorers for Bentley Wood. Special congratulations go to:

Hosna K 8KPO 1st place,

Zikra K 9SAL 2nd place

Saaliha K 10SEO 3rd place.

For everyone who participated, you are all amazing linguists so keep up the good work! We came a very respectful 633rd overall as a school nationwide, which we can all be very proud of.

Ms Graham



Rank	Name	Points	Certificate
221	Hosna K	940800	★
334	Zikra K	620400	★
2749	Saaliha K	173800	★
62042	Iman O	39700	★
81048	Mishkat R	31200	★
85140	Sonia A	29700	★
138449	Faza K	15600	★
143932	Mohsina K	14500	★
180480	Aroush Aamer	8400	★
215026	Alexa K	3800	★

Rank	Name	Points
628	Govan High School	1909000
629	Queensferry Primary School	1902900
630	Flamstead End Primary and Nursery	1892700
631	Marr College	1885500
632	Manchester Communication Academy	1885200
633	Bentley Wood High School	1878800
634	Langley Park School for Boys	1872600
635	Chorleywood Primary School	1871400
636	Cuthbertson Primary School	1857100
637	Preston Muslim Girls High School	1856400

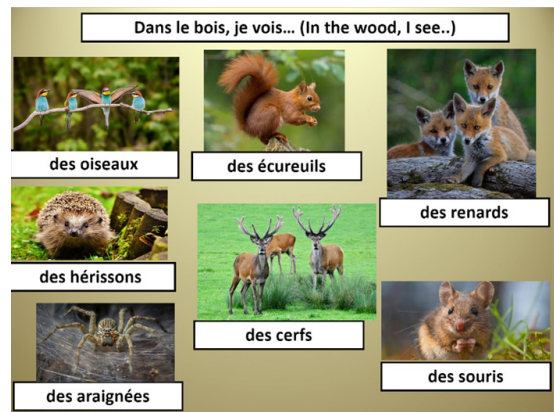
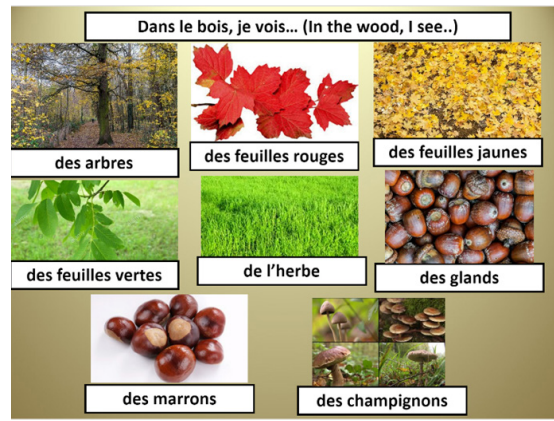
Autumn project

In French this year, the department ran a poster competition on the theme of autumn. First of all, pupils learnt new vocabulary to do with autumn: They were then asked to design a poster about autumn using the new vocabulary. Success criteria were:

1. Title in French 'L'automne'
2. Include and label at least 8 words in French/English to describe autumn.
3. Include pictures and real objects collected from their garden/local area.
4. Be creative and make your work neat and eye-catching.
5. Anything extra you might think of to describe this season in French: **Je m'appelle ... et j'adore l'automne parce que c'est + adjective** (cool - fantastique)
Use www.wordreference.com to look up adjectives)

Many pupils produced some wonderful posters, and it was extremely difficult to choose some winners. It is so lovely to see the enthusiasm of Year 7 and all those that made the effort, received achievement points. Well done, Year 7. Below are some samples of excellent posters. Congratulations to Year 7

Ms Sambo



A very original design from Aisha 7MCO



A beautifully designed poster which meets all the criteria from Zofia 7MCO

Student Rewards December 2023

Year 9



Art

Dorothea H 9SAL - for all your hard work and attending tuition sessions - even on a Saturday!

Chemistry

Fatema S 9EOG - for her considered and mature attitude to her learning in Chemistry and going above and beyond with homework. Well done!

Drama

Sabrina H 9EOG - for an excellent start to Drama in Year 9, fully focused and putting in lots of effort to work.

English

Sheema S 9SSH - In English Sheema works consistently hard, she always has a book in her hand and completes her work to a very high standard - well done!

Niya N 9TC - for her engagement in lessons and contributions in class

Food

Inshirah B 9EOG - for always being prepared for practical lessons

French

Inshirah B 9EOG - for her enthusiasm and excellent work in class.

Geography

Maria B 9NMO - for being a true all-round Geographer and outstanding commitment to her work

Graphics

Shanum C 9EOG - For being dedicated to hand in the perfect piece of work every single time! our attention to detail is unmatched! **Rukhsara R and Anesa T 9LBM** - for consistent effort and detail in all digital, photography and drawing tasks.

H&S

Tiana S 9EOG - for her continued hard work and contributions in class.

History

Alessia F 9LBM - for showing good progress with her classwork and history studies

Latin

Saira C 9SSH - for maintaining an excellent level of attainment and focus this term. Also, for having the confidence to present to the class even though she was nervous. Well done!

Maths

Zikra K 9SAL - Zikra has a wonderful calming energy about her. She contributes lots to the lessons and is always engaged, asking good questions. Whenever the students have a task to do, Zikra just gets on with it and doesn't let anyone distract her.

PE

Riddhi H 9SSH - for 100% effort in every GCSE PE lesson. Great improvement in skills and commitment to extra-curricular PE clubs.

Philosophy

Meadow H 9SAL - for many contributions in Philosophy every lesson!

Science

Avionne P 9THA - For her incredible efforts on catching up despite starting school after everyone else

Spanish

Rahaf A 9LBM - for her outstanding writing skills in Spanish and always striving to include complex and complicated structures. Always gives 100% effort in class and homework.

Student Rewards December 2023



Year 10

Art

Paige H 10CON - For always trying to better her work by coming to Wednesday Art Club and asking her peers for help and advice. **Faza K 10ABI** - for much improved effort and attendance to art clubs. Keep up the hard work!

Drama

Dalal M 10SJ - for improved effort in Drama, being punctual, engaging in work and staying focused in lessons.

English

Morsal O 10ALN - for working consistently hard this term and completing her work to a high standard. **Sahar H 10SJ** - for her improvement since the start of the year and enthusiasm in the subject

Food

Sara N 10EV - for a massive improvement and her hard work in practical lessons

French

Isabel M 10EV - for her enthusiasm for the French language. At many occasions, she would manipulate the language as if she was a native speaker.

Geography

Manasika R 10JP - for excellent effort in classwork, setting the standards high and actively engaging as Geography ambassador.

Graphics

Anila A 10CON - for showing dedication and commitment to her work both during lesson and in homework tasks! You are a true role model, Well done!

H&S

Aleena A 10ALN - for all her hard work in the Health and Social Care exams.

History

Sayida A 10SJ - consistently high performances in her assessments

Latin

Ambarin A 10SEO - for her excellent Boudicca video and for doing every piece of class and homework to the best of her ability.

Maths

Aliya M 10SJ - She is so proactive when it comes to learning Maths, always taking a further step to do questions outside the lesson and bring me challenging questions that she found difficult. She is always helping other people in understanding the Maths problems.

Ayesha E 10CON - for turning a new leaf in Maths and becoming more focused and proactive about her learning. Ayesha makes positive contributions to every lesson. Keep up the good work!

Jenna M 10SG - Jenna has improved so much this year she is so engaged in the lessons. She works really hard, whizzing through every task I give her and she always has her hand up ready to get involved in examples and class discussions. Her confidence in Maths has greatly improved and she really deserves to be celebrated!"

PE

Autumn E 10ALN - brilliant effort in all GCSE PE lessons. She makes fantastic contributions in every lesson.

Science

Fatima Z 10SEO - For contributing so well to our Physics lessons this half-term

Spanish

Michelle M 10SEO - for consistent work in Spanish. Great knowledge and understanding of grammar.



Congratulations to students who have won in tournaments this term

BW students take part in under 16's badminton tournament

Tuesday 21st November - Under 16's Girls Only Badminton Tournament

Four players from our Under 16's team entered a girls only under 16's badminton tournament, at Nower Hill High School. Our players practise on a weekly basis every Thursday after school. They played against 2 schools within their group (there were two groups), and overall Bentley Wood came first in this tournament!

Players included:

Aliya M, Zara S, Kalpana M, Saajida A.

Tuesday 28th November - Under 16's Badminton Tournament

Six players from our Under 16's team entered an under 16's badminton tournament, at Avanti High School. They played John Lyon and Avanti House School. Overall Bentley Wood came third place in this tournament.

Our team remained positive and encouraged each other throughout. It was great to see their competitive nature which remained strong.

Our students demonstrated sportswoman qualities throughout, it was great to see and hear this!

Players included:

Aliya M, Zara S, Niveditha T, Saajida A, Asiya R, Asiyah D

Ms Halai



21st November Under 16's team	
1st	Bentley Wood
2nd	NLCS
3rd	Nower Hill
4th	Park High B
5th	Park High A

28th November Under 16's team	
1st	John Lyon
2nd	Avanti
3rd	Nower Hill
4th	Bentley Wood

Year 7 compete in Netball tournament

On the 7th November the Year 7 netball team competed in a Netball development tournament at Nower Hill. We played 5 other Harrow schools and won two of our games!

The girls played so well as a team considering it was their first tournament of the year. Well done to the following:

Zara P, Hafsa A, Safah R, Isabel L, Siana O, Chloe R and Shehna S.

Miss Chandler



Students promoted to next level in Taekwondo classes

The students taking part in the after-school enrichment club of Martial Arts, Fitness and Self-Defence have made a promising start to the year.

All students have successfully been promoted to 9th Kup (white belt with yellow stripe) in Taekwondo.

This is a wonderful achievement and it is thanks to the PE Department and their dedication to helping students broaden their experiences and accomplishments in sport.

Well done! They are all now truly on their way to achieving great things in Taekwondo and have their sights set on Black Belt!

Volleyball tournaments

On Thursday, 7th December we held the Girls Under 16 Borough tournament. We entered two teams from Bentley Wood, a U16's and a U14's (this was to give them practise before their tournament).

The U16's won all their games in the rounds and made it to the final, however the pressure got too much and they came second. All students involved worked really hard together and now it has given us more focus in our training sessions on a Monday morning.

We are going to be arranging more games in 2024, so please come along if you would like to try and make it for the next game!

Ms Collen Head of PE



Congratulations to the following students who passed their grading:

Grading Rankings : A+ / A / O+ / O
Lucia M 7MCO Advanced Plus PASS [A+]
Hezel J 7SZ Advance PASS [A]
Jasmin P 7LJO Advance PASS [A]
Zara P 7LJO Ordinary Plus PASS [O+]
Sumayya G 8LSB Ordinary Plus PASS [O+]
Alexa K 8LCU Ordinary Plus PASS [O+]



Student engagement in PE

Year 10 students achieve second place at U16 Table tennis tournament!

On Thursday 14th December, Year 10 students represented Bentley Wood in the Girls U16 Table tennis tournament! They finished 2nd overall (out of 4 teams!)

They lost to Avanti in the final! All students had to play singles and then double games. The team were very successful by winning matches against Nower Hill and Park High. However, in the final the pressure got to them.

The team played extremely well and were fantastic!

More table tennis matches will be organised, so we should be able to come out on top next time!

Ms Collen Head of PE



Year 8 Netball
Hana V
Serena P
Halima A
Ruby C
Yasmin A
Layla H
Zahra S
Shiloh N
Zara Iqbal
Rahi A
Evie Ryan
Jesmira M
Sienna D
Nikita P
Lena S
Naomi T

Year 9 Netball
Eshel R
Rahima H
Avionne P
Riddhi H
Sameera A
Taqwa M
Aqdasah Z
Zahrah A
Isla A
Diana I
Skye H
Sana H
Elga D
Salwa S
Aliyah Z

Year 10 Netball
Maryam H
Fatima Z
Sarah B
Tareem N
Precious M
Sophie H
Shruthi S
Dora M
Mina S
Zahra A
Kalpana M
Ariqa M
Ciara R
Anastasia C
Andra M
Hafsah R

Year 11 Netball
Maya-Louise B
Reem M
Hamida O
Madison C
Sanah O
Samreen J
Zara S
Maria L
Nadeen N
Iman M
Maryam B
Nia A
Hana M
Zaynab M
Sarah Yunesi

Students visit Brunel University

Year 10 GCSE PE students meet students studying a Master's in Physiotherapy

On Wednesday, 29th November, Year 10 GCSE PE students had the opportunity to go to Brunel University and work with the Master's students who are studying Physiotherapy.

The day started with talks from different students who were sharing their journeys so far, what courses they were doing and how they were finding it so far. For most of the students, this was their first time of going to a university and it was quite eye opening for them.

Later in the morning session they were introduced to the Brunel students who were either in their first or second year of studying their Master's in Physiotherapy.

Each Brunel student shared their journey and which aspect of Physiotherapy they were interested in. The students were asked lots of different questions which they were confident in answering and found fun.

Later in the afternoon we were taken on a tour of part of the campus and this is where the students got to ask more questions regarding living out and at university.

They were amazed by the size of the campus and the number of different student residencies that they saw.

The day finished with a couple of practical sessions that were led by the Brunel students and this is where the GCSE students started to apply their knowledge into practice.

There were able to try reflex tests, ACL checks, listening to each other's lungs and finally balance and senses challenges.

Overall the GCSE students had a great day and it gave them a big insight into life at university.

Ms Colleen Head of PE





Former Bentley Wood student is awarded Young Coach of the Year 2023

We are always proud of the achievements of our students, including their success beyond their time at Bentley Wood. It gives us great pleasure to announce that former alumna Adithi Banerjee was awarded Young Coach of the Year 2023 by Middlesex Cricket Association. The prestigious award ceremony took place at Lord's Cricket Ground on the 8th of December.

Adithi's cricket journey started at Bentley Wood and this well-deserved award recognizes her outstanding commitment and passion for the sport, something which was evident from the very beginning to her teachers and peers. She has also been selected for the National Awards by the England Cricket Board. We wish Adithi continued success for the future in all her pursuits both on and off the cricket field!

Mrs Khan



The United Nations: Students get involved in competitions and projects

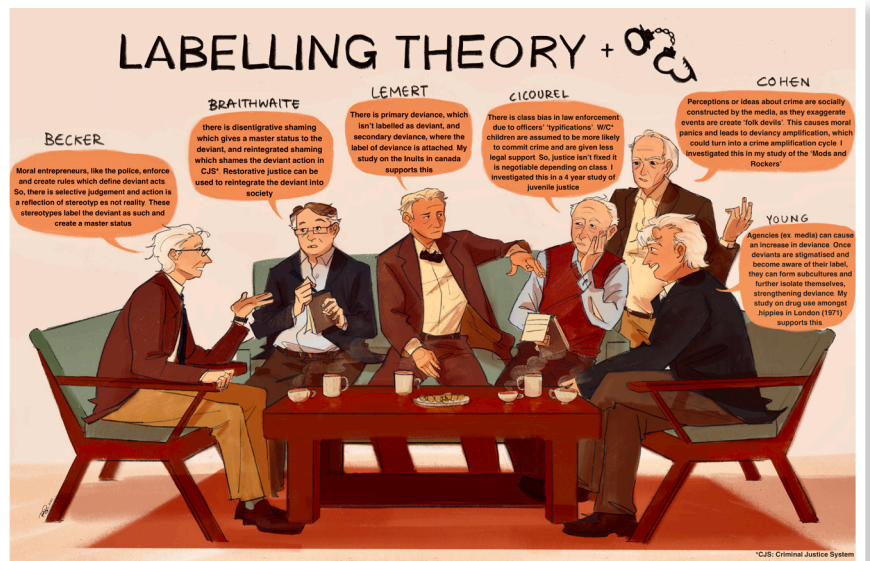
Year 13 student creates amazing sociology poster

Preesha S in 13JT has combined her love for both animations and sociology and produced an amazing poster for labelling theory in crime and deviance.

This just shows how our students can combine their amazing skills to apply in different fields of their learning.

Preesha has applied to study animations at university next year.

Mr Maric



Year 13 student wins second place for Peace Essay Competition

The United Nations Association Coventry Branch International Young People's Peace Essay gives young people aged 15 - 24 a chance to tell the world what they think needs to be done to promote peace and reduce conflict.

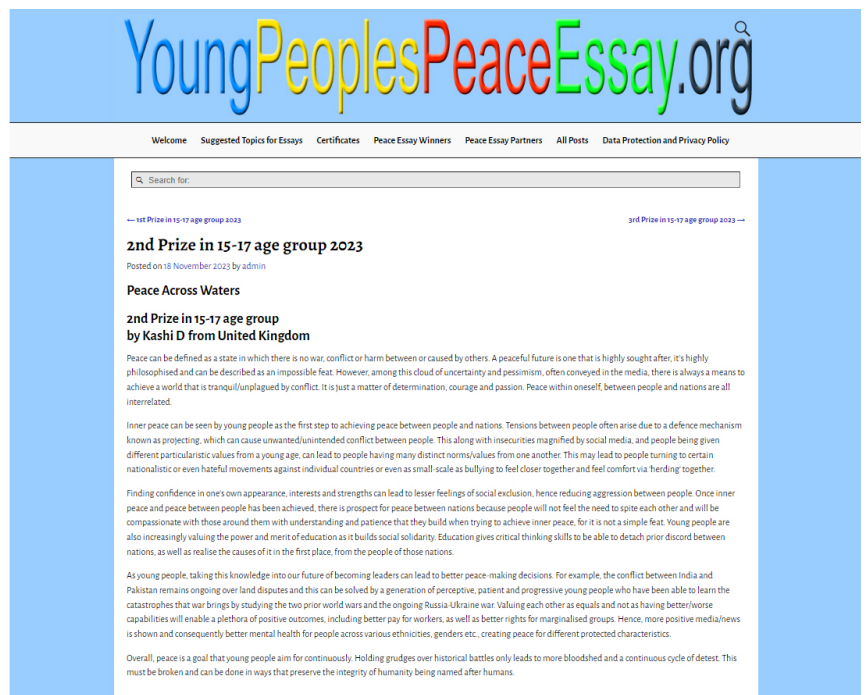
All entrant to the competition receive a certificate of participation and stand a chance to win a monetary prize.

It is a tool for exploring young peoples' opinions on peace agendas and for harnessing their enthusiasm for contributing to the improvement of peace in the world.

The collection of written essays could serve as a resource for various sectors. For example a source of ideas for leaders, items for analysis by social scientists and law scholars, a motivation for use by teachers to encourage their students to write essays and a revelation for politicians about the issues that preoccupy the minds of young people.

Our sixth form student Kashi D has won second place with her essay.

Mr Maric





Year 10 students take part in Model United Nations project

On the 28th of November, eight Year 10 students from Bentley Wood took part in the North London Collegiate School Model United Nations.

The students as representatives of a country, called delegates, began the day sharing their own resolutions with students from different schools who were just as passionate about the global issue they chose, before participating in a General Assembly similar to what would be in a real United Nations conference.

This event gave the girls a fantastic opportunity to research and learn about current affairs, discuss these with their peers, and enhance their public speaking and debate skills.

Each delegate presented their solutions with enthusiasm and maturity, which grew as the day went on, with many of them being able to confidently challenge and support others' ideas in the General Assembly.

For the Bentley Wood students, this was an incredible learning experience and they all brought immense pride to the school.

Michelle M 10SEO (Delegate for Greece)



Memorable and dynamic learning



Disability instruments

These were the items seized from those that required aid for their disability. It reminded us of the variety of people targeted by the Nazis, including those with even slight disabilities.



Outside of the barracks

We walked through the barracks where ex-prisoners would live, with each one depicting a different aspect of the tragedy that occurred during the Holocaust.



List of names

This represented the millions of people that were killed in Auschwitz during the Holocaust, the pages were filled on both sides. The realisation of the sheer amount of people that were killed was truly eye opening.

A Level history students visit Poland to gain further insight into the Holocaust

To give further insight into the atrocities of Nazi Germany, Rabab and I (Nikita) were granted the opportunity to go to Poland for a daytrip with the lessons from Auschwitz Programme.

Part of our A-Level history course looks at the Nazi dictatorship in Germany and the expansion of their power throughout Europe; specifically in our 2nd year of content we look into the events leading up to, and during the Holocaust. As part of the programme we were initially expected to attend a pre-trip webinar that informed us of life for the Jews in Poland before Nazi occupation.

On the day of the trip we travelled early in the morning to Krakow, Poland and reached the town where the concentration camps were located. The town was once primarily populated by Polish Jews, and we were given the chance to visit an old synagogue that held memorabilia of pre-war life.

This was done to place an alternative emphasis on the people that were affected by the Holocaust, rather than the perpetrators. After this, we arrived at Auschwitz, the concentration camp, and had a guided tour around the

barracks that made up the camp, with each one telling a story of the victims of the Holocaust. One barrack that particularly stood out to us was one that presented a list of names of people that were murdered at the camps.

After this we visited the infamous death camp and stood ourselves on the railways that were used to transport millions of Jews to it. We were able to visit the remains of the gas chambers, and learned much about the conditions that people were kept in during their short stay at Auschwitz Birkenau. A rabbi spoke to us, explaining the importance of learning about the Holocaust more than 70 years later, emphasising the prevalence of anti-Semitism in the current world.

The trip was incredibly saddening yet insightful, and gave us a new understanding of the true nature of the Holocaust and its victims. Not only did this enrich our comprehension of our A- Level content, but it also granted us a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit such a profound monument of history, from which we learned lessons that will stay with us for years to come.

Nikita M 13AP

Sixth form head girls engage in student leadership workshop

The head student team took part in a leadership workshop run by Mr Rankin, Miss Bloom and Miss Vagi. They shared their experiences and what they learnt from their trip abroad with the Erasmus programme.

During one of our activities, we engaged in the challenge of navigating blindfolded to Clump Hill. Each group consisted of one designated leader and two members. The blindfolded members relied only on the guidance of their leader to communicate with them.

This exercise not only proved to be incredibly enjoyable but also heightened our awareness of the remaining senses, with the removal of sight. We linked this to how we listen and respond to ideas and solutions within our meetings. Overcoming various obstacles, our team successfully completed the task through effective communication and teamwork.

As a team, we engaged with hypothetical situations, describing students in a similar position to us, and we were encouraged to give the student advice, allowing us to come up with helpful advice that may be useful for members of the team!

To encourage creativity and further teamwork, we used Lego bricks to construct our ideal sixth-form common room. This hands-on activity encouraged us to think critically about functionality and design, further emphasizing the importance of collaborative problem-solving and thinking outside the box for other ideas.

Whilst the task itself was incredibly fun, it also allowed us to think of practical ideas that could be implemented within our own sixth form, too!

Lubnah M Year 13



Former Head Girl's first Michaelmas Term at Christ's College

Bentley Wood student details her inspiring first term at Cambridge University

Cambridge was my dream, and it has now become my reality. Seeing ex-Bentley Wood students telling their stories so passionately truly inspired me and reminded me that top universities are attainable, despite my underlying fears of being the first-generation to attend university. That's why I love to tell my story to hopefully continue inspiring, and remind people that if I can make it, with diligence and perseverance, you can make it too.

First and foremost, I acknowledge that my journey was grounded in the support system I received at home from my beloved mother, as well as at Bentley Wood Sixth Form for which I am eternally grateful. Whether it be the Oxbridge support team led by Ms Jones, whose Cambridge journey continues to inspire me to this very day, or the practice admissions assessments with Mr Curtis, whose passion for history ignited mine. After this vigorous application process and the surreal feeling of opening my UCAS acceptance email, I was invited to attend a week-long bridging programme in late August.

This was my first time exploring and staying alone in Cambridge, and I can wholeheartedly say that is when I realised that Christ's College is where I belong. After meeting the lovely admissions team at my college, attending lectures and supervisions, as well as bonding with our two college cats (yes, we have two cats and they are adorable!), the whole Cambridge experience enchanted me and started to feel so real. Upon beginning Michaelmas term in October, I was quickly surrounded by some of the most incredible and intelligent people I have ever encountered. I also became acquainted with some strange Cambridge traditions, ranging from signing a matriculation register, experiencing Hogwarts style formal dinners, to being betrothed in college!

In terms of academics, I particularly enjoyed the global historical aspect of my course, allowing me to focus on regions away from Europe, such as Asia and the Middle East, which is exactly what I aspired to do. Looking at empires in my 'Europe in the World 1450-1700' paper allowed me to expand my historical knowledge beyond the Tudors and Stuarts to the Safavids and Ottomans with subject specialists, all of which has been truly enlightening. Analysing primary sources in my modern 'The Twentieth Century World' paper using my A-Level Spanish skills was another 'pinch-me' moment.

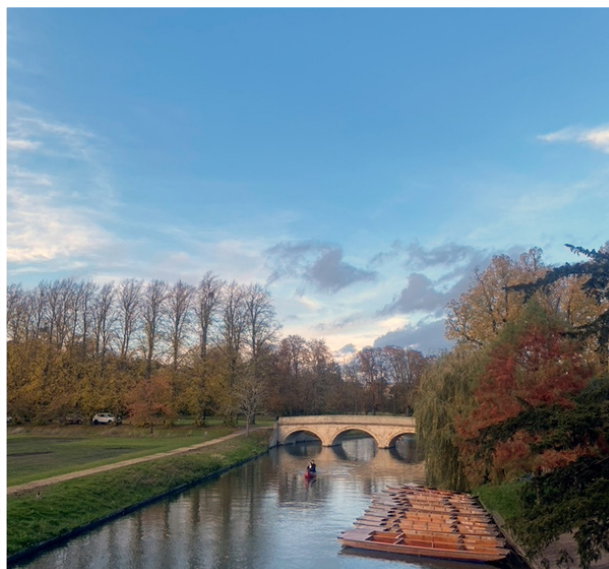
After an intense term pursuing my dream course with leading experts, I realised how grateful I am to have the opportunity to study in this academically stimulating environment. The entirety of the term felt so dreamlike, and it was a massive reward knowing that my endless practice essays during A Levels paid off.

As well as all these academically vigorous endeavours, I thoroughly engaged in a multitude of society events for the History, Feminist, and Amnesty societies, as well as attending student plays in our local theatre and poetry open mic nights. By far my favourite part has been the aesthetic, since it is so extraordinary studying in such a historically rich city surrounded by gothic chapels, lavish libraries, and Renaissance architecture. It truly has been an honour walking in the footsteps of notable Christ's College alumni ranging from John Milton, and Charles Darwin to J. Robert Oppenheimer.

Despite the intensity of this term, I was always eager to visit Bentley Wood upon returning to London. This is because I take pride in the support which helped to attain my dreams, whilst also remaining firm in embodying the school CARE values.

Overall, my first term was a wonderful first chapter and I anticipate my future endeavours there in the next few years. Following the term, what a joy it was to visit Bentley Wood as an ex-student and share my fond memories from this term. Catching up with all my A-Level teachers and sharing snippets of my term, as well as hearing their endearing messages of support, further cemented how grateful I feel to continually be surrounded by this support network. With this, your dreams of studying at Oxbridge can become your reality, as long as you persevere and remain wholeheartedly committed to your studies. Of course, your attitude to learning is what matters most, and as a very wise person once told me, be a radiator and not a drain!

By Isma Mirza
Ex-Bentley Wood Student





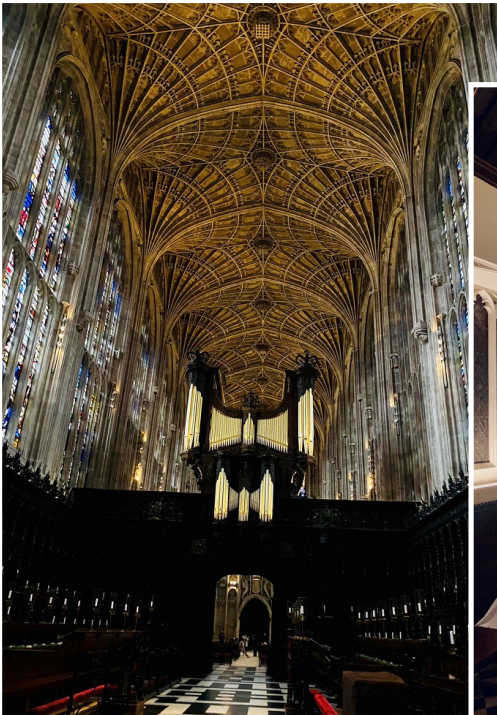
Me at my matriculation



Christ's College, Cambridge



Selwyn College, Cambridge



Kings College Chapel



Christ's College formal hall



Kings' College formal hall

Careers and enterprise projects



Students attend career talk from an investment banker at Morgan Stanley

Employer Engagement is a key part of the Gatsby Framework in Careers Education and Guidance. Here at Bentley Wood our Year 12 students have the opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers from various sectors including, law, finance, marketing, healthcare, engineering and design. Our most well attended talk was with Afrim Vakaj from Morgan Stanley.

Afrim spoke about his own career journey into investment banking and working both in the UK and France as a lead advisor to a variety of investment organisations and individuals. He also outlined the many opportunities that Morgan Stanley provide to offer students an insight into the world of investment banking and the highly competitive degree apprenticeship and graduate programmes.

Career guidance at Bentley Wood

Year 11 girls at Bentley Wood are as ambitious as any other group of young people across the country. Mr Tapper our Careers Adviser has interviewed 95% of girls during the

autumn term. Medical doctor continues to be the most popular career choice with 1 in 10 having this ambition. Architecture, nursing, midwifery, teaching, health care science, sound engineering are just some other examples of the careers that Year 11 wish to pursue. Another positive aspect of many Year 11 careers meetings is that many girls realised that they don't need a specific career goal at 16. This lack of a clear goal causes some worry, but they were reassured (80% of graduate jobs require any degree) that being open minded about what they could do as a job based on their personal qualities, strengths, skills and other interests broadened their options as they were not limited by a specific focus and that opportunities could be unlimited depending upon the sector that they want to work in.

Parents who are concerned about their daughter's Post 16 (Year 11 or Post 18 (Year 12/13) options can email

Mr L Tapper Career Adviser, EDT (Educational Development Trust) at ltapper@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk with their inquiries. Mr Tapper will respond within 48 hours.



Business studies students are involved in Young Enterprise project

I am delighted to share the amazing experience of our recent Young Enterprise project, where Year 9 Business Studies students came together in groups to create their own business.

Students designed and sold a variety of items which included personalised Bentley Wood t-shirts, 3D designed toy models, handmade jewellery, stationery, homemade cupcakes and doughnuts.

During our Business classes, we had to plan each step of our project, such as product design, calculating revenue, cost and profit, and applying a range of marketing strategies. All profits received were donated to 'UNICEF' and 'Children in Need' charities.

Furthermore, this project supported us to realise the importance of communication and team working skills needed in running a successful business.

I believe that this was a prodigious opportunity for us, which taught us many beneficial lessons that we can definitely apply in the future. This experience has boosted my interest in pursuing a business-related career, which I am looking forward to!



Student Rewards December 2023

Year 11



Art

Zara O 11HJG - for exceptional effort and hard work in her mock exam

Chemistry

Mariah A 11HJG - for her mature attitude to Chemistry and her excellent scientific enquiry in lessons this term. Well done!

Drama

Mariam B 11HJG - for consistently high levels of focus and effort in work.

English

Isra H 11NMA - English Literature for dedication and diligence. **Rhawan E 11MAK** - for her dedication to improvement and response to feedback in English Language

Food

Mariah A 11HJG - for her application of scientific knowledge and thinking outside the box when planning her NEA 1 task

French

Rawda M 11PS - for her enthusiasm and work produced in class. Simply amazing!

Geography

Sara A 11MAK - for all her focus, diligence, resilience and positivity. She is consistently awesome!

German

Keziah M 11BME for consistently producing excellent well-thought out written work in German.

H&S

Sainthavi S 11CCH - for all her hard work in lessons and homework. Plus, always trying her best.

History

Sarah K 11CCH - for her dedication to her history studies and sharing revision techniques

Latin

Eleni M 11EAW - for her excellent language work. She has joined this year with a real sense of willingness to learn and has shown great commitment to catching up with all work.

Maths

Vidisha G 11HJG - for her enthusiasm and contribution to all Maths lessons. She always works hard and is happy to help others in the lesson. Vidisha has an amazing work ethic & commitment to learning.

Sana S 11BME - Sana has a fantastic work ethic her homework is always completed on time to a really high standard and she works so hard in class. She always asks questions and has attended all the after-school revision sessions!

PE

Madison C 11PS - Fantastic commitment to PE GCSE revision and clubs this half term. She regularly puts in consistent effort.

Physics

Sara A 11MAK - For her unparalleled devotion to always completing homework to the highest of standards

Science

Elsa T 11PS - for her conscientious and proactive attitude as part of her learning and consistently showing such a mature attitude to her learning in Chemistry - well done!

Spanish

Fariha S of 11NMA - for always consistently working hard in Spanish and her fantastic contributions to lessons. She is always amazing and puts in 100% effort consistently.

Student Rewards December 2023



Year 12

Art

Kavya J 12NS - Effort inside and outside of the classroom.

Chemistry

Nermyn S 12PBL - for her excellent attitude to learning new Chemistry at AS and for her outstanding homework effort this term.

Classical Civilisation

Noor A 12RGR - for establishing an incredibly strong work ethic and contributing to class discussions with incisive comments that show extra reading. Her work has been a pleasure to mark this term!

English

Nasra F 12 KW - consistently completing her work to a very high standard.

Geography

Mahnoor A 12SNU - for dedication and diligence to her workload. Really puts in 100% effort into all tasks, even on the geography residential!

H&S

Megan H 12RGR - for her improvement in classwork and revision.

History

Abi C 12SNU - for showing initiative and enthusiasm in her studies

Maths

Fatima I 12SNU & Kavya J 12NS - for their amazing work ethic and never giving up. Keep up the good work!

Physics

Marjan A 12KW - For working so incredibly hard in every Physics lesson so far this term, asking lots of questions and for having the courage to seek help when she doesn't understand something

Sociology

Nermyn S 12PBL - For her continuous hard work and effort in Sociology. She is conscientious and always goes above and beyond. Nermyn's engagement in sociology is outstanding especially with her contributions to class discussions.

Spanish

Abigail C of 12SNU - for her passion for studying languages and her drive in Spanish; to improve her already outstanding writing skills and her enthusiasm in speaking Spanish.

Politics

Sumaira J 12KW - for your evident commitment to A Level Politics. Your passion is shining through!



Information and advice for students and parents

Getting to know the Bentley Wood Website

Focus Area: Curriculum

The School Website is great place for parents to keep up to date with information. It is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure information is up to date. The [Curriculum](#) area of the school website provides parents and students with information on what students are learning throughout the year in all their subjects and information on our Enrichment programme.

Subjects

Each subject has a page detailing the curriculum for all year groups. You will be able to see what your daughter is being taught every half term. There is also information on trips, enrichment, careers and recommended reading

Enrichment

Timetable: Students are encouraged to participate our wide enrichment programme. This page of the website details all the clubs that take place at Bentley Wood.

Careers

This area of the website details information on careers. This includes:

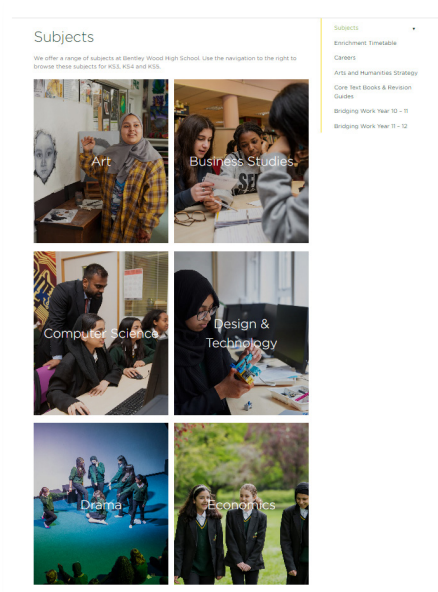
- Useful websites
- Careers programme for every year group
- Year 10 and 12 Work experience
- GCSE and Post 16 and Post 18 Options

Arts and Humanities Strategy

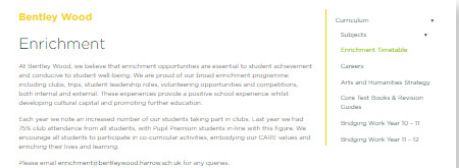
We believe that all students should engage with arts and humanities regardless of what subjects they choose at KS4 and KS5.

This part of the curriculum page details how we promote arts and humanities to increase the cultural capital of our students.

[Core Text Books, Revision Guides and Resources:](#) Details recommended revision materials that students can use at home to support their learning.



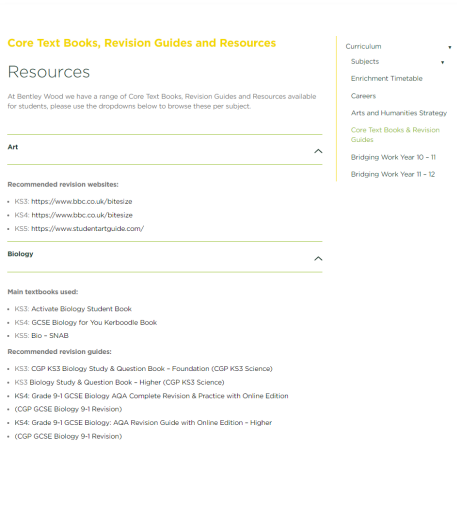
Subjects



Enrichment Timetable Autumn Term 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Volleyball (All Years) Ms Cohen Bellew school	Maths Games Club Miss A. Hill VEG Miss S. Mc HENKIN 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W6	Year 11 GCSE PE Intermedia Ms Cohen 1:45 - 2:20pm Room: Sports Hall	Anthropology Society Mr HICIC 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: U2	Volleyball Mr CURTIS 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: Sports Hall
KS4 Spanish drama group Year 10-11 1:45-2:20pm Room: W5	Jazz/Orchestra Year 10 & 11 Mrs Jones & Mrs BERRICH 1:45-2:20pm Room: W5	Year 9 Choir Year 10 & 11 Mrs Longton & Mrs PEARCE 1:45-2:20pm Room: W5	KS3 Instrumental drop in Mrs PEARCE & Mrs BERRICH 12:30 - 1:20pm Room: W5	Junior Choir Year 10-11 Mrs Longton & Mrs PEARCE 12:30-2:00pm Room: W5
KS3 Gymnastics (Week A) Mrs Chandler 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: GYM	Senior Orchestra Year 10-11 Mrs Jones & Mrs BERRICH 1:45-2:20pm Room: W5	Senior choir Year 10-11 Mrs Longton & Mrs BERRICH 1:45-2:20pm Room: W5	KS3 Soccernet Mrs HICK 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: Sports Hall	Politics Club (Week B) 17-18 Mrs HILL 12:50-2:20pm Room: W5
Criminology Club Year 7-9 Mrs HICK 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: U2	Year 7 Netball Mrs Chandler 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: Sports Hall	German KS4 Catch up (Week A) Mrs SHAN 1:05 - 1:45pm Room: 202	History Club (Week B) Year 7-9 Mrs SHAN 12:45-2:00pm Room: 204	KS2 Cultural Club Mrs COLEMAN 12:45-2:00pm Room: W4
KS2 Quiet Room 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W5	KS3 Quiet Room 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W6	KS3 Quiet Room 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W6	KS2 Quiet Room 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W5	KS2 Quiet Room 12:45 - 1:20pm Room: W5
KS4 Quiet Room 1:30 - 2:20pm Room: W4	KS4 Quiet Room 1:30 - 2:20pm Room: W4	KS4 Quiet Room 1:30 - 2:20pm Room: W4	KS4 Quiet Room 1:30 - 2:20pm Room: W4	KS4 Quiet Room 1:30 - 2:20pm Room: W4

Enrichment



Text Books and Revision Guides

Student Rewards December 2023



Year 13

Art

Niyathi T 13JT - Sustained development of ideas in her personal investigation.

Chemistry

Nabeela S 13AP - for her conscientious approach and diligent attitude to her work consistently this term. Well done!

Classical Civilisation

Charlotte O 13AP - for an excellent first term. Her contributions to class discussions have been insightful and her written work has shown a great level of improvement

Geography

Kashi D 13JG - for her excellent effort and dedication, even when things get tough. She is positive, thoughtful and extremely supportive of all her classmates.

H&S

Evie H 13JIG - for her consistent determination to succeed in health and social care.

History

Sara V 13JG - for excellent performance in class and mocks

Maths

Aarushi B 13AP - for her continuous hard work. Maryam I 13JT - for never giving up!

Sociology

Sowmiya T 13SBA - For being super hardworking and resilient and achieving her target grade in her mock! Sowmiya is always so positive, always offering to help and goes the extra mile.

Politics

Carina F 13AP - for your excellent knowledge above and beyond our curriculum!



Information and advice for students and parents

Online Parenting Courses in January

Brilliant Parents knows that most parents are brilliant, but we also know, as parents ourselves, that bringing up children is one of the most challenging and emotionally demanding jobs a parent will ever do.

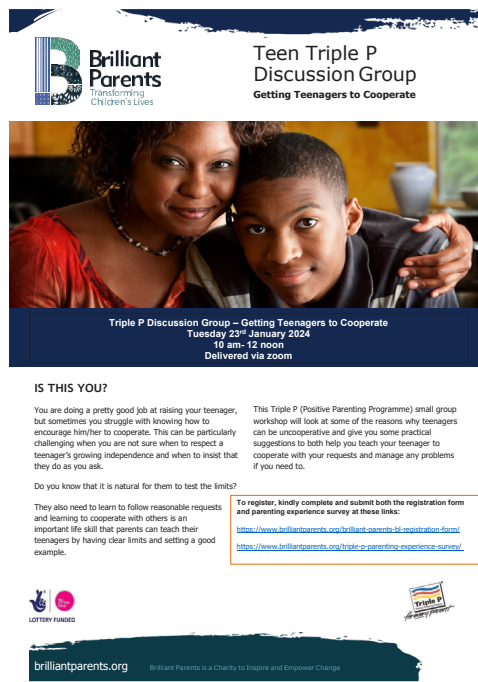
Sometimes it can feel that parenting has turned into a battle, rather than an adventure.

Brilliant Parents runs Parenting Courses supporting families across London, working with parents to turn the experience back into something that is positive and rewarding.

For you, the parent, our courses make daily life a little less about conflict and more about fun, by introducing techniques we can help you break a negative cycle with an emotional toddler or a complex teen.

For more information please go to

[Parenting Courses](#)



Brilliant Parents
Transforming Children's Lives

Teen Triple P Discussion Group
Getting Teenagers to Cooperate

Triple P Discussion Group – Getting Teenagers to Cooperate
Tuesday 23rd January 2024
10 am - 12 noon
Delivered via zoom

IS THIS YOU?

You are doing a pretty good job at raising your teenager, but sometimes you struggle with knowing how to encourage him/her to cooperate. This can be particularly challenging when you are not sure when to respect a teenager's growing independence and when to insist that they do as you ask.

Do you know that it is natural for them to test the limits?

They also need to learn to follow reasonable requests and learning to cooperate with others is an important life skill that parents can teach their teenagers by having clear limits and setting a good example.

This Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) small group workshop will look at some of the reasons why teenagers can be uncooperative and give you some practical suggestions to both help you teach your teenager to cooperate with your requests and manage any problems if you need to.

To register, kindly complete and submit both the registration form and parenting experience survey at these links:
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-bl-registration-form/>
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/triple-p-parenting-experience-survey/>

LOTTERY FUNDED

brilliantparents.org Brilliant Parents is a Charity to Inspire and Empower Change



Brilliant Parents
Transforming Children's Lives

Teen Triple P Discussion Group
Building Teenagers' Survival Skills

Triple P Discussion Group – Building Teenagers' Survival Skills
Monday 29th January 2024
10am - 12 noon
Delivered via zoom

IS THIS YOU?

You are doing a pretty good job at raising your teenager, but sometimes you struggle with knowing how best to help your teenager cope with the challenges of peer pressure.

Do you know that it is always difficult for parents, as teenage children begin to spend increasing amounts of time away from home and are influenced by friends to do things that might put their health or wellbeing in danger?

Parents can help prepare their teenager to cope with some of the challenges they may meet by helping them first recognise and manage situations where the risks are smaller. In this way you can teach your teenager to plan for situations that they might otherwise struggle to cope with.

This Triple P (Positive Parenting Programme) small group workshop will look at some of the reasons why teenagers can get into trouble and gives some practical suggestions to help you teach your teenager how to anticipate and manage problem situations. It also provides a step-by-step guide on how to discuss this with your teenager in a positive and supportive way.

To register, kindly complete and submit both the registration form and parenting experience survey at these links:
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-bl-registration-form/>
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/triple-p-parenting-experience-survey/>

LOTTERY FUNDED

Brilliant Parents

ABOUT OUR PARENTS OUR COURSEWORKSHOPS CONTACT US

Do You Want To Be The Best Parent?

BRILLIANT PARENTS – January 2024						
Parent Support Programmes for the London Borough of Brent, Harrow & Hammersmith and Fulham						
S/N	PROGRAMME TITLE	WHO IS IT FOR	DELIVERY DATE	BOROUGH/TIME	LOCATION	
1.	Managing Fighting & Aggression	Parents/Carers with 2-11-year-olds	Monday 15 th January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom	
2.	Hassle Free Shopping with Children	Parents/Carers with 2-10-year-olds	Tuesday 16 th January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom	
3.	Developing Good Bedtime Routines	Parents/Carers with 2-10-year-olds	Friday 19 th January 2024	Harrow 10-12 noon	Pinner Park Primary School	
4.	Dealing with Disobedience	Parents/Carers with 2-11-year-olds	Monday 22 nd January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom	
5.	Getting Teenagers to Cooperate	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+)	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom	
6.	Coping with Teenagers' Emotions	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+)	Tuesday 23 rd January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 6-8pm	Zoom	
7.	Reducing Family Conflict	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+)	Friday 26 th January 2024	Harrow 10-12noon	Nower Hill High School,	
8.	Building Teenagers' Survival Skills	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+)	Monday 29 th January	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom	
9.	Reducing Family Conflict	Parents/Carers with Teens (11+)	Tuesday 30 th January 2024	Brent/H&F/Harrow 10-12noon	Zoom	

To register for **any** or **all** the Discussion Groups, kindly complete and submit **both** the registration form and parenting experience survey at these links:
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/brilliant-parents-bl-registration-form/>
<https://www.brilliantparents.org/triple-p-parenting-experience-survey/>

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



Parent English classes at Bentley Wood High School

Cultural Feast Event

Our Parent English classes take place every Wednesday 13:00-15:10. From beginners to intermediate speakers, there is something for everyone!

Last week, all participants prepared a dish representing their culture. Through social interactions and the desire to share and take away new recipes, all participants learned new English skills in the most interactive and entertaining way!

After enjoying the food, the learners were encouraged to tell everyone, in English, how they had prepared their individual dishes. We have all enjoyed the session and the delicious food!

If you would like to join us after Christmas to learn or improve your English email Mrs Halpin at fhalpin@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk.

We hope to see you all there!

Mrs Nye

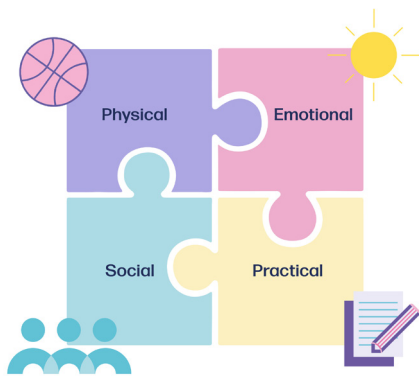


Student wellbeing

Mental Health and Wellbeing Updates from the Bentley Woods

At Bentley Wood, we're committed to supporting your daughter's emotional well-being and mental health, alongside her academic success and personal development, to the best of our ability

As we enter the well-earned Christmas break, I wanted to share with you some strategies, developments, and advice for your daughters (and you). We want to help you, the very best we can, in fostering your daughter's resilience and emotional wellbeing.



Self-Care:

Self-care is about what you can do to help yourself feel better or to keep yourself feeling good. It's a way that we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing.

Everyone's approach to self-care will look different. What works for you might not work for others. There are lots of different self-care strategies so you can try out different ones until you find something that works for you.

The Anna Freud centre has produced a resource that walks young people through a series of steps, helping them create a detailed self-care plan that works for them. I wanted to share this with you again as it has great practical advice.

The plan helps young people identify activities that they can use to support their mental health. It's adaptable on a weekly or monthly basis, so that it can fit differing schedules or priorities.

The suggested activities in the plan are split into different categories, including:

- **Physical activities** – ideas include eating a healthy, diet, and spending time away from technology.
- **Emotional activities** – Writing down good things we do as a reminder to be less hard on ourselves, developing the 'right' friendships, namely, those that are supportive in positive ways.
- **Social activities** – such as creating a playlist with friends, joining a local youth group.

- **Practical activities** – suggestions such as organising your day (nothing makes you feel less mentally 'cluttered' than writing down a list!), and setting realistic goals to give a sense of purpose and direction.

You can download the full guide here:

[Creating a Self Care Plan](#)

Mental Health Hub for Teenagers and Parents - Harrow:

Harrow services have produced this great online hub of mental health services for Harrow teenagers, should you or your daughter ever need support.

<https://youngharrowfoundation.org/harrow-is-here>

They have a devoted area for parents and carers here (because we all need support sometimes):

<https://youngharrowfoundation.org/parents>

Advice for Parent and Carers – Anna Freud

The Anna Freud has developed this leaflet which provides simple advice and guidance to parents and carers about how to make conversations about their child's feelings part of everyday conversation.

The teenage years can be both exciting and challenging for parents. It can sometimes be hard to know whether your child's feelings and behaviour are normal or becoming a problem.

You'll find the leaflet here:

[Anna Freud](#)





Digital Wellbeing Platform:

You will recall that we trialed a new online wellbeing platform (Govox) with Year 9s last year. This is a way to identify students in need of a 'check-in', to deliver them bespoke wellbeing resources, and to take the pulse of how our students are feeling each half-term.

I emailed you recently with details of this and to let you know we have now rolled it out to more year groups – years 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13. Your daughter will receive an email each half-term inviting her to fill out a short questionnaire. Please do encourage her to fill it in. Whether she's on top of the moon, or down in the dumps, we want to know how she is. She can expect the survey email on the second Monday back after each half-term break.

Stay Connected: Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams Channel

We often upload new resources, tips, and advice to the **Student Wellbeing and Mental Health Teams channel**. Here, you can find a repository of **videos, articles, guided meditations**, and more to help you and your daughter cope with stress and anxiety, and to become more resilient.



Mental Health Support at Bentley Wood

We will continue to offer a wide range of support for your daughter at Bentley Wood, including our PSHE curriculum, Wise Thoughts discussions, sports and extra-curricular clubs. Some examples follow.

- Our new **'Healing Hearts Team'**. These are 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.



We have a fully-trained **Senior Mental Health Lead** who is a Senior Leader, in line with best Government-endorsed practice, and this means we have support from the **Harrow Mental Health Support Team. (MHST)**

- We have three **Counsellors in each week**, including a representative of the **Wish Centre**.
- We have our own student **Wellbeing & Mental Health Ambassadors** to lead on whole-school initiatives and offer advice to fellow students.
- For additional wellbeing and mindfulness 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.



Useful Apps and Websites:

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

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact **Mr. O'Sullivan (AHT/Senior Mental Health Lead)** or your daughter's **Head of Year**.

Wishing a Merry Yuletide season and Happy New Year.

Mr O'Sullivan
Assistant Headteacher
Senior Mental Health Lead

Information and advice for students and parents

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



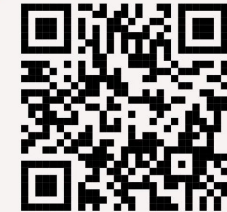
A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



www.skipssafetynet.org

Staying safe during the Christmas holidays

Advice for Students:

- 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.
- **Always** tell a trusted adult where you are going and what time you will return.
- 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.
- **Don't share** any passwords/login information – keep them private and use complex passwords, too.
- Never give personal information to any person you don't know.
- How to recognise the signs of bullying and sexual exploitation: www.harrowlscb.co.uk
- Mental Health: www.youngminds.org and [Mental Health Support Services in Harrow](#)

Supportive Websites:

- [Childline](#): 0800 1111
- [NSPCC](#):
- [Samaritans](#): Call 116 123 (24 hours 7 days a week)
- [Campaign Against Living Miserably \(CALM\)](#) : Call 0800 58 58 58 – 5pm to midnight every day
- [Papyrus](#): Call 0800 068 41 41 – 9am to midnight every day Text 07860 039967
- [Childline](#): Call 0800 1111 (24 hours 7 days a week)
- [The Mix](#): Call 0808 808 4994 (3pm to 12am)

Safety and your mobile phone:

- Speak to a parent/trusted adult about who you are connecting with and not to purchase anything online without gaining an adult's permission first.
- Age Ratings on Apps are **there to keep you safe**.
- **Only** connect online with friends and family you know in the physical world and not to accept 'friend play request' from strangers.
- Don't put up with abusive texts, photos or video. Show them to an adult and report them.
- You should **always** speak to a trusted adult if you see or hear anything online that makes you feel **scared** or **uncomfortable** and to **never** arrange to meet someone who they have met online.
- When sharing images: **you need consent** to take and share images/videos of others. People also need your **consent** to **take** and **share** your image.
- If an image shows the private parts of a person who is under 18; it IS an indecent image: It is an **offence** if you: save it, share it, keep it, print it, forward it, show it.

Safety and Social Media

With social media you can send messages, share pictures, videos and chat with people all over the world. ... **but who are you connecting with?**

Anyone can use the Internet. Not everyone is who they say they are and some people are not nice.

Most social media platforms require users to be of a minimum age to use their services:

Snapchat	13 years old
Instagram	13 years old
TikTok	13 Years old
You Tube	13 years old
FaceBook	13 Years old
WhatsApp	16 years old

Additional Support:

- Online Safety: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Staying safe online in the summer holidays – advice for parents and carers: www.saferinternet.org.uk

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

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.



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



Opportunity to complete LAMDA exams

We are nearing the end of our first term of LAMDA with the current students now preparing to complete their LAMDA graded exams before the end of this term.

I am happy to inform you that LAMDA will continue in the spring term as part of our enrichment programme, students will have an opportunity to work towards and complete LAMDA examinations. If you would like your daughter to take part, they will receive individual sessions with a qualified LAMDA tutor for students from the start of January, with an examination taking place in March/April.

What is LAMDA? London Academy of Dramatic Art is a well-known establishment in qualifications in Speech of Verse & Prose, Acting, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking. It is well respected and recognised on a person's CV and offers UCAS points for Grade 6,7 & 8.

Working with the local **Stagecoach Stanmore & Harrow Weald** we are able to offer this opportunity at £150 for 10 sessions per term. LAMDA examinations will incur an extra fee. If your daughter is eligible for free school meals, then the lesson charge will be at a discounted price. Please express an interest using the email indicated below and speak with Mr Rankin, Head of Drama.

How will it work? One-to-one specialist teachers will work with the student to prepare for all aspects of the examination.

This is an extra commitment and sessions will be timetabled during lessons on a rota to avoid continuous disruption to a single subject.

The first session will explore which grade the student will be best suited to work towards. If you've done LAMDA before elsewhere but want to switch to us, let us know which grade they completed,

and we can pick up on the next grade up.

How to book

If you are interested in enrolling your child for this opportunity, please email lamdabw@gmail.com expressing your desire to book lessons. We will then send you the appropriate booking forms that will need to be completed along with payment to secure a place.

Please note: parents will be directly invoiced by the tutor providers **Stagecoach Stanmore & Harrow Weald**. The School will aid with setting fees, timetabling, premises, classrooms and access to equipment; however, the School cannot act as an agent in relation to invoicing or payments.

Spaces are limited so please be sure to email and complete the sign-up process before the end of term.

Mr Rankin

LAMDA is an amazing opportunity to take. Going through this experience about learning how to make speeches has allowed me to learn a lot more about them.

These lessons gave me a deeper understanding of speeches and how they should be made. It has improved my overall skills in the art of speech-making. I personally loved it, and I would definitely recommend this experience to anyone.

Mihika T 8LSB


LAMDA



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).



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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).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

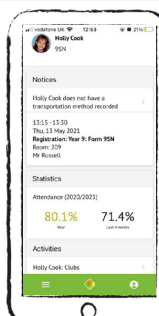
Need help using Arbor?

Email the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools. Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask the school office to check the email address linked to your account.
2. Reset your password from the login page or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the password link will have expired. Ask us to send it again.
4. Email the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g., on another guardian or child's profile.
5. Enter the birthday of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are Primary Guardians of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.

Email the school office if you have any issues or queries:
schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

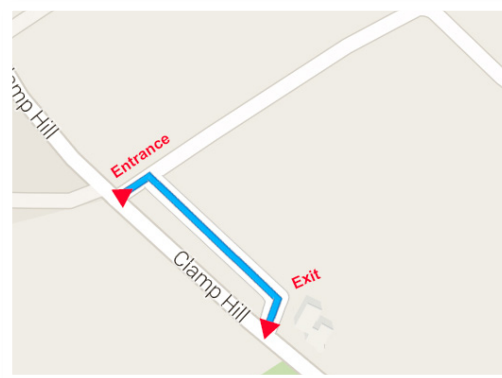
For student safety only use the Clamp Hill entrance to drop off and pick up your daughter from school.

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.



Dates for your Diary 2023

Friday 22nd December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024 Christmas Holidays

Monday 8th January 2024 - CPD Day Some Year 12 exam students in

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - All students return

Wednesday 24th January 2024 - Year 11 Parents Evening. Students finish early at 13:25pm/13:30pm

Tuesday 6th Feb 2024 - 6th Form Parents Evening. Normal finish time at 3:15pm

Wednesday 7th to Friday 9th February 2024. School Production: Wizard of Oz

Monday 12th Feb 2024 - Friday 16th Feb 2024 Half Term

Tuesday 27th Feb 2024 - Year 9 Parents Evening. Students finish early at 13:25pm/13:30pm

Wednesday 27th March 2024 - Year 8 Options Evening

Friday 29th March 2024 - Friday 12th April 2024 Easter Holidays

Tuesday 23rd April 2024 - Year 7 Parents Evening. Students finish early at 13:25pm/13:30pm

Monday 27th May 2024 - Friday 31st May 2024. Half Term