



Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter February 2024



Bentley Wood
High School for Girls

What is it like to attend this school?

Pupils develop into confident and caring young people at this school.

The school sets high expectations for both behaviour and achievement.

Pupils demonstrate exceptional behaviour and focus well in the classroom.

They are respectful towards each other and their teachers, and understand the importance of positive attitudes.

Teachers have high ambitions for what pupils will achieve, and pupils rise to these.

The programme in place for pupils' personal development is unique. The school offers a 'learning journey' of connected opportunities.

Teachers and the wider staff are happy to be a part of this school's team.



Inspection report: Bentley Wood High School 14 and 15 November 2023

Bentley Wood High School



A community that
cares



Communication

We expect you to communicate politely and positively and to listen to adults and peers.

Achievement

We expect you to achieve your personal best.

Respect

We expect you to behave with total respect for each other and every member of our community and our environment.

Empathy

We expect you to listen, talk and appreciate how others are feeling.



The programme in place for pupils personal development is unique. The school offers a learning journey of connected opportunities, which starts in Year 7.

Pupils develop into confident and caring young people at this school. The school sets high expectations for both behaviour and achievement.

Ofsted 2023



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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Only 5 weeks since our last newsletter but still so much to share and celebrate. I write this letter on day 2 of the school production of The Wizard of Oz. The 74 students and 9 members of staff who make up the exceptionally skilled and talented cast, crew and production teams have entertained and thrilled us again with this stunning performance, bringing one of my favourite stories to life through spectacular live performances.

In this first edition of the spring newsletter, you can see the Bentley Wood Community has been very busy. The whole of Year 9 participated in the First Give charity programme and 9TC's presentation on New Citizens Gateway was excellent. We are very proud of the whole year group and the commitment and dedication they have shown for their chosen local charities. A variety of different speakers have visited us this half term and students continue to go on trips and support their local community through a vast and varied personal development program.

I hope you enjoy reading all the articles. Do remember to catch up with the student and parent advice pages at the end of the booklet.

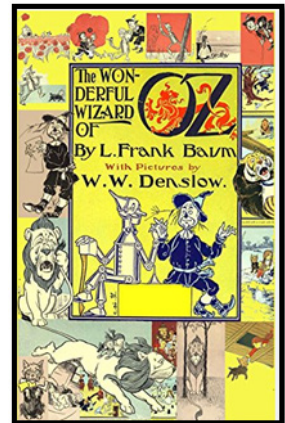
Year 11, 12 and 13 students, we look forward to seeing you pop in and out over the half term week. Please check the timetable and library opening times carefully so you make the best use of the support on offer to you.

Have a wonderful half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Naseema Akbar
Headteacher



First Give event 2024

Since November, the whole of Year 9 have participated in a project called First Give. First Give is a programme designed to engage young people with social issues in their communities: learning more about who is affected, why, and what can be done to help.

During PSHE lessons, students have developed their understanding of what social action is, researched and contacted local charities working to prevent their chosen issue and planned social actions to undertake in support of their chosen charities.

It was fantastic to see students working together as a form to make a positive difference. The Year 9s spread awareness of their charity and its mission in various ways, including assemblies, posters and banners. In their last First Give PSHE lesson, each group within the form gave a presentation on the work they had done throughout the programme. Then, a vote was held to decide who would go on to represent the form in the First Give final - competing for a £1,000 prize for their chosen charity.

This was held on Thursday 1st February and judged by Ms Akbar, Janet Mote (Mayor of Harrow) and Sayida A (one of last year's winners). The judges and audience were so impressed with each group's creativity and enthusiasm. However, we gave a huge congratulations to 9TC who won the money for New Citizens Gateway and were praised for their innovative social actions and unique presentation style.

We are so proud of each and every Year 9 and hope they have been inspired to learn more about social issues and how to support them in the future.

Ms Bairstow



The wonderful production of The Wizard of Oz

Dorothy

My name is Jayna and I am playing Dorothy in the school production of Wizard of Oz. I really enjoyed how all of the rehearsals were fun and just the general atmosphere when rehearsing. I loved to see the performance come together from October all the way to the production in February. From learning dance choreography and songs to practicing all of my lines I feel that overall it was a success when it got put altogether.

Jayna P 10ABI

The Wizard of Oz is an amazing production that shows us the true meaning of "there is no place like home.". My perspective of playing Dorothy is that she is a lively and sweet character. She makes many friends whilst she is over the rainbow, helping her get back to Kansas; the Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, Glinda the Good Witch of the North, and the Wizard of Oz. But she makes a "rather bad enemy of the Wicked Witch of the West" along the way. Bringing Dorothy's character to life was certainly a challenge, but I believe this has paid off. We began the production in October-November and the shows are on the Wednesday to Friday from the 7th -9th of February. The whole cast has put so much effort into the production and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it.

Ayva P 9THA

Tin Man

When I learned that our school production would be "The Wizard of Oz" this year, my enthusiasm reached new heights. Auditioning for the role of the Tin Man, a character close to my heart, filled me with excitement. Earning the part, I dedicated myself to mastering lines, songs, and dances, immersing myself in the essence of the Tin Man's journey. Much like the character, I found myself yearning for a deeper connection. During rehearsals, I not only embraced the Tin Man's quest for a heart but infused my own personality into the character, making him dance with a unique flair. The joy of being the Tin Man, both on and off stage, brought a sense of fulfillment, creating lasting bonds with my fellow cast members.

As the performances draw near, I eagerly anticipate the magic we'll bring to the stage, but I'll undoubtedly miss the camaraderie with the cast and the guidance of the dedicated teachers who have played a vital role in making this production unforgettable.

Shadia M 9SSH



Toto

Being Toto in a way was life changing. Dogs are loved a lot by their owners, and I wish I could have that feeling of affection. The rehearsals were a bit hectic but that's what makes an incredible show! Learning lines was a challenge for everyone no matter their role. People may say I have it easy but if you think about it, there are many cues and certain actions that have to occur.

At the first couple of rehearsals, I always used to wonder if we would even be able to accomplish it. What happens if we aren't ready? However, today's rehearsal sailed smoothly and I'm confident we will entertain our audience properly. Wizard of Oz was a really fun experience because you felt like a team as you worked together with everyone which in the end creates a masterpiece. I think the teachers have worked extremely hard to make this work of imagination come to life!

Faryal 7SZ

Wicked Witch

Playing the Wicked Witch has been really fun and interesting. She's not only an evil character, but a manipulative one, with power and style as she forms plans and schemes to get what she wants. The most fun part of experimenting with the character was the voice and how she interacts with the other characters: having an air of superiority, almost being subtly evil when she talks to Dorothy but then revealing pure anger when things don't go her way. Cackling at the munchkins and being a frightening character has definitely been fun. Overall, getting to know the witch and become her has been awesome and I've greatly enjoyed the opportunity!

Khushi D 8MD

Munchkin

Being part of the Wizard of Oz production is an amazing opportunity. I am a munchkin in the production, and it is so fun. I love how this brings people together. Everyone supports each other. I would definitely recommend you come and watch this engaging performance. It's going to be great!

Dayana B 7EBD



Dear Ms Bancroft

How do you all do it?!

Every year we think it can't get any better, and then...well!

That was amazing- simply amazing!

The casting was so good!

The singing, the costumes and the wizard scenery. Wow!!

My children didn't seem to move!

"It was amazing! I just loved the songs. I want to see it again!" **Sophia**

"It was breathtaking. The witch was brilliant and all the cast." **Neel**

Thank you and see you next year!

Kindest regards

Kat Portou, Asistant Head Whitchurch Primary school



Music and drama enrichment this term

The Wizard of Oz

When I found out we were doing 'The Wizard Of Oz' as our school production, I was very excited and keen to audition! I loved attending all the rehearsals and seeing the show come together, as well as connecting with all of the cast members. I will be incredibly sad when the show finishes, but I will forever treasure the memories that we have made together as a family.

Overall, it was an amazing experience, but we couldn't have done it without all of the teachers and team supporting us every step of the way. Mr Rankin for his wise tips and dedication, Mrs Bancroft who helped us succeed in everything we wanted to achieve and for always keeping us on our toes, Mrs Parkes for helping backstage and giving us that extra push of confidence, Mrs Burridge for helping us take care of ourselves throughout the months leading up to the show and of course, Ms Bidder for all her tips and all of the sixth formers for taking time out of their studies and helping us be organised on and off stage! I am so grateful for to all of them!

Emma A 8LSB.

It's been a wonderful experience- the cast is amazing and they all helped create this wonderful show. I've enjoyed every rehearsal and practice I've been to as everyone was engaging, interesting and added a new perspective towards the story.

It's been a great journey and to see all of it come together in the end is mesmerising. I am also truly grateful for all the teachers who have helped make this play happen - I am definitely trying out next year, too!

Abdia M 8LSB



The Wizard of Oz Cast	Chorus	
Dorothy - Jayna P 10ABI, Ayva P 9THA	Victoria G 7SCH, Sophia A 8LSB, Greta C 8LSB,	Young Dorothy Gale and her dog Toto are swept away by a tornado from their Kansas farm to the magical Land of Oz, and embark on a quest with three new friends to see the Wizard, who can return her to her home and fulfil the others' wishes.
Scarecrow - Ikram H 9SAL, Devipra J BKPO	Dua B 7SZ, Dayana B 7EBD, Rosa B 7NME,	
Tin Man - Shadia I 9SCH, Camille W BMD	Najma H BKPO, Aiva C 9SAL, Isabella D 11MAK,	
Lion - Sophie S 9THA, Eisha K 9EOG	Maya L 7EBD, Sabreen F 7MCO, Leah F 7SCH,	
Wicked Witch - Khushi D BMD, Sophia P 9SAL	Isabel H 7LJO, Rachel R 7NME, Amira H BAHU,	
Toto - Faryal O 7SZ, Melak A 9SAL	Jasmin K 7MEM, Koko H 7MEM, Leila H BAHU,	
Glinda - Taliyah S 10CON, Sohada T 9THA	Abdia I 8LSB, Rania H 11MAK, Vyana V 7SZ,	
Oz - Christina K BABR, Seyida A 10SJ	Anna W 7MCO, Hilarithi P 9CJG, Abeeha R 7MEM,	
Aunt Em - Ila I 9CJG, Dany A 10ALN	Amriyah S 9MMD, Anyaa S BAHU, Taha S 8LSB,	
Uncle Henry - Meadow H 9SAL	Sara S 7SZ, Tiana S 9EOG, Freya W 9EOG,	
	Emma A 8LSB	



Bentley Wood's GLEE Club were privileged to be asked to perform at the Harrow Council awards

Bentley Wood High School's glee performance at Kadwar Patidar was truly a wonderful experience. We laughed, we had fun, and we enjoyed our time there.

We performed two songs at the Centre and we were the only school invited by the Harrow Music Service to perform at the Harrow Council awards ceremony which was attended by the Mayor.

The first song was Don't Let Go which the crowd really enjoyed and our second song was Requiem. We wore our glee hoodies at the venue on the way there and back.

We are rehearsing hard for our regional Jack Petchy Glee competition on 18th February and wish the whole team good luck and thank Miss Leighton for all her hard work and Mrs Bancroft for accompanying us on every single trip we go on!

Yasamin Z 9SAL



Students are immersed in various activities during Classics Week

Classics Week: 29th January to 2nd February 2024

Bentley Wood had its first ever Classics week this year and it was a jam-packed week for all year groups! Students were inspired and enriched with thought provoking material throughout the week via the enrichment channel, wise thoughts and year group assemblies. There were also some events in the week where students could either test their knowledge on all things ancient, or see how good their engineering skills were.

Monday saw the year 7s trying to build the Roman Colosseum out of biscuits. It was Venerable Bede who said that as long as the Colosseum stands, Rome will stand and although Rome was crumbling many times over the challenge, one group managed to ensure their Colosseum stood the test of time. They were:

Sohini M 7LJO
Shehnai S 7SZ
Dhriya K7MCO
Sona H 7LJO

Tuesday was the Classics quiz for years 7,8, and 9. The Quiz hostess was Mariam S, our Latin ambassador for Year 9 and she created a set of questions that tested knowledge of the Olympians, Latin vocabulary and the Roman empire.

Thursday was the turn of our sixth form students and staff members for a quiz on all things ancient. Mr Curtis and Ms Azad were part of some of the teams as they were quizzed on ancient monuments, cities and even pop music with references to the Greeks and Romans!

There will be more Classics events in the summer term. Until then, carpe diem!

Ms Hussain

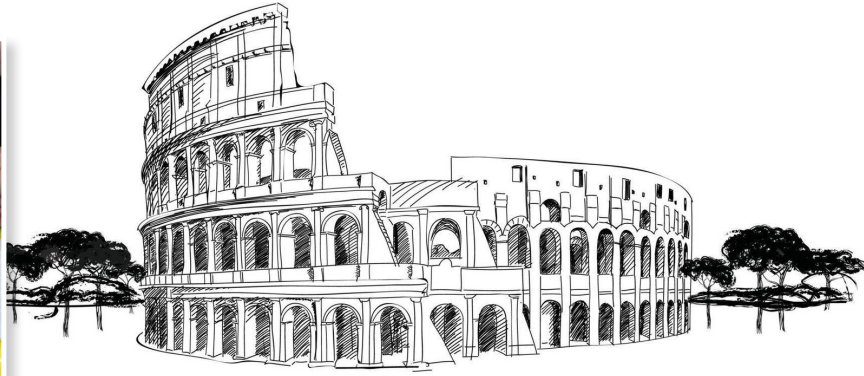


Year 7, 8, and 9. Classics Quiz



Sixth form students and staff Classics Quiz





The Winners Sohini, Shehnai, Dhriya and Sona For building the Roman Colosseum out of biscuits.

Student engagement in politics for all year groups

Students get excited about politics at Year 7 and 8 Politics Club

Politics Club is a great place to find out more about our government. Who are the politicians in Parliament? How are laws created? What does Parliament do? Not only do we learn the most fascinating ins and outs of Parliament, but we also engage in political debates, watch live events such as a Prime Minister's Question Time in Parliament and try to make sense of the world that we live in today.

Mrs Nye

Politics Club is for people who love politics, but don't know much about it. In Politics Club, we learn about Parliament through many ways. For example, through role play games, where we all loved acting out roles of different people in Parliament when passing legislation. Tisha kept order during the debate as the speaker! I, Saanvii, was a Member of Parliament and I enjoyed being one a lot because it was fun debating about whether uniforms should be banished from schools or not.

The videos and footages from Parliament that we often see are very interesting, fascinating and sometimes also very funny. One of the other things Politics Club offers is the opportunity to help out with Parliament Week!

This year we helped with organising a realistic voting booth area for our school-wide referendum in the gym. We helped to organise resources, directed people to their booths and counted the votes after, which we all found very exciting. Furthermore, having the opportunity to meet MPs really helped us (especially Saanvii, who has a special interest in politics) to understand things like what GCSEs we might wish to take thinking about a future in Politics. If you like what you're reading, come and join us in politics Club to have fun and fall in love with politics!

Tisha S. 8LSB and Saanvii B. 8LSB



Year 11 geographers visit the Houses of Parliament

On Friday 19th January 2024, our Year 11 geographers had the opportunity to enter the world of politics as part of our Humanities Strategy. The students learned about the history of parliament and its functions in modern society. The group found the day insightful and fascinating being able to capture Parliament at work

Mrs Nye

As a geography student and someone who has constantly been drawn towards STEM, for me, this trip was eye-opening as I had never considered doing Government & Politics for A-Levels. However, after the trip it really sparked my interest in politics and how the country is run. I really enjoyed when we were able to watch a debate happening in the House of Commons and how much goes on in the background to build the country that it is today. It was very insightful, and I was honoured to go to Parliament. I would love to go again

Kowcer N. 11EAW

Although our trip to Parliament was delayed due to the State Opening of Parliament, when we got the chance to visit we had an enlightening experience, providing students with a first-hand glimpse into the political machinery.

Engaging discussions with the humorous tour guide and witnessing parliamentary sessions in the House of Commons offered valuable insights into the functioning of our democratic system.

The excursion not only deepened our understanding of governance but also sparked curiosity about civic responsibility and the role of individuals in shaping the future. Visiting many rooms with restricted access, such as the Robing room and Princes' Chambers and House of Lords allowed for a great insight into the livelihood of the elites in our contemporary society. Overall, a thought-provoking and educational outing for us at this crucial stage of our academic journey.

Shiffa C 11BME

Politics, despite not studying GCSE History, has always piqued my interest. This trip, overall, confirmed my decision to take it as an A-Level, and I could feel a rush of eagerness to learn more throughout the trip and on the journey back. From the crowd-pleasing tour guide to the breath taking architecture, the trip was packed with laughter and amazement.

Personally, the highlight of the trip was watching a debate regarding the Pet Abduction Act in the House of Commons. I could definitely see myself in there one day, and the experience truly shone light on the importance of representing the people and advocating for what's right

Sara A 11MAK



A history of British monarchs and nobility at Westminster Abbey



Year 12 History trip to Westminster Abbey, with special access to unseen areas

Year 12 History students were given the privilege to visit Westminster Abbey to gain a deeper understanding of the Tudors, and their beliefs about the afterlife. We were given special access to view areas that even the BBC and the public couldn't view, such as the shrine of Saint Edward and going inside the area where Henry VII's tomb was kept.

After a brief introduction with a look at a section of Henry VII's will, the first place we went to see was a hallway with a high window. This window was the precise location where Elizabeth Woodville, the wife of Edward IV, handed her young sons (the Princes in the Tower) to the tyrant king Richard III.

We had special access to the shrine of Saint Edward, which we next visited. The shrine of Saint Edward is only accessible to certain priests and the Pope, so it was a honorable experience to view the shrine at such proximity, and stand in the area where a medieval monarch would have addressed his subjects. Here there were the tombs of many royals, such as King Richard II and his wife, King Edward III and many others.

Tudor monarchs and their families all wanted to be buried as close as possible to the shrine of Saint Edward, because they believed (and others still believe), that due to his status as a saint, he could intercede for these monarchs on Judgement Day. Particularly Henry VII, who had become king by killing the anointed King Richard III at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, was terrified he would end up in purgatory due to this sin of regicide.

Therefore, he had a more pressing desire to be buried close to the shrine, only to find there was no space as previous monarchs had already secured these places. This led to the formation of the Lady Chapel, where all the Tudor monarchs and some of their family members are buried except Henry VIII. We saw the tombs of many of the Tudors in the Lady Chapel, such as Elizabeth I, Mary I, Henry VII, Margaret Beaufort and others.

We went to see the tombs of other important nobles such as the Earl of Northumberland, and then went to Coronation Theatre, where all previous monarchs, and the present monarch, King Charles, was coronated in May. We had special permission to sit on the bench where the choir boys would sit, which was directly behind the area where Liz Truss made her speech at the coronation. This was near the left of the tapestry depicting the Last Supper. It was incredible that we got to be in the same spots where leaders of different countries, government officials, nobles and even monarchs would be in different ages of time.

The final place we viewed was where the unnamed soldier was buried, and a throne from 1295, on which Richard II and other medieval monarchs were crowned.

This trip provided us with specific details for evidence in our exams and enhanced our knowledge of the priorities of different monarchs. It was a wonderful, rare opportunity that I am grateful for. A huge thank you to the staff which organized this event!

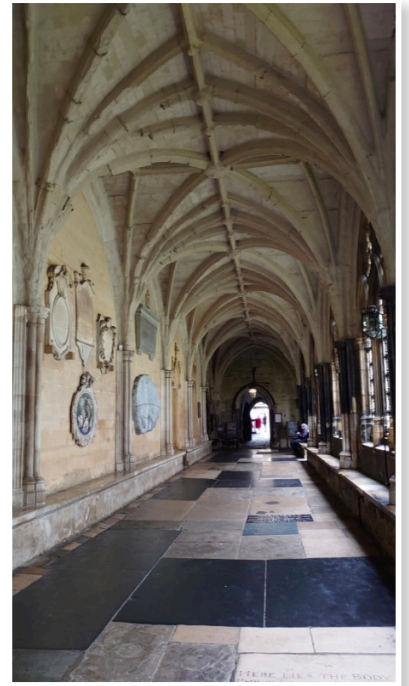
Soha O 12SNU



Throne from 1295



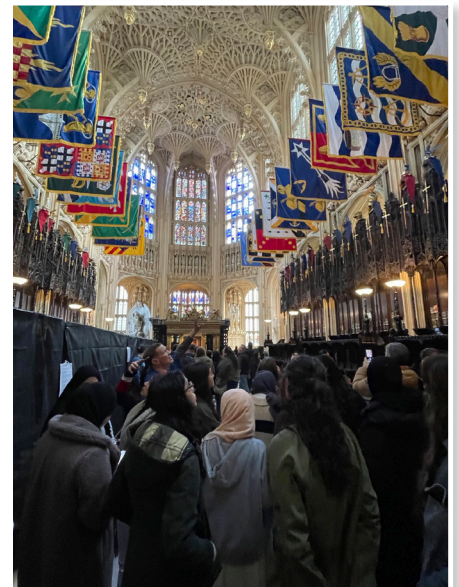
Area where the unnamed soldier is buried. He represents all the soldiers who lost their lives fighting in WW1.



Hallway with the window in which Elizabeth Woodville gave her sons to Richard III



Margaret Beaufort's tomb



A journey through history

A memorable speech about the Holocaust

On Monday 29th of January, Hephzibah Rudofsky came to our school to deliver a talk, recounting the terrible experience her mother, grandparents, and uncle suffered during the Holocaust. Throughout her storytelling, there was a huge emphasis on the different experiences that different people had, particularly the differences between her mother and her uncle's experiences.

The story spanned three generations as we learned how Hephzibah's mother Zahava, and grandmother travelled from Holland to Palestine in search of solace away from the oppressive Nazi regime, but unfortunate circumstances meant that they ended up back in Amsterdam where they faced an agonising wait for their inevitable journey to the concentration camps.

Hephzibah gave examples of the difficult decisions her grandmother had to make, such as giving up her infant child to the resistance. Once the war was over, the impacts of this separation prevailed, as the reunion of her uncle and his mother proved very tumultuous.

We were also given a rare and personal insight into life at the concentration camps, and the true experiences of people there. We saw a holiday card produced by Zahava in the camp celebrating Rosh Hashana and letters that had been written to and from the camps. Also, we were shown bowls that were used in one of the concentration camps Zahava's family lived in. She mentioned how Nazi Officers ordered prisoners to write letters to their family members across Europe in hopes they would send food for them- when in actual fact the food sent would be given to the Nazis themselves, and the prisoners would continue to starve, this just another example of the dire conditions of the camps.

This talk was particularly interesting as we were able to make links to things we are learning in our A-Level course, where we cover the atrocities committed by the Nazis, although, Hephziba's account added unique and valuable context that will be beneficial, not only in our studies but also in paying respects and honouring those who suffered in the Holocaust.

Nikita M and Sara V Year 13





History and maths visit to the British Museum

I love the British Museum! This distinctive place brings together the cultures of the world, spanning continents and oceans. As we entered the museum through an impressive entrance, I looked up and admired the glazed glass roof and the elegant, uplifting architecture of the central courtyard. The museum is packed with valuable artifacts, relics and prestigious objects, which can take one's breath away.

I appreciated a range of fine silver and gold coins, most bearing a portrait of their patron god or goddesses or a legendary hero on one side, and a symbol of the city on the other. The Greeks didn't write a value on their coins. Value was determined by the material the coins were made of and by weight.

I really enjoyed the experience as I had a wonderful time. I expected it to be good, but it was amazing. I look forward to visiting the museum again. Thank you to all the teachers for organising.

Jasmine G 8LSB



Byzantine currency

Money used in the Eastern Roman Empire after the fall of the West, consisted of mainly two types of coins: gold solidi and hyperpyra and a variety of clearly valued bronze coins. By the 15th century, the currency was issued only in debased silver stavrata and minor copper coins with no gold issue.

Babylonian mathematics

Also known as Assyro-Babylonian mathematics, it is the mathematics developed or practiced by the people of Mesopotamia, from the days of the early Sumerians to the centuries following the fall of Babylon in 539 BC.

Here are the cylinders of Babylon:



But what are the cylinders of Babylon?

The cylindrical form is typical of royal inscriptions of the Late Babylonian period, and the text shows that the cylinder was buried in the foundations of the city wall of Babylon. It was deposited there after the capture of the city by Cyrus in 539 BC, and presumably written on his orders

The Royal Library of Ashurbanipal,



Named after Ashurbanipal, the last great King of the Assyrian Empire is a collection of more than 30,000 clay tablets and fragments containing texts of all kinds from the 7th century BCE, including texts in various languages.

Ashurbanipal's Library gives modern historians information regarding people of the ancient Near East.

In his Outline of History, H. G. Wells calls the library "the most precious source of historical material in the world."

Guidance on mental health and healthy relationships

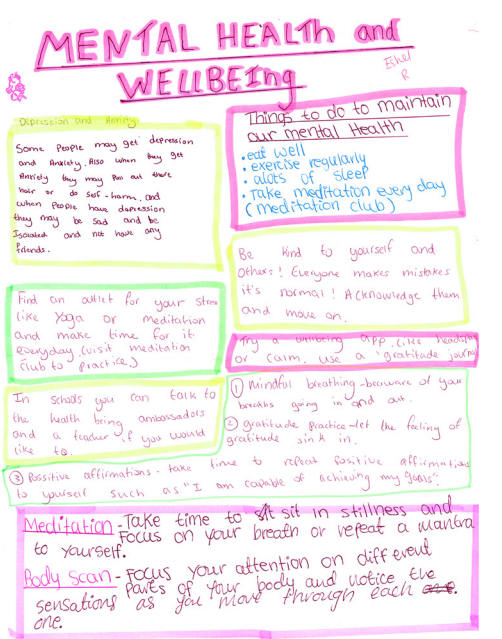
Mental Health Competition

My name is Nia B and I am 9TC's Mental Health and Wellbeing Ambassador. On Mental Health Day I created a small presentation, talking to the class about Mental Health and some coping strategies. We spoke about the ABC structure - A - Identify the problem, B - Share your pain, C - Proper treatment. We also spoke about how Mental Health evolved over time.

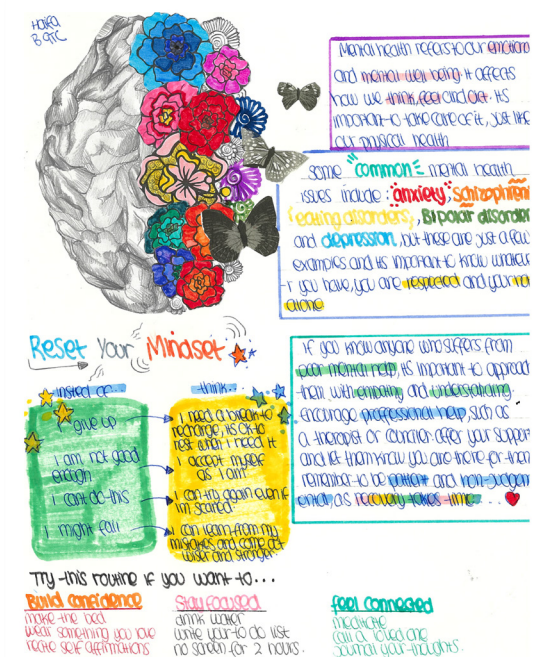
As a class we also spoke about how to cope/help someone cope with any mental health illnesses they may be experiencing. Everyone got to know who to go to if they ever felt unsafe or wanted to speak to someone in the school.

At Bentley Wood we have Ms Ferrer who is our Safeguarding Lead, and we also have the Healing Hearts team, but we also have lovely understanding teachers who we can trust and who will give us the best advice. At the end I hosted a little competition for the form. The competition was to create a poster about mental health and everything they understood from the presentation. I received so many brilliant entries. It was so hard for me to pick the winners! The winners all received a prize and achievement points, every student who entered received 1 CARE point.

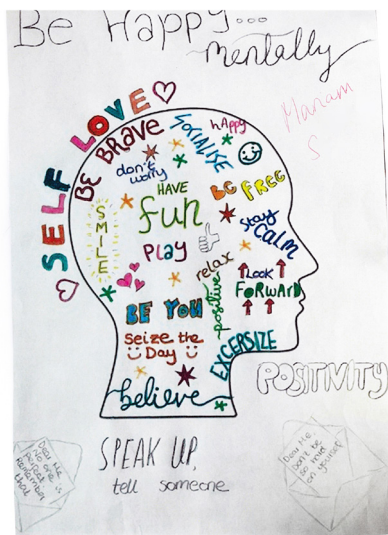
Nia B 9TC



Poster created by Eshel R 9TC



Poster created by Haifa B 9TC



Poster created by Mariam S 9TC

WHY WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY IS IMPORTANT

ABC STRUCTURE:

A. Identify the problem

The idea of the mind is an abstract concept and this day allows us to think about our thoughts. We're evolving beyond outdated perceptions and releasing the stigma of mental health so that we can properly diagnose it and take care of ourselves. With the burden and fear removed from mental health issues, the battle becomes considerably easier.

B. Share your pain

This day reminds you that whatever you're going through, you're not alone. Too often we think that we're the only ones facing a hard time. It's uplifting to know that other people have gone through it and made it out to the other end. It reminds you that you can overcome your own pain.

C. Proper treatment

As our understanding of mental health grows, so does our ability to seek proper treatment. With the right therapist and necessary medication, you can operate on a more efficient level. The more accepting we are and the more funding that's put into research and mental healthcare, the greater the global impact.

Voicebox: Workshops discuss speaking about emotions and relationships

In school, VoiceBox came and gave us a talk in our PSHE lesson about the importance of gender-misbeliefs and freedom of speech in particular, of men. They showed us the cruciality of speaking about your emotions to help deal with them instead of carrying the heavy weight which comes with unspoken feelings. They did this by a speaker coming in to help us understand about gender stereotypes and coping with up troubling experiences. He showed us some gender norms and we guessed if they were true or false, he made us feel comfortable and free by letting us step outside if we were sensitive towards the discussion.

Furthermore, we took part in a friendly and enigmatic session later which involved talking about healthy and toxic relationships, and to understand and to differentiate between different types. We also talked about a cycle which involves an endless pattern of emotional manipulation; we looked at scenarios and we moved around the room to depict how we felt about putting ourselves into certain situations. We all had a great time, as it involved a creative way of thinking about each situation.

Ira | 9CJG



Activities at Year 7 Science Club

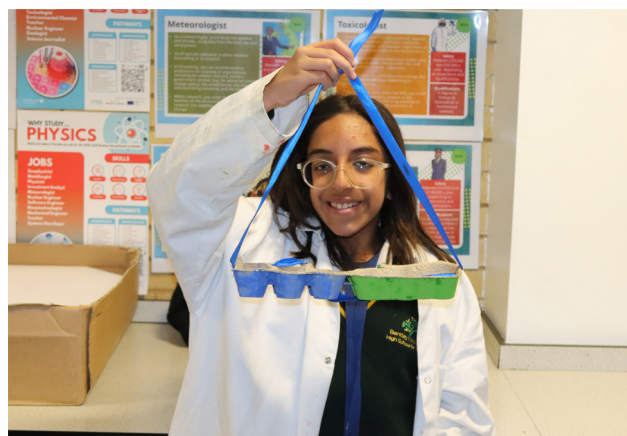
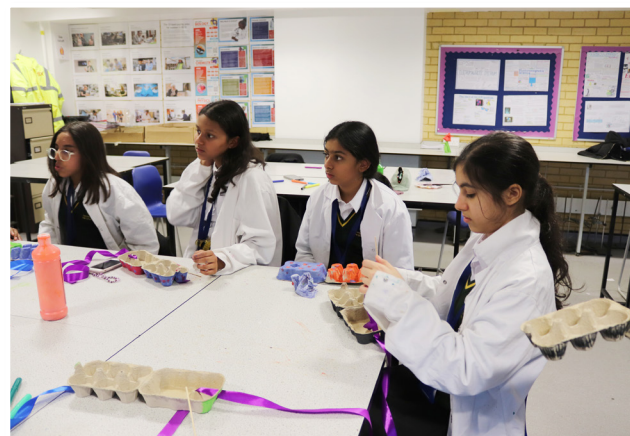
RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2024

In order to prepare for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 2024, the science club and teachers created sustainable bird feeders to encourage as many birds as possible into our gardens for the big day.

The Science Department would like to thank everyone in the school community for taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch. We really hope you enjoyed taking part and collecting this valuable data for the RSPB.

It sadly looks like the last strain of Bird Flu has taken its toll on the local bird populations, with the data showing we have seen significantly lower populations of birds in all species. The detailed data will be published in the next newsletter, once they have been analysed by the Year 7 elite stats team and they have crunched the numbers.

Mr Barrett



Making slime: A fun activity at Science Club

The science department at Bentley Wood runs a range of clubs and activities throughout the year to highlight the fun and often spectacular side of STEM subjects. On the 12th of January Mr Koyejo shared the art of making slime with a very enthusiastic group of Year 7 students who were keen to master this skill.

There was a great deal of excitement, with audible expressions of delight (and occasionally disgust) as the students turned their hand to making slime out of simple household ingredients.

They started by mixing baking soda in small quantities with PVA glue and later adding lens solution and food colouring of their choice. This mixture was then kneaded to the desired consistency, resulting in a slimy creation which the students were able to take home to impress their family and friends with.

Enrichment activities are designed to extend learning outside the classroom and inspire students to explore subjects in entertaining ways beyond the curriculum. We hope mastering the art of making slime has given our Year 7s an appreciation for the fun side of science.



Creative STEM competitions in Maths and science

Valentines Maths Competition

This competition was designed for KS3 and KS4 students, it got them working out the costs of gifts, meals and other outings for Valentine's Day.

Questions were varied and included a bit of proportion and a few straightforward percentages. It was a really great way to get students to answer questions quickly and enjoy doing so.

Ms Vagi



Valentine Maths competition



When?

Starting on Monday 5th of February 2024

For ALL Year groups

Where?



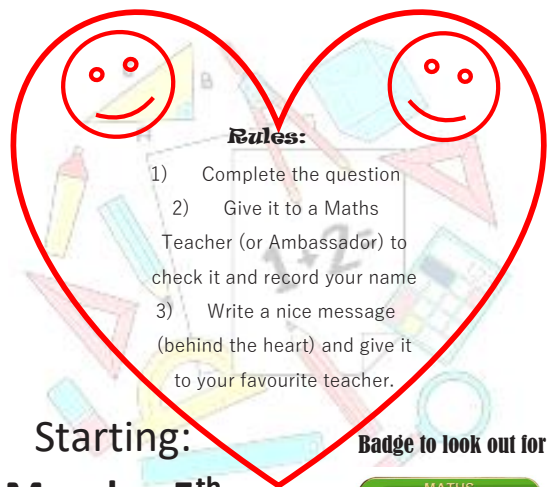
Rules:

1. Complete the question
2. Give it to a Maths Teacher (or **MATHS AMBASSADOR**) to check it and record your name
3. Write a **CARE** message (behind the heart) and give it to your favourite teacher.
4. Have Fun!

Each heart worth 1 achievement point!!!

Happy Heart's Hunting

Valentine's Day Competition

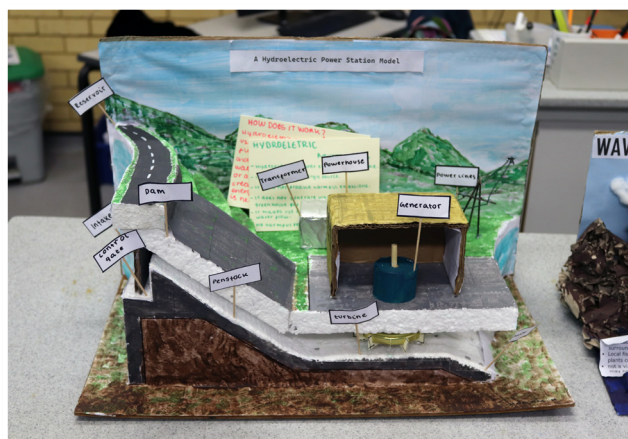
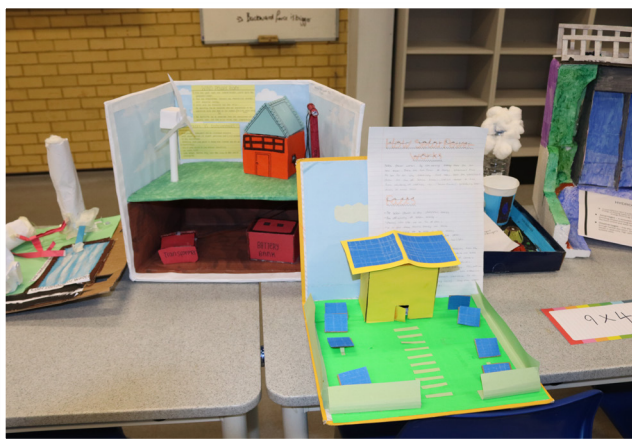


Starting: Monday 5th

Badge to look out for

MATHS AMBASSADOR

Happy Heart Hunting!



Year 9 Physics Energy Resources Project

Over the Christmas break, the Year 9 students were challenged to research and create a model of a power station. This was in preparation for their new module of learning on Energy Resources: discovering how we generate the energy and electricity that we use in the UK and the advantages and disadvantages associated with this.

The students were able to show off their creativity and independence in their research and creation of the models, with the majority of students creating a 3D representation of what they had learnt as well as a range of leaflets and posters. The models ranged from functioning wind turbines, nuclear power stations, to geothermal stations and hydroelectric dams that displayed the different layers of the systems. There were a wide range of colour and styles with a great display of scientific languages from all classes.

Although there was an incredible array of projects, there were some exceptional pieces of work created. This included a generator that produced a potential difference showing how dams generate electricity, one with LDRs to show how light or the lack of light can be used to light up homes and night and a wonderful display of how multiple sources of renewable energy can be used to disrepute enough energy and resources throughout a community.

With exceptional work being produced by, but not limited to, Aliyah Z 9TC, Aleena M 9THA, Mariam H 9CJG, Sophie S 9THA, Elina A 9NMO and Natalie D 9CTG.

There was an exhibition of some of the work within the science department where staff from across the school were invited to attend. Several of the projects viewed by Mrs Akbar received the highly prestigious Headteacher's Award. There will also be another selection of students who will be aware a Head of Physics award for their projects as well. These winning projects will be displayed in the library to showcase the successes of our Year 9 cohort this year.

We were delighted to see the wide ranging, incredible and scientifically researched projects that all the students were able to create and it was amazing to see the creativity of these students applied to the sciences, highlighting the links between art and science.

Ms A Binnion, Head of Physics



Student Rewards February 2024

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

Zofia O 7MCO - Fantastic artist knowledge shared in class. Always having her hand up ready to contribute.

Zahra F 7LNO - for fantastic portraiture drawing

Saliha J 7EBD - For always trying her best in lesson as well as homework. Always expresses her ideas in a calm and eloquent manner. Keep it up!"

English

Victoria G 7SCH - for an exemplary attitude to learning and consistently high achievement; **Dayan B 7EBD** - for consistent effort and enthusiasm

Food

Lois T 7LJO - For a fantastic start to food this term and always ready to contribute in lesson time.

French

Victoria G 7SCH - for always being engaged in French and for going the extra mile. MCO

Geography

Sara S 7SZ - for consistently high-quality work and lots of really valuable contributions to discussions

Graphics

Ellie A 7MEM - has had a great start to STEM this term. Original and creative ideas always

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!

Rebecca M 7MEM - for working super hard to finish all her outstanding homework that she missed when she had IT issues."

PE

Ciara in 7LJO - for demonstrating the CARE values in every PE lesson. She is a brilliant team player.

Philosophy

Zohaa A 7LNO - a diligent and hardworking student who comes to RS lessons with an inquisitive mind!

Spanish

Stefania T 7MCO - for fantastic work in Spanish and outstanding work in her book.

Textiles

Lamees E 7LNO - excellent effort with her hand embroidery work



Student Rewards February 2024

Year 8



Art

Shanze S 8KPO - For your fantastic mythical creature sculpture, legs and all! Well done!

Eiliyah M 8ROR - For participating confidently in classroom discussion. Well done!"

English

Kaya P 8LCU - for her participation in class and positive attitude; **Zahra K 8LSB** - for her consistency and high standards

Food

Leeah T 8MD - for having an excellent start to her food rotation.

French

Yukta V 8ROR - for your consistent participation during French lessons and your enthusiasm. Bravo!

Geography

Mihika T 8LSB - for excellent work in all lessons and always being willing to contribute answers and ideas

Graphics

Linda A 8ROR - Work ethic in lessons

Maths

Jasmine G 8LSB - She always does the xp boost and the target on Sparx as well as the compulsory homework! Always! She is also an amazing Maths Ambassador. She is always helpful with great ideas and love for Maths!

Hana V 8MD - For starting the year saying she hated Maths, to now flourishing in the classroom and working hard to push herself each lesson. You have made me very proud, keep it up!

PE

Nisbat B and **Dunya A 8ROR** - for high engagement within PE lessons and showing fantastic commitment to football club.

Philosophy

Sarah A 8LCU - thoughtful questioning in class.

Spanish

Nisbat B 8ROR - for amazing work and effort this half term. Her book was exceptional.

Textiles

Ruqaya R 8ABR - for resilience and effort in hand embroidery in Textiles



Spring reads

Play by Luke Palmer

Four boys grow up together at school, itching to escape their small town. They play increasingly daring games, trying to outdo each other. As their games take a sinister turn, they realise it's more than just their friendship that is at risk of being broken beyond repair.

An intensely gripping and heart-breaking tale about male friendship, modern-day masculinity and innocence lost.

Beholder by Ryan La Sala

Athanasios "Athán" Bakirtzis relies on his charm and the generosity of his friends to get by in life. At a penthouse party for New York's art elite, he briefly uses a supernatural power inherited from his family: the ability to rewind the reflection in a mirror to see into the past. Cue a series of bizarre and unsettling events at the party, with Athan swept up in a supernatural conspiracy that spans New York, of occult high societies and deadly eldritch designs.

Foul Heart Huntsman by Chloe Gong

Rosalind Lang's identity is no longer a secret - not ideal when you are carving out an existence as a national spy. She is determined to rescue Orion, her partner in previous missions, and she sets about doing so under the guise of a national morale-building tour. With a Japanese invasion imminent, the task is far more hazardous than she envisaged, and Rosalind discovers that the very survival of her country is at stake if she sets a foot wrong.

Artifice by Sharon Cameron

Isa de Smit's world is upended with the Nazi occupation and its crackdown on the world of art. The "degenerate" art of the Gallery de Smit is confiscated and masterpiece by masterpiece, the Nazis are buying and stealing her country's heritage, feeding the Third Reich's ravenous appetite for culture and art. Isa embarks on a dangerous mission to make the Nazis pay. Her plan? To learn the art of a master forger and sell the Nazis a fake Vermeer.

The Chalice of the Gods by Rick Riordan

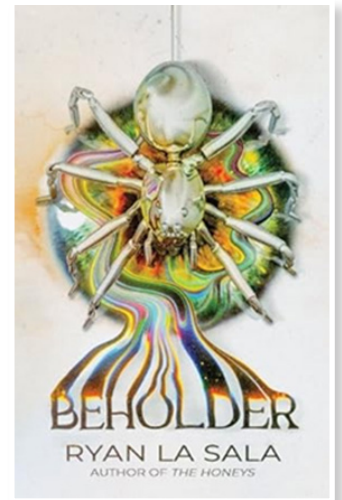
Percy Jackson is hoping for a regular final year at school. Too bad the Greek gods have other plans, and three new quests for Percy to complete. First up: the cupbearer of the gods, Ganymede, is missing his golden chalice. One sip from the cup will turn any mortal into a powerful god. And the old gods do not take kindly to newbies. Can Percy and his friends Annabeth and Grover find the chalice before it falls into the wrong hands? And even if they do, will they be able to resist its awesome power. . . ?

Missing by Savannah Brown

Thirty years after promising young singer Roxy Raines vanishes from the tiny resort of Sandown, seventeen-year-old Mona Perry comes to the island resolute in her search for the real reason behind Roxy's disappearance. Mona only has one hot summer to get to the bottom of Roxy's story and record it all for her podcast and fans. But as she gets drawn deeper into the strange, isolated community, it becomes clear that nothing is as it seems and Roxy might not be the only missing person in this mystery.



Play
by Luke Palmer



Beholder
by Ryan La Sala



Foul Heart Huntsman
by Chloe Gong



Artifice
by Sharon Cameron



The Chalice of the Gods
by Rick Riordan



Missing
by Savannah Brown

Aliya to the Infinite City by Laila Rifaat

At home in Cairo, an unexpected gift arrives for Aliya, promising to grant her greatest wish – to know more about her lost parents. To her surprise, she’s whisked off by flying carpet to a parallel Egypt, where she’s enrolled at an academy for . . . time-travellers! But while she’s there, an enemy is watching – a master of forbidden magic. If they can unlock Aliya’s inherited talent, they can change history forever . . .

The Clockwork Conspiracy by Sam Sedgman

Aspiring inventor Isaac Turner lives with his dad, the horologist in charge of Big Ben. But when his father vanishes from the belfry on the night the clocks go back, leaving behind only a smashed pocket watch and a cryptic message, Isaac determines to find him. Hunting a trail of clues through London’s landmarks, Isaac uncovers a sinister plot in the gears of government and embarks on a race against time to save his father - and time itself.

Her Radiant Curse by Elizabeth Lim

Channi is cursed with the face of a serpent after her own father offers her up in sacrifice to the Demon Witch. Now seventeen, Vanna is to be married off in a vulgar contest that will enrich the coffers of the village leaders. Only Channi, who’s had to rely on her strength and cunning all these years, can defend her sister against the cruellest of the suitors. But in doing so, she becomes the target of his wrath - launching a grisly battle royale and forcing Channi to make a choice that will strain her heart to its breaking point.

Feather by M. G. Leonard

On a school trip to the Royal Swan Natural History Museum, Ava finds herself at the centre of a heist: hundreds of invaluable bird of paradise skins from the Alfred Wallace Collection have been stolen! The police ignore the clues she spots so she takes the case to the Twitchers in an investigation that leads them to the bizarre and sinister world of fly-fishing, and to a mysterious girl with a pet Raven called Caliban.

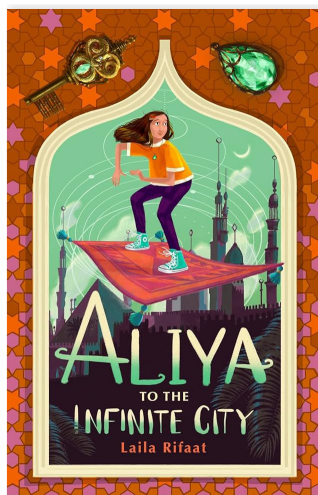
Last Girl Breathing by Court Stevens

Eight years ago, tragedy struck Lucy Michaels when, following a spell of torrential rain, the local dam burst and her five-year-old brother was swept away in the floodwaters. Seventeen-year-old Lucy is now intent upon making the US Olympic air rifle team and protecting herself from more trauma. But her life is in turmoil once again when a series of events lead to suspicions that her ex-boyfriend might have a criminal past – and present.

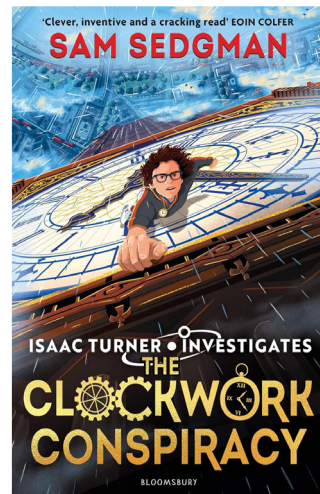
Ruthless Vows by Rebecca Ross

Iris has returned home bruised and heartbroken from the front, but the war is far from over. Roman is missing, lost behind enemy lines, with no memory of his past, or Iris. Hoping his memories return, he begins to write again – but this time for the enemy.

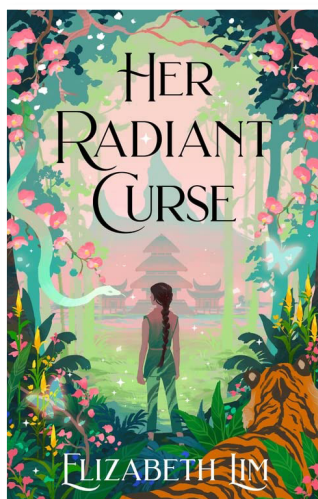
When a strange letter arrives, he strikes up a correspondence with a penpal who seems at once mysterious... and strangely familiar. As their connection deepens, the two of them will risk their very hearts and futures to change the tides of the war.



Aliya to the Infinite City
by Laila Rifaat



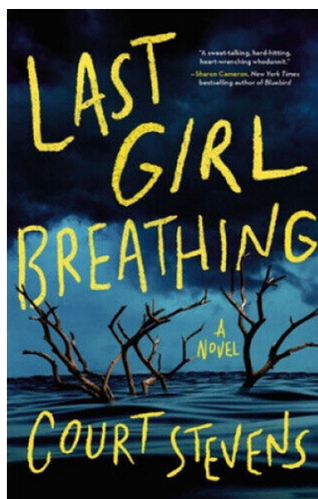
The Clockwork Conspiracy
by Sam Sedgman



Her Radiant Curse
by Elizabeth Lim



Feather
by M. G. Leonard



Last Girl Breathing
by Court Stevens



Ruthless Vows
by Rebecca Ross

Sixth formers volunteer helping students in lots of activities

Study Buddies

From Monday to Wednesday and Friday after school, Room 107 is open as a quiet and calm place for you to revise or do homework. Study buddies is run entirely by 6th formers, who achieved highly in many of their GCSE subjects. They will be on hand to assist should you require any help with work.

Since the 6th form volunteers will have gone through the GCSE process themselves, they have unique tips and tricks they picked up from each subject, nuggets of knowledge that you will benefit from!

This will be particularly useful to Year 11s- if you require help with any subject, any topic at all, pop in to study buddies, and receive free tuition! Snacks available to hard workers!

Young Carers' Club

Young Carers' club, run by Sixthformers Sarah, Lubnah and Maryam, exists to support all young carers. You choose the activities, which can range from Just Dance to friendship bracelet making, revision to film night! It's a safe place where you can relax and your friends can come along too!

Y7-9: Thursday 12.40pm-1.30pm U6 Y10-11: Monday 1.30pm-2.20pm U6

Any questions ask us, or Ms Bannon! See you there!

Sixth Form Bake Off

On Friday 19th January four finalists gathered in the food room for the ultimate cake showdown. They had to fashion a cake inspired by their house, and were judged on taste and appearance. Ms Jordan, Ms Osborn, Mr Curtis, Ms Akbar, Mr Rankin, Ms Bannon as well as sixth formers Marium, Aarushi, Niyathi and Maryam had the pleasure of tasting and judging the delightful creations.

After much deliberation, the panel decided that no one winner could triumph... all the contestants were worthy of the crowning title, "Best Bentley Wood Baker!"

The winner of the Appearance category was Year 12 Hafsa R's cake representing Water house. Her scrumptious Oreo and chocolate cake was an architectural wonder of a castle surrounded by a pristine lake, embodying Water house.

Fatima I, Year 12, fashioned a delectable lemon curd cake featuring a sunset amidst hot air balloons, a rather original

homage to Air house. She was awarded winner in the Flavour category.

Ambarin A, Year 10, showcased the glorious elements of Earth through her exquisite mint chocolate cake. She made a miniature forest with trees, mud, and a lake, with a fondant koala bear, winning the award for Best Interpretation. Aliyyah A, Year 7, also representing Earth, deservedly won the Creativity award for her delightful strawberry cream cake, decorated with fresh strawberries handpicked from her own garden!

A huge well done to all the bakers!!! Their prizes will be awarded soon and they have earned 20 house points each! Thank you so much to Ms Jordan for supporting the head girl team in organising this event!

Maryam A, Head Girl

Struggling with your homework or revision?



Head over to 107 after school, where friendly sixth formers will use their expert knowledge to help you out!

3.15-4.15pm

Monday-Wednesday and Friday

Room 107

For all year groups

See you there!





Posters created by sixth formers in Canva to promote charity events

Sixth Form Ambassadors organise events for younger students in aid of charity

Thank you to all our Sixth Form Ambassadors and Heads of Houses who organised fun festive charity events for our final week of term before the Christmas holidays. All proceeds went towards the designated house charities which are as below:

Air - The Wish Centre,

Fire - St Luke's Hospice,

Earth - Mind

Water - Harrow Community Kitchen

Niyathi T, Hafsa R, Zenab Z, Zaynab, Safia, and Fatima planned a range of fun events which raised money for charity.

The film night, which raised money for the Wish Centre, was a great success! Students settled back with plenty of popcorn and enjoyed the antics of Kevin in Home Alone- the perfect way to end the term! Thanks to Niyathi T in 13JT for organising this cosy and uplifting event.

The Hello, Winter event, organised by Hafsa R in Year 12, was a winter-themed fundraiser in support of St Luke's Hospice. The calm and mystical ambience, combined with the delectable treats like brownies, mini pizzas and sandwiches, as well as cupcakes that students self-decorated, made for

a highly successful winter afternoon!

The karaoke in Woody's raised funds for Mind in Harrow which is a charity providing a range of services to support children, young people and adults with mental health challenges. It was a great opportunity for students to showcase their vocal talent by belting out festive favourites and chart-topping hits, and the event proved to be a great success.

Finally, the Water house team held a Christmas concert in the hall after school on the 20th of December. Their designated charity, Harrow Community Kitchen, is one where many of our sixth formers have had the opportunity to volunteer and our students have first-hand knowledge of the amazing work they do in the community.

All sixth formers involved in organising these activities did a fantastic job and were very creative with the entertainment they had lined up for the younger students. The charity events for the designated house charities are a school tradition that we are proud to uphold because not only do they support vital causes, they also bring us together as a community in joyful celebration.

Neha P 13JT and Maryam A 13JG

Sixth Form lectures and workshops

6th Form Students embark on an inspiring trip to St John's College, Oxford.

Recently, the 6th form students embarked on an enriching and educational trip to St John's College, Oxford. The outreach opportunity was meticulously planned to offer students a glimpse into the prestigious academic environment and history afforded by the renowned university. Students had a guided tour of St John's College through the picturesque courtyards and stunning libraries. Our university guide provided insights into the college's rich heritage and the academic traditions that have been upheld for centuries.

The students were then challenged with a chemistry workshop which provided hands-on experience with various experiments, and promoted problem solving and critical thinking skills. One of the highlights of the day, was a question and answer session with a current St John's College undergraduate student.

Our students had the opportunity to interact with someone currently immersed in the Oxford experience, gaining valuable insights into student life, academic challenges, and the unique opportunities that the university offers.

Ms Sabir

6th Form students attend a Philosophy Conference

The Year 12 Philosophy class attended a day of lectures from some of the best contemporary philosophers in the country at neighbouring school, North London Collegiate.

The lectures kicked off with a mind-blowing talk on time travel. Dr Olivia Coombes from the University of Edinburgh enthralled the students with a discussion on the logical possibility of the Grandfather Paradox (is it logically possible to go back in time and kill your grandfather before he has produced your parent?)

The next lecturer, Dr Sophia Connell from Birkbeck College took us back to the Classical World and the women that have been written out of history. After lunch students enjoyed hearing about Kierkegaard from Dr Alex Decrow and Socratic questioning from Dr Fiona Leigh from UCL. I was pleased when several students took up the opportunity of asking the lecturers questions. In addition, students had the opportunity to meet philosophy students from other schools.

Overall the students thoroughly enjoyed the day; it was a fantastic taster of university style teaching.

Ms Jones



Chemistry workshop, St John's College, Oxford.



Philosophy Conference, North London Collegiate.

Dr Ebony Reid lecture on Trap Life

Dr Ebony Reid is a Criminologist and Ethnographer specialising in research on street crime/violence in inner city London. Dr Reid has an active interest in developing new psychosocial understandings of urban criminality and street culture.

Her recent article, published in the British Journal of Criminology, explores how traumatic childhood events alongside socioeconomic and cultural dynamics shape the psychology of urban drug dealers as they respond to existential suffering. She shared her findings and experiences of studying drug culture in North London with our Year 13 sociology students.

It is a great opportunity for sociology students to gain in depth understanding of sociological work in relation to topics that they study for their examinations.

Mr Marric

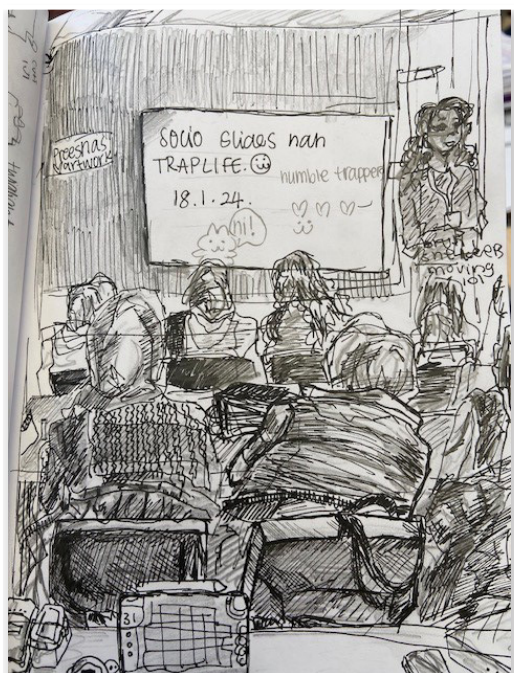


Illustration created by Oliwia B 13JT during Sociology lecture by Dr Ebony Reid

Student Rewards February 2024

Year 9



Art

Sana H 9SSH - for always trying to better her understanding and skills in Art - keep up the good work!

Business studies

Skye H 8EOG - for consistently demonstrating outstanding focus and contribution in class.

Drama

Vanaiya P 9EOG - for a fantastic set design and box set model.

English

Momoko T 9LBM - for her consistent hard work and participation in English; **Fatema S 9EOG** - for her dedicated high-quality work and effort

Food

Parwana S - 9TC - for improving in her practical skills and techniques

French

Skye H EOG - for your active participation and enthusiasm.

Geography

Zainab H 9NMO - for all her hard work in Geography lessons, regularly attempting challenges and always contributing answers

Graphics

Jazmine S 9SAL - fantastic start to the course. Puts in 100% effort for both classwork and homework

Aiza R 9LBM - for fantastic effort and enthusiasm in graphics this term

H&S

Zainab J 9SSH - for her positive attitude in class and for improving her grade in her in-class assessment

History

Fatema S 9EOG - Consistent hard work

Latin

Sam V 9LBM - for producing outstanding work all half term!

Maths

Zaina Z 9NMO - Your commitment and dedication to your work does not go unnoticed. It is a pleasure seeing you push and excel yourself to achieve your fullest potential. The sky is the limit for you. Keep up the good work! “

PE

Haifa B 9TC - 100% consistent effort in all practical lessons and a great attitude towards theory lessons. Outstanding homework.

Philosophy

Zaina A 9CJG - excellent contributions to class discussion.

Psychology

Momoko T 9LBM - for joining Psychology late and catching up so quickly - so incredibly hard working and we're so glad to have you join the class!

Spanish

Mariam H 9CJG - for her grammar skills and commitment. MCO

Student Rewards February 2024



Year 10

Art

Jihane D 10SJ - For always being on time with your work and a great start to our new project Sweets and Treat.

Sumaira O 10CON - for hard work and improved effort in Art. Sarah Baskaran 10SG for consistent effort and fantastic work in Art

Business studies

Alesha K 10EVG - for fantastic contribution in class and continue to excel in Business

Drama

Sayida A 10SJ - for consistently providing intelligent contributions to lessons while working on the new set text.

English

Maryam R 10EV - for her excellent attainment in English Language; Bailey-Summer A 10CON - for her passion for the subject and producing consistently excellent work

Food

Tamana K - 10ALN - for making improvements in her practical work

French

Sayida A 10SJ - for your participation and hard work during the French lessons. Keep it up. Bravo.!

Geography

Swara C 10JP - for being an amazing Geographer, producing excellent work and always being willing to contribute

Graphics

Naimah L 10EV - joined us mid-year however has made a fantastic start to the course

H&S

Sritha K 10CON - for her hard work revising and preparing for her controlled assignment

History

Isabel M 10EV - for going above and beyond to better her understanding of history.

Latin

Morsal O 10ALN - for her presentation on ancient medicine which she researched and presented herself!

Maths

Anastasia C 10 ALN - sustained excellence in maths brought about by sheer effort in both Maths & Further Maths.

PE

Tareem N 10SJ - excellent effort within all GCSE PE lessons and demonstrating an improvement in practical skills as she has brilliant commitment to PE clubs.

Philosophy

Shkulla B 10SG - excellent engagement in class and interesting contributions to discussion.

Psychology

Lizzie H 10SG - for excellent effort always and passion for Psychology, special shout out for her sock baby project and excellent application to the development topic

Spanish

Aleena A 10ALN - for always consistently working hard and completing extension tasks. She is an exceptional linguist.



Experience of language and history through theatre and film

Le Voyage De Fanny

French & History Cross-Curricular event (WWII)

To commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day the British Film Institute (BFI) created this cross-curricular study day aimed at helping KS3 French students develop their French language skills as well as deepen their knowledge of the Holocaust and World War II.

Conducted in French and English the morning consisted of a clip-based presentation introducing new vocabulary and encouraging the dialogue in French. In the afternoon there was an introduction to the French feature film Le Voyage De Fanny, dealing with the subject of World War II and the Holocaust.

A resource pack complementing the event was provided on the day.

Some reviews of the film in French:



Mon Dieu, quelle belle histoire qui montre le courage et la détermination de ces héros pour préserver la vie humaine. Respect !!



Une triste et belle histoire de courage et de la ténacité des résistances des gens en ce sombre période de l'histoire de France. A ne jamais oublier.



On the 25th January, we went on a trip to the BFI institute where we learnt about how children in France survived during the Holocaust.

The host was helping us improve our French listening skills by talking to us in French most of the time and some of us even got to practise our speaking skills on the spot. We got to watch a movie, as well as also getting to eat churros!

Rukhsara R Year 9





Year 12 students get a taste of Spanish culture at Spanish theatre performance

On Thursday, 25th January, the Spanish A level students had the opportunity to attend Cervantes a Spanish theatre. Here we got to watch 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba', a tragedy studied during Year 12, written by renowned Spanish playwright, Federico Garcia Lorca.

All of the action took place in a small theatre room, with the setting (the 'living room' of the house) remaining constant throughout. Although it was all in Spanish, due to there being such superb and profound acting, the plot was easily followed and was overall, quite moving.

It was an incredible experience as we learnt and gained a greater depth of understanding on the roles of each character and the symbolism occurring in each scene.

After watching the play, we all walked to Borough Market and visited a small Spanish shop. Here, we got the chance to try 'tortas de naranja', a sugary sort of biscuit which tasted absolutely delicious.

Throughout the day, we were able to immerse in Spanish culture and language, allowing us to gain a different sort of familiarity with things being taught as part of the curriculum.

I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Ortega and Ms Graham who were responsible for organising and supervising this trip and for making it such an amazing experience!

Abigail.C 12SNU



Student Rewards December 2023

Year 11



Art

Zainab M 11EAW - for much improved effort and enthusiasm in art

Business studies

Bhavika V 11HJG - for continuous improvement in Business studies and achieving your target grade. Keep up with the good focus.

Drama

Shyomi J 11BME - for fantastic effort in preparing for performance exams!

English

Adina Z 11MAK - for her excellent performance in her English Literature mock exams;

Sainthavi S 11CCH - for having a growth mindset and working extra hard to attain her grades in English Language.

Food

Nada B - for her hard work in completing her NEA 2 write up

French

Meena A 11PS - for your hard work and effort in the French lessons.

Geography

Priya P 11MAK - for being incredibly hard working in Geography and performing so well in the mocks!

Graphics

Salma S 11BME - attainment in mock exam

H&S

Honey M 11MAK - for her excellent work in and out of the classroom and the high grade achieved in the Year 11 mock

History

Nateer D 11EOG

Latin

Parisa M 11HGJ - for her commitment to Latin and for maintaining an excellent level of academic achievement.

Maths

Rawda M 11PS - For showing us and her peers that hard work really does pay off! You are an outstanding student with a marvellous work ethic. All that you have achieved is greatly deserved. Never lose that go get attitude and you will go far!

Sara A 11MAK - for her commitment to studying Further Maths and taking on an additional qualification because she enjoys it and brings enthusiasm to the rest of the group.

PE

Nia A 11MAK - for her fantastic effort and commitment to her theoretical studies in GCSE PE. She is really trying and it is fab to see!

Philosophy

Mariam B 11HJG - for stepping up her efforts in RS. Keep up the great work!

Spanish

Sabella I 11BME - for her effort and hard work in Spanish after joining the class earlier this year.

Textiles

Sabah H 11BME - for exceptional effort and independent work in textiles

Student Rewards December 2023



Year 12

Art

Thusmena S 12RGR - resilience and persistence in order to improve her work.

Business studies

Shivani P 12KW - for excellence in Business studies and keep up with the hard work.

Classical Civilisation

Hajra N 12SNU - for showing resilience and determination to improve in her work. Keep it up!

English

Abigail C 12SNU - for consistent hard work, enthusiasm and participation in class.

Geography

Husna N 12RGR - for putting lots of effort into her work and always contributing to class discussion

H&S

Naweda 12KW - for her consistent hard work in all her lessons and her drive to do well in her unit exams

History

Hajra N 12SNU - for showing real commitment to her classwork and homework.

Maths

Nedjma Z 12 RGR - sustained excellence in maths week in week out.

Hena H 12 PBL - Amazing progress in Maths, outstanding work & dedication to her Maths studies.

Philosophy

Sana A 12RGR - outstanding achievement in Philosophy.

Psychology

Jiya G 12KW - for her hard work and effort in psychology, evidenced in her mock grade and classwork

Sociology

Noor A 12RGR - For being so contentious in sociology. She is constantly engaged in lessons and always goes the further mile! Well done.

Spanish

Abigail C 12SNU - for her enthusiasm for Spanish language and culture.



Students competing in tournaments and competitions

Year 7 Indoor Athletics

Four students from Year 7 recently entered an Indoor Athletics Event at Whitefriars School. Players included: Siana O, Isabel H, Lucia M, Chloe R. They went up against 7 other schools within their group. Their competitive nature and motivation towards one another was excellent! Overall Bentley Wood came fifth in this tournament! The rankings are shown here:

Ms Halai

21st November Under 16's team	
1st	NLCS
2nd	NLCS
3rd	Nower Hill
4th	Pinner High
5th	Bentley Wood
6th	Park High
7th	Whitefriars
8th	Canons High

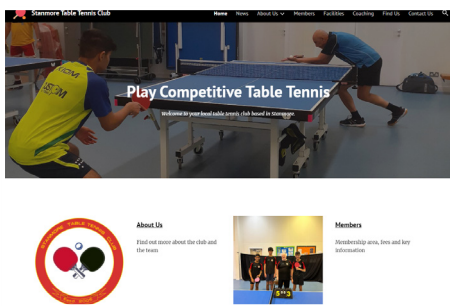
U16's Borough table tennis competition

On Thursday 25th January I took 7 students to the U16's Borough competition. We were the only girl team there, with the other schools entering all boy teams.

The girls did very well by playing against other boys from Salvatorian College, Avanti and Nower Hill. They did their best and did start winning more points, it was a fantastic experience for the girls.

A great club where students can go to play more regularly is at Stanmore Table Tennis Club

Ms Collen



www.stanmoretabletennis.co.uk

Table Tennis tournament

Well done to Eshel, Aqdasa, Sameera, Riddhi, Anniyah and Haifa who represented the school at a table tennis tournament this week. The girls were the only female team to enter, playing against 5 other teams from across Harrow.

We were fortunate enough to play a very close game against one of the most talented Table Tennis players we have ever seen. The Bentley Wood team put him under the most pressure he had faced all tournament, losing by only 2 points. The competition officials were very entertained!

Overall the team came 5th out of 6 but they are hoping to continue their newly found training regime in order to be victorious in future tournaments.

Well done to our Table Tennis stars!

Ms Bannon



Student Rewards December 2023

Year 13



Art

Neha P 13JT - Excellence in completing Personal Investigation Essay

Business studies

Sowmiya T 13SBA - for continued effort and to improve your achievement in Business studies.

Classical Civilisation

Nikita M 13AP - for maintaining an excellent level of attainment, for her active participation in class and her help with Classics week!

Economics

Sanjana T 13JT - for continued excellence in Economics. Continue with this focus and you will do well.

English

Maryam A 13JG - for her consistent enthusiasm and dedication in the subject

Geography

Oliwia B 13JT - for her hard work on her NEA

H&S

Lenuga L 13JT - for her excellent work and class contributions in Unit 4 lesson, and her dedication to her coursework.

History

Bushra A 13JG

Maths

Hadiqah H 13AP - Great effort & positivity this year for her Maths studies!"

Sociology

Olwia B 13JT - for going the extra mile and creating some artwork of portray her experience of a guest lecturer speaking in Sociology

Spanish

Yassin L 13Dsp - for improved essay writing after seeing the A Level Spanish play LCBA

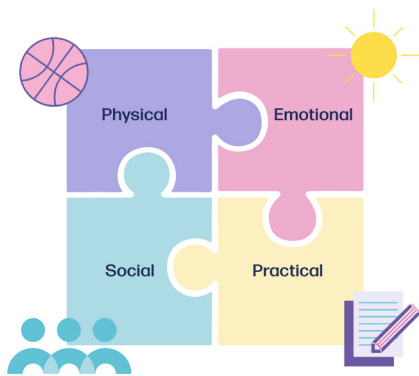


Student wellbeing

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

Getting to know the Bentley Wood Website

Focus Area: Safeguarding

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 [Safeguarding](#) section of the website provides students and parents information on student safety and provides some of the schools safeguarding policies.

Safeguarding: The main safeguarding page gives information on the designated safeguarding lead and the extended safeguarding team. It also provides links to the schools Safeguarding and Looked After Child policy.

Staying safe: This gives students and parents some important advice on what to do when there is a safeguarding concern. There is some information here for students on staying safe online. At the bottom of this page there are contact details for charities and out of hours numbers to call when you require support.

Online Safety: This details information on how Bentley Wood educates students on online safety as well as giving parents links to helpful websites where you can find advice on internet and mobile safety.

Student wellbeing: Here you can find information on how the school strategy to support wellbeing of students. There are links to external agencies, some of which we work closely with. There is a document linked with many resources for counselling and support. There are useful guides for parents on developing resilience and healthy living.

Anti-Bullying: Here you can find the schools anti-bullying policy where you can find details on how the schools deals with reports of bullying. There are also links to anti-bullying websites.



Home \ Safeguarding

Safeguarding at Bentley Wood High School

Safeguarding

Mission statement

At Bentley Wood High School we take safeguarding very seriously. Teachers and non-teaching staff have a crucial role to play in shaping the lives of young people. All staff are accountable for the way in which they exercise authority, manage risk, use resources and protect pupils from discrimination and avoidable harm.

Designated Safeguarding Lead:

- Debbie Ferrer: Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Members of the Safeguarding Team:

- Debbie Ferrer: Assistant Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Naseema Akbar: Headteacher
- Sarah Newman: Assistant Headteacher/SENCO
- Hary Ilanko: Assistant Headteacher/online safeguarding
- Ellie Gill: Safeguarding Assistant and Inclusion Support/ELSA Mentor
- Sara Lomax: Assistant Headteacher/Sixth Form
- Heidi Weaver Assistant Headteacher/Sixth Form /Counselling
- Jahnvi Manzi: Associate Assistant Headteacher/Head of Year
- Claire Bannon: Associate Assistant Headteacher/Head of Year (Mat leave)
- Clare Angel: Senior Welfare Officer

Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

Bentley Wood High School works closely with the Local Authority to support Children who are Looked After and previously Looked After. At Bentley Wood High School, Debbie Ferrer (Assistant Headteacher/DSL) is the Designated Teacher for Children Looked After and Previously Looked After.

The Virtual School Head responsible for the progress of Looked After children in Harrow is Mellania Williamson-Taylor. The virtual school can be contacted via email: virtualschool@harrow.gov.uk

Please view our Safeguarding Policies and Department of Education documents below:

- [Anti Bullying Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Looked After Child/PLAC Policy](#)

- [Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023](#)
- [Working Together to Safeguard Children. A guide to multi-agency working to help, protect and promote the welfare of children 2023](#)
- [Teaching online safety in school](#)
- [Sports and Activity Providers](#)

Safeguarding

- [Staying Safe](#)
- [Online Safety](#)
- [Student Wellbeing](#)
- [Anti-Bullying](#)
- [The Prevent Duty](#)
- [Safer Recruitment](#)



Staying safe

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.

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

- 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)

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 Universal Credit rollout is currently expected to complete in March 2025. 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

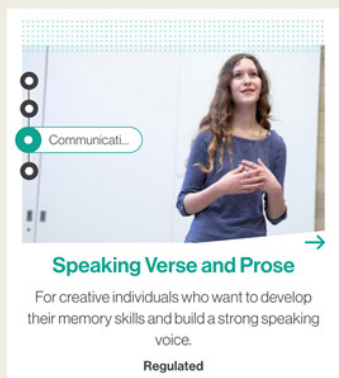
It is vital to check that we hold your most current and accurate data.

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

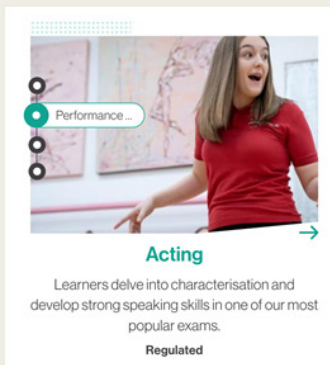




Speaking Verse and Prose

For creative individuals who want to develop their memory skills and build a strong speaking voice.

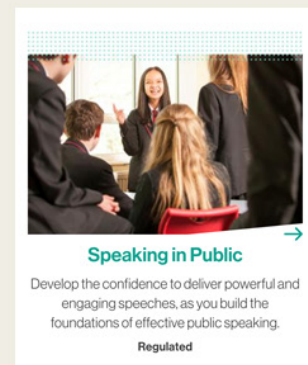
Regulated



Acting

Learners delve into characterisation and develop strong speaking skills in one of our most popular exams.

Regulated



Speaking in Public

Develop the confidence to deliver powerful and engaging speeches, as you build the foundations of effective public speaking.

Regulated

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.

How much will it cost? Bentley Wood has partnered with the local Stagecoach providers and are able to offer the 10 sessions for £150 (FSM discounts can be offered). In addition, there is the cost of the exam, the price of the exam varies dependent on grade.

At Bentley Wood you can receive 10 sessions to help you prepare for a graded **LAMDA** exam during the Summer term.

If you are interested in completing this in the Summer term speak with your parents and then **email Mr Rankin.**

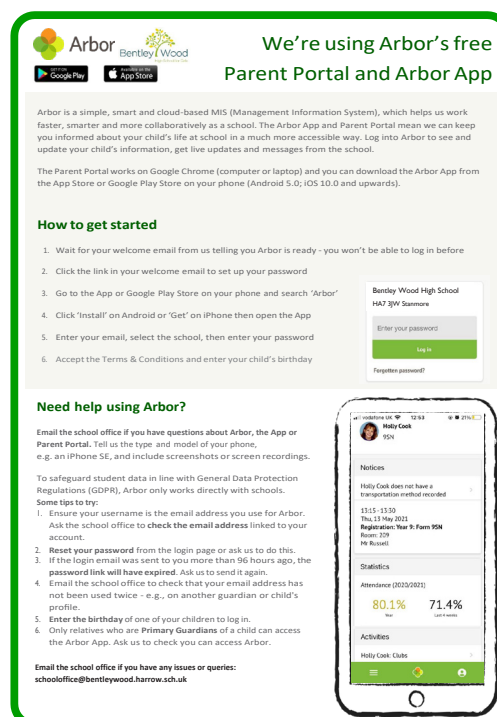
LAMDA



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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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.narrow.sch.uk

Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

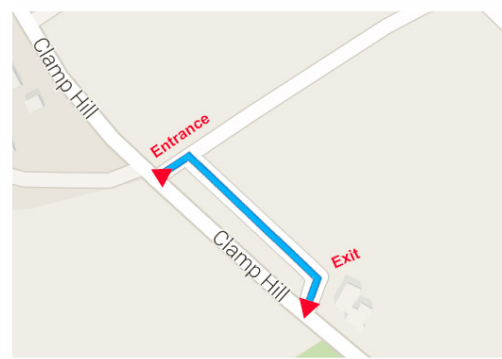
For student safety only use the Clamp Hill entrance to drop off and pick up your daughter from school.

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 2024

12th to 16th February 2024 - Half Term, Year 11 and Sixth Form Revision classes on site

19th February 2024 - Return to school, 08:40 usual registration

27th February 2024 - Year 8 Careers Morning

27th February 2024 - Year 9 Parents Evening, Early finish 13:25/13:30

27th February to 1st March 2024 - Year 11 GCSE Food Practical exams

29th February - 1st March 2024 - Year 11 GCSE Drama Performance exams

29th February to 22nd March 2024 - Year 11, 12 and 13 Mock 2 exams

14th March 2024 - Speak Out Challenge Regional Final

20th to 21st March 2024 - Spring Concert

22nd March 2024 - Cultural Day - *date to be confirmed*

25th to 29th March 2024 - Year 11 GCSE Art, Graphics & Textiles exams

26th March 2024 - Year 10 Interview Day

27th March 2024 - Year 8 Options Evening

28th March 2024 - Non-Uniform Day (House charities), Early finish 12:50/13:00

29th March to 12th April 2024 - Easter Holidays

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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk