



Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter May 2025



Culture Week 2025: A Celebration of Unity at Bentley Wood High School

Bentley Wood High School was transformed into a vibrant hub of colour, music, food and togetherness as students and staff came together to celebrate Culture Week 2025.

This year's celebration was a tremendous success, showcasing the rich diversity that defines our school community - from Asian and Caribbean roots to European and African heritage.

The week began on Monday, 31st March with a stunning Diverse Community Showcase. Flags from every corner of the globe adorned the school's main corridor and Woody's, creating a powerful symbol of unity and pride.

On Tuesday, 1st April, the gym came alive with the Culture Stall, where students sold handmade cultural items ranging from jewellery to art and tailored bookmarks.

Not only did these items make meaningful keepsakes, but the funds raised supported a culture and arts education charity.

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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Bentley Wood community,

As we head into our half term break in beautiful sunshine a last message from me with our penultimate newsletter of the year.

It may have been a short half term, but it was certainly packed with many events that I hope you will all enjoy reading. We had our cultural week celebration concert which took place just before the Easter holidays and the amazing Jazz Trio which visited us on our first day back. We have said farewell to our Year 13 students and wished them well with a lovely leaver's assembly led by Ms Mouskis and the Head student team. We are all now looking forward to the Prom. Ms Osbourne and the Year 11 pastoral team shared fond memories with the Year 11 students as we celebrated the past 5 years they had been together at Bentley Wood.

So many trips, which so many students in Year 8, 9 and 10 have enjoyed and there are more trips to look forward to next term too.

We have also had outdoor yoga, Gardening Club, A Slice of Nice, Chess Club, scientist talks, book fairs and NHS cadets.

Our Year 11 and 13 students have got stuck into their GCSE and A Level exams. Our Year 12 and 10 students will also start their internal exams soon. We wish them all the very best of luck; they have worked hard and should walk into their exams with confidence.

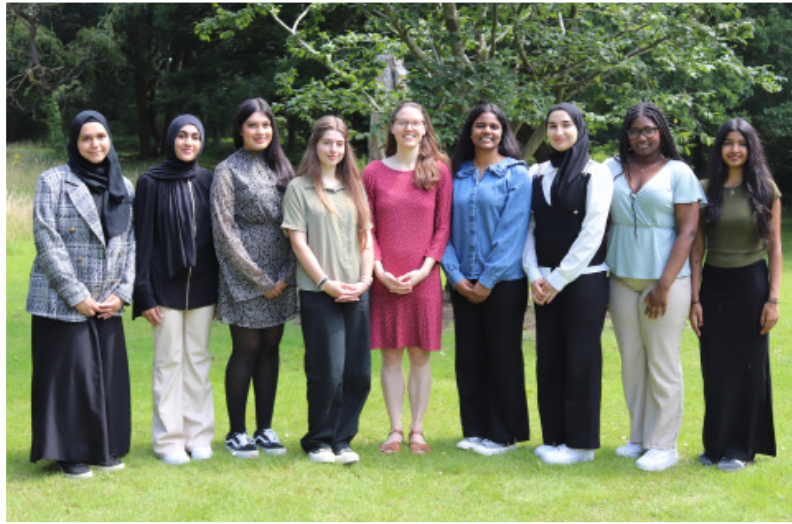
A reminder for students coming onsite during the holidays to make sure they sign in and out as directed in reception and to always follow instructions given to them by the supervising staff.

Please enjoy the half term break with your families and friends and I look forward to seeing you all again in June.

Kindest regards,



Ms N Akbar
Headteacher



Bentley Wood Head Student Team

At the beginning of the year, Abigail and I introduced ourselves and the Head Student Team, and now, as we come to the end of our time at Bentley Wood, we would like to take a moment to reflect on an incredible journey for which we are deeply grateful. Serving on the Head Student Team this year has been a true honour—one filled with pride, laughter, and countless memories we will carry with us for years to come.

Throughout our time as Head Girls, we have had the privilege of representing Bentley Wood in a variety of ways. From welcoming guests and guiding tours to conducting speeches during open evenings, we have always been proud to showcase the heart and spirit of our school. These opportunities allowed us to give back to a community that has given us so much and taught us the value of leadership and service.

As the Head Student Team, some of our most rewarding moments came from organising charity events that brought the school together for meaningful causes. Whether it was our bake sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, spreading festive cheer through Christmas card handouts, or the lively dodgeball tournaments that brought out everyone's competitive spirit, each event was a testament to the unity and compassion that define Bentley Wood. One

of our highlights was leading the organisation of the annual Culture Week. Seeing the school come alive with colour, music, and pride as we celebrated our diverse community was an unforgettable experience, and we were thrilled by its success.

As we now prepare to move on to the next chapter in our lives, we do so with immense gratitude. Bentley Wood has shaped us into confident, resilient individuals, and it will forever be a place we cherish. This school has provided us with friendships, life lessons, and countless memories that we will never forget.

To all the teachers and staff, thank you. Thank you for your guidance, your patience, and your unwavering support. You believed in us, challenged us, and helped us grow every step of the way.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Bentley Wood! You will always be home to us.

With love and gratitude,

2024 - 2025 Co-Head Girls

Abigail and Baveena

Culture Week 2025

This event was made even more special thanks to the involvement of the Business Department, who worked closely with our Year 9 students. As part of their Young Enterprise project, students developed and pitched cultural product ideas in line with this year's theme: Culture. The most promising business plans were brought to life and sold at the Culture Stall, giving students valuable, real-world enterprise experience while celebrating cultural identity and creativity.

Wednesday, 2nd April marked the exciting launch of our Recipe Book Initiative — a collaborative project that will be developed over the coming months with contributions from both students and staff. Everyone is encouraged to share a favourite recipe that represents their culture, heritage or family tradition. Once complete, the recipe book will be published and shared with the school community, celebrating the diverse flavours and stories that bring us together through food.

On Thursday, 3rd April, the school was bursting with pride during Cultural Attire & Performance Day. Students arrived dressed in beautiful traditional clothing, proudly representing their heritage. The day featured an incredible series of live performances — all organised in partnership with the Music Department, who worked tirelessly with students from various year groups to prepare an exciting and inclusive programme.

The performances included cultural dances, vocal, spoken word poetry and dramatic pieces — each one reflecting the unique backgrounds and talents within our school community. It was a vibrant and joyful day where every student felt involved, whether performing, supporting their peers, or simply soaking in the atmosphere. The hall was full during both lunch periods, with cheers and applause echoing throughout. The energy and unity on display captured the true essence of Culture Week.

Throughout the week, Woody's Canteen served up a global menu with a new theme each day — from West African jollof to Asian curry to British fish and chips — giving everyone the chance to experience the world one bite at a time.

Culture Week 2025 at Bentley Wood was not just about celebration — it was about connection, understanding and pride. It demonstrated what makes our school truly special: a united community that values every culture and every voice. Here's to keeping the spirit of Culture Week alive every day!

Mr. N Khan, Associate Assistant Headteacher and Head of Computing



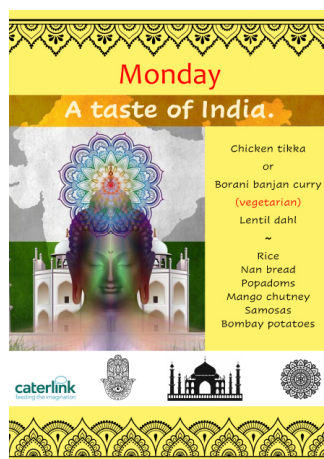
Far East Cuisine



Indian Cuisine



African Cuisine





A Paris adventure for Glee Club, Jazz Trio showcase traditional jazz



A Joyful Journey with Glee

It's been an exciting and rewarding journey with the Glee Club this year. Our afternoons have been filled with energy, creativity, and lots of rehearsals as we prepare for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity performing at Disneyland's Music Festival this summer!

Our setlist features a dynamic mix of songs that celebrate friendship, strength, and self-expression.

We'll be opening with Cheetah Sisters, followed by Red from Disney, the upbeat Super Trouper, and ending with the heartfelt anthem You Will Be Found. We can't wait to showcase our hard work and share our passion for music on such a magical stage!

Nanette A 12CTW

There's a real buzz around Bentley Wood High School as the Glee Club gets ready for something amazing – our upcoming trip to Paris! As a member of the club, I can honestly say we've been looking forward to this moment

all year. Now, the dream is becoming reality. We've spent months rehearsing songs, polishing harmonies, and preparing for performances.

In Paris, we'll be singing at two community events, giving us the chance to share our music with a whole new audience and represent our school internationally. It's both exciting and nerve-wracking – but mostly exciting!

For many of us, this will be our first time abroad with friends, which makes it even more special. What's really made this trip meaningful is how close we've become as a group.

This trip is a celebration of all our hard work, talent, and teamwork. Paris, get ready – the Bentley Wood Glee Club is coming, and we're ready to sing our hearts out!

Yasamin N Z 10ESO

An amazing live jazz performance at Bentley Wood

Year 9 got to experience a live jazz trio, and it was an amazing performance to see. As a music student, I loved watching how effortlessly the pianist, bassist, and saxophonist worked together. It was like they were having a conversation through sound; the solos were incredible.

The piano riffs especially seemed to dance across the keys. What made it even better was how they explained their creative process, making jazz feel less intimidating and more exciting.

The whole performance left me feeling inspired to experiment more with my own music, and I really hope we get even more chances to see live acts like this again!

Shiloh N 9ABR



Bletchley Park trip



Year 8 outside Bletchley Park mansion

Year 8 students enjoy a captivating and immersive experience at Bletchley Park

Our school trip to Bletchley Park was a captivating experience! We began by visiting one of the many huts in the park, where we inspected the Bombe, a device created by British cryptologists, who are experts in the study of codes.

The primary function of the Bombe was to discover the daily settings of the Enigma machines used by various German military networks. After this, we watched a short introductory video that explained how the device was used to decrypt German communications during World War II. We also used activity booklets that detailed the different parts of the Bombe machine.

Following the video and our visit to the first hut, we had a chance to browse the gift shop, which offered a wide array of goodies!

We then proceeded to several other huts, where we had the opportunity to see Alan Turing's office. In this space, we viewed his typewriter and other items he used during his work, providing us with an intriguing insight into the environment where this renowned codebreaker and mathematician spent his time deciphering codes.

We participated in a hands-on workshop after taking in all the breath-taking historical sights. Here, we attempted to decode messages similar to those used at Bletchley Park,

but decoding messages from World War II proved to be quite a challenge! Additionally, we learned how to use a cypher wheel to decode various messages that were provided to us.

Later, we enjoyed a guided tour led by Stuart, who gave us a fascinating glimpse into the daily lives of the individuals—predominantly women—who worked at Bletchley Park.

His narrative allowed us to imagine their routines, living conditions, and the crucial, secretive work they performed. He described the intense atmosphere of concentration especially when listening for radio signals and the collaboration that took place, emphasizing the vital role played by the people of Bletchley Park. The day concluded with a closer look inside the mansion, filled with beautiful artwork and extensive bookcases.

We left Bletchley Park with a deeper understanding of the Enigma machine, the complex art of codebreaking, and the invaluable contributions made by the remarkable individuals who worked there, whose efforts significantly impacted the course of history.

Sara and Faryal 8SZ

BLETCHLEY PARK

Bletchley Park: Year 8 get code cracking and discover WW2 history

As part of the Year 8s study of WW2, all students went to Bletchley Park to learn about the role it played in the war. Students learnt about all the men and women involved in helping decipher the messages that were being sent by the Axis powers and the work of Alan Turing in creating the Bombe to crack the Enigma Code.

Here is an account from Rachel Robinson in 8CTA about the day.

The trip to Bletchley Park was truly amazing! It was an incredible day filled with fun, laughter and learning. We got to have a workshop which taught us all about code-breaking in a fun way and a guided tour telling us all about what it was like to have been there in WW2.

It was very interesting and I enjoyed learning about the women involved in helping to de-code and the huge role they played in helping Britain win the war.

The rooms that recreated what working at Bletchley Park would have been like were very interesting and super interactive!

Alongside its historical features, it is also a stunning park filled with beautiful, well-kept plants and flowers. My favourite bit of the day was the mansion as it was so grand and the number of books was incredible!—and of course, the ice cream!

Rachel R 8CTA

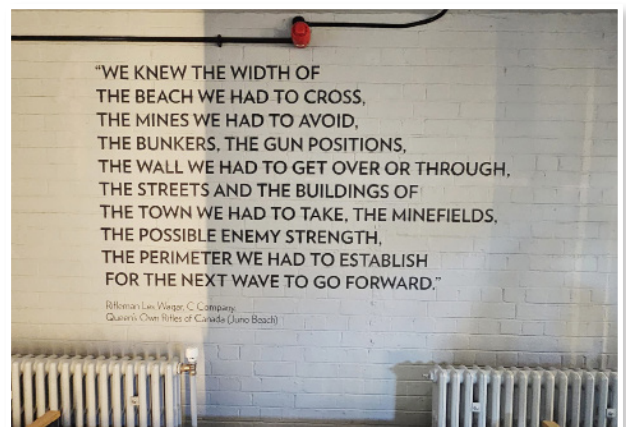
I was very honoured to accompany Year 8 on the Bletchley Park trip last week. My grandfather was evacuated there in the war and we have always spent many summers around the area but never visited the park. The place was absolutely fascinating and drenched in history.

We learnt all about cipher and the enigma machine and how the inventors had actually originated from Poland and came to England when the war broke out. Our tour guide really brought the site to life and we learnt about many stories of the people who worked there.

In our session we got to touch an actual enigma machine which apparently is a once in a lifetime chance and break codes. It was an exhilarating day and really lovely to spend time in the sunshine with other members of staff and well-behaved students.

Thank you very much to the history team

Mrs Bancroft



Students discover more about our history on recent trips



Year 9 in the gardens of Hampton Court Palace

The Year 9 history students went on an exciting trip to Hampton Court Palace

The day started with a fascinating workshop all about Queen Elizabeth I, where we uncovered the juicier, more hidden side of her reign. We discovered that, beneath her strong and confident exterior, she was very image conscious and put a lot of effort into managing how others perceived her. During the workshop, we explored the palace, wandering through grand halls and glittering chambers.

My absolute favourite was the servants' room, which was surprisingly made of gold and silver. Elizabeth designed it to impress and to make people curious about her own private, limited-edition paradise room.

Later, we took part in a fiery debate about who should succeed her—it really felt like we were part of her court and members of the privy council! Before heading back, we visited her stunning garden and ended the day laughing in the maze, where my group got completely lost.

Zara A 9ABR

Our trip to Hampton Court Palace on Thursday, 8th of May was a truly memorable experience. The first half of the day we were given a guided tour and our guide shared the special history of the rooms and halls. Some of the rooms were undergoing renovation while we were there.

Later we were allowed to explore the magnificent grounds with the beautiful garden. We're studying the Elizabethan era in history, so this trip was a great way to immerse ourselves in the topic

Keia C 9KPO





Year 10 Outreach Day at St John's College, University of Oxford

This May a group of Year 10 Chemistry students took part in an Outreach Day at St John's College, University of Oxford, gaining a valuable insight into life at one of the UK's leading academic institutions.

The day began with an introduction to the university, including an overview of Oxford's teaching style, the tutorial system, and the wide range of courses available.

It was an informative start that helped students better understand how university learning differs from school and, the particular traditions that University of Oxford upholds to this day.

Students then had the opportunity to enjoy lunch in one of Oxford's historic college dining halls – a real highlight of the day!

After lunch, the group was taken on a guided tour of St John's College, where they explored the grounds and learned more about college life and the facilities available to students.

Throughout the visit, students spoke with current Oxford undergraduates, asking questions about the application

process, academic expectations, and day-to-day life at university. These informal conversations offered honest and encouraging insights from those who had recently been through similar journeys.

The day concluded with a visit to the University of Oxford Museum of Natural History which uniquely provides visitors with interactive experiences as part of its exhibits.

A huge thank you to the Oxford Outreach Team at St John's for hosting us and putting together an insightful and memorable day!

Ms Robson



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Memorable, stimulating trips this term

A wonderful experience for Year 9 Art students at Kew Gardens

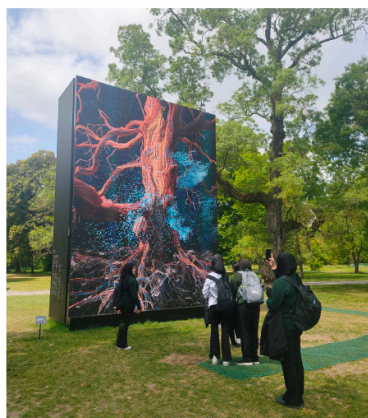
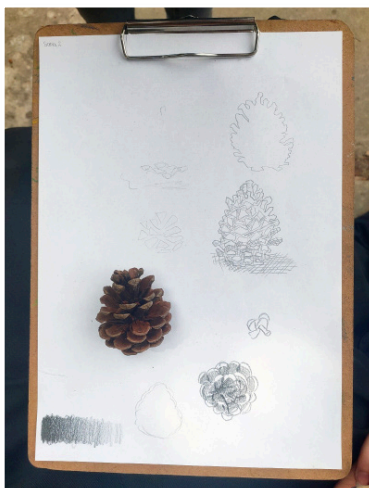
Visiting Kew Gardens was a wonderful experience, full of nature and creativity. The greenhouses were packed with beautiful plants, and they were the perfect place to practice sketching skills: observing details, studying shapes, and using them to improve nature drawings.

I really loved the greenhouse that contained water plants such as water lilies and I was extremely happy as I saw multiple hibiscuses, which are one of my favourite flowers at the moment! One of the best parts of the day was

“The Power of Trees” exhibit, which showed how trees have inspired art and storytelling. Finnish artist Eija-Liisa Ahtila’s work was really impressive, showing a tall spruce tree on a huge screen, with calming sounds of rustling leaves and birds singing.

We explored the gift shop which was full of interesting items, from postcards to handcrafted decorations. To remember the trip, I bought a tote bag and a badge—small but special souvenirs of a great day at Kew.

Sara H 9JAZ



Kew
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS



Students enjoy ski trip at Les Orres Ski resort in the French Hautes-Alps

On the 4th of April, a group of about 60 students and a handful of teachers embarked on a journey by coach and ferry to Les Orres Ski resort in the French Hautes-Alps.

After hours on the coach travelling from the port across France, we arrived, got our ski equipment and explored the grounds. From the next day onwards, everyone took part in skiing and even the most beginner students managed to progress well in their skillset. With evening entertainment and activities, and free time to socialize and explore, the trip was overall very enjoyable, even with the exhausting travel.

Ammer-Zenab R 9AHU

For me, the highlight of the skiing trip was going all the way to the top of the slopes and enjoying the breath-taking views all around. The slopes had different difficulty levels so

it was fun to have a go and challenge myself on the harder slopes. It was also really fun having a five-storey building all to ourselves where we would hang out in the evenings after a day of skiing.

Mia V 8CTA

I've never skied before in my life so I was naturally nervous about the experience. However, I really enjoyed myself and made steady progress every day and towards the end of the trip I made it to the top group!

It was great to have the opportunity to make new friends because our group was made up of students from different year groups and we spent the evenings chilling together, sharing fun and funny stories about the day.

Katy P 8CTA

Student Rewards May 2025

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

Emma B 7EAW - For engagement in lessons and giving input and answering questions.

Computer science

Sama A 7CMI - Consistently high achieving. Goes for every challenge and then helps those around her. Massively positive attitude 100% of the time. **Emma B 7EAW** - for being resilient in lessons and trying really hard to participate even when she finds it hard to.

English

Jessica WP 7EAW - for her enthusiasm and high quality of homework in English; **Anna M 7SGU** - for her great attitude, effort and attainment over the course of this year

Food

Faatima S 7EAW - for producing a fantastic cooking video for her homework. Please make another one.

French

Sienna P 7EAW - always completing tasks quickly and moving on to the extension.

Geography

Hanasa A 7HAS - is really trying hard and has shown how a positive attitude makes all the difference. She is so talented and deserves to do well. Keep working hard.

Graphics

Auswa N 7SGU and **Renata P 7ZHA** for showing commitment to STEAM and going above and beyond completing extension tasks. Welldone!

History

Sama Atiah 7CMI - I am beyond blown away by your outstanding knowledge of history, your valuable contributions to class discussions and your genuine

enthusiasm and love for the subject. You are consistent in your approach to learning and your behaviour is exemplary.

Music

Anabela D, Gayatri K, Zara N, Chaaru S, Emeli T in 7ZHA, Sama A 7CMI, Pravaha Y 7HJG, Sienna MP 7MLE, Rahma M, Emily N, Jessica WP, Prakruthi Y in 7EAW,

Danya BF, Armineh H, Prisha H, Zainab H, Maysoon K, Aliyah M, Zaynab M, Milli P, Dhyani P, Sienna DP, Nicole S, Liyana T, Laaibah U, Sobia Y in 7MAK for their dedication to going beyond the set class task in the recent MELODIES TASK and for being so enthusiastic and consistent in their efforts in all our music lesson this year!

PE

Irem C 7HJG - for brilliant engagement in her PE lessons and supporting other students in games.

Science

Maria S 7HAS - For making an excellent start with science at Bentley Wood this term.

Spanish

Maliha K 7HJG - for consistently excellent contributions and questions throughout the year, whilst keeping a beautifully presented book.



Student Rewards May 2025

Year 8



Art

Sara S 8SZ - excellent quality outcome in her final book cover design.

Computer science

Hiba M 8MEM - For being Fast, efficient, insightful, helpful, genuine, thorough and supportive. Alyssa Patel 8LNO - for always participating, being resilient and asking for challenges

English

Zahra F 8LNO - for exemplary effort in classwork and performance in her assessments; Aroush A 8SCH for excellent effort and enthusiastic contributions to the class

French

Akshayah P 8LNO - for always putting her hand up in class so enthusiastically, and for consistently producing excellent classwork and homework

Graphics

Shifa A 8CTA, Sona H 8LJO and Victoria G 8SCH for a fantastic start to the STEAM rotation. You have shown great engagement and enthusiasm. Welldone!

History

Bedia A 8SZ - You are always working hard and putting in maximum effort to your work.

Music

Siobhan K, Shaanuja M, Lamia H, Lina L, Mariam M 8CTA for their total dedication to their 'Live' Say Something performance and coming to practice every single week (almost every day) since we began the task!

Victoria G, Simra A, Nimrat S 8SCH for a truly outstanding, emotional and heartfelt Live performance of Say Something.

PE

Hawa H 8EBD - incredible passion and enthusiasm demonstrated in her PE lessons.

Science

Mariam M 8CTA - what an excellent start you've made to your scientific learning at Bentley Wood. Your enthusiasm and hard work have shone through, keep it up!

Spanish

Esta DJ 8SCH - for always putting in her best and making sure she catches up with work. NME



Summer reads

The Singular Life of Aria Patel by Samira Ahmed

Aria Patel craves certainty—that's why she loves science and avoids messy relationships. But when she starts waking up in different parallel universes, logic can't explain what's happening or why Rohan, and a mysterious poem, keep following her. As Aria searches for a way back to her own reality, she lands in a world that feels perfect—family, love, everything she's ever wanted. But it isn't hers. And staying could mean stealing someone else's life... and losing her own forever.

Fearless by Lauren Roberts

Paedyn Gray and Kai Azer return to the Kingdom of Ilya... And Paedyn has a life-altering choice to make. Whatever she decides will determine her fate – and the fate of those around her – forever. In the ultimate battle of love and loyalty, who wins? The heart stopping conclusion to the smash hit, dagger-to-the-throat romantasy trilogy.

First Love Language by Stefany Valentine

Taiwanese American Catie Carlson has always felt out of place and longs to connect with her culture and find her biological mother. When her co-worker, Toby, offers to teach her Mandarin in exchange for dating lessons, Catie agrees—despite having no dating experience herself. Using her late father's book, *The Five Love Languages*, she becomes Toby's coach. But as she grows closer to him and uncovers more about her mom, Catie must come to term with uncomfortable emotions and realities.

All the Blues in the Sky by Renée Watson

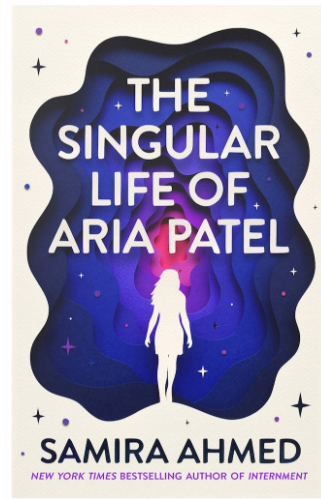
Sage's thirteenth birthday was supposed to be about movies, treats, and staying up late with her best friend to watch the sunrise. Instead, it became the day her best friend died. Devastated, Sage joins a counselling group for girls who've experienced loss. There, she learns that not all grief is the same and healing isn't predictable. As Sage grieves, new, unexpected things enter her life, and she discovers the grace of healing and moving on.

Needy Little Things by Channelle Desamours

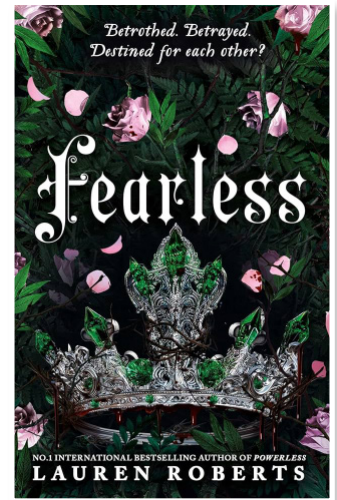
Sariyah Lee Bryant can hear what people need, a secret only her family and best friend Malcolm know. After fulfilling a need for her friend Deja, who soon disappears, Sariyah starts to question if her gift is a curse. As she investigates Deja's disappearance while dealing with her mum's job loss and her brother's health issues, Sariyah turns to using her ability for cash—risking the same danger Deja faced.

The Mirror Drifters: The Other Magic by D.D. Snows

In an enchanted land filled with danger, three orphans must master their newfound supernatural powers. But when their long-lost sister Jo reappears, chased by dark conjurers, their magical journey takes a deadly turn. Their fate depends on awakening a rare and untapped magic—their other magic! Can they unlock it in time, or will the encroaching darkness consume them all?



The Singular Life of Aria Patel by Samira Ahmed



Fearless by Lauren Roberts



First Love Language by Stefany Valentine



All the Blues in the Sky by Renée Watson



Needy Little Things by Channelle Desamours



The Mirror Drifters: The Other Magic by D.D. Snows

Kareem Between by Shifa Saltagi Safadi

Syrian American Kareem is having a tough time in school and at home. His best friend is gone, he's failed the football tryouts, his mum has suddenly gone to Syria to help family and he is forced to show the new Syrian kid around school. Struggling between family, friends, and doing what's right, Kareem must find his confidence and hope amidst the chaos.

Watch Me by Tahereh Mafi

James Anderson's plan? Get into Ark Island, the last stronghold of The Reestablishment. He may be stuck in a prison cell, but it's a win. Ten years after a rebellion led by Juliette Ferrars and Aaron Warner Anderson, the regime is preparing for a devastating comeback—and they have the perfect weapon: Rosabelle Wolff, a deadly assassin with no hesitation. Will James end up in her crosshairs, or could they find themselves facing the same enemy?

The Family I'm In by Sharon G. Flake

John-John and Caleb navigate the challenges of growing up in a world with generational struggles and expectations.

Their story focuses on the important relationships between Black fathers and sons. The childhood friends draw strength from within to push beyond family illness, mental health issues, parents, teachers, and society - to reach, succeed, and to live with dignity, purpose, and promise.

Little Bang by Kelly McCaughrain

On New Year's Eve shy Mel and laid-back Sid get pregnant on their first date. With abortion still illegal in Northern Ireland in 2018, they face clashing pressures from their families as they get to grips with the stark realities of teenage pregnancy. As their relationship strains, Mel is left to confront the growing dilemma on her own.

Keeper of the Lost Cities: Unravelled by Shannon Messenger

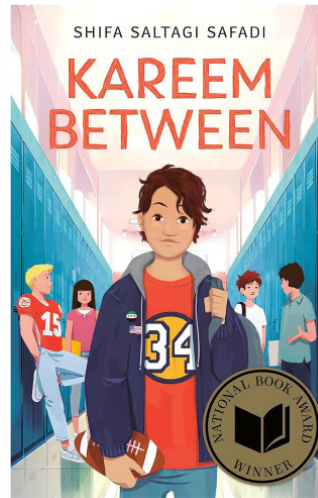
While his friends faced their own challenges in Stellarlune, Keefe was in the human world. Where did he go, who did he see...and what shocking secrets were revealed to him?

This riveting instalment of the series is told entirely from Keefe's POV and contains crucial clues about truths buried deep in the elvin world.

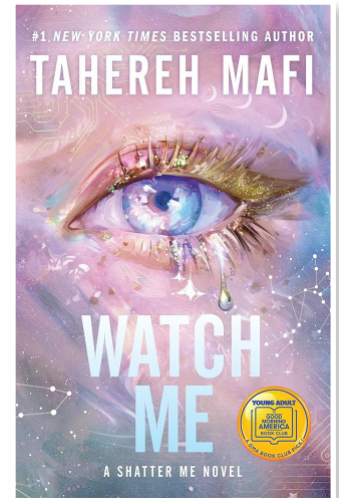
The Encanto's Curse by Melissa de la Cruz

A vampire-like creature, a manananggal, is terrorizing Biringan, and newly crowned Queen MJ Robertson-Rodriguez must restore peace.

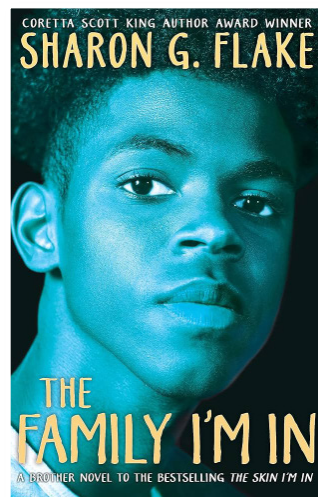
But when she wakes up in bloodstained clothes, she realizes the monster is inside her. Fleeing to Mount Makiling with a few members of her court, MJ keeps her curse a secret. Alongside her are Lucas, the knight who broke her heart, and Prince Qian, a charming monster hunter from the Jade Empire.



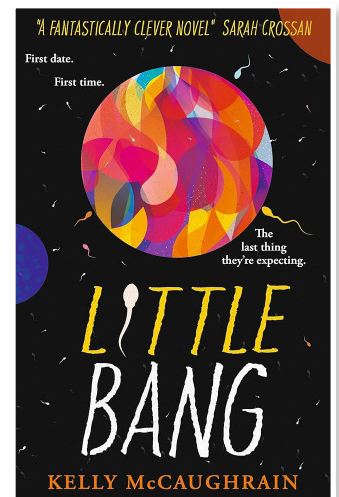
Sixteen Minutes
by K. J. Reilly



Watch Me
by Tahereh Mafi



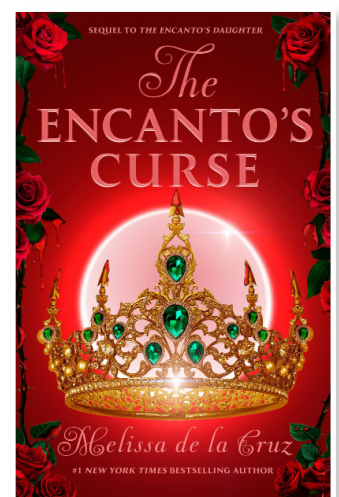
The Family I'm In
by Sharon G. Flake



Little Bang
by Kelly McCaughrain



Keeper of the Lost
Cities: Unravelled
by Shannon Messenger



The Encanto's Curse
by Melissa de la Cruz

Upskilling with the NHS Cadets and browsing books at Scholastic

NHS Cadets: Interview techniques for Year 12

In our recent session of NHS Cadets, students were introduced to various types of interviews, equipping them with essential skills for their future. During the session, students explored different interview formats, including face to face, telephone, and virtual interviews, learning interview techniques to adapt their approach to each.

The Cadets were introduced to common interview questions, such as "Tell me about yourself" and "Why do you want to work here?" They also discussed the importance of asking thoughtful questions to interviewers, fostering a two-way conversation that can leave a positive impression.

A key focus of the session was understanding how to craft effective responses. Using the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result), Cadets learned how to structure their answers with real-life examples, showcasing their skills and experience.

The session was a valuable opportunity for our Year 12 girls to develop key interview techniques and strategies that will serve them well in the future, helping them feel prepared and confident for any interview situation.

Ms Bhurani



Scholastic Half Price Book Fair returns

The ever-popular Scholastic Book Fair returned to Bentley Wood on 12th May, bringing with it a fantastic selection of books at half price. Hosted in the library throughout the week during lunchtime, the fair welcomed students to browse and choose from a wide range of titles - featuring both beloved authors and exciting new favourites.

With some incredible bargains on offer, students were thrilled to pick up some of the most popular books for as little as £2.50.

The fair showcased works from trending authors like Lauren Roberts, Jennifer Lynn Barnes, David Walliams and Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé. It even featured the latest novel by teen mystery writer Sue Wallman, whose visit to Bentley Wood last October earned her a whole new fanbase among our students!

Book fairs encourage a love of reading by giving students easy access to a wide range of books in a fun, engaging environment. They help promote literacy, spark curiosity, and allow students to discover new authors and genres. Book fairs also support school libraries, with a portion of the proceeds going toward new resources.

Ms Khan, Librarian



Gardening Club

Students enjoy growing and caring for plants at Gardening Club

Gardening Club runs after school on Wednesdays near the Tennis Courts, offering a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature and learn new skills. Every week, we care for our plants by watering them and inspecting for any deterioration caused by animals or the sun. Beyond that, we dive into fascinating discussions about plant properties and their uses like sticky weed, which has anti-inflammatory benefits that help with skin conditions such as eczema.

No two weeks are the same! Sometimes, we set up protective nets to safeguard the plants, while other weeks bring new activities and discoveries. One of the best parts is taking home our own plants to make tea or enjoy fresh produce. Soon, we'll have strawberries and other sweet fruits to share!

I love gardening club—it's not just about plants, but about growth, learning, and community.

Jessica WP 7EAW

Our gardening enthusiasts have been hard at work cultivating a beautiful and diverse herb garden. Herbs not only add flavour and fragrance to our lives, but many also possess a wide range of therapeutic and health-boosting properties. Here are just a few of the wonderful herbs we've been growing, along with some fascinating facts about their traditional and modern uses:

Lemon Balm (*Melissa officinalis*)

This fragrant herb produces small white or pale-yellow flowers in summer, which are highly attractive to bees hence its genus name *Melissa*, the Greek word for "honeybee." Lemon balm is well-known for its calming effects on the nervous system and is often used to reduce stress, anxiety, and insomnia. It also supports digestive health and may help ease bloating and indigestion. The leaves can be infused into a soothing tea, added to salads for a citrusy lift, or even applied topically to help relieve cold sores and insect bites.

Cleavers (*Galium aparine*)

Commonly nicknamed "sticky weed" or the "Velcro plant" due to the tiny hooked hairs that help it cling to clothing and animal fur, cleavers is a gentle yet effective herb traditionally used to support the lymphatic system.

It has mild diuretic and detoxifying properties, making it useful for flushing out toxins and reducing swelling or congestion in the lymph nodes. Its anti-inflammatory action also makes it beneficial for soothing skin irritations. Cleavers can be juiced in spring tonics or eaten fresh in salads when young and tender.

Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*)

Thyme is a small, woody shrub with aromatic grey-green leaves and clusters of pale pink to purple flowers that bloom from June through October. This herb has long been celebrated for its potent antimicrobial and antiviral properties, making it a natural ally for respiratory health. It's commonly used to help relieve coughs, sore throats, and bronchial conditions.

Beyond its medicinal use, thyme is a culinary favourite, adding robust flavour to soups, stews, pizzas, and roasted meats. It can also be prepared as a tea or used as a natural antiseptic mouthwash.

Rosemary (*Salvia Rosmarinus*)

With its dark green, needle-like leaves and delicate bluish flowers, rosemary is both visually striking and deeply aromatic. Traditionally associated with memory and mental clarity, rosemary has been shown to support cognitive function and circulation.

Its essential oil is widely used for relieving muscle pain, promoting hair growth, and soothing headaches. In the kitchen, rosemary adds depth and warmth to roasted vegetables, meats, breads, and Mediterranean-style dishes. It's a hardy herb that thrives even in dry conditions, making it a favourite among gardeners.

Having a gardening club at school offers students far more than the opportunity to grow plants. It provides a hands-on, engaging way to learn about science, the environment, and the life cycles of plants, while also encouraging responsibility, patience, and teamwork.

Through the act of planting, nurturing, and harvesting, students gain a deeper understanding of where food comes from and develop a sense of environmental stewardship that lasts well beyond the school gates.

It's also known to promote students' well-being by reducing stress and improving mood when they spend time outdoors connecting with nature.





Students growing and nurturing plants at Gardening Club



Making all the right moves: Chess Club shines at local competition



Students do very well at Harrow Chess Tournament

I am very pleased to say that Bentley Wood took part in a Harrow Chess Tournament at Pinner High School just before Easter. The seven students who participated represented our school very well, and we achieved 3rd place.

Well done to Anna M 7SGU, Hana V 9MD, Natalie D 10CJG, Nada B 12GCO, Asra H 2GCO, Zahra K 13SNU and Sana A 13SN. Well done in particular to Natalie D who finished in the top 5 for the individual rankings.

Mr P Shah



A very successful year for Chess Club

Lots of students participate every Tuesday lunchtime in V11. We have a mixture of students from Year 7 all the way to Year 13. I would like to encourage anyone who hasn't played chess before to come along and learn how to play and make new friends.

You can make a free account on <https://www.chess.com> if you want to learn more about chess and improve your game.

Mr P Shah



A Slice of Nice

An amazing hands-on baking experience

This baking workshop was a hands-on skill-building opportunity led by an experienced and talented young pastry chef, Donna Banfield, who highlighted the creative and flavourful aspects of baking. I was thrilled to take part in these sessions as baking isn't just a hobby to me; it's something I truly enjoy and look forward to.

From the very first session, I felt both excited and inspired. The chef demonstrated exceptional enterprise and a genuine passion for baking. Her clear instructions and engaging teaching style created an excellent learning environment. She offered helpful tips and encouraged me every step of the way. It was an interactive, creative and delicious way to learn.

One of the highlights for me was decorating cupcakes; focusing on frosting techniques, piping and fondant. By the end of the workshop, I not only improved my baking skills but also gained confidence and deeper insight into baking.

It was such an enriching and inspiring time that strengthened my love for baking, and I can't wait to keep practising what I've learnt.

Sienna G 7ZHA

For the past three weeks on a Wednesday, after school, I had the great opportunity to attend a baking club which gave me introductory skills to baking. I really enjoyed learning new skills, making new friends and becoming more confident with baking. It was run by Donna, who is the director of 'A Slice of Nice' and she demonstrated different techniques and methods to us when we were baking our cakes each week.

In the first week, we made rainbow vanilla cupcakes. We added food colouring to the batter to give the cakes a range of different bright colours.

Layering each colour carefully into the cupcake liners created a beautiful rainbow effect once baked. It was so satisfying to see the colourful swirls when we took that

first bite! It was a creative, hands-on experience that made baking even more enjoyable.

During the second week, we were tasked with making a rich, delicious chocolate cake. I used a mix of cocoa powder and chocolate chips to give the cake a deep flavour. The whole process, from measuring ingredients to mixing them together, was both relaxing and exciting.

In our final week of baking, Donna kindly made us some vanilla cupcakes for us to decorate with the colour of icing of our choice as well as a range of different sprinkles and toppings. I neatly swirled bright pink icing onto my cakes and finished off with some gold, star shaped sprinkles. They were delicious!

In conclusion, I really enjoyed the experience and would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to learn a new skill. Throughout the course, we all worked together in the kitchen and became great friends! Donna was a great teacher and helped me so much with my baking skills. It's a shame it's already over!

Amy H 8EBD

Hello my name is Jenshi and I'm writing about my time at A Slice of Nice programme. It was for three weeks and we came every Wednesday to cook and bake yummy desserts. We made vanilla cupcakes, brownies and we made such a wonderful decoration on cupcakes. It was so much fun and I really enjoyed it. This has also helped me with my baking skills and I have learned so much.

Hello my name is Jenshi and I'm writing about my time at A Slice of Nice programme. It was for three weeks and we came every Wednesday to cook and bake yummy desserts.

We made vanilla cupcakes, brownies and we made such a wonderful decoration on cupcakes. It was so much fun and I really enjoyed it. This has also helped me with my baking skills and I have learned so much.

Jenshi P 7MAK





Maths competitions and activities

Bentley Wood School's Success in the Junior UKMT

Bentley Wood High School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Year 7 and Year 8 students in the Junior UKMT (United Kingdom Mathematics Trust) competition this year. We are delighted to announce that our school achieved a high number of Gold Certificates, recognizing the exceptional mathematical abilities of our students.

The Junior UKMT is a challenging competition, and our students excelled with determination, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Receiving so many Gold Certificates is a testament to their hard work and the excellent support from our teachers.

We congratulate all the students who participated in the competition—your achievements reflect your dedication and talent. Bentley Wood is excited for the bright future of our young mathematicians, and we look forward to even more success in the years ahead.

Celebrating Our Year 13 Maths Leavers at Bentley Wood School

Bentley Wood's Maths Department recently hosted a special event to celebrate the achievements and memories of our Year 13 Maths students as they prepare to take the next step in their academic journeys. This occasion provided a wonderful opportunity for both students and teachers to reflect on the hard work, dedication, and passion for mathematics that has defined their time at school.

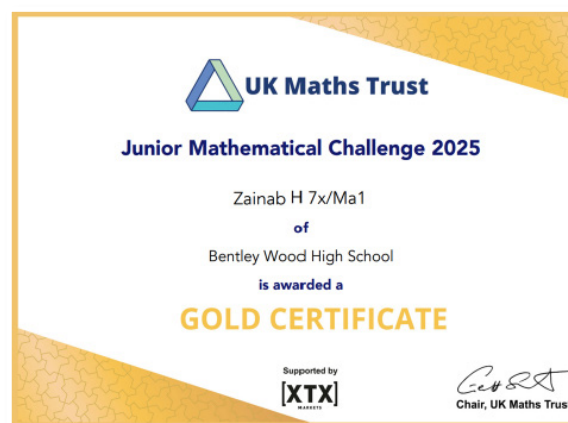
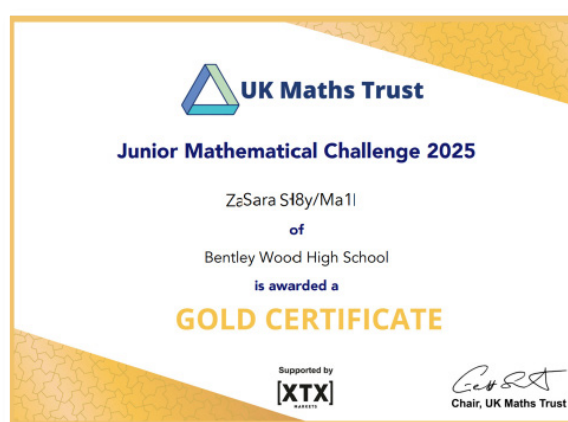
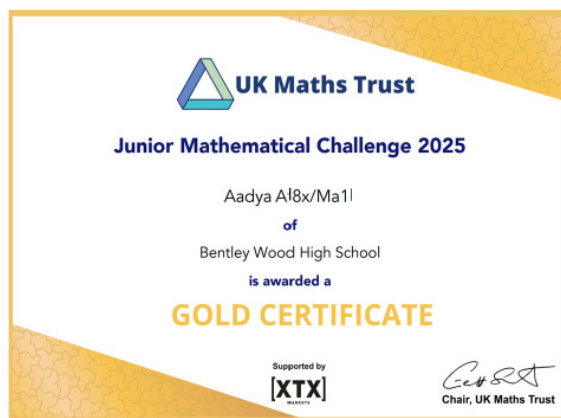
The event was filled with laughter, as everyone shared stories and heartfelt moments.

Year 13 students fondly reminisced about their classroom experiences and their involvement in various maths-related events over the years. From tackling challenging exams to participating in competitions and club activities, these students have truly left a lasting impact on our school's maths community.

Teachers took the opportunity to congratulate each student on their individual growth and accomplishments, highlighting their commitment and resilience throughout their studies. The deep connections between students and teachers were evident, with many offering words of encouragement and support as the students prepare to face new challenges in higher education or their future careers.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 Maths students and all they have achieved during their time at Bentley Wood. While we will miss their enthusiasm and contributions to our maths community, we are excited to see the incredible things they will accomplish in the future.

Good luck, Year 13 leavers! You will always have a place here at Bentley Wood.



Bentley Wood celebrates National Numeracy Day

The Maths Department celebrated numeracy this term with a range of engaging challenges designed by our talented Maths Ambassadors. These activities are a fun way for students to enhance their mathematical skills and enjoy problem-solving in a creative way.

Some of the challenges included the Numeracy Word Search, where students explored key mathematical terms, and the Number Heroes Competition, which tested their ability to solve tricky numerical puzzles.

These challenges are designed to be enjoyable for students of all levels, making numeracy both accessible and exciting.

Additionally, our Maths Club, led by a Year 9 Maths Ambassador, continues to provide a fantastic opportunity for students to collaborate, tackle problems together, and deepen their understanding of numeracy in a supportive environment.

It's been an inspiring way to engage the school community and celebrate numeracy in a fun and interactive way.



numeracy heroes competition

- Create a picture of yourself doing your dream job or hobby. You can draw, paint, collage, or use other way you'd like to create your picture.
- Tell us how you will use numbers in your dream job or hobby and draw it.
- Don't forget to add your first name, last initial, and age form and school.
- Please give it to your maths ambassadors before the 31st, early entries will be much appreciated. If you win you will get a gift voucher and some money.

Examples for inspiration!!

Numeracy Wordsearch

-Jade Vireethi

01 What are we celebrating?

The National Numeracy week is coming in 4 weeks! so your Maths Ambassadors have arranged a very fun challenge: WORDSEARCH! This is similar to the wordsearch we did last time, only this one is a bit different and challenging!!

How to play, 02

If you feel like participating, ask one of your maths ambassadors to give you the wordsearch. Once that's done, look for the words. There will be at least 10 words. If you find them all go to your maths ambassador and give them your wordsearch for them to check it. We hope to do this every year so all the words will be related to numeracy.

03 The Challenge

This is the CHALLENGING BIT!! If you feel that this will be a bit too easy for you, try to find the words in the wordsearch. Once you have found the words, try making a sentence or two with the words you found. These sentences must be related to numeracy AND don't forget to write your name and your form number at the bottom.

MATHEMATICSQZ
ORBERUMENIFPS
LIFEWALGEBRAH
ATRBDAHESDFPC
NCONFIDENCEMO
URETSAEMLMLIN
MKURMOJEUALFE
BLAICREMMUNBI
EQQIDFRPOGAKD
RNLYHNMATHXRE
TCSDEGDELWOCN
SKILLSDNIFNAR
SNSHAPEPHIIRC
OPYCAREHUNIDE
BACEDNAPNOCZY

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

10. Write a sentence with the above words and say it to your maths teacher for extra XP

Student Rewards May 2025



Year 9

Art

Dania M 9AHU - for being so resilient and persevering, keep going as it will all pay off!

Biology

Rayan Ali 9JAZ - for her hard working attitude to her learning and going above and beyond with her homework in biology well done!

Business studies

Aleeza K 9ROR - for excelling in the subject and excellent engagement in class.

Chemistry

Jasmine G 9LSB - for consistently working hard and achieving high grades. Her attitude to her learning is an example to others! Well done.

Computer science

Annabelle C 9ROR - for being incredibly hard working, and unswervingly consistent.

Asiyah D F 9ROR - Excellent effort in the classroom, demonstrating strong engagement and enthusiasm.

English

Hana A 9MD - for the improvements in her quality of analysis; **Zahra K 9LSB** - for her consistent effort in the subject.

French

Prery T 9ROR - for her contributions in class and dedication.

Geography

Swara D9KPO - she has settled into Bentley Wood and is thriving. Her attitude, diligence and hard work has set a high standard. She has taken the initiative to really catch up with lessons missed and has put in 110% effort to ensure that she understands key concepts.

Graphics

Khadija I 9ABR - for not giving up and listening to feedback in lessons. So proud of you!

Rihana S 9ABR - for always being proactive about her learning. Asking questions and ensuring she is doing everything she can to reach the high standards she sets herself. Well done! Keep it up!

H&S

Maryam S 9JAZ - improving her test results and revising hard

History

Ruqaya R 9ABR - for relentless enthusiasm in history. You are so positive and inquisitive and you work so hard.

PE

Evie R 9AHU - improved focus and higher engagement in theory lessons as well as being a fantastic sportswoman all year round

Science

Bianca G 9JAZ - for always coming into lesson with a positive attitude to learning, always striving to do her very best without exception. Well done!

Spanish

Zainab R 9ROR - for outstanding progress in Spanish and for starting to complete past papers already. MCO



Student Rewards May 2025



Year 10

Biology

Mahshid A 10ESO - for her hard work and progress in Biology.

Business studies

Jovina C 10LBM - for excellent progress in the subject. Well done.

Chemistry

Namra K 10TC - for consistently coming to lessons with a positive and diligent attitude to her learning and for all her help with the science book of the month!

Computer science

Arnika, N 10CCH - Excellent effort in the classroom, demonstrating strong engagement and enthusiasm.

English

Saira C 10SSH - for her contributions in class and dedication; **Aliyah Z 10TC** - for her excellent progress in English Language.

French

Sayyida K 10SSH - a fantastic attitude in every lesson and working quickly and efficiently.

Geography

Rahaf AW 10LBM - for consistently being amazing and maintaining a positive hard working attitude. Her diligence has not gone unnoticed.

Graphics

Anesa 10LBM, Aiza 10LBM and **Sophia 10SSH** for producing exemplar work in lessons! Keep up the dedication! **Sujega S 10SSH** and **Safa U 10CCH** for making a massive improvement with their homework. Your hard work does not go unnoticed! Keep going.

H&S

Mariam S 10TC - for her excellent answers in lessons and for always being so helpful to others students.

History

Shamsa A 10EOG - for consistent effort and dedication in History lessons.

PE

Anniyah S 10CCH - for incredible dedication and commitment to GCSE PE this year. She truly demonstrates all the characteristics of a true sportswoman.

Physics

Aliyah Z 10TC - For persevering and not giving up when she is challenged in physics, and for always completing every task to the best of her ability.

Psychology

Maria B 10CCH, Vanshi D 10CCH, Melika R 10EOG, Fatima A 10THA, Rahma U 10ESO, Niya N 10TC - for being great Psychologist!

Science

Nusrat A 10TC - for her incredible effort and hard work in Chemistry this year. Her hard work will definitely pay off in Year 11.

Spanish

Shadia S 10SSH - for catching up all topics in Spanish and for willing to achieve her best. MCO



Enriching guest visitor workshops

Students take part in an enjoyable yoga session in our school grounds

On Thursday, 22nd May, students in years 7-10 took part in an accessible yoga session in the grounds of Bentley Wood. Students practised lots of different poses including cat and cow, tree and warrior, and different breathing techniques.

For lots of the students, it was the first time that they tried yoga. However, we're hoping it won't be the last as students said that the session had been 'amazing' and 'fantastic' and they can't wait for the next one!

Many thanks to our yoga instructor, Bhavin, who donated the session to the school.

Ms Newman





A-Level Sociology Exam Preparation Seminar: Expert Guidance from Keith Trobe

Bentley Wood High School's Year 13 Sociology students had the invaluable opportunity to attend an A-Level Sociology Exam Preparation Seminar led by Keith Trobe, a renowned author and expert in sociology education.

Keith Trobe, known for his extensive work in sociology education and exam preparation, delivered a highly engaging and insightful session focused on effective study skills and exam strategies. His seminar provided students with step-by-step guidance on tackling different types of exam questions, ensuring they understood how to structure responses for maximum marks.

Throughout the session, students explored:

- How to approach 10-mark and 20-mark questions with clear, well-structured arguments.
- The importance of synoptic links—connecting theories and concepts across different topics.
- Common pitfalls in sociology exams and how to avoid them.

Many students found the seminar incredibly useful, with one Year 13 student commenting:

"Keith Trobe's advice on structuring answers was eye-opening. I now feel much more confident about tackling longer essay questions!"

Another student highlighted the interactive nature of the session, saying:

"The seminar wasn't just about memorizing facts—it was about understanding how to think like a sociologist in an exam setting."

With A-Level exams fast approaching, students are now equipped with expert strategies to refine their revision and exam techniques.

The seminar reinforced the importance of critical thinking, structured writing, and applying sociological theories effectively—all essential skills for achieving top grades.

Mr Maric

Engaging science talks this term

Outreach Science talk by Dr Tobi Alegbe

We were delighted to welcome Dr Tobi Alegbe back to our school recently to speak with some of our Year 9 classes and all of our Year 12 science students. Dr Alegbe, who had studied philosophy at Bentley Wood as one of his A-Levels alongside science subjects at another local Harrow secondary school, recently completed his PhD in Genetics at the University of Cambridge and now works as a Data Scientist.

In his talk, Dr Alegbe offered students a fascinating insight into the academic life and career of a research scientist. He shared details of some of the exciting developments in genetics he has been part of, illustrating how these novel developments build on the very science our students are learning today particularly around the Human Genome Project. It was a real privilege to hear about how data science is enhancing scientific discovery and how it can expand the application of science to the material world.

We are very grateful to Dr Alegbe for taking the time to share his experience and inspiring journey with us. We wish him all the best in the next chapter of his career and hope to see him again in the near future to share more of his insights with us!

Ms Robson, Head of Science

A chemistry talk by Dr Ravi Singh

Dr Ravi Singh is a synthetic chemist who visited Bentley Wood and spoke about the various chemistry degrees and specialisations that Imperial College offers. He gave insight into his own PhD work, which was primarily focused on organic chemistry, but he also discussed the importance of physical chemistry, which is vital in understanding the behaviour of molecules — even in organic chemistry — as it helps explain reaction kinetics, energy changes, and how molecular interactions occur on a deeper, more quantitative level.

One project that really interested me was part of a first-year chemistry lab, designed to give students hands-on experience in building and optimising scientific instruments. By using familiar materials like LEGO and integrating programming skills, students not only learned about spectroscopy but also about instrument design and data analysis. He explained how students are expected to construct their own low-cost UV-Vis spectrometer using materials such as LEGO, due to the high cost of industrial UV-Vis machines. He also shared how some Imperial students had created a patented UV-Vis machine, which is now used to identify the polymers in plastics, making recycling even more efficient. This innovative approach aimed to make spectroscopy more accessible



by significantly reducing costs, which was particularly inspiring to me. Such spectrometers can be constructed for as little as £50, compared to commercial models that can cost around £30,000.

Another very pertinent topic that Dr Singh discussed was computational chemistry. We were able to look at simulations that show how enzymes react with different drugs at a 3D level. He described how certain elements were indicated using different colours, enabling scientists to identify where different intermolecular forces form — for example, hydrogen bonding and dipole-dipole forces.

Finally, the 'rocket fuel' experiment was particularly interesting. Dr Singh informed us that he is the only individual who conducts this experiment at Imperial. It involved a carboxylic acid undergoing a nucleophilic attack and producing an amide, as well as light.

The light is produced when a molecule enters an excited state during the reaction, then falls back to a lower energy level and releases a photon (light). The reaction releases energy, and instead of just heat, some of that energy is emitted as visible light. This reaction is often used in forensic science. This particular insight demonstrated one of the most important chemical transformations in drug design — amide bond formation — showing that even 'rocket fuel' reactions can be connected to medicinal chemistry.

The final two insights stood out to me because they expanded on my foundational knowledge of intermolecular forces as well as curly arrow mechanisms. Even though the rocket fuel experiment involves complex molecules and reactions beyond the A-level specification, it helped me visualise how these mechanisms — the ones we often draw with arrows and charges — actually manifest in real-world chemistry. It connected classroom theory with cutting-edge science, signifying why the theory actually matters.

This talk was incredibly beneficial in showing me that chemistry is not just confined to textbooks and exams — it's a discipline that is constantly evolving, innovating, and impacting the world around us.

Whether it's designing affordable scientific instruments, predicting drug interactions on a molecular level, or seeing how light itself can be born from a chemical reaction — this experience reminded me that chemistry is a subject full of possibility, and I want to be a part of that.

Sadaf F M 12SBA



Students take part in PE clubs and tournaments this term



Volleyball team

Students play their last volleyball match of the year

It was a pleasure and a lively experience to be part of the volleyball team and take part in the last match of the year, which was a mixed tournament. There were two other schools that we were competing against - Salvatorian and Harrow High. Unfortunately, we lost the first match against Savlo B as their serves were very good, but we did make a very big comeback (we were 10-0 down) and the game finished 15-13.

The second match was much harder against Harrow High as they had a lot of power in their sets which got the ball to the back of the court, making it difficult for us to return the ball. We did win a point and then as a team we were on a roll, by winning 8 points back to back.

The final score was 15-10 to Harrow High. Our last match was our best match against Salvo A, we split the game amongst two teams and we won 15-10, which was a fantastic high to finish with. Out of the 4 teams we finished 3rd which as a team we were very happy with.

Nataly DSP 7CMI, Kearna B 7HAS

Students played great football at KS3 Football Tournament

Our footballers from Year 7, 8 and 9 took part in a 5-a-side football tournament at Harrow High School. Despite the scorching weather conditions and intensity of the football played, our Bentley Wood teams played some great football against tough opponents—highlight was certainly a 4-0 victory over a Canons High team (in a 7 minute match!)

Well done to the squad:

You did the school proud!

Mr Young

KS3 Football Team	
Nataly D 7CMI	Mia P 7HAS
Shaista N 8LNO	Marwa F 8SCH,
Sara A 8LNO	Adeena A 9LSB,
Aliza A 9AHU	Aliyaa A 8EBD
Evie R 9AHU	Saliha J 8EBD
Summayah D 9KPO	

Year 10 Netball team play in Harrow League Finals

The Year 10 netball team played in the Harrow League Finals against Pinner. Unfortunately, we lost to a close score of 9-11 against Pinner. The game was very close throughout and at times was goal to goal - they scored and then we scored.

As a team we worked very hard as we used great teamwork and great communication skills. We stayed determined throughout the game, and although we didn't come out with a win, we are now more motivated than ever to come back stronger next time.

Overall, it was very enjoyable and we are placed 2nd in the league! The team have worked really hard and have been committed throughout the year and we are really proud of our performance.

Salwa 10CJG & Riddhi 10SSH



Students learn new skills and achieve different gradings at Taekwondo Club

In Taekwondo Club we learn lots of new skills like a 4 directional block and a 4 directional punch. Four directional means going in a circle with every movement we do.

In this club we also achieve different gradings to get different coloured belts like white, white with yellow, yellow, yellow with a green stripe and all green.

I really like this club as we get to try a new sport and learn new skills as well as levelling up to a new coloured belt.

I've also learnt a walking stance block where I move one step whilst blocking each time and we regularly do assessments to see how much progress we have made.

Kearna B 7HAS



Student Rewards May 2025

Year 11



Biology

Mya A 11ALN - for working hard throughout year 11 and for her excellent progress

Business studies

Ankane A 11JP - for consistent hard work and good progress in the subject. Well done.

Chemistry

Imaan A 11ALN - for consistently going above and beyond this year with her learning in chemistry and being ambitious for herself with her chemical learning.

Morsal O 11ALN - for her consistent hard work and effort in every Chemistry lesson. You have really blossomed into a fabulous Chemist! Good luck in all your exams!

Computer science

Anvi K 11SEO - For never stopping at good enough, and always striving for better than the best. **Sarah M 11JP** - for being incredibly hard working and resilient

English

Aleena A 11ALN - for her consistent dedication and effort in English; **Suvathika T 11ABI** - for her progress and improvement in the subject

French

Sayida A 11BKO - for working very hard and for being resilient. Bravo! LSB

Geography

Michelle M 11SEO - has been consistently working hard and maintaining great academic achievement.

Graphics

Aleena A 11ALN and **Ayesha E 11CSN** for pulling out all the stops for their exam project. You have come so far this year and you have made me incredibly proud. Well done!

History

Rebecca U 11ALN - for unwavering effort for 3 years in GCSE history. Always positive, always resilient and polite at all times.

PE

Ciara HR 11ABI - for consistent effort and dedication for the past 3 years in GCSE PE. For being brave and not being scared to ask questions to ensure that she understands the information.

Spanish

Isabelle M 11EV and **Faiza S 11SEO** - for always going above and beyond in Spanish the past two years. Well done and good luck! NME



Student Rewards May 2025

Year 12

Art

Rhawan ED 12PS - for preserving until she matched the style of the artist. Keep up the great work!

Biology

Kowser N 12SBA - for working so well

Business studies

Sadaf FM 12SBA - for outstanding progress in the subject this year. Well done.

Chemistry

Asra K 12PS - for being proactive with her learning and making excellent progress with her organic mechanisms - keep it up! **Fariha S 12GCO** - for an outstanding improvement in effort and grades in Chemistry. Keep up the hard work!

Computer science

Jaziba M 12GCO - for excellent effort in class, demonstrating resilience and supporting other students in lesson

Economics

Kareena M 12SBA - for outstanding progress in the subject this year. Well done.

Geography

Maria H 12CTW - for her consistent effort in Geography, preparing for her exams and pushing herself over the last few months!

H&S

Swaffiya A 12CGO - she has improved her c/w from a pass to a distinction

Physics

Shyomi J 12GCO - For always attending intervention after school.

Psychology

Kowser N 12SBA, Jaziba M 12GCO, Keziah M 12CTW - for being great Psychologist!

Spanish

Mateo (Ext) - for excellent preparation for the speaking exam on the themes studied in Year 12.

Politics

Priyana V 12GCO - for outstanding, high quality participation in Politics lessons!

Year 13

Art

Fatema H 13SN - for making such a huge improvement to her exam project in such a short space of time. Well done!

Biology

Diana Q 13KW - for overall effort in all her lessons

Business studies

Hosai Y 13KW - for outstanding effort and progress. Well done.

Chemistry

Mahi P 13PBL - for always working hard and taking up all opportunities that are offered to her.

Computer science

Sarah O 13NS - for hard work and perseverance.

English

Georgia W 13KW - for her dedicated efforts in preparation for her exams

Geography

Mahi P 13PBL - she is always positive and hardworking. She is super star.

Physics

Sana A 13SN - For her consistent hard work.

Spanish

Haja M (Ext) - for the excellent research project for the final A Level speaking exam and the further reading completed to extend the knowledge of Spanish literature and culture.

Politics

Amelia K 13SNU - for very proactive revision this half term!

Information and advice for students and parents

Careers information and advice at BWHS

(Full careers plan Years 7 to 13 on school website Curriculum/Careers)

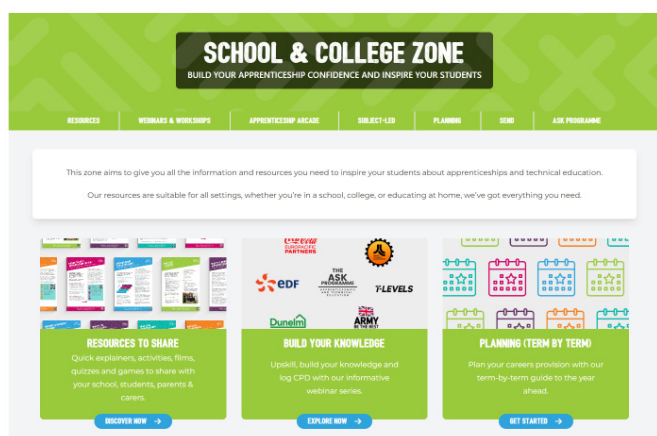
For resources and information about student careers and further education paths please view the Careers page on our website. <https://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk/curriculum/careers/>

What are apprenticeships and how do I find out more about them?

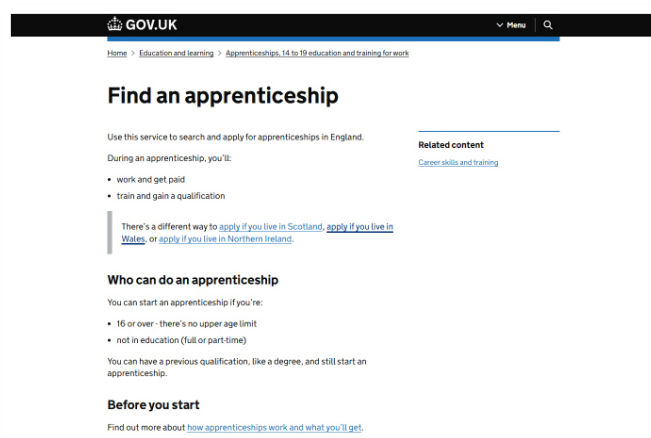


- Paid jobs that offer you a salary to train and gain an education, debt free
- They are an excellent way to gain life skills and have a gateway into a job without having to attend university full time
- They allow you to build a network and gain work experience
- You can often find them in any sector, from business and finance to construction, science and healthcare

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#) - A range of resources to help teachers, parents, pupils and employers navigate the changing world of apprenticeship.



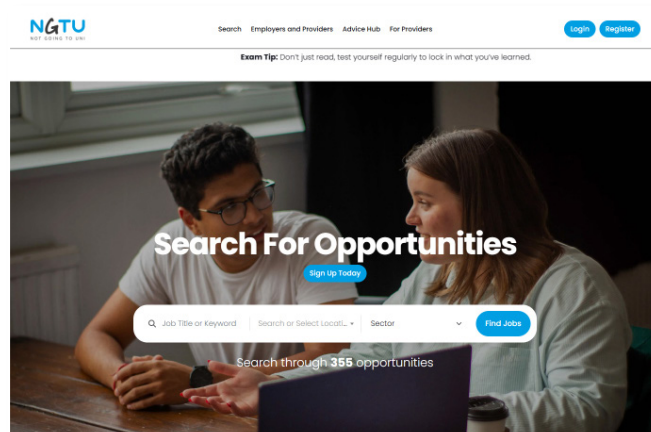
[Find an apprenticeship](#) - A government website to find apprenticeships using your postcode



[Notgoingtouni.co.uk](#) -

A leading website for school & college leavers. Dedicated to helping young people make informed decisions about their futures and discover their future careers.

Working with employers, training providers and colleges nationwide to be able to provide the widest variety of opportunities, to suit every need.



[Linkedin](#) and [Indeed](#)

Employers' Websites

Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience - 7th to the 11th July 2025

Year 12 Work Experience - 14th to the 18th July 2025

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1) To facilitate students' personal and social development.

All students should have an opportunity to:

- Develop self-confidence
- Accept responsibility
- Develop communication skills
- Make appropriate relationships

2) To enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world of work.

- All students should have an opportunity to:
- Experience a working environment
- Have a better understanding of individual's roles in the workplace
- Have a better understanding of how businesses are structured & organised
- Discover the similarities and differences between school and work
- Gain a general insight into 'work' to aid the transition from school to employment

- Realise the importance of health and safety regulations

Skills and personal qualities to demonstrate and develop

- Confidence
- Communication Skills
- Working as part of a team
- Identifying your strengths and weaknesses
- Ability to organise and take responsibility
- Listening and understanding information
- Make a positive contribution to the workplace

We need eight essential skills to succeed in education, work and life.



Unifrog - The Careers and Destinations Platform

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with outstanding careers guidance and tailored support when choosing their next step after school and further education, we are using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 7 to 13 already have access to this excellent website. The Unifrog platform is designed to support learners in making the most informed decisions about their futures and has a range of tools that are suitable for all year groups. Each student has their own personal account that provides a wide range of information related to their interests and aspirations. Key features of the platform include:

Exploring Pathways – personality quizzes, career and subject profiles, MOOCs and webinars

Recording – self-reflection about extracurricular activities and key employability skills

Opportunities – search tools showing live vacancies/courses/placements for apprenticeships, universities (in the UK and abroad), FE, virtual work experience and much more

Applications – tools to help students build applications for a range of pathways (e.g., CVs, Personal Statements, Common App Essays)

Placements – to add and administer your work experience placement

Students access the platform by clicking a link in their welcome email, where they create a password and can begin using the platform. They login to Unifrog using their school email address and password and they can do so from any computer, tablet or smartphone. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of deciding their next step.

We have also set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to support your child throughout the process.

The sign-up code you need is: WONAParents and you can sign up via this link www.unifrog.org/code

The Unifrog logo, featuring the word 'unifrog' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, centered on a solid green rectangular background.

Information and advice for students and parents

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
- 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.



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:



Student medication

In today's educational environment, ensuring that your daughters' medication or health condition is managed is extremely important. From the moment a student is diagnosed with a medical condition that requires medication, parents should inform the school and provide the necessary medication along with any supporting documentation.

When a student's medication or condition changes, parents must notify the school promptly this will ensure that they are given the right support including any adjustments to health care plans.

The welfare team will send reminders when your daughters' medication is due to expire so there is sufficient time to replace. We must have valid medications to respond effectively in case of an emergency.

Welfare Team



Information and advice for students and parents

Easter & Summer Camps at Bentley Wood High School

Hi, I'm Esraa - a photographer and peer mentor at Ganbatte Life Camps. I'm an ex Bentley Wood student, and I now have the privilege of leading photography workshops here! Ganbatte Life Camps aim to inspire and motivate in a fun, engaging way. They are big believers in passing on the baton -allowing both current older students and ex-students to support and give back to the school community.

It's very important to get young women talking about what they enjoy, their passions and goals. Self-expression and appreciation a key part of development - and something that Ganbatte Life Camps aims to aid. I based this Easter's photography workshops on identity. The girls were guided through vision-board making workshops, where we spoke about their hobbies, goals and interests. We found images online that represented this, and everyone made their own personalised vision-board.

Because of social media these days, young people lack the self-confidence that's necessary for them to believe that they can achieve anything. Having them visualise their goals and talk about things that they enjoyed allowed the girls to explore their purpose. It gave them a boost of motivation - something to work towards. All students were encouraged to experience photography behind the lens as well as in front of the camera. By the final session, everyone was much more comfortable looking at pictures of themselves and talking about their dreams and aspirations.

This is why it's important to have good mentors, and to maintain relationships with people - especially those who helped me throughout my time in school. Thank you to Segun for passing on the baton!

Esraa Mohammed

Ganbatte Life Camps

Easter & Summer camps at Bentley Wood High School



*All images shot by Bentley Wood Students & Esraa Mohammed

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



Parents' English Language Classes

Every Wednesday afternoon, from 1pm -3pm, we hold English classes for beginners (new to English) and for intermediate learners. We meet at Reception.

If you would like to improve your English do come along!

For more information please contact:

Mrs Halpin at thalpin@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk, or
Mrs Morrison at cmorrison@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

Happy learning!



Arbor

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

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Arbor App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and messages from the school.

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

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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.
2. Ask the school office to check the email address linked to your account.
3. Reset your password from the login page or ask us to do this.
4. 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.
5. Email the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g., on another guardian or child's profile.
6. Enter the birthday of one of your children to log in.
7. Only relatives who are Primary Guardians of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.

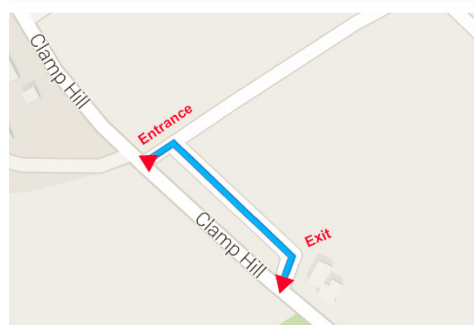
Email the school office if you have any issues or queries:
schooloffice@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk

Dropping off and collecting your daughter from school

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

We wish for all parents/carers to use the Clamp Hill entrance and the designated safe road/drop off point. Please note if the drop off point is full, parents should drive through the drop off area and park on Clamp Hill Road, on the left hand side facing Brockhurst Corner/Uxbridge Road. For any parents who are unsure where the drop off is, please use postcode HA7 3JW. Details can also be found on the school website under the 'Contact Us' section.

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



Dates for your Diary 2025

6th May to 20th June 2025

26th May to 30th May 2025

2nd June 2025

2nd June to 18th June 2025

2nd June to 20th June 2025

16th June to 20th June 2025

16th June to 27th June 2025

23rd and 24th June 2025

25th June 2025

27th June 2025

30th June 2025

2nd July 2025

3rd July 2025

7th July to 11th July 2025

8th July 2025

9th July 2025

14th to 18th July 2025

16th July 2025

17th July 2025

18th July 2025

External Examinations – GCSE / A-level Half Term

Return to school , 08:40 usual registration

Year 12 UCAS Examinations

Year 10 End of Year Examinations

Sports Week

Years 7, 8 and 9. End of Year Examinations

Year 11 Sixth Form Taster Days

Sixth Form Prom

Year 11 Prom

Awards Evening, 18:00 – 20:00

Year 6 Transition Day

Summer Concert, 18:00 – 20:00

Year 10 Work Experience Week

Sports Day (Years 7, 8, 9 and 12) Harrow Boys' School, 8:30 – 14:00

Year 12 UCAS Enrolment Day

Year 12 Work Experience Week

School Activity Day 1, Timings of the day will vary according to the activities of the day

School Activity Day 2, Timings of the day will vary according to the activities of the day, Last day of term for students

End of Term, No students on site

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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk