



Bentley Wood High School

Newsletter July 2025



Annual Awards Evenings: celebrating student success

This year Bentley Wood hosted two Annual Awards Evenings to honour the achievements and celebrate the accomplishments of our students in the current academic year. Staff, students and families came together on 30th June to recognize the resilience, creativity and excellence of students in Key Stage 4 and 5. On Tuesday, 1st July the Awards Evening was dedicated to our youngest students in Key Stage 3.

The Guest Speaker for the evening was Diana Gerald, CEO of The Book Trust, who delivered an inspirational talk to the audience on the importance of reading and its capacity to transform lives in the most profound ways. Our outgoing co-Head Students, Abigail and Baveena, were also there to share their experiences of their time at Bentley Wood, reflecting on the events that have shaped their sense of belonging and fuelled their desire to seek amazing opportunities as they embark on their respective journeys in the world of higher education.





Message from the Headteacher

Dear Bentley Wood Community,

As we come to the end of another school year, it is my pleasure to share with you our school newsletter. It serves as a celebration of this half term, as well as a reflection on some of the memorable events from across the year. I hope that, as you read through it, you are able to reminisce about the many excellent experiences and moments we've shared.

This year, one of our Year 10 students won the regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge and went on to compete in the Grand Final at the Cambridge Theatre in Central London. I watched in awe as she courageously delivered her speech on Maths and Music from a West End stage, alongside 14 other impressive Year 10 finalists.

We also trialled a new venue for our Sports Day at the Harrow Boys' sports track. It was a truly wonderful day, with students and staff coming together to support their House Teams.

To end the year, I hosted the Headteacher's Tea Party, where students nominated by their pastoral leaders were celebrated — a very deserving group to spend the afternoon with. We also enjoyed our much-anticipated Activity Days, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

I look forward to welcoming you all back in September. Until then, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Best wishes and kindest regards,



Ms N Akbar
Headteacher



Shadia who competed in the Grand Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge



Headteacher's Tea Party,

Awards Evenings recognise student and staff achievement

The Awards Evening was an opportunity to commend students on their success in its many shapes and forms, with awards for sporting, musical, academic and artistic excellence as well as resilience and commitment to the school's CARE values. It was a powerful reminder that at Bentley Wood, success is measured by more than just grades. Our school community takes pride in celebrating kindness, perseverance, and the small victories that truly define what it means to succeed.

Headteacher Naseema Akbar looked back on a year that has built on the successes of previous years, with new accolades and higher ambitions embodying the tireless spirit of students and staff alike. Entertainment was provided by two talented Year 13 students, Britannia and Daisy, who gave uplifting musical performances.

Congratulations to all our winners and nominees - your hard work and dedication continue to inspire us all.

Here is an account of the evening from some students who were recipients of awards at the event:

On 30th June, we attended the KS4/5 Awards Evening, and it was a very educational and rewarding experience. The guest speaker, Diana Gerald, CEO of the Book Trust, told us about the importance of reading and how it can help us thrive in our future education. We had two musical interludes from Britannia and Daisy, which added to the enriching atmosphere of the evening. We had the opportunity to walk across the stage and celebrate not just our achievements and hard work but also that of our peers.

Asla, Anna and Jayna

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Awards Evening this year! It was so fun to see my friends get awarded for the achievements they worked so hard to earn. Many people got their contributions to the school community recognised and it was an overall amazing night to celebrate Year 8! I am so proud of the rest of my year for what they have achieved!

Victoria



Congratulations to our Staff Winners



Congratulations to our KS3 Winners



Congratulations to our KS4 Winners

An enriching time for history students with trips this summer



Year 10 history students see a performance of The Great Gatsby at the London Coliseum

In Year 10 our GCSE History students learn about 1920s America - a decade known for its dynamic social change, economic boom, and cultural shifts. The Roaring Twenties was a time of jazz, prohibition, flappers, and the rise of the American Dream, alongside deep social inequalities and tensions. Understanding this complex era helps students grasp the challenges and hopes that shaped modern America.

To enrich their learning experience, students recently attended a stage production of *The Great Gatsby*, one of the most iconic stories set in this period. Based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, the play brings the era to life through vivid costumes, dazzling set designs, and compelling performances.

Seeing the characters and stories unfold on stage provides valuable context and insight into the social dynamics, aspirations, and contradictions of the 1920s. This immersive experience not only complements their academic study but

also inspires deeper engagement with the history of this fascinating decade.

Here is a student's account of a recent school trip to the West End for a performance of *The Great Gatsby*:

On Thursday, 22nd May, History GCSE students had a wonderful opportunity to see one of London's newest West End shows, *The Great Gatsby*, in preparation for studying 1920s America next year. Inspired by F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel, the production brought the story to life with exquisite costumes and incredible set design.

The actors were incredibly talented, and we were all on the edge of our seats, captivated and intrigued by what was going to happen next! Thank you to Mrs Nye and all the other staff members who organised this lovely trip!

Sophie S 10THA

History students have an enjoyable visit to Berlin

Our trip to Berlin was amazing. Every day, we were able to see some incredibly interesting things about Berlin. We saw and learned about such fascinating people, places, and events which we would never have got to see without this trip.

The Reichstag building, the Palace of Tears, Checkpoint Charlie, and Sachsenhausen were just a few of the tours we had around the city that taught us so much about Berlin and events like WWII, the Holocaust, and the divide of Berlin during the Cold War. Despite being hard topics, everyone found them super interesting and learned so much.

Besides the historical side of things, the trip connected people from all years and everyone left with new friendships. Moments like karaoke at the hostel brought everyone together. Ask anyone and they'll say that this trip was one that they will never forget!

Ruby C 9KPO



Art Exhibition 2025

Fantastic student creativity at our annual Art Exhibition

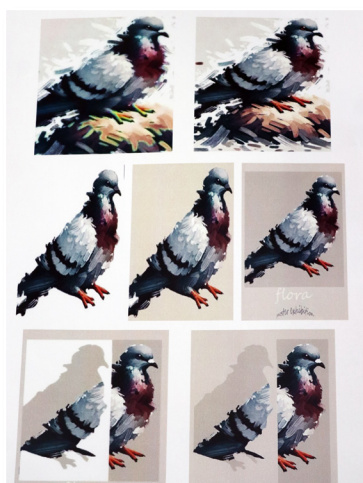
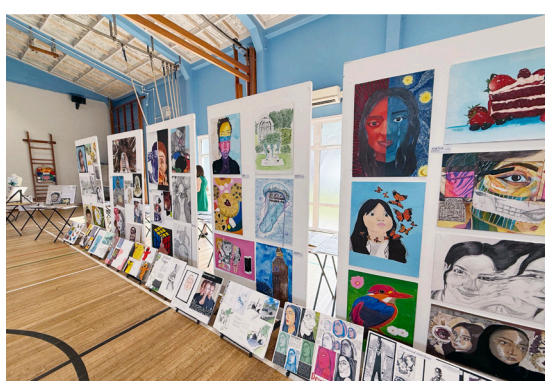
Bentley Wood's Summer Exhibition, held from 1st to 3rd July showcased an impressive range of creative works from students across A Level and GCSE Art, Textiles and Graphics. The exhibition was a vibrant celebration of both technical skill and imaginative expression.

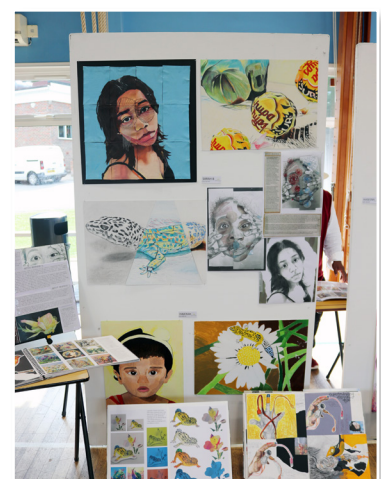
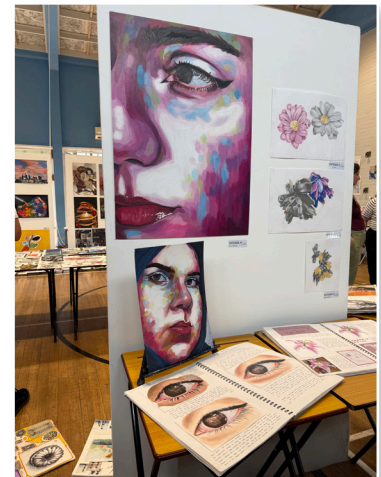
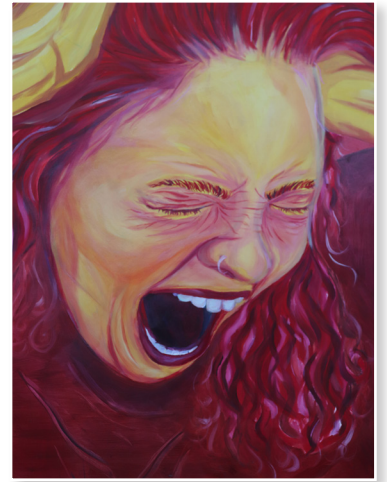
Visitors were treated to a diverse collection of pieces - from intricate paintings and detailed drawings to innovative textile creations and bold digital graphics - that demonstrated the unique talents and dedication of our students.

Beyond showcasing their artistic abilities, the exhibition offered a platform for students to express their political, social, and personal viewpoints, exploring important themes such as identity, environment, social justice, and community through a variety of media.

The event was widely praised by teachers, students, and parents for its inspiring atmosphere and the evident passion behind every work. Visiting primary school students were impressed.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their creativity and commitment. This exhibition truly reflects the dynamic artistic community at Bentley Wood and offers an exciting glimpse into the bright futures ahead for our young artists.





A fun way to learn languages

A thrilling French play

Over 200 French students recently had the fantastic opportunity to watch ***Prendre sa Revanche***, a lively, fully French comedy by Onatti Productions. Performed by two native-speaking actors, the play tells the tale of two crooked antique dealers who try to dupe customers with fake artefacts—only to be outsmarted by a quick-witted Bentley Wood audience member. Our own Year 7–10 students were gripped by the twisting plot and delighted to take part in the interactive aspects—much to the amusement of their peers. This engaging blend of entertainment and language practice left students laughing while honing their listening and speaking skills in French. This was an enriching experience and the actors commented on how good our students' level of French was! Here is a Year 9 students' account of the play:

*Recently, our French class had the chance to watch ***Prendre sa Revanche***, a live play performed by Onatti Productions. It was completely in French, and even though I was nervous about understanding it at first, the actors used so many clever expressions, gestures, and comedy that it was actually easy to follow!*

The story was all about two antique dealers who tricked people into buying fake items. It was really funny seeing how they kept scamming different characters with their dodgy merchandise. But the best part was the twist at the end — they got tricked themselves by someone even smarter! Everyone in the audience laughed and the ending caught us by surprise.

Watching the play helped me learn new French words and phrases without even noticing. I picked up stuff about emotions, clever ways to describe people, and everyday language. It was way more fun than just reading French in class, and it made the whole experience much more exciting.

*Overall, ***Prendre sa Revanche*** was a brilliant experience. It showed us that learning French can be fun, especially when there's a silly, dramatic story and great actors to bring it to life. I'd definitely want to see another Onatti play — it was a great way to learn and laugh at the same time!*

Mihika T 9LSB



A fun and flavourful language lesson

Last week, our GCSE Spanish and French students took part in a fun and flavourful lesson designed to bring their language learning to life – quite literally! As part of their curriculum focus on speaking skills and role play practice, the students prepared for a very special activity: ordering a real ice cream in either Spanish or French.

In class, pupils first learned the key vocabulary needed for ordering ice cream, including flavours, sizes, and polite phrases for speaking to a vendor. They then practised role plays in pairs, simulating real-life conversations they might have when visiting an ice cream parlour abroad.

The highlight of the lesson came when students were taken outside to put their skills to the test – with real ice cream! Armed with their new vocabulary and confident speaking skills, they approached the “vendor” and successfully placed their orders in the target language.

This hands-on experience not only reinforced their learning but also gave students a boost of confidence in using Spanish and French in a practical setting. The sunny weather and sweet treats certainly added to the enjoyment!

It was fantastic to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic. They embraced the challenge and made impressive progress in both fluency and pronunciation.

Well done to all involved – language learning has never tasted so good!

Mrs Codrean

‘The ice cream lesson was amazing! We had to order ice cream in Spanish and after we got the delicious treat. It was an amazing experience and I enjoyed very much spending time with my friends and spending it in the sun.’

Kareena S 8EBD

‘I enjoyed the ice cream lesson. During our Spanish lesson, we got the opportunity to go outside and also it improved our Spanish speaking skills by ordering our ice cream. It was a fun experience during the warm weather and I look forward to more Spanish activities in upcoming years.’

Sona H 8LJO



French treasure hunt organised for French students who also ordered ice creams in French



La glace



El helado

Student Rewards July 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 - Her love for this subject just shines through every piece of work she completes.

Computer science

Prakruthi Y 7EAW - for exceptional effort, participation and achievement in Computing

English

Zara N 7ZHA - for exceptional effort, participation and achievement in English lessons; **Sophia S 7CMI** for the passion and dedication you have shown towards your English Studies and also for reading

Food

Mary N 7HAS - For impressing me with her food and nutrition knowledge

French

Jenna N 7HAS - Very enthusiastic and always going above and beyond in class

Geography

Sienna DP 7MLE - she has consistently demonstrated that she is an excellent student through her hard work and academic achievement.

Graphics

Zainab H 7MAK - for her exceptional ideas and creativity in STEAM! Well done!

History

Ilma J 7EAW - for frequent and outstanding contributions in History lessons!

Maths

Irem C 7HJG - She is always so super positive about Maths and brings such a good energy to the room. She tries really hard and is always asking in depth questions to make sure she understands. Homework is amazing too!!

Music

Aiza Z 7HAS and **Mia P 7HAS** - for working hard on her piano skills this year and being a great teacher in class

Science

Mahek P 7MLE - for giving 100% to every lesson and task and making so much progress this year **Mary N 7HAS** - For being resilient and improving her homework effort in science.

Spanish

Ummukulthum A 7HJG - for outstanding achievement in Spanish throughout the year together with her constant kind and helpful behaviour. LJA



Student Rewards July 2025

Year 8



Art

Bella P 8MEM - Bella is an exemplary student.

Computer science

Isobel E 8LNO - for exceptional effort, participation and achievement in Computing

English

Lily A 8MEM - for your thoughtful contributions in every lesson and your positive attitude towards your English Studies; **Victoria G 8SCH** - for her consistent high effort and willingness to support her peers

Food

Kaianna F 8SZ - for making an excellent start to food in year 8 and impressing me with her theory

French

Faridah T 8LNO - a diligent worker who puts 100% effort into her work

Geography

Isabelle C 8MEM - as she has consistently produced high standards of work and always asks the best questions.

Graphics

Dua B 8SZ - A dedicated student.

Fathima M 8EBD - for her hard work during lessons and great effort in homework too. Well done!"

History

Khadeeja Syed 8LJO - for her effort and achievement in History this year. She always has a smile on her face and tried her best every day.

Maths

Maira H 8BD & Danna L V 8MEM - Both students are working super hard, whizzing through every activity I give them and then they ask for extension work as well. They have such a good attitude to Maths and it's a pleasure teaching them!!

8y/Ma2 - A wonderful class who are always up for a challenge and make teaching a real joy. They've come such a long way since the start of the year, and I'm really proud of how far they've come. Well done!"

Music

Dayana B 8EBD, Jayni H 8EBD, Maya L 8EBD, Victoria G 8SCH, and Joanna S 10TC - for performing at KS3 awards evening

Spanish

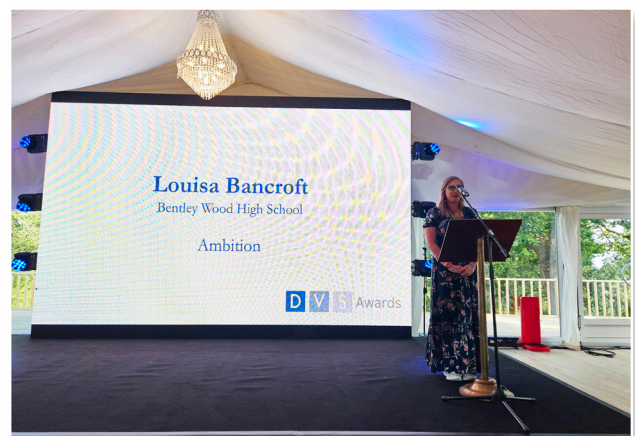
Hiba M 8MEM - for enthusiastic participation and excellent focus in Spanish lessons.

Textiles

Siana O 8MCO - for fantastic effort in textiles this term



Achieving academic success through awards and programmes



Year 12 students receive DVS Awards

DVS Awards by DVS Foundation, were established in 2021 to support teachers in recognising and rewarding Year 12 students for their success over the school year. Their belief is that success should not only be centred around academic achievements.

Success should incorporate progress, effort, resilience and many other factors, and the programme allows teachers to highlight this. The programme is particularly advantageous for Year 12 students, as it marks a pivotal transition into adulthood. Each school decides their own 10 Award categories and the 10 respective winners. The Awards are presented in an end of year assembly with each winner being gifted with a certificate and a £100 gift voucher.

Here is a Year 12 student's account of the Awards Evening

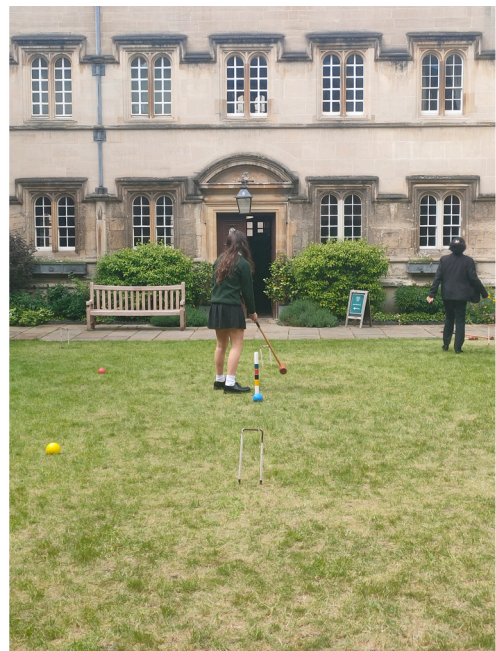
When I received the email that I had been nominated for an award from the DVS Foundation, I was so incredibly excited, but I also had no clue what to expect as it was my first time attending something like this. The actual event was amazing, so motivating and surpassing any expectations that I had. The event was all about networking, forming beneficial bonds with industry professionals, celebrating

our achievements and hearing the stories of motivational people, one of which was Mrs Bancroft, the Associate Assistant Head Teacher of Bentley Wood, who shared her incredible journey that was fuelled by ambition.

The event was set up very thoughtfully. On arrival at the hall, we were informed of what we won the award for (I won it for leadership) and then led to a table where all the nominees from other schools who had won the same award were sat. This allowed us to form bonds between like-minded individuals who were passionate about similar things. There were also career professionals sat at each table who shared their wisdom with us, the wide variety of advice I received from lawyers, people in finance, psychologists, doctors, the list goes on - was so inspiring and it motivated me to pursue academia with even more passion.

Overall, it was so lovely, a truly wonderful opportunity that I am extremely grateful to the DVS Foundation for organising, and I hope next year's Year 12 nominees will enjoy it just as much as I did.

Mariah A 12CTW



Students attend University of Oxford for Brilliant Club Graduation

Since the beginning of the year, I've taken part in the Brilliant Club with 14 other girls from my year. We studied behavioural economics, which was super interesting—though a bit complicated at first! But as the weeks went by, it became more fun and easier to understand.

As a reward for our hard work, we visited Oxford on May 12 and officially graduated, alongside other schools. The day began with a Q&A session with three other Year 9s from different schools, where we got the chance to ask real-life questions to university students.

Then came lunch—in a real Oxford hall! It honestly felt like we had stepped into a scene from Harry Potter. After that, we went on a full tour of Oxford, seeing everything from the libraries to the courtyards.

Finally, we had our graduation ceremony in the actual Oxford graduation hall. It was nerve-racking but exciting

to hear our names, schools, and programme called out in front of everyone. I absolutely loved being part of Brilliant Club—it boosted my confidence and made me feel like getting into a Russell Group university is truly possible.

Zara A 9ABR



**The
Brilliant
Club**

Awards and programmes this year



First Give: Year 9 engage in social action

Our Year 9 students had a rewarding experience taking part in the First Give programme, supporting local charities through social action. In December they started researching and planning for projects to be delivered in partnership with charity representatives. Their efforts culminated in the First Give Final on 27th February, where a £1,000 award winner was chosen.

Being a finalist for First Give and knowing you will have to speak in front of many families was extremely nerve wracking. But that feeling changed once I finally got up on that stage. Seeing all of the new faces, my worries were gone!

My feeling of confidence overpowered my nervousness and panic over being a good presenter. From my point of view, it was the skill of being confident and positive in front of the audience that really helped me!

Prery T 9ROR

Our class chose to focus on family poverty after learning that 1 in 4 children experience material deprivation. We partnered with Little Village, a charity that provides essential items to struggling families, and raised money by selling pre-loved teddies. Our teamwork was evident as we played to our individual strengths—some of us focused on

the factual aspects, while others delivered an emotional appeal to connect with the audience. Although we did not win the £1,000 prize, we successfully raised funds for our charity and spread awareness about our social issue within our school community.

Zara A 9ABR

I am so excited that our team won the First Give competition, and we were delighted to receive the £1,000 grant for Ignite Youth, a local charity that works with young people in our community.

This wonderful charity is committed to providing mentorship, life skills, and opportunities to young people who are struggling in their lives. We thought it was the perfect cause to help, as Ignite Youth is helping to transform the lives of youth in our community.

Our group worked diligently to ensure that every aspect of the mission of the charity was laid out in a clear and heartfelt way. We're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of something so meaningful, and we'll carry these lessons with us for the future.

Monisha K 9KPO



Jack Petchey Awards

Jack Petchey Speak Out

The Jack Petchey Awards 2025

In February ten outstanding students from Bentley Wood were recognized for their exceptional achievements and contributions to school life in the annual Jack Petchey Awards ceremony. The event, which took place at Harrow Arts Centre, was a heartfelt celebration of the dedication, hard work, and kindness shown by the recipients, all of whom were nominated by their peers.

The Jack Petchey Foundation, renowned for its commitment to empowering young people, once again provided the platform for students to be honoured for their positive influence in their school and beyond. The awards were presented by the Deputy Mayor of Harrow, Anjna Patel and she commended the recipients for being recognized by their fellow students and for serving as role models for others. Award winners also received a £300 grant each to benefit the school. The students were accompanied by Mrs BurrIDGE and Ms Akbar who were both incredibly proud of our students and thrilled to be part of the uplifting and memorable event.

Jack Petchey Winners:

Ellie A 8MEM, Faryal O 8SZ, Yukta V 9ROR, Sofia S 10THA, Jaimisha P 11SEO, Hosai Y 13KW, Hafsa R 13SN, Zahra R 10THA, Aisha R 8LNO, Aliyah M 7MAK

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

In March, Nower Hill High School hosted the regional final of The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, featuring talented Year 10 speakers from 10 local schools.

Representing Bentley Wood, Shadia I was crowned Harrow Borough Champion with her witty and insightful speech, 'Figuring out the Equation', exploring the link between maths, music, and positivity. Her engaging delivery impressed both the audience and judges.

Fellow finalist Zahra S also delivered a powerful performance with her heartfelt speech 'Listen Out', reflecting on the importance of listening in a world full of distractions and dominant voices. Both students made a lasting impact.

The evening was attended by the Mayor of Harrow and a panel of expert judges. Special thanks go to Mr Nussbaum from the English Department for guiding the students, and to the school community for their support. Congratulations to all who took part—your voices resonated and inspired!

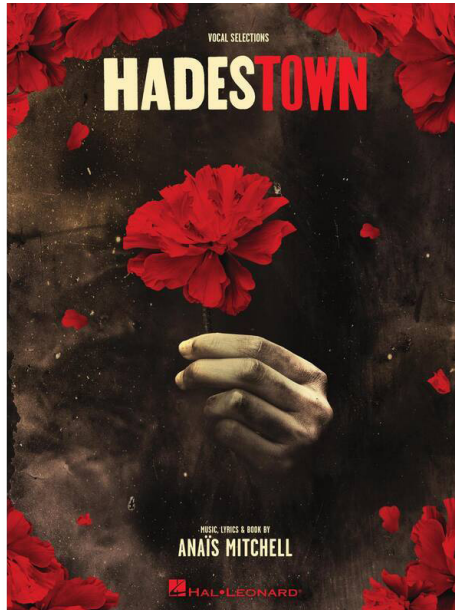
Mr Nussbaum

Jack Petchey's
"SPEAK OUT"
Challenge!

Students embrace all things Classics

Latin and Classics Year 9 trip to see 'Hedestown'

We took our Year 9 Latin Scholars to the exciting musical, 'Hedestown', recently. It is a fantastic tale of Love and Art, here given a more modern spin. We would like to thank Ms Hussain (Head of Classics and Latin) for organising the trip, and Mr Emmanouil, Ms Mouskis, and Mr O' Sullivan for accompanying the students on the day.



As one of our Year 9 Students said:

"Our classics trip to Hedestown was a huge success - being able to see the tragic tale of Orpheus and Eurydice unfold on a West End stage was incredible.

The music was sensational, and I loved the way each character was portrayed, especially Persephone. Being able to see the band play on stage was another great experience and overall, it was such a fun trip."

Khushi Year 9

Latin Club organised by Latin Ambassadors

Hello! I'm Jasmine and I'm one of the Latin Ambassadors in Year 9, along with Yusra.

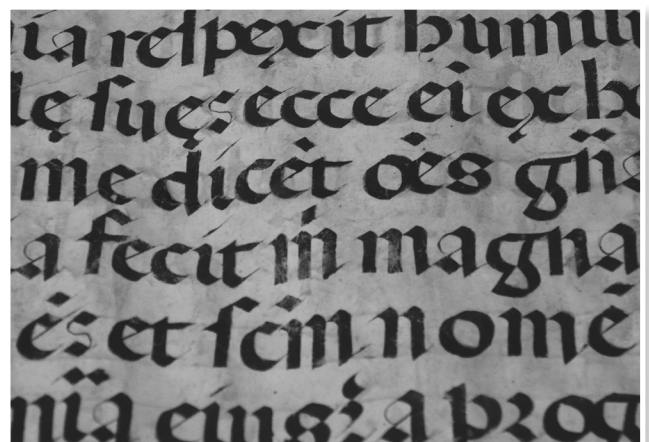
In Latin Club this term, we've been exploring some fascinating topics - including Latin mythology and the legendary story of the Trojan Horse. It's been great fun learning about the ancient world and how these myths have shaped modern storytelling, language and culture.

We ran a taster session all about why you should choose Latin as your GCSE option.

Latin is more than just an ancient language — it helps improve your understanding of English vocabulary, grammar, and even supports subjects like history, law, medicine and science. Plus, it gives you a deeper insight into the roots of Western civilisation. Latin Club is open to all Year 7s - whether you're curious about myths, languages, or just want to try something new.

Come and see what it's all about next year!

By Jasmine 9LSB



Latin Club



The British
Museum



Year 12 Classics students explore ancient treasures at the British Museum

On Friday 4th July, our Year 12 Classics students embarked on an enriching journey through time at the British Museum, immersing themselves in the ancient worlds of Greece and Rome that form the heart of their A-level studies.

The day began bright and early with students assembling at school before making their way to central London via public transport.

Upon arrival at the museum, the group immediately headed to view two of the most significant artefacts in the world: the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles.

These iconic pieces provided students with a tangible connection to the ancient civilisations they study in the classroom.

Throughout the morning and afternoon, students explored the museum's extensive Greek and Roman collections across multiple floors.

They examined carefully selected artefacts that directly related to their course topics, including 'The World of the Hero', 'Greek Theatre', and 'Love and Relationships'. From the dramatic Cyclops vase to the intricate Warren Cup, each piece offered unique insights into ancient life and culture.

Students were particularly engaged by the challenge of independently finding three artefacts during their free exploration time – one for each of their study themes.

This task encouraged them to apply their classroom knowledge whilst developing their analytical and research skills. The upcoming class presentations on their chosen pieces will allow students to share their discoveries and interpretations with their peers.

Highlights of the visit included viewing the bronze head of Sophocles, examining various depictions of scenes from Homer's epics, and studying the famous black-figured amphora of Dionysus.

The students also had the opportunity to see portraits of historical figures they had studied, including Augustus, Cleopatra and Hadrian.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ms Hussain for her meticulous organisation of this exceptional educational experience. Her careful planning ensured that students could maximise their time at the museum whilst viewing artefacts specifically chosen to complement their studies. We are also grateful to Mr Emmanouil and Mr O'Sullivan for accompanying the students and providing additional support and expertise throughout the day.

This visit exemplifies the vibrant Classical education offered at our school. For current Year 8 students considering their GCSE options, Latin provides an excellent foundation for understanding language, history, and culture, opening doors to fascinating A-level studies in Classics.

The subject develops critical thinking, analytical skills, and cultural awareness that are invaluable for university applications and future careers.

Students returned to school inspired and enriched, with notebooks full of observations and minds buzzing with new connections between their textbook studies and the extraordinary artefacts they had witnessed first-hand.

Such experiences remind us why the study of Classics remains so vital and rewarding in modern education.

A year of music at Bentley Wood

Students take part in fantastic school production of Oliver!

Bentley Wood's annual musical production is always a special highlight of the school calendar, and this year's performance of *Oliver!* was unforgettable. Six months of dedication, collaboration, and creativity culminated in outstanding performances that delighted audiences on the 12th, 13th, and 14th of February.

The production showcased the talent of the cast and celebrated the skill of those working hard behind the scenes on costumes, hair and makeup and set design. Special thanks go to our technical team for their lighting and sound expertise. The production received rave reviews from families and also from Aylward Primary School students, who were treated to a performance on the 11th of February.

This success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our staff, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Bancroft and all the teachers in the Music, Drama, Art, and Design & Technology departments, whose passion and commitment made it such a spectacular and memorable event.



A joyful journey to Disney 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 set-list 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!

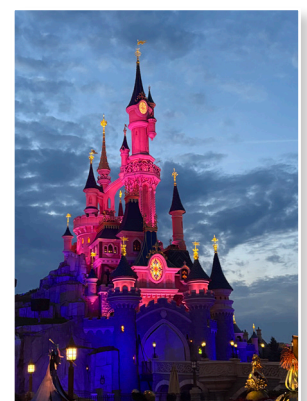
Nanette A 12CTW

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





My year in choir: students' experiences

This year in choir has been an unforgettable journey filled with music, teamwork, and personal growth. From our first warmups in September to the final notes of our end of year concert, every rehearsal brought new challenges and joyful moments. We tackled a wide range of songs, from classic choral pieces to more modern arrangements, and along the way, we learnt the power of listening, blending and supporting each other's voices.

Highlights of the year included our most recent Summer Concert, where we had the chance to showcase all our hard work to friends, family, and the wider school community. Performing on stage was both nerve-wracking and exhilarating, but knowing we were part of something bigger than ourselves made it incredibly rewarding.

Being part of a choir has not only improved my musical skills but also helped me build confidence and lasting friendships. I'm so grateful to our amazing choir director and to everyone who made this year so special. I can't wait to see what next year brings!

Nanette A 12CTW

As this amazing year comes to an end, I have been thinking about my wonderful time in choir. It has been an absolute pleasure and I feel like I have a place where I belong. I can remember I joined the choir at the start of the year and have continued all the way through to our final performance in Year 7. It is utterly amazing to even write these words down. The choir has been a highlight of my school year.

I also remember the song I loved most was 'Lighter'. It made me feel so happy and safe being surrounded by supportive and respectful pupils. I have improved way more than I expected throughout these weeks, and I am so glad we were pushed and encouraged to do our best and to bring all the vibes and energy into every performance.

As part of Year 7 choir, I have grown in confidence, and it is an amazing sensation to stand on stage with everyone and sing your heart out. We represent our school as a family, and we live by our CARE values. It is fantastic to have our school community grow because of the choir. Choir is about finding our voices and who we are with the help of everyone around us.

I will be joining the choir next year, and I would just like to say a big thank you to the teachers and parents for their help this year, and I can't wait to see what next year brings to all of us!

Sumaiya U 7HAS

Being in Year 9 choir has honestly been one of the best times I've had at school. I joined because I enjoy singing and wanted to try something new. Looking back, it was definitely the right choice.

In choir, we learn songs and sing together. It's not just about being good at singing - it's about being part of a team. Everyone helps each other, and we all work together. Sometimes we get tired or mess up, but that's okay. We laugh a lot and keep trying. Practice can actually be fun, and singing together always feels great.

It's also a nice break from normal lessons. If you enjoy music, choir is definitely worth joining!

Dalia A 9ABR

When I joined Junior choir, I felt like I could be myself. Before I felt hidden in the shadows and felt like I couldn't be myself! I joined and I felt like I could be free and sing like no one was watching. I know that I am not the best singer but I enjoy it, and Bentley Wood has made me feel more confident and braver to do things.

The choir is amazing and includes students from the year 7 to the highest year groups in the school. It makes you feel alive and free and the teachers boost your confidence and also make you laugh. I remember the time some people were talking at the back, and then Mrs Parkes stood on the chair and looked at them, making the whole choir laugh. Choir is amazing, you can see how others sing and learn from them. If they are in your group (alto, tenor or soprano) you can help them and teach them, too. It's an amazing place to make new and awesome friends...

Choir is a place to relax and feel no stress. JUST SING!

Aariya P 7MAK

New skill sets that help students' future careers with work experience



Year 12 student participates in Newsquest Young Reporters Scheme 2024-25

Doing the Young Reporter scheme was one of the most enriching experiences I have ever taken part in, not only allowing me to foster my passion for writing but helping me grow as a person as well. Despite having initial doubts about signing up for it, I thought it would be interesting to try, and I can definitely say it was a fantastic experience which I thoroughly enjoyed.

The Young Reporters scheme is an amazing opportunity to develop your journalism and writing skills. Whether you have always aspired to become a journalist and have your work published and viewed in the public eye, or your just keen to develop your skills in communication and writing, becoming a young reporter is the perfect opportunity to achieve these and put your skills to the test.

To complete the course, all you need to do is write 1 article each month for 8 months (8 articles in total), which can then be published in 'This is Local London' - a real online newspaper! The articles are very broad in terms of what you can write about, often focused on local news although you can write about other topics that interest you too such as hobbies, good books you've read, or issues in society - it's really up to you. The articles are fairly short, which I personally really liked as only a small amount of time was needed to be put aside for this each month, making it a worthwhile course

At first I was quite unsure about signing up for Young Reporters due to it being a new experience. Writing my own articles meant I would have to gather any information myself through interviewing people and finding out about local events. This turned out to be a lot more enjoyable than I expected, as I liked looking at local news, and communicating with people allowed me to build connections, crucial for

journalism. I found that this scheme gave me the chance to work independently and make my own choices on what to write about, who to contact for an interview and what to ask them, allowing me to take responsibility. For me, the biggest challenge was sticking to the set deadlines, since I had to complete 1 article by the end of each month along with all other schoolwork and commitments, however I think this really helped me improve my time management skills, making it challenging yet beneficial.

Some of the articles I wrote included a film review on Mufasa, the Importance of crochet, and why you should get a British Shorthair cat. Initially I started small scale, interviewing someone at my local library to gain insight on its untold story and battle to stay open. As I continued writing more articles, I found it easier and less time-consuming to write, and so I was able to focus on bigger news such as a big Bollywood show in Wembley. Personally, my favourite article I wrote was when I interviewed a photographer who captured amazing shots of the singer Prince which I found captivating.

I found the Young Reporter course a really valuable experience and I would recommend doing it even if you're not planning to go into journalism as it provides a range of transferable skills needed in all aspects of life.

Along with developing your writing, you also grow as a person as you communicate with wider society and learn and understand more through other's perspectives and experiences. I think it is definitely worth doing in order to expand your skillset and I think it is also so much fun!

Zara O Year 12

Year 10 Work Experience – A Week of Growth and New Skills

At the end of July, our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a week-long work experience – and what a fantastic week it was! Students were placed in a wide range of workplaces, giving them a valuable taste of the world beyond the classroom. From offices and shops to healthcare settings and creative industries, they had the chance to explore different career paths, build confidence, and develop essential life skills along the way.

The feedback from employers has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on the students' maturity, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn. Most importantly, our Year 10s thoroughly enjoyed the experience and came away with new insights, fresh perspectives, and – in many cases – a clearer idea of what they might want to do in the future. We're incredibly proud of how they represented the school and made the most of this brilliant opportunity!"

Ms Mohan



Ms Mohan visiting student at
Kailash Manor Care Home

Year 10 Work Experience

Employer: "Demonstrated excellence in all areas"

Student: "I improved my social skills, created a presentation and built strong relationships"

80% of Year 10's sourced their own employers



Employers

Top 3 employers chosen

Primary Schools 34%

Pharmacies 13%

Nurseries 11%

Year 10 students gained work experience from the following employers:

Pharmacies, Luxury Cake Bakers, Harrow Council, Dentist, Energy & Service Sector, Law Firms, Florist, NHS Foundation Trust, Sky UK Ltd, Mercedes Benz Sytner, Banardos, Golf Wholesalers, Kurt Geiger, Magistrate Court, Solicitors, Primary & Secondary Schools, Hairdressers, Psychology Department in Hospital, Marks & Spencers, Charities, C.A.R.E. Homes, Opticians, Diamond Jewellers, Recruitment Agency, Digital Printers, Clarks, USB Banking Ltd, Tailors, Health Shop, Vets, Pets at Home, Waitrose, Chartered Accountants, Construction Company, Coffee Shop, Health & Beauty Industry, Fidelity Investment Bank, Estate Agents, Restaurants, Post Office, TV Channel, Stationery Suppliers and Libraries



Students on work experience at London Community Kitchen

Summer reads

What Happens Online by Nathanael Lessoré

Online, Fred is Existor@stmarks—unstoppable gamer, internet star, and full of swagger. Offline, he's invisible, with a fractured home life and no real friends. When Existor's fame reaches school, Fred uses it to spread wild rumours—and people believe every word. His bullies are outcast, and for once, Fred feels seen. But lies have a cost, and as reality unravels, Fred must face the chaos he's caused—and ask if being himself could ever be enough.

Not Quite Dead Yet by Holly Jackson

In seven days, Jet Mason will be dead. The 27-year-old heiress has always put life off—until a violent Halloween attack leaves her with a fatal brain injury and a week to live. With time running out, Jet suspects those closest to her: family, exes, even old friends. As her health declines, she turns to her childhood friend Billy for help and for once she is truly determined to finally finish something. Jet is going to solve her own murder.

Let the Light In by Jenny Downham and Louis Hill

Leah and Charlie are handling their family's loss in very different ways. Their choices push them down difficult and perilous paths which eventually collide, sending shockwaves through their community. This astounding, compulsive novel explores love, power, money, art, and asks: what matters most in the end?

Meet Me at Midnight by Brianna Bourne

Every night at midnight, time stops—and Aria wakes in a magical place: beneath sequoias, by waterfalls, under starlit skies. And every night, the same infuriatingly charming boy, Strat, is there, too.

As memories of a love they once shared begin to resurface, Aria discovers their past was erased. But why? And what force keeps pulling them back together, night after night, in these dreamlike moments outside of time?

Not Nothing by Gayle Forman

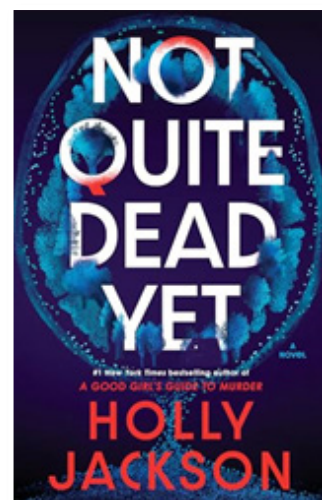
Alex feels like nothing. His dad's gone, his mom's unwell, and his new home is far from welcoming. After lashing out at school, he's sent to work at a nursing home instead of juvie. There, he meets Josey, a 107-year-old Holocaust survivor who hasn't spoken in years, and Maya-Jade, a girl who's convinced her voice matters. As Josey slowly opens up to him, Alex starts to believe he might matter too—and that maybe he can be more than what the world expects of him.

Girls Who Burn by M. K. Pagano

The summer before senior year, Addie fought with her sister Fiona - hours later, Fiona was dead at the bottom of a ravine. The police called it an accident. Addie never believed them. She suspects Thatcher Montgomery, the golden boy next door. But when he turns up dead in the same place a year later, Addie realizes she was wrong—and the real killer is still out there. Determined to catch the killer, she teams up with Seth, her childhood rival and the boy she was with the night both deaths happened. As danger closes in, Addie must decide who she can trust.



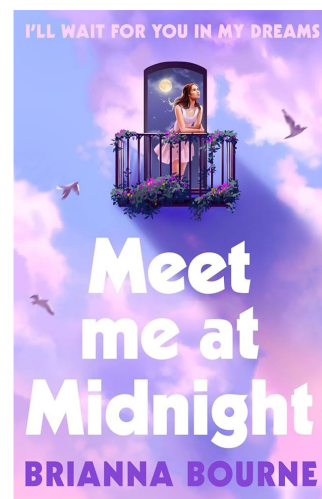
What Happens Online
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Let the Light In by
Jenny Downham and
Louis Hill



Meet Me at Midnight by
Brianna Bourne



Not Nothing
by Gayle Forman



Girls Who Burn
by M. K. Pagano

Traumaland by Josh Silver

Seventeen-year-old Eli survived a near-fatal car crash—but he's been emotionally numb ever since, with no memory of the months that followed. Searching for something—anything—to feel, Eli finds Traumaland, an underground club where people escape into intense VR simulations of other people's nightmares. But when Eli enters the mind of a boy named Jack, he uncovers a disturbing truth about the club—and a path that might finally lead him back to his own buried trauma.

Watch Your Back by Sue Wallman

Kara starts the new school year without her best friend, Eden, who's too busy with her new boyfriend. Instead, Kara befriends Romilly, a lone, but soon strange events start to occur: locker break-ins, silent calls, and more. Is Romilly behind it all? Kara isn't sure, but someone is targeting her—and if she doesn't figure out why, things could get much worse.

Live by Luke Palmer

Year 12 student George is passionate about his band and his music, even if the three other band members are a little more laid back about it. They hope to hit the big time but have surprise competition from new girl Beth and shy fellow-pupil Taidgh. Then disaster strikes. Dealing with loss and grief the whole year group must work out how to rebuild their futures and who their true friends are.

The Tenth Mistake of Hank Hooperman by Gennifer Choldenko

When 11-year-old Hank's mom doesn't come home, he cares for his toddler sister, Boo. But a week has passed, food's running out, and Hank knows they need help. Turning to their emergency contact brings social workers, a new school, and tough questions about their mom. If she's not found soon, Hank and Boo could be separated—and he risks losing everything.

Imposter by Cait Levin

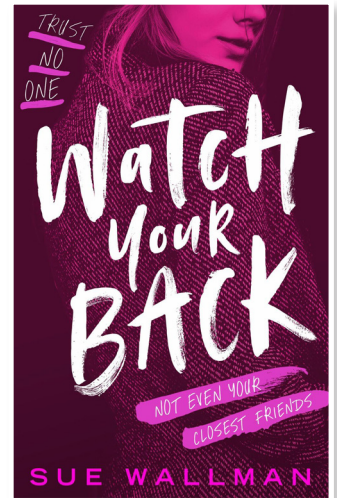
High school student Cam has always created techie things, like a ring she implanted with an NFC chip. She tries her best to ignore the boys who think she doesn't belong in computer science class. Cam and her best friend, Viv engineer their way onto the extracurricular RoboSub team, ultimately finding themselves at a national competition as the only two girls on their team. Will Cam rise to the occasion and confirm—not to others, but to herself—that she belongs?

Best of All Worlds by Kenneth Oppel

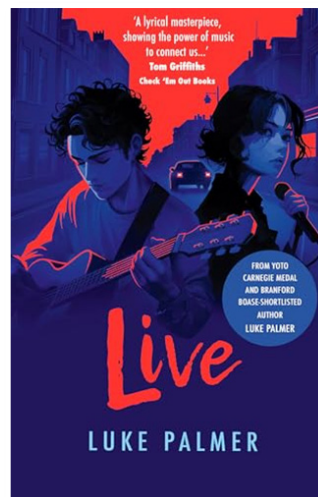
When Xavier wakes up on a forced family getaway, he finds their house trapped under a mysterious dome—no escape, no captors, just livestock and supplies to survive. Three years later, he's sixteen, used to isolation and a world without tech—until a second family arrives with clashing beliefs and a daughter, Mackenzie, who changes everything. As tensions rise and one father grows dangerously obsessed with escape, their fragile world teeters on the edge of collapse.



Traumaland
by Josh Silver



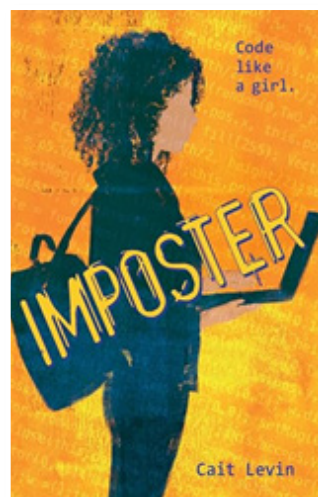
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Student enrichment this year

Blind Date with a book

Blind Date with a Book

Blind Date with a Book started almost two years ago. The idea is simple – the students have a chance to pick up a free book of their choice every Friday at the end of the school day. Even now, the queue for novels, non-fiction and poetry collections is the same as usual – long and impatient. What seems to drive students to reading more is the wrapping paper obscuring the covers of novels, poetry collections and non-fiction offers carefully curated each week for relevant key stages.

That is a great sign – we have a plethora of avid readers here at Bentley Wood! Also, this academic year we have given out four hundred and fifty-nine books.

Some small changes were made to the initiative – KS5 books are now being dropped off in the sixth form directly. The wrapping party is still in V2, but is now moved to every Wednesday after school. Sadly, we are going to say goodbye to our two eager supporters from the Sixth Form, Abigail and Hafsa. You will be missed, girls. Thank you for helping us wrap the books so beautifully.

Wait. Does this mean the Blind Date with a Book is soon to be over? Well, that depends on you to a large extent. Yes – YOU. If you are reading this article right now and feel like you would like to commit one hour of your after-school time to something encouraging others to read, reach out to Mr Zabielski in V2 and make a difference.

Mr Zabielski

Year 10 Book Club

In October, I co-founded a Year 10 Book Club with my friend Khadija Ramli, aiming to create an inclusive space for readers of all levels. We began with *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, exploring its philosophical themes through lively discussions. Khadija later organised an art competition where students re-imagined the book's cover.

Our next book, *1984* by George Orwell, sparked passionate conversations about totalitarianism and its relevance today. To celebrate a successful year, Khadija, Miss Crosbie, and I hosted a themed party with book-inspired snacks and gift bags. The Book Club became more than an extracurricular—it grew into a thoughtful, creative community. I'm incredibly grateful to have shared this experience with Khadija and the unwavering support of Miss Crosbie.

Mariam S 10TC, Philosophy Ambassador



Students getting their Blind Date with a book



Year 10 Book Club



A creative writing space for students at Poetry Club

We like Poetry Club because it gives you a safe space to express your emotions through writing. Furthermore, it helps you build confidence and share your work with your peers.

We also use a wheel to decide what we are going to write about so that gives a sense of wonder about what it will be and really helps expand our imagination by giving us a set of options. Overall, we really enjoy poetry club.

Balqis and Isobel 8LNO

"I love poetry club because not only do we write our own poems on one or more of the fun topics chosen by the wheel, but we also share them with the class.

I believe that hearing everyone's work is a great source of inspiration, and I find it really enjoyable to be in a place where our creativity is used for writing poetry."

Laaibah U 7MAK

Poetry club runs every Wednesday in V8 from 3:15 - 4pm. Both KS3 & KS4 are welcome. Each week we write a range of poems that we then share with the group.

A poem a student wrote at Poetry Club

Kindness

Kindness is among you all,
Ever since your started to crawl,
May be the first thing that you saw,
During the months of fall

Kindness is a piece of joy,
Just like your very first toy,
It teaches you how to not annoy
But learning how to enjoy

Kindness is key,
Makes you feel warm like drinking tea,
Not like when you would have to run and flee,
But more like when you go to the sea!

Jasmine 9LSB

Enrichment focusing on STEM



NHS Cadets: empowering future healthcare professionals at Bentley Wood

The NHS Cadets programme at Bentley Wood has continued to thrive as an exceptional initiative run in partnership with St John Ambulance and the NHS Trust. Co-delivered by Miss Bhurani and Miss Naqvi, the programme offers two pathways: Foundation for Year 10 and Advanced for Year 12, focusing on essential healthcare skills, leadership, and career insights.

Cadets participated in diverse activities including first aid, communication, clinical skills, safeguarding, and NHS values. They also engaged in discussions on wellbeing, creative tasks like poster creation, and goal setting using the SMART framework. This practical learning boosted their confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities while fostering empathy and professionalism.

The programme successfully blends theory with real-world application, allowing cadets to take on responsibilities in healthcare settings. This direct experience helps them manage pressure and prepare for future NHS careers. They also benefit from mentorship by healthcare professionals, gaining valuable insight into the sector.

In the summer term skill building was further enhanced through workshops on interview techniques, including face-

to-face, telephone, and virtual formats. Using the STAR method, cadets learned to structure effective responses, building confidence for future job and university interviews. Some students share their experiences of NHS Cadets below:

I joined NHS Cadets because I want to work in the NHS and learn more about healthcare. The programme helps me develop important skills like teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and first aid. It also gives me a deeper understanding of the NHS, its roles, and the challenges it faces. Through activities and volunteering, I can make a positive impact on my community, build confidence, and step out of my comfort zone while meeting new people.

Zina J 12SBA

I chose this club as it helps link to my A-level options such as Psychology. I may want to work in the NHS sector in the future, and doing this club can be very beneficial for me. This is because I learn ways on how to treat a patient like an NHS worker should and what to do in stressful situations. It is also helpful to learn about mental health in the healthcare system.

Elsa T 12PS



Year 7 Science Club: A year of discovery, adventure and fun

The Year 7 Science Club helps foster a sense of discovery in a space where students can go beyond textbooks and immerse themselves in the wonders of science. Through experiments and demonstrations, students engage with scientific principles in ways that are interactive, fun, and impactful.

This year students have enjoyed participating in a variety of experiments which have included investigating the behaviour response of maggots to light stimuli, creating popper rockets and even discovering the hidden world of bacteria within our school! Here's what they had to say about their scientific adventures:

At our recent Science Club, we conducted an intriguing experiment to explore the fascinating behaviour of maggots and their preference for darkness over the light! After putting on our safety goggles, we set up a container, one half in the light, and the other with a folded black paper on top. After releasing a group of maggots into the set up, we all eagerly observed their movements over a set period of time. To our surprise the majority of the maggots crawled towards the darkened area, showing us all their natural preference to find places with less light!

Reme H A 7SGU

During Science Club, we made popper rockets. Popper rockets are rockets that shoot out with the power of gunpowder when you pull a string. I had so much fun making it. My favourite part was when we actually made it with coloured cards and I decorated it. I also liked the part where we launched it, which took a while for me to get right, but was great fun. If you're a person who really loves science and doing cool things in science, then I would totally recommend you to join the club!!!

Saatvika V 7ZHA

In Science Club where we were swabbing places in school to find out how much bacteria they had. Surprisingly, one of the places we investigated was the library and I swabbed the main desk. When I went back to the lab we set the bacteria to grow in an incubator. I would have never guessed that the dirtiest place was the library desk! I then went to get the librarian's opinion and she was shocked, too! We never know how dirty some places can be when we think they're clean!

Emily C 7ZHA



Students create rockets out of party poppers



An investigation into the hidden world of bacteria



Students explored the effects of light and dark variables on the behaviour of maggots

Students learn new skills at clubs

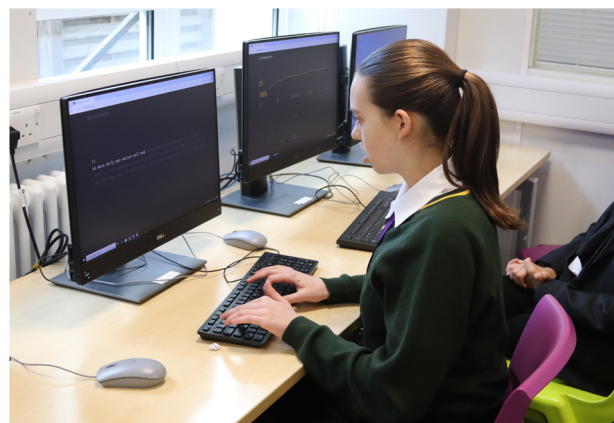
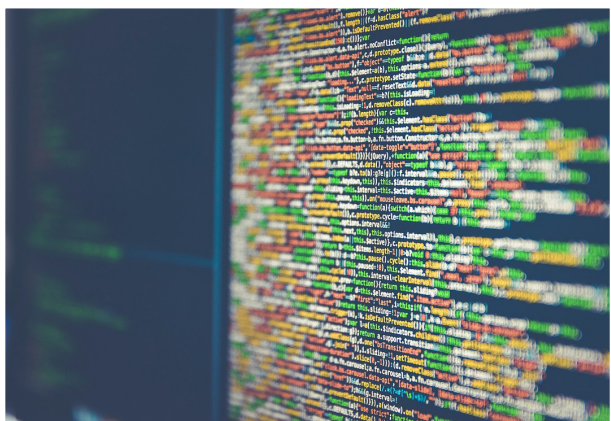
Learning together at Coding Club

The young people who come to coding club aren't necessarily the best at computing—they are the most curious. They're the ones captivated by the way computers work, eager to explore their mysteries. Sure, we occasionally run games with prizes, and those are fun. But that's not what keeps them coming back. It's not the games, the achievement points, or even the thrill of making LEGO cars drive around. It's not the robots or the coding challenges either.

What truly draws them in, time and time again, is the sense of community. It's the joy of cracking puzzles together, uncovering new insights about the ever-evolving world of technology. It's the animated discussions, the shared excitement, and the chance to showcase the incredible programs they've poured their creativity into - programs they proudly share with one another.

Here, it's about discovery, collaboration, and the magic of learning together. That's what makes the coding club something special.

Mr Toolan



Student participation at Chess Club and Harrow Tournament

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.

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 12GCO, 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



Students competing at Harrow Chess Tournament



Students enjoying Chess Club at lunchtime

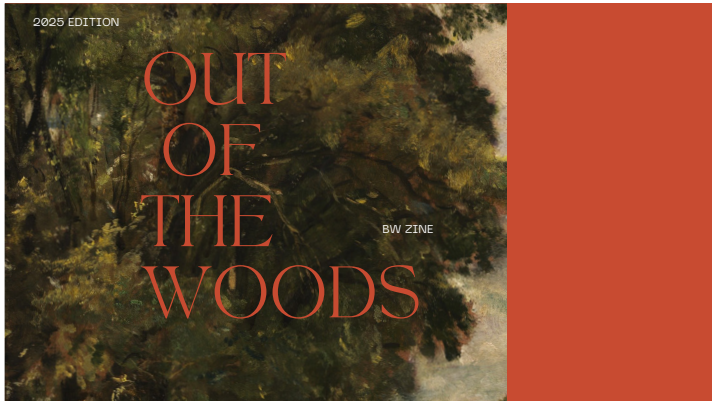
Sixth Form Enrichment Clubs

Sixth Form Journalism Club

Journalism club is for students who are interested in writing about their interests, which can range from politics and pop culture to science and tech. It enables students to express their ideas through pitching articles and engaging in discussion. This Zine was produced by Journalism Club where students worked hard pitching and writing articles that they researched themselves. It has been a fun process watching all their articles come together, and the Zine is the manifestation of their efforts.

Ms Efakpokire

Please view the full magazine on our website at <https://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk/sixth-form-journalism-club/>



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THE BLAME GAME

Over the past decade, the capital's housing market has reached dizzying heights, leaving most Londoners wondering if owning a home is as mythical an unicorn.

Successive governments have promised to "fix" the housing crisis with all the conviction of someone claiming they'll start going to the gym "next Monday". So, it's no surprise we are on this position. According to the *Valuation Agency*, the average London house price was £243,099 in 2023. By subsidising demand without increasing supply, they've inadvertently pushed prices higher. Economic. Hange...Dadad! points out that government policies have turned homes into financial assets rather than places to live.

The result is a market designed to benefit investors, not residents? London's supposed effort here put forward ambitious targets. So, Khaz pledged 18,000 affordable homes in his second term, but only 226 of the homes promised have been delivered.

4

SARAH OKE

"The capital's housing market has soared to dizzying heights, leaving most Londoners wondering if owning a home is as mythical an unicorn."

We move then to the shadowy spectre of foreign investment. It's become a popular narrative, with critics claiming wealthy investors from overseas buy up London properties as "safe havens" for their cash, leaving them empty while locals struggle.

Research by *Emmancipation International* revealed that £6.3 billion worth of London property is owned by companies based in offshore tax havens.

But before we get into the pitchforks, let's use reason. While overseas investors can contribute to price inflation, they primarily focus on high-end properties. It's less about the middle-class flat in Croydon and more about the £20 million penthouse overlooking Hyde Park. For most Londoners, the impact is indirect - but it's still real.

Finally, let's address the uncomfortable truth: for decades, homeowners have treated property as an investment vehicle, driving up prices and creating a culture where housing is less about shelter and more about profit. The goal is no longer to buy and live but to buy, fix, and sell.

5

TSWIFT LIFT: HOW THE ERAS TOUR GREW AN ECONOMY

Taylor Swift kicked off the Eras Tour on March 17, 2023, in Glendale, Arizona, grossing over two billion dollars in sales for the 14th show. She truly is a force to be reckoned with.

Swift made history as the first solo artist to perform at London's famous Wembley Stadium (2016), doing it in a single tour. Beyond ticket sales, the UK witnessed major economic boosts in various sectors. These attending concerts gross over £500 on tickets, travel and accommodation, putting local businesses to create Taylor Swift-themed events and promotions to profit from the tour. Their efforts even increased in popularity, with hundreds of fans commuting through rain rather than driving. Homeowners in tour locations also benefited from this demand, raising their open rooms into short-term rental opportunities. Financial analysts have called the economic surge attributed to Swift's tour the "Taylor Lift".

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ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN ENDORSEMENTS

Although Swift was generous in donating to various food banks and charitable organisations, the issues surrounding homelessness and economic inequality require collective effort beyond a worldwide tour.

The Eras Tour success has raised ethical questions about the impact of such massive economic power concentrated in the hands of a single artist. While the "Taylor Lift" allows for a positive economic boost, the high ticket prices—often exceeding £1,500—make it difficult for lower-income fans to attend her concerts.

Taylor Swift's success in cultivating a strong brand with her fans has been key to her achievements. Swift fans provide unwavering support, willing to spend thousands just to see her perform.

The sight of a highly-attended postponed gig, even dealing with high levels of homelessness, such as Brexit, has sparked discussions about economic disparity and the responsibility of these performers.

ZARA OMAR

"The Eras Tour has been called the greatest of such success in the world of pop music."

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THE BLAME GAME

"However, it would be naive to assume that online cancellation is the preserve of digital vigilantes and not from people who delight in participating in other people's demise."

"Cancel culture" is a movement that involves removing content from websites for offensive behaviour. As a result, those public figures are then boycotted, shamed, fired or legally dealt with.

The phrase "cancel culture" is said to have originated from a relatively obscure slang term "cancel", which referred to breaking up with someone. It was first referenced in a song from the 1960s.

Abuse and cruelty, it has its roots in boycotting, which became a powerful tool for protesting racial segregation during the Civil Rights Movement. Today, social media sites have taken this concept to a new level. For easier to become aware of an individual's cancellation, allowing us to participate in the online designation of others.

Moreover, J.K. Rowling has been at the centre of this movement, accusations for many years, which began when she (and produced) *transgender* tweets. Since then, the fan base of Rowling, Emma Watson, and Rupert Grint—who have publicly distanced themselves from her.

"Cancel culture" can force individuals, especially celebrities and influencers, to reflect, learn and grow from their mistakes. It can empower consumers to demand ethical behaviour from companies and public figures, leading to positive cultural shifts.

In addition, there appears to be a double standard with the way women and minorities are cancelled online, often descending into derogatory personal attacks instead of critiquing their behaviour.

16

CANCELLED

MARIAM EGHI

Cancel culture is rarely permanent, and the online jury is highly fickle. However, celebrities with strong fanbases, industry support, and talent often recover despite scandals.

Overall, cancel culture is a powerful tool for accountability, allowing society to call out harmful behaviour and demand change. It can promote social progress, and the fear of being cancelled can deter unethical actions. The extent to which one is cancelled depends on fame and influence.

While "cancel culture" can create meaningful change, it can easily become a witch hunt. The online domain makes it difficult to separate valid online critic from vitriol.

17

The Anthropology Society: Stimulating activities this year

The Anthropology Society at Bentley Wood is a vibrant community of sixth formers with keen interests spanning sociology, psychology, political science, and evolutionary biology. Members participate in workshops and enjoy lectures from prominent figures in related fields, allowing them to explore their subjects in depth.

This year, the Society welcomed Professor Peggy Froerer, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at Brunel University, who delivered a fascinating lecture on one of life's most enduring questions:

Does money equal happiness? After her talk, Professor Froerer engaged with students in an animated Q&A session, offering illuminating answers on the subject and sharing insights about various aspects of university life.

In February, the Anthropology Society held an engaging session exploring the effects of globalisation and the anthropology of food. Members brought dishes from their own cultures to share, sparking conversations about the significance of food beyond nourishment.

Students examined how cuisine reflects identity and shapes tradition, as well as how globalisation has transformed diets and food production worldwide. They also considered the impact of trade, colonisation, migration, and cultural exchange on the way we eat today.

The Anthropology Society offers sixth formers stimulating opportunities to explore their subjects beyond the classroom. We look forward to welcoming more distinguished speakers and hosting further engaging workshops in the new academic year.

Mr Maric



Lecture by Professor Peggy Froerer



Cultural dishes at Anthropology of Food session



Geography and environment clubs

KS3 Geography Club: Students enjoy competitions and challenges this year

KS3 Geography Club provides an opportunity for students to engage in geography beyond the classroom. This academic year, we have had an array of activities such as map collages, creating designs for Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth inspired by London, a Valentine's Day geography scavenger hunt, a Red Nose Day themed challenge and lots of quizzes.

Most recently, we have been looking at the geography of food, mapping out where our food comes from and considering wider sustainability issues. In our last session, we will come together to celebrate foods from around the world, with students bringing dishes to represent their cultures.

This year, our keen geography ambassadors have also played a vital role in supporting the club and promoting geography throughout the school.

To celebrate Earth Hour, they helped to create the Wise Thoughts slides used for form time discussions and to organise a poster competition and bingo. A huge thank you to them for all their efforts! Finally, as we reach the end of the year, I would like to celebrate some of the amazing work of our students.

As part of Earth Hour Celebrations, we ran a poster competition on the theme 'Our Promise to the Earth' where students were also encouraged to use recycled materials as part of their design.

Additionally, as part of our Year 8 unit of work 'Climate Crisis', we also ran an optional sustainable house design competition. Congratulations to Sienna Year 7 for winning the Earth Hour competition, and Urvi Year 8 for winning the house design with her incredible model (which even includes moving parts!).

Ms Lee

Students look at the geography of food, mapping where our food comes from around the world



Earth Hour Poster by Sienna MP 7MLE



Sustainable House Design by Urvi K 8MCO



Gardening Club: A whole year to connect with nature, growing and nurturing plants

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

Student Rewards July 2025

Year 9



Art

Katie T 9AHU - for a fantastic start to BW and for her contribution to Natural Forms - You are a great addition to our class.

Business studies

Zahra MI 9ABR - for excellent progression in Business studies this year.

Computer science

Annabelle C9ROR - Annabelle always gives her best and it really pays off. She approaches every assessment with care and focus, consistently achieving top grades. Well done, Annabelle - keep up the fantastic effort!

English

Khushi D 9MD - for being a reflective learner, avid reader and a feisty speaker - a perfect mix for a studious individual who always eagerly contributes to every lesson.

Dahaba T 9JAZ - for always going above and beyond on effort to do well in every class task, homework, Mid-unit and EOU assessments.

French

Heela A 9GCP - Fantastic at extending answers and ensuring that she includes lots of details in her work.

Geography

Zahra S 9ABR - for her exceptional effort and academic achievement in Geography throughout this year. She is smashing it on all fronts. Keep going.

Graphics

Yusra G 9AHU - Well done for your creative ideas and always working so hard and making it look so easy!

H&S

Aleena M 9JAZ - For her outstanding contributions during class discussions in health and social care.

Abdia M 9LSB - Her confidence has grown over the year. Excellent final assessment, works hard in and out of the class.

History

Sondus A 9AHU

Maths

Venessa F 9AHU - Venessa is one of the most hard-working students I've ever met! Her homework and classwork are always amazing and she is always so engaged in the lessons. She is not afraid to try and do examples, and she asks really good questions to make sure that she understands every topic.

Sirat A 9GCP - She's enthusiastic about coming to class and settles straight into the work without wasting time, which helps her make consistent progress.

Music

Lena S 9KPO - for all her help on the sound desk in the concert

Spanish

Leeah T 9MD - for consistent great work and commitment in Spanish.

Textiles

Nishtha G 9JAZ - for her amazing effort and always helping other members of the class.

Rumaisa Ali 9AHU - for consistent effort and creativity in textiles this term



Student Rewards July 2025



Year 10

Art

Ephtihia M 10CCH - for your amazing effort and determination to improve in Art. Your hard work is really paying off!!

Business studies

Jazmine S 10ESO - for hitting a grade 9 in your end of year assessment and showing excellent progression throughout the year. Well done.

Computer science

Iman O 10TC - Iman always puts in her best effort and it really shows in the quality of her work. She approaches each assessment with focus and determination. Her understanding of the subject shines through. Brilliant work, Iman - keep it going!

English

Sophie S 10THA - for her meticulous homework and always putting 100% effort into everything she does in English; her books are exemplary for others to follow;

Kanisha P 10LBM - for her consistent efforts in English and ambition to keep improving.

French

Clara GF 10TC - Thank you for your continuous efforts to catch up after your absence. You still did very well in your speaking exam. Well done!"

Geography

Selina Y 10CON - she has been a dedicated and diligent student in every single lesson. She is an exceptional role model to the year group.

Graphics

Niya N 10TC - for her dedication and continuous effort in lesson and homework. Well done!

H&S

Safa A 10CCH and **Zainab M 10CJG** - for achieving the highest end of year in their classes.

History

Sophie S 10THA - for your outstanding commitment in History, always going above and beyond!

Maths

Nusrat A 10TC - For being a positive soul every lesson and trying her hardest to improve in her maths. Keep it going and you will see the results over time.

Zikra K 10ESO - Zikra has been an absolute superstar for the entire year - she just quietly gets on with every task I give her and always asks for extension work. Additionally, she is our voice of reason in the class - if we are stuck on a question, Zikra will be there to help us out!

Navira N 10THA - She comes to class ready to get on with the work straight away and often asks for extension tasks to challenge herself further.

Music

Skye H 10CON - for being so reliable in the sound team all year and Vanaiya PH 10CON - for her outstanding help in the Summer Concert

Physics

Kanisha P 10LBM - For her commitment and dedication to her learning in science this year, and for her outstanding progress.

Spanish

Niya N 10TC - for great performance in her Spanish speaking exam.

Textiles

Jovina C 10LBM - for always working hard in Textiles independently and for always striving for perfection in coursework.



A year of events and achievements in the Sixth Form 2024 - 2025



Head of Sixth Form reflects on the year 2024-2025

This year has been an exciting and successful one for our Sixth Form, marked by numerous achievements and enriching opportunities. We are proud to celebrate the academic accomplishments of our students. Our Year 13 cohort has received offers from a wide range of prestigious Russell Group universities, including Cambridge University, UCL, and King's College London. Additionally, we are thrilled with the Year 13 Health and Social Care students who have secured places on outstanding vocational degree programmes. The Sixth Form team and I eagerly anticipate results day, when these offers will be confirmed.

Meanwhile, our Year 12 students have already made remarkable progress. Throughout the year, they have engaged in university outreach programmes, participated in exciting competitions, and transitioned into Year 13 with their UCAS exam results in hand. We celebrated the success of our Ethics Cup team, supported their involvement in the Bar Mock Trial, and attended a wonderful awards ceremony for our DVS winners.

Year 12 students have also benefited from excellent networking and development opportunities across the collegiate, taking part in symposiums, school visits, and our annual Oxbridge information day. A representative from Oxbridge delivered an insightful talk on the universities, followed by a lively Q&A session. Subject specialist seminars, led by collegiate teachers, further enriched the experience. It was an inspiring day that motivated many students to dedicate themselves over the summer to preparing strong university applications.

Beyond academics, students have enjoyed a variety of engaging activities this year, including a baby photo competition, netball tournaments, weekly quizzes, and

opportunities to lead assemblies. Year 12 played an essential role during Sports Day, participating as competitors, organisers, and helpers, all of whom performed exceptionally well.

We are especially proud of our students for thriving outside the classroom; they are strongly encouraged to volunteer regularly within the school or local community, lead assemblies, and organise charity events—one of which raised an impressive £500. Our partnerships with Harrow Community Kitchen and local pharmacies have been strengthened, with many students actively involved.

With the shift away from AS examinations, I have been particularly impressed by the determination and resilience shown by students during their internal exam period. These weeks provided a valuable opportunity for them to demonstrate the skills they have developed throughout their first year of A Levels. Now that Year 13 enrolment is complete, Year 12 students are currently engaged in a week of work experience, gaining valuable insights into their future careers.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Head Student Team. We are proud to have two Head Students this year: Nanette A and Sara A. Working closely with them are the Deputy Head Students: Priyana V, Georgia M and the rest of the Head Student Team: Huda H, Mithra R, Reem M and Zina J. They have already begun their roles, upholding and maintain the high standards of the Bentley Wood Sixth Form.

Ms N Mouskis, Acting Head of Sixth Form



Sixth Form Head Girls 2025



Crafts Fair, organised by Head Student Nanette, raising funds for childhood cancer care in Ghana

Sixth Form Head Girl Team 2025

Hello everyone! We're excited to introduce you to our Head Girl Team for the coming academic year: Nannette, Sara, Georgia, Priyanna, Zina, Huda, Mithra, and Reem. Our aim is to amplify your voices and contribute positively to our school community. Serving in these leadership roles is a privilege, and we've structured our team to ensure we make this year as effective and enriching as possible.

Our team consists of Head students Nanette and Sara, Deputy heads Georgia and Priyana and head of houses Zena, Huda, Mithra and Reem. We are thrilled to be working alongside the Year 11 and Year 12 leadership teams to support and guide our peers in order to ensure we have a conducive and welcoming environment in Bentley wood.

Our mission as Head Students is to ensure that all pupils are able to thrive in a comfortable environment. As well as that, we aim to make sure all voices are heard. Our intention is to make sure that everyone is included and that the connection established between teachers and students remains strong and meaningful because it's such a big part of what makes Bentley Wood so special. We will serve as compassionate role models, demonstrating respect and integrity in all interactions with the Bentley Wood students and staff. We are proud to be part of this community and are excited to empower students and make a positive difference.

Our teamwork has already been demonstrated through our incredibly successful Crafts Fair, organised by Head Student

Nanette, where an outstanding £521 was raised towards childhood cancer care in Ghana. This is only a fraction of our potential as a Head Student Team, where we are constantly in development of future plans to better enrich and support Bentley Wood. In our recognition of the milestones reached when transitioning between year groups, we particularly aim to ease the journey with sit down events and check-ups, offering genuine advice with regard to our experiences.

As students, our priority is to ensure balance between working hard and rewarding ourselves. We plan to assist the lower years in creating their own structures, from organising timetables to sharing key resources so that students have an efficient system made by them, for them.

Overall our Head Girl Team's mission is to empower every student, fostering a strong sense of belonging and support throughout the school. We are dedicated to cultivating an environment where every student feels respected and heard, promoting diverse perspectives. We are incredibly proud of what we're setting out to achieve, and we can't wait to work together and collaborate to make these positive changes in the upcoming academic year.

Written by the Head Student Team

Sixth Form taster days

Year 11 students experience various Sixth Form subjects

On 23rd and 24th June, Bentley Wood Sixth Form welcomed Year 11 students to experience life in the Sixth Form with immersive and engaging Taster Days. The event offered students the opportunity to sample lessons across all available A-Level subjects, helping them make informed decisions about their next steps in education.

For many, it was a chance to discover new interests and test the waters in subjects they hadn't previously considered.

Beyond the classroom, students also had the chance to learn more about Sixth Form life — from leadership opportunities and enrichment programmes to university preparation and career pathways.

At Bentley Wood, we offer a broad and high-quality curriculum at A Level in a comprehensive range of subjects which is why many students prefer to stay on post GCSE and every year we also welcome a number of external students.



Art



Ethic Cup / Bar Mock Trial



History



Physics / Chemistry

Maths / Computer Science



Psychology

NHS Cadets / Medical Society

Sociology students get inspiration from university lectures and visits



Sociology enrichment event: university lecturers inspire Year 12 students

Year 12 Sociology students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a special enrichment morning with guest speakers from Roehampton University's Sociology and Criminology Department. The event, designed to broaden students' understanding of real-world sociological research, included three engaging sessions led by university academics.

The day began with Dr Laura Way's thought-provoking talk, "Parenting Journeys of Young Dads." Dr Way shared her research exploring the challenges and experiences of young fathers in contemporary Britain, shedding light on how class, gender expectations, and social policy shape their parenting journeys. Students were particularly interested in the personal stories that brought her findings to life.

After a short break, Dr Diego Canciani delivered an insightful lecture titled "Why Youths Commit More Crime (or Do They?)." This session challenged common stereotypes about young offenders and examined how media representations can distort public perceptions of youth crime. Students were encouraged to think critically about the relationship between age, offending, and social inequality.

The event concluded with "Discovering the Social World," presented by Dr Demetris Hadjigeorgiou. This session inspired students to reflect on what it means to study society and how sociologists use different methods to

understand everyday life. Dr Hadjigeorgiou also offered valuable advice for those considering studying Sociology or Criminology at university.

Our students demonstrated excellent focus and asked thoughtful questions, making the most of the opportunity to learn from leading academics. The sessions helped reinforce key Year 12 topics such as research methods, social inequality, and the impact of social structures on individuals.

We are grateful to Roehampton University for collaborating with our school and supporting our students' learning. Events like this are a great way to bring Sociology to life beyond the classroom and inspire the next generation of social scientists.

Mr Maric

PSYCHOLOGY
Social
HISTORY
SCIENCE
ANTHROPOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY
HUMANS
SOCIETY
CRIMINOLOGY

Year 12 Sociology students are welcomed to Hare Krishna Temple

As part of our Year 12 Sociology studies, our class recently visited the Hare Krishna Temple, located in Watford, to gain a deeper understanding of the beliefs, practices, and cultural significance of this religious community, in particular this sect of Hinduism.

The Hare Krishna Temple was established to promote the teachings of yoga and devotion to Lord Krishna. Since its founding, the temple has served as an open and welcoming space for people of all faiths. It is home to resident monks who live according to strict spiritual disciplines and dedicate their lives to worship, meditation, and community service.

The temple's openness to the public and its role as both a spiritual home for resident monks as well as a welcoming space for people of all backgrounds showed us its commitment to interfaith understanding and peaceful coexistence.

From the moment we arrived, we were warmly welcomed by members of the temple community. Their friendliness and openness made the visit a comfortable and enriching experience for everyone in our group.

Our day began with feeding the temple's cows, animals deeply respected in the Hare Krishna tradition for their sacred symbolism. This activity gave us a first-hand understanding of the community's respect for all living beings and their commitment to compassion.

Additionally, we explored the beautiful temple grounds, which offered a calm and scenic environment for reflection and spiritual connection with various flower gardens and lakes.

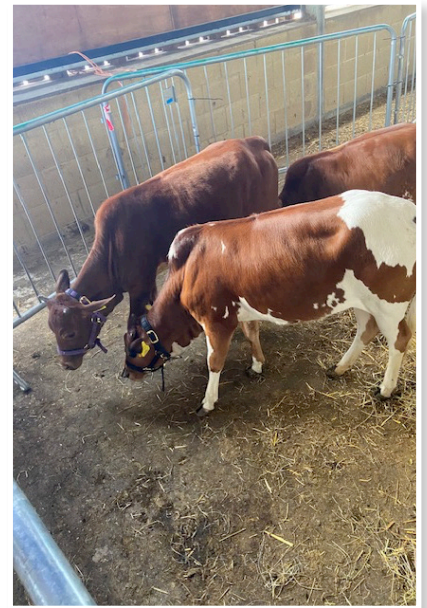
A key part of our visit was attending an informative talk led by Alison, a devoted member of the community, who explained the history and core beliefs of the Hare Krishna faith, including the roles of Lord Krishna and various demi-gods, and the spiritual philosophy behind their practices.

We then dressed in traditional saris, with some students' attire reflecting those of particular demi-gods, giving us the chance to engage with the cultural customs of the temple.

One of the highlights of the day was witnessing a live religious ceremony - one of six performed daily. The rituals, music, and chanting created a deeply spiritual atmosphere and gave us a real sense of the community's devotion and rhythm of worship. We were then treated to a freshly prepared vegetarian meal, reflecting the temple's values of non-violence and purity. Sharing food in a communal setting reinforced the community's emphasis on hospitality and inclusivity.

To finish the day, we took part in a peaceful yoga session, which allowed us to experience one of the meditative practices central to Krishna consciousness. The session encouraged mindfulness and inner reflection and helped us appreciate the importance of spiritual well-being in daily life. This trip was a memorable and meaningful experience that deepened our understanding of the Hare Krishna tradition and broadened our appreciation for the diversity of religious expression in modern society.

Huda H Year 12 Sociology student



Stimulating coastal fieldwork trip visiting two fantastic locations

Students learn about coastal management on Geography residential

Residential school trips provide an immersive experience outside a school setting. Geography, particularly, lends itself to being explored this way. Our sixth form geography students were lucky to undertake fieldwork and research in a picturesque landscape.

On 21st May, we went on a residential trip to Flatford Mills and Walton-on-the-Naze beach to learn about coastal management. It was a really interesting experience and a great way to see what we've been studying in class in real life. Flatford Mills was a nice, peaceful place with lots of natural scenery.

The main part of the trip was at Walton-on-the-Naze beach. Here, we got to see different methods of coastal management, like sea walls and groynes, which are used to prevent erosion and protect the land from the sea. It was really helpful to see these things in person and understand how they work.

Overall, the trip was well-organised and very informative. It gave me a better understanding of coastal management and why it's so important to protect our coastlines. I really enjoyed the trip, and it was a great experience.

Moska N 12GCO



Students on Walton-on-the-Naze beach to learn about coastal management





Students visit Flatford Mills. The inspiration for landscape painting by the British artist John Constable



Fieldwork at Stanmore and Sussex



Year 8 students completing fieldwork at Bentley Priory

Year 8 geographers practise what they have learnt during fieldwork at Bentley Priory

This half term, Year 8s have been visiting Edgware Brook in Bentley Priory to complete fieldwork as part of their Rushing Rivers unit. They worked in groups to measure characteristics of the river such as width, depth, velocity and stone size. It was great to see students actively engaging with the fieldwork and enjoying their time outside of the classroom!

Bentley Priory was an amazing trip it was so much fun to measure the river and do this investigation. It was a wonderful experience also to see nature whilst walking to get there it was a fun mini adventure and can't wait for the rest of the trips planned.

Kareena S 8EBD

We got the chance to go on an exciting trip to Bentley Priory. We used our knowledge learnt in the lesson and used it to do the fun activities that we were assigned (in groups). We had the opportunity at the end of the assignment to explore around the park. It was really fun, and I learnt a lot.

Kavini V 8SZ

During my trip to Bentley Priory I measured the depth, width, velocity, stone angularity and stone shape. We collaborated as a group to work out these points taking turns to work out the accurate data, with one member of the group writing this onto a worksheet. I really enjoyed this trip to Bentley Priory as I learnt new skills and worked together in a group to find accurate data in Edgware Brook.

Emaan S 8EBD

We went to Bentley Priory to do some work about rivers. We explored the area and did fun practicals enhancing our knowledge on rivers and learning about the sizes and angularity of rocks. It was a great way to see what we've been learning in action!

Aanya R 8EBD



Geography students educational adventure to West Wittering

Our Geography students embarked on an educational adventure to West Wittering beach near Chichester on Wednesday, 4th June, combining hands-on learning with the natural beauty of the Sussex coastline.

The day began with an informative spit walk, where students explored the coastal landform and gained first-hand experience of how geological processes shape our shorelines. This practical introduction set the stage for the comprehensive fieldwork that followed. On the scenic beach, students engaged in rigorous data collection activities, including conducting detailed beach profiles to understand coastal morphology, performing sediment analysis to examine grain size and composition, and collecting samples for further study. These activities provided valuable practical experience that will enhance their understanding of coastal geography and geomorphological processes.

The educational focus was perfectly balanced with enjoyment – students shared a picnic lunch on the beach and were treated to refreshing ice lollies, making the most of the beautiful coastal setting.

The combination of serious academic work and relaxed social time created an ideal learning environment. The trip proved to be both educational and enjoyable, with students returning with new insights into coastal processes and fond memories of a day spent learning in one of the region's most picturesque locations. West Wittering's stunning landscape provided the perfect outdoor classroom for our budding geographers."

Ms Osborn

As part of our Year 10 study on coastal erosion and erosional landscapes, all geography students visited West Wittering beach to learn more about coastal erosion and coastal management!

Upon arriving at the beach we begun straight away and started our fieldwork, using ranging poles, measuring tapes and clinometers to help us investigate how longshore drift impacts the physical geography of West Wittering beach.

During our lunch break we encountered an obstacle, flocks of seagulls had invaded our lunch area to steal our lunch, causing everyone to get back on their feet! It was very exciting getting to see sea defences in real life such as rock berms, gabions, and salt marshes. I really enjoyed the experience and it has helped me deepen my knowledge on coastal geography!

Namra K 10TC

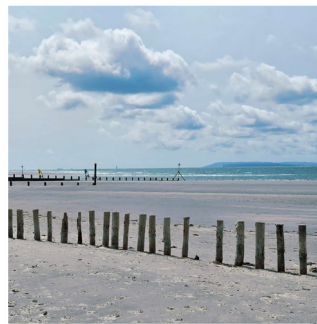
One of the highlights of our day was our peaceful walk, led by Mr Ferris, along the spit, with mainland that extends into the sea. We walked along the stretch of sandy pathway, taking the beautiful view of the glistening shoreline ahead with the gentle sea breeze in our faces. Before the walk

along the spit, to our delight our teachers surprised us with refreshing ice lollies. After the lollies were generously handed out by our lovely teachers, we began our walk, whilst enjoying the sweet treat.

As we strolled on, we spotted an array on seashells embedded in the golden sand. Beautiful seashells of all different shapes and sizes amazed us as we dug them out and collected the little shells as souvenirs of this wonderful day. We soon paused, to take in the stunning view and scenery, with our papers in hand to begin drawing our field sketches. Sitting in the sand, soaking in the sun whilst doing our spit field sketches was both relaxing and educational.

Eventually, it was time to head back. With sandy shoes and happy faces, we made our way back to the coach. This was certainly a trip to remember.

Mariam S 10TC



Year 12 engage with their subjects through trips and presentations

Year 12 students give a presentation to Pinner Philosophy Group

This term, I had the pleasure of taking a group of Year 12 philosophy students to present at the Pinner Philosophy Group.

The students were met with high praise, with the organiser commenting: *"Today's session from first-year A-level students at Bentley Wood was wonderful—not only did they get to the nub of many tricky philosophical issues, they also responded to the discussion points thoughtfully and interestingly."*

Among the topics presented were: *Do we owe anything to future humans, even if it conflicts with our own interests?* and *Should androids be treated ethically, and does it depend on whether they are self-aware?* The students handled these complex ideas with confidence and clarity, encouraging rich discussion with the audience.

It was a rewarding experience for all involved and a great opportunity to showcase the depth of thinking and maturity our students bring to philosophical inquiry.

Ms Crosbie



A level science students attend The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition

This July, A-Level Science students at Bentley Wood had the exciting opportunity to attend the Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, one of the UK's most prestigious science events. Held annually in London, this free event showcases cutting-edge scientific research through interactive exhibits, live demonstrations, and talks by leading scientists.

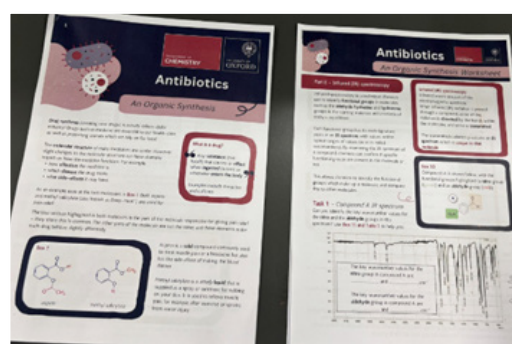
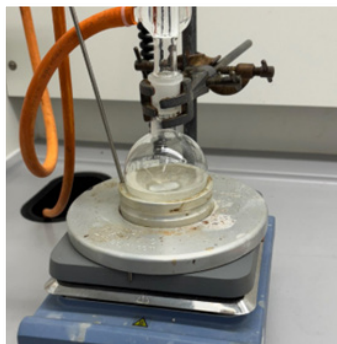
From artificial intelligence and climate change to space exploration and medical breakthroughs, the exhibition offered a glimpse into the future of science and technology. We were able to get hands-on with experiments, ask questions directly to researchers, and even try out virtual reality tools developed for surgery.

One highlight was the exhibit on catalysis, where we learned how researchers are developing new ways to start chemical reactions using only sunlight. Another popular stop was the focused energy stand, where we learnt how ultrasound is being harnessed for non-invasive surgeries and direct drug delivery. The trip was inspiring and educational, showing us how science connects to real-world problems and innovations.

We're grateful to our science department for organising the visit and highly recommend this annual exhibition to anyone interested in discovering where science is headed next! Information on the 2025 exhibits and recorded talks is available on the Royal Society website.

Heba K 12GCO





Year 12 Chemistry trip to Oxford University

Bentley Wood was delighted to have recently been selected to attend the prestigious Oxford University to engage in a hands-on laboratory experience about organic synthesis and the development of antibiotics. This was a very exciting and amazing opportunity, providing us with a glimpse into higher education. The trip demonstrated a thorough investigation of chemistry research and the resources used by chemistry.

We began the day with an introduction to the university, followed by an explanation of complicated organic compounds, organic synthesis, and antibiotics, before being led to the laboratory by academics in the chemistry department. This was an exciting introduction to some of the advancements currently taking place within this field.

We prepared for the experiment by wearing lab coats, eye protection and gloves so we could handle the apparatus and the chemicals used. We were led to the laboratory by academics in the chemistry department. Our insightful organic chemistry lessons and our core practical lessons allowed us to carry out the practical successfully.

We conducted experiments simulating the process of developing antibiotic (by preparing an agar plate) and gaining first-hand experience in chromatography (TLC),

reflux and infrared spectroscopic analysis on computers.

We worked in pairs, recording data and our observations, under the supervision of experts. We learnt how to carry out reactions under reflux, allowing the mixture to be heated without losing volatile compounds. This was critical in forming the desired chemical bonds.

We learnt how to separate our products from unwanted impurities using a vacuum in the fume cupboard via extraction. Then we carried out a thin-layer of chromatography (TLC) to monitor the progress of these reactions and assess the purity of our products. To identify our synthesized molecules, students used infrared (IR) spectroscopy to identify the energy levels of different compounds in the molecule. This apparatus helped us figure out the molecular formula of the substances and helped us connect the theories with data.

The immersive experience not only deepened our understanding of organic chemistry but also inspired us to consider future careers in scientific research and pharmaceuticals. The whole of Year 12 chemistry is incredibly grateful for this opportunity given to us by Oxford University.

Year 10 Environmental day: Oxford University

Thirteen Year 10s were invited to the Physics Department at Oxford University, who were running a day of science focussed on the impact that Physics can have on environmental science.

The girls had sessions on the using light to make electricity, the use of Infra-red to map the warming of the atmosphere, tracking and predicting the future of the environment using models. They toured active labs, observing how science works in real time and even donning hair nets and lab coats. They looked like real scientists!

Rahima H in 10TC said "The trip to Oxford for Environmental day was highly educational and enjoyable. We were introduced to new knowledge and got to take part in engaging hands-on activities. Throughout the day we explored topics such as static electricity, Solar cells, infrared radiation, the greenhouse effect, and climate models. These sessions strengthened our knowledge on how science and technology go hand in hand to tackle environmental issues.

It showed us how we can predict the future climate patterns and support the development of renewable energy. It was a lovely day for the girls to gain an insight in how science can work at university level.

Ms Binnion



Student Rewards July 2025



Year 11

Art

Skandaja K 11ABI, Faza K 11ABI and Sarah B 11SG for working so hard to achieve their best in Art. You have been wonderful and I will miss you very much!!

Business studies

Fatema R12BKO - for outstanding progress in this subject and fantastic participation in class.

Computer science

Aliya M 11BKO - You've worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to your GCSE exams, showing real determination and focus. It's been amazing to see how you've turned things around. Wishing you the very best - you've earned it!

Graphics

Well done to **Aleena A, 11ALN, Anila A, 11CSN, Ayfar I 11CSN and Sritha K 11CSN** for working so incredibly hard till the very end. I could not be any prouder of you all!

Music

Daisy MA 11ALN - for her outstanding support and help with GLEE



Year 12

Art

Rhawan ED 12PS and Sophie M 12SBA - for all their help with the Art Exhibition

Biology

Huda H 12SBA - for working so hard in Biology and is getting more confident in her understanding.

Business studies

Zara O 12GCO - for outstanding progression in the subject and being consistently gaining top marks in your end of year assessment. Well done

Computer science

Nada B 12GCO - for her exceptional effort and for achievement in Computing - starting computing in Year 12 and achieving an A* is truly impressive.

Economics

Sara A 12PS - for an outstanding academic year with excellent progression in the subject. Well done.

English

Nateer D 12CTW - for her continued excellence in the subject



Student Rewards July 2025

Year 12

Geography

Sanaa S 12PS - for displaying perseverance and resilience. She has demonstrated excellent improvement. And we are so proud of her.

H&S

Sana S 12JG, Sundya C 12PS and Naomi A 12JG - Work hard every lesson, Excellent coursework and dedication to the course, always contributing in class."

Physics

Rhawan ED 12PS - For outstanding effort in her classwork and homework throughout the year.

Spanish

Sara A 12PS - for her excellent analytical response to the literary work in Spanish and her kindness towards our Spanish exchange student.

Politics

Jasmin S 12CTW - for evidently working very hard towards your Politics A-Level!

Year 13

Physics

Hena H 13PBL - For being such a kind and respectful member of the school community.

Spanish

Hafsa R 13SN - for her extraordinary effort to complete the A Level Spanish course.



STEM themed Primary Days

Year 5 Maths Primary Day with Weald Rise Primary School

On Tuesday 25th June, we were thrilled to welcome the enthusiastic Year 5 pupils from Weald Rise Primary School to Bentley Wood High School for a fun-filled day of Maths activities.

The day began with big smiles as students arrived, excited to explore Maths in a new environment. They were warmly welcomed and split into small groups to take part in a series of exciting and interactive Maths sessions led by our passionate Maths teachers.

From number magic tricks and Sudoku puzzles to paper folding art, probability challenges, and barcode investigations, the activities were designed to be fun, engaging, and spark curiosity, and the students absolutely loved them!

Supporting us throughout the day were our incredible Year 7 Maths Ambassadors, who showed great maturity and kindness as they guided and supported the younger pupils. Their dedication reflected the strong care values we uphold at Bentley Wood and highlighted how every student plays an important role in the enrichment opportunities we offer in Maths. Our ambassadors truly enjoyed the experience and made the Year 5s feel welcomed and encouraged every step of the way.

Students also enjoyed a well-deserved break and lunch outdoors, where they relaxed and took in the beautiful natural surroundings of Bentley Wood.

It was a fantastic day filled with learning, laughter, and collaboration, and we look forward to welcoming Weald Rise again soon!

Ms Chelaghma



Year 5 Primary School Science Day

This term, we welcomed Year 5 students from Kenmore Park and St John's to Bentley Wood for Science Day, which was filled with lots of hands-on activities to teach the students about practicals and develop a passion for science. The day was supported by Sixth Form and Year 10 students, who provided guidance and support throughout the day.

Firstly, the day kicked off with an essential introduction to laboratory safety, where students were given an exciting chance to set up Bunsen Burners by themselves and with all of them earning their own Bunsen Burner licenses, marking an important milestone in their practical science experience! Next, the students used indicators when heating sparkling water to observe colour changes and develop an understanding of acids and alkalis. Following this, the students were involved in identifying different metals, such as potassium and calcium, based on their respective colours when the compounds were placed in the Bunsen Burner flame. To wrap up the day, the pupils were able to explore and gain an insight into how science is found in applications of daily use by burning different foods such as crackers, pasta and crisps to determine the amount of energy present.

Overall, Science Day was fantastic, and I hope the Year 5s enjoyed the practical work, gained new skills and left with a greater enthusiasm for science. The staff and students of Bentley Wood thoroughly enjoyed hosting the day, and we hope to invite more students in the future!

Mithra R 12CTW



Primary Days

A fun time in the sun at Teddy Bear's Picnic

Year 12 Health and Social Care students hosted 85 Year 1 students from Aylward Primary School for a Teddy Bear's Picnic on Thursday 10th July at Bentley Wood High School. The Year 12 students planned various physical and mental activities for the day which promoted reading, fine motor skills and teamwork. Such activities included relay racing, just dance, bear hunt, reading 'We are going on Bear Hunt' by Micheal Rosen and Helen Oxenbury and a picnic.

The day was a huge success with Year 1 engaging in stimulating activities with their peers. Certificates, trophies and other prizes were won throughout the day. Year 12 demonstrated resilience, leadership, communication and organisational skills. The Social Sciences department played a vital role in the planning and seamless running of the day to ensure its success.

We received excellent feedback from Aylward Primary School, appreciating the girls' hard work, leadership and engagement with the year 1 students.

Ms Naqvi, Head of Social Sciences





Primary students experience taster lessons in Modern Foreign Languages

We are delighted to share an exciting update about our recent collaboration with St John's Church of England School, where a group of enthusiastic primary students joined us for a special taster lesson in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL). As part of our ongoing efforts to build strong connections with the local primary schools, we were thrilled to welcome Year 5 students from St John's Church of England School for a fun and engaging introduction to language learning in secondary school. This taster lesson allowed our younger visitors to experience what it's like to study a foreign language in a more dynamic and interactive setting.

Our students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in both French and Spanish, learning key phrases and vocabulary while participating in engaging games and activities. From learning how to introduce themselves in a new language to engaging in fun, team-based language challenges, the session was designed to be both educational and enjoyable.

At Bentley Wood High School we believe that language learning opens up a world of possibilities. By inviting primary students to participate in these MFL taster lessons, we hope to inspire a lifelong passion for languages and cultural exploration. Not only do these lessons provide a sneak peek into the secondary school curriculum, but they also help build excitement for the wide range of languages and cultural experiences students will encounter once they join us.

The primary school students were keen and curious, showing a great deal of enthusiasm as they discovered new words and expressions in French and Spanish. We could see how much they enjoyed the creative language games, and it was a pleasure to watch them grow more confident with each activity.

This visit is just one of many ways we aim to bridge the gap between primary and secondary education. By fostering these relationships early on, we help ease the transition for students and give them the opportunity to explore different subjects and teaching styles before they officially join us. It was wonderful to see so many excited faces, and we look forward to welcoming them back as they continue their educational journey.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the teachers from St John's Church of England School for their support in making this event a success. The collaboration between our schools is something we truly value, and we are excited to continue these enriching experiences in the future. As we move into the next academic year, we are excited to continue offering opportunities for our younger students to explore MFL in new and exciting ways. We look forward to building on this experience and helping even more students develop their language skills and cultural awareness in the years to come.

Maddie Codrean, Leader of Spanish

Sports Days 2025

Sports Day 2025 - Harrow Boys School

On a bright and beautiful Tuesday morning, Harrow Boys School welcomed enthusiastic Bentley Wood students to its grounds for the first time, setting the stage for our much-anticipated annual Sports Day, held this year on Tuesday 8th July. The event was a true celebration of school spirit, with colourful house banners waving proudly and lively cheering echoing around the field as students competed for their houses.

The day's programme was packed with exciting events, including track races, discus, javelin, shot put, long jump, tug-of-war, and a range of fun novelty competitions. Each form tutor and supporting staff received a printed programme featuring the front cover of a winning entry from the 2025 Sports Day Poster Competition - won by Shaista N (8LNO).

After a day filled with energy, determination, and teamwork, students were reminded to stay hydrated and head home safely. But, the fun didn't stop there, many students and staff kept the celebrations going with an energetic dance session to end the day on a high note, featuring the unforgettable DJ Mrs Burridge who played upbeat music the whole day! In true Bentley Wood fashion, additional CARE value points were awarded for the loudest house cheers and the tidiest team areas, reinforcing the spirit of respect, effort, and teamwork.

Final Results:

- 1st Place - **Air House** with an impressive 945 points
- 2nd Place - **Fire House** close behind with 884 points
- 3rd Place - **Earth House** with 813 points
- 4th Place - **Water House** with 797 points

Congratulations to all houses for their remarkable efforts! A special thank you to the P.E. department for their outstanding organisation, energy, and commitment, which made the day a fantastic experience for everyone involved.



Year 10 Sports Day
at Bentley Wood





Sports week and sports champion

National School Sports Week 2025

National School Sports Week is a yearly initiative designed to encourage young people to engage in physical activity and enjoy the benefits of sport. It is more than a collection of activities, it's a celebration of the core values sport teaches, including teamwork, discipline, perseverance, and respect.

At Bentley Wood, we celebrated the occasion with a dynamic programme of clubs and events that appealed to a wide range of students with various interests. The week began on Monday 16th June with a form time discussion during our weekly Wise Thoughts, highlighting the significance of Sports Week, followed by a quiz to challenge students' knowledge of sport.

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to take part in different activities. Sports Week reflects the school's dedication to promoting physical well-being and a positive sporting culture.

We are proud of our passionate and skilled P.E. department, who put together such an inclusive and exciting schedule for the students.



Hockey and Kick Boxing during Sports Week 2025





An inspirational session with Sports Champion

This week, we were lucky to have a visit from Pierre Henry-Fontaine, a former England men's basketball player. He gave us an amazing and inspirational talk where he spoke about how important it is to plan ahead and even said, "failure to plan is planning to fail."

He also talked about understanding assets and liabilities, and how having a healthy diet can help us stay focused and strong. At the end, we got to ask him questions — and he even shot a hoop for us, which was really cool. It was a great experience and really motivated us to work hard and believe in ourselves.

Anaiya S 9AHU



PE session with Pierre Henry-Fontaine, a former England men's basketball player



Year 10 students volunteer at two primary school sports days



Year 10 Sports Leaders: Great teamwork shown at Aylward School Sports Day

A massive thanks and well done to all Year 10 helpers for making Aylward Sports Day a great success! So many teachers complimented on how well you lead all the primary school children. Your effort and teamwork made a real difference in ensuring the day ran smoothly. They even got to run their own Year 10 100m sprint in front of the whole school!

Miss Chandler and Miss Wardlaw

Year 10 Sports Leaders		
Elina A	Safa H	Khadija R
Safa A A	Fatima J	Anniyah S
Fatima A M	Lauren M	Mariam S
Ayana A	Arwa M	Momoko T
Sabeen A	Hayfa O	Milaan W P
Nia B	Ayva P	Zaina Z
Elga D S	Vanaiya P H	
Dorothea H	Melika R	

Weald Rise Primary School Sports Day: Again Year 10 Sports Leaders ran activities

On Monday 14th July Year 5 and 6 Weald Rise Primary school children came to Bentley Wood for their Sports Day. Year 10 Sports Leaders ran the morning of activities for the students.

The events included traditional favourites like the 100-meter sprint, long jump, and relay race, along with fun activities such as the sack race, and tug-of-war. Each event was met with cheers from classmates and teachers, who were supporting the young athletes.

The Year 10 Sports Leaders, were fantastic and the staff from Weald Rise were so complimentary on how well they led each of these events.

Thank you for all your hard work Year 10, we really appreciate your help in running such a successful day!

Miss Chandler and Miss Wardlaw



Activity Days 2025

Activity Days 2025: A fun and exciting end to the year

At the end of this school year, students enjoyed two days of fun filled activities, with something for everyone to take part in.

Some students became detectives for the day in an exciting Murder Mystery adventure, solving clues to find out "who did it." It was a great way to practise teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Year 9 and Year 10 had the amazing opportunity to travel to Central London to see the hit musical Wicked at the Apollo Theatre. For many students, it was their first time seeing a West End production - a magical and unforgettable experience. There was also an activity carousel at school, where students tried out a range of creative challenges such as making friendship bracelets and drawing henna patterns.

It was a great chance to try new things while working with different peer groups.

Year 8 visited the seaside at Walton-on-the-Naze, enjoying the beach and exploring the local area. The sunny weather made it even better!

Year 7 visited the historic Windsor Castle. Students toured the historic castle and learned all about the royal family and the castle's long history. They were also lucky to watch the open-air concert!

These Activity Days were a great way to finish the year, with lots of learning and laughter. A big thank you to all the staff who helped make these days such a success!



STEM Activity. Marble run challenge.
Greeting cards with LED lights



Murder Mystery adventure
for Year 7 and Year 9

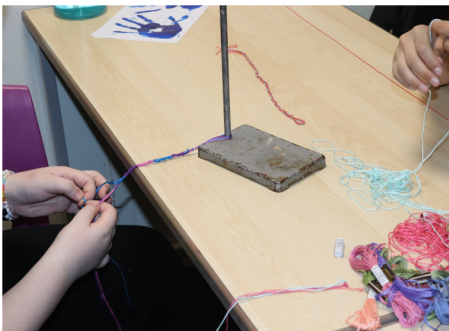




Year 8 trip to traditional seaside town
Walton-on-the-Naze



Year 7 trip to Windsor Castle. A Royal
home and fortress for over 900 years



Activity carousel making
friendship bracelets



Year 8 Geography trip to Walton-on-the-Naze

On Thursday, 17th July 2025, Year 8 students embarked on their much-anticipated Geography field trip to Walton-on-the-Naze, marking the perfect conclusion to their final day as Year 8 pupils. With the summer holidays beckoning, the coastal town provided an ideal classroom for geographical exploration and end-of-year celebration.

The weather gods smiled upon the expedition, delivering gloriously warm sunshine that transformed the day into an authentic seaside experience. Students arrived at the Essex coastal resort eager to combine their geographical studies with the simple pleasures of a traditional British beach day.

The trip offered students invaluable hands-on learning opportunities, allowing them to observe the results of coastal processes and human geography in action. Walton-on-the-Naze, with its distinctive cliffs, sandy beaches, and bustling seafront, provided the perfect natural laboratory.

Nothing quite captures the essence of a British seaside day like the feeling of warm sand between your toes, and the Year 8 students embraced this wholeheartedly. Many

kicked off their shoes to walk along the shoreline, their geographical surveys temporarily forgotten as they soaked up the coastal atmosphere.

The carefully planned picnic became a highlight of the trip, with students spreading out across the beach to enjoy their lunch while taking in the stunning coastal views. The relaxed atmosphere fostered conversations and connections that extended far beyond the usual classroom dynamics.

As the coach pulled away from Walton-on-the-Naze, students carried with them not just geographical knowledge and completed worksheets, but memories of a day when learning felt like play, when the classroom had no walls, and when the beginning of summer holidays was marked by sand, sunshine, and the laughter of friends.

The trip to Walton-on-the-Naze proved that the best educational experiences often happen when students step outside the traditional classroom and into the world itself, where geography comes alive and learning becomes an adventure shared with friends.

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)

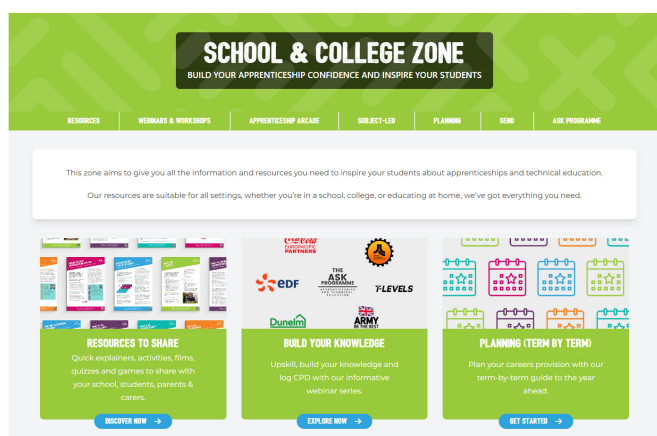
For resources and information about student careers and further education paths please view the Careers page on our website. <https://www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk/curriculum/careers/>

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

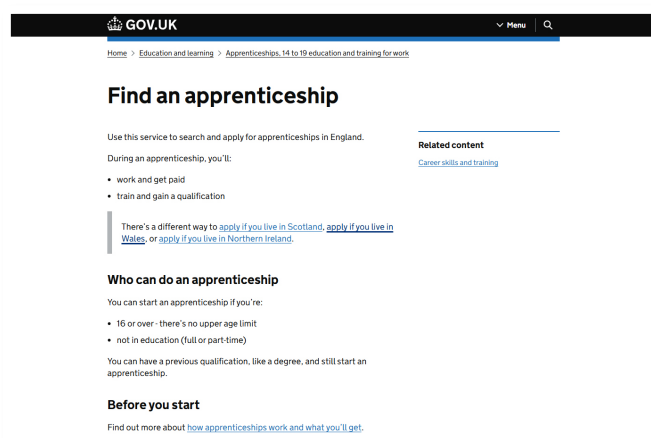


- Paid jobs that offer you a salary to train and gain an education, debt free
- They are an excellent way to gain life skills and have a gateway into a job without having to attend university full time
- They allow you to build a network and gain work experience
- You can often find them in any sector,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



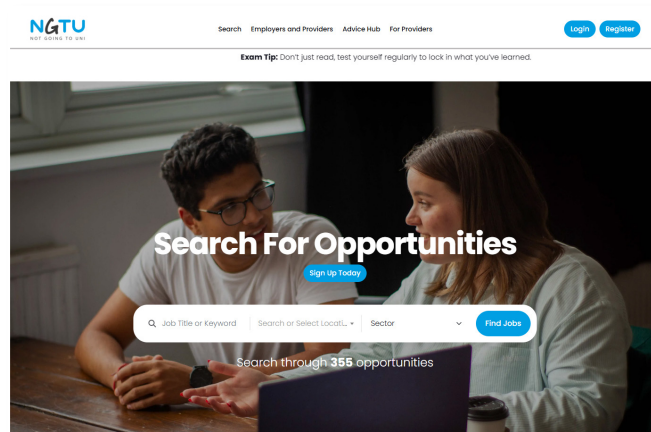
Find an apprenticeship - A government website to find apprenticeships using your postcode



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

Volunteers to Careers Events

- Dear Parents/Guardians, Do you want to inspire Bentley Wood students about the industry that you work in and the job that you do?
- Are you keen to open young minds and to inspire them to consider different job paths than the traditional roles?
- Does your employer give you time off for volunteering?
- Do you know any professional who would be interested in supporting the school with career events?

If your answer is yes to these questions then we would like to invite you to the following events:

The whole school Careers Fair on Tuesday 14th of October 2025

The Year 8 Careers Morning Tuesday 24th of February 2026

The Year 10 Interview Day Tuesday 10th of March 2026

Sixth Form Engagement talks over Teams or in person 2025-26

If you would like to participate then email the Careers Leader Mrs Ortega at jortega@bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk with your name, the industry or business area that you can represent. We are looking for varied and interesting occupations to open our students' minds.



Year 10 Interview day



Whole school Careers Fair

Unifrog - The Careers 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



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:



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



Staying safe over the Summer

We wish you a safe summer break. If you have any safeguarding concerns or worries, the School's reception will be open over the summer from 9am-4pm.

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 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 |

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.

Advice for Parent/Carers:

During the summer holidays, without the distraction of school, internet usage for many young people can increase all the way up to September.

These guides are designed to help parents with a realistic approach in regards to keeping children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games:

• saferinternet.org • swgfl.org.uk



Supportive Websites:

Online Safety: www.nspcc.org.uk

How to recognise the signs of bullying and sexual exploitation: www.harrowlscb.co.uk

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)

Mental Health: www.youngminds.org and

Mental Health Support Services in Harrow

Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Useful contacts:

NSPCC Report Abuse Line: 0808 800 5000

Harrow's Golden Number 0208 901 2690

Harrow's Out of Hours Emergency Team: 0208 424 0999

Emergency Services: 999

Children's Services and Harrow Local Safeguarding Board

www.harrowlscb.co.uk

To report a non-emergency crime to the police call **101**.

In an emergency you must always call 999.

Information and advice for students and parents

Keeping safe on our school site

A focus on your child's safety and safeguarding - please read with your child

Not on the road!

Uniform expectations

Stay visible and follow signage

Next term - student Check List

- Is your child wearing correct uniform to and from school?
- Does your child have a lanyard and are they wearing it always?
- Is your child staying off the roads and following walking routes?
- Is your child following all instructions on school signage and staying visible?

KEEPING SAFE ON OUR SCHOOL SITE

A FOCUS ON YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY AND SAFEGUARDING - PLEASE READ WITH YOUR CHILD

NOT ON THE ROAD!

Students need to walk in and out of the school gates following the student walking routes only. If going to Clump Hill students must walk round past the Tennis Courts - not walk up the road.

WHY? Our school site is busy with cars - in the photo'd area there is no path to keep students away from cars.

CARS ONLY DOWN HERE!

UNIFORM EXPECTATIONS

Exceptional uniform is expected any time your child is wearing our uniform. This includes before and after school. Students should always have a lanyard on.

WHY? Lanyards identify our students and the Year Group they are in. It ensures visitors are clearly identified.

STAY VISABLE and FOLLOW SIGNAGE

Students should stay visible to duty staff and follow the instructions on any signs they see.

WHY? Our school site is big, our duty staff want to check everyone is safe. The signs support our school community, e.g. keeping students away from building work or keeping quiet near exam areas.

Next term - student Check List

- ✓ Is your child wearing correct uniform to and from school?
- ✓ Does your child have a lanyard and are they wearing it always?
- ✓ Is your child staying off the roads and following walking routes?
- ✓ Is your child following all instructions on school signage and staying visible?

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

Happy learning!

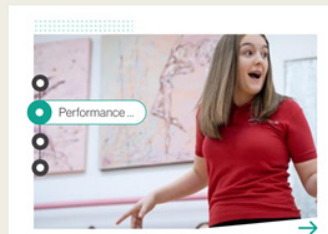
Drama course at Bentley Wood



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 £160 (FSM discounts can be offered). In addition, there is the cost of the exam, the price of the exam varies dependent on grade.

How to book

We have developed the enrolment process for LAMDA and would now ask that you use the below link to complete enrolment forms for the **Autumn** term.

<https://buytickets.at/lamdawithstagecoachforschools/1780896>

If your daughter is in receipt of free school meals the school will offer support with your fees, please use this form:

<https://buytickets.at/lamdawithstagecoachforschools/1780901>

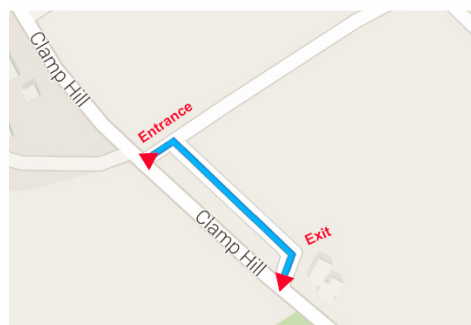
LAMDA

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

14th August 2025

21st August 2025

3rd September 2025

3rd September 2025

4th September 2025

11th September 2025

12th September 2025

25th September 2025

30th September 2025

9th October 2025

22nd October 2025

23rd October 2025

24th October 2025

27th to 31st October 2025

3rd November 2025

4th November 2025

13th November 2025

3rd December 2025

20th December 2025

5th January 2026

6th January 2026

14th January 2026

29th January 2026

11th to 13th February 2026

16th to 20th February 2026

A-level results day

GCSE results and enrolment day

Years 7 and 12 return, 08:40 – 14:30

Year 12 Engagement Evening, 15:00 – 16:00

Return to school 08:40 usual registration

Open Evening, Early finish – 12:30 / 12:40

Late start for students 10:20 registration

Year 7 Engagement Evening, 16:00 – 18:00

School photographer – Years 7, 11, 12

Year 11 Engagement Evening

Year 10 Parents Evening, Early finish 13:25 / 13:30

Staff CPD, No students on site

School closed to all

Half Term

Staff CPD, No students on site

Return to school, 08:40 usual registration

Sixth Form Open Evening, 17:30 – 19:30

Year 9 Parents Evening, Early finish 13:25 / 13:30

End of Term

Staff CPD, No students on site

Return to school, 08:40 usual registration

Year 13 Parents Evening, 16:00 – 19:00

Year 11 Parents Evening, Early finish 13:25 / 13:30

School Production

Half Term

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

www.bentleywood.harrow.sch.uk