

Bentley Wood
Sixth Form

Bentley Wood
Sixth Form Newsletter

October 2026

Bentley Wood
High School for Girls

A Level Results 2026

54% of A level grades were **A*-B,**
81% of A level grades were **A*-C**

100% of our Health & Social Care BTEC students achieved combinations of straight **Distinction** or **Distinction***







Our students' destinations are also very commendable with our highest number of successful medical course placements and three students securing places at Oxbridge.

Bentley Wood
Sixth Form

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

Achievement
We expect you to achieve your personal best.

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

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



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Year 11 students and families,

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Form at Bentley Wood High School. Our success is built on three pillars: our students, who are driven to achieve their very best; our staff, who take immense pride in making the Sixth Form experience engaging and purposeful; and our families, who work closely with us to ensure school and home are always aligned.

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you can see how our core CARE values (Communication, Achievement, Respect, and Empathy) come to life through the daily experiences of our students.

Every year, our Year 13 students achieve commendable exam results. It is a privilege to celebrate with them as they look forward to starting university, exploring new horizons, and stepping into the careers they have always aspired to follow.

Our Sixth Form provides a caring, nurturing, and highly supportive environment. Over your two years with us, we will help you build your confidence, discover new passions through our extensive development programme, and fully prepare you for university or the professional world.

Choosing to continue your academic journey at Bentley Wood Sixth Form offers numerous benefits, including:

- **Achievement:** Your potential is our priority, and we will support you at every single step.
- Teaching: You will benefit from high-quality, expert teaching designed to help you secure the highest grades.
- **Feedback:** Teachers provide constructive, tailored feedback to help you reflect on your learning and make continuous progress.
- **Information, Advice & Guidance:** Our experienced Sixth Form team will ensure you are fully prepared and guided for life beyond Year 13.
- **Enrichment:** We offer a wealth of extracurricular opportunities to broaden your horizons, develop new skills, and expand your outlook.

Whether you are continuing your journey with us or joining our school community as a new student, I highly encourage you to consider Bentley Wood for Year 12. I wish you the absolute best of luck with your application, and I look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form family in September 2027.

Kind regards,

Naseema Akbar.

Naseema Akbar
Headteacher

A Level Results 2026

We are incredibly proud to celebrate another set of **amazing A Level results,** reflecting the hard work, determination and ambition of our students. We are especially proud to see students progressing to some of our **top universities, apprenticeships** and **careers.**



Sara A
Studying Law
at University of
Cambridge



Maria A
Studying Medicine
at King's College
London



Keziah M
Studying Psychology
at University of
Birmingham



Sana S
Studying Primary
Education with QTS
at St Mary's University

25% of A Level grades were **A*–A,**

81% were **A*–C**

100% of our Health & Social Care BTEC students achieved combinations of straight **Distinction** or **Distinction*** grades.

Students' first-choice courses include:

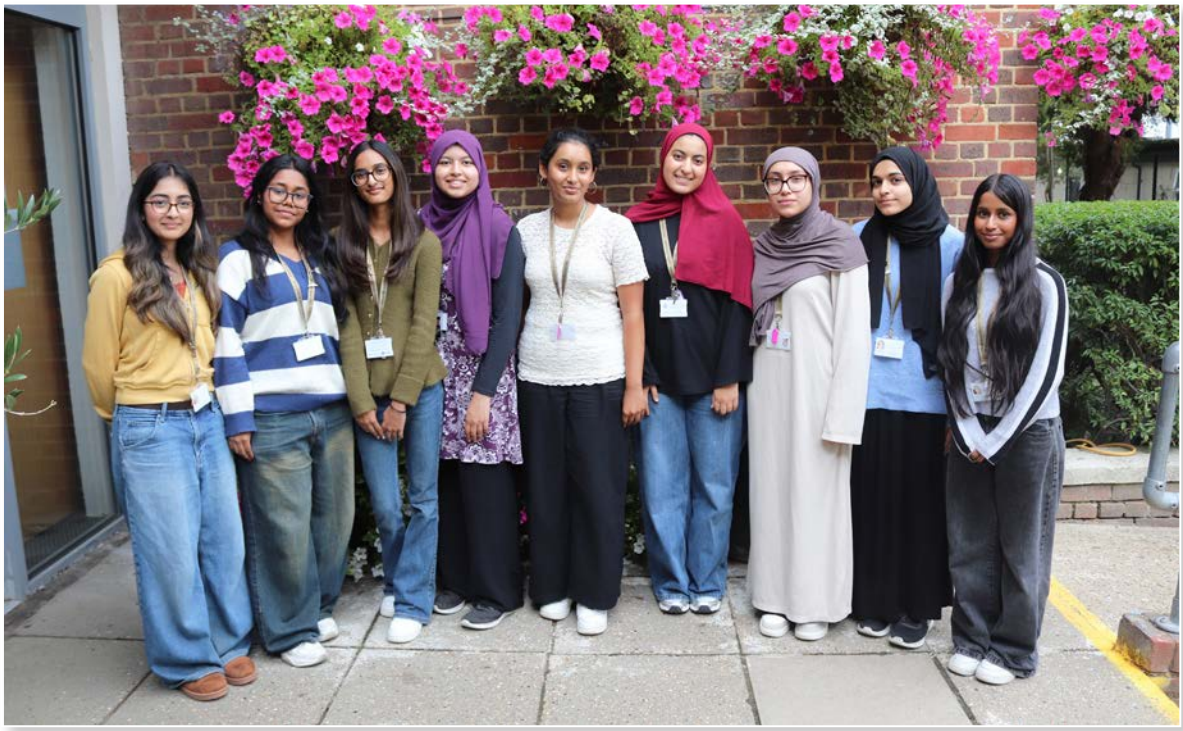
Architecture
Law
Computer Science
Medicine
Chemistry
Biomedical Science
Media & Communication
History & Politics
Physics
Accounting
Business
Economics
Primary Education
Midwifery

We are celebrating with our highest number of successful medical course placements, alongside three students securing places at Oxbridge.

Bentley Wood
High School for Girls

Well done to all of Year 13 you will continue to thrive.
Naseema Akbar Headteacher

A year of events and achievements in the Sixth Form 2025- 2026



Head of Sixth Form reflects on the year 2025-2026

It has been another fantastic year in the Sixth Form. The brilliant, Ms Mouskis, welcomed everyone in September and stood in as Acting Head of Sixth Form, whilst I was on maternity leave. Over the year, all sixth formers have been busy with both their academic lessons and engaged with a variety of extra-curricular activities such as: Netball club, the Ethics Cup competition, the Bar Mock Trial competition, Anthropology Club, and the Medical Society to name a few.

All students took advantage of the supra-curricular activities advertised on Microsoft Teams: many students entered external essay competitions, Science Olympiads and attended lectures and open days at universities. We were delighted that three students were shortlisted for the John Locke Global Essay competition.

The Year 12s have gained a lot of guidance on what they can do beyond Bentley Wood: successful alumni visited during an assembly to speak to them about their careers, they listened to an apprenticeship talk, and many students attended the annual Collegiate Oxbridge and Medicine Information Day which is held at Bentley Wood and includes speakers from Oxford and Cambridge admissions as well as Imperial Medical School. All Year 12s gained work experience in their final week of term.

The Year 13s applied to universities and apprenticeship schemes. We were thrilled that students received offers to read Mathematics at Cambridge University, History at Oxford University, Psychology at Birmingham University and Economics at Manchester University. After receiving these offers, the Year 13s sat their A-levels in May and June; their motivation, drive and perseverance was evident. We look forward to celebrating with them on results day.

Both year groups have enjoyed fun activities that have helped them relive the stresses of academic demands: we ran our annual Thorpe Park Fright Night trip, there was a Traitors competition and a Squid Games competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Head Student Team. We are proud to introduce as our Head Students: Skandaja K and Aliya M as well as our Deputy Head Students: Sarah B, Alyah IM, Abeeha R.

They have already begun their roles and are working to support the Sixth Form team with raising and maintaining the high standards of Bentley Wood Sixth Form.

In addition, we are delighted to also introduce Ms Osborne into the Sixth Form Team.

Alice Jones
Head of Sixth Form

Awards Ceremony 2026: achievement celebrated

We were delighted to host our Annual Awards Evenings on the 29th and 30th of June to celebrate the achievements of students and staff over the 2025/26 academic year. Awards Evenings are a wonderful way to celebrate the end of another successful academic year.

The events recognised the hard work, commitment and achievements of students and staff across a wide range of subjects and activities, while also celebrating the values, resilience and determination they have demonstrated throughout the year.

The evening of 29th June was dedicated to our Key Stage 4 and 5 students as we took time to reflect on a year of students' personal milestones and accolades in academic, sporting and musical fields. Prizes were awarded by our esteemed Guest Speaker Jenny Afia, a distinguished lawyer and partner at Schillings law firm.

Following a warm welcome to attending students, their family members and staff from Headteacher Ms Akbar, Jenny Afia delivered a moving speech on the importance of providing an educational experience which inspires future generations to strive for excellence in all spheres of life.





Year 13 Prom 2026

The annual Year 13 Prom was once again a memorable highlight of the school year. Year 13 students dressed to impress and marked the end of their A-level examinations with an evening of celebration and dancing. They enjoyed sunset on the grounds and took advantage of the fun Photo-booth.

The Sixth Form team and A-level staff were delighted to join them in recognising the close of two formative years. We are immensely proud of all that our students have accomplished and look forward to celebrating their successes even further on Results Day.

Ms Mouskis







Sixth form students excel at various competitions this year



Zahara T, Skandaja K, Asiya U and Shruthinaya S focused their presentation on the moral responsibility of countries to protect migrants from harm caused by dangerous sea crossings.



Sarah B, Aliya M and Anila A delivered a presentation on procreative beneficence, the idea that parents have a moral responsibility to select the embryo most likely to lead the "best possible life."

Students awarded "Highly Commended" in the Uehiro Practical Ethics Competition

Two Bentley Wood Year 12 teams have been awarded Highly Commended status in the prestigious Uehiro Oxford Institute Practical Ethics and Responsibility Competition (PERC).

This national competition invites students in Years 11–13 to explore complex ethical challenges by producing a short video that analyses an ethical problem and examines how responsibility is involved.

The competition receives a large number of entries from across the UK, with an exceptionally high standard of submissions every year. This makes our students' achievement especially impressive.

The judges praised Bentley Wood for presenting strong arguments which featured excellent explorations of moral responsibility in a complex context.

Zahara T, Skandaja K, Asiya U and Shruthinaya S focused their presentation on the moral responsibility of countries to protect migrants from harm caused by dangerous sea crossings.

Sarah B, Aliya M and Anila A delivered a presentation on procreative beneficence, the idea that parents have a moral responsibility to select the embryo most likely to lead the "best possible life."

This recognition places our students among the top entries across the UK and highlights their maturity in addressing sophisticated ethical questions.

Their careful reasoning, teamwork, and creativity shine through in their work, reflecting the spirit of the Uehiro competition—encouraging young people to grapple thoughtfully with real world moral challenges.

We look forward to sharing their video with the school community once it appears on the Uehiro competition webpage, and we are delighted that a prize book will soon be arriving for our school library.

Congratulations to both teams for this outstanding achievement—you have represented our school with insight, integrity, and imagination.

Ms Tweed









Three Year 12 students shortlisted for prestigious John Locke Global Essay Prize

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of three of our Year 12 students – Skandaja K, Haseena H and Kashvi K – who have been shortlisted for the 2026 John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize in the Public Policy category.

The John Locke Global Essay Prize is one of the world's most prestigious academic writing competitions for secondary school students. Organised by the John Locke Institute, the competition encourages students to engage with complex questions in subjects such as Politics, Economics, History, Law, Philosophy, Psychology and Public Policy. Essays are judged by senior academics from leading universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Princeton and Stanford.

This year's competition attracted an astonishing 100,227 entrants from 183 countries worldwide. Following a rigorous judging process, the shortlist was drawn from the top 17.5% of eligible entries, making this recognition an exceptional accomplishment.

In a message sent to the students, the John Locke Institute described being shortlisted as being "among the best of the best" and congratulated them on their remarkable achievement. The three students have now progressed to the final stage of judging, where senior faculty will determine commendations, high commendations, category winners and the overall Grand Prize winner.

As shortlisted candidates, Skandaja, Haseena and Kashvi have been invited to attend the prestigious John Locke Institute Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner at Grosvenor House Hotel in Mayfair, London, in October 2026. The event will bring together some of the most talented young thinkers and writers from around the globe to celebrate academic excellence and intellectual curiosity.

This achievement reflects not only the students' exceptional writing ability, but also their capacity for critical thinking, independent research and thoughtful engagement with important contemporary policy issues. To have three students from our school recognised on the international stage is a tremendous source of pride for our entire community.

We congratulate Skandaja, Haseena and Kashvi on this remarkable success and wish them every luck as they await the final results later this year.

Their achievement serves as an inspiration to all students aspiring to challenge themselves beyond the classroom and pursue excellence in academic scholarship.

Congratulations, Skandaja, Haseena and Kashvi – we are immensely proud of you!

Ms Tweed

Finding their voice: excellence in public speaking and debate

Outstanding success in the Sovereign Minds SPEAR Competition



We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of our students in this year's Sovereign Minds SPEAR Oratory Prize, one of the UK's most competitive public speaking and global issues competitions for young people aged 16–18. With more than 2,000 applicants nationwide, the standard was exceptionally high. Five Bentley Wood students reached the quarter finals (Mariah A, Sarah B, Dalia E A, Abi M and Salena M) already placing them within the top few percent of entrants. Even more impressively, two progressed to the semi finals, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects their confidence, clarity, and commitment to engaging with some of the world's most challenging questions.

What is the SPEAR Competition?

The Sovereign Minds SPEAR Prize invites students to deliver speeches inspired by global challenges framed by the ten official SPEAR targets. These targets encourage young people to tackle issues that shape our shared future and promote leadership, advocacy, and critical thinking.

As requested, here are five of the SPEAR targets highlighted by Sovereign Minds: End poverty, Improve health, Education for all, Protect our planet, Responsible consumption.

These themes encourage participants to explore urgent ethical, environmental, and social questions, synthesising personal insight with global awareness.

Celebrating Our Students

Our students delivered powerful, thoughtful speeches that demonstrated maturity beyond their years. Their progress through the early rounds—held at prestigious venues across London—reflects their hard work, courage, and ability to communicate ideas with conviction.

Congratulations to all five students—and especially our two semi finalists Dalia E A and Salena M —for their outstanding success in the SPEAR competition.

Ms Tweed





Bentley Wood sixth formers excel at Bar Mock Trial Competition

Bentley Wood competed in the prestigious Bar Mock Trial competition around the country, run by Young Citizens. Schools put together a team to take the different roles involved in a Crown Court trial: barristers, witnesses, clerk, usher, and jury members. The trials are run by a real life barristers and magistrates taking the role of the judge, who also score the participants in their various roles.

Bentley Wood's team featured lawyers, witnesses and court officials mostly taken from Year 12, and we were given 2 cases to put together – both the Prosecution and the Defence. In the first case, a hardened drug user was accused of intent to supply after running from the police and found disposing of cocaine. Was this a dealer trying to evade the law, or an addict purchasing for themself who panicked? In the second, a grudge between neighbours over antisocial music escalates, and one accuses the other of threatening them with a realistic replica gun, which the armed police locate and seize. But were they, as the defendant claimed, maliciously reported on by a neighbour wishing to frame them? Or did they really produce the weapon to intimidate?

After regular lunch and after-school sessions with Mr Nussbaum putting together trial strategy, examining witness statements carefully and learning the procedure of a criminal trial, the team travelled to Snaresbrook Crown Court one Saturday for the competition itself; huge thanks to Ms Mayers for taking the girls to and from the venue in the school minibus

Some excellent performances on the day saw Bentley Wood obtain narrow victories in all 3 cases. Our barristers Klea Krasniqi, Afiya Ahmed, Sadaf Shirdel and Marwa Alami argued their cases persuasively and, in particular, used cross-examination to point out weaknesses and holes in the other side's argument. Sarah Baskaran, Zahra Nawabi, Hadya Sediqi and Montaha Gharsaneh inhabited their roles as the various witnesses – plaintiff, defendant, friend, neighbour – very well and had to stand up to the pressure and scrutiny of the opposition barristers. Iklas Haashi and Husna Jabharkhel performed the presiding court roles of the Court Clerk and Usher accurately and confidently. We were also assisted by a number of Sixth Formers, especially Year 13s, turning up on the day to be jury members for other schools' trials and consider and deliver their verdict.

The team has represented the school extremely well and can be extremely proud of their success. Hopefully this is the start of some very promising legal careers in our Sixth Form!

Mr Nussbaum



Bar Mock Trial

Ethics Cup debating competition

Bentley Wood took a team of eight Year 12 students to compete in the Ethics Cup debating competition. During the competition, the team performed with distinction, engaging thoughtfully with complex philosophical issues such as torture and no-platforming.

Their logic and composure saw them storm into the final round, where they tackled the ethics of whole-life sentences without the possibility of parole. In a closely contested debate, they were narrowly defeated by just two points.

Overall, the students were outstanding. The grit and perseverance they displayed, turning up week after week to be rigorously challenged by Mr Nussbaum and I, was truly admirable. They responded to every challenge with determination, continually refining their arguments. We are incredibly proud of their achievement.

Ms Crosbie





Ethics Cup

Students present philosophy ideas and attend lectures this year





Year 12 students attend a philosophy conference at North London Collegiate

Year 12 philosophy students went to North London Collegiate School to attend a philosophy conference. it was genuinely a really valuable experience.

Hearing professional philosophers, PHD students, and university lecturers speak about deep questions we've been exploring in class made the subject feel more serious and thought-provoking.

There were also talks on topics outside of our curriculum and at the cutting-edge of philosophical research, such as the role of philosophy in quantum physics, and the ethics of art. It encouraged me to engage with the ideas more critically rather than just memorising arguments.

I also appreciated the chance to speak to students from other schools who share an interest in philosophy, as it created a more open and thoughtful atmosphere, and allowed us to practice our networking skills.

The lecture format gave the whole day a professional feel and made it seem like a realistic insight into studying philosophy at a higher level. Thank you to the philosophy department for organising, we hope we can attend again next year!

Abi M 12PBL

Anthropology talk for Year 12 Sociology

Year 12 Sociology students recently enjoyed a fascinating talk from Dr James Staples from Brunel University. He spoke about anthropology, his own research and fieldwork, and what it is like to study anthropology at university.

The session helped students make links between Sociology and Anthropology, particularly around culture, identity, research methods and understanding different societies. Dr Staples also introduced students to the Anthropology Department at Brunel and explained the benefits of studying the subject beyond school.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions and think about future university pathways in the social sciences. We would like to thank Dr Staples for giving his time and sharing his expertise with our students.









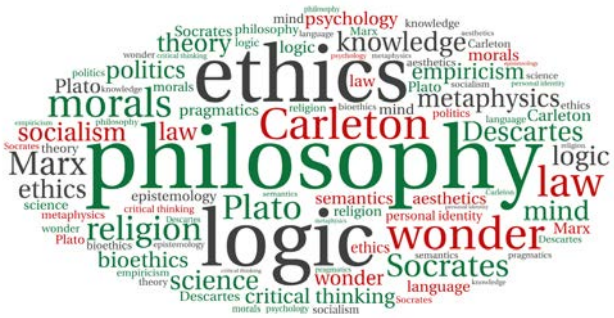




Sixth formers share philosophy ideas with the community

Year 12 Philosophy students recently had the exciting opportunity to present their ideas to the Pinner Philosophy Group, an independent community organisation that brings together people of all ages who are interested in exploring philosophical questions in a friendly and open environment.

Drawing on topics studied as part of their A Level course, students delivered engaging presentations on a range of thought-provoking themes, including Morality and Religion, Law and Morality, Personal Identity, The Myth of Rationality, Death, Is It Worse to Bullshit or to Lie?, and Philosophical Zombies.



The event provided students with a valuable opportunity to share their learning beyond the classroom, develop their public speaking skills, and engage in meaningful discussion with an enthusiastic audience.

Members of the Pinner Philosophy Group were impressed by the depth of knowledge, confidence and critical thinking demonstrated by our students.

We are incredibly proud of everyone involved and grateful to the Pinner Philosophy Group for welcoming our students and giving them the chance to contribute to philosophical debate within the wider community.

The experience was both challenging and rewarding, and a wonderful example of learning in action.

Ms Tweed and Ms Burridge

Enrichment: journalism, writing and literary events

Investigative journalist inspires students

On Thursday 2 July, KS4 and KS5 students had the opportunity to hear from investigative journalist Barnaby Pace, who spoke about his career and the important role journalism plays in holding powerful organisations and governments to account.

Pace, who previously worked as an investigative journalist with Global Witness and now works as a researcher with the Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), focuses on global issues including environmental scandals, corruption, and geopolitics.

During the session, students learned how he entered the profession, the research methods he uses, and how journalists evaluate sources to uncover the truth. One of the most fascinating parts of the talk was hearing about his involvement in exposing the international Malabu oil corruption scandal, a major investigation into alleged corruption surrounding a Nigerian oil deal.

Students were then challenged to think like investigative journalists themselves. Working in groups, we developed possible stories to investigate and presented our ideas to Barnaby. He even promised to carry out some initial research into the strongest ideas and continue investigating if there was a genuine story to be found.

Our group chose to explore whether the growing use of facial verification technology is completely safe, and whether governments should rely on third-party companies to store biometric and personal data. It was exciting to discuss a real-world issue and consider the questions journalists must ask when investigating complex topics.

The talk was particularly relevant for Geography, Politics and English Literature students, demonstrating how investigative journalism combines research, critical thinking and storytelling. It was inspiring to see how a career that seems so specialised can have a significant impact on the world and help uncover issues that might otherwise remain hidden.

Maisie S 12JPR

www.petrochemicalsconference.com, bsky.app



Bentley Wood Sixth Formers attend English Symposium

Our English A Level students had the privilege of attending an English Symposium at Watford Grammar School for Boys – an insightful event that brought together young literary minds from a range of schools.

The day was packed with compelling mini lectures delivered by students on topics and ideologies ranging from *The Poetics of Motion to The Art of Antagonists: Literary Villains.*

Students had the opportunity to engage with diverse ideas and intellectual debates applicable to their English studies regardless of the texts they are currently studying in class. “It was amazing to see how literature connects to so many aspects of life - from philosophy to video games,” one sixth form student said. Another student reflected on how intriguing it was to see literary villains from a different perspective, “the perspective that villains want to be free and that we, in fact, see our own desires in villains but as a different set of morals.”

The event concluded with a dynamic literary workshop led by Mr Tokarz, where students collaboratively explored a range of materials from images, videos and music. Students applied some of the theoretical frameworks they had listened to through the lectures in order to uncover deeper layers of meaning used in media. “The experience was intellectually stimulating and completely out of our comfort zone, helping us to experiment with new styles and view material through a more insightful lens” claims one student.

Ms Morina



A Level Writing Workshop at the British Library

Our visit to the British Library for the A Level Writing Workshop was a really valuable and engaging experience that helped us build a stronger understanding of academic writing.

From the start, we were introduced to our workshop leader, the writer James Friel, who led us through a range of interesting and interactive activities designed to boost both our confidence and our skills in essay writing.

One of the most useful parts of the day was learning how to approach essay questions more effectively. We gained a clearer idea of how questions are structured and how to break them down so we can respond more accurately. This has made essay writing feel much less daunting, as we now have a better sense of what is actually being asked.

Throughout the workshop, we completed a variety of tasks that encouraged us to think more carefully about how we write. We looked at how to break down and plan paragraphs, improve sentence structure, and even experiment with punctuation to change meaning. These activities helped us become more aware of how we build arguments and express ideas in a more academic way.

We also received helpful individual feedback on our writing. Simple tips such as reading work aloud, cutting out unnecessary words, and adding precise detail, gave us practical ways to make our writing clearer and more sophisticated.

The workshop had a supportive and collaborative atmosphere, which made it easy to share ideas and learn from each other. Working in pairs and groups allowed us to discuss different perspectives and develop our own analytical skills. By the end of the day, we felt more confident in structuring arguments and expressing our ideas clearly.

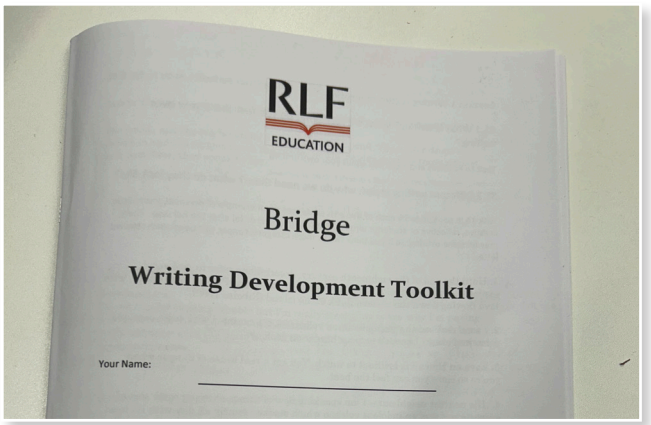
As part of the visit, we were also given a short tour of the British Library, where we learned about its history and importance. This made the experience even more interesting and memorable.

Overall, the workshop was both enjoyable and extremely useful. It not only improved our academic writing skills but also gave us practical techniques that we can apply across all essay-based subjects. We would highly recommend it to any student looking to improve their writing and engage more confidently with their studies.

A Level English Literature Class









Science lectures and workshops











From ancient artefacts to future medicines: Chemistry trip to Oxford

As a Year 12 student with ambitions to study medicine at university, I have always been fascinated by how science can be used to understand and improve the world around us. However, my recent chemistry trip to the University of Oxford showed me just how closely chemistry, biology and medicine are connected — and left me even more certain that I want to pursue a career in medicine.

Our day began at the Ashmolean Museum, where we were taken on a fascinating tour exploring how chemistry can reveal the stories behind historical objects. Rather than simply looking at artefacts as pieces of history, we were encouraged to think about the science hidden within them.

We examined six objects and learnt how different chemical techniques could be used to investigate them. A kaftan introduced us to photo-oxidation and how exposure to light can cause materials to change over time. We learnt how heating a vessel in a kiln can help scientists investigate its age, while the fluorescence of porcelain figures demonstrated how light can reveal information that is not immediately visible to the human eye. Perfume and ointment jars introduced us to chromatography, allowing mixtures of substances to be separated and analysed. We also explored how X-ray fluorescence can be used to investigate objects such as the Great Bookcase, and how reduction firing contributes to the distinctive appearance of lustreware.

What I found particularly interesting was that these techniques showed chemistry operating far beyond the laboratory. The same scientific principles that help us understand ancient objects can also be applied to questions about biology, medicine and human health.

We then visited Trinity College, where we were given an insight into what student life at Oxford is actually like. We explored the beautiful gardens, Junior Common Room, library, chapel and dining facilities, while also learning about societies, bursaries and the structure of university terms and holidays. Seeing the environment in which students live and study made university feel much more tangible to me, and Oxford was particularly inspiring as a place where academic study and research are so closely connected.

Sana H 12TC





Year 12 Science students visit Imperial College London for a STEM afternoon

In May, some of our Year 12 Science students visited Imperial College London for an outreach STEM afternoon. The visit began with a presentation about academic life at Imperial and an overview of the university's admissions process, giving students a valuable insight into applying to one of the UK's leading institutions.

Students listened to a talk by Dr Mark Boyd, whose research focuses on planetary science and meteoritics. The presentation provided a fascinating insight into this exciting field of scientific research and showcased the breadth of opportunities available within the sciences.

Following the talk, students had the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with current Imperial undergraduates, who shared their experiences of university life, studying science and the university application process, offering valuable advice and first-hand perspectives.

The day concluded with a guided tour of the campus, allowing students to experience the university environment first-hand and gain a greater appreciation of academic life at Imperial College London.

Ms Robson

Science at the Royal Institution

Year 12 students enjoyed two exciting days at the Royal Institution's Young Scientists Centre, taking part in Chemistry and Biology workshops delivered in partnership with L'Oréal Laboratories.

The first day focused on the fascinating science of colour. Students investigated how chemistry creates colour by making both natural and synthetic dyes before using colorimetry to analyse an unknown dye sample, just like scientists working in industry. The highlight of the day was a spectacular fire demonstration, where brightly coloured flames revealed how different metal salts produce distinctive colours in flame tests.

Students also had the chance to explore the Royal Institution's museum, including Michael Faraday's original laboratory and a collection of historic scientific artefacts.

On the second day, students became forensic scientists for the day. Students used restriction enzymes to cut fragments of DNA, which were then separated by gel electrophoresis, to allow different DNA samples to be compared. The activity involved a DNA sample from a crime scene, which was compared with samples from suspects, to try and identify who was present at the scene of the crime.

The two-day visit was an inspiring experience, giving students the opportunity to work like real scientists while discovering how chemistry and biology shape industries ranging from healthcare and cosmetics to environmental science and biotechnology.

Ms Sabir



UK Maths trust challenges and maths conferences

Senior UKMT Mathematics Challenge

Senior UKMT Results

At our school, sixth-form students have the opportunity to take part in the **Senior UKMT Mathematics Challenge,** which encourages students to apply their mathematical knowledge to challenging and unfamiliar problems.

The competition helps develop important skills such as **logical thinking, problem-solving, resilience and perseverance.** It also encourages students to explore mathematics beyond the sixth-form curriculum and challenge themselves academically.

Taking part can also be useful for **UCAS applications,** particularly for students applying to subjects such as Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Science, Economics and Physics.

Although participating in UKMT does not guarantee an advantage in the application process, it can provide evidence of **academic curiosity, independent learning and commitment to a subject beyond the classroom.**

Student First name	Certificate
Shanum C.	Gold BiS
Kulsum H	Gold BiY
Nada B	Silver BiY
Zainab H	Silver
Tashana R	Silver
ASaba A	Silver
Nadeen N	Silver
Marwa N	Silver
Amara S	Silver
Kareena M	Silver
Saajida A	Silver
Rhawan E	Silver

Iman O	Bronze
Mithra R	Bronze
Elisha K	Bronze
Marwa Y	Bronze
Ahmed, Uyun A	Bronze
Skandaja K	Bronze
Hitesree R	Bronze
Zikra K	Bronze
Saaliha K	Bronze
Aliza K	Bronze
Khadeeja R	Bronze
Sayyidah K	Bronze
Anna C	Bronze
Riday A	Bronze
Heba K	Bronze
Sarah B	Bronze
Daksha S	Bronze
Mariam R	Bronze
Haniya A	Bronze
Mursal G	Bronze
Noor K	Bronze
Safa H	Bronze
Maryam A	Bronze
Haseena H	Bronze

An enjoyable and engaging day at Maths Fest 2026

This year, a group of our sixth form students had the exciting opportunity to attend Maths Fest 2026 — an all-day mathematics extravaganza held at Kensington Town Hall on 26th February. It was managed and organised by renowned mathematician and stand-up comedian Matt Parker and maths author Rob Eastaway.

The event featured an impressive lineup of speakers including Sophie Maclean, Laura Taalman, James Grime, Ben Sparks, and Ayliean MacDonald, who led interactive sessions celebrating mathematics in new and engaging ways.

Exam advice from Nicole Cozens was also a welcome addition for our students heading into their A-level exams going forward.

Our students returned inspired and enthusiastic, having spent a day seeing their favourite subject through an entirely new lens. Each attendee also received a booklet packed with puzzles and speaker notes to take home and enjoy.

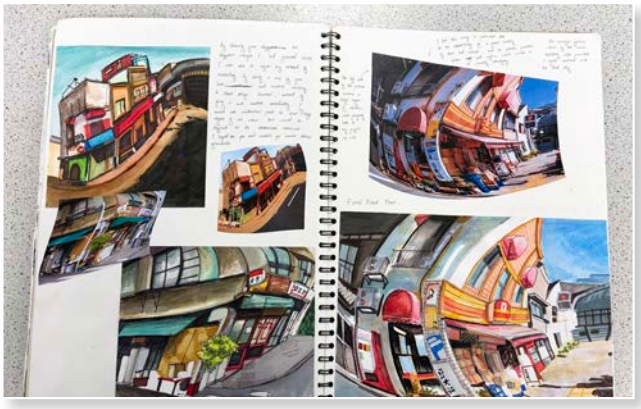
It was a fantastic day out, and we hope to return again next year!

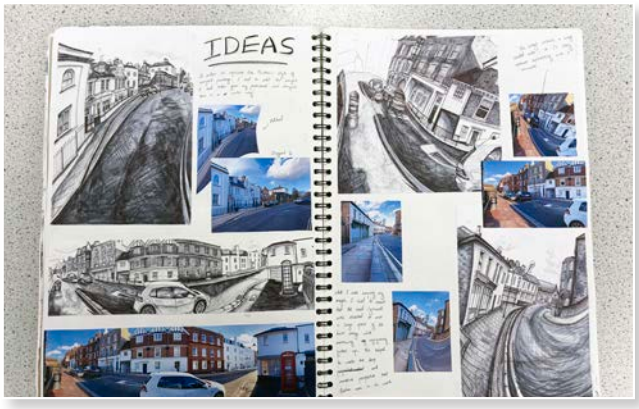
Mr Shah











Bentley Wood High School celebrates creativity at Annual Summer Art Exhibition

Bentley Wood High School proudly opened its doors to students, families, staff, governors for its much-anticipated Annual Summer Art Exhibition, a celebration of the outstanding creativity, imagination, and dedication of our talented young artists.

The exhibition showcased an inspiring collection of work from students across all year groups, highlighting a wide range of artistic disciplines including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, textiles, and mixed media. Every piece reflected not only technical skill but also the individuality and personal expression of each student.

Visitors were welcomed into a vibrant gallery space where the school's corridors and exhibition areas were transformed into a professional display of artwork. The exhibition celebrated the artistic journey of our students, from their first explorations of materials and techniques in Key Stage 3 through to the exceptional GCSE and A Level portfolios that demonstrated creativity, resilience, and ambition.

A particular highlight of the evening was the outstanding work produced by our Year 11 and Year 13 students. Their final examination pieces and coursework reflected months of research, experimentation, and refinement, leaving visitors inspired by the exceptional standard achieved. These impressive collections stand as a testament to the hard work of both our students and the dedicated Art Department, whose passion and encouragement continue to nurture artistic excellence.

The Summer Art Exhibition also provided an opportunity for students to celebrate one another's achievements, gain confidence by sharing their work with a wider audience, and appreciate the diverse talents within our school community. The positive feedback from visitors reinforced the importance of creativity in education and the value of providing opportunities for students to express themselves through the arts.

Bentley Wood High School extends its sincere thanks to everyone who attended the exhibition and helped make the evening such a success. We are especially grateful to our Art Department for their commitment in curating a truly inspiring exhibition, and to our students, whose enthusiasm, perseverance, and creativity continue to make us immensely proud.

We look forward to seeing our young artists continue to flourish and cannot wait to celebrate another year of artistic achievement at next year's Summer Art Exhibition.

Miss March, Head of Art, Design & Technology

Sixth form events from field trips to fright nights







Year 12 enhance NEA learning skills on geography residential to Flatford Mills

Our recent geography trip was to prepare us for writing our NEA (non-examined assessment) and involved gathering data at the coast and participating in helpful classes from our instructor Sam. The trip was filled with fun and education that will help us in many ways when completing our NEA.

For three days we stayed in a cottage at the Field Studies Council Centre in Flatford Mills, Essex. On two of the days, we went to Walton-on-the-Naze to collect data, investigating groynes (engineering) , longshore drift (processes) and a wave cut platform (landforms). We also shared rooms and it was exciting as we could hang out together and explore the new area which was one of the highlights of the trip.

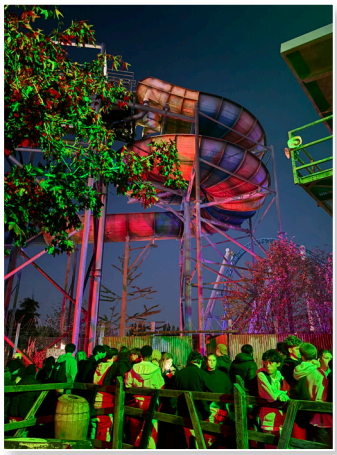
An important part of the trip was attending the lessons and workshops led by Sam at the Field Studies Centre. These sessions helped us understand how to organise and present our data effectively using techniques such as GIS mapping, graphs and statistical tests. The lessons were very useful because they gave us a clearer understanding of how to structure our NEA and analyse the information we collected at Walton-on-the-Naze the next day.

The trip was also a great opportunity to spend time together outside of school and become more independent. In the evenings, we relaxed together at the cottage, played games and explored the surrounding area around Flatford Mills.

The experience made the trip much more enjoyable and helped create a positive atmosphere throughout the three days. Overall, the trip was both educational and enjoyable, and it gave us valuable experience that will help us complete our NEA with more confidence.

Krisha P 12SN and Aneya S 12AM







Fright Night at Thorpe park

On Friday, 9th October Year 12 and 13 visited Thorpe Park's Fright Night attraction. For the sixth formers it wasn't just a trip but a much needed chance to unwind from the stresses of school and bond as a year group. The day was filled with adrenaline and nonstop laughter. The sixth formers eagerly lined up for the attractions and conquered rides by getting soaked on Tidal Wave and feeling the effects of Stealth's speed. Beyond the adrenaline pumping rides, there were greater adventures in store as students navigated the park's infamous scare zones, making us jump out of our skins thanks to the creepy actors. To aid our recovery from the fright we bought overpriced burgers and £8 donuts, but it was worth it in the end. The experience left everyone exhausted but gave us a chance to create special memories and renewed our school spirit to take on the challenges of the year ahead.

Maryam H

Year 12 students attend geography conference on geopolitics and security

North London Collegiate School recently became the host of a remarkable geography conference as it hosted a geography conference featuring two of the UK's most prestigious figures in national security and risk management: the former Chief of MI6 and Tom Clementi, CEO of Pool Re. The event brought together students, educators, and invited guests for an evening of thought-provoking talks on global risk, geopolitical change, and the evolving landscape of security in the 21st century.

The talks started with an introduction to our speakers with a year 12 student giving us an overview of the European perspective of the world contrasting to other countries who believe their trading networks put them in the most essential position in the economic world. This speech was truly inspiring to see a student of our age with so much confidence in public speaking and a powerful stand on geopolitics.

Throughout this event, students got the opportunity to learn about the evolving geopolitical news surrounding the key topic of superpowers. The former MI6 leader shared his knowledge on the UK's current stand on the current geopolitical news such as the production of oil in the middle east and the future impacts of this as well as touching upon the idea of the US's proposal of taking over Greenland and also Russia's continual population decline.

After this informative talk students got the opportunity to ask questions which included queries on who's the most powerful in the world. Tom Clementi, CEO of Pool Reinsurance (the UK's government backed terrorism reinsurer) offered a different perspective. His talk focused on how nations and industries prepare for and mitigate catastrophic risks, ranging from terrorism to large scale economic disruption. Clementi highlighted the critical role of public private partnerships in building national security and explained how Pool Re's work helps safeguard the UK's economic infrastructure and the impacts of terrorism on small UK businesses. A question asked was. "What does your company do to ensure the lives of the affected families?" to which he responded by detailing what his company offers and what they are working towards.

Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to learn about the various perspectives of how the UK stands in geopolitics and the major influence geography has worldwide. The experience was truly unforgettable.

Swara C 12JPR



Sixth formers engage in eventful history and politics trips









A Level students improve their history knowledge on trip to Westminster Abbey

The Westminster trip was an eye-catching experience we all took as a class. Not only did it help broaden our A level knowledge on Henry VII, but we were given the opportunity to see various areas that aren't even usually open to the public, like the tomb of Henry VII and his wife Elizabeth Of York.

We had amazing tour guides with many interactive activities and lots of interesting facts were shared with us, which helped expand our historical knowledge.

My personal favourite part was when we were able to sit in the choir stalls in the area of the abbey known as the Quire. We saw various elements of the abbey which varied from the coronation chair to Queen Elizabeth I's tomb, and many other past monarchs and key individuals, which we learn about on our course.

Many of us were captivated by the abbey and its historical past and enjoyed the overall experience.

Reshmi P 12AM



Year 12 students at the Houses of Parliament



Year 12 students at the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.





Year 12 politics students attend the Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court

Our Year 12 Politics students had the opportunity to visit two institutions that lie at the heart of the UK's political and legal system: Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. The trip provided students with a valuable chance to see many of the concepts we study in the classroom brought to life.

Our day began with a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. As we moved through the historic corridors, our guide introduced students to the traditions and architecture that shape the working environment of MPs. We saw the statues of key political figures, the House of Lords and the areas where constituents can meet their representatives.

Throughout the tour, the guide regularly quizzed the students on their political knowledge, which they were keen to demonstrate.

A key part of the visit was a workshop focusing on the role of backbench MPs in the legislative process. Students explored how MPs who are not part of the government can still influence politics through scrutiny, debate, and initiatives such as Private Members' Bills. The session encouraged students to think about the importance of parliamentary scrutiny and how backbenchers can hold the government to account, propose new laws, and raise issues on behalf of their constituents. It was an excellent opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of how Parliament functions beyond the actions of ministers and the executive.

In the afternoon, we visited the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. Here, students applied their knowledge about the role of the judiciary within the UK constitution and the function of the Supreme Court as the country's highest court of appeal.

Overall, the trip was an extremely rewarding experience for the students. Seeing Parliament and the Supreme Court first-hand helped reinforce many of the topics we study in A-level Politics, particularly the functioning of Parliament, the role of scrutiny, and the relationship between different branches of government.

It was a memorable day that brought our subject beyond the classroom and into the real institutions where political and legal decisions are made.

Mrs Nye

Sixth form enrichment clubs that enhance medical knowledge

NHS Cadets

The NHS cadets programme is run by St. John Ambulance in partnership with the NHS trust. At Bentley Wood it is co-delivered by Ms Bhurani and Mrs Naqvi. The programme is split into two pathways; Foundation pathway is delivered to Year 10 and Advanced pathway is delivered to Year 12 students. Both pathways deliver sessions on key skills, leadership and career skills, understanding care and clinical skills. Both pathways are oversubscribed.

This term students have focused on understanding the care values of NHS and how these values match their own. They have also developed an understanding of branding and logos and the importance of representing themselves. All students created a logo which represented their values and presented it to the rest of the group. Students were confident and developed presentation skills.

Year 10 have also focused on safeguarding - learning the importance of how to spot the signs of neglect and abuse as a care practitioner whilst Year 12 have focused on the history of medication. They are currently researching ways in which AI can help improve medical advances.

Mrs Naqvi, Head of Social Sciences



Jannat B 10MD



Fatema R 12AM



Jasmine G 10LSB







Medical Society: Students simulated surgical procedure by suturing fruit

Sixth formers who aspire to careers in medicine, dentistry or other health-related fields are invited to join the Bentley Wood Medical Society. The society meets regularly and offers a broad range of experiences — from debating topical issues in medicine to university interview preparation.

This half term, Medical Society took part in a more hands-on activity in which students simulated a surgical procedure by suturing an orange. Under the watchful gaze of Mrs Patel, they began by making an incision in the orange peel using a scalpel, taking care not to cut too deeply into the pulp.

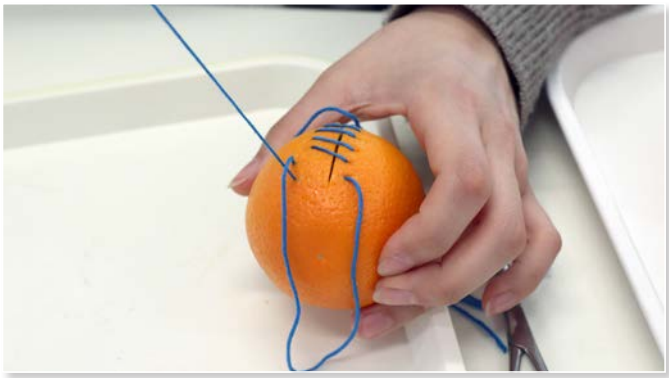
They then undertook the challenge of suturing the "wound" neatly using a needle and thread. Our surgeons-in-training had to ensure they did not apply too much pressure and cause the orange to release its juice.

The Year 12 students relished the task, focusing intently as they operated on the oranges. The activity gave them an appreciation for the fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination required to perform surgery.

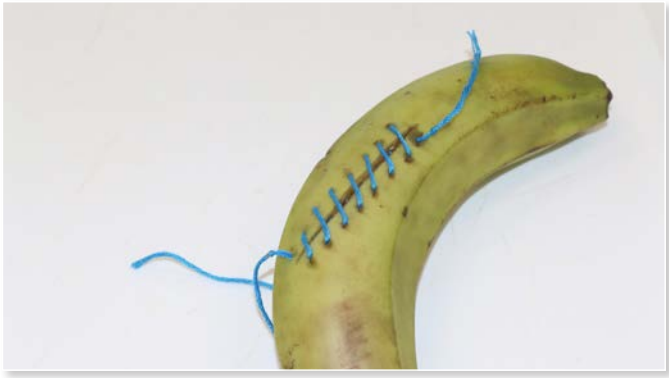
They also learned the importance of tension control, the correct angle for both scalpel and needle, and how to secure the knot properly to achieve a neat finish. A huge thank you to Mrs Patel for running the Medical Society, a very popular club that provides such invaluable opportunities and insight into careers in healthcare.













Sixth Form News

A Sixth Form experience for Year 11 on Sixth Form Taster Days

Bentley Wood Sixth Form welcomed Year 11 students to experience life in the Sixth Form with Taster Days on 22nd and 23rd June.

We are proud of the broad curriculum on offer as well as the wide range of enriching experiences enjoyed by students in the sixth form and this was an opportunity to showcase our many strengths to prospective students.

Students had the opportunity to sample lessons across all available A-Level subjects over a two-day programme and they were able to explore potential choices further by engaging with subject specialist staff.

Choosing A levels can be challenging, and taster days give students valuable insight to help them make informed decisions.

Many students were also able to look beyond their interests to explore subjects they originally hadn't considered. They also learned about other aspects of life in the sixth form such as EPQs. leadership opportunities, university preparation and enrichment programmes.





Leavers' Destinations 2026

