



Bensham Manor Newsletter

Autumn 2021

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear families,

Welcome to this edition of our Autumn term newsletter, just in time for Christmas. This term has been incredibly busy, as is usual at Bensham Manor School! Our Year 7's have settled into school life very well indeed and have made lots of friends. Our Year 11 students have been working very hard towards all of their examinations and accreditations and some of them have already spent half a term at college. Our Post 16 students opened the Soci-Able Café and have been serving delicious drinks and food to staff and visitors. 11EE have been very busy

getting breakfast bagels ready for classes every morning. Students toast, butter and deliver the bagels every morning. A huge well done to them. There have been so many trips and visits with lots of students visiting various sites in London. Staff and pupils have been working hard to save electricity and help the planet with a Bensham Switch Off led by the Eco-Committee and Lewis Spackman. We had our first ever Christmas Fayre which was a huge success. One of the highlights of the whole term was our Black History Month and multi-cultural celebrations. And finally, we even had two pupils take part in Strictly Come Dancing for Children in Need.



There is so much to always be proud of at Bensham Manor School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff team for their hard work this term, all of the pupils for always doing their best and to you, the families, for your continued support.

I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Warmest wishes

Fiona Robinson, Headteacher

Edited by Sean Fitzgerald

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Fayre. Despite poor weather the attendance was fantastic and we are happy to report that we raised just over **£1500!** From the wide range of activities going on please enjoy a small selection of photos from the day! Our summer fayre is currently in the works.

Have a Merry Christmas!



Student Council

Progress being made!

We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the Student Council for all their hard work this term. They have been listening to their fellow student's thoughts and ideas and have been sharing them with Ms Aisha and Mrs Robinson during this festive term. All suggestions are relayed back in meetings and have been debated, discussed, and actioned.

How is the School Council organised?

There are 2 representatives from Year 7 – Year 11 and one representative from Post 16. They lead all the School Council activities, meetings and plan some events that take place in school. They are supported by the lead PSHCE teacher: Ms Aisha Khan.



Some of the achievements of this term:

- Break time has been reverted back to 20 minutes.
- More laptops/chromebooks have been ordered in PSHCE and Science.
- Playgrounds have been mixed so year groups can go in all playgrounds of their choice (following Covid guidelines)
- They have decided on the new floor markings in the playground and continue to discuss what else they can add to make break times more enjoyable for all students
- Students can now choose which Wellbeing activities they would like to do on our Wellbeing Wednesdays
- New gym equipment is being ordered and is on its way. Students will be able to push and challenge themselves further
- There are now brand-new Science labs, refurbished with a brighter atmosphere to enhance learning which pupils had been requesting.
- Wellbeing afternoons activities are now suggested by the student council team.
- Student council now has a budget for the first time ever.
- Increase in trips - covid permitted.

Year 7

What a start!

A Very Big Well Done to our new Year 7s. They have successfully managed their transition from Primary School and adjusted so well to the demands of their new timetable. We are so impressed by the pupils helping each other, thoughtfully listening to each other, independently managing their timetables and all the resources they need. Some of our Year 7s have represented Bensham at external sporting events and gone on visits to local churches where they have been praised for their super behaviour. What's really impressive about all of these achievements is understanding that Year 7 pupils had a challenging end to their time at Primary School where Year 5 and 6 were impacted so much by Covid. So once again, a Very Big Well Done to Year 7 for settling in so well.



Poetry Jam

Proud To Be



On Friday October 22nd the English Department organised Bensham's first ever Poetry Jam which was a great success. Over 50 of our students entered their own poems, performing their amazing and sometimes funny poems based on the theme 'Proud To Be...' to help celebrate who we are and what we are proud of as part of our Black History Month's celebration in school. We also had a visit from Adisa the Verbalizer - a brilliant and well-respected performance poet who worked with some of our classes as well as perform at our Poetry Jam and support our students. The event was so popular that we aim to organise another Poetry Jam in the summer term. There were so many fabulous performances from all the students who took part so it was very difficult to choose a winner. Well done to Latifa, Joe, 9AK, Dontay, Chantelle and Dylan for winning and collecting your prizes.

Sport at Bensham

Football

Our friends at Crystal Palace FC kindly invited a group of our Year 10 and 11 pupils to attend the recent Premier League fixture versus Aston Villa. We were treated to an Executive Box and everyone had a lovely time even though the result wasn't great for any Palace fan (However, our secret Villa supporter was delighted!)



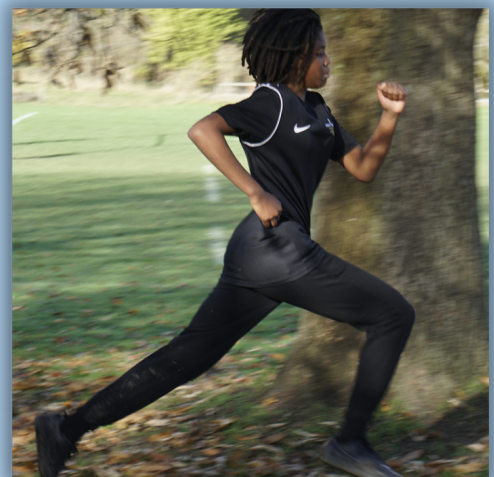
Bensham Manor was the only Surrey School to enter a full complement of a KS3, KS4 and a Girls team for the recent tournaments in the Surrey Inclusive Football League. These were organised by the Fulham FC Foundation so it meant we got to visit that Famous Club's training ground!

The girls were undefeated and won their league whilst both the boys teams achieved creditable 3rd place finishes. Top scorer was Ibrahim (10CW) with an incredible 12 goals!



Cross Country

Bensham Manor was also the only school to enter a full complement of boys and girls teams for the recent Surrey Special Schools Cross Country Championships. All our competitors bravely battled their way around the hilly Reigate countryside with the star performer being Teyana (7AH) who won individual silver in both the Junior and Senior events. Natalie (8MJ) finished close behind to win individual bronze whilst strong performances from Aisha (8MJ) and Libby (7BM) meant that the all girls came home with Gold after winning both the Junior and Senior Events!



Black History Month

At Bensham Manor School we celebrated Black History Month throughout October.

Inspired by the 2020 Black Lives Matter events, the theme we celebrate this year is called 'Proud To Be' and will invite people of all ages throughout the UK to share what they are proud to be, for example, Proud To Be Black, Proud To Be Black & LGBTQ+, Proud To Be Me.

This year pupils celebrated Black History Month with a variety of activities. Year 7 classes took part in African storytelling sessions and Year 8 pupils took part in an African Dance workshop. Bensham Manor School held their first ever Poetry Jam, which included a visit from Adisa the Verbalizer.

Each tutor group also contributed to our annual Black History Month Poster Competition celebrating the achievements of Strong Black Women. Lastly, to finish our month long celebrations, pupils attended a virtual disco with DJ Sam at Bensham Radio, where they were able to make song requests and ask for a shout out of what they are 'Proud To Be'.



Outdoor Learning

In Year 7 the students have been looking at caring for a pet, which has involved them learning about their diet, habitat and how to handle them safely. All the students have taken part in these activities.



The Year 8's have been looking at sustainability this term. Solo Wood is a small reclaiming wood company based on Factory Lane in Croydon, that runs workshops for students of all ages. The students built their own bug hotels using a variety of fine motor skills, from drilling holes to assembling their very own unique creations

Year 9 have been learning about composting and how it helps the environment, they have used their life skills with preparing the animals food and waste peelings have been recycled onto the compost bins.



Post 16 - Harvesting the tomatoes to make chutney and potting on cuttings for next year's Bensham in Bloom.

Jack Petchey

October 2021 Winner

This person is very polite with his peers and to adults. He is a reliable and responsible individual and takes his class jobs very seriously. This person has a calm and happy personality that he passes into his peers and they love to be around him. He is always eager to participate in lessons and is always one of the first to volunteer. He is a great team player, this skill is especially show when he is playing football.

Well done Ladon!



English

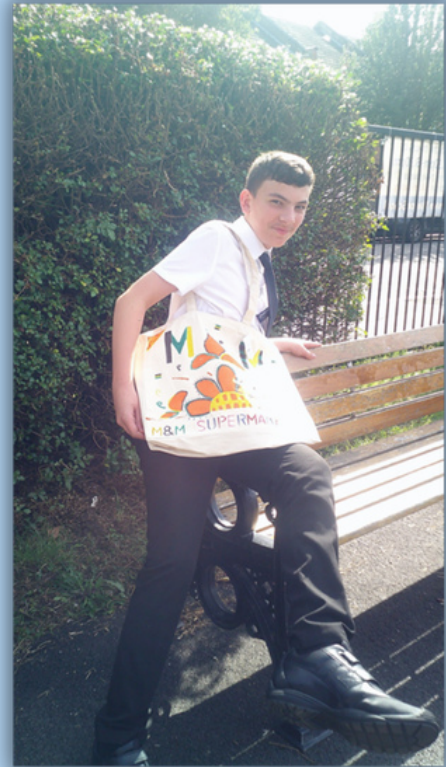
A Christmas Carol

Year 8's are studying the novel 'A Christmas Carol' . We have learned some new vocabulary, using a dictionary to find the definition of the words 'Ignorance, injustice, misery, transformation and many more. We are also reading the book in our English lessons.



Duke of Edinburgh

Swag Bags



This term in The Duke of Edinburgh lessons we have been working on a small enterprise. The Students have designed and hand painted one of a kind durable shopping bags that have been sold in school and at a local supermarket called M&M in Thornton Heath high street.

The money raised will go towards our Duke of Edinburgh expedition in spring. The group have been working hard learning how to use a compass and excel their map reading skills.



Sewing Club

A welcomed return

Sewing and Knitting Lunch Club has re-started after 2 long years. So far, pupils have been enjoying learning the basics of sewing and using a needle and thread to sew together cushions and animal shapes out of colourful felt material. It was exciting to welcome pupils who are keen to learn a new skill, as well as pupils who are eager to pass on their knowledge and skills. We can't wait to see what else our members can make as they hone their skills in the new year!



Healthy Schools

Are you packing a healthy lunch?

At breaks and lunch times, we enjoy eating healthy snacks as it keeps us fuller for longer, keeps us energised and we are ready to learn. Please make sure lunch boxes are healthy and snacks high in sugar/salt are avoided. When we feel our best we can be the best :D



Please try to make healthy choices where possible for your child's lunch box – we are seeing many sugary snacks in lunch boxes at the moment, particularly an increase in lollipops. Not only are they a choking hazard but extremely high in sugar too. Visit [nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes](https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes) for more!

Textiles Gallery

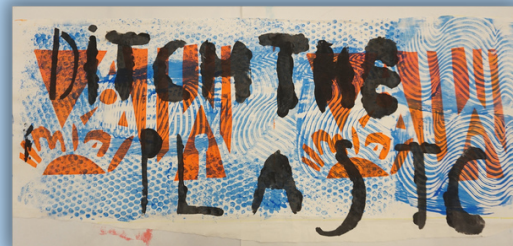
Follow @bensham_manor_textiles on Instagram to check out more amazing Textiles work from all year groups!

Year 11 have successfully completed their mock exams!

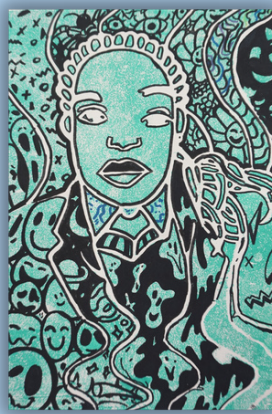
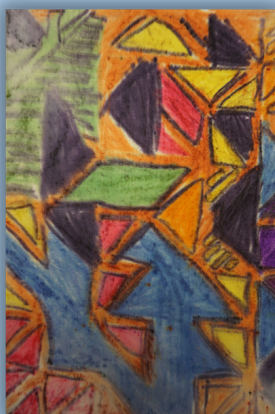
They used many different printing techniques including; Screen-printing, Block-printing and Mono-printing, to create beautiful self-portraits.



Year 10 have been making banners inspired by the work of Vivienne Westwood. Their project 'Order and Disorder - Our Planet' looks at climate change issues



Year 9 students are studying the work of the Japanese designer Takashi Murakami for their Manga project. They have made wonderful Murakami style flowers, using felt applique.



Year 8's have been designing geometric patterns to apply to fabric and in Year 11 Textiles club students drew lino prints and then added fine pen details.

Religious Studies

During November, some Year 7 classes visited Minster Church. They had a great time learning about different artefacts - the pupils couldn't believe the lectern was made during Henry VIII's reign!

Pupils were able to ring the bell which was the call to prayer



Pupils followed the story of Jesus' life which are displayed on the stained glass windows



Some pupils were dressed as a Bishop and a member of the Choir

