

Bensham Manor Newsletter



Autumn Term 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to this Autumn Term Newsletter!

It has been lovely to see the Year 7 pupils settle in over the past term. They are really growing in confidence and are successfully navigating their way around the school. Well done Year 7. Our Year 11 pupils have been working very hard, sitting a series of mock examinations and some real ones too across a number of subjects. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and commitment which they have shown. At the beginning of term some Year 11 pupils attended a residential at The Old Pheasantry and had the very best time. The feedback from Year 11 students was really positive. Our Post 16 students continue to support the whole school through a number of initiatives. They support with The Felix Project, bagging up food items for families on a weekly basis. They continue to provide breakfast bagels each morning to pupils and operate the Drinks Hub in the front playground. A huge well done to them!

Pupils at Bensham Manor School really understand the importance of charity and have fundraised for so many charities and good causes this term.

The PE Department has organised a number of sporting events. Pupils from across all Year groups have taken part and there were lots of medals and trophies won. Congratulations to all involved.

The Drama Department, in collaboration with Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival have produced another successful play, Macbeth. Performing in a play takes lots of commitment, dedication and hard work. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved. Reading continues to be a high priority and the English Department organised some wonderful events including The Poetry Jam where pupils were able to be creative. I want to wish you all a very happy Christmas. Have a really restful break. Pupils return on Monday January 8th.

Fiona Robinson, Headteacher

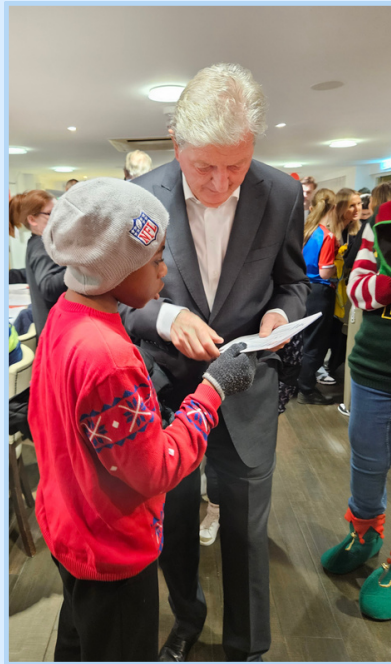
Year 11 Sports Leaders

Sports Leaders so far this year have been supporting PE events by refereeing games, setting up equipment, demonstrating techniques and keeping score. They helped out at a recent dodgeball event and supported pupils from other schools. Bensham students reached the finals at this event - a great achievement!



Crystal Palace Party

Students had an absolutely brilliant time at the CPFC charity party. They met with players, getting their autographs and taking photos. Dancing with the cheerleaders was a highlight and chatting to manager Roy Hodgson was a fantastic experience!



Minster Church Visits

Bensham has a great relationship with the Croydon Minster Church where Year 7 pupils visit each year. They get to ring the church bell and dress up as Bishops!



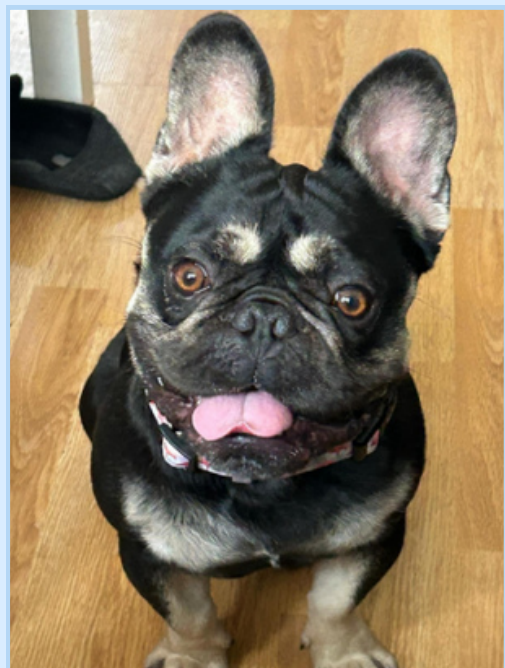
Bensham Band

Our Bensham Band has performed live at multiple locations this term, including Legacy Youth Zone as part of the SEND Strategy Launch. They have written their own songs too - we are so proud of their confidence and creative prowess. We look forward to their future performances.



Therapy Dog

As featured on the cover of this newsletter, this is Bruno - Our Therapy Dog at Bensham! We are thrilled to announce that he'll be joining our therapy services. His training has just been completed and students are excited to get to know him!



Student Council

This term, Student Council have done an amazing job supporting the school. They have had a term of tough elections and the new student council team has finally been selected. A huge round of applause to everyone that applied! Competition was tough and everyone did very well. Students had to apply to be a part of the student council team and applications were rigorously checked by the previous student council team and through voting the new team was elected.

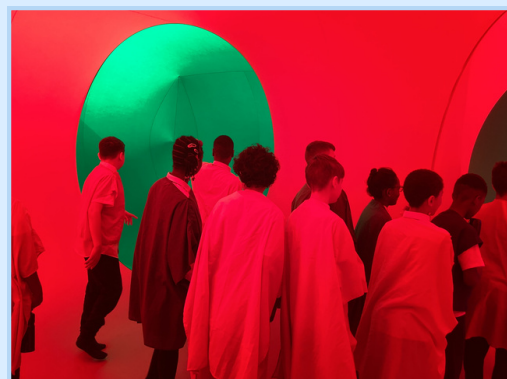
The new student council team would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you and well done to the previous team, they did a fantastic job!

How can pupils contact the student council team?

- Speak to the representatives - tell them your suggestions.
- Write a letter and give it to your representative.
- Speak to Miss Aisha.
- Put a suggestion in the feedback box in room 12 on Miss Aishas' window ledge.

Colourscape Trip

Bensham's first school trip of the term was to Colourscape in Clapham. Year 8 students walked around in tunnels with lots of different colours and lights and had fun exploring art in a new way. It was a trip they won't forget!



PSHCE

This term, pupils have been working very hard in PSHCE. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 have been learning about careers and have had the opportunity to use the National Careers Website.

Year 7 and 8 also had the chance to dress up as their chosen careers! In Year 9, pupils have been focusing on personal safety and Year 10 have been learning about STEM jobs. In year 11, pupils have been learning about human rights and child rights and have thoroughly enjoyed identifying the rights most relevant to them.



Student Author

We are really proud to announce that Tommy in Year 11 is published author and poet! After entering two Young Writers UK competitions, he eagerly waited for months until finally finding out by post of his success. His work is featured in Young Writers Annual Showcase and Marvellous Superheroes books - Well done Tommy!



Jack Petchey Showcase

Winner November 2023 - This person is always helpful and thoughtful. He will always get on with any task set but he is also the first student offering to help his peers and teachers. He is a hard-working and polite gentleman who has grown in confidence. He is very considerate and others have seen a big change in this person since Year 7. He always has a positive mindset for school life and his passion for reading now is inspiring. He is a valuable asset to Bensham Manor. He is always willing to help staff and peers and keen to encourage and explain how wonderful we are here to visitors who are considering bringing their child to Bensham. He is now able to express himself safely and will go to adults when he finds things difficult.

Laker in Year 10



Congratulations to Patryk, Mina, Ariana, Aishya and staff member Sam for their Achievement Awards.

Pizza Sale

Maxine and Jo supported 11GM making and selling pizzas raising money charity. The charity we were supporting this term is Down Syndrome UK. The students did a great job all the pizzas sold out and we raised £124.

Thank you to everyone who brought a slice of pizza!



Year 11 Enterprises



This term Year 11s organised a popcorn sale and car wash enterprise in order to raise and donate money to those affected by the recent floods and earthquakes in Morocco and Libya. The MATW Project and the British Moroccan Society were thankful for our donations

£45 from the Popcorn Sale
£116 from the Staff Car Wash

Well done to them!

Year 7 Science



The students in Year 7 have made a fantastic start in science. In the first half term, they learnt all about forces. They showed their true 'powers' by naming different forces and identifying contact and non-contact forces. Force meters were used to measure the force exerted by a range of objects.

In the second half of the term, Year 7 have been learning about electricity and magnetism.

They have used their knowledge to sort magnetic and non-magnetic materials. They really enjoyed exploring and comparing the strengths of a range of magnets and have built a variety of circuits using different electrical components such as buzzers, motors, bulbs and switches. Well done a brilliant start to Year 7 science - keep up the good work.



Multi-Activity Day Trip

7DD had a great day out at the London Youth Games Multi-Activity Day in November!

They started with a dynamic dance...



and then the next activity was a real hit...



...before scoring some fab hockey goals...



...leading to a great team celebration for an excellent day out



Crystal Palace Trip

Thanks to Palace for Life in partnership with Bensham Manor we were about to send a group of football fanatics in Year 8 and 11 to Crystal Palace vs Bournemouth in the Premier League! We get executive box seats and had a great view of the goals for this match (Sadly not in the way of the home side!).



Adisa the Verbalizer

In October, Adisa the Verbalizer came to meet our students, listen to our very own poets in the making and perform at our third Poetry Jam. Over 35 of our students took part! They wrote poems based on the theme of 'Supporting Our Sisters' for BHM and performed them in front of a live audience - amazing! Well done to everyone who took part.



Year 7 Christmas Books

Our new Year 7's each chose a free book from the English Department and BookTrust. What a lovely early Christmas present - we hope students enjoy reading at home! Thanks to Sonia, our amazing TA and library assistant for making the library look so Christmassy.



Poet Laureate

This year for the first time we have our very own student Poet Laureate. Our poet Laureate will write poems for the school and all the amazing events and activities we put on.

Well done to Aishya in Year 10 for your amazing first poem 'Being a Woman Today.'



Being a Woman Today

Not feeling safe at night
Holding your keys in your
hand like a blade
Always having your phone out
on the go
Feeling unsafe after dusk.

A new beauty standard
everyday
Nice but not too nice
Wearing makeup to cover up
your blemishes
but not too much
Or you're trying too hard
Being made to feel guilty for
saying no.

Elianne Andam we will
remember you
Jill Dando we will remember
you
Suzy Lamplugh we will
remember you
Anisa Abbas we will
remember you
Sarah Everard we will
remember you
To the victims of so called
"honour killings"
To every victim of femicide
We will remember

Women We Salute You

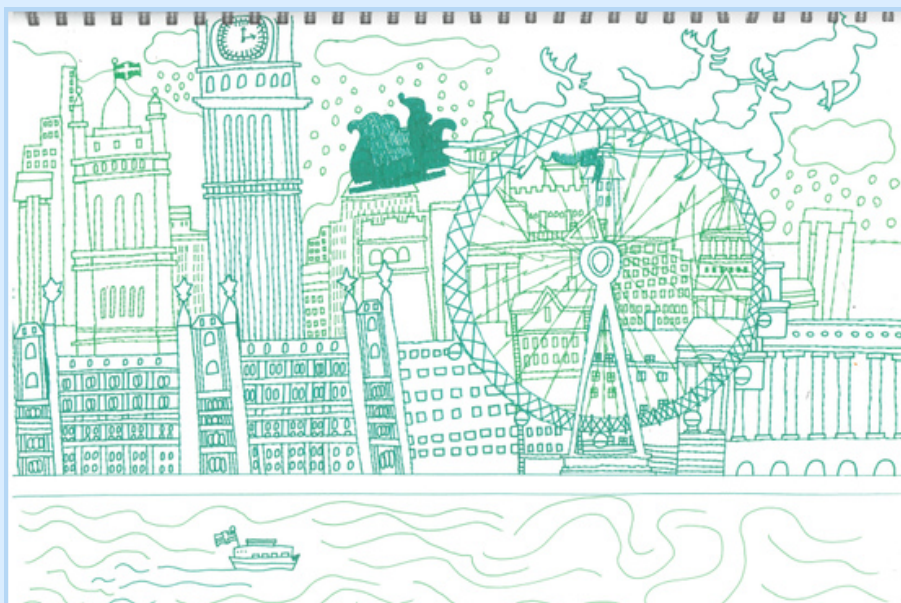
Christmas Dinner

The Christmas dinner at school was a huge hit among the students! The festive atmosphere, coupled with delicious food, brought everyone together. It was a heartwarming celebration that truly captured the spirit of the season!



Artwork Showcase

Filipe in Post 16 drew this brilliant artwork of Father Christmas flying over London. We look forward to his future drawings!



Cross Country

Bensham Manor Girls won silver in both Junior and Senior events at the Surrey Championships, showing great endurance. The Junior Boys also got silver at the Surrey Cross Country Championships, a great showing as for some it was their first time representing the school!



Bensham Fun Run

The school fun run was a blast! Staff and students came to sprint, jog, and walk their way around Streatham-Croydon Rugby Club. Well done to everybody involved!



Skills for Life Winter Fayre

As part of Bensham's Careers and Skills for Life, students in Year 8 and 9 worked as a team to put on a Winter Fayre. Year 8 made stunning Christmas cards and decorations while Year 9 made bracelets cookies & hot chocolate. A great effort from all involved, they had a very busy time!



Diwali at Bensham

As part of our cultural curriculum, students learnt about Diwali in November. In Year 8, students made Diya lamps out of clay - molding and painting them. They symbolise prosperity in the new year. Year 11s have been learning to make traditional chickpea curry in Food Tech.



Outdoor Learning

Year 7's have been working hard learning the names and uses of different tools we can use in Outdoor Learning. It's been an engaging journey understanding the functionalities and applications of these tools, getting familiar with how each one contributes to our outdoor experiences.

A recent hands-on session brought them outdoors, where they planted carrot seeds, onions, and garlic.

Anticipation is high amongst the students as they eagerly await the arrival of spring when they'll be able to harvest!



Christmas Crafts

The Christmas Crafts event was a wonderful success! It was a heartwarming session filled with festive crafting, cheerful Christmas music and delightful cups of hot chocolate. Everyone had a fantastic time making beautiful Christmas items together. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made it a memorable morning!



Forest School

Outdoor education at Forest School beckons one group of Year 8 students weekly. Our pupils delve into a world of woodcraft, environmental stewardship, and safe outdoor exploration.

