



Bensham Manor Newsletter

Spring 2022

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter. Whilst Covid is something which has not gone away, we are learning to live with it and school life is returning to normal.

We have managed to do many fantastic visits this term including a trip to The Tate Britain as well as to Wembley to watch England play Ivory Coast. There have been a number of sports trips with pupils bringing some great silverware back to school.

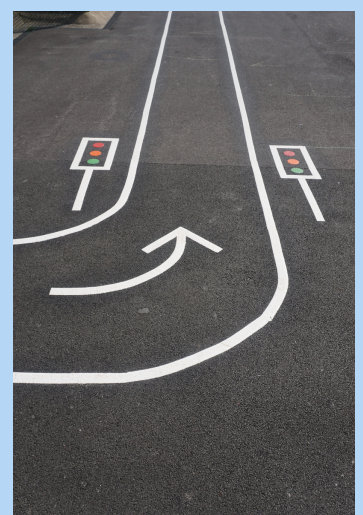
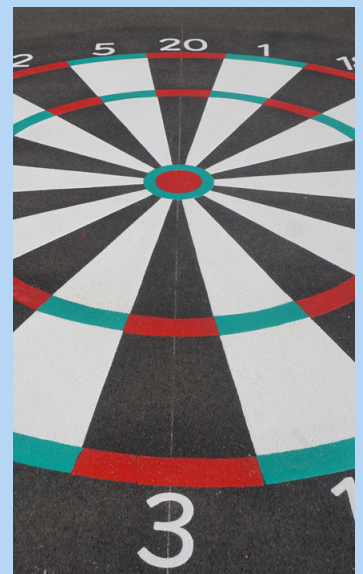
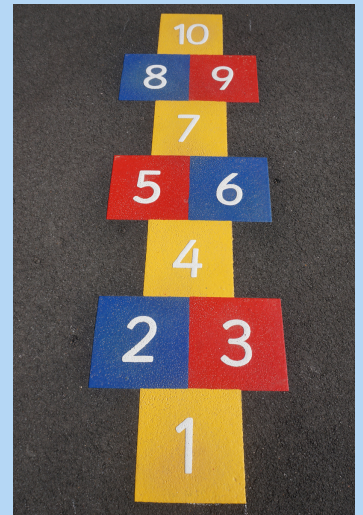
We celebrated Careers Week at the start of March and all classes had a guest speaker who spoke about their career and answered any questions that the children had. Pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 also took part in a practice interview session. The week was a triumph and the pupils very much enjoyed learning about all the different careers that they can choose from.

We also celebrated World Book Day which the pupils really enjoyed. Staff decorated their classroom doors and did a 'Guess the Book' competition. We supported Macmillan Cancer Charity too.

Over the February half-term we did some work in our playgrounds at the pupils request. You can see the works done on the right of this page.

Please enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I would like to finish by wishing you all a happy Easter. Pupils return on April 19th for what is always a really busy term.

Fiona Robinson



Student Council

Important as ever!

This term, Student Council have done an amazing job supporting the school. Here are some of the changes you will have seen around the school made by the Student Council:

- They have pushed for renovations in the school, such as the new snakes and ladders in the middle playground, as well as the darts board and the hopscotch squares. Students have been really lucky during break times and even in lessons to compete and play games with each other.



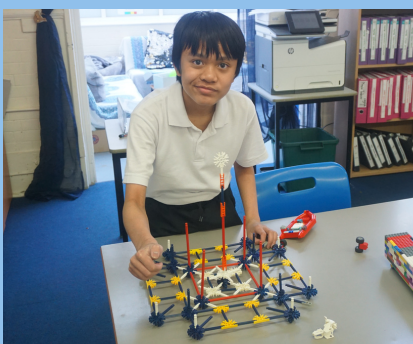
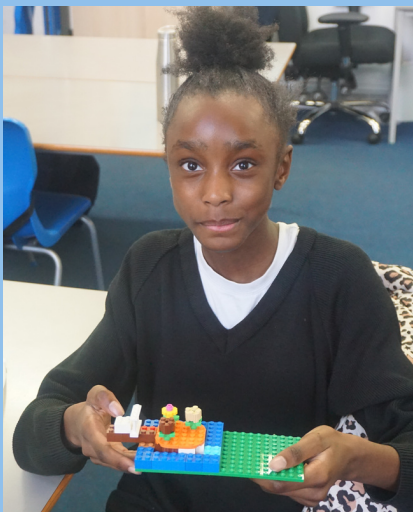
- Student Council has pushed for more wellbeing activities on Wellbeing Wednesdays. Now students have more opportunities to pick from a wider range of games and activities.
- We now have Year 11s supporting Year 7s in the adventure playground. You can see them here in high-vis jackets, which say "I can help" on the back.
- Student council have raised money for MacMillan Cancer Support and for World Book Day.
- And...we even have fleeces on the way!



Student council have been working very hard for the school and everyone's wellbeing. We look forward to seeing more changes that come about through their hard work and effort.

School clubs

After school clubs have been thriving this term! Have a look at whats been going on below. The clubs letter for next term has been sent to parents/carers and is on the school website.



Sport at Bensham

Bensham Manor has made the most of the return of organised sports events with several wins and trophies this term.

9AK started the ball rolling in more ways than one when they triumphed over 6 other schools at the South London Table Cricket event held at The Oval.

A combined team of representatives of every year group then achieved a great 2nd place finish at the South East London Panathlon Football. This means that the school has qualified for the London Final to be held at Wembley in May!

The success continued at the Croydon and Sutton Panathlon Ten-Pin bowling attended by our Post-16 group which was won overall by one of our players - Washington.

Finally, at the end of March, Bensham found success at the Surrey Schools Tag Rugby Tournaments winning bronze in both the KS3 and KS4 plate events and - for the first time - winning Gold in the main KS4 competition.



Outdoor Learning

Progress being made!

This term in outdoor learning we have been busy preparing an area in the front playground to create a sensory garden.

Post 16 and other year groups across the school have worked hard weeding and turning the soil ready to plant.

We have a green house full of wonderful seeds planted by Year 7, they have planted a selection of flowers, vegetables and salads.



Also over in the outdoor learning department the Year 7s have been working on making a sensory picture, they had lots of fun being creative using different colours and textures. Here is the finished product! Didn't they do well?



Science and Engineering Day



This year BMS celebrated science and engineering week in style. The science department set a challenge for each year group - the idea was for all students to become involved, work collaboratively and celebrate science, technology and engineering.

Year 7 – Magnetic mazes

Year 8 – Planet friendly burgers / Rocket mice

Year 9 – Make it fly

Year 10 – Spaghetti and Marshmallow Towers

Year 11 – Harmonica and Oboe Straws

HMD Remembrance

Bensham took part in Holocaust Memorial Day back on the 27th of January.

In History and RE lessons, we studied events leading up to the Holocaust, Kindertransport, discriminatory laws against Jewish people and The Final Solution.

Pupils have shown tremendous empathy, maturity and compassion for the Jewish community.

A tree/branch of hope and remembrance stands to mark the occasion. Pupils drew candles to hang on the branches which each remembers the lives lost.



Pupils and staff have written messages of hope, love and remembrance.



The pupils wore and sold white ribbons of remembrance in aid of HMD.org



English

Our Voices

In Year 8
English we have
made posters
to have 'Our
Voices' heard in
a protest



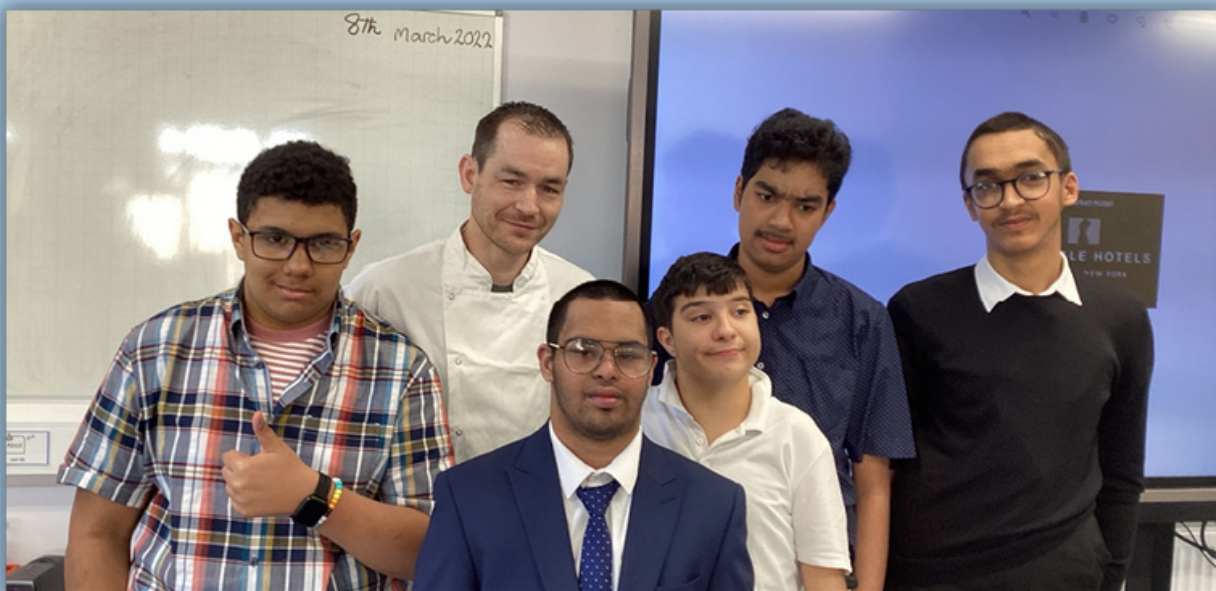
World Book Day

For World Book Day we dressed up as our favourite book characters, guessed which books were on doors and had a quiz about books and authors!



Life Skills Cooking

The Life Skills Cooking team had the pleasure of a visit from the Head Chef of the Haymarket Hotel in central London this week. The Chef spent time with a range of pupils across year groups. He was able to share some images of this amazing hotel, including photos of dishes served from the restaurant. Pupils had the chance to sample some unusual foods. We would like to express our huge thanks to the Chef for giving up his time to support Bensham Manor School's Careers Week (March 7th – 11th) and for the donation of ingredients, which Year 9 and Post 16 students used to learn about salads including how to make a tasty pomegranate vinaigrette!



Cultural Curriculum

This term we have been celebrating the diversity that makes Bensham so amazing. We work hard to make sure our subject curriculums reflect the cultural diversity of our students and staff, the wider community and our global community. We celebrated this during our Cultural Curriculum Day where each subject showcased one aspect of their curriculum and how it links to the diversity of our school.

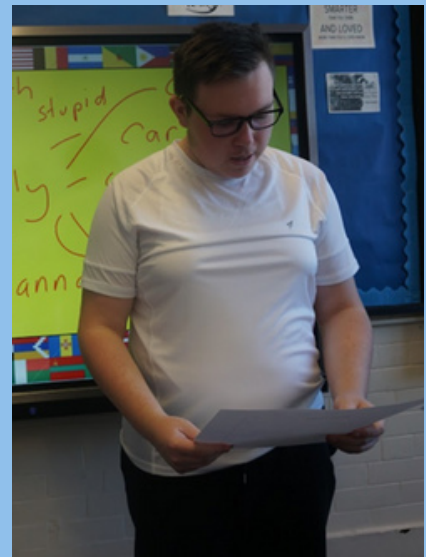
Yoga in PE



Making dumplings for Chinese New Year



Writing inclusive poems in English



Learning different languages



Sharing our cultures in PSHE



Art inspired by Alex Whittle



Post 16 Cafe

Great news! The Social Café reopened on the 1st March, which was fantastic for the students and staff.

Every Thursday is Soup Day. Post 16 prepare, cook and serve the staff a delicious range of fresh school made soups, along with fresh baked rolls and amazing muffins, all this for just £1. The students get to practice their cutting, measuring, weighing, designing and working as a team supporting each other. Business has been growing and the whole school has been involved in some way.

As well as a very busy Thursdays, 5 students from Post 16 work in the Social Café as part of their work experience. The students prepare and discuss the menus for the following week, which includes 3 different fillings for baguettes, fresh salad and a choice of dessert. The students go shopping for the ingredients, and budget the money.

I am pleased to say the orders are growing every week, the staff are enjoying some amazing lunches and students are growing in confidence.



Student Poem

We are Family

by Patrick in Year 10

*Even though yours has a different face
Even though yours has different hair
Even though you have a different family
In our hearts and souls we are all the same.*

*We are family
So don't forget who cares for you
Don't forget who loves you
So don't forget I'll risk my life for you,
No matter what.*

*We are family
No-one could separate us because we are family
No devil could separate us because we are family
No God could separate us because we are family
Even if you cross the world my soul will always be with you.*

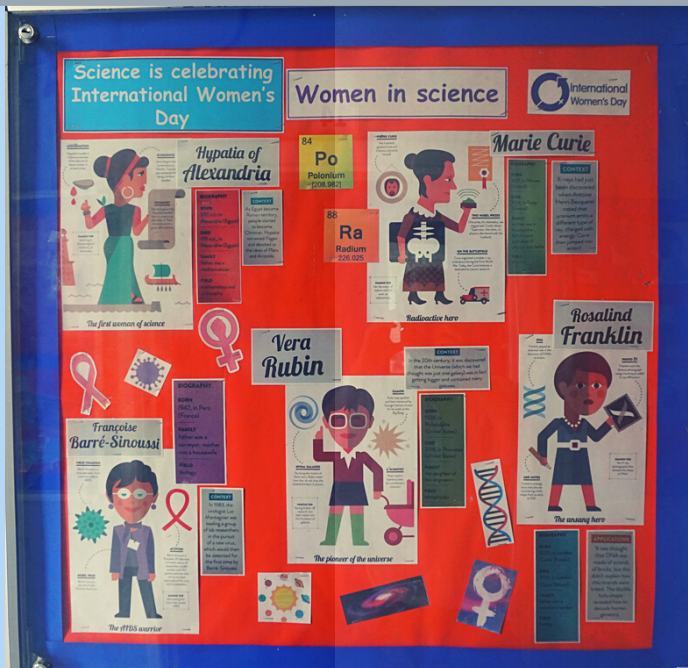
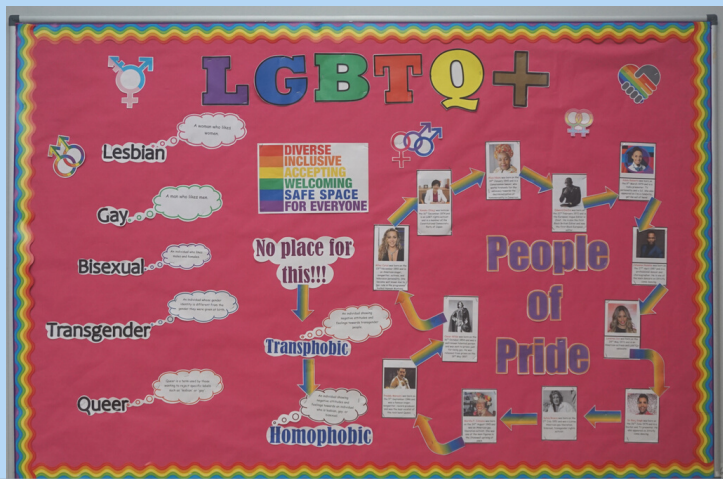
*We are family
You might hate me
You might be mad at me
You might never want to see me again
But deep down, I'll always love you because
We are family.*

Students wrote poems based on 'We are Family' by Michael J. Burt for Cultural Curriculum day. Above is one of the many fantastic pieces that English classes at Bensham came up with. Well done Patrick!

Display Boards

Check them out!

We use our display boards to convey messages about our values and to show off the great work completed by students. Here is a small selection!



Maths

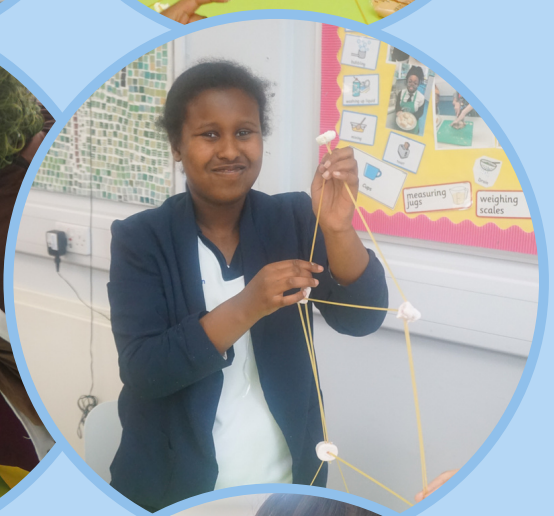
Maths and Bensham (It Adds Up!)



All year groups have been very busy working hard in Maths this term, taking part in lots of fun activities. On multi-cultural day Key Stage 3 students went on a Safari to answer mathematical questions! Two Key Stage 4 students dressed as Florence Nightingale and Mary Jackson to spread the word of fantastic, female mathematicians and their achievements. Year 7 and 8's have become bar tenders and using the measuring skills they learnt in the classroom to create delicious mocktails. Year 9's have been using the new dart board and snakes and ladders in the playground to practice their doubling and halving skills. Year 10's and 11's have been able to expand and simplify up to triple algebra brackets and solve quadratic equations independently.

Wonka Day

For our Wonka Day Year 7s enjoyed a range of activities including the pink wafer tower challenge, spot the golden tickets, creme egg race and the marshmallow and linguine challenge!



Jack Petchey

February 2022 Winner

This young person has shown a continuous hard working attitude towards her learning. She always comes to lessons prepared with resources and gives 100% to her learning. She always brings in her homework and completes work during lessons. She contributes well in group discussions that once she would find difficult and is able to express her emotions in a mature nature. She is always keen to help her peers when needed and encourages her class to do the right thing. She always carries a scrapbook/paper to draw while the teachers are explaining the lesson as she recognises that she needs to keep busy, this also helps her concentrate and has helped with her wonderful art projects, she loves to help with any jobs. This young person is an absolute star and deserves to be rewarded with the Jack Petchey award.

Well Done Amelia!



Pancake sale

We had two pancake sales this term because the first one was so popular! We raised over £100 for our Outdoor Learning center



Mock Interviews

On Tuesday March 8th pupils in Years 10,11,12 and 13 took part in an interview session with some volunteers. The volunteers were:

Andrew Robinson - Government Internal Audit Agency

Andrew Maguire - Home Office

Esther O'Halloran - Investors in People

Stella Bryan - Bensham Manor Governor

Barrie Murphy - Head of Year 7

Valbona Sulaj - Teaching Assistant

The aim of the day is to begin to develop pupils' confidence in an interview situation. The team involved are all skilled at supporting pupils and ensuring they are comfortable.

The feedback from pupils was wholly positive. The interviewers were absolutely blown away by how wonderful the young people were on the day and the level of skill they showed.