



Bensham Manor Newsletter

Spring 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter.

What an exciting Spring term we have had! Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard preparing for their examinations. I am very proud of the mature attitude and resilience they have shown. The Year 11 students who are working towards a BTEC in Home Cooking Skills cooked amazing meals for some members of staff. Many Year 11's have had an offer of a place at college for September 2023 and are excited about the next stage of their education. They have been well prepared through our robust Careers programme including taking part in practice interviews, college visits and meeting a range of employers.

Bensham has had a number of sporting triumphs too including winning medals at dodgeball, football and cricket. Our Sports Leaders have had a number of opportunities to attend and organise various events and did us proud. Educational visits and visitors were high profile this term. There were visits to religious places of worship, theatre trips including a Shakespeare play at the Globe and the musical Frozen and a number of community visits. Our visitors included the author Alex Wheatle, Professor Aderin-Pocock and performance poet Adisa the Verbaliser. For our Science and Engineering event we had a workshop from Shooting Stars Circus which pupils really enjoyed. We also celebrated festivals and recognised some key events and dates. We remembered the lives lost during WWII on Holocaust Memorial Day. We celebrated the Chinese New Year. We raised money for Comic Relief and for the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. There were a number of opportunities for you to get involved too. We held Progress Afternoons, Online Safety Training, Tea and Talk sessions and SOLAR training.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter which highlights the achievements of Bensham Manor Students over the half term.

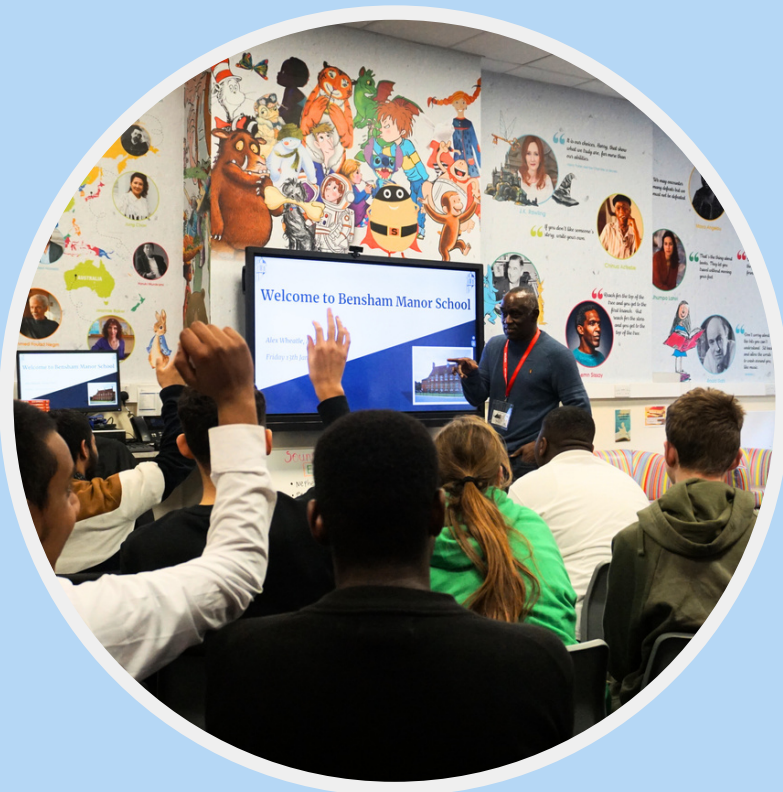
I wish you all a lovely Easter break. Students return on Monday April 17th.

Fiona Robinson, Headteacher

Library Opening

Live, Learn, Library!

In January the author, Alex Wheatle came to visit our school and officially open our wonderful library. He's written many teenage and young adult books and he came to share his life and journey with our Year 10's and 11's about becoming an author and to read from his latest book 'Cane Warriors'. His talk was lively, funny and honest and our students really enjoyed it. They asked some thoughtful and honest questions and even had photos taken with him.

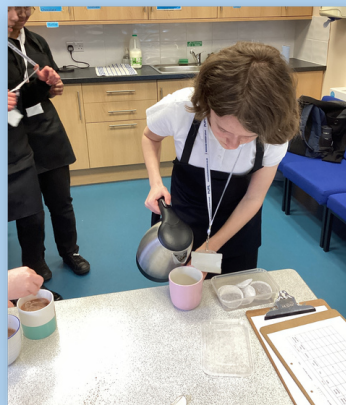


Skills for Life

Ready for work experience

This term in Skills for Life, Year 9 classes have been running a Café as part of the 'work experience' AQA Unit.

All the students took part in different roles such as: Waiter/Waitress, Barista and Chef. Duties included; taking the customer orders, making the drinks and serving cakes and cookies. Essential life skills such as communication, cleaning and washing up were also developed during these lessons. The students enjoyed the practical element of this unit and will hopefully be transferring some of these skills when they do their real work experience in year 10!



Learning to Drive

Thank you to JEDS driving school

We were so delighted to hear recently from a former pupil who passed his driving test at the first attempt, aged just 17! He said he owed some of his success to his introductory driving course with JEDS driving school at Bensham Manor.

As you can see, JEDS and the current Bensham Year 11's are continuing this fine tradition. They spent an extensive amount of time learning about road safety beforehand such as road signs and road laws.



Career Visits

Preparing for the future

Bensham students got to meet, hear from and ask lots of different questions of professionals during our annual careers week. Some of the professionals involved were a paramedic, a hairdresser, a regional manager for Unison, an engineer, a CID officer, a former employee of Shell and Ferrari, a musical director, an IT recruitment specialist, a housing officer, a partner of an equity firm, a housing officer and a member of staff at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Wow! What a range of professionals that the students worked incredibly well with. We had lots of positive feedback about the questions that were asked and how engaged the students were. If you know of anyone who would like to talk about their career and answer some questions please let Mr Murphy know.



Cooking

What a busy term!

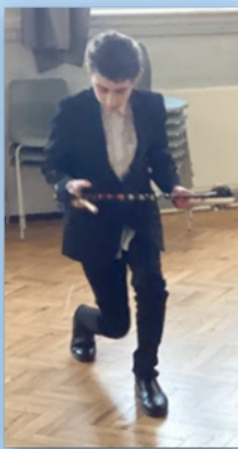
From pancake day to pizza sales - the budding chefs at Bensham Manor are always willing to put their skills to the test! Check out a small portion of what they've been up to.



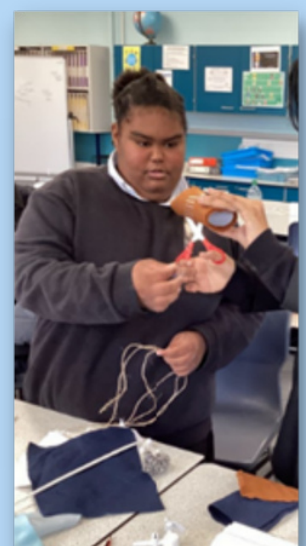
Science

The circus comes to science

The students in Year 7 and 8 started off their week with a difference. They were captivated into the world of a Science circus show. The students learnt about Forces as well as understanding how to spin a plate on a stick, hopefully without any breakages. Here are a few snaps of the Year 7's practicing their scientific circus skills.



British Science Week is a ten-day event that displays and celebrates the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The theme this year is "Connections". The Science department provided a range of activities for the students to complete as individuals and as part of a team. Here are the students conquering their challenges.



Sewing Club

Sewing Club in the Spring Term has seen many members advancing in their skills. Earlier in the term, we were making cushions. Krystal and O'Neil made theirs into lovely necklaces and another student decorated his cushion for a member of staff!



We have also been learning to make pom-poms! Ellie and Yasmin made pom-poms using their favourite colours. We got more creative and made some fantastic multi-coloured pom-poms. David used 3 colours for his giant pom-pom!

We are going to make some much-needed aprons for Food Technology, using screen-printed fabric from old GCSE textiles exams. Kingsley, Mina and Zainab helped cut out the apron patterns using a cardboard template. We look forward to seeing how their projects turn out next term!



Globe Theatre

This Monday, 30 Year 8's travelled to London via train to The Globe theatre to watch a live performance of The Tempest by William Shakespeare. On a remote island, Prospero commands spirit Ariel to wreck a passing ship. Washed ashore, the ship's passengers – and the island's inhabitants – are soon caught up in a magical plot of love, revenge and forgiveness. This was the first time many of our students and staff had been to the Globe theatre and everyone agreed it was a fantastic performance!



Outdoor Learning

Year 7's & 8's have been working on building a wormery! They learnt lots of facts about worms and why they are so important to our earth. The wormeries will help to improve the school allotment by reducing waste and improving soil quality.

We all had great fun going on a worm hunt on the allotment. There was even a competition for the longest worm found, and for the most worms found by a class!



The class that found the most worms was 7DD with a whopping 91 worms found! We had a tie for the longest worm found with super long worms measuring 28cm by Isaac and Khalid.

Adisa Visit

Last week we celebrated World Poetry Day through our second Poetry Jam. The amazing performance poet Adisa the Verbalizer joined us again for workshops with our Year 7s and 8s. He performed in front of all our own amazing poets, who performed their own poems in front of him and all the other performers. Best performers will be revealed after half term with prizes. Well done to all our budding performers out there. Here's looking forward to next year!



Bensham Sport

Basketball

Bensham Manor students have recently become more enthusiastic about basketball with new hoops and backboards recently made available in both playgrounds for practice at break times. We have also started a regular lunchtime club.

This made a big difference when our KS3 team recently took part in the Surrey Schools Championship. After a series of closely fought games our team came home with the Bronze medal - a fantastic achievement at their first competition!



Dodgeball

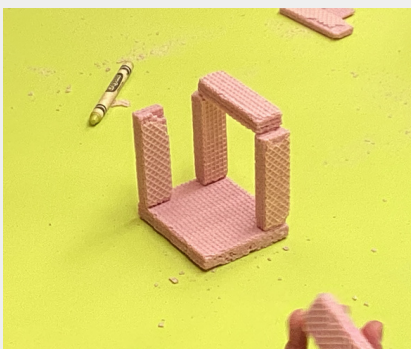
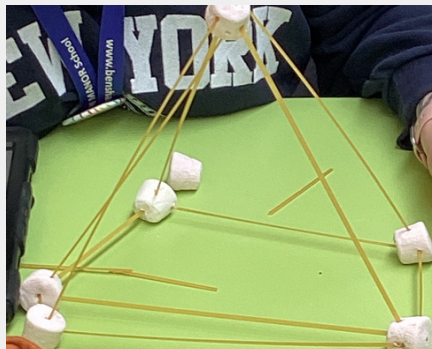
Our Dodgeball team of Abdi, Ladon, Joseph, Tevell, and Alfie went to the Surrey KS4 Dodgeball tournament. They showed fantastic teamwork and played brilliantly to secure the Bronze medal!

Last Friday our Year 8 and 9 players went one better. They missed out on gold by one point but won an exciting play-off to secure silver. A fantastic representation of our school. Well done team!



Wonka Day

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed a creative day of Wonka activities including the Pink Wafer Tower challenge, the Marshmallow linguine building challenge, make a sweet scene and impressed all the adults with their knowledge by completing a Wonka Quiz. They also enjoyed some snacks and got to watch the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Movie!



Jack Petchey

February Winner

This young person is very respectful and kind to both her peers and adults. She is always so happy and has a smile on her face.

Despite her struggles, she continues to display enthusiasm about school life and participates in all activities. She has risen to the challenges and has been able to accommodate for the changes that this has brought to her life both in school and at home.

She is known for her strong resilience and positivity and is always determined to achieve to the best of her ability.

Well Done Ariana!



Computing Digital Media

Students learnt about influencers in social media and how they make money in their online safety lesson this week. Our students recognised a lot of the Influencers mentioned like Joe Wicks and Zoella. They discussed the pros and cons of Influencer culture. Some students were shocked at the vast sums of money earned by the top influencers. Year 9/10 will continue with this topic in the Summer term and will look at particular influencers like Andrew Tate and their role in society.



CPFC Football Tournament

Bensham Manor's KS3 and KS4 teams recently represented Crystal Palace FC against teams from across London.

In the tournament staged at the training ground of the Premier League team, the Bensham Manor players overcame opposition from Millwall FC, Sutton United, Charlton FC and AFC Wimbledon to win Silver in the KS3 tournament and Gold in KS4.



Art

Year 9 have looked at the Korean artist Biomsik Won. He makes crazy collages from photos he's taken so Y9 had a go at making their own! They made a collage, added a background and also made their own drawings and paintings based on their own work.



Year 10 have been researching how colours and expressions can create a certain mood. They looked at Picasso's work and his 'Blue Period' then they made their own mood portraits. What do you think the mood of these pictures might be?



Maths

Year 10 have been focusing on telling the time in 12 and 24 hour format. They have then applied this to reading timetables in real life. They have been into the local community to read the timetables and plan days out.

