

Bensham Manor Newsletter



Spring Term 2024

Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter!

This has been such a wonderful term of learning, fun and creativity. For one week in February the school became an immersive Art experience when we had Colourscape set up their installation on site giving your children access to the Arts. It was an incredible experience which was very much enjoyed by all involved.

Our Bensham School Band performed at The Fairfield Halls and were brilliant! I am so proud of how far the Band has come. 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. We also celebrated World Book Day which the pupils really enjoyed. Our Year 7 students had a Wonka Day where they explored the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory through a series of activities.

The term has seen a wide variety of trips, activities and visits take place including Forest School; College Links; The Talk Bus; Driving Lessons and an array of sporting events. Year 11 have been working incredibly hard to prepare for their examinations - I am so proud of their hard work and commitment. Post 16 pupils continue to provide breakfast to pupils, lunch to staff and support the Felix Project. What an incredible group of young people.

I am so very lucky to work with such wonderful young people and it has been a joy to see each individual pupil progress over the term. I would also like to thank my staff team for their continued support for pupils.

Please enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I wish you all a very Happy Easter. Please ensure you get plenty of rest and have lots of fun. School reopens to all on Monday April 15th.

Mrs Robinson (Headteacher)

Colourscape Workshops

As part of the Croydon Arts Festival, Colourscape & Eyemusic hosted a week long programme of workshops at Bensham Manor School. It was a fantastic whole school opportunity to explore art & music.

Large fabric 'sails' filled the library and reflected and mix colours and light that our students created yourselves. David Stevens, the musical director showed students how to create whole orchestras of sound with just the movement of their hands, feet – or literally any part of your body – moving over special laser movement sensors. Sound-paintings were created with Jez and were connected to sound samples which were played by moving hands over the surface.

The week long workshops culminated in an amazing performance by Bensham Manor students at Stanley Arts Hall of their own “Symphony of the Senses”.



Comic Relief

At Bensham Manor School we work hard to support as many charities as we can. This year, one of the charities we have raised money for is Comic Relief. Mr Murphy, Mrs Robinson, Ms Byrne and Ms Simmons all volunteered to have a pie thrown at them. It was great fun and the pupils really enjoyed throwing the pies (they maybe enjoyed it a bit too much!). Thanks for supporting, it is really appreciated.



We are always busy and having fun in our Life Skills Cooking lessons. 11GM put on their Baking hats and with great term work they made and baked up 100 Cookies to raise money for Comic Relief. The students raised £112. Now that is Bensham teamwork!



Therapy Centre

The therapy centre has been a very busy place at Bensham since its opening in September. This term we have begun delivering lunch clubs for pupils to access during their lunch break. We have:

- Lego Club (Mondays)
- Transport Club (Tuesdays)
- Sewing Club (Fridays)

We love seeing new and old faces while we play, learn and chat together!



Mrs Robinson and our Head of Therapies, Tara

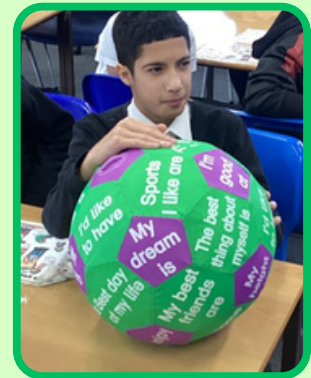
Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders worked alongside their peers from Esher College to deliver a fantastic multi sport event at the Surrey Sports Park. We also had a team of participants who loved trying the amazing sports on offer - Archery, Goalball, Boccia and Tae Kwon Do.



Talk Tuesday

On Talk Tuesday, there was no writing in our lessons, just lots of talking and interaction. Students engaged in a variety of activities aimed at promoting conversation and teamwork. From group discussions to role-play sessions, practical activities, and speaking games, it was a day filled with lively communication. Year 7s focused on building conversations with their peers – here are some photos of them in action.



Unihoc

A great day out on February 7th for two year 7 classes who competed against teams from all over Surrey and South London. They managed to finish as both bronze and silver medallists. The referees for the day were our very own Year 11's Tommy and Rocco who did an excellent job and were rewarded with the honour of handing out the medals and trophies.

Basketball

KS3 played against tough competition from all over Surrey. Our young team fought well against older opposition to win bronze.



Easter Crafts session

Bensham Manor held an Easter Craft session for parents and carers to come to Bensham Manor to do some Easter Crafts together. It was a great session of excellent craft making and everybody had a great time.



Tag Rugby

In tag rugby, Bensham's teams won the Girls event outright and both the KS3 and KS4 plate competitions. What a fantastic effort!



Football

Our KS4 boys won Bronze at the South London Panathlon event in March whilst our girls took part in a special International Womens Day event and won all their matches against 6 other schools!



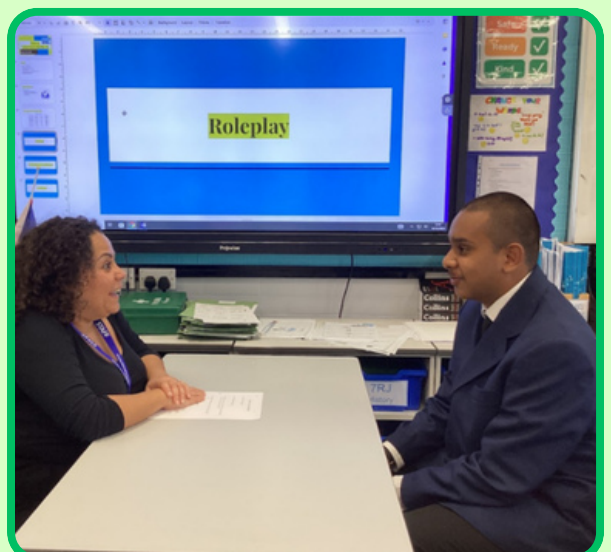
Careers and Skills for Life

Our students' independence skills continue to be developed through all lessons at Bensham Manor, particularly in our Skills for Life lessons. As part of this independence we prepare the children for the world of work by asking them to think about the jobs they would like to do when they leave school.

To gain a better understanding of the different jobs available we create links for the students to meet a variety of people from a range of professions including Meteorology, the Home Office, Administration, the Voluntary and Charity sectors, the Police, Recruitment, App Creators, Sports and Hairdressing. Each class gets a chance to ask questions and gain valuable advice from these people.

We are constantly looking at ways to develop our Careers offer at Bensham so if you know of anyone who would be available to talk about their career or offer Supported Internships we would love to hear from you.

theoffice@benshammanor.com



Post 16 Carpentry

Pupils in Post 16 have been making bird boxes on their visits to Coulsdon College as part of their transition. They applied a variety of skills including measuring, using equipment safely and applying paint in the correct manner. The staff at Coulsdon College have commented on how good the boxes are!

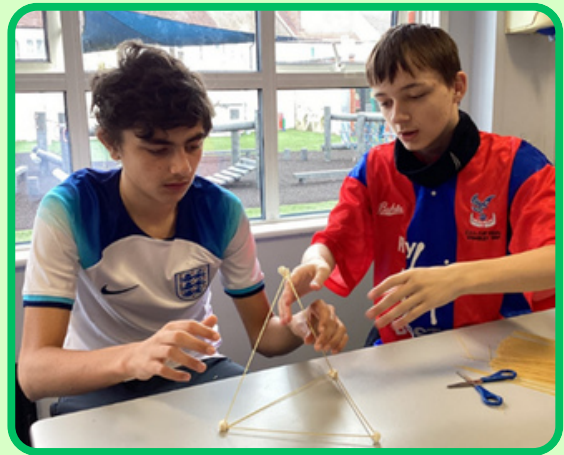


They all came together to make this brilliant display for our reception area. Well done Post 16!



Science and Engineering

British Science Week is a ten-day event celebrating the fantastic achievements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This year, the theme was Teamwork and Time. The Bensham Manor Science department and the wonderful students conquered a range of different challenges from the flying rocket mouse to the strongest marshmallow tower. It was really great to see students problem solving, enjoying the challenges and succeeding.



World Book Day

This was a busy day with lots of activities for our students, including activities in tutor time, an online 'Footy and Booky' quiz for all Year 7's, a free book for all our Year 9 students and a Book Snatch at the end of the day, where students and families could help themselves to free books, to enjoy at home.

From the ground up!

Year 7's have been super busy planting spring seed. They planted lots of different salads and herbs to use in our cooking lessons once they are ready for harvest.



We had a wonderful raised garden bed donated by Tesco that arrived on Monday, and it's been such a delight to see the excitement of our students, especially some of our Year 8's, who wasted no time in getting their hands dirty and planting our vegetables.



Therapy Dog Bruno

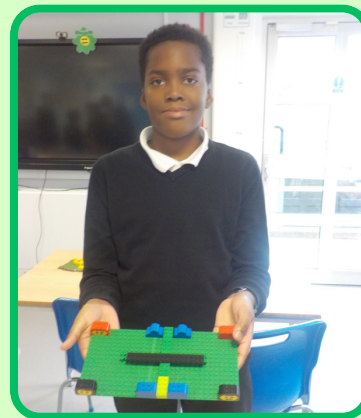


Bruno the Therapy dog has settled in very well with all our students. He gets many pets and cuddles and is enjoying all the attention!

Maths

Year 7 have been focusing on shapes and symmetry. They have created brilliant lego models which have a line of symmetry.

Year 10 have been applying their knowledge of reading the time to everyday situations. They have planned days out which include reading timetables. We headed to Thornton Heath to look at the different train journeys and times to help us with planning our trips.



Bensham Band at Fairfield Halls

Bensham Band rocked once again at Fairfield Halls! Taking part in a SEN Concert called The Noise. They also joined the workshops organised by Croydon Music and Arts along with other SEN schools. Another milestone in the book of Rock and many more to come...



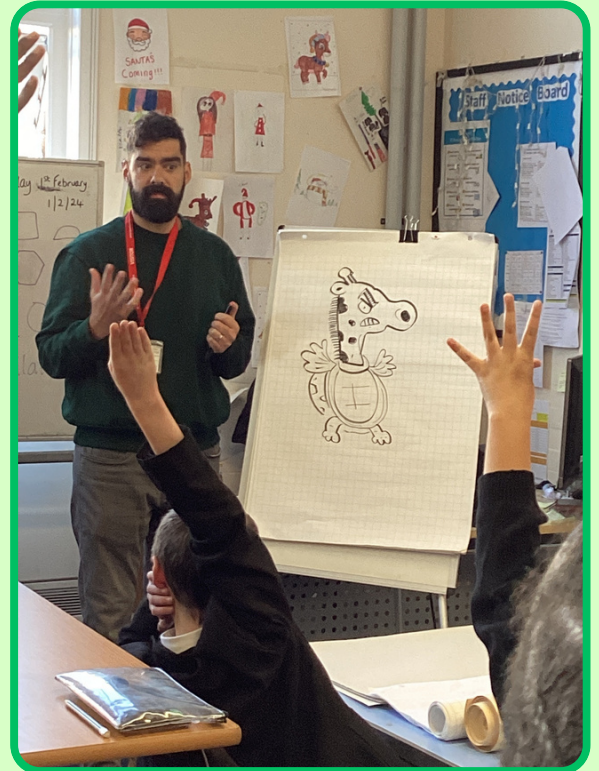
Afternoon Tea

Year 9 has been busy with their Skills for Life lessons. They decided to organise an afternoon tea for the staff as part of their accreditation. Building on skills in preparation for adulthood and the workplace. Pupils learned the importance of communication, teamwork, critical thinking, punctuality, and customer-facing skills. Their guests were very impressed with their presentation, service and food.



Thiago De Moraes

Thiago De Moraes, a local London author came to visit our Year 7's at the beginning of February, as part of the Stepping into Stories Kids Literature Fest held every year across Croydon, Herne Hill and Brixton. Thiago not only writes stories based on myths and legends from around the world but he illustrates all his books as well. 7AH had an amazing time working with Thiago and creating their very own mythical creatures.



Mencap visit

In January, Mohammed from Mencap came to Bensham to give an inspiring talk about all the work that the charity is doing. Here is what students said..

"It was good to hear about another course that can be considered at the end of Year 11."

"It was good to hear about different ideas."

"The video was good because we could see students like our students."



Learning to drive

11MV and 11EM have been working very hard over the last 4 weeks to master basic driving theory before being allowed to put their knowledge to the test behind the wheel.



Good News Visit

In January, Good News for Everyone (formally known as GideonsUK) gave the Year 7s an introduction to various exotic animals. Staff were impressed at how they were able to shake off their nerves and get up close with the animals!



School Council

Student council have been very busy this term, they have been working on a number of things such as volunteering in the adventure playground and middle playground on Fridays, creating hygiene posters for the school toilets and organising a fundraiser for children in Pakistan. Here are some photos of the fundraising donut and biscuits sale. They had an excellent turn out. Thank you to everyone who donated!



Bali Rai

Bali Rai came to visit us in March to talk to our Bensham students. Bali Rai is a hugely well known writer of teen fiction and lots of our students had read his books and were genuinely star-struck to meet the author. Our students asked some thought-provoking questions to Bali and he shared his story of how he became a writer as well as giving advice to some of our very own Bensham budding young authors.



Home Cooking Skills

For their Level 2 Home Cooking Skills class, Year 11 students demonstrated their culinary talents by preparing two dishes independently: a savory main course and a delightful pudding. They each chose a staff member and served drinks before presenting their food. From kitchen to table, their efforts showcased not only their cooking skills but also their hospitality, leaving a great impression on all involved!



Year 8 Masks

In PSHCE, Year 8 students enthusiastically engaged in exploring cultural festivities such as Chinese New Year, immersing themselves in its traditions and significance. Among the various activities undertaken, one highlight was the creation of these vibrant masks.

