

Spring Term 2025

Newsletter



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.

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 pupils had. There have also been quite a few ex pupils returning to Bensham to give talks to our pupils about college and the world of work.

We also celebrated World Book Day which the pupils really enjoyed. The author Bali Rai came in and did a session with pupils, completely bringing books alive. The term has seen a wide variety of trips, activities and visits take place including Forest School; College Links Tender Workshops; a trip to the Globe theatre; visits to the Imperial War Museum; 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.

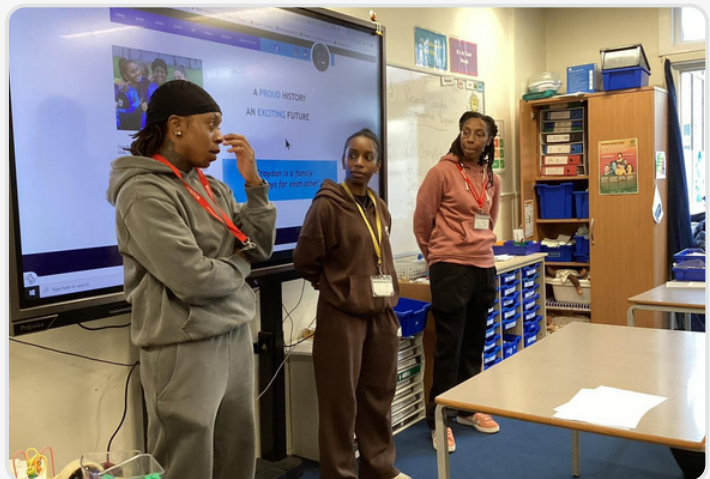
A representative from the Department of Education met with a group of pupils to talk about life at Bensham Manor. I am so very lucky to work with such wonderful young people and it has been a joy to see each individual pupil progress over the term. I would also like to thank my staff team for their continued support for pupils. And a special thanks to you, the families of our wonderful young people, for your continued support and dedication. 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 Tuesday April 22nd.

Mrs Robinson (Headteacher)

Career Talks

As part of our Careers offer this term, Bensham Manor students have had their own individual sessions with people from different fields of work. This has included visits from actors, a Bank of England representative, a Home Office Official, a BBC cameraman, a property management manager, a photographer, representatives from the world of publishing, a BT manager, an aviation representative, a charity worker, the Croydon Women's Football team, an Investors in People Representative and a lifeguard. Our visitors were thoroughly impressed with the children's questions and engagement throughout their respective sessions.



On Friday 7th March BBC cameraman Graham Hodson came in to speak with some Year 7 classes. He explained that he started taking an interest in photography when he was given a camera at 7 years old. This led him to take a TV and Video course at college, and carry out some work experience at TV studios.

Graham works all over the country, and is a regular at both Downing Street and at Buckingham Palace. The students wanted to know if he was famous. He explained that he was creating the pictures/videos/films that we see on our screen. He brought in a camera on a tripod to show us.

Graham reminded us that this all started with an interest in his first camera - and he encouraged us to follow our own interests and passions.



Visit from Croydon Mayor

Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, was impressed during his visit to Bensham Manor, particularly by the Q&A session. Students asked insightful questions about youth safety, fly-tipping, SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), career opportunities, and his role as Mayor. He also had the chance to meet our therapy pets, Mr. Fluffy and Bruno!



Post 16 Tennis



Post 16 have been playing tennis at Purley Bury Tennis Club during this term and will continue in the summer. Their experience has been generously funded by the Tim Henman Foundation they hope to visit Wimbledon and have a hit on the courts in the future!

Learning to Drive

The Year 11's driving course ran by the wonderful JEDS wrapped up at the start of the term with a hands-on session in the front playground! With plenty of careful maneuvering and a few nervous starts, all drivers and passengers made it through unscathed! Well done to all involved.

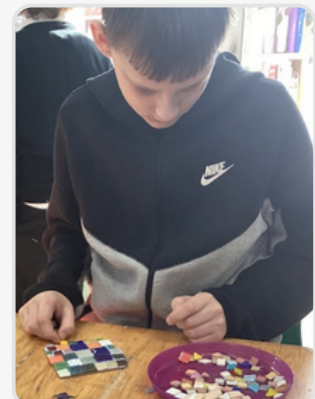


Outdoor Learning

Year 7's have been learning lots about what plants need to grow and planting plenty of seeds. The learnt about the importance of sunlight, water, and nutrients. The results have been amazing!



Year 8 students have been channeling their creativity into hands-on projects, crafting dream catchers and vibrant mosaic coasters. A fun way to blend art and practical outdoor learning skills.



St Paddy's Day

At Bensham Manor we love to embrace all celebrations and cultures. This term celebrated St Patrick's Day, so the students cooked some traditional Irish dishes such as Potato pancakes and Barmbrack muffins, which Mrs Robinson said are amazing! Year 7 students decorated Leprechaun biscuits, this was a perfect way to bring the spirit of St Patrick's Day to life in the students cookery lessons.



Globe Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 11th March, Year 10s went to the Globe Theatre to watch a production of Shakespeare's Macbeth. It was an action packed and vibrant performance which helped reinforce the students' learning of the play that they have recently studied and gave them an idea of what the theatre experience was like during Tudor times.



World Book Day with Bali Rai

This was a busy day with Bali Rai coming to talk to all our Year 7 and Year 8 students, he was so impressed with the questions he was asked. He also visited our Year 7 students in their lessons and listened to them read their work out to him based on his book which they are studying 'The Harder they Fall'.



Lots of students dressed up and there were some amazing costumes. Bali Rai and Miss Simmons chose the winners who were:

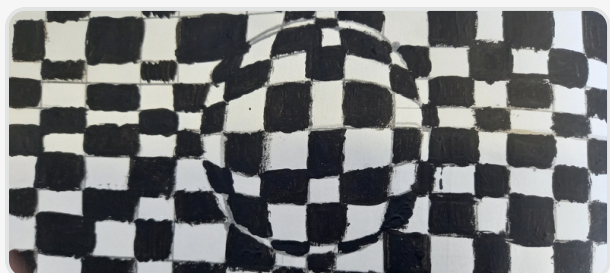
Jacob 8MVN - as Chief Barry Riley in 7AB - as Willy Wonka Billy in 7DD - as Ed from 'the Dead' series by Charlie Higson

Can you guess who these characters to the right are?



Art - Optical Illusions

A fantastic piece from Aarush Y8 on Optical Illusions. The artwork shows the patience and accuracy needed to achieve this effect. Well done Aarush!



International Women's Day

This year we were amazingly lucky to have a visit from Croydon Women's Football team, who came in to talk to our students in Year 11 about their journey to become female footballers and they also took part in a football based PE lesson, sharing tips and advice. Well done Shakiya in Year 11 for almost beating one of the footballers who had trained as a professional sprinter!



We also had an online meet with Felicia Chavasse, a professional photographer who runs her own company 'Parka and Boots'. Felicia explained how she started her business, what's involved in running her business and her love of photography.

Sewing Club

Our sewing club members have been busy learning how to cross-stitch this term. They have been putting their skills together to make a range of colourful and creative bookmarks, flags and football shirts for themselves and for staff!



Stephen Lawrence Trip

On the 6th February, as part of the 'Stepping in Stories' Festival, 12 Year 10 students went to a workshop in Herne Hill hosted by Stuart Lawrence. Stuart's brother Stephen was murdered in a racist attack in 1993. Stuart is now a consultant, youth engagement specialist, coach and public speaker. He spoke about his life, people who had motivated him and his new book 'Find Your Voice and Be Your Best Self.' Our students were inspired to buy his book and have it signed by him. He was impressed with the questions our pupils asked him and would like to visit us at Bensham in the near future.



Learning about measurements

Year 8 have been learning about measurements, with a focus on measuring in centimetres. As part of this, they worked in pairs to measure various body parts, including their hands, feet, arms, and legs. They enjoyed comparing their findings and discussing differences in height, limb length, and hand span. This activity helped them develop practical measuring skills while also highlighting the natural variations in human proportions!



Sport Trips

There were so many PE trips this term it is hard to keep track of them all! Enjoy this mini gallery of what we got up to this in spring term.



7DD - Silver Medallists at Surrey Panathlon

9AK - Silver Medalists at the South London multiactivity sports event at Crystal Palace



7AH Table Cricket at the Oval



Girls Tag Rugby Gold Medalists



South London Panathlon Football

GKR Karate

We would like to acknowledge Jimmy and Aaliyah in Year 8 who attended their Karate Grading recently. Jimmy received his Brown Belt! What an amazing achievement, next step is his Black Belt! Go Jimmy. Aaliyah received her Green Belt along with her mum and staff member Leah double graded to her Orange tag belt.



Croydon Council Visit

As part of Year 10 learning about learning about different workplaces, they visited Croydon Council in February. They visited different departments and gave their opinion on the new website for Croydon SEND.



They met the people who write their EHCPs and talked about how they make sure they have the correct support for them to learn & achieve.



The director of Education in Croydon, Shelley Davies, had a chat with us. She was very interested to hear the careers curriculum at Bensham Manor.



Bench Ball

In PE lessons this term Bensham students have got to grips with a exciting game called “Bench Ball”. It is a fast paced game where two teams try to throw balls to each other in order to get onto the most players on their bench. The team with the most players on their bench wins. It might sound confusing but it requires great teamwork and develops throwing, catching, and movement skills. In the last week of term our PE department hosted a mini tournament involving 200 Bensham students and even some staff!



Love Not Hate

On February 8th, Whitgift School hosted the "Love Not Hate - Young Stars of London" event, a fundraising gala and talent showcase organized by the Manju Shahul-Hameed Foundation for Mental Health. The event aimed to celebrate young talent, promote unity, and raise awareness about youth violence. Marek gave a fantastic speech about the power of togetherness and introduced our star singer Destiny, both in Year 11. She sang "*Power in Me*" - Incredibly well done to both for performing so well in front of a large crowd.



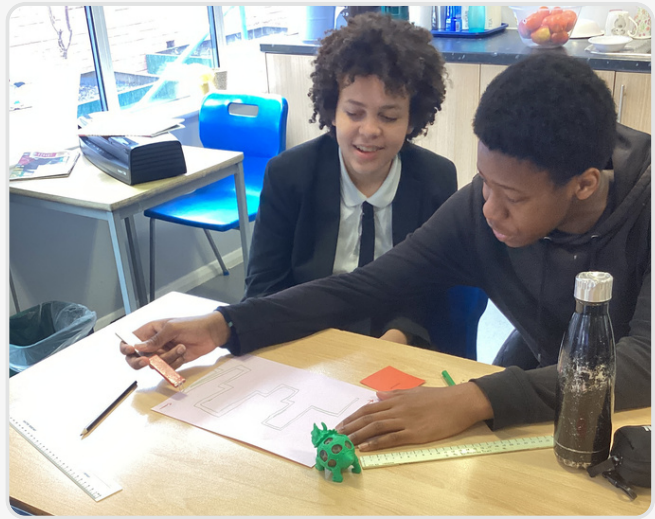
Red Nose Day Cookie Sale

As part of their life skills cookery lessons, Post 16 held a Red Nose Day Cookie sale raising money for SAVE THE CHILDREN Charity. The whole School came together to support this charity by raising money for children all around the world.



British Science Week

As it was British Science and Engineering week in the middle of March, we held some fun activities to celebrate this on the Friday morning with our students. The students conquered a range of different challenges from the Rocket Mice, Magnetic Mazes, Flying Objects and Marshmallow Structures. It was a great success!



Childcare

Year 11 completed their certificate in Independent Living with caring for a new baby. They have learnt some fantastic skills in how to make a baby's bottle, bathing a baby & the stages of weaning. They even sampled baby food!



Skills for Independence

Year 10 and 11 have been learning various skills this term. From washing and ironing to making cream tea for the school governors - It has been busy!



Forest School Taster Sessions

Year 7 classes were excited to get their first experience at forest school this term in preparation for their six week sessions in Year 8. They'll learn to explore the woodland environment and have fun!



Textiles Fashion Show

Year 9 students have been exploring the work of Vivienne Westwood this term. Her unique fashion, along with her passion for protecting the planet, has shown how clothing can be used to share important messages about climate change and sustainability. They ran a brilliant fashion show for other year groups to watch!

