

Spring Term 2026

Bensham Manor Newsletter



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter!

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the many experiences, achievements and opportunities our pupils have enjoyed. It continues to be a privilege to work with such remarkable young people, and it has been wonderful to see the progress each pupil has made throughout the term.

Our Year 11 pupils have been working extremely hard as they prepare for their upcoming examinations. They have already undertaken some examinations in Textiles and in Food Technology. Their dedication and determination have been impressive, and I am very proud of the commitment they continue to show. Our Post-16 pupils also remain a fantastic support to the school community, providing breakfast for pupils, lunch for staff and assisting the work of The Felix Project. They also cooked lunch for our Governing Board which was a huge success. Additionally, they have all become budding entrepreneurs having set up a school Vinted account to make money for their adventures. They are an exceptional group of young people and excellent role models for others. The term has also been full of enriching experiences outside the classroom. Pupils have taken part in Forest School sessions, College Links, Workshops, cultural visits and a range of sporting events. There have also been educational visits including a memorable visit to the Shakespeare's Globe where pupils watched a performance of Romeo and Juliet and a trip to Croydon Town Hall. Guest speakers included the Breck Foundation, supporting pupils to stay safe online and the RNLI helping our pupils stay safe at sea. Earlier in March, the school celebrated Careers Week. Each class welcomed a guest speaker who shared insights into their career and answered questions from pupils.

Please enjoy reading this edition of the newsletter. I wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope you have a restful break filled with fun and relaxation. School reopens to all on **Monday 13th April**.

Mrs Robinson, Headteacher

CPFC Trophies

In February, we were delighted to have the FA Cup and Community Shield on display for students at Bensham Manor! Students learned about Crystal Palace's journey to winning the trophies and the importance of teamwork. They also enjoyed rewatching highlights from the FA Cup Final and had the opportunity to take photos with the trophies.



Table Cricket



8MD and 9VF represented the school at the Surrey County Table Cricket Tournament at The Oval on February 4th. After playing teams from all over London they finished in 2nd and 4th place! Our Year 11 Sports Leaders were trained by Surrey County Cricket so they could umpire and keep score.

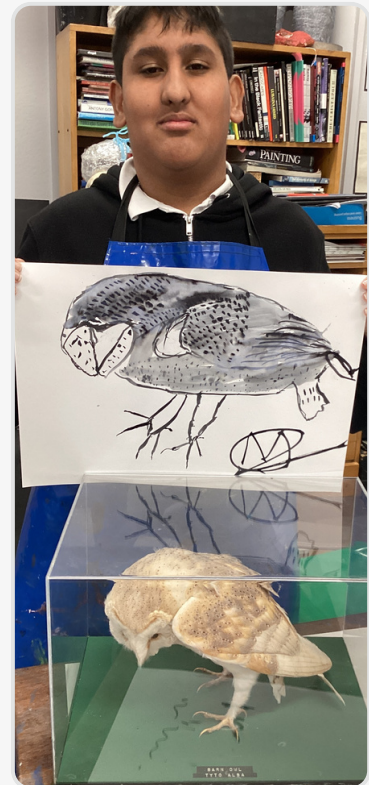
Post 16

Our Post-16 students have been incredibly busy with a variety of community and enterprise initiatives lately. From sorting and packing food for the Felix Food Bank to supporting the local over-55s club and gaining hands-on childcare experience with Myles, they've had their hands full! They successfully catered the Governors' Away Day and continues to run their staff lunch enterprise project to raise funds for upcoming trips.



Art

A taxidermy loan from the Horniman Museum has inspired some fantastic observational drawings from our Year 9s in their Art lessons! The animals have proved invaluable to our Year 11s too as they used them to practise for their Art GCSE exams.



Textiles

Our students have been diving into "Patterns in Nature," turning their original photography into unique, custom tote bags! By blending mono-printing techniques with intricate fabric illustrations during their Textiles lessons, they've brought these organic designs to life.

A massive thank you to 4imprintUK! Through their "one by one" charitable initiative, they kindly donated 45 tote bags to make this project possible.



World Book Day

Bensham celebrated World Book Day with an exciting range of activities across the school. On the day itself, 5th March, many pupils came to school dressed as their favourite book characters, creating a colourful and imaginative atmosphere for the day.

In addition, pupils took part in a week-long competition to find hidden book titles placed around the school, encouraging everyone to explore and work together as a class. Tutor groups also showed great creativity by transforming their classroom doors into book covers, resulting in a wonderful display of literary inspiration through the corridors. The winning door was 7AB for Thomas the Tank Engine!

Overall, the week was a fantastic celebration of reading and stories, with pupils enthusiastically taking part in the activities and sharing their love of books.



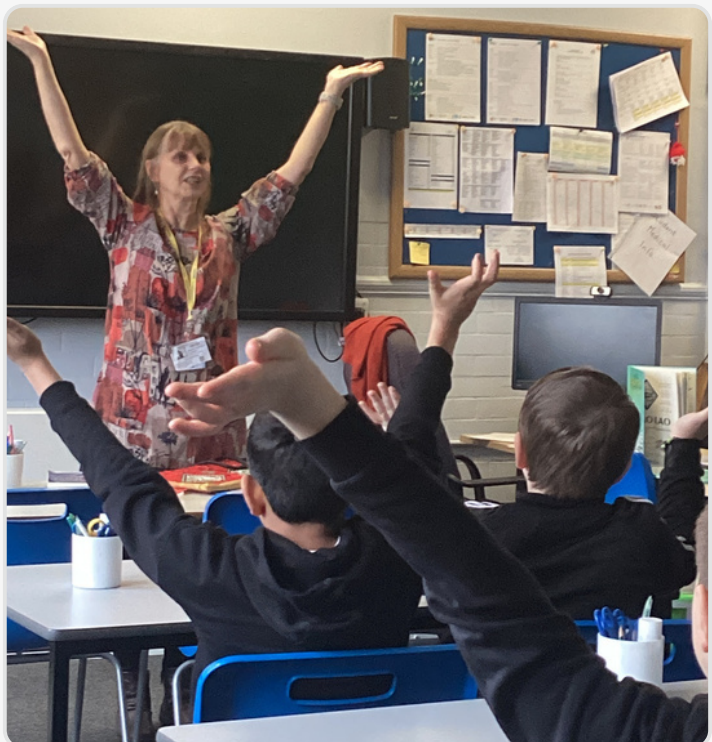
Globe Theatre trip

On the 4th March, 25 Year 9s went to the Globe Theatre to watch *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's timeless story of a broken society's impact on young lives. They have been studying the play in English lessons and this 'stunt-riding thriller', especially created for teenagers, was the perfect complement to their learning. The students were amazing - we walked to Thornton Heath train station, caught a train up to London Bridge, walked to the Globe Theatre and all the way back to school again. Several members of the public commented on how polite and well-behaved our students were!



Author Visit

Margaret Bateson-Hill came to help celebrate Chinese New Year and World Book day with 7DD and 8ML, reading and performing from her book '*Lao Lao and the Dragon Mountain*'. Both classes really enjoyed the story of Lao Lao and her famous papercuts, turning paper into beautiful flowers, dragons and other amazing objects. 7DD also designed their own dragons and drew them as well.



Skills for Life

Year 7 recently focused on the Green Cross Code and emergency phone call procedures. Students practiced the five-step safety sequence: Think, Stop, Look, Listen, and Wait to ensure they can navigate the roads with confidence and independence. Additionally, they learned how to stay calm and provide vital information during emergency phone calls!



Year 10 went to Croydon Council to visit all the different departments and learnt about what employees get up to during the day.

9VF gained valuable experience running a café in their Skills for Life lessons. They provided fantastic customer service, presentation, and order management. The staff who stopped by were very impressed and definitely satisfied with their tea and cake!



PSHCE

In PSHCE, pupils in Years 7 and 8 have been learning about how to care for their mental health, including strategies to manage stress and emotions. Year 8 pupils also had the opportunity to take part in life-saving defibrillator training, delivered by the Schools London Lifesaver Programme. They also talked to pupils about how to work for the NHS, possible career options and apprenticeships. This session complemented their first aid topic studied earlier in the autumn term.



Year 9 students have explored friendships, consent, informed consent, focusing on recognising and managing toxic relationships, understanding gas lighting, and knowing what support is available.

Year 10 pupils have been studying healthy lifestyles, with an emphasis on how to maintain and support their own wellbeing. In Year 11, pupils have been learning about democracy and the structure of the current government, and have shown a strong interest in learning about Keir Starmer!

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning has been in full swing this Spring! Our Year 7s have been busy transforming the school, from brightening up the playground with vibrant chalk drawings to 7AH's beautifully decorated pebbles for the new library sensory path.

Meanwhile, the "green thumbs" of 7DD have been in planting mode, getting seeds started in the greenhouse. 8ML built scarecrows for the allotment, all while the usual dedicated animal care continues daily.



Careers and Skills for Life

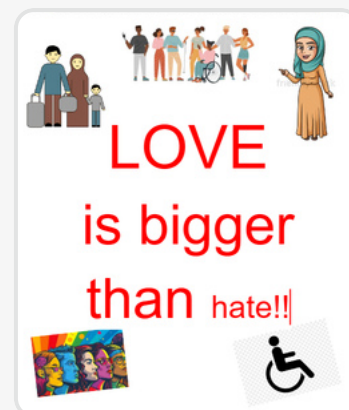
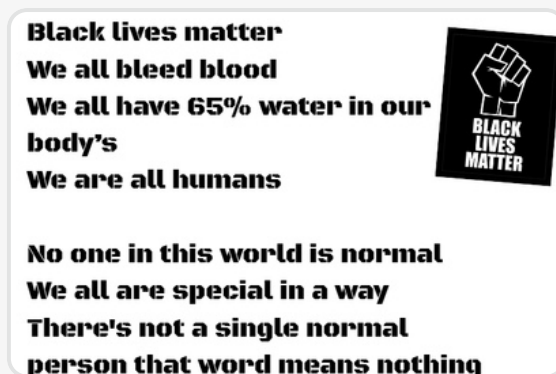
Classes had encounters with different people from a wide range of careers including the Metropolitan Police, a DJ, the Home Office, Nursing, Admin Support Services, Games Design, Property Management and in Finance. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and asked lots of amazing questions. One class went along to the Croydon Council offices to meet with an SEN co-ordinator.

Adelina, who is studying a Degree in Fine Arts and works for Waterstones, met with 7AB, presented photos of her book displays, discussed her various roles and answered the students' questions!



CDM

In CDM, our Year 9 and 10 students have created some impressive posters around the theme of "Together." They explored the impact of hate in our society, both in real life and online, and how that does not fit in with our kindness rule at Bensham.



Meanwhile our Year 11 students deserve a special mention for their Creative iMedia coursework, designing impressive logos and brochures for a theme park!

Unihoc

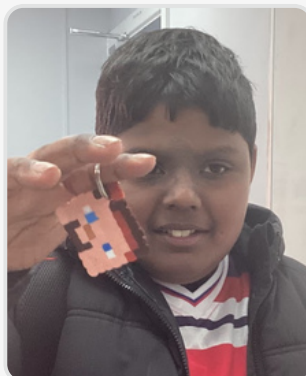
Unihoc is a game similar to floor hockey, played with lightweight sticks, a plastic ball and goals! Students from Bensham made up two teams at the Surrey Unihoc Tournament and performed superbly well to finish 5th and also grab 1st place!

Because we are recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Sports Leadership, our fantastic Year 11's were observed by Holly from the Leadership Foundation. She said they did a brilliant job, keeping score, refereeing and handing out medals!



Sewing Club

This term in the sewing club, members have been getting crafty and practicing their precision fine motor skills to make Hama bead designs into keychains and cards for friends, family and staff!



Maths

This term Year 8 explored the properties of 3D shapes. They made a range of shapes using different resources. As well as naming the shapes, the students had to identify the number of faces, edges and vertices.



Food Tech

Another fantastic term of students completing their Home Cooking Skills Practical Assessment. We had students enter for both Level 1 and Level 2, where they independently prepared either a main course or a main course and dessert for a member of staff!



Cooking

It's been a busy few weeks for our student chefs as they've cooked their way through three major cultural celebrations in their cooking lessons:

- **Ramadan:** Mastering the basics of chapattis, spicy Aloo Parathas, and sweet Ma'amoul biscuits.
- **Lent:** Taking on the meat-free challenge with veggie pasta, date cookies, and a Shrove Tuesday pancake feast.
- **St. Patrick's Day:** Flipping traditional Boxty potato cakes and baking Irish Barmbrack muffins.



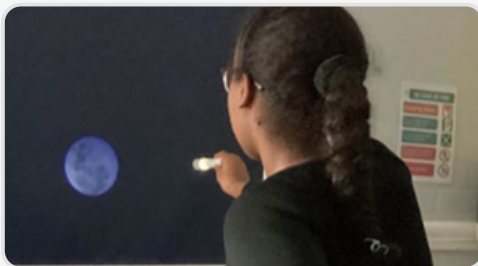
Science Week

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration that displays and celebrates the connections of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The theme this year is "Curiosity". The Science department this year decided to provide a range of challenges for different year groups to conquer as part of a team.



Humanities

In Humanities pupils have been learning about Ramadan, Eid and Lent. They've found these different celebrations interesting and have noted the similarities between Ramadan and Lent! Year 7 students created a piece of work on the sunset, learning about the importance of sunrise and sunset during Ramadan.



In **Geography** pupils learned about the importance of the moon's phases for Muslims during Ramadan, and that Ramadan begins with the sighting of the waxing crescent moon.

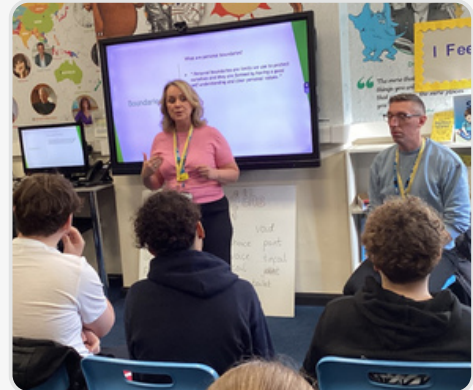
In **RE**, Year 11s learnt about willpower during this month – resisting sweets for the whole lesson. Here, 11KB were celebrating getting their sweets after being so patient!



In **History** students also learnt about Monotheist religions and their origin, particularly looking at Christianity and Islam. They also found out about the history of Ramadan and the night of power. Some pupils also opted to try a date!

NHS Workshop

The NHS provide Relationship and Sex Education in Croydon Schools. They have a workshop which was provided to our Year 10s over three weeks. Students tackled the topics of online safety and coercive relationships with great maturity. They asked excellent questions and walked away with a better understanding of how to protect themselves online and in-person.



Childcare



A huge congratulations to our Year 11 students for successfully completing their final unit of Independent Living! This hands-on module focused on essential childcare skills, where students mastered the art of preparing baby bottles, safely bathing a baby, and understanding the vital stages of weaning. Well done, Year 11, such a great achievement!



SLiDE Dance

The SLiDE arts collective came to Bensham Manor to provide creative dance workshops and also put on a wonderful, interactive performance!



Basketball

Basketball has been getting more and more popular at Bensham Manor this term! Our KS3 and KS4 teams put in a fantastic effort at the Surrey tournament at the start of March. They finished 3rd and 2nd respectively!



Splat!

To raise money for Comic Relief, Sam, James, Jayne, Mrs Robinson and Ms Byrne stepped up to the plate (of whipped cream) and got splatted by Bensham students!



Tag Rugby

In tag rugby, our Key Stage 3 team finished third out of six teams, while our Key Stage 4 team secured first place out of four teams!

