



Bensham Manor Newsletter

Summer 2022

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear families,

Welcome to this Summer Newsletter.

It has been lovely to see the students grow and develop over the past year. Our Year 10 and 11 students took part in work experience. A number of Year 11 students sat GCSE examinations. I am so proud of all the Year 11 students who worked incredibly hard. Year 11 had a lovely graduation ceremony as did Post 16 leavers.

Post 16 students have had a very busy year. They have done work experience activities throughout the year and have linked with the Felix Project to provide food parcels to families. Well done to Post 16.

It has been a really lovely term as we have been able to do far more off site activities. There have been a huge number of sporting trips; a whole school activity day at Frylands; Key Stage 3 had an Outings Day; pupils performed at The Fairfield Halls and pupils took part in the Heartstone Project in the Town Hall. Pupils have done lots of activities to do with The Arts including an Arts Award Sharing afternoon and a "Day to Create".

There are some staff who are leaving us at the end of term. Tehya and Devon who are both Teaching Assistants are going to University in September. Huge congratulations to them. Afrdoditi Pateraki, our Dramatherapist, is relocating to a new county. She is taking up a similar role. Peter Stenning, Lifeskills Cooking Teaching Assistant is retiring. Frankie Shorter, Teaching Assistant, is semi-retiring and will do one day a week with us next year working on our multicultural and equalities agenda. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best in their future endeavours.

I would like to thank you for all your support over the past year. I am hopeful that next academic year I will be able to offer you more opportunities to come on site.

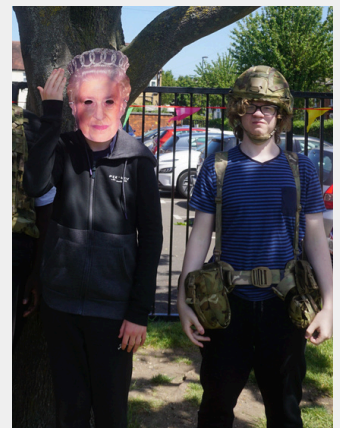
School reopens for students on Monday, September 5th 2022.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Summer break.

Fiona Robinson
Headteacher

Platinum Jubilee

We celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the end of May. We had lots of activities for the students to enjoy, including a disco, craft tables and face painting. We had a visit from the Military Preparation College who brought their Logistic Support Vehicle. Students had the opportunity to try on military uniforms and climb and sit in the vehicle. We also had games and a Bensham Football Tournament. Finally, no party would be complete without students getting ice-pops and Jubilee cakes. A fantastic afternoon enjoyed by all!



Student Council

This year has been an incredibly successful year for the student council, as they have worked extremely hard to push for improvements for the whole school. This term they have continued doing their fantastic work supporting the school community. We are so proud of the things they have achieved and the impact they have had! Thank you student council - you are FABULOUS!



Here are some of the amazing things Student Council have had the chance to get involved in during this summer term:

- They met with school governors and discussed the achievements of the Student Council and future plans. Watch this space... ;)
- Some of the Student Council were also responsible for giving the school governors a tour of the school and did an amazing job. Feedback from the governors was fantastic.
- The Student Council also met with a local councillor to discuss developments in our local area as well as what improvements are to be implemented around Croydon. Student council members were full of suggestions to make Croydon even better.
- They assisted with the planning of the Bensham Manor Summer Fayre - which was such a highly anticipated event and turned out to be such a fun and successful day for the school community and everyone who visited. We raised over £2000 for the school! Thank you to all the volunteers, donations, all the staff members and local community that worked together to make this day so wonderful. We really appreciate it.
- The Student Council also pushed for more trips this year and due to their hard work, so many classes were able to have unforgettable experiences as their end of year trip, in attractions such as: London Aquarium, Flip Out, VUE Cinema, ODEON, Bowling and going to local parks. It was truly amazing.

On behalf of the student council team - have a wonderful summer - stay safe and hydrated.

ELSA at Bensham

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

At Bensham Manor we are introducing ELSA Therapy. ELSA therapy recognises that children and young people learn best when they feel happier and their emotional needs are being addressed. ELSAs are trained to plan and deliver programmes of support to pupils in school who may be experiencing temporary or long term additional emotional needs. Examples of areas an ELSA can support a child with are social skills, bereavement, social situations, therapeutic stories, anger management, self-esteem, real-life problem-solving skills and friendships. A lot of work that ELSAs do will be on an individual basis with one child, however, there are cases where group sessions may be appropriate such as when working on social skills and friendship skills. A typical ELSA programme will last for 6-8 weekly sessions.



Please contact your child's class tutor if you are interested in ELSA therapy for your child. Staff are also able to refer pupils for ELSA therapy. We will send home a consent form to parents/carers before beginning a programme with your child. More information about the work ELSAs do can be found at www.elsanetwork.org

Jack Petchey

May Winner

This person is incredibly helpful and a fantastic role model. He has modelled leadership qualities by supporting his peers when necessary, always trying his best and completing all of his homework to a very good standard. He strives to do his best every single day. Well done!



Jayden K

June Winner

This person is an absolute pleasure to teach. She goes with her friends to do jobs when they are feeling shy, she is incredibly helpful and will always volunteer to do anything for anyone. Recently she went to get help after a member of staff got stuck in a cupboard and couldn't get out! She is polite and well mannered and is always happy. She is a model student.



Louise T

Leader Award 2022

This person has worked in the school for over 10 years and has always going above and beyond in her role at Bensham Manor. She has dedicated lots of her time to helping make the school look wonderful with displays, organising special events, competitions and for making lessons fun when supporting the class. She is constantly supporting the promotion of diversity and inclusion within our school community and is always willing to challenge students and staff to think about a wide variety of issues through her displays and promotion of Black History Month and Black Lives Matter.



Frankie Shorter

Earth Day

Saving the Planet!

Earth Day in April had Bensham students participating in many different activities. Check out what we got up to!

- Eco Swap Shop
- Learnt how to plant seeds
- Made an Eco Rap
- Listened to a talk about protecting the environment
- Made food waste posters



Here is what pupils said that they learnt after Earth Day

To grow your own food to reduce pollution
The world could run out of rain forest in 2100
The issue of plastic in the oceans
Plastic takes 480 years to decompose
The importance of recycling

Sports Day

A Change of Pace

The new Years 8,9 and 10 of Bensham Manor School took to the woods at Frylands Outdoor Activity Centre on July 8th. This was partly by way of celebrating the beginning of 'Moving Up' week and also a chance for groups to meet their new tutors and teaching assistants in an informal setting.

Activities included a House Tug of War competition, a scavenger hunt and an orienteering challenge. The day concluded with a picnic and informal races in the Activity Field with several families in attendance



Girls Football

The Bensham Manor Girls football team recently won the Surrey Girls inclusive League finishing at the top of a table that included 9 other schools. The team also won the bronze medal representing Croydon at the London Youth Games.

Most of the team then went to see women football at the highest level at the Women's Euros.

Accompanied by various Year 11's the team watched the sell out Germany v Denmark game at the Brentford Community Stadium.

The match was a great occasion in which Germany triumphed 4-0. Hopefully it will inspire our young team to even better performances next season



Summer Fayre

What a day!

Following on from our successful Christmas Fayre the Summer edition on July 2nd proved just as effective in raising money for the Children's Wellbeing Fund.

An amazing array of stalls included a "Beat the Goalie" Challenge that was run by the Year 11's, a photo booth, Candy Floss and Popcorn stalls, Petting Zoo, Henna Tattooing, a Bottle Tombola and many more. The petting zoo made use of our Outdoor Learning facilities and provided a unique experience for lots of the fayre-goers!

We want to give a huge shout out to Kidspace, Flip Out and our school payment system Kidwizz for their generous raffle donations. The top prize, supplied by Kidwizz, was an Android tablet which garnered many sold tickets for the raffle!

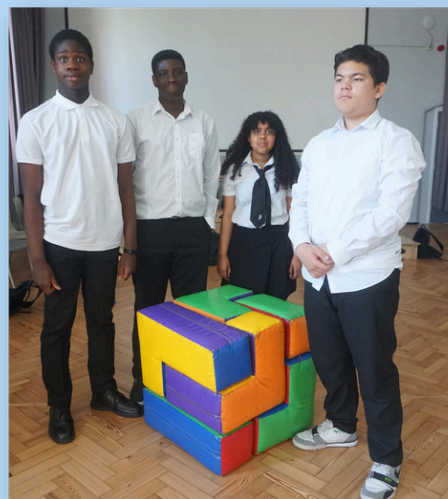
Thanks must go to all the staff and families who gave up their time voluntarily to make the day such a success. They were rewarded with the satisfaction of finding out that over £2,000 had been raised.



Maths Day

Crunching the numbers!

Key Stage 3 had 'The Problem Solving' company visit us at school. They all attended a workshop where they had to work together to solve several problems. They built cubes, found different ways of making number bonds and were able to complete detailed shape patterns. Everyone worked well as a team, communicated and had lots of fun!



Heartstone

Heartstone is a UK-based non-profit arts, cultural and education organisation founded in 1990. Bensham Manor were 1 of 5 schools invited on behalf of the Mayors Office for policing and Crime (MOPAC) to take part in a Croydon Schools project concerning hate crime, racism and xenophobia.

Pupils displayed their artwork at Bourne Hall and met with the Deputy Mayor and Penny Orr from Croydon SACRE.



Councillor Kabir, Bensham Manor Ward representative and Martin Williams from our school's Chair of Governors met with Year 9 to discuss racism, xenophobia, hate crimes and keeping safe in the community. Pupils learnt the laws and policies in place to keep people safe.



He left some information for us to share with parents:

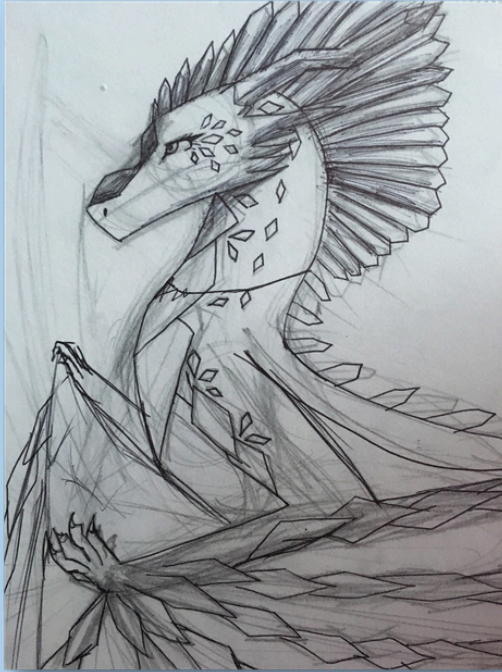
He volunteers at the Queens Community Hall Foodbank between 11am-12pm every Sunday morning. All are welcome.

The first Saturday of each month, Councillors meet in Thornton Heath library between 11-12.30 to help community members with housing, benefits and other concerns they may have.

Student Spotlight

Amazing Artwork!

Amelia S in Year 8 enjoys doing artwork at home in her spare time. Amelia draws the images and then uses her phone to colour each pixel and add spectacular effects!



Outings Day

Each year at Bensham we have a dedicated Outings Day, where classes from Year 7 to 9 take a fun day out to a variety of locations. There were so many exciting trips that took place - so much so that we could fill an entire separate newsletter! For now lets have a look at what 7DD got up to...

7DD went by train to the cinema to watch the new Thor film. Then they had lunch at McDonalds then purchased some fresh fruit in Surrey Street Market. It was a great day and some of them even fell asleep on the return back to school!



Book Swap



Bensham launched a book swap for pupils last week. Pupils can bring a book in that they've finished with at home and swap for a new one. The books cover all reading levels to ensure everyone can make the best use of the Book Swap. We are so excited at how many students will be encouraged to read!

Outdoor Learning

A Very Busy Time!

This term in our Outdoor Learning lessons the students have spent time planning and creating a mini forest school in the Peace garden.



We researched what wildlife lives in a pond and created a wildlife pond area. Students designed and dug out the pond.



We also built a fire pit! So we can cook marshmallows!
YUM!!

Activity Trips

8CL and 8ABR were the last two classes to take part in off-site sports activities this year, meaning that every class in the school has represented Bensham Manor at at least one event in 2021/22.

These classes attended the fantastic Active Surrey Sports Festival at St Georges College Weybridge on July 12th.

After taking part in Orienteering in the woods the classes then tried a range of new sports including Kanga Rebound Boots, Cheerleading, Street Dance and traditional track races.

It was a great day out and a fantastic way to celebrate the last sports event of the year.



Lightning Quick!

Shakiya of 9LBu has had an amazingly successful season demonstrating her incredible sprinting prowess. Whilst representing Croydon at the London Youth Games she proved herself to be the fastest girl in London by winning both the 100m and 200m. She then repeated this feat at the Surrey Schools Championships, again winning both events!



Graduation

Year 11 and members of Post 16 had a wonderful graduation ceremony at the end of this term. Good luck and best wishes to all!



Interviews

Thank you to Jayden, Lewis, Ruhan and Natalie who assisted Croydon in the important role of interviewing for a new head of SEN. Their part in the interview process was incredibly important and reflected the value of young people's views when hiring professionals in the area of SEN and education. The group took a trip to Bernard Weatherill House for the first interview which took place in person.



The second interview took place virtually. The students took to Bensham's meeting room where you can see them here post-interview writing up their final thoughts!

