



Bensham Manor Newsletter

Summer 2023

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Families,

This has been an extremely busy term (as is always the case at Bensham) with lots going on. We had an IQM assessment which gave such a glowing report of Bensham Manor and how inclusive we are as a school. We celebrated the King's Coronation with a lovely themed party. In addition we also had an Ofsted party to celebrate our excellent report which also featured a visit from the ice cream van! Totally delicious.

Year 11 students did two weeks of work experience from June 6th-17th and we received some fantastic feedback about them. Year 11 then had a year group outing to take part in team building activities during their final week and the following day they took part in enrichment sessions, including learning self-defence! Year 11 graduated on June 22nd which was a truly wonderful occasion which saw them have a ceremony outdoors and a little party for pupils and their families afterwards.

We did lots of multicultural celebrations this term. We celebrated a Culture and Diversity day on May 19th which was a fantastic event including a Bhangra Dance performance and this was followed up with a Cultural Curriculum Day on June 30th. Year 10 work experience took place on 3-7th of July and pupils really enjoyed a new level of independence.

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Headteacher's Welcome

We held a fantastic Careers Fair on July 5th as part of our commitment to outstanding Careers education. Additionally, pupils in Years 9/10/11 and Post 16 have also had interviews from an external provider. Our Year 8's have continued to enjoy Forest School and our Year 7's have had their Taster Sessions there. As usual we had lots of sporting events. Pupils went to table cricket at the Oval, orienteering, football, tennis, basketball and cross country to name but a few.

Post 16 did a performance following a series of workshops with Kinetika Blocco where they wrote their own performance piece on the djembe's. Years 7, 8 and 9 had first aid workshops so that we could give them the basics on providing medical support. Year 10's had a Coping with Challenges workshop to support them with transitioning to Year 11 and beyond. The week of 10-14th of July saw two groups of pupils go on a residential to Woodlarks in Farnham. Pupils had such a great time. There were lots of opportunities for pupils to take part in social activities together through end of term trips and a sports event at Frylands in Addington.

There will be a staggered return to help our new Year 7 pupils transition successfully. Pupils in Years 7, 11 and Post 16 will return on Tuesday September 5th with all pupils attending on September 6th. Have a safe and happy Summer!

Fiona Robinson, Headteacher

A Royal Celebration

Bensham Royalty!

Michelle Ejueyitchie, Bensham Manor's Drama Lead, was invited to Windsor Castle by the King and Queen in recognition of all her hard work and achievements with Shakespeare's School Festival!

She has worked tirelessly as an Ambassador for Shakespeare Schools Festival to ensure that Shakespeare is accessible to all regardless of ability and need. Michelle believes passionately in inclusion and we're delighted that her hard work and determination have been recognised.

Thank you Michelle for giving pupils access to Shakespeare's works and plays!



Kicks Competition

A busy summer of Sport was capped by Bensham Manor's football teams when they represented Crystal Palace in the recent Premier League Kicks Competition.

They played 12 other teams from all over London and South East Premier League clubs including Arsenal, Chelsea and Spurs. The boys team emerged victorious - Well done!

Check out our teams here with former England captain John Terry and the Premier League Trophy!



Visit to Cabinet Meeting

Croydon has written a new Special Education Needs Strategy which will be implemented over the next three years. It is a very exciting document which has clear plans in place to support young people with special education needs in all aspects of their life and into employment.

A group of Bensham Manor pupils has met with a group of people from Croydon on five occasions this year to discuss the strategy and give their views and opinions.

Tommy and Natalie were then invited to talk to the Mayor and Councillors at a Cabinet meeting and give their views on the strategy. They spoke with pride and we are all so proud of them both. On the left picture they are with Kathy Roberts, Head of Special Education Needs for Croydon!



Woodlarks Trip

A fantastic time!

A group of Year 10 and Post 16 students have enjoyed their residential trips to Woodlarks Campsite in Surrey. For many students (and some staff!) it was their first time camping and they did really well!

They also enjoyed swimming in the lovely heated outdoor pool, taking part in a Woodland Treasure Hunt, Bensham Manor Talent Show and a party in the dark with glow sticks! On one evening they composed and presented their own Woodlarks song - special mention to Felipe who wrote and performed a solo section and to Solomon for his enthusiasm in singing the chorus. Pupils played musical instruments led by William, on guitar. We also had a disco and played a few games of bingo - Caroline always seemed to win! The pupils behaviour on the residential was exemplary. They were an absolute joy. They all helped with washing up and various other camp jobs. A big thank you to our volunteers – Trish and Mick for all their tasty cooking and to William for his lifeguarding duties at the pool. Thank you also to the staff who gave up their time to make this trip happen and for so much fun to happen – Glenn, Lucy, Anne-Marie, Caroline and volunteer William.



A Ride to Success

Dhruv A took part in the annual 2023 Ford Ride London-Essex challenge on the 28th May.

Dhruv completed the 100 mile ride. He started in Victoria and finished his ride in Tower Bridge. Dhruv confidently rode through some busy routes passing the Olympic Park and going through the London boroughs of Westminster, City of London, Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Waltham Forest and Redbridge, before heading out into Essex via Epping Forest.

Such an amazing achievement. Everyone at Bensham Manor including staff and students are proud that he took part in such an epic ride. Well Done Dhruv!



Life in Post 16

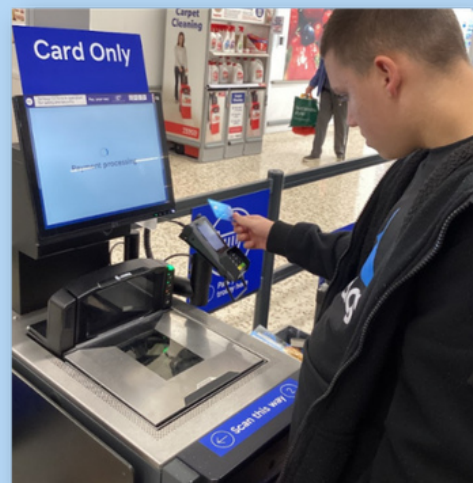
Post 16 said a fond farewell to 5 students this term and welcomed 5 new students to the class. It's been a busy year for pupils and here's a flavour of some of their developing Life Skills and Skills for Independence:

We serve tea, coffee and hot chocolate each morning to staff, visitors and parents/carers, for FREE!



Thanks to our wonderful partnership with the Felix Project, we are able to provide food for some of our students. Allocated students just need to return their empty bags to us.

We go to Tesco's each week where we follow our shopping list, paying attention to price comparisons and deals, best before and use by dates and allergy information. We learn how to pack bags and pay for the food we are buying.



Pyjamarama Day

This year we all dressed up in our pyjamas and sleepwear again! Our theme linked in with Pride month and all year 7-10 classes took part in a reading based activities with a Pride twist ranging from getting the witches from Macbeth ready for their Pride Party as part of our 'Introduction to Shakespeare' unit, Year 8 who are reading a novel called 'Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun' creating Onyeka's hair, through to Year 10 who looked at a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah called 'People Will Always Need People'. We had lots of amazing work created by all our students and prizes were awarded.

This year with your help we raised an amazing £70 for the BookTrust, a charity whose goal is to support all children with their reading.



Buddhist Temple Visit

9JMc embarked on a captivating class trip to the Wimbledon Buddhist Temple, seeking to immerse themselves in the spiritual practices of Buddhism. Upon arriving, the students were warmly welcomed by the resident monks, who graciously invited them to participate in the temple's morning chanting session. As the rhythmic sound of the gong resonated through the air, the students gathered in the main hall and sat in meditation postures, joining the monks in their harmonious chants.



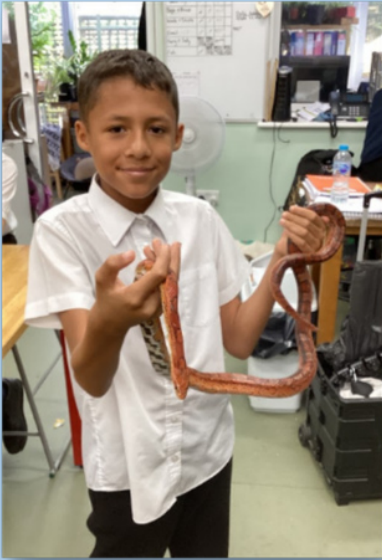
After the chanting session, the students were invited to partake in the offering of food, known as "dana". With humility and reverence, they presented the freshly prepared vegetarian dishes to the students, symbolizing the act of generosity and selflessness inherent in Buddhist teachings. Pupils also gave a donation of fruit to the monks to thank them for the visit.



Outdoor Learning

A slithery surprise!

This term in Outdoor Learning we welcomed a new member to the team...



Meet Dolly the Corn Snake!

In other news we have been using reclaimed logs and transforming them into bird feeders and insect hotels.



Year 11 Restaurant

A number of Year 11 students spent their work experience at a pop-up Pizza and Pasta restaurant. Other year groups were warmly welcomed throughout the week and enjoyed freshly made meals. Check out how they got on!



Art GCSE

Final Projects Done ✓

Art students in Year 11 were given freedom to look for inspiration from a wide variety of artists for their final projects. The themes were 'Light and Dark' and 'Objects'. Check out a small selection of their impressive pieces.



Jack Petchey

June Winner

This young person is extremely polite and courteous. He is kind and friendly to his peers and in lessons he is hardworking and tries his best. He has made such amazing progress at school. He is a caring young man who always has a smile on his face. He is a polite young man, always ready to learn and tries his bests in all areas of his education. He is a dedicated and committed individual who is always keen to learn.

Well Done David!



Construction Work Experience

Preparing for the future

Two groups of Year 11 students spent a week with experienced staff making wooden containers and fixing garden furniture. They learned about health and safety within a small construction site and the importance of PPE. All students engaged with workbenches; tape measures; carpenters squares; clamps; tenon and short panel saws and electric handheld drills and screwdrivers. Students sanded and painted their containers and many showed an encouraging aptitude when handling equipment, which delighted staff. All students should be very proud of their achievements, we certainly are!



Pride Pizza Sale

A slice of success!

Class 10GM organized a fantastic pizza sale that exceeded all expectations. With their strong teamwork and creativity, they transformed our dining hall into a vibrant pizzeria! They offered a variety of mouthwatering toppings and delicious crust options, enticing both students and teachers to participate. Through their enthusiastic marketing efforts and excellent service, they quickly sold out all the pizzas, leaving everyone satisfied and eager for the next successful sale.



Willy Wonka Trip

As part of the KS3 programme of study for English, Year 7 students read Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. On Wednesday 28th June 2023, the students went to see a live performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory The Musical at the Grade II listed New Wimbledon Theatre, the theatre is over 100 years old. The production was a more contemporary version of the original story with amazing special effects such as the Great Glass Elevator.

For some of the students it was their first trip to a theatre. The students loved the production and here is what some of them said about it...



Thomas 7RJ - "I thought the show was really funny, hilarious!"

Jenson 7RJ - "The special effects were amazing."

Elijah 7DD - "I liked Augustus Gloop getting stuck in the fountain!"

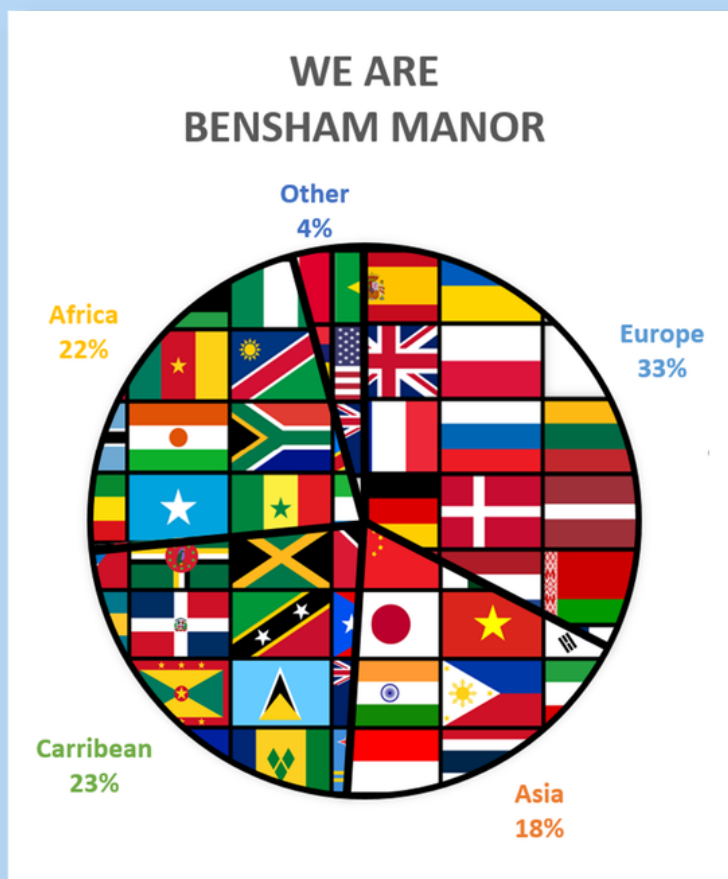
Andreu 7DD - "It looked so inspirational. I enjoyed the theatre, it was very, very, very long!"

Shaun 7DD - "I'm glad Veruca Salt was dropped into the bad nut shoot!"

Cultural Curriculum

Diversity is our strength!

Did you know that staff and pupils have heritage links with over 55 different countries from around the world and from every continent - amazing! On June 30th we all celebrated our unique and varied cultural heritages through our curriculums - we made and tasted pizza and pasta, we learnt scientific words in different languages, learnt numbers in Chinese, researched our own backgrounds, wrote poems, raps and songs as well as role-play.



World Day for Cultural Diversity

In May, pupils celebrated World Day For Cultural Diversity. Pupils and staff wore traditional dress that reflected their own culture and religion. Check out some of the amazing outfits worn on the day.

Many lessons were planned around World Day For Cultural Diversity. In Speech and Language Therapy, 7DD listened to a story about celebrating what makes you different. The class then went on to discuss their differences for example, different heights, eye color and skin tone. In 7BM pupils explored a sensory story where they were able to taste some coconut, bananas, chin chin and more.

To end the day pupils and staff took part in an interactive Bollywood dance session. Pupils and staff had a wonderful time and learnt some new moves. We had a wonderful day celebrating diversity at Bensham Manor.



Chessington Trip

10MV visited Chessington for their end of year trip where they all had a great time going on 10 roller coasters, including the new Jumanji ones! They also explored the captivating Animal Adventures area, getting up close to exotic creatures and learning about their habitats. On the roller coasters Ella did a lot of praying to stay safe, Shiloh had to close his eyes and Layla jumped off one last minute leaving their teacher Wenna all alone! They look forward to next years trip.



Learning about Democracy

In PSHCE, Year 11 were learning about the importance of Democracy and who the current Prime Minister is in United Kingdom. They explored the history of democracy and how people participate in making decisions for their communities and countries. They also learnt about the importance of protecting individual rights, following the law, and treating everyone fairly.



Rishi Sunak

Rishi Sunak was born on the 12th of May 1980 and became the 56th Prime minister of the united kingdom on the 25th of October 2022.

He is married to Akshata Murthy And Has two daughters with her.

In 2020 Rishi Sunak once said "God no" to being Prime minister But in 2022 he became Prime minister.

Back when he was younger Rishi once sneaked a TV into school to watch Euro 96.



As of now he is the only Prime minister of South Asian heritage.

As of now he is the first prime minister of the United Kingdom to be of South Asian heritage.

He went to both the University of Oxford and Stanford university.]

Jacob 11AAB

Rishi Sunak

Rishi Sunak is a British politician and the current prime minister of the United Kingdom. He became PM on 25th October 2022. Mr Sunak's father was a family doctor and his mother ran a pharmacy, where he helped her with the books. He attended England's oldest public school, Winchester College, where he became the first Indian-origin head boy and was editor of the school paper.

Political career
Rishi was elected Conservative MP for Richmond (Yorks) in May 2015 and served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy from June 2017 until his ministerial appointment.

Rishi was responsible for managing the UK economy through the covid-19 pandemic. Sunak resigned from his position as a chancellor on 5th of July 2022. He entered the leadership to replace Boris Johnson as prime minister, after resigning of Liz Truss, he became leader of the conservative party and prime minister.

Facts about him: Sunak is married to the daughter of NR Narayana Murthy, the founder of the IT giant Infosys, Akshata Murthy. She is a Britain-based Indian fashion designer and businesswoman. Sunak was appointed as the first PM by King Charles III.

The new PM was chosen as a member of the British Parliament back in 2015, and he served as the Treasury Chief while Boris Johnson held the administration.



Regina 11HT

Bensham Goodbyes

Best wishes for the future!

It is always difficult to say goodbye to staff and this Summer we say goodbye to two wonderful staff members.

Kate Shipp, our Art Lead, is retiring. Kate joined Bensham Manor in 2018 and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed her Art lessons. Kate had the highest expectations for her pupils and consequently pupils have always achieved very highly in Art.



Helen Tarrant, English teacher and Phonics Lead is relocating to Wiltshire. Helen joined us in 2016 and has brought so much to the English Department. Pupils love her lessons and she was instrumental in Bensham Manor receiving high praise from Ofsted for our reading and phonics programme. Helen also supported the school with inclusion, being the representative for Inclusion Quality Mark.

We would like to thank them both for their service to the pupils. They will be sorely missed.

Thank you for reading our Newsletter, have a wonderful summer!