

Summer Term 2025

Newsletter



Headteacher's Welcome

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Bensham Manor newsletter!

This has been an extremely busy term with so many lovely events taking place. Many Post 16 pupils went on Residential to Woodlarks Camp in June for four days and had the best time ever. Our wonderful Year 11 students worked so hard for their end of year examinations. They then went on to do two weeks of work experience after June half term and we received some fantastic feedback about them. Year 11 's also had some special events on their final days, culminating in their Graduation and first ever Prom, both of which were very emotional. I am delighted that we could fully fund the Prom, Graduation, Leavers Hoodies, Leavers Books and activities. The Mayor, Jason Perry, was our Guest of Honour this year.

We celebrated Eid this term with a range of activities. We held a Diversity Week which pupils very much enjoyed. Our Post 16 leavers also had a Graduation Ceremony, I am so proud of this fabulous group of young people.

Your children have had access to a huge variety of Careers information this year to help them plan for their future. Our Year 8's have continued to enjoy Forest School. As usual we had lots of sporting events and we have been very successful in winning tournaments. There was lots on offer for families too with additional Progress Mornings, Tea and Talk and workshops.

There will be a staggered return to help our new Year 7 pupils transition successfully in September.

Pupils in Years 7 and 11 will return on Tuesday September 2nd with all pupils attending on September 3rd.

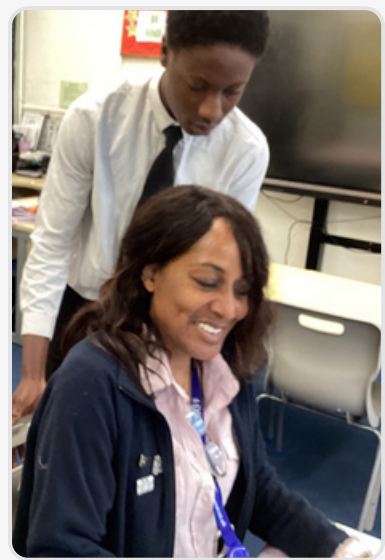
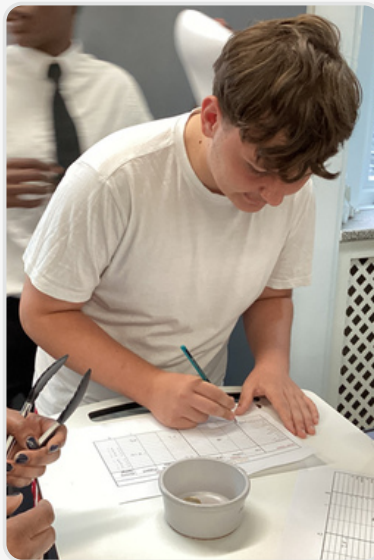
Have a safe and happy Summer! Thank you all for your continued support.

Mrs Robinson, Headteacher

Skills for Life Café

For their Skills for Life 'Working in a Café' unit, the Year 9s ran a Café for the staff. They used their organisational skills to lay and clear the tables, make the teas and coffees and wash up. They used their customer service skills to take the customer's orders and serve tea, coffee and cakes. They were friendly and smiley to make the customers feel welcome. They used their Maths skills to collect the money, give change and recorded who had paid.

The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and so did the staff!



Fishing Trip

10LC went on an amazing fishing trip, all thanks to the Masonic Fishing Charity. They caught a whopping 15 trout! They brought them back to school and had a little cookout.



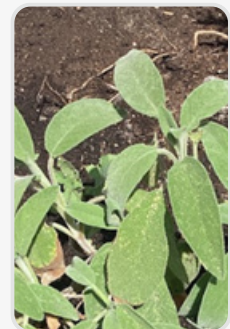
Outdoor Learning

The variety in Outdoor Learning never ceases to amaze, for example in Year 11 students have been making naan bread! They cooked the fresh naan over an open fire using a cast iron pan, giving it a rustic, smoky flavor. The dough was rolled out, cooked on the hot skillet until bubbly and golden, then brushed with butter for extra taste!



Year 7 planted green beans in bags so they could see the growing process, it is also simple way to garden in small spaces! Seeds were planted in rich soil, watered regularly, and placed in a sunny spot.

Year 7's have also been growing different herbs, they made their own potions mixing different flavours and scents. Some students even did a taste test!



8VF has been working on pollution in the oceans and how we can help.

We made some sea animals from recycled materials and tissue paper.

Graduation Ceremonies

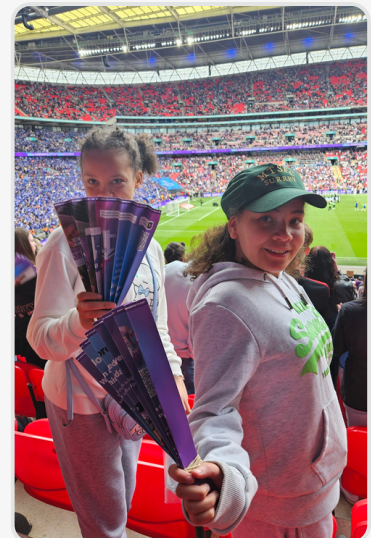
Towards the end of this term, we bid an emotional farewell to our Year 11 students and six members of our Post-16 cohort. At the graduation ceremonies, we welcomed parents, family members, and staff who have supported these students throughout their time at Bensham. We were honoured to have the Mayor of Croydon, Jason Perry, as our Guest of Honour. Following the Year 11 ceremony, we held our first-ever Bensham prom, which was a huge success. We wish each and every one of our leavers every success in the next stage of their education!



Women's FA Cup Final Trip



Krystal, Daisie-Mai, Tallulah and Aliyah were part of a group of 12 Bensham Girls who went to the Women's FA Cup Final. They saw all the goals up close as Chelsea beat Manchester United 3-0. They had a great time singing songs at halftime, cheering for the goals and soaking up the atmosphere!



Diversity Week



In the second to last week of term, Bensham celebrated Diversity Week, a time dedicated to honouring and embracing the differences that make each of us unique!

Students had a fantastic time trying new foods with a special menu and enjoying a sunny Diversity Picnic together, where students and staff dressed in clothes that represented their heritage. We also watched some thought-provoking films, designed bookmarks with messages of kindness, and decorated our classrooms to celebrate cultures from around the world. A huge thank you to everyone who brought so much energy and enthusiasm to the week!



Year 10 Skills for Life

10AA participated in a six week workshop through Mencap. They learnt the importance of employability skills, interview skills & how to fill in an application form.



Year 10 took part in team building skills, linked to their WJEC accreditation, "Preparation for the Workplace." They learnt valuable skills, including communication, organisation & team leadership.



Fractions in Maths

9AK have used Numicon to show fractions that are equal to one half.



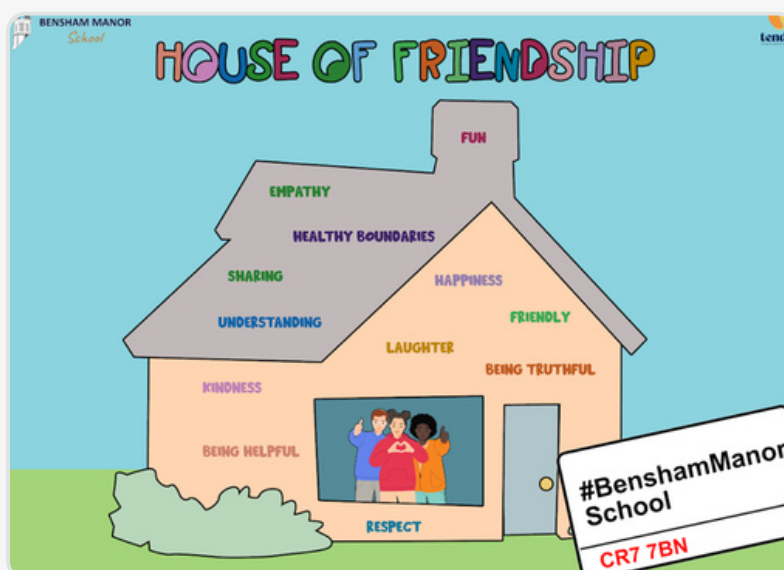
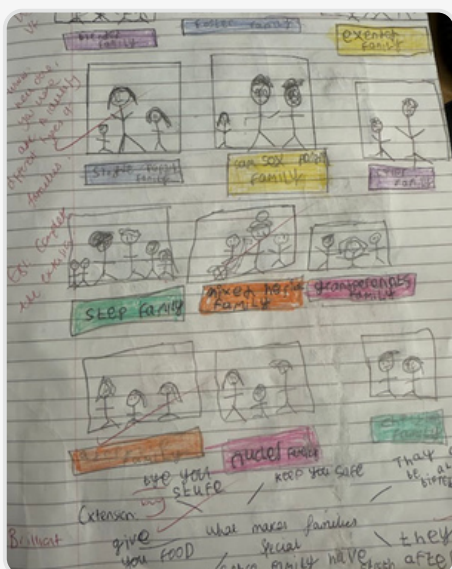
In Year 7, classes have been creating a bird using fractions of a whole circle



This term in PSHCE, pupils have been exploring key topics within RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education). These included learning about different types of families, what makes families unique and special, how to identify healthy and unhealthy relationships, and the vital importance of understanding and giving consent.

To enrich this learning, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils took part in interactive workshops delivered by Tender, a national charity that works to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence through creative arts-based education. Tender uses drama, role play, and open dialogue to help young people explore complex topics in a safe and supportive environment, encouraging empathy, awareness, and confidence in making positive relationship choices. Our pupils engaged with real maturity and thoughtfulness throughout the sessions.

In addition, members of the Student Council had the unique opportunity to work closely with Tender over several weeks, taking part in extended discussions around RSHE themes. As the project concluded, students created a bespoke screensaver to reflect what Bensham means to them. They chose a series of positive and empowering words to represent our school community, celebrating values such as respect, kindness and inclusivity. We are also very proud to share that our school has worked hard to achieve the Healthy Relationships Champion School Status - becoming the first school in Croydon to receive this!



Food Technology

The food studies department has had a productive year, with students participating in various culinary projects linked to whole-school events, including VE Day and Diversity Day. A key highlight was the picnic event, which featured fairy cakes prepared and baked by 9LW. Many pupils also achieved nationally recognised qualifications such as the Level 1 Certificate in Food Hygiene and the Level 1 BTEC in Home Cooking Skills. Congratulations to all students for their hard work and tasty achievements!

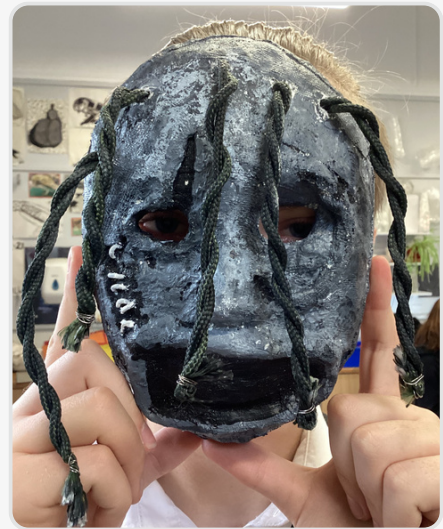


Drama

It has been an eventful year for Drama at Bensham. We were specially selected for Coram Shakespeare's Schools International Festival for the Best of the Festival. Our film, an interpretation of "King Lear" was showcased in front of an audience. A few cast members of King Lear attended and spoke on a panel. In June Michelle Ejueyitchie, Louise Ward and former Student Tommy Gadsby were cordially invited to parliament by MP Manuela Perteghells on behalf of the Coram Shakespeare School's Foundation, an amazing and memorable occasion.



Art and Textiles



We are absolutely thrilled to share the fantastic news of our recent Year 11 Art and Textiles GCSE Exhibition, held in the Lower Hall of Bensham Manor. It is a truly inspiring and vibrant display of our students' incredible talent, hard work, and creativity.

The artwork in the top left in particular has been selected for display at the Royal Academy of Art, both in their gallery and online. It was curated by Shakiya, a Year 11 who has recently graduated from Bensham Manor. The piece is up for the People's Choice Award in the Young Artists' Summer Show 2025. You can vote using the link in the bio of our Instagram account - [instagram.com/benshammanor](https://www.instagram.com/benshammanor)

A special thank you to Alexa and Delys - our wonderful Art and Textiles technicians, who work tirelessly behind the scenes supporting students and staff.

Cooking

This term in Skills for Life Cooking lessons the students have embraced new flavours from around the world. Students have tasted a range of fruits and cooked dishes from different countries. This is a great for students to build confidence and become more independent. As they learn to follow different recipes, and prepare meals on their own, the students feel proud of what they can created. With each new dish they make, students gain a sense of achievement that boosts their confidence both in and out of the kitchen. The students made some amazing Italian Pizzas and some delicious Ma'amoul Middle Eastern biscuits. Year 8s have been learning about the amount of hidden sugars in snacks and drinks, and some were very surprised when they saw the amount of sugar in some of their favourite drinks!



Outings Day

Bensham's annual Outings Day is when every class in the school goes on a fun and interesting trip. To highlight this, here's a look at how students in 9AK enjoyed their day at Brighton Beach.

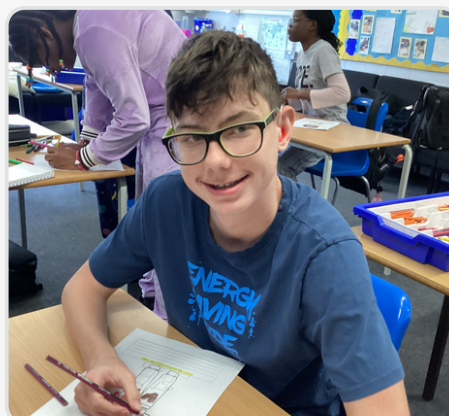
From the moment we arrived, the students were full of energy and enthusiasm, eager to enjoy all that the seaside had to offer. Pupils spent quality time together relaxing on the beach, tucking into delicious fish and chips and exploring the bustling seafront. Of course, no trip to the beach would be complete without a bit of drama - just as Aston was about to take a bite of his sandwich, a cheeky seagull swooped down and stole it right from his hands! While Aston may have lost part of his lunch, it certainly made for a memorable moment.

The rest of the day was filled with fun and laughter, with students enjoying ice cream, donuts, beach games, and simply soaking up the sunny seaside atmosphere. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to bond outside of the classroom and create lasting memories. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make the trip possible - and well done to 9AK for representing the school so positively throughout the day!



Pyjamarama

On 22nd May we all participated in BookTrust's Pyjamarama Day, a nationwide event encouraging children to read for pleasure. Students and staff wore their pyjamas to school and took part in a day filled with activities, including designing Dracula's new pyjamas to designing outfits for the three witches in Macbeth. Lots of students completed the 'Find the Animals in Pyjamas' competition and Jazib in Year 8 won the prize and now has his own personalised dressing gown. Well done Jazib! Donations from our students and families raised £100 contributed to BookTrust's mission of ensuring every child has access to a bedtime story.



Computing Digital Media

This term, a group of Year 11 students visited East London University to visit their Creative Media Department. The students were buzzing with excitement as they learned about green screens and thoroughly enjoyed working on a real set with professional directors. They even produced a fantastic film about a couple shopping in New York who get attacked by aliens! A huge well done to Niyah and Neil for their stellar performances! Many thanks to TA Devon for organising this amazing trip.



Measurements in Maths

As part of their maths this term, Year 7 were learning about different measures. 7RJ used different measuring tools to measure the length, mass and capacity of different items and containers. We were even able to enjoy the sunshine sometimes too!



London Youth Games Football

Bensham's teams excelled when representing Croydon at the London Youth Games in June. Our young girls team achieved a top half finish despite playing older opponents throughout the day. The boys won a tense penalty shoot out for the Bronze medal to finish 3rd out of the 20 competing teams.



Art Gallery



Archie, Year 7



Jazib, Year 7



Samra, Year 10



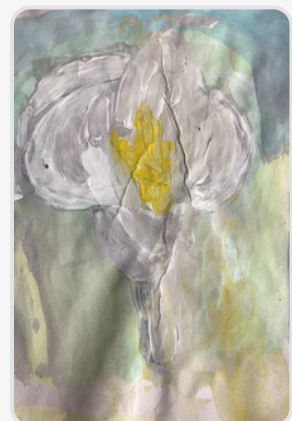
Kayden, Year 7



Arshavin, Year 10



Jordan, Year 8



Josiah, Year 10

Woodlarks

Eleven students went to Woodlarks for a summer camp for four days and three nights. We had an amazing time! 10KB came to join us on Wednesday so that Post 16 students could show them around the camp and they could also have a wander through the woods and a swim in the glorious sunshine!

We did so many activities - campfires, den building, swimming, treasure hunts, orienteering, pizza making as well as just enjoying being out in nature.

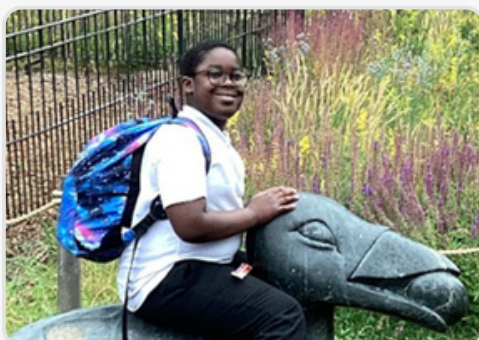
Many thanks to all the students who were amazing and to the staff that supported the trip. Thanks also to our volunteers - Trish and Mick who do all the cooking and to Sarah and Nick for providing such a wonderful place to stay.

We had a Talent Show as well - there were some spectacular talents - well done Post 16!



Science Trips

Students from Year 11 went on a fantastic trip to Kensington gardens where they located and identified a range of wildlife and plants. Students explored the habitats of a range of living things and they successfully applied their knowledge that they have gained in the classroom.



The students in Year 7 also went on their own journey to the wonderful Horniman museums and gardens. They explored the different parts of the museum and gardens including the Sound exhibit and the animal farm. Students explored how different sounds can be made using different pieces of equipment.

Getting ready for September

Training has begun for the next edition of the 22 mile Great River Race across London which will take place in September. Our new Year 11's looked great in their first training session at Richmond earlier this term.



Our Year 7's had a taster session at Forest School ready for their 6 week program in Year 8.