

# Summer Term 2026

## Bensham Manor Newsletter





# Headteacher's Welcome

## Welcome to the Summer edition of the Bensham Manor Newsletter!

As we reach the end of another fantastic school year, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a busy, exciting, and memorable term. Our pupils have achieved so much, and this edition celebrates many of the wonderful experiences, successes, and events that have made the past few months so special.

One of the highlights was our Post 16 residential trip to Woodlarks Camp, which you can see on the Newsletter front cover. Spending four days away together created lasting memories, and everyone returned with huge smiles and plenty of stories to share. We are also incredibly proud of our Year 11 students, who worked exceptionally hard during their examinations before embarking on two weeks of work experience.

The final weeks for Year 11 were particularly emotional as we celebrated their journey through Bensham Manor. From special farewell activities to their Graduation Ceremony and our fantastic Prom, there were many opportunities to reflect on their achievements and look ahead to exciting futures. I was delighted that the school was able to fully fund the Prom, Graduation, Leavers' Hoodies, Leavers' Books and other end-of-year celebrations.

Throughout the year, pupils have benefited from a wide range of careers activities and guidance to help them prepare for the future. Our Year 8 pupils have continued to thrive in Forest School, while sporting teams have represented the school brilliantly, achieving success in a number of tournaments. We have also enjoyed welcoming families into school through Progress Mornings, Tea and Talk sessions and workshops.

In September, we will once again have a staggered return to support a smooth transition for our new Year 7 pupils. Students in Year 7 will return on Wednesday 2nd September, with all pupils attending from Thursday 3rd September.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. It is a privilege to work alongside such wonderful pupils, families and staff. I hope you all enjoy a safe, happy and restful summer break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

***Mrs Robinson, Headteacher***



# Croydon Youth Awards

Ariana in Year 11 recently attended the Croydon Youth Awards with her mum, Mrs Elvin and her TA Justyne after being nominated by Mrs Robinson for the **Resilience and Inspiration Award**. With 19 young people nominated for this prestigious award, Ariana was genuinely surprised when she was announced as the winner!

Anyone who knows Ariana will understand why she received this recognition. Her resilience, determination and positive attitude make her a truly deserving recipient, and we are incredibly proud of her outstanding achievement. The evening also provided a lovely opportunity to catch up with two former Bensham Manor students, David G and James P. James welcomed guests at the entrance, while David was serving canapés throughout the evening. It was wonderful to see them both thriving too!

**Well done Ariana - We are so proud of you!**





# Annual Activity Day

Year 7's, 8's and 9's celebrated their last day in those year groups by taking part in the annual PE Activity Day on July 3rd - a day that focuses on participation and enjoyment. Every learner took part and had a great time in activities including Tug of War and Space Hopper Racing. In our recent hot weather the 'Watery Challenges' proved particularly popular!





# Farewell Year 11!

Our Year 11s enjoyed a fun-filled final week at Bensham as they celebrated the end of their school journey with us.

Classes headed off on one last trip together, with some visiting Chessington and others exploring the Paradox Art Museum in London. In school that week, students took part in a special activity day that included a self-defence workshop, school shirt signings and the chance to drive cars in the front playground!

The week concluded with our after-school graduation ceremony and into the evening with our fantastic prom. We are going to miss you Year 11!





# Checkmate! Bensham Wins

In 2026, we launched our very first after-school chess club at Bensham, ran by staff member Callum. The students' hard work and enthusiasm culminated in July at a chess tournament hosted by Blossom House School, where we competed against teams from five other schools. We had an outstanding day, taking both first and second place thanks to some exceptional performances. Congratulations to Liming, who won every match with skill, confidence and outstanding sportsmanship to claim first place, and to Adam, who secured second place all while sharing his knowledge of the Danish Gambit to support and inspire his fellow players! We are incredibly proud of everyone who represented Bensham so brilliantly, including Logan, Jacob and Ryan.



## Forest School Taster

As usual in the summer term, our Year 7s enjoyed a taster day out at Forest School. This prepares them for when they'll go regularly in Year 8, very exciting!





# PGL

A group of our Year 9 and 10 students had a fantastic time on their residential trip to PGL Marchants Hill in April. They took part in a range of outdoor activities like archery, laser tag, axe throwing and paddle boarding (to name a few!). For many pupils it was the first time away from home and their family, so it was lovely seeing them be so confident and brave!





# Diversity Week

Bensham has been proudly celebrating Diversity Week, with pupils taking part in a range of creative activities that highlight the importance of inclusion, respect and celebrating our differences. Classrooms have been transformed with colourful displays featuring flags from around the world, Pride flags, and other symbols representing the rich diversity within our school and the wider community.

Our students also took part in a Diversity Bookmark Design Competition, using their creativity to design bookmarks that reflect the values of diversity, equality, and belonging. The standard of entries has been outstanding, making the judging process a difficult one! The three winning designs will be professionally printed and turned into bookmarks for every student to use in school. Well done to Burtley, Sophia and Raphael.

The week culminated in our much looked forward to Diversity Picnic where students and staff wore clothes that reflected their own cultures. Everyone enjoyed 9MEJ's steel pan band as well as Bensham's student band "Wildcards" playing live in the front playground.





# Voice for Equality

The Anne Frank Foundation, as part of its Voices For Equality unit, visited our Year 8's in May. The visit was a cross-curricular collaboration between the History and English departments. In History, students were studying the Second World War, while in English they were reading 'Once' by Morris Gleitzman. The novel, written for 9-12 year olds, follows a young Jewish boy attempting to escape Nazi occupied Poland, and the links between the two subjects enriched students understanding of this important period in history.



This interactive workshop featured a timeline of key events during the Second World War, and a detailed 3D model of the Secret Annexe, where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis for two years and one month. It was a sombre and poignant experience and we are so proud of our Year 8's for the maturity, respect and empathy they demonstrated. They listened attentively and asked insightful and thoughtful questions about the Holocaust, helping us in the future to continue fostering meaningful discussions about prejudice, discrimination and human rights.



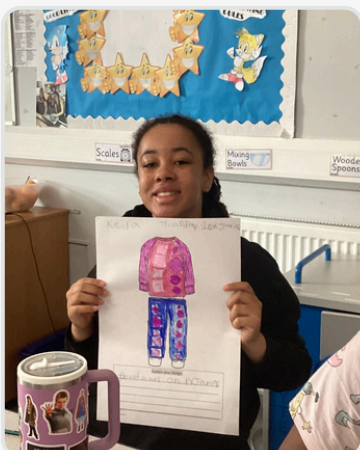
# Pyjamarama Day

On Thursday 11th June, Bensham came alive with the excitement of Pyjamarama Day, a nationwide celebration organised by the UK's largest children's reading charity, BookTrust.

Students and staff arrived at school dressed in their cosiest pyjamas and enjoyed a fantastic day packed with book-themed activities, challenges and competitions. One of the highlights was a school-wide hunt to spot the animals in pyjamas hidden around the building, well done to Sufyan who won and will be presented with his own personalised dressing gown.

We were able to raise £150 for BookTrust, helping support their mission to bring stories and reading opportunities to children across the UK!

Well done to our winners Ciaran, Giannis, Alfie, Hudson, Michaela for their engagement in our Lesson 1 activities and their winning drawings.





# Music

During the Summer Term, students have enjoyed a wide variety of exciting musical activities in their lessons. They have developed their skills through singing, as well as learning to play the steel pans, ukuleles and keyboards.

A highlight of this term was when the students in 9MEJ formed a steel pan band called Wildcards. They practised and performed 4 pieces at the Diversity picnic. They did so well and were enjoyed by the audience.

Another class, 8ML, have been working with the Brit school to perform at their festival. They have enjoyed the sessions and will be singing, dancing and acting at the Brit school as well as watching other people perform.

The choir has worked especially hard throughout the year, showing great commitment and enthusiasm in rehearsals (of which 24 students attend). We had a farewell party to say goodbye to some of the members of the choir.





# London Youth Games

Bensham Manor represented Croydon at the recent London Youth Games Football Tournament. Against teams representing boroughs from across London our girls team finished a creditable 5th (of 12). Our boys team suffered the disappointment of losing their semi-final on penalties but then bounced back to win the Bronze medal match in a close fought game with Enfield that again went to penalties. Nathaniel managed to save 4 of those he faced as goalie then stepped up to score the final, winning penalty!



## Surrey Athletics

Bensham's team returned triumphant from the Surrey Championships held on July 1st. After intense training during lessons, our athletes put in a series of peak performances against schools from across Surrey at Holland Athletics Club, Oxted. The day was such a success that every member of the Bensham team won at least 1 medal!





# Art Gallery



**Brandon**



**Ellie**



**Khalid**



**Jorge**



**Christopher**



**Alfie**

The work displayed is based on Robin Brookes, a Landscape artist from Maine. The medium she uses is collage. Pupils painted their own paper to learn about shades and tones. Using tearing and cutting they composed a landscape with trees as a feature.



# Art Gallery

Students worked on developing ideas and working independently through a number of choices. They were asked to make nature compositions. Students looked at other still life, textiles and photos of nature made by a range of artists. They practised with different media before starting their own ideas. Results were so lovely!



**Arshavin**



**Sydney**



**Sahdana**



**Sara**



**Josiah**

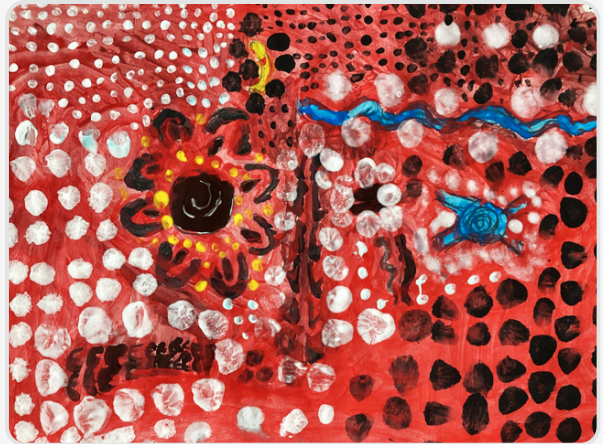


**Uthman**



# Art Gallery

Australia is a Diverse Country and its indigenous people have been there for 80 000 years. Aboriginal has the word original in it. It means that they were the first. Their artwork is unique and uses symbols to tell their Dream Stories. These stories are passed on from their ancestors.



**David**



**Michaela**



**Lucy**



**Leanna**



**Jazib**



# Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning has been busy renovating the outside area. Students have helped build flowerbeds and raised vegetable areas.



We had our first harvest of the summer! Our very own peas came out perfectly!



A lovely seating area to support regulation in a quite and calm place.



We have also been very busy building a new home for Paxo the turkey, while giving old items a new lease of life by recycling them into flower pots!



We now have a raised pond area where we can look at different habitats and ecosystems in action.





# Transport Club

Joe and Nazim from the Police were happy to show the Transport Club their marker vehicle and answer any questions they had. There were some excellent questions including the engine size, type of vehicles and make and model of the cars. We had the flashing blue lights but decided that the sirens might stop everyone else working!



## Bag Books

In April, Nina Martinez from Bag Books joined us to do a storytelling session with classes in Year 7, 8 and 9. This was an interactive, sensory-rich experience in which the classes explored different stories using their senses. Bag books also donated two new stories to use with the whole school! More info can be found on Bag Books here: [www.bagbooks.org](http://www.bagbooks.org)





# Football Club

We have had a fantastic season at our after-school football club this term, with some outstanding players worthy of a place at the FIFA26 World Cup! We have a talent pool like the French team (watch out Mbappe, Dembele!) Our club is all inclusive for ballers of all levels and abilities. The improvements have been fantastic this season, with quite a few standouts. We're sure we have found a few stars in the making (no agent fees required!).

A great big thank you goes out to Charlie, an ex-Bensham pupil who now attends college, but volunteers on a Tuesday to help out & inspire our young stars in the making.

A lot of our club players in Year 9, 10 & Post 16 have gone on to represent the school at various levels & tournaments throughout the year, which we are extremely proud of. We also have been able to have our own Ballon D'or awards. Our first winner is our club captain, Ryan A (AKA Skipper). He is becoming a fine leader on & off the pitch. Our most improved player of the season award goes to Hassan. In front of goal he is more potent than Harry Kane & Ryan B who is the new Adam Wharton. Well done to all of you who have attended this season!





# Year 7 Skills for Life

This term, 7DD learned about the importance of eating a healthy, balanced diet and leading an active lifestyle. They explored how healthy choices can support both physical and mental wellbeing. As part of the topic, the class enjoyed trying chair yoga, discovering that exercise can be fun, relaxing, and accessible for everyone.



## English Spotlight

In English, 8LBU explored Shakespeare's "Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?". Inspired by its themes of beauty and admiration, students wrote their own creative responses to the famous sonnet. Nathaniel in Year 8 wrote this fantastic piece!

***In the darkest of nights***

***Her light still grows strong***

***Her piercing green eyes***

***Just like the field we're on***

***Her long black hair mixing in the dark***

***Her hands so soft I feel like I'm in the sky***

***With a voice so calming it reminds me of a waterfall***

***With an atmosphere so warm it feels like the morning sun***



# Woodlarks

Woodlarks in the heatwave! Thirteen students and five staff members had a fantastic residential trip at Woodlarks campsite in Farnham, Surrey. They made use of all the facilities - woodland walks, orienteering as well as lots of swims in the outdoor pool and inflatable fun! The students were amazing in the heat - they were kind and supportive to each other which is lovely to see. Many thanks to the staff who worked so hard to make the trip such a success - Kirstie, Amy, Izzy, Callum and Will.





# Learning about the workplace

This term, Year 10 have been exploring the key skills needed to succeed in the workplace. They have developed their understanding of teamwork, communication and problem-solving through a range of practical activities and discussions. These valuable skills will help prepare them for future employment and life beyond school.



## Grow Wild Outreach



We were delighted to welcome Grow Wild Outreach to Bensham Manor in July. Grow Wild is a charity that provides nature-based outdoor activities for children and adults with SEND, helping participants build confidence, develop practical skills and connect with the natural environment through hands-on experiences. During their visit, lead by Oliver, pupils learned how to use outdoor cleaning equipment like litter pickers. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the activities while learning how everyone can play a part in keeping our local environment clean and cared for.



# Food Tech

Across all year groups, pupils demonstrated impressive commitment to developing practical, real-world expertise. Many achieved nationally recognised qualifications such as the Level 1 Certificate in Food Hygiene and the Level 1 and an increased number of L2 BTEC in Home Cooking Skills, reflecting both their dedication and the high standards upheld within the department.

These cupcakes were baked by 9DJ and enjoyed at the Diversity Afternoon Picnic!



## Sewing Club

Sewing Club has been buzzing with creativity this term! Alongside developing their crafting skills, pupils have been working on a range of exciting projects to support our Diversity Week. Using colourful Hama beads, they have designed and made a fantastic collection of unique keychains, which were on sale during Diversity Week. The club also created giant friendship bracelet-inspired banners, celebrating inclusion, kindness, and diversity.





# Work Experience

A small group of our Year 11 students have been making a wonderful contribution to The Hub @ St John's, a welcoming community space that offers free hot lunches, friendship and activities for local residents every Thursday. Bensham students have helped to prepare, cook and serve lunches, while also welcoming in and greeting visitors.



## SportAbility

Bensham Year 7s had a really fun day out at Surrey Sports Park in May, taking part in the SportsAbility Series, an inclusive multi-sport initiative held in Guildford.



Hosted at the impressive £36 million Surrey Sports Park, students had the chance to try a huge variety of activities before earning medals for all their hard work and effort at the end of the day!





# Skills for Life Cooking

What a fantastic year we've had in our Skills for Life cookery lessons! It has been amazing to see how much every student has grown in confidence. At the start of the year, some were unsure about trying new foods or using different kitchen equipment, but it's been wonderful to watch them become more independent and willing to have a go. Throughout the year, the students have tasted a wide variety of new flavours and ingredients, often stepping outside of their comfort zones.

The students have also developed a strong understanding of kitchen safety and hygiene. From washing their hands and keeping their workstations clean to using equipment safely and following recipes carefully, they have shown great responsibility and maturity in the kitchen. Most importantly, they have built some fantastic cookery skills. Whether measuring ingredients, chopping safely, mixing, baking or working as part of a team, every student has made progress and should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. It's been lovely to see them encourage one another, celebrate each other's successes, and enjoy sharing the dishes they have created.

Well done to everyone for all your hard work, enthusiasm and willingness to learn this year. It has been a pleasure to watch your confidence and skills grow, and we hope you continue to enjoy cooking and trying new things in the future.





# Staff Drawings

We would like to highlight the wonderful Ellie in Year 10 who has drawn amazing pictures of staff members! A collection of them have been put up on display in the dining room. We asked her a few questions about them...

**When did you start drawing your amazing pictures of staff?**

About 1 year ago.

**How many have you drawn so far?**

I have drawn 60 pictures.

**How do you decide who to draw?**

Who I talk to on that day.

**Where do you get your ideas from?**

Characters I like and what the staff like.



## Maths

7AH explored fractions in a creative way. They were given some whole squares, and they had to divide them into halves and quarters. They made a pattern, design or picture with their fractions. Other class members then had to figure out how many squares there were originally, by adding the individual pieces together!





# Panathlon

Panathlon features a variety of SEND-friendly games and Bensham Manor finished top of the standings at the recent South London Xtend competition! The event brought together 53 competitors from eight schools and was made possible thanks to the support of the Jack Petchey Foundation. "Such a fantastic event!" said James Burns, Grants Officer at the Jack Petchey Foundation.



## Bensham Manor House Cup

There may have been a minor Football Competition taking place in the Americas recently but a far more prestigious competition took place at Bensham Manor over the Spring and Summer Term. After a season of exciting fixtures featuring the full range of upsets, last minute equalisers/winners and great goals the House Cup was claimed by the Green Dragons!

