



# Spotlight

*Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 45*

## Main Feature: Britten Day 2025

On 24 November, the School held its annual Britten Day commemorations to mark the 112th birthday of its namesake. A special assembly was held in the Theatre for Year 7 scholars highlighting Britten's childhood in Lowestoft, during which staff provided an insight into Britten's life and achievements. Afterwards, a small group of specially selected Year 7 and Year 9 scholars accompanied Mr Mullender (careers) on the annual Britten Tour, which began at Britten's family home on Kirkley Cliff Road and paid a visit to the newly-installed 'Britten as a Boy' statue in Kitchener's Gardens on the seafront. The group then visited Snape Maltings for lunch before concluding the day by the laying of flowers on Britten's grave in Aldeburgh churchyard, continuing a school tradition dating back to 1978. Scholars who accompanied the tour were **K. Hudson, A. Walton, B. Van Kroonenburg, K. Clements, E. Smith, J. Hipperson, C. Hipperson, K. Gott and C. Cole.**



Flowers were laid on the grave of Benjamin Britten by B. Van Kroonenburg and K. Gott, continuing a tradition of nearly fifty years standing. Scholars also visited The Scallop on Aldeburgh Beach, designed by the sculptor Maggi Hambling which was unveiled in 2003.

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## Phone Policy

**Scholars are not permitted to be in possession of a mobile phone, or any electronic device, during the school day.** Any phone or device brought into school must be deposited with the relevant Year Teams promptly upon arrival and will be held in secure storage. The phone/device can then be collected at 3:15pm.

Any mobile phone or device found in possession of a scholar during the school day, including at break and lunchtime, will be **confiscated** and will **only be returned after 3:15 to a parent or carer.**



**If parents or carers need to urgently contact their child, they should do so by communicating with the main school office on (01502) 582 312, whereupon a message will be relayed immediately.**



## Bicycle Safety

Remember to use **lights** and **reflective clothing** while cycling in the **winter months**.



**Look out for  
each other**

**Use your lights  
Be visible**





## Year News

**Year 7:** It has been a busy and exciting first term for Year 7 scholars who have made a successful transition from primary school to secondary school. In September, scholars travelled to Whitlingham Adventures in Norfolk, where they took part in a series of team-building activities where they were able to strengthen their teamwork skills, and push themselves outside of their comfort zones through activities such as raft building, canoeing and rock climbing. At the start of October, scholars participated in the Year 7 Showcase, where we were amazed by the incredible talent displayed across the year group. In November, the Year 7 Awards Assembly was held, where scholars were nominated for awards by their subject teachers in recognition of their achievements. It was a proud moment for everyone involved, and we are truly impressed by the dedication and hard work of our Year 7's. Later that month, each Year 7 form group was treated to a visit to the Red House in Aldeburgh where Benjamin Britten lived after moving from Lowestoft. **We would like to take this opportunity to express how proud we are of all the scholars in our year group. They have embraced numerous opportunities and fully immersed themselves in life at Benjamin Britten Music Academy.** We wish our scholars and their families a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to welcoming our scholars back in the New Year!

*-Mr Cook and Mrs Smith.*

**Year 9:** As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, the Year 9 Team would like to congratulate all our scholars for their hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm. This term has been full of achievements—both in the classroom and through the brilliant efforts to raise money for the Year 11 Prom Fund. We are delighted to share that, together, our scholars have **raised an impressive £1,363.29 so far**. This fantastic total was made possible through three key fundraising events: firstly, a **Sponsored Silence**. Their determination to stay silent—not always easy at school—helped raise a significant portion of the total. We were impressed by how seriously they took the challenge and how supportive they were of one another throughout the event. Secondly, a **Halloween Raffle**: this was a huge success, with scholars selling tickets enthusiastically and lots of willing customers. The generosity shown by scholars, families, and staff contributed greatly to our fundraising total. The main prize was won by Year 7 E. Oliveira. Thirdly, the **Halloween Market**: a very special thank you goes to Miss Baumgartner (English) and her tutor group 9ABa, who organised the Halloween Market. Her creativity, energy, and dedication helped make the event a memorable one. Scholars did an excellent job running stalls, engaging with visitors, and working together to make the market both enjoyable and profitable. We are incredibly grateful for everyone's involvement.

To celebrate the achievements and positive attitude of our scholars, we were delighted to offer a sweetie pick 'n' mix treat to **the 70 scholars with the highest number of positive points** this term. This reward recognised not only excellent attitude to learning, but also kindness and a consistently positive approach to school life. Well done to everyone who earned this recognition. We are so proud of the kindness and determination our Year 9 scholars have demonstrated this term. Their efforts have made a real difference, and we look forward to more opportunities to celebrate their achievements in the new year. Wishing all our families a very merry Christmas and a restful, joyful holiday season.

*-Mrs Hammond and Mrs Reeder.*



## Year News

**Year 10:** It has been a very busy term for our year 10 scholars. Our scholars have made an excellent start to this academic year, and we have been very impressed by the effort and attitude displayed in their chosen GCSE studies. Scholars have also shown great maturity and determination in completing their first formal Key Stage 4 mock assessments.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts this term, the Year 10 team has given out **335 weekly rewards, 104 monthly certificates and prizes and invited 62 scholars** who have consistently demonstrated exceptional behaviour, attitude and punctuality to lessons to enjoy a sweet shop experience with a pick 'n' mix reward afternoon (see below). We also enjoyed a fun-filled Christmas trip to Winter Wonderland in Norwich (see below) with 100 scholars to celebrate the end of term. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our scholars and their families a very Merry Christmas. We hope you have a well-earned, restful break and wish you all the best for 2026.

**-Mrs Adams & Mrs Knights**



**Year 11:** It has been a busy term for Year 11 scholars who have been completing their mock exams and attending morning and after school revision sessions for their GCSE exams. As part of their ongoing careers programme, scholars have also attended one-to-one careers sessions with Mr Mullender (careers) to discuss plans for college and apprenticeships. College interviews have also been held with representatives from East Coast College, Lowestoft Sixth Form College, East Norfolk Sixth Form College and City College Norwich, to name but a few. We wish our scholars and their families a happy and restful Christmas. **-Mrs Wright and Mrs Norton**



## Trip News

**Sicily Trip:** On 29 September, a group of Year 10 scholars took part in an overseas residential trip to Sicily as part of their GCSE Geography studies. Departing school at midnight, the group arrived in Sicily later that day and visited Catania, Aci Castello and the Cyclops Riviera. Although very tired, scholars rustled up the energy to sample local pizza and ice-cream. On the second day, the group visited Mount Etna where a cable car and truck ride took them close to the craters. The group hiked the final stretch to get superb views of the south-east crater. Afterwards, the group took in a honey farm where they were able to taste different honey, olive oil and olives. On the final day, the group explored the town of Letojanni and the nature reserve at Tindari where they walked along a piece of land that had experienced recent tectonic activity. It was a fantastic trip filled with many fun and enjoyable memories, and Mr Flanagan and Mrs Kitching (Geography) congratulate all on their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved.



**Red House & Aldeburgh Visit:** For the week commencing 17 November, all Year 7 form groups and their tutors were able to visit the Red House in Aldeburgh, Benjamin Britten's home from 1957 to his death in 1976. Scholars were given guided tours of the house by members of Britten Pears Arts and were shown a wide array of Britten's personal possessions, including items from the Britten-Pears Archive relating to his childhood in Lowestoft. They were even able to see the room where the late Queen Elizabeth II once sat and had lunch with him. The group then visited Aldeburgh for a walking tour of sites important to Britten's life there, including the Jubilee Hall, Moot Hall and his first house in the town. The day was concluded by chips on the seafront. Mr Cook (Head of Year 7) congratulates all scholars for their maturity and excellent behaviour and extends his appreciation to Britten Pears Arts for welcoming scholars and staff to the Red House outside of the usual visitors' season.



**BRITTEN PEARS  
ARTS**

## Paris Trip:

From 12-15 November, 80 Year 8 scholars took part in the annual overseas residential trip to Paris. Scholars were treated to a boat ride along the river Seine to see the impressive Louvre and Notre Dame Cathedral from the water, followed by a visit to the iconic Eiffel Tower, where all made it to the summit for glorious views over the city. They also completed a mini coach tour of the Champs-Élysées and Arc de Triomphe, before heading back to the hotel for a fun swim. On Day Two, the group visited Les Invalides where scholars admired the beautiful architecture and Napoleon's tomb followed by a fantastic tour of the Stade de France. The evening was spent at the Disney Studios park where the Tower of Terror and Avengers Flight Force were the firm favourites. Miss Davey (French) extends her appreciation to scholars for their maturity and to members of staff who assisted with the trip.



## Eat, Walk, Talk trip:

On 26 November, fifteen Year 10 GCSE Hospitality & Catering scholars enjoyed a tasty tour around some of London's best street stalls as part of their GCSE studies. The food tasting walking tour encouraged scholars to speak with traders about the origins of the food they prepare and sell and to see how much different types of food can be bought and sold for in the catering economy. Mrs Abel (Food Tech) congratulates scholars for their excellent conduct.



## Cambridge University trip:

On 7 November, a group of Year 8 scholars got to experience a taster day of life at a Cambridge University college with Mr Ferris (science). Scholars were given a tour of the college by current undergraduates, including the Chapel (pictured) and later took their lunch in Hall (pictured).





### Barcelona Trip:

From 2 to 5 November, 21 Year 9 scholars enjoyed an overseas residential trip to Barcelona where they were able to experience culture and cuisine by participating in a paella cooking show and chocolate-making factory, as well as enjoying a guided tour of the La Sagrada Familiar. Scholars had further opportunity to explore Park Guell. Mrs Abel (Food Tech) congratulates all who took part and commends them for their excellent behaviour and conduct.

### Category 1 Academy Football Trip:

On 26 November, fifteen members of the Year 7 boys' football team enjoyed an unforgettable day at Norwich City Football Club's prestigious Category 1 Academy as they took part in a School Football Festival. The day began with a guided tour of the Academy building, giving scholars a behind-the-scenes insight into the daily life of a professional footballer. They first explored the dining areas, meeting rooms and the analytical centre, where players review match clips to enhance their performance. This rare glimpse into the professional environment set the tone for an inspiring day ahead. One of the many highlights was the **opportunity to try SoccerBot 360, the UK's first £750,000 football simulator** (see below). Using advanced camera systems and a fully immersive 360-degree projection screen, SoccerBot 360 challenges players to improve scanning, first touch and passing through a series of fast-paced interactive games. Scholars experienced how the technology can recreate in-game situations, allowing players to revisit moments from previous matches and refine their decision-making skills. Afterwards, the team took to the pitch to compete against schools from Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Demonstrating outstanding teamwork, determination and skill, **the Britten team remained unbeaten throughout the tournament**, beating teams from Wymondham College, Hethersett Academy, Etonbury School, Springwood Academy and King's School Peterborough. **Their consistency, resilience and flair ultimately saw them crowned tournament champions!** A fantastic achievement that capped an exceptional day. Mr Cook (Head of Year 7) congratulates the team and is incredibly proud of their performance.



# School Notices

## FROM MRS ARMON, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

Parents & carers must advise the relevant year team of any planned absence (e.g. medical appointments) **at least 24 hours in advance** to enable staff to complete the necessary paperwork in a timely manner.

Without this, the School cannot guarantee that scholars will be ready for collection when required.

## School Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at Benjamin Britten School and entails keeping the school community safe from harm, abuse, or injury.

**This duty of care is taken very seriously.** All staff receive annual safeguarding training and ensure that safer recruiting practices are followed. Scholars are reminded of the need for safeguarding and key safeguarding messages are provided through Social Ethics lessons, tutorial time activities, and year assemblies.

The School is committed to safeguarding scholars, staff and visitors.

**We expect all staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment and brief them on our procedures and practices when they arrive.** Safeguarding incorporates the prevention of extremism and radicalisation as well as child protection, and concentrates on the wellbeing of the young person.

The School aims to ensure any indication that a young person is not thriving or is failing to meet his or her potential is detected as soon as possible.

***If you have any concerns and would like to discuss them with the safeguarding team in the strictest of confidence, please contact Mrs Thurbon or Mrs Armon, the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads.***

## Uniform Policy

**Footwear** - Formal black shoes, with a leather upper, of a safe and comfortable style and heel height. Those that look like boots/trainers or are made of canvas, or have flashes of colour are not acceptable.

**Jewellery** - Jewellery is not part of the uniform. Small sleeper type earrings or small discreet studs may be worn, no bigger than a 5 pence piece (one in each ear). No nose studs, facial or body piercings are permitted. *This includes plastic stud retainers.*

**Hair** - Hair should be of natural colour and style.

**Make-up** - Make-up is not permitted. This includes fake tan.

**Nails** - Nail varnish/false nails must not be worn.

**Eyelashes** - False eyelashes/eyelash extensions are not permitted.

**Coats and Hoodies** - Coats and hoodies must not be worn in school. Hoodies will be confiscated if seen being worn inside the building.

***Benjamin Britten School reserves the right not to accept scholars in lessons who exceed what the School deems reasonable.***





# Remembrance 2025



The School came together for its annual Armistice Day commemoration on 11 November, which was held in the Theatre in front of parents and carers who joined scholars in paying their respects for those who fought and died in war. Also in attendance were members of cadet branches and other uniformed groups who were given special permission to attend lessons in the uniform of their respective group. Mrs Armon (Head of Lower School) led the commemoration, while Head Girl O. Bagshaw and Head Boy H. Boggis gave readings. The event was concluded by Cadets and Scouts marching to the pillbox on the Middle Field under command of L/Cpl A. Woollorton to lay a wreath. Headteachers Mrs Thurbon and Dr Ridley also attended and congratulated scholars on their conduct.



# Philanthropy News

## Halloween Market:

Form group 9ABa hosted their annual Halloween Market on the 22 and 23 of October during lunch. English Room 11 was transformed into a bustling bazaar of colourful toys, eerie decorations, and irresistible treats—including cookies, rice krispies, and American dirt cups. Candy corn bites also were a hit and



disappeared almost as quickly as they were set out. By the end of the two-day event, the market had raised a **remarkable £369.58**. Of this, £100 was donated to the Lowestoft Food Bank to support local families, while £50 each was awarded to Year 10 and Year 11 in appreciation of their invaluable help. The remaining funds will contribute to Year 9 Leavers' celebrations and Prom preparations. To top it all off, a hugely successful **Halloween raffle raised over £400** and concluded with the giveaway of a spectacularly curated hamper that left the lucky winner absolutely delighted.

**Non-Uniform Day:** On 17 December, the School held a Christmas Jumper non-uniform day raising money for five charities: Save the Children, Lowestoft Food Bank (the Technology Department's chosen charity), The Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal (the Year 9 Team's chosen charity), The Teenage Cancer Trust (the Year 10 Team's chosen charity), and Young Minds (the Vocational Department's chosen charity). Scholars were asked to bring in the customary £1 donation or make a donation to the School Foodbank Appeal. A **total of £607** was raised as well as numerous donations to the School Food Bank.

**Shine Night Walk:** Year 10 scholar I. Cooper completed the 10km Shine Night Walk in Norwich to raise money for Cancer Research UK on Saturday 4 October. **She raised an incredible £420** for which the whole school offers its congratulations.



**Foodbank Appeal:** Mr Sweetman (maths) would like to say thank you to the school community who were able to support the Christmas Foodbank Appeal. The items donated were collected by representatives from the Trussell Trust, which runs the Lowestoft Foodbank, on 16 December in time for Christmas. Additional thanks goes to those scholars who volunteered to help with sorting and moving the donated items.

**Remembrance Sunday:** Mrs Snowdon is proud to report that on Remembrance Sunday (9 November), the Head Boy and Head Girl accompanied her to Lowestoft's annual Remembrance Service at Pier Plain where they laid a wreath at the town's war memorial on behalf of all scholars and staff. They also read a poem entitled 'The Love That I Have' written by French Resistance heroine, Violette Szabo. Other members of the School were also present in their capacity as Cadets and Scouts and took part in the procession to the memorial. During the preceding week, scholars in Year 9 had also taken part in the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies during form time.





## News in Sport

This term has seen various sports represented across the year groups, including Cross County, Dodgeball, Badminton, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Football, Gymnastics and Swimming. The football teams have been participating in numerous fixtures across the term, representing the School in local fixtures, Suffolk Schools County Cup and the ESFA National Cup. Scholars have represented the School and the PE Department brilliantly. Mrs Schofield (Head of PE) congratulates all those teams that go into the New Year with fixtures ahead.

**Year 7 Boys' Football:** Mr Humphrey (P.E) is pleased to report that the Britten Year 7 boys' football team has been outstanding since the start of the year with five straight victories. Results in the County and National Cup competitions have been:

Lynn Grove 0 – **3 Benjamin Britten**

Sir John Leman 0 – **4 Benjamin Britten**

Thomas Mills 0 – **7 Benjamin Britten**

Wymondham College 1 – **12 Benjamin Britten**

East Bergholt 2 – **12 Benjamin Britten**

The Britten B and C teams also recently **beat East Point Academy** in two friendly matches.

The Year 7 First Team are looking forward to more county and national matches in the new year.

Furthermore, **Monday after school Football Club is averaging an attendance of 47 boys each week**, meaning the future success of Britten teams is in good hands.



**Cross Country:** The Year 10 Cross-Country team recently progressed in the County Cup with **a hard fought win against Alde Valley High School** in very wet and cold conditions. The team will run again in the next round in January **(see top right)**.



On 16 October, Mr Humphrey took an enthusiastic team of cross-country runners to The Royal Hospital School near Ipswich for an inter-school running competition and is pleased to report that **seven of the Britten team qualified for the next stage** in Woodbridge in January **(see bottom right)**.



## News in Sport

### Year 8 Boys' Football:

Mr B. George reports that the Year 8 boys' football team recently saw success in the second round of the County Cup, beating Sir John Leman 4-3. They are due to play Thurston High School in the next round after the Christmas holidays. The boys also won the first round of the National Cup, beating the Lynn Grove Academy team on penalties.

### Year 10 Pickleball:

Mr B. George is pleased to report that the Year 10 boys' pickleball team were rewarded with success at a recent tournament held at Pakefield High School. The team worked hard to win the 2025 Suffolk School Games Pickleball Tournament, beating teams from several local schools. Mr George congratulates the boys for their effort, teamwork and dedication.



### Year 9 Boys Football:

Mr Humphrey recently took a team of Year 9 boys to a B-team football tournament held in Beccles. The boys played with great determination and skill and thoroughly enjoyed the day. They acquitted themselves admirably, finishing a well-earned second place.



### Santa Dash 2025:

On Wednesday 17 December, Year 7 and 8 scholars participated in a charity Santa Dash to raise money for the PE Department's nominated charity, Children in Need. Scholars took to the fields to see how many laps they could complete and who would win the award for best Christmas themed fancy dress. The PE Department are hugely grateful for any money raised and the efforts of the scholars in making the day a success. Results will be announced in the next edition of Spotlight.

### PE Clubs:

A reminder that the PE Department hosts a wide range of fully supervised after school clubs during the week, including badminton, fitness, table tennis and football on the 3G pitch. PE Clubs are regularly updated, so keep a close watch on the PE Clubs notices around school and on the school website.



## Careers News

**Lovell Construction Visit:** On 16 October, thirty Year 10 scholars participated in an employer-led careers event hosted by Lovell Construction, the UK's third-largest construction company. Scholars were split into groups and set a challenge of designing a new housing development which was not only ecologically friendly, but also adhered to the strict laws relating to environmental protection, amenities, building density and drainage. As part of this challenge, groups were taken to the site of the future Garden Town at Corton and had a Q&A session with architects and project managers. A week later, Lovell Construction returned to the School to judge the 10 submissions of the new housing development project. After much deliberation, two teams were chosen and each member received a certificate and £25 Amazon gift card from the Regional Director of Lovell Construction. Award winners were: **H. Gooch, T. Mills, E. Siu, S. Keyte, S. Smith and L. Van Leenhoff. (H. Gooch also received a special certificate for excellent engagement).** Dr Wright (STEM) and Mrs Kitching (Geography) congratulate all who participated and extend their appreciation to Lovell for their support throughout this exciting project.



# Mathematics News

**Maths Symposium 2025:** The Norwich School once again played host to the annual Norfolk Maths Symposium on 13 November at The Space in Norwich and 30 high-attaining scholars from Year 10 and 11 had the opportunity of representing the School. The event began with a talk from Dr Nira Chamberlain, Principal Consultant in Data Science and Mathematical Modelling and listed as "one of the UK's top 100 scientists", who delivered an eye-opening talk on the ethics of AI and how advances in the use of AI in business and economics can be both a threat and a cure for our global society. Dr Ben Sparks spoke on the origin of number and gave a live demonstration of Mandelbrot's fractal design. He also explained how to find out if you have -1 sheep in your field (if you put another sheep in the field you'll still have no sheep...). Finally, Dr Tom Crawford used an ab exerciser and a ball to demonstrate how to track plastic pollution in our seas (hint: it has a lot to do with Coriolis Force), whilst also demonstrating mathematical models from his PhD thesis on the coastline at Gorleston. Mr Locke (Maths) congratulates all scholars for their professionalism.



*Credit: Norwich School*

**Find My Future 2025:** On 20 November, 14 Year 8 scholars attended the Find My Future event at the John Innes Centre to explore roles within STEAM that are available once they leave school. The day started with a talk from Ruth Perkins (STEAM communicator with 15 years experience) about where maths is applicable in everyday life, from hair dressing to waste management. Then, Rose McNelly (PhD researcher at UEA) spoke of her journey from rural Norfolk, to the University of Cambridge, to a career in researching starch. And finally, Vidura Foneska (aerospace engineer) spoke of his journey from Sri Lankan origins to his career in aerospace and how he became a body popper/break dancer, even showcasing his skills. Between these talks, scholars had opportunities to speak to professionals in many fields, including farming, mathematics, chemical engineering and computing, to name but a few. They also visited the STEAM careers fair to see what is available in tertiary education, including degrees and apprenticeships. Mr Locke extends his appreciation to all involved.



**Maths Clubs:** A reminder that there are a wide range of after school clubs hosted by mathematics staff available in the Mathematics Centre of Excellence building every week. These include board games club, chess club, homework club, Pokemon Trading Card Club and Mathematical Art Club. Please check club notices for rooms and times. If you have an idea for a club, please speak with a member of staff.



## And in Other News...

**Clubs Update:** Mrs Armon (Head of Lower School) would like to offer her personal congratulations to scholars who have taken part in extracurricular clubs so far this year. There have been an amazing **5,200 attendances at clubs so far**, with **741 different scholars attending**. Scholars from all year groups are encouraged to check the club timetables on the school website. They are also displayed in corridor outside the Staff Room, in form rooms, and at the Upper and Lower School offices.

**School Scarves:** Mr Cook (Head of Year 7) and Mrs Burton (Head of Year 8) are proud to report that a number of scholars were recently presented with a special head teacher's award for achieving the highest number of achievement points in their respective year group. The award, in the form of a specially-commissioned school scarf in blue and gold, can be worn around school and will serve as a lasting reminder of the link between the award winner and Benjamin Britten Music Academy.

**The whole School extends its congratulations to the following scholars for their efforts:**

**Year 7: J. Willis and E. Oliveira**

**Year 8: M. Kennedy and H. Rutter**

### **Creative Writing Workshop:**

The School welcomed acclaimed author Ashley Hickson-Lovence to the School Library on 11 November for a day of creativity, inspiration, and hands-on writing experience. The writer, best known for his innovative storytelling and focus on real-life experiences, led a dynamic creative writing workshop for GCSE scholars. During the workshop, Ashley modelled effective writing techniques and encouraged scholars to draw inspiration from their own lives when crafting stories. Using visual prompts, vocabulary cards, and story cubes, scholars experimented with new ideas and wrote short narratives to music. They also explored fresh approaches to poetry, taking inspiration from *The Watcher* by Caleb Femi to spark imaginative new pieces. Later that day, Ashley hosted a Q&A for members of the school's Creative Writing Club. He shared candid stories about his own journey as an author—including the rejection letters he received early on from publishers—to emphasise the importance of resilience and perseverance. He also offered practical advice on the path to publication, leaving aspiring writers with a clearer sense of what it takes to succeed. By the end of the day three delighted scholars went home with signed copies of his book 'Wild East', while many more left with something equally valuable: a new passion for creative writing and the belief that their stories are always worth telling. Miss Baumgartner (English) extends her appreciation to Ashley and to scholars for their enthusiasm and maturity.

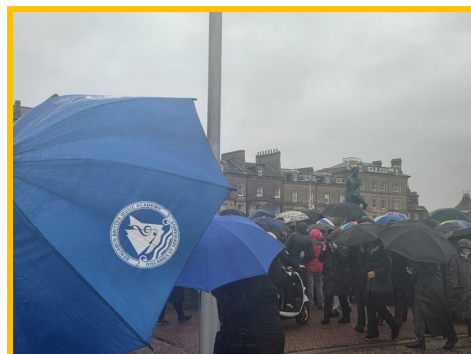


**East Suffolk Youth Council:** Mr Sweetman (maths) is pleased to report that the newly-elected members of the East Suffolk Youth Council attended their inaugural meeting on 10 December. M. Davey and E. Willimott (Year 9) and M. Larmond (Year 10) represented the School and conducted themselves well, networking with other students from other schools, discussing motions and learning about how local councils operate.



## And in Other News...

**Britten as a Boy Statue:** On the afternoon of 10 November, a bronze statue commemorating Benjamin Britten was unveiled in Kitchener's Gardens, near the seafront, in recognition of Lowestoft's most famous son. Designed by the UK's foremost sculptor in bronze, Ian Rank-Broadley, the statue depicts Britten as a schoolboy looking out across the North Sea, the source for many of his compositions. Despite the inclement weather, a large number of people gathered to hear the project leader, Zeb Soanes, reflect on the five year 'Britten as a Boy' fundraising appeal to create the statue, and to thank everyone who had made it a reality. Composer Sir John Rutter, who as a boy in 1963 had sung with Britten, unveiled the statue to rapturous applause. Pupils from St. Mary's RC Primary School gave a spirited, yet rain-blown, rendition of a specially-commissioned song entitled, 'What Bliss is Home' led by the conductor, Ben Parry. The Hartismere Family of Schools Trust, which contributed to the fundraising appeal, was represented by Executive Headmaster, Dr J. McAtear, whilst Benjamin Britten Music Academy, which is a supporting school of the project, was represented by Mr Mullender (careers).



**National Languages Competition:** In the week of 17 November, a number of Year 9 scholars took part in the online National Languages Competition run by GCHQ. The competition presents young people with a vast number of easy, hard and extreme challenges in many different languages, including fictitious ones. The competition builds language and code breaking skills and highlights the vital role that linguists play in the UK's national security and counter-terrorism efforts. Scholars worked incredibly hard in their own time and after school. The commitment, collaboration and resilience shown throughout the week was fantastic.



National  
Language  
Competition



Over 2,750 teams took part across the country, with **Britten's 'Team Gentle Fox' placed in the top 10% of teams nationally** - an amazing achievement.

***A special mention to F. Smith for her resilience and persistence with the Extreme Level challenges and for being the highest individual point-scorer in the School.***

**Team Gentle Fox** (Score 6,940) F. Smith, B. Gabriel, A. Nasim

**Team Incredible Dolphin** (Score 4,840) E. Willimot, E. Pimlott, S. Uddin

**Team Faithful Clownfish** (Score 3,990) J. Wooltorton, L. Murray, C. Hembrow, J. Taylor

Mrs Van Zeller (Languages) congratulates all for their hard work and determination.



## And in Other News...

**GAME Lowestoft Trip:** On Friday 10 October, 46 Year 9 scholars attended the inaugural GAME Lowestoft careers event held in the former TESCO store in the High Street, which has now been converted into a community space known as The Battery. This event was hosted by the First Light Festival group to encourage young people in Lowestoft interested in a future career in the gaming sector to have the opportunity to speak with games developers and designers, ask for guidance on how to access the sector and to discuss post-16 and post-18 options for further study. Scholars acquitted themselves incredibly well and behaved maturely throughout and were able to sample many of the multi-player games on show. Mr Chilvers (maths) extends his appreciation.



**Appointment of Prefects:** During the last half term of Year 10, applications were invited for the position of Prefects to assist staff in supervising and assisting Lower School scholars for the new academic year. After completing application forms and interviews, Mrs Wright (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Norton (Pastoral Head of Year 11) are proud to announce the appointment of the following scholars as Prefects for the academic year 2025-26:

**Head Girl & Head Boy:** *O. Bagshaw (Head Girl), H. Boggis (Head Boy).*

**Senior Prefects:** *F. Jones, A. Goddard, L. Hallaron, E. Boardley, A. Turk, M. Ward.*

**Prefects:** *O. Whittington, E. Cook, T. Robinson, L. Mirgaux, A. Beecham, A. O'Donovan, N. Steel, O. Bice, K. Page, S. Giles, N. Green, S. Ashley, A. Soanes, A. Green, M. Carter, O. Williams, P. Overy, H. Morgan, L. Collier, H. Lewis, and I. Smith*



**Staff Retirements:** After 19 years of service to the School, Mrs Debbie Greenard (Business and Estates Officer) retired from her duties in the Main Office on 24 October. Largely unseen by scholars on a day-to-day basis, Mrs Greenard's presence was, however, felt through the budgets set aside for furnishing, maintenance and repairs to the school site, work which latterly included budgeting for the new 3G Pitch. A second retirement came in the form of Mr Jim Ward (Senior Science Technician) who retired on 30 November. Mr J. Ward began his career at the School in 2009 and has been a stalwart and dependable member of the Science Department throughout his tenure, providing essential support to practical experiments in lessons over the last 14 years. The whole School wishes both Mrs Greenard and Mr J. Ward a long and well-earned retirement and thanks them for their years of service.

## And Finally...



### Community Spirit at Christmas:

Mrs Burton (Head of Year 8) reports that on 17 December, two Year 8 scholars, on their way to school on non-uniform day, stumbled across an injured dog lying by the roadside near Spashett Road. Without hesitation, they carefully took the dog to a local vet, reported where they had found it, and made sure it received appropriate treatment. Their quick-thinking and compassion helped the dog get the care it needed, and its owner, who had feared the animal lost, was incredibly moved and grateful. To thank them, he bought the scholars a bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolate, and presented them with a monetary reward, showing that small gestures of kindness in our community can truly mean the world to people. This kind action epitomises our school motto, 'Discamus ut Serviamus' ('we learn that we may serve'), placing the needs of others before ourselves.

## Notice to Parents

The School respectfully requests that parents/carers exercise consideration when parking in the local community while collecting their children from school.

The roads adjoining the School are residential areas that need to remain accessible at all times.

Please pay close attention to double yellow lines, zig-zag markings, dropped kerbs and driveways when waiting with, or parking, your vehicle.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

