



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 34

Main Feature: Visit to St. Catharine's College, Cambridge

On 15 February, a group of Year 10 scholars visited St. Catharine's College, Cambridge to speak with undergraduates and tutors about their experiences at one of the world's top-ranked universities. The college was founded in 1473 and is affectionately known as 'St. Catz' by its undergraduates. The day was divided into a Q&A session, college tour and two academic taster experiences. The afternoon sessions covered a broad range of interest; the first on Veterinary Medicine, delivered by Dr. David Bainbridge, was on the topic of lead poisoning in domestic pets, while the second, led by Ms. Laure Bonner of the Archaeology Department, spoke about the interdisciplinary skills that allow archaeology students to interpret finds from ancient history. Scholars were also able to handle artefacts from the college museum, including a Stone Age axe-head and a Roman decorative hair bead. It is hoped that the visit encouraged debate and discussion among scholars as to how future studies in higher education (H.E) could be of benefit to them in achieving their ambitions. Scholars were praised by university staff for their maturity and smart appearance and the School commends them for their excellent behaviour.



Above: Year 10 scholars visiting St. Catharine's College, Cambridge were (L-R): Jack Eglinton (10DM), Bethany Meen (10SB), Stephanie Walling (10DM), Grave Overy (10MD), Gaja Bort (10AB), Kitson Smithers (10SB), Felix Dewsnap (10AB), Gabriella Stone (10RD), Darcey Bean (10AB) and Joseph Boor (10OR)

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Year News

Year 8: We would like to say a huge well done to our Year 8s for a fantastic start to 2022. They have accumulated 4000 positive behaviour points so far this term! This is incredible. The top in the Year group for the most achievement points for Spring Term (so far!) are: **Phoebe Pierpoint, Joel Pullinger, Ash Thorn, Jessica Walker, Ruby Moyse, Thinoshan Johnson, Libby Porter, Izzy Martin, Shae Murphy, Truth Jones, Jonathan Moore, Seren Peck and Alfie Young.** We would also like to congratulate any of our scholars that take part in our extra-curricular activities. As a little treat for their fantastic behaviour and attitude to learning this term, we will be inviting 2 scholars with the highest positive behaviour points from each tutor group to join us for cake on Tuesday 26th April. We would like to thank our scholars and their families for supporting our two fundraising events. The 'Copper Challenge' enabled us to raise almost £70 the 'Sponsored Silence' enabled us to raise just over £600! All money raised will be split between local charities and the Year 8s' 'Leavers' Event' pot for their celebrations in 2025. Our tutors chose the following scholars to receive the award for Scholar of the Half-Term for their tutor group: **8AH Caiden Watson, 8AL – Scarlett Mills, 8BL – Truth Jones, 8BM – Thinoshan Johnson, 8EP – Lucy-Marie Brown, 8NC – Joseph Kyte, 8OW – Paige Munro, 8PB – Sophia Lodge-Carmenates, 8RW – Jack Wilkinson, 8ZS – Joel Pullinger.** Well done! We are really proud of the effort you're putting in to your learning. We would like to wish our Year 8 scholars and their families a wonderful Easter break.

–Miss Armon and Miss Banns.

Year 9: It was a pleasure to be able to take a group of Year 9 scholars on a trip to see the musical 'Wicked' in February. A great time was had by all and the show was amazing. Hopefully there will be an opportunity for more local trips before the end of the year. In July the year team will be taking 72 scholars to Bawdsey Manor for a two-night, three-day residential trip which will include a full programme of outdoor activities and evening entertainment. Options information will be given to parents/carers shortly after the Easter break. Scholars are encouraged to consider which subjects they wish to study for GCSE Options. The year team are also hopeful that the annual Christmas Fayre will go ahead this year, after a two-year cancellation due to Covid restrictions. Money from the fayre will go towards the current Year 9s Prom and a donation will be made to a local charity. Finally, the year team wishes all scholars and their families a wonderful, relaxing Easter break.

–Mr Flanagan, Mrs Overy, Mrs Sidell.

Year 10: This term scholars have been busily preparing for their work experience placements which will take place in the summer term. Scholars had been encouraged to arrange their own placements and have submitted a wide variety of occupations for consideration. It is hoped that these applications will be completed soon. The year team has launched a new initiative to reward scholars in Year 10 form groups who have demonstrated kindness towards others and have proven invaluable to the form tutors. The Tutor Star Award is presented monthly and will continue to recognise effort after being launched in April. Plans are also underway for the Upper School Awards Evening which will be held at the Marina Theatre after a prolonged absence due to Covid-19 restrictions. The year team congratulate all those who have been recognised with an award and looks forward to seeing guests invited by scholars.

–Mrs Adams, Mrs Knights and Mrs Brown.

Year 11: Year 11 scholars have been engaged in mock exams this half term in preparation for their GCSEs. They have also been fundraising for their Leavers' Event and Year 11 Prom through numerous methods, including a Sponsored Fun Run and table tennis tournament against the school staff. Special thanks go to Miss Pankhurst and 11OP who sold Krispy Kreme doughnuts during break which proved so successful they had to return for a second day. Preparations are also ongoing for the Upper School Awards Evening in which many Year 11s will be recognised with awards for excellence in their subjects.

–Mrs Wright and Miss Edge..

Mobile Phone Notice

A reminder to parents and carers that 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.

It will only be returned at 3:15 pm 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

The School strongly recommends that scholars cycling to and from school are equipped with a bicycle helmet.

Bicycle locks are also recommended.

Bicycles should NOT be ridden on the school site.

All cyclists are reminded of the importance of careful and considerate use of the public roads, particularly to and from school, when vehicle traffic increases.

In law, a bicycle is regarded as a vehicle and should be used responsibly.

Any cyclist can be **stopped by a police officer for riding a bicycle recklessly on a road or in a dangerous, careless or inconsiderate manner under the Road Traffic Act (1991).**

The maximum fine that a court can impose in a case of dangerous cycling is £2,500.



School Notices

FROM MR GEORGE, 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 school staff to complete the necessary paperwork in a timely manner. Without this notice, the School cannot guarantee that scholars will be ready for collection when required.

School Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at the 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.

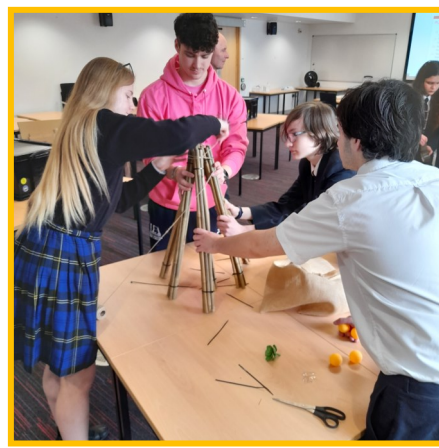
If you have any concerns and would like to discuss them with the safeguarding team in the strictest of confidence, please contact Mrs Thurbon, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.



Careers News

Scholars from Year 9 have been participating in their timetabled careers lessons, with sessions focusing on considering their Year 10 GCSE Options, preparing for their next steps after leaving school and familiarising themselves with the school's new online careers platform, Unifrog. After Easter, Year 8 scholars will begin their careers sessions in preparation for their for their post-16 options.

Year 9 Higher Education Visit: On 28 March, a group of Year 9 scholars attended the University of East Anglia (UEA) as part of a project to encourage Lower School scholars to consider their future study options. Ambassadors from the UEA accompanied Britten scholars for a tour of the campus before they were separated into working groups for smaller workshops. The project tasked scholars with creating and branding their own university with reference to existing institutions and styles of construction. The day concluded with a presentation of ideas in front of students from six other high schools and assembled members of the university staff. Benjamin Britten's presentation was noted for its professionalism, clarity and teamwork and was praised by the judges. The School congratulates all who took part and commends their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm.



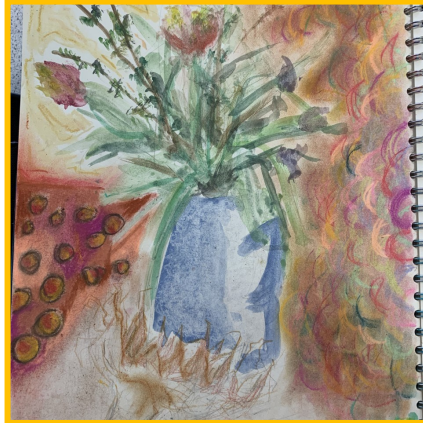
Scholars who participated in the Year 9 visit to UEA were: Akira Holtum (9GC), Katie Pull (9KV), Elliot Curson (9KV), Hope Jones (9CS), Shlomit Timtey (9KV), Kelsie Adams, (9ZD), Anna Hathway (9ZD), Dominikos Faccas (9MF), Holly Howell (9KV) and Jack Harrow (9MF).

Post-18 Workshop: A group of Year 9 scholars were also selected to take part in a 'Future Me' workshop hosted by the UEA in the Library Quiet Study Room. The event focused on dispelling myths about studying at university and provided information about the costs associated with living on campus. This workshop was ably supported by current UEA mathematics undergraduate Shay Jordan, a former Britten School scholar, whose success has become the subject of an alumni poster in the school.



And in Other News...

Artist Visit: The artist Rachel Thomas recently visited the school to work in art lessons with Year 10 GCSE Art scholars. The classes were able to explore composition, acrylics with mixed mediums and working from still life. Scholars engaged with Rachel's exciting and colourful palette and produced some beautiful pieces by the end of the day. Pictured below are examples of the work created by **Fearne Trigg (10QW)**, **Kirra Long (10SB)** and **Molly Gibbons (10MW)**. Mrs Steward (Art) congratulates all those involved in making the visit such a success.



Post-16 Options Masterclasses: During the last half term, the School has availed itself of post-16 providers in the locality to assist scholars from years 9, 10 and 11 in considering the wide variety of options open to them when they leave school. To this end, several masterclasses have been held after school to explore different subjects and future areas of employment. These have included A-Level masterclasses from East Norfolk Sixth Form College on Law, Human Rights, Psychology and Politics alongside presentations from Farrans Construction, a national company currently engaged in the construction of Lowestoft's third river crossing. These sessions have been well attended and will continue after Easter as part of the School's careers programme.

Word Millionaires: The English Department is pleased to announce that the following scholars have been awarded prizes for successfully reading over one million words on the Accelerated Reader literacy programme. The School congratulates them for their hard work and dedication:

Oscar Symonds (7DB) (4 million words), **Ethan Grundy (7EL)** (3 million words), **Oliver Fowle (7EB)** (1 million words), **Josh Edwards (7KB)** (1 million words), **Cameron Purcell (7KB)** (1 million words), **Connor Simms (8PB)** (1 million words), **Evie Rose (8NC)** (2 million words), **Alara Kilic (9NM)** (1 million words), **Libertine Love-Harvey (9GC)** (1 million words).

Bedrock Success: The first prizes from the School's very-own book vending machine were selected by scholars this term who have completed over 60 lessons on Bedrock literacy. This programme aims to boost confidence in broadening vocabulary and reading skills and can be accessed from school and home. **The first scholar to choose a book was Valentino Paolantonio (7KB) (pictured).**

Fundraising Success: Mrs Lever (English) would like to congratulate her form group 7EL for their efforts in raising money for Comic Relief and Guide Dogs for the Blind through a charity bake sale. Funds raised totalled £100 which was split equally between the two charities. Mrs Lever would also like to thank Mr Whitely (Food Tech) for his baking expertise which he was kind enough to share with 7EL.



And in Other News...

History Club: The inaugural meeting of the History Club took place at 3:30pm on Friday 28 January in the School Library. Assembled members, ranging from Years 7 to 10 and numbering twelve in all, explored the role of Lowestoft in the Anglo-Dutch wars. Subsequent presentations included how Britain planned to deal with a nuclear war in the 1960s, studying historical architecture, and the history of policing in Suffolk (pictured). Scholars attending the club are able to handle artefacts and historical equipment from the period being explored. The club is held every Friday Week One, 3:30-4:30pm and will cover a broad range of topics outside of the curriculum. Any scholar who would like to join is advised to speak with Mr Mullender in the Library to collect a consent form for parents/ carers to sign.



Britten School of Dance: The Performing Arts Department launched the Britten School of Dance in March. The School of Dance has provided fully funded ballet and tap lessons to specially selected scholars with the aim of making lessons accessible to those who would like to learn ballet and tap but are currently unable to access lessons from private providers outside of school. Scholars from Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 have begun lessons and are thoroughly enjoying the opportunity.

Year 11 Charity Sky Dive: The School would like to congratulate the following Year 11 scholars who will be taking part in the annual charity sky dive on Saturday, 2 July 2022: **Ben Brown (11PW), Holly Bryant (11OP), Reece Button (11OP), Louie Farman (11AW), Carys Ffrench (11TW), Jake Hadingham (11AW), Jessie Harrow (11CG), Leo Johnson (11AW), Billee McMeekin (11OB), Isobelle McMeekin (11AW), Sophia Norton (11FC), Jayden Osborn-Hunt (11FC), Lily Smith (11TW), Sonny Warboys (11AW) and Grace Wicks (11FC).**

Britten School Choir: Miss Juganzon (Music) is pleased to announce the commencement of the Britten School Choir. Places are open to all scholars in Years 7, 8 and 9 and anyone who would like to join is encouraged to collect a letter from the Music Department. Members of the school choir have previously sang on BBC Children in Need and performed at the Upper School Awards Evening.


Clubs and Societies


- ◆ **British Sign Language (BSL)** hosted by Mrs Poole: Every Monday, 3:30, Languages Room 4 (all year groups welcome).
- ◆ **Debating Society** hosted by Mr Sweetman, Miss Stanley & Mr Mullender: Monday Week 2, 3:30-4:30, School Library (all year groups welcome).
- ◆ **Programming and Robotics Club** hosted by Mr Sweetman: Every Wednesday, 3:15-4:30, Maths Room 12.
- ◆ **History Club** hosted by Mr Mullender. Every Friday Week One, 3:30-4:30, School Library (all year groups welcome).
- ◆ **Anime Club (Year 7s Only)** hosted by Miss Baumgartner: Every Wednesday, 3:15-4:15, English 6.
- ◆ **Anime Club (Years 8-11)** hosted by Miss Baumgartner: Every Friday, 3:15-4:15, English 6.
- ◆ **After School Prep** hosted by Mr Mullender: Monday-Thursday 3:15-4:30, School Library (for revision, homework, etc.)

BRAK Month: Throughout March the whole school entered BRAK Month (Benji's Random Acts of Kindness) to encourage scholars to help each other and their families. Mrs Armon (Head of Year 8) led the campaign and was gratified by the hundreds of BRAKs submitted to the school. Each BRAK equated to a raffle ticket and the final draw was held in April for which the winners were awarded a £5 Amazon gift card. Scholars were able to enter as many times as they liked and the School was overwhelmed at the entries received, numbering nearly 200 in all! Congratulations to all who took part. The winners of the draw were:



Thomas Calver (7EL), Lily Temple (7EL), Chloe Beck (8AH), Callum Fenn (8OW), Ash Thorn (8NC), Jordan Morgan (9CS), Louis Sansom-Williams (10DM), Georgia Boyd (10BS), Lois Westoby (11PW) and Summer Andrews (11FC).

He paid someone else's non-uniform day fee.	He cleaned up the class's paints without being asked.	 <p>Benji's Random Acts of Kindness</p>
He offered to collect all the laptops and return them.	He helped another student to get his book organised.	
I walked my neighbour's dog, as she was unable to leave the house due to COVID.	She donated a crochet kit towards the tutor group charity project.	
I bought my Nanny some chocolates and I did her washing up.	I did some shopping for my neighbour who was poorly.	
I spent some time indoors with my brother, as he has a broken hand and cannot go out.	She gave her friend a spare hairband in PE.	

This student handed the books out without being asked.	I went to get my friend a plaster, as she was too nervous to ask for one herself.	 <p>Benji's Random Acts of Kindness</p>
She washed and sorted the brushes and ink plates left by a previous class.	He helped to clean the science lab after a practical activity without being asked.	
We picked some wild flowers and left them on people's doorsteps.	She baked cakes after school for the charity bake sale.	
I helped my brother's friend who fell off her bike and cut her leg badly.		