

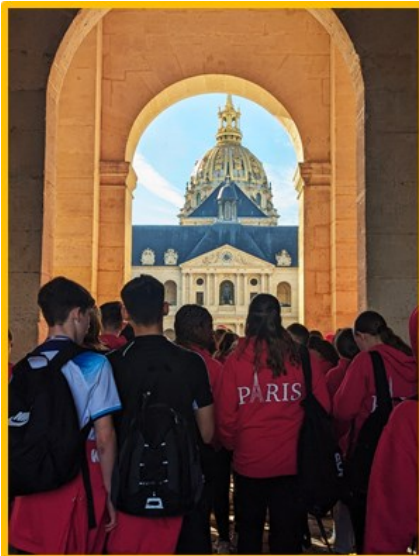


Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 40

Main Feature: Year 8 Paris Trip

From 14 -16 March, 80 scholars from Year 8 spent three wonderful days in on a trip to Paris. On the first day, the group visited the iconic Eiffel Tower where they enjoyed beautiful panoramic views of the city, whilst the bravest amongst them ascended the summit, which stands a dizzying 906FT above the bustling city streets. The afternoon was spent enjoying a guided coach tour of Paris, learning facts about some of the world's most famous monuments such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de triomphe and the Louvre museum. On their second day, scholars visited L'hôtel des Invalides where they admired the beautiful architecture and saw Napoleon's tomb. This was followed by an invigorating boat trip along the River Seine. Scholars concluded their trip with a day and a half at Disneyland where the Tower of Terror and Avengers rides proved popular for our fearless pupils. Miss Davey (languages) extends her appreciation to the group for their excellent conduct and eagerness to experience new things and to the members of staff who helped support the trip.



Left to right: Scholars were able to experience many of the world-famous Paris tourist attractions including the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower where groups were able to enjoy the panoramic views from the observation platform.

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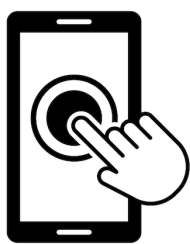
Mobile Phone Policy

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 where it will be held in secure storage.

The phone/device can then be collected at 3:15pm.

The School reserves the right to confiscate any mobile phone/device found in possession of a scholar during the school day, including at break and lunchtime, and to only return the phone/device at 3:15pm 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.

A reminder that 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 the Police 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.**



Trip News

Silverstone Trip: On 11 January, 55 scholars from Year 10 travelled with the maths department to Silverstone Interactive Museum to learn more about mathematics and science within motorsport, and discover more about the career opportunities within the automotive industry. During the day, scholars took part in a STEM workshop, where they explored the technology, design and science of racing cars and also looked at possible career options within STEM and motor racing. Scholars had the opportunity to handle various parts of racing and mechanical equipment, including carbon fibre wings and used race tyres from the cars of famous F1 drivers Max Verstappen and Mark Webber. This was followed by a Heritage Track Trail, which allowed scholars to walk along the length of the original Silverstone race track, as well as see the views from different stands around the circuit. Along with a photo opportunity to sit inside a real racing car, all scholars explored the interactive museum, which combines history, interactive experiences including a Scalextric model of the Silverstone track and amazing memorabilia from over 70 years of motorsport. Scholars and staff alike had a thoroughly enjoyable and educational day, and we look forward to running similar trips in the future.



Harry Potter Trip: Before dawn on 9 February, forty Year 7 scholars departed Benjamin Britten to make the long trek to the most magical (literally!) place in all of the United Kingdom: The Studio Tour of Harry Potter. After an arduous 3-hour bus journey, students were immediately greeted with a grand entrance lined in gigantic replicas of character wands and Wizard Chess pieces, which welcomed them into the main building. Their tour began with a filmmaking lesson, in which they got to learn more about crafting a screenplay before being able to draft one of their own using actual set pieces from the Harry Potter films. They were also able to get a close-up look at some of the most famous costumes and props from the franchise and ask some fantastic behind-the-scenes questions (no, The Cursed Child is not being made into a film, unfortunately). After a brief break in which they got to hang out with a Hungarian Horntail, scholars were then allowed to go into the studio tour itself, which began in the Great Hall with a bang! as representations of the Weasley twins recreated disrupting the O.W.L.s scene. After lots of fireworks and music, they were led into the labyrinth of sets and costumes behind the scenes, including: The Gryffindor common room, Dumbledore's office, the Weasley kitchens, and the Forbidden Forest. After some broom practice, wand lessons, and a terrifying encounter with Aragog, scholars settled down for some well-earned butterbeer and lunch. The day closed with lots of happy purchases and some very happy witches and wizards returning to their muggle school.



Philanthropy News

Holocaust Memorial Day:

On Saturday 27 January, Head Girl L. Picken and Head Boy A. Clark accompanied Mr Mullender (careers) to Lowestoft Railway Station to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and Lowestoft's role in the Kindertransport, the evacuation of unaccompanied Jewish refugee children from the Nazis. The event was introduced by Cllr. Sonia Barker, the Mayor of Lowestoft, who recounted her experiences of meeting Holocaust survivors during her career as a history teacher at Benjamin Britten School between 1993 and 2003. Mr Peter Aldous (MP for Lowestoft and Waveney) gave a speech about the significance of Lowestoft in rescuing Jewish children from the Holocaust and the importance of seeking political solutions to contemporary global problems likely to result in bloodshed. Students from neighbouring high schools recited excerpts of Anne Frank's diary whilst A. Clark and L. Picken read a poem entitled 'Freedom' by Helen Jackson. Over fifty members of the public attended the event which was concluded with a one minute silence and the laying of a wreath on the railway platform. Mr Mullender extends his appreciation to our scholars and to Mr Temple for giving up his Saturday morning to drive the school minibus.



Benji's Random Acts of Kindness Month:

Mrs Armon (Head of Upper School) is pleased to announce the commencement of BRAK Month. As has become traditional, scholars from all year groups are encouraged to demonstrate a random act of kindness. This not only serves to improve our wider community but also reinforces the importance of helping others.

SO, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO AS A SCHOOL?

Benji's Random Acts of Kindness (BRAK) Month

Throughout the next month, we are all going to take part in Random Acts of Kindness. You need to complete the Google Form each time you carry out a RAK and you will be entered into a draw. 1 entry = 1 ticket into the draw. You can enter as many times as you like!
Prizes will be awarded at the end of April.



Philanthropy News

Non-Uniform Day: On 7 March, the School held a non-uniform day to celebrate World Book Day, where in return for the customary £1 donation to charity, or a donation to the school food bank, scholars and staff were encouraged to attend school dressed as their favourite literary characters. A wide range of costumes was on display with the award for best staff costume, as voted for by scholars, going to Miss Pitchers (English) and the Year 11 team of Mr Cook and Mrs Sidell. **The School raised just over £600 which was divided between Comic Relief, Barnardo's, The Salvation Army and Sue Ryder.**



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.

Discamus ut Serviamus



**We Learn that
We May Serve**

School Notices

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 Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service, provided by Suffolk County Council, is available **every Monday lunchtime in Meeting Room 2 with Christina**. Appointments can be made any time between 1:15 and 2:00 and can cover a wide range of concerns including mental health, physical health, drug awareness and stress. *All meetings are confidential.*

Careers News

Ambulance Service Workshop:

On 19 March, paramedic Ben Law from the East of England Ambulance Service gave a workshop to Year 7 and Year 8 scholars on the various career routes available in the ambulance service and answered questions relating to his role as a Senior Paramedic. The Q&A sessions were very well received and the School extends its appreciation to Ben for his informative and engaging presentations. This session formed part of a programme of careers events taking place across the school over the academic year.

NHS
East of England
Ambulance Service
NHS Trust



Performing Arts News

Norfolk County Music Festival Success: Results from the Norfolk County Music Festival held on 13 March reflect highly on the scholars involved as they achieved the second-highest award available from the judges. Woodwind scholars were: **F. Barley-Cheeseman (flute)**, **M. Larmond (clarinet)**, **L. Devine (clarinet)** and **E. Huareyo (flute)**. These scholars have taken advantage of the School's Specialist Music Placements and very much enjoyed playing together. The latter also completed their solo woodwind performances at the Festival on 14 March, being awarded Highly Commended Grade 3-4 Standard and Commended Performance Woodwind Solo, Grade 3-4 Standard, respectively. Mrs Breen congratulates all musicians for their hard work. (pictured below)



Performing Arts News

Britten Band Success:

The Britten Band recently attended the Norfolk County Music Festival where they were assessed for their performing skills and musical dexterity. After deliberation, the judges **awarded OUTSTANDING**, the highest grade possible. The judges also made special mention of Year 11 guitarist O. Gibbs who was noted as the most talented musician of the night. Further to their credit, and in recognition of their tireless work in rehearsals, **the band also won the Music Festival Cup** which is awarded to the best band across all of the festival events. As a lasting tribute to their success, the cup will be engraved with the name of the School. Mrs Breen (performing arts) congratulates all who have worked on the project and Mr Chapman (music) extends his congratulations for this outstanding achievement in their final performance at Benjamin Britten School.

The New Britten Band:

The new Britten Band performed at the Norfolk County Music Festival and were awarded **Highly Commended Performance Plus** (this being the second-highest award on offer). The New Band had the most amazing time and are all talking about winning the cup when they are in Year 11.



LAMDA Results: The latest set of exam results from LAMDA have been published and show excellent results across the board for our scholars. Once scholars achieve a pass at Grade 6 they can earn UCAS points which will help with any future application to university. As more points have been awarded for Merit and Distinction this year, the school's external assessor has indicated that some of the younger scholars may be able to reach diploma level if they maintain their current level of work. The Performing Arts Department has also had two scholars take an exam in Verse and Prose for the first time.

Year 11 scholars no longer take LAMDA exams due to their GCSEs. Their final scores are as follows:

Musical Theatre Grade 6 (UCAS)

A. Hathaway - 85 Distinction

V. Wood - 80 Distinction

Acting Grade 5

D. Leighton - 85 Distinction

G. Roberts - 84 Distinction

E. Lewis - 83 Distinction

C. Brown - 80 Distinction

R. Howson - 80 Distinction

Scholars will be rewarded with an afternoon tea and a presentation medal and certificate.

And in Other News...

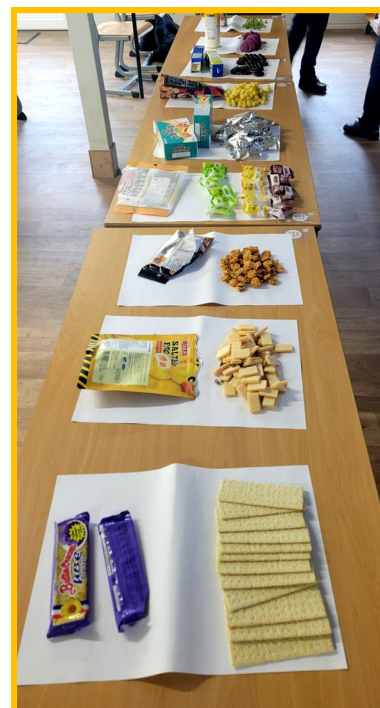
Year 9 Options Evening:

On the evening of 20 March, the School played host to the Year 9 Options Evening where parents and Year 9 scholars were invited to meet with option teachers and to ask questions relating to the subjects on offer. Representatives from various local colleges were also in attendance, providing an opportunity to speak with post-16 course providers and discuss how option subjects can link to future career paths. Mrs Jenkins (deputy headteacher) gave a presentation to parents and carers outlining the options process. Staff were ably assisted by a team of fourteen Year 11 Prefects who volunteered to remain at school to act as stewards and car park attendants (pictured).



Japanese Treats:

Anime Club members got to enjoy a taster session for some delectable Japanese delights on 22 March. On the menu was: takoyaki puffed balls, red bean fish cakes, wasabi peas, purple sweet potato crisps, salted egg biscuits, seaweed rice crackers, mochi (red bean, milk, and matcha), oreos (matcha, peach and oolong), and ube cream crackers. The overall consensus was that the fish cakes tasted like Barny Bear cakes, the wasabi peas would be a great item to prank others with, the sweet potato crisps were better than Pringles, and mochi remains an all-time favourite. The most divisive item was the salted egg biscuits, which tasted like sweet eggs between wafer biscuits.



Headteacher's Award:

The following scholars received the Headteacher's Award in the form of a specially-commissioned school scarf for academic success over the spring term.



Congratulations to:

Year 7: G. Law, H. Short

Year 8: J. Crisp, G. Farrow



And in Other News

Curricular Enrichment Clubs: Mrs Armon (Head of Upper School) would like to say a huge congratulations to all scholars who have taken part in extracurricular clubs this term. There have been an incredible **9,419 attendances at clubs so far this academic year**, with **831 different scholars attending**. This is amazing! Remember, list of club timetables are displayed in form rooms, and at the Upper and Lower School offices.

KS4 Traybake Treat: Each half-term, scholars in Year 10 and 11 are chosen to receive a 'traybake treat.' For Spring Term 1, just over 200 different scholars were rewarded for excellent progression in their learning. In Spring Term 2, 170 scholars were rewarded for improving as the academic year has progressed. Congratulations to you all and keep up the good work.

The Support Hub: Mrs Armon is pleased to announce that the Support Hub run by the School's fully-trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will have some new members next year. Some of the current Year 9 scholars have expressed an interest in being trained by the Diana Award charity, so even more people will be available to help scholars if they have any concerns or worries at school.

The Importance of Good Attendance:

a message from Mr Flanagan

Good attendance is crucial for every scholar's success at school. Consistently attending classes ensures that learners are not only actively engaged in their development, but also benefit from valuable learning experiences.

Regular attendance allows scholars to build strong relationships with their classmates and teachers, enhancing their social skills and making the learning process more enjoyable. It also enables scholars to participate fully in classroom activities and discussions, thereby deepening their understanding of various subjects.

Furthermore, good attendance instils a sense of responsibility and discipline in scholars from a young age. By being present at school, they develop important life skills such as time management and commitment.

**Remember, every missed day of school is a missed opportunity for learning.
So, let's work together to prioritise attendance and make the most of our educational journey.**



Every Monday
3.15 – 4.15pm

Maths Room 2 in The
Foxborough Building

HOMWORK CLUB

Computers
available to use
for homework

All year groups
welcome

After School Prep is also available for scholars to complete assignments, homework and research careers in the Library from 3:15-4:30pm, Monday-Thursday.

Clubs & Societies

Table Tennis

Fitness

Basketball

Rugby

Football

Martial Arts

Netball

Debating Society

British Sign Language

School Band

School of Dance

Brass Ensemble

Woodwind Session

Strings & Percussion

Art Club

Creative Writing Club

Harry Potter Club

Embroidery Club

Cookery Club

Chess Club

Table-top Games Club

Puzzle Club

Greenpower Car Club

Programming Club

STEAM Club

Anime Club

History Club

School Council

If you have an idea for a club or society, please speak with a member of staff to arrange a meeting.

And make sure to drop in to any of the clubs above to see what they are like
– you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

