



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 36

Main Feature: Armistice Day 2022

The school came together to hold its annual Armistice Day event on 11 November, which for the first time, was held in the Theatre in front of Year 7 scholars and their families. Over thirty scholars from different year groups attended school wearing uniforms of their respective cadet branch and the Elite Vocal Harmony group provided accompaniment to proceedings under the direction of Miss Juganzon. Mrs Armon led the commemoration, while the Head Boy and Head Girl gave readings, supported by Prefects and scholars in Year 10. The event was concluded with a two minute silence, preceded by the Last Post played by buglers positioned around the school site, and a laying of a wreath on behalf of the whole school. After the main event had concluded, cadets from the army marched out to the Second World War pillbox on the Middle Field to lay another wreath, under instruction of Senior Cadets, E. Bullard (11RD) and C. Gould (11DM). On Remembrance Sunday, the Head Boy and Head Girl also attended Lowestoft's Remembrance Sunday parade, recited a poem and laid a wreath on behalf of the school. They were accompanied by Ms Thurbon (Head of Upper School) and Mrs Adams (Head of Year 11). This marked the conclusion of Remembrance Week, during which scholars learnt about diversity during the wars, the origins of the different poppy colours and The Royal British Legion. The School congratulates all who took part and extends its gratitude to the families who attended the Armistice event and to Miss Roffey (science) who acted as official photographer.



Above: The School's Elite Vocal Harmony Group provided songs for the Remembrance Day commemorations held in the Theatre on 11 November. Head Boy (K. Smithers) and Head Girl (G. Boyd) laid a wreath of poppies on behalf of all scholars and staff to conclude the event.

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Mobile Phone Policy

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 and will only be returned 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 and a set of lights for the winter months.

**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.



Trip News

Britten Day Commemorations:

On 22 November, the School held its annual Britten Day commemorations to mark the birthday of its namesake. Throughout the morning, year assemblies were held for Lower School in which excerpts of Britten's music, composed as a child in Lowestoft, were performed on his Challen piano. These pieces were ably played by Miss Phillips (music) and were followed by a speech by Mrs Armon. Afterwards, a number of specially selected scholars representing Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 accompanied Mr Mullender on the annual Britten Tour, which began at Britten's family home on Kirkley Cliff Road. The group then visited areas important to him during his life before concluding with the laying of flowers on his grave in Aldeburgh churchyard, continuing a school tradition dating back to 1978. They were also able to view the stained glass window in Aldeburgh church created by John Piper in memory of Britten. Scholars who accompanied the tour were E. Knight, N. Kavaliauskas, O. Houlden, C. Newton, W. Mortimer, J. Pullinger and A. Clements.



Cambridge Science Centre:

On Thursday 6 October, 29 Year 7 scholars accompanied members of the science department to the Cambridge Science Centre. Scholars were able to participate in various interactive workshops which showed how the principles of science can be put into every day practical use. Behaviour of all scholars was exemplary. Dr Wright (science) congratulates all who took part for their hard work and maturity on one of their first extra-curricular trips after joining Benjamin Britten.



Philanthropy News

Halloween Zombie Run: On 19 October, the School held its first-ever Zombie Run to raise money for the Year 11 Prom and Leavers' Event. Scholars from Upper School, suitably dressed for the occasion, took the role of walking zombies whilst Lower School scholars paid to run the course to claim a prize if they avoided capture. J. Stilwell (8PEv), was the first survivor to reach safety and was awarded the winning medal. The event, held in conjunction with a Halloween Market hosted by Miss Baumgartner (English), raised £584. Zombie Run organiser Mr Sweetman (maths) extends his appreciation to Year 10 scholars who volunteered as Zombies. All told, over 90 scholars from all year groups had a fantastic time.



Christmas Jumper Day: On Friday 9 December a non-uniform day was held to raise money for Save the Children as part of Christmas Jumper Day. At the same time, the P.E Department organised a Santa Dash fun-run for scholars in Lower School. A wonderful array of Christmas jumpers and festive costumes were on show as scholars ran around the Upper Field on a cold and frosty morning. Miss Schofield, Mr Humphrey and Mr Camp (PE) would like to congratulate all who participated, especially those in full costume including one scholar dressed as The Grinch, another as a dinosaur and a third as a full-size traffic cone. Congratulations also to Mr Whiteley, Mr Doy, Mr Lockett and Mr B. George for participating in the fun-run.

Camps International: Year 11 Leavers Emily Alexander and Linqen Hudson completed their visit to Cambodia with Camps International during August. They participated in numerous activities designed to improve the lives of people in some of Cambodia's poorest regions and were able to visit locations of historical significance in Cambodian history. The School congratulates them on their efforts and wishes them well in their future studies.



Philanthropy News

Hello Yellow: On 10 October the School held a non-uniform day to raise money for the Hello Yellow charity appeal on Mental Health Awareness Day. **This was in support of the Young Minds mental health campaign for which £745 was raised from donations.** Congratulations to all who took part. From the donations accumulated, the School was able to support the following mental health charities:

YoungMinds: £150 The Samaritans: £150 Suffolk Mind: £150

The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust (chosen by Kooth): £150 Childline: £150



Foodbank Appeal: An appeal was held to collect donations of food for the Lowestoft Foodbank on 1 December led by Mr Sweetman. Alongside the school foodbank, scholars and staff had been asked to donate long-life items for distribution to people in need during the cost of living crisis. Form groups rallied round and on 14 December a large number of boxes were collected by representatives from the Lowestoft Foodbank. Overall, 500kg (half a ton) of items were donated by scholars from across the school. Mr Sweetman congratulates all who contributed and said of the appeal, "I could not be more proud of our school."

Halloween Market: Mr Whiteley (Food Tech) was kind enough to host scholars in making rice krispie treats, dirt cups, decorated cookies, Halloween cupcakes, and candy corn bites in preparation for the Halloween Market held on 19 October. The completed nibbles were sold along with faux crackers, toys, sweet bags, handmade jewellery, popcorn packs, lollipops, and a raffle. Scholars involved in the Halloween Market were: E. Nicholl, T. Brown, J. Stratford, H. Smith, D. Block, L. Knights, J. Forwood, D. Bean, L. Theaker and G. Sanford. **A total of £584 was raised for Year 11 Leavers' Event and Prom.**



Christmas Fayre: The annual Christmas Fayre was held in the Centre of Excellence for Mathematics on the evening of 9 December. A wide range of festive items were on sale and Father Christmas was available to meet with families. Mrs Overy extends her appreciation to everyone who braved the cold temperatures to attend and staff the Fayre. **The evening was very successful and Year 10 scholars raised more than £643.** Feedback from visitors was very positive and it was a joy to see so many families and familiar faces among the stalls. A Pop-Up Christmas Present Shop was also made available to scholars during lunchtimes on the last week of term which provided must festive cheer in the days leading up to the Christmas holidays.



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.

Online Safety Update

Parental Controls: With Christmas fast approaching some children will be getting new or upgraded devices, older devices may be handed to younger children. This is an opportunity to setup parental controls in relation to the age of the child. Internet Matters cover all devices with simple, easy-to-understand parental guides which you can find on the following link: <https://www.internetmatters.org/childrens-online-safety-this-festive-season/>

What is Discord? Discord has been around since 2015 and whilst it has normally been seen as the social media app for gamers, this has changed. Discord is very popular not just for gaming, but used by many children simply as a means to keep in touch with friends and family (as per WhatsApp) or joining others in conversations on servers. Please see the link below for further information about Discord and parental controls that can be used.
<https://www.childnet.com/blog/what-is-discord-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers/>

PlayStation Safety: Sony PlayStation and Internet Matters have got together and created a wonderful interactive quiz for children and parents to learn together how to make the most of PlayStation settings for safer gaming. This is a great idea to get conversations going and for parents to learn more about the games which your child may play. <https://www.internetmatters.org/press-start-for-playstation-safety/>

Should you have any Online Safety concerns which you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact the school's Online Safeguarding Lead, Mr Cook.

Performing Arts News

Year 7 Performance Project : Over 100 Year 7 scholars took part in a three-day project where they learnt singing, dancing and band routines. These were then performed to a packed audience on the final night. We are so proud of all involved and hope they enjoyed their first experience of being on the Britten Theatre stage.

Theatre Trip: Our talented Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama scholars recently travelled to Aylesbury Theatre to watch the iconic musical, Blood Brothers. A fantastic trip was had by all.

Wind Ensemble, Brass Band and Orchestra: Scholars have been able to attend these brand-new clubs after school (places are still available). Watch out for our talented musicians at our Easter Show.

LAMDA: Our talented Year 10 and 11 GCSE scholars have been working towards additional qualifications in acting, musical theatre, verse and prose. They have been attending lessons each week and will sit their exams in March. Well done and good luck everyone!

Elite Vocal Group: Our Elite Vocal Group have gone from strength to strength under direction of Miss Juganzon. Most recently they have performed at Benjamin Britten's Armistice Day event. They are currently working towards their competition pieces, ready for the new year.

Specialist Music Placement: Our talented SMP scholars took part in this year's celebration of Benjamin Britten's birthday. They spoke about Benjamin Britten's music in year assemblies and shared his music with the school. Well done everyone!

Christmas Spectacular: Lights, Camera, Sparkle! Our wonderful Performing Arts scholars once again dazzled in the end of year Christmas Spectacular supported by the school band who have continued to develop in skill and showmanship. They delighted the audience with an Elvis Medley, brought a tear to the eye with 'Let it Be' and got the audience rocking to Black Velvet. Our talented cast and crew were a delight throughout the show. Special thanks are extended to the crew who have once again done sterling work, often unseen but integral to the show -they really did bring the Magic of Christmas to Benjamin Britten. Finally, congratulations to the cast who have sung and danced their hearts out over six shows, and dozens of rehearsals. The whole School is proud of them.



Sports News

U-16 Girls' Football: The newly formed U-16 girls' football team have started the season positively and have made an impressive start to their County Cup campaign. The players have been victorious in their matches against East Point Academy and Sir John Lemman High School, with convincing wins in both. They now progress to the next round and will face their next opponents in January. Team is (see below, left): Rear L-R: O. Clarke, L. Tibble, G. Brown, I. Whittaker, O. Sizer. Front L-R: E. Burwood, L. Carroll, L. Alexander (Capt), S. Trapp.



Netball Success: On Saturday 19 November the U-16 Netball team (see above, right) competed in the Suffolk County Netball Finals at Ipswich School Sports Centre. It was a fantastic achievement to win the area tournament and progress to the finals. The team demonstrated outstanding effort and performance levels on the day, competing against Framlingham College, Ipswich School and many others in a round robin tournament for their age group. Congratulations to the team on this excellent achievement and thank you to all of the family members and friends who attended and supported the team on a very wet and cold autumn morning.

U16 Boys Badminton: A Badminton Tournament was held at Sir John Lemman High School on 29 November. The seeding order of the BBMA team going into the competition was: R. Dighton, F. Rearie, J. Sewell and K. Smith. They represented themselves well at the Tournament playing both singles and doubles against some very difficult opponents. F. Rearie was the team's best performer winning two of his three matches, R. Dighton played well against the odds and did not give up, including a very close 22 - 20 defeat. K. Smith and J. Sewell lost their games but were commended for their high standard of play by the tournament organisers.



Mr Camp (PE) congratulates the boys for their hard work and excellent sportsmanship during the event.

Sports Clubs: Scholars are reminded that there are a wide variety of sports clubs hosted by the PE Department after school during the week. No previous experience of the sport on offer is needed, scholars are invited to simply turn up and see if they enjoy the club.

Sports Round-Up

- Year 10 boys' football team are through to the County Cup Second Round after beating Debenham High School on penalties.
- Year 8 girls finished first place in the School Games table tennis tournament hosted by Benjamin Britten.
- Year 9/10 boys and girls football teams came second in the six-sided Christmas Cup tournament hosted at East Norfolk Sixth Form College.
- Year 9 boys' football club are still in the County Cup and have played 3 matches so far this season.
- In October, 22 Year 10 and 11 children completed a Football Association Refereeing Course. ***We are the first school in Suffolk and Norfolk to offer this course to scholars.***
- Primary mat ball and indoor hockey tournaments have been hosted at BBMA and 30 boys in Year 9 have officiated and coached at these events involving over a 100 children in Year 3 and 4 from local primary schools. Finally, nine boys from Year 7, 9 and 11 have run in two cross country events in Ipswich. They have all run superbly and now compete again in Ipswich on January 12.

News from Maths

On 30 November, a group of Year 10 girls visited the John Innes Centre at UEA to attend a talk on Women of the Future: to participate in talks from female STEMM professionals. Here, they listened to three women give talks in the fields of conservational biology (Lucy Eckersley/The Punk Biologist), farming and agriculture (Bushra Schuitemaker), and neuropsychology (Dr Penny Trayner) as well as asking questions in a Q&A at the end of the talks. Alongside this, scholars were able to meet employers from over 30 companies, from fields including physics, construction, PhD programs, wildlife sanctuaries, national rail and more. It was a wholly beneficial and widely successful day with all participating scholars feeling refreshed and invigorated, with a renewed insight into possible futures they could be a part of.



Year 6 Maths G&T Programme: Throughout the first term the Maths Department have welcomed around 40 Year 6 pupils from our feeder Primary Schools every week for some deep thinking and problem solving activities. The sessions are designed to feed the curiosity of the students and also give them a chance to work with students from other schools in the area. The programme was kicked off back in September where The Happy Puzzle Company came in for a day and delivered some fun and challenging puzzles and activities. The Year 6 parents also got involved in the puzzles and great fun was had all round. The programme will continue after Christmas throughout the school year so when the Year 6 pupils arrive here next year there will be a sense of familiarity and their brains will be ready for some higher level maths.

Maths Clubs: Mr Philpot (maths) reports that Chess and Board Game Club continues to grow and has allowed scholars to enjoy lots of different types of game. Tile laying games, card games and also family euro style games have all proved popular and have shown that games are not restricted to the old classics like Monopoly and Risk. Board games really give scholars the opportunity to disappear into another world and play socially with their friends unaided by a computer screen.



And in Other News...

Parliament Trip: On 9 November, a group of thirty scholars from Years 7, 8 and 9 visited the Palace of Westminster. The group were treated to a tour of the public galleries of the House of Commons and House of Lords, Central Lobby and Westminster Hall, the 900-year-old heart of parliament, before completing a debating workshop hosted by a member of the Parliamentary Education Service. The day was concluded with a Q&A session with the MP for Waveney, Mr Peter Aldous. Mr Mullender (Library) and Miss Nichol (history) extend their gratitude to the minibus drivers for their hard work in getting the group into Central London on time and to all scholars for their impeccable behaviour throughout the day.



Post-16 Options Masterclasses: During the last half term Year 8 and Year 9 scholars have been able to attend college masterclasses in criminology and psychology hosted by East Norfolk Sixth Form College. Scholars were able to participate in taster sessions with a view to increasing their awareness of subjects available when they leave school.

History Club: Members of the History Club are now able to attend weekly sessions after school every Friday in the Library (3:30-4:30pm). Recently club members have had sessions on 18th century smuggling, the history of polar exploration and how war changed the soldier over 2,000 years. Scholars have been able to handle historical artefacts ([see below](#)) and regular attendance has been recognised by the issuing of a bespoke club pin badge.



And in Other News...

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors: The School appointed ten Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to represent the Diana Trust on 7 October. Congratulations to: A. Clements, O. Owen, L. Picken, S. Rafferty, E. Revell, J. Sharples from Year 10 and F. Hallaron, C. Saunders, G. Stone and H. Walker from Year 11. The Ambassadors, some of whom are already working as Prefects, attended a training day with Mrs Armon at Caister High School on 11 October. **They now staff the Support Hub in English Room 12 every break and lunchtime to assist scholars who wish to report incidents of bullying and to provide a reassuring presence to scholars around the school.**



Book Donation: On 23 November, members of the school's Site Team collected over one hundred books from donations and books no longer required by the School Library and made a donation to the Brainwave charity which raises money to support people living with brain injuries and disabilities.



School Council: A new School Council was instituted on 9 November with members being elected by their peers, with two representatives from each year group. Meetings will be chaired by G. Overy and T. Brown and will discuss matters tabled for discussion by representatives whilst providing suggestions to the school's senior staff on policies proposed by scholars. Organiser of the School Council, Mr Sweetman (maths), congratulates all who took part and thanks all those who voted.

Open Evening: On the evening of 13 October the School held an Open Evening for prospective scholars which was well attended and supported by parents and carers. **Over 400 people visited the school for a tour of the facilities and an opportunity to engage in taster sessions.** The Headmaster gave a speech and congratulated staff and scholars on all their hard work over the preceding year. Prefects were also on hand to guide prospective parents and offer help with queries, with many not leaving the school site until 9pm. Mr George (Head of Lower School) congratulates all who attended and offers his thanks to all staff and scholars who supported departments throughout the night.

And in Other News...

National Languages Competition: During the week of 7 -11 November, six Year 9 scholars took part in the National Language Competition run by GCHQ, the UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency. Scholars worked tirelessly after school and in their own time during the week on cracking codes and solving puzzles in many different languages, including made-up ones! To say the puzzles were challenging is an understatement but Mrs Van Zeller and Miss Davey (Languages) were extremely impressed not only with the language and problem solving skills on display, but also in the scholars' resilience, sometimes spending hours on an individual puzzle and returning to puzzles numerous times before finally cracking them! Teams 'Glorious Patient Hawk' and 'Perfect Careful Aardvark' finished in the top 3% of the thousands of teams who took part across the country, an amazing achievement. The Languages Department and the entire School are very proud of both teams. The School undoubtedly has some future spies and intelligence agents in its midst.



Geography trip to Africa Alive Following a unit of study about ecosystems, species and their adaptations Miss Kitching (Geography) was pleased to take 110 Year 8 scholars to Africa Alive over two visits. As well as a walk around the site, scholars had an hour in a classroom where they were able to speak with an expert about a number of species and how they have adapted to their surroundings - they were invited to touch a python, giant African snail and the reptiles Mork and Mindy. It was gratifying to note that scholars were able to answer lots of questions demonstrating what they have learned in lessons on Africa. On both visits the groups were treated to a walk through the Limas and sheep who posed nicely for photos.

Q&A Session with Local MP: On the morning of 12 December, Mr Peter Aldous MP (Conservative: Lowestoft & Waveney) visited the school to speak with members of the School Council and Debating Society about his role as an MP. Scholars were each able to ask two questions about his role and how MPs work with their constituents. Mr Aldous explained that any member of the constituency can contact his local office by email, Facebook or in writing and he endeavours to answer all enquiries as soon as possible.

Advent Calendars: All scholars in Year 7 were presented with an advent calendar on the 1 December whilst scholars from Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 were presented with a selection box. Just a little something to put a smile on their faces in the lead up to the Christmas break. Thank you to the members of staff and local companies for their generous donations.

Curricular Enrichment: The School would like to say a huge congratulations to all scholars who have taken part in extracurricular clubs this term. ***There have been a whopping 5,400 attendances at clubs, with almost 800 different scholars attending.*** This is amazing! Do have a look through the club timetables at the end of this edition to see what is on offer during and after school.

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

Book Club

Embroidery Club

Cookery Club

Spanish Club

Chess Club

Table-top Games Club

Puzzle Club

Greenpower Car Club

Programming Club

STEAM Club

Anime Club

History Club

Manicure 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!**

