



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 42

Main Feature: Britten Day 2024

On 22 November, the School held its annual Britten Day commemorations to mark the 111th birthday of its namesake. A special assembly was provided in the Theatre for Year 7 scholars during Period 1, highlighting Britten's childhood in Lowestoft. Mr Mullender (careers) offered an insight into Britten's life, whilst Mr Cook (Head of Year 7) read excerpts of Britten's school reports. Head of Lower School, Mrs Armon, concluded the presentation with a closing speech. Afterwards, a number of specially selected Year 7 and Year 8 scholars 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. Scholars who accompanied the tour were **M. Davey, H. Chapman, E. Willimott, B. Martin, E. Taylor, A. Mantripp, W. Wakefield, H. Rutter, A. Halse, T. Catlin**. The School congratulates all who took part for their maturity and excellent behaviour and to Mr Temple for driving the minibus



Scholars are pictured at the Scallop memorial on Aldeburgh Beach, designed by the sculptor Maggi Hambling in 2003. They concluded the Tour by laying flowers on Benjamin Britten's grave, continuing a school tradition dating back to 1978.

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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

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

Bicycle lights are required by LAW when using a public road in the dark or poor visibility.

Bicycles should NOT be ridden on the school site.

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

Under UK 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.**



Year News

Year 7: It has been a busy and exciting first term for Year 7 scholars.

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 7s. **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 everyone a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to welcoming our scholars back in the New Year!

-Mr Cook, Mrs Smith and Mrs Reynolds.



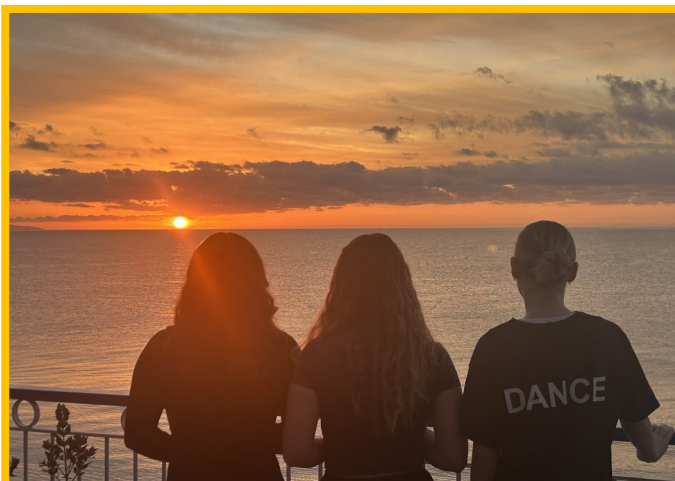
Year 9: On Wednesday 11 December, 98 Year 9 scholars enjoyed a fun-filled evening at the Winter Wonderland attraction in Norwich. The evening began with some ice skating, where there were a variety of skills demonstrated, including some epic slips and falls! Scholars were then given some free time to explore the event, including sampling some of the culinary delights on offer and enjoying the adrenaline filled rides. Additionally, in order to celebrate outstanding behaviour and attitude within school, we have a special reward treat for 55 Year 9 scholars on Thursday 19 December. Over the course of the Autumn Term, the Year 9 team have **given out 574 sweets as weekly prizes, as well as 98 chocolate bars and certificates as monthly prizes.** We would like to congratulate our scholars on a fantastic start to Year 9. The Year 9 team would like to wish all scholars and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

-Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights.



Trip News

Sicily Trip: A group of Year 10 GCSE Geography scholars made a trip to Sicily during October to climb Europe's only active volcano. Scholars trekked to the summit at 2,893m above sea level where they were able to marvel at the incredible views and feel the geothermal activity from the volcano. The next day the group took up river trekking and ended the day by making their own pizzas. Mr Flanagan and Mrs Kitching congratulate all who took part.



Natural History Museum Trip:

Year 7 scholars have supported their studies on tectonics with a visit to the Natural History Museum's Red Zone where they were able to look at the history of Earth, how tectonic plates are moving and what the impacts of this are. They were able to try out what it was like to be in the Kobe earthquake, which they all enjoyed.



Cadbury World Trip: Year 9 scholars recently visited Cadbury World where, as well as eating far too much chocolate, they had a classroom session explaining the provenance of cocoa, together with the history of Cadbury and how the factory was so important to the local area.

Red House and Snape Maltings: For the week commencing 4 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 Queen Elizabeth II once sat and had lunch with him. The visits concluded with a trip to Snape Maltings Concert Hall which Britten established in the 1960s for the Aldeburgh Music Festival. Mr Cook (Head of Year 7) extends his appreciation to all scholars for their maturity and excellent behaviour during their visits.



East Suffolk Youth Council: On Monday 9 December, scholars J. Pullinger, M. Davey and B. Roffey took part in the first ever East Suffolk Youth Council. As elected representatives from Benjamin Britten, they participated in motions and discussions on issues such as child mental health, bio-diversity and house building and planning in the local area, as well as voting for the first chair and vice chair of the Youth Council. In the coming weeks and months the Britten councillors will be canvassing scholars for thoughts and opinions for potential motions to raise at the next Council meeting in February. Mr Sweetman congratulates the boys for their enthusiasm and maturity.



Harry Potter Trip: On Monday 2 December, 45 Year 7 scholars had the chance to experience the magic behind the Harry Potter movies when they attended the Studio Tour. Scholars were able to ride a broomstick, explore the Forbidden Forest and delve into the intricacies of what goes into bringing the enchanting, literary world of Harry Potter - which many have read as part of their learning in English this term - to life on the big screen. The group even got to see the sets decorated for Christmas! Mrs Lever (English) thanks all who took part for their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm.



School Remembrance



Top Left: scholars who participated in the Remembrance Event are pictured in the Theatre.

Top Right: L. Murray playing the Last Post on the trumpet.

Above: Senior Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl pictured with the School's wreath.

Right: Head Girl and Head Boy at Lowestoft's Remembrance Sunday parade.

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day 2024:

The School came together for its annual Armistice Day event on 11 November, which was held in the Theatre in front of thirty parents and carers who joined scholars in paying their respects for all those who fought and died in war. The event was also attended by members of cadet branches and other uniformed groups, who were given special permission to attend school in the uniform of their respective group. Mrs Armon (Head of Lower School) led the commemoration, while Head Girl J. Walker and Head Boy J. Pullinger gave readings, alongside a team of Senior Prefects. The event was concluded with a two-minute silence, introduced by Year 8 music scholar and cadet, L. Murray, who played the Last Post on the trumpet. A wreath was then laid on behalf of the whole school. Year 8 Performing Arts scholar, L. Rigby, gave a stirring solo performance, while Mr Whiteley (Food Tech) provided refreshments.

On Remembrance Sunday, the Head Boy and Head Girl attended Lowestoft's Remembrance parade and laid a wreath on behalf of the school. They were accompanied by Mrs Thurbon (Head Teacher) while other scholars attended the Remembrance Sunday parade on behalf of their respective uniformed groups. The School congratulates all who took part.

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 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 or Mr George, 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. They are to be removed as you enter the school building. Hoodies will be confiscated if seen being worn inside the building.

The School reserves the right not to accept scholars in school who exceed what the School deems reasonable.

Britten 100 Project

Mrs Armon, Head of Upper School, is pleased to announce that the Britten 100 Charity Project continues to gather momentum, with the **total raised for charities standing at a remarkable £28,000**. Through this incredible endeavour, scholars are reminded of the School motto and its relevance to every day life: *'Discamus ut Serviamus' - 'We Learn that we may Serve'*.

The Britten 100



The Britten 100



Philanthropy News

Halloween Market: Form group 8ABa were back at it once again with their annual Halloween Market, selling a variety of spooky goodies! This year, they were assisted by members of the Crochet Club, who kindly donated their time and talents to create some lovely pumpkin coasters for sale. P. Dewsnap, A. Harper, A. Mcivor, O. Rose, D. England, M. Foulkes, N. Hickinbotham, A. Cook, A. Breach, and B. Mitchell were among the leaders of the form who gave their time to ensure that the market was set up and ran smoothly. However, the star of 8ABa was E. Peek, who donated our raffle prize: an incredible cake, decorated with marshmallow webs and spiders, featuring a tri-colour vanilla sponge. 8ABa would also like to thank some additional volunteers: T. Welson, C. Newton, A. Cone, and A. Harrod for all their help. **This year raised a whopping total of £400.50**, which will be donated to Year 8's chosen local Christmas toy drive. Thank you to all who donated items and their time, and all our shoppers.



Non-Uniform Days: To celebrate 'World Mental Health Day,' on Monday 14 October the School held a 'Hello Yellow' non-school uniform day in order to raise money for five charities: *Young Minds, Nelson's Journey, Special Effect, Home Start Suffolk and Suffolk Mind*.

To celebrate 'Children in Need' and 'Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day,' a non-uniform 'Christmas Jumper' day was held on Wednesday 18 December in order to raise money for five charities: *Save the Children, Children in Need, Positive Voices, The Change Project and Help for Heroes*.

The School raised approximately £600 and many donated items for the school's Food Bank appeal from each non-school uniform day.

Foodbank Appeal: Mr Sweetman (maths) would like to say a huge 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 17 December in time for Christmas. Additional thanks goes to those scholars who volunteered to pitch in with sorting and moving the donated items during form time (see right).



And in Other News...

National Citizenship Service: Following the government's decision to close the National Citizenship Service (NCS), the Careers Team would like to celebrate the NCS programme by sharing information about BBMA's success. **During the 2024 NCS season, BBMA ranked the highest in Suffolk** for the number of Year 11s engaging with the programme over the summer break. **26 BBMA scholars signed up to NCS, pushing the school to the top of the regional leader board** and gaining a certificate of achievement from the former Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. The Careers Team would like to congratulate all scholars, both present and past, who have joined NCS over the last decade.

Festive Food Tech: Mr Whiteley and Mrs Abel (Food Tech) are pleased and proud to share the results of Year 10 GCSE Food Tech scholars work in the run-up to Christmas. A range of delicious gingerbread houses were put on show and shared with staff in the final week of term. Congratulations and well done to all Food Tech scholars.



Clubs Update: Mrs Armon would like to say a huge congratulations to all scholars who have taken part in extracurricular clubs this term. A whopping **5,453 attendances at clubs have been recorded so far this academic year, with 704 different scholars attending.** An amazing achievement! If you have yet to sign up to a club, have a look at the new clubs timetables for January that will be displayed in form rooms, and at the Upper and Lower School offices.

Traybake Treats: At the end of Autumn Term 1, **over 500 scholars in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were chosen to receive a 'traybake treat'** for an excellent amount of behaviour points. For Autumn Term 2, **just over 700 different scholars in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were rewarded for excellent attitude to learning** during registration time. Congratulations and well done! Keep up the good work as we welcome the start of the Spring Term.

School Scarves: Mr Cook (Head of Year 7), Mrs Hammond (Head of Year 8) and Mrs Adams (Head of Year 9) 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 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: C. Tibble, N. Cooper

Year 8: E. Willimott, J. Sweeting

Year 9: S. Smith, A. Cone

News in Sport

Boys' Football

Mr Humphrey (P.E) is pleased to report the following successes in football over the past term:

- **Year 7 Boys beat Sir Thomas Mills High School** on a penalty shootout in the National Cup on 15 October. The score was 4-4 by the final whistle, so going to penalties, **Britten won 7-6.**
- The same team played a later match and resoundingly **beat Debenham High School 7-4.**
- **Year 8 Boys beat Hartismere School 7-1** and will now play Pakefield High School in the next round.
 - **Year 9 Boys beat Leiston High School** in the National Cup, 4-1.
- The Britten team **narrowly lost 2-1 to Sir John Leman** and were also defeated by the same team at a later match in the County Cup.
- **Year 10 Boys beat Sir Thomas Mills High School 1-0** in the County Cup and will play Sybil Andrews School next.
- Year 11 Boys have played three matches so far and despite a credible performance, went out of the County Cup, losing to Bungay High School.

PE Clubs

The P.E Department are pleased with the success of this term's extra-curricular clubs, held during lunchtime and after school, in the Sports Hall and Gym. A new club timetable will be released in January, so any scholars wishing to take part in a club are encouraged to check the clubs notices which will be posted in form rooms and at Lower and Upper School Offices on return from Christmas.

Cross Country

Mr Humphrey recently took 14 cross-country runners from Benjamin Britten to the Royal Hospital School near Ipswich. All participants acquitted themselves most commendably, with T. Barber finishing second in the Junior Boys and G. Potter finishing second in the Inter Boys categories respectively.

Eight Britten runners have now qualified for the next stage in Woodbridge in January.



And in Other News...

Open Evening Success: It was a privilege to welcome **over 400 prospective parents to the school** for an exciting evening of demonstrations and taster sessions on the evening of 10 October. Music was provided by Performing Arts scholars while an array of different hands-on activities were provided by other departments. Thanks to all who assisted, including Prefects who acted as Tour Guides and Car Parking Stewards, and to members of the site team for helping set up. Feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive and it is hoped that our younger visitors found much to entertain them.

Find My Future Trip: On Wednesday 27 November, twelve scholars travelled to the John Innes Centre, Norwich to take part in the Find My Future event. The day started off with a talk by Ian Russell, exploring Blown up Biology. Ian connected a microscope to a video camera and projector and demonstrated how to prepare a number of slides that included live specimens of Euglena, Volvox, Spirogyra, Paramecium, Amoeba, Hydra and Daphnia. Ian then asked for a member of the audience to look at their living cheek cells. E. Willimott was the lucky volunteer and had her cheek cells displayed on screen for the audience to see. The scholars then had a second talk about illusions and how our brain can be tricked into seeing things that are not necessarily there. After this, scholars had an opportunity to interact with a number of STEM employers and to meet scientists from different areas of STEM to discuss their roles and how they entered the profession. The day concluded with a key note speaker Winnie Awa who talked about her career journey, from starting her career as a Software Tester to building an award-winning beauty-tech start-up. Her main themes for the audience were the importance of interdisciplinary thinking: How to blend disciplines by combining skills from different fields to innovate and solve problems and resilience and seeing challenges as opportunities. The scholars that attended were a credit to themselves and the school: ***S. Bland, H. Calver, C. Ellis, J. Fayle-Parr, E. Grundy, A. Nice, S. Porter, T. Shackleton, D. Simms, E. Willimott, I. Wood and A. Wooltorton.***

Sustainability Conference: On Friday 6 December, 13 scholars travelled with Dr Wright to East Norfolk Sixth Form College, to take part in a Sustainability Conference. The scholars took part in a several interactive workshops which addressed a number of climate issues currently facing humanity. Each workshop encouraged critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration to enhance confidence in taking positive and impactful steps towards collective climate action. They had to communicate their ideas in front of different schools from the local area. The day ended with two local councilors summing up the challenges they faced in bringing climate action to their constituents. Scholars who attended were: ***A. Bryce, A. Cole, J. Cubitt, A. Desborough, G. Foiret, E. Grundy, A. Haverson, M. Larmond, T. Mills, H. Morgan, L.R Phillips, D. Regan, and O. Symonds.***

Nerf Gun Battlezone Club: A selection of Year 7, 8 and 9 scholars have been involved in a brand new club this year - NERF GUN BATTLEZONE CLUB! It's been great fun and all involved have had an absolute blast! For further information or interest in the club, please contact Mr Sweetman.
PLEASE NOTE: Places are limited.

And in Other News...

Residential Trip Success: Thank you to all of our members of staff for helping to make our **80+ trips take place this academic year!** So many memories made this term, by so many of our scholars, including those who attended the residential trips to Paris and Sicily (*see below*).



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 Burton (Head of Year 11) and Miss Spaul (Pastoral Head of Year 11) are proud to announce the appointment of the following scholars as Prefects for the academic year 2024-25:

Head Girl & Head Boy: *J. Walker (Head Girl), J. Pullinger (Head Boy).*

Senior Prefects: *R. Bedder, X. Johnson, L. Wooltorton, I. Martin, J. Smith.*

Prefects: *S. Garrod, G. Archer, R. Wisher, E. Smith, A. Oram-Chapman, J. Hoult, C. Dawkins, S. Mills, L. Steward, A. Thorn, L. Reid, A. Hill, P. Munro, R. Moyse, E. Porter, S. Naili, F. Featherstone, M. Piper and H. Nicholls.*



Clubs

Table Tennis Fitness Basketball Rugby Football
Netball Debating Society Dungeons & Dragons Club
British Sign Language School Band Dance Brass Ensemble
Creative Writing Club Art Club Harry Potter Club
Crochet Club Cookery Club Spanish Club Chess Club
Board Games Club Puzzle Club Programming Club
STEAM Club Anime Club
History Club School Council

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.

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

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

Attention 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.

