



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 35

Main Feature: Annual Charity Skydive 2022

Unusually strong winds delayed the annual skydive at Ellough Airfield near Beccles on 2 July, but a majority of scholars were able to reschedule their parachute jump for the following day when conditions had improved considerably. This occasion marked the seventh school skydive, which has raised many thousands of pounds for charity over the last decade.

After receiving their training from experienced professionals and donning their specialist clothing, the sky-divers boarded the aircraft and climbed to a cruise altitude of 13,000FT. Once the plane had reached its ideal height, the door was opened and the sky-divers each began the thrilling 40 second, 120 mph plunge back to earth. As they glided quietly down to the ground, suspended beneath their bright blue and yellow parachutes, they were met with cheers and applause from watchers on the ground.

The school extends its heartfelt congratulations to Jayden, Izzy, Hollie and Louie who were able to jump on 3 July and special thanks to Leo who, unable to dive the following day due to other commitments, returned on his own on 9 July to complete his sponsored sky dive for charity.

Mrs Armon, who organises this annual event, congratulates all who took part and extends her gratitude for their efforts in supporting a charitable cause.



Year 11 scholars completed the annual charity skydive at Ellough Airfield on 3 July after weather conditions delayed the jump by a day.



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Year News

Year 7: Year 7 scholars were invited to an awards assembly in the school Theatre on 1 July in recognition of their success and dedication to their lessons. Over 150 awards and certificates were presented to scholars before the year group was officially handed over to their new heads of year in preparation for September. Mr Challis and Mrs Barrett congratulate all scholars for their hard work this year and for making a successful transition to high school. They look forward to working with the new Year 7 intake from September. *-Mr Challis and Mrs Barrett.*

Year 8: On Friday 1 July, 89 scholars from Year 8 were presented with awards at our annual Awards Ceremony. These were subject awards nominated by our teachers. We would like to say a huge 'well done' to all who won their much-deserved awards. Congratulations to K. Bousfield and J. Pullinger who were awarded the Head of Year awards for their outstanding dedication to their learning. It was such a lovely afternoon shared with our scholars' families. On Friday 15 July, 200 scholars from Year 8 spent the day at Pleasurewood Hills to celebrate the end of a busy but successful year! The day was full of smiles and laughter. Mrs Armon will now be working as an Assistant Headteacher at Benjamin Britten, so a new Head of Year will take over the year group. Mrs Burton, one of our science teachers, will take the helm for the next academic year. Finally, Mrs Armon thanks all scholars and parents for their support over the last year. *-Mrs Armon and Miss Banns.*

Year 10: This term has been punctuated by mock exams and work experience placements, with all but twenty scholars being able to secure a placement for the two week period. Many scholars have received glowing reports from their placement supervisors and the year team congratulate all involved for their hard work. The year team have also been busy reviewing applications for Prefects and conducting interviews for Head Girl, Head Boy and Senior Prefects. Plans are now underway for fundraising for next year's Leavers' Event and Prom which scholars are very much looking forward to. The last year has been demanding for all our scholars and we wish them a very relaxing and well-earned summer break in preparation for them moving up into their final year of school. *-Mrs Adams, Mrs Knights and Mrs Brown.*

Year 11: Year 11 had their Final Assembly and Leavers' Event on 21 July from 3:30-6pm which was well attended. The Prom on 30 June was held at the Wherry Hotel in Oulton Broad. A wide variety of vehicles conveyed ticket-holders to the event and an enjoyable time was had by all. Mrs Wright and Miss Edge now take over the new Year 8 and will accompany them up through the school as their year team. *-Mrs Wright and Miss Edge.*

News in Sport

Over three days in July, Lower School scholars competed in the first inter-year group school sports afternoons. The new format for 2022 saw the merging of two tutor groups and the creation of six teams in the following sports: football, basketball, netball, rounders, dodgeball and tug of war.

In the glorious summer sunshine, our scholars competed with enthusiasm, team spirit and dedication. A presentation concluded each afternoon, where winners of each sport were announced and medals presented. This was followed by the trophy presentation for the overall winning team. Congratulations to all who took part, to the staff who supported the running of events and cheered on their forms. Such was the success of this format that the PE Department will be making this a termly event, with the next taking place in December.

Year 7 Winners: 7DB & 7KB

Year 8 Winners: 8ZS & 8EP

Year 9 Winners: 9NM & 9EH

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.



Philanthropy News

Year 10 Sponsored Fun Run:

On Friday 1 July, Year 10 scholars completed ten lots of 10K as tutor groups to raise money for the Norwich City Community Sports Foundation. As a charitable organisation, their objective is to improve inclusion for people with disabilities, boost mental health and wellbeing, and support disadvantaged people to raise their aspirations. Each tutor group completed well in excess of 10-20km each, with an estimated total distance of 200km completed by the year group within the allotted time.

The turn-out was excellent and everybody appeared to enjoy themselves. **Proceeds from the event, totalling £1,150 will be split between the Norwich City CSF and the end of Year 11 Leavers' Event fund.**

Year 10 form tutor Mr Sweetman (maths) also took part in the Run Norwich 10k on Sunday 17 July to raise money for the Norwich CSF. Mrs Adams (Head of Year 10) congratulates all who took part and all those who sponsored the runners. Well done Year 10!



**COMMUNITY
SPORTS
FOUNDATION**

Pride Week:

From 22-28 June, the school held its first Pride Week. A non-uniform day began proceedings, with donations being made to the Diana Award and the Terence Higgins Trust, a charity that works with people affected by HIV. An online assembly was made by Mr Ballard (drama) about the history of the global Pride movement and challenges still faced by the LGBTQ+ community in the 21st century.

In order to spread awareness and celebration of this special event, the Dining Hall was decorated with the Progress flag while workshops exploring the history of LGBTQ+ rights and discussion groups on the use of pronouns were held during lunch time for scholars to attend on a voluntary basis.

The Pride campaign dates from 1970 and is supported in many countries across the world and helps highlight parts of the globe where LGBTQ+ rights are threatened.



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 8 and 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.

Year 10 scholars have also received timetabled careers sessions explaining the different college courses available to study after leaving school and discussing their post-18 options.

Year 7 Future Stars Trip: On 27 June, fifteen Year 7s visited the University of East Anglia (see below) to see the range of opportunities afforded by studying for a degree. The UEA Outreach Officer and Student Ambassadors met with scholars on campus and took them on a campus tour, a visit to a clubs and societies workshop, and to the UEA Sportspark, which culminated in an opportunity to challenge themselves by climbing as far as they were able on the Sportspark rock wall. Six of the group were able to ascend to the very top where climbers are required to climb beyond the vertical surface. All scholars had a very enjoyable time and were a credit to the school. Upon completing the workshop, scholars attended a post-visit workshop at the school to review their time at the UEA and ask any questions about life at university.



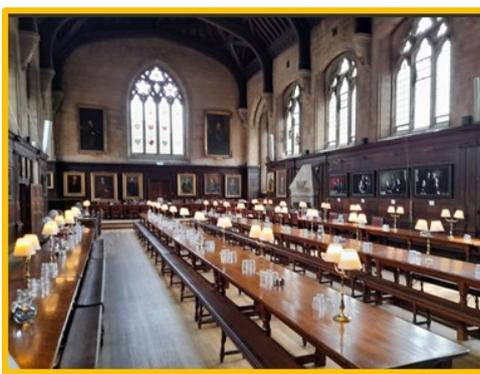
UEA
**University of
East Anglia**

Sixth Form College Trip: On 5 July, 67 Year 10 scholars took the opportunity afforded by the school to visit East Norfolk Sixth Form College in Gorleston. Scholars were able to visit the campus, meet with staff and college students and to participate in a variety of taster sessions for A-Level and T-Level courses. Scholars asked many relevant and pertinent questions, and as a result of the visit, have gained a thorough insight into one of the two main local providers of A-Level and T-Level courses, which will allow them to make informed decisions on their future once they leave Benjamin Britten.



And in Other News...

Oxford Trip: On 9 May, a group of fifteen Year 10 and Year 11 scholars visited Balliol College, Oxford to speak with undergraduates and staff about life at one of the world's most famous and highly-regarded universities. The epic 420-mile round trip saw scholars depart in the school minibus at 7am and return to school by 8:15pm. This visit proved one of the longest single-day journeys in the school's history. Scholars were given a guided tour of Balliol College, before proceeding to a workshop at the Oxford Museum of Natural History, where they were able to handle Himalayan hissing cockroaches. After a suitable pause, lunch was taken in hall at Balliol (see pictures below). Mr Mullender (Careers Officer) congratulates all scholars for their mature and conscientious behaviour throughout the day. It is hoped that this experience has encouraged a number of scholars to consider their post-18 options and investigate courses they may wish to study at university level.



Young Artists' Summer Show: Over 21,000 submissions were made from across the country with judges making their final selection in June. Their adjudication saw Benjamin Britten scholar Isabelle Clarke's image 'Spoons' accepted for both online and physical display at the Royal Academy, marking the first Britten scholar exhibited at the Royal Academy in the school's history. Mrs Steward (art) congratulates Isabelle and extends her thanks to all who submitted entries.

New Prefects: Mrs Thurbon, Head of Upper School, is pleased to announce the appointment of a team of thirty Prefects for the new academic year. Candidates were invited to submit an application form and attend an interview during June and July, before Mrs Adams (Head of Year 11) and Mrs Brown (Assistant of Head of Year 11) made their selections. A team of three Senior Prefects have also been appointed to support the Head Girl and Head Boy and to supervise and coordinate Prefect duty rotas. Prefects will assist Lower School scholars, assist lunchtime staff in monitoring behaviour, represent the school at community functions and model excellent behaviour for others. Prefects have each been awarded a specially-made tie and shield badge which they will wear in recognition of their efforts.

Prefects for 2022-23 are as follows:

Head Girl: G. Boyd. **Head Boy:** K. Smithers.

Senior Prefects: F. Hallaron, D. Bean, L. Harvey

Prefects: C. Gould, P. Bloy, S. Walling, O. Payne, G. Sanford, A. Bennett, H. Walker, Z. Mech, F. Dewsnap, T. Brown, J. Everett, D. Houlden, J. Stratford, E. Graham, M. Varney, K. Corral-Anderson, B. Hunt, C. Love, C. Fenn, G. Stone, C. Saunders, B. Meen, L. Canham, L. Nicolle, C. Barnes, O. Ferguson.

Year 5 Open Days: On 27/28 June, 220 Year 5 pupils attended the school for taster lessons and to receive tours of the facilities. The Year 7 team extends their appreciation to all the primary schools, parents and carers for taking time out from their busy schedules to visit the Benjamin Britten School. The children were treated to a fun-packed afternoon of taster lessons and activities ranging from English, Maths & Science, to P.E & Art. The School congratulates all pupils for their enthusiasm and support.

And in Other News...

Art & Photography Exhibition: The annual Art & Photography Exhibition was held on 25 June, from 6-8pm in the Dance Hall. Well done to Ellie for winning the scholar's choice and Isabelle for winning the staff's choice. Appreciation is extended to Mr Whitely and his team of Year 10 and Year 8 scholars for the delicious canapés which were served to guests. Thanks must also be conveyed for the support from families. Mrs Steward extends her appreciation to School Governor Mr Ray Petty for opening the exhibition, along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Lowestoft, Mr and Mrs Green.



Science Museum Trip: On Friday 1 July, 46 scholars travelled to the Science Museum ([see below](#)) with Dr Wright and Dr Ridley (science) to visit the exhibitions and gain an insight into the historical and contemporary applications and successes of science from across the world. All scholars were extremely well behaved and had an enjoyable time. Other recent trips arranged and coordinated by the Science Department included a visit to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham on 23 June, where 50 scholars from Years 8 and 9 joined Mr Doy for an interesting exploration of practical science, while on 27 June, Dr Wright led a trip to the Sizewell Nuclear Power Station for 25 scholars from Years 9 and 10.



Kew Gardens Trip: On 5 May, a group of 25 Year 10 scholars were able to take advantage of a trip arranged by the Art Department and visit the world-renowned Kew Gardens in London as part of their art project. Despite a long journey, scholars remained in good spirits during the event and had a very enjoyable time.

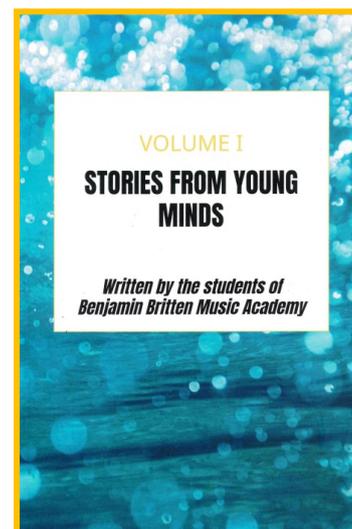


And in Other News...

Anime Club: Club members were recently able to try some actual Japanese treats as part of their cultural experience of Anime Club membership. The delicious edibles sampled by members were: sour plum flavoured Lotus crisps, sour tablets, Whistle Candy, Matcha Mochi, Taro Mochi, Caplico Ice Cream, Dorayaki. After taste-tests, the club voted the Whistle Candy and Lotus Crisps as their favourites.



Novel Writing Club: Scholars from Benjamin Britten were asked a difficult question: can you write a full short story within a month? This objective was first suggested in October to a group of young scholars interested in creating their own piece of creative fiction. So, the challenge began! During October, scholars took time to meticulously plan their plot, characters and setting, preparing themselves for the monumental task of writing their story within a month. On 1 November, the group began to pen their opening lines. By the end of the month, most of the group had reached their word-count goal. These dedicated individuals, not dissuaded by the exhausting task of the previous month, then began the hardest task of all: editing. From December to February, scholars diligently sat with members of staff after school to refine their stories and make them ready for printing. As a reward for their extraordinary efforts, these scholars can now enjoy a copy of their story officially published into an anthology of short stories. Well done to the NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) Club!



Cambodia Trip: The School is proud to announce that Emily Alexander and Linqen Hudson, who both completed their GCSEs with the school in July this year, will be joining Camps International on an educational trip to southeast Asia from July to August, during which time they will be part of a team carrying out community, wildlife and environmental protection work. The group will also be assisting in projects planting crops and installing water pumps in rural Cambodian villages. The trip will conclude with a jungle hike and a visit to places of cultural and historical significance. It is hoped that both Britten School scholars will have an exciting and rewarding time and craft memories which will stay with them forever. The entire school congratulates Emily and Linqen on all their fundraising efforts and wishes them well on their expedition.

Upper School Awards Evening: The Marina Theatre played host to the Upper School Awards Evening on 11 May where over 100 individual awards were proffered for academic excellence and community work. This annual event, which invites parents and staff to jointly celebrate success, remains an important fixture on the school calendar and was once again very well attended. Recipients of awards had been nominated by their teachers for outstanding effort in lessons spanning the entire curriculum. Numerous bespoke trophies, sponsored by local businesses, were also presented to scholars who have contributed to the community. The school band provided musical intermissions, numbered among which was a well-rehearsed and moving rendition of 'Somewhere Only We Know' by Keane. Performers from the Performing Arts Department also entertained the audience with songs from 'The Blues Brothers' and 'The Beatles'. Assistant Headteacher Mrs Thurbon gave a speech congratulating parents and scholars for their excellent work over this academic year and thanked staff for the dedicated support provided to scholars in their care. Guest speaker, Ms Leanne Mitchell, a former Britten School scholar and winner of the inaugural series of The Voice UK, detailed her life growing up in Lowestoft and the effort involved in pursuing ambition. Head of Year 11 Mrs Wright concluded the event by introducing the Head Boy and Head Girl who closed the evening with a vote of thanks.

A selection of award-winners from Year 10 are pictured below:



And in Other News...

Summer Performance: The Performing Arts Department staged the annual Summer Show in the last week of term, with the first performance of 'Legally Blonde' being held on 15 July. Cast and crew alike had rehearsed for weeks in order to showcase individual and collective talents and perform for an appreciative audience who once again held the summer show in such high esteem that tickets sold out within 15 minutes of going on sale. A professional photographer had also been invited into the school to make a photographic record of dress rehearsals and a selection of those pictures are seen below. Mrs Breen extends her thanks and appreciation to all those who participated for their unceasing efforts and dedication and to all those who came to support the show.



Some Facts & Figures: In the last three weeks of the summer term, the School played host to the following events. It should be noted that although large numbers of scholars were involved in extra-curricular events, lessons continued as normal. This is testament to the hard work and diligence of all teaching and support staff, which Mr George (Assistant Headteacher) would like to place on public record:

750 scholars involved in Sports Afternoons

270 Year 6 pupils on Transition Programme

225 Year 10 scholars on Work Experience placements

205 Year 8 scholars on Pleasurewood Hills Rewards Trip

95 scholars from all year groups involved in school summer production

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.
- ◆ **Textiles, embroidery and cross-stitch** Arts 2 Weekly 3:15-4:15
- ◆ **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.)