



# Spotlight

*Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 39*

## Main Feature: Armistice Day 2023

The school came together for its annual Armistice Day event on 8 November, which was held in the Theatre in front of fifty 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 over twenty 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 Upper School) led the commemoration, while Head Girl L. Picken gave readings, supported by a team of Senior Prefects. The event was concluded with a two minute silence, preceded by the laying of a wreath on behalf of the whole school. Year 7 Performing Arts scholars, B. Gabriel and D. Simms, gave stirring solo performances while Food Tech scholars provided refreshments, including specially made ANZAC Biscuits, following an original recipe from the First World War. On Remembrance Sunday, Head Boy (A. Clark) and Head Girl (L. Picken) also attended Lowestoft's Remembrance Sunday parade, recited a poem and laid a wreath on behalf of the school. They were accompanied by Mrs Thurbon (Head Teacher) and Mrs Armon (Head of Upper School). Other scholars also attended the Remembrance Sunday parade on behalf of their respective uniformed groups. The School congratulates all who took part and extends its appreciation to the families who attended the Armistice event and to Mr Challis (Head of Year 7) who acted as official photographer.



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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.



# Britten Day 2023

**Britten Day Commemorations:** On 22 November, the School held its annual Britten Day commemorations to mark the 110th 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 Challis (Head of Year 7) read excerpts of Britten's school reports. Mrs Armon concluded the presentation with a closing speech. Afterwards, a number of specially selected Year 7 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. They were also able to view the stained glass window in Aldeburgh church created by John Piper in memory of Britten. Whilst at the church, a member of Britten-Pears Arts (who as a child had sung for 'Mr Britten') congratulated scholars for marking Britten's birthday with flowers and congratulated them on their conduct and maturity. **Scholars who accompanied the tour were L. Knights, G. Law, J. Nichols, S. Callow, A. Harper, J. Kill, L. Murray, P. Dewsnap, S. Bland and H. Beaumont-Smith.** The School congratulates all who took part for their maturity and to Mr Temple for driving the minibuss.



A special assembly was held for Year 7 scholars in the Theatre to mark Britten's 110th birthday.



A group of specially chosen Year 7 scholars then accompanied Mr Mullender on the annual Britten Day Tour and observed a school tradition dating back nearly 50 years by the laying of flowers on Britten's grave.

## Trip News

**Red House and Snape Maltings:** From 25-29 September, all Year 7 form groups and tutors were treated to guided tours of the Red House and Snape Maltings, the former being provided by guides from the Britten-Pears Foundation, the charitable organisation responsible for managing Britten's estate and musical legacy. Tours also included parts of Snape usually off limits to members of the public. Whilst there, scholars were able to handle some of Britten's personal possessions ([see below](#)) Mr Challis extends his appreciation to all scholars for their impeccable behaviour and thanks all staff who supported the trips. **The Red House was the home of Benjamin Britten when he moved out of Lowestoft, whilst Snape Maltings is the world-famous concert hall he created as part of the Aldeburgh Festival, which is still held annually, attracting musicians and performers from around the world.**



**Africa Alive:** On 21 November, 45 Year 8 scholars were invited to attend a geography field trip to Africa Alive, under the supervision of Mrs Kitching (geography). The visit was in support of learning completed in class on the different ecosystems in Africa. Scholars were able to look at many different adaptations and even got to touch reptiles and an African snail. Mrs Kitching congratulates all involved for their attentiveness and good behaviour.



**Sicily Trip:** Mr Flanagan and Mrs Kitching (Geography) recently led a trip to Sicily for Year 11 GCSE Geography scholars. Mr Flanagan reports: *"Our flight arrived into Catania with stunning views of Mount Etna. We went straight to Alcantara Gorge where we were able to try out the local pizza and have a walk through the gorge. Lots braved the cold river water for a paddle to the basalt caves! On Day Two we visited Mount Etna, Lava Cave and the Museum of Etna. Day Three saw a last minute upgrade to our itinerary in Ionian Sea snorkelling. Scholars were amazed at how clear the water was and they were able to observe fish and the basalt landforms. We were proud that a number of fears were overcome for what was a first for the majority. The afternoon took us to Taormina. After a visit to the ancient (Greek and Roman) theatre students were able to explore the pretty town. Day Four saw a stop at Tindari - a nature reserve where we walked between fresh water lakes and the Tyrrhenian Sea. Different currents have created a spit and we walked the length of this in glorious sunshine. On the top of the cliffs here was the Sanctuary of Tindari. This is an ancient place of pilgrimage and some scholars and Mr Flanagan took the old pilgrims' route up the trail whilst the rest took the coach! Next stop was the Cyclops Riviera at sunset. More coastal features here with the basalt stacks in the sea. There was time for a final dinner with our 'Sicily family' and a final pizza party before packing ready for home."* Well done to all who took part. (see photos below)



**Cadbury World:** On 15 November, 43 Year 9 scholars, accompanied by Mrs Kitching (geography) enjoyed a visit to Cadbury World in Birmingham. Scholars were able to explore the provenance of cocoa and how to make chocolate, whilst understanding the environmental impact of cocoa growing. The group also enjoyed a workshop which explained the history of the company and brand, and talked about the importance of Fairtrade, all of which supported current lessons about development and globalisation. The day was concluded with a much anticipated chocolate tasting event. Congratulations to all scholars who took part.



**Whitlingham Adventure Park:** From 11-15 September, as part of their transition to secondary school, new Year 7 scholars had the chance to visit the Whitlingham Adventure Park near Norwich with their tutors for team-building activities. These included orienteering, map reading, nature studies, rock wall climbing, kayaking and raft building. Head of Lower School, Mr George, and Heads of Year 7, Mr Challis and Miss Smith, congratulate all who took part for their hard work and excellent behaviour. There was even an opportunity for members of staff to assist Whitlingham instructors supervising scholars out on the water. Particular thanks are extended to Miss Wareham, Mr George and Miss Smith for their efforts in rowing the 'rescue canoe'



**Whitlingham  
Adventure**

# 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 or Mr George, the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads.***

## 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 (just like 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.***

## Philanthropy News

**Britten 100 Project:** Mrs Armon, Head of Upper School, is pleased to announce that the Britten 100 Charity Project continues to gather momentum, with 55 charities having so far received support. A new set of posters has been placed on the wall outside the Staff Room to show staff, scholars and visitors the cumulative success of the project. So far this year the School has raised £11,000, bringing the total to a remarkable £16,827 for charities. Through this incredible endeavour, scholars are reminded of the School motto and its relevance to every day life in Lowestoft and the wider world:

*'Discamus ut Serviamus' - 'We Learn that we may Serve'.*

**Christmas Fayre:** The annual Christmas Fayre was held in the Centre of Excellence for Mathematics on the evening of 1 December. A wide range of festive items were on sale and Father Christmas was available to meet with families. Christmas Fayre organiser Mrs Overy extends her appreciation to everyone who braved the cold temperatures to attend and staff the Fayre. A number of Year 11 scholars also volunteered to assist and a special thanks is extended to A. Clark, L. Picken and C. Packer for welcoming visitors at the door on what proved to be a particularly cold evening. **An incredible £1,115 was raised on the night.**



**Christmas Foodbank Appeal:** The School is pleased to report that Mr Sweetman (maths) arranged for donations to be made to the Lowestoft Food Bank, via the Trussell Trust, in the weeks before the Christmas holiday. Form groups from across the school were encouraged to contribute and a wide range of tinned foodstuffs and toiletries were donated. Representatives from the Trussell Trust arrived on Friday 8 December to collect the donations. Mr Sweetman extends his appreciation and gratitude to all those who donated.



**Christmas Jumper Day:** On Friday 15 November, the School held a non-uniform day to raise money for five different charities as part of the Britten 100 project. Scholars and staff were encouraged to attend wearing a variety of festive jumpers and £530 was raised for the following charities: **Save the Children, Children in Need, Way Up High, Baby Basics and the Serendipity Initiative.**

**Halloween Market:** 7ABa hosted their annual Halloween Market selling baked goods, toys and other fang-tastic treats. Thanks to the generosity of scholars and staff, **a fantastic total of £367.26 was raised** with contributions split between the Year 11 Prom, the Lowestoft Food Bank and the School Food Bank. Miss Baumgartner would like to extend her thanks to P. Dewsnap, A. Harper, A. McIvor, S. Uddin, S. Callow, O. Rose, I. Blake, M. Catlin, D. England, M. Foulkes, N. Hickinbotham, L. Taylor and A. Quilter for their efforts in setting up and making items.

## And in Other News...

**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, Mr Cook (Head of Year 11) Mrs Overy and Mrs Sidell (Assistant Heads of Year 11) are proud to announce the appointment of the following scholars as Prefects for the academic year 2023-24:

**Head Girl & Head Boy:** *L. Picken (Head Girl), A. Clark (Head Boy)*

**Senior Prefects:** *A. Clements, J. Cook, L. Hadley, L. Carroll, J. Archard.*

**Prefects:** *A. Hathway, A. Kilic, D. Leighton, E. Agbey, A. Winney, A. Read, B. Kennet, C. Brown, D. Harrowven, E. Fisher, E. Revell, I. Murray, J. Siu, K. Taylor, K. Jackman, L. Chapman, L-C. Yilmaz, M. Robinson, M. Watson, M. Stratford, O. Archer, O. Clarke, P. Mellor, R. Frake, R. Howson, R. Harvey, S. Timtey, S. Denning, C. Packer.*

Prefects have each been awarded a certificate, shield badge and specially-commissioned Prefect tie to reflect the responsibility of their role in upholding the values of the School. They have undertaken training to prepare them for different scenarios encountered around school and have already provided essential support at lunchtimes and on the recent Open Evening.

**Mock Trial Success:** On Saturday 18 November, for the very first time, Year 11 scholars participated in a Court Bar Mock Trial at Norwich Crown Court organised by Young Citizens, a charity aimed at widening access to careers and knowledge of the British legal system. Our scholars participated as Court Clerks, Court Ushers, Witnesses, Defendants and Barristers against five other teams, with real Crown Court Judges overseeing the proceedings; namely, His Honour Anthony Bate, Her Honour Katherine Moore, and Her Honour Alice Robinson, respectively. This is something that Year 11s have been preparing for the last few weeks, with the help of Mrs Cator (English) and Miss Holdsworth (English). Britten scholars were the youngest team in the mock trial, battling against law students from East Coast College, Sir John Leman Sixth Form College, Wymondham College, St Clements and Ken Stimpson Academy. Thanks to the organisation of our Court Clerk (L. Picken) and Usher (F. Leith) and the decisions made by our jurors in different cases, O. Gibbs, A. Carter, P. Gabriel and L. Davies, the day ran smoothly, and the trials were seamlessly executed. The jurors were swayed by the convincing performances made by our witnesses, S. Timtey, E. Lewis, S. Crittenden and most notably V. Wood, who stood her ground while enduring a brutal cross-examination. Finally, the preparation and confident delivery of detailed opening and closing speeches, alongside careful examination in-chief questioning and intense cross-examinations by barristers, J. McAllen, C. Woodger, C. Packer, A. Winney, and R. Everitt, all of whom were superb! They mastered court etiquette and showed some really responsive questioning skills. J. McAllen, who acted as a barrister for more than one case, was imposing and ruthless in his pursuit of justice! **Our team's herculean effort paid off, winning two out of three cases, managing to succeed in both prosecuting and defending the same defendant, bagging them 3rd place, beating East Coast College, Sir John Leman Sixth Form and Ken Stimpson Academy.** A massive congratulations to all involved and a special thanks to our minibus driver, Mr Temple, for giving up his Saturday to take scholars to Norwich. The English Department is hoping to create more fantastic opportunities for any Year 10 scholars interested in a career in law or legal career, acting or public speaking, by holding our own in-house trial in preparation for next year. *More information regarding this will be released shortly.*



## And in Other News...

**Youth Takeover Day:** Mr Sweetman (maths) would like to congratulate scholars who represented the school impeccably at the annual youth take over day on Friday 17 November. Scholars worked in teams to design information campaigns and then pitch them to judges consisting of local town and district councillors. Congratulations to the winning team (see photo) of A. Winney, M. Davies, J. Siu, J. Pullinger and O. Wilson who the judges voted as having the best, most informative and most professional campaign.



**School Council Elections:** Elections to the new School Council were held during the week commencing 4 December, with members from each year group being elected by their peers, with two representatives from each year group. Online voting was made available in the Maths Centre and Library throughout the week. Organiser of the School Council, Mr Sweetman (maths), congratulates all who took part and thanks all those who voted. Results will be announced in the new year.

**Data Period Certificates:** After each report cycle has concluded, certificates are posted home to scholars who have received a 'very good' or 'outstanding' in their attitude to learning. Scholars will first receive a Bronze Award, before progressing to Silver and Gold in subsequent report cycles, providing their attitude to learning remains 'very good' or 'outstanding'. Congratulations to all those who received a certificate.

**KS4 Traybake Treats:** Each half term, Upper School scholars in Year 10 and Year 11 are chosen to receive a 'traybake treat' in recognition of their hard work in lessons. Each recipient is chosen by one of their subject teachers. For Autumn Term 1, 200 different scholars were selected and in Autumn Term 2, 170 scholars were chosen for excellent work in their mock exams.

**School Scarves:** Mr Challis (Head of Year 7) and Mrs Adams (Head of Year 8) 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:**

**A. Harper, I. Wood, E. Grundy, J. Taylor and B. Robbins.**

## And in Other News...

**Open Evening Success:** It was a privilege to welcome over 300 prospective parents and scholars to the school for an exciting evening of demonstrations and taster sessions on the evening of 18 October. Music and singing was provided by Performing Arts scholars, while Mr Whiteley (Food Tech) presented an array of unusual and delectable food items, including mealworms and crickets. Thanks to all scholars 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. As Mr George, Head of Lower School, later remarked: ***“There are Open Evenings—then there are Benji Open Evenings”***.

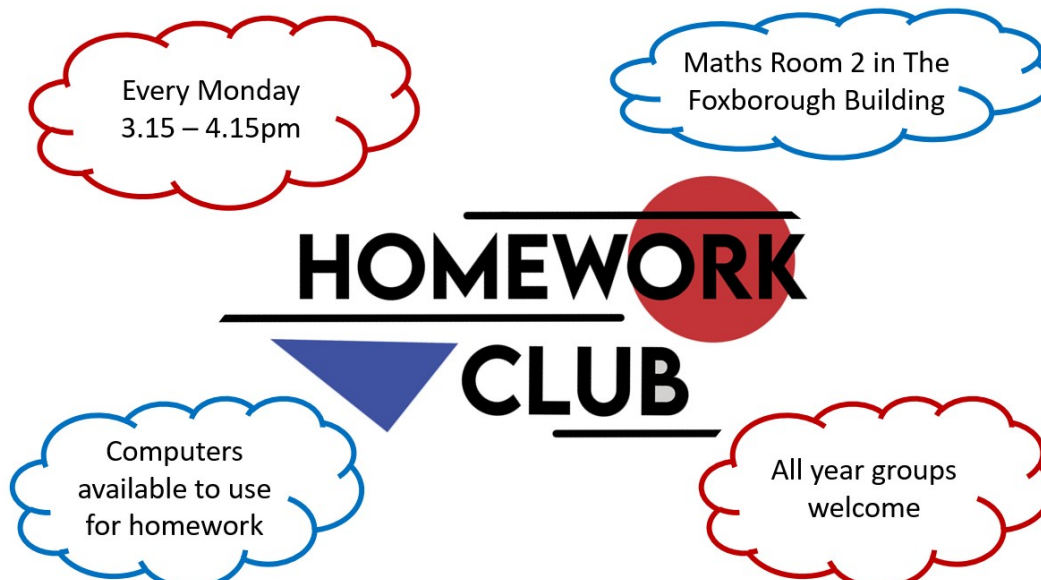
**School Nurse Weekly Drop-In:** Every Monday Lunchtime from 1:15-2:00pm in Meeting Room 3 there will be a confidential opportunity to speak with the School Nurse about physical health and emotional support. No appointment is necessary.

**Curricular Enrichment:** Mrs Armon is pleased to report that extracurricular clubs continue to be very popular, **with 5,182 attendances at clubs so far this academic year, with a staggering 748 different scholars attending**. There are no limitations on the number of clubs scholars can join, so if you are interested, please check the club poster wall near the Staff Room or those on display in the Lower and Upper School Offices.

**Sing-Along-A-Wareham:** On Friday 15 December, Mr Wareham (science) held the last-ever ‘Sing-Along-A-Wareham’ in the Atrium during break time. This festive sing-along has been a regular feature on the school calendar for a decade and brings together scholars and staff from all year groups for a festive sing-song before the Christmas holidays. This final event did not disappoint as hundreds of scholars joined staff for a rousing send off, sampling such classics as ‘All I Want for Christmas Is You’ and ‘Merry Xmas Everybody’. A great wave of applause concluded the singing. The School would like to thank Mr Wareham for all his efforts over the years and place here as public record, its warmest wishes for his retirement.

**Support Hub:** The School’s Support Hub continues to be open every break and lunchtime in English Room 14 for scholars to speak with our team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. These volunteers have completed training from the Diana Award to assist scholars who may be experiencing bullying at school. No appointment is necessary.





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**  
**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**

**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!**

