



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 37

Main Feature: GCSE Poetry Live Trip

On 9 February, Year 11 GCSE English Literature scholars were invited to attend a performance of poetry held at Norwich Theatre Royal where they were able to hear poems that they are studying for their GCSE exams performed live. The event also provided greater insight into the context and meaning of the pieces being studied. Scholars were then invited to a Q&A session with the poets and were able to gain insight into exam techniques from an AQA examiner. The trip was attended by over 50 scholars and was led by Mrs Sweetman (English), supported by Miss Ashby (English) and Miss Baumgartner (English). Highlights of the trip were captivating performances by the poet Imtiaz Dharker, reading her poem 'Tissue', and a very lively and entertaining performance by John Agard who read 'Checkin Out Me History'. After the performance, scholars were able to speak with current Poet Laureate Simon Armitage and the poet John Agard ([see below](#)).



Above: Scholars attending the Poetry Live trip in Norwich on 9 February were able to meet the current Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage (left) and the poet John Agard (right). The English Department extends its gratitude and appreciation to all those involved in the trip.

Benjamin Britten Music Academy and Centre of Excellence in Mathematics
Blyford Road
Lowestoft
Suffolk
NR32 4PZ Telephone: (01502) 582 312



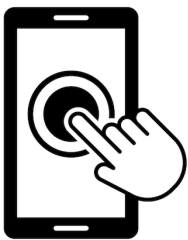
Mobile Phone Policy

Scholars are not permitted to be in possession of a mobile phone, or any electronic device, during the school day.

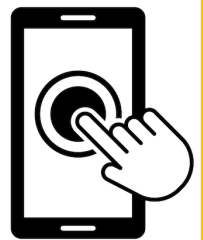
Any phone or device brought into school must be deposited with the relevant Year Teams promptly upon arrival where it will be held in secure storage.

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

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



If parents or carers need to urgently contact their child, they should do so by communicating with the main school office on (01502) 582 312, whereupon a message will be relayed immediately.



Bicycle Safety

The School strongly recommends that scholars cycling to and from school are equipped with a bicycle helmet. Bicycle locks are also recommended.

A reminder that bicycles should NOT be ridden on the school site.

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

In law, a bicycle is regarded as a vehicle and should be used responsibly.

Any cyclist can be **stopped by the Police for riding a bicycle recklessly on a road or in a dangerous, careless or inconsiderate manner under the Road Traffic Act (1991).**



The maximum fine that a court can impose in a case of **dangerous cycling is £2,500.**



Trip News

Silverstone Circuit Trip:

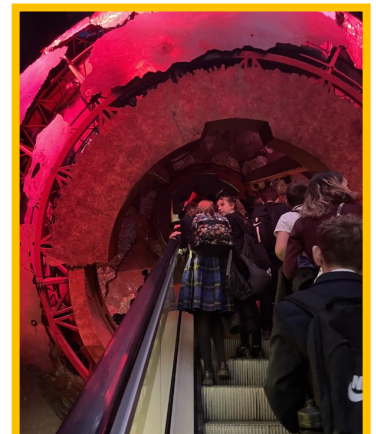
On 20 January, 66 scholars from Year 11 were invited by the Mathematics Department to attend a trip to the world-famous Silverstone motor racing circuit in Northamptonshire to see the practical application of maths in a future career path of sports engineering. The trip showcased the rich history of Silverstone, from its inception as a Second World War RAF airfield, to a race track for amateur mechanics, to the state-of-the-art Formula One race track of the 21st century. Scholars were able to see items from motorsport history and walk a section of the circuit under supervision of guides. Mrs Askew (Maths) would like to extend her appreciation to all who supported the trip.



Flood Defence Scheme: On 17 January, fourteen Year 9 scholars joined a meeting of the Lowestoft Town Council before being invited on a tour of Lowestoft's new flood defence scheme. The trip provided an opportunity for scholars to witness first-hand how local decisions can improve the environment in and around the town. Mrs Kitching (Geography) congratulates all those who took part.



Natural History Museum Trip: A group of 45 Year 7 scholars enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum in London on 27 February and again on 29 March under the supervision of Mrs Kitching (Geography). They have been studying earthquakes and volcanoes and were able to experience the Earth Zone by taking a trip through the earth and being in a shop as an earthquake happens. Scholars had time to visit another gallery and the unanimous decision was made to go to see the dinosaurs. Scholars were impeccably behaved and a credit to the school.



Philanthropy News

Non-Uniform Day: On 17 March, the school held a non-uniform day to raise money for charity. Scholars and staff were encouraged to attend in fancy-dress and a wide variety of imaginative and outlandish costumes were on show (see below). Scholars were asked to bring in the customary £1 donation and **over £750 was raised which was distributed evenly between several charities: Comic Relief £132, Just4Children £132, Bumblebee Children Charity £132, Suffolk Baby Bank £132, and Fresh Start New Beginnings £132.** This non-uniform day contributed to the Britten 100 Project, whereby the school aims to support 100 charities in the coming years.



Sports Report

Mr George (P.E) reports that the **Year 10 boys' football team is through to the quarter finals of the County Cup after beating Chantry High School 3-0.**

There continues to be success for the **Year 9 boys' basketball team, who finished second in the School Games Basketball tournament** held at East Point Academy recently.

There also continues to be excellent attendance at Year 8 boys' after school football club and at Years 8, 9 and 10 after school basketball club.

Suffolk Schools Golf Competition at Hintlesham:

On Monday 20 March scholars, R. Yeo, A. Yeo and G. Woolnough took part in the Suffolk Schools Golf competition. It was the first time these scholars have attended this event and despite some inevitable first tee nerves, a great day was enjoyed by all and a number of pars along the way. It was great to see the boys out playing against other schools and enjoying competing in golf at such a good level. Mrs Schofield (P.E) congratulates the trio for their hard work and dedication.



Golf development programme 2023:

On Monday 27 March, eight scholars across Year 7 to Year 9 commenced a 5-week golf development programme working with Rookery Park Golf Club at Carlton Colville. The programme is designed to encourage students to try their hand at golf and hopefully continue to work with Rookery Park as they continue their development in the sport. The first session was focused on basic set up and hitting full shots. Considering this was a group of beginners, the quality of shots being hit was fantastic. Many thanks to Fiona Stokes at Rookery Park for an enjoyable first coaching session.



Year 7 Basketball Tournament:

The Year 7 girls' basketball team (see left) attended Sir John Leman High School on Tuesday 28 February to compete in a School Basketball Tournament. The Britten team played with outstanding levels of effort and demonstrated some excellent creativity in order to score some fantastic baskets. Mrs Schofield extends her congratulations to both teams for a well-played and exciting game.

Careers News

Fifteen Year 7 scholars were invited to attend a trip to the University of East Anglia (UEA) with Mr Mullender (Careers) and Mrs Canham (T.A) on 20 March as part of the school's careers programme. Scholars were able to participate in a campus tour, under supervision of UEA Outreach Ambassadors, take part in a subject workshop and complete a climbing wall activity at the UEA Sportspark designed to challenge their expectations and encourage perseverance. Scholars were a credit to the school and were awarded with a certificate and medal in a post-visit workshop held in the School Library on 24 March.

Year 9 scholars have received guidance and information on how to choose their GCSE Options subjects, through information provided by their timetabled careers lessons and the GCSE Options Parents' Evening held on 22 March.

Year 8 scholars have also been receiving timetabled careers lessons and have been introduced to the school's online careers platform, Unifrog.

Curricular Enrichment News

We would like to say a huge congratulations to all scholars who have taken part in our extracurricular clubs this term.

We have had an incredible 9,700 attendances at clubs so far this academic year, with almost 900 different scholars attending. This is amazing!

Please keep your eyes peeled for the new extracurricular timetables for the Summer Term. These will be shared on our school's Facebook page as well as via the parent app.

Finally, thank you to all staff who make time to host clubs as it would not be possible without you.

BRAK Month: From Monday 20 March to the end of the Easter holidays (Sunday 16 April), the School encouraged all scholars to complete random acts of kindness, both in school and the wider community. For every entry they submitted, they were entered into a prize draw. There was a fantastic turnout and Mrs Armon (Assistant Head) was very pleased with the enthusiasm demonstrated by scholars from all year groups.



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

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.

Meet the School Council

The School Council meets regularly to discuss ideas about improving the school and to arrange plans to improve sustainability. Current aims are to develop a re-wilding area on the school site and to conduct an energy and recycling audit. The School Council is entirely led by scholars, under supervision of Mr Sweetman (Maths) and Mr Doy (Design & Technology). Anyone wishing to suggest areas of improvement to the School Council can complete a form on the school website.



School Council members (left to right): O. Wilson, L. Wooltorton, O. Boyd, L. Harvey, W. Finnigan, K. Smithers, J. Pullinger, T. Brown (not pictured, S. Prestidge, L. Picken and G. Overy).

What's next for the School Council?

The School Council meets every week to discuss ideas about school life and improvements.

- They will be creating a 'digital suggestion box' in the form of a google form - look out for this on the Student Start menu in the summer term!
- They will be looking to work with Year 8 geography scholars and developing initiatives to improve energy usage based on the results of their 'energy audit'.
 - Feeding back to the whole school regarding input in digital suggestion box.
 - Re-election for School Council positions will be in November 2023.



School Council: What We've Been Up To

Community Partnership Forum: On Friday 3 March, L. Picken, L. Wooltorton, O. Boyd, O. Wilson, W. Finnigan and T. Brown represented the School Council at a Community Partnership Forum in Ipswich. This was follow-up event to a Youth Take Over Day where School Council members mapped out their vision for the future for sustainability, environment and local area infrastructure. School Council members represented the school well by speaking in front of an audience about the needs of youngsters today - several attendees, including local councillors were hugely complimentary about how well our scholars spoke and their contributions to the event.



School Litter Pick: As part of events to promote care for the environment, Tuesday 21 March brought the 'BIG SCHOOL CLEAN!' event where members of the School Council led a team of thirty volunteers in a site-wide 'Litter Party'. It was fantastic to see so many volunteers giving up their time to make a positive contribution to the school community and resulting in the collection of fifteen full bags of litter! With the success of this event, the School Council is looking forward to running a much larger event by getting out into the local community and contributing to maintaining a clean and safe environment for wildlife and residents. Mr Sweetman and Mr Doy congratulate all those who took part and look forward to welcoming more scholars to events organised by the School Council in the coming months.



And in Other News...

Headmaster's Award: The first presentation of the new Headmaster's Award, in the form of a specially tailored school scarf, was made on 16 January in year assemblies: the first recipients were **A-M. Cone, H. Boggis, K. Bousfield, O. Archer, J. Boor, L. Cambridge, J. Edwards, J. Pullinger, S. Beales, A. Mayne, L. Kerr, O. Symonds, A. Khunti and I-C. Lincoln**. The award is presented for outstanding academic excellence and is modelled on a traditional school scarf, allowing it to be worn both inside and outside of school as a lasting mark of success. Scarves will be presented to scholars on a termly basis, with two chosen per year group.

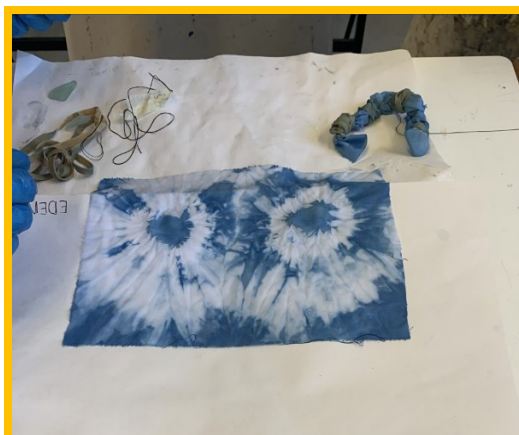
Post-16 Options Masterclasses: During the last half term Year 8 and Year 9 scholars have been able to attend a college masterclass on psychology hosted by Lowestoft Sixth Form College and Advice & a Slice events held in conjunction with NEACO to broaden awareness and understanding of post-18 options. Scholars were able to participate in taster sessions with a view to increasing their awareness of subjects available when they leave school.

History Club: Weekly sessions of History Club are continuing **after school every Friday in the Library (3:30-4:30pm) hosted by Mr Mullender**.

Recently club members have had sessions on the history of aircraft, the English Civil War and the history of Hollywood Studios. Scholars have been able to handle historical artefacts (see right) and regular attendance has been recognised by the issuing of a bespoke club pin badge. Membership is open to all year groups and there is no need to register. All are welcome.



Photography & Art Workshops: Year 10 GCSE Photography and Art scholars recently had the opportunity to attend workshops at East Norfolk Sixth Form College. They explored various technical skills and ideas using light and microscopes and some had the opportunity to develop their pattern skills using indigo dyeing techniques and working in Graphic Design to produce posters for the college. The group was also able to have a look round the various facilities the college has to offer and take away the work they produced.



And in Other News...

Holocaust Memorial Day: On 27 January, the Head Boy and Head Girl were accompanied by Mr Mullender (Careers Officer) to Lowestoft Railway Station to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. In front of representatives from the Town Council, District Council, Suffolk Police and leaders of local faith communities, they read a poem by Second World War soldier Iolo Lewis and an excerpt from the memoirs of a holocaust survivor, Esther Starobin, who was evacuated aged eight to Norwich at the outbreak of the war where she lived with surrogate parents until moving to America in 1946. The event was held in conjunction with other local schools who also gave readings on the topic of 'Every Day and Ordinary'. Mr Mullender congratulates K. Smithers and G. Boyd for their excellent reading and exemplary conduct.



Trampoline Success: J. Brown (9EPh) started trampolining in February 2022. Due to hard work, dedication and perseverance he had been awarded, within his first competing year, three gold medals, one silver and one bronze. He was also awarded a reserve place on the regional team. This year he has already received a gold medal and has three other competitions booked. The regional finals are to be held in Cambridge in June, where he is hoping he can secure a place on the regional team. It is wonderful for our scholars to pursue extra-curricular hobbies and pastimes outside of school and we wish him well for June.



Competition Success: Mrs Cator reports that Year 11 scholars were victorious in the English Speaking Competition hosted at the school on the evening of 9 February. Congratulations are extended to G. Boyd, F. Dewsnap, N. Eagle and G. Bort for their efforts, both on the night and in weeks of training, whilst further commendation is made for G. Boyd who also won the coveted 'Best Questioner' prize.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors: The School's ten Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, fully trained and accredited by the Diana Trust, **are based in 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.** Mrs Armon is pleased to report that the Ambassadors are very much enjoying their role and are keen to support scholars across the year groups who are experiencing difficulties.



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!**

