

Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 44

Main Feature: Class of 2025 Prom

Southwood Hall, near Norwich, was the dazzling venue for Year 11 leavers who rounded-off their final GCSE exams in style. An array of impressive vehicles lined the entrance; from sleek limousines and rugged army trucks, to eye-catching supercars, a skip lorry and even elegant horses ridden with care. With friends and family keen to support their arrivals, official prom photographer Sam Markwell captured moments to be remembered forever. Guests were greeted with refreshing drinks on arrival, namely flutes of Elderflower presse and raspberry lemonade, which set the tone for a night filled with excitement and unforgettable moments. Inside Southwood Hall, Year 11 teachers had added stunning local flowers to create a glamorous and inviting space. Outgoing Head of Year 11, Mrs Burton, delivered an uplifting speech, celebrating the achievements and growth of scholars. Photos of their younger years were shared in a slide show on a giant screen showing how they transitioned into the next chapter of their lives. An awards ceremony honoured scholars with unique titles, showcasing both their personalities and talents: First Aid Warrior, recognizing those who have spent most time in first aid; Cutest Couple, shining a spotlight on sweet romances; Prom King, an accolade for charm and charisma; Teacher of the Year, highlighting inspiring educators; Prom Queen, the epitome of grace and poise, and Bromance, a tribute to the strongest friendships. Mrs Burton and Mrs Spaull extend their appreciation to everyone who attended the event and wishes the Class of 2025 the very best of luck.







A wide array of vehicles were on display at the Year 11 Prom, with different forms of horsepower making an appearance.

Benjamin Britten Music Academy and Centre of Excellence in Mathematics Blyford Road

Lowestoft Suffolk

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Year News

Year 8: As we come to the end of another school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 8 scholars. We are so proud of everything they have accomplished this year, both inside and outside the classroom. It has been a real pleasure to watch the children grow and mature over the past months. Their dedication to learning, positive attitude, and support for one another have been truly impressive. Participation in extracurricular activities and school clubs has been fantastic. From sports teams to music, STEM, drama, and beyond, Year 8 scholars have thrown themselves into school life with energy and enthusiasm. Their commitment and school spirit have made us all very proud. Well done to every single member of Year 8 on an excellent year! We wish all our scholars and their families a safe, restful, and happy summer break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, ready for new challenges and exciting opportunities.

-Mrs Hammond and Mrs Reeder

Year 9: We would like to start off by congratulating our Year 9 scholars on another successful year. A year in which they demonstrated great maturity when completing their first formal assessments in the Sports Hall and made the important decisions of choosing what they would like to study at GCSE. Our scholars have displayed excellent effort throughout the year which has been recognised with our weekly, monthly and termly rewards. This term, 63 scholars were rewarded with an ice cream and Garden Games Afternoon. Earlier in the Summer Term, we hosted the End of Year 9 Awards Ceremony in which 76 awards were given to scholars nominated by their class teachers for their excellent effort and academic progress in each subject. Special recognition goes to A. Cone and M. Larmond, who received the Head of Year 9 Awards for their outstanding contribution to the school and exceptional work ethic. Congratulations to all our scholars who received awards. We would like to wish our scholars and their families a relaxing summer break and look forward to welcoming you all back in September to begin Key Stage 4.

-Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights

Safeguarding for Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to remind parents and carers of the importance of safeguarding children online, especially when it comes to mobile phone use. With more free time and less routine, young people may spend increased hours on apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat. These platforms can be fun ways to stay connected, but they also pose risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, online bullying, or contact from strangers. We strongly encourage you to have open conversations with your child about how they use these apps, regularly check privacy settings, and stay aware of who they are talking to. Your involvement is key in helping them stay safe and make responsible choices online over the summer break. To support you with this, we have included some useful infographics below with tips on how to manage WhatsApp safely. —Miss Montgomery



Trip News

Iceland 2025: Forty scholars from Year 9 were able to visit Iceland during the last week of June. The group marvelled at the breath-taking scenery of the South Shore of Iceland, complete with waterfalls, and saw the stunning black sand beach with its wild waves and amazing basalt columns. The group concluded their four-day trip at the main glacier in Iceland. The views were spectacular and scholars were a credit to the

school. The Science Department congratulates all those on the trip for their maturity and good spirits.







Suffolk Day Proclamation 2025:

Year 9 scholars L. Phillips and T. Mills were recently tasked with writing a section of the 2025 Suffolk Day Proclamation, which this year was a celebration of Lowestoft. On 11 June, they were invited to read the Proclamation aloud in Westminster Hall, London, in front of a group of MPs, including Lowestoft MP Jess Asato (Lab). The girls were exceptional representatives, not just for Benjamin Britten, but for the whole town. Alongside representatives from other Lowestoft schools, the girls read out the Proclamation on Saturday 21 June, in Lowestoft Town Centre, to begin Suffolk Day celebrations. The event was later reported in the national news and on BBC Radio and ended with



the stirring line, 'In Lowestoft, the sun doesn't just rise first; it rises the brightest.'

London Zoo Trip:

On 4 July, 45 Year 10 scholars visited London Zoo for the day. The group departed school at 5:30am and returned at 8pm, and the despite the long day, all scholars had an enjoyable time and were exceptionally well behaved.

Mrs Armon (Head of Lower School) notes that <u>over 80 trips</u> took place during the past academic year.

Philanthropy News

Year 11 Charity Sky Dive:

On Saturday 5 July, a group of Year 11 scholars participated in the School's annual Charity Sky Dive at Ellough airfield near Beccles. The group had raised money for a range of charities and were all keen to make the flight. Unfortunately, due to high winds, only seven of the twenty scholars booked in for the jump were able to take to the skies, with the rest being rescheduled. So it was that C. Archard, O. Gooderham, J. Laws, L. Lorenzo-Crick, M. Seeley and A. Wigg completed their jumps from 13,000FT on the first Sunday, with H. Masters, T. Rayment, N. Strozynska, E. Thorne and J. Wright making their jumps the following Saturday. Special mention to J. Wright who has raised over £3,000 in memory of his brother Ethan, a much-respected Britten scholar who was tragically killed in a road traffic collision several years ago. Congratulations and well done to all our Year 11 sky divers.















Non-Uniform Day:

Each term, the School community supports a range of different charities by hosting a non-school uniform day. In order to celebrate 'Inclusion Week' at Benjamin Britten, during the summer term the school supported five charities, namely ASD Helping Hands, Topcats, Macmillan, and Sally Ann's. For the customary £1 donation, or donation to the school's Food Bank, scholars were asked to dress in something bright and colourful.









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.



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.

Discamus ut Serviamus



We Learn that We May Serve

School Notice

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 Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service, provided by Suffolk County Council, is available **monthly in Meeting Room 2**. Appointments can be made any time between 1:15 and 2:00 and can cover a wide range of concerns including mental health, physical health, drug awareness and stress.

All meetings are confidential.

Safeguarding for Summer

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to remind parents and carers of the importance of safeguarding children online, especially when it comes to mobile phone use. With more free time and less routine, young people may spend increased hours on apps like WhatsApp and Snapchat.

These platforms can be fun ways to stay connected, but they also pose risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, online bullying, or contact from strangers. We strongly encourage you to have open conversations with your child about how they use these apps, regularly check privacy settings, and stay aware of who they are talking to. Your involvement is key in helping them stay safe and make responsible choices online over the summer break.

To support you with this, we have included some useful infographics below with tips on how to manage Snapchat safely. **–Miss Montgomery**

Snapchat is a messaging app.

Users can take photos, record videos, add text or drawings and send them to friends. These Snaps will disappear after viewing, or within 24 hours (for a Story).

As with any social platform, sometimes
Snapchat users can act in ways which may lead to others feeling offended, abused or left out. Users can always report abuse on Snapchat, can block offending users, or leave any group chat where they feel uncomfortable.



Useful tips

- Check privacy settings to choose who can see your Snaps, your Stories or your location.
- Report safety concerns.

68% of UK 13-15 year

of UK 13-15 year olds use Snapchat.



Share Snaps (images) or chat with friends. Explore news and entertainment from established publishers. Make video and voice calls. See where your friends are on the Snap Map.

Snapchat



What parents and carers need to know





- Block users who make you uncomfortable.
- Only friend or accept friend requests from people you know in real life.

Users can capture photos or videos of the world around them and send them to friends, adding filters, lenses and stickers to these for fun and creative visual effects. Users can always choose who they are sharing Snaps or Stories with.

School Council News

<u>School Council Meeting:</u> In their final meeting of the academic year, the School Council met with a representative of the school's Senior Leadership Team, namely Mr George, to discuss a variety of issues including school food prices, increasing the length of lunch time, a possible new Greenhouse Club, removal of mandatory homework during holidays and mobile phone policy. The School Council will aim to feed back to the whole school during the autumn term.

<u>Litter Pick:</u> The following week, led by Mr George and Mr Sweetman, a number of scholars in Year 9 and Year 7, supported by members of the School Council, successfully participated in an end of year whole school litter pick. In total, **scholars collected 20 bags of rubbish** which will help to improve the environment for wildlife. The Council is hoping to make this a termly event and it is an excellent opportunity for scholars to take pride in their environment and enjoy the outdoors. Mr Sweetman extends his gratitude to all who volunteered - your efforts are hugely appreciated!

VE Day 80 Commemorations

The School came together on Thursday 8 May to commemorate VE Day 80, the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, the end of the Second World War in Europe. At 12 o'clock, the School fell silent to remember the sacrifice made by all those who fought and died for the freedoms we all enjoy today.

A separate act of commemoration was held by scholars in uniformed services next to the Second World War pillbox on the Sports field. Facts about the war were read out by selected cadets and Scouts, along with the hymn 'I Vow to Thee My Country', concluding with the 1945 victory speech of King George VI. The event ended with a squad of army cadets parading back to the school building under direction of Cadet, R. Smith (Year 9). Mrs Armon thanks all our uniformed service scholars for their respect and maturity.









Careers News

Offshore Energy Carousel Event:

On 2 July, as part of their careers programme, a group of fifteen Year 9 scholars attended the Offshore Energy Carousel event at the Orbis Energy Centre in Lowestoft to experience different careers linked to offshore energy. Every member of the group got stuck into the activities and some of them also stood out in terms of their confidence to approach different companies and chat to them about what they do and the job roles involved.







UEA Uni Boys Project:

As part of their careers programme, five boys from Year 7 were given the opportunity to take part in the University of East Anglia's Uni Boys project. Over several months, and three campus visits, the group were able to see what life at university is like and experience confidence-building activities, including rock climbing and creative writing tasks. Congratulations to the group for completing the project. They were C. England, K. Ellsmere, O. Swan, J. Domingos (pictured) and B. McGee.

Royal Norfolk Show Trip:

As part of their careers programme, 100 Year 9 scholars, accompanied by Mrs Adams (Head of Year 9), Mrs Knights (Pastoral Head of Year 9), Miss Abel (Food Tech), Dr Wright (Science) and Mr Mullender (careers) attended the Royal Norfolk Show in Norwich on 26 June. Scholars were put into groups and taken to the STEMM Village where they were set tasks of speaking with representatives from employers across the country. Scholars were also able to take part in activities, such as 3D Virtual Reality welding, electrical power activities and learning about the major developments in local labour market information across Norfolk and Suffolk. After they had completed their STEMM Village activities, the groups were allowed to visit the remainder of the show.





Women in Energy Trip:

As part of their careers programme, a group of Year 9 girls recently attended the Women in Energy event held at East Coast College, Lowestoft.

T. Mills, L. Phillips and E. Huarayo accompanied Miss Burnett (science) to witness the skills needed for a career working on offshore wind turbines and the sort of equipment needed to safely scale energy generating equipment. Miss Burnett congratulates the girls on their positive attitude and enthusiasm.

News in Sports

Sports Afternoons:

Over three afternoons in the first week of July, Year 7, 8 and 9 form groups competed in the annual Sports Afternoons. Scholars were able to select from a choice of matball, football, tug of war, dodgeball, rounders or basketball. Mrs Schofield (Head of PE) is pleased to report that the enthusiasm and effort demonstrated from scholars this year was excellent. This resulted in some very close competition, something reflected in the results of some year groups coming down to the final sport. Not only were the scholars very competitive, staff were keen to get involved as well with cheerleading and some even turning their hand to a bit of matball where absences prevented full teams from playing. The PE Department congratulate all scholars for a very enjoyable way to celebrate the end of year.

YEAR 7 TEAMS

TTA/BME 1

BMI/SWA 2

GTO/MFA 3

ABU/AMI 4

CCH/JCH 5

YEAR 8 TEAMS

EWA/GNI 1

JSA/VDO 2

ABA/RDA 3

NWI/DMU 4

MWR/ORO 5

YEAR 9 TEAMS

EXO/AWI 1

JNO/LCH 2

SSW/CGA 3

MAI/VAI 4

FKI/BGE 5





Above: Winning teams from Year 7 and Year 8 Tug of War are pictured with their winners' medals along with Year 8 and Year 9 Matball winners (below).





Arts News

<u>Art Talents:</u> Year 8 Talent have produced some amazing Portraits over this year and should be extremely proud of the images they have created. Working in acrylic paint they explored how to mix flesh tones and the ways they could record facial features accurately. Year 9 Talent have also been working on portraits and worked in a similar manner to Year 8 starting with the grid method and then progressing to

using acrylic paints.







GCSE Art Exhibition 2025:

The end of 2025 for Year 11 GCSE Art and Photography scholars culminated in the GCSE Art Exhibition, held in the School Library on 13 June. It was wonderful to see so many family members and scholars visit the exhibition, opened by the internationally famous collage artist Geoff Litchfield. Our guest gave a rousing speech about the quality and array of work on show and the value of the creative arts to society. Year 10 art scholars also assisted at the event by serving refreshments. Winners of the Teacher's Prize voted for by staff were K. Bousfield and S. Garrod, whilst the scholar's vote went to F. Featherstone and D. Twiggs (see below). Miss O'Leary and the Arts Department are immensely proud of all GCSE art scholars and commend them on their creative and inspiring work.





Royal Academy Showcase:

The Royal Academy in London runs its Summer Show from July through to September and the exhibition is carefully curated to show the rising talent nationally and internationally in the art world. This year one of our Year 11 scholars has had their work accepted into the student show.

K. Bousfield's ceramic work (see right), based on the coast and the power of the sea, was seen as exceptional and is now on show at the Royal Academy. This is the first year one of our scholars work has been accepted into the live show, although we have in previous years had others accepted into the online exhibition. A huge congratulation to K. Bousfield—a well deserved recognition for her amazing talent.



And in Other News...

5K Run Success: Mr Sweetman (maths) is pleased to report that a number of former and current Britten scholars took part in one of Norfolk's biggest and most competitive 5K road races on the evening of 2 July, namely **The Wroxham 5K**. Here are the Britten results:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	Ranking
G. Potter (Year 11)	15:40	2nd in age category
J. Smith (Class of 2024)	15:54	4th in age category
J. McAllen (Class of 2024)	15:59	6th in age category
T. Barber (Year 9)	17:56	17th in age category

<u>Wizard of Oz Rehearsals</u>: During rehearsals for the school's summer production of 'The Wizard of Oz', two very special cast members joined scholars. Deli and Titch, the adorable canine stars playing Toto worked hard on their stage presence, and their treat negotiation skills, and became firm friends with the cast on their way along the Yellow Brick Road.

<u>Traybake Treats</u>: Mrs Armon is pleased to report the final total for Traybake Treats for the academic year. 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 residual 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. For **Spring Term 1, around 500** scholars were rewarded for excellent participation at curricular enrichment clubs. For **Spring Term 2, around 500** scholars with an excellent amount of residual behaviour points were awarded a traybake. And for the **Summer Term, an enormously impressive 700 scholars** were awarded a treat for achieving 100+ positive points, 'The Gold Award.' Congratulations to you all!

New Prefects: Mrs Wright (Head of Year 10) and Mrs Norton (Pastoral Head of Year 10) are pleased to announce the appointment of thirty Prefects for the new academic year. Candidates were required to complete an application form and an interview and from this, several were selected to become Senior Prefects and Head Girl and Head Boy. Prefects will be on hand to assist staff during social time, supervise scholars in Lower School and support Open Evenings. There were over forty applicants for only thirty spaces, demonstrating the level of enthusiasm shown by Year 10 scholars in wishing to become Prefects. Mrs Wright and Mrs Norton congratulate all on their new appointment.

Head Girl: O. Bagshaw Head Boy: H. Boggis

<u>Deputy Head Girl:</u> I. Smith **<u>Deputy Head Boy:</u>** M. Carter

<u>Senior Prefects:</u> A. Goddard, F. Jones, E. Boardley, J. Cooper, O. Boyd.

<u>Prefects:</u> S. Ashley, E. Cook, T. Robinson, O. Bice, P. Overy, L. Hallaron, N. Steel, M. Ward, L. Mirgaux, S. Giles, O. Whittington, A. Green, K. Page, H. Lewis, A. O'Donovan, A. Turk, A. Beecham, A. Soanes and N. Green.

<u>Football Success</u>: Year 7 scholar I. Cooper was recently awarded the Brian Gallagher Award for Dedication and Loyalty by a youth player to Waveney FC. She has played for Waveney FC for the last two seasons and ended this season as top goal scorer even though at times she had to leave the pitch for hypos. After receiving treatment, she returned to the pitch to continue playing. The whole school extends its congratulations for receiving this important and well-deserved award.

And in Other News...

Geography Round-Up:

Year 7 began their time at Benjamin Britten by investigating the idea of a 15-Minute City — finding out if you can get to everything you need within a 15-minute walk from school. They also enjoyed a fantastic day at the beach, learning about coastal protection and enjoyed a competition to build and defend their own sandcastle settlement.

Year 8 scholars have been busy mapping how much energy is used in different parts of the school, while also tackling litter hotspots outside. Not stopping there, they hunted down the windiest spot on site — perfect for a future wind turbine!

Year 9 scholars took on the challenge of measuring how quickly water soaks into the ground around school, learning how this affects flood risk. They have become experts in understanding how different surfaces can increase or reduce the likelihood of flooding — a hot topic these days!

Our GCSE scholars have participated in some amazing field trips. In Norwich, they studied how land use changes as you move from the city centre outwards. Later, they headed to Southwold to see coastal erosion up close and find out how seaside towns manage life by the sea.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting year for the Geography Department, and Mrs Kitching is incredibly proud of everyone who has got involved.

Staff Retirements:

After 12 years at Benjamin Britten, **Senior Cover Supervisor**, **Mrs Debbie Dixon**, who has played an integral role delivering a dizzying array of cover lessons, retired from the profession. Her retirement removes from the School a highly dedicated professional whose indefatigable enthusiasm and helpfulness will be sorely missed by colleagues and scholars alike. Over the years, Mrs Dixon has established a great rapport with scholars at Benjamin Britten and they join together in wishing her well for her retirement and thanking her for her years of diligent and professional service.

For many years Assistant Head of Saturn House, **Mrs Christine Overy** officially retired from the School at the end of the summer term after twenty-seven years serving our community. Blessed with limitless positivity, and a genuine desire to help young people in our care, Mrs Overy latterly worked as the School's Community, Fundraising and Events Coordinator, where she oversaw the School's Foodbank and the Britten Alumni programme, through which she was able to remain in contact with a number of former staff and students. The School wishes her great joy in her well-earned retirement.

After a teaching career spanning 37 years, **Deputy Headteacher**, **Mr Andy George** (pictured), announced his retirement, bringing to a close the longest term of service in the School's 47-year history. Appointed by the School's first headteacher, Miss Gillian Smith in 1988, Mr George worked first as a teacher of PE, before taking on geography and later joining the Senior Leadership Team. A particular highlight came in 2008 whilst coach of the U-16 boys' football team who progressed to the last 32 of the English Schools Football Cup for the first time in the School's history, only a month after becoming County Champions. Since joining the Hartismere Family of Schools in 2016, Mr George latterly worked as Deputy Headteacher, with responsibility for Lower School. Possessed of an



easy-going demeanour and genial personality, his enthusiasm for making a difference to our community will be greatly missed. The School takes this opportunity to wish Mr George the very best and to thank him, on behalf of all present and former scholars, for his tireless and selfless service.

Uniform Reminder

SHOES - Formal black shoes, with a leather upper, of a safe and comfortable style and heel height.

Footwear that looks like boots/trainers, or are made of canvas or have flashes of colour,

are not acceptable.

JEWELLERY - Small sleeper type earrings or small discreet studs may be worn, no bigger than a 5p coin (one in each ear). No nose studs, facial or body piercing is permitted.

This includes plastic stud retainers.

HAIR - Hair should be of natural colour and style.

MAKE-UP - Make-up is not permitted, including fake tan.

NAILS - Nail varnish/false nails must not be worn.

EYELASHES - False eyelashes and eyelash extensions are not permitted.

COATS & HOODIES - Coats and hoodies must not be worn in school. They are to be removed upon entering the school building. Hoodies will be confiscated if seen being worn inside.

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

Notice for Parents

Parents/carers are reminded of the need to exercise consideration when parking in the local community while collecting their children from school.

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 marking, dropped kerbs and driveways when waiting with, or parking, your vehicle.

Thank you for your help in this matter.





COME AND SEE OUR ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS AT BREAKS OR LUNCHES AT THE SUPPORT HUB IN ENGLISH ROOM 13!

STAND
UP
AGAINST
BULLYING