



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 38

Main Feature: Year 11 Prom 2023

On 29 July, the Year 11 Prom was held at the Ocean Rooms in Gorleston. A spectacular array of vehicles, including limousines, sports cars, camper vans, pick-up trucks, classic cars and motorcycles, were on show to convey scholars to the front doors where they were greeted by a professional photographer and their teachers, friends and parents. A short walk along a red carpet saw them enter the venue which had been decorated to reflect the significance of the evening in various hues of pink and purple. The preferred style amongst the ladies this year was a classical ankle-length dress, in darker tones of green, blue and red, complete with flowing train and wrist corsage. For the gentlemen, traditional three-piece suits were favoured, mostly in tweed decorated with button holes and pocket squares. Outgoing heads of year Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights excelled themselves, both in the arrangement and setting of the Prom and scholars were keen to show their thanks through enthusiastic applause when they both appeared on stage to announce award winners. Among various awards, including **most likely to become Prime Minister (J. Eglington)**, **most tea spillages (K. Adams)**, **best theme-tune (L.Coull)**, and **best dressed (K. Corral-Anderson)**, the loudest applause was reserved for **Best Teacher, awarded to Mr Sidell (science)**, and for **Prom King, I. Springford, and Prom Queen, S. Rees**. The awards were concluded by a heartfelt speech written by scholar Albie Yeo who thanked all staff for their continued support over the past four years. Food was served, followed by dancing, until cars arrived to collect the revellers at midnight, bringing to a close their time at Benjamin Britten.



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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.**

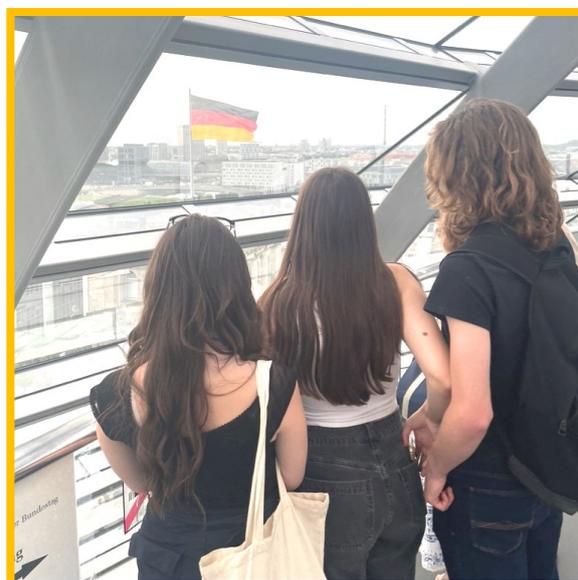


Trip News

Paris Trip: From 12-15 June, 80 Year 8 scholars accompanied Miss Davey (Languages) on a three day trip to Paris. On the first day, scholars climbed to the top of the Eiffel Tower and enjoyed beautiful views of the city in the sun, followed by an afternoon cruising down the River Seine learning facts about some of the world's most famous monuments such as the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Louvre Museum. On the second day, scholars visited Europe's largest science museum where they learnt all about the story of the universe, light and sound. They also had the opportunity to walk through a 1950s submarine. Scholars ended the trip with a day and a half at Disneyland where the thrill seekers amongst them braved the Tower of Terror. The incredible drone and fireworks show was a definite highlight of the trip.



Berlin Trip: A group of 32 Year 10 scholars travelled with Mr Ward (history) to Berlin as part of their GCSE course from 3-5 July. The group were collected from school at 1:15am in preparation for their flight at 7am. During their visit, scholars were able to see the Brandenburg Gate, visit Berlin Zoo and an infamous Soviet-era Stasi prison and walk the length of the Berlin Wall as well as sampling local food. Mr Ward congratulates all on their excellent behaviour.



Trip to Iceland: A group of 40 Year 9 scholars accompanied Mrs Roffey (science) on a spectacular trip to Iceland in the penultimate week of term. They were able to explore the history of this interesting nation and its breath-taking geology.

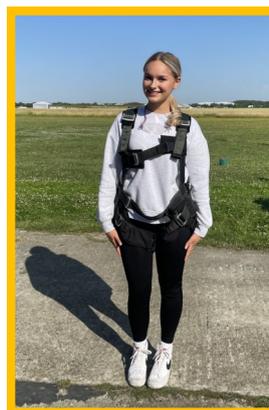


Science Museum Trip: A group of Year 8 scholars travelled with Dr Wright (science) to the Science Museum in London. They had opportunities to explore the various exhibits and in particular the Technicians' Zone where there were a number of challenges to complete. The scholars also had the chance to visit the Exploring Space gallery looking at a number of displays about the space race and the future.

Philanthropy News

Non-Uniform Day: On 3 July, the School held a 'Bright Colours' non-uniform day to mark Inclusion Week. Assemblies on the topic of Pride and neurodiversity were held for each year group, whilst doughnuts provided by Miss Pankhurst (maths) were on sale at lunch, along with a Pride Shop hosted by Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Miss Baumgartner (English). A Diversity Parade, organised by Mr Sweetman (maths) was also held on the school field from 2:45 to 3:15 to allow scholars to celebrate differences across the school and wider society and to better understand the Protected Characteristics.

Charity Sky-Dive: On Saturday 8 July, seventeen Year 11 scholars and four members of staff completed the annual sky dive for charity from Ellough airfield near Beccles. The weather remained fine and clear for the event and after climbing to around 14,000FT, the skydivers took the plunge back to earth cheered on by staff and members of their families. Mrs Jenkins, Mrs Adams, Mrs Knights and Mrs Brown were joined by D. Bean, T. Brown, I. Butcher, C. Saunders, L. Evans, G. Stone, E. Nicholl, M. Braddick, C. Carter, F. Dewsnap, K. Long, J. Eglington, O. Everett, G. Fletcher, L. Theaker, C. Vipers and O. Cone, who was credited with the most skilled landing of the morning. **Thanks to the enthusiasm of staff and scholars, an incredible £10,000 was raised for charities.**



Upper School Awards Evening

On 10 May, the Marina Theatre played host to the annual Upper School Awards Evening. This special event is held to recognise the academic success of scholars in Years 10 and 11 and celebrate the collective success of the school. The evening's proceedings began with an energetic performance of 'All Shook Up', with lead singers L. Stotter and D. Benjamin ably supported by lead guitarist O. Gibbs and the School Band. Head of Year 11 Mrs Adams and Head of Year 10 Mr Flanagan then presented subject awards nominated by teachers. Headteacher Miss Thurbon gave an address congratulating scholars for their hard work during their time at the School and spoke of the many joys to be derived from education. Guest speaker Lt. Col. James Coleby (Coldstream Guards) and former student of Benjamin Britten School spoke of his career, the highlights of which included active service in Afghanistan, meeting US President Joe Biden and leading Trooping the Colour in 2018. More recently, he was sentry at the Late Queen's catafalque in Westminster Hall and led 4,000 troops in three cheers for King Charles III on Coronation Day. Lt. Col. Coleby also emphasised the importance of resilience in future work and study. Awards for performing arts provided by the Britten-Pears Foundation were then presented, along with awards sponsored by local businesses. The evening concluded with a valedictory speech from outgoing Head Boy K. Smithers and Head Girl G. Boyd who thanked staff, parents and carers for their continued support.



Over 170 awards for academic and extra-curricular excellence were presented to scholars across Years 10 and 11 with a only small selection from the Class of 2023 presented here.

Sports Report

Sports Awards Assembly: Over 60 awards for sporting representation and excellence across Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 were awarded by the P.E department in the Theatre on 5 July. The event was a fantastic opportunity to congratulate scholars for their effort in P.E lessons and extra-curricular sports clubs. Mrs Schofield (P.E) congratulates all award winners for their hard work and dedication to sporting representation across the school.



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.

School Notices

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.

Careers News

College Visits: On July 4, 5 and 6, over 80 Year 10 scholars were taken to local F.E colleges, namely Lowestoft 6TH Form, East Coast College and East Norfolk Sixth Form to take part in taster sessions and speak with staff and students about their post-16 choices. College staff were on hand to provide information relating to courses and tours of facilities were held. Miss Stanley (careers) and Mr Flanagan (Head of Year) congratulate all scholars on their attentiveness and mature conduct throughout.

Careers in Policing Workshop: On 27 June, officers from Suffolk Constabulary visited the school to speak with Year 7 and Year 8 scholars on career options within the police. PC Pallett and PC Belcher spoke with scholars about different routes into policing and the GCSE grades required to apply and also outlined the promotions structure and pay scale for officers, alongside the different specialisms within the police, including traffic, plain clothes, dogs and civilian support. Presentations concluded with a Q&A session and scholars were able to take away information relating to future eligibility should they be interested in joining once they leave school. Mr Mullender (Careers) extends his appreciation to all who took part and to the officers for the presentations.



National Space Centre: A group of Year 7 scholars recently travelled with Dr Wright (science) to the National Space Centre in Leicester, where they experienced a trip across the solar system in the IMAX theatre, experienced a rocket workshop and had the opportunity to explore the exhibits.

UEA Scrapbots Challenge: The STEM club of X. Johnson, E. Thirkettle, O. Porter and A. Cole visited the UEA to participate in the first Scrapbot Challenge. They had been tasked with building a robot out of scrap materials keeping the cost as low as possible. The robots had to compete in a number of events such as sumo (pushing another team out of the ring), hungry hippos (had to gather canisters with points value), assault course (the robots had to navigate around a course with obstacles). Unfortunately, other members of the STEM Club were unable to attend due to another trip, but they made a significant contribution to the overall building of the robots.

Bringing Scientists to You: A group of Year 9 scholars travelled to East Norfolk Sixth Form with Dr Wright to take part in the event Bringing Scientists to You. They experienced a number of university style workshops including: behavioural ecology which looked at how animals work together in the wild, pharmacy where scholars made a hand lotion, and chemistry where scholars made secret messages using acids and alkalis.

STEM in Motion: A group of Year 9 scholars also travelled to East Point Academy to take part in the STEM in Motion event. They had to take part in a number of events such as: building a fan powered car and investigating how to make it go faster, building an air powered rocket, and firing water rockets.

Royal Norfolk Show: In collaboration with Miss Stanley (careers) and Mr Mullender (careers), the STEM department took 90 Year 9 scholars to the Royal Norfolk Show. They had numerous opportunities to explore the various stands and talk to employers. The day also allowed them to explore the STEM exhibits and take part in activities from EDF, Sizewell and East of England Energy Group. Despite a wet start, the weather brightened by the afternoon and a productive and enjoyable day was had by all.



And in Other News...

Photography & Art Exhibition: Class of 2023 GCSE Art, Photography and Technology work was on show in an art exhibition held in the Library from 26 June. Scholars were invited to view the artwork during break and lunch and moderation was held on 28 June, on which was also held the Art Open Evening where parents, carers and scholars were able to view their work on public display. The event was well-supported by family and friends and the Food Tech department created and served delicious food and drinks. Winners of the student and staff votes were: L. Tibble and Z. Hill (art), O. Cone and E. Graham (photography) (see below). Mrs Steward (art) congratulates all who helped make the event possible and all those scholars whose work was on display.



Year 8 Art Talent: Mrs Steward (art) is pleased to relate that Year 8 scholars have used their talent option to look at portraiture in the traditional sense. They have developed skills in mixing tones and working for the first time in acrylics. A selection of their work (see below) details the high quality of their creations, which show great promise for such young scholars. The whole School congratulates them on their efforts.



And in Other News

Head Boy & Head Girl: Interviews for new Head Boy and Head Girl took place from 5 June to 8 June hosted by Mr Flanagan, Mrs Overy and Mrs Sidell. **The year team are delighted to announce that the successful candidates were A. Clark (Head Boy) and L. Picken (Head Girl)**, while other candidates were appointed as Senior Prefects who will have responsibility for organising and supervising the Prefect duty rota for different days of the week. Overall, 37 new Prefects were appointed from over 50 applicants. Mr Flanagan and Mr Mullender (Prefect Lead) congratulate all who applied.

Year 11 Leavers: Year 11 Last Day was held on Wednesday 14 June after their morning exam had concluded. Scholars were permitted to add signatures to their leavers' books and shirts during a 90-minute period. Numerous gifts were exchanged and several bouquets of flowers, along with innumerable cards expressing heartfelt thanks, were presented to friends and staff members alike. The proceedings passed flawlessly and scholars left the site at midday. The School would like to congratulate them all for their hard work and diligence over the past five years and to wish them good luck in all their future endeavours.

Curricular Enrichment Clubs: The School would like to say a huge congratulations to all scholars who have taken part in extracurricular clubs this term. **There were an incredible 13,500 attendances at clubs so far this academic year, with 904 different scholars attending.** Please keep your eyes peeled for the new extracurricular timetables for the next academic year. These will be shared on the School's Facebook page as well as via the parent app in September.

BRAK Month: From Monday 20 March to the end of the Easter holidays (Sunday 16 April), scholars were encouraged to complete Benji Random Acts of Kindness (BRAK). For every act of kindness they completed, they received an entry into a prize draw. Over 300 entries were received in total! Mrs Armon extends her appreciation to all who took part and to staff for taking time to record these acts of kindness.

The Support Hub: Mrs Armon is pleased to announce that the Support Hub run by the School's fully-trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will have some new members next year. Some of the current Year 9 scholars have expressed an interest in being trained by the Diana Award charity, so even more people will be available to help scholars if they have any concerns or worries at school.



And Finally...

Now that they have successfully completed their journey through high school, members of the outgoing Year 11 would like to share their wisdom with other members of the school in the hope that it will provide guidance and advice for their time at Benjamin Britten:



Make hundreds of memories because you think it will last forever, but in reality it will fly by!

-Alfie Bennett

It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.

-Louis Sansom-Williams



Aim high and work with your teachers, as they all want you to succeed.

-Zofia Mech



The departing Class of 2023 have spent five years' at Benjamin Britten School. They have gathered together a broad range of experience and have grown into kind, caring and conscientious young people. They will soon be moving into the wider world to take up apprenticeships, learn skills, study A-Levels or complete training that will secure them a job.

However, the foundations for their future success have been laid here.

The School is extremely proud of their efforts and wishes them all the very best of luck and good fortune in their future success, wherever it may take them.

It has been a privilege to serve them.

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

Chess Club

Table-top Games Club

Puzzle Club

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

