



Spotlight

Benjamin Britten Academy of Music and Mathematics Newsletter Edition 33

Main Feature: Armistice Day 2021

The School came together to mark Armistice Day on 11 November, with a number of scholars electing to attend lessons in the uniforms of their respective organisation. Poppies were taken to form groups during morning registration to raise money for the Royal British Legion, while a Remembrance Event was held during Lesson Two to coincide with the two minute silence held at 11:00am. The event was held next to the Second World War pillbox on the middle field, with Mrs Thurbon (Assistant Headteacher) leading the commemoration, watched on by a respectful audience of over fifty scholars. Head Girl Sophie Siu led the readings, followed by Head Boy Henry Cole. A wreath from the Royal British Legion was laid and the two minute silence was marked at 11:00am, before the Deputy Head Boy concluded proceedings by reading the Kohima Epitaph. The School congratulates all who participated in the Remembrance Event and extends its sincere gratitude to all who have fought and served in the armed forces.



Above: The school's Second World War pillbox (part of one of the wartime government's 'Stop Lines' against potential enemy invasion) was the backdrop to the school's Remembrance Event on 11 November.



Left: Scholars Grace Fletcher, Isabelle Rix and Jack Eglington (10DM) assisted the Royal British Legion by selling poppies during form time on 11 November.



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



Year News

Year 7: Mr Challis and Mrs Reynolds are very pleased with the enthusiastic manner with which Year 7 scholars have made their transition from Primary to Secondary school. Form groups have settled in well and scholars have shown great resilience in adapting to the demands of secondary school. **The School welcomed 270 scholars this year, marking yet another record intake.** The whole School extends a warm welcome to these new scholars and wishes them an enjoyable time at Benjamin Britten.

–Mr Challis and Mrs Reynolds.

Year 8: We would like to say a huge well done to our Year 8s for a fantastic start to the academic year. They have accumulated an astonishing 6,357 achievement points so far! **The top 10 in the Year group for the most positive behaviour points are: Libby Porter, Phoebe Pierpoint, Charlie Dawkins, Joel Pullinger, Shae Murphy, Evie Rose, Ash Thorn, Ellie Rutter, Areeb Saleem and Alfie Young.**

We would also like to congratulate any of our scholars that take part in our extra-curricular activities and the Christmas Show. Our Form Tutors chose the following scholars to receive the award for Scholar of the Half-Term for their tutor group: *Autumn Term 1:* **8AH – Charlie Dawkins, 8AL – Lainey-Evie Davies, 8BL – Shae Murphy, 8BM – Eva Howlett, 8EP – Mia Tarrant, 8NC – Seren Peck, 8OW – Fawne Grimes, 8PB – Connor Simms, 8RW – Areeb Saleem, 8ZS – Jessica Walker.** For *Autumn Term 2:* **8AH – Ellie Rutter, 8AL – Noah Herrington, 8BL - Brooke Stringer-Warnes, 8BM – Heidi Masters, 8EP – Chloe Sharples, 8NC – Ash Thorn, 8OW – Natalia Strozynska, 8PB – Sofia Smith, 8RW – Kaitlyn Bousfield and 8ZS – Brooke Porter.** Well done! We are really proud of the effort you're putting in to your learning. In order to finish off a brilliant term, the Year Team are taking our Year 8s to Lowestoft Cinema on Friday 17 December to either watch 'Spider-Man: No Way Home' or Disney's 'Encanto'. We would like to wish our Year 8 scholars and their families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. –Miss Armon and Miss Banns.

Year 10: This term scholars have begun studying their GCSE Option lessons which they chose before the summer holidays. Also, beginning in the first week of December, they have been working through their mock exams in preparation for their final GCSEs at the end of Year 11. Though this was a new experience for all our scholars, they took to it with great enthusiasm and maturity for which we congratulate them. The Year 10 team wish all our scholars a very enjoyable and relaxing Christmas.

–Mrs Adams, Mrs Knights and Mrs Brown.

Year 11: The Year Team are pleased to announce the appointment of **Henry Cole (11OB) and Sophie Siu (11FC) as Head Boy and Head Girl respectively.** They will be supported by a team of prefects as they represent the school. The Year 11 Prom Committee will begin meeting after Christmas to discuss plans for fundraising. We would also like to congratulate all our scholars for their hard work and positive attitude towards their mock exams and encourage them to have a restful and enjoyable Christmas.

–Mrs Wright and Miss Edge..

News in Sport

Mr Humphrey (P.E) is pleased to report that the boys' Under-16 table tennis team **won the Area Competition** and as a result are through to the County Finals in Ipswich.

The Year 8 football team unfortunately **lost 2-0** to Pakefield High School in the County Cup.

However, the Year 11 football team played superbly against Bungay High School and **won 2 - 1.**

Benjamin Britten will play Breckland High School and Copleston High School next in the second round of the County Cup.



Mobile Phone Notice

A reminder to parents and carers that scholars are not permitted to be in possession of a mobile phone, or any electronic device, during the school day. Any phone or device brought into school must be deposited with the relevant Year Teams promptly upon arrival and will be held in secure storage.

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

Any mobile phone or device found in possession of a scholar during the school day, including at break and lunchtime, will be confiscated.

It will only be returned at 3:15 pm to a parent or carer.

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

Bicycle Safety

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

Bicycle locks are also recommended.

Bicycles should NOT be ridden on the school site.

Scholars who bring their bicycle to school during winter months are reminded that under the **Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (2009)** it is a legal requirement for the following items to be fitted to a bicycle in use on the public roads at night or in reduced visibility:

- 1.) a front lamp showing a white light, facing forwards
- 2.) a rear lamp showing a red light, facing rearwards
- 3.) a rear reflector, coloured red, facing rearwards
- 4.) amber pedal reflectors, positioned to the front and rear of each pedal

Cyclists who ride in the dark without lights pose a risk to themselves, motorists and pedestrians.

Consequently, they can be subject to a **Fixed Penalty Notice of £50 issued by the police.**

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

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



Philanthropy News

Outreach on the Streets: As part of the School's philanthropic endeavours close to Christmas, scholars were invited to bring in tinned food, toiletries and first aid items in support of the collection for the charity Outreach on the Streets. This is a local organisation run by Mr Stacey Drennan and his dedicated team of volunteers, who spend many hours a week supporting the homeless and less fortunate in Lowestoft. Form groups were encouraged to bring in as many items as they could before the collection date of 16 December.

Halloween Market: 10AB's first ever Halloween Market was a huge success with **£242 raised in one 45 minute lunchtime**. All money was donated to Suffolk Mind, the local mental health charity. Scholars who went above and beyond to help were: **Gaja Bort, Felix Dewsnap, Nathan Godbold, Zofia Mech, Ethan Smith, Hannah Smith, Jasmine Forwood, Lily Bolton, Gabriel Sanford, Lily Knights, Logan Penswick, Charlie Vipers**. 10AB also thanks Mr Whitley's Talents group who supplied cookies and cupcakes. A large amount of items were on sale including: necklaces, bracelets, cookies, American sweets, movie packs, faux-crackers, vampire teeth, CapriSuns, Rice Krispie Treats, and many more spooktacular items!



Remembrance Sunday Parade: To mark Remembrance Sunday, a deputation of Year 11 scholars attended Lowestoft's Remembrance Sunday Service and parade on 14 November. A wreath was laid on behalf of all scholars and staff at Benjamin Britten School and Head Boy Henry Cole and Head Girl Sophie Siu were chosen to read the poem 'One Thousand Men are Walking' by Joshua Dyer, to the former soldiers, cadet groups, council officers and members of the public who had gathered to pay their respects. They were ably supported by the Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl and accompanied by Assistant Headteacher Mrs Thurbon. A two minute's silence was observed before a march past of uniformed services concluded the event which was very well attended.





School Nurse

Helen Dyer is the designated School Nurse for our school. Helen is a Registered General Nurse and Midwife specialising in community public health and has worked as a nurse for 14 years. **Helen is in school every Friday and is available for students to visit for support and advice regarding health related issues including physical, sexual, emotional health and well-being, and friendships and relationships.**

Appointments made between Helen and students are confidential, unless there are safeguarding concerns or a student has agreed to her sharing information with others. Referrals to the School Nurse can be made by parents, schools, other professional agencies and by the scholars themselves.

You can contact Helen using the number or email address below:

Tel: (01502) 532 053 Email: ecch.schoolnursing@nhs.net



School Notices

FROM MR GEORGE, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

Parents & carers must advise the relevant year team of any planned absence (e.g. medical appointments) **at least 24 hours in advance** to enable school staff to complete the necessary paperwork in a timely manner. Without this notice, the School cannot guarantee that scholars will be ready for collection when required.



School Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a priority at the Benjamin Britten School and entails keeping the school community safe from harm, abuse, or injury. **This duty of care is taken very seriously.** All staff receive annual safeguarding training and ensure that safer recruiting practices are followed.

Scholars are reminded of the need for safeguarding and key safeguarding messages are provided through Social Ethics lessons, tutorial time activities, and year assemblies.

The School is committed to safeguarding scholars, staff and visitors.

We expect all staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment and brief them on our procedures and practices when they arrive.

Safeguarding incorporates the prevention of extremism and radicalisation as well as child protection, and concentrates on the wellbeing of the young person. The School aims to ensure any indication that a young person is not thriving or is failing to meet his or her potential is detected as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss them with the safeguarding team in the strictest of confidence, please contact Mrs Thurbon, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Careers News

Year 11 scholars have had the opportunity to attend a one-to-one careers interview to ascertain their plans once they leave Benjamin Britten. These interviews are important as they allow scholars to ask careers staff about the various options available to them when they leave school whilst finalising college applications and personal statements. Scholars have also been given prospectuses from local colleges and revision timetables to assist them with their work. Many scholars have already attended interviews for college and have been offered places for the next academic year.

After Christmas, scholars in Years 8 and 9 will begin their timetabled careers lessons, exploring different GCSE Option subjects, learning about adversity and overcoming setbacks, and how to use Unifrog, the school's new online careers platform.

MEET AMY

Amy is the Higher Education Champion for Benjamin Britten Music Academy, helping students in years 9–11 consider their pathway into higher education.

Amy Grant
Higher Education Champion

University of Suffolk,
Waterfront, 19 Neptune's Quay
Ipswich, Suffolk IP4

Located in the careers pod every
Tuesday

amyg@takeyourplace.ac.uk

takeyourplace.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding your next steps in education, or about life at university, please send them to my email address above.

What is Take Your Place?

Take Your Place is a collaborative outreach project supporting students with making informed decisions about their options after school.

As part of Take Your Place students are given access to resources, experiences and guidance that will encourage them to develop passions for specific subjects.



Why a Higher Education Champion?

Higher Education Champions work for the programme to support target students within the school. They support students to understand what higher education is and the routes to get there.

How can Amy help?

Amy will be working with students in years 9-11 to offer advice and guidance around areas such as life at university, pathways to future careers, applications and work experience, among other topics.

Amy will aim to develop a number of 1:1's, workshops, events and trips to encourage students to develop their knowledge and explore future career options.

TAKE YOUR PLACE

neaco

And in Other News...

STEM Talent: Mr Snell (Science) reports that the Year 8 STEM Talent group has been undertaking a project to submit for a CREST award to celebrate STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) achievement. They have been investigating how to make fizzy drinks and what different conditions are required to make the best drink. They have also explored careers related to manufacturing and chemical testing. They aim to achieve their award by the end of February. Furthermore, the Benjamin Britten Science Department have been awarding a scholar from any year group per teacher with Scientist of the Month where achievement and effort in science is celebrated and recognised. Scholars are awarded a badge and are displayed on the TV screens around the school.

Literacy Success: On 7 December **Oscar Symonds (7DB) became the first scholar in Year 7 to read over one million words on the Accelerated Reader programme.** He received a certificate and a £10 online shopping voucher. A book vending machine has also been set up in the School Library as a reward for progressing beyond 60 lessons on the Bedrock literacy programme. Instead of using money, scholars who complete 60 lessons are given a token which allows them to choose a book of their choice to keep from the vending machine. **The first scholar to achieve this was Valentino Paolantonio (7KB).**

Scholar Success: The School would like to congratulate former scholar Amy Adamson (leaver 2019) who has achieved the grades required at A-Level to take up a place studying Veterinary Sciences at Cambridge University. Also, former scholar Shay Jordan (leaver 2016) recently returned to the school as a visitor to observe lessons in readiness for his teaching career which will begin after the completion of his Masters in Mathematics at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Novel Writing Club: Each year in November, thousands of people worldwide participate in National Novel Writing Month, a challenge that asks participants to write a novel in 30 days. This year, the Novel Writing Club was created to meet this challenge. Hosted by Miss De Broe (English) and Miss Baumgartner (English) the club began in October and has seen a dozen scholars ranging from Year 7 to 11 planning their stories each Tuesday after school. They focused on integral parts of storytelling, like plot, character, and setting, all in preparation for 1 November. **Over the last three months, these scholars have worked incredibly hard and set ambitious goals for themselves; as a club, they have written over 80,000 words!** After the holidays, these scholars will return prepared to edit their stories, which will then be published in an anthology format and displayed in the School Library for others to enjoy.

Anime Club: Anime Club now officially has over 45 members! The club watches a variety of animes based on popular vote in each session, typically in Japanese with subtitles, and discusses characters and different genres/themes. Year 7s are welcome on Wednesdays after school (but is currently full to capacity), while Years 8-11 still have vacancies. Lapel badges are given to all members who attend and the club is now looking to extend to more cultural experiences.

Debating Society: The inaugural meeting of the Benjamin Britten Debating Society was held after school on 8 November under the stewardship of Mr Sweetman, Miss Stanley and Mr Mullender. Twelve scholars from different year groups attended and have been preparing for a debate on efforts needed to tackle global warming. The society aims to develop confidence in public speaking and teach the skills needed to win a debate. All scholars are welcome to join when the society reconvenes in the new year.

And in Other News...

Britten Day: On 22 and 23 November, events were held to commemorate the birthday of our namesake, Benjamin Britten. Year 7 scholars were treated to a recital of two of Britten's piano compositions, made when he was a teenager in Lowestoft in the 1920s, played by Miss Phillips (Music) and arranged by Miss Fuschillo (Music). On 23 November, a group of scholars who have achieved well in lessons participated in the annual Britten Tour. This event takes in a number of sites which were important to Britten, before culminating in the tradition of laying of flowers on his grave in Aldeburgh churchyard, something which has taken place annually since the school opened in 1977. Scholars were able to see Britten's family home in Lowestoft, Snape Maltings concert hall, Maggi Hambling's memorial to him on Aldeburgh beach and John Piper's stained glass window in Aldeburgh Church. Lunch break was taken on Aldeburgh beach in unusually sunny conditions, allowing scholars to practice their stone skipping techniques. Thanks are extended to **Charlie Gould (10DM), Olivia Payne (10DM), Alara Kilic (9NM), Shania Ashley (7AM), Maxxwell Gibbs (7TF), George Eglington (7DB), Thea Pritchard (7JG) and Matilda Richardson (7AM)** for their excellent behaviour on the day.



Above: Scholars on the Britten Tour enjoy their lunchbreak on an unusually sunny Aldeburgh beach, while George Eglington (7DB) continues the school tradition of laying flowers from all scholars and staff on Britten's grave in Aldeburgh churchyard.

Awareness Presentations: The stage group 'Alter Ego' presented a dramatic and thought-provoking play to all scholars in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 on 24 November about the dangers of involvement with county lines drug trafficking. Scholars were informed about the dangers presented by County Lines and the actions the police are taking to combat this criminal enterprise across the UK.

Fire Safety Workshop: On 30 November all year groups were able to participate in 20 minute workshops on the topic of fire safety. This event was hosted by firefighters from the local Bluewatch and scholars were provided with many pieces of important information relating to basic fire safety in and around the home.

My Homework: A reminder to scholars, parents and carers that the updated school website went live on 18 November with the 'My Homework' link. This is a one-stop shop where parents and scholars can find all homework resources set by their teachers from the comfort of their own home.

Stress Workshops: As part of the School's commitment to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in its care, scholars in Year 9 were able to attend workshops led by Anjali Stringer on how to deal with stress and anxiety from September through to December. These sessions were well-attended and it is hoped will have conveyed useful information to all those who took part.

And in Other News...

Christmas Performance: The Christmas Spectacular was held on the evenings of 14, 15 and 16 December. Excitement surrounding the event had been high for many weeks and tickets sold out within six minutes of going on sale. To deal with demand, an additional performance was added on 13 December. Scholars from across all year groups practised for several weeks to ensure the performance went faultlessly and Miss Breen (Drama) was very pleased with the results and congratulates all who took part and thanks all those who came to watch.



Photography Success: Congratulations to GCSE Photography scholar Cayla Horner (11TW) who was runner-up in the Suffolk Wildlife Photography Competition 2021 for her amazing photograph of blue tits eating from a bird feeder (*see right*).

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award: Miss Banns is delighted to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award has been re-instated under her stewardship. Scholars from across the year groups were invited to join, with many completing their application forms within the first few days after the scheme was launched. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has a long and successful history at Benjamin Britten and it is hoped that the new intake of participants will derive great enjoyment from its activities.



Sign of Four Trial: On 16 December, two English classes visited the School Library to watch the trial of Jonathan Small, whose exploits are the subject of the Year 10 GCSE English Literature text, 'The Sign of Four'. Jack Eglington (10DM) took the part of Small, who stood trial for theft, absconding from prison, manslaughter and being in possession of government documents. Counsel for the Prosecution was ably provided by Kitson Smithers (10SB) and Saul Wisher (10OR), whilst Defence Counsel was led by Darcey Bean (10AB) and Joseph Boor (10OR). Evidence was presented by both sides to a jury of over twenty scholars, who listened patiently to several witnesses and cross-examinations before delivering their verdict of guilty to three of the four charges. Congratulations to all who participated and to the jury for behaving so well throughout the session.



Clubs and Societies

- ◆ **British Sign Language (BSL)** hosted by Mrs Poole: Every Monday, 3:30, Languages Room 4.
- ◆ **Debating Society** hosted by Mr Sweetman, Miss Stanley & Mr Mullender: Monday Week 2, 3:30-4:30, School Library.
- ◆ **Programming and Robotics Club** hosted by Mr Sweetman: Every Wednesday, 3:15-4:30, Maths Room 12.
- ◆ **Anime Club (Year 7s Only)** hosted by Miss Baumgartner: Every Wednesday, 3:15-4:15, English 6.
- ◆ **Anime Club (Years 8-11)** hosted by Miss Baumgartner: Every Friday, 3:15-4:15, English 6.
- ◆ **Creative Writing Club (NaNoWriMo Club)** hosted by Miss De Broe and Miss Baumgartner: Every Tuesday, 3:15-4:15, Science Computing Suite.
- ◆ **After School Prep** hosted by Mr Mullender: Monday-Thursday 3:15-4:30, School Library (for revision, homework, etc.)



The School was unexpectedly, and all too briefly, covered in a dusting of snow on 2 December causing delight for scholars walking to school.

The Benjamin Britten School wishes all scholars, parents, carers, staff and their families a very merry Christmas and a bright and cheerful New Year.