



# Spotlight

Newsletter of Benjamin Britten Academy of Music & Mathematics Edition 41

## Main Feature: Royal Norfolk Show Trip

On 27 June, **100 scholars from Year 9** were able to attend the **Royal Norfolk Show in Norwich** as part of **their careers programme**, under the supervision of Dr Wright (STEM), Mrs Norton (Pastoral Head of Year 9), Mrs Wright (English) and Mr Mullender (careers). The group was given a series of questions to ask potential future employers in the STEM Village, where a large number of exhibitors from the technology and engineering sector were on show. Companies that scholars were able to speak with ranged from offshore energy, construction, aircraft repairs, landscape mapping and power distribution. Later in the day, scholars were allowed to view stalls and exhibits outside the STEM Village where many visited the livestock tent. Here they were able to see fine examples of award-winning rare breed animals, including sheep, goats, and pigs. Each animal had been meticulously prepared for the show with many taking home several awards. The group also had the opportunity to speak with two former BBMA scholars who were volunteers for the Royal Horticultural Society on the subject of careers in agriculture. As is befitting of the Royal Norfolk Show, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, visited the event and had his photo taken by Mrs Wright who was momentarily mistaken for a member of the Press by show stewards. Scholars were impeccably behaved and were a credit to the school.

*Left and right: Show-winning sheep (Hampshire Downs)*



*Left: Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh visited the show.*



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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 between 3:15-4:00pm 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 are NOT to 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

**UEA Chemistry Festival:** On 23 May, Dr Wright (Science/STEM) led 10 Year 9 scholars on a trip to the Chemistry Festival at UEA in Norwich to listen to keynote speakers about careers within the chemistry sector. The group was also challenged to complete a practical chemistry task, namely the synthesis of Aspirin. Well done to all those on the trip; their behaviour and collaborative thinking were a credit to the school.



**Year 9 Iceland Trip:** Forty Year 9 scholars had the exciting opportunity of travelling to Iceland with the school from 8-12 July for an introduction to the powerful geology of this incredible country. Scholars visited a geothermal hydroplant to witness first-hand how Iceland generates its own electricity and how this efficient green energy system works in practice. The group later visited the lava and sulphur fields in south west Iceland and were also able to visit Geldingadilir Grindavik, the most recent volcanic eruption in the country where the lava was still flowing. The tour of the lava fields concluded with a surprise visit to the presidential house of Iceland's president, Guoni Johannesson. The trip concluded with a visit to the ice caves at the Perlan Centre and a stop in the capital city of Reykjavik. *Pictured below are some of the highlights from the trip.*



**Pleasurewood Hills Reward Trip:** On Monday 15 July, 140 scholars from Year 8 were invited to spend the day at Pleasurewood Hills. This trip was arranged as a reward for those scholars who have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and excellent attendance in their lessons and at school. Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights (Heads of Year 8) extend their appreciation to all who took part and supported the event.

## Philanthropy News

**Alzheimer's UK Charity Walk:** During the week commencing 1 July, scholars from Year 7, 8 and 9 were invited to participate in a sponsored walk for the Alzheimer's UK charity. Sponsor forms were provided and walks, which were marked out around the school fields, took place during science lessons across the week. Mrs Roffey (science) congratulates all who took part.



**Year 11 Charity Sky Dive:** On Saturday 5 June, the annual Year 11 Charity Sky Dive was held at Ellough airfield near Beccles for Year 11 Leavers. Due to inclement weather and strong winds, the jump had to be spaced over both days, with part of the group jumping on Saturday morning, and the other half jumping on Sunday. Staff, friends and well-wishers gathered on the ground to watch the brave sky-divers ascend to 14,000FT before making their 30-second-long descent to Earth with their sky-diving instructor. **All participants enjoyed the event which raised in excess of £4,000 for a wide array of charities.** The School congratulates all scholars and staff who took part and thanks them for their selflessness in raising money for causes close to their hearts.



**Krispy Kreme Doughnuts:** In preparation for their Leavers' Event and Prom, Year 9 scholars have been busily engaged in fundraising, particularly with Miss Pankhurst (Maths) who helped organise the annual Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale. A delightful array of doughnut flavours were available and all sold within twenty minutes during break on 10 July. **The sale raised £285 towards the Prom.** Miss Pankhurst thanks all who supported the event.

**Inclusion Week:** To celebrate Inclusion Week this term, the School sold over 500 'Diversity Doughnuts', completed a Diversity Quiz and held a Bright Colours non-uniform day to raise money for five charities, namely: **Community Action Suffolk, British Red Cross, RNLI Lowestoft, Sense and Brainwave.** Congratulations to all who participated.

## Class of 2024

On 11 June, Year 11 scholars marked their final day at Benjamin Britten. After completing their morning GCSE exam, scholars were able to spend time with their friends and peers, exchanging gifts and the customary signing of shirts. The day marked the end of a long journey through high school which has culminated in all scholars growing in confidence in themselves as well as knowledge of the world around them. Headteacher Miss Thurbon said, ***'We are so proud of all our Year 11s and look forward to seeing what the future holds for them.'*** The School extends its gratitude to all Year 11s for their hard work and maturity over the years and to Boutique Balloons East Anglia for the balloon arch made in school colours. ***School staff would like to wish all Year 11 scholars good luck. It has been a privilege to serve them.***



# 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 Ms Thurbon or Mr Cook, the Designated Safeguarding Leads.***

**Discamus ut Serviamus**



**We Learn that  
We May Serve**

## 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.

## School Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service, provided by Suffolk County Council, is available **every Monday lunchtime in Meeting Room 2 with Christina**. Appointments can be made any time between 1:25 and 2:00 and can cover a wide range of concerns including mental health, physical health, drug awareness and stress.

***All meetings are confidential.***

# Careers News

**Year 10 College Trips:** Over 60 Year 10 scholars recently attended trips to local F.E colleges as part of their career programme. A wide variety of taster sessions were on display in which scholars were able to participate. Trips focused on vocational courses at East Coast College, alongside classroom-based courses at Lowestoft Sixth Form College and East Norfolk Sixth Form College in Gorleston. College staff praised the enthusiasm and maturity of scholars as they prepare for making applications to college in September.

**Year 7 Uni Boys Event:** A number of Year 7 scholars recently had the opportunity to participate in three visits to the UEA in Norwich, where they engaged in numerous activities, including Art and Lego Robots, Sportspark climbing wall, Pickleball, Drama and Creative Writing, to further their knowledge of life at university. Mr Croft extends his appreciation to the group for their fantastic engagement. They were a credit to families and to the School.

**National Citizen Service:** The Careers Team is pleased to report that **Benjamin Britten is the school with the joint highest number of scholars signed up for the NCS summer residential programme in the East of England.** The NCS experience will provide scholars an opportunity to stay away from home and build confidence through a variety of team-building events and tasks to improve their local community. The Careers Team wishes the NCS Class of 2024 a superb time!



## A Note on Attendance by Mr Flanagan

As Head of Upper School, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all our dedicated scholars and their families who have consistently prioritised good attendance throughout this academic year.

Your commitment to regular school attendance lays a strong foundation for academic success and personal growth.

As we approach the upcoming school holidays, I encourage scholars to take this time to rest and rejuvenate, ready to return for another exciting year ahead.

**Please be reminded that from September onwards, any absences should be promptly reported via our dedicated absence line or email at [absence@benjaminbritten.school](mailto:absence@benjaminbritten.school) before 8.40 AM on each day of absence.**

**It is important to note that scholars typically attend around 190 school days a year, leaving 175 days for well-deserved breaks.** The Department for Education (DfE) does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance for absence from school.

***Thank you for your cooperation in promoting a culture of excellent attendance and thank you to parents for supporting your child's learning journey. I wish you all a restful summer break.***



## Staff vs. Scholars Cricket Match

The evening of Friday 5 June saw a clash of two titans of local cricket (Benjamin Britten Staff and Benjamin Britten Scholars) in only the second-ever Staff versus Scholars end of year cricket match.

After a drab indoor affair last year in which Scholars were victorious, the Staff were eager to bounce back. With Staff batting first, the opening partnership of **Mr Henwood** and **Mr Barber** laid a solid platform for the middle order. Excellent bowling from **F. Thurston, T. Johnson** and the skipper **J. Moore** caused all manner of problems throughout.

The entertainment continued as **Mr Lockett, Mr Ferris, Mr Mensah** and the returning **Mr Doy** finished the innings with energetic, or perhaps chaotic, running between the wickets.

The Scholars batting inning began well with **H. Boggis, T. Reid-Spoor** and **J. Moore** all looking comfortable. The big difference was the excellent catching by the Staff. An absolute 'worldie' taken by **Mr Lockett** low to his right - not unlike Superman catching a speeding bullet - appeared to turn the tide. Tight bowling by **Mr Whiteley, Mr Henwood** and **Mr Barber** combined with a succession of catches by **Mr Doy, Mr Mensah** and again by **Mr Lockett** saw the Staff prevail, with **108 runs to 92**.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable evening — organiser, Mr Sweetman (maths) extends his appreciation to all who took part and to **Blundeston and Somerleyton Cricket Club** for hosting the event.

*No doubt, the Scholars will be looking for victory next year...*



*Both teams played with enthusiasm and perseverance.*

*The Staff team with the winners' trophy.*

*Pictured are L-R: Mr Ferris (Science), Mr Whiteley (Food Tech), Mr Barber (History), Mr Mensah (RSHE), Mr Doy (late of D.T), Mr Sweetman (Maths), Mr Henwood (Maths), Mr Lockett (English) with trophy.*



# Staff vs. Scholars Cricket Match

**Final Score: Scholars 92 - Staff 108**



*If you're thinking about trying your hand at cricket, or are interested in joining our friendly local cricket club, scan the QR CODE below to find out more about training sessions, membership and other information.*

*Parents are also welcome to join!*



**SCAN ME**

*Highlights from the Staff vs. Scholars cricket match.*



## And in Other News...

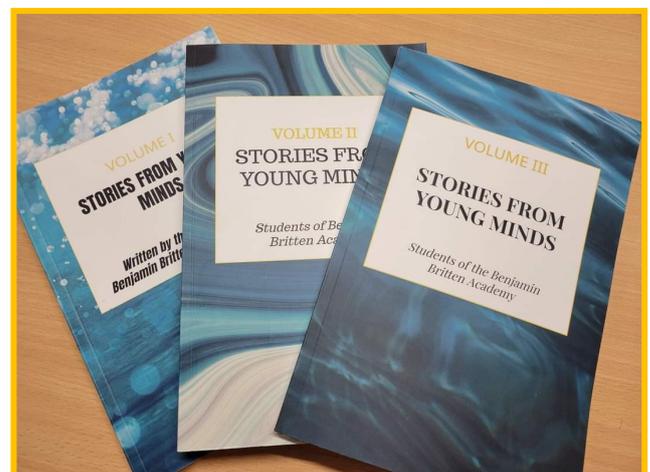
**GCSE Art Exhibition:** After school on 20 June, the School Library played host to the GCSE Art and Photography Exhibition. Miss O'Leary and Miss Gamble (art) were pleased to see so many parents and carers turn out in support of GCSE candidates. GCSE work had been moderated earlier in the week, so the evening presented a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their efforts. Canapés were provided by GCSE Food Tech scholars under the supervision of Mr Whiteley. Staff were able to vote for their favourite pieces, with **prizes being awarded to Cruz Morris (Art) and Hope Jones (Photography). Awards, as voted by scholars, went to Layla Foster (Art) and Ruby Everett (Photography).** Miss O'Leary congratulates all who took part and visited the event.



**Staff Changes:** In preparation for the new academic year, several changes will take place in the year offices. In Lower School Office, Mr Cook succeeds Mr Challis as Head of Year 7, upon the retirement, after many years service, of the latter. Mr Cook will work alongside Year 7 Pastoral Lead, Miss Smith. Mrs Hammond has been appointed the new Head of Year 8, alongside Ms Reeder as Pastoral Lead. Mrs Armon takes over as Head of Lower School from Mr A. George, who will be working with Year 10 scholars during their transition to Upper School. Mr Flanagan takes over the position left vacant by Mrs Armon as Head of Upper School. The School wishes them great success in their new roles.

**Staff Retirements:** 19 July marked the end of two long careers when Head of Year 7 Mr Challis, and Yr11 Pastoral Lead Mrs Overy, retired from the profession. Both have spent many years working tirelessly for Benjamin Britten Music Academy and have overseen thousands of scholars between them. Their dedication and quiet professionalism has been a source of great inspiration to both scholars and staff alike. Mr Challis has helped forge strong links with the Britten-Pears Foundation, whilst Mrs Overy has been integral to school fundraising, notably through the annual Christmas Fayre. The School extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation for their years of tireless service and wishes them both an enjoyable and well-earned retirement.

**Creative Writing Club:** The Creative Writing Club has completed their third annual creative writing challenge and had their stories published into the third volume of the book. All three volumes (pictured) are now available from the School Library. Mr Lockett and Miss Baumgartner (English) extend their thanks and appreciation to members of the Creative Writing Club and congratulate them on their efforts.



## And in Other News...

### Animation, Programming & Arcade Club:

Over the course of the year, scholars in Years 7 and 9 have been working on homemade arcade machines in Animation, Programming & Arcade Club under supervision of Mr Sweetman (maths). Scholars were required to utilise a range of skills including filling, measuring, sanding, painting, animating with Powerpoint, interpreting circuit diagrams, as well as testing and debugging. This required a lot of patience and perseverance!

Games including Pacman, Sonic, Streetfighter II, Mario, Bomberman and hundreds more have been installed on each system. Congratulations to the following scholars for their efforts in completing their arcade machines, which represent an investment of ten months' work, and which they all get to keep:

***G. Thorne, L. Murray, T. Calver, E. Grundy, A. Desborough, J. Cooper, O. Symonds, S. Giles, J. Steel, P. Smithers and A. Goddard.***



## And in Other News

**Prom 2024:** On 28 June, Year 11 scholars attended their **School Prom which this year was held at the Ivy House Country Hotel**. Staff had worked tirelessly behind the scenes over the preceding weeks to ensure the night was a great success. **Year 11 Leavers were treated to performances from a band, a magician, delicious food and a professional photographer**. After much dancing, the evening was rounded off by a spectacular laser show provided by Skylit Pyrotechnics and S&S Lighting. The School would like to extend its gratitude to all those who attended and to the staff that helped the evening run so smoothly, with special mention to the outgoing Heads of Year 11 Mr Cook, Mrs Sidell, Mrs Overy and Mr Flanagan.



**New Uniform Option:** In light of suggestions from scholars, and recommendations from the School Council, the School has made an adjustment to uniform options for the new academic year, in the form of boys tailored shorts. These shorts, complete with the school crest, can be purchased from Screens, the school's uniform supplier and will doubtless prove a welcome addition in the summer months.

**Appointment of Prefects:** Mrs Burton and Mrs Spall (Year 11) are pleased to announce the **appointment of a team of 30 Prefects for the academic year 2024-2025**. Candidates had to complete a written application and behaviour report to ascertain they had the necessary qualities for the role. Five Senior Prefects, who will help supervise Prefects on a day-to-day basis, were also appointed, alongside a new Head Girl and Head Boy who were chosen from eleven candidates who interviewed for the position. Prefects will undergo induction and training before being assigned duties during the school day. The School congratulates all who applied and wishes them well.



**Head Girl: J. Walker Head Boy: J. Pullinger**

**Senior Prefects: I. Martin, L. Wooltorton, X. Johnson, R. Bedder, J. Smith.**

**Prefects: J. Hault, P. Munro, S. Murphy, C. Dawkins, S. Naili, K. Bousfield, L. Reid, S. Garrod, F. Featherstone, E. Smith, A. Oram-Chapman, E. Norton, L. Steward, P. Pierpoint, E. Howlett, S. Barnes, E. Porter, R. Wisher, R. Moyse, A. Hill, M. Piper, S. Mills, A. Thorn, G. Archer.**

**Extracurricular Success:** The School is pleased to report that M. Lake (7ABa) has succeeded in securing a place on the Suffolk County Football Team. This is a considerable achievement as he was chosen from 80 candidates who were all vying to represent the county. Congratulations and good luck!

## And in Other News

**BRAK Month:** Mrs Armon is pleased to report that there were **over 400 entries received for BRAK Month** (Benji's Random Acts of Kindness) a selection of which are shared below. Congratulations to all who participated.



**Curricular Enrichment Clubs:** During the last academic year **11,357 attendances were recorded at extra-curricular and after school clubs by 862 different scholars.** The School congratulates all scholars and staff who have contributed towards this and reminds scholars that a new rota of clubs will be available in September.

**Traybake Treats:** At the start of Summer Term 2, **over 500 scholars in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were chosen to receive a traybake treat for excellent behaviour whilst in Summer Term 2, over 300 different scholars** were rewarded for excellent attitude to learning in lessons. Congratulations to all winners.

**Year 8 Awards Day:** Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights (Year 8 Team) would like to congratulate all Year 8 scholars who between them have **amassed 25,192 Achievement Points over the last academic year—a phenomenal achievement.**

In recognition of their efforts, the School hired an ice-cream van and scholars enjoyed sampling many 99p flakes.

Scholars were also nominated for special awards by their subject teachers at the end of year Awards Afternoon.

**Special recognition must go to L.R. Phillips and S. Smith for receiving the coveted Year 8 Head of Year Award, meaning their names will be added to the Honour Boards outside Lower School Office.**

Both scholars have demonstrated an exceptional work ethic, immersed themselves in extra-curricular events and assisted staff and their peers as exceptional role models in the school. The year team also congratulate all scholars who participated in the English Speaking Board Examinations (ESB) with the English Department in June. Mrs Adams and Mrs Knights wish all scholars and their families a restful and well-earned summer break.



## Clubs & Societies

Table Tennis      Fitness      Basketball      Rugby      Football  
Running      Netball      Debating Society  
British Sign Language      School Band      School of Dance      Brass Ensemble  
Woodwind Session      Strings & Percussion      Art Club  
Creative Writing Club      Harry Potter 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 be sure to drop in to any of the clubs above to see what they are like  
– you are guaranteed a warm welcome!

## Attention Parents

The School respectfully requests that parents exercise care and consideration when parking in the local community while collecting their children from school.

*The roads adjoining the School are residential areas that need to remain accessible at all times.*

Please pay close attention to double yellow lines, dropped kerbs and driveways when waiting with or parking your vehicle.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

