BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

20 December 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

As we reach the end of the first term, it is time to celebrate all that we have achieved so far this academic year.

Year 10 and Year 11 students have worked hard in preparation for their internal assessments and mock exams, the Winter Concert was a huge success and we have just completed our first Applied Learning Day of the year. During this time, the timetable was suspended, and students' learning was enriched by a fantastic array of activities from trips to the zoo, museums, art galleries and theatres, to engineering and carnival workshops in school. These fantastic opportunities deepen our students' learning, widen their horizons and inspire them to experience new things, applying their learning to the world beyond the classroom.

At this time of year, we are also mindful of those who are in need of extra help and support. That's why, with your help, we have sent more than 40 hampers into the community to support those in need of a helping hand. Thank you for any donations you were able to send in and to the Helping Hand Appeal student team for creating beautiful hampers.

Students' uniform and equipment have been strong this term, but as we look ahead to the new year, please do take time over the holidays to check uniform and re-stock equipment ready for the start of term on Monday, 8 January when lesson one will be an extended session in form groups. This supports students in preparing for the half term ahead. Your support is much appreciated and makes sure the term gets off to a positive start.

And finally, from me, whether you are about to celebrate Christmas, or are just looking forward to a well-earned break, we wish you all a relaxing holiday and a happy and healthy New Year.

Ms Hames

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 JAN – START OF TERM – **ALL DAY**

8 JAN – Y12 & Y13 MOCK EXAMS BEGIN – **ALL DAY**

25 JAN – YR11 PARENTS' EVENING – **BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM**

8 FEB – YR13 PARENTS' EVENING – **BETWEEN 4.30PM - 7.30PM**

9 FEB – DEAR (DROP EVERYTHING AND READ) – **ALL DAY**

19 FEB – INSET DAY – **ALL DAY**

VIEW FULL CALENDAR

VIEW TERM DATES

THANK YOU AND WE WISH YOU WELL

YEARS 12 AND 13

At the end of term, we notify you of any staffing changes.

Mr Ravani leaves us from the science team to take up a well-deserved promotion as subject leader for Biology. **Ms Silla** also leaves us for a promoted Assistant Headteacher post and looks forward to the new challenges ahead. In addition, **Mr Adu-Mensa** completes his placement with us. We thank our colleagues for all they have contributed to the success and wellbeing of our students and wish them the very best for the future. In addition, we are delighted to say that **Ms Bhati** remains with us as a teacher of Religious Studies but has decided to step down from her Year Leader responsibilities. **Ms Busingye** will be picking up the mantle as Year Leader for Year 7 from January and looks forward to working with our Year 7 students and families in the new role.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS!

ALL YEARS

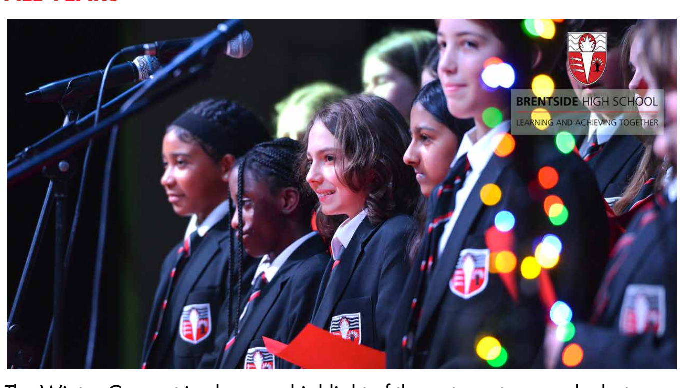
A Brentside we believe in the importance of celebrating all student successes. Our Achievement Journal allows students to capture those successes, both inside and outside the classroom. At the start of every half term, students have Lesson one with form tutors to reflect on their previous half term and record their achievements.

At the end of our first term, we have also recognised and celebrated students' achievements through special assemblies and lunches. Students in each year group with the highest attendance and number of merits were treated to a celebratory VIP early lunch, complete with crackers, to recognise their consistent and praiseworthy contributions to our school.

Well done to everyone who was awarded a place on the VIP table or nominated for a special mention in celebratory assemblies!

WINTER CONCERT

ALL YEARS



The Winter Concert is always a highlight of the autumn term and what better way to end the year than with song and joy.

There were some spectacular performances across a range of instruments, as well as singing, and it was especially wonderful to see so many Year 7 students performing solo with confidence and skill. We were also delighted to have one of our fantastic bass guitar players back from university to give us a guest performance!

Well done to all the students and staff who participated and a huge thanks to the Music Department for giving the students this fantastic opportunity and to *Friends at Brentside* for organising the festive refreshments.

APPRENTICESHIP MARS WORKSHOP

YEAR 13

A group of Year 13 students secured a place on a special Mars workshop giving them the opportunity to apply for an apprenticeship. Students took part in a range of marketing activities using real life situations.

Brentside students were praised for their proactiveness and engagement with the facilitator. In one activity they had to suggest the best method of promoting a new healthy snack in retail outlets. It was great to see our students making suggestions that were used by the Mars team themselves.

This opportunity gave the students an understanding of the range of apprenticeships in Mars and provided an insight into the working world beyond Sixth form.

Congratulations to one of our students who has managed to pass the first stage of the application process and is heading for the finish line!

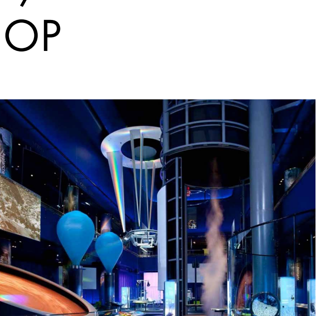
LONDON ZOO

YEAR 7

On Tuesday, as part of Applied Learning Day, Year 7 students visited London Zoo. For many, this will have been their first venture into central London. The students were very excited to be seeing so many animals and learning about their natural habitat. This was a fantastic experience. Many thanks to the Year 7 team and all the staff who accompanied the students on the trip.

SCIENCE MUSEUM/BLUE LIGHTS SERVICE WORKSHOP

YEAR 8



On Applied Learning Day, Year 8 students were split into two groups. While one half took part in a Blue Lights Workshop, the other half of the year group visited the wonder of the Science Museum.

The Blue Lights Workshops focused on all the emergency services and the role each one plays in responding to a 999 call. Speakers will touch on themes of addiction, first aid and awareness.

Year 8 will swap activities for the next Applied Learning Day.

CARNIVAL WORKSHOP/STEM WORKSHOP

YEAR 9

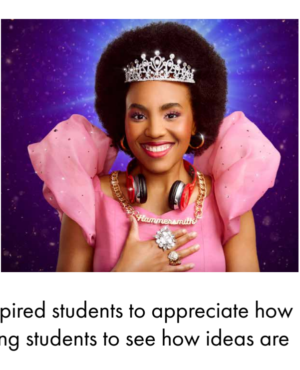
On Applied Learning Day, half of our Year 9 students had the opportunity to take part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) workshop. Students had fun building a rollercoaster, completing an egg drop challenge and even firing a rocket they had built! Students learnt to problem solve in teams and apply their learning to real life scenarios.

Meanwhile, the other half of the year group took part in a carnival workshop, making masks and participating in dance and creative writing workshops.

Thanks to the maths department for running the STEM activity and the Year 9 team for overseeing the Carnival workshop.

A CREATIVE DAY OUT!

YEAR 10



Year 10 were treated to a range of creative trips to support their learning in art, music or drama. Students went on trips to the V&A museum, The Tate Modern, The Design Museum or The Lyric Theatre to see a production of *Cinderella*. ('Oh no they didn't' we hear you cry....)

Visiting art galleries and watching professional drama productions really inspired students to appreciate how their courses link to the real world, enabling students to see how ideas are expressed through a range of art forms.

LONDON 'SAFARI' AND EPQ

YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13

For many of our students, a visit to the city of London is an eye opening and new experience. That's why on Applied Learning Day, our Year 12 students were set the challenge of visiting some of the key sites of London and documenting their visit with a selfie that is shared with staff!

Students got to choose from a range of nineteen different locations and activities, including visiting the Saatchi Gallery, the National History Museum, The Imperial War Museum or a visit to UCL or Queen Mary's Universities to experience first-hand, the wonders of London.

While Year 12 students were touring the sites of London, Year 13 students were using the time to complete their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an impressive additional AS Level, gaining students extra UCAS points. The EPQ develops students' skills in independent research in preparation for the independent learning skills required for further study and employment.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL

ALL YEARS

Every year our Brentside High School community pulls together to support those who are in need of a helping hand. With Ms George and her team of helpers at the helm, this year we managed to create over 40 hampers that have been delivered to families in the community to ensure that everyone can celebrate over the festive period.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the collection to enable us to help others. Your generosity has really made a difference.