



Work by Tasbiha Year 10 Textiles



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS 2022

HEAD TEACHERS MESSAGE

Dear Parent/Carers

It is difficult to believe that we have come to the end of what feels like a relatively 'normal year' after the past few years. As we reflect on the end of the term and school year, I am 'heartened' to feel our community very much coming back together. Whilst the opportunity that a virtual world can bring in terms of time and convenience in the form of zoom meetings, google classroom, Microsoft teams etc, call me old fashioned, but you cannot in the end beat 'face to face meetings, events and conversation'. These are so critical for relationship building, student to student, staff to student, staff to staff and of course the schools' relationship with parents. It has been an absolute pleasure to be able to invite parents back into school for the year group parent events, the arts festival, love literacy event, and of course the school play earlier on in the year.

As you look through this highlights magazine you will see the numerous opportunities that the girls have been involved in over the last term. There is such a huge number of clubs and activities that students can be part of. Please do encourage your daughter to get involved if she isn't already. The end of the year is always a good time for reflection; what could she do next year that she hasn't done yet? How could she develop her confidence through getting involved in a new project? The girl of our 'Brentford vision' is what we all aspire to be. Education is not just about what students learn in lessons, the wider curriculum is equally as important!

As the summer holiday begins, make the most of living in London. We have had a couple of years of pandemic closures. London is a fantastic city where so much can be learnt.

Thank you for all of your support and commitment over the last year

Have a lovely summer

Yours faithfully



Marais Leenders

IMAGINE THE FUTURE BRENTFORD GIRL

*She thrives on challenge and has a desire to fulfil her **LEARNING POTENTIAL**.*

*She is able to think **INDEPENDENTLY** and is **CONFIDENT** in her social and academic capability.*

*She is emotionally aware and emotionally **INTELLIGENT**.*

*She is **CAPABLE** and dependable.*

*She is **RESOURCEFUL** and inquisitive.*

*She embraces the technological world as a global village and is **READY TO INTERACT** with others in the local and worldwide **COMMUNITY**.*

*She accepts the welfare of others as **HER RESPONSIBILITY**.*

*She understands the need for **SUSTAINABLE LIVING** both locally and globally.*

SHE IS READY FOR LIFE IN THE FUTURE , WHATEVER THAT MAY BE

She is the CENTRE OF OUR VISION and will remain the very CORE of our being and PURPOSE



THE MIRACLE OF METAMORPHOSIS

The HUB took on the responsibility to care and nurture for butterflies. When they received them they were only eggs, they then hatched into tiny little caterpillars. The caterpillars fed and grew up to 10 times their original size. At the same time they spun silk ready for their next transition.



After 7-10 days they became chrysalides and the wait was almost over for the students who were eagerly awaiting them to hatch in the mesh habitat. Another 7-10 days wait and the transformation into adult butterflies was complete. The only thing left for the students to do was release them into the wild.



The release of the butterflies was a slow one with some not very eager to leave the mesh habitat. However, with a small bit of encouragement from our students they were on their way into the wild. Some butterflies even landed on our students for what seemed to be a goodbye.



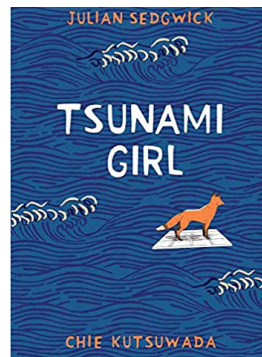
JULIAN SEDGWICK VISITS BRENTFORD

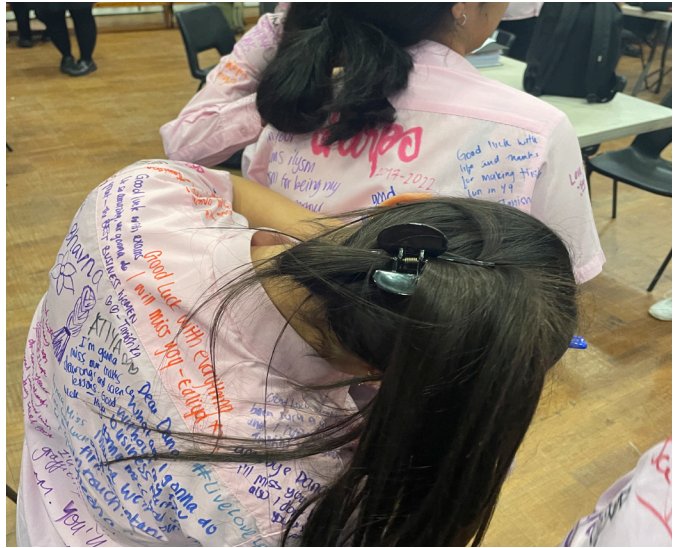
The school was delighted to welcome author Julian Sedgwick on Monday 13th June. Not being able to have someone in the school for a while – this was a long awaited treat!

He spoke about his early childhood, how he became a writer and about his connection with Japan. This led onto him talking about “Tsunami Girl” his latest book. This book is about the Great Eastern Japan earthquake of 2011 and how the people and communities came together to rebuild their lives. The manga illustrations really bring the book to life and are very popular for teenage readers.

There was a clear message in the talk about taking risks, believing in what you want to achieve and not to give up on your dreams and ambitions. In addition, he talked about his own mental health and insecurities and why it is important to look after yourself. He ended the talk with a circus themed juggling act, which tied in with the statement about not getting things right to start with and keep going.

Julian Sedgwick was very engaging and inspirational for the students and staff. He was also gave out free books to two of our students as they asked some interested questions – he said this doesn’t happen very often.





WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT YEAR 11!

On Friday 27th May we said farewell to our year 11s with a celebration of their last five years at Brentford with their 'Record of Achievement' Assembly.

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of year 11 alongside family and friends- where tutors, their heads of year and Ms Leenders shared anecdotes and memories. The girls were presented with a year group photo to commemorate the five years they spent working towards becoming the 'Brentford Girl'.

We are so pleased that many of the girls will be returning for sixth form in September and we can't wait to welcome them back! It was a lovely afternoon for a wonderful year group that have faced many challenges.

"It was lovely to hear the speeches by our tutors and watch the funny videos made by Miss Marsh about our antics over the last five years" Shadee Year 11

"It was nice to have the chance to formally show our appreciation for our tutors and head of year who have helped us enormously in the past five years" Nidaa Year 11



THE FUTURE IS YOURS YEAR 13!

On the 13th of May our Year 13 had their final day before going off on study leave, getting ready for their exams. The day was a celebration of their time here at Brentford, with food and refreshments, the chance to say goodbye to friends and their teachers with well wishes written on tote bags as a sentimental keepsake.

On the evening of Wednesday 29th June we hosted the Year 13 leavers graduation at Kingsway Banqueting, Hounslow. The student sixth form leadership team did a fantastic job of planning the event for their year group and decorating the venue so it could be a memorable event for all those that attended.

The evening included speeches from Ms Leenders, Ms Agnihotri and Mrs Fleck. We also had the pleasure of hearing some great stories from their sixth form tutors; Ms Malek, Mr Butt and Ms Pearce, as well as watching video messages from their subject teachers. The ladies also enjoyed a delicious three course meal, cupcakes, presentations, Year 13 Awards and an opportunity to say farewell to their friends. All those that attended looked beautiful and we wish them all the very best in their next steps.

“May you flourish in all the goals you set for yourself and not let any barriers defeat you”

Ms Agnihotri, Head of Sixth Form



OUR ECO CLUB IS THRIVING

The new Eco Club has 32 passionate members from Year 8, 9 and 12 who volunteer their time weekly to reflect on and improve the schools biodiversity, school grounds and waste and recycling systems.

In order to improve the classroom environment and biodiversity, students planted many succulent plants, chinese money plants, aloe vera plants, and spider plants. Students also planted carrots and potatoes which they will harvest. In doing this they have learned the importance of nature and the ability to grow your own food while recycling old plant pots, watering cans and seedlings.

Students also decided a bug hotel was a necessary way to improve the school's biodiversity after their environmental quality survey. They collected natural materials such as dry sticks, bamboo, loose bark and dry leaves. Many teachers got involved in this project donating materials and an unused book shelf. The project took just over a month creating a fantastic new home for the schools insects such as bees, ants, wasps, beetles, butterflies, ladybirds and grasshoppers.



STAY CONNECTED



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Our Eco Club also created two collection boxes for empty pens using donated empty shoe boxes. They deposit their empty pens in these boxes which are located at three sites around the school. As a school community we use a lot of ball, rollerball and fountain pens made from plastic materials. This will give us an opportunity to recycle these plastic materials effectively. Students have also added signs to recycling bins to educate others on what and how to recycle.

"It is amazing to see passion and action among our young people to protect the world around them and take action to improve their environment. These girls represent a hopeful future!" Ms Spillane



YEAR 12 VISIT CLINK PRISON

Year 12 had the opportunity to have a self-guided tour of the most notorious and oldest medieval prison in Britain by visiting the Clink Prison Museum. This experience not only gave students the opportunity to see sociology in the real world but it deepened their understanding of the history of crime and punishment in the UK and the influence of Sovereign power on punishment.

The visit was educational and thought-provoking, with students learning how inmates were treated, punished, what conditions they lived in, the circumstances around the long serving inmates and how the geographical landscape of London has changed since medieval times.

I enjoyed my visit at the Clink Prison Museum. It was an insightful trip that allowed me to think about the different punishments that was given to prisoners during the time. The museum had a lot of interesting facts. It had cages and fake prisoners which made the museum even more exciting. I thoroughly enjoyed my



EXPLORING FUTURE OPTIONS WITH UCAS



On Tuesday 21st of June, our Year 12 cohort took a trip to Birmingham for the UCAS discovery UK tour. Students got the chance to walk around the exhibition hall getting the opportunity to speak to advisors and representatives from universities and apprenticeships from all over the UK. This allowed them to ask those all important questions and find out what courses were available, specific to each university for the future.



This trip is key for our students to help them understand what choices and routes they have for the future, to make informed decisions once they return after the summer break.

"The Exhibition was really informative and gave me a sense of direction. I would highly recommend students attending."

Nathera Year 12



"The trip widened my knowledge of the number of universities and courses available. It also gave me a better understanding of the sort of grades I should be aiming for." Michelle Year 12

CREATIVE WRITING

Year 8 student Aksa has been acknowledged by her English teacher Ms Miller for her writing work she has had independently published. Ms Miller said “this shows so much resilience and determination!”

Aksa’s passion for writing stems from her interest in reading books, at a very young age. Whilst at primary school, she had two pieces of her work published through YoungWriters. Aksa said “Having seen my work published, boosted my confidence further in Writing, Reading and Creativity.” As a result of this she has continued to produce more creative writing entries and currently has two more independent entries of work in the process of being published this Summer (2022) in the following books - Empowered and Twisted Tales.

“Studies have shown that a child’s engagement in creative writing, increases after being published. Hence I would encourage those who wish to have their work published to continue to read to increase creativity and overall vocabulary.” Aksa Year 8



Empowerment Like No Other

I am an ocean,
the more you dive, the more risk you have of drowning,
that's how strong I am by nature.

I am a phoenix:
gold-hearted, beautiful, majestic, rare.

I am the sun and everyone orbits around me.

I am a rose blossoming into new petals each day.

I am a jewel glistening in the sky.

I am a warrior,
defending the people I love.

I am a butterfly:
pretty to see, hard to catch.

I am all of these things
but, most importantly, I am me and like no other.

This is my empowerment.

Aksa (13)

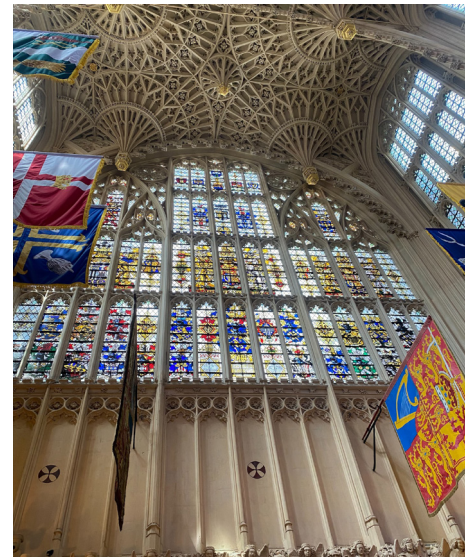


TRIP TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY

As part of our History A-Level course on the Tudors, we set off to Westminster Abbey for a visit to Henry VII's famous Lady Chapel, built as a symbol of Tudor power and wealth, and to visit the tombs of the many Tudor kings and queens who are buried in the Abbey. It was an excellent chance to experience some of the remarkable history of the era and get a deeper understanding of the important role that the church played in Tudor life.

Students got the chance to learn about the different Monarchs who contributed to building the abbey and to find out about some of the important ceremonies and services that have been held there over the years. Activities included a tour of important graves and an exploration of some of the whimsical carvings produced by Tudor builders for the woodwork of the Lady Chapel.

"Despite the heat, it was a lovely day out and ended with a successful visit to the gift shop and a walk over the Thames to finish the day with some sightseeing!" Ms Lancashire



TURNING BACK TIME

In June, we had an Alumni visit from Angela and Nina who attended Brentford School for Girls between the years of 1954 and 1962, when it was known then as Brentford Secondary Modern School. They spent the day revisiting their past memories on a tour around the school site and meeting with sixth form for lunch, followed by some tea and biscuits with year 7. They spoke about what it was like to be a student here all those years ago and how much the school has changed since. They spoke highly of our school's sense of community, their warm welcome from all and how it was a privilege to return.



After their visit Angela wrote the school a lovely letter outlining her and Nina's visit back and how much it meant to them both to be able to do this.

"Once you have a goal, keep it in focus, work hard towards it and don't let others discourage you. Grasp the opportunities open to you now – you will never again have these options in life; school happens but once in a lifetime."

Angela Newbury



A LETTER FROM OUR ALUMNI

TO THE STAFF AND STUDENTS OF BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,

Recently my sister Nina and I had the great pleasure and privilege of visiting you here at Brentford School for Girls. We were warmly welcomed and quickly sensed that this was a happy school where staff and students work in an environment that aims to ensure the best outcome for everyone. Nina and I were pupils between 1954 and 1962 when it was known as Brentford Secondary Modern School where girls who did not pass the Eleven Plus examination continued their education. If you passed the Eleven Plus you went to a grammar school where there were opportunities to study many subjects and take the Ordinary Level General Certificate of Education exams at 16, followed by Advanced Level at 18. Not so at a secondary modern school where expectations were low and pupils left school at 15 years, then the official school leaving age. Our future career options were very limited, mostly to the factories and offices of the light industries along the Great West Road and there was nothing wrong with those jobs. But thanks to a number of visionary teachers, not least our Head Mistress Irene Prebble, we were given the chance to achieve greater things. How times have changed since we were here and so very much for the better with school facilities, choices and opportunities we could only dream of!

It was a great pleasure to meet and talk to groups of year seven and sixth form students, confident, friendly young people with a sense of self worth. And so diverse – but within that diversity a sense of unity and purpose. They have confidence to ask for help knowing that it's there if needed and will be given by caring staff; not the case in our day! Our teachers cared but not on that individual level and they were, mostly, not very approachable. It was encouraging to learn that students are treated as individuals and

not, as we were, simply lumped together as a class where you either sink or swim. The sixth form students we met shared their aspirations and ambitions – some aiming for a university education and clear about the professions they wished to join, others not so sure. If the university route isn't for you, there is support and guidance available for pursuing other avenues, such as apprenticeships or courses at specialist colleges. Work experience, now viewed as an essential part of making the best choices, and escorted mentored visits to universities both assist in deciding which path to take. I can recall nothing like that for us in the 1950s. Do listen to those encouraging you to look beyond your horizons – you could go much further than you dream possible! I did – and qualified as a teacher. There are careers, jobs and professions out there that you are unaware of but to which you may be ideally suited. Once you have a goal, keep it in focus, work hard towards it and don't let others discourage you. Grasp the opportunities open to you now – you will never again have these options in life; school happens but once in a lifetime.

What did we take home from our visit, apart from cherished memories of a very special day and thoughtful gifts? Secondary Modern Schools were at the bottom of the education pile but you have helped us to see our school days in a new, more positive light and to appreciate that we were part of a movement of change in the education system which resulted in the abolition of the Eleven Plus exam and the establishment of comprehensive schools, which aim to give equal opportunities to all students. It is only with hindsight that this has come into focus but we are so proud of what our 'old school' has become and thankful to have been a part of its evolution.

Brentford School for Girls –It was a joy and a pleasure to return after so many years – thank you for making us so welcome. Nina and I wish you continued success in all your endeavours and the brightest of futures.

Angela Newbury – 1954 – 1959 and Nina Mills – 1958 – 1963 [both born BURDEN]

DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL WEEK

During the week 27th June – 1st July, we proudly celebrated our first ever 'Culture and Diversity week', which was really successful and enjoyed by our students and staff.

The week started off with a whole school assembly, the sale of wristbands and a market stall set up by outside organisations; Mind, Our Streets Now, The Prince's Trust, Met Police and Southall Black Sisters. The purchase of wristbands was a colourful and visible representation of our commitment to embracing the diversity of identities amongst people in our school and wider community. Furthermore, our market stall sought to have students gain an insight about the work the organisations do and help promote awareness of issues affecting the diverse groups within our wider community to encourage tolerance, respect and inclusion for all people.

On the Wednesday, we had a student led food sale of delicious cuisine originating from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria, India, Pakistan, Somalia and Bangladesh. On the Thursday we had an entertainment show, where six students danced to songs from South Asia and western pop; the event was sold out and the students thoroughly enjoyed it.

The week ended with a vivid celebration of the cultural diversity that makes BSFG a unique learning community when students and staff came to school in clothes of cultural heritage or significance to them. This was a wonderful end to the week, with the beauty of colours across our school and coming together as a community to embrace the diversity we have.

STAY CONNECTED



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Over the course of the week, students and staff fully embraced all the different opportunities on offer to them and showcased the BSfG community spirit and values. A Year 12 student said “Culture and Diversity week was a great opportunity to explore different backgrounds and acknowledge the diversity at Brentford. It gave everyone the chance to represent their country and appreciate others. This occasion felt extremely welcoming and was a great way to show the inclusivity at Brentford and we wish to see this event again in future years”



@brentfordschoolgirls

WEBSITE

www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk



JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

The Maths Challenge provides material to provoke students' mathematical thinking and test their problem solving skills. Hundreds of thousands of pupils across the UK sat the Junior Maths Challenge this year, including our Year 7 and 8 top set pupils.

We are very proud to announce our winners:

As a school, Brentford School for Girls achieved 34 Bronze, 8 Silver Certificates and 1 amazing Gold certificate!

Congratulations to the Best in the year groups; Yasmin in Year 8 and Rania in Year 7. Yasmin was also the best in the school and the winner of the Gold certificate! Well done Yasmin!

Well done to all those that took part and congratulations to our winners:

Year 7 Bronze winners: Dana, Aneesa, Aylin, Mia, Megan, Gracie Sopie, Sophia, Hanifa, Hania, Umathapasvi, Malvina, Zahra, Khadija, Anaya, Ameira, Ryma, Hayah, Channtel and Sophia

Year 7 Silver winners: Rania, Laiba and Zahra

Year 8 Bronze winners: Irfah, Rida, Sara, Aaliyah, Thea, Mia, Veronica, Sabrine, Menaal, Mashall, Anastasia, Areeba, Melissa and Olivia

Year 8 Silver winners: Rachel, Aliza, Aizah, Haniya and Marwa

Year 8 Gold winner: Yasmin

OUR FIRST YEAR AT BRENTFORD

With the summer holidays approaching, it means our new Year 7 students who started in September 2021 have completed their first year. Here are their thoughts for new starters in 2022.

“On my first day at Brentford School for Girls, I was nervous about barely having anyone I knew here and some of you are probably feeling the same way. I could feel butterflies and I felt really nervous about this new environment and new people. I’m pretty sure everyone kind of feels like that. It was really hard to get around school and learn new names but in the end I kind of fit into that environment, and I know you all will too. If you did come here as the only one from your school or year it’s really easy to make friends just talk to someone. Find things you guys have in common and find out more about each other and day by day and you will become very good friends and feel like you’ve been there since the beginning. I know getting around this huge school might be new to you, but its ok if you get lost - just ask one of the older years and they will be kind and will help you get around the school just don’t be too shy to ask. The teachers are lovely and help you to the most they can in your learning - they are people you can talk to without hesitation. That’s all I have to tell you for now I hope you love Brentford as much as I do and have an amazing year!!”
Zuzanna Year 7

“My first year in Brentford was great! At first it was a bit overwhelming as it was a bigger school compared to primary and I was no longer one of the older people, but gradually, I enjoyed being here. Despite being here for a few months, I’ve learnt so much that I didn’t know before. The teachers helped every step of the way and I felt really welcomed and accepted in the community. It was quite easy to find people I could talk to and hang out with! If I had any worries, I could talk to a trusted teacher who would help me, and that is why my experience in Brentford was great!” *Husna Year 7*

BUSH THEATRE WORKSHOP AND THEATRE TRIP

On Wednesday 6th July Year 10 and 12 Drama students were incredibly lucky to have a 2 hour workshop in our school theatre organised and run by The Bush Theatre alongside their new production 'Favour'.

Students explored themes within the play and explored the dynamics of a complicated family. As part of the partnership, students were then invited to watch the performance of 'Favour' at Bush Theatre in the evening.

"It was really fun to work alongside an actor and create some interesting physical performances"

Lily, Year 10 drama student





SPORTS DAY TRIUMPH

Sports Day was held at Osterley Sports and Athletic Centre this year, on a very hot summers day. We had a range of track and field events for our students to compete in throughout the day. The students who were not competing cheered on enthusiastically from the hill for everyone taking part, showcasing our school spirit!

The students were very competitive in all events especially the tug of war. This really brought out their determined nature and all in the name of their houses. Other events included javelin, long jump, shotput, 100m sprint, 200m sprint, 400m and 800m.

The day was rounded off nicely with the 4X100m relays for each year group, with the very last event of the day being the staff and 6th form relay. This year the PE department took the crown, with last year's winners, team SLT finishing second.

The day was a huge success, students and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our sports day winners for 2022 were Reflective House, However, all the students were amazing in their events and should be very proud.



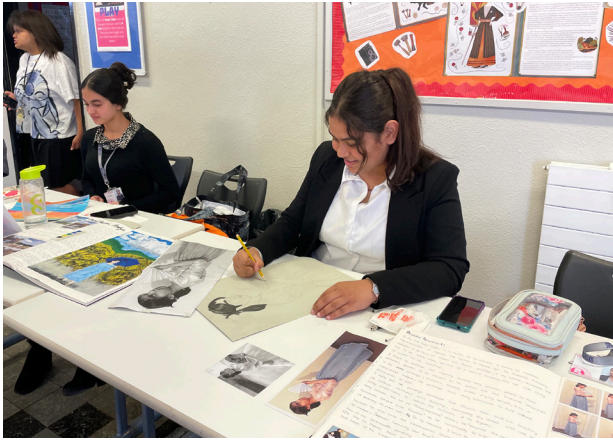
ARTS FESTIVAL

On the 30th June we held our first annual arts festival where we showcased the work of students from Brentford School for Girls and the local community within the arts. It was a wonderful evening where parents, carers and the community joined together to watch, listen and observe some wonderful performances and work from our students.

It was amazing to see so many people come and engage with the arts. It was a real chance for us to demonstrate the talents within our school and the pathways they could follow beyond the classroom with exhibitors from universities, local artists and local clubs.

With so much positive feedback we look forward to organising our next arts event.





STUDENT TERM DATES



BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

BRENTFORD 6th FORM

AUTUMN TERM 2022: THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER TO FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Inset DAYS: Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd September 2022

Year 7 & 12 induction day: Monday 5th September 2022

Student staggered return: Tuesday 6th September 2022

INSET day: 13th October 2022

Half term: Monday 24th October - Tuesday 1st November 2022

School returns: Wednesday 2nd November 2022

Occasional day (School closed to staff & students): Friday 25th November 2022

School ends: Friday 16th December 2022 at 12:30pm

Christmas holidays: Monday 19th December - 2nd January 2023

SPRING TERM 2023: TUESDAY 3RD JANUARY TO FRIDAY 31ST MARCH 2023

School returns: Tuesday 3rd January

INSET day: Wednesday 1st February 2023

School ends: Friday 10th February 2023

Half term: Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February 2023

School ends: Friday 31st March 2023 at 12:30pm

Easter holidays: Monday 3rd April - Fridays 14th April 2023

SUMMER TERM 2023: TUESDAY 18TH APRIL TO THURSDAY 20TH JULY 2023

INSET day: Monday 17th April 2023

School returns: Tuesday 18th April 2023

Bank holiday: Monday 1st May 2023

School ends: Friday 26th May 2023

Bank holiday: Monday 29th May 2023

Half term: Monday 29th May - Friday 2nd June 2023

INSET day: Monday 5th June 2023

School returns: Tuesday 6th June 2023

School ends: Thursday 20th July 2023 at 12:30pm

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BY RAIL

Brentford Station (South West Trains) is about 5 minutes from the school.

BY BUS

Buses: H91, E2, E8, 65, 235, 237, 267, 195

**HOW TO
FIND US**