



BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS  
BRENTFORD & FORM

# AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS 2022



*Work by Tahasina Year 11 Art*

# *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.***

# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

*Dear Parent/Carers*

*I am proud to introduce to you this term's 'Highlights' magazine! What a term of activity it has been. From the launch of 'Blooming Afternoons' to theatre trips, debates with Greta Thunberg, European Day of Languages and many more exciting events. The girls have had so many opportunities to do something different this term and we haven't made it to the end of term yet! [At least as I write this].*

*Our main focus at Brentford is always to develop the confident and ambitious girls linked to our school vision. Broadening the girls' experience beyond the classroom is about developing the girls' confidence and widening their experiences which is critical for success in today's world. Many of our opportunities are open to all girls, but sadly some take these up more than others! If your daughter has not been someone who has joined a club in the past, attended a theatre trip, got involved in the school play, or the debate club, maybe the new year is the time to encourage her to start something new!*

*Life is all about the opportunities that we give our children. As they say 'Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity'!!!*

*Thank you to all parents, carers, staff and students, for your continued hard work across and in partnership with the school.*

*Have a lovely Christmas break,*

*Best wishes*



*Marais Leenders*

*Headteacher*



# CHAIR OF GOVERNORS MESSAGE

*Dear Parents/Carers & students*

*I will start this message with huge congratulations to everyone at the school for the fantastic results in the GCSE and A level exams this past summer. I know the girls were extremely proud of their achievements and that pride was shared by the staff and all of the parents that I was lucky enough to meet at the results days in school – well done to you all.*

*Our amazing results were reflected in an outstanding Progress 8 score which puts us at the top of the table amongst the schools in Hounslow. I and the rest of the governing board send huge congratulations to all involved – the students, their parents and carers, and our amazing school staff who go over and above to ensure every student is given the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Well done to you all for the part you played in this amazing success.*

*A huge thank you to all of the site staff at school – many of you will have noticed that the school has been undergoing a lot of decorating and refurbishment as part of our aim to provide the very best environment for the girls. I know I am not alone in thinking how great it looks when you enter the school. Much of this would not be possible without the hard work of the site team so thank you to them.*

*As usual it has been a busy term at Brentford and it has been lovely for some of the school governors and I to meet the new year 7 students and their families, and see how quickly they have settled in as members of the school community. I know they have been involved in all sorts of activities outside of their lessons and I look forward to meeting more of them as the year progresses.*

*As we all look forward to the Christmas break, I am also looking forward to the Christmas carol concert- for me this is always the start of Christmas and it is always a showcase of the talent we have at Brentford – I look forward to seeing many of you there.*

*There are already lots of things planned for the new year, not least our fantastic school production in February which, as ever, is in the capable hands of Miss Marsh and her team. It will be a good night out. I know rehearsals are well under way and I look forward to seeing the show.*

*As a board, the governors have been pleased to appoint two new parent governors; both of whom have daughters in Year 7 and we are looking forward to working with them over the coming months. We are always looking for parents to join us on the board so if you would like to find out more, please get in touch (I can be reached via the school).*

*I will close by wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas break and look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.*

*Terri George – on behalf of the Governing Body.*



# **STELLAR EXAM PERFORMANCE**

*For the last two years, the performance data of schools across the country were not published as students across England did not sit examinations owing to the pandemic. In the summer of 2022, things returned to normal and students across England sat their public examinations once again. As a consequence of this, the performance tables have been published.*

*The results that are presented show how schools performed at GCSE with the main score called a progress 8 score. This score shows how well students did across eight GCSE subjects including English, Maths and the Sciences. The national average this year was -0.03, demonstrating that students across England did slightly worse than expected based on their targets.*

*At Brentford School for Girls, the students achieved significantly better than this score, achieving a progress 8 score of +1.05. This amounts to the girls at Brentford achieving on average at least one whole grade higher in each of the 8 GCSE subjects in comparison with students across the country, and half a grade higher in the 8 subjects than the Hounslow local authority average!*

*“Whilst, I am not normally one to ‘show off’, these results are definitely worth shouting about! Our students always do really well in their GCSEs and A-levels. In Hounslow we have been one of the highest performing schools for a number of years, but it fills me with great pride to see how well our students performed last year compared to other local schools, particularly given that the learning of students in Year 11 and 13, would have been significantly disrupted by the pandemic over the previous years.” - **MS LEENDERS, HEAD TEACHER***

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Extra-curricular clubs are an important part of our school and are key to developing the Brentford Girl of the future. We have over 30 different clubs to offer ranging from football, chess, debate, keyboard and many more. There is something for everyone here at Brentford. Each term clubs may change, so within the PE department the sports offered are rotated based on the time of year and weather. If you don't already attend a club please consider joining one to experience something new.



Year 8 and 9 Eco-club

## Writers Unlimited

Volume #1



Creative writing club - Writers Unlimited



Netball Club



Violin Club

# **NEW BEGINNINGS**

*September brought with it new beginnings as our new Year 7's joined our school community. Starting secondary school is such an exciting time with so many opportunities for our students as they begin a journey of deeper academic exploration. Some students may feel nervous and anxious but we try and minimise this as much as possible.*

*In June, we welcomed the then year 6 students who were joining us in September to visit Brentford School for Girls and participate in taster workshop lessons specially curated for each subject. It offered students the opportunity to get to know students who were going to be in their cohort and familiarise themselves with the school site, staff and subject leaders.*

*On the first week of school, Year 7's were given opportunities to settle into their new surroundings to make them feel at ease. These included a treasure hunt, team building activities and early lunchtimes. In form time, they were tasked with writing a letter to their future self which they will get to open in Year 11. House activities [run by their house leaders] also took place sparking their competitive side.*

*House competitions run throughout the year and, by the end of the academic year, house points are tallied up with the winning house being rewarded. You can read more about Confident House and their reward trip to Thorpe Park in the next article in this magazine.*

*Year 7 have taken to the transition from primary to secondary school like ducks to water. You wouldn't believe they have only been here for four months. We can't wait to see them grow and flourish on their journey as the future Brentford girl.*

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”* **NELSON MANDELA**



Year 7 making friends and getting involved in activities around school.

# HOUSE REWARD TRIP TO THORPE PARK

The house reward trip to Thorpe Park took place at the end of September. The winning house was Confident House as they earned the most house points last academic year. The students had a great time, despite the park being very busy for the time of year.

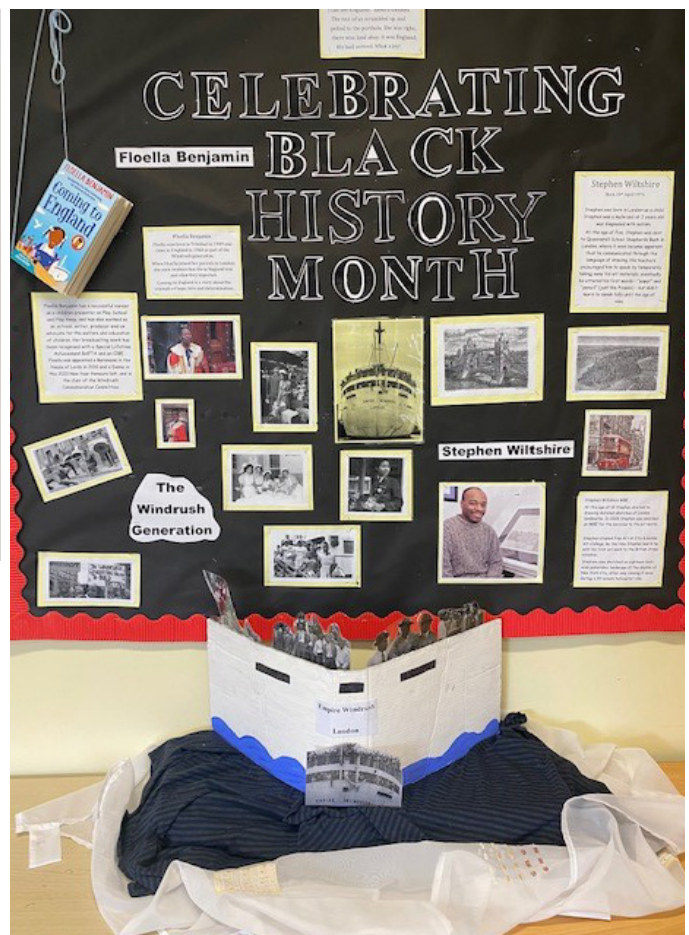
There are numerous house competitions taking place throughout the year including benchball, the interhouse quiz, the singing competition and creating Christmas cards for the aged. Pupils earn house points in a variety of ways including excellent attendance and punctuality, correct uniform, achievements in class and lots of other ways as listed in pupils' journals.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Our 2022 celebration of Black History Month followed the 2023 American Black History Month theme of Health and Wellness. In honour of the NHS turning 75 years old on 5th July 2023 and 22nd June 2023 marking 75 years since HMS Windrush arrived in Tilbury, we celebrated the acts of service and sacrifice of black people who arrived from all over the Commonwealth to support our health sector.*

*Our whole school celebration included an assembly focused on black pioneers and the accomplishments of influential black healthcare workers. In tutor time, students discussed the importance of representation in healthcare and we had lunchtime screenings of documentaries of pivotal moments in black history, including the story of Ruby Bridges. Students also had the opportunity to explore, research, discuss and watch the contribution of black people to their subject areas.*





# ***INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES WEEK***

*In September #EuropeanLanguagesDay was adapted here at Brentford School for Girls into #InternationalLanguageweek as we recognise that our students speak a wider range of languages from across the world. Celebrating languages at Brentford is very important to us as we are a multicultural school, with inclusion and diversity being a key aspect here.*

*Year 7 were tasked with a treasure hunt where they were given 20 clues which they then had to match up with a teacher. Clues included “this Science teacher lived in Turkey and would love to learn Spanish one day.” Once students matched all 20 clues to a teacher, they then had to hand it back to Ms Charbonnier, Head of Languages. Year 7 students loved the challenge which also allowed them to familiarise and talk to teachers they may not of known previously.*

*In form time, all year groups took part in the languages quiz and had the chance to enter the ‘why learn languages?’ poster competition.*

## **Competition Winners Year 7**

Cerys      Aisha  
Holly      Amaani  
Diana

## **Competition Winners Year 8**

Channtel      Maia      Heena  
Hayah      Harpuneet      Javeria  
Ellie      Simran      Samia  
Fathima



**Year 7 taking part in the European Day of Languages form time quiz**

# **BLOOMING AFTERNOONS**

*As a part of the PSHE/BLOSSOM curriculum run at Brentford School for Girls, the BLOSSOM team have developed a programme for students to be able to partake in activities beyond their academic studies and allow them to discover who they are outside of their academic studies.*

*Dubbed as 'Blooming Afternoons', students are given the opportunity to try something different and outside of their comfort zones.*

*Tuesday 4th October marked our debut 'Blooming Afternoon' and it was an exciting day for Year 11 to get stuck into a range of activities that both challenged them and helped them along their personal development journeys. They took on inflatable assault courses, played swing ball and became sumo wrestlers to battle with fellow students.*

*"It was a fun and new experience that allowed us to wind-down. It didn't feel like we were at school – it felt like a trip. 5 stars!" - UMARA YEAR 11*

*After the success of the Year 11 'Blooming Afternoon', on Friday 11th November Year 7 had their 'Disco Soiree'. They enjoyed snacks, smooth moves and photo opportunities. As each afternoon is designed specifically for the targeted year group, the aim of this drop down afternoon was for Year 7's to be able to socialise as a whole year group, fortifying their transition period and helping them flourish into the future Brentford girl.*



Year 11 on the assault courses



Year 7 Disco as part of their 'Blooming Afternoon'

# ***KNITTING AND STITCHING SHOW***

*In October, the A level textiles students went to the Knitting and Stitching show at Alexander Palace. The show was packed with hundreds of stalls selling all manner of textiles equipment, and an array of fabrics, ribbons and trimmings; it was a haberdashery Aladdin's cave!*

*The students attended particularly to look at the contemporary textile artist's stands to see the work of a huge range of artists. All students found atleast on piece of work that they were excited by and that they could use to and influence their own coursework upon returning to school.*

*Whilst there, students had the opportunity to join a crochet workshop where they were taught how to crochet spirals. This gave them a new skillset which, if desired, they could then use in their own textiles work. The trip went extremely well, enjoyed by all and its influence will be seen within the girls' work.*



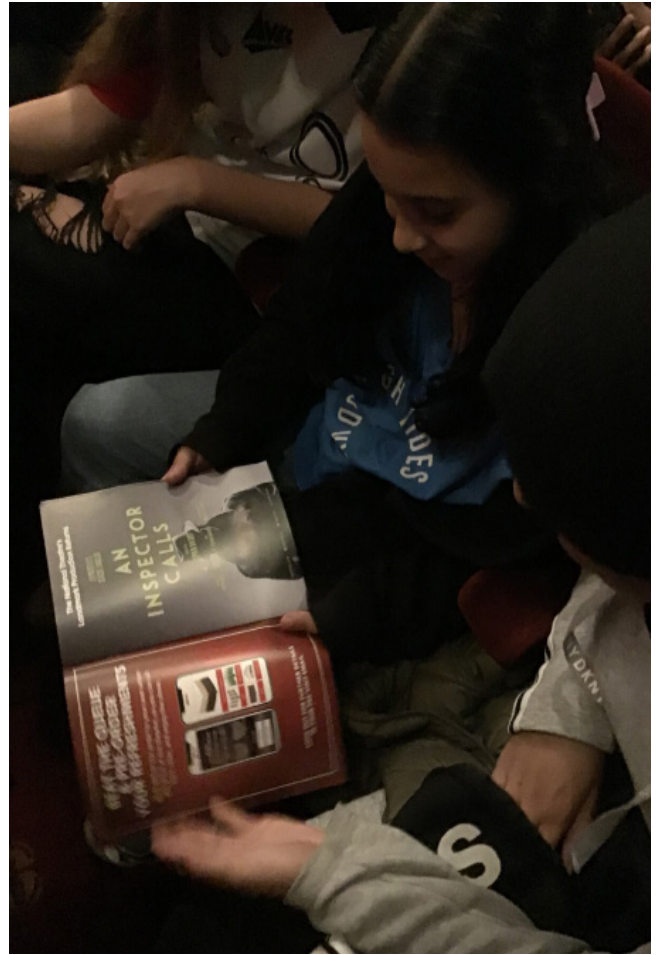
# **YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TAKE ON GRETA THUNBERG**

*Our Year 12 geography students were given the opportunity to watch a broadcast of Greta Thunberg being interviewed on biodiversity and climate change in which they also had the great opportunity to ask questions to her and have them answered. They found this greatly benefitted their knowledge on the topic as well as their understanding of the environment and global affairs, as both a political topic as well as an environmental one. Besides this, the students were able to develop their employability skills as they used critical thinking and initiative to discuss questions they submitted to be answered by Greta. The students showed good communication and listening skills to focus on increasing their knowledge on this extremely current and important topic of which they feel strongly about.*

*From watching this broadcast, they learnt about many different things. They found out about global climate issues that are currently impacting our world. Including that we are losing 10 hectares of forests every year (which is equivalent to the size of Iceland!), and 1 million species are threatened with extinction due to climate change.*

*This broadcast has allowed the students to broaden their knowledge on the human and physical topics they study in A-Level geography. Course topics such as weathering, ecosystems and the carbon cycle are all affected by climate change and biodiversity. Due to climate change, many ecosystems are under stress and there has been detrimental effects to ecosystems and biodiversity as a result. The broadcast highlighted for the students the importance of governments and TNCs to take initiative to change their fossil fuel usage for more sustainable practices and the importance of systematic changes in having a positive impact on people in the environment. The discussion of COP26 and COP27 creates links to human geography due to the political nature of the topic and physical geography as it focuses on the current situation of the environment and the future action to take place as a result of the negotiations made at these events.*





# THEATRE TRIPS

As our commitment to developing the students "Cultural Capital", we have run three theatre trips this term. Firstly, the English Department led a trip for Year 10 students to see 'An Inspector Calls' to assist students in the study of the play for their English Literature examination in the summer.

In addition, the Drama department led two trips for GCSE and A Level drama students to see 'Six' the musical and 'Caucasian Chalk Circle'. The theatre performances offer the students an opportunity to experience a live performance and see first hand the workings of a theatrical production. Students really embrace and enjoy these trips returning back to their lessons inspired.

*"I love going to the theatre with school as you get the chance to see different styles of performance you might not normally have the chance to see. Its great to see how the professionals perform and bring that knowledge back to my own performance."*

## MATILDA YEAR 11



## 6TH FORMER FOR A DAY

*On Monday 26th September, our Year 11 students experienced a day in the life of a 6th Former, coming to school in their own smart business attire as they would when they join our sixth form. Prior to the day, students chose four A Level or BTEC subjects they would like to experience during the day. As well as getting a taster of how lessons are delivered at sixth form, they also got to experience an independent study lesson. They were spoken to by our Head Girl, Julia, and other members of the 6th form leadership team, as well as students who are currently studying their A-Levels. Year 11 thoroughly enjoyed the day and the chance to get an insight into the sixth form that many of them will be progressing into next year.*

*"I have learnt new things, which gave me an idea of what to do when I finish school. The 6th formers were really honest. They gave me an insight about the sixth form, which was really helpful.....they told us what to expect and they gave really good advice and were motivating."*

**YEAR 11 STUDENT**

*"Overall, this was a good encounter for me as I got some experience about sixth form life. I acknowledged that the teachers were very supportive in helping to understand the subject and I also felt like I was treated as an adult and not a child."*

**YEAR 11 STUDENT**



# **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL**

*International Day of the Girl allowed students from years 9 to 13 to attend an event on the London Eye, where they engaged in professional mentoring from women across an array of professional backgrounds. The event was a chance to celebrate women and girls and to inspire the next generation of the future. Students had the chance to connect with established women in professions which they may not have had access to otherwise.*

*Trips like these are important to our school community, allowing our students opportunities to get ahead and be equipped ready to make informed decisions for their future pathways. It also opens doors which may have never been available without chances like these on offer.*

*“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” - OUR VISION*



## **ECO CLUB TAKES ON WINGS OF HOPE**

*Our Eco club is currently working with the “Wings of Hope” charity to make a difference to those less fortunate than us by giving them the gift of education; a gift that our girls at Brentford School for Girls value greatly. We have approached this project through an environmental scope while building students skills for future employability.*

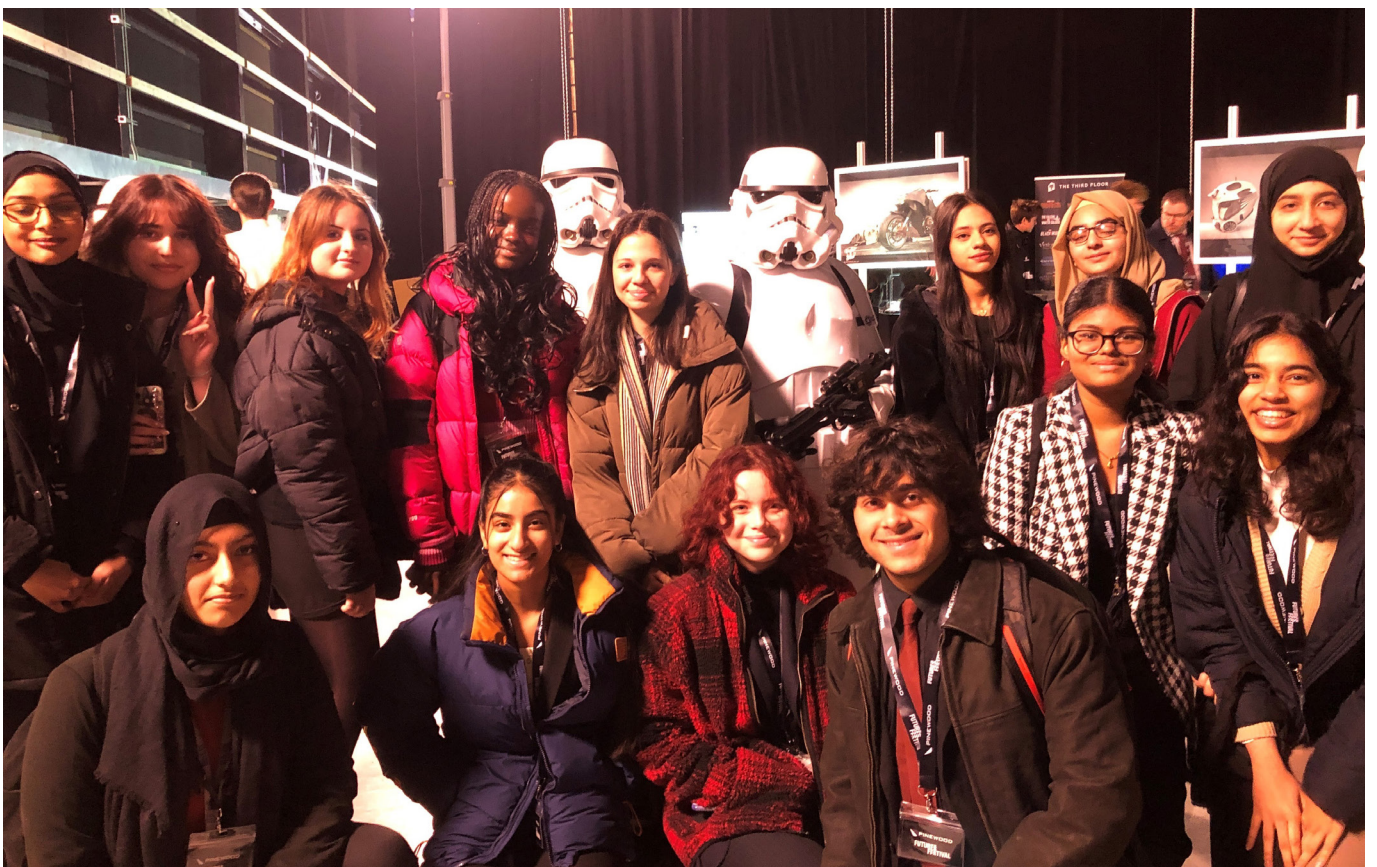
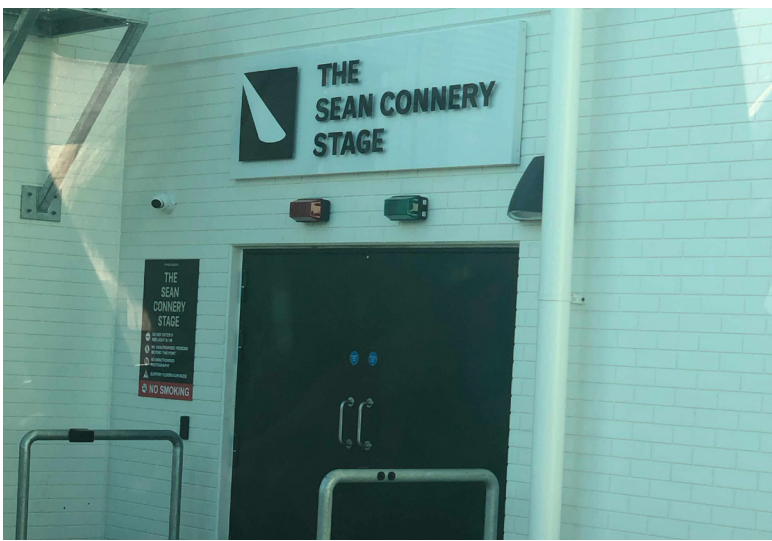
*We have three groups of students who have been inspired to go above and beyond to improve our school community while raising money for those in need of education. Each group must plan two fundraisers and a community project within a 6-week period. Our groups are working on fundraisers such as diversity bake sales, Christmas themed plants, crepe sales, and a Christmas bake sale. Their community projects are based on an environmental survey of the school. One of the groups have identified a need for pen and whiteboard marker recycling and will create recycling stations in three locations of our school. We will collect these items at the end of each term and recycle them at a primary school in Kew. While another group have identified the need for bird houses to improve the biodiversity of our school further after introducing a bug hotel last year.*

*These groups are working closely with Miss Spillane, Miss Parker and our amazing careers lead, Miss Brown. Through this project they will develop many employability skills such as collaboration, organising events, teamwork, communication skills and finance skills. These skills will benefit them greatly in future careers and in their everyday lives. We hope many teachers and students engage with our fundraiser to provide educational opportunities to students all over Britain.*

*“The Brentford School for Girls student fundraising challenges formed part of the Wings of Hope Achievement Award (WOHAA), a nationally recognised social enterprise programme giving students the opportunity to gain valuable employability skills through mentoring and workshops, whilst raising money for other” - **MS BROWN***



Year 8 and 9 Eco-club



# **PINEWOOD STUDIOS**

*This autumn term, the Film Studies department secured tickets for the second Pinewood Futures Festival, a career event held at the studios giving students the chance to learn more about the vast array of job opportunities which exist in this fast growing sector of the UK economy. This year we took A level students studying film, drama, art, photography or textiles and who had an interest in finding out more about working on movies, TV or in the games industry. What a day it was! We chatted with visual effects specialists at ILM (Industrial, Light and Magic) who run internships for talented visual effects artists and have a wonderfully diverse and inclusive workforce where talent is the only prerequisite.*

*One of the highlights of our visit was a talk by Oscar and BAFTA winning special FX supervisor and director Chris Corbould whose credits include Skyfall, The Dark Knight and Inception, about the world of physical special effects in movies. We came away with a much clearer understanding of the importance of science and engineering in creating the extraordinary effects we see in big budget movies. Filmmaking is about harnessing all the talents to tell the best stories in the most exciting and relevant ways and there is as much a place for engineers in this world as there is for artists and actors.*

*The final hour was a chance for the students to make contacts in the careers fair section where there were information stands including the National Film and Television School, ScreenSkills, The London Screen Academy and Fremantle. The students were wonderfully proactive in seeking out things that interest them and found out about some great opportunities for career progression including Level 4 courses and internships to apply for after A level.*

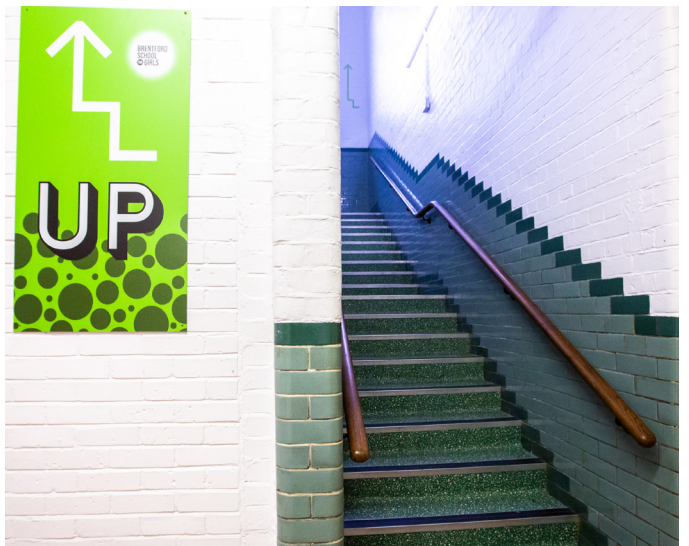
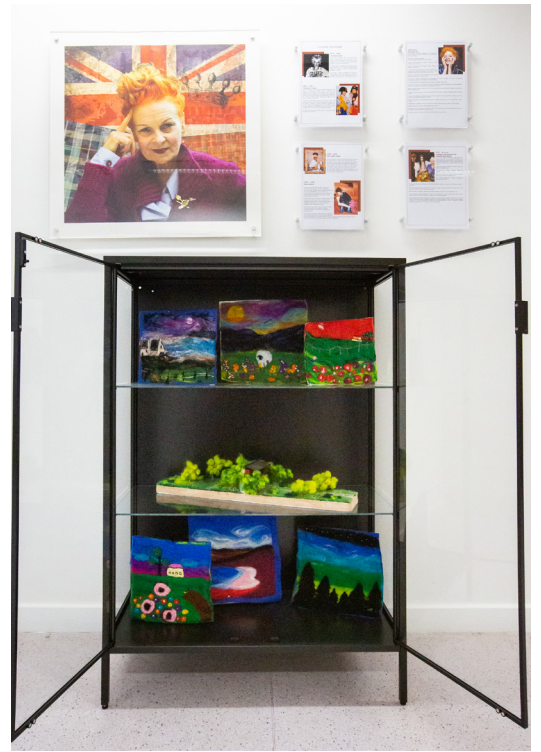
*“Pinewood futures festival was a once in a lifetime opportunity. Being able to see first hand things behind the scenes, such as lighting equipment, management and camera equipment. I could have never imagined this much work went into one project. Finding out that, no matter your passion, you’ll always be able to find an opening in the film Industry was immensely helpful. Overall the experience was 10/10.”* **SARA YEAR 12**

## ***A NEW LEASE OF LIFE***

*Over the summer break and October half term decorators and Jacqueline Douglas an interior designer, have been incredibly busy refurbishing the inside areas of some of the school buildings. Ensuring they are vibrant and reflect the school's strong and empowering ethos, they have brought the buildings up to date and given them a new lease of life.*

*Buildings that have been refurbished include Curie, Moles, Westwood, Pankhurst and the Heart. Jacqueline Douglas has been working alongside the Headteacher, Ms Leenders, and the school council to create the plan of implementing a change of colour schemes, furnishings and imagery in the buildings. The vision was to modernise areas of the school as well as bringing out some of the school's beautiful original features including mosaic tiling, solid oak bannisters, high ceilings and large windows.*

*The reaction to the freshly painted walls and repurposed areas have been positively received from both students and staff, not forgetting visitors and ex-students. The fresh colours bring an uplifting and positive vibe to the school atmosphere adding to our already great community feel here at Brentford.*



**STUDENT TERM DATES**



**BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**BRENTFORD 6<sup>th</sup> FORM**

## **SPRING TERM 2023**

**INSET day:** *Tuesday 3rd January 2023*

**School returns:** *Wednesday 4th January 2023*

**INSET day:** *Wednesday 1st February 2023*

**School ends:** *Friday 10th February 2023*

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

**School returns:** *Monday 20th February 2023*

**School ends:** *Friday 31st March 2023*

*We will notify you of any changes throughout the year. These dates can also be found on our website.*

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STAY CONNECTED



@brentfordschool



@brentfordschoolgirls

WEBSITE [www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk)

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**BSFG  
ON SOCIAL  
MEDIA**

*PLEASE FOLLOW US USING OUR SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES*



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*The school has three platforms on which we highlight what is going on in the school as it happens.*

**CONTACT  
US**

*TELEPHONE*

02085682093

*WEBSITE*

[www.brentfordschool.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.brentfordschool.hounslow.sch.uk)

*GENERAL ENQUIRIES*

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**HOW TO  
FIND US**

*BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS*

5 Boston Manor Road

Brentford

Middlesex

TW8 0PG

*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*



**BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**  
**BRENTFORD 6<sup>th</sup> FORM**