



BRENTFORD SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

HIGHLIGHTS

M A G A Z I N E

**INSPIRATION
FOR THE
MODERN
YOUNG
STUDENT**

Autumn Term 2023
HIGHLIGHTS



EDUCATION

COMMUNITY

INSPIRATION

MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carers

The festive season is upon us and, as we approach the end of another year, we take this opportunity to look back on the achievements of our pupils and staff this term through this Highlights magazine. Additionally, we look forward to all that 2024 will bring so that we can continue to develop the Brentford Girl through all these exciting and rewarding experiences!

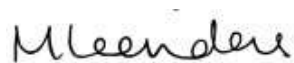
Of the many events that have kept us busy this term, and there have been many, for me one of the most enjoyable was welcoming parents of Year 11 into the school for their first ever face to face parents evening on the 14th December. It was wonderful to see the school hall filled with staff, students and parents and the energetic 'buzz' from everyone being together and the conversations being held was reminiscent of a time pre-pandemic when we would often host events that brought us together as a community. This is something we are intent on re-establishing as much as possible in the years ahead as we know how crucial the relationship between home and school is if the girls are to flourish and achieve academic success.

We are also incredibly proud of all the students in our school's diversity group who, through their efforts at the recent school 'House Sales', raised £673.97 towards the charity 'Doctors Without Borders' who provide medical assistance to people affected by conflict, disasters and epidemics.

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

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents, Carers & Students

It has been another busy term and I am sure that, like me, you are looking forward to the holidays and being able to spend time with your family and friends.

Our Year 7 pupils have settled into their new school and are fully embracing life at Brentford School. I have been lucky enough to meet a lot of them over the term and I never fail to be impressed by their confidence, their maturity and their zest for everything Brentford. I look forward to seeing their achievements over the coming months & years.

The open evening for the year 6 students was a great success. All of the girls who helped out demonstrated the qualities that make 'The Brentford Girl' and showed, yet again, how lucky we are to have them. The feedback from visiting parents and pupils was incredibly positive and we look forward to welcoming many of them to year 7 next September.

As always, there has been a full calendar of extra curricular activities. Our sports teams have been competing against local schools and every member of the teams give 100%. Whether they win, lose or draw – they are all champions.

Our amazing careers team have organised several events this term to give the girls opportunities to find out about possible roles for the future. These sessions are priceless and give the girls chances to find out about career paths they may not yet have considered.

Year 7 all enjoyed a trip to see Shrek The Musical and other members of the audience commented on how well behaved and polite the girls were. The Year 9 & 10 drama students went to see a production of 'Ocean at the End of the Lane', which was enjoyed by them all and some of our incredibly talented students were invited to perform at the Feltham Festival.

In aid of charity we have also had "odd sock day" and "wear it pink" day and the end of this term is marked by collecting items together to go into hampers for some of our local elderly people.

I will close by wishing you all a peaceful holiday and a very happy new year. I look forward to meeting many of you at events over the coming months, not least our incredible production of "The Little Mermaid" in February (don't forget to get your tickets before they sell out!)

Best wishes

Terri George
Chair of Governors

Discover a selection of news articles
that have been published in the Herald Hounslow Newspaper
www.brentford.hounslow.sch.uk/newsarticles

SCHOOL REFURBISHMENT

PHASE 4



NEW MULTI-PURPOSE OUTSIDE SPACE

One of the highlights of Phase 4 was landscaping a central section of the outdoor space (known as the Quad).

Previously, this area housed a large storage unit - which sat outside the dining hall, proving quite an eyesore! Updating this area was a huge endeavour. Clive, the School Site Manager, was able to find a buyer for the cabin - as long as it could be transported to another part of the country in one piece. This involved a lot of planning - including the main road closing in order for huge lorries and cranes to access the school and painstakingly dismantle the cabin. It was quite nail-biting as the cabin hung suspended in the air for a while!

However the work was successful and enabled the school to wave goodbye to the old building. Thanks to Clive it also meant that money was earned from its sale and the school was able to fulfil its commitment to sustainability. Following this, the landscaping company were free to crack on with creating a green space for the students - a multi-functional space to eat, socialise and operate as an outdoor classroom.

Jacqueline Douglas, the interior designer overseeing the project, also designed a raised platform at one end, to operate as an outdoor performance space for students in future.



This year the school refurbishment plans were really ambitious -and I was delighted to be involved once again in the design and roll out of the works. 'Thanks to a huge group effort from staff and trades we tackled a variety of communal areas so that all of the students were able to benefit.' Jacqueline Douglas

- MOLES QUAD: REMOVAL OF THE CABIN, LANDSCAPING, NEW SEATING
- CANTEEN: DECORATION, IT, ELECTRICS, NEW ACOUSTICS, FURNISHING, CANTEEN: DESIGNING FOR THE SENSES



www.jacqueline-douglasdesign.com M:07801541260

When I set about re-designing the canteen, I considered how I wanted the school students to feel in the space: safe, secure, sociable... I also considered how all 5 senses: taste, touch, smell, sight, sound came into play in this environment.

Interior Designer, Jacqueline Douglas

We tackled the refurbishment in a number of ways, making long term investments so that the canteen could become a multi-purpose space:

- Creating a dynamic, communal space that feels like a commercial café
- Changing the layout to make it feel more welcoming and sociable
- Installing a new acoustic system to enhance a sense of calm
- Introducing a tranquil colour palette, natural materials and plants to enhance and zone the space
- Installing new tech that enables training, teaching and as a social hub.
- The space can be used throughout the day; for teaching, training and as a break out space -making it more energy efficient
- Introducing the Head's Top Table enables students to dine with Senior Teachers on a regular basis.

And the good news is -more students are now enjoying hot meals!

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering inside school helps our students learn essential life skills and values, such as empathy, teamwork, leadership, and communication. These skills can be useful in new passions and interests. By engaging in school volunteer work, our children can learn that they can make a positive impact in society, and that's a valuable lesson that can last a lifetime.



NEW STUDENT PRESS TEAM

We have a talented team of 6th Form students who serve as our School Student Press Team as part of their extracurricular activities.

They collaborate with our Marketing/Media department to capture footage and edit photos for both internal and external school events. Their contributions have been exceptional, and we are sincerely grateful for their assistance. This opportunity provides them with valuable hands-on experience in the field of Marketing/Media.

The magazine features numerous photos skillfully captured and edited by our exceptional student press team.



Rithika, Mabli, Isabel & Leanna

MATHS MASTERCLASSES



Throughout the autumn term, three of Brentford School for Girls' budding Year 9 mathematicians have been attending the Royal Institution of Mathematics Masterclasses.

"I enjoyed learning about the higher level Maths topics and new experiences. Additionally, I loved meeting new people who have the same interests and making new friends. The activities we did were really fun. The topics we learnt were not topics we would causally learn in school, for example Binary numbers, so it was a new experience. Overall, I had an amazing time at the Royal Institution because of the variety of opportunities available to me." Uma

"We learnt many new things and made new friends from other schools across London. In our first session, we learnt about Binary numbers and throughout the sessions there were lots of different scientific and mathematical topics being taught which we wouldn't necessarily get the chance to learn about our- selves. I had a really fun time at the Royal Institution. Everyone was welcoming and I have made new friends. Overall, it was an amazing experience and opportunity to be a part of." Aneesa

"During my time at the Royal Maths Institution I have had plenty of fun and have enjoyed the learning journey. There were many opportunities to make new friends and learn new topics. The lessons were enjoyable, creative and helped us to expand our knowledge and deepen our interest in Maths. I hope to experience more opportunities like this" Ryma

These mathematics masterclasses are expertly organised and conducted by the Royal Institution in Westminster and held on Saturdays allowing students to collaborate with students from various schools.

The masterclasses are a series of workshops, led by mathematics enthusiasts from industry, academia and education.

The overarching goal is to foster a deep appreciation and fascination for mathematics among young individuals while instilling a genuine passion for the subject.

The Masterclasses aimed to inspire young people in the beauty and wonder of mathematics and to develop a sense of enjoyment in the subject.

They offered pupils in-depth investigations of topics in mathematics from beyond the normal curriculum.



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

On Monday 13th November, as a commemoration of the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week, we observed Odd Socks Day. Our students & staff joined in wearing two mismatched socks to show our support.



CAREERS TALKS

So You Want to be a ... Software Engineer?
Tuesday 5th December 8:30am in T2
Debunking Common Myths on being a women in Tech

December careers talk

Bhawana is a senior Software Engineer and will be talking about her success in this sector

Myth buster!

Book your place via your tutor

STEM AMBASSADORS
BSFG CAREERS
PAVING THE WAY TO SUCCESS

The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>

This is to certify that

Brentford School for Girls, Greater London
has been assessed and accredited as
"Fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks"
for the national quality award
for its careers education, information,
advice and guidance provision.

The award is for a period of up to 3 years,
expiring at the latest on 03rd June 2026

Paul Hobson
(Paul Hobson) CEO
CSW Group trading as Investor in Careers

Awarded on 03rd June 2023 by Investor in Careers

CSW
Investor in Careers
as a Licensed Awarding Body
for the national Quality in Careers Standard

There have been a number of great SYWB career talks this term including one with Senior Software Engineer Bhawana Haritwal. She has over a decade of experience working in technology and transitioned into various roles across countries. She actively participates as a STEM Ambassador. In her spare time, she volunteers for women in tech communities and enjoys teaching technical topics.

In this talk Bhawana Haritwal shared the skills required for the tech sector, dispel any myths that surround the industry and what it can be like for women.



— Career Talks

Meet Becky

from Becky's Bazaar



We also had the pleasure of hosting Becky from Becky's Bazaar for a virtual session on entrepreneurial success.

Becky, a passionate advocate for sustainability and recycling, embarked on her journey by launching an online shop specialising in vintage sportswear.

During her insightful presentation, Becky shared valuable insights into the establishment of her business, leveraging social media for effective marketing, and honing her entrepreneurial prowess.

This provided our BSfG students with an exclusive behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of thriving entrepreneurship.

IMPACT OF CAREERS WEEK

Lyla (7FL)

'The careers talks I have been to were really interesting and helped me see what people's lives are like, based on their career choices'

Ariella(7FL)

'Going to the careers talks is a really fun way of understanding what you actually do in a job and finding out what job options there are and how I can do them in my future life'

Maya(7FL)

'I like careers talks as they help me get an idea of what I want to do in the future and how to get there'

And also:

- It was a helpful presentation
- This really helped people get more inspired to start a business
- This talk inspired me into wanting to make my own business
- This really helped me in what I wanted to do in the future-And to what I want to choose in my A-levels
- This talk made business seem more fun and interesting

BOOK BUZZ

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from BookTrust that aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in 11 to 13-year-olds.

'The students just couldn't wait to get their hands on their book.' J. O'Sullivan Head of Library Resource Centre

To get books into hands of students who may not have books at home was the best part about Bookbuzz. To see children hug a book after you have told them that it is theirs to keep was a special moment,



BOOK



BUZZ

2023

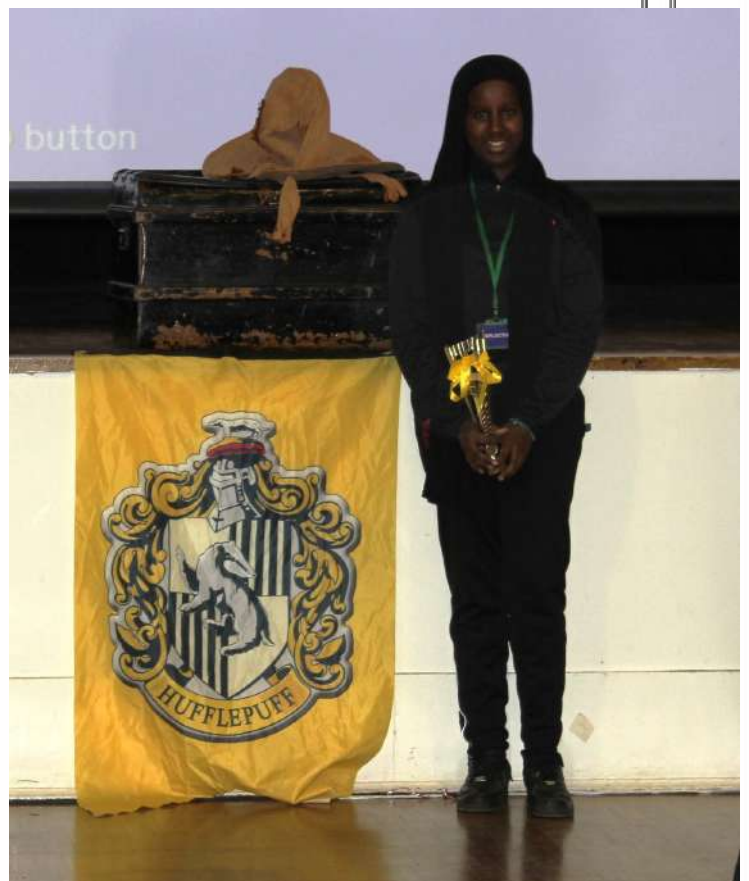


YEAR 8 QUIDDITCH

We organised a fabulous opportunity for Year 8s to delve into the enchanting world of Harry Potter and experience the thrill of taking flight in a captivating game of Quidditch. An external company was brought in to provide valuable insights into the skills required to excel as a top flight Quidditch player.

Our Head of Health and Social Care, Ms. Williams, delivered an exceptional Herbology session where students had the opportunity to learn about the numerous advantages of herbs and even create their own potions.

It was a truly memorable day for all.



YEAR 8 QUIDDITCH



YEAR 8 HERBOLOGY SESSION



Students participating in a herbology session where they discovered the multitude of benefits associated with herbs, and had the opportunity to craft potions with them.



YEAR 8 HERBOLOGY SESSION





A VERY SPECIAL VISIT TO OUR SCHOOL

Visit from Ruth Cadbury, Labour MP



Ruth Cadbury, the Labour MP for Brentford and Isleworth, came to speak with BSfG Sixth Formers about **British values**, ahead of their assembly cycle of delivering on each of the values to all year groups.

CONGRATULATIONS



The Senior Netball Team achieved a commendable result by securing the second position in the borough rally.

The Year 10s displayed remarkable sportsmanship and courage as they stepped up into the senior league, competing against highly talented senior teams.

Congratulations to all team members for their exceptional performance!

Brentford School for Girls proudly announced that it had become a 'Step Into Dance' school in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Dance. A delightful treat was arranged for some of our hip hop dance group members, as they were graciously presented with an award.

The students had the privilege of not only exploring an intriguing dance style, but they also had the opportunity to learn from a specialist practitioner. It was truly wonderful to witness the girls' confidence blossoming as they embraced this new challenge.

Miss Marsh expressed her joy in seeing the girls' growth and their unwavering determination.



The Step Into Dance: Hip Hop class takes place every Friday after school from 3:20-4:20pm.



FILM STUDIES

FILM STUDIES TRIP to Ciné Lumière for Year 12 & 13

On the 14th of November the Film Studies department ran a cinema trip for A level students to see 'Close' by Lukas Dhont, a Belgian filmmaker, at the Ciné Lumière in the Institut Français in South Kensington.

The award winning film is a powerful exploration of the complexity of young teen relationships focusing on two twelve year old boys who are best friends but who are mistaken for being more than this. Played out against the context of families and school, the film deals with difficult themes in a sensitive and subtle way. The students were moved by the film and have been reflecting on it as part of their studies. Mr. Holloway



YEAR 10 JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT



Year 10 had the opportunity to sign up for one of the thirty places in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop this term.

It was a one day workshop where students took part in activities designed to improve their confidence and delivery in public speaking. This also helped to prepare them for their English Language Spoken exam. The best speakers on the day also had the opportunity to compete to represent the school at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Regional Final.

We have had a history of success in this competition. Last year we hosted this event as we had the Regional final winner the previous year. In the recent past, we also had two National finalists representing BSfG and hoped to carry on this trend this year.





6TH FORM V&A MUSEUM TRIP

Year 12 and 13 students had the opportunity to visit the 'Diva' exhibition at the V&A Museum. This highly educational experience not only provided enjoyment but also served to enhance their coursework through the invaluable process of conducting primary research.



YEAR 7 PANTO TRIP

Dick Whittington

As part of our festive celebrations and the development of cultural capital, on Wednesday, December 13th, Year 7 had the opportunity to attend a delightful pantomime, "Dick Whittington" at the renowned Richmond Theatre. The pantomime was an action-packed performance that was undoubtedly brimming with comedy, featuring elaborate costumes and breathtaking scenery that truly enhanced the overall experience.



ECO CLUB

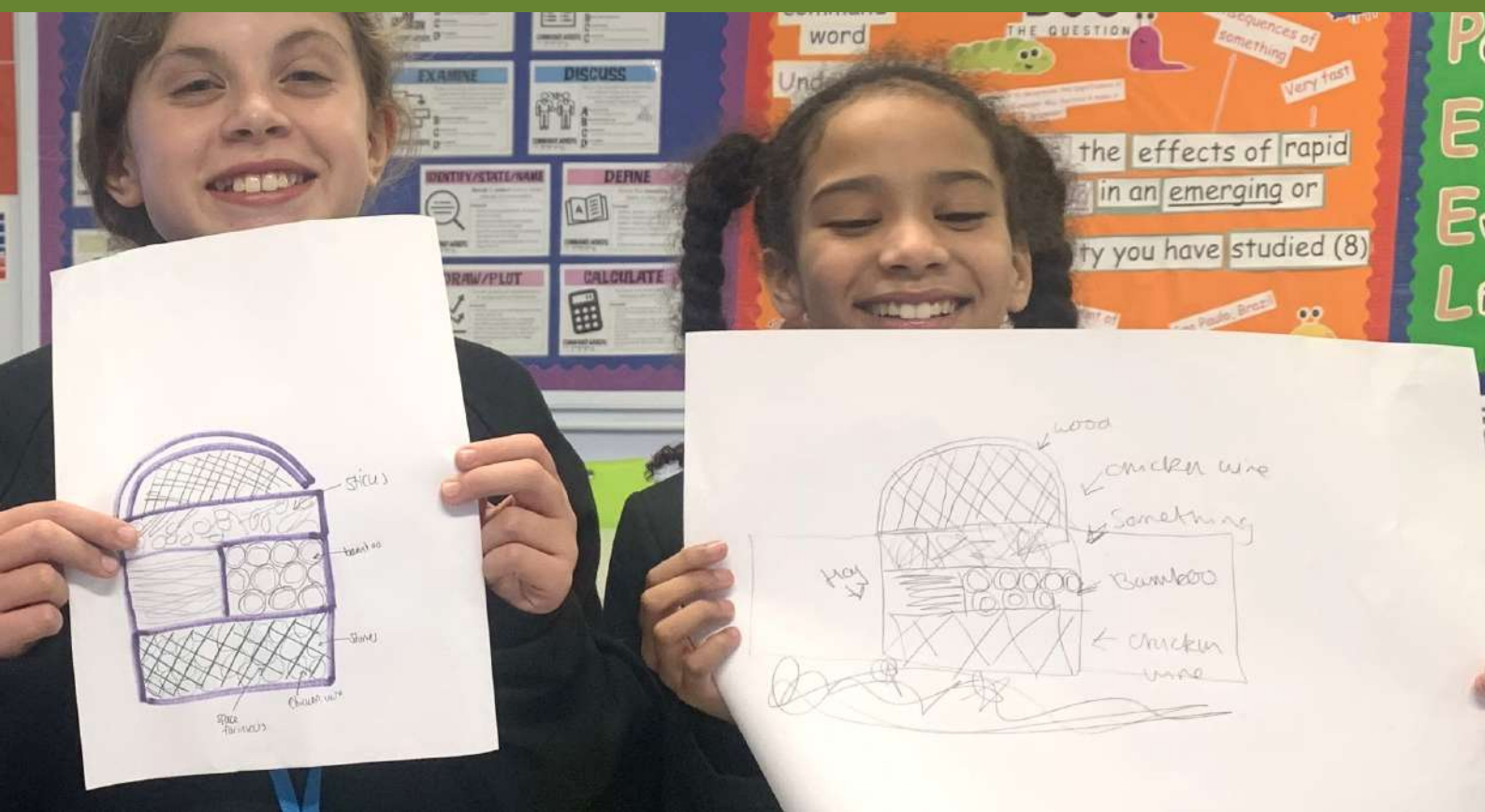
Growing Food

The BSfG Eco club, led by Ms. Tooley, has dedicated considerable time to assessing and prioritizing key issues. They have also devised a comprehensive plan outlining their intended activities for the upcoming year..

The members have decided that they want to focus on the environment and issues surrounding the local area as well as raising awareness about key global issues.

This term, Eco Club have been researching the local wildlife around Brentford. Members created a presentation about what wildlife needs protecting and why. They have then started to design bug houses/ hotels made of recycled materials from around their homes and the school. The club is currently collecting materials ready to build a group bug house for the local environment.

As Christmas approaches, the club are collecting waste material to create our own eco-friendly Christmas wreathes to take home and hang on doors during the festive season.





ECO CLUB





The "Wear it Pink & cake sale for Breast Cancer Research" event was held, successfully raising a considerable amount of funds.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous contributions.

On that pink mufti day, both students and staff actively participated, resulting in a **total fundraising amount of £613.00** from the students and an additional £36 from the staff cake sale.

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FUNDRAISING WEAR IT PINK & CAKE SALE



6TH FORM XMAS ENTERTAINMENT & FUNDRAISING

During the festive season in the 6th Form, a series of Christmas events took place featuring various exciting activities. These included the sale of Candy Cane bags, an entertaining Christmas Show held on Monday, December 18th, a cheerful Christmas jumper day, and a challenging Christmas Quiz during tutor time. The coordination and leadership of these events were undertaken by the Year 13 Events coordinators, with the purpose of raising funds for charity and supporting the Year 13 end of year celebrations.



6TH FORM XMAS ENTERTAINMENT



All students were entertained by acts from all year groups and hosted by the 6th Form.



The talent on show was amazing including singing, dancing and a comedy act.

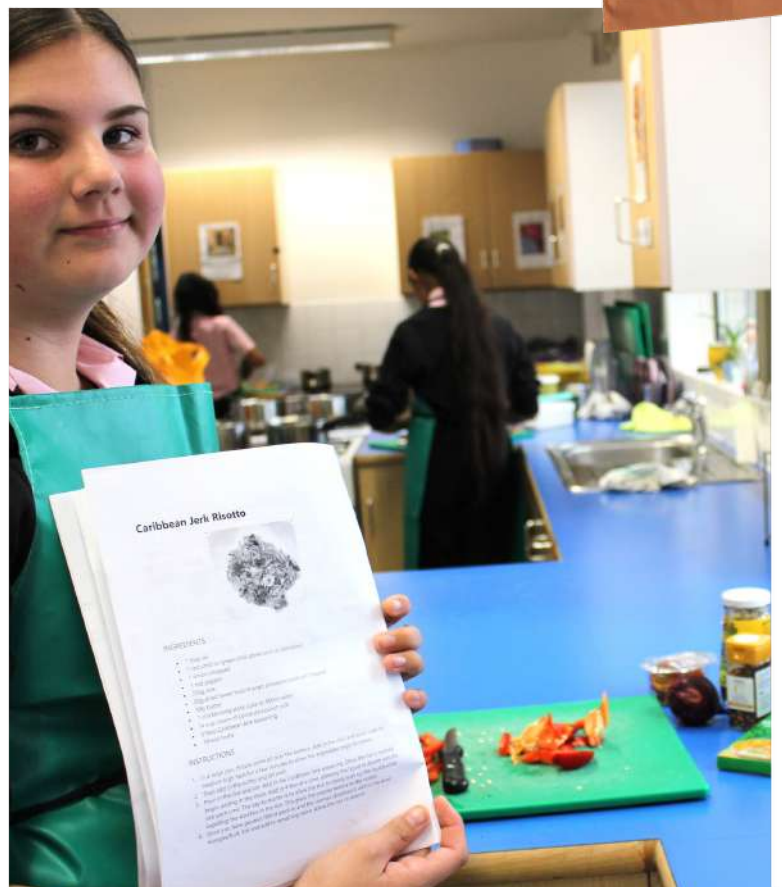


6TH FORM XMAS ENTERTAINMENT



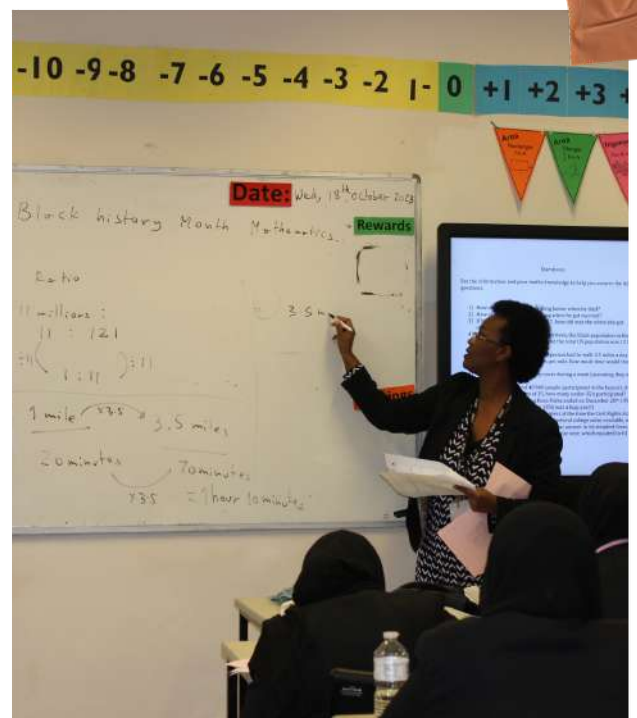
FOOD TECH IN ACTION FOR BHM!

Preparing a truly delectable Caribbean jerk risotto. This special recipe couldn't have been more fitting for #blackhistorymonth, as it wonderfully paid homage to the vibrant flavours and rich culinary traditions of the Caribbean region. The delightful combination of aromatic spices and creamy rice truly tantalised our taste buds and transported us to an idyllic island paradise. We were delighted to join in the celebration of diversity and savor the breathtaking richness of this remarkable dish.



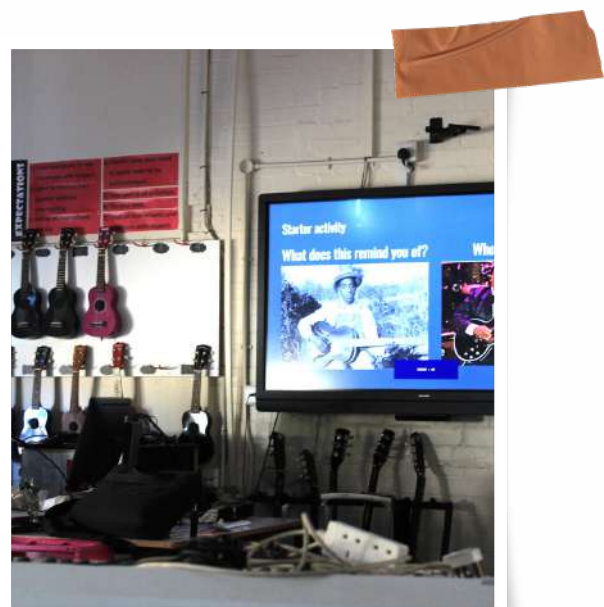
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. USING COORDINATES FOR BHM!

During Black History Month in math classes, students had the opportunity to delve into the life of Martin Luther King Jr. as they explored math questions intricately connected to his biography. This clever exercise ingeniously engaged students with the subject matter. To culminate the class, students were tasked with creating a drawing of Martin Luther King Jr. using coordinates, further reinforcing their understanding of both math and the inspiring leader's legacy.



THE STORY OF BLUES DURING BHM!

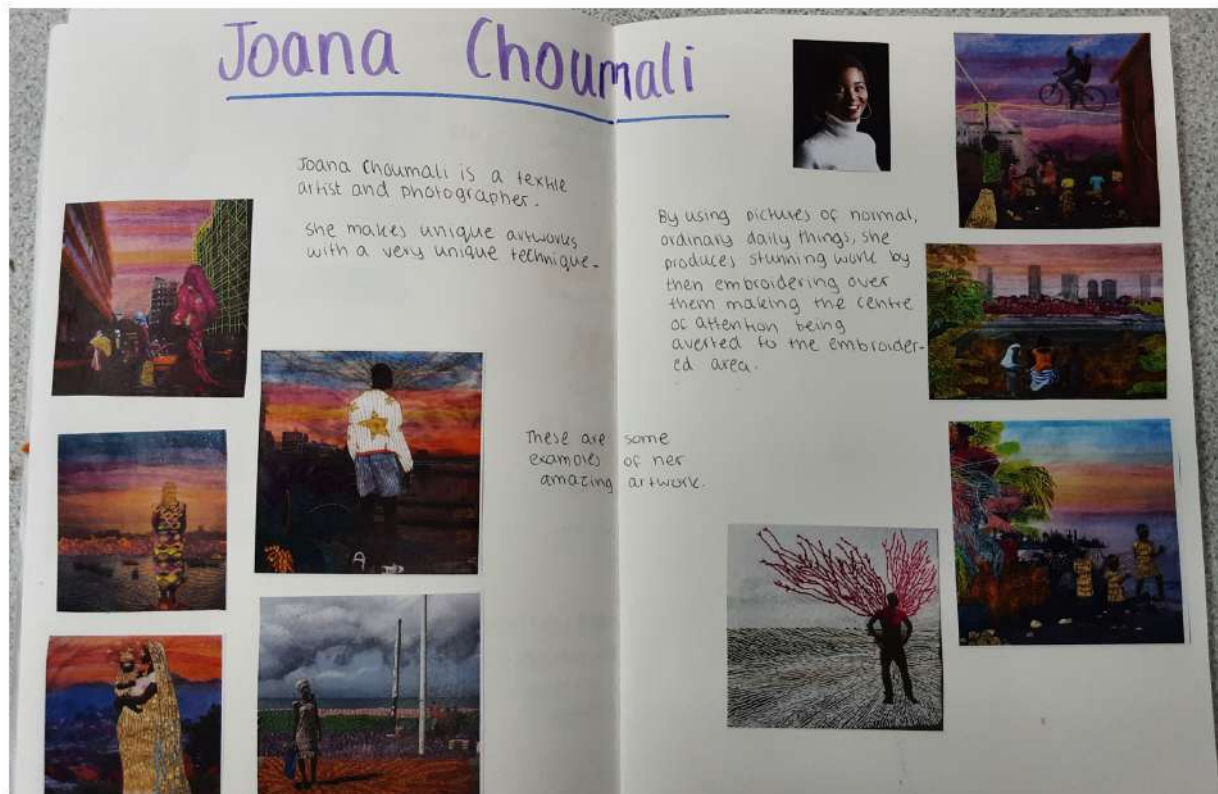
In music classes, we shared a discussion about the roots of the Blues, exploring how various musical forms converged to create this iconic genre. We delved into the aspects of performance and composition in the distinctive style of the Blues, while also considering the profound influence of other Caribbean music on the development of Reggae.



EMBROIDERED PHOTOGRAPH !

In textile classes during BHM, we had the pleasure of introducing the renowned embroidery artist, Joana Choumali. Students were tasked with completing a research page and creating an embroidered photograph inspired by Joana Choumali's distinct style, specifically her masterpiece "Ca Va Aller."

To assist them in this creative process, the students were encouraged to prepare a detailed moodboard, incorporating extensive research to further enhance their understanding and execution of this art form.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER.
THE EVENT WAS COMPLETE WITH ALL OF OUR DELICIOUS HOLIDAY FAVORITES,
ALONG WITH A FESTIVE CHRISTMAS CRACKERS
TO ADD TO THE MERRY AMBIANCE OF THE OCCASION.



CINEMA LUMIERE TRIP



The French language department organized a delightful outing for a group of forty Year 8 students on Tuesday 28th November. The students had the opportunity to attend a special screening of a French film called "Les Aventures Extraordinaires d'Adèle Blanc Sec" at the prestigious Cine Lumiere, located in the French Institute in South Kensington, London.



CINEMA LUMIERE TRIP



- 'It was so good I did not want to leave' - M
- 'Very fun, I would go again.' A
- 'It needs a Part III!' R
- 'It was a good plot because it was adventurous' N
- 'Elegant, intelligent, well-made, the best French movie I have ever seen' K
- 'It was so interesting, the end had such a plot twists' N
- 'Wow! Couldn't get enough, will try again' L



CINEMA LUMIERE TRIP



YEAR12

APPRENTICESHIP TALK



On 12th December, we had the pleasure of welcoming one of our local training providers to engage in an informative session with our 6th form students. The purpose of the session was to enlighten our students about the extensive array of vocational options that were at their disposal, as they contemplated their post-18 alternatives. It is crucial that our students are equipped with all the necessary information, advice, and support, as the number of young individuals expressing interest in apprenticeships proliferates. Thus, enabling them to make the most prudent decision that resonated with their individual aspirations and goals.



6TH FORM ELDERLY HOMES HAMPER DROP OFF



We were excited to maintain our wonderful relationship with our local care homes by providing them with a lovely hamper of carefully curated gifts, a selection of non-perishable food products, a delightful puzzle pack, as well as heartfelt personalised letters and postcards from students across the entire school. The creation of the hampers, which had been part of the Year 12 house competitions, had been skilfully executed.

These meticulously packaged hampers had been graciously delivered by our diligent sixth form students on the last day of term.



FUNDRAISING HOUSE SALES

The annual 'house sales', raised a commendable amount of money towards the charity 'Médecins Sans Frontières', named Doctors Without Borders in English, is a charity that provides humanitarian medical care to people affected by conflict, disasters and epidemics.



FUNDRAISING HOUSE SALES



HEATHROW MICROBIT CHALLENGE



Heathrow-Secondary-School-Challenge activities aimed to inspire young individuals in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths. Students collaborated in teams to construct a civil engineering vehicle demonstrating key skills such as problem-solving, perseverance, communication skills, and teamwork.





YEAR 13

BOROUGH MARKET TRIP



Year 13 photographic students visited Borough market to take photos that will be edited as part of their A level portfolios.



YEAR 13

BOROUGH MARKET TRIP



FOLLOW US



NEVER MISS A MOMENT, FOLLOW US ON ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:



@BRENTFORDSCHOOLGIRLS



@BRENTFORDSCHOOL



@BRENTFORDSCHOOL



@BSFGSIXTHFORM