



December 2024



# BENTON PARK NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME

As we approach the end of term, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our community for their support over the past year as we continue on our journey. Our ambition is to become a school in the community, for the community and so the feedback from all members of our community including parents, students and staff which has been incredibly positive shows we are well on our way to achieve this ambition.

This term has been marked by improved results again at both Year 11 and Year 13 with fantastic onward destinations for all of our students including many returning to our fantastic Sixth Form Centre. We already have a large number of applications from our Year 11s to continue their 7 year journey with us, if you haven't applied already, please see our school website.

Alongside these results and destinations, we have seen our students take part in a wide-range of activities both during our extended 50-minute lunchtime session and also out of school including a wide-range of foreign trips, with more to come in the new year. Our positive drive continues with a 1000% increase in positive phone communications home and an increase of 150,000 in stamps being awarded in lessons with the same point last year. We will continue to celebrate your child's successes at Benton Park with you.

Our work out in the local community continues with our litter picking, working with local business and community groups including Sunningdale Care Home. We have hosted numerous events and celebrations including our fantastic awards at the start of the year and culminating in the brilliant Christmas Concert this week. Our wider offering to students is incredibly important to ensure that everyone within our local community feels like they are part of our school.

As a staff body, we are continuing to develop and improve our curriculum offering to students, both in and out of lessons, will continue into the new year with an aim to launch the new Benton Park curriculum in September 2025 alongside the work in lessons will ensure progress and attainment for every student is maximised. This work, already started on creating a positive culture, will run alongside this for the rest of the academic year to ensure every student, every member of staff and indeed every member of our community feels valued and rewarded.

I want to share my best wishes to everyone connected with Benton Park during this festive period and I hope, no matter what you have planned, everyone manages to rest, relax and share this magical time with their loved ones.

We look forward to seeing you all in the new year, let's aim to make 2025 the best year so far for students of Benton Park School,



**Mr Skilton**  
Headteacher



# YEAR 7



## GETTING ARTY

Year 7 students have been putting their creativity and effort into crafting impressive clay masterpieces. They are sculpting intricate gargoyles, showcasing their artistic skills and attention to detail. Once their creations have been fired in the kiln, they'll bring them to life with vibrant paint. We can't wait to see the finished works of art.



## WORKING TOGETHER

Year 7 students had a fantastic sunny day out at Nell Bank, where they took part in exciting team-building activities. The day was a wonderful opportunity for them to bond with their check-in tutor and classmates, making new friends and building strong connections in a fun and supportive environment.



## LEAGUES AHEAD

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 girls' football team for an outstanding performance in their recent tournament! With 2 wins and 3 draws, they showcased incredible skill, teamwork, and determination. Well played, future champions!

## CHEERING TO VICTORY

Huge congratulations to Indica, who has just returned from an amazing experience at Future Cheer Paris! Her Level 2 Under 14s team secured an impressive 3rd place and achieved a flawless "hit zero" routine—performed without a single mistake. Competing against teams from across the globe, this is truly a phenomenal achievement. Well done, Indica!



## PIZZA PARTY

Year 7 have been working really hard this week making their pizzas in food technology. They have demonstrated how to use the grill and have shown they can safely chop their ingredients using the bridge hold and the claw grip. Well Done!



## DANCING SHOES

It was fantastic to see so many Year 7's at the disco this week. Everyone had a great time, lots of dancing and photo booth poses!

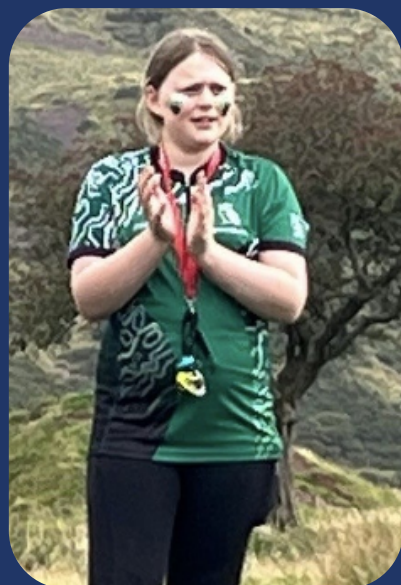




# YEAR 8

## SCIENCE MATTERS

Year 8 students used the red cabbage indicator that they made in their last lesson to test whether some everyday household chemicals are acidic or alkaline. They have also been carrying out and testing chemical reactions with Mr Stevenson.



## FINDING YOUR WAY



Recently, Year 8 student Kate P. showcased her incredible orienteering skills at the prestigious Peter Palmer Daybreak Trophy. Competing alongside a team of three others, Kate helped secure an impressive 3rd-place finish! What an amazing achievement—huge congratulations to Kate and her team!

## CRAFTING FUN

Our Year 8 students have been hard at work in Technology, crafting inspiring mood boards based on design movements from the past 100 years. Their creativity and attention to detail have truly brought history to life through design!



## PUTTING SKILLS TO THE TEST



A huge well done to our Year 8 students who participated in the Leeds Rhinos Foundation Development Festival! You wowed everyone with your incredible skills, teamwork, and determination on the field. It's fantastic to see your hard work and passion for the game shining through. Keep up the amazing effort—you're definitely ones to watch for the future!

## AWARDS AND REWARDS

Huge congratulations went to Year 8 students who received awards for the most values awarded in school – we're so proud of your dedication to our school values!



## SCORE!

First match of the season against St Mary's Menston. They all played well lots of effort and great teamwork. POM Daisy F.

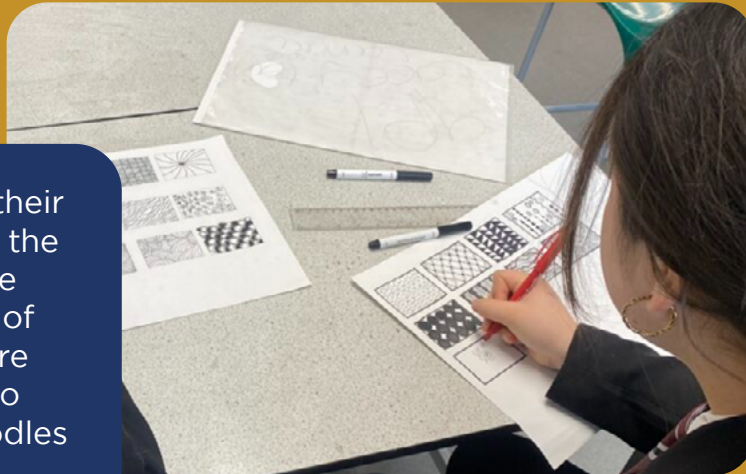




# YEAR 9

## GETTING CREATIVE

Year 9 students have dived into their zentangle art projects, exploring the intricate world of black-and-white imagery. Through a creative mix of patterns, shapes, and lines, they're learning to add depth and tone to their designs, turning simple doodles into stunning works of art. This hands-on activity not only hones their artistic skills but also encourages mindfulness and focus as they bring their unique creations to life.



## ROCK & ROLL



We were absolutely thrilled to see Zach take the stage at the Grand Opera House in York, performing in the spectacular production of School of Rock! Zach shone as the drummer, playing live throughout the show and showcasing his incredible talent. Well done, Zach—we are so proud of your amazing achievement!

## ANNE FRANK TRUST

We were delighted to welcome The Anne Frank Trust for the third annual Anne Frank Trust Workshops this term. The workshops were centred around anti-discrimination and racism, focusing on key British Values of tolerance and respect and helping students understand the importance of protected characteristics. There were some amazing student contributions.



## NETBALL SUCCESS

Fantastic effort and teamwork from our Year 9 netball team—what a game! A special shoutout to Frankie for being named Player of the Match, showcasing outstanding skill and determination on the court. Well done to the whole team for your hard work and brilliant performance. Keep it up!

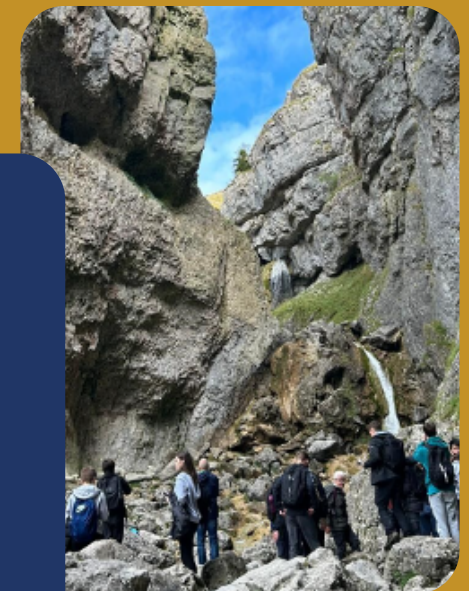


## MINDMATE AMBASSADORS

We're thrilled to announce that our newest MindMate Mental Health Ambassadors have successfully completed their training today! We're incredibly proud of the overwhelming response from our Year 9 students, with so many stepping up to take on this vital role to support their peers in promoting mental health and wellbeing across the school.

## A DAY TO REMEMBER

Year 9 enjoyed 2 days out to Malham in the Yorkshire Dales. The circular walk involved an investigation of the human and physical geography of the area. Students looked at physical processes of weathering and erosion on the limestone formations in the area and considered the human impact on the environment. Students showed huge amounts of resilience and collaboration on the walk and were truly a credit to BPS.





# YEAR 10

## GET SET, GO!



A massive well done to Charlie P in the karting championships, the fastest lap time across all categories and a podium finish in third place. Well done from everyone at Benton. He also met Mercedes F1 driver George Russell, who started his career in karting, which was an amazing experience.



## ART SKILLS

Our talented Art students have been pouring their creativity and dedication into their GCSE projects, exploring the beauty and intricacies of natural forms. Their hard work and artistic vision truly shine through in these stunning pieces. We are thrilled to showcase some of their incredible work, which reflects their passion and skill. The Art team couldn't be prouder of their achievements—well done to all our budding artists.

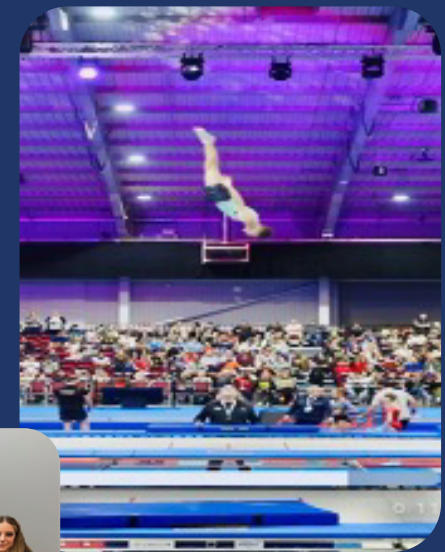


## GOAL!

We had exciting news from our Year 10 football team! With one hard-fought win and one narrow loss, they kept us on the edge of our seats until the very end. The matches were packed with drama, passion, and impressive teamwork, all played out in challenging cold conditions. A huge well done to the whole team for their effort and determination—Player of the Match went to Fergus C. for an outstanding performance.

## FLYING HIGH

It was wonderful to see Elliot H not just competing but retaining his British Junior Synchronised Trampoline champion title. He also went on to achieve silver in the 13-14 men's national age. As a school, we want to wish him luck in the upcoming English Championships and Team GB competition.



## PRESENTATION EVENING

It was amazing to celebrate the success of so many students at the awards evening, ranging from subject awards, values, academic excellence and attitude to learning. It always makes us incredibly proud to be able to share the success with parents/carers, the staff and the students. We also had our Year 10 students run the presentation evening for the younger years in which they did a phenomenal job. A massive thank you to those students.

## BRINGING CONCEPTS TO LIFE!

Our Science department has been diving into some fascinating hands-on lessons, sparking curiosity and engagement! Here's a glimpse of our Year 10 students fully immersed in an exciting Physics demonstration, exploring the use of radioactive sources.

This practical session not only deepened their understanding of radiation and its applications but also showcased the importance of safety and precision when working with such materials. It's amazing to see their enthusiasm and focus as they bring theoretical concepts to life!





# YEAR 11



## A TASTE OF THE FUTURE

Sixth Former for a Day was an exciting opportunity for Year 11 students to immerse themselves in the world of Sixth Form and explore subjects such as Criminology and Psychology. Throughout the day, the students showed incredible enthusiasm and dedication, fully engaging with the sessions and embracing the challenges of higher-level learning. It was inspiring to see their curiosity come alive as they gained a true taste of Sixth Form life. The energy and effort they brought to the experience made it a memorable and rewarding day for everyone involved.



## AWESOME ACHIEVEMENTS

We wished a huge well done to Liam, who completed his work placement with the Bradford Bulls this term and received an outstanding report for his efforts! His hard work and dedication truly paid off. Next, Liam will be taking on an exciting new challenge with a garden landscaping firm, where he will continue to develop his skills while expertly balancing his schoolwork. We're incredibly proud of Liam's achievements and wish him the very best in his next adventure.



## SPORTSMANSHIP AT ITS BEST!

Congratulations were in order for our Year 11 Rugby League team on their fantastic participation in the Leeds Rhinos Development Festival! The team showcased incredible teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the event. They were outstanding ambassadors for Benton Park, representing our school with pride and excellence. We're so proud of everything you achieved—well done, team!



## A STEP BACK IN TIME

Our Year 11 Historians took part in a live talk from an Auschwitz survivor. The talk was both emotional and engaging and incredibly worthwhile for our students.



## GOAL!

The Year 11 boys' football team was in action again this week, and they defeated Abbey Grange 3-1. Liam B, seen in the picture above, was named player of the match and also won one of the weekly Values prizes. It was a great fortnight for Liam!



## VISITS ABROAD

We recently had a visit out to Barcelona in the half term with the GCSE PE students. Lots of activities took place including trips to the Olympic stadium, Nou camp, Beach Volleyball and some Water Polo. Our students represented the school brilliantly, well done all!





# SIXTH FORM

## DIVING TO SUCCESS



Year 12 Joseph V surpassed his personal best at the 2024 Irish National Diving Championships, held in Dublin from November 14th to 17th. A dedicated diver who trains daily at Esprit Diving Club in Bradford, Joseph set a new personal record in the 3M Springboard and secured Gold in the Senior men's 3M, Junior Elite 3M, Gold in 1M Junior Elite and Silver in Senior Men's 1M event.

Congratulations, Joseph! We're thrilled to watch your journey unfold.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



A group of Sixth Form Computer Science students were invited to the recently renovated William Bragg building at Leeds University. The half-day consisted of a tour around the campus, including visiting the robotics lab and the Omnideck VR suite, a question and answer session at the university, and finally, a hands-on AI workshop looking at the fundamentals of machine Learning.



## EXPLORATION!



Year 12 and Year 13 A Level Geography students visited East Yorkshire for fieldwork, honing techniques for their coursework and exploring various human and physical landscapes. In the morning, they embarked on a walking tour of Hull, focusing on urban regeneration, followed by a visit to Spurn Point to study coastal processes. The students demonstrated remarkable resilience and outstanding teamwork throughout the day.

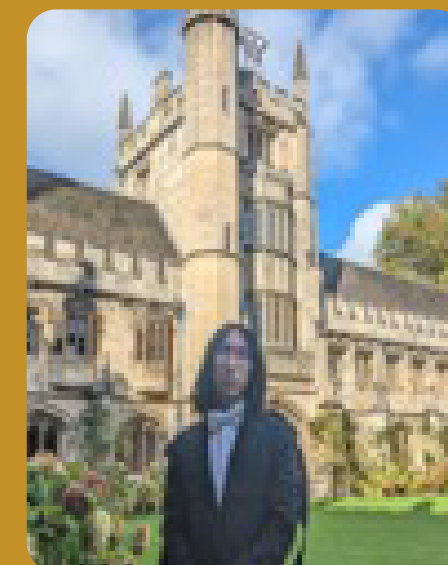
## HISTORY AND CULTURE



The Psychology and Sociology trip to Berlin departed on Thursday, November 28th. The trip involved understanding the psychological and sociological impacts of events such as the Holocaust and the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall, which have shaped the modern metropolis. Students took part in interesting and factual tours while still enjoying the cultural aspects of what the modern and vibrant German capital has to offer.

## ALUMNI CONGRATULATIONS!

Lei from our Year 13 2024 cohort recently matriculated at The University of Oxford, where he is reading Chemistry. He achieved A\*A\*A\* in his A Levels this summer. Matriculation generally refers to the process of enrolling or registering at a college or university. It often includes the formal acceptance of a student into an academic programme after meeting certain admission criteria. This event typically involves welcoming new students and introducing them to the institution's traditions and academic expectations.



## ENGINEERING TOMORROW



Year 12 girls studying Mathematics and Science (or equivalent) were recently invited by Parker Hannifin PLC to take part in their Engineer Tomorrow Programme. Currently, the UK is seeing a reduced uptake in Science and Engineering employment among Women, and Parker is committed to assisting with re-addressing the balance and promoting diversity.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## REMEMBRANCE RESPECT

Students at Benton Park played a crucial part in a number of Remembrance Sunday events around Leeds. Thanks to Kai B for his wonderful and moving speech at the Rawdon Parish memorial event on Sunday, November 10th. Also, thanks to Leah P and Lena R for participating in the Remembrance Sunday event at Leeds Civic Hall. They had the opportunity to pay their respects and meet the Lord Mayor of Leeds.



## A TIME TO SHINE

It was amazing to celebrate the success of so many students at the awards evening, ranging from subject awards, values, academic excellence and attitude to learning. It always makes us incredibly proud to be able to share our success with parents/carers, the staff, and the students.



## A GALLOP AHEAD

Year 8 students celebrated National Racehorse Week by welcoming a racehorse and a Shetland pony. Students were thrilled to connect with the animals and ask professional jockey Jamie Hamilton all about equine careers.



## ROAD SAFETY WEEK

We welcomed in ConnectingLeeds who led a workshop during an assembly for students looking at Influencing Travel Behaviour. This workshop was a fantastic opportunity to remind and teach students about road safety.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR EXCITEMENT

Our extra curricular opportunities proved very popular with students this term. As always there has been so much going on and a vast array of exciting activities taking place.



## OUR CHOSEN CHARITY

This term we launched our new school Charity, Zarach. The charity was voted for by our students and does great work across Leeds and Bradford providing beds and bedding for children who don't have them. We will be running a range of fundraising events over the year and aiming to match the £13,000 that we raised for our previous charity, Yorkshire Cancer Research. Fundraising has included our fantastic 'Photo of the Month' Calendar.

To read more about Zarach, please visit their website <https://zarach.org/> or you can follow on X/Twitter [@ZarachCharity](https://twitter.com/ZarachCharity)



## UK PARLIAMENT WEEK

As part of #UKParliamentWeek our brand-new Benton Park Youth Council were officially sworn in and presented with their council badges by our local MP Katie White.

We look forward to the amazing values-based work our students endeavour to achieve in the new year.



## FESTIVE SEASON

As the festive season approaches, we want to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone in our school community for making this year truly extraordinary. Your unwavering support, dedication, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind our success, and we are incredibly thankful for the vibrant, collaborative spirit that makes our school so special.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments. Here's to an even brighter year ahead—thank you for making this one so memorable!



**Benton Park School**  
**Harrogate Road**  
**Rawdon**  
**Leeds**  
**LS19 6LX**



Year 7: [year7@bentonpark.net](mailto:year7@bentonpark.net)

Year 8: [year8@bentonpark.net](mailto:year8@bentonpark.net)

Year 9: [year9@bentonpark.net](mailto:year9@bentonpark.net)

Year 10: [year10@bentonpark.net](mailto:year10@bentonpark.net)

Year 11: [year11@bentonpark.net](mailto:year11@bentonpark.net)

Sixth Form: [sixthform@bentonpark.net](mailto:sixthform@bentonpark.net)

SEND Support: [hub@bentonpark.net](mailto:hub@bentonpark.net)



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