April 2025



BENTON PARK NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our new Benton Park Newsletter, where we'll be sharing and celebrating the many successes of our school and students throughout the year.

In this Easter edition, you'll see how we've spent this term tirelessly creating an environment for great learning, success and opportunity for all our students.

From academic excellence to enrichment activities, our school community has truly embodied our core values of endeavour, resilience, inspiration, collaboration, and compassion.

Here's a look at some of the highlights!

WELCOME

As we approach the end of the spring term, I would like to take the opportunity to wish the whole community a Happy Easter. This term has been a successful one with a fantastic performance of 'We Will Rock You' playing to sold out crowds across four nights as well as the launch of The Sprint for both Year 11 and 13 as we build into the exam season.

Our students continue to excel both in and out of the classroom and have been recognised in our end of term rewards assemblies this week.

We look forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday 22nd April after a well-deserved break, ready to hit the ground running and build further on the successes of the spring term.

As ever, please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything we can help with.



Mr Skilton
Headteacher



GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS



PIZZA PARTY CELEBRATIONS

Our students showed incredible dedication by maintaining a 90% positive ratio since September. We celebrated their positive achievements with well-deserved pizza parties and lots of fun games!







CINEMA REWARD

We treated our students to a special trip to the cinema to watch Sonic 3 for the 100% positive reward. Students who went did not receive a single negative comment since September!

Both Year 10 & Year 11 top-performing students too had a fantastic ending to the term with a well-earned trip to Showcase Cinema.
Well done to all!







ATTENDANCE AWARDS

We were delighted to award bronze badges to our students from Years 7-11 who achieved 100% Attendance for the first term and showed their amazing dedication. We are so proud!

POSITIVE STAMP MILESTONES

Congratulations to our students who hit impressive milestones and earned stamps, Bronze badges, and Silver rewards!

A special shoutout to Oliver C. for achieving Platinum with 3000 positives! Outstanding achievement, well done!













SPREADING POSITIVITY AND KINDNESS

We were overjoyed to see our Sixth Form wellbeing leaders organise a Cake and Compliments event, encouraging Year 12 and 13 students to exchange compliments with cakes and celebrate each other's strengths. On Valentine's Day, they continued the positivity with compliment postcards and Love Hearts for all!







ROCK & ROLL

Students made us proud yet again with an incredibly performance of 'We Will Rock You'. They put their all into regular rehearsals and gave stellar performances over four nights in March. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

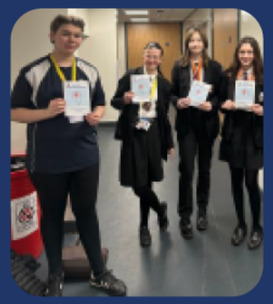
EXTRA-CURRICULAR SUCCESS

Lunchtime and extra-curricular clubs are back in full swing after a short pause due to bad weather. A huge thank you to our dedicated Young Leaders, who not only helped in the extra-curricular activities but also led some of the clubs.





IMPACTFUL SESSIONS WITH THE MINDMATE





Children's Mental Health Week was truly insightful for all our students, who received invaluable support and key messages from our fantastic Mindmate Ambassadors.

WINNING AT THE RED KITE BATTLE

We also celebrated our talented musicians, who showcased their confidence, strong stage presence, and skills at the Red Kite Battle of the Bands. Feeling Good, showcasing their fantastic talents and musical chemistry. They made us incredibly proud by securing 3rd place!



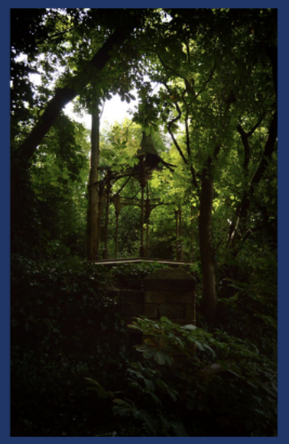
WINNERS OF PHOTO OF THE MONTH

A big congratulations to our incredibly talented winners of Photo of the Month!

January:
Kayleigh Moss,
Year 7



February:
Holly Riseborough,
Year 13



March:
Ava Renton,
Year 13





YEAR 7

MUSIC

Our students at Mr. Pritchard's Music class delivered an impressive performance for Mrs. Collins and Miss Bannister while Miss Woods' class rehearsed for a band performance, with students enjoying guitar, keyboard, and singing.





DRAMA

Students also honed their acting skills. They acted out different scenes in front of their peers, receiving feedback from Mr. Twine on how to perform to an audience.



SCIENCE



Year 7 Science club had fun building spaghetti towers. They explored separation techniques, naming compounds, breathing and inhalation, and designing an insulated house to a valid heat loss through radiation.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 students also made cheese straws in Food Technology this week, and the process was captured in photos. Hopefully, these delicious treats made it home for you to try!









LIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE



Year 7 enjoyed a live performance of A Christmas Carol by Quantum Theatre Company, which was both funny and moving. It was a brilliant way to experience the novel in a fresh and engaging way!

WINNING BRICK BY BRICK

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Humanities competition. These are the winners and runners up. The castle model is exceptional and a deserving winner. Well done!







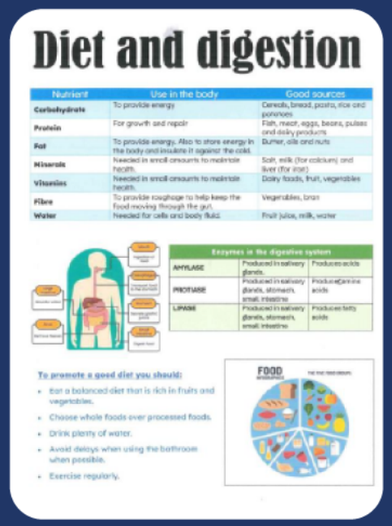
YEAR 8

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a part of their Personal Development curriculum, Year 8 students worked with the SSO and West Yorkshire Police using VR headsets to explore scenarios on anti-social behaviour and knife crime.





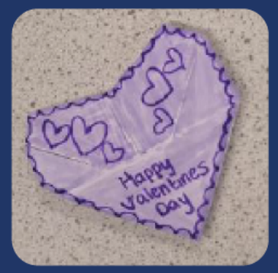


SCIENCE

Year 8 students did fantastic homework on diet and digestion as part of their science work.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

They also participated in a creative origami project, Think for the Future, aimed at building resilience and creativity.







CAREERS DAY

A group of Year 8 students attended an interactive careers day at West Yorkshire Combined Authority. They met with a variety of professionals who helped them provide valuable insights into potential career paths.





THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



Keiran from The Children's Society explained Y8 and Y9 the different strategies of emotional regulation to support their mental well-being.

YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL

Our Year 8 students are preparing for their residentials this year with two upcoming dates:

B side – 30th June – 2nd July
P side – 7th July – 9th July







YEAR 9

SPORTS

The Year 9 & 10 netball teams gave their all in matches against Guiseley, with Year 9 securing a win. Gabriella A was named Player of the Match for Year 9, showcasing excellent performance.

Also, congratulations to Thomas L., who was selected to represent England Ice Hockey in Lee Valley in March and then to Finland in April. We wish you lots of luck!



THEATRE





Year 9 students attended a performance of Hamilton at the Bradford Alhambra, impressing the public with their fantastic behaviour. It was a memorable experience that aligned with the school's values.

MUSIC

Year 9 students did a great job getting to grips with new DJ equipment in music class, showing their enthusiasm and talent. We look forward to seeing more of it!







TECHNOLOGY

In Technology, Year 9 students refined their practical skills in Product Design, preparing to apply these techniques to their own projects. Their progress shows their dedication and focus!





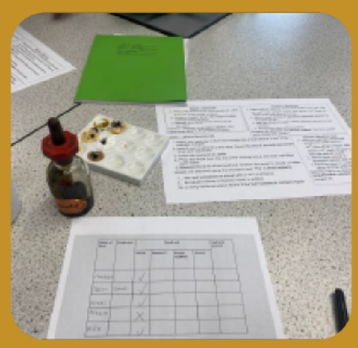




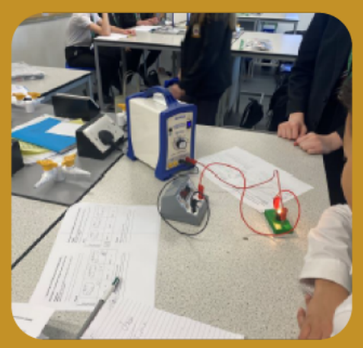
SCIENCE

Year 9 students completed food tests in Biology and investigated electrical circuits in Physics, gaining hands-on learning experience.











MATHEMATICS

Our Year 9 and 10 students participated in the UKMT Maths Challenge and achieved 3 Gold, 20 Silver, and 36 Bronze certificates! Special recognition goes to Sam for Best in Year and Callum for Best in School, who also qualified for the next round.

YEAR 10



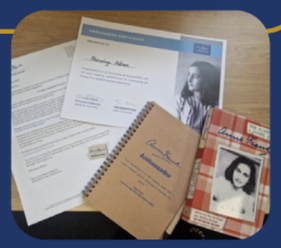
WINNER, ONCE AGAIN!

Charlie P achieved 1st place and the fastest lap in his latest race, continuing to impress in motorsports. His dedication and talent is truly inspiring. Well done, Charlie!

MORE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

We're so proud of our student, Nuraniya A., who got accepted onto the Anne Frank Trust Ambassador programme for her outstanding work in combating discrimination and prejudice. On Holocaust Memorial Day, she was officially presented as our national Anne Frank Ambassador!





CELEBRATING MORE VICTORS

Another massive congratulations to Elliott H, for getting selected in the 2025 Trampoline Junior Programme at British Gymnastics. A remarkable achievement! Also, a huge well done to the Year 9 & 10 netball team who went up against Guiseley. We had a win and a loss but both teams gave it their all! Year 9 POM: Gabriella A. Year 10 POM Neeve C.

ORIENTEERING AT ITS FINEST!

Some of our Year 10 students are preparing for their future Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Maps at the ready!





TALENTED. DEDICATED. ALL-ROUNDERS.



We were excited to celebrate Josh W and Owen H, who are both part of the Leeds United Academy while balancing their academic work at Thorp Arch. Their dedication to both football and school is commendable!

ARTS

Congratulations to Freya C who had her first piece of artwork displayed in an exhibition in Saltaire Art Gallery. Freya has been attending additional art classes there for the past year and now attends a painting class. Your hard work has truly paid off Freya, well done!





RECIPE READY



Year 10 Food GCSE students took a trip to Leeds University to discover more about Food Science. They experimented with vegan ingredients to create their own chocolate milkshakes! They also took a tour around campus and were able to talk to students about what career a food qualification can lead to.

TRIPS ABROAD!









Year 10 and 11 students enjoyed a series of exciting trips abroad. Media students had an unforgettable time at Disneyland, Paris, while they deep dived into history, culture, and language in Berlin. Students also saw the Sacré-Cœur and the Eiffel Tower at night, and again, in Cádiz, explored historic sites, markets, and local cuisine.

From ski trips to the Dolomites to daily lessons and evening activities—our students made countless memories for life!

YEAR 11

SPORTS

Year 11 football teams secured two great victories, beating Ilkley 3-0 and Prince Henrys 6-3. Ethan was the standout performer, scoring five goals across both matches, while Alex W showed strong defensive skills.







POETRY

Year 11 attended Poetry Live at Harrogate Conference Centre, where they enjoyed performances from poets like Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, and John Agard. Our students were exemplary throughout and were brilliant representatives of our school. One of the highlights was bumping into Carol Ann Duffy outside the venue and saying hello to her!

WHITE RIBBON AMBASSADORS

Year 10 and 11 White Ribbon Ambassadors completed training to combat violence against women and girls and have created impactful posters addressing sexual harassment. Their role as positive upstanders is key to raising awareness in the school community.



DARING DEBATES

We are thrilled to share how incredibly impressive our students were in the debate competition! Leah and Lena showcased exceptional skills and critical thinking, winning the first round against the Year 11 students with their strong stance against corporate sponsorship in the arts. Their arguments resonated well with the audience and judges alike.



MINDMATE SUPPORT



The whole Year 11 cohort attended a Mindmate workshop/assembly to discuss exam stress and ways to manage this. We will run some smaller in school workshops as well with smaller groups of students, this is an important part of helping Year 11 manage this time in which we know can be stressful.

THE SPRINT TO THE FINISH

The launch of The Sprint has created a massive buzz around Year 11 students and it was amazing to see their reactions in the hall watching on as we played the video, and they got to see which team they were a part of. Lots of the conversations around the building are to do with blue team v red team. Come on the blues!



SIXTH FORM

PARKER ENGINEERING PROJECT



The Parker Engineering project continued at Parker Hannifin, where our Sixth Form students designed oil-water separators as part of an effort to tackle environmental issues. They are all geared up for future sessions where they will test and refine their prototypes in the lab!

CRIMINOLOGY

Year 12 students spent the day at Leeds Magistrates' Court, observing a variety of intriguing cases. They witnessed firsthand the sentencing of offenses such as assault, drink driving, harassment, and drug-related charges. This experience provided a valuable insight into the criminal justice system, enhancing their understanding of crime and punishment as part of their criminology studies.

HM Courts & Tribunals Service





SPORTING SUCCESS

The trampolining Northern Zonal Finals were held on Saturday in South Shields, Y12 Emily Hebden finished in 3rd place, winning a trophy and qualification to National Finals. Also, the Sixth Form football team played Ackworth in the last 32 of the English Schools Cup on Thursday having progressed from the league stages to the knockout.



CELEBRATING A CHAMPION!

Year 12 diver Joseph V won gold at the Ners regional qualifiers in Leeds, securing a spot at the British Junior Diving Championships in April in Plymouth.

Y12 OXFORD TRIP

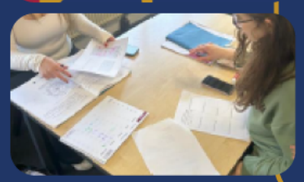
Last week a group of Year 12 students had the incredible opportunity to visit Worcester College at Oxford University. The visit was both inspiring and educational, giving students a deeper understanding of the university's prestigious application process and entry requirements. They got a first-hand look at Oxford's unique collegiate system, learning how it fosters academic excellence and a vibrant student community. During the visit, students had the chance to ask questions, speak with current students, and gain invaluable insights into what life at Oxford is really like.





THE SPRINT





The 'Sprint' programme has been introduced in Year 13 to give students an extra boost as they prepare for their summative exams. The initiative is designed to offer personalised support and motivation during this crucial time, when revision fatigue may begin to set in. Teachers have volunteered to coach teams of students, aiming to earn the most stamps each week for their revision and dedicated work, both in and out of the classroom. Every student will receive a Sprint Scorecard and must attend weekly sprint assemblies to earn prizes for their efforts and teamwork. Cash prizes will be awarded weekly to the highest scoring team, and the captain of the losing team will face a forfeit at the end of the 6-week challenge.

OTHER CAMPAIGNS

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

An amazing group of our Year 10 girls had the exciting opportunity to join the International Women's Day celebration and Careers Day at ASDA on Thursday! They were super engaged and left feeling inspired about all the possibilities for their future!







WORLD BOOK DAY

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day! Students read an entire story in one day, enjoyed the posters and decorations throughout the school, and participated in our fantastic cake competition.







SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Internet Safety Day 2025, our KS3 students had a fantastic morning meeting where they explored the world of online scams! They picked up some really helpful tips on how to spot and steer clear of these scams, making sure they can surf the internet safely and confidently.





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