



BASTON HOUSE NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with a big smile that I write this term's newsletter to you! So much has happened since February half term and our pupils have enjoyed every minute of it.

From dressing up to experiments to international trips, this term we have done it all!

As Easter approaches and the days get longer and warmer, optimistic me continue to look forward to having more and more events with higher parental attendance. It was lovely to see some of our parents attending our end of term assembly!

During Careers week, some friends of Baston came down to share with our pupils their profession and got our pupils curious about what career path to follow when the time comes. Even our parent governor came down to share his profession.

MOCK exams were a success and the vast majority of pupils had a chance to practice for their real exams.

Exams should be back fully this Summer term and, as we offer a vast option of exams here at Baston House School, the season for us will last 7 weeks! We will support our pupils as best as possible to ensure they achieve the best of their potential.

Theme months this term were Tolerance and Acceptance, LGBTQI+ and Apprenticeship/ Independence. Safer Internet day, Red Nose day, NSPCC Maths day, amongst others.

We have had bake sales, numerous visits to local and far venues and our assemblies were more informative and thought provoking than ever before!

For the first time at Baston, pupils had the opportunity to participate in a week of optional subjects in anticipation of picking their choices of subjects at Key Stage 4.

The Options evening was very successful and had quite good attendance from both pupils and parents. Staff were at hand to share the qualifications delivered and the criteria to succeed in them. Very exciting times ahead!

Life seems to finally be returning to normal and, with it, the prospect of an exciting future for all and I cannot wait to see what the future has in-store for the Baston community.

This term we have had no leavers but welcomed the Teaching Assistant Ms Cerys Gilboy, the Therapy Assistant Ms Saoirse Keane and Teacher Mrs Jemma Woodhead. Welcome to the family.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to welcoming everyone back into school again for a lovely Summer term!

Kindest regards,

Adam De Vecchi

Headteacher

CAREERS / WORK EXPERIENCE



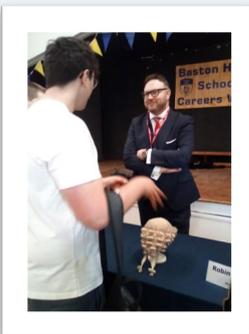
This spring term we held an amazing Careers Week, full of exciting career led events.

Monday 7th March Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) – schools division came in to advise the students on interview skills and the job market. They also held a parent workshop, in which questions were answered and advice was given on achievable career pathways.

Tuesday 8th March – LSEC colleges and ASK Apprenticeships came in to speak with our students on current courses and gave students advice on how to apply and qualifications needed for different courses.



Wednesday 9th March we had a very exciting day called “Enterprise Day”. This entailed each class coming up with a project of their choice which could earn a profit. Some of the ideas included a staff car wash, gaming tournament, selling hot dogs and hot chocolate, making and selling pancakes which lots of delicious toppings. The students engaged really well and worked hard on the day to earn as much money as they could. They were given £50 to spend on resources to make their products. Any profit earned will be spent on a class reward. It was an outstanding day, one I am sure we will repeat again.



Thursday 10th March – we didn’t think we could top our Enterprise Day, but the Careers Fair, (the first one at Baston House School) was another incredible opportunity for our students. We invited professionals into school, who could chat with students about their own career pathway and how it was achieved. We were very pleased to welcome an Author, a hairdresser, electricians who gave students the opportunity to fix a circuit, a chemist, a plumber, a barrister, a personal trainer and our therapy team came to discuss how they came to be working at the school along with a couple of our TAs – one of which used to be a student here. If you think you could come to our next Career’s Fair, please let me know, we would love to grow this event.

Friday 11th March we were pleased to welcome the theatre production company ‘Rah Rah’ back. Students year 9 and above were invited to watch the actors relay important messages about enterprise and the meaning of it in the world around us. As always, they captured our student’s attention and all were engaged throughout. Gave them lots to think about.

We all had a very exciting week and our students really related the events to the outside world and really got the students thinking about their futures – anything is possible if you put your mind to it and work hard. Thank you to all the teachers, TAs and professionals that have supported this wonderful week. We are really looking forward to the next event!!



Ellie Martineaux
Careers/WEX Lead

SCIENCE

SCIENCE WEEK!

This term at Baston House we celebrated British Science Week with a week of challenges and activities.

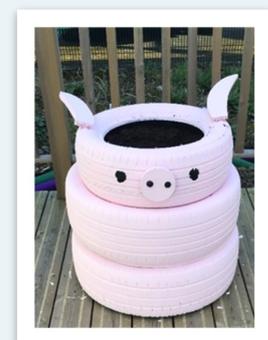


We had a shop selling science gadgets and toys. We were in the library every break time and Thursday and Friday lunchtime. Many of the students took the opportunity to buy something and engage with science.

Mini Meadows Competition



We held a mini meadows competition in school. Every tutor group were provided with a bag of compost and a packet of seeds. The tutor groups were challenged to create a meadow in a unique container. Students were encouraged to think sustainably and recycle things found at school. I hope you agree we have some fantastic meadows and the school will look wonderful once they flower.



Massive congratulations to

Wilberforce the Key Stage 2 and 3 winners for their effective use of old shoes!

Churchill the Key Stage 4 and 5 winners for their creation of Percy Pig using old abandoned tires.



SCIENCE

SCIENCE BOFFINS



On Thursday 17th March, Rebecca a Science Boffin visited the school. She led an assembly for the whole school and then ran workshops for the different year groups. The younger year groups got the chance to learn about polymers and made some slime.



The older students took part in a work shop about fabulous flames. It was a great day and all the students who took part had a great time and engaged very well.



As we head into the summer term we would like to wish all our Key Stage 4 and Post 16 students all the very best for the GCSE exam this summer.

Mr Dunster and the Science Team



GCSE HISTORY TRIP KRAKOW

We are pleased to report that the GCSE history trip to Krakow was a huge success for our pupils.



Despite many changes and the alarming news stories surrounding the current events in Europe. Our pupils Aaron and Tyler overcame these challenges, saying goodbye to their parents at Gatwick airport before boarding the plane for a three hour journey to Krakow.

On arrival, the pupils were given a guided tour of Krakow Salt mine, a huge complex that once mined salt 327 metres deep! It features an inbuilt church and is even used for orchestra concerts today.

Once our feet were very sore, we returned to Krakow for dinner at a traditional Polish restaurant, before retiring at the hostel for an early night.

On the second day, we were given another guided tour, this time at the Auschwitz Birkenau concentration camp. Even after studying the holocaust in GCSE history, the site was still a shock to us all. Pupils recoiled at the exhibition of thousands of shoes, luggage and even human hair taken from Jewish and political prisoners at the time. Although upsetting, our pupils behaved respectfully and thoughtfully throughout. It was a valuable learning experience to see first-hand how the devastating effects of hatred and xenophobia can turn out once allowed to foster.



After this, pupils also met a honorary 'righteous among nations', a Jewish survivor from the holocaust. Mrs Monika Goldwasser was only a baby at the time of the Nazi roundup of Jewish people in Krakow. She only survived because her mother wrapped a doll in bandages and fooled the Nazi soldiers into thinking it was her baby. Her real child (Monika) was sent to a local monastery before being adopted by another Polish family. Our pupils and the school presented Monika with chocolate and English teas as a thank you for meeting us. It was a rare and remarkable experience for us all.

After a busy day, we were glad to rest before the final third day. We spent the morning exploring the Krakow and saw the beautiful architecture of the historic town centre. The afternoon flight then



returned us safely back to England. We wish to thank our pupils for a lovely experience and hope this can be repeated in the future. Well done!



THE THERAPY TEAM

Tuck Shop

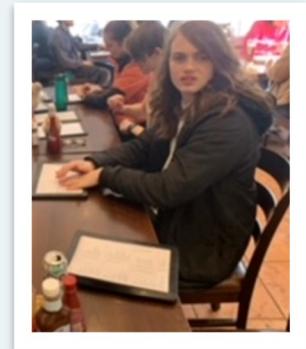


This is one of the pupils that has just started doing tuck-shop. Tuckshop is an activity that the therapy team run on a Friday breaktime. This is to help the pupils on duty with social skills e.g welcoming the customers and money management skills - hat each of the coins are worth, adding and subtracting and be able to work out what change to give if needed.

Café Trip



As part of their Social Communications in the Community Group Birch class went to Hayes café for lunch. Students enjoyed independently ordering and paying for their food. Hayes Café is an important part of our community and they welcome lots of students from Baston House School for lunch visits. Birch students enjoyed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere and are keen to head back for some more delicious food soon!



International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Stall



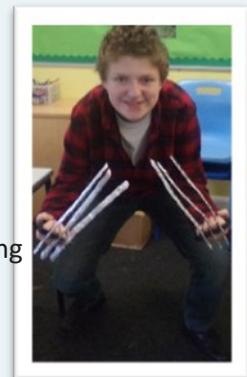
On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, we had a stall during lunchtime to raise awareness and share ideas. Students and staff discussed different scenarios using anti-racism scenario cards. We had many informative posters to talk about, and students enjoyed completing word-searches and worksheets based around celebrating diversity and how we can make school a safer place for everyone.



ENGLISH—WORLD BOOK DAY



This year Baston House had an amazing World Book Day, with staff and students alike participating and dressing up as various book characters! For one day, our school was transformed into the pages of a storybook, with famous characters wandering the corridors, teaching lessons and getting involved in creative

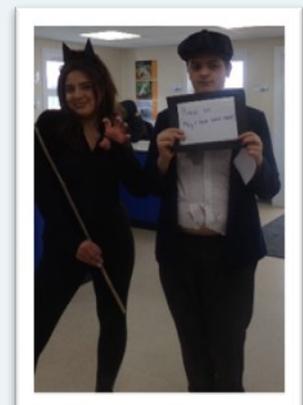


We'd like to give a huge congratulations to Aaron and Ms Leplar for winning the student and staff dressing up competition! We saw a huge amount of effort being put in by everybody and would like to thank anyone that took the time to dress up.

At lunchtime, our students were in for a treat as various teachers read extracts from their favourite childhood stories. We had a reading of *The Twits*, a performance of the *Jabberwocky* poem and a rendition of a short story about a particularly naughty nanny.



We are also very proud of Kai, Tyreek and Cohen, the winners of the 2022 Baston House short story competition! Well done for writing some very creative and engaging stories. Thank you to everyone that made this year's World Book Day a huge success, we can't wait for next year's event!



Adam Moloney
Wilberforce Form Tutor



MATHS AND CREATIVE ARTS FACULTY

Horticulture

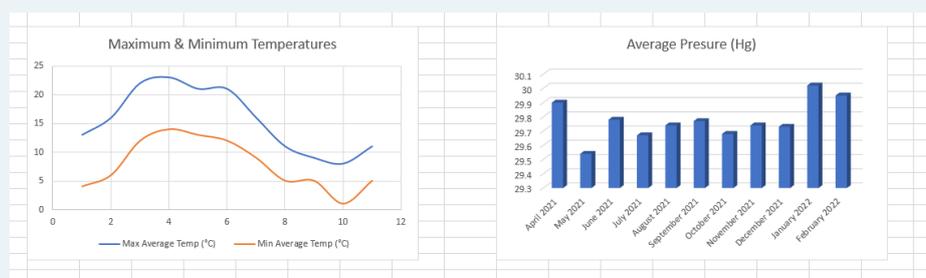
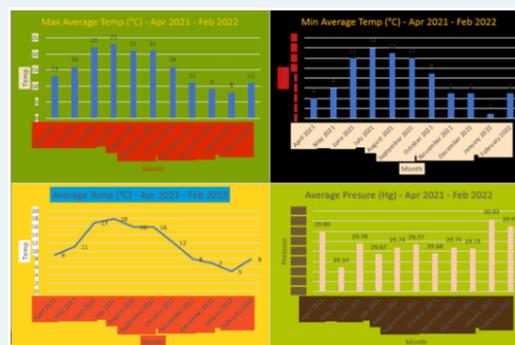
Students are working well on with the practical projects like preparing the school allotment for planting fruits and vegetables. Upper school students have planted crab apple trees after learning how to plant species of trees.

Mathematics

Well done to our year 11s students for sitting at least one mock exam this March. We are very proud of your resilience and the determination you have shown in school, this term.

KS3 students have learned how to convert between metric and the old imperial measurement systems. They moved onto to working with fractions, including calculating fractions of amounts. Whereas year 10 students revisited decimals before converting between decimals, fractions and percentages prior to working with percentages.

To deepen their data handling skills, KS4 and 5 students have engaged with a Weather project. They have looked at different weather features from live data collected from our own weather station at Baston House School. Students have presented the data into different types of graphs using Spreadsheets.



Music

Students in upper school are working with Trinity College Music school to gain their Rock n Pop grades in keyboards, bass, guitar, drum and vocals. Drumming lessons for all students continue at school with an external musician

Performing Arts

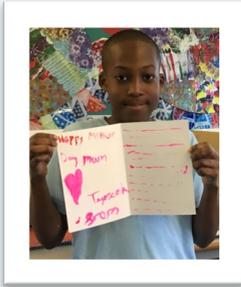
All classes are showing their creative flare by using a range of stimuli to devise their own dramas and to recreate stories. Students work well collaboratively sharing and exploring ideas. We are looking to start a drama club next term. Look out for more information on this.

Paulette Neufville-Bennett

Middle Leader

Maths and Creative Arts Faculty

ART



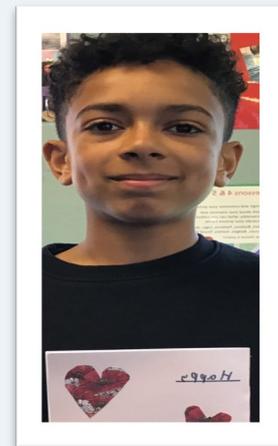
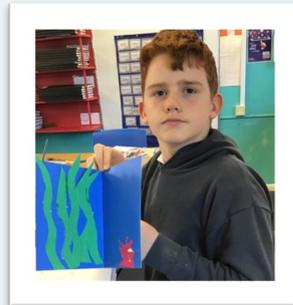
Students have been getting creative in the art room, using symmetry, pattern and 3D design, celebrating our wonderful mums and how much we appreciate them and all they do for us every day.



As you can see our beautiful boys holding their beautifully made cards.



Hope you had a very Happy Mother's day!!!



Tracy Mitchell
Art Teacher

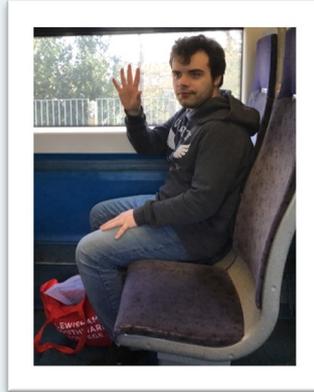
BROOK CONSENT WORKSHOP



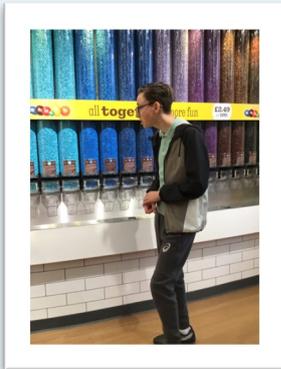
Consent is a vital concept for our pupils to understand. It can lead to better relationships with family, peers and, eventually, romantic partners. In order to further enhance our Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) curriculum, on 25th February our year 9 and above students were invited to a workshop run by 'Brook', the sexual health and wellbeing charity. They were split into three separate workshops, appropriate to their age. It was very interactive and both staff and students got really involved. The students were able to have open discussions about what consent is, what it looks like and consider different scenarios.

Mrs Barnett
Inclusion Manager

TRAVEL TRAINING / OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Sixth form students who are undertaking our Travel training programme travelled to London to experience Train travel, being out in the community, being social, learning to budget and to have fun.



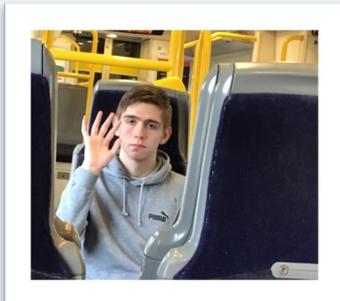
Student Levi planned his chosen journey by looking at train maps and the TFL journey planner for our trip to London M&M World.



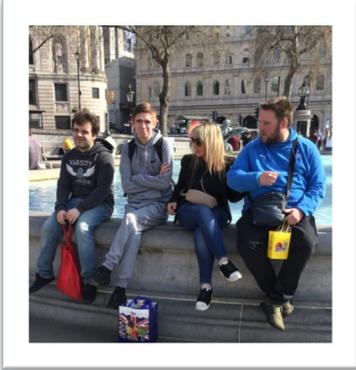
Students travelled by bus and train looking at the route they are taking along with train / bus times. It gave them a good opportunity to practise their road safety and keeping safe when out in the community. They experienced what it was like to be in the busy city of London.

The trip began at Leicester Square. We stopped off at the Capital Radio building where we met with a staff member's son who works for Global radio, he told us of all the famous people that enter the building.

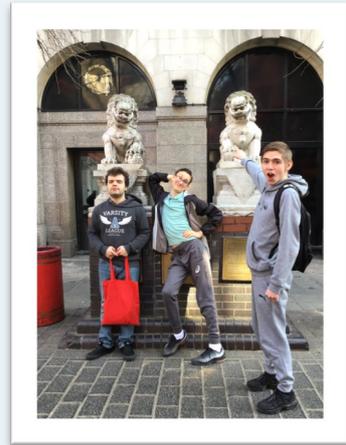
Students then went to M&M World where they spent lots of time experiencing the amazing colours of sweets and budgeting their money for purchases they wanted to make.



CONTINUED: TRAVEL TRAINING / OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



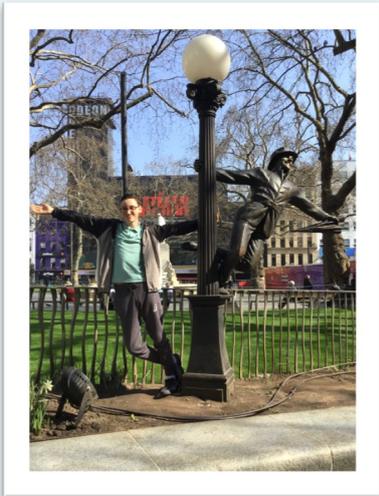
I really enjoyed being in London



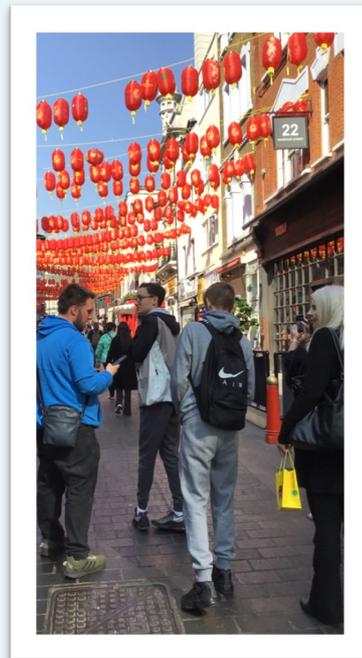
The planned trip then took us off to China Town to look at the hanging lanterns, Chinese statues and to look at the different foods.

Before we headed back to school, we ended with a walk to Trafalgar Square to look at the fountains, National Art Gallery and Nelsons Column.

Every student had a great experience and represented our school with exceptionally good behaviour.



The trip has made my week



Nicola Sweeting
Travel Training & Out in the Community

LIFE SKILLS

Independent living and life skills were practiced in our amazing Baston House School studio flat by students in Darwin Class.

Our young adults need to be able to manage day-to-day tasks on their own to achieve independence. With the right preparation students may succeed at living alone or understand different tasks that you need to do in daily life.



Students learnt how to wash clothing from understanding the different colours that need to be separated, what temperature the washing machine needs to be on and what wash cycle is needed for certain items.

We studied the controls to the machine and measured the correct amount of laundry detergent.

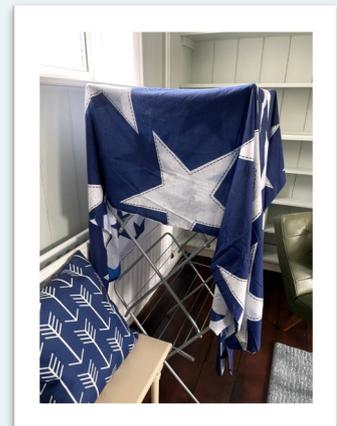
A good way to help learning is to break things down into manageable steps.

C

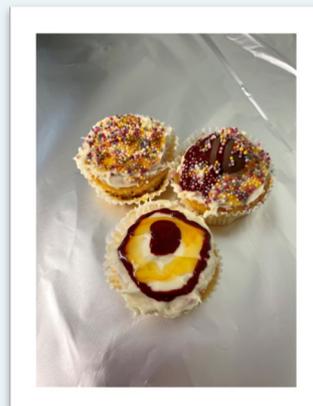
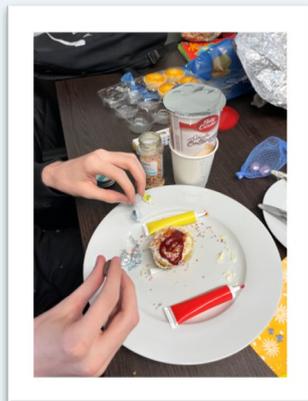
Charlie helped hang the washing out on the airer for drying. Charlie chose to place the airer by the radiator to help the drying process.

As a group we discussed the different types of detergents, how much they cost and where to find the products in the supermarket.

Our next step will be to practice using an iron and how to fold clothing and bedding.

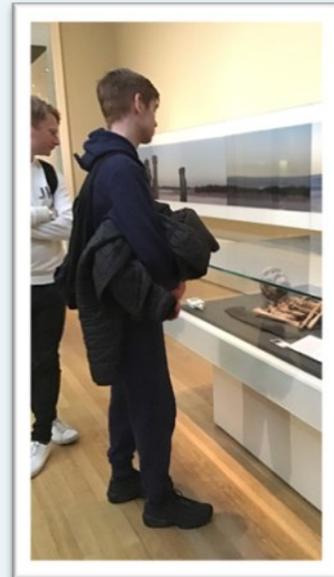
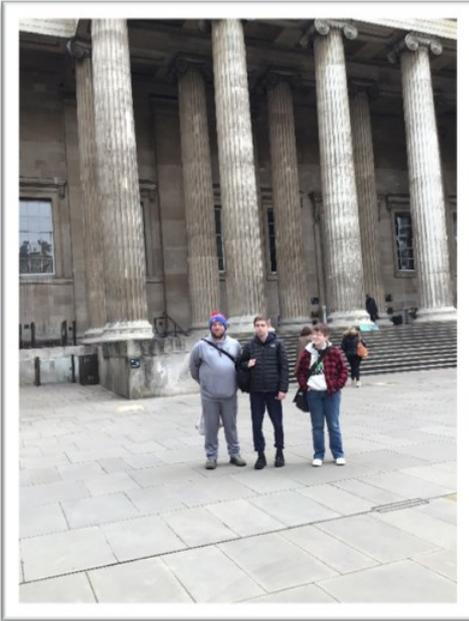


During our time in the studio flat, students had the opportunity to decorate cup cakes with their Easter designs while having good social interaction with their peers. Next came the task of cleaning up after themselves. This included washing the dishes, cleaning the surfaces using the correct products, changing the rubbish bag and sweeping the floors to make sure the kitchen was left clean, tidy and sanitised.



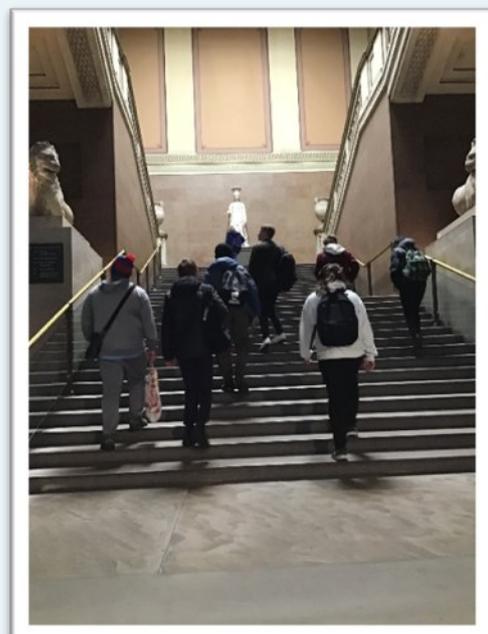
Nicola Sweeting

Travel Training / Out in the Community / Life Skills

ASDAN-HISTORY

Some history pupils were taken to the British Museum as part of their ASDAN studies, as well as accessing the wider community and travel training. Pupils were tasked with looking at key artefacts from different cultures and time periods. A particular highlight was the Rosetta stone (a fragment of stone text which allowed us to translate ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics!) as well as the Sutton Hoo burial and ancient Egyptian mummies. Pupils enjoyed taking their own pictures and discussing history that can be found all around us.

We also enjoyed a shared lunch around Leciester square afterwards, which pupils ordered and budgeted for themselves. Well done!



Harry Pierpoint (KS4/5 History)
Nicola Sweeting (Independent Travel Lead)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

As we reach the end of another half term, the Inclusion Team would like to congratulate the 47 pupils who have achieved above our average attendance this term.

Well done to you all!

We would also like to say a big **THANK YOU** to the parents and carers of all our pupils who continue to work collaboratively with us to ensure their children are in school and ready to learn every single day.

The Covid-19 pandemic has once again impacted upon our attendance this term but we appreciate the support you provide to both the school and your children during these unprecedented times.

The Inclusion team would also like to share with everyone the class with the highest attendance for Spring Term 2, which is **Wilberforce class with 98.4% Well done Wilberforce!**

Who will it be next term?

ATTENDANCE REWARD TRIP

On the 30th of March, staff and students went Bowling at Bromley Mytime for the Attendance Reward Trip, organised by the Inclusion Team.

This trip was for students **(47 in total!)** who had achieved above 92% attendance during the Spring Term.



The pupils were able to practice their independence skills by ordering refreshments at the cafe. The staff commented at how polite the pupils were and what a lovely school we have! Both staff and students thoroughly enjoyed the day and we hope to continue with more exciting trips in the next term, for even more students!

Please note however, that although we want all of our pupils to strive for 100% attendance, for the next academic term, the minimum attendance figure to be eligible for the trip will be >95%.

Mrs Barnett, Miss Wright, Mrs Johnson
The Inclusion Team

FOOD TECHNOLOGY



The Food Technology department and students were really inspired by the lovely weather this half term.

Taylor learnt how to make smoothies using a range of fresh and frozen ingredients.

He created his own recipes including:

- Cucumber and mint
- Spinach, pea and apple
- Banana, berries and spinach

They were delicious!



Mrs Stack
Food Technology Teacher

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th April—18th April—Easter Holidays

19th April—27th May—Summer Term commences

2nd May—Bank Holiday Monday

30th May—3rd June—Half Term

6th June—22nd July—Summer Term recommences

24th June—Exam Season begins

6th July—Sports Day

11th July—Transition weeks begin

15th July—Summer BBQ

20th July—Leavers Assembly at 3:30pm

22nd July—End of Year Assembly