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NEWSLETTER

BASTON
House School



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MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Baston House School has been navigating significant changes since our return in September 2022 but it is with absolute pride that I write this term's newsletter. With the hard work and support of staff, pupils and parents, we have maintained high expectations and, above all, our pupils have continued to achieve.

As you read this newsletter you will see the many opportunities given to enrich our pupils learning. Travel training, for one, continues to be a huge success at our school. Mrs Sweeting, our Travel training Lead works tirelessly to seek, risk assess and implement a range of personalised programmes for our pupils and I know the great impact that increased independence has on our young people's quality of lives.

We also held our first 'hybrid' parents evening – with its best ever parent attendance of over 65%! It is always such a pleasure to see parents attending and working together with staff to ensure the best outcomes for our pupils. Thank you also, to everyone who was able to take the time to feedback on this event. We look forward to welcoming parents to our next coffee morning on 8th November 2022.

Next term brings a plethora of exciting learning opportunities outside of the classroom, including reward trips in the community, 'heartbeat' opportunities to central London and more! It also brings a period of mock exams for which I know many can find a real challenge. I ask that you continue to draw on the many support systems we have here at the school including the therapy team, Inclusion and Pastoral support should you identify the need.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your continued support and welcoming me into the post of Interim Headteacher: I commend our pupils on their resilience and maturity in dealing with a host of changes this term. We continue to work hard to make the right appointments and fill vacancies, as well as ensure consistently high quality of education. I recognise the difficulties that such changes can bring to young people in line with their diagnoses and will continue to work with the team to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term break.

Mrs Gibbs
Interim Headteacher

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CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE



Careers, work experience and educational visits have begun at a fast pace!

Work experience

There have been several students find their own work placement which is amazing, as this brings out their confidence and independent skills of the big wide world.

Careers

Students have been busy applying for job roles across the school 'Student Leader' roles. Each class looked at all the different positions available and then applied via an application form to the appropriate teacher.

Student Leader roles:

Daily Mile Mentor, Baston Mentor, Breakfast Club Leader, Display Mentor, Baston Ambassador, Digital Leader, Eco Leader, Student Librarian, Animal Care Leader.

The interviews have now been done and the teachers are very pleased with the response. All students will start their duties after half term.

Educational visits

We are planning many educational/careers related learning trips. In November, Careers will be visiting the Excel Business show in London. I will keep you informed of this, as it is always exciting and full of information for all.

Please contact the Careers Department, if you need any advice and guidance within Careers for your son/daughter. You can do this by emailing ellie.martineaux@bastonhouseschool.org.uk

- MRS MARTINEAUX
Careers and Work Experience



Say Hello to our Newest Travel Trainers...

I am very excited to share our KS5 Travel trainers first journeys from school to the local high streets. Students have practised road safety, understanding safer places to cross the busy roads. Bus travel, using the local routes and keeping safe within the community. Over the past few weeks, some students from Churchill class and Crompton class have practised using the local village bus along with familiarising themselves with the route we are taking. Once we had reached our destination, students had time in the local café to order and purchase their own refreshments and to understand good communication with the public workers.

It was very pleasing to see our young adults having positive conversations with each other around a table and to see their good social skills and good manners.

We are working to give our students the chance to build on their life skills, overcome challenges, and to be able to access many opportunities within the community by travelling independently.

Students have lots of travel and destination ideas, and have been planning journeys ready for travel practice. Well done travellers !!!!

“Travel Training is not just about learning to take a journey, it's about confidence, independence and learning social skills”

- Mrs Sweeting

Travel Training and out in the Community

WILBERFORCE OUTDOOR LEARNING

Wilberforce students have been exploring the natural environment and having adventures. They all worked together and have helped to complete a shelter in the woods. By learning outside the school boundaries, students enhance personal and social communication skills, increasing their physical health and enjoyed being immersed in nature.



- Mr Barduche
Horticulture and Independent Living

APPLEGATE INDEPENDENT LIVING VISITING THE LIBRARY

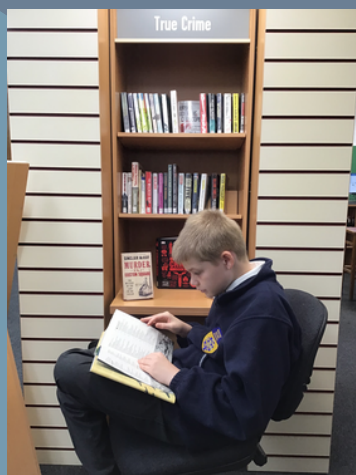


Applegate students have chosen reading as part of having a healthy lifestyle.

As part of our independent living skills sessions, students walked to the local library and chose their own books to take back to school or home. Applegate students now have their own classroom library card and they have made requests directly to the librarian.

This experience has helped the students to explore their local community, develop self-esteem and to become independent.

I am really proud of all of them!



- Mr Barduche
Horticulture and Independent Living



TRAVEL TRAINERS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



Super star*Traveller

This term Students accessing our Travel Training / out in the community programme have been developing their skills and awareness when travelling on public transport and generally enjoying being out in the community with their class peers.

Crompton Travel trainers had a fantastic morning and used their bus travel skills for a trip to Bromley shopping centre.

Road safety

The students exciting journey began with a road safety walk, understanding the safest place to cross and how to keep safe near the busy roads.

Students top tips for road crossing- "Always put away your mobile phone when crossing/walking to keep fully alert of your surroundings".

Bus travel

We then travelled by bus, understanding the route we are taking, looking at landmarks along the way and generally practising travelling with the public on a busy bus and to understand social acceptable behaviours when 'out in the community'.

Students are developing their understanding of Bus times, local routes and to put into practice their decision making skills as to when we need to press the red 'bus stopping' Alert button to depart the bus at the correct stop.

Out in the community

All travel trainers have or are developing awareness of being 'out in the community' along with skills and confidence to use various local services eg. Small shops, banks and building societies, understanding of supermarket self-checkouts. During our Bromley trip, students chose to visit two gaming stores and enjoyed Chai-Bubble-tea, a fun refreshing drink, budgeting their own money along with paying and ordering for themselves.

A little work on budgeting needed but that means more fun trips. 😊

Students had fun in the gaming store, as this was a personal interest to them all and a trip destination they planned themselves.

All students showed good behaviour on this trip and this was very rewarding to see them socialise together, with some good conversations and had fun.

- Mrs Sweeting

Travel Training and out in the Community



INDEPENDENT SUPERSTAR TRAVELLER



Over a few terms, Birch class student Henry has been practising his route from school to home and returning back to school to become more independent with travel.

Henry's Travel Training / Out in the community programme he has been following, has developed his skills and awareness when travelling on public transport and helped him to understand his route and destination.

Henry has now made this journey by himself by taking 2 buses to home and 2 buses back to school with great confidence and excellent travel skills.

Henry will now be travelling to school in the mornings independently, when he is ready.

This ability opens a world of possibilities for becoming a great traveller and the ability to travel to different destinations through his life.

Well done Henry - you are a superstar independent traveller!!



- Mrs Sweeting
Travel Training and Out in the Community

MATHS DEPARTMENT NEWS



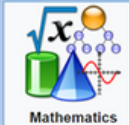
The Maths department are very pleased with the engagement of our students this term. Students have settled very well and have shown good effort in learning Maths.

During this term students completed a baseline assessment which help us identify their strengths and weaknesses in order to provide a bespoke curriculum to meet individual student's needs.

We were pleased to inform you of our 'Maths Reward' scheme. Introduced this academic year, the Maths Reward scheme is to celebrate the wonderful work our students produce, and to give students a chance to be rewarded for their engagement, effort and achievements in Maths and maths related extra-curricular activities.

Maths Reward Nominations
Termly winners for each Key Stage

Maths department are pleased to announce "Maths Rewards Nomination Scheme" for each Key Stage. There will be a draw every term (Dec, Mar, Jul) and there will be a winner from KS1/2, KS3, KS4 and KS5. The prize will be a £20 voucher.



Mathematics

All students will have the chance to be nominated by all staff and especially by their Maths Teacher for any of the reasons listed below.

You could be nominated for:

- Excellent engagement in maths lesson
- Excellent behaviour in maths lesson
- Supported peers during a maths lesson
- Completed the weekly Maths Homework
- Attended above 80% of maths lessons half termly
- Excellent engagement in cross curricular maths (i.e. DT, ICT, Food Tech, etc)
- Took part in Maths extra-curricular activities within the school or outside school (Games, puzzles, reading the maths newsletter, articles, magazines, etc)
- Or any other reasons related with Maths which is not specified above

KS3 and KS4 – Out in the local community

Students estimated and timed the walk from school to local shops. Each student had a budget they used to look for items in the shop, estimated how many items they could buy and worked out how much change is remaining. Students demonstrated good communication skills with each other and the shopkeeper. They knew how much change to expect. This gave students the opportunity to apply their maths skills in real world.

Well done to all the students this term and wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Creative Arts Faculty have been working with students to raise the profile of our wonderfully and talented students; with a musical farewell to Mr De Vecchi and a presentation of their artwork.

There will be a Halloween disco on Friday 4th of November 2022 at Golden Time. Students will need to earn 100 dojo point to get in...Be there or Be Square.



GCSE PE students have started using Park Langley Tennis club to practise Badminton, until end of December 2022. BHS students have been exemplary representing our school, they develop and enhance a number of skills through using Park Langley Badminton courts. Horticulture students are setting up an indoor garden – watch out for pictures in the next edition of this newsletter.

- Mrs Neufville-Bennett

Maths and Creative Arts Faculty

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWS

BASTON
House School



As we enter the fabled season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, the school year is in full swing. Once our half term is done, it will be headlong towards Christmas and the year will be done. Between now and then, English students will continue to work towards meeting their potential. Aply assisting them, along with our brilliant Teaching Assistants and Therapists, is a team of fine English teachers. Ms Woodhead, Ms Killgren, Ms Shaw and Mr Moloney have really settled in as great group of people to work with.

You'll not be surprised that I will continue to encourage and promote reading at Baston House. Earlier this term, I was fortunate to attend Mrs Parish's first Macmillan Coffee Morning and had the opportunity to present and open up our Staff Reading Library for any parents looking for a decent read. My thinking is that we are all role models and everyone should have access to great reads. Next time you're in school, please ask to have a look.

On the reading front, we had four applicants for the role of student librarian. I'm pleased to say that all four applicants were successful and we're already seeing the impact of their enthusiasm and dedication.

Finally, may I thank you for your continued support at home. The recent parents evening helped remind me that we are part of the same team looking for the same outcome – preparing our young people for life. As I've said before, our role is huge – to help students understand and to help them be understood.

Have a peaceful and pleasant half term.

- Mr Hebden
Head of English

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

As we reach the end of half term, the Inclusion Team would like to congratulate the 78 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.

Many thanks,
Inclusion Team



On 30th September we held our annual MacMillan coffee morning. A huge thank you to the parents and students who made such beautiful and delicious cakes. We raised a fantastic £112, the highest amount yet! We hope to see even more parents and carers at our next coffee morning on 8th November - please do make a note in your diary!



- Mrs Barnett and Mrs Parish
Inclusion Team

SCHOOL UNIFORM

BASTON
House School



This is a reminder that it is the expectation for students to wear school uniform. It has always been a belief at Baston House School that uniforms:

- Give pupils a sense of belonging
- Help pupils share a common identity regardless of finance, background, culture or religion
 - Remove pressure to buy designer label clothes and shoes that not all can afford
 - Signal the day has started and helps sharpen the brain for learning
 - It makes a busy morning routine easier
- Remove the monitoring of appropriate vs inappropriate clothing daily in school.

Whilst we will endeavour to have as many of our pupils as possible wearing school uniform, we also are nothing but flexible and understanding. Some of our pupils may present sensory difficulties and certain fabrics and clothing can be a trigger.

If that is the case, then we suggest that parents encourage their children to wear clothes which resemble the school's uniform.

School's uniform is:

Post 16 – If students decide not to wear school uniform then smart casual clothes to be worn

Secondary - Black, grey or charcoal trousers or shorts, tracksuit bottoms or skirt. White school polo shirt, navy school jumper, blazer (optional), white shirt (optional), school tie (optional)

Primary - Black, grey or charcoal trousers or shorts, tracksuit bottoms or skirt. Yellow school polo shirt, royal blue school jumper, blue and white gingham summer dresses (optional)

Footwear - Suitable school footwear, if trainers are worn in school these should be black

PE Kit - T-Shirt, shorts, tracksuit bottoms, suitable footwear (no colour stipulation)

To purchase any of the Baston House School uniform you can either visit the stockists in Bromley or OZ Schoolwear in Petts Wood. Please see the details for both locations. You may want to call the shops beforehand to check stock as blazers are made to measure:

www.bromleyschoolwear.co.uk

Bromley Schoolwear

51 High Street

Bromley

BR1 1LE

0208 460 0032

info@bromleyschoolwear.co.uk

Branch Manager: Don

www.ozschoolwear.co.uk

Oz Schoolwear

6 Chatsworth Parade

Petts Wood

BR5 1DF

01689 824 767

info@ozschoolwear.co.uk

Branch Manager: Jon

IMPORTANT DATES



Monday 31st October - Autumn Term 2 Commences
Tuesday 8th November - Coffee Morning
Monday 28th November to Friday 2nd December - Mock Exam Week
Thursday 15th December - Christmas Production
Wednesday 21st December to Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas Break
Wednesday 4th January - Spring Term 1 Commences
Tuesday 10th January - Coffee Morning and Parent Workshop
Thursday 2nd February - Parents Evening
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February - Half Term
Monday 20th February - Spring Term 2 Commences
Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day
Thursday 9th March - Careers Fair
Monday 20th March to Friday 24th March - Mock Exam Week
Thursday 23rd March - Options Evening KS4 & KS5
Friday 31st March - Baston's Got Talent
Monday 3rd April to Monday 17th April - Easter Break
Tuesday 18th April - Summer Term 1 Commences
Tuesday 25th April - Coffee Morning
Monday 1st May - Exam Season Starts
Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June - Half Term
Monday 5th June - Summer Term 2 Commences
Friday 23rd June - Exam Season Ends
Wednesday 5th July - Sports Day
Monday 10th July - Transition Weeks Begin
Friday 14th July - Summer BBQ
Wednesday 19th July - Leavers Assembly
Friday 21st July - End of Academic Year