

S P R I N G 1 2 0 2 3

# NEWSLETTER

**BASTON**  
House School



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I can't believe that I have made it to the end of my first half term at Baston House School. It has been an incredibly busy term with so many excellent events. The half term has included a highly packed and varied schedule. We saw a successful careers week, student enterprise day, class reward trips, mock examinations, youth support worker visits, options evenings and a talk from Hezron Brown to name but a few. We also finished the term with a whole school visit to the local church which included an Easter egg hunt. The students behaved impeccably throughout the service and were a real credit to the school. I have been incredibly impressed with the work and enthusiasm of both staff and students.

When we return after the Easter break our Year 11 and post 16 students will be well into exam season. Please do encourage your children to do a bit of revision during the holiday so that they feel more prepared for their exams on their return. Please do contact Charlotte Spence or Aaron Dunster for advice regarding revision. In addition to their revision, please do ensure that your children get plenty of rest and find some time to relax during the break.

I am hoping to meet with as many of you as possible after the Easter break and am really hoping that some of you will volunteer to drive a parent forum. I have scheduled a meet the Headteacher coffee morning for 9am on Friday 28th April. If you are unable to attend we will have a virtual meeting on Thursday 27th April at 5pm. Please do come armed with questions and suggestions.

Parents Meet the head Afternoon

Meeting ID: 344 305 051 107

Passcode: MFTAvk

*(this link will be sent again nearer the time)*

If you are unable to attend either event but you would like to contribute do send me across any questions/suggestions which I can bring to the meeting.

My contact details are as follows: [Rachel.martin@bastonhouseschool.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.martin@bastonhouseschool.org.uk)

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing your children return refreshed in the Summer term. We have an INSET day on 17th April so please note that school will be open for students again on Tuesday 18th April.

Rachel Martin  
Headteacher

# ART



Keeping up the tradition of best students' artwork on display in the Headteachers Office, here are some beautiful artworks adorning Mrs. Martin's office this term.

Top Left Zach, a very colourful and textured Picasso portrait.

Top right Kai, mixed media self-portrait with text.

Bottom left Miles Thomas, a wonderfully atmospheric painting in response to research.

Bottom right Ari, fantastic Mandala design created on procreate.

We would all like to welcome our lovely new Headteacher Mrs. Martin and keep on supplying her with our beautiful and creative artwork to brighten her day.

I wish you all a wonderful Easter Break with your loved ones!

**- Mrs T Mitchell**  
Art Teacher

# FOOD BANK

On Wednesday the DoFE students took the Easter foodbank donations to the Foodbank.

It was the 3rd contribution this academic year, with a drive to understanding and supporting the wider community affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Baston House School has supported this initiative through the tutor groups for Harvest, Christmas, and Easter.

**- Mr C Drew**  
Duke of Edinburgh Leader

# CAREERS, TRIPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE



Baston House school, once again delivered a very successful Apprenticeship week and Careers week full of activities aimed at students year 7 and above, giving our students the chance to discuss and question different skilled professionals and to build confidence in the world of work. Careers week saw Construction, Industry, Training board, British Airways, Department, Work & Pensions and ASK Apprenticeships come to the school. All worked with the students and spoke at the Careers assembly. Department for Work & Pensions held a parents' workshop for all their career concerns.



The theatre group "RahRah" work experience show had to be cancelled due to the snow until later in the summer term.



The community we work alongside for work experience and visits, came together for our annual Careers Fair. This year the Mayoress Hannah Gray came along and made a speech to our students, about how important it is to have career events like this and to speak with the various employers and employees from the community. She thanked the professionals attending and giving the students a meaningful encounter of their career and discussing with them how it was achieved and what qualifications were needed. The Mayoress then made time to speak individually to the students. The employers that attended were the London Fire brigade, an author, electrician, plumber, NHS, LSEC colleges and in-house employees. The students enjoyed the experience.

We held our very own Enterprise Fair. The students from all classes took part, enjoying the understanding of an enterprise idea. We all had a very exciting week and our students really related the events to the world of work.



Careers, Educational visits and work experience at Baston House school, have certainly had a busy spring term by the many meaningful visits within the community. We are also very fortunate to work closely with Bromley LSEC college. They provide us with the opportunity for our key stage 5 to visit in small groups across the academic year, which gives the students a feel for college life and what to expect.

Work experience has again been partnered with our local land owner, 'Magic of Foresters' offering garden duties, but please if you know of a suitable work placement for your son or daughter, please contact me and I will forward the relevant papers for consent.

**- Mrs E Martineaux**  
Careers, Educational  
Visits

# THERAPY



This term the Clinical Team took a group of students on an offsite trip to a local Fish & Chip shop as part of their social communications sessions for Speech and Language Therapy. Students called the Fish & Chip shop to place their orders, using the skills they've been working on in sessions. We then walked down to the shop and students spoke with the shop staff to pick up each of their orders.

They all did a fantastic job and enjoyed some delicious food!

**- Therapy Team**



# RHODES REWARD TRIP



As a reward trip, Rhodes class took a trip to Bluewater and went to Gravity Trampoline Park.

It was such a fun day out! The children loved bouncing around, climbing the ninja warrior obstacle course and completing challenges.



We then celebrated with a yummy McDonalds and KFC. It was a fantastic day out to celebrate the hard work of the whole class.

**- Miss J Marshall**  
Rhodes Form Tutor

# HERZON BROWN VISIT



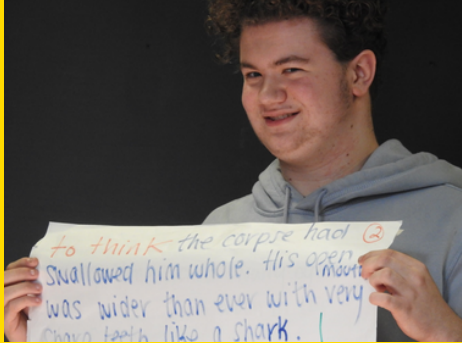
On 16th March 2023 Hezron Brown, a lived experience speaker, visited our school. Hezron speaks about the challenges he faced as a young person, suffering with a bad temper and being homeless. These events led to getting caught up in gang culture and nearly being sent to prison for 10 years; after that near miss, he decided to change his life around. Realising education was key, he concentrated on enhancing his skills which led to an opportunity with the Princes Trust. He was then recruited by the Birmingham Rep Theatre and became an ambassador for the Princes Trust, speaking at key events to raise awareness of the struggles that young people face.

Due to the work, he has done, he was awarded Ambassador of the Year and was personally invited to Buckingham Palace where he met HRH Prince Charles for the first time. From then he created his own company, More Talk More Action, and later won the 30 Under 30 Award (30 most inspirational people in Birmingham). His most recent achievement was in October 2019 when he was presented with the Pride of Britain Award for the work and dedication he has committed to young people and professionals over the years.

To date, he has spoken to over 150,000 young people across the country spreading awareness of the negative effects of gang culture and raising aspirations to become positive contributors to their community.

Students in years 7-14 were split into two groups and, along with staff, enjoyed Hezron's engaging speech. All the students thoroughly enjoyed the speech and asked Hezron questions afterwards. One student said "this is the best thing that we have had at Baston".

**- Mrs J Johnson**  
Designated Mental Health Lead



March saw World Book Day return to Baston House and we had a fantastic day! Staff and students dressed up as favourite characters, a rolling short story was written with contributions from almost every student in the school, and roving Cat in the Hat readings occurred seemingly out of nowhere. Many students also got involved with our second 100-word short story competition of the year, and the quality of entries was as high as ever.

On the short story front, we were very proud to have twenty short stories accepted for publication in the next Young Writers anthology. Baston House is a cauldron of creative talent, it seems! Well done to everyone involved.



We have also had mock exams for those students seeking accreditation this year, and this is a big reminder that as days get longer and warmer, so exam season approaches. Whilst this can be a stressful time for students, we will do all we can to help them be ready and able to achieve their best when the time comes.

As I write this, I'm looking forward to taking six students to see An Inspector Calls at the Bromley Churchill Theatre. I hope to widen the opportunity for students to experience the theatre 'in the flesh' in the future.



The English department work very hard but we also recognise how important your continued support is in helping your child develop their literacy and oracy. Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly – keep those reading muscles fit and healthy! Thank you. Finally, we wish you a peaceful and enjoyable Easter break. Spring has sprung!

**- Mr A Hebden**  
Head of English

# DUKE OF EDINBURGH ALTON TOWERS TRIP



We arrived on the campsite on Thursday afternoon, checked out the facilities and met the host of Leek Camping Barns. The host showed us around and let us into where we were going to be staying for the next 3 nights. We then unloaded our things into the room and made our beds. After that Mason, Daniel, Cohen and I went for a walk around the surrounding area to see what we could find and what we could do. After that, we came back to camp and made a fire to keep warm and at the same time we got the barbecue going so we could make chicken and rice for everyone to eat. That summarises the Thursday afternoon.



## Friday

We started the Friday morning early to have some breakfast and get down to the Alton Towers Water Park. We stayed for around 3 hours going on all water slides and having fun in all the facilities. Then we found a local pub that served food and ate there. We then went back to camp and had some fun making fires and going for walks. We walked into town to see what there was to do. We then went back to our camp site and made a fire and made some pizzas. We then relaxed for the rest of the night.



## Saturday

We had another early start having breakfast ready for the day ahead at the theme park. As it was the first day of the season, it was busy, so we got there early to avoid any queues getting into the park. I've been to Alton towers before so I recommend rides to start on and what rides would be the best as a group. I enjoyed all of them as I enjoy theme parks in general. We all bought stuff for people at the shops after we had finished all the rides. After we left the theme park we went to the shops to pick up some supplies for the barbecue for the final night. We made a nice fire and got the barbecue going so Mason could cook for everyone. We had a nice chat throughout the night. We all ate and went off to bed.

# CONTINUED / DUKE OF EDINBURGH ALTON TOWERS TRIP



Sunday

We had to wake up early to pack everything up and leave by 10am. To summarise the trip, it was really good for everyone as it built friendships and made everyone more comfortable with each other. It was also a good mental break for everyone to get away from London and have fun.

Written by:Charlie 19/03/23



Over the course of 4 days, I took part in multiple new activities. Prior to this event I had never stayed away from home for more than a night. We visited Alton towers Water Park; Mini Golf and Theme Park, where I experienced large and exciting rides. Towards the evenings we cooked and ate nice food such as burgers, hotdogs, and sausage rolls. In conclusion, I am thankful I was able to experience everything and had a nice time.

Feedback by Cohen 19/03/2023

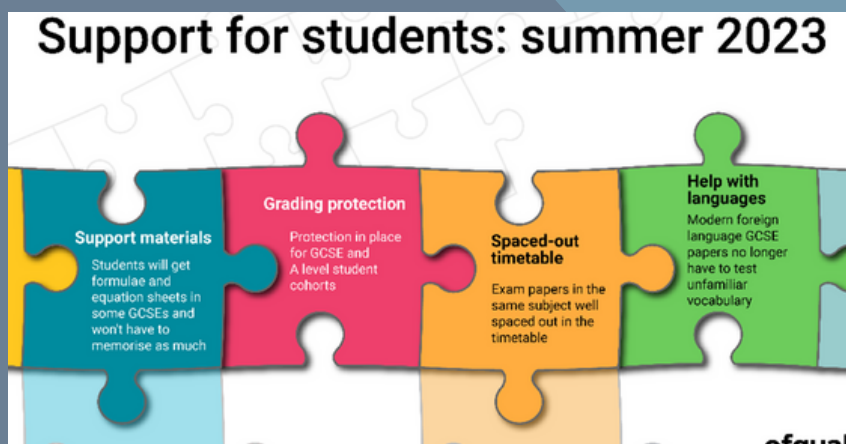


**- Mr C Drew**

Duke of Edinburgh Leader



# MOCK EXAMS – MARCH 2023



We would like to take this opportunity to say how proud we are of the pupils who undertook mock exams this half term. We know this can be a worrying and challenging time, but the pupils have shown incredible resilience and displayed such a positive attitude in doing their best. Pupils and parents will shortly receive these results.

## Summer Exams-May to June 2023

The Summer 2023 examination period will run between 10th May to the 28th June 2023. You will shortly receive your child's candidate examination entry form which will include the date and timings for each exam. Please be aware that some exams will finish after 3.05pm, therefore transport home will need to be arranged separately for your child. Please check your child's exam timetable carefully. If this is the case, it will be highlighted on the individual examination entry letter.

## Exam Contingency days 2023

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have put in place contingency days in the event of national or significant local disruption to exams in the United Kingdom. This is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for exams.

For the June 2023 exams, the awarding bodies have therefore introduced two additional half-day contingency sessions. These are on Thursday 8 June 2023 and Thursday 15 June 2023. The standard contingency day remains at the end of the exam timetable being scheduled on Wednesday 28 June 2023. Candidates must remain available until Wednesday 28 June 2023 should examinations need to be rescheduled.

## Results day 2023

Results day for all pupils to collect their exam results will be on Thursday 24th August 2023. Further information for exam result collection will be sent out prior to the end of the academic year.

**- Mrs E Lee**  
Exams Officer

# SCIENCE WEEK

**BASTON**  
House School



On the 13th March, Baston House School welcomed its annual Science Week, and in true Science week form we thought it best to open with a bang! The theme of the first day was focused on reactivity, where pupils were invited to our science lab to watch a classic demonstration about the reactivity of alkali metals in water. This is an experiment that students will participate in with the Key Stage Four Science curriculum. However, as it was science week, we thought it best to scale things up slightly.



After a series of modest explosions, the laboratory demonstration was complete, and students were invited to join the science team on the sports field. This was where we made things a little bigger, choosing one of the classroom favourite alkali metals to see what happens on a larger scale. When Sodium is placed in water it splits the hydrogen and oxygen atoms, creating a great deal of heat. The hydrogen released from the reaction then ignites providing us with the first of many explosions, and the demise of many plastic buckets.



Tuesday brought us some of our crowd favourites, in the form of Exothermic Reactions. For a reaction to be Exothermic it will be accompanied with the release of heat. This provided us with an opportunity to stay out of the cold and rain, warm up back inside the lab. The experiments started with pupils being invited to express their competitive sides, through the medium of Sugar Snakes. This is a satisfying exothermic reaction between sugar and baking soda, where during this reaction both products decompose to produce a seemingly growing carbon snake out of the flames. The tallest snake wins! After some friendly competition, the reactions started to get much more exothermic, with the much-requested "Elephant's toothpaste".

After a brief break on Wednesday to clean up the great elephant's toothpaste flood of 2023, we were back to business looking at the effect of surface area on reactions. Turning seemingly innocent ingredients such as sawdust and sugar into "Dragon's Breath". Powdered sugar is carefully puffed across an open flame, which gives the spectacular illusion of a Dragon breathing fire! While also seeing how much energy is packed into our sugary sweet treats.



With the week coming to a close, it seemed fitting to up the tempo (as well as the temperature) and introduce a personal favourite topic of ours: Reduction Oxidation reactions. Much like the great duos of the world, including Ant and Dec, Socks and Sandals, and Protons and Electrons, you just should not have one without the other. Reduction and Oxidation are no exception, and when they are invited, things are going to get hot! This mixture of rust and aluminium does not get along well, and once introduced to a little ignition, this mixture will dramatically react and easily reach temperatures of 2550 degrees Celsius.

Science week at Baston House School, was an exciting opportunity to exhibit many of the aspects of science that students will learn throughout their science lessons. With pupils across all of our key stages invited, our Science Department could really show off what science at Baston House is all about, and we are looking forward to continuing a tradition of showstopping science weeks to come.

**- Mr N George**  
Science Teacher

# SCHOOL UNIFORM



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](http://www.bromleyschoolwear.co.uk)

**Bromley Schoolwear**

**51 High Street**

**Bromley**

**BR1 1LE**

**0208 460 0032**

[info@bromleyschoolwear.co.uk](mailto:info@bromleyschoolwear.co.uk)

**Branch Manager: Don**

[www.ozschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.ozschoolwear.co.uk)

**Oz Schoolwear**

**6 Chatsworth Parade**

**Petts Wood**

**BR5 1DF**

**01689 824 767**

[info@ozschoolwear.co.uk](mailto:info@ozschoolwear.co.uk)

**Branch Manager: Jon**

# KEY DATES



**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**