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NEWSLETTER

BASTON
House School



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

It has been another jam packed half term at Baston House. Many students have been busy with exams; the students have been incredibly studious and seem to be coping well despite the inevitable stress of the exam period. We are all really proud of them! I have also been impressed that many of our Y11s and post 16 students have coped with the independence of having a period of study leave and have managed to complete their revision during this time.

I have had the pleasure of seeing some fantastic work across the site and subject areas. I was particularly impressed with the BTEC Art, Food tech and ICT. I also wanted to give a special mention to Rhodes class who have excelled in their latest English topics through their study of Shakespeare. I am looking forward to seeing their mini performances of Macbeth. We had a visit from our school improvement partner, Liz Chaplin, who commented on the high standard of the work produced. Well done to all staff and teachers.

Next half term will see the long awaited introduction of hot lunches for our students. We will be running 2 sittings during our lunch break and all students are invited to have a free school meal. Please follow the link below and complete the form so that we can work out catering numbers. The school meal service is being run by our newly appointed catering team led by Radica, our catering manager. I am sure that students will be delighted to receive the delicious meals served by Radica and Irene. We had a taster trial earlier this week and the staff were extremely complimentary about the quality of the food. The proposed start date for the hot meal service is 14th June 2023. We will keep you posted.

[School Lunch Options](#)

It was wonderful to see so many students enter our musical competition, Baston's Got Talent. I was moved by the impressive performances of our children. I hope that you were able to join us virtually for the fabulous event.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER CONTINUED

On a different note, we have some staff announcements. Lauren Gibbs our fabulous deputy head teacher will be leaving Baston this summer to take up a headship at Tower School, one of our sister schools in the group. Lauren has been an inspirational teacher and leader during her time at Baston and has been a huge support to our students who will miss her dearly. Lauren has also been a fantastic, supportive colleague who I will personally miss working with on a daily basis. However, she will be a governor at Baston which will enable us to continue working together and will give students the opportunity to see her during her onsite visits.

Yvonne Gabriel will be taking up the post of Deputy Head at Baston in place of Lauren. Please see her picture and introduction below.

On a sad note, Luisa Opoku-Adjei, our Performing Arts teacher, has had to leave Baston because of personal reasons, but we very much hope she will keep in touch and will return to become part of the Baston family again in the future.

Thank you to all parents / carers who have expressed an interest in being part of the parent forum. We have our first meeting at 3:30pm on Thursday 8th June. Please let me know if you would like to attend. You can join in person or virtually. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

I hope you have a relaxing half term break and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the coming half term, for the exciting events ahead including Sports Day and the summer barbecue.

Rachel Martin
Headteacher

Hello, I'm Yvonne Gabriel and I'm very excited to be taking on the role as Deputy Headteacher at Baston House. I can't wait to get to know you all and be a part of the team. I have worked with autistic children and young people in autism specific schools for over 20 years; and have been a part of Senior Leader Teams for much of that time. I am passionate about enabling both pupils and staff to be the best they can be and to achieve their best outcomes in fun and interesting ways. Outside of work, I have a cheeky and fiercely independent cat called Ollie, who rules my house. I enjoy singing and am part of the Sinology Community Choir. I also enjoy travelling, walking and cycling; I'm proud to say that I completed my first London to Brighton ride last year, raising money for the British Heart Foundation. I am the chairperson of a small charity supporting a special school in Grenada, the Caribbean and am also a qualified, practicing massage therapist so as you can see, I like to keep busy. 😊

I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Have a fabulous summer.



PAINTING AND DECORATING



As part of the AQA Painting & Decorating course, KS4 and KS5 students were tasked with assembling flat pack furniture, in the shape of 'Malm' chest of drawers. Teamwork was the order of the day, as the students had to work in pairs to complete the task.

The first hurdle, was dealing with the instructions – no words! However, they soon mastered the simple picture instructions and set out all of the component parts, fixtures and fittings, such as panel pins, screws and wooden dowels to ensure that all the parts were there. A screwdriver and a hammer were the only tools required and the carcass was soon assembled. It was then on to the drawers but these were relatively simple to construct. It was great to see the pupils working so well together, solving any problems as they went.

There was a bit of good-natured rivalry thrown into the mix too, as the teams were determined to finish first. Rushing wasn't an option though, as a quality end product was still a necessity! The Malms chest of drawers are going to be used in classrooms around the school. Therefore, it was vital that all of them were built correctly, to ensure a long life.

The students are very proud of their work. The finished items of furniture look very impressive indeed! The students are now equipped to deal with assembling similar items in the future and are now able to use hand tools. They are confident in interpreting and following instructions included in similar items of flat pack furniture. This will be an asset to them in later life.

- Mr G Allen
Painting and Decorating Teacher

RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION



I am delighted to report that the Year 13 and 14 pupils had a moment of joy in their RSE lesson when discussing the topic of commitment in relationships. They engaged in a fun activity where they thought about famous couples and their reasons for being together.



One particular example that caught their attention was the relationship between King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla. Here are some of the reasons Churchill Class thought the couple had chosen to be together: love, power, attraction, money, shared ideologies, and the tragic circumstances of Princess Diana's passing.

As for what makes them happier being together than alone, the students came up with some insightful responses. They suggested that being open and honest about their relationship may bring them joy, and that they won't have to face the prospect of dying alone. Plus, they get to share a home!

All in all, it was a lively and engaging discussion, and the students had a blast analysing the relationships of famous couples. It just goes to show that when we mix education with a bit of humour, the learning process becomes a lot more enjoyable.

- Mrs S Gustavus
PSHE Lead

ENGLISH



It seems the short freezing days of winter have finally left us, replaced by longer warmer days, with the promise of summer to come. This time of year brings its own anxieties and challenges, of course, and many of our students are preparing for final examinations. Staff have worked very hard to get students ready for these exams and we know they'll get their chance to shine soon. However, the purpose of studying English is much more than gaining accreditation. English – language and literacy – empowers individuals to express themselves fully and clearly, understanding and being understood. Students also gain a greater understanding and awareness of the world in which they live. We are bombarded with messages constantly, and being able to understand these messages and judge their value and integrity is vital in our society.

In the lower school, it has been fantastic to see younger students working with Mary to explore the current news, identifying fact from opinion, objectivity from subjectivity, accuracy from hyperbole. At the other end of the spectrum, it has been a joy to see the love of literature that Lucy has instilled in her GCSE students. Hopefully, this will remain with them forever, opening doors to further study, understanding and appreciation.

And so on to summer we go! I wish you all a restful and safe half term. The first English Language GCSE exam is on the morning of the first day back! We will hit the ground running as ever...

- Mr A Hebden
English Lead

CAREERS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Summer term has begun with many opportunities of work experience for our students. Some students are on a placement with a family member and some in the community. They are all progressing well and preparing for the world of work.

Tutor groups, Willow and Turing have been on work experience at the "Magic of Foresters" and have all gained excellent experience of working together on the land and taking part with gardening duties. Events at Baston House school have included ASK Apprenticeships and DWP (Department for Work & Pensions). They delivered in-depth workshops for the students. All the students that took part were able to chat with the speakers, gaining valuable information.

Next half term will be extremely busy with our educational visits, work experience and a residential abroad. We look forward very much to giving our students the chance to experience these and gain an insight to the wider world. Thank you for all the support.

- Mrs E Martineaux
Careers and Work Experience



On Friday, 22nd of May we had a full day of Maths activities provided by a Problem Solving Company. Students had an enjoyable time as each year group were inspired, challenged and excited by the various activities and problem-solving puzzles and challenges.

Well done to all the students who participated in these activities.

This term students have been working hard in their lessons. Key Stage 4 and 5 students have been revising for their exams. Functional Skills students have sat both papers this term and Entry Level have completed all their external tests. GCSE students have sat paper 1 and they have two more calculator papers to sit after they come back from half term break on Wednesday 7th and 14th of June.



We would like to wish to our KS4 and KS5 students the best of luck in this exam season. Well done to all the students for their hard work this term.



- Mrs Zylyftari
Maths

ANIMALS



Chip is an 8-Year-old Chihauzer (Mini Schnauzer and X Chihuahua) who brings joy and peace to staff and pupils when he attends school. Chip loves people, especially children. He enjoys a big fuss and cuddles. He is a very sociable dog who brings calmness and serenity to all who come into contact with him. His best skills are making people feel calm and tranquil, especially when they are having a bad day!

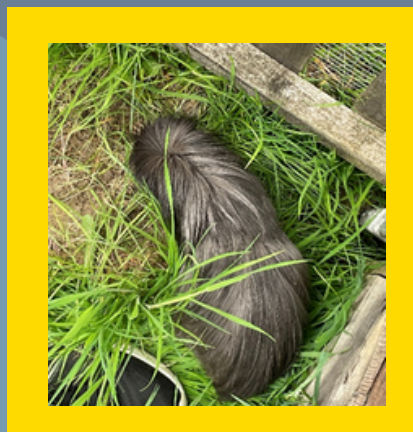


At Baston House we are fortunate to have some small animals. We have 2 rabbits a large white one called Cotton and a small white and beige one called Milo. We have 2 guinea pigs one red short coated one called George and one black long coated one called Henry. We have a popular lunch club set up for visits.



The students from all key stages visit the animals, which has proven to calm and relax the students during times of distress.

The animals form part of the 'Animal Care Management' ASDAN course which we offer at Baston House School for KS5 students.



- Mr C Drew

Animal Care Management and ASDAN Teacher

THERAPY



The Therapy Team have now moved to The Gould Building, making it much easier for students and staff to pop in and see us.

We had a visit from Bethan's dog, Tigger, this term. These two students were very pleased with Tigger helping them out during their bike riding sessions for Occupational Therapy!

Clinical Team

ATTENDANCE REWARD TRIP

On Friday 5th May 58 pupils with 95% or above attendance for Spring term were rewarded with a merit trip to Laser Quest in Bromley.

The students travelled by coach and minibus and staff were impressed with the high level of good behaviour. The students were divided into 4 groups of 15 and demonstrated exemplary behaviour and turn taking.

When not in the laser quest room the students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Virtual Reality experiences, which they thoroughly enjoyed. All students got some refreshments and several students brought along money and enjoyed snacks, pizza and hot dogs.

Baston House School strive to maintain high levels of attendance and hope to reward students for their attendance in the future.

Inclusion Team



Bronze, Silver and Gold Award students have now completed their Water Sports 'Starter', 'Discover', 'Safety in Water' Award and Gold/Leavers also gained their 'Explore' Award through DofE Award Scheme at Baston House School.

The British Canoeing Personal Performance Awards are designed for paddlers wanting to gain recognition of their learning and development, in the craft and environment they choose. The Paddle Start Award looks to encourage new paddlers and build confidence. The Paddle Discover Award enables the paddler to develop decision making and fundamental skills. The skills learnt are: launch and recovery, preparation of the boat and crew, boat handling, picking up and securing to a mooring buoy, leaving and coming alongside, being towed, rafting up.

The manoeuvres learnt were: forward stroke, sweep strokes: "spin turn", drill combining alternating forward and reverse sweeps into a "spin turn." Draw strokes standard (beam) draw & sculling draw, low brace and high brace, sculling brace and reverse stroke.

Some students said:

'My favourite part was playing Bulldog in the kayaks on the lake. It pushed me to think and progress with my paddling skills'. (Lucy)

'Although I did some of this last year, I gained strength in many areas of the courses and gained speed'. (Callum)

'I learnt so many new skills in the kayak. It was a totally new experience for me personally. It was the best time. I even capsized once by accident and the other time was to learn to get back into the kayak'. (William)

'For me personally it was great to get back in a Kayak, racing up the lakes with my friends, but also relaxing on the calm water'. (Daniel)

'I was very unsure if I could or would be able to do this. Mr Drew and my mum think everything in DofE is good for me. I do and did have a lot of fun and learnt lots of things. I surprised myself and it felt good to know I did it in the end'. (Sean)

'I really enjoyed all aspects of the courses and it has inspired me to take up more courses in the future'. (Miles)



- Mr C Drew
Duke of Edinburgh Teacher

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

KEY DATES



Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June - Half Term

Monday 5th June - Summer Term 2 Commences

Friday 23rd June - Exam Season Ends

Wednesday 12th 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