

Baston House End of Term Newsletter



Autumn 1 2023 End of Term

Note from the Headteacher

It has been an extremely busy half term and has been fabulous to welcome so many new students and staff to school and to see them becoming part of the Baston family. Well done to our new students for settling so well!

This half term we have had lots of memorable moments; I have been particularly impressed with seeing several students see their poems in print! What an incredible achievement to be a published author. Copies of The Young Writers, "The Power of Poetry" can be purchased. Contact Andy Hebden to find out more. Andrew.Hebden@bastonhouseschool.org.uk



The Duke of Edinburgh students have excelled and shown excellent leadership during several on and off-site activities. Baston Students have been on reward trips, been vocal council members, and fantastic advocates for school improvement. We are also pleased with the uptake of lunchtime clubs. Many of which have been highly popular.

We are planning brand new exciting on site activities with outside agencies in the new term. We have a bike maintenance charity coming to Baston to work with our students, we also hope to provide an externally led football mentoring programme for our students. More details will follow! I am sure we will have many takers.

During the half term break the premises team will be busy maintaining the site and enhancing the provision. We also have a construction team coming to Baston to start building a brand-new classroom. Work on the new development will continue until Christmas which will mean that students will see some builders at school when they return in the new half term. The new class will be a fabulous addition to the school and will provide an excellent space for some of our students. I believe that the picture of the rainbow above Baston is a symbol of great things to come. I hope you have a restful half term break, and I look forward to seeing your children return refreshed and ready for the half term ahead.





School celebrations

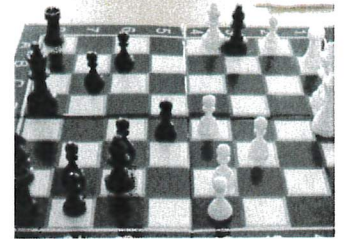


Cycling

Children have been cycling in Norman Park. This is a considered mode of transport for Expedition and fitness in training. What a great way to get around!

Chess

Chess fever is slowly gripping Baston House School. We are looking at setting up a Chess Club AND an inaugural tournament. Chess is a fantastic way for students of all ages to come together on a level playing field. Strategy, respect, winning, losing - all key skills in the mighty game!



Poetry Competition

Last academic year, students took part in a poetry competition. They were all absolutely amazing, with some lucky enough to be published in a book. The books arrived and it was great to see the poems on paper 😊
Well done everyone!

The Great Pumpkin Challenge

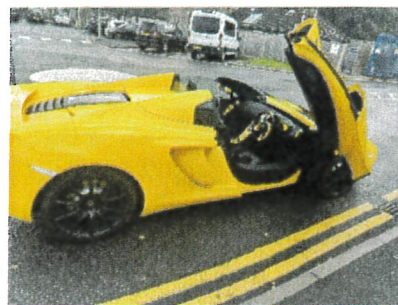
Sam Cox created an autobiographical piece of writing about his weekend:

On the 7th October 2023, I woke up excited, because it was a big day for me, and my prize pumpkin. At around 12:17pm I arrived at the venue which was Wargrave Nursery Plant Centre, I got excited and a little impatient so I ran out the car, opened the boot, and carried my prize pumpkin to one of the staff running the weigh-off. While my mum was catching up with me a staff member took me to a pallet holding a giant pumpkin where I placed my pumpkin. The giant pumpkin made my prize pumpkin look very small. About 2hrs later, it was time to measure the weight of the field pumpkins. First a prize veg inspector looked at my pumpkin and saw the scratches where squirrels had a go at it, and the best thing I heard was my pumpkin did not get disqualified, he said a pumpkin would only get disqualified if it cracked or blew a hole that goes through the flesh and estimated the weight to be 4lbs. I carried my prize pumpkin to the scales and it weighed a whopping 10.1lbs. At about 15:41pm the results were in, my prize pumpkin finished 4th or in other words last, and because it was my first time competing in a weigh-off my prize pumpkin won me a rosette and it says "Great Pumpkin Commonwealth GPC 9th SITE AWARD" I was so proud. And when I came home I put my prize pumpkin in the kitchen and put the rosette on top of it.



Sports Car Excitement

Sixth form students had an exciting experience. A McLaren Spider V8 car was brought on site for the sixth formers to look, ask questions and take photos for their photography course.



Ruby Class Trip

Ruby Class had a great time at Oxygen Freejumping in Croydon. They worked hard this half term to gain enough Dojo points to earn this trip. They had a lot of fun whilst developing many different skills including social, money and travel skills.

Water Sports

The Bronze DofE students were introduced to Water Sports through Danson Adventures this week. We had a fun packed day with kayaking in the morning session, learning manoeuvres on the lake. Followed by an afternoon session with Bell Boating a team row and fun with hoops, balance and steering. It was a day all the students enjoyed. After half term the students will undertake the 1st level certificate 'Starter Award' Thank you for your support to the staff Leisa, Sarah and Janet.



Food Bank Donations

Thank you everyone for donating. DofE students collected these from all the classes and we managed to receive a lot of goodies for the Bromley Food Bank.

Duke of Edinburgh

DofE Bronze and Silver students explore the wider community. They are making advances and engaging with Road Safety, Woodland Walks (following the Countryside Code). Keep it up. 😊





Today, we sadly say goodbye to two amazing members of staff.

Mr Venn Edwards is off to very exciting (and highly secret) new pastures. Having been at the school as both a student and an incredible TA. He has had to be the fastest runner – trying to keep up with one of our well-known Year 11 students.

We are also saying goodbye to Ms Kelly Southgate. She has made an incredibly positive impact on the school in a short space of time. Unfortunately, she has been snapped up as a senior social worker to advise and support DSLs in school. We were very lucky to have her input for a short period of time.



Welcome

We look forward to welcoming 2 new members of staff to the Baston House School team after the half term break.

Miss Emily Garvin-Howard will be our new Admin/SENCo Assistant and Mrs Karen Davis will be our new Examination Officer.

We look forward to the skills and expertise they bring to the Baston family.



Note from the editors

We hope you have enjoyed our first few newsletters. We certainly have enjoyed writing them. 😊

The end of term is a joyful occasion, and we would like to show this with stories, events and information to take with you into the break.

Have a restful and safe half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 31st October 2023.



Other Information

Vocal Coaching

There have been great student responses about having 1:1 vocal sessions.

If your child is interested in this great opportunity, please email Miss Sabrina

Hilaire:

Sabrina.hilaire@bastonhouseschool.org.uk

Free fitness classes for girls

Please find an initiative that Nuffield Health have set up for girls aged between 11 and 16. They are offering free weekly fitness classes at a number of different places.

Here is the website:

<https://www.nuffieldhealth.com/movetogether>

Information for Parents/Carers

As half term begins our children may have more access to electronic devices and especially mobile phones.

The following link from the UK Internet Safety Centre provides some useful tips for parents/carers:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>

The following link provides some useful tips and links for parents/carers re online bullying:
<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/online-bullying>

Have a safe and restful half term break.



Important Dates

Thursday 19th October 2023

Last Day of Term

Monday 30th October 2023

INSET Day

Tuesday 31st October 2023

School Starts

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Parents Evening

Website:

bastonhouseschool.org.uk

Contact:

020 8462 1010

Email address:

info@bastonhouseschool.org.uk

