

# Baston House End of Term Newsletter

Autumn 2 End of Term



## Note from the Headteacher

The Autumn term has been packed with lots of exciting events and some great achievements from our students. Students have sat GCSE and functional skills exams – we wish them well as they are eagerly awaiting their results.

We have also had a full Ofsted inspection which kept staff and students on their toes. The inspectors were very impressed with the students who were very happy to share their experiences and thoughts about the school. The full report will be published in the coming days. This will be shared with you once we have received it from Ofsted.

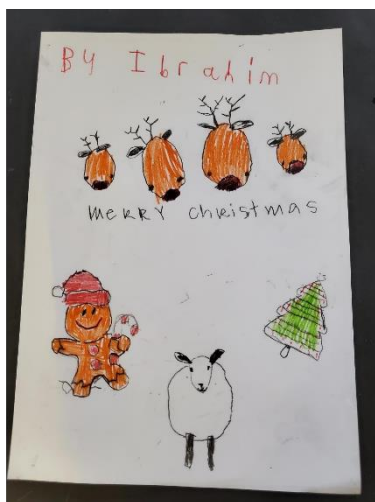
The run up to Christmas has seen a flurry of activity. There have been several exciting end of term trips which our pupils have really enjoyed. Students have also been busy collecting food so that our Duke of Edinburgh pupils could distribute the parcels to local food banks.

Last Thursday Baston House students were welcomed by Reverend Amanda to St Mary the Virgin's Church, Hayes, where we had our Christmas carol service. The children were impeccably behaved and sang beautifully, accompanied by Karen Oldman on the piano and the Baston Staff choir led by Sabrina Hilaire. The term ended with our Christmas market, which brought out the entrepreneurial streak in our students as they created their stalls and found many creative ways of raising funds. We were then sung out by a number of students and staff at our Baston Christmas Concert.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and find the time to relax and spend time together as a family. We look forward to seeing the children return on Thursday 4th January.



## Christmas at Baston House



### Christmas Card Competition

Congratulations to Ibrahim for winning the school's Christmas Card competition. What an absolutely amazing piece of art 😊



### Christmas Dinner

The Catering Team pulled out all the stops with the Christmas Dinner on Friday. Children enjoyed a dinner with ALL the trimmings. Christmas crackers were cracked and smiles were all around during this festive time.

### Christmas Carols at the Church

Baston House celebrated the festive period by joining as a whole school to Hayes Church. Reverend Amanda led the service and the Baston Staff Gospel Choir helped out with some amazing acoustics to add to the fantastic atmosphere. We sang Silent Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Away in a Manger and We Three Kings. We were also told about some of the reasons behind why we put different decorations on the tree. For example, the star at the top of the tree represents the star that showed everyone the way to the baby.



### Carol Singing at the Glades

A number of students had the opportunity to sing carols at The Glades Shopping Centre in Bromley. It was a fantastic morning and it was lovely to see members of the public enjoying the songs that were sung.

Well done everyone 😊



### Christmas Concert

What a great success the concert was. Well done to all that performed, there were some great acts and beautiful songs 😊

Thank you to the music department for putting on such a fantastic show.

Thank you to parents and carers who were able to celebrate with us for the last day of term.

### Christmas Market

Form groups came together and worked as a team to create some fantastic ideas for the Christmas Market this year. There were chocolate gift bags, hot chocolate and all sorts of little gifts available for students to buy. Great ideas everyone 😊







## School celebrations

### Army Youth Engagement Team

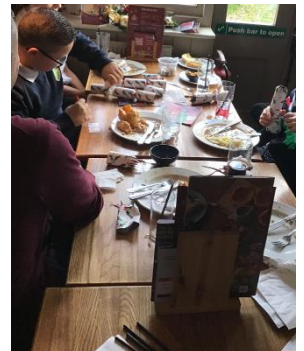
On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, Hannah and Lauren from the Army Youth Engagement Team joined us. KS3, 4, 5 and some primary students took part in a presentation and activities lead by our 2 Engagement Officers. The activities were to build teamwork and communication. It was incredible to see the students working so well together and throwing themselves into the activities. Everyone who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and made such amazing effort. Thank you to Hannah and Lauren for working with us to make the day a success.



### Behaviour Reward Trip

On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December, the Learning and Behaviour Mentors, along with Richard Gillings, went to the Toby Carvery in Bromley to celebrate some outstanding behaviour. Everyone had a lovely lunch and enjoyed the crackers we brought along with us. As Learning and Behaviour Mentors, it is amazing for us to celebrate those who display Baston House values and positive behaviour year-round.

We hope to continue behaviour trips over this academic year, showing students that positive behaviour choices are the key to success in learning, rewarding those who consistently do this.



### Tiger's Eye saves the day

In our troubled world, any opportunities to remind us that human spirit of kindness is still alive is always welcome, especially at this time of year. During a heavy thunderstorm, Tiger's Eye students discovered a terrified dog running onto the school site. Using persistence, calmness and collaboration, the students managed to catch and calm the dog before it could do itself any harm. Some quick thinking ensued and the worried owner was contacted via the number on the dog's tag. The prodigal pup was reunited with its grateful owner in a touching moment that readily warmed the heart. Well done Tiger's Eye for spreading kindness and compassion in the thundery pre-Christmas maelstrom.



## School celebrations

### Maths

The Maths department are pleased with the students' engagement and achievement in lessons this term. Year 7 students have been consolidating prior knowledge as well as learning new skills, using manipulatives and concrete resources. They have been developing their mathematical and problem-solving skills. They have also enjoyed playing interactive Maths games and practising their times tables.

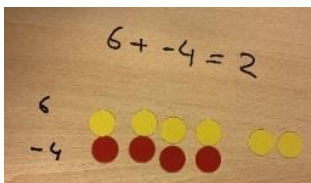
Year 11s and KS5 students have been very busy studying for their qualifications and sitting mocks in November. We are very pleased with their resilience and engagement and would like to thank them all for their hard work this term.

### Homework

Please see the link to the online MyMaths learning platform that students can access from home.

[www.MyMaths.co.uk](http://www.MyMaths.co.uk) - regular work is being set on this site for our students. It is good practice to go through lessons before trying the tasks! All students have log in details for this interactive learning zone. If your child has any issues logging into MyMaths, please contact the Maths teacher or form tutor via Class Dojo.

We wish you all a happy holiday season. We are looking forward to welcoming our students back in January.



### English

It's that time of year again! As I write this, children young and old (some very old) are preparing their stalls and activities for the upcoming Christmas Market - now a proper tradition at Baston House. Equally traditional is the Christmas Concert later the same day, bringing all members of the Baston community together on the last day of the year. The recent visit from Ofsted helped remind me of how hard everyone works to ensure we are a force for good in the lives of our students. The English team work hard to give every student the opportunity to access activities that equip them with the communication skills required to live a fulfilling life, along with sharing our love for literature in all its forms. We are all passionate about our subject - you couldn't teach it otherwise! We also appreciate your support from home - not just on big events like World Book Day but on a daily basis, whether it's finding time for your child to read something they will enjoy, or helping them navigate the many nuances of this great (and complicated) language of ours.

So as 2023 draws to a close; Christmas, then New Year's Eve, and then we hit the ground running in 2024 (if only to burn off all those mince pies). The English team look forward to working with you and the students in the new year to come. Until then, I hope you and your family have a wonderful, kind and peaceful Christmas holiday.



### Christmas in Food Technology

During the last week of term in the Food Technology department we have been making Christmas treats including ginger biscuits, pigs in blankets, Christmas cookies and yule logs. Students made the Swiss roll themselves which is quite a challenge and decorated them too. Here is Chloe's amazing yule log! Merry Christmas everyone!





# 12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.

## 1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.

## 2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometimes people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

## 3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real life.

## 4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.

## 5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real life if it is negative.

## 6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.

## 7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

## 8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.

## 9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.

## 10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.

## 11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.

## 12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.



## Other Information

### Mental Health Tips for Christmas



#### Talk about your feelings

Sharing how you feel about Christmas with someone you trust may help them understand how best to support you during this time.



#### Take time for yourself

Christmas can feel quite daunting with various demands and expectations. Remember to take a break from it and do something that restores you.



#### Be who you are

You might feel pressured to buy presents, cook or entertain but you don't have to. Everyone has a right to be who they are and walk their own path.



#### Eat a balanced diet

Christmas can be a time of overindulging on food and alcohol but an excess of sugar or alcohol can have an effect on your mental health and wellbeing. Moderation is key.



#### Take a winter walk

Winter weather can make us stay at home and feel sluggish but getting outside for a walk will not only make you feel better but is a chance to connect with nature as well as others.



#### Do more of what you enjoy

You might join a local group, take up a new hobby or volunteer at a local charity. Whatever makes you feel happy and positive can boost your sense of wellbeing.

### Don't forget to keep practicing your Makaton.

#### Makaton Advent Calendar

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st  Snowman	2nd  Christmas Tree	3rd  Sleigh	4th  Family	5th  Stars	6th  Happy	7th  Bells
8th  Pudding	9th  Winter	10th  Jesus	11th  Reindeer	12th  Holiday	13th  Presents	14th  Church
15th  Donkey	16th  Stable	17th  Candles	18th  Angel	19th  King	20th  Cake	21st  Robin
22nd  Turkey	23rd  Toys	24th  Sleep	25th <b>Christmas Day</b>  Christmas Day		<b>Father Christmas</b>  Father Christmas	



Have a safe and restful Christmas.

### Important Dates

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**  
SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS  
Training day for staff

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January**  
School Starts

#### Autism at Christmas

Here are some helpful tips from the National Autistic Society (NAS) for you and your family, to support children with autism during the Christmas period:

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/leisure/christmas/tips>



Website:  
bastonhouseschool.org.uk



Contact:  
020 8462 1010



Email address:  
info@bastonhouseschool.org.uk