

Baston House End of Term Newsletter

Spring 1 End of Term



Note from the Headteacher

It has been another busy half term with many exciting moments throughout the 6 weeks. This week we have seen many external visitors arrive on site. On Monday we welcomed a large group of prospective parents to Baston. The feedback from the parents was overwhelmingly positive and they were particularly impressed by our students and how polite they were during their visit. Thank you to some of our sixth formers who conducted the tours. The boys did a superb job and were able to communicate about the school's strengths in a mature and articulate way.

I was also pleased to see our upper school students engage so well in the activities for National Apprenticeship week. Hopefully the information gained will help them make those vital next steps towards adulthood.

There has been an array of class and curriculum linked trips this half term. Our students really benefit from these experiences and have, without exception, been a real credit to Baston when they have been out and about in public.

Mental Health Awareness week has fostered lots of interesting discussions around site and has really promoted the idea of **My Voice Matters**. I was delighted when one of our Year 7 students referred to this concept when we were reflecting on behaviour and choices yesterday.

We are always working to improve our students' school experience and are very keen to involve them in this process. We also want to hear from parents. Please do get in touch if you have any ideas or want to help in any way.

I hope you all have a relaxing and well-earned half term break.

Rachel



Events at Baston House

Student Mental Health Awareness Week



From 7th- 11th February, Baston House School celebrated Student Mental Health Week. This was a chance for children to understand what mental health is and raise awareness of how to support their mental health. The topic this year was: **My Voice Matters**. During the week, the school completed a variety of activities in their forms, celebrating their achievements, likes and dislikes and even looked at positive affirmations.

Also, the Baston Mentors made sure that there were wellbeing activities throughout the week at lunch time. Children enjoyed completing word-searches, mindfulness colouring and other activities too. Thank you Mentors, for your amazing work on helping with this week.

Safer Internet Day 2024

On Tuesday 6th February 2024 it was Safer Internet Day. During ICT lessons, students looked at how to stay safe online, as well as the history behind technology. This showed them how technology has developed and also how safety within technology (specifically the internet) has evolved too.

The students engaged well. Well done all 😊
The Internet Watch Foundation has created a resource pack in order to help us be aware of the issues in order to help protect our children and young people.
Please have a look at the link below: <https://talk.iwf.org.uk>



NSPCC Number Day Achievements

The Number Day Bake Sale was a huge success and we made **£87.65**.

Lots of praise go to **Kyle** from Onyx class for helping with the bake sale during most of the lunch time. Also, praise goes to **Vivienne** and **Emily** for helping sell the cakes.

Many thanks to **Tyreek** for helping to set up and **Taylor** for helping to tidy up at the end.

Well done and fantastic effort to Mrs Eliverta who organised the Number Day cake sale 😊

School celebrations

Moonstone Reward Trip

Moonstone class have been working exceptionally hard throughout this term and had all earned their place on an exciting reward trip! After weeks and weeks of analysis and writing in English, cracking codes in Maths and all kinds of learning adventures in various lessons, Moonstone had a chance to kick-back, relax and enjoy the world of immersive play at VRN3XT in Bromley. They engaged in a session on state-of-the-art VR headsets, playing both collaboratively and independently as they embarked on a world of discovery. Following this was an extremely comfortable session on a game station, where all the pupils were able to laugh and play together. Well done to Moonstone for their consistent hard work this half term, we look forward to seeing more of it in the future!



Home of
Immersive Play

Tiger's Eye Trip

Tiger's Eye went for a trip to the Harvester. This was chosen by the students and we used the money that we raised doing the Santa's Grotto last term.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Harvester, eating fantastic food and socialising together. It was great to see them having fun: they have worked so hard this year and deserved this fabulous treat.

Take a look at the desserts they had too in the picture- tasty!



Superstar student

We would like to highlight Liam who is an asset to Ruby Class. Liam sets a good example to others by always striving to work to the best of his ability and helping others. Each week during the Weekly Quiz, he demonstrates amazing general knowledge. He is also an amazing fearless goalkeeper. Keep up the good work Liam. Well done from Ruby Team.

National Apprenticeship week

Monday 5th February to Friday 9th February 2024

A mix of KS4 and 6th form students have been taking part in the National Apprenticeship week that has been running throughout this week. Students got to meet representatives from Department of Work and Pension and ASK Apprenticeships who shared lots of information on CV writing, writing out a job application, interview techniques and how to apply for an apprenticeship in your local area. There was a lot of information shared, Richard will be sharing this info with parents/carers in due course via dojo. Well done to all students that attended, they asked some really great questions and showed good engagement throughout.

Onyx Science

Over the half term, Onyx class have been doing a variety of experiments in their science lessons. One lesson involved using Bunsen burners.

The students have worked really hard this term and have understood how to be safe in the science lab.

Well done all 😊



School celebrations

KS3 English

Year 8 & 9 have been studying *War Horse* across the autumn and spring term. Throughout this period, they have developed astonishing analytical skills, referencing the historical context of the early 1900s in their answers. All pupils have shown a superb ability to understanding the deeper meaning of the novel and are beginning to figure out the author's intentions by picking out key quotes and explaining the word and phrase choice. Below are some quotes summarising the discussions and input from each class -

Garnet class have been continually discussing the idea that '*Warhorse is more about the horse than the war*. It shows us different perceptions of humans on animals that both reflect and go against the typical views of the historical period.'

Moonstone class believe '*The redemption arc of Albert's father represents a changing view of animals across time*. Where horses were seen as tools and instruments of war, we now recognise their intelligence and emotional complexity'.

Opal class have stated '*The primary theme of the book is selflessness and the sacrifice humans and animals make for each other*. We see this clearly in Tophorn's and Fredrich's death playing a part in Joey's escape'.

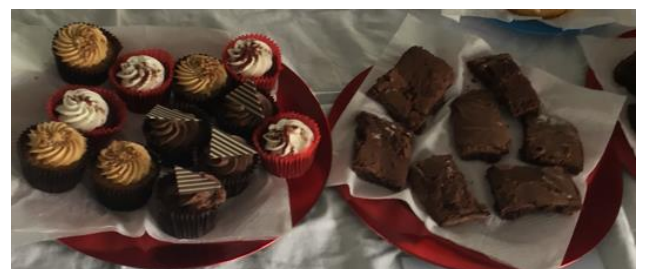
As you can see, the pupils have been really getting into the deeper meanings and authorial intent of a novel. We are incredibly proud of them and their hard work across the year.

Maths Department News

Students have been continuing working hard during their Maths lessons this first half of Spring term. They have had moments of joy, participating in moving activities and games. Students have applied their learning of mathematics in the real world such as using money during our charity events at school or by going shopping in the local community.

We are pleased to announce for the fourth year we had a fantastic Number Day at school on the 2nd of February. Students had the opportunity to help during the NSPCC Number day event and enjoyed lots of cakes and hot chocolate. A huge thank you goes to everyone who supported and participated on this event and especially to one of our parents for baking delicious muffins. We raised around £90 for NSPCC. Looking forward to our next NSPCC Number Day, next February! Well done to all the students this term and wish you all a relaxing half term break.

Maths Team



Mental Health Tips

Here are some tips for families, from the charity Place2Be, who visited schools around the UK. They came up with tips about what could help with talking to your child about mental health.

Are you a parent or carer who wants to talk to your child about mental health?

This Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – "My Voice Matters".

We visited primary and secondary schools to ask students what they wanted from the week – to help shape the activities we create for schools, the messaging we give to teachers, the tips we give to other children, and the advice we give to parents, carers and families.



LOOKING FOR FREE PRACTICAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Parenting Smart, Place2Be's site for parents and carers, is full of expert advice and tips on supporting primary-age children, and managing their behaviour. and act on their views.

[PARENTINGSMART.ORG.UK](https://parentingsmart.org.uk)

Here's what children and young people told us they need from you:

- 1 We don't need to have 'one-off conversations about our mental health' – sometimes a chat on a journey or at bedtime is enough.
- 2 I need to know it's okay to talk to you about any and all of my feelings. Please hear what I have to say, without interrupting me.
- 3 Please listen to me carefully and acknowledge how I am feeling – it might seem silly to you but what I am going through is important to me.
- 4 Playing with pets can make me feel better. Same with playing football, basketball or whatever type of sport I am into.
- 5 Don't compare my experiences to your own when you were a child.
- 6 Sometimes I just need you to listen and hear what I'm saying – I don't always need answers (or lectures)
- 7 Please don't worry about trying to fix things for me – I often just need to know you are there for me and understand what I am going through.
- 8 If you are open with me about your feelings, this can help me to be more open about mine.
- 9 Sometimes I don't want to talk. Please trust that I will come to you (or another grown-up or someone my own age) when I'm ready. Sometimes it's easier for me to talk to someone nearer my own age – my siblings, cousins, friends, younger teachers at school - because they 'get it'.
- 10 Sometimes a hug is all it takes to make me feel supported.



WHAT MATTERS TO YOU? CREATIVE VIDEO ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES

These wellbeing activities can help children and young people think about and share what matters to them.

[For primary children: bit.ly/3PzCGI8](https://bit.ly/3PzCGI8)

[For secondary children: bit.ly/3LBD2wK](https://bit.ly/3LBD2wK)

LGBTQ+



Art work
By student

LGBT+ History Month:

In a spirit of inclusivity and recognition, Baston House School is proudly commemorating LGBT+ History Month and NHS Month throughout February in our PSHE lessons throughout the school. This celebration is a testament to our commitment to fostering a school environment that honours diversity and appreciates the vital contributions of the National Health Service (NHS) to our community.

This month, our school during PSHE lessons the students will be dedicated to exploring and celebrating the rich history and contributions of the LGBT+ community. From the courageous activists who fought for equal rights to the milestones achieved in the ongoing journey towards acceptance, students are engaging in lessons that promote understanding and respect.

NHS Month:

Simultaneously, we are shining a spotlight on the National Health Service, an institution that plays a pivotal role in the health and well-being of our society. NHS Month serves as an opportunity to recognize the dedication and hard work of healthcare professionals who tirelessly serve our community. Through various activities, students will gain insights into the importance of the NHS, learn about healthcare careers, and appreciate the significance of a diverse and inclusive healthcare system.

Intersectionality:

Recognising the intersectionality of these two themes, our curriculum encourages students to explore the experiences of LGBT+ individuals within the healthcare system. By understanding the challenges faced by the LGBT+ community in healthcare settings, we hope to empower students to advocate for inclusive and equitable practices in their future endeavours.

Final Note from Deputy Head

It has been really great to begin to get to know the students and they have made a fantastic first impression. Although I am primarily based in the Lower School, it has been lovely to meet pupils of all ages. There is a wealth of talent here, for example: a remix of TLC Waterfalls in the music room, a delicious cooked breakfast in the food tech room, football skills in the MUGA and some amazing poetry in lessons, it is all happening here!

There has been so much to celebrate over this half term, the students are certainly deserving of a wonderful break next week.

If anyone would like to get in touch with me, either about Lower School or student wellbeing, then I would love to hear from you.

Mrs Kate Spoor

Have a great February half term.

ENJOY YOUR
HALF TERM
BREAK!

Important Dates

Monday 19th February
School Starts

Thursday 7th March
World Book Day



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