

Baston House End of Term Newsletter

Spring 2 End of Term



Note from the Headteacher

It has been another packed term at school, with so many great achievements for the students at Baston.

Some of the most memorable moments for me have included seeing a variety of book characters filling the school on World Book Day. Thanks to Andy and the English team for another sterling effort to promote reading. Please do encourage your children to keep up their good reading habits!

It was also fabulous, seeing the students get puffed out during some highly competitive games activities last week led by Mams and Jack.

As ever the students have excelled in the creative Arts with fabulous pieces of work produced across the school. From Diamond class through to the incredible work of the 6th form Art students.

I have also been highly impressed with the attitude shown by our upper school students during their mock examinations. This practice has hopefully set them up for a smooth summer exam period. We wish them luck in their final examinations next term. Thank you to Karen and Richard for helping the mocks run so smoothly.

Finally, I want to say a thank you to the wonderful music department and for all the students who stood up and performed today during our Easter Concert. The talent within the school knows no bounds! I was delighted to see so many parents and grandparents supporting our students and I look forward to many more incredible concerts to come.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing your children return relaxed and ready to learn on 16th April.

Rachel Martin



Trips at Baston House

Opal Class Reward

Last Friday, Opal class visited the Horniman Museum and Gardens. We travelled there by bus and train. We visited the Aquarium and Dinosaur Revolution. Students learned which dino features are better – horns, spikes or quills? Did a T-rex actually have feathers? They also took a magical journey through rivers, seas and oceans in the Horniman's highly acclaimed Aquarium. Weather wasn't great but we had a lot of fun on the trip.



Moonstone Reward Trip

'Moonstone had an exciting trip across the heart of London to visit the Science Museum. They explored the main galleries and then moved onto experience the 'Power Up' expedition. Here, Moonstone class were able to enjoy a huge variety of games and consoles across the last 30 years. The class had a number of close games on 'Micro Machines 2' on the Sega MegaDrive much to the delight of the teachers, who were quietly reliving their childhood throughout the expedition!'

Ruby Reward

Students of Ruby class had a reward trip to the Science Museum where they had an opportunity to play over 100 video games from across the decades. The students really enjoyed it 😊



Garnet Reward

We walked down to the Cafe, had a lovely breakfast together and went for a walk in the park - looked at some ducks and chased each other around through the bamboo maze - Miss Cerys NARROWLY missed falling in the pond! We came back from our walk and had a Super Smash Bros Tournament (Mr. Anthony is the current undefeated champion) and we finished the day with a watch of the phenomenal Bee Movie! Behaviour and attitude was absolutely incredible and we are SO proud of all the boys' achievements!

Quartz Trip

Last week we went on a clinical trip to McDonald's Bromley with Quartz class, as part of our Community Independence group. Quartz students picked the destination and planned the journey themselves using google maps to find the public transport we needed and estimating departure and arrival times accordingly. We had a great time and students enjoyed tucking in to their food they ordered. For our next visit after the Easter holidays the students have picked Borough Market as their destination and we'll be heading up there following the journey plan they have created. We look forward to some more yummy treats!

School celebrations

OT Bike Riding

Two students went on an OT reward trip for learning how to ride a bike. We visited The Lodge in Norman Park, where there is a bicycle workshop and a free bike hire service to ride around Norman Park. The boys chose their bikes and had a great time riding around the park and practicing the skills they have learnt in sessions. 😊



Primary Outdoor Learning

Students from both Amethyst and Sapphire class spent time building with mud this week. They were creating replicas of Kenyan mud huts. It was great to see the students intrigued in how to make different shapes with mud as well as learning about Kenya too. Well done all for some spectacular mud huts 😊

Amethyst Cooking

Amethyst class spent time in the food room, creating scrumptious vegetable soup. They cut their own vegetables, boiled them and followed a recipe. They worked so well and the soup was delicious 😊



Natural Art

Amethyst class have been exploring Natural Art, specifically looking at land art and installations. They explored natural resources and designed and created their own. I am sure you will all agree, these are incredible pieces. They have worked hard. 😊

Primary Update from Kate Spoor

Another busy term has flown past in the Lower School and the children have lots to show for their efforts. Teachers planned lots of exciting lessons and topics which led to a farm trip, spring hunts and creative cooking, to name but a few. There have been some wonderful moments when the learning has taken a different turn at the children's direction - one example being a recent 'Signs of Spring' hunt which turned into a bee rescue mission. Sugared water was carefully fed to the patients in order to replenish their energy levels, which in turn sparked rich conversation and fact finding - learning at its very best.

Bravery and determination, along with some amazing talent was on display in our end of term concert where a number of children fearlessly sang out, either as a solo act or with friends - an incredible achievement. An Easter hunt completed the final day and the children were rewarded with some sweet treats, I am sure the adults had some too!

Next term sees the start of our swimming lessons with Diamond, Sapphire and Amethyst being the first to step into the pool, if you have yet to respond the questionnaire sent out last week, here is the link for you: [Summer Swim Session Form](#)

The Lower School team wishes everyone a wonderful break and hope it is a chance to make some magical memories with your children; we look forward to welcoming you back for another fun and learning filled Summer Term.



KS3 Update from Yvonne Gabriel

KS3 students have had an interesting and exciting term.

Our Year 9s have made important decisions about their future education and have chosen their Options for KS4. They took part in the Options Taster Week where they were able to try lessons in all of the subjects that are on offer in KS4 which helped them to make their final decisions. I'm sure they are excited about this next stage in their education and being able to study the subjects that they are most passionate about.

This term, some classes adopted a token reward system. Students earned tokens for positive behaviour and being focused in lessons. Well done to them for racking up lots of tokens and earning themselves end of term reward trips and rewards.

I'm so pleased to see so many KS3 students in the line up of our End of Term concert - what a talented bunch they are!

We look forward to the Summer Term ahead - not least for the warmer weather and longer days.

Wishing you all an eggsciting, peaceful and rested Easter break.

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Mental Health Activities

School holidays can be a fun time for the family, but it can also bring difficulties too. Finding small activities for children to do can help with this, so please have a look at some ideas below.

Staying active, time to talk and plenty of sleep are all positive ways to help through the holidays. If you do require any additional support, here is a website from the charity Place2Be, who have tips and support whilst on a school holiday:

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/our-services/parents-and-carers/tips-and-support-for-the-holidays/>

Activities for Easter Holidays

Here are some simple and fun activities to do with the children this Easter holiday!

Themed walks

Complete a 'colour palette walk' and note down the shades and tones you spot.

A 'Fruits of the Forest' walk would allow children to collect stones, leaves and other special gifts from nature. You could even plan a 'Treasure Hunt' or an Easter Egg hunt where you could create a route together with your child and have a gift set up at the finish line for reaching your final destination!

Holiday Journal

Try and see how many different types of leaves you can find. These can then be taken home and pressed into a lovely spring scrapbook to which all the family can contribute. Write poems and stories inspired by the break.

Easter picnics

Pack a basket full of your favourite foods and set out a blanket in your lounge or get out in the garden or park.

Forest sculptures

Construct your own statue using things found from mother nature.

Easter Egg Chocolate Nests

Equipment:

12-hole cupcake tray
bun cases
wooden spoon
heatproof bowl
pan
tablespoon
teaspoon



Method

1. Line a 12-hole cupcake tray with 12 paper bun cases.
2. Put the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a heatproof bowl and heat over a pan of gently simmering water. (Do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth with a wooden spoon.
3. Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes. Keep stirring until the cornflakes are completely covered in the chocolate mixture.
4. Use a tablespoon to divide the chocolate-covered cornflakes into the bun cases.
5. Use a teaspoon to create a nest shape by pushing down the middle of the cornflake mixture in each bun case. Add two or three mini chocolate eggs to each nest.
6. Chill the nests in the fridge for 1 hour, or until they are completely set.

Ingredients:

225g milk chocolate, broken into pieces
2 tbsp golden syrup
50g butter
75g cornflakes
mini chocolate eggs

Home Safety Activities

Another link that the safeguarding team have found has activities and worksheets all around online safety:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/home-activity-worksheets/>

Here you will find videos and activities all about topics such as online gaming, watching videos and online security.

Staffing for Next Term

There are some changes to staffing next term. We welcome some incredible new members of staff, as well as sadly saying goodbye to some staff as they head on to new adventures.



Welcome Stefanie Douglas!

Stefanie will be joining us after Easter as a teacher, supporting many of our students. Here are a few words from her:

I am so excited to be teaching at Baston House this year. I have been teaching both Maths and English for 3 years in SEN and SEMH schools in London.

I am passionate about creating a safe and inclusive learning environment and love to encourage my learners to create, develop and build. I can't wait to fill the year with books, conversations and lots of laughter.

I am so excited to be in the classroom and get to know both you and my pupils.

This spring is going to be an explosion of learning both for the students and myself!

I'm looking forward to a great year!

Welcome Laura McNally!

After Easter, Laura will be joining Baston as the teacher for the new Heart Classroom 😊

Here are a few words from her:

I am delighted to introduce myself as Laura McNally, the lead teacher in the new classroom, 'The Heart,' at Baston House! With over 5 years of specialised SEN school experience and more than a decade in Primary teaching, I am thrilled to bring my passion for special needs education to your child's learning environment.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with a diverse range of complex needs, and I have developed a deep understanding of the dedication required to support these unique learners. My approach involves personalising and adapting learning experiences to cater to each child's individual needs, ensuring progress in all areas of their development and helping them reach their full potential.

On a personal note, I am not only dedicated to my profession but also enjoy various activities outside the classroom. Whether it's taking a stroll, indulging in a good book, experimenting with cooking, enjoying music, or unwinding at the beach, I believe in a well-rounded life. Spending time with friends and family is something I hold dear and believe in the balance of work and personal interests.

I eagerly anticipate the start of April when I will have the pleasure of getting to know my new class at Baston House. Together, we will embark on an exciting journey of growth and development. I look forward to working collaboratively with you to support your child's educational journey and make this academic year a memorable and enriching experience.

Goodbye Jemma Sewell!

Sadly, we say goodbye to Jemma, who has worked with various students over her 2 years at Baston. She will be missed by students and staff and wish her luck for the future. Here are a few words from her:



I have worked at Baston for 2 years and had numerous roles that have helped me to support the children in a variety of ways. I started as a Primary Teacher and thoroughly enjoyed working with the students in the class, helping them transition into Secondary. I was then a Year 7 form tutor and KS3 English teacher for a year. Working with a variety of ages and abilities was such a great opportunity and I enjoyed seeing the children's creativity shine and grow over the year. I have, since September, been the Designated Mental Health Lead and a supporting teacher for the students in Primary. It has again been amazing to have so many opportunities to work with a variety of students. It will be very sad to leave but I am glad of the progress and achievements that the children have gained throughout my time here.

My new role is at a different provision with Bromley Council. I will be working with students who are not able to attend school due to a short-term medical need. I will be working with a variety of ages and abilities and helping them to hopefully gain qualifications and confidence. Thank you to staff and students for a fantastic experience at Baston House!

Goodbye Shana Toner!

Shana has been our Clinical Lead at Baston since September and has made a huge impact to the students, parents and staff she has worked with. She will be missed by all and hope that she enjoys her new role.

Here are a few words from her:

I will not be returning to Baston in April. Instead, I will be embarking on a new journey with the NHS, where I will be supporting children and adults to access Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) devices as part of the ACS service Assistive Technology Service (ACS) I wanted to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity I have had to work with your children at Baston. While I will miss the familiar faces and daily interactions at Baston, I am excited about this new chapter in my career. Please rest assured that I will do everything in my power to ensure a smooth transition during this period of change.



Have a great Easter break.

Important Dates

Monday 15th April
Staff Inset (STUDENTS NOT IN)

Tuesday 16th April
School Starts



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