

Batchwood Newsletter



December 2023

Headteacher's Letter

We have finally reached the end of another calendar year. Where does the time fly? By now, you should have received your child's Autumn Progress Report. We hope you have found these reports informative and useful in communicating clearly to you the progress your child is making at school and how to develop this even further. Please remember that the Parent/Teacher consultation (PTC) evenings are:

- **Tuesday January 9th – Year 7 & 8 Parent/Teacher evening**
- **Thursday January 11th – Year 9 Options evening followed by Years 9-11 Parent/Teacher evening**

If you are unable to make your PTC, you will have the opportunity to go through your child's report with your form tutor the following week as part of the Learning Review process.

We have had a really lovely time in the build up to Christmas with trips, Panto, Christmas dinner and Christmas presents. The students have been so good with all of these activities. It continues to be a genuine privilege to work alongside you all in developing these young minds.

I do hope, that you all have a wonderful, happy and peaceful Christmas. We return to school on Thursday January 4th 2024.

Jonathan Kemp

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Focus on Attendance

Road to 95% attendance

We believe that children cannot learn if they are absent from school. Therefore we aim to ensure that all our young people take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them at Batchwood School. We strive to provide a welcoming and caring environment in which our young people can learn and thrive, and to work with our families to ensure regular, punctual attendance. Parents and carers are responsible by law for ensuring their children regularly attend school. The attendance officer, form tutors, wellbeing team and the head teacher are all available to support families struggling with attendance. Please be aware that if parents do not proactively engage with the support offered by school, or a student has at least 15 sessions of unauthorised absence in a term (there are two sessions in each school day) the school will consider applying for a penalty notice to be served. Together we can move towards our goal of 95% attendance across the school.

Illness

The weather has certainly turned and has brought with it the usual round of winter illnesses. As a parent it can be difficult deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school. Whilst we would not want you to send a very poorly child into school, it is fine to send them in with a low level cough or cold. Dealing with a school day whilst feeling under the weather is an important life skill and helps build resilience for future experiences. As always, we will ensure your child can access extra support on these days. For further advice on deciding if you should send your child to school when they are ill, please call the school office or visit: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/)

Please be aware that it is a parent or guardian's legal requirement to ensure their child attends school. Failure to do so can result in a penalty or legal action.

For more information, please contact Sally Smiles, Attendance Lead on 01727 868021 or email ssmiles@batchwood.herts.sch.uk



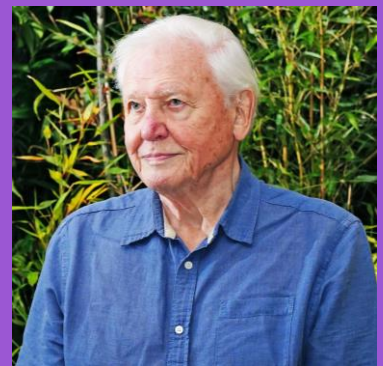
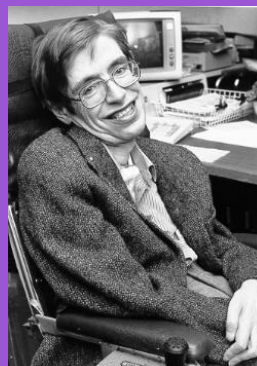
House competition

This half terms team building House Competition was based on a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) activity.

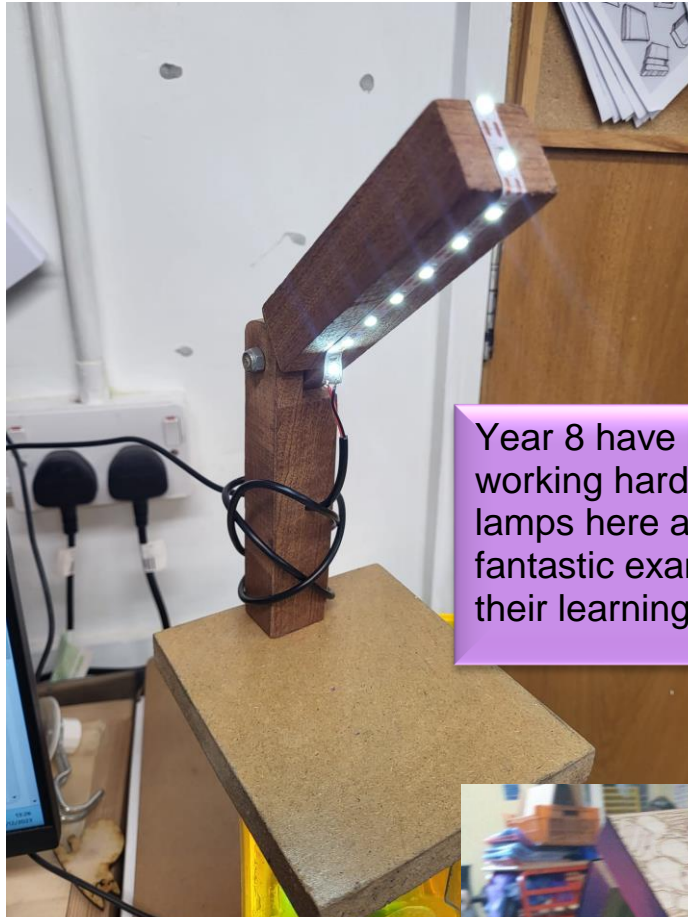
The students were split into their Houses and had to design and build the tallest free standing tower they could. They were only allowed to use A4 paper and sellotape to achieve the goal and the tower had to stand on its own while being measured.

Most of the Houses decided to build the biggest tower as a group within their House and some Houses decide to build towers as individuals or in pairs.

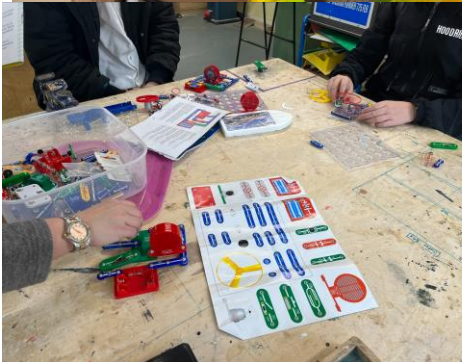
The Tower Competition was won by Pankhurst House with a Tower that was 3.5m tall! Hawkings and Parks towers were joint second place with 2.7m towers. Attenborough were third with a very respectable 2.65m!



Student Work and Achievements



Year 8 have been working hard on their lamps here are some fantastic examples of their learning.



Year 9 have been doing some work around inputs and outputs whilst practicing the circuit skills ready for future learning.



Trips and Workshops

End of term trips

Students visited Whipsnade Zoo, Ninja Warrior UK and an escape room as part of their end of term trips.



STEM workshop:

Students got the opportunity to explore careers with STEM and meet people from STEM Careers. Students also had the opportunity to take part in building challenges with K'NEX and looked at how food is farmed and produced in the UK. Over 20 students signed up for the STEM workshop! Well done to everyone who took part.



Important Diary Dates



January 2024

4 th -	Term starts (all year groups)
9 th -	Year 7/8 Parent/Teacher evening
11 th -	Year 9 Options Evening & 9/10/11 Parent/Teacher Evening
15 th -	World Religion Extended Learning Day
22 nd -	Year 11 Work Experience Week



February 2024

5 th -	National Apprenticeships Week
12 th -	English House Competition
19 th -	Half Term
26 th -	Return to school (all year groups)



March 2024

4 th -	Careers Week
8 th -	International Women's Day
22 nd -	Reports out to parents/carers
22 nd -	House Kinball Competition
27 th -	Talent Show
28 th -	End of term (half day)



April 2024

15 th -	Term starts (all years)
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For our latest news and updates go to:

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk