

Batchwood Newsletter

November 2023



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Headteacher's Letter



We hope you all had a beneficial 2 week ½ term. It certainly felt like a good rest. This half term we were Absolutely delighted with our Remembrance service on Friday 10th November. The students' behaviour in terms of participation,

respect, awe and appreciation was impeccable. As a school we were very proud of the students and the occasion itself. This event really does remind us how far we have come as a school and how all our students have grown and developed and learned how to respond appropriately.

Now, the lead up to Christmas is fast picking up pace and it will not be long before your child's school report will be with you. Year 11's are about to start their Mock Exams, and then the festivities begin. Below are the key dates for you to take note of:

- Monday December 11th - Form tutors email reports out
- Wednesday December 13th - Xmas show
- Friday December 15th - PANTO
- Tuesday December 19th - Xmas dinner
- Wednesday December 20th - End of Term
- **Tuesday January 9th – Year 7 & 8 Parent/Teacher evening**
- **Thursday January 11th – Year 9 Options evening followed by Years 9-11 Parent/Teacher evening**

Please note the two dates in January. The Parent/Teacher evenings are opportunities to meet your child's subject teachers and discuss the progress report with them.

Jonathan Kemp



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



Batchwood Memorial Service



Every year Batchwood School holds a remembrance service in honour of Armistice Day. Head boy Anthony C read a poem before the whole school took part in a very respectful minutes' silence around the school memorial tree.



School Council and The House System

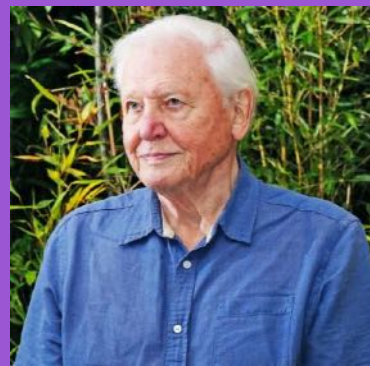
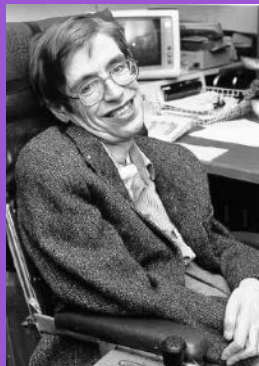
House competition

The football house competition took place on November 9th. All four houses took part with students across but Key Stages and some staff.

Attenborough and Pankhurst came 3rd and 4th so they battled it out for a 3rd place finish. The 3rd place game came down to penalties with Attenborough stealing the win with their last penalty!

The final took place between Hawking and Parks with the game poised at 1-1, it went to penalties! Hawking scored the first penalty with their last taker and Parks equalised drawing the game! With no time left we could only be fair and have joint winners!

Both houses chose to donate the prize money of £77.27 to children in need. Well done everyone involved.



Student Work and Achievements

Year 7 have been working hard in finishing their boats in DT!



HJ, year 10 made a penny farthing pizza cutter... place your orders!

RD, Nurture 2 has made a bird box with an impressive design on its roof.

ZG and OA year 9 were testing their reflexes in Science.



Extended Learning Days

So far this year we have held Extended Learning Days for **Black History Month** and **Anti-Bullying Week**.

The theme for this year's Black History Month was Celebrating Our Sisters. In form groups our students were introduced to influential black British women from the past and present. This year for our Extended Learning Day all students took part in lessons focusing on Black History. Some areas we covered in form groups were:

- The Triangle of Trade – Students were introduced to The Triangle of Trade, the objectification of the African people who were taken from their homes and how Britain was involved in the triangle.
- Black Tudors – Students were taught about black Tudors who held important job roles such as John Blake the Trumpeter for King Henry VIII, he even played at the Kings coronation!
- Emmett Till – Students learned about the story of Emmett Till and the all-white jury that found Till's white murderers not guilty in court.

Year 7 thoroughly engaged in Black History Month lessons, working together to answer questions on the board.



For Anti-Bullying Week, the school held a number of form time activities and spoke to the school council about the experiences of the students and to gain a better understanding of bullying through student voice. Throughout the week, staff were giving raffle tickets to students who had shown acts of kindness. All raffle tickets entries were given a house point and a draw was held Monday 20th November in the hall. The hall was very busy whilst the Mr Kemp selected raffle tickets at random for a winner in each year group. Winners were:

Year 7- Leo H
Year 8- Xav P
Year 9- Frankie F
Year 10- Ringo W
Year 11- Cordelia N

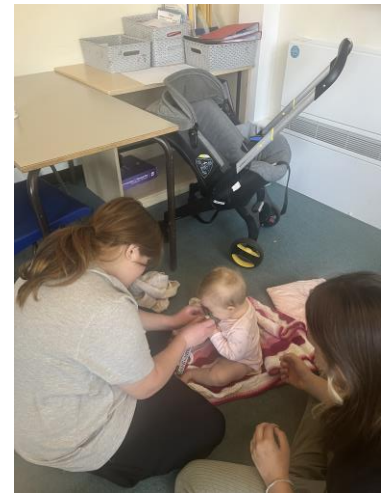
Congratulations to the winners and all the students who showed so many acts of kindness through the week. A whopping 458 tickets were given out last week!



Childcare Lessons at Batchwood

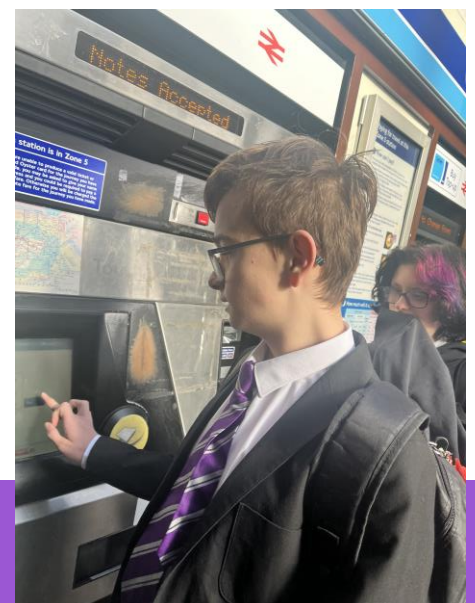
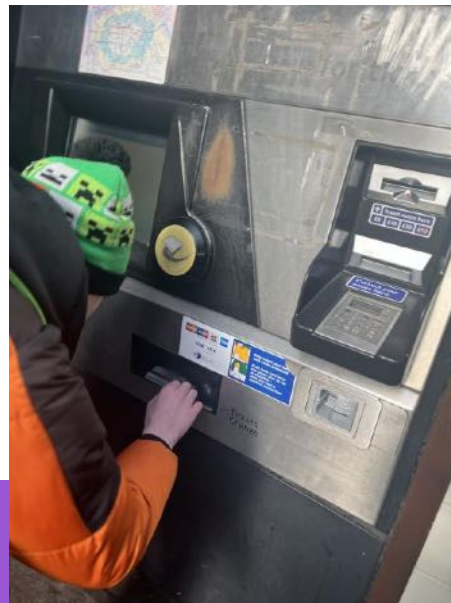
This year we have started a Childcare course run by Sharon Fitzgerald as a GCSE option. The students have been loving the lessons so far and are starting to document their coursework evidence.

One of the tasks the students have to show understanding for is bathing and cleaning a baby. Students have access to some dolls to do this, however as you all know, a doll is a lot easier to put in the bath than a real baby! Mrs Noble let the Sharon and the Childcare students to use her daughter Maddie, for their coursework.



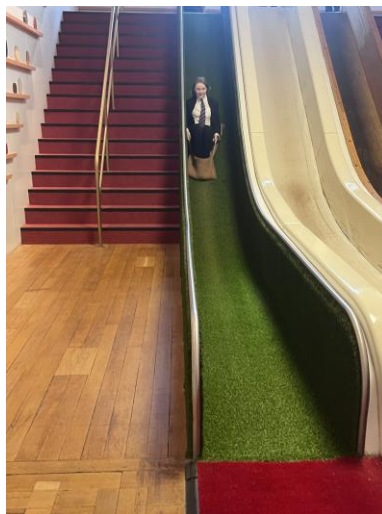
Life Skills

Nurture 2 went on a trip to the Science Museum this term. The students all practiced buying their own tickets at the train station to develop their life skills and make train trips less daunting in the future.



Trips and Outings

Nurture 2 went to the Science Museum



Life Skills course at St Albans Fire Station

Skye MM (year 11) and Alfie C (Year 10) took part in a 4 day intensive course at the local fire station. Skye and Alfie had to work with students from other schools to develop their communication and social skills. At the end of the course, the fire station held a Passing Out Parade, which showcases the skills they students have learned over the week. This included using the hoses and saving mannequins from the practice rooms.



Important Diary Dates



December 2023

1 st -	House Challenge
5 th -	Year 11 mocks
6 th -	Year 11 mocks
8 th -	Reports out to parents
11 th -	Learning review week
13 th -	Christmas Show
14 th -	KS3 Trips
15 th -	Whole school Panto Trip
18 th -	KS4 trips
19 th -	Christmas Dinner
20 th -	End of term (half day)



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

For our latest news and updates go to:

www.batchwood.herts.sch.uk