

# NEWSLETTER

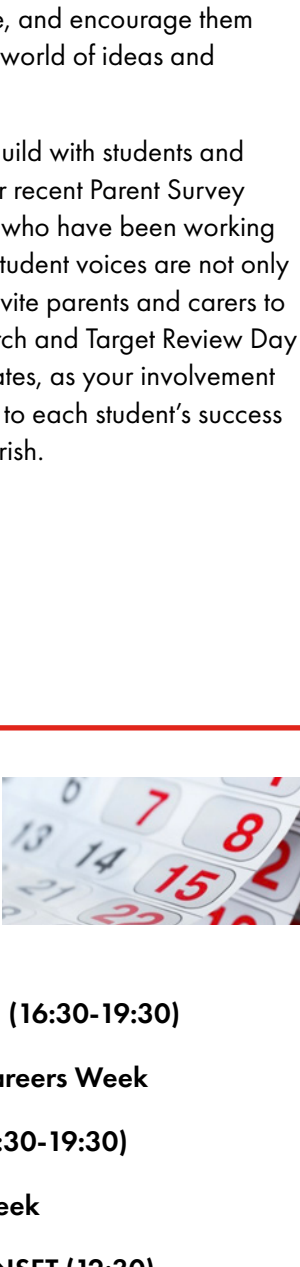
19 February 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is remarkable to reflect that the first half of the Spring Term is already drawing to a close and that we now find ourselves at the midpoint of the academic year. As ever, there is much to celebrate. Our focus remains firmly on preparing our Year 11 and Year 13 students not only for their forthcoming external examinations, but more significantly, for the exciting futures that await them. Everything we do is rooted in the ambition to equip our learners for long-term success. This takes place both within the classroom, through rigorous teaching and a deep commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity, and far beyond it: from cultivating a genuine love of reading, to broadening students' awareness of the diverse pathways available to them, or even enabling them to be inspired by the genius of Mozart at the opera. The personal development, wellbeing, and achievement of every student remain at the heart of our mission.

This half term has once again been rich with opportunities designed to broaden horizons, deepen knowledge, and inspire ambition. Our students have engaged in activities that challenge, motivate, and encourage them to see themselves as active participants in a wider world of ideas and possibilities.



**Charlotte Hames**  
Headteacher

Equally central to our ethos is the partnership we build with students and parents. This newsletter shares key insights from our recent Parent Survey and provides an update from our School Cabinet, where we have been working closely with our Facilities Manager to ensure that student voices are not only heard but meaningfully acted upon. We warmly invite parents and carers to join us at our forthcoming Parent Forum on 17 March and Target Review Day on 27 March. We encourage you to save these dates, as your involvement is integral to strengthening our shared commitment to each student's success and ensuring that our partnership continues to flourish.

*[Signature]*  
Ms Hames

## KEY DATES

### SPRING TERM

- Tuesday, 24 February: **School starts**
- Thursday, 26 February: **Year 7 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**
- Monday, 2 March-Friday, 6 March: **National Careers Week**
- Thursday, 5 March: **Year 8 Options Evening (16:30-19:30)**
- Monday, 9 March- Friday, 13 March: **Science Week**
- Wednesday, 11 March: **Early Closure for Staff INSET (12:30)**
- Tuesday, 17 March: **Parent Forum: Race Equality Meeting and Workshop on Academic and Vocational Pathways and Apprenticeships (18:30-19:30)**
- Thursday, 19 March: **Year 8 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**
- Thursday, 26 March: **Applied Learning Day**
- \*Friday, 27 March: **Target Review Day\* - Change of date**
- Friday, 27 March: **Year 10 and Year 12 Mock Interview Day**
- Monday, 30 March-Friday, 10 April: **School Holiday**

### SUMMER TERM

- Monday, 13 April: **School Starts**
- Monday, 20 April-Friday, 24 April: **Year 9 Exam Week**
- Monday, 27 April- Friday, 1 May: **Year 10 Work Experience**
- Thursday, 30 April: **Year 9 Parents' Evening (16:30-19:30)**
- Monday, 4 May: **May Bank Holiday**
- Monday, 11 May: **Year 7 Exam Week**
- Monday, 18 May: **Year 8 Exam Week**
- Monday, 25 May -Friday, 29 May: **School Holiday**
- Monday, 1 June: **School Starts**
- Wednesday, 3 June: **Early Closure for Staff INSET**
- Tuesday, 9 June: **Parent Forum Workshops: (18:30-19:30)**
- Thursday, 11 June: **Futures Day (Year 12)**
- Friday, 12 June: **UCAS trip (To be confirmed)**
- Monday, 15 June: **Year 10 Exams**
- Tuesday, 23 June: **New Intake Evening (16:00-17:30)**
- Friday, 6 June: **Year 6 into 7 Induction Day**
- Thursday, 2 July: **Awards Evening (18:00-20:00)**
- Monday, 13 July-Friday, 17 July: **Creative Arts Week**
- Tuesday, 14 July: **Sports Day**
- Friday, 17 July: **International Market Day**
- Monday, 20 July: **Applied Learning Day**
- Tuesday, 21 July: **Last Day of Term - Early Closure**

**Thursday, 13 August: A Level Results Day**

**Thursday, 20 August: GCSE Results Day and on-site enrolment for Sixth Form**

Please see our website for more detailed information.

## TARGET REVIEW DAY AND YEARS 10 AND 12 MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

### ALL YEARS

#### CHANGE OF DATE

Further to our email this half term, a reminder that Target Review Day and Years 10 and 12 Mock Interview Day have been moved from Wednesday, 25 March to Friday, 27 March.

Please make a note of this new date in your diary!

## PARENT SURVEY

### ALL YEARS

Thank you to the 297 parents/carers who took the time to complete our Parent Survey last term.

- 90% said your child was happy at school
- 92% said your child felt safe at school
- 90% said school sets high expectations and addresses behaviour issues if they arise
- 90% said school makes you aware of what your child will learn during the year (e.g., through the website, parents' evenings etc)
- 94% said the school has high expectations of your child
- 92% said your child does well at school
- 93% said the school lets you know how your child is doing, for example, through Parents' Evenings, Target Setting/Review Days and school reports
- 92% said there is a good range of subjects available to your child in this school
- 90% said the school celebrates success

Schools often look for a 70%+ rating as a healthy indicator and we are very pleased with the statistics reported above.

86% of parents of a child with special educational needs felt we were meeting those needs well. This year, much of our staff training is focused on strengthening our adaptive practice so we can better meet the needs of every learner, and in particular those with special educational needs. By continually extending and honing these skills, our team is working to ensure that classroom experiences are responsive, inclusive, and supportive of each child's unique learning journey. We're excited about the positive impact this ongoing professional growth continues to have across our school community.

We shall be analysing your views further and responding to these in our February newsletter.

Effective School/Parent partnership significantly impacts student progress, and we really value you taking the time to share your views.

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

### ALL YEARS

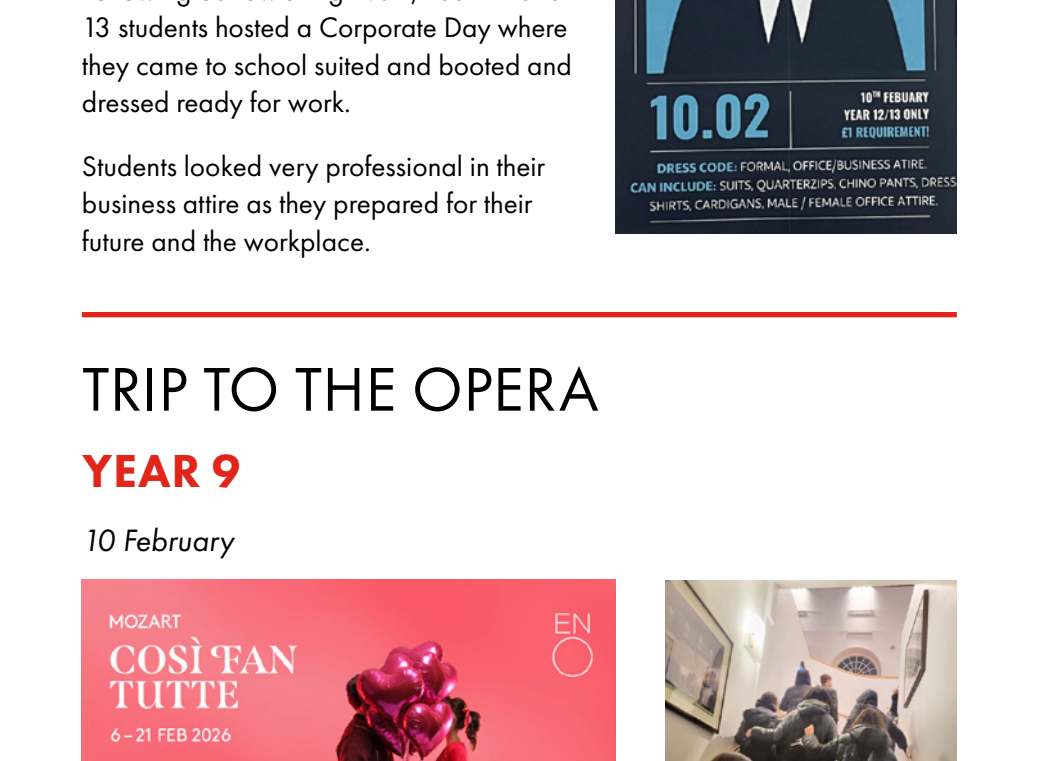
Well done to all our Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and even Double Platinum Awards!

You are already paving the way for a successful future and we are very proud of you!



## CAREERS

### YEAR 8 WORK EXPERIENCE



This half term saw the launch of our day's work experience programme for our Year 8 cohort.

Each day, two students from 8B have been working in a number of school departments, from helping the reception team to supporting community projects with Ms George. Students have also been researching careers on the National Careers Website, analysing qualifications and skills needed for these roles and evaluating what they have learnt about the world of work in this process. Every form group will have the opportunity to participate, and Ms Li-Whelan has been very impressed with the quality of student engagement.

## SPORTING NEWS

### ALL YEARS

It has been another fantastic period of sporting success across the school, with our students demonstrating commitment, resilience, and teamwork in every competition.

#### Cross Country

A huge congratulations to **Noah Levy (Year 12)** for an outstanding performance at the Middlesex Cross Country Championships, finishing an impressive **5th overall**. A superb achievement at county level.

#### Basketball Success



Our Senior Basketball Team continues their remarkable **unbeaten run**, securing **three wins from three games** in recent fixtures. The momentum and teamwork on display have been exceptional.

The **Junior Basketball Team** has now concluded their season with a strong record of **five wins**, reflecting excellent development and effort throughout the year. Meanwhile, our **Sixth Form Basketball Team** has begun their season and has an exciting schedule of fixtures ahead.

#### Football Highlights

Sixth Form Football continues its outstanding form in the **Ealing League**, maintaining an impressive run of results. Our U14 Brentside Girls delivered a brilliant **4-2 cup victory**, progressing confidently to the next round. A special mention to our **Year 7 Boys' Football Team**, who celebrated their first win of the season in style with a **6-3 victory**.

#### Netball

Netball tournaments have been successfully taking place across **Years 7, 8, 9** with excellent participation and competitive spirit shown across all age groups.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication and sportsmanship our students continue to demonstrate. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support from the sidelines.

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

### ALL YEARS

Reading is not just a good way to fill the time. It has important and far-reaching benefits which go beyond the love of a good book. When children and young people enjoy reading, they are more likely to create a habit and read more often which in turn will help to build vital reading skills and bring with it a wider range of benefits.

We are celebrating our love of reading in a range of ways. On 11 February we held our Drop Everything And Read, when students were inspired listening to their teachers reading excerpts of their favourite books.

And what better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than our library's Valentines Day special: Blind Date with a Book!

Because reading is pure pleasure.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP: SCHOOL CABINET DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

### ALL YEARS



Congratulations to our newest members of the School Cabinet, our student council, who have now been presented with their special ties!

Our School Cabinet have now purchased some suggestion boxes which will be placed in all citizenship rooms to gather student voice and engage even more young people in the democratic process. On Thursday, 12 February, they were also busy meeting with Deborah Miller, Facilities Manager, Technical services at MITIE, to complete some primary research on how to improve the school canteen. This survey will be rolled out to all students after half term and we look forward to continuing this partnership with MITIE, and contributing to some exciting changes ahead!



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

### ALL YEARS

27 January

#### Year 9 trip to Perceval House

#### As the UK marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 on Tuesday 27 January under the theme "Bridging Generations", Ealing Council invited residents to a public commemoration at Perceval House.



The event marked the annual national day of remembrance for the six million Jewish people murdered in the Holocaust, as well as other victims of Nazi persecution and those killed in more recent genocides.

Organisers say the theme reflects the passage of time, with a renewed focus on how testimony and historical knowledge are carried forward as fewer survivors are able to speak in person.

Year 9 students from Brentside High read pledges they had written, with a candle lit as each was read. Students found the event incredibly powerful and moving.

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION: MATILDA JR!

### ALL YEARS

28 and 29 January

**Wow! Just wow!**



We were blown away by the talent, confidence, teamwork and professionalism of this year's incredible performance of Matilda Jr.

After months of rehearsing, the cast performed two evening matinees to hundreds of primary school students, followed by two evening performances.

What a wonderful opportunity for our students and a great night out for our audience!

Huge thanks go to Miss Hatwell, Ms Northcott, Mrs Reddaway, Mr Ford, Ms Smith and all the other staff behind the scenes for making this such a wonderful production!



## SWISHING EVENT

### YEARS 12 AND 13

4 February



The conference room was a hive of activity as sixth form students attended the Swishing Event, where pre-loved clothes were available to purchase at affordable prices.

This gave our sixth formers the opportunity to refresh their wardrobe with smart clothes suitable for school and upcoming interviews.

## BBC INTERVIEW!

### YEAR 9

4 February



It's not often students are given the opportunity to meet a BBC journalist and have their views recorded for radio. Our Year 9 students were delighted to have the opportunity to share their views on whether social media should be banned for under 16s. Their opinions were grounded and evidence-based with a clear message that parents also need to lead by example and put their mobile phones down too!

You can hear their interview [here](#).

## CORPORATE DAY

### YEAR 12 AND YEAR 13

10 February

Following our Swishing Event, Year 12 and 13 students hosted a Corporate Day where they came to school suited and booted and dressed ready for work.

Students looked very professional in their business attire as they prepared for their future and the workplace.



## TRIP TO THE OPERA

### YEAR 9

10 February



It might have been raining, but there were no spirits dampened for our Year 9 Oxford Inspire students as they revelled in the opera, *Così Fan Tutte*, performed at the London Coliseum. For many, this was their first experience of an opera and they left inspired by Mozart's music and the spectacle of the performances. Thanks to Ms Da Sousa Correa for giving our students this wonderful experience!

## POETRY LIVE

### YEAR 10

12 February

On Thursday, 12 February, 80 students from Year 10 had the fantastic opportunity to hear poetry live at the Apollo Theatre in London. Students listened attentively as their GCSE poetry anthology came to life on stage. This deepened their knowledge and understanding of the poetry section of the GCSE English Literature paper and students left the trip feeling more inspired by the wide range of poems they heard read by the poets who had written them.

Thank you to Ms Al-Sikab and Ms Al-Qureche for leading on this trip.



The Poets appearing on the day:  
Simon Armitage, John Agard, Carol Ann Duffy, Imtiaz Dharker

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

### ALL YEARS

12-15 February

This year we have been celebrating National Apprenticeship Week through assemblies and form time activities, quizzes and case studies.

We have learnt that the apprenticeship route is an important pathway and an alternative to university and that we need to be informed about all our options before making important decisions that impact our future.

We are also delighted to share that several of our Sixth Form Business Studies students have successfully made it to the next stage of the Level 6 Mars degree apprenticeship programme. Degree apprenticeships are fiercely competitive, making it a brilliant achievement to get to this stage in the process.

Congratulations to BTEC Level 3 business studies students for their successes to date: Oskar, Zanyar, Mustafa, Irizoa, Arek, Abigail, Shakiea, Praginth and Malachi.

Good luck all in the next stage of this process!

Do you know what apprenticeships have to offer? You can find out more about apprenticeships [here](#).

