BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

NEWSLETTER

26 March 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Charlotte Hames
Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we head into a well-deserved break, I want to celebrate the energy, curiosity, and community spirit that have filled our classrooms, corridors, and events over the past few weeks.

National Careers Week gave our students incredible opportunities to meet a range of speakers, from pilots to journalists, magistrates and architects and our local MP, James Murray. Their stories sparked ambition across every year group and encouraged students to think boldly about their futures.

Hot on its heels came a brilliant Science Week, packed with experiments, challenges, and hands-on activities that reminded us just how exciting scientific discovery can be. Our students approached every opportunity with enthusiasm and creativity.

Continuing our theme of preparation for the world of work, all of our Year 10 and 12 students took part in Mock Interview Day, where over 30 employers volunteered their time to support our students to practise real interview techniques. Our students' confidence, professionalism, and willingness to step outside their comfort zone made us incredibly proud.

This term also showcased the strength of our partnership with families. Our Specialist Resource Provision consultation brought valuable parental insight to our planning, while Target Review Day offered meaningful conversations about progress and next steps. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback and support your child's learning journey.

Finally, we begin to celebrate with students, staff and families the exceptional level of achievement (captured in the recent DfE data release) of last year's A Level and BTEC students, who bettered the incredible results of the previous cohort (which had ranked Brentside in the top 15, 16 and 5% nationally for each of the three course types). Read on for more information.

As always, the successes of this term are a testament to our amazing students, dedicated staff, and supportive families. I hope you enjoy a restful and refreshing break, and I look forward to seeing everyone return ready for another exciting term ahead.

Ms Hames

KEY DATES

action
plan
2025
o do list
goal

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, 26 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.

HOT OFF THE PRESS: EXCEPTIONAL SIXTH FORM OUTCOMES CONFIRMED IN LATEST DFE DATA

ALL YEARS

dreamstime

This week, we have been celebrating the exceptional outcomes achieved by our students last year, following the release of the most recent Department for Education (DfE) performance data. We are delighted to share that the 2025 A Level and BTEC results should place Brentside High School in the top few percent in the country.

In March 2025, we wrote to parents when we learned from the DfE that our 2024 A Level outcomes were within the top 15% nationally. However, the newly published data confirms that students' 2025 A Level outcomes were significantly higher. Although no national percentiles are being published for 2025, the strength of our value-added data, almost twice as strong as 2024’s top 15% nationally, suggests that Brentside students’ performance in A Level would be in the top few percent.

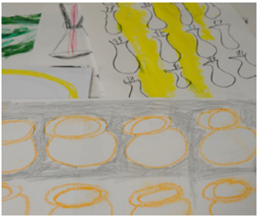
Our BTEC results tell an equally powerful story. In 2024, BTEC outcomes placed the school in the top 16% and top 5% nationally. In 2025, student performance in BTEC qualifications was three times as strong as the previous year, representing an extraordinary leap in achievement and reinforcing our position of strength amongst post-16 providers for BTEC and A Level both locally and nationally.

To achieve outcomes of this calibre, consistently and across such a diverse cohort, is something of which our entire school community can be proud. Our Ofsted Outstanding grade in 2025 captures this consistency of exceptional achievement by Brentside students.

UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS LONDON ASSEMBLY AND CREATIVE PROCESS WORKSHOP

YEARS 10 AND 11

9 February



In preparation for National Careers Week, and prior to the half-term break, the Art Department hosted two online assemblies during lesson time for our Year 10 and Year 11 students.

The sessions were delivered by an outreach practitioner from the University of the Arts London (UAL), alongside two recent graduates. They spoke to students about career pathways within the creative industries, course options, and future progression opportunities. This was particularly relevant given that the creative industries are the second largest sector in the UK economy. The following day, the same graduates visited the school to deliver a design workshop for Year 10 students. The work produced during this session will be exhibited as part of the end-of-year showcase.

BTEC ART TRIP TO IKEA

YEAR 12

11 February

Life starts in the kitchen.
price
20%

Our Year 12 BTEC students recently embarked on an enriching visit to IKEA, specifically aimed at supporting their research for Unit 37.

During this visit, they focused on firsthand exploration of furniture and product design, examining details such as composition, materials, layout, fixings, styles, colours, and designs. They also paid attention to practical elements that impact real-world usability.

The students thoroughly enjoyed exploring IKEA's showrooms, engaging with displays, and gathering direct information. This experience will undoubtedly be invaluable as they create designs based on their Unit 37 briefs, inspiring thoughtful and realistic outcomes.

ECONOMICS WORKSHOP

YEAR 12

25 February

Reasons for poverty increasing in the UK
- increasing food prices
- increasing fuel prices
- childcare
- inflation
- rent / house prices
VISIONPATH

Year 12 student, Moksh, shares his learning from the Economics workshop:

"We gained a strong understanding of several key roles within the Speciality Insurance sector, which gave us valuable insight into how this industry operates. The experience also highlighted many of the essential skills needed to succeed in this field, making it both informative and engaging.

Following this, we were offered the opportunity to apply and take part in a two-week programme with a financial organisation, leading onto a year-long programme. The programme was split between real workplace experience at an active firm and a week of professional training. This opportunity was not only motivating for my future career ambitions but also helped me expand my foundational knowledge of the industry and better understand the pathways available within it."

SIXTH FORM ART & DESIGN – GUNNERSBURY PARK MUSEUM WORKSHOP

YEAR 12 AND 13

2 March

Our Year 12 and Year 13 BTEC students took part in a workshop at Gunnersbury Park Museum, exploring how public art communicates ideas, represents communities, and shapes collective memory.

The session began with students analysing miniature replica public artworks. By examining form, symbolism, materials, and scale, they discussed what each artwork might represent and how artists convey meaning through visual choices.

Students then explored the purpose of memorials, considering how public artworks can highlight overlooked or hidden stories. Using the new memorial in Gunnersbury Park by Michael Landy as a case study, they discussed themes such as anonymity, humanitarianism, and ethical storytelling before sketching or photographing elements of the memorial.

In the final task, students designed their own memorial dedicated to a person, group, or cause personally important to them. They presented their ideas and then acted as a planning committee to evaluate another group's proposal, reflecting on the real-world processes involved in approving public artworks.

The workshop offered students a thoughtful and engaging introduction to the complexities of public art, combining creative exploration with critical thinking and discussion.

"I found the experience fascinating, as it taught me about the diverse types of memorial objects used to commemorate and honour groups of people. I learned how the public can be involved in a memorial through interactive elements, making it more than just a site to visit- it becomes a space where people can engage, reflect, and connect with its meaning.

I also found it interesting how the memorial by Landy was placed within the park, where children could play around it. I liked the use of curved edges in the design, which made the space safer so children would be less likely to get hurt.

I enjoyed creating my own memorial under time constraints, as it challenged me to develop ideas and design something meaningful while working under pressure.'"

ANIMAL AID- PLANT BASED COOKING DEMONSTRATION

YEAR 8

2 March

Year 8 students recently welcomed a guest speaker from Animal Aid, who delivered an engaging session introducing students to vegan lifestyles and plant-based cooking. The speaker spoke about why some people choose to follow a vegan diet and shared examples of foods that are commonly used in vegan cooking. As part of the session, students watched a live cooking demonstration where the speaker prepared a simple and delicious vegan dish, showing how plant-based ingredients can be used to create nutritious and flavoursome meals.

The demonstration gave students the opportunity to see different cooking techniques and ingredients in action, making the session both informative and interactive. Students were very engaged throughout and asked a variety of thoughtful questions about the ingredients used, vegan recipes, and how dishes can be adapted to suit different dietary preferences. Overall, it was an enjoyable and interesting experience that introduced students to another aspect of the food and nutrition world.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

ALL YEARS

3-7 March

This year's National Careers Week was an inspiring and activity-packed celebration of future pathways, bringing students face-to-face with professionals from a wide range of fields. Throughout the week, different year groups took part in talks, workshops, assemblies, and Q&A sessions designed to broaden aspirations and spark new interests.

The following is just a snippet of the range and quality of opportunities on offer throughout the week.

Years 10 and 12 started the week with a session from John Kerr, former CEO of Deloitte Consulting, who discussed how AI is transforming the workplace. Year 10 Citizenship and Year 12 Politics students heard from Sarah Kern, Magistrate and News Editor at *Al-Jazeera News*, deepening their knowledge of GCSE Law and Justice and the role of news in politics. A barrister-led webinar offered students an insight into routes into law and highlighted the achievements of women in legal history.

We had assemblies and talks from a range of Brentside alumni: Year 7 enjoyed an assembly from Keeshan Anjum, now a pilot with British Airways who taught students that they too could fly high! While maths students learnt about the role of an actuary from Puneet Heer, art students learnt about the role of an architect, Arek Kosacki and media studies students were inspired by Assistant Location Manager, Maleik Cadogan.

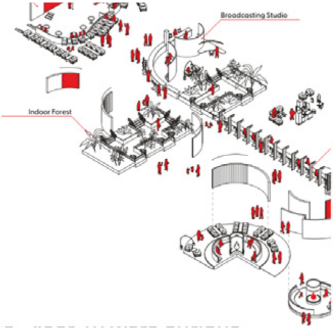
To round off the week, Year 9 Citizenship and Year 12 Politics students took part in MP's Question Time with James Murray MP, gaining a deeper understanding of political decision-making and public service.

National Careers Week was a tremendous success, offering students insight into exciting professions and diverse career journeys. We would like to thank all our visiting speakers for giving their time and expertise, and we look forward to continuing to broaden our students' horizons throughout the year.

There is further news of our art alumni and the role they played in National Careers Week later in this newsletter. Read on!

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK IN THE ART DEPARTMENT

3 March



AREK KOSACKI
JUNIOR DESIGNER

This term we were fortunate to have Brenside Alumni, Arek Kosacki present to our technology students across all year groups about the pathways into interior design and architecture. Year 9 were keen to discuss how Arek's career had progressed and what his daily life at work looks like. Year 10 were curious about pay scales and responsibilities. Years 12 and 13 were able to discuss portfolios and the benefits of this at interview level.

LEARNING FROM FORMER CEO OF DELOITTE CONSULTING

YEARS 10 AND 13

3 March

As part of the National Careers Week activities, Year 10 and 13 students studying history, politics and economics, recently welcomed John Kerr, former CEO of Deloitte Consulting with decades of experience in firm leadership. Mr Kerr described his journey from growing up in a council estate in Scotland to leading a global consultancy firm. He also recommended industries that students should research when considering their future pathways.

Students were able to develop valuable skills through the session, particularly during the question-and-answer session. He explained how he facilitated Deloitte Consulting's growth from £6 billion to £20 billion, giving students a real-world perspective on the strategies he used.

Roman from Year 13 commented on the event: *"The visit provided us with practical advice as we consider our future pathways in a rapidly changing world of work."*

HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY TASTER DAY

YEAR 10

3 March

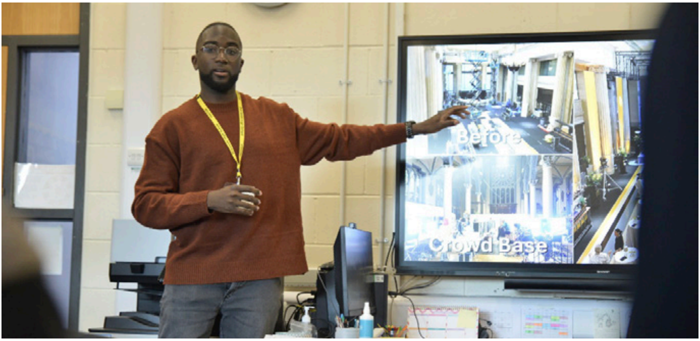
West London College

Our Year 10 students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a Hospitality and Catering taster day at West London College. During the visit, students watched inspiring demonstrations from Michelin-starred chefs, who shared their skills, techniques and experiences from working in the professional kitchen. Students from Brentside High School also took part in the activities, creating a collaborative and engaging atmosphere throughout the day. The event gave our students a valuable insight into the hospitality and catering industry, helping them to better understand the skills, creativity and teamwork required in this field. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and the day was a great success, leaving many feeling inspired about potential future careers in hospitality.

CAREERS WITHIN THE FILM INDUSTRY – TALK WITH ASSISTANT LOCATION MANAGER

YEARS 9 AND 10

3 March



During Careers Week, Year 9 and Year 10 Media Studies students had the opportunity to learn about routes into the film industry and more about background, production-based roles.

They spoke with Maleik Cadogan, an Assistant Location Manager and Brentside Alumni, who discussed his journey into his career and the skills necessary to work within the industry. He also discussed his most recent projects with students and explained how the different departments within the industry work together on set.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions about working in the Locations Department, as well as any queries they had about the film industry as a whole. They then had the opportunity to work with the team to plan their own locations for a film set brief.

The students really enjoyed the talk and activity and have become more curious about jobs within the film industry for their futures.

OPTIONS EVENING

YEAR 8

5 March

Art & Design
History
PE
GCSE OPTIONS

Thank you to all families who joined us for our Year 8 Options Evening. The event gave students and parents a clear overview of GCSE subjects and the guidance available to help with decision-making.

Subject staff were on hand to explain course content, assessments, and progression routes, while families had the chance to explore which subjects best suit students' interests and strengths.

We were pleased to see students engaging thoughtfully with their choices, and we appreciate the support of parents and carers during this important stage. The option forms and student choices will now be analysed in preparation for next year.

KATY HESSELAUTHOR EVENT

YEARS 7 AND 8

6 March

Meet
Katy Hessel
author of
The Story of Art
(Without Men)
PUFFIN VIRTUAL VISITS

As part of activities linked to National Careers Week, 7S and KS3 Art Club students took part in an inspiring virtual author visit with Katy Hessel. During the session, students contributed thoughtful responses and questions while learning about art history and different art movements. The visit also highlighted creative career pathways within the arts, helping students see how a passion for art can lead to roles such as art historians, writers, curators, and educators. It was an engaging opportunity for students to connect their classroom learning with future career possibilities.

CAREER AND ASPIRATIONS WORKSHOPS

YEAR 9

As part of the 'No Learner Left Behind' project at Brentside, a group of Year 9 girls were selected to participate in a series of workshops this half term.

The sessions were focused around building key skills in listening, communication, confidence building and articulation.

The final session ended with an activity akin to 'The Traitors' that enabled the students to fully express their thoughts and ideas.

SPORTING NEWS

ALL YEARS

This half term has been an exciting and successful period for our school sports teams, with plenty of determination, teamwork, and achievement on display.

Basketball: Our Junior and Senior Basketball teams both had outstanding runs in their competitions, making it all the way to the semi-finals. Their hard work and commitment paid off as they secured an impressive 3rd place finish across all Ealing Borough schools -a fantastic accomplishment that reflects their dedication and skill.

Football: In football, our Year 9 team played a well-fought match, earning a draw in a highly competitive and evenly matched game. Their resilience and teamwork were evident throughout.

Meanwhile, the Year 10 football team ended their season on a high note, delivering a strong performance to secure a win and finish the season confidently. A great way to wrap up their campaign.

Netball: Our Year 8 netball team also had a memorable outing at their recent tournament. The girls showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, finishing with 2 wins and making it a joyful and exciting day for everyone involved.

Well done to all students who represented the school this half term—we are proud of your efforts and achievements. We look forward to even more sporting success next term!

SCIENCE WEEK - IGNITING CURIOSITY

ALL YEARS

6-15 March

Students celebrated Science Week with a series of hands-on activities, inspiring talks, assemblies and creative projects. This year's theme, "Curiosity, What's Your question?" encouraged everyone to uncover the hidden questions behind everyday life.

Throughout the week, students took part in exciting experiments, from physics, electricity and gravity as well as neurones and neuroscience. We welcomed back alumnus Ben Wilson, who recently completed his PHd thesis on AI for medical diagnostics in cancer. Ben shared valuable insights into his journey from Brentside to PHd student and sparked new interest in pursuing a career in science.

Science Week was a big success, reminding students that science is everywhere - and full of possibilities!

MIDWIFE CAREERS TALK

YEAR 10

12 March

Thinking about a career in nursing or midwifery?
Royal College of Nursing

During Science Week, Year 10 students had a fantastic opportunity to learn about the role of a midwife, as well as the different pathways into this rewarding career. The session also highlighted the value of a versatile educational background and the range of options available to those interested in healthcare.

Students heard from Rhocea Rocque, a midwife at Central Middlesex Hospital, who shared her personal journey into the profession and offered valuable insights into her day-to-day role. Rhocea previously taught media studies at Brentside High School, illustrating people can explore wide ranging careers in their working life!

Overall, the talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all, providing students with a deeper understanding of the NHS and inspiring them to consider future careers within the healthcare sector.

PARENT FORUM: SPECIALIST RESOURCE PROVISION

ALL YEARS

17 March

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our recent consultations on the school's proposed Specialist Resource Provision (SRP). We appreciate your time, thoughtful questions, and valuable feedback.

The session provided an overview of the SRP's purpose and how it will support students with additional needs. Your engagement helps ensure the provision reflects the needs and values of our school community.

The consultation period has now closed, and we will feed back the results of this process once a decision has been confirmed by the Local Authority.

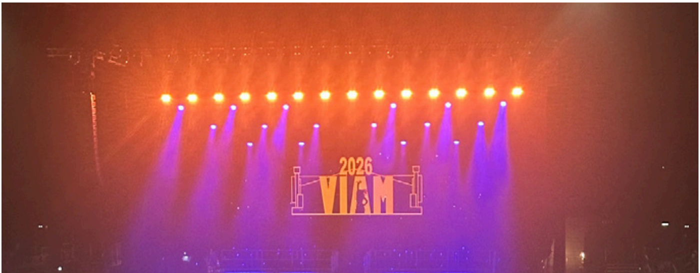
If you were unable to attend or would like more information, please email **info@brentsidehigh.ealing.sch.uk** with any further queries.

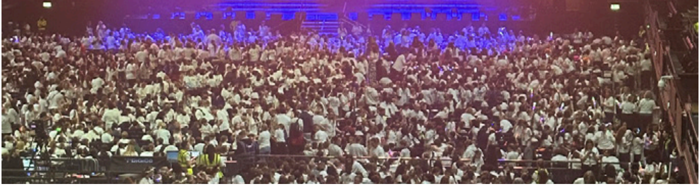
Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership.

VOICE IN A MILLION

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

18 March





For the third year in a row, Brentside's Choir performed as part of a massed choir of 6000 children. Nine very excited students boarded the school minibus to perform at the prestigious Wembley Arena. The students sung their hearts out and were absolute superstars. Well done to all of them for representing Brentside brilliantly! The choir are already asking to prepare a video to audition to perform on the stage next year!

Thank you to Mrs Reddaway for preparing the choir and to Mr Ford for his support and driving us safely to and from Wembley.

S Specific
M Measurable
A Achievable
R Relevant
T Time-bound

TARGET REVIEW DAY

ALL YEARS

Friday, 27 March

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all parents and carers who attended our recent Target Review Day. Your engagement and support play a vital role in each student's learning journey, and it was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school to discuss progress, celebrate achievements, and plan the next steps together.

Throughout the day, teachers valued the opportunity to have meaningful conversations with you about your child’s development -academically, socially, and personally. These reviews not only help us reflect on what students have accomplished so far, but also allow us to set clear, achievable goals for the months ahead.

If you were unable to attend or would like further clarification on any targets set, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s form tutor. Together, we can ensure every student continues to grow, feel supported, and reach their full potential.

Thank you once again for your time, cooperation, and commitment. We look forward to continued partnership throughout the school year.

MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

YEARS 10 AND 12

27 March

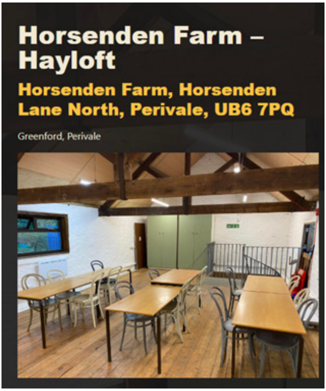
ALL STUDENT MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

Our annual Mock Interview Day continues to be a huge success, with students in Years 10 and 12 demonstrating their readiness for the workplace through completing high quality application forms and participating in professional interviews, showcasing their skills and qualifications. We are incredibly grateful to the 31 employers, including parent volunteers, who gave their time to support our students in preparing for their future.

Feedback from both students and employers was incredibly positive and we are very proud of how our students are growing into young professionals ready for the workplace.

EXCITING ART & DESIGN WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITY

Students have the chance to take part in a special Art & Design Work Experience Week from 27 April – 1 May (10am–3pm) led by a professional artist.



Horsenden Farm – Hayloft

Horsenden Farm, Horsenden Lane North, Perivale, UB6 7PQ

Greenford, Perivale

During the week students will:

- Work on a surface pattern design brief
- Attend a research trip to the V&A Museum (or similar venue)
- Take part in outdoor art workshops at Horsenden Farm Hayloft Art space
- Experiment with materials and develop their own creative ideas
- Present their work at the end of year showcase

The programme aims to give students insight into how artists and designers work in professional contexts, while building confidence in developing and presenting creative ideas.

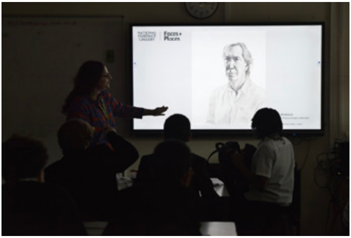
* * Places are limited to 8–10 students.

Students who are interested should speak to their Art teacher to register their interest.

A CREATIVE NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY!

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9

Series of workshops over 4 occasions



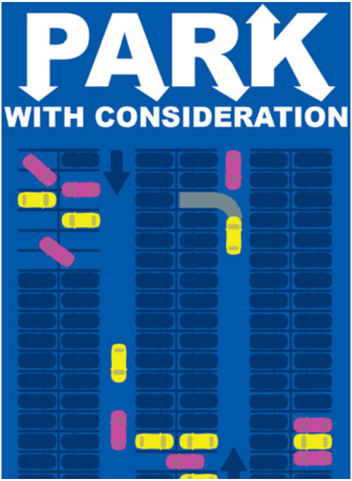
We are thrilled to announce an inspiring new collaboration with The National Portrait Gallery as part of their Faces and Places project, which celebrates the creative heritage of Ealing.

As part of this partnership, we welcomed a practicing artist into school to lead a series of energetic and engaging workshops with Years 7, 8 and 9. Using charcoal as their main medium, students have been experimenting with expressive mark-making, exploring portraiture techniques, and considering how identity and community can be represented through art.

This hands-on experience is giving students a rare opportunity not only to learn about influential artists and designers from Ealing, but also to develop their confidence and creativity while working directly with a professional artist. The workshops have sparked lively discussions and encouraged students to think deeply about the stories behind the faces they draw.

It has been wonderful to see students so focused, curious, and enthusiastic as they embrace new artistic challenges. We are excited to see this partnership grow and we cannot wait to celebrate the stunning charcoal portraits our students will be producing as the project continues.

CONSIDERATE PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY

A polite reminder from the school and the local police that drivers must not park at any time, even just to drop off children from the car, on the zig zags up to the zebra crossings, outside school gates or in cycle lanes. When parking in nearby roads, we must not park blocking residents' drive ways. Many thanks for your consideration regarding this important health and safety issue. We therefore ask all parents/carers that if you are visiting the school, or even just dropping off your child in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon, that you park with both consideration for others and legally to ensure the safety of our school and local community. Traffic enforcement officers do operate in the area!