

# NEWSLETTER

30 July 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

School terms are always busy, and this summer term has been no exception. The length of this newsletter highlights the huge range of wonderful enrichment activities that help our students develop their cultural capital; their skills and knowledge to support them in preparing for their future and a range of events that celebrate student achievement and success.

We hope you enjoy reading about the breadth and quality of events our students have experienced over the last few weeks, from Awards Evening to mock elections; our Alumni Launch Event to Futures Day; Sports Day to our Arts Festival; International Market Day to Applied Learning Day and so much more.

At the end of the year we say farewell to some staff who are moving on to their next exciting challenge. On behalf of all our staff and students, we thank them all for the time and dedication they have given to our Brentside community and wish them all the very best in their next role or retirement.

I wish all of our students and staff a very well-deserved rest and some relaxation this holiday. We will be sending a separate newsletter with some key reminders about the start of term. Please do take some time to ensure your child is fully equipped for learning in September.

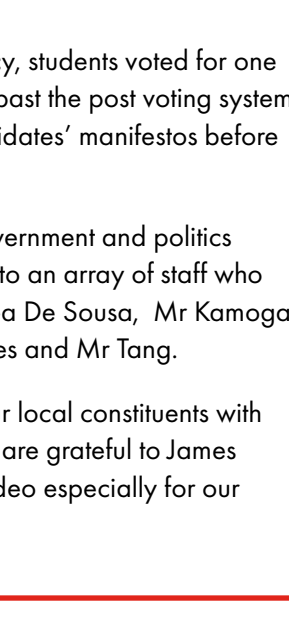
Finally I would like to thank all parents and carers for your work in partnership with the school and wish you the best of summer ahead.



**Charlotte Hames**  
Headteacher

*[Signature]*  
Ms Hames

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

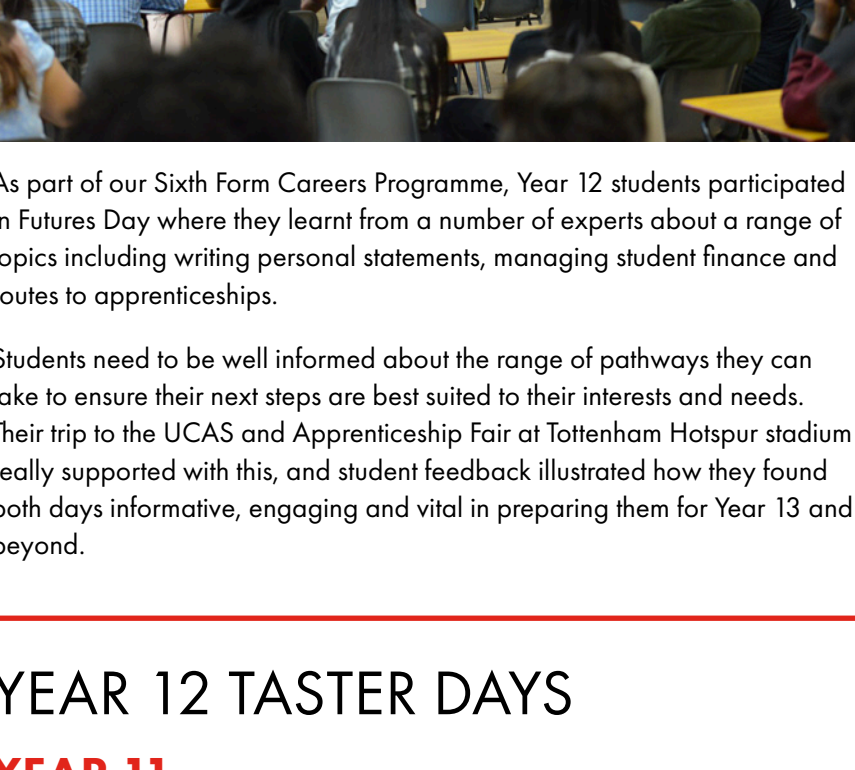


<b>Thursday, 15 August</b>	A level and BTEC Results Day
<b>Thursday, 22 August:</b>	GCSE Results Day

See our website for details

## AWARDS EVENING

**ALL YEARS**



Awards Evening is such a special event at Brentside High School because it celebrates students who not only achieve outstanding academic success, but also adopt an outstanding attitude to learning; this is vital for all students to make progress.

It is always such a pleasure to welcome award winners and their families to join our annual event. Our guest speaker, journalist Nisha Patel, inspired our audience as she reminded us that not all superheroes wear capes and that all of us have the power to be truly heroic in our lives- we just need to 'step up to leadership'.

Thanks to Ms Mertzels for leading on this wonderful event.

## MOCK ELECTIONS

**ALL YEARS**



In a democracy, the right to vote is so important that we wanted all our students to have the opportunity to experience their own election.

On 4 July, as many of you were heading to the polling stations, our students were heading to Brentside's very own polling station in the main hall. In keeping with the UK's democratic process, voting was not compulsory, but those who executed their right to vote were required to show identification and register before being handed their ballot slip.

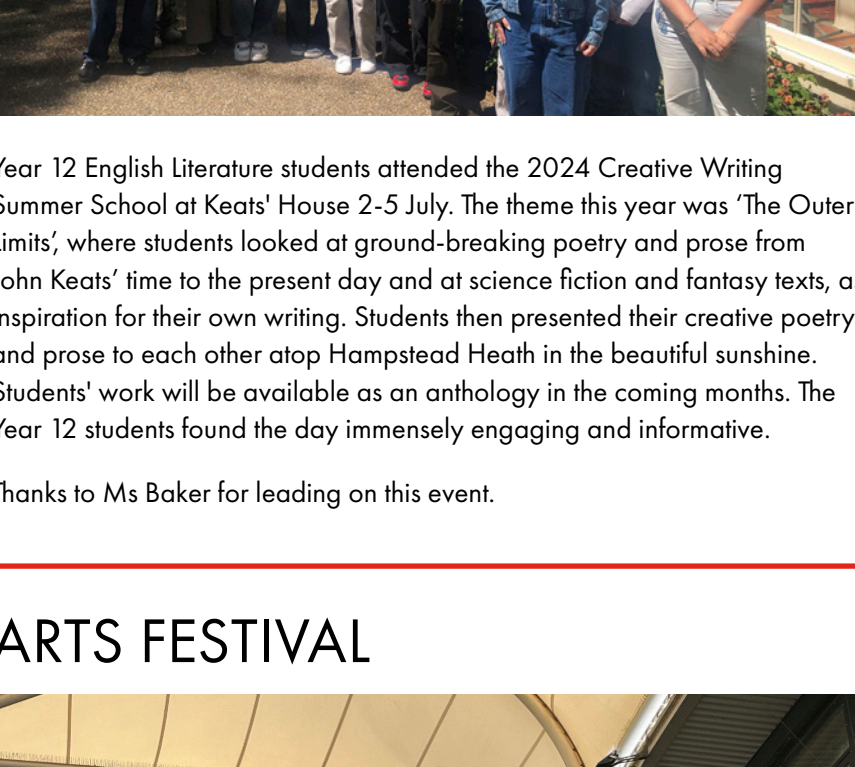
As Brentside sits within the Ealing North constituency, students voted for one of the eight Ealing North candidates using the first past the post voting system. It was fantastic to see students reading all the candidates' manifestos before completing their ballot slips.

Huge thanks to the School Cabinet and A level government and politics students who ran our election process. Thanks also to an array of staff who helped to ensure the event ran smoothly: Ms Correa De Sousa, Mr Kamoga, Mr Keal, Mr Otto, Ms Shephard, Ms Shah, Ms Giles and Mr Tang.

Brentside's mock election results echoes those of our local constituents with the Labour Party winning the majority of votes. We are grateful to James Murray, our re-elected local MP, who created a video especially for our students.

## ALUMNI LAUNCH EVENT

**ALL YEARS**



This month we were excited to host our Alumni Launch Event and to welcome twenty five alumni back to Brentside. Our most senior alumnus, Bryan Mathieson, travelled all the way from Cheltenham and enthralled our Year 12 students with stories of life at Brentside in the 1960s. He also donated several books to the school for which we are very grateful, including his prize from Awards Evening in 1969!

Year 12 students took our alumni on a tour of the school, using the opportunity to ask questions and learn about their various career paths. After popular demand, this will now be an annual event.

It really was heart-warming to see our past students now successful in their own careers, sharing their experience with our students of the present.

To all parents/carers who are alumni, we really hope you will join us next summer for our Back to Brentside evening.

## FUTURES DAY AND UCAS FAIR

**YEAR 12**



As part of our Sixth Form Careers Programme, Year 12 students participated in Futures Day where they learnt from a number of experts about a range of topics including writing personal statements, managing student finance and routes to apprenticeships.

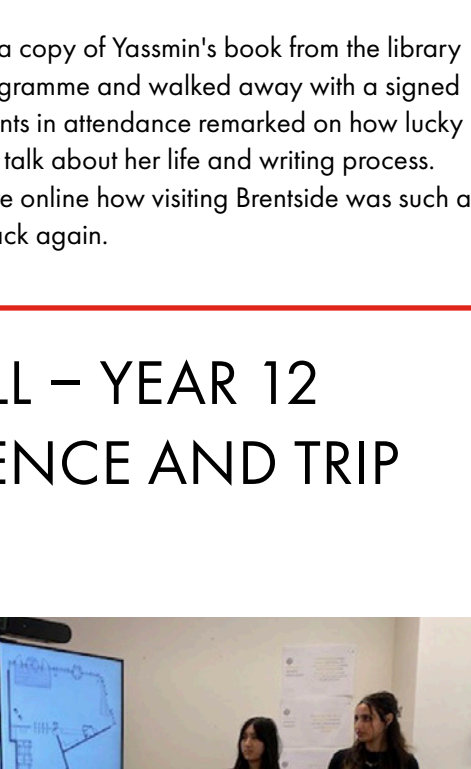
Students need to be well informed about the range of pathways they can take to ensure their next steps are best suited to their interests and needs. Their trip to the UCAS and Apprenticeship Fair at Tottenham Hotspur stadium really supported with this, and student feedback illustrated how they found both days informative, engaging and vital in preparing them for Year 13 and beyond.

## YEAR 12 TASTER DAYS

**YEAR 11**

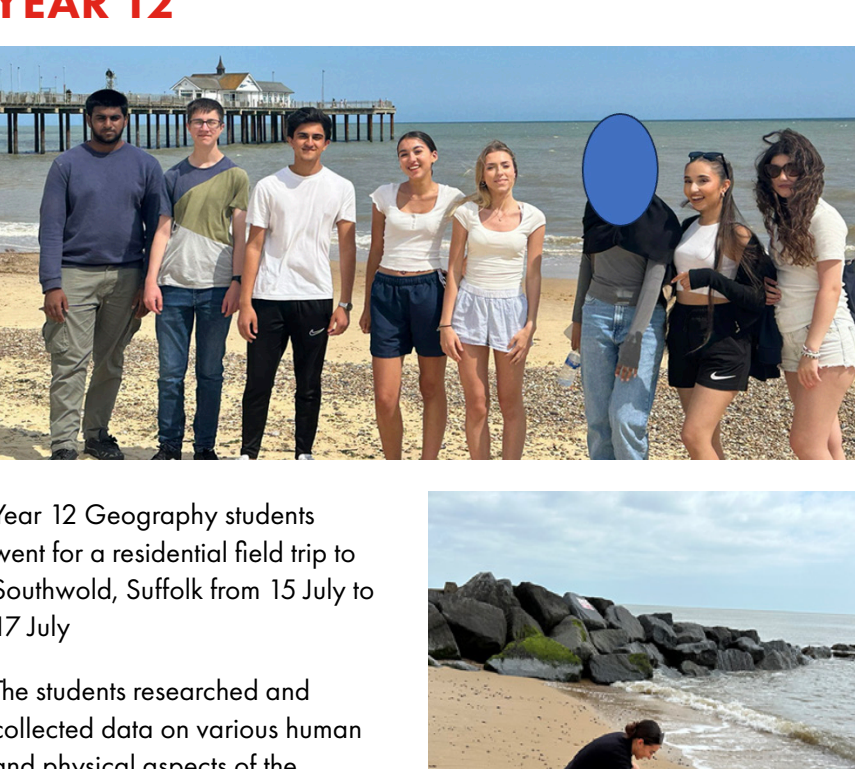
Having said goodbye to our Year 11 students after their GCSEs and at their prom, we were delighted to welcome them back for Year 12 taster sessions over the last few weeks.

Students had the opportunity to experience Sixth Form lessons across a range of subjects and gain insights into life at Brentside Sixth Form.



This important introduction to Key Stage 5 and independent learning will support our students well with their transition in September. We look forward to welcoming our Year 11s back on GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment day on Thursday, 22 August.

## FUTURES ACADEMY WORK PLACEMENTS



Preparing students for life beyond Brentside is a key part of our work at Brentside.

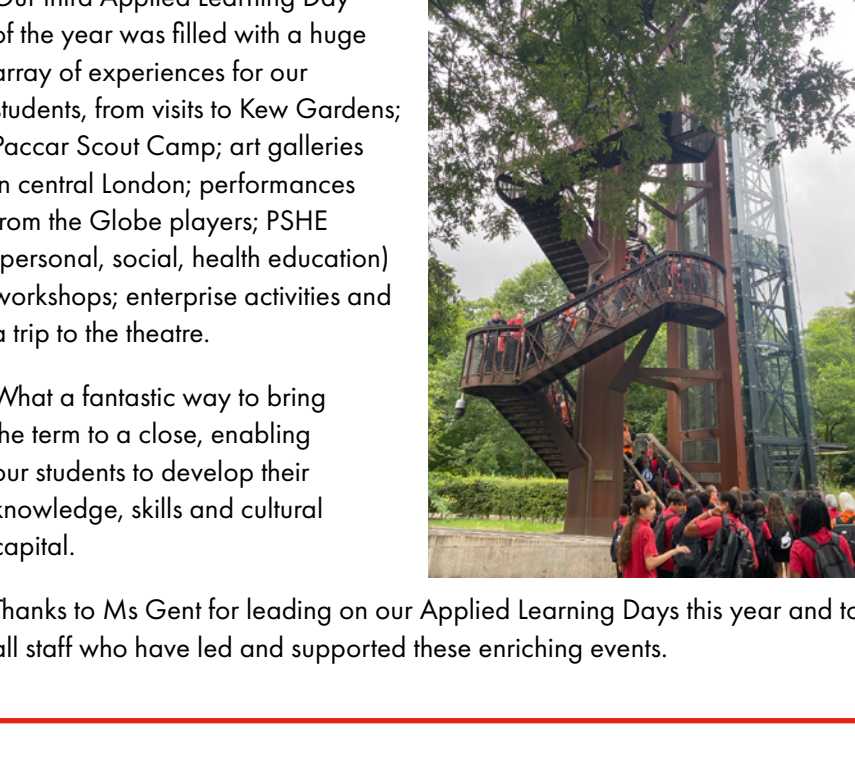
Shanan, Harshil and Elias in Year 12 had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Futures Academy work placements, working with companies Amwins, Hiscox and Aegis. Their placements culminated in a Careers Festival at Lloyd's, where students met professionals from different companies across the insurance industry. They also had an interview with a journalist, as well as a presentation on the apprenticeship process.

"I now have a much clearer idea of what the field [of speciality insurance] is all about." (Shanan)

Thanks to Mr Uddin for leading on this important business partnership.

## SPORTS DAY

**ALL YEARS**



We know there is a significant amount of sporting talent at Brentside, which is why we give our students the opportunity to compete across a range of activities including running, javelin and shotput to name just a few.

We also recognise that athletics is not suited to everyone, which is why we make our Sports Day so inclusive and special.

All students had the opportunity to take part in an array of sports from our traditional athletics to our vintage games including egg and spoon race, three-legged race and tug of war. There really is something for everyone. Even Ms Hames couldn't resist turning her hand to table tennis!

Well done to every student who participated, as well as those who won medals for their achievements. We'd like to give a big thanks to all the staff leading activities and ensuring the day ran smoothly. A particular thanks must go to Mr Reynolds and all the PE team who planned such a wonderful event.

## SPORTING SUCCESS

We are incredibly proud of the sporting successes of all of our students who participated in the Middlesex Athletics Cup this month:

Congratulations to Elisha, Ezekiel and Safran in Year 7 and to Jozel and Aliyah in Year 8 who were selected for this prestigious competition.

To reach these stages of the competition is testament indeed to their commitment and skill.

Massive congratulations also goes to Ezekiel who won shotput in this competition.

What a huge achievement!



## KEATS' HOUSE CREATIVE WRITING SUMMER SCHOOL

**YEAR 12**



Year 12 English Literature students attended the 2024 Creative Writing Summer School at Keats' House 2-5 July. The theme this year was 'The Outer Limits', where students looked at ground-breaking poetry and prose from John Keats' time to the present day and at science fiction and fantasy texts, as inspiration for their own writing. Students then presented their creative poetry and prose to each other atop Hampstead Heath in the coming sunshine. The Year 12 students found the day immensely engaging and informative.

Thanks to Ms Baker for leading on this event.

## ARTS FESTIVAL



Our annual Arts Festival grows from strength to strength. The quality of students' work is absolutely superb, from visual arts to fashion shows, live music performances on the bridge to drama adaptations of Macbeth, our audience left the evening inspired.

The still life featured here is just one of many incredible works of art produced by our students. It is hard to believe this was created by a Duplepreet who is only in Year 7!

This year we expanded our Arts Festival to include creative work from the history department.

Well done to all the students for such incredible work and to Miss Naeem, Mrs Reddaaway and Ms Northcote for leading on this inspiring evening.



## ARTS FESTIVAL - FASHION SHOW



This year's fashion show took inspiration from festival vibes.

Drawing on influences from the hippy era of the 60s and 70s, our designs focused on loose-fitting, flowing garments with Year 9 tie dye T-shirts, Year 10 screen printed designs by Katharine Hannett's slogan T-shirts and the power of nature in design.

Our A level textile students and BTEC students contributed to the garments with textile pieces.

## ARTS FESTIVAL - CAREERS TALKS



As part of this year's Arts week, we hosted several visitors in the art department.

Here is former arts student Lily Pile, London College of Fashion graduate and print artist, who gave a presentation to the GCSE art groups about her journey through the arts and her current print collections.

Dipti Gurung, a former arts student with her own events business, also delivered portrait workshops to Year 7 this term.

## DROP EVERYTHING AND READ

**ALL YEARS**



During our Drop Everything and Read event, students from Years 7 to 10 were gifted novels to add to their personal libraries. Students read extracts from these books at the beginning of each of their lessons, giving them a taste of the fantastic writing and intriguing storylines. Students and teachers alike fed back with how engaging these novels were and how excited they were to continue reading them in their own time.

A love of reading has so many benefits, including being a key ingredient to a student's academic success. Fostering a love of reading at home will have a significantly positive impact on your child's progress.

What book will you read next?

## AUTHOR VISIT

**YEAR 7**



We are massively grateful for the fantastic Yassmin Abdel-Magied, author of *You Must Be Loyal* and other incredible works, who delivered a brilliant talk and an inspiring creative writing workshop for our Year 7 students at the end of last half term!

Every student in Year 7 was gifted a copy of Yassmin's book from the library as part of the school's D.E.A.R. programme and walked away with a signed copy at the end of the event. Students in attendance remarked on how lucky and privileged they felt to hear her talk about her life and writing process.

After her visit, Yassmin went to share online how visiting Brentside was such a treat, and we'd love to have her back again.

## PERKINS & WILL - YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE AND TRIP

**YEAR 12**



This summer Y12 BTEC Art and Design students and a select number of Fine Art students took part in an architecture workshop with Found Futures, (a charity who support young people from diverse backgrounds to access architecture). The visiting architects set the students a brief to create a calm space. The group were supported by a visiting architect. The workshop was a pilot scheme led by Jason Claxton from Found Futures. Madeline, Alma and Yasmine in Year 12 were chosen for a weeklong work experience at Perkins & Will, (an international architecture and design practice based in Holborn, Central London).

During the work experience students were asked to redesign an area of Perkins & Will. To complete this, students were supported by the resident architects and interior designers. Students also had the opportunity to get their final designs 3D printed, develop ideas in a sketchbook and work with a range of departments at the studio.

On the final day, all students from the workshop visited the studio and were taken on a tour of the building. Lastly the students who were on work experience presented their work to the group and the whole team at Perkins & Will. The architects and designers were extremely impressed by the way they had worked over the week and with their presentations.

## YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

**YEAR 12**



Year 12 Geography students went for a residential field trip to Southwold, Suffolk, from 15 July to 17 July.

The students researched and collected data on various human and physical aspects of the town like impacts and success of coastal management strategies, regeneration and gentrification.

The students will produce a report which will form 20% of their A Level geography grade.



## INTERNATIONAL MARKET DAY

**ALL YEARS**



One of the many things that make Brentside High School special is the diversity of our students and staff. With over 60 languages spoken, this really is something to celebrate.

International Market Day has been a highlight of our school calendar for many years, and this year was no exception as students and staff enjoyed foods from around the world, dressing in their cultural dress and even some face painting too!

Money raised from the day goes to two charities: Water Aid and Helping Hands of Brentside.

Thanks to Ms Gent for leading on this fantastic event and to all the staff and students who made and sold food throughout the day.



## APPLIED LEARNING DAY

**ALL YEARS**



Our third Applied Learning Day of the year was filled with a huge array of experiences for our students, from visits to Kew Gardens; Paccar Scout Camp; art galleries in central London; performances from the Globe players; PSHE (personal, social, health education) workshops; enterprise activities and a trip to the theatre.

What a fantastic way to bring the term to a close, enabling our students to develop their knowledge, skills and cultural capital.

Thanks to Ms Gent for leading on our Applied Learning Days this year and to all staff who have led and supported these enriching events.



## GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!

At the end of term, we would like to say a huge thank you and farewell to the following staff who are moving on to pastures new.

- Miss Amankwah**, Teacher of Psychology & Sociology
- Ms Brownlee**, Teacher of PE
- Miss Dunne**, Teacher of Art
- Miss Eccleshall**, Deputy SENCO
- Mr Ford**, Learning Support Assistant
- Miss Gent**, Deputy Headteacher
- Mrs Gogna**, Teacher of English
- Mrs Griffiths**, Learning Support Assistant
- Mr Jones**, Teacher of Mathematics
- Mr Mansour**, Teacher of Science
- Mrs Maurya**, Teacher of Science
- Miss Pujol**, Teacher of MFL
- Miss Smart**, Librarian
- Mr Tang**, Deputy Headteacher
- Mr Tapastau**, Teacher of Music
- Ms Twigg**, Teacher of Art
- Mrs Wong**, Data Analyst
- Mr Woolman**, Teacher of Science (second in charge)

We would not usually single out any one member of staff, but it feels fitting that after 28 years of service to the Brentside High School community that we say a special thank you to **Ms Gent**, Deputy Headteacher, for her significant contribution to the life of the school. Ms Gent has worked tirelessly for support our students, parents and staff over the years. We wish her all the best for the future.