NORTH BRENT SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



Autumn Term 2024

Message from Ms Rahman, Associate Headteacher

As we approach the end of term, I am thrilled to share some of the exciting events and activities that have taken place at North Brent School this term. It has been inspiring to see students fully engaging in their learning, making the most of our excellent resources, and embracing the opportunities provided.

We were delighted to welcome all our Year 7 parents to a recent Settling In Evening. This event offered a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet school leaders and form tutors, while gaining a deeper understanding of the routines, expectations, and support systems at North Brent School. Building strong partnerships with families is central to our ethos, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration with our community.

Year 7 students also enjoyed an adventurous trip to the Cuffley Activity Centre, packed with activities designed to foster teamwork, resilience, and confidence. From scaling climbing walls to tackling intricate challenges, students demonstrated courage and determination. The day strengthened friendships and created unforgettable memories in the great outdoors.

Our science labs have been buzzing with activity as students explored physics, chemistry, and biology through hands-on experiments. These engaging experiences sparked curiosity and brought science to life.

Year 8 and 9 students were inspired by a visit to the Royal Academy of Arts, where paintings such as the "Last Supper" encouraged creative reflections and cultural appreciation.

Year 10 and 11 participated in a safeguarding workshop led by the Metropolitan Police. This interactive session provided practical advice on staying safe both online and in the wider community.

The festive spirit came alive with a Christmas jumper day, where we raised £145 for Save the Children. The week concluded with a joyful Christmas lunch, where laughter and celebration brought the school community together.

As we look ahead to the new term, I want to thank our staff, students, and families for their unwavering support and enthusiasm. Together, we are building a vibrant and inclusive school community where every child can thrive.

We encourage all parents to look through this newsletter to find highlights from the Autumn term and important information for the months ahead.

Wishing you all a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Message from Ms. Beth Ragheb, CEO

A huge well done to all of our community for completing a successful and productive first term at our amazing new campus. Being part of the Wembley Multi-Academy Trust means that our values, curriculum and high expectations for academic excellence are aligned and you can see this every day in school. It has been wonderful to see all of our students at North Brent School settling in to their routines and it already feels like home from home when I visit. They are set to reach new levels and I know the dedication and outstanding behaviour they display every day truly reflect our sentiments into the community.

Please enjoy all of the amazing experiences shared in this Bulletin for you and your families and feel proud of such an amazing resource we have in Neasden Lane! Thank you to all of our parents and carers for their support every day sending your child/ren to school in immaculate uniform and displaying the values that we all live by every day.

We hope that all of our families get to spend quality time together over the break and remember to stay stay safe and celebrate the new year of 2025 together!

Ms. Beth Ragheb CEO

Student Librarians Shine This Term

Our student librarians have had a fantastic term, demonstrating excellent leadership and dedication in running the school library. They've been instrumental in ensuring that students have easy access to a wide range of books, while also helping to keep the library organised and inviting.

This term, the team has worked hard to create vibrant and engaging displays to mark key events, including a spooky Halloween display, a thoughtful tribute for Remembrance Day, and an informative showcase for Anti-Bullying Week. These displays not only enhanced the library's atmosphere but also encouraged students to explore new topics and reflect on important themes.

A special shout-out to Rakish, Hafsa, Chelsey, Moksha, Allegra, Ibraheem, and Jayden for their unwavering commitment. Their hard work in managing book checkouts and maintaining a welcoming space has made the library a hub of activity and learning. We're incredibly proud of their contributions this term!



Year 7 Cuffley Trip

The Year 7 students and teachers had an incredible time on the Cuffley trip, bonding through a variety of exciting team-building activities. The experience was a fantastic opportunity to grow together and create lasting memories. We eagerly anticipate many more adventures like this in the future!



PETER PAN

A special thank-you to the talented and dedicated cast of Peter Pan! Our students have been working tirelessly to perfect their lines and bring each scene to life. Their enthusiasm and hard work are shining through every rehearsal. We can't wait to share this magical production with you at the end of the school year!

Black History Month Competition - Congratulations to Our Winners!

This term, our school proudly celebrated Black History Month, a time to recognise the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history and in the present day. Students were invited to participate in a competition by creating informative posters that highlighted the life and legacy of a Black person who has made a significant impact.

We were impressed by the thoughtfulness and creativity shown in all the entries. Each student who submitted a poster received a book on Black history as a token of appreciation for their effort and engagement.

Special congratulations go to Allegra, Vedashree, and Dihaaq, who were awarded certificates for their outstanding entries. Their work truly stood out for its depth of research and presentation. Well done to all who participated – your contributions have made this year's Black History Month celebration a memorable one!

An additional shout-out to Joel, Amelia, Melody, Tianna, Subaida and Aayat for their delivery of an assembly on Black History Month to their peers. They did a tremendous job and showed great leadership and courage. A huge well done!

School uniform

Some key reminders:

- 1. Students must wear black, formal school shoes.

 Black trainers are not permitted.
- 2. Students must wear their blazer, jumper, tie and bag everyday.
- 3. If wearing a coat/jacket, this should be navy or black. Coats/jackets should be formal rather than leisurewear. Any item resembling leisurewear will be confiscated.

School uniform can be purchased from Rumbles School Uniforms Shop.

You can find the home- school agreement and further information about uniform expectations in the student planner (Pages 8-15).

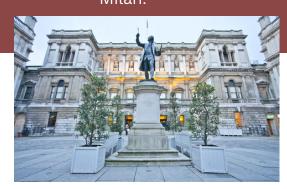
Christmas Lunch Celebration

We ended the week with a wonderful Christmas lunch for all students. The canteen was filled with festive joy as everyone came together to enjoy a traditional Christmas meal. It was heartening to see so many smiling faces and hear the buzz of excitement as we celebrated the season as one school community.



Royal Academy of Arts

Last week, our Year 8 and Year 9
students had the privilege of visiting
the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts
in London. The trip was a truly
memorable experience, offering
students the chance to explore a range
of fascinating exhibits. A standout
moment was their encounter with the
"Last Supper" painting, which left
everyone in awe. The painting of Last
Supper in the Royal Academy is the
best reproduction in the world of
Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece from
Milan.



Food Bank Donations

A huge thank you to parents and students for their amazing efforts with our Student Council Foodbank Campaign this term. We have collected a fantastic variety of items for Brent Foodbank, including milk, juice, tins of vegetables, and soup. Brent Foodbank supports our local community by providing emergency food parcels with nutritionally-balanced, non-perishable food to those who need it most. The contributions we have received will make a significant difference in supporting people facing financial hardship this winter.



A Week Full of Science Experiments

This week, our science lessons came to life as students immersed themselves in hands-on experiments, exploring fascinating aspects of physics, chemistry, and biology. Students experienced the world of magnification, observing intricate details under microscopes, and explored chemical reactions that fizzed, popped, and sparked curiosity. In physics, students practised measuring current and voltage, deepening their understanding of electrical circuits. The enthusiasm in our science labs was infectious, with students eagerly engaging in every experiment and enjoying the thrill of discovery.

Sporting Success!

The Year 10 basketball team showcased their skills in recent matches, securing an impressive 25-8 win against WHTC Year 9.

In a hard-fought game against WHTC Year 10, our team demonstrated great effort but narrowly missed victory with a final score of 8-13.





A World-Class Orchestra Wows Students at North Brent School

On Friday, 29th November, our school had the incredible privilege of hosting Kidenza, a critically acclaimed 16-piece live orchestra, for an unforgettable afternoon of music and inspiration.

The event captivated our students in Years 7–11 with an electrifying programme that brought the magic of classical music to life. From rousing symphonies to instantly recognisable favourites, Kidenza showcased the very best of the genre, leaving students and staff alike in awe.

It wasn't just about the music – it was about the experience! Students had the unique opportunity to learn about the fascinating world of orchestral instruments, with each section of the orchestra demonstrating its role in creating these iconic sounds. This interactive and educational experience complemented the music curriculum beautifully, reinforcing students' understanding of classical music and its timeless influence.

The passion and precision of Kidenza's musicians brought classical music to life in a way that was both accessible and thrilling. From the sweeping melodies of familiar pieces to the exciting dynamics of new discoveries, the performance left a lasting impression on everyone in the room.

We are so proud to have brought such a prestigious group of musicians to our school. For many students, it was their first time experiencing a live orchestra, and their excitement and engagement were truly wonderful to see. This was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the term and a fantastic addition to our enrichment programme.

Thank you to Kidenza for an unforgettable afternoon, and to all staff and students who helped make the event such a success!



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT - Art

The Year 7 students have made a fantastic start in exploring the formal elements of art, such as Tone, Shape, Space, Texture, Colour, Pattern, Line, and Form. They've particularly focused on various drawing techniques and have shown great progress in mastering a range of materials, from oil pastels and acrylic paints to traditional pencil drawing methods. I've been particularly impressed by their ability to adapt these skills for independent exploration and collaborative group projects, such as creating straw sculptures inspired by renowned architects like Norman Foster. I look forward to seeing how their skills continue to grow with our upcoming project, "Tiny Houses."

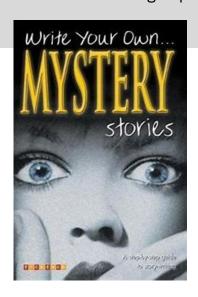
Year 8 students have made outstanding strides in their portraiture work. They've delved into both traditional and alternative portraiture, expanding their skills in watercolour and acrylic painting. They've also explored different drawing techniques, including the grid method and cross-hatching. It's been a joy to watch their confidence blossom, both in discussions and in their sketchbooks. I'm excited to see them continue to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for both conventional and contemporary art forms.

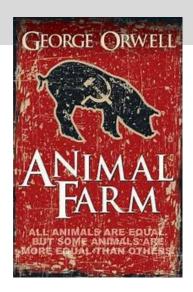
Year 10 students have explored a variety of materials, investigating colour and expression throughout history. They have developed strong mark-making techniques and research skills, resulting in high-quality work. Meanwhile, Year 11 students have completed their GCSE exam projects early and are now working on an extension project focused on natural forms. This gives them the opportunity to refine their photography skills in preparation for the upcoming exam in January.



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT - English

This term has been an exciting one across all year groups as students have engaged with a variety of enriching texts. Year 7 students have been exploring detective fiction, honing their creative writing techniques by crafting vivid descriptions, building suspense, and planting clever clues in their own mystery stories. Meanwhile, essay writing has been the focus in other year groups, with Year 8 students analysing themes of power and rebellion in Orwell's Animal Farm and crafting well-structured arguments about its relevance today. Year 9 students are delving into Dickens' A Christmas Carol, developing their essay skills as they examine Scrooge's transformation and the text's timeless moral lessons. Year 10 students are refining their ability to write analytical essays on unseen poetry, interpreting themes, dissecting language, and confidently presenting their insights—key preparation for their exams. Across the school in English, students are making impressive strides in both creativity and critical thinking.





translation.



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT - Spanish

The Spanish Department has had a fantastic start to the year, with students actively engaged in lessons,

ABC ESPANO Letto

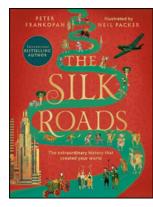
demonstrated by enthusiastic choral repetition. Year 7s have been dedicated, learning to describe themselves, their families, and their local areas, while Year 8s built on prior knowledge to expand their vocabulary and focus on adjective agreements. Parents are encouraged to support learning by asking students to practice Spanish at home. Year 9s explored topics like free-time activities and media, with a recommendation to watch or listen to Spanish content over the holidays. Year 10s delved into holiday-related topics and cultural customs, showing strong progress in grammar and exam skills. The term also saw the launch of the Year 7 Spelling Bee and Year 8 Translation Bee clubs, fostering enthusiasm and skills in Spanish spelling and

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT - History

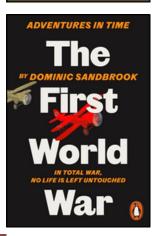
Year 7 – the medieval world (c1000): This term, Year 7 students have been studying the fascinating medieval world around the year 1000. Their studies have focused on key historical events and locations that shaped the medieval landscape. Students explored the advancements of medieval Baghdad, examining its role as a centre of knowledge and trade. They also studied the story of St. Foy, a young saint whose life and legacy tells us a lot about Christianity in medieval Europe. More recently, Year 7 have studied the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, gaining insights into the battles, politics, and changes that reshaped the country. Through these engaging case studies, students have deepened their understanding of the medieval world and the diverse cultures that thrived during this time.

Year 8 – the rise and fall of empires in the 16th century: Since September, Year 8 students have been exploring the transformative era of the Renaissance, deepening their understanding of the changes that occurred during this period. students have examined how European countries, such as Spain, began to expand their influence by conquering distant lands and building vast empires. They learned about the impact these conquests had on the historical narratives of civilisations, such as the Aztecs, whose history was often shaped by European perspectives. Additionally, students have studied how European nations were determined to establish strong trading relationships with powerful empires, including the wealthy Mughal Empire in South Asia. Through these topics, Year 8 students have gained valuable insights into the interconnectedness of global empires in the 16th century.

Year 9 – the twentieth century world: This term, Year 9 students have been developing their understanding of the 20th century world as part of their transition to GCSE History. A key focus has been the spread of communism, particularly in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, and its impact on global politics. students have also studied Germany during the inter-war years, exploring the political, economic, and social challenges the country faced following the First World War, which laid the groundwork for the rise of the Nazi regime. These topics have helped students build a strong foundation in understanding the complex events that shaped the twentieth century, preparing them for the more in-depth study of history at GCSE level.







Student quotes about the history curriculum this term:

"I enjoyed learning about the medieval city of Baghdad, and how Caliph Al-Mansur waited for the perfect to time to build his round city." (Malik, Year 7)

"I have enjoyed learning about the Aztecs this term, as it is interesting to see how their empire was very advanced for that time. More recently in history, I've also enjoyed learning about Akbar the Great and how, at a young age, he took control of huge parts of the South Asian subcontinent in such a short amount of time." (Laila, Year 8)

"This term, I have found it interesting learning about how the history of the Aztec Empire has been written about in different ways, and how it's important to always consider the perspective through which history is written." (Sana, Year 8)

History reading recommendations for students:

The 'Silk Roads' – The Extraordinary History that Shaped your World by Peter Frankopan

Adventures in Time – The fall of the Aztecs by Dominic Sandbrook Adventures in Time – The First World War by Dominic Sandbrook

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT - Maths

Vasu 7M2

Dhyanvi 7m6

Ananya 7m

Lexie 8m1





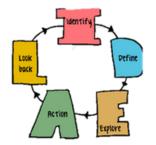
SPARX LEADERBOARD

18 Year 9 Year 10

Siddha 9ml

3 Ebleson 9111

The Math Solutions Club has seen tremendous success, with students not only improving their homework scores but also gaining a deeper understanding of complex topics through personalized support.



The Sparx Leaderboard celebrates the top three students from each year group who have achieved the highest scores on their Sparx maths homework platform. This leaderboard not only recognizes academic excellence but also promotes hard work and ambition, as well as inspiring friendly competition and motivating students to continuously challenge themselves in their mathematical journey.

The Puzzle Pirates club has become a thriving hub of enthusiasm and collaboration;
Throughout weekly problem-solving sessions, math competitions, and brain-teasing activities, members sharpen their critical thinking skills while building confidence in their mathematical abilities.





Year 9: "I enjoy maths lessons, as it is inspirational and helps me in daily life"

Dhisha

Year 7: "The maths in this school is more complex than other schools learning system and has a multitude of subjects that build upto GCSE content" - Alan







Student Council

We are proud to have an active Student Council, with two representatives per Tutor Group. We are working with our Student Council to shape the future of our School as well as to support them to deliver a series of charity projects throughout the year.

Library opening times

Please be reminded that the library is open between 8:00am and 4:00pm every day.

Students have access to borrow a range of texts from the library to share in our endeavour to be a reading school.

Attendance

Attendance is currently above the national average but as a school we always strive for excellence and would like to see each year group achieving at least 98% attendance next half term. It is imperative that your child is in school every day; high attendance results in high achievement.

Research shows that attendance has a direct impact on academic achievement, social development and wellbeing, so please ensure that you are sending your child to school each day.

In the event of an emergency that means your child cannot attend school, please ensure that the school is informed by 9.00am. If your child is absent for more than one day, it is necessary to call the school on every day of absence. Please aim to arrange any appointments outside of school time.

Attendance %			
Y 7	Y8	Y 9	Y10
96	97	96	95



Punctuality

As the new term begins, students and parents are reminded about the importance of punctuality. All students are expected to arrive at the school site no later than **8:30** am.

The student gate closes at 8.30am each day and if a student arrives after this time then they must go to the Main Reception.

A student will be logged as late and receive a sanction if they are not sat down in their form room or assembly at 8.35am.

Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - Mr Moses Arthur





SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Report safeguarding concerns by CPOMS or via email:

safeguarding@northbrentschool.co.uk

For any urgent matters, please report in-person to a member of the safeguarding team



Mr Arthur

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD



Ms Rahman

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD



Ms Albery





Mr Duffett

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

Top tips if you are buying a device for your child for Christmas:

The online world is an exciting place, and in this digital age, children have easy access to many forms of technology. As curious beings, they're naturally driven to explore; therefore, as with the offline world, it's our role as parents to ensure they only delve into online places that are safe.

A top tip is to open the device and make sure it is set up and ready with the right parental controls before you hand it to your child. Examples include:

- Download Qustodio free app to parents to help supervise and manage what your child is exposed to online
- Life 360 well known app that helps you to monitor your child's location for safety. With any parental control app it is important to have "the talk" to ensure your child knows what the apps are used for and how it helps to keep them safe. Being open and honest is important.

Useful contacts for students:

Kooth.com

Online counselling service for 11 – 25 years online until 10pm daily.

Mind

www.Mind.org.uk has A-Z of good information to support anxiety and panic attacks and www.mindful.org aimed at 11-17 year olds.

Childline

0800 1111 / https://www.childline.org.uk/

Eating Disorders - www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk

Social Anxiety Support - www.social-anxiety.org.uk

Young Minds (Mental health charity for young people) https://www.youngminds.org.uk/

Self-Harm UK (Support for young people aged 10-17, who struggle with self-injury) https://www.selfharm.co.uk/

PAPYRUS Hope Line (Suicide prevention advice) https://www.papyrus-uk.org/