

ISSUE 1

MARCH 2024

# Becky

H I G H L I G H T S



# Welcome to Becky Highlights Spring Term 2023-2024



Part of our school vision, mission and values is ‘Dare to be remarkable’, but this can sometimes be misinterpreted, so it’s important to have a shared understanding about what we mean. Some students have suggested that they feel intimidated or pressured at the thought that they need to ‘be remarkable’. Even when people might say to us, ‘Just do your best!’ this can feel pressured, because day-to-day it is not always possible to show up as the best version of ourselves.



Brené Brown, a professor and author who studies courage and vulnerability, says “when we make the choice to dare greatly... we can choose courage or we can choose comfort, but we can’t have both. Not at the same time. Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it’s having the courage to show up...” It may feel uncomfortable and it may feel vulnerable to try our best, to be our best. But if we don’t dare, we will never really know what we are capable of. So what does remarkable look like?



The dictionary tells us that remarkable means “unusual or special and therefore surprising and worth mentioning”. Sometimes all the hard work and determination and practice pays off, and being remarkable looks like... winning, or achieving something really quite impressive. But these occasions are actually quite few and far between.

This is where our Getting Life-Ready (GLR) skills are vital. Resilience and commitment are worthy of note and are often unusual in society today. Sometimes life is hard, and tiring, and being remarkable looks like... just showing up, sticking with it being resilient, and persevering.

#DareToBeRemarkable

# Key Events

## BHS Sports Awards 2024 – 21st June

Book your tickets now!

If your child has attended a sports club this year, you should have now been sent a letter inviting you and your child to our Awards evening on 21st June at the Wycombe Swan. Please remember to book a ticket for yourself and your child via SCOPAY before the deadline; tickets are capped at 3 per child at the moment. Last year was a sell out so book now to avoid any disappointment!



*Beaconsfield High School's*

2 0 2 4 S P O R T

**AWARDS**

D I N N E R

FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2024

19:30 - 23:00

*The Old Town Hall*

WYCOMBE SWAN THEATRE  
HP11 1BB



## EDI Conference - 24th April

Join Mrs Anukem, our EDI lead, for our first EDI Conference. Please email her to register your interest and reserve your place.

## Save the Date

EDI Conference | 24th April | 4.30-6.30pm

Beaconsfield High School

'EDI is Akin to Safeguarding'

Please email

[anukem-c@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:anukem-c@beaconsfieldhigh.bucks.sch.uk)

to register your interest and reserve your place



# Congratulations

**Avneet, 8BLK** - for achieving distinction in her Grade 4 LAMDA exam

**Sienna, 10RAM** - for achieving distinction in her Piano exam

**Chloe, 8HOL** - for achieving merit in her Grade 3 Flute exam

**Oshmi, 7BHU** - for being selected for publication in a book showcasing young writers called 'Winter Wonderland - Winter Delights'

**Leyla, 10HOL** - for achieving distinction in her Grade 2 Electric Guitar exam

**Sacha, 11HML** - for achieving distinction in her Grade 7 Singing exam

**Laurca, 7HOL** - for being awarded a silver medal for 100m Fly, age 12, at the Watford Regional Qualifiers

**Emily, 7RAM** - for being awarded a Purple Belt in her martial arts grading

**Aadya, 7HOL** - for being awarded her Red Belt in Karate

**Anusha, 10PAR** - is currently ranked No1 in U15 girls in Chess

**Aairah, 10HOL** - for participating in the National Junior League, Table Tennis England U19 competition.

Congratulations to Nathalie, 6SUR, on her performance at the Ice Skating Regional Championships. She came an amazing 6th out of 22 skaters. Nathalie has also qualified for the Nationals in June.

[Click here to watch her amazing performance!](#)



The 606 (Beaconsfield) RAF Air Cadet Squadron recently held their formal Dining-In night at RAF High Wycombe Officers Mess. Connie D 11RAM was awarded Best Cadet and 6 certificates, and Josy W 6SUR was awarded Best NCO and promoted to Flight Sergeant.



Anmol recently competed at the Scottish Air Rifle Championships and made it to the final. It was a tough final match competing against some of Britain's most successful shooters. Narrowly missing out on the bronze medal, Anmol is very pleased to have shot with the best and be ranked fourth.

We have had two gymnasts from BHS compete at the English Womens Artistic Championships at the beginning of March. Lauryn 10PAR competed in the WAG Senior and Jessie-Mae 9HOL in the WAG Junior. Congratulations to Lauryn who came 8th out of 85 gymnasts.

Lauryn also competed at the British Championships in Liverpool. She placed 18th AA and 9th on Vault. Congratulations to you both and we can't wait to follow you along your journeys.

Congratulations to Cristina (7BLK) who won 1st prize in the BBA 500 words competition. This was organised by the Librarian at AGS as part of the Bucks Book Award event which I attended with 13 students today. The competition was open to all schools across Buckinghamshire.

## The Evacuee

I walked onto the platform, my hands trembling. I heard that Hitler would target the orphanage among other buildings. Then, I'll be able to stay with my own family. Not in Dorm 6. No, thank you!

No, I thought, as I boarded the train. I don't want that life anymore. Of waking up, working, school, more work, sleep. I want a family. With a mum, a dad, and maybe some siblings. I don't know! I hadn't decided yet.

The girl across the seat leaned forward and asked me, "So, then, what are you thinking?" "Just... what kind of family I'd like?" I didn't mean for it to come out as a question, but she was older than me, and normally they were terrifying.

"You don't pick them," the girl said, laughing. "They pick you." This came home a massive blow. I felt like a doll in a shop, waiting for someone to choose me. I even had the tag on me with my name on it, for pity's sake.

"I need some air," I managed to say, stumbling to the back of the train. At the very back there was a balcony. As I stood there, I could just see London disappearing behind space and trees. I leaned over the railing and took in the countryside delightedly.

When we reached the village, we were all placed in a hall and given a cup of water. Then the people started coming in. Slowly at first, then in droves. Some people looked delighted, while others had thunderclouds hovering over their heads. My sense of excitement returned with a shiver. I tried to look as obedient as I could, wiping droplets from my chin and smoothing down my hair and coat.

Penelope, who ran the operation got to her feet and said happily, "Thank you for your kindness. Look at all our lovely children!" Murmurs ran through the crowd.

"So," she continued, "come and talk to the children. Isn't this exciting!" I plastered a smile on my face and waited for someone to come to me. A man approached me. I politely said hello, but he fumed, "Another girl!" and moved onto someone else. I spluttered in astonishment. Slowly, adults and children trickled out of the room. And then it was empty.

I turned away so Penelope wouldn't see the tears prickling my eyes. That was it. I'd be sent back to the orphanage.

Suddenly, a woman burst into the room. "I hope I'm not late!"

Penelope frowned. "You are, Susan. Here. Take this one." She shoved me forward. I nearly stumbled into Susan. She righted me gently and asked me my name.

I mumbled my name, but inside I was partying. I would stay here! Susan gave me a candy and took my case.

As she looked at me and smiled, I felt warmth and hope flood through me. I smiled to myself and thought, "This is just the beginning."

# Our Head Girl Team

Hi Everyone,

I'm Rithika (middle) and I'm very honoured to take on the role of Becky High's Head Girl this year! With me here are my two deputies Sophia (right) with a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing and Francesca (left) with a focus on Academics and Logistics. We are very much looking forward to being your new head girl team and can't wait to work with the other Senior Prefects to give back to our school community.



As Head Girl, the legacy I would like to implement is a system between Year 11 and Year 12 that will go on throughout the year. This system would be a place for the Year 11s to gain insight from the Year 12s who can offer exam tips, strategies and general advice based on their own experiences during GCSEs and their time in Year 11 as a whole. This would not only provide the Year 11s with an even better support system so that they can be that much more prepared to tackle their exams, but also hopefully lessen the divide between Sixth Form and the lower years, making our school community that much stronger!

This first term as part of the Head Girl team has been a great start and given us a wonderful insight into the role. We took part in a networking event hosted by Piper's Corner School which was a lovely opportunity to meet the leadership teams from other schools while representing Becky High, as well as listen to a very inspirational speech by GB hockey player Tess Howard.

I am very excited to work with the team to ensure that we leave a lasting and positive impact on the school and its wider community!

Rithika  
Head Girl



# School Colours

School Colours are the public recognition of exemplary students and embody what it is to be truly 'Remarkable'. They acknowledge a consistent commitment to a variety of fields over one's time at BHS, whilst also encompassing the whole array of GLR skills and characteristics. There is a badge for each School Colour.

## Half Colours - Year 7 - 9

Students need to achieve five of the DARE criteria from the four different criteria, one achievement must be made in each category with the fifth being optional which category it is from. Half-colours is targeted for students in Years 7-9.

## Full Colours - Year 10 - 11

Students need to achieve five of the DARE criteria from the four different criteria, one achievement must be made in each category with the fifth being optional which category it is from. Half-colours is targeted for students in Years 10 and 11.

## Sixth Form Colours

Students need to achieve five of the DARE criteria from the four different criteria, one achievement must be made in each category with the fifth being optional which category it is from. To achieve the award the student would need to apply for 6th form colours by February Half Term of Year 13.

Some quotes from this year's winners:

"To me, receiving my half colours badge means I have pushed myself to be remarkable in all areas of my learning." - Holly, 9HOL

"Overall, the school colours system serves as valuable recognition of student dedication and can play a significant role in promoting academic, sporting and musical achievement within the school." - Elsie, 9BHU

# World Book Week



World Book Week 2024 was packed full of exciting activities for all. With author visits, a bake sale, a second hand book sale and a non-uniform day, all raising money for Doorstep Library. Click [here](#) to watch a video from Faith at Doorstep Library. Have a look through all of the photos of the Book-related outfits, how many do you recognise?

Manjeet is an actress, playwright, screenwriter and director. She is the founder of Run the World - an organization that works with women and girls from marginalized backgrounds and helps to empower them through sport and storytelling <https://www.runtheworld.org.uk>

Author visit, Tuesday 5 March – Manjeet Mann  
We were delighted to welcome the author, Manjeet Mann, to Beaconsfield High on Tuesday 5 March as part of our World Book Week celebrations. Manjeet gave a compelling and insightful talk to Y7-Y10 which provoked many well thought out questions from the students. Her talk focused on the writing process, what a verse novel is, the influence of her childhood on her writing and the social inspiration behind *The Crossing* and *Run, Rebel*.

Author visit, Tuesday 5 March – Lia Middleton  
We were very excited to welcome, Lia Middleton BHS alumna (Class of 2007), to BHS on Friday 8 March. Lia spoke to Y12 about her path from leaving Beaconsfield High to becoming a barrister and published author. She highlighted the contrasts between a legal and creative career and how you can achieve both.









# Red Nose Day 2024



Red Nose Day was a huge success with sweet pong, henna, temporary tattoos, face paint, netball shoot out, football shoot out, as well as the return of the overwhelmingly popular Soak the Teacher.

We managed to raise £919.84 for Comic Relief! Thank you to everyone who took part and donated.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



# Learning Support



This term has been another busy one - we have enjoyed watching the bulbs come up in our Resilience Garden outside the Learning Support classroom. While the weather hasn't been so good, some of the students have been tending to the indoor plants and succulents, most of which are coming along nicely and surviving!

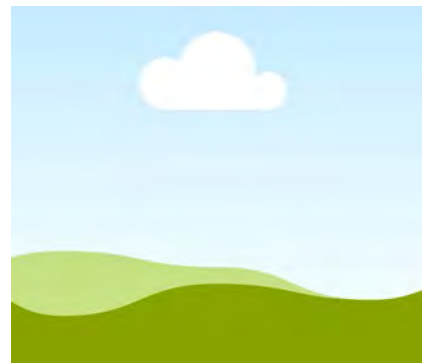
For many of the students the Spring term has been busy considering assessments - end of term tests as well as the GCSE and A-Level external exams. The Learning Support classroom can provide a calm, orderly and supportive space for students to revise and study as well as to sit tests in a separate space.

A new initiative to help us remember the positives has been the Appreciation Box. Here, students can post messages of Thanks to one another or to the staff. I've spent some time unravelling the posted comments and pinning them to our notice board. It is really heartwarming to see the appreciation we have for one another and to know that the hard work and thought we put in doesn't go unnoticed.

Mrs To, Exams Administrator, has been working hard behind the scenes supporting exams Access Arrangements with students, a vast quantity of paperwork and administration as well as planning the arrangements into seating plans, room plans and alterations and copious lists. We are hugely grateful to her wonderful knack when it comes to systems and tech.

The Learning Support Assistants have been continuing to support students in lessons and we now have a wide array of interventions and support groups/clubs underway which are really well attended. It is terrific to see students engaging with and valuing the provision and support available.

We have also been busy recruiting and I'm pleased to announce two new members of the team who will join the Learning Support Assistants at the start of the Summer Term; Mrs Adnan and Miss Slamani, who will both be joining us full time.



# How Learning Support helps me

Some students were asked how Learning support helps them and these are their responses along with some words from our fantastic Learning Support Assistants, Rahael and Shivali:

Learning Support helps me to have a quiet time to revise or do school work two periods a week. I have support available if I am ever stuck on anything and it is a calming environment if I ever feel overwhelmed or stressed. The staff are very helpful and open.. - student

Learning Support helps me a lot because it is a calm place to revise in. The staff are really supportive and friendly and are always willing to help out if you are struggling with a subject. The students and staff all get along well and it is a positive environment. - student

Learning support helps me with my spellings, I do weekly sessions with Mrs Whitefield, and I already feel much more confident. Miss Cham and Miss Rawal are always positive and willing to help whenever you need a hand. - student

The support offered by LS is fantastic and has enabled our daughter to continue coming in to school and participating in her learning, which seemed impossible a year ago. The LS classroom provides a safe environment where she is able to complete work outside the main classroom if needed. Support groups and counselling addressing specific issues are also a great help. And the LS team have provided invaluable support to us as parents so we can be consistent in our approach and get support externally to school. - parent

Our time as LSAs has been filled with excellent students and a team that is incredibly supportive. Every day is brightened by working with students who all have unique traits. Contributing to the improvement of their school days involves one-on-one studies, classroom support, all-around support, and lunchtime games and films! Being relatively recent members at Becky High, we can only say that working in the Learning Support Department has been an amazing experience and are very excited for what lies ahead.- Miss Rawal and Miss Cham

# Nurture Form

Nurture form is a calm, quiet space for students in Years 7-11 who struggle with attending their regular form to start their school day. Students who would benefit from attending are invited to join. Students can choose between normal form time and nurture form depending on how they are feeling in the morning. Some students only attend nurture, whilst others have a mix of nurture and regular form.

When asked about Nurture form, students said:

I really like coming to nurture form in the mornings as it guarantees a relaxed and positive start to the day, away from the noise and bustle from normal form rooms. If I've had a bad morning, knowing I've got a positive and calm room to come into at school really helps me to take that step into school when it feels more difficult. It's a time to regulate emotions and settle in before joining the wider school community for my lessons. It gives me time to clear my head so I can then focus on my next lesson fully.

Nurture form is really helpful because it's a quiet place to come to in the morning when the day feels overwhelming. I also like the fact that there is a choice which really helps.

I like how relaxed and calm nurture form is, there's nothing unexpected or disrupted, which means I can read and have a calm start to the morning, which helps me when I'm having a bad day and feel like I might struggle in lessons, so I miss less lesson time.

# Careers

Mrs Wray, our Careers Lead, updates her blog regularly with lots of information on events and opportunities. Below are her updates for April and March. Click [here](#) to find out more.

<p>The Treasury is the government department that sets <b>tax policy</b>. A high proportion of policy advisers would have a background in economics.</p>  <p><b>HM Treasury</b></p>	 <p><b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs</b></p> <p>HMRC collects taxes set by the government. It trains and employs <b>tax experts</b>, who then set and enforce UK tax law.</p>	<p>Companies that have shareholders are required to keep their investors informed about the financial health of their company. Companies often employ <b>Investor Relations</b> experts, people who understand finance, the investment community and are good at communicating, to ensure they the company's story is understood.</p>   	<p><b>Management accountants</b> work for large companies, preparing accounts for internal use as well as for publication to investors. They also use their financial knowledge to analyze the performance of the business. Many companies recruit both apprentices in finance and graduates from finance and non finance degree course but provide accountancy training.</p>   
<p>Larger companies are required to have their accounts audited – essentially checked by an independent accountant. The Big 4 audit and consultancy companies work for the top companies in the UK, aiming to ensure the financial data published by big companies is accurate to provide confidence to investors. Become an <b>auditor</b> after graduating or by taking up an apprenticeship.</p>    	<p>The rather odd date of 6<sup>th</sup> April* is the start of a new tax year, so this month's <b>Careers Insight</b> takes a look at <b>tax and financial reporting careers</b>. Check out the <b>Prospects website</b> for information on a wide range of finance related jobs.</p> <p>*The reasons for this unusual date back to the Middle Ages, when the tax year began on 'Lady Day' (25 March), a religious festival. It was moved to 5 April in 1752 as part of the UK's switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, then moved to 6 April in 1800 because of a mis-match over leap years in the new and old calendars.</p>	<p>A <b>carbon accountant</b> calculates an organisation's carbon footprint in accordance with <b>global standards</b>. You could work for a large company or for a consultancy.</p>    	
 <p><b>Bank of England</b></p>	<p>The UK's central bank, the <b>Bank of England</b> is responsible for maintaining monetary and financial stability. It does this be lending, borrowing and setting interest rates. The Bank employs experts in finance and economics</p>	<p>Or perhaps you want to use your accounting skills to <b>investigate financial crime</b> either with the National Crime Agency or the Serious Fraud Office.</p>   <p><b>SFO</b> SERIOUS FRAUD OFFICE</p> <p><b>NCA</b> National Crime Agency</p>	

<p><b>Teacher</b></p> <p>To get into <b>teaching</b>, you need a degree and a teaching qualification – and a love of working with children.</p>  <p>Every Lesson Shapes a Life</p>	<p>Pet guinea pigs, cats, dogs, horses or spiders are entry level <b>zoo keeping</b>.</p> <p>Check out the links below for information about university courses and careers in animal care.</p>  	<p><b>Chef</b></p> <p>Whether every day meals, special occasion menus or cakes and puddings, cooking is an every day occurrence. Check out the links below for information about careers as a <b>chef</b>.</p>  <p><b>UKH</b> UKHOSPITALITY</p>	<p><b>Counsellor</b></p> <p>Counselling can be a rewarding career for anyone who likes to listen and help. Often attracting candidates with experiences to share, counselling requires an open mind and patience.</p>  <p><b>bacp</b>   counselling changes lives</p> <p>Courses can be taken at local colleges or sometimes integrated with psychology Degrees.</p>
<p>Whether it is knowing where the sticky tape is hiding, making sure the school uniform is washed for Monday or getting to the airport on time, the role of <b>logistics manager</b> is never over.</p>  <p>Professional <b>logistics managers</b> work in air freight, shipping and for retailers and wholesalers to move goods around the world.</p>  	<p>In the UK, we celebrate <b>Mothering Sunday</b> on 10<sup>th</sup> <b>March</b>, so this month's <b>Careers Insight</b> takes a look at those jobs that Mums do, in addition to their own careers.</p> <p>Happy Mothers Day, Mums!</p>  <p>World book day, nativity plays, trick or treating. Mums can sort out more costume changes that an episode of Strictly.</p> <p>Check out courses and careers in <b>theatre and film costume and wardrobe</b>.</p>  	<p><b>Taxi driver</b></p> <p>London black cab drivers are renown for being the best in the world. They have to pass a test called <b>the Knowledge</b>. It requires encyclopaedic knowledge of all of London's streets, and routes between key locations.</p>  <p>Attention to detail, creatively and an ability to manage clients are key to careers in event or party planning. Check out information about careers in <b>event and party planning</b> by clicking the links.</p>   	<p><b>Nursing</b></p> <p>Patching up a grazed knee, nursing ailments or managing rehab from sporting injuries. Nursing skills are indispensable. Check out careers in nursing.</p>   



We are thrilled to share with you the latest updates and successes from our school Young Enterprise program. This initiative has been an incredible journey for our students, providing them with valuable skills and experiences that will benefit them long into the future. We are proud of the hard work and dedication they have shown throughout this process. Please take a moment to read their first reports, charting their progress so far. If possible, we kindly ask for your continued support for their efforts. Both teams are highly competitive and are eager to emerge victorious in this national competition! Thank you to Mrs Gill, Mrs Tansley and Mrs Marriott for all their support. Ms Irvin (Head of Business and Economics)

“Our company started by brainstorming ideas to help others with the same experience we have and will face in the coming academic year. Our idea stemmed from well-being. We began to fundraise an appropriate amount towards producing our desired products. Together, we agreed on selling well-being boxes that consist of 3 categories: exam-stress (relieve box), relaxation (relax box) and self-growth (relink box) boxes. We spent a long time working on and perfecting the name, slogan and logo to represent who we are as a company. We took advantage of the theme of Halloween and planned a bake sale. We raised £350, which enabled us to start purchasing the contents of our boxes, which we showed at the Festival of Lights in Beaconsfield to gain a presence within the community.

The next step was to prepare for our ‘Meet the Dragons’ event to pitch our product, where we were able to express our passion for our product as well as answer the cryptic questions of the Dragons. We received £50 as a team to help us on our journey. So, now was time to plan our second fundraiser, Becky Wonderland, raising £207. Next, we prepared for our second external event, the ‘Regional Pitch’, where we had the chance to talk more about our product and gained the ‘Runner-Up Professionalism’ award. I am proud of where we are as a group and am so excited to announce that we will officially sell our products during the next couple of months at a range of exciting events coming soon.”

Dhara Pandav  
MD of ReLeaf

“Participating in Young Enterprise has been one of the most inspiring yet challenging activities that I have done. The journey to creating Roots was not easy and required determination and perseverance from the team as a whole. We originally brainstormed many ideas and a multitude of them had the potential of being our chosen product. However, as a team, we decided to choose a game that enables the connections between families and friends - something we have noticed declining nowadays. Following from presenting our ideas to a pair of judges and business owners, our idea has won us £70 and Overall Winner - achieving an amazing 38.5/40 - out of over 50 different companies. The way that we received such positive results is through the team’s exceptional teamwork - none of this would have happened if it wasn’t for each and every member of the Roots group! Our cards are now ready for sale! You can see some of our designs on our Instagram- @Rootsyoungent (run by our awesome Digital Director); you can soon come to take a look (and even buy) during a range of events to be announced shortly!”

Thank you,  
Khushi M (MD of Roots)





# F1 in Schools Success!

As a member of Team Valkyrie, I'm excited to share our experience at the F1 in Schools South West Regionals! The competition, a blend of engineering and entrepreneurialism, challenges teams of secondary school students to design and race miniature Formula 1 cars. It was a day filled with adrenaline and teamwork as we showcased our engineering skills and raced against the clock. From setting up our pit display to presenting our portfolios and finally racing our car, every moment was a thrilling challenge.

Despite the nerves, we worked together seamlessly, impressing the judges with our designs and strategies. Winning the Fastest Car Award was a proud moment for us all, showing that our hard work and dedication paid off. This competition has been an incredible learning experience, and we're grateful for the opportunity to represent our school. We'd also like to thank our kind sponsors, shown below, who have helped us immensely so far. We can't wait to see what the future holds for Team Valkyrie!





Our student leaders, including the Deputy Head Girl Francesca and newly appointed EDI prefects Ananya, Honey, Kai, Lorna, and Khushi (Student Learning Prefect) demonstrated exceptional leadership by delivering inspiring assemblies across year groups.

Our dedicated EDI ambassadors also played a pivotal role by delivering informative sessions on cultural celebrations such as Ramadan and Holi, promoting understanding and appreciation of diverse traditions.



On the 11th Of March 8 of our students attended the Bucks youth Summit- Sanjhvi, Bethany, Milla, Danah, Faith, Melissa, Lizzie and Isabel. It was an awesome platform for young people from across the county to discuss the biggest issues and topics of interest for young people in Buckinghamshire today.



During Neurodivergence Awareness Week, our commitment to inclusivity shone brightly through engaging displays and bulletin messages curated by passionate students like Amy ( Eco Prefect), Teena ( EDI ambassador). These initiatives exemplify our ongoing efforts to create an environment where every individual feel valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

We are also very proud of Mrs Anukem as she has had an article published, 'My Becoming', on the Diversity Network. Click [here](#) to read the article.

★Mrs Melvin has been recording the school round winners of [Poetry by Heart 2024](#) (click the link to watch!) We will be submitting our entries next week for the national competition and are hoping for an invitation to Shakespeare's Globe in July to perform! Watch this space....

★Y7 have been researching BHS Form Names in their Library lesson this term. They have produced some fabulous presentations on Benazir Bhutto, Dame Kelly Holmes, Dame Marie Rambert, Malorie Blackman, Margaret Hamilton and Rosa Parks. We all learnt some fascinating facts about these remarkable women!

★The Library is also used during the term for Student Council, Staff Briefing, 6th form tutor room, Blossom, Book Club and English lessons – a well utilised space!

📖What to read next....

We are fortunate at BHS to have a well-stocked Library full of wonderful fiction and non-fiction. The Library is an incredibly well used space and is a device free area at break and lunchtime so students can browse and read without distraction. Below are some of our most frequently borrowed books this term.

📖Student reads - Evie 9HOL📖

I enjoyed reading House on Hummingbird Island by Sam Angus which is set during WW1 on a fictional island in the Caribbean. It explores the prejudices faced by people of colour whilst fighting in the British army during WW1. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend to any age group particularly Year 8 when you do the British Empire in history as it gives a chance to view things from a different perspective. Another book I would highly recommend is Diary of a young naturalist by Dara McAnulty which explores his everyday struggles as an autistic teenager balancing exams, friendships and campaigning whilst also giving you a unique insight into the natural world and all its beauty.

Here's how the challenge works:

- 📖 READ the book (copies in library or get your own)
- 😊 RATE the book (use display in library)
- 👉 REVIEW the book (reviews are displayed in the Library)
- 🌟 REWARD collect GLRs for your efforts!





### Bucks Book Award Winners 2024

On Wednesday 13 March fourteen students from Y7-9 attended The Bucks Book Award at Aylesbury Grammar School. Author, Nicki Thornton, spoke about her book series the Nightshade mysteries and life as a writer. Nicki asked students (and librarians/teachers!) what they were currently reading which led to an interesting and inspiring book discussion!

The Ministry of Unladylike Activity won the Children's Book Prize and Five Survive won the Sue Harris YA Prize. The award is voted for by students across Buckinghamshire.

### The Glitch – Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to the following students who entered the Young Writers' creative writing competition and have been selected for publication in The Glitch – Tales from the Quill.

Zaina 7BLK	Avneet 8BLK
Dhanvi 7HOL	Saeesha 8BLK
Tanusha 7RAM	Ellia 8HOL
Ammara 7PAR	Clarissa 11HOL
Ivana 7HML	Maya 6A-ATM

## KS3 English – Reading lists

March seems a very apt month with BHS World Book Week to launch our new reading page on our school website. Please follow the [link](#) to have a look.

In English we encourage students to read a book related in some way to the teaching in our English curriculum. The new reading page contains Year 7, 8 and 9 book list suggestions in line with our teaching topics. We also encourage our students to read non-fiction. Please support our learners by encouraging them to read newspaper articles and engage with non-fiction.

# POETRY BY HEART

Poetry by Heart Competition 2024 - School Round winner announcement!

Congratulations to the 24 students who took on the challenge of learning and reciting poems by heart for the school round of Poetry by Heart 2024. All students worked incredibly hard and the standard was very high.

It was a delight to hear all the entrants relishing the joy of language and performing their chosen poems by heart. The poems we learn as children often stay with us for life and all the students who participated really developed in confidence and honed their oracy skills which are so vital for all areas of our lives.

We are very pleased to announce that the winners of the school round competition are as follows.

KS3-5 Classic competition:

- Faith 10BHU
- Apiraamy 8HML
- Reiyaa Shree 7PAR

KS3-5 Freestyle competition:

- Isla 7HOL
- Maya 7BHU and Johanna 7BLK
- Freya 7BLK and Audrey 7HML

These students will represent the school at the Poetry by Heart National Competition.

# Drama Carousel for Year 9

On Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February Year 9 students were treated to a carousel of Drama sessions. One session was run by Mrs Grantham and Ms Martin and focused on the wealth of transferrable skills students learn through their Drama curriculum which they can utilise in other subjects, and also highlighted the eclectic career opportunities there are in the Performing/Creative Arts Industry. The students also learnt how through their Drama lessons they are developing their skills in the six essential key employability skills required to thrive in the workplace. The other two sessions were run by a professional actor and set/costume designer from Central School of Speech and Drama where the students got an insight into the life of a performer and saw some incredible set pieces and costume designs up close. We definitely have some budding future designers in our midst at BHS!



[Click here to watch the Year 9 Drama drop down day.](#)

# War Horse

Year 8 Drama students have concluded their exploration of the National Theatre production of War Horse through creating some truly innovative design presentations. In their groups the students have taken on the roles of designers for different production elements: set, lighting, puppetry and sound designers. The quality and creativeness of the work the students have created has been admirable and has given them a real insight into the role of different designers in theatre and how pivotal the roles can be in communicating a message to an audience and supporting the action of the play. Here is a taster of some of the set designs created by students, focusing on the themes of War Horse and considering how they can communicate the two different settings of Devon and the Front Line in WW1.





# Metamorphosis

On Wednesday 7th February Year 13 Drama students attended Frantic Assembly's production of 'Metamorphosis' at the Lyric Hammersmith. This was an adaptation of Kafka's novella reimagined through Frantic's innovative, symbolic and risk-taking stylistic movement and design choices. The students are using the production for their Component 3 written examination in June and it certainly gave them a wealth to write about! The students said 'it was a truly engaging and enjoyable production. The thought-provoking nature of the performance was audible through the buzz and reactions of the audience throughout.' A great afternoon at the theatre was had by all!



# Wicked!



"Mrs Bowden, why did we take such an odd route to the theatre?" was a common question whilst we queued outside the theatre. Yes, there are two Apollo theatres, and we were taken to the wrong one... After a near miss, and Mrs Bowden using her knowledge of central London to direct the coach driver to the correct theatre, we made it in one piece to watch Wicked. For some students, this is their third time, and they've noticed different characters and features each time. It was a great trip out and the students are already planning our next theatre trip.

## Bar Mock Trials



On Saturday 16th March, our students showcased their legal prowess in the bar mock trial, assuming various roles such as barrister, court clerk, jury, defendant, witness and usher. Their journey to the finals was an impressive feat, as they emerged from a pool of 186 schools and over 3000 students nationwide. Securing their place among the top 22 schools, they demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication. The national finals were a testament to the diversity and talent present, with schools from across the UK, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and England converging to compete. It was a remarkable opportunity for our students to engage in real-world legal scenarios and hone their advocacy skills in a challenging yet rewarding environment.

## Matilda cast visit the West End

The Matilda cast had a fabulous evening seeing the production live on Wednesday 27th March. It gave us lots of inspiration and was incredibly entertaining! We are very much looking forward to sharing our production with the school community in May!



# Music, music and more music



Under the direction of Jemima (Y12), the Baroque Choir treated a packed church to a range of music including body percussion. This was intertwined by beautiful solos from Lily, Giaan, Jemima, Keira and Lauren. The audience were very appreciative and were already asking when they would be back!



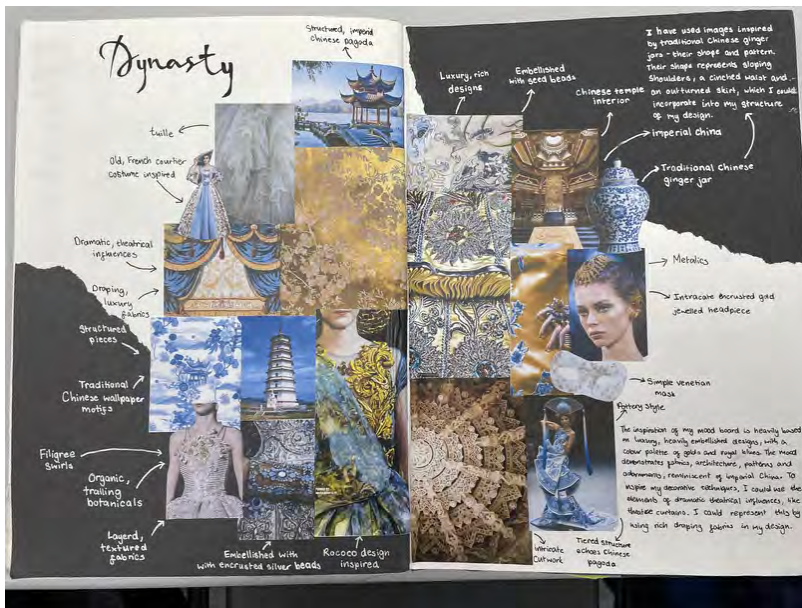
On Sunday 3rd March Chamber Choir competed in the Manchester Amateur Choral Competition. Their set included Ave Maria by K Cooper, Bumblebee by A Edenroth and Stars by E Esenvalds, which included many of the singers also playing tuned wine glasses for an ethereal starry effect. They competed against 16 other choirs including adult choirs and the Manchester University Chamber Choir and were given 1st place. The adjudicators' comments included "spellbinding", "excellent ensemble", "glorious soft singing", "fab attention to detail" and "technically proficient throughout".

The final comment summed them up very well - "There was so little to fault here from a very accomplished choir". We couldn't have said it better ourselves, they are a credit to themselves and the school.

See their performance on Facebook!



# Year 9 Textiles



Year 9 have been working on a fashion project called 'Adorn, decorate and embellish' in Textiles.

They have learnt to drape fabric on a mannequin to create a shape and learned various embellishment techniques like gathering fabric, beading and free machine embroidery. We have studied relevant fashion designers and they have created their own mood board and designs based on this.

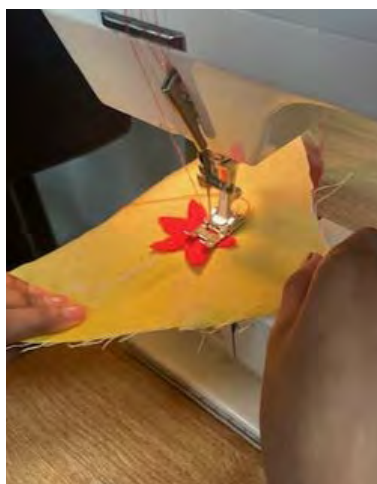


We had some beautiful work produced.



## Cultural Cushions

Year 7 have been busily working on their Cultural Cushions. Students learn a variety of textile methods such as Batik, hand embroidery, felt applique and using fabric paints and pens and have really enjoyed bringing their design ideas for their chosen country to life.



# In the Classroom



Year 7 were doing a maths task on fractions. In pairs, they had to match up the pairs of fractions which were equivalent to each other. As it was a competition, the winning pair were awarded achievement points.

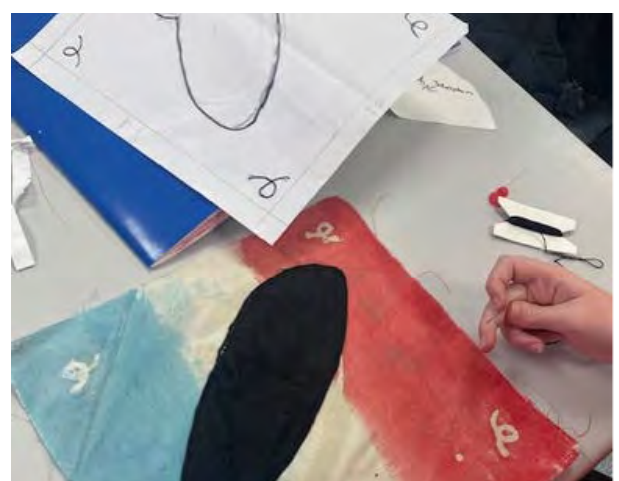
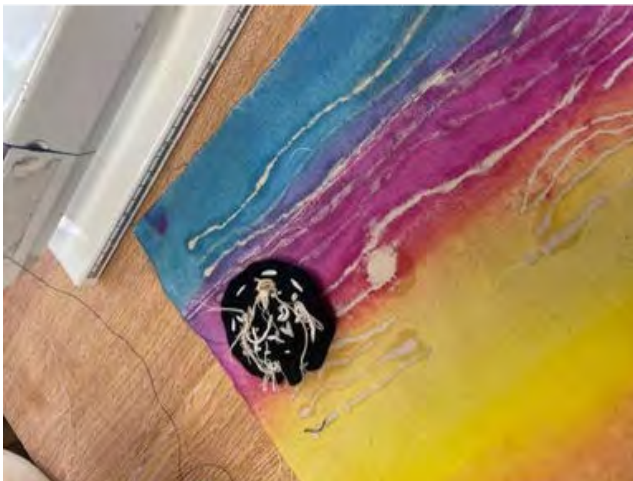
# Maths Fest

On Tuesday 5th March, eight Year 10 students were selected to go to the 2024 Maths Feast at Bishop Ramsey School in Ruislip. This was a regional competition, so there were teams from many schools all over the region, and a combination of grammar, private and co-educational schools competing.

We split into two groups of four, each team individually collaborating through four rounds with a range of topics, including Algebra, Geometry and Proportion. It was a fast-paced competition, with each round lasting around 30 minutes, so encouraged adaptive thinking, teamwork, and resilience. Tactics such as dividing and conquering were in our favour, so it ensured that all participants had to be confident in each topic and promoted trust and collaboration within teams.

Whilst we didn't win, there were rounds with very high scores from both groups, and the competition itself was a great opportunity to test our maths skills. Thank you to Mr Woodward and Mrs Pearce for taking us, and to the Maths Department for organising our participation in this event!





# Year 7 Food Tech

Year 7 have been working on a scheme of work based on The Bakery Window. This week's bake in Ms Lyczba's class was Focaccia which the students designed themselves with vegetables, herbs and seasoning. The Year 7s really enjoyed this week's bake and had some wonderfully creative designs. Well done Year 7!







# Residential Trips

## Year 12 Geographers visit Swanage

Last week the Year 12 A-level Geography class took a 4-day trip down to Swanage in the southeast of Dorset. We saw many famous geographical landscapes, like Durdle Door, as well as expanding our knowledge on our physical coast studies and human, changing places module.

On our first day, we gathered at school in the morning and began on our coach journey down to Swanage. After a three-hour drive, we reached our first destination: Hurst Castle Spit, a hook-shaped shingle spit extending 1.4 miles from the Hampshire shore into the Solent towards the Isle of Wight. There, we examined coastal defences aimed at preserving the spit and conducted an environmental assessment. Our next stop was Barton on Sea, known for its significant sea defences against coastal erosion. We studied various defences here, such as steel sheet piling and groynes, and conducted another environmental assessment for comparison. Our final task was to gather data for a cliff profile using measuring equipment, including measuring the total height of the cliff and the angles at which the geology changed. Later, we settled into our accommodations for the four-day stay and reviewed our data, using it to create a scaled cliff profile depicting different rock types and their positions.



On Tuesday we first drove to Portland to look at the sea defences there that protect the nearby houses from the sea. We looked at the recurved sea wall and the gabions that protect the area from the waves. We also looked at the drainage system put in place to help reduce percolation through the pebbles.

We had a lesson on the geology of the Jurassic coast in Lulworth and then we looked at Stair Hole and Lulworth Cove with our tour guide who explained the different features such as the arches and blowholes in Stair Hole and how the different rock types have impacted the types of features in Lulworth Cove. We then drove a few minutes up the road to Durdle Door where we took more field sketches to annotate of the iconic chalk arch.

On Wednesday we had our urban study day in Swanage town. We started off by walking to the coast to our first and second location to carry out our environmental quality survey. We recorded data such as the amount of litter, building quality, amount of traffic, levels of vegetation etc. We then went off in groups around the town centre where we had to conduct 15 interviews with locals, asking questions such as 'What changes have you seen since you first moved here', and 'How would you describe Swanage'. As well as this, we completed more locations for our environmental quality survey. We then consolidated our data in the evening by writing up our findings.

On our final day, we firstly drove to Studland Bay to look at the sand dunes. In groups, we measured the sand dune succession by measuring the length and angle of each section (defined by the breaks of slope), as well as measuring the temperature, wind speed, vegetation cover and vegetation specie within that area. After lunch we then took a 40-minute walk along the coast to see Old Harry Rocks. When we arrived, we did a field sketch of Old Harry, while Mrs Dixon talked us through the processes that led to the formation of this coastal feature. This included looking at the wave cut notch's, the caves, the arches, the high tide mark, the faults and much more. We added this information to our field sketches, so we had a detailed and labelled diagram in our sketchpads. We then took a 40-minute walk back to the car park, and then took our coach back to the hotel to get our suitcases, and then left the hotel at around 4:30 to drive back to school.



# Disneyland Paris



On the evening of the 24th of February, the Disneyland Paris Trip for Year 10 Computer Science and Business students took place, for a total of 3 nights away.

On both days, we could explore the park in groups to go on rides, into shops, and find new places to eat all throughout the day, using the maps and landmarks to navigate around the massive park. Many of the rides and rollercoasters were particularly memorable, each being different and unexpected, leading us to repeat a few of them many times!

On the second day away, Computer Science students attended a seminar in the morning, presented by three speakers, each having a history and jobs in the field of computer science. One speaker was Cristina Criddle, who told us how her job coincides with computer science as a technology reporter, even though her original career did not plan for a future in this field. Additionally, she told us about experiences she has had regarding social media sites, opposition to her work and the development of her job. All the speakers shared a clear passion for computer science and encouraged us to consider all the possibilities of future careers in this field, some of which they presented about, even if they are not explicitly related to computer science, as it is such a wide and evolving career path.

On our final night, we all gathered around the castle to watch the stunning firework and light display, before heading back to the hotel to pack, ready to leave the next day.

# Dance - Move It!

Our Year 9-11 dance students had a fantastic day at Move It! The popular annual dance exhibition at ExCel centre in London where they were able to take part in dance classes across a range of genres including tap, commercial and acro, meet industry professionals, watch performances from college students and some also took the chance to talk to future training providers about the range of different dance based courses available to them, both at vocational colleges and universities around the UK.



# Dance Live

There aren't enough words to say how proud we are of this phenomenal team of Year 12s, who led 50 students in our first ever Dance Live entry and placed 3rd overall, winning both a Costume AND Technical award!

In particular we want to say a HUGE well done to Annabel 6SUR who co-ordinated, led and directed the 7 minute dance and to Imogen 6CEW who, when our lead part was injured, stepped in to learn the whole piece on the day of the competition, in 2.5 hours! A further mention to Ella 11BHU for also morphing from munchkin to monkey last minute too!

We are so privileged to have such talented dancers at this school. Bring on 2025!





# BHS Netball



U15 Netball team won the shield competition and came 6th in their District Tournament.

U16 Netball A Team were crowned winners of the Year 11 District Tournament.

Our U19 Netball team retained their District trophy this year.



Our U12 B team won the Plate at the Year 7 Netball tournament after securing 3rd in the group stages.

U13A placed 2nd at their districts and the U13B and C won their games against DCHS and Wycombe Abbey.

U14A team narrowly missed out on winning their district tournament which the U14B team secured the Plate.

# BHS Hockey

Our U12s competed in their District Tournament at the end of February. Playing some amazing hockey, they sadly missed out on 2nd place. U13s came 3rd in their Districts and the U14s also finished 2nd. Well done to our U16 and U18 teams who were able to play in a new style tournament where they also had to play each other. The U18 team narrowly won 2-1.



# BHS Cheer



BHS Cheer competed in the National Cheerleading Competition in March. The teams had to compete a 2.5 minute routine consisting of tumbling, stunts, dance and jumps. The squad was awarded 1st place in their division. They were also awarded a speciality award for outstanding tumble technique and execution.

They were then awarded the Grand Champion award which is the highest scoring school of the day across all divisions.

# BHS Gymnastics



Our U16 and U19 Gymnastics teams competed at the Milano National Finals in early March.

The U16s placed 3rd in their region and achieved the highest score of all state schools. The U19s placed 2nd in their region. We are very proud of all the gymnasts for their commitment and qualifying for National Finals.



# BHS Football

We have had over 100 students take part in Football club and fixtures this year. Congratulations to the U13 football team who made it through to the 4th round of the National Cup.





*Dare to be remarkable*