

To all parents/carers

Summer Term Newsletter

The weather has been getting warmer and drier which has meant our pupils have been able to get out more and enjoy some exciting and interesting school trips. Sycamore and Oak classes helped celebrate Shakespeare's anniversary by visiting the Globe Theatre and Year 9 enjoyed a visit to the Olympic Park. Our primary classes have been enjoying the Forest School experience at Widehorizons and next half term Year 8 will be experiencing sailing on the River Thames through the Ahoy Centre in Deptford. Our older students are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Award and are looking forward to their first camping expedition. Recently Headteacher, Jon Sharpe, attended a reception at Buckingham Palace where the school was presented with a plaque to mark our involvement with the award scheme.

We hope many of you enjoyed our secondary music performance this week. We are also looking forward to holding our summer Arts Festival in June with a range of visiting artists and performers. Keep your eyes open for news of further concerts and events.

We are pleased that we have been able to reopen the two classrooms affected by drainage problems and move the classes back in to their proper bases. We are also planning a series of works this summer including improving the central courtyard area (see the Miss World article below) and installing football and basketball posts as requested by the School Council. We are also commissioning improvements to the reception and lobby area to improve the welcome to Brent Knoll!

We had been hoping to run a summer play scheme for primary pupils for some of the summer holiday. Unfortunately we have not been able to recruit enough people from our own support staff team to safely run the activities and so will not be able to run the scheme this year. It was always intended to use our own staff as they know the children so well and it would not have been as successful with unfamiliar adults.

Next term we are running a workshop for parents to explain the changes to the curriculum and assessment at Brent Knoll and what that means for your child. The workshop is being held on Tuesday 14th June at 5.00 pm.

Miss World pledges funds for Brent Knoll!

Reigning Miss World Mireia Lalaguna & Miss World CEO Julia Morley dropped in on Brent Knoll recently where they witnessed the progress the school has made since their last visit, and gave cupcakes out to all the students! Arriving at lunchtime, the Miss World delegation was greeted by Headteacher Jon Sharpe, who presented Mireia and Julia with flowers before taking them on a tour of the new school. Although Mireia is the 4th Miss World to visit the school, she was the first to see the new building.

Visiting every classroom, Miss World met with all the students, handing out special handmade Miss World cupcakes and autographs. Mireia was also introduced to the challenges the teachers face, and the fantastic atmosphere in the school.



"I really learned something today" said Mireia, on reflection of her visit. "The incredible techniques used to improve the learning experience is truly amazing. It is often hard to appreciate someone else's problems, but this school does it with style, and the children look like they enjoy it a lot too. It makes me feel so happy to see places like this, and I am glad that the Miss World Organisation continues to support such places."

Julia Morley was keen to hear about the future for Brent Knoll and after seeing a wish list of developments announced that she would pledge further 'Beauty with a Purpose' funds. Five pieces of playground equipment will be installed over the summer using 'Beauty with a Purpose' donations. This will be specialist equipment including a sound wall, scented organ pillars and an echo game.

Speaking about the visit, Julia Morley said "Brent Knoll School have consistently shown that their commitment to education is of the very highest level. We always love to visit and it fills our hearts with joy to see the development of these kids.

Because of this we want to continue to see this school thrive and cannot wait to see this playground filled!"

Autism Movement Therapy

Brent Knoll School is running a pilot programme of Autism Movement Therapy for older primary classes. Each week children will take part in Autism Movement Therapy® sessions provided by MovementWorks. The class offers an innovative, energetic and structured approach that stimulates the brain, aids sensory processing, develops motor skills and addresses behaviours associated with autism, with emphasis on the body-brain connection, all while having fun!

Autism Movement Therapy® is a movement and music method which allows complementary progression from the MovementWorks Developmental Dance Movement™ Programme, an approach already delivered in the Brent Knoll curriculum and other mainstream and specialist schools across London. If the pilot is successful it is intended to extend the programme into the younger secondary classes

World of Work Day

Brent Knoll held a World of Work Day for Years 9 to 11 as part of the preparation for life after school. There was a range of workshops throughout the day focusing on different aspects of the world of work.

Students took part in mock interviews with people from local businesses and also had a workshop on communication in the work place. Further workshops included a Young Apprentice workshop, an Enterprise challenge and a Career Speed Networking workshop.



Brent Knoll at Buckingham Palace!

Brent Knoll was represented at Buckingham Palace recently when Headteacher Jon Sharpe was presented with a plaque to recognise the school as a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme licenced organisation. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a national

scheme operated in many schools and youth organisations. The DofE is the world's leading youth achievement award, giving millions of 14 to 24-year-olds the opportunity to be the very best they can be. Brent Knoll has been running the scheme for a few years now and students are able to take part in a variety of challenges including volunteering and an expedition.



Brent Knoll – Athletics Success!

Over 50 secondary pupils took part in the South London Inter-borough Athletics event at Croydon Arena. In an amazingly successful day all our athletes were medallists and had a really enjoyable day. Well done to everyone!



Next term will see our pupils representing Lewisham in the London Youth Games

Important dates and events

INSET day: Monday 6th June

Beginning of half term: Tuesday 7th June

Parents Evening: Thursday 7th July

Achievements Assembly and end of term: Wednesday 20th July