

To all parents/carers

## **Summer Term Newsletter**

The second half of the summer term has been a very busy one for our staff and pupils. There have been a tremendous number of special trips and school journeys that our pupils have been able to experience and enjoy. At Brent Knoll we firmly believe that learning takes place outside of the classroom as much as in it and we encourage staff to plan lots of opportunities for enrichment work out of school. This term has seen primary classes visiting the seaside at Leysdown and Herne Bay, Year 7 enjoying weekly visits to the Forest School and Year 8 experiencing sailing on the River Thames thanks to our link with the Ahoy Centre in Deptford.

### **Residential School Journeys**

This summer we have had three residential school journeys for some of our secondary students. 9B enjoyed a week in Dorset staying at an activity centre in Weymouth. Here you can see them enjoying the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth!



When Year 11 had finished their exams they were able to let off steam with a weeks residential at Macaroni Woods Centre in Wiltshire and a group of students from across the secondary department spent a week in Arundel courtesy of the Arundel Cricket Foundation. During the week they had cricket coaching and were also able to enjoy the local attractions such as the beach at Littelhampton and Arundel Castle.



### **Staffing News**

As is often the case at this time of year we are saying goodbye to some of our great staff team. Greg Marsden from Oak class is leaving to take up a fantastic opportunity setting up a special needs provision at an international school in Mumbai, India. Mark Braithwaite, secondary English coordinator, is also leaving at the end of term to move to a residential special school in Seaford, Sussex. Both Greg and Mark will be sorely missed. Carol Ashton from the learning support team is relocating and will be leaving after several years fantastic service. Also Danielle Sultana and Laurence Pontin who have been with us for the past year on a temporary basis are moving on to new posts they have done a great job and we wish them well. The great news is that we have recruited some fantastic teaching staff to replace them. Faith Wharton and Deborah Smith are joining the team as permanent members of staff in Early Years and Year 7 respectively while we have some excellent temporary staff joining us while we recruit permanent staff in the Autumn term. Andrea Fender will be joining Gaynor Eames in Oak class, Jenny Parrett will be taking our new primary class Ash, we are welcoming back Shennell Fearon who is joining Chestnut class and Melissa Crane will continue to provide PPA cover for teachers. On top of this we are welcoming back Claire Ali after her maternity leave so there is plenty to look forward to on a staffing level.

### **Music and the Arts at Brent Knoll**

This term has been a fantastic one for showcasing the talents of our pupils in music. Our music coordinator Gina Evans organised two joint concerts with Greenvale School and performers from both schools played in front of audiences at both Greenvale and Brent Knoll. It was the turn of our primary pupils to shine when a group of primary children performed at the Songfest at Forest Hill School. We have also been running Creative Families a music project for siblings and families which has proved very popular.

Last week the school held a Super Shakespeare performance celebrating 400 years of the bard. Classes performed music, dance and reworkings of famous

Shakespearean pieces such as A Midsummer Nights Dream, The Tempest and Romeo and Juliet.

### **The LIFE Programme**

Year 11 students from Brent Knoll recently completed a week long course run by the London Fire Brigade. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn new skills being trained by real firefighters. Throughout the week they took part in teambuilding and confidence building activities and learnt fire fighting techniques at Lee Fire Station. The programme ended with a passing out parade in front of staff and parents where the students demonstrated the skills they had learnt during the week.



### **The Lark in the Park**

On Saturday 18th June Brent Knoll students ran a handicraft stall at the Lark in the Park community event in Mayow Park. Selling goods they had made as part of their Enterprise work they raised over £150! Thank you to everyone who came along to support them.



## **Brent Knoll Festival of Colour**

Last week secondary students participated in a Festival of Colour over three days. Students worked together in groups rotating round a carousel of workshops including dance, badge making, a rap workshop, a comedy workshop, film making, food making and a workshop run by the Horniman Museum. The festival culminated in a sharing performance in the school hall on the Friday afternoon. Many thanks to all the staff and workshop leaders but particularly to Lucy Govan for organising it all.



## **Anti-Bullying Ambassadors**

A group of students from Brent Knoll took part in an Anti-Bullying Conference at Grays Convent High School in Essex. The students took part in a range of activities and discussions and have brought back their ideas to Brent Knoll. They will meet with the Headteacher in the new school year to take their ideas forward. One of students, Benon Suleyman, impressed the organisers so much that he was awarded an Ambassadors Award.

## **SIGNAL**

SIGNAL stands for Support, Information, guidance and News for Autism in Lewisham. It is a charity run by parents for parents. Membership is £15 per family, per year. As a member you get subsidised trip and activities, gatherings to share experiences, libraries of resources, and much, much more. You can get an application form and advice through the email or website address, or alternatively contact Hayley Porter (One of the committee members) at Brent Knoll School.

Website: [www.signalfamilysupport.org](http://www.signalfamilysupport.org) Email: [admin@signalfamilysupport.org](mailto:admin@signalfamilysupport.org)

## **Important dates and events**

INSET day: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Beginning of term: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

End of half term: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October