Newsletter

Bullers Wood School for Boys | March 2026

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Spring brings fresh energy and focus

Spring feels like it's here, the mornings are brighter and green shoots are everywhere. However, our Year 11s have their sights firmly set on the summer just around the corner. Teachers are busy marking and analysing the boys' second set of mock papers so feedback can be given to help move learning forward.

Foundations for future success

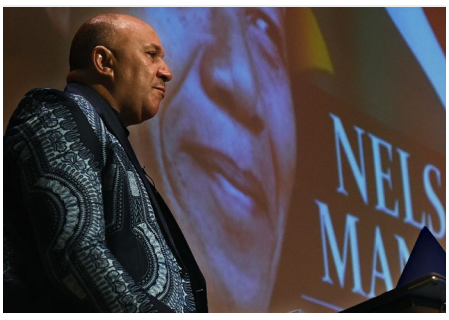
Whilst Year 11 focus on the end of their time with us, all other students are busy laying the foundations for their future success. All the thinking and learning they do both in and out of classrooms, the extra-curricular activities they get involved in, and the tricky situations they navigate prepare them for their unknown future.

Developing our staff team

To continue developing our staff team so we can reflect on what we do and make shifts in practice, we welcomed two guest speakers as part of our recent training days. Our learning from these days will be woven into school practices so we can "make it better".

Author and former Department for Education advisor Gary Wilson spoke with insight and passion about boys' education and strategies that can enhance their performance in school. Importantly, he spoke to a large number of our boys the week before, bringing his research to life in our context. He shared the barriers boys can face in education and highlighted the importance of building strong relationships with them.

In last month's training day, we invited Chris Lubbe, Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard, to share his experiences with staff. He spoke powerfully about the impact of discrimination and reminded us that boys from all walks of life need challenge and champions to empower them to succeed. As a school, we often refer to Nelson Mandela's quote: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This is something we firmly believe, so that all our boys go forward making positive impacts.



Encouraging reflection at home

As we quickly head towards the final third of the year, I encourage you to sit and chat with your son to reflect on his year so far and the upcoming months. Fingers crossed some monosyllabic answers can be avoided. Some things to ponder:

What are his passions in school? What has he been enjoying? Does he know his test scores? Is he aware of his school attendance percentage? What would he like to use his positive points for? How does his learning link to possible future careers? And importantly, how are his friendships?

School is a fast-paced, busy environment; much can pass the boys by, so school-focused reflection is useful..

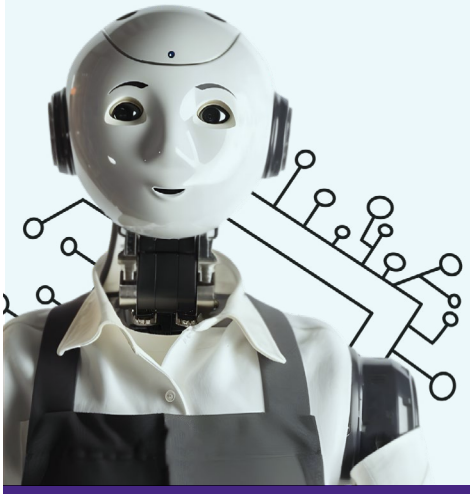
Mr Walker
Deputy Headteacher
(Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Science

Get curious!

British Science Week took place this year from 6–15 March and was a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) across the UK.

This year's theme, **"Curiosity: what's your question?"**, encouraged everyone to explore their interests, ask questions and discover the answers to their most exciting STEM ideas. It reminded us that curiosity was at the heart of every scientific discovery.



The official British Science Week website offered a wide range of resources to help students and families get involved. These included videos featuring well-known scientists, as well as activity packs filled with experiments, challenges and ideas to inspire learning both in school and at home.

If you had ever wondered how something worked, why something happened, or what might be possible, this was the perfect time to start exploring.

To find out more about British Science Week, visit: www.britishscienceweek.org

Upcoming dates

18 March
Year 9 Parents Evening

19 March
Extended Learning Day

20 March
Year 11 Mock Ceremony

27 March
Last day of term - students dismissed at 12pm

Shine bright at Science Stars!

On Wednesday afternoons, Year 9 students are invited to join Mr Bass' 'Science Stars' club, where they can take part in a range of exciting hands-on practical activities and experiments.

It's a great opportunity for students to explore their curiosity, develop their scientific skills and enjoy discovering more about the world around them.

Mr Bass is also exploring the possibility of introducing the CREST Awards programme. Run by the British Science Association, this flagship STEM initiative encourages students to work on their own investigative projects, helping them build confidence, creativity and problem-solving skills in science.

Humanities

Year 10 Geography field trip to Stratford

On Tuesday 10th March, a group of 45 Year 10 boys visited Stratford in East London as part of their GCSE Geography fieldwork. The trip focused on comparing areas with different environmental quality, specifically the modern East Village development and the nearby Carpenters Estate.

Fieldwork in action

Throughout the day, students carried out a range of geographical investigations. They completed environmental quality surveys to assess factors such as cleanliness, green space, building condition and overall upkeep of the area. Noise level tests were also conducted at a number of locations to compare sound levels between the busy, regenerated East Village and the quieter residential streets of the Carpenters Estate.

Students also carried out crime surveys by observing visible evidence of crime and crime prevention measures in each area. This included looking for signs such as graffiti, vandalism, littering, CCTV cameras, secure entry systems, street lighting and other design features intended to discourage crime. In addition, the boys completed service tallies, recording the number and types of services available, including shops, cafés and public facilities.

Understanding urban change

The field trip gave students the opportunity to collect valuable primary data and to see first-hand how urban regeneration can create contrasts in environmental quality within the same part of the city. This data will be analysed back in the classroom as part of their GCSE Geography work.

The boys represented the school exceptionally well throughout the day. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and engagement with the fieldwork were outstanding, and they were a credit to themselves and the school.

Mr Walter
Head of Humanities and Languages

Diversity and Inclusion Calendar

March 2026

THIS MONTH IS:
- Women's History Month
- Awareness for Prostate/Ovarian Cancer

DISABILITY (INC. MENTAL HEALTH)

CULTURE IMPACTS

ALL GROUPS

SEX/GENDER

SEXUALITY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
30	31 Trans Day of Visibility					1 UN Zero Discrimination Day
2 Purim	3 Holi World Hearing day	4	5	6	7	8 International Women's Day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Ash Wednesday Eid al-Fitr	19 Eid al-Fitr	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

A growing community of young performers

Our Year 7 Choir continues to go from strength to strength, and it has been wonderful to see how much it has grown since it first began earlier this school year.

We now have 11 enthusiastic singers regularly attending rehearsals. As more voices have joined, the choir's sound has improved greatly, and it has been fantastic to watch students grow in both confidence and musical ability.

If this positive momentum continues, the future looks very promising for our young choir. The group is currently working towards performing in the Summer Showcase later this year.

Exciting news – we now have a Year 7 band!

Although the band is still in its early stages, the students are already playing together well and showing great teamwork. The boys involved have been incredibly enthusiastic, and there is actually enough interest to form two bands.

It has been wonderful to see their eagerness to get involved, and I look forward to seeing how this group develops. Like the choir, the band will also be performing at the Summer Showcase later this year. We hope to see you there!

Year 7 Sing-Off

Another exciting event on the calendar is the Year 7 Sing-Off, taking place during the school day on 24 March.

Each Year 7 music class has been learning a song to perform, and their performances will be judged by Year 11 Music students along with Mr Woodgate, Head of Year 7.

It has been wonderful to hear students singing with enthusiasm and enjoying the experience together. The winning class choir will receive their reward after the Easter holidays.

Good luck, Year 7!

Ms Russo
Music Teacher

After-school music Workshop Concert for young musicians

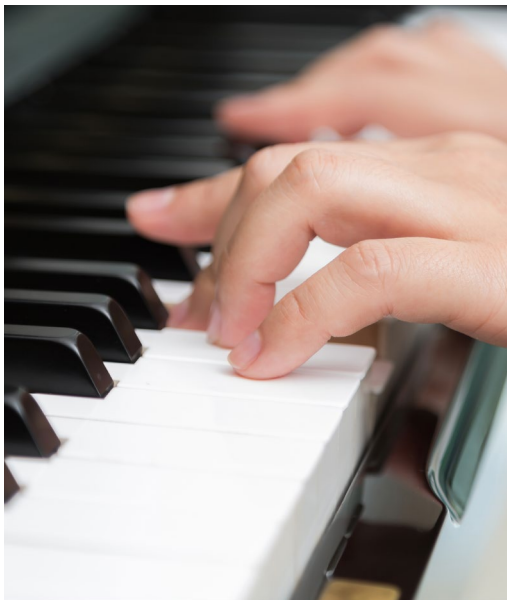
All students currently learning an instrument with one of our fantastic B.Y.M.T. music teachers are invited to take part in a very informal Workshop Concert after school on Thursday 24 March from 3:30pm onwards.

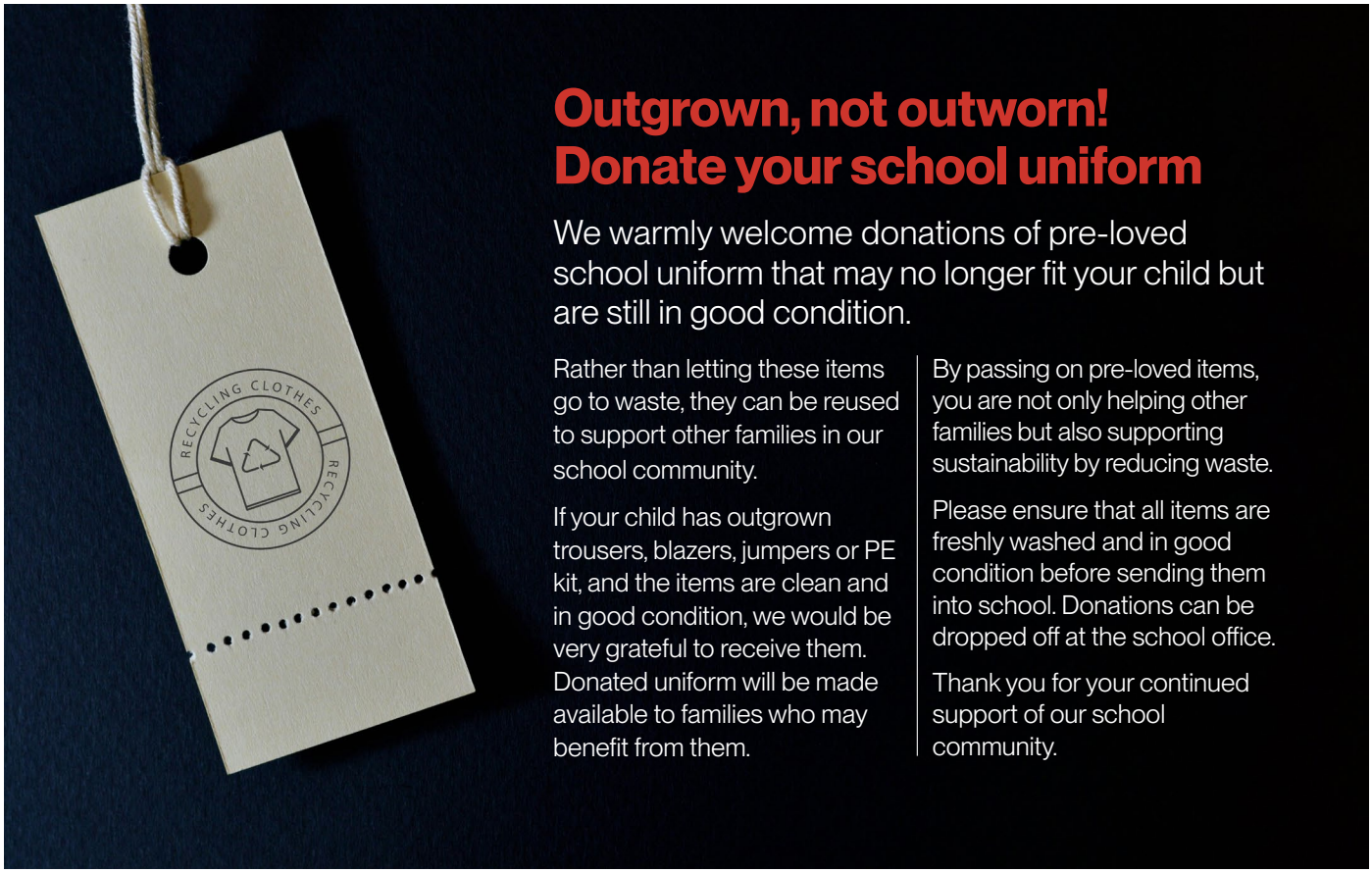
This relaxed event is a wonderful opportunity to perform your instrument in front of fellow music students and your parents or carers in a friendly and supportive environment.

We look forward to seeing lots of you signing up and sharing your music!

Mr. Winn
Head of Performing Arts

Showcase your talent





Outgrown, not outworn! Donate your school uniform

We warmly welcome donations of pre-loved school uniform that may no longer fit your child but are still in good condition.

Rather than letting these items go to waste, they can be reused to support other families in our school community.

If your child has outgrown trousers, blazers, jumpers or PE kit, and the items are clean and in good condition, we would be very grateful to receive them. Donated uniform will be made available to families who may benefit from them.

By passing on pre-loved items, you are not only helping other families but also supporting sustainability by reducing waste.

Please ensure that all items are freshly washed and in good condition before sending them into school. Donations can be dropped off at the school office.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Library News

A stellar result at the Fully Booked Quiz!

On 25 February, our team took part in the annual Fully Booked Quiz for Bromley secondary schools, held at Bromley Central Library.

Our students performed brilliantly, securing second place and tying with Langley School for Girls. They had a fantastic time and demonstrated impressive knowledge of books and authors throughout the competition.

We were also delighted to welcome special guest author Patrice Lawrence, who asked questions based

on her book **People Like Stars**, which featured as one of the quiz rounds. She truly captured the attention of the room, and our students eagerly asked her thoughtful questions about her work and writing.

It was an inspiring experience, and we hope it encourages our students to continue exploring their creativity. Who knows – perhaps one day they will be the authors answering questions about their own books!

Ms Devine
Library and Resource Centre Manager

World Book Day 2026

This year, World Book Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, promoting a love for reading across our school community.

Brains, books & brunch

Throughout the week, students participated in engaging quizzes during form time, with brunch as a prize for the winners, fostering a competitive yet fun atmosphere that encouraged teamwork and camaraderie among students. The quizzes not only tested their knowledge of literature but also sparked discussions about their favourite books and authors, further enhancing their appreciation for reading.

Stories from our staff

In addition, we enjoyed recorded readings during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Time, featuring staff members Ms Elliott Wilson, Ms Devine, Mr Collins, Mr Berry, and Mr Woodgate. These videos have been uploaded onto Teams, allowing students to enjoy them at home and share their thoughts with peers. This initiative aimed to create a shared reading experience, bridging the gap between home and school, and encouraging families to engage in reading together.

The LRC comes alive

The staff embraced the spirit of the day with fantastic fancy dress, showcasing creativity and enthusiasm from all departments. The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) buzzed with fun activities throughout the week, including book-themed crafts and storytelling sessions, which captivated students and encouraged them to explore various genres. The vibrant atmosphere in the LRC made it a hub of creativity and learning, reinforcing the importance of literature in our lives.

A thank you to our staff

World Book Day tokens were distributed, encouraging students to explore new books and discover different authors. A heartfelt thank you to all the hardworking staff who participated, supported, and inspired our students to develop a passion for reading. Their dedication and enthusiasm played a crucial role in making this event a memorable celebration of literature and learning.

Ms Elliott Wilson
Literacy Lead

Counselling Corner

Friendships and your mental health

Friends can really help you with your mental health. They can lift your mood when you're feeling low, make you laugh, and offer you support. Talking things through with a friend can often help you figure out how you're feeling too. And sometimes, your friend might even notice something's off before you do.

But even though friends are great, friendships can be tricky sometimes, and it's okay to struggle with them too.

Healthy and unhealthy friendships

Friendships can be tricky, and we all struggle with them at some point. It's normal to have arguments or feel less close to friends at different points in your life. You might fall out with a friend or grow apart because:

- one of you moves away
- your friend makes new friends you don't like
- you meet new people and don't hang out as much
- one of you is struggling with your mental health and isn't keeping in touch
- your friend doesn't get what you're going through
- you're putting in effort but not getting it back
- they rely on you a lot for advice, and it feels overwhelming

Most of the time, talking things through can help you understand each other better and might even make your friendship stronger. But sometimes, friendships can become unhealthy, and it's important to recognise the signs.

Signs of an unhealthy friendship

If your friend is doing any of these things, or making you feel this way, you might be in an unhealthy friendship.

- Pressuring you to do things you don't want to do, like drinking or taking drugs.
- Jokes or banter that cross the line and become hurtful.
- Constant arguments or fallouts.
- Pushing you for help when you've already said you can't.
- Making you feel guilty or uncomfortable about hanging out with other people.
- Bullying or isolating you from the group.
- Making the friendship feel one-sided, where you give more than you get.

Sometimes friends don't realise they're doing this, or they keep doing it even after you've asked them to stop. What really matters is how the friendship makes you feel. And it's your choice if you want to continue that friendship or not.

What to do if you're finding a friendship difficult

If you are struggling with a friendship, it might help to talk to your friend about how they have been treating you. It's normal to feel nervous or worry about their reaction but setting boundaries and being clear about your feelings is important for your mental health. The tips below might help:

Be assertive

What does this mean?

It means you clearly explain what you need or want from someone. Without being pushy or trying to frighten them.

Sometimes it can be hard to say how you really feel, especially if it means disagreeing with someone else. But everyone has the right to say how they feel and ask for what they need.

So, try to talk to your friend calmly and explain how you're feeling without getting into a big argument.

Set boundaries

If your friend constantly asks you for help and it's stressing you out, it's a good idea to set boundaries so you can look after yourself. It's okay to say no. You don't have to be available all the time. Try to notice when things are getting too much and take a step back. You can still care about someone and take time for yourself. Let them know

if you need a break, or if there are things you can't talk about. You're not responsible for solving everything and that's okay.

Get help if you need it

When a friendship becomes unhealthy it can affect your mood and self-esteem.

Don't be afraid to reach out for help or contact a helpline if you need to.

(Young Minds, 2026)

Easter Bake Sale

Thursday 26 March

At break & lunch | Location: G01
Prices: £1–£2 (cash only)

Hop over to G01 and treat yourself to a delicious selection of cakes, cookies, and sweet Easter treats!

Donate your homemade bakes!

We'd love your homemade treats for our bake sale.

All bakes need to include a list of ingredients used.

No nuts or seeds

get a
free Kellogg's®
breakfast
every school
holiday*
*From 16.02.2026 – 22.02.2026, 30.03.2026 – 19.04.2026, 25.05.2026 – 31.05.2026, 29.06.2026 – 06.09.2026, 12.10.2026– 01.11.2026, 21.12.2026– 03.01.2027. This offer is redeemable all-day Monday to Sunday. Simply say 'Kelloggs Breakfast' at the till point at any UK Morrisons Café to receive breakfast, which includes, a free portion pack of Cornflakes (24g), Rice Krispies (22g) with milk or milk alternative (125ml). Limit of 1 breakfast per customer per day. Offer is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. A recommended balanced breakfast includes a bowl of cereal, plus milk or milk alternative, a portion of fruit and a glass of water. TM ® © 2026 Kellanova.
Morrisons
CAFÉ

ORPINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 21st
March 7:30pm

All Saints Church, Bark Hart Road
Orpington, BR6 0QD

Saint-Saëns
Suite for Orchestra

Vaughan Williams
The Lark Ascending

Beethoven
Symphony No.7, Op.92

Conductor: Dominic Wells
Leader: Sarah Douch

Soloist: Samuel Hau

www.orpingtonsymphonyorchestra.org.uk
Orpington Symphony Orchestra

2026 | Registered Charity no. 1063477

Adults: £15 | Children: £5
Cash on the door, or pay online:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/orpington symphonyorchestra (booking fee applies)

Calling all Parents and Carers – we want your feedback!

Have your say on our school food offer

We're inviting parents and carers to share their feedback on the school's food offer by completing a short survey. Your views are incredibly valuable and will help shape future improvements, ensuring our provision continues to meet the needs of our school community.

As a thank you for taking part, all responses will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher, plus an additional £100 Amazon voucher for the school.

The survey will remain open until the Easter break.

Take the survey:
285qfq1abg1.typeform.com/ParentSurvey26

win a **£100 Amazon voucher** for one respondent

Plus £100 Amazon voucher for the School

win a **£100 Amazon voucher** for one respondent

Plus £100 Amazon voucher for the School

Students, have your say and shape the future of school food

We want to hear what you think about the food on offer at school

Let us know what you enjoy and what you'd like to see improved by completing a short survey.

Everyone who takes part will be entered into a prize draw to win a £100 Amazon voucher, with another £100 Amazon voucher for the school.

The survey will remain open until the Easter break.

Take the survey:
285qfq1abg1.typeform.com/studentsurvey26