Newsletter

Bullers Wood School for Boys | October 2025

Page 2: A strong start in science

Page 4: Exploring democracy at the Houses of Parliament

Page 8: The buzz of the Bee

Page 9: Helping students thrive through emotional literacy

Reflections, first impressions, and the power of showing up

Last week, in my assembly to the whole school, I spoke about the importance of handshakes in our society and what they convey to others; both throughout history and today. How they communicate trust and are part of the first impression we make on others.

As we reach the end of the first half term might I suggest that you take a moment with your son to consider what first impression he has made on others, in and out of the classroom, since September.

We know that conversations with your son about his time at school can sometimes be a bit one sided! A good starting point would be to discuss how he has demonstrated that he is a Bullers student, for example referencing our values:

- **Ambition** - Which new extra-curricular clubs, at lunch or after school, has he joined or might he go to? Is there a piece of work he's completed in a lesson that he's pleased with?
- **Responsibility** - Was he, or any of his friends, successful in their bid to take on a student leadership role?

We were very proud of our students and the first impression they made as part of our recent Open Evening. We had over 1000 prospective students and their families tour the school and listen to Mr Streatfield's speech outlining what it means to belong to the BWSfB community. The students represented themselves, and the school, incredibly well both in departments and as tour guides. We received a high number of compliments from the parents / carers of the next cohort of Bullers Boys.

Our commitment to working in partnership with you has been seen in action over the past few weeks. It has been fantastic to see so many of you coming into school for the Year 10 and 11 Information Evenings, SEN sessions and the Year 7 Coffee Afternoon. We look forward to welcoming more parents in over the coming half-term.

This half-term has seen a number of school events and trips, all of which provide your son with opportunities and experiences to widen his horizons. Whether that being; speech writing as part of the elections for student leadership posts, questioning coastal processes as part of the Geography fieldwork at Reculver, considering how democracy works on the trip to Parliament or challenging themselves to learn new words for the inter-house Spelling Bee. Over 200 students were also rewarded for their excellent attendance with a day at Thorpe Park. For boys to qualify for this they must have over 98% attendance, along with excellent punctuality and behaviour throughout the year.

A further letter will come out detailing our approach to attendance. However, I want to take a moment to remind you of the strong link between attendance and achievement. Government data shows that those students who have 95% attendance have double the chance of achieving a grade 5 in English and Maths. We know that these grades in particular are the gateway to further qualifications after Year 11, and future prosperity and happiness. With this in mind, can we ask that if your son is feeling a bit under the weather you send him into school and make his Head of Year aware. Good school attendance can often be a mindset and we need boys to adopt this early in their life.

As always, thank you for all you do to challenge and support your son. I wish you a restful half-term break.

Mr Walker
Deputy Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

A strong start in science as students explore and excel

As we come to the end of our first half term we have seen Year 7 students embrace their introduction to KS3 Science and get stuck in with some investigative work; Year 9s begin their GCSE Science course and just under 50 Year 10 students make the transition to the Separate Sciences.

Year 11 showcase Science

For Year 11, it's been a busy start to the academic year as they work towards and make their final preparations for the mock exams that lie ahead. We welcomed prospective students and parents recently at our Open Evening and were impressed with our team of student volunteers who did an amazing job of showcasing our fabulous Science department. We had students representing every year group encouraging our visitors to get involved with various chemistry experiments and a core team of Year 11s manning the Van de Graaff generator enticing people (including staff) to have a hair-raising experience! Mr Anekwe's legendary demonstrations, mostly involving burning stuff, were also warmly received!

Building good study habits to support Science success

In the last couple of weeks and continuing into the next half term, students have been and will continue to complete termly assessments. To support your son in preparing for these effectively, we suggest that students take time weekly to consolidate what they have learned in their science lessons.

Science is a content-rich subject and so it's vitally important that students try and build up a bank of revision notes/flash cards as they go along to avoid having to recap a large amount of information prior to when tests and assessments take place. By adopting this strategy, this would mean that students would already have built up a bank of revision notes as they go along and would then have more time to try and apply their learning by completing practice questions as part of the revision process. This becomes particularly pertinent at GCSE level as this will help students to practice past exam questions and improve their exam technique.

Science trips coming this spring

Looking ahead to the Spring term we are planning to launch 2 trips: KS3 STEM in Action and all Year 10 Separate Science students will be invited to GCSE Science in Action – so look out for further details!

For now, we wish you all a restful half term break and thank those supporting Year 11 students as they revise and prepare for their mock exams; there are useful links and topic lists on ClassCharts to refer to.

Ms Graham
Head of Science

A message from the Head of Year 10

A warm welcome at our recent GCSE Parent Information Evening

It was wonderful to see so many families at our recent Y10 GCSE Parent Information Evening. The event provided a great opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces and catch up with members of our school community.

We truly value the support and engagement of our parents and carers, it plays a vital role in the success and wellbeing of our students.

During the evening, we shared our upcoming calendar of key events, including parents' evenings, school report dates, and work experience opportunities.

Supporting your son this term

We also provided guidance on how best to support your son this term, with a particular focus on mental health, managing homework, and the appropriate use of technology.

Thank you to everyone who attended – your involvement makes a real difference.

Celebrating commitment with a day at Thorpe Park

Our recent trip to Thorpe Park was a fantastic reward for students who have shown great commitment to their attendance. It was a pleasure to share such a fun and memorable day with them.

The highlight for many was Hyperia – and it definitely lived up to the hype!

Throughout the day, all the boys represented themselves superbly, showing maturity, enthusiasm, and excellent behaviour.

A big well done to everyone involved!

Humanities

Exploring democracy at the Houses of Parliament

Students from Bullers Wood School for Boys recently experienced an inspiring trip to the Houses of Parliament where they delved into the rich history and traditions of UK democracy.

A hands-on look at politics

During their visit, the boys toured both the House of Commons and the House of Lords gaining a unique behind-the-scenes understanding of how Parliament functions. They also had the chance to meet their local MP Peter Fortune engaging in a lively discussion about his role and pressing community issues. To bring the experience full circle, pupils created their own petitions learning firsthand how citizens can actively participate in the democratic process. This educational day provided valuable insights into political life and highlighted the significance of civic engagement.

Ms Hurray
Teacher of Humanities

Celebrating community languages

Did you know that some of the most spoken languages in our UK homes can become an extra GCSE for your son?

It should not be news that speaking or learning another language is an asset for any student. It develops the brain by enhancing understanding, flexibility and adaptability.

At Bullers Wood School for Boys, we value the diverse nature of our community, and we offer students the opportunity to take a GCSE in some of the languages they speak at home. Over the past couple of years we have had an increasing number of our students come forward for a variety of languages and achieve excellent results.

It is an excellent opportunity to have an additional GCSE and an official qualification in their home language. Typically, students take this GCSE when they are in year 10, to avoid clashes with exams in year 11. However, it is also possible to be entered for Community Languages GCSEs in year 9 and equally, in year 11.

I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness amongst our families and encourage you and your son to consider this. The following languages are offered by two exam boards:

AQA: French, Spanish, German, Italian, Polish, Bengali, Urdu, Chinese - Spoken Mandarin, Hebrew - Modern, Panjabi

EDEXCEL: Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Chinese, Arabic, Greek, Japanese, Urdu, Gujarati, Persian, Turkish, Biblical Hebrew

Although we do not have the capacity to offer students lessons or tuition in the language they wish to be entered for, we make available the following:

- Access to specifications, past papers, mark schemes and resources
- Guidance on the format of exams
- Entry to all the relevant modules for the formal examination
- Organisation of speaking and writing examinations

If you would like more information please contact Mrs Vipie (ovipie@bwsboys.org). Additionally, students can drop in for any questions or support they should need, every Monday and Tuesdays, in F22 during form time.

Humanities

Year 11 explore coastal Geography at Reculver

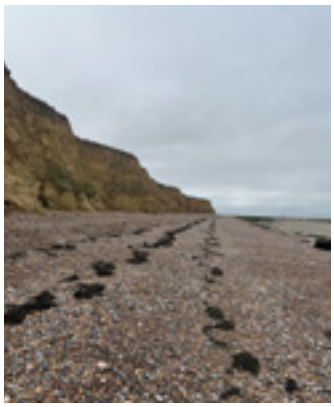
Between the 7th and 14th of October, all 144 Year 11 boys took part in a GCSE Geography fieldtrip to Reculver on the Kent Coast.

The trip formed an essential part of their GCSE course, giving students the opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world environments.

Throughout the trips, pupils collected a range of data on coastal processes and management, including measurements of beach profiles, wave frequency, and the effectiveness of coastal defences. The boys showed great enthusiasm and teamwork, demonstrating excellent fieldwork skills and a strong commitment to their studies.

Staff accompanying the trip were impressed by the maturity and focus shown by all students. Their conduct, curiosity, and cooperation made them a real credit to themselves and to the school.

The experience not only deepened their understanding of coastal geography but also provided valuable practical skills that will support their upcoming GCSE examinations. Well done to all involved!



History summer competition 2025

Three students in Year 10: Brody A, Archie D and Barnaby J were awarded with prizes for completing the best pieces of work in this year's Summer Competition. Each received a revision book.

All the students embarking on GCSE History in Year 10 were set the challenge to complete a piece of work in preparation for their Development Study on the History of Medicine from c.1250 to the present.

This was inspired by our visits to the National Army Museum in July, where all the new GCSE History students took part in a workshop about the injuries, illnesses, treatments and life-saving health care provided for allied soldiers living and fighting in the trenches of the western front during World War I.

I would like to thank all the students who contributed a piece of work and hope this has been helping them during their first term of studying the history of medicine.

Mr Evans
Teacher of Humanities

Upcoming dates

6/7 November
GCSE Art Exam

25 November
Year 7 Parents Evening

27 November
Year 8 coffee afternoon

9 December
Year 11 parent evening

10 December
Year 10 coffee afternoon

Humanities

Celebrating young geographers

KS3 Students shine in national competition

We are delighted to share that three Key Stage 3 students have been selected by the Geography Department for their outstanding entries to the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year Award.

This year's competition invited students to explore the theme of "Understanding Islands", encouraging thoughtful reflection on the unique geographical, cultural, and environmental aspects of islands around the world.

All of our students impressed with their creativity, research, and insightful perspectives, demonstrating both a strong grasp of geographical concepts and a passion for the subject. **Sam E**, **Meet P**, and **Arthur B** produced entries that stood out for their originality and depth, earning well-deserved recognition from the department.

This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who entered the competition for their hard work and enthusiasm. Well done to everyone who took part!

Mrs Mills
Teacher of Humanities

Diversity and Inclusion Calendar

November 2025

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Men's Health Awareness Month						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Remembrance Sunday
Islamophobia Awareness Month	10	11 Armistice Day	12	13 13-19 Interfaith Week	14	15	16
	17	18	19 International Men's Day	20	21	22	23
Disability awareness Month	24	25 International day for the elimination of violence against women	26 25 Nov - 9 Dec 16 days of activism against gender-based violence	27	28	29	30

Art & Design

Year 9 explore paper sandwiches and 3D art

Year 9 students have been getting creative with paper, using it to build texture, form, and three-dimensional constructions.

Through the project titled "Paper Sandwiches," they've been exploring how artists can transform everyday objects by experimenting with scale and sculpture. This hands-on experience is helping students discover new ways to bring ordinary materials to life in exciting and imaginative forms.

Hospitality and Catering

A delicious start to the term

Students across Year 7 and Year 10 have made a strong and creative start this term, showcasing both new and advanced culinary skills in their practical lessons.

Year 7 show off their creative flavour combinations

We're thrilled to welcome our new Year 7 students, who have made a fantastic start this term. Their first challenge was to create a pasta salad using a variety of ingredients and their own freshly made dressing. The students approached the task with enthusiasm and creativity, producing a wide range of colourful and tasty dishes. It was a great introduction to working independently in the kitchen and exploring flavour combinations.

Year 10 impress with advanced skills

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students in Food Preparation and Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering have hit the ground running. Building on their Key Stage 3 skills, they took on the more advanced skill of making homemade mayonnaise to accompany a salad of their choice. They demonstrated excellent knife skills, recipe adaptation for improved nutritional value, and a confident approach to complex techniques. It's been a pleasure to see their progress and commitment to developing their culinary abilities.

The buzz of the Bee

There was a real buzzzz in the hall on Friday after school as Year 7 and Year 8 students went head-to-head in the Bullers Wood School for Boys Spelling Bee competition.

Teams of two from each House put their spelling skills – and their nerves – to the test, tackling challenging words like business, psychology, and millennium. The event was expertly hosted by our Head Boys and Deputy Head Boys, with enthusiastic support from the Year 11 House Captains and Vice Captains.

Bowie and Wells strike early in the battle for the House cup

Bowie House took top honours in the Year 7 round, while Wells House claimed victory in Year 8. Along with a sweet reward on the day, the winners earned valuable House Points that will contribute to the overall standings in the race for the end-of-year House Cup.

More inter-house competitions coming soon

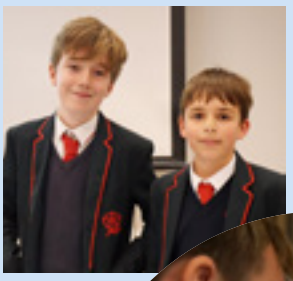
With more inter-house competitions already in the works, students across all year groups can look forward to future events spanning a range of subjects and interests.

INTER HOUSE SPELLING BEE

The winners

Year 7

1st: Bowie
2nd: Darwin
3rd: Cheung



Year 8

1st: Wells
2nd: Kureishi
3rd: Bowie

Helping students thrive through emotional literacy

What is emotional literacy?

Emotional Literacy is the ability to recognise, understand, express, and manage emotions in a healthy and constructive way. It's about being able to identify how you're feeling, why you're feeling that way, and what you can do about it.

For teenage boys navigating the challenges of growing up, school life, friendships, and future aspirations, emotional literacy can be a game-changer.

Developing emotional literacy helps students build resilience, improve relationships, and make better decisions. It also supports mental health and wellbeing, which in turn positively impacts behaviour and academic performance.

What is an ELSA?

An ELSA, or Emotional Literacy Support Assistant, is a specially trained member of staff who works with students to help them develop these vital emotional skills. At our school, the ELSA provides targeted support to boys who may be struggling with issues such as anxiety, low self-esteem, anger, friendship difficulties, loss, or emotional regulation.

Sessions with the ELSA are usually one-to-one and take place in a safe, calm space where students can talk openly and be listened to without judgement. The work is tailored to each student's needs and may involve activities like emotion coaching, social skills development, relaxation techniques, and problem-solving strategies.

Importantly, the ELSA is not a counsellor or therapist, but a supportive adult who builds trusting relationships and helps students find practical ways to cope with their feelings. The aim is to empower students to become more self-aware, confident, and emotionally resilient.

As this is a 1:1 bespoke support service, access to ELSA is only on a case by case and referral basis, via the relevant Head of Year or SENCO.

Why it matters

In an all-boys environment, it's especially important to break down the stigma around talking about emotions. Boys often feel pressure to "tough it out" or keep things bottled up, which can lead to bigger problems down the line. The ELSA intervention helps to challenge these stereotypes and encourages boys to see emotional strength as a key part of personal growth.

By supporting emotional literacy, we're not just helping students get through tough times, we're helping them thrive.

Mr Perry
ELSA

Library News

Why strong reading habits matter in the National Year of Reading 2026

As you may know, the government has launched the 'National Year of Reading 2026' in a campaign to boost a national reading culture to combat the decline in reading.

This article provides a fascinating insight into the historical rise of literacy, and what we stand to lose if we allow reading to further decline in favour of a hyper-addictive diet of quick-fix media hits via smartphones.

Building better reading habits together

The best way to act against this is to develop good reading habits; allowing time for reading in busy lives, and fuelling that dedicated time with interesting, quality writing that encourages us to think, be curious and creative.

In school, we try to do this in several ways: 'DEAR time' dedicated time each day to read, reading logs to encourage engagement with the text, a wide and diverse range of reading choices through our school library, book fairs, author visits, book clubs, special events etc. Please have conversations with your sons about what they are reading and how they can embed better reading habits. Thank you for your continued support in all our initiatives to encourage our students to grow to be literate, compassionate, knowledgeable, curious, happy adults.

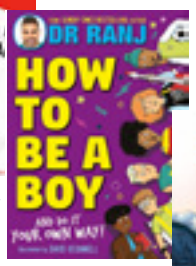
Help grow our Library

We've created Amazon wish lists to keep track of books students have requested, award winners, and top recommendations.

If you'd like to support our library, please consider purchasing a book from one of the lists below.

Add your name at checkout, and we'll include a thank-you sticker in the book!

http://bit.ly/423PFcd



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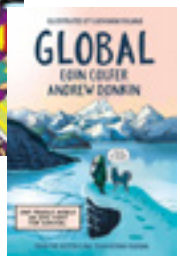

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Thank you for helping us inspire a love of reading!

Year 7 Trip
8th December 2025 | 30 Students

An unforgettable literary adventure where imagination meets the map

Join multi award-winning author Katherine Rundell at the British Library as she explores the wondrous and mysterious world of maps in fiction.

Includes exclusive entry to the SECRET MAPS Exhibition

Counselling Corner

Ten ways for parents to help children cope with change

Choose health

Know what affects your child, what makes them grumpy, hyper, disconnected...

Do they need snacks throughout the day?
Do they need lots of sleep?
Do they need to get out and about and do exercise?
Do they need time alone?

Trust that you know your child and give them the basics that they need to cope with difficult days

Work together

Share ideas about how to:

- create action plans
- have a problem-solving approach
- enjoy achievements
- be forward-looking
- show them that we can all get things wrong

Move on up

Encourage independence:

- help them to move positively from child identity towards teen identity
- increase their responsibilities
- be positive whenever they act maturely

Be aware of your child's changing needs. Sometimes it might feel like one step forwards, two steps back.

Communicate

The small things you do make all the difference:

Keep talking, texting, listening, hearing, hugging, sympathising, smiling, reassuring, checking, sharing, suggesting, encouraging, respecting

Be calm

Try to stay calm whilst your child is feeling distressed.

Your child may show:

- highs and lows
- melodrama
- anger
- blame
- self-centredness

Get learning

Be involved, find out more and talk about:

- social media
- internet benefits and dangers
- new music
- language and slang
- current affairs
- what it's like to be young in the current world

Be wise

As they discover new things, try to:

- be interested
- be non-judgemental
- guide
- give boundaries
- see it from all sides
- listen to their point of view
- choose your words carefully
- act on warning bells

Be the anchor

In times of change you are:

- constant
- family
- familiar
- routine
- in-jokers
- irritating
- comforting
- home

Have fun

Provide lots of light relief:

- be silly
- be embarrassing
- play games
- laugh together
- do stuff together
- make jokes
- make things
- be outside

Look after yourself

Support yourself, to best support your child:

- lean on friends
- offload on other family
- find 'me time'
- see the GP
- relax, exercise, sleep well, eat well
- remember tomorrow is a new day

POP PIANO TASTER SESSION

Try your hand at a pop piano piece in this fun one-off session!

Choose from themes like football anthems, Minecraft, James Bond and more.

SEE MR WINN FOR DETAILS

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

Webinar for Parents & Carers

Helping Children with Sleep Difficulties

A free, one-off session supporting parents and carers of primary aged pupils

Understand more about children's sleep and what may impact this

Consider ways to improve sleep hygiene and reduce worries around bedtime

Find out about strategies to help your child improve their sleep

Learn more about common sleep problems that affect children

This webinar is delivered online via Microsoft Teams, facilitated by Bromley Y practitioners.

Fri 26 Sept @ 12:30pm

Mon 10 Nov @ 10:00am

To assist with the smooth running of the session, you will be asked to kindly turn off your camera and microphone. Participation via the chat function is optional.

SCAN ME

[Places can be booked on the Bromley Y Eventbrite Page.]

bromley-y.org @bromley_y_ @bromley_y_ @bromleywellbeing

Autumn 2025

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

Webinar for Parents & Carers

Helping Children and Young People with Fears & Worries

A free, one-off session supporting parents and carers of school-aged children

Understand more about anxiety, fears & worries in children and young people

Consider ways to help your child build confidence and overcome fears

Find out about strategies to help your child explore and manage worries

Learn more about local services and online options for further support

Each webinar lasts for 90 mins and is delivered online via Microsoft Teams, facilitated by Bromley Y practitioners.

Primary Webinars

Sat 27 Sept @ 10:00am
Fri 24 Oct @ 12:30pm
Weds 26 Nov @ 6:30pm
Fri 12 Dec @ 12.30pm

Secondary Webinars

Fri 10 Oct @ 12:30pm
Sat 8 Nov @ 10:00am
Thurs 11 Dec @ 6:30pm

Primary

To assist with the smooth running of the session, you will be asked to kindly turn off your camera and microphone. Participation via the chat function is optional.

Secondary

Places can be booked on the Bromley Y Eventbrite Page.

bromley-y.org abromley_y_ abromley_y_ abromleyywellbeing

Autumn 2025

BROMLEY Y
Building Strengths

Webinar for Parents & Carers

Emotionally Based School Avoidance

Supporting Your Child's Attendance: Initial Steps for Early Concerns
(please note this webinar is only suitable for **early difficulties** in attending school)

Reflect on common reasons for school avoidance and associated challenges

Consider factors which contribute to school avoidance becoming a vicious cycle

Learn practical strategies to help you explore the issue with your child

Consider ways to encourage and facilitate regular attendance

The webinar is facilitated by Bromley Y

This remote session is suitable for parents/carers of children and teens who are showing **initial** signs of school avoidance or whose attendance has started to be affected.

For those who have difficulties that may have moved beyond early help, we offer other support options such as parent/carer support call. To find out more information about this offer, please email us to: ***MHSTSupport@bromleyy.org***

Thurs 18 Sept @ 6:30pm
Sat 18 Oct @ 10:00am
Fri 21 Nov @ 10:00am
Fri 5 Dec @ 12:30pm

Click here or scan QR to sign up

bromley-y.org @bromley_y_ @bromley_y_ @bromleyywellbeing

General enquiries: visit our website, email info@bromleyy.org, or call 020 3770 8848 Independent Registered Charity No. 291181

Helping Local Families through the Power of Community

CHRISTMAS for Every Child

1 in 5 children in our borough - **over 16,000** - are growing up in **poverty**. For many, Christmas brings sadness instead of joy. Our **'Christmas for Every Child'** hampers give families the essentials and festive treats they need to feel included and celebrated

We need your help to bring Christmas magic, surprises and joy to these children.

Visit the BBB online Christmas Shop!

Buy gifts, PJs, books & supermarket vouchers

We know times are tough, if you can't donate, no worries! Just help us spread the word on social media by liking & sharing our posts

Donate 'pre-loved' Christmas Jumpers + unwanted gifts (MUST BE NEW)

Visit our website link below for donation drop-off volunteers in your area

Get your school, group or business involved!

Email
amy@bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Fundraise for us
Visit our website for ideas

Visit our website to find out more:
www.bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1210626
bromleybrighterbeginnings.org.uk

Recognising young people's outstanding contributions to the community

Service above Self

BROMLEY BOROUGH ROTARY YOUTH AWARDS 2025 - 26

Do you know a young person who has done something great to help the community?

Such as: HELPING children, disabled or elderly people, or a sick relative
WORKING to improve the environment
ORGANISING an event to raise money for charity

In the last eleven years we celebrated the outstanding contributions of over 250 young people to the community.

The Mayor of Bromley with the 2024-25 winners

If you know of someone, then please nominate them for an award.
Get a nomination form and further details from your form tutor, the school office or from the website www.BromleyBoroughRotaryClub.org.uk

The award winners will receive a framed certificate and a gift voucher.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 21st November 2025

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over 3 million young people on the dangers of the railways.

SCAN ME

DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC

"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

12	58%	42%
people died in accidents while trespassing	were struck by a train or tram	were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+	11,000+	20,000+
companies support the programme	schools in the UK have engaged	UK schools still need to be reached