Newsletter

Bullers Wood School for Boys | November 2026

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Preparing young people for life beyond school

This week, the publication of the review into young people and work by Alan Milburn has again highlighted something we all know: schools play a vital role not only in helping young people achieve academically, but in preparing them for successful, fulfilling adult lives.

At BWSfB, we firmly believe education is about far more than examination results. Academic success remains central to our work because strong literacy, numeracy, subject knowledge and qualifications open doors to future opportunities. Whether students aspire to university, apprenticeships, technical pathways or employment, the foundations they build in classrooms today will shape the choices available to them tomorrow.

Qualifications alone are not enough

Our Personal Development curriculum, alongside our extra-curricular offer, helps equip students with the skills, knowledge and character needed to thrive in an increasingly complex world. Through careers education, enrichment opportunities, leadership experiences, relationships and health education, and wider personal development activities, we aim to develop confident young people who can make informed decisions about their futures.

Just as importantly, we recognise that growing up is rarely straightforward. Young people face challenges, setbacks and uncertainties. One of the greatest responsibilities schools have is helping students develop resilience: the ability to persevere when things are difficult, adapt when circumstances change and recover from setbacks. Learning to manage challenges, seek support when needed and maintain confidence in the face of adversity are skills that will serve our students throughout their lives.

The growing number of young people nationally who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), now approaching one million across the UK, highlights the need for greater emphasis on work readiness, careers education, personal development and early intervention. As a school, this is something we will continue to review.

A need for strong attendance

Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, build relationships, develop positive habits, and acquire the knowledge and skills that prepare students for future success. National evidence continues to demonstrate a strong connection between poor attendance, lower educational outcomes and reduced future



opportunities. The concerns raised within the Milburn Review about rising numbers of young people becoming disconnected from education, employment and training reinforce the importance of regular attendance throughout a child's school journey.

We know every family wants the very best for their child. As a school, we share that ambition. Together, by promoting excellent attendance, high expectations, academic achievement, personal development and resilience, we can ensure our young people leave school not only with strong qualifications, but with the confidence, character and skills needed to succeed in whatever path they choose.

The future our students deserve begins with the opportunities we provide today. Let us continue to work together to ensure every child is ready not only for their next examination, but for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.

B Walker, Deputy Headteacher



From Bullers to Google DeepMind: Our boys help shape the future of AI in education

Selected to showcase pioneering national research, Bullers Wood School for Boys welcomed senior leaders from Google DeepMind and Eedi to see mathematics innovation in action.

We are incredibly proud to share an exciting achievement from our Mathematics Faculty. Earlier this year, Bullers Wood School for Boys was selected as a showcase school for a major research project involving Google DeepMind and Eedi, placing our school at the forefront of developments in artificial intelligence (AI) and mathematics education.

As the largest participating school in a national study involving 1,179 pupils across ten UK secondary schools, Bullers played a significant role in exploring how AI could support pupils in developing their mathematical understanding and overcoming misconceptions.



A very special visit to Bullers

A particular highlight was welcoming Lila Ibrahim, Chief AI Readiness Officer and former Chief Operating Officer of Google DeepMind, and Ben Caulfield, CEO and Co-Founder of Eedi, alongside members of their respective teams, to Bullers Wood School for Boys.

Lila Ibrahim, who was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2026, is an internationally recognised leader in artificial intelligence.

Our school was specially selected to showcase the research in action, providing a unique opportunity for these leading figures in artificial intelligence and educational technology to see first-hand how our pupils and teachers were contributing to this pioneering project.

During the visit, the teams observed lessons, met with staff and pupils, and saw how technology was being integrated into everyday mathematics learning.

The visit was a wonderful recognition of the work taking place within our Mathematics Faculty and the important role our boys played in this national research.

Helping shape the future of mathematics education

The research explored how AI-powered tutoring could support pupils when they encounter mathematical misconceptions. Using Eedi, a platform already embedded in our mathematics curriculum, pupils worked with different forms of support, including traditional learning resources, expert human tutors and Eedi's AI tutor, powered by Gemini from Google.



Rather than simply providing answers, Eedi's specifically constrained AI tutor was designed to encourage pupils to think, reason and work through mathematical problems independently.

Bullers played a significant role in exploring how AI could support pupils develop their mathematical understanding

The findings, published by Eedi and Google in October 2026, provided valuable insights into the potential of AI in education. AI tutoring showed promising results in helping pupils address individual misconceptions and apply their understanding to related problems, performing comparably to expert human tutors on these measures.

> **As a faculty, we believe that technology should enhance great teaching, not replace it.**

The research also highlighted the importance of balancing deeper mathematical understanding with the need to cover a broad curriculum. While improvements in wider mathematical attainment were not established, the findings are helping researchers understand how AI tutoring can be developed to support learning more effectively.

This is precisely why research involving real schools, real classrooms and real pupils is so important. Our boys have contributed to a growing understanding of how emerging technologies can enhance education, not just in the UK, but potentially around the world.

A lasting legacy for Bullers

In recognition of our school's contribution to the research, Eedi generously donated a set of Chromebooks to Bullers, a fantastic addition to our resources that will continue to support digital learning opportunities for our pupils.

Mrs Krige, Head of Mathematics, Business and Computing, said:

"We are immensely proud that Bullers was chosen to participate in this research by Eedi and Google DeepMind. As a faculty, we believe that technology should enhance great teaching, not replace it. Being involved in research of this scale has been an incredible opportunity, and I am particularly proud of our boys for playing their part in helping shape the future of mathematics education."

An exciting opportunity on the horizon

Our involvement in the research may also lead to further exciting opportunities for our pupils.

We are currently exploring the possibility of a small group of selected Bullers pupils visiting Google DeepMind's new building in 2027, offering them a unique opportunity to gain an insight into the world of artificial intelligence and the people working at the forefront of this rapidly developing field.

Although this is not yet confirmed, we are excited by the possibility of inspiring our boys to explore future careers in mathematics, computing, research and technology.

From Bromley to the world

What makes our involvement particularly exciting is the growing international reach of Eedi's work.

Originally established in the UK, Eedi is now working with educators and research partners internationally, with its educational technology reaching across four continents and plans for further research in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.



In November, Ben Caulfield, CEO and Co-Founder of Eedi, attended the AI for Education Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, joining international education and technology leaders exploring how artificial intelligence can improve learning opportunities for children around the world.

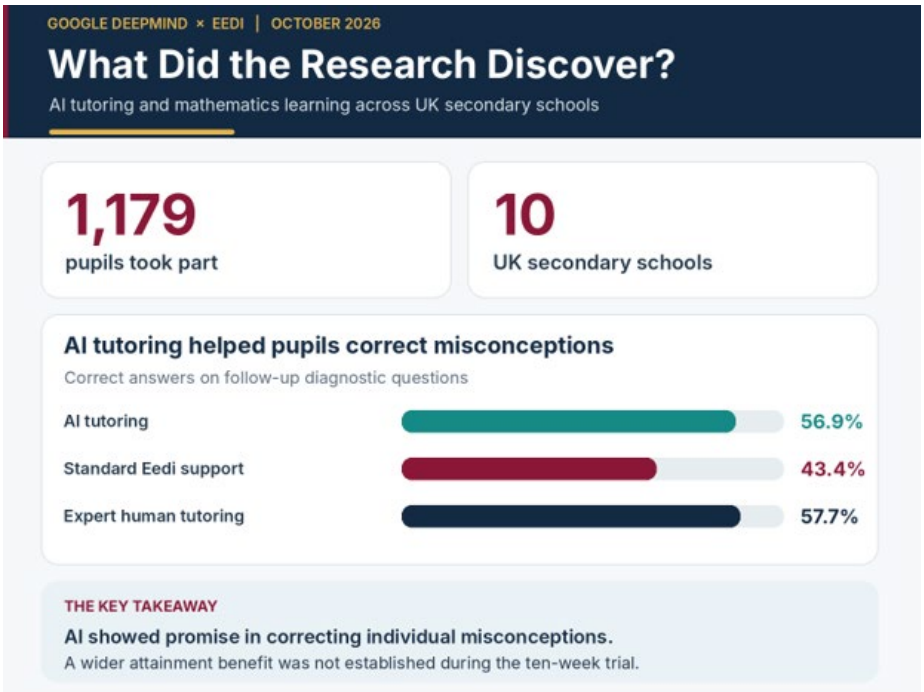
For Bullers, this makes our involvement especially meaningful. The research taking place in our mathematics classrooms is contributing to a much wider international conversation about how technology can help young people understand mathematics, overcome misconceptions and become more confident learners.

We would like to thank Google DeepMind and Eedi for this remarkable opportunity, and especially our pupils and staff for their enthusiasm, commitment and contribution to the research.

Eedi has set itself the ambitious goal of measurably improving learning outcomes for one billion children by 2030.

We are proud that pupils at Bullers Wood School for Boys have contributed to research supporting an ambition to improve mathematics learning for one billion children worldwide.

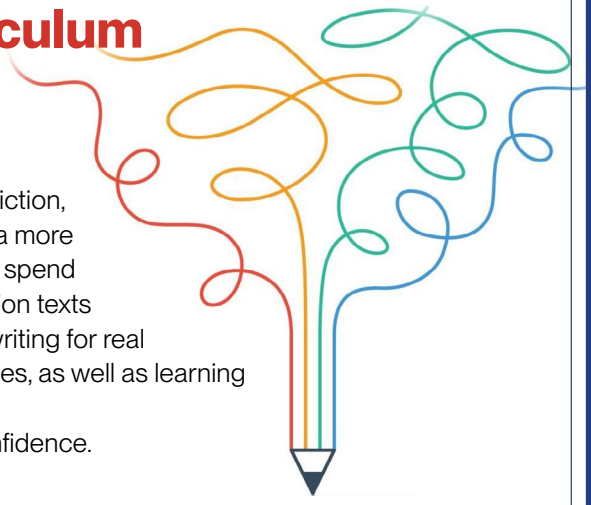
Read the published Eedi and Google DeepMind research



Words that matter

From persuasive speeches and inspiring memoirs to creative storytelling and public speaking, students explore the power of language and learn how to make their voices heard.

Finding a voice: A new Key Stage 3 writing curriculum



This term the English Faculty will introduce a reshaped Key Stage 3 curriculum that gives non-fiction, creative writing and oracy a more central place. Students will spend more time reading non-fiction texts from inspirational figures, writing for real audiences and real purposes, as well as learning how to shape their ideas and express them with confidence.

Lives that inspire: Surviving and thriving

Year 8 students will read diaries and memoirs by diverse and remarkable people, including Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai and Captain Scott. These accounts of courage and endurance will give students a strong model for their own non-fiction writing, and prompt discussion about resilience and standing up for one's beliefs.

Speaking up for the planet

In Year 7, students will write speeches and articles on climate and the environment.

They will learn the techniques of rhetoric and persuasion, from structuring an argument to choosing language that moves an audience. The aim is to show students that their views matter and that, with the right skills, they can make themselves heard on issues that will particularly effect their generation.

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



Taking to the stage

This focus on voice will extend beyond the page.

In February, Year 10 students will take part in Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshops, developing their public speaking skills, with selected students going on to represent the school at the regional competition in March.

We are also planning a Bullers Wood Speech Festival for the new year, giving students across the school a chance to speak in front of a live audience.

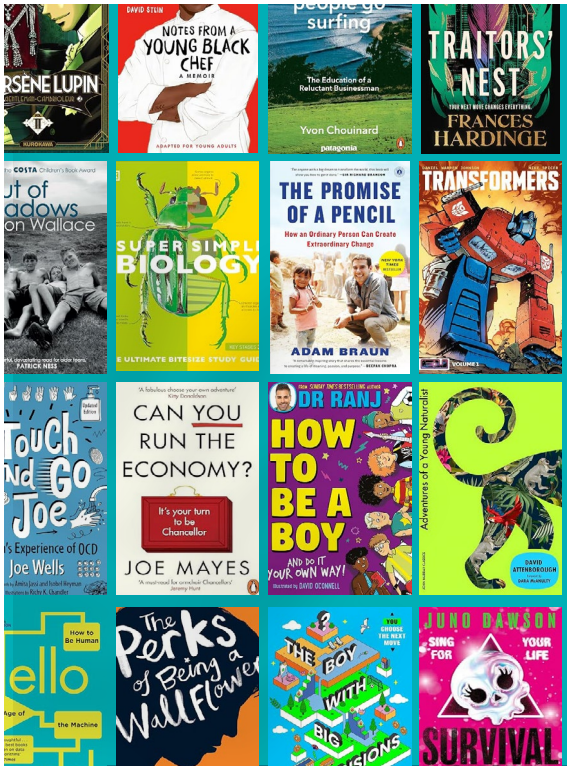
Authentic writing, real voices

Across all of these programmes, the focus is on authentic forms of writing and speaking that matter to the students but also extend beyond the classroom. We hope they will build skills that serve students well at GCSE and beyond and help each of them develop a voice of their own.

Writing about growing up

In Year 9, students will write their own coming-of-age short stories, drawing on their experiences and observations to write honestly about the challenges and turning points of growing up.

Library News



Help us fill our shelves!

If you would like to support our school library by purchasing books, you can browse our Amazon wish lists. The lists include a mixture of student requests, recommended reads, and award-winning titles.

Every book makes a difference

If you are able to purchase a book, you are welcome to buy it from any retailer. We also gladly accept good-quality second-hand copies. Every donation helps us expand our collection and put exciting new books into the hands of our students.

WISH LIST 1 | WISH LIST 2 | WISH LIST 3

Thank you for helping us nurture a community of readers.

Whodunnit? Students learn the secrets of crime writing

On Thursday 12 November, a few year sevens who have shown passion for their reading went on an afternoon trip to West Wickham Library to join the award-winning author, Abiola Bello, for a brilliant murder mystery workshop linked to her book, *The Very Merry Murder Club.*



The students discussed how a murder mystery book is created and started writing their very own murder mystery stories set at Christmas time. There were some great ideas and the whole afternoon was hugely enjoyable for the students and staff.

Abiola was very engaging and it was interesting hearing about some of her books, like the Breakfast Club Adventures, which she wrote with Marcus Rashford. We look forward to seeing what she writes next!

Joshua Matthews
7 Darwin



Hospitality & Catering

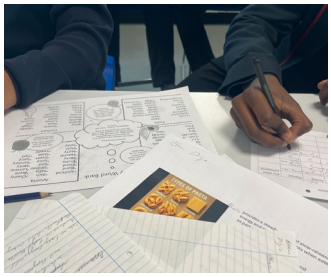
Year 8 Hospitality students put their taste buds to the test

We welcomed our Year 8 KS3 Hospitality and Catering students with an engaging sensory analysis lesson, designed to help them understand how we perceive food and its ingredients.



Students developed key skills in identifying and describing the sensory characteristics of food using a combination of their senses. They evaluated appearance, aroma, taste, texture, and flavour, recording their observations on hedonic charts.

It was fantastic to see students working with their peers and confidently using sensory vocabulary to evaluate food products and discuss their experiences. The lesson was a great success, with many students leaving the classroom saying it was "the best lesson ever!"





Bullers Boys Bonus Draw

Bonus Draw prize pot keeps growing!

The Bullers Boys Bonus Draw continues to grow, and we're delighted to announce our October winners!

A huge thank you to everyone who has signed up so far. The Bonus Draw is a fantastic way to support Bullers Wood School for Boys while being in with the chance of winning a cash prize every month. 50% of the money raised goes towards supporting opportunities and experiences for our boys, while the remaining 50% is paid out in prizes.

The prize pot is getting bigger every month! Our first prize has grown from just £13 in August to an impressive £46 in October, thanks to the growing number of people taking part.

October winners announced!

Place	Winner	Draw No.	Prize
1st	Terry Lee	40	£46.00
2nd	Claire Taylor	35	£27.60
3rd	David Blundred	553	£18.40
4th	Miss Massarella	20	£13.80
5th	Michael Andrews	51	£9.20

Congratulations to all five winners!



With five cash prizes up for grabs every month, there's every reason to get involved! The more people who join, the bigger the prize fund becomes – and the more money we can raise to benefit our school community.

If you haven't signed up yet, we'd love you to join us. Parents, carers, staff, family and friends are all welcome to take part.

Support our boys, help grow the prize pot, and you could be celebrating a win in November!

Thank you for your continued support of Bullers Wood School for Boys.

BULLERS WOOD SCHOOL FOR BOYS

BULLERS BOYS BONUS DRAW!

WIN PRIZES. SUPPORT STUDENTS. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

JUST £5 PER MONTH

Our monthly prize draw gives you the chance to win cash prizes while helping to provide even more opportunities for our boys.

FRIENDS, FAMILY AND STAFF ARE WELCOME TO JOIN – SHARE IT!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- **£5** per month buys you one entry into the monthly draw.
- Each entry is allocated a unique number.
- Every month, five lucky winners will receive cash prizes.
- **50%** of all money raised goes directly back into the school to enhance our Personal Development programme, rewards, enrichment activities and wider opportunities.
- The remaining **50%** is shared between our five prize winners.

THE PRIZES – EVERY MONTH

1	1ST PRIZE	20% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
2	2ND PRIZE	12% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
3	3RD PRIZE	8% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
4	4TH PRIZE	6% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
5	5TH PRIZE	4% OF TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE...

200 PEOPLE JOIN ▶ **£5** 200 ENTRIES x £5 ▶ **£1,000** RAISED EACH MONTH ▶ **£500** GOES BACK INTO THE SCHOOL (50%)

£500 PAID OUT IN PRIZES

1. £200
2. £120
3. £80
4. £60
5. £40

YOUR SUPPORT HELPS FUND:

- ✓ Student rewards and recognition
- ✓ Enrichment activities and clubs
- ✓ Guest speakers and workshops
- ✓ Careers and employability experiences
- ✓ Leadership opportunities
- ✓ Wellbeing initiatives and wider projects

Every ticket makes a difference!

SCAN TO JOIN TODAY!

Simply scan the QR code, complete the short Microsoft Form and follow the instructions to set up your monthly payment.

You'll be allocated your draw number(s) and automatically entered into each monthly draw.

OR USE THE LINK: → https://forms.office.com/e/ggTcbYTdca

GOOD LUCK – WE HOPE TO SEE YOUR NAME ON OUR WINNERS' LIST!

Thank you for supporting Bullers Wood School for Boys.

Diversity and Inclusion Calendar

October 2026

THIS MONTH IS:
- Islamophobia Awareness Month
- UK Disability History Month
- Men's Health Awareness Month

DISABILITY (INC. MENTAL HEALTH)

CULTURE IMPACTS

ALL GROUPS

SEX/GENDER

SEXUALITY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Inter Faith Week Diwali (Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism)
9 World Freedom Day Interfaith Week	10	11 Remembrance Day	12	13 Trans Awareness Week	14	15
16	17	18	19 International Men's Day	20 World Children's Day	21	22
23	24	25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	26 16 days of activism against gender-based violence (started on 25th)	27	28	29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (UN)
30						

Safeguarding

Antibullying Week

As parents and carers we all want our children to be happy and safe, and it is natural to worry about bullying - particularly if we have experienced bullying ourselves or think our child may be more vulnerable to bullying.

Every November we take part in Anti-Bullying Week. This is an opportunity to spotlight bullying and consider the steps we can take together to stop it. Anti-Bullying Week 2026 took place this week with the theme: Break the Silence

As a parent or carer, you are a vital piece of the puzzle in tackling bullying. You have a unique role to play in guiding and supporting your child through their school years and there are many positive steps you can take to help keep your child safe from bullying and harm.

The Anti Bullying Alliance have developed the following resource that we'd like to share with you. It provides ideas and advice about how to approach conversations about bullying but also steps you can take should you have any concerns. We would like to remind you that your child's form tutor and Head of Year are there as your first points of contact should you have any concerns regarding your son at school.



You can access the Antibullying alliance parent and carer pack by following this link:

anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk

Upcoming dates

25 November
Year 7 Parents Evening

17 December
Year 7 Panto Trip

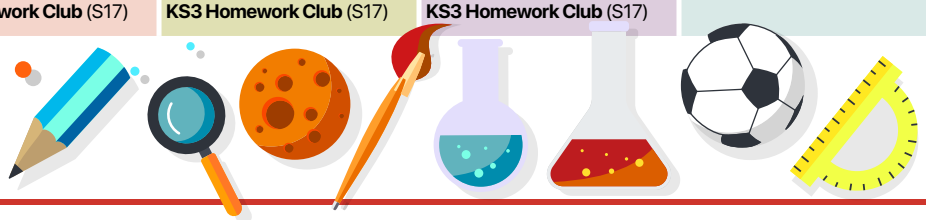
18 December
Last Day of Term - Finish at 12.05

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Find your passion this Autumn

Explore the wide range of extra-curricular clubs on offer this term

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form		**Band: Y7** (G04)	**Band & Choir: Y8** (G04)		
Break	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)
	Chess Club: all years (S31)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)
		Geography GCSE Intervention: Y11 (F24)	**Chess Club: all years** (S25)		**French Film Club: KS3** (F24)
		Multifaith Prayer Room: all years (S18)			
Lunch	**Playing Card Games: all years** (F12)	**Beyblade & Pokemon Club: Y7/8** (S14)	**Chess Club: all years** (S25)	**Beyblade & Pokemon Club: Y7/8** (S14)	**French Film Club: KS3** (F24)
	Chess Club: all years (S31)	**Multifaith Prayer Room: all years** (S18)			
		Geography GCSE Intervention: Y11 (F24)			
		Choir: Y7 (S11)			
		Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11 (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)
	Music Club: all years (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)
	KS3 Lunch Club (G11)	**KS3 Lunch Club** (G11)	**KS3 Lunch Club** (G11)	**KS3 Lunch Club** (G11)	**KS3 Lunch Club** (G11)
	KS4 Lunch Club (G16)	**KS4 Lunch Club** (G16)	**KS4 Lunch Club** (G16)	**KS4 Lunch Club** (G16)	**KS4 Lunch Club** (G16)
After school	**Higher Maths: open to all** (S31)	**Art and Photography catch up and intervention: Y10/11** (S01 & S04)	**Geography GCSE Intervention: Y11** (F24)		**GCSE Science Success Club: Y10/11** (F18)
	Foundation Maths - grade 5 topics: Y11 (S29)	**RE Unlocked: Y11 (**G16)	**Business Studies: Y11** (S24)	**Physics Support Session: Y11** (F11)	**Eco Club: all years** (meet at reception - weather permitting)
	MUN: all years (F25)	**Geography GCSE Intervention: Y11** (G11)	**Further Maths: invite only** (S31)	**Further Maths: invite only** (S31)	
	Statistics: Y10 (S28)		**Engineering Intervention: Y10** (G07)	**Statistics: Y10** (S28)	
			History Intervention: Y11 (F25)		
			Triple Chemistry/Physics: Y11 (F11)		
	Music Club: all years (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)	**Music Club: all years** (G04 + G05)
		Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11 (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)	**Hospitality and Catering Intervention: Y11** (G01)
	KS3 Homework Club (S17)	**KS3 Homework Club** (S17)	**KS3 Homework Club** (S17)	**KS3 Homework Club** (S17)	



Notices

ORPINGTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 5th
December 7:30pm

Featuring special guest soloist
Mariatu Kanneh-Mason



Mozart
Symphony No. 31 'Paris'

Haydn
Cello Concerto in D major

Beethoven
Symphony No. 3 'Eroica'

Conductor: Dominic Wells
Leader: Sarah Douch

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

Advance booking advised

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.com/orpington symphonyorchestra (booking fee applies)

National Literacy Trust

Change your story



Come and test your book knowledge at the Senior National Reading Champions Quiz 2027!

Open to students aged 11–14 years, this quiz is the perfect opportunity for keen readers across the UK to join their reading champions team and represent their school.

If you sign up you can share your knowledge of books, make new friends and possibly win a place at the amazing grand final event in London.

With lots of prizes to be won and fun to be had, go and speak to your librarian, literacy lead or class teacher today about taking part.

Good luck!

For more details, scan the QR code or visit:
literacytrust.org.uk/snrcq

Year groups invited to join:
- Years 7, 8 and 9 (England and Wales)
- S1, S2 and S3 (Scotland)
- Year 8, 9 and 10 (Northern Ireland)

Regional heats will take place in the Spring term with the grand final on Wednesday 19 May 2027.

Some images featured were created using AI technology for illustrative purposes.



This picture represents which verse novel about a girl facing the emotional struggle of dealing with bullies?

Most of the action in the first three books of the *Shatter Me* series takes place in a military controlled environment called sector 45. True or False?

In *Bite Risk* by S J Wills, Tremorglade appears to be a normal town, full of normal residents, but what happens to the adults one night a month?

Funded by

ALCS

The National Literacy Trust is a registered charity no. 1116260 (England and Wales) and SC042944 (Scotland).

Bromley
THE LONDON BOROUGH



Christmas Holiday Fun

Bromley's Holiday Activities and Food programme

Bromley is running a holiday club programme for eligible children and young people





For information visit
www.bromley.gov.uk/HolidayActivitiesandFoodProgramme

Or scan the QR code

HAF Holiday Activities and Food Bromley

BEST START IN LIFE

UK Government

2026 © London Borough of Bromley
A product of the Design and Engagement Team - Images by Magnific and Unsplash

family NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Bromley Parenting Hub. Building stronger parental relationships

RECONNECT CONNECT. CHOOSE. CHANGE



Welcome to the new Family Newsletter

We are delighted to bring you useful insights, creative ideas, and engaging activities that help nurture strong family connections and highlight the value of healthy relationships at home.

When life gets busy, relationships can feel the strain

Modern family life can be demanding:

- financial pressures and rising household costs
- balancing work and family commitments
- parenting challenges
- major life changes such as starting school, moving to secondary school or having a new baby

All place additional stress on family relationships. When parents are feeling overwhelmed, communication can become more difficult, disagreements may happen more often, and tensions can quickly escalate.

Our free Reducing Parental Conflict workshops provide a supportive and non-judgemental space for parents and carers to reflect on these challenges and learn practical ways to manage disagreements more constructively. Whether you are parenting together, apart, or navigating a period of change, the workshops offer simple, practical tools that can help create calmer relationships, strengthen family connections, and support children to thrive. To access the workshops, please click here or scan the QR code

SCAN ME!

FOLLOW US!

Like Share Follow

Follow the Bromley Children Project on social media to stay updated with more helpful tips, resources, and support for families. These posts are a great reminder that small changes in how we handle conflict can make a big difference in a child's life.

family NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

Scan the code below for the direct access to free resources

Young People Prompt Cards

Young People Relationships Guide

Self-regulation Guide



Children's books recommendations

Child Viewpoint Quiz

Adults resources

Quiz for parents who are together

Quiz for parents who are separated

Free parent workshops and courses

Relationship Thought Prompt cards

Early Intervention and Family Support
Safer, more secure and happier families are at the heart of everything we do

Bromley Parenting Hub.
Building stronger parental relationships

Stop. Think. Change.

RECONNECT
CONNECT. CHOOSE. CHANGE