

NEWSLETTER

February half term 2026

Blanche Nevile Secondary School

admin@blanchenevile.org.uk

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students,

It's been another wonderful half term at Blanche Nevile. Students have balanced all their hard work in lessons with trips and visits that enrich their curriculum and support their learning. The Enterprise Group have been honing their entrepreneurial skills before their trip to Spitalfields next half term. The staff have invested in their venture and we're all looking forward to their success!

This is also my opportunity to say farewell as Interim Headteacher. After half term Ms Doobeh and Ms McCarthy will be taking up their post as Co-Headteachers and I will be in Blanche Nevile for 2 days a week to support them in the role. It has been a pleasure to be back at Blanche Nevile as Interim Head, it is a really great place to work. I am also looking forward to still being part of the Blanche Nevile family until the end of this term.

Jo Davey

Interim Headteacher

Ms Pennicott writes:

PSD

This term, students have been creating their own board games through a project that combined research, design, and hands-on making. They explored existing games, designed their own graphics and rules, and built their final products using digital tools and for some, the workshop.

The project showcased students' creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, and it has been a pleasure to see their ideas come to life. It has been inspiring to watch students take ownership of their learning and proudly present their finished games.



Ms Christian writes:

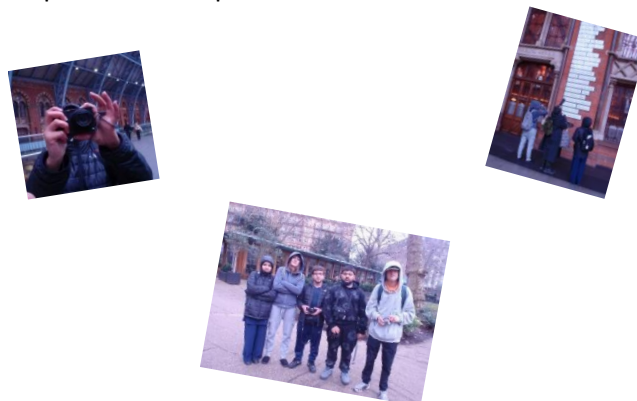
Art & Design

After taking some stunning photographs of our beautiful school building, KS4 students Lucia, Raisa and Maisie have been creating artwork inspired by David Hockney's 'Joiners'.

<https://www.hockney.com/index.php/works/photos/photographic-collages>



Meanwhile our other year 11 students have been out photographing London as part of their GCSE Art exam. The students were collecting photographs linked with their exam titles to help them develop their own artwork ideas.



Ms Burke writes:

English

This half term, students across all year groups have continued to demonstrate commitment, resilience, and impressive progress in English.

In 10B, pupils have been working hard to develop their functional skills for their exams. Their focus and determination have been clear, and they have approached practical reading and writing tasks with commitment and perseverance, building essential skills that will support them both academically and beyond the classroom.

8C have continued their engaging study of Romeo and Juliet, showing growing confidence in their understanding of the play. Moreover, they have developed their analytical writing skills and contextual understanding, enabling them to explore characters, themes, and key moments in the play with increasing depth and insight.

Meanwhile, my Year 11 one-to-one GCSE students have made excellent progress as they have focused on developing analytical skills for Language Papers 1 and 2. Through close study of a range of texts, they have strengthened their ability to analyse language and structure effectively, ensuring they are well prepared for their exams.

I am incredibly proud of the effort shown by all students this term and look forward to seeing their continued progress as we move into the next half term.

Ms Demici & Ms Groome write:

Science – years 10 and 11 Enterprise Group

This year the Enterprise group have now made their products which they will be selling at Spitalfields Market after half term.

They have made beautiful cushion covers and coaster which they hope will be very popular with the customers at the market.



In addition, they have sold shares to staff at school as a way to raise funds to grow the business and develop additional products in the future.

So far we have raised £125!

Ms Willis writes:

English

Year 10B and 11B

This half term, students have been learning how to write for different purposes. They have produced informal letters, diary entries, blogs, reports, reviews, and feedback forms. Well done, Year 10b - keep up the great work!

Writing for Different Purposes

Purpose	Activities	Examples

Year 10A and 11A

This half term, Year 10A have been exploring poetry that challenges attitudes. They have studied Cinquain poetry, Haiku poetry, Rap poetry and have created their own powerful pieces to express how words can empower others and change mind-sets.

Drama has been closely linked with Literacy, with students performing their poems to bring meaning, voice, and emotion to their work.

A big thank you to Ms Jessop, for helping bring these poems to life through her Drama sessions.

Keep up the fantastic work, 10.11A! 🙌📖📝

Life Skills

This half term, students across Key Stage 3 have begun their independent travel topic work.

- **Year 7** are planning a trip to go bowling and McDonalds
- **Year 8** are planning a trip to go bowling and Pizza Hut
- **Year 9** are planning how to travel independently from school to home and from home to school

Students are developing a wide range of essential life skills, including:

- Navigating routes and researching the best ways to travel
- Understanding travel costs and budgeting
- Reading menus and calculating food prices
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Road safety awareness
- Using timetables and managing time effectively

Keep up the great work, KS3 — you are doing brilliantly!

Mrs Demirci writes:

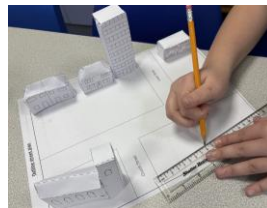
Humanities

This half term students have enjoyed their new Geography topics! Year 7 have practised their map skills, and Year 8 have been learning about tourism. 8C have considered the challenges of urbanisation in Nigeria, and Year 9 have been weighing up the dangers and possible advantages of living near a volcano. Years 10 and 11 ELC classes are studying the war in Ukraine and how it continues to affect different groups of people. Well done everyone, you have worked really hard!



Careers

Year 11 recently went to visit Harrow College for a tour of the Harrow Weald Campus. The college has a team of 20 CSWs across two campuses, and facilities for the study of construction, health and social care, art and architecture, and much more, from Entry Level up to Level 3. We were made to feel really welcome by the deaf support team and met some Blanche Nevile alumni too! Colleges are holding Open Days in February and March - check websites for dates and to sign up before you visit.



IMPORTANT DATES

February half term finish 3.20pm Friday 13th Feb / Return Monday 23rd Feb

Easter holidays finish 12.30 Friday 27th March / Return Tuesday 14th April

Please note Monday 13th April 26 - school is closed to students for a staff training day