



THE
BEACON

BULLETIN

Beacon Life Highlights | Autumn Term 2024



BEACON'S GOT TALENT

An exciting new House competition showcased the remarkable hidden talents of our Beacon Boys. The Beacon's Got Talent initiative delivered a series of auditions in the run up to the big event, performed in front of an audience and a panel of judges.



HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

The longest term and one sometimes difficult to contend with psychologically, as we start in the last throws of summer and end as we enter winter. Not so The Beacon School community as we embrace the 13 weeks and look to fill the time with as many different elements that engage and enthuse the boys; thinking of yet new ways to progress the school experience whilst sustaining the rigorous

curriculum and varied extra-curricular programme that the boys have grown accustomed to.

It is a constant of a Beacon Boy's personality that they adapt to change, grasp opportunities and feed off the energy that springs from every lesson, fixture, performance or event. Laughter and enjoyment is embodied in every page of this past term's Bulletin; it may have been dark

and autumnal outside but there was always a sense of sunshine on The Beacon School site. Bring on the winter!

Enjoy the Spring Term,

Nick Baker
Headmaster



Mr Baker with the newly appointed
Head Boy team, September 2024

“Laughter and enjoyment is embodied in every page of this past term's Bulletin.”

—Headmaster

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THE
BEACON
BULLETIN

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Next Open Day
Friday 9 May 2025
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To book a private tour, please email
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The Beacon Bulletin would like to thank:

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Old Beaconians
Please send news and
Old Beaconian queries to:
alumni@beaconschool.co.uk

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for further information on
our website



GUIDED &
INSPIRED

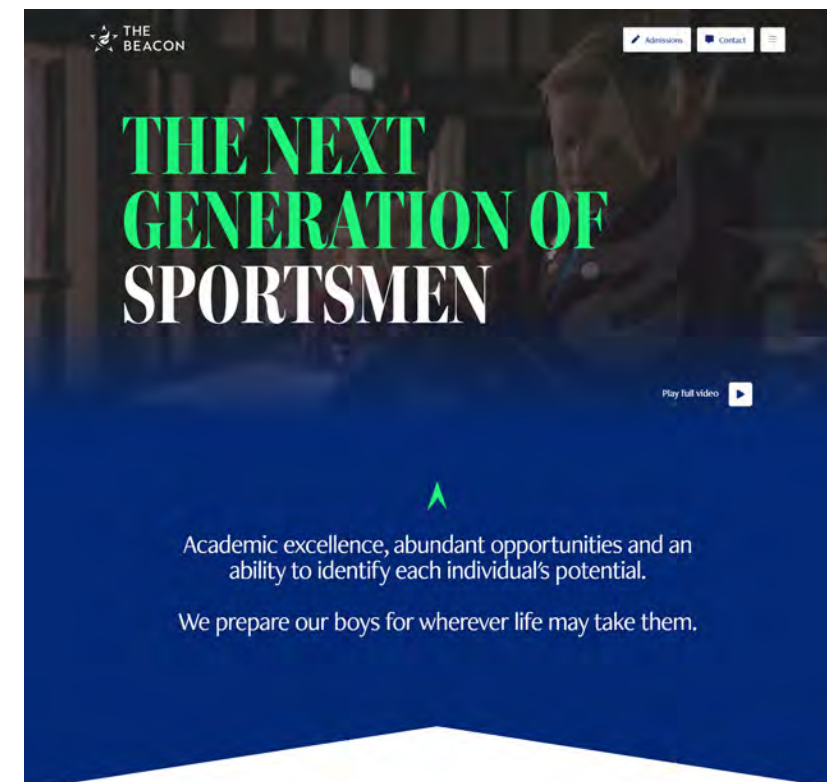


The Beacon Boy Video

Following a casting of several Beacon Boys, three were selected by a professional film Director to star in our new film.

'The Beacon Boy' short film portrays three scenarios prevalent to three different year groups. The first big exam, the first big moment in sport, the first big performance on stage. It expresses how self-fulfilment of achieving a personal goal has a positive impact and underpins the characteristics of The Beacon Boy.

WEBSITE & FILM



New Website

After months of working behind the scenes, we were excited to launch a brand-new website showcasing our fresh brand design and providing visitors with an improved online experience.

Our core aim was to create a cleaner, modern and easier to navigate website across multiple devices, providing concise information at the user's fingertips.

Our new website is the hub of communications to prospective families, highlighting the wonderful opportunities available and illustrating how incredible The Beacon is.

We hope you enjoy browsing it!

Brand Refresh

The Beacon brand refresh keeps our heritage intact with the five-pointed flame icon, which represents the five Beacon Boys who joined the school when it was founded in 1933. As a progressive forward-thinking school, we have modernised our brand identity, staying true to our essence and values.

Guiding the Next Generation

Reflective of our name, our new strapline encapsulates the spirit and vision of The Beacon. For over 90 years, the school has been guiding generations of boys who develop a distinct character and personality, continuing to guide others in life after The Beacon.



Visit our website and view The Beacon Boy film.

VISITING AUTHORS

Each term, we are delighted to welcome visiting authors to deliver engaging workshops and Assemblies to support curriculum learning as well as for our boy's enjoyment.



Chris Bradford

Chris Bradford, a multi-million copy bestselling author came to The Beacon to talk to our Upper School boys about his dynamic 'Bodyguard' series of books. Surveillance techniques, method acting and bodyguard mastery. Chris gave Years 7 & 8 a masterclass in training techniques. His presentation combined a thrilling mix of interactive readings, audio-visual footage and role-play demonstrating secret defence techniques with our boys.



Julia Jarman

Popular children's author, Julia Jarman, gave an in-depth talk to our Year 7 boys about her life journey, the challenges she faced writing for 'adults' and her inspiration for the novel 'Hangman'. She engaged and educated our boys about her fantastic books. Julia has long been involved with the school due to her classic rites-of-passage novel, 'Hangman' being part of The Beacon's Year 7 English curriculum.



A F Steadman

Annabelle Steadman, who writes as A F Steadman, is a British author. She visited The Beacon to read an extract of her bestselling 'Skandar' series to Years 4-8. Annabelle told the tales of Skandar and his fantasy world of bloodthirsty unicorns, epic sky battles and elemental magic to fire the boys' imagination and of children worldwide who read her books. A film with Sony Pictures is currently in the works. A book signing topped the event.



Kes Grey & Jim Field

Author Kes Grey and illustrator Jim Field immersed their eager audience of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 boys in the hilarious world of the Frog, Cat, Dog and Aardvark characters from their top ten bestselling 'Oi Frog and Friends' series. The children rhymed, learned how to draw the Frog character and were treated to a surprise appearance from two inflatable characters from the new roaring, stomping dino-packed title, 'Oi Dinosaur'.



Christian Foley

Christian Foley is a writer, rapper and teacher. His interactive freestyles and improvised performances, lauded by stars like 50 Cent and the creator of Hamilton, have gone viral multiple times and made him a regular on television and radio. To mark World Poetry Day, Years 3-8 eyes were opened to the world of spoken word and rhyme, all through the lens of grime in an interactive Assembly and workshops, including games, poem sand rap activities.



Mr Owen's Pocketbook

Our Year 8 boys enjoyed a visit from the Redheart Theatre Company performing 'Mr Owen's Pocketbook'. The performance gave a superb insight into World War I and the lives of soldiers who were also poets, such as Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon. He acted as a Captain in the trenches and read through the different poems that Owen wrote. This consolidated the boys' learning and brought the poets' words to life in a fascinating way.





VIRTUAL TO REALITY

Record Breakers!

On National Poetry Day (Thursday 3rd October), Years 3-8 took part in a Guinness Book of Records record-breaking attempt for the largest poetry lesson in multiple venues. A staggering 43,516 pupils from schools around the UK participated via Microsoft Teams!

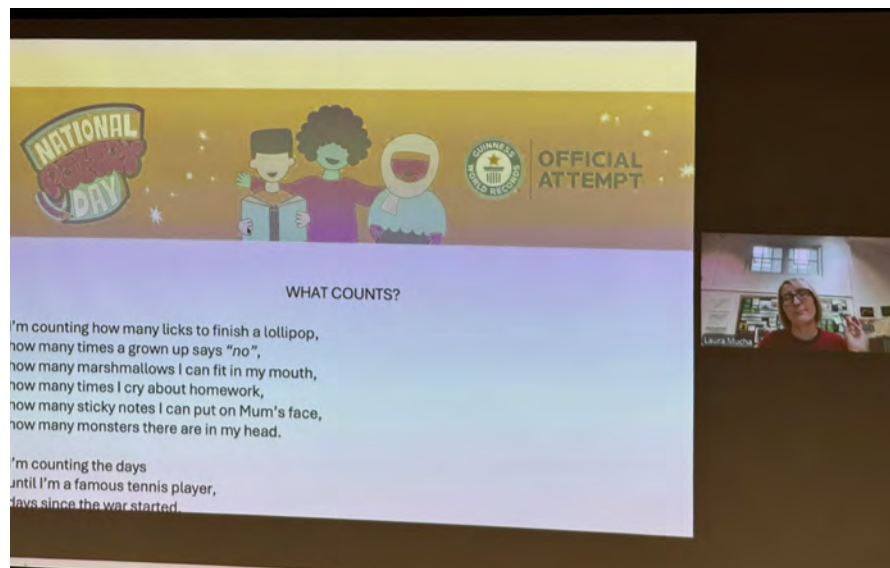
The lesson was hosted by poet and author, Laura Mucha. In advance of the event, pupils contributed their thoughts on the National Poetry Day theme of 'what counts'. Laura then drafted a poem based on

these ideas for attendees worldwide to vote on aspects of the poem. Laura edited and refined the poem with real-time engagement from the children participating before publishing it.

The Beacon staff and pupils who participated are now officially verified as breaking the Guinness Book of Records title for the Largest Poetry Lesson (multi-venue)!



View the event video with
Laura Mucha



VR Space Workshop

Year 5 took a trip into space with a virtual reality tour of the Solar System. They took off from Earth and learned facts as they flew around the planets and moons of our solar system. This was a great opportunity to consolidate their knowledge from their Earth and Space topic and to add a few more factoids to their already impressive knowledge base. The boys had a fantastic time and were ably piloted safely back to Earth by our facilitator, Mr King.



IMMERSIVE LEARNING

At The Beacon, we pride ourselves on engaging our boys in immersive educational themed days to support learning in the classroom.



WW2 Day

Year 5 were transported back in time to World War 2 with a fully immersive day of fun and educational activities. With ration books at lunch time, activities in the classrooms and the hallways filled with old newspapers, they truly delved into life in the 1940's era.



 Read the news story and view images.



Ancient Egyptian Day

Year 3 dressed the part during their Ancient Egyptian Day. Every costume was a masterpiece - we saw mummies, pharaohs and Egyptian Gods. The day was spent playing Egyptian games topped by a performance and workshop run by the talented Freshwater Theatre Company. It was a fun way to learn all about the Ancient Egyptian way of life to enrich their learning of the topic.



BEACON LIFE

Inspirational Highlights

Roman Activities

Year 4 took part in a Roman activity morning as an enjoyable way to end their learning of the topic in History. This was designed to be a fun and interactive session revolving around four main tasks:

- Making Roman crowns
- Playing a Roman board game
- Playing an interactive Roman game on iPads
- Putting together two Roman puzzles – one of which was 3D

All the boys had a great time and were engaged in each rotating session. They were pleased to wear their crowns to lunch afterwards.



Winter Wonderschool

Our boys particularly enjoyed seeing the snow settle at The Beacon.

The Quad looked extremely festive in the run up to Christmas with a sprinkling of snow and lights twinkling.



Diwali Assembly

Year 5 were immersed into the Hindu Festival of Lights during a cultural Assembly presented by Mrs Mehta and some of our Middle School boys who celebrate Diwali. The boys learnt all about what happens on the day.

Personal stories and traditions were shared with pride, giving everyone a glimpse into the warmth and joy of this special holiday. The boys spoke about family gatherings, the lighting of divas, rangoli patterns and the delicious treats that make Diwali so memorable. Mrs Mehta's guidance helped the boys express their cultural heritage with confidence, and their excitement was contagious!

Head Boy Team

Congratulations to the appointed Head Boy Team of this academic year 2024-2025: Ben F (Head Boy), Thomas R (Deputy Head Boy) and Thor K (Deputy Head Boy).

The Head Boy Team play an important role in representing the school and acting as role models to the other Beacon boys. They work with Mr Baker to develop positive initiatives for the school community.



Read the news story and view images.



THE BEACON PODCAST



Beaconverse is the school podcast that endeavours to inspire listeners with educational topics as well as giving insight into Beacon Life.

During the Autumn Term, we spoke to the newly appointed Head Boy Team and Ed Tenison (Head of Upper School) about Leadership at The Beacon.



Read the news story and view images.

Also available on Spotify, Google Podcasts and Amazon Music.

LEADING LIGHT





LEST WE FORGET

Our Beacon Community commemorated Remembrance Day with our annual Remembrance Service led by Mr Baker, Year 8 boys and our Heads of Houses.

The whole school came together for a moving Remembrance Day Service, accompanied by the families of our Year 8 boys.

We heard readings from Mr Baker and the Head Boy Team before congregating around the Quad for a 2 minute silence. The 'Last Post' was played beautifully on brass instruments by Patrick H (Year 8) and Ian Lynch followed by 'Reveille'.

In the approach to Remembrance Day, a commemorative display of 3,200 poppies handcrafted by pupils and staff at The Beacon were applied to a veil that was draped across the historical Market Hall in Old Amersham. The display was initiated by Miss Michelle Jackson (Head of Art), collaborating with Amersham Town Council.



 [View poppy display video.](#)

THE BEACON KINDNESS CUP

The Kindness Cup is an accolade that Mr Baker introduced at The Beacon. It continues to be sought after by boys throughout the school, awarded in Assembly each week.

Teachers and boys nominate pupils who have shown exceptional kindness to their peers or to someone in The Beacon Community. Mr Baker then selects a boy from the nominations each week, announcing them in Assembly and awarding the cup filled with sweet treats.

Congratulations to the boys who were awarded The Beacon Cup of Kindness over the Autumn Term.

Boys Awarded The Kindness Cup

Eeshan K (Year 8)

Sammy C (Year 3)

Oliver C (Year 3)

Ayan B (Year 5)

Nicholas B (Year 6)

Sahaan D (Year 6)

Oliver P (Year 4)

Robert F (Year 5)

Zayn M (Year 6)



FUNDRAISING

FUN

Each year, The Beacon strives to support different charities and recognise significant national days.

Chiltern Foodbank

A huge thanks to our Beacon Community who donated to the Chiltern Foodbank during the harvest season and to Kishan P for leading the collection. We donated a staggering 783.5kgs of items!



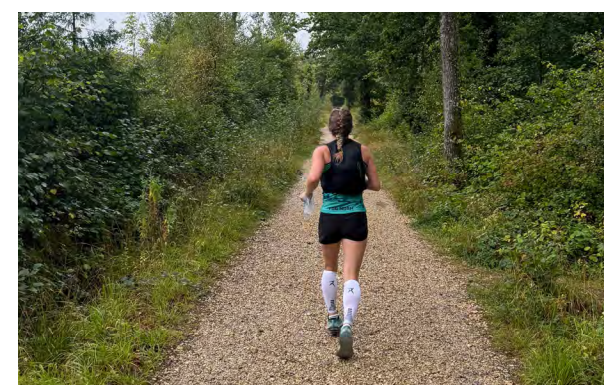
Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Beacon staff room turned into its very own café filled with delicious cakes made by staff members to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. There are many bakers at the school!



Children's Hospital PJ's

An incredible 510 pairs of pyjamas were donated for Children's Hospital Pyjamas. The charity were overjoyed! These go a long way to helping poorly or less fortunate child in-patients at hospitals.



Mrs McDonald's Ultra Marathons

Rachael McDonald completed six ultra marathons to raise money for 'The Noah Jordan Foundation' - a charity set up by their close friends, after losing their 9 month old son to a rare genetic disease.



November

Some male staff members came together during November to grow a 'mo' to raise awareness and money for men's health, in aid of the Movember charity. A well earned £395 was raised.



Anti-Bullying Alliance

Pupils and staff spent the week wearing odd socks to fundraise for the Anti-Bullying Alliance and celebrate what makes us unique. A worthy cause where £281 was raised.



Poppy Appeal

Poppies were sold at The Beacon to commemorate Remembrance Day. Find out more about our Remembrance Day Service within this Bulletin. Money raised: £554.

BIRTHDAY BOOK GIFTING

The Birthday Book initiative is a wonderful opportunity for families to donate a new book to The Beacon around the time of their son's birthday. It is a great way for our boys to introduce their friends to a book they have enjoyed and for us to enrich the content of our Libraries.

Each book is inscribed with the name and birthday of the person who donated it. For fresh inspiration, a list of book ideas is regularly updated with books available to purchase at Chiltern Bookshops in Chorleywood.

Thank you to our Birthday Book Gifters

Nathanael B-N (Year 4)
Louis D (Year 8)
Louise W (Years 7 & 8 TA)
Noah H-C (Year 1)
Hunter O (Year 7)
Henry D-H (Year 7)
Joshua S (Year 4)
Augustus W (Year 4)
Armaan S (Year 6)
Patrick H (Year 8)
Nico O (Year 5)

Rhys J (Year 4)
Thomas SI (Year 7)
Sheona H (LSC TA)
Joseph K (Year 3)
Thomas L (Year 5)
Henry C (Year 7)
Paramveer S (Year 1)
Eeshan P (Year 1)
Milan G (Year 1)
Sebastian A (Year 3)
Berik I (Year 8)





THE
BEACON
PARENTS' SOCIETY

Family Fun Day

Our Beacon families gathered together for the first ever BPS Family Fun Day. With games, face painting, inflatables, sports activities and delicious food in glorious autumn sunshine, everyone had a fantastic time. Over £1,000 was raised in total!

THE BEACON PARENTS' SOCIETY

Christmas Fair

An annual event organised by our brilliant Beacon Parents' Society, the Christmas Fair was a huge success despite taking place during a storm. There was something for everyone throughout the school, including a human fruit machine, silent disco, classic fair games, face painting, a zorb zone, bucking bronco and plenty of delicious food! There were even a few raffle prizes and plenty of hampers to win too. A staggering £12,956 was raised!



Salsa Evening

Strictly came to The Spinney! Beacon Parent, Rebecca Sachdev, kindly shared her formidable salsa skills to teach Beacon parents some salsa dance moves. It was a wonderful fundraising evening including wine and nibbles.



BEACON LIFE

Awareness Day Highlights

World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day on Thursday 10th October and in conjunction with the National Literacy Trust's 'Take 10 To Read' campaign, our boys in Years 3-8 took part in four 'Drop Everything And Read' sessions throughout the school day. Each time the bell rang, our boys (and staff!) had to take time out from what they were doing to read for a few moments.

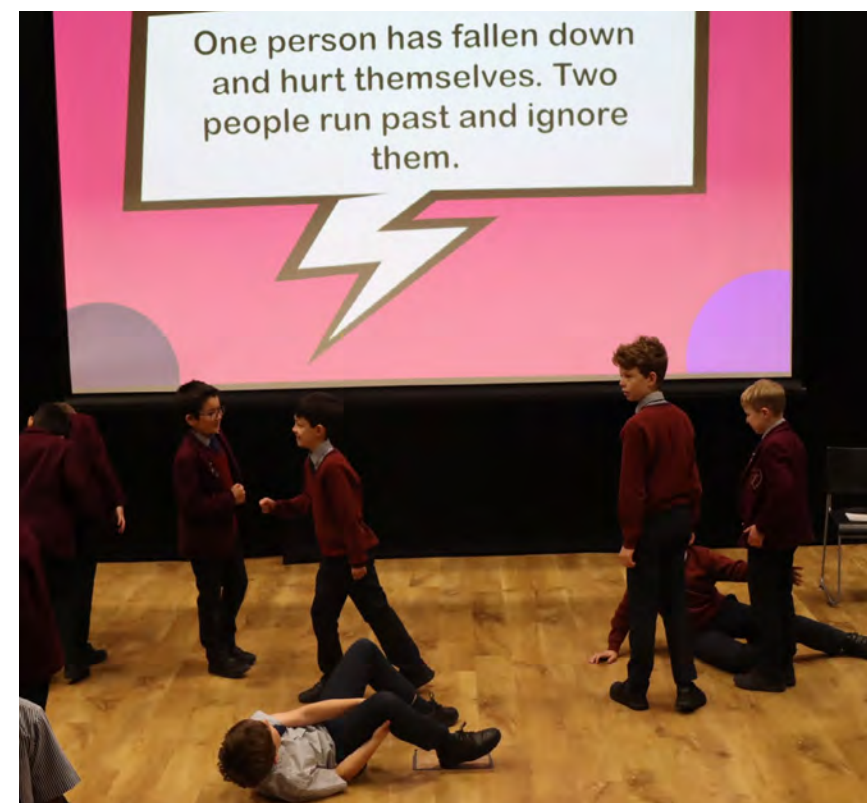
Reading is a great way to relax, boost your mood and escape the pressures of daily life.



Anti-Bullying Week

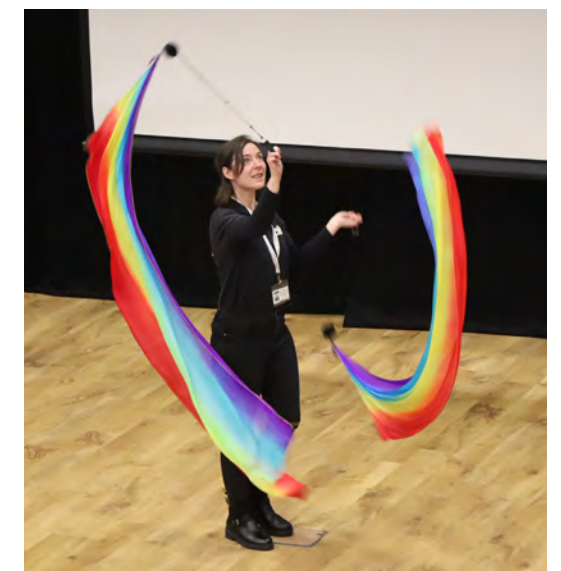
We were thrilled to welcome Open Education, an anti-bullying organisation dedicated to fostering respect and understanding among young people.

They delivered an engaging Assembly to Years 1-4, inspiring our younger boys to 'Choose Respect' through relatable stories and interactive activities.



Older year groups participated in dynamic workshops, exploring practical ways to build empathy, address bullying and create a culture of being an upstander.

The visit empowered our boys to make positive choices and to contribute to a respectful and inclusive school environment.



A BEACON FOR WHAT'S NEXT





SPEAKING WITH CONFIDENCE

Throughout their Beacon journey, our boys are encouraged and given the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills whilst supporting their educational learning.

Elizabethan Talks

Our Year 8 boys enjoyed becoming experts in their field, lecturing their class about a specific area of Elizabethan England. The aim of this activity was to enrich their study of 'Romeo and Juliet'. Areas covered ranged from Love and Marriage, Religion and Politics, Crime and Punishment, Commedia dell'arte to Royalty and the Chain of Being. There was a very high standard of presentation and subject knowledge.



Balloon Debate

Year 6 finalists were excited to participate in their balloon debate event, hosted in front of classmates and adjudicated by various staff members. The boys had been working on persuasive writing techniques and speeches in their English lessons, which were voted on in class ready for the final.

In four teams of four, each member stood up to give a convincing debate as a famous person (real or fiction) for why they should not be kicked out of a hot air balloon. There was a range of characters represented, including Malala Yousafzai, Martin Luther King Junior and Florence Nightingale.

All the boys did an excellent job, speaking confidently and using their persuasive skills. Congratulations to our winners: Kian V (Narendra Modi), Jeevan L (Albert Einstein), Ben D (William Shakespeare), Sam W (Queen Elizabeth II).



WW1 Recruitment Speech

Year 8 explored WW1 recruitment campaigns in English and then wrote their own speeches. They studied the poetry of expectation which was written at the start of the war. They also analysed recruitment posters, extracts from fiction and non-fiction, political speeches and those written for entertainment purposes as part of their preparation. The power of rhetoric was examined and how it can be used to ensure the maximum persuasive effect.

SPARKING AMBITION

Our budding Scientists have been enjoying a host of practical activities to enrich their learning of the subject.



Solar Systems

Year 5 made a scale model of the Solar System on Willsfield. They used different sized balls to represent the different planets, from ball bearings (Mercury) to basketballs (Jupiter). They then had to measure out the distances of the planets from the sun to get a sense of the vast distances between objects in space.



Science Challenge

Year 5 boys from various schools participated in a series of engaging and educational activities at the Bradfield College Science Challenge.

different components, making speakers to blast out Taylor Swift songs and investigating living organisms through careful observations.

The boys were divided into small groups, rotating between science stations. Each station covered a unique area of scientific inquiry, such as Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Activities included making cold packs by mixing

The afternoon was both informative and enjoyable. Many boys expressed a newfound interest in Science, and the event successfully highlighted the excitement and possibilities within the subject.



Making Bubbles

Year 3 investigated bubbles in Science. They learnt about their shapes and colours and then made their own wands. They headed to the Quad to put their creations to the test! We saw some very impressive bubbles.



Electrifying

Our Year 4 boys completed their topic of electricity by looking at static electricity and using the Van de Graaff generator to demonstrate some of its hair-raising effects.

Magnesium Oxidation

Year 7 continued their studies of the chemical elements. They looked at the reactions of the Group 1 elements and did an investigation into the oxidation of magnesium when heated in air. They looked for the signs that a chemical reaction was taking place and measured the change in mass before and after heating.





COMMUNITY HEROES

Emergency Services

During the Autumn Term, our Nursery and Reception boys had a special visit from a few heroes within the community. Local firefighters from Amersham Fire Brigade explained the importance of their role and gave the boys a tour of the fire engine. Much to their excitement, the blue lights were switched on and our Early Years boys had an opportunity to play with the hoses.

The local Thames Valley Police also gave an informative and educational talk to our Little Beacons about their profession, highlighting what they should do in a moment of emergency. The talk was followed by a fun game of dressing up and receiving a tour of the police van.



Service With a Smile

Dentist Mrs Mazinianian, the mother of a Beacon Boy, gave a fun presentation on the importance of dental health and brushing teeth to our Nursery and Reception boys. Included was a bag of nice and nasties to explain that tasty doesn't always equal tooth health.

BEACON LIFE

Academic Highlights



MTS Maths Challenge

Thirteen boys from Year 6 attended the Prep Schools’ Maths afternoon at Merchant Taylors’ School. The boys spent the first hour completing a trail around the grounds and school buildings, estimating distances, counting, measuring and calculating numbers from dates found on statues and plaques. After refreshments, they then worked together to complete 15 tricky word problems, both calculator and non-calculator, displaying great focus, teamwork and application of their excellent Mathematics skills.



Scholarships

Another year of Beacon boys in high spirits having been awarded impressive scholarships and exhibitions at top independent schools nationwide.

Our 2023-2024 leavers were thrilled to receive Academic, Sports, Drama, and Art Scholarships and Exhibitions. This is true testament to their achievements throughout their journey at The Beacon.

 [Read the news story.](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS & EXHIBITIONS 2023-2024

- Scholarships and Exhibitions
- Academic – Merchant Taylors’ School
 - Academic – Harrow School
 - Art – Merchant Taylors’ School x 2
 - Drama – Berkhamsted School x 3
 - Sport – Berkhamsted School x 3
 - Sport – Thorpe House
 - Sport – Aldenham
 - Sport – Westbrook Hay

Device Training

Since the beginning of the Autumn Term, Year 7 now use devices for all subjects, giving our boys a fantastic opportunity to further enhance their Beacon education by familiarising themselves with digital technology and software on a day-to-day basis.

Our Year 7 boys had an exciting day taking part in one-to-one device training, where they enjoyed a structured morning, setting up their new devices, learning the expectations for each subject and being introduced to OneNote.



DESTINATION SCHOOLS 2023-2024

Berkhamsted	19	Shiplake College	4
Dr Challoner’s Grammar	15	Clares Court	4
Royal Grammar School	9	Abingdon School	3
Reading Blue Coat	6	Chesham Grammar	3
Merchant Taylors’ School	5	Bradfield College	2
Harrow	5	Westbrook Hay	2
Westminster	1	Aldenham	1
Amersham School	1	Magdalen College School	1
Wellington College	1	Thorpe House	1
Sir William Borlase Grammar	1		



GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ARTISTS

BEACON'S GOT TALENT

A brand-new initiative launched during the Autumn Term, showcasing the breadth of pure hidden talent our Beacon boys embody.



The Beacon's very own talent show made its mark during the Autumn Term, as a finale to inter-House competitions.

Beacon's Got Talent was a raging success and with our own resident panel of judges, stage production and introductory video, it could have been mistaken for ITV studios! There was a huge array of amazing talent on show, from singers and dancers to comics, gymnasts, magicians and instrumental superstar Musicians. Congratulations to the winning House, Portland, for all their combined efforts. It was truly an unforgettable day.



[Read the news story and view images.](#)



Chris D (Year 6) performing Oasis 'Wonderwall'



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Archie Dobson's War

Year 8 took part in a show-stopping performance of Archie Dobson's War over two consecutive days. They worked tirelessly to make it the success that it was! The narrative followed the star performer Angus B who portrayed Archie Dobson and his life throughout WW1. The set design featured the incredible 3,200 poppies handcrafted by teachers and pupils.



[Read the news story and view images.](#)



A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS

Multiple activities and performances were put on during the Autumn Term, getting our whole Beacon Community in the Christmas Spirit.



Carol Services

Lower School, Middle School & Upper School boys participated in our annual carol services held in King's Church, Amersham. Both events were a heartwarming celebration of Christmas to end the Autumn Term, with our boys bringing the story to life with expressive readings and outstanding musical talent. We saw soloist performances and enjoyed classic carols that our congregation of parents, staff and pupils sang wonderfully in unison. The room was filled with Christmas joy.



Pre-Prep Performances

Our Pre-Prep boys did a superb job in their Nativity plays and Christmas Showcases. Nursery & Year 2 performed some Christmas Classics with moves to accompany them, whilst Reception & Year 1 performed traditional Nativity plays. The Year 2 Christmas showcase was

a true spectacle, with all boys displaying their inner musician and wonderful stage presence.

It was evident that so much work was put in behind the scenes and the boys were excellent at remembering every line, action and prop.



[Read the news story and view images.](#)



Beacon Voices Perform Live

Our Beacon Voices took part in a special event at the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre in Amersham, performing alongside the Amersham Band during a cinema screening of 'The Snowman'. Singing 'Walking in the Air,' our pupils captivated three full audiences, adding a magical live element to the classic film.



EXPRESSION & THE ARTS



Autumn Concert

Boys in Years 1 and 2 demonstrated their musical skills on a wide range of instruments during our Pre-Prep Autumn Concert. Many of the boys performing had only had a few lessons and it was their first ever performance in front of an audience. Well done, boys!



Ensembles Concert

We hosted our first Ensembles Concert of the school year, marking the beginning of a series of termly performances. Pupils from the Orchestra, Training Orchestra, Junior and Senior Guitar Ensembles, Brass Band and Rock Band showcased their hard work and musical progress. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and we look forward to many more to come. Well done to all the fabulous performers!

Street Dance Workshop

Our Year 3 boys had a fantastic time learning new dance moves in a Street Dance Workshop from Urban Strides. They were taught hip-hop techniques and breakdancing skills, including popping, locking and how to spin on the floor like a pro. With a catchy playlist, Year 3 particularly enjoyed putting their own creative stamp on their dance moves.



Harvest Festivals

Our boys in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in a joyful Harvest Festival celebration. The boys showcased their talents by singing harvest songs, reciting autumnal poems and proudly displaying their artwork. The festival was a wonderful way to embrace the season of giving. We were proud of all the hard work and creativity that the boys put in to making this event a special one.



GUIDING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF
CREATORS



FOOD FOR LIFE

Food is an important part of Beacon life, and teaching the boys about nutrition and sustainability, as well as learning to make good food, all starts from their first day in Nursery.

Plant-Based Protein

As part of their sustainability unit, Year 7 completed a two-week project focused on developing plant-based protein recipes. They put their recipes to the test by cooking and serving up their creations to tutors, who were invited to sample the results. The menu included a rich jackfruit curry infused with coconut, star anise and cardamom. Crispy Chinese tofu with noodles, oyster sauce and pak choi, and Mexican tempeh tacos topped with a fresh mango, chilli and lime salsa. The tasting was a resounding success.



Sustainability

Our Middle School boys created dishes with a focus on sustainability. Year 5 made baked risotto and our Year 6 boys made a Thai curry. Mrs Rowland explained how leftover vegetables and meat can make a quick meal whilst raising awareness of how climate change is affecting rice production. Mrs Rowland highlighted how 60% of the UK's 9 million tons of food waste comes from households. Our Middle School boys were challenged to find methods and recipes that would make good use of leftover food.



Gingerbread

Our Nursery and Reception boys visited the Dining Hall where Head Chef Dino gave them a lesson in gingerbread-making. They enjoyed rolling out the dough, kneading it into gingerbread men and particularly liked decorating them after the baking process.

Pappardelle Pasta

Year 8 were delighted to make pappardelle pasta in the newly refurbished Cooking & Nutrition room. They started by making the dough with semolina flour and eggs, kneaded the dough and then carefully put it through the pasta rolling machine. To finish off, they cut it and made it into bow shapes.

CRAFTING CREATIONS



Collaborative Carpet

Year 4 took part in a collaborative project to create some artwork for the foyer at the Elgiva Theatre. The artwork is inspired by this year's pantomime 'Aladdin'. The boys have had great fun working in pairs to create a patterned design onto a strip of canvas, using a variety of mixed media such as paint, fabric and sequins. The strips were then woven together to create two large scale magic carpets!

One of the carpets was on display in the Elgiva foyer and the other was in Chapter Two Community Bookshop in Chesham town centre for all of our local community to enjoy.



[View magic carpet display video.](#)



Art Club Puppets

Years 5 and 6 enjoyed making their own puppets in Art Club. They used cardboard frames covered with tin foil to make the form and then papier-mâché to finish off.

These were then painted and embellished with feathers, pipe cleaners, googly eyes and fabric. Each puppet evolved into its own unique character!

Stowe Art Festival

Five boys from Years 6 and 7 took part in the Stowe Art Festival along with eight other schools. They worked collaboratively to create an animation by creating a storyboard inspired by the 'Aquatic' theme. They then developed a set and built characters, finally recording 200 frames to create a stop motion animation.

The boys came up with some brilliant ideas and demonstrated fantastic teamwork to create their film.



Beacon Bots

Year 4 boys were busy creating their amazing Beacon-bots as part of their Design and Technology lessons. This exciting project introduced them to the D&T workshop, where they've been learning to use a variety of tools and equipment for the first time. They've been building their confidence, developing practical skills and exploring their creativity.

GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SPORTSMEN



SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Another successful term full of sporting success and personal achievements. Below are a few of the highlights.



Equestrian Show Jumping

Leo S (Year 2) and his pony braved the horrendous weather and headed to Bury Farm to compete in the NSEA schools jumping competition. They jumped a super clear round at 40cm height. It was his first ever schools jumping competition and he gained valuable experience for future competitions. Keep an eye out for future Beacon Equestrian Events!

Swimming Club

Henry O (Year 5), Jeevan L (Year 6) and Sean E (Year 6) all took part in the age 11 Amersham Swimming Club County Qualifiers, successfully securing several medals.



The Beacon Golf Tournament

53 Beacon Boys, parents, grandparents and staff teed off at Wycombe Heights for The Beacon Golf Tournament on a beautiful sunny morning. Some excellent golf on show, as well as impressively patient and astute tutelage from many parents whose sons were just starting out on their golfing careers. Trophies were given out for particularly strong performances:

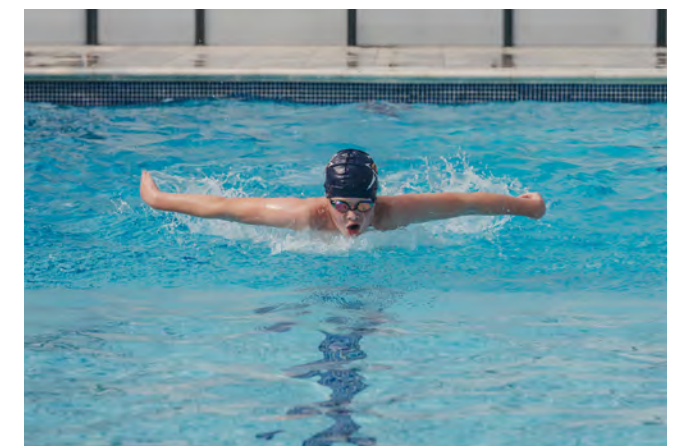
- Best Beacon Boy Performance: Alex Z (Year 6)
- Best Beacon Parent Performance: Ray Chiltern (parent)
- Best Pairing Performance: Eddie and Alex Z (Year 6)
- Best Pairing Performance Runners Up: Michael and Augustus W (Year 4)
- Parent Nearest the Pin: Lee Taylor (parent)
- Beacon Boy Nearest the Pin: Thomas F (Year 7)

A great morning, and an event that The Beacon will repeat in 2025!



Super Swimming Gala

The Beacon swimmers competed at Habs Girls' pool in a thrilling gala against Habs Boys and Aldwickbury. It was a landmark event for our Year 4 boys, who made their debut in the competition, delivering an impressive first performance and showing great promise for the future. The Beacon Years 5 and 6 team also showed excellent effort and determination with some standout performances.





IMPRESSIVE RUGBY

An impressive term of skill and teamwork on the pitch against some tough opposition. Below are a few of the highlights.

The Beacon Wins A Triple!

Our U13As were at home facing two of their fiercest rivals in a quadrangular: Davenies and Caldicott, enjoying unrivalled success in all of their games.

The first game was against Caldicott A Team, where our U13As controlled the game well, maintaining possession and making great tackles. After a series of thrilling phases, The Beacon broke through with a well-earned try resulting in a hard-fought victory.

Our boys were fired up in preparation for their next game against Davenies, which was a tough but successful battle, resulting in a 2-0 win.

Riding high from two victories, The Beacon finally faced the Caldicott B Team. It was an easier contested game with our boys dominating, keeping the line strong and proudly winning our final game with no tries conceded. An outstanding performance by all!



Challenging Rugby Conditions

Despite the challenging conditions, The Beacon showed impressive skill and composure in the U12A match against Davenies. The ball handling was slick and the boys displayed excellent awareness and teamwork to spread the play wide. This expansive style of rugby paid off, resulting in four more tries and extending the lead to 6-0.

This match was a testament to how far the team had come since the start of the season. Our Beacon Boys demonstrated grit, determination and a never-give-up attitude that saw them emerge victorious in challenging conditions.



Read our Sports Reviews
& view images.



Strong Rugby Triangular

Our U9B1 rugby team put in a couple of strong performances against Chesham Prep School and Moultsford.

They made a number of effective drives towards the try line against Chesham Prep but got held up by a resolute Chesham defence, who then broke quickly resulting in a score of two quick tries.

In the second match vs Moultsford, our boys upped their game with ferocious tackling and purposeful running that made for an entertaining, even game ending 2-2. This was particularly impressive seeing as this was our B Team against Moultsford's A Team.



GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ADVENTURERS

LITTLE EXPLORERS



Autumn Bug Hunt

Our Year 1 boys made the most of the sunny autumnal weather during their Outdoor Learning lesson. They made their own 'sticky sticks', went on bug hunts and enjoyed free play in the woods.



Treasure Maps

As part of their 'Under the Sea' topic, our Year 1 boys investigated a lost treasure chest! They carefully unlocked the old padlock to discover shells, coins, jewellery and finally a lost treasure map. They then created maps of their own.



Welly Walk

Our Little Beacons enjoy a weekly welly walk to our dedicated Pre-Prep Outdoor Learning area. They hunted for bugs, built dens and made mud soup and pies in the mud kitchen.




Den Building

Our Year 2 boys enjoyed a trip to our Outdoor Learning area in the woods, where they learnt the art of den building. They took along some toy animals to test out their architectural skills.

Battlefields

Our Year 8 boys enjoyed a three day eye-opening educational trip back in time, to see the Battlefields of World War 1. The itinerary was full of insightful visits including parks, museums, memorials and quarries in Ypres, Arras and the area of the Somme.

 Read the news story and view images.



TRIPS & ADVENTURES

Our boys have enjoyed enhancing their learning out of the classroom this term.



Hazard Alley Safety Centre

Year 4 visited Hazard Alley Safety Centre, Milton Keynes. It was an insightful trip providing a unique opportunity for our boys to learn about potential hazards in real life sets which can present themselves, teaching them how to avoid or deal with serious scenarios.



Pompeii

A group of boys from Years 7 and 8 travelled to the Bay of Naples for a sun-drenched week of exploration. From staying in Sorrento, they visited the Roman cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the luxurious Villa San Marco at ancient Stabiae.

 Read the news story and view images.



Boughton Woods

Our Year 7 boys were thrilled to embark on a fun country trip to the beautiful surroundings of Boughton Estate, Northamptonshire. They learnt how to make fires and developed their basic knife skills making tent pegs and paracord bracelets.



Chesham Mosque

Year 4 learnt about the Islamic faith. To complement this learning they visited Chesham Mosque, where they spotted features such as the Minaret and Dome. They were told about the history of the Mosque, how the Call to Prayer works and about the five Pillars of Islam.

SHINING TOGETHER



INSPIRING OUR COMMUNITY



 **THE
BEACONX**

During the Autumn Term, our online course covering 'AI in the Classroom: A Practical Guide for Teachers' was in great demand and well received.

We were pleased to welcome pupils from other schools as well as The Beacon to our 'ISEB Exam Preparation Course'.

Visit beaconx.co.uk to find out about upcoming courses in 2025. There are also self-study courses available to parents.

Facilities Developments

During the summer break, our Estates Team were busy working with various contractors to enhance the school's facilities. There was a series of transformative developments, including a brand-new play area for our boys in Early Years, a

newly refurbished state-of-the-art Cooking & Nutrition room, the installation of new pathways and solar panels sited on our Pre-Prep building and Sports Hall to reduce our carbon footprint.



Read the news story
and view images.



View our Developments Reel



Open Morning

We were thrilled to welcome prospective families to The Beacon on Saturday 28th September for our Open Morning. Nick Baker started each session with an informative talk prior to boys in Years 7 & 8 taking families on a tour of the school. At various locations along the way, there were bursts of activity to enjoy. These

included tasters in Cooking & Nutrition, Keyring-making in DT, a pianist playing in The Spinney Theatre, batting and howling in the Sports Hall cricket nets and hockey on the Astro. To top it off, it was a glorious day with the sun shining!



View our Open Morning Reel



Winning House Treat

Congratulations to all our boys in Trinity House who were the overall winners for the Autumn Term. The boys enjoyed their House treat of a silent disco, dancing the afternoon away to some banging beats!



Snow Much Fun!

All our Beacon Boys enjoyed playing in the first fall of snow pre-Christmas.



BEACON LIFE

Community Highlights

Storytelling Sessions

Our Pre-Prep boys enjoyed story-telling sessions from various staff members around the school. These included non-teaching staff, as well as teachers from specialist subjects such as Games, MFL and Science. It was a wonderful way for our younger boys to meet different staff members and experience fascinating stories read in a variety of engaging ways.



Eco-Council Bug Hotels

The Beacon Eco-Council initiated the creation of a nature garden on unused land by the MFL building. To support this project, they requested items to be donated by our Beacon Community so that Years 1 and 2 could enjoy making their very own bug hotels for the area.

Buddy T and Thomas F kindly supported our Pre-Prep boys in lessons, providing tips on how to create the best hotel for bugs.





Credit: Local illustrator, Elly Bazigos

THE ACT OF KINDNESS



Radio Christmas

Our boys in Years 3-8 were thrilled to receive a visit from Radio Christmas, offering them the opportunity to broadcast their very own radio show. Several of our boys jumped at the chance!

The seasonal station is run entirely by volunteers from the local community around Amersham, with an aim to raise money for Street Kids Direct. Street Kids Direct is a charity that helps vulnerable children and youth living on the streets or at very high-risk of street life.

The Return of Elfie

Our Beacon Boy Elfie was keen to support the last few weeks of term with random acts of kindness.

Since Christmas is the time of giving, Elfie wanted to show his gratitude for joining the school, once again, during the festive period. He also learnt a new skill or two!



[View Elfie's Act of Kindness Reel](#)

ADVENT CALENDARS

Nick Baker gifted Beacon boys with a Christmassy chocolate surprise advent calendar to enjoy in December 2024.

The artwork was designed by a local illustrator, Elly Bazigos.



ALUMNI NEWS

Generations of guiding the next generation

Congratulations to The Beacon's Class of 2019 who graduated from their senior schools this summer. We wish you all the very best for your next chapters. Remember to keep in touch and let us know what you're up to: alumni@beaconschool.co.uk



Charles Bishop

Charles Bishop (OB 2010-17) was at Pangbourne where he took up running, completed his first three marathons and was awarded the College's Endeavour Prize. In the summer, Charles ran his first ultramarathon (50km). He is now at Nottingham University studying for a Master's in Physical Sciences and Engineering and has really enjoyed his first term.



Bertie Bisgood

Bertie Bisgood (OB 2009-17) has just started on a degree apprenticeship which combines working as a tech consultant at Unilever whilst studying for a BSc in Digital and Technology Solutions at Exeter University.



Ollie Bloore

Ollie Bloore (OB 2011-19) recently received his cap for England U18 Rugby (SW division) from Phil Vickery.

Zacharia Khan

Zacharia Khan (OB 2010-17) has started his BSc degree in Business Management at the University of Birmingham.

Follow our alumni social channels:



James Stewart

James Stewart (OB 2009-19) finished his studies at Bradfield College, where he was part of the 1st XI squad that won the 2024 U18 ISFA Cup. He has now started his Biomedical Sciences degree at the University of Bath.



Jasper Cullen

Jasper Cullen (OB 2013-19) left Shiplake College in June and spent his final year combining A-level studies with his passion for motorsport videography. Last December, he was at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi filming teams in the Gulf 12 Hours race and was also invited by Sky Tempesta Racing to create social media reels during the 24 Hours of Spa race in Belgium this summer. Jasper will take up his university place to study filmmaking in September 2025. He is currently on an internship at an F1 content creation agency in London and recently travelled to the Las Vegas Grand Prix as part of the team creating content for their F1 social media account. In his spare time, Jasper shoots and edits videos for various clients, including YouTubers, schools, sporting events, various businesses and weddings: www.fliix.co.uk



Will Jones

Will Jones (OB 2009-19) left Oundle School in June 2024 and is now reading Biology at the University of York.



Alexander Quarry

Alexander Quarry (OB 2009-19) has just started reading Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge.



Thomas Redmond

Thomas Redmond (OB 2013-17) is enjoying a gap year before studying Sports Technology at Loughborough University.



Harry Smith

Harry Smith (OB 2012-17) is reading Medicine at Cambridge University, photographed here at his matriculation.



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