

# Academic Enrichment



Our extensive Academic Enrichment programme at the Preparatory School provides a wide range of opportunities for pupils to engage with, instilling a thirst for knowledge in them that remains beyond their time with us.

Our enrichment activities aim to stimulate and extend pupils with a particular subject passion as well as some that are more focused on broadening interests and knowledge. Our provision is inclusive in nature and we encourage all students to take part in activities and clubs which they might find interesting. There is something for everyone here.

In this booklet, we will take you through some of the key elements in our Academic Enrichment programme such as our KS2 Enrichment Programme, Enrichment Workshops and Enrichment Week.

In addition to our programme, all children are appropriately challenged and extended in their classroom learning and each teacher at Brentwood strives to ignite and develop the children's passion for their subjects.

### **KS2 Enrichment Programme**

Children in each year group will take part in various activities throughout the year which are based around the six key strands. We feel that the programme will enrich and enhance the curriculum and provide additional real life opportunities for the children to apply the skills they have learned in lessons, putting their learning into context. In addition, this is a very exciting opportunity for the children to have new experiences and opportunities and we

hope they will be excited at the prospect of taking part. Importantly, because the activities programme is embedded into the curriculum, all children take part.

Each year group has been split into various activity groups and we feel that this is a great opportunity for children to make new friends from across their year group. The four classes have been mixed equally among the groups and so whilst your child will know some of their group, they will very likely finish the year with an even wider circle of friends. The Enrichment Programme will take place over a double period each week and each activity will last five or six weeks.

We feel that all of the strands also support the Brentwood Learner Profile, which in turn supports the children's academic progress and personal development. By supporting our children to be knowledgeable thinkers, to be good communicators, to be resilient, to be inquirers and to be reflective, this will all have a positive impact on then children's approach to academic lessons.

The programme has been very popular so far, and we use the children's feedback to develop the programme year on year ensuring we stay up to date with the children's interests and an ever-changing world.









“This year’s Enrichment Week was an exhilarating blend of activities, trips, and in-school activities that have left our pupils buzzing with excitement and brimming with new experiences. Whether exploring the rich history of a foreign city, discovering hidden gems in our local area, or engaging in creative projects right here at school, every child had an unforgettable time. A huge thank you to all the staff involved this week who have worked endlessly to make this a huge success. Here’s to another amazing Enrichment Week filled with adventure, discovery, and copious amounts of fun!”

Mrs Barke  
Head of Academic Enrichment



## **Forest School** (from KS1 to KS2)

We have chosen this strand as it focuses on children's holistic development and many studies have indicated that children's confidence increases when taking part in Forest School. In addition, children will do lots of problem solving and learn to manage their own risks, which are skills that can be applied back in the classroom. Communication skills develop greatly within a Forest School setting too, with children working together to build a shelter or rope swing, for example. Children work on their perseverance and it's lovely to see their delight when they have mastered a skill such as lighting a fire or using a specific tool. At Brentwood, we strive to maintain pupil's awe and wonder in our Bayman Forest from ages 3 to 11.

## **Outdoor Education**

This strand has been chosen as it will give the children a real life opportunity to apply their Maths, Science, DT, English and PSHE skills. The children will learn skills linked to the outdoors such as gardening and how to care for the environment and will develop their communication skills as they work together in a group to solve an outdoor based problem or challenge. This strand is influenced by the National Curriculum Outdoors and highlights that here are the Prep, we recognise that the outdoor environment has a huge potential for learning.

## **STEAM**

STEAM is a focus of our curriculum this year as it creates links in the children's learning between Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. The children will make links in their learning which will encourage them to apply different skills in different subjects. This strand is hugely popular with chances for our pupils to learn to cook, make pneumatic mechanisms and explore engineering in the real world.

## **Performance & Physical Activities**

We have chosen this strand to further develop the children's physical, artistic and musical skills, supporting the PE, Music and Drama curriculums. The children will look at topics such as music tech and composition, as well as learning new sports and games. The children will also take part in some dance lessons to complement the PE curriculum. Sports leadership will also form part of the programme for upper years and this will support the children's communication and leadership skills, as well as their reflectiveness and resilience.

## **Language & Culture**

We have included this strand to allow pupils to continue to be exposed to a variety of languages such as French, German, Chinese and Latin. The children will also really focus on the culture of the language studied to provide a full and broad introduction to the language.

## **Life Skills, Leadership Skills & Wellbeing**

In this strand, the children will develop their communication and problem solving skills, which will help to support a variety of subjects such as Maths, DT, English and Drama. The children will also look at some wellbeing and PSHE topics to support their personal development. First Aid will also be included in Year 5 and this will support their understanding of how to keep themselves and others safe, which is part of the PSHE curriculum.

## **Able, Talented & Enrichment Workshops**

Children have the opportunity to take part in sessions to enrich their classroom learning with our Able, Talented & Enrichment Workshops and our themed curriculum days.

A day with a poet, a mathematician, a Tudor specialist, a Shakespearean actor or a dinosaur have all been sampled in the past. For example, some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils have enjoyed a day with a famous poet, hip hop artist and author, whilst our Year 6 mathematicians tackled some tricky reasoning problems while deepening their enthusiasm for Maths.

Pupils walk away from these workshops with a fresh eye and a keen enthusiasm for academic subjects.

## **Enrichment Week**

For many children the highlight of the school year is Enrichment Week. For one week in May, all children come off timetable to participate in various activities designed to support and extend their academic learning as well as to develop Brentwood Learner Profile attributes such as resilience, communication skills and being inquirers. In addition, Years 4 and 5 spend a couple of nights away from home building towards the highlight of the week, the Year 6 residential.

Alongside the residential part of the week, children will go on visits to places like Leeds Castle, Ninja Warrior or Colchester Zoo. Even our youngest pupils aim to venture out to somewhere linked to their curriculum. As the week goes on, the visits will be complemented by inhouse activities such as communal art projects, building a lego village complete with electricity and working lights, or an afternoon in a planetarium.

Enrichment Week is always exciting (and exhausting!) and is followed by the well deserved May half-term break.





