

Enrichment week 2026

22nd June-26th June

This June, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 took part in another exciting Enrichment Week – one of the highlights of the school year and a unique opportunity to experience learning beyond the classroom.

Designed to bring learning to life, Enrichment Week gives students the chance to explore real-world experiences that complement and enhance their learning in school. Through a wide range of trips, visits and activities, students develop new skills, broaden their horizons and discover learning in exciting and engaging ways.

The week is about much more than educational experiences. It provides valuable opportunities for students to strengthen existing friendships, make new connections and work alongside peers they may not usually spend time with. It also allows students to get to know different members of staff outside the classroom, helping to build positive relationships that contribute to our strong school community.

This year's Enrichment Week also brought an unexpected challenge. The extreme heat and red weather warnings meant that, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, all trips had to be paused for two days. Although this inevitably meant some planned activities could not go ahead, staff worked tirelessly behind the scenes to reorganise the remainder of the week. By carefully reshuffling the programme, we were able to ensure that every student still had the opportunity to take part in the key experiences planned for their year group allowing the week to finish on a real high.

Despite the disruption, our students approached the week with enthusiasm, resilience and positivity. Their flexibility, alongside the dedication of our staff, meant that Enrichment Week remained a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Year 7

Year 7 enjoyed a varied programme designed to introduce students to new places, new skills and new experiences. From exploring London's landmarks to discovering the natural world, the week was packed with memorable opportunities.

RAF Museum, Colindale

Year 7 students enjoyed a fascinating visit to the RAF Museum in Colindale, where they explored the impressive collection of historic aircraft and discovered the stories behind the development of aviation through the years. As part of the visit, students took part in an engaging science workshop, giving them the opportunity to investigate scientific concepts through hands-on activities and interactive learning.

The visit was both educational and enjoyable, with students fully immersing themselves in the exhibits and workshop. Unsurprisingly, one of the highlights of the day—particularly during this year's heatwave—was the museum's air-conditioned galleries, which provided a welcome escape from the soaring temperatures!



St Pauls Cathedral

A visit to St Paul's Cathedral gave Year 7 students the opportunity to experience one of London's most iconic landmarks. For many, this was their first chance to explore the heart of the capital and take in some of its most famous sights. Students climbed the 259 steps to the Whispering Gallery before continuing to the top of the dome, where they were rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views across London's skyline.

The visit also provided students with the chance to appreciate the cathedral as an active place of worship while learning about its rich history and stunning architecture. The day concluded with Mr Roman's guided walk across the Millennium Bridge, where students discovered the miniature artworks created by artist Ben Wilson, who transforms discarded chewing gum into colourful pieces of public art.

Congratulations to all of the students who completed the climb to the top of the dome and back down again – an impressive **1,056 steps** in total! A special mention also goes to Mr Roman, who completed the climb on **four separate occasions** over the three days that Year 7 visited the cathedral, clocking up an incredible **4,224 steps**!



Kew Gardens

Kew Gardens continues to be one of the highlights of the Year 7 Enrichment Week programme, and this year students were able to spend even longer exploring thanks to the introduction of coach travel. With more time on site, students were able to make the most of everything the gardens had to offer.

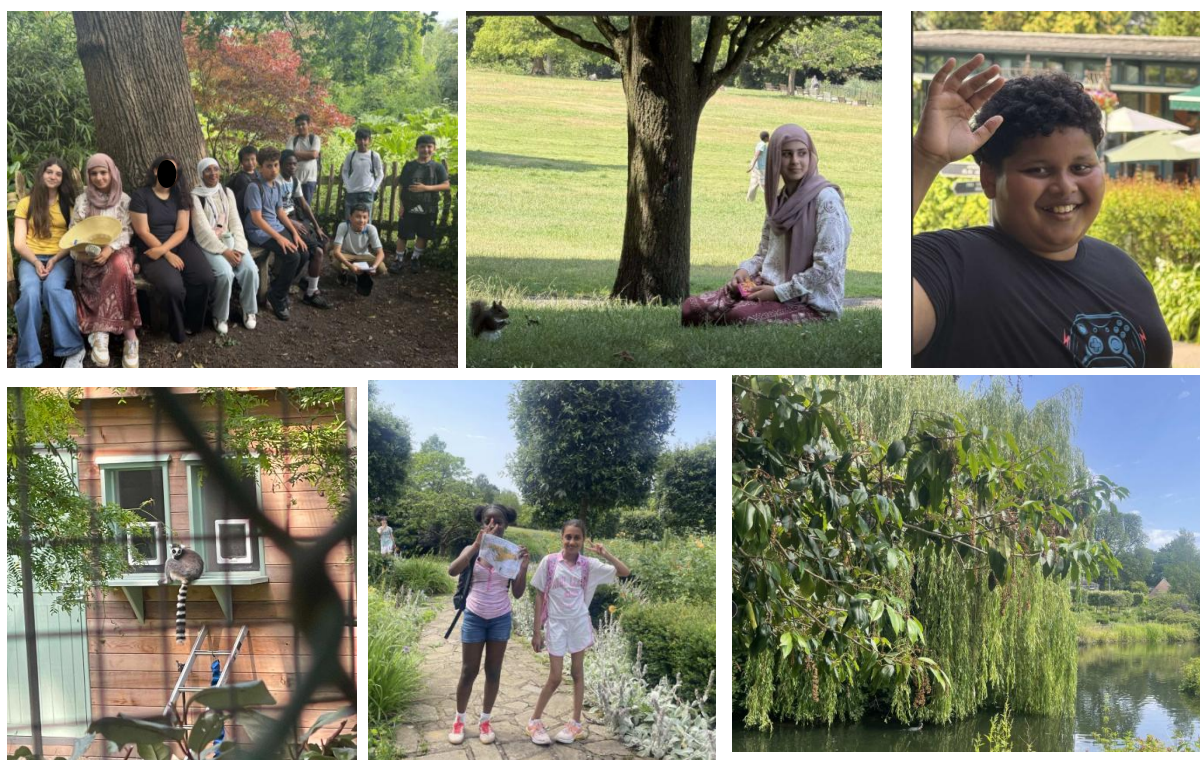
The self-guided visit gave students the opportunity to discover Kew's beautiful landscapes and world-famous plant collections at their own pace. Highlights included walking high above the gardens on the Treetop Walkway, exploring the Princess of Wales Conservatory with its fascinating collection of tropical plants, giant water lilies and cacti, and enjoying the peaceful surroundings of the gardens. Students also took time to relax by the lake, making the most of the sunshine and appreciating one of London's most spectacular green spaces. The visit was a fantastic opportunity to combine science, geography and environmental learning while encouraging curiosity, exploration and an appreciation of the natural world.



Orienteering, Golders Hill Park

Year 7 students travelled to Golders Hill Park for their first orienteering experience as part of the Hendon Enrichment programme. They completed an introductory orienteering course, developing their map-reading, navigation and problem-solving skills. This is the first stage of a progressive programme that continues in Years 8 and 9, when students visit new orienteering locations and build on these skills by tackling increasingly challenging courses.

After completing the course, students enjoyed exploring the park's small zoo and cooling off with a well-earned ice cream before taking a short walk to the beautiful Hill Garden and Pergola. The day combined physical activity, outdoor learning and exploration, making it a fantastic introduction to orienteering and one of North London's hidden gems.



Year 7 Shout Outs

Every Enrichment Week, our staff recognise students who have gone above and beyond to make the experience enjoyable for everyone. Whether through outstanding behaviour, a positive attitude, enthusiasm, resilience or simply bringing a smile to those around them, these students made a lasting impression throughout the week.

A huge congratulations to our Year 7 Enrichment Week stars:

Jasper, Adam S, Mohamed K, Anvi, Elena, Antoni, Cristian, Konstantin, Sara A, Kia, Jawid Allah, Taha, Ice, Kaede, Iqra, Niyya, Swaransh, Ali A, Shane, Samuel, Sofia, Stacy, Christian, Julia M, Zeel, Adela, Klejdo, Olsa, Eric, Ryan, Abdalla, Caelan, Yusra, Albert, Robert, Aliana, Lucas M and Emerson.

Thank you for representing Hendon with such positivity, maturity and enthusiasm. You should all be incredibly proud of the example you set for your peers.

Year 8

Year 8's Enrichment Week focused on bringing science to life through a combination of hands-on investigation and real-world experiences. Over two days, students worked collaboratively to solve problems, think like engineers and apply scientific knowledge through a series of exciting practical challenges.

The week concluded with a visit to Chessington World of Adventures, where students could celebrate their hard work while experiencing many of the scientific principles they had explored during the workshops. From the chain reactions of the Rube Goldberg Challenge to the forces, energy and motion behind some of the UK's most exciting rollercoasters, students saw first-hand how science can be found in the world around them.

Science Workshop – Day One: Rube Goldberg Challenge

Year 8 students began their two-day science workshop with an exciting engineering challenge, designing and building their own Rube Goldberg machines. Working collaboratively, students used their knowledge of physics, creativity and problem-solving skills to create elaborate chain reactions, with each machine designed to keep a ball moving through as many stages as possible.

The challenge encouraged students to think like engineers, testing and refining their designs as they competed to create the longest and most successful chain reaction. It was fantastic to see so much creativity, teamwork and determination on display throughout the day.

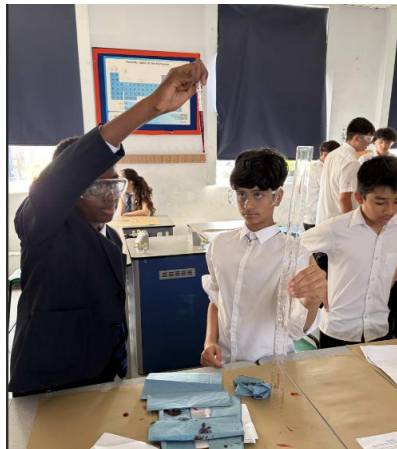


Science Workshop – Day Two: CSI Hendon

On the second day, Year 8 transformed into forensic investigators as they tackled a fictional crime scene in the school's very own 'CSI Hendon' investigation. Students examined evidence, analysed blood samples and followed forensic clues to identify which member of staff was responsible for the crime.

The investigation culminated in a courtroom trial, where students presented the evidence they had gathered and questioned the suspects before reaching their final verdict. The workshop was a brilliant way to apply scientific thinking and investigative skills in a fun, interactive environment, with students fully embracing their roles as detectives, lawyers and jurors.

.....And after carefully examining all of the evidence, the jury found Ms. Moreland and Ms. Ozduran guilty beyond reasonable doubt!

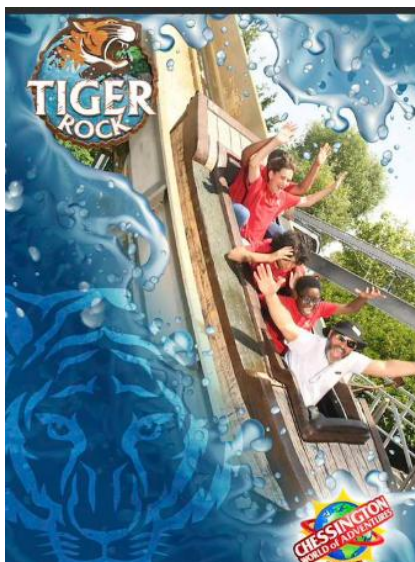


Chessington World of Adventure

Year 8 rounded off their Enrichment Week with an exciting day at Chessington World of Adventures, giving students the opportunity to celebrate a fantastic week together. With queue times of 30 minutes or less throughout the day, students made the most of their visit, enjoying a wide variety of rides and attractions.

Among the most popular rides were Tiger Rock, Vampire and Mandrill Mayhem in the World of Jumanji, with many students returning to their favourites more than once. The warm weather made Tiger Rock an especially popular choice, with its refreshing splash proving the perfect way to cool down.

A special mention must also go to the staff who accompanied students on the rides, particularly Tiger Rock, where every boat was required to include an adult aged 18 or over. This meant many teachers found themselves taking on the log flume four times in a row! Despite ending the day a little wetter than they started, there were certainly no complaints in the summer sunshine, and it was the perfect way to round off a fantastic week.



Student shoutouts

Our Year 8 Science Workshops gave students the opportunity to demonstrate not only their scientific knowledge and investigative skills, but also their teamwork, creativity and resilience. Staff were keen to recognise those students who consistently showed outstanding behaviour, enthusiasm, positivity and a willingness to get fully involved throughout the two days.

Congratulations to the following students for making a lasting impression during the Science Workshops:

Ilia, Mati, Matilda, Elias, Brandon, Kayrne, Haris, Omar F, Myshat, Marcelina, Abdul Basit, Ikhlas, Anastasia, Marwa, Zainab, Jayce, Maxim, Yahye, Ibrahim A, Lina, Maida and Penelope.

Finally, a huge well done to **all** of our Year 8 students, whose excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and positivity made the trip to Chessington World of Adventures such a fantastic way to round off Enrichment Week.

Year 9

For Year 9 students, Enrichment Week forms an important part of the PE curriculum, providing opportunities to develop the skills and qualities associated with outdoor adventure education. Throughout the week, students took part in a range of activities designed to challenge them both physically and mentally, including high ropes, water confidence activities, hiking, map reading and orienteering.

The aim of the programme is to develop far more than physical ability. Students were encouraged to build resilience, work collaboratively, solve problems and step outside of their comfort zones while exploring the outdoors. It was fantastic to see so many students embracing these challenges with determination, enthusiasm and a positive attitude.

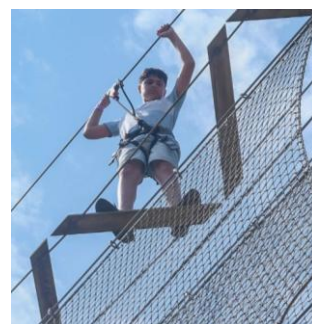
Despite the warm weather, Year 9 rose to every challenge. One orienteering group successfully located more than 20 markers across the Hampstead Heath course, while another group completed the hike more than an hour ahead of schedule through excellent teamwork and navigation. Perhaps most importantly, countless students overcame personal fears, whether that meant climbing to new heights on the high ropes course or building the confidence to take part in the water-based activities. These achievements are a testament to the resilience, courage and perseverance shown by our Year 9 students throughout the week.

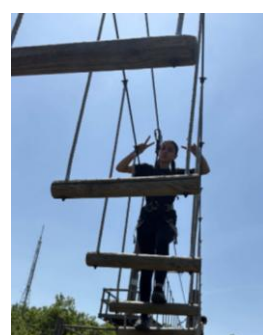
Go Ape, Alexandra Palace

Year 9 students kicked off their Outdoor Adventure programme with an exhilarating visit to Go Ape at Alexandra Palace. Taking on the Treetop Challenge, students tackled **23 high ropes obstacles** suspended up to **13 metres above the ground**, before testing their nerve on the iconic Tarzan Swing and finishing with a series of thrilling zip lines overlooking the London skyline.

While the course challenged students physically, it was equally rewarding in developing confidence, resilience and teamwork. It was fantastic to see our Year 9 students truly demonstrating what it means to **Belong** at Hendon. Those who felt confident on the course were quick to offer encouragement, reassurance and support to classmates who were more apprehensive, celebrating each other's achievements every step of the way.

For many students, simply stepping onto the first platform was a huge achievement. By the end of the course, countless students had overcome their fear of heights and left with a real sense of pride in what they had accomplished.





Kayaking & Raft Building, Phoenix Activity Centre

Year 9 students travelled to the Welsh Harp Reservoir to visit the Phoenix Canoe and Outdoor Centre, where they spent the day developing water confidence, teamwork and communication skills through a series of exciting outdoor activities.

For many students, this was their first experience of both kayaking and raft building. They learned how to use ropes and lashings to construct their own rafts before putting their teamwork to the test by racing them across the lake. Students also developed their kayaking skills, learning how to paddle, steer and control their boats before taking part in a range of fun team games on the water, including kayak tag, bulldog and a water polo-style challenge.

Throughout the day, students showed fantastic determination and resilience, with many overcoming their initial nerves to embrace the activities with confidence. It was wonderful to see so many students encouraging one another, trying something completely new and leaving with skills and experiences they will remember for years to come.



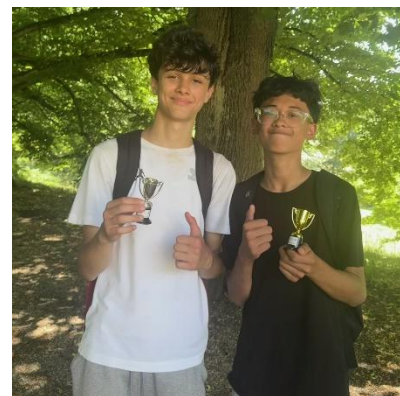


Orienteering, Hampstead Heath

Year 9 students put their navigation skills to the test with our most challenging orienteering course at Hampstead Heath. Building on the skills developed in previous years, students used detailed maps to locate checkpoints spread across the vast heath, requiring excellent teamwork, communication and careful decision-making throughout the day.

The course was not only mentally demanding but also physically challenging, with students covering several miles on foot and tackling plenty of hills and steps along the way. Their hard work was rewarded with a well-earned lunch stop at the beautiful Kenwood House, where students enjoyed ice creams, iced coffees and some friendly games of frisbee and volleyball before completing the course.

A special congratulations goes to **Ms Poh's group**, who achieved an incredible result by locating **more than 20 markers** during the day – a fantastic achievement on our largest and most demanding orienteering course.





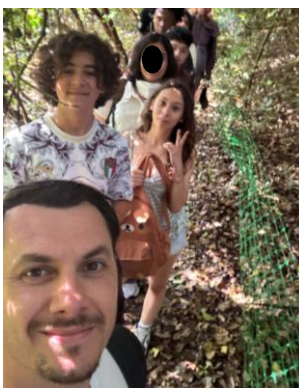
Hiking, Totteridge

New to this year's Year 9 Outdoor Adventure programme was the **North London Hike** – a 13km route starting at Hendon School and taking students through the beautiful countryside of Totteridge Fields and along the Dollis Valley Greenwalk. Many students were amazed to discover such peaceful green spaces and stunning scenery so close to home, with several commenting that it felt more like the countryside than North London.

The hike encouraged students to develop resilience, determination and teamwork as they completed the route together. A well-earned lunch stop at **King George's Fields** on Barnet Lane gave everyone the opportunity to recharge, enjoy some free time and let off a little more energy with games before completing the final section of the walk.

For many students, the biggest challenge came before they had even taken their first step, with some unsure whether they would be able to complete the full 13km. However, through perseverance, encouragement and a positive mindset, **every single Year 9 student** successfully completed the hike. It was a fantastic achievement and a wonderful way to demonstrate the resilience and determination that Year 9 showed throughout the entire Outdoor Adventure programme.





Shoutouts

Choosing our Year 9 shout-outs was no easy task, and we could easily have recognised many more students. In fact, we had to stop somewhere before we ended up mentioning the whole year group! Throughout the Outdoor Adventure programme, these students stood out for their resilience, teamwork, positivity and the fun, encouraging energy they brought to their groups.

Congratulations to:

Ciara, Erdi, Zubaidah, Andrei, Armand, Alea, Faelyn, Amirali, Haman, Ailin, Dina, Naseebullah, Sulaiman, Renushian, Robin, Adam, Neli, Raouf, Basel, Amelie, Al-Miqdad, Najma, Erlis, Parmin, Luiza, Nareece, Adriatik, Arushi, Arman, Fatma, Nathaniel, Pogba, Nart, Huhan, Darlene and Zoe.

Thank you for leading by example and helping to make this year's Outdoor Adventure programme such a memorable success. Your enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to encourage others perfectly reflected the spirit of Enrichment Week.

As another unforgettable Enrichment Week comes to a close, we're already looking ahead. Plans are already underway for an even bigger and better Enrichment Week in 2027, with an exciting move from June to July that will, for the very first time, allow us to include our Year 10 and Year 12 students. We can't wait to share what's in store, so keep an eye out this September when we'll be revealing all the details on ARD Day. The countdown starts now!