

10th September 2021

Dear all,

Welcome to the new academic year. I do hope that all Archer families had a superb summer, albeit maybe a little different from previous years. We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 Archers to our school community as well as our returning cohorts.

We start the academic year with a complex set of emotions. We are experiencing the overwhelming sadness of the loss of one of our students and attempting to manage the shock and the grief of this unimaginable reality. To lose one of our precious students is hard to comprehend. Yet, I have been so incredibly proud of our community, for the care they are taking of one another and the respect they are affording our shared loss. We couple this sadness with the tension of the understandable and rightful excitement of the new academic year, the hope this gives us all as we see a blank page in front of us, the resolutions we set ourselves and the knowledge of opportunities ahead. We are cautiously hopeful for less disruption owing to COVID and for all students and staff having more routine. Equally, we share the pride of the incredible achievements of our outgoing Year 11 cohort with their superb GCSE results. This tension has played itself out in different ways this week, but as a community together, we are simply looking after one another, taking a comfort in routine and our time together.

This afternoon we came together for our first Whole School Assembly since March 2020. Before the pandemic, we took for granted the simple wonder of being able to spend time together as a whole school. However, with very careful risk management, it felt essential that we did come together today. As a community we were able to talk about our precious student, no longer with us, to take the time to acknowledge our sadness and for Year 10 in particular to mark its significance. We shared memories, readings and carefully chosen music, and simply just spent some time together. I hope this time has afforded us all some space to acknowledge the complexity of this moment, but then to think about how we move forwards together and what we want to achieve as a community. It was special, calming and powerful.

I would like to thank parents for all of their support across the past few weeks. If you are worried about your child, in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to their Head of Year or Tutor.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all parents next week, albeit online, for our Online Parent Welcome Meetings. Individual emails with the details for each year group have been sent today, with the link for the sessions.

I would like to apologise for any confusion in whole school communication in advance of the start of term. We experienced a series of technical difficulties which I know left some confusion about key times and dates. We take every care to communicate clearly and in a timely manner. Thank you for your patience.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *'If you are persistent, you will get it. If you are consistent, you will keep it. Long term consistency trumps short term intensity'* Bruce Lee

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Term dates for 2021 2022: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/term-dates-2021-2022/>

September

Mon 13th – online year 7 parent welcome meeting, 5pm

Tues 14th – school photos, year 10 and 11, upper school

Tues 14th – online year 9 and 10 parent welcome meetings, 5pm
 Weds 15th – online year 8 and year 11 parent welcome meeting, 5pm
 Fri 17th – school photos, year 7, lower school
 Mon 20th – after school clubs start, details next week
 Weds 22nd – Fri 24th - year 7 baseline testing/year 9 reading assessment
 Mon 27th – flu vaccinations, years 7 – 11
 Weds 29th – settling in evening, year 7, 4.30 – 8pm

October

Weds 6th – Open Evening, school closes midday
 Thurs 7th – late start to school, students arrive 10.30am
 Fri 8th – INSET day, school closed
 Thurs 21st – Prize Giving, by invitation from 7pm
 Fri 22nd – school closes for half term at 1.30pm, after lunch
 Mon 25th – Fri 29th – half term holiday

November

Mon 1st – school starts, 8.30am
 Weds 3rd – year 11 core subjects evening, 6.30 – 7.30pm
 Weds 3rd – Fri 5th – Kingswood residential trip, year 7

KEY INFORMATION:

Covid testing: All students should test on Mondays and Fridays to keep our community safe. [Upload your lateral flow result](#) before your child comes to school.

Catering

This week our amazing Kitchen Manager, Gary, has been preparing delicious recipes from our new autumn menus which are available on our website and can be viewed [here](#). Please remember to make sure your child's ParentPay balance is kept topped up so that they are able to purchase food from our dining rooms.

Timings of the school day

Lower	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Upper	Year 10	Year 11
Arrival	Grass	Playground	Astro	Arrival	Car Park	Car Park
Lesson 1	08:20	08:20	08:25	Lesson 1	08:20	08:30
Dismissal	Green gate	Schools +	Green gate	Dismissal	Causeway	Causeway
Mon/Weds	15:30	15:35	15:40	Mon/Weds	15:30	15:40
Tues/Thurs	15:00	15:05	15:10	Tues/Thurs	15:00	15:10
Tues/Thurs Enrichment	16:05	16:10	16:15	Tues/Thurs Enrichment	16:00	16:10
Fri	15:00	15:05	15:10	Friday	15:00	15:10

Homework club will run for an hour after school on Monday and Friday in LF13/15 next week at lower school. Study Hall will run at upper school on Wednesday and Friday next week in the IT suite.

Religious holidays: The school needs to know in advance if your child will be absent from school to observe any religious festivals. Please could you email: office@thearcheracademy.org.uk and mark the subject of the email 'Religious Observance Absence Request'. Please detail each day your child will be absent from school and for which festival. Days of absence will be authorised for students to attend religious events in a place of worship in accordance with Barnet guidelines. Please assume your request for absence has been authorised unless you hear from the school.

PARENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME – Miss Harrison

The Parent Contribution Scheme is set up to help the school pay for resources, equipment and experiences that are necessary to keep the Archer Academy running smoothly, allowing us to continue

to offer our broad curriculum and range of opportunities to students. If you are able to support the school by giving a monthly contribution to the PCS, please find more information on our website: <https://theacheracademy.org.uk/parent-contribution-scheme/> or contact our Finance Director, Leanne Chase to set this up: finance@theacheracademy.org.uk

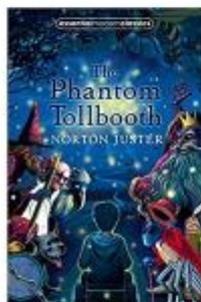
Thank you to everyone who already contributes to the PCS. Families typically give between £10 - £100 a month but any amount will be welcome. All contributions are treated in confidence and all students are treated equally, regardless of whether their parents contribute.

This year we have used the fund help pay for the following:

- Science, PE and DT equipment
- Minibus hire
- Lunchtime football coaching sessions
- Finchley Youth Theatre hire for teaching and performance space
- Barnet Partnership for School Sport
- Enrichment providers
- Wonder Week external providers
- I pads for EAL provision and other IT equipment
- Student counselling services
- Outdoor furniture

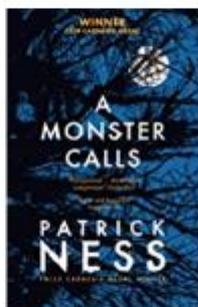
BUILDING THE ARCHER BOOKCASE – Ms Vandervelde

Building the Archer Bookcase – Summer Reading



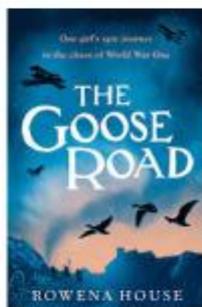
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

Transition Y6 to 7



A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness

Y7 to 8



The Goose Road by Rowena House

Y8 to 9



Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? By Philip K Dick

Y9-10



Chess by Stefan Zweig

Y10-11

If you have a child in years 8-11 please do remind them that the deadline for the quiz on their summer reading book is Monday 13.9.21. The quizzes have been set on Show My Homework and the expectation is that every student will have read their assigned book as part of our whole school initiative to encourage habitual reading.

Students in year 7 should familiarise themselves with 'The Phantom Tollbooth' as this will be used as a springboard for lots of their first lessons across the curriculum!

ENRICHMENT ARCHER PLUS – Miss Le

I would like to use this opportunity to introduce myself as the Head of Extended Curriculum. I am thrilled to share the news that the planning for our Enrichment Programme is already in the works and progress is being made to secure activities which will help mould our learners to attain the skills needed to become well-rounded Archer Graduates. Extended Curriculum incorporates Enrichment for our lower school students and Archer+ for our upper school students. More information will be shared in the coming weeks so watch this space.

Y10 and 11 will be making their choices for Archer+ next week. Year 11 will make their choices for both Tuesday and Thursday. Year 10 will be making their Tuesday choices. This will be for their annual choice, an opportunity to gain an accredited qualification. Students have had updates this week in assembly and tutor time. Students can contact their form tutors if they have any questions, or check out SMH for further information.

Enrichment will start next week for these students. For year 11 it will continue until w/c 6th December before making their new choices in the new year. For year 10 their annual enrichment will run all year until w/c 9th May. They will make their choices for their Thursday option in a few weeks time, ready to start after October half term.

That is all for now, but you should know that we cannot wait to get going!

AUTUMN ART COMPETITION – Ms Clarke



Art Competition

- ➔ Make a piece of artwork. Try an original idea that relates to the theme:

A Better World

- ➔ Use **any** appropriate material/media. It can be any size.
What do you think we could do to improve our world?
- ➔ All year groups may enter. There will be a separate prize for each year group that enters.
- ➔ Please hand in your work, with **your full name** on it to: **a member of the Art teaching team by: 01/10/21**
- ➔ **Enjoy making!**



RAW MINDS WORKSHOP – Ms Clarke

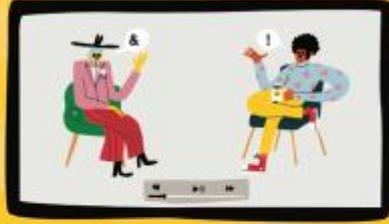
It's an online workshop series for 14-19 year olds with artist Jamie Hale called '[Who wants to be happy?](#)', linked to a season about happiness.

They are participatory creative workshops exploring and challenging ideas about Happiness from different perspectives. The first one on 18th Sept is called 'Can you train your brain to be happy?' and explores what psychology has to say about happiness.

If you would like to join please email:
rawminds@wellcomecollection.org

*It could be fun and will look good on your CV!
Ms Clarke*

Free workshops wellcome collection Sept-Dec 2021



WHO WANTS TO BE HAPPY?

Aged 14-19? Explore what happiness is through art, activism and science, in online workshops with artist Jamie Hale.

Sign up for free at wellcomecollection.org/youth | Free museum of health and human experience

JOIN THE YGAs – Ms Clarke

Archer YGAs are working for our Environment

Year 7: Would you like to join the Archer Academy Young Global Ambassadors (YGAs)? Please let me know on SMHW, or find me in school. I am Ms Clarke, an Art Teacher.

What do the YGAs do:

Meet up once a week in the art room.

Organise environmental campaigns.

Organise a Green Day each year for the whole school.

We are starting a living wall in the new garden.

Green newsletter entries.

We do so much more for our Archer community and for the environment.



archer
ACADEMY

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist & Mrs Horwitz

Welcome back! Here's a reminder of some great books about starting a new year at school:



All available in the Lower School Library!

We are still operating a bubble policy in the Lower School Library; each year group can come at **breaks** and **lunch** on a different day:

Year 7: Monday and Wednesday

Year 8: Tuesday

Year 9: Thursday

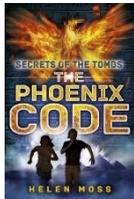
Keep checking in as this may change!

What have you read this summer? You can email a book review to [Ms Appelquist](#) in the Lower School, or [Ms Horwitz](#) in the Upper School, or hand in a paper copy. Stop by the library for a review template. Each review earns you ten merits!



Year 8: Check out the **Diseases** books featured in the **Lower School Library**—perfect to support you in your first thematics unit of the year!

Neglected books: This is the first instalment of a new feature, where we highlight a book in the library that may be older or simply overlooked. If you check it out and write a book review, you will *earn twice the merits!* This week's book:



The Phoenix Code In Egypt's Valley of the Kings, Ryan and Cleo have no idea what's in store as an ancient mystery is about to be revealed. Fans of Rick Riordan and Eoin Colfer will enjoy this thrilling mystery story which crackles with tension!

Looking ahead: You might think it's too early to think about the holidays, but you may want to get your holiday book gifts early, according to [this](#) article.

Have a great weekend, everyone, and *keep reading!*

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOGOLOGY – Local yoga studio offering teen yoga classes from 15th September on Wednesdays from 5.15 – 6.15pm in term time.

For more information please visit the website: <http://www.yogalogy.co.uk/yoga-teenager.html>

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 - Mr McSherry

Welcome back! I do hope you had a restful summer holiday.

Year 11 have returned to school in high spirits and have made an outstanding start!

Our welcome assembly focused on them working hard and aspiring for the best possible outcomes in the summer. I encouraged them to 'control the controllables' and maximise every opportunity by giving all their efforts.

I look forward to sharing lots of this message with you on Wednesday next week at the Year 11 Parent Meeting - a reminder this is online.

I very much look forward to seeing you all virtually then.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Firas A - for taking full part and getting involved in a great French lesson.
Anna S - For making an insightful contribution in SPPEC class

Year 10 - Miss Alcock

It has been lovely to welcome the year group back this academic year, the students look very smart in their new Upper School uniform. Both existing and new staff have commented on the great first impression that the students have made, as they start their GCSE journey. Students have really demonstrated that they are ready to take on the challenges of their new curriculum.

I am particularly proud of how the year group have returned to school, and the support and care the students have given each other following our recent news.

Next week the year group start their annual enrichment on Tuesday, I look forward to hearing what choices the students have made.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Susana - for her polite and cheerful attitude
Nimrod H - for making a flying start to Year 10, after only recently joining the Year group

Year 9 - Mr Constantinou

It has been lovely to welcome Year 9 back as the senior students of lower school. I have impressed upon them this week how important it is for them to be role models in the school, they have not disappointed. A couple of reminders to ensure students are best placed to thrive this year.

- uniform - please ensure students are wearing school shoes, have their hair tied up and are not wearing jewellery
- lineup in the morning is at 8.25 - students should be here before this time
- punctuality and attendance to lessons is so important

If these become second nature to our students we can spend our time focusing on the important aspects of school - their academic achievements and wellbeing.

Wednesday afternoon was their first taste of their GCSE options choices, it was evident how excited they were and walking through the lessons there was a palpable sense of enjoyment emanating from them all. Some students will be needing to commute for these lessons, I want to highlight the importance of exceptional behaviour during the commute and will be sending out a letter reinforcing this message, please do support by mirroring this expectation at home.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Aaliyah M - for an excellent start to SPPEC, she impressed me greatly with her contributions
Edward G - for engagement in science, both answering and asking great questions – Mr Wick was very impressed

Year 8 – Mr Wick

Wow what a week it's been! I am so grateful to see the year 8 students back in action at Archer Academy. After completing the lateral flows on Tuesday, students had an assembly altogether *in person!* I am so happy to have had the opportunity to see them altogether after so long. We started our year looking at the vision of year 8; focussing on three main pillars to reach their targets by the end of their school career.

The three pillars are:

1. The Archer Year 8 Collective – a pillar focussed on the brilliant year 8 cohort, and developing feelings of belonging and community amongst us all
2. Our mental, social, and physical wellbeing – a pillar focussed on developing skills of self-care to ensure students are feeling happy and healthy in and out of school.
3. Academic Curiosity – a pillar focussed on challenging thoughts of “what’s the point?” with learning and education, allowing students to see and plan for their futures with clarity and enthusiasm

After assembly students had the privilege of two hours of tutor time with their esteemed tutor team; focussing on the basics of returning to school but also giving the chance to hang out with fellow form members.

Wednesday to Friday had students back on full timetable, where they were learning about myths and minotaurs in English, growing crystals in science, and revisiting the basics in maths. Students seem happy to be with us and of course we are happy to see them as well!

Here’s to a brilliant year ahead.

For reference, please find below the tutor team emails to message if you need support in setting up for the new academic year:

8CSU – mrcsun@thearcheracademy.org.uk
8CBA – misscbailey@thearcheracademy.org.uk
8KCL – mrkclark@thearcheracademy.org.uk
8SGU – mssgunn@thearcheracademy.org.uk
8MKE – msmkeen@thearcheracademy.org.uk
8JBA – mrijbarrow@thearcheracademy.org.uk

 **Stars of the Week** 

Tariq A-R (8CBA) and Isabella F (8KCL) for their incredible start to the year, making new friends, and getting stuck into Archer life.

Year 7 – Ms Ogbaselase

What a stellar start Year 7 have made! Be it PE; performing arts; science; or languages, they have truly thrown themselves into all aspects of Archer life. I have thoroughly enjoyed talking with students and learning more about their highlights. A few examples are:

- ‘I’ve really enjoyed art and the challenge of drawing seashells with my eyes closed’ – Martha, 7SMU
- ‘PE has been fun! I feel really proud of my long-distance run, which I didn’t know I was actually good at.’ – Lily, 7REV
- ‘My highlight was geography. I earned my first postcard!’ – Clara, 7SMU

And, of course, some staff highlights:

- ‘Their lunchtime etiquette and manners have been exemplary!’ - Mrs Gillham
- ‘They look incredibly smart and are wearing their uniform with such pride.’ – Ms Henry

There is so much to feel proud of and I look forward to building on our excellent start as the term progresses.

Next week sees the start of homework in core subjects which, following October half term, will be set routinely in all lessons. A few tips to support in establishing a healthy routine might include:

1. Completing tasks as and when they are set as opposed to the evening before their due date

2. Having a designated work space ideally away from the bedroom so that students can switch on and switch off accordingly
3. Asking your child to talk you through at least one piece of work they have completed per week; perhaps something they are proud. No doubt a lovely thing to do.

I hope this feels enabling to students as they settle in. If you have any questions about homework, please do get in touch with your child's tutor. Our Parent Welcome Evening also takes place next week. I look forward to meeting with families on Monday.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Marcel in 7NAS and Erin in 7JHA for topping the honour role in your first week as an Archer. Well done in modelling the Archer Way in all you do. Keep up the excellent work!