

8th September 2023

Dear all,

Welcome to the new academic year and the first of my weekly Friday newsletters. I do hope that all Archer families had a superb summer.

We have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 Archers to our school community, as well as our returning cohorts. It has simply been wonderful for students and staff to see one another and get on with the business of learning. We are also delighted to welcome new colleagues to our school. Do please have a look at the website to find out more about our new members of staff.

Across this week, welcome assemblies have focused on what it means 'to be an Archer'. I do believe it is our strong sense of community and shared values that enables our young people to feel so confident and happy at school; therefore, making the excellent progress that they do. It is important to revisit this with older students and to support our new Archers in the first steps of their journey.

The finale of our tenth anniversary celebrations are now underway. In what has certainly been a very short decade, it is been very special to mark this moment with our community. Today, students, staff, trustees and governors gathered to plant our commemorative tree and time capsule. The tree, a *Tilia Cordata*, dates back thousands of years and is considered a heritage tree in England. We look forward to supporting its growth, especially when it flowers in June, over many years to come. The time capsule was created by students during Wonder Week in July and includes a range of letters, photographs and information about our community – I wonder what future generations might learn about 2023 when they uncover it?

Tomorrow evening, sees our gala 'Cocktails & Canapes' anniversary event at 7pm, and I very much look forward to welcoming parents past and present, alongside a number of dignitaries to this celebration. There are a handful of tickets left if you would still like to join the party <https://tinyurl.com/archer10ticket>, but do please be quick as the booking link will close at 10pm tonight. We then look forward to building our next legacy project '10 good deeds for 10 great years' to support us in moving ambitiously into our next decade and beyond.

As we start a new year, it is always a good time to remind ourselves of the basic expectations of our community and I would ask all parents to ensure that they are best placed to support their child and our school:

- **Uniform** – guidelines are clear and I would ask that where any infractions have been noted, amendments are made by Monday. All students, for example, should carry the Archer school bag and wear black leather/leather look shoes (sports brands do not make shoes). Trousers and skirts must be charcoal.
- **Equipment** – your child can learn best when they have everything they need. Do review the guidance sent last week. A reminder that all students are expected to carry a glue stick.
- **Routes to school** – please ensure that you do not drop your child off by car at Lower School on Eigans Close or Stanley Road. At Upper School, there is no access via Beaumont Close.
- **Mobile phones** – we have a simple smart phone ban in place, this rule has not changed. Students may carry a basic model mobile phone, details on the website, but this must be turned off during the school day.

Thank you in advance for your support of the above.

I very much look forward to seeing parents across next week for Parent Welcome Meetings. Do please review the key dates shown below and the website calendar for upcoming events for you and your children.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week:

“Be the one who nurtures and builds. Be the one who has an understanding and a forgiving heart, one who looks for the best in people. Leave people better than you found them.”

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY – Mrs Ruback

Term dates for 2023 2024 can be found here: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/calendar/>

Key dates over the next two months:

September

Mon 11th – Year 7 parent welcome meeting 5-6.15pm, lower school

Tues 12th – Parent welcome meeting 5-6.15pm for Year 9 (lower school) and Year 10 (upper school).
School photos for Year 10 (portraits)

Wed 13th – Parent welcome meeting 5-6.15pm for Year 8 (lower school) and Year 11 (upper school)

Fri 15th – School photos for Year 7 (portraits and form groups)

W/c 18th – Extra-curricular clubs start

Tues 19th – Enrichment starts for Year 10 and 11

Wed 20th – Year 7 parents digital diet workshop, 6.15pm

Weds 20th-Fri 22nd – Year 7 baseline testing

Thurs 21st – Year 11 Geneva trip

Weds 27th – Open Evening for prospective families 6-9pm (school closes at midday for students)

Thurs 28th – Late start for students (10.45am)

October

Mon 2nd – Year 7 Settling In Evening, 4.30 – 8pm

Tues 3rd – Enrichment begins for Year 7, 8 and 9

Mon 9th – INSET day, school closed for students

Mon 16th – Year 7 Kingswood parent meeting, 5-6pm

Thurs 19th – Prize Giving Evening (by invitation), 7-8.30pm, lower school

Fri 20th – School finishes early at 1pm for half term

Mon 23rd-Fri 27th – Half term

Mon 30th – School starts 10.45am for students

KEY INFORMATION – Miss Harrison

Attendance and punctuality

We are very aspirational for our students and have high expectations of them all. We have a whole school attendance target of 97% and hope to ensure all our students are in school on time and ready to learn. We know that good attendance gives students the best chance to meet their academic targets and we want to support each and every student in achieving their very best. To this end, a 15-minute attendance/punctuality and equipment detention (Code 15) runs at break time on both sites every day. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to your child's tutor in the first instance. We are very much looking forward to supporting your child in achieving their very best this academic year.

School photographers

Next week, individual portrait photos will be taken of Year 10 students and the Year 11 leadership team on Tuesday 12th September. Year 7 students will also have portrait and form group photos taken on Friday 15th September. Please ensure students are wearing full school uniform on those days.

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 the 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.

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 in credit and kept topped up so that they are able to purchase food from our dining room.

Social media

If you would like to see more photos and follow school news, the school has Facebook @TheArcherAcademy, Instagram @archeracademy, and LinkedIn @archeracademy accounts. We also have an Archer Academy network on LinkedIn which we encourage parents to join: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9014166>

GCSE RESULTS 2023 – Miss Harrison

Excellent GCSE results for our superb students! We are so proud of the huge accomplishments of the class of 2023.

The national picture saw a fall in grades this year to stabilise grade inflation following the pandemic. However, despite this complex national back drop, our results have held firm against our 2022 grades, demonstrating solid maintenance of our position as a top performing school, while also identifying a series of 'best ever' moments - particularly remarkable in the current context.

Our headline GCSE data is as follows:

- Students achieving 4+ in English & Maths: 86% (best ever)
- Students achieving 5+ in English & Maths: 68%
- Students achieving 7+ in English & Maths: 32% (best ever)
- Students achieving 5 subjects at 5+, including English & Maths: 65%
- 74% of all grades at 5+ and 41% of all grades at 7+
- Highest ever number of Grade 9's in English and Maths

A huge well done to each and every student. I could not be more proud.



CLUBS AND ENRICHMENT – Ms Jouhal and Ms Galliver

Extra-curricular Clubs

Extra-curricular clubs will begin in the week commencing 18th September. The timetable and further details will be shared next week. Clubs will run before and after school, as well as at lunchtime, and will cover a range of options including sports, music, debating, chess, homework, LGBTQ+, drama and more.

Enrichment

Our Enrichment programme is one of the highlights of life at Archer, allowing students to discover and develop their talents, passions and skills, from song writing to jazz dance, gardening, balloon modelling and comic book art. All students will make their two Enrichment choices in tutor time on Friday 15th September. Enrichment for Year 10 and 11 will begin in the week commencing 18th September, and for Years 7-9 in the week commencing 2nd October. Enrichment takes place every Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4pm. Until Enrichment begins, school will end at 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

LAMDA Speech and Drama Classes

We are offering our lower school students the opportunity to sign up to LAMDA classes from September. If you are interested in taking part, please email AConway@thearcheracademy.org.uk.

These lessons will take place in the lower school studio at the following times:

- Year 8 students: Mondays, 3.45-4.45pm
- Year 9 students: Wednesdays, 3.45-4.45pm

Please note, this extra-curricular opportunity will incur a charge and more information will be sent out once you have registered your interest.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW YEAR 7 ARCHERS – Mr Raghuveer

It has been brilliant to welcome all our new Year 7 students to school this week. Well done on a great start to Archer life and we look forward to sharing lots of exciting times ahead with you.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE – Mrs Ruback

During the last week of the summer term, there were two fantastic fundraising events at Archer, which not only provided a lovely day out for our community, but also helped bring us closer to achieving our goal of building a new performing arts studio at lower school.

- Archella – our annual summer festival – raised a phenomenal £12,500
- The Archer Adventure – our annual whole-school sponsored walk – raised £3,500

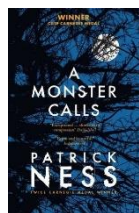
Thank you so much to all parents and students for supporting these two events.



LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist and Mrs Horwitz

Welcome to the first Library Corner of the year!

Pastoral Reading:

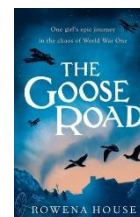


← **Year 8**

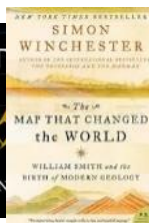
Your Essential Summer Read!

Year 9 →

Each year group was **required** to read the same book over the summer - have you finished yours? Look out for a **quiz on Teams** due on 18th September to test your knowledge and earn prizes!

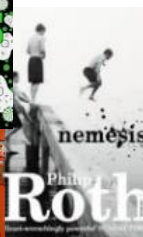


Thematic Learning:



Year 7: There's a host of books to explore relating to your first Thematic Unit - **It started with a map...** A mix of fact and fiction to get your imagination going.

Year 8: Check out the **Diseases** books perfect to support you in your first Thematic Unit of the year!



Author Visit Y8:



On Tuesday 19th September, Year 8 will get to meet the acclaimed YA author, **Sophie McKenzie**. She will be discussing her latest thriller, **Secret Sister**, and taking questions from our panel.

Pre-order your copy on **ParentPay** by
Thursday the 14th September!

There will be a limited number of books available to buy on the day (£7 cash)



Events:

The Children's Bookshop in Muswell Hill has a range of upcoming events, including a booksigning by Anna James of **Pages and Co**, a visit from Rob Biddulph, author and illustrator, a creative writing event with Ewa Jozefkowicz, an adventure game session, and more. See [Events](#) for details and to book!

Call for Parent Volunteers:

If you have an hour one morning a week, please consider joining the **Parent Reading Scheme** at Archer, where a trusted adult listens to a Lower School student who may not be reading at his or her target level. Contact [Ms Appelquist](#) for more information about participating in this valuable part of Archer school life.

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

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Head of Year updates will resume in next week's newsletter