

8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear all,

## THANK YOU!

I have been truly humbled by the response to our Big Give Campaign to raise funds for mental health and wellbeing at school. We have always sought to seek innovative approaches to our support for our young people, enabling them to feel supported and able to tackle life's challenges robustly. This funding will enable us to continue to be ambitious in our provisions for our young people, ensuring that they have all the support and tools that they need to thrive. The impact will be so far reaching, thank you.

Please may I remind all parents about expectations surrounding dropping off and collecting students from school. As part of the original planning requirements for the school, parents should not use Eagans Close or Stanley Road to access Lower School by car or Edmunds Walk to access Upper School. As a school, we have always been very clear on expectations here. Unfortunately, across the past week there have been a number of incidents in the roads mentioned above being filled with cars before and after school. This has understandably caused distress to neighbours but has also been unsafe. Please may I ask for your support here, to ensure that we can be good neighbours and keep our students safe.

More broadly, may I ask parents to revisit both road safety and street safety guidance with young people. The afternoons are very dark and it is essential that students' cross roads safely at designated crossings. Our school bags deliberately have reflective stripes on them but parents are encouraged to add these to coats as well.

Next Wednesday evening sees Parent Consultation Evening for Year 9 families. As part of our wider workload and wellbeing strategies to support staff we will be having a soft start for students on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Students are asked to arrive at school at 8.40am and go directly to session one lessons ready for an 8.45am start. Additional communication was sent to parents earlier today and expectations will be shared with students. We will then evaluate the impact of this strategy and look to roll this out following all Parent Consultation Evening in the academic year. Thank you in advance for your support.

A huge and very well deserved well done must be go to our Year 11 students for the way in which they have conducted themselves across the first week of their GCSE Mock Exams.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison  
Headteacher

**Thought for the week:** *"Don't give up too soon. If you persevere you will succeed."* Lailah Gifty Akita

## KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

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

Key dates over the next two months:

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent coffee morning and talk with Jo Kaye, 9.15-10.30am

Mon 18<sup>th</sup>- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> – The Big Draw Week

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concert, 6.30pm

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term. Midday finish. Bring in £1 and donations for the Food Bank

### January

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day

Tues 9<sup>th</sup> – First day of term

Wed 10<sup>th</sup>-Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Depth Assessment Fortnight

Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> – Cultural Society trip to see Edward Scissorhands [booked up]

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> – Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> – Grandparents Afternoon, 3.15pm

Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – FREE Week (no homework or assessments)

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Parent coffee morning and talk, 9.15am

Mon 29<sup>th</sup> – Year 9 Careers Fair

Wed 31<sup>st</sup> – UK Maths Challenge for Y10 and 11, and 'Managing Exam Stress' Sophia Davison workshop for Year 10-11 parents

### COMMUNICATION



To see photos and follow school news:

Facebook @TheArcherAcademy

Instagram @archeracademy

LinkedIn @archeracademy

To join your child's tutor group Parent WhatsApp, please email [kruback@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:kruback@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

### THE BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE THANK YOU – Mrs Ruback

Thank you for the incredible response to the Big Give Christmas Challenge. This campaign ran for one week only and we exceeded our fundraising target, raising an amazing **£11,376** including gift aid.

The money will be used to provide more mental health resources at school, including increasing our counselling services; providing art, music and drama therapy; training more students to become mental health peer mentors; and delivering a programme of teen mental health guidance for parents. A big thank you to everyone who supported this year's Big Give campaign.



### LOWER SCHOOL WINTER DISCO – The Parents Association





We were delighted to be joined by so many lower school students on Wednesday evening for our fabulous Winter Glow Up Disco.

Thank you to the Archer Parents Association, the Green Arrows, and DJ Del, who all helped make this event so brilliant.

## **PARENT COFFEE MORNING AND TALK WITH JO KAYE – Mrs Ruback**

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

All parents are invited to a coffee morning and talk on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 9.15am at Lower School.

We will be joined by Jo Kaye, Mindfulness Coach, who will talk to parents about how to understand and support anxious teens, and mindfulness techniques to care for themselves as parents.

Please click here to let us know you'll be attending

<https://form.jotform.com/233173748617362>

There will also be pre-loved uniform for sale before the talk at 9am.



Please note dates of future coffee mornings and talks over the year ahead:

- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June

## **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS – Mr McSherry**



## CAN YOU OFFER A WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT TO AN ARCHER STUDENT?

Work experience is an opportunity for young people to:

- gain a valuable insight into the world of work
- find out what inspires and motivates them
- explore their skills and interests
- meet new people and build a network of contacts
- communicate with professionals in the real world

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP**



**Year 10 students will take part in work experience during the week of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

If you, or someone you know, can offer an aspirational work experience placement to an Archer student, please fill in this quick form <https://form.jotform.com/mha47/year-10-work-experience-placement>

For any queries, please email [mrjmcsherry@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:mrjmcsherry@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

## GRANDPARENTS' AFTERNOON – Mrs Ruback Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January

We are delighted to invite all our students' grandparents to Archer to enjoy afternoon tea and student performances on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January from 3.15pm – 5pm at Lower School.

If you would like your child's grandparent/s to attend, you must fill in the form on the link below by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, with the name/s and full postal addresses of the grandparents who would like to join us, so we can send them an invitation by post.

<https://form.jotform.com/233394074305353>



## PHOTO SHOOT, THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER - Mrs Ruback

On Thursday 14th December, we have a professional photographer coming into lower school to take photos of students and staff for our website and prospectus.

It is important that all students come into school presentable and tidy, in the correct uniform and footwear, without jewellery and make up. Thank you for your support with this.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH – Mrs M Harrison Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December



We are all looking forward to our Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13th December.



Please make sure that your child's ParentPay balance is topped up as we won't be able to serve students with negative balances. The cost of the Christmas lunch is £2.57. As always, we will cater for dietary requirements.



**HEADTEACHER LUNCHESES FOR EXEMPLARY EFFORT – Miss Harrison**



It was a pleasure for Miss Harrison to host Exemplary Effort Award Lunches across Upper and Lower school last week to celebrate the achievements of students who have received the most merit points this month. Congratulations to all students.



## HOUSE AMBASSADORS – Mr Carter



House Ambassadors play an important role in our school, promoting extra-curricular opportunities for students, collating student opinions and leading fundraising events across the school. This year, our House Ambassadors are:

Year Group	House Ambassador
7	Sasha B, Alicia J, Scarlett M-S, Ciaran F, Kadmiel F, Aryana A
8	Venya H, Muneeb A, Muco M, Owen S, Lilybelle A-V, Sophie C
9	Isaac M, Toby G, Chace-Rocco M, Nina H, Jaylah H, Naama H

House Ambassador meetings (with breakfast snacks included) will be held in the Lower School library at 8am on: 15<sup>th</sup> December, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 14<sup>th</sup> June and 12<sup>th</sup> July.

In the past few weeks, we have enjoyed House sports competitions including dodgeball and football. Please look out for upcoming House events including the annual House Day in February.



## LIFELONG LEARNING WORKING PARTY – Mr Ruffles

We are seeking a group of parents to form a working party with us to help tailor our Lifelong Learning curriculum to meet the needs of our young people. The working party would focus on our three strands



of Lifelong Learning (health and wellbeing; relationships and sex education; living in the wider world) and consider both our long-term strategic goals as well as how this is delivered in the classroom.

If you are interested, please email Mr Ruffles ([mrcruffles@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:mrcruffles@thearcheracademy.org.uk))  
Head of Social Science and Personal Development

## **WINTER CONCERT – Mr Woodward**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**



The annual Winter Concert will take place on the evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December in lower school.

We invite all parents, students and everyone from our school community to come along and enjoy this special evening, which will include performances from the Upper and Lower School Choirs, Orchestra, Jazz Band, Staff Band, Archer Community Choir, Martin Primary School Choir and more.

The evening will run as follows:

**6pm** - Drinks reception and festive treats hosted by the Archer Parents Association and Green Arrows

### 6.15-8pm – Winter concert

Book your tickets on ParentPay - £6 (£3 concessions)

On Thursday, Lower School music students visited Martin Primary school to perform and rehearse with Year 5 and 6 children, in advance of the Archer Winter Concert in which Martins will be performing.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND FOODBANK COLLECTION – Mrs Ruback Wednesday 20th December

On the last day of term, Wednesday 20th December, we are holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day, supporting two fantastic charities – Save The Children and the Finchley Food Bank.

All students should remember to:

- Wear their favourite festive jumper or accessories
- Bring in £1 for Save The Children
- Bring in non-perishable food items for the Finchley Food Bank. Please refer to the list of items that the food bank is currently most in need of. →

There will be collection buckets outside both Lower and Upper School on Wednesday 20th December.

Thank you for your support.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND WINTER DONATION

### WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER

- WEAR YOUR FAVOURITE FESTIVE JUMPER
- BRING IN £1 FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN
- BRING IN FOODBANK DONATIONS FROM THE LIST BELOW:

TINNED FISH, SHAMPOO, BABY NAPPIES, TEA AND COFFEE, BABY FORMULA, DEODORANT, TINNED PULSES, LONG LIFE MILK, WASHING MACHINE CAPSULES

**Save the Children**

## ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION – Miss Harrison

The School Admissions Code requires that admission authorities consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years. The Archer Academy Trust are not proposing any changes to our admissions criteria, but we have opened up a consultation where people can share their opinions on the arrangements via this link <https://tinyurl.com/archerconsultation> or by emailing [archerconsultation@gmail.com](mailto:archerconsultation@gmail.com) before 26th January 2024. Details of the consultation can be accessed [here](#)

## MUSIC COMPETITION – Mr Woodward

Joan Arnold from Proms at St Jude's visited Year 7 music lessons at Archer and introduced students to Fanfare music. Students have been invited to compose their own Fanfare piece and enter it into the Proms at St Jude's Fanfare Competition.

Entries can be scored for either conventional instruments or electronic production. There are 2 age brackets for entry: ages 11 to 14 and ages 15 to 18. The closing date for entries is 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. All students who participate in the competition will receive a copy of Dorico composing software, and the winner will have their piece performed by a professional orchestra during Proms 2024.



If you are interested in entering the competition, please speak to Mr Woodward and utilise the music rooms at lunchtime. More information can be found here:  
<https://www.promsatstjude.org.uk/2024-fanfare-competition>



## PE UPDATE – Mr Clark

We were delighted to welcome Aspley State High School all the way from Brisbane, Australia to Archer Academy last week. Their Football Academy were on a European football tour and we were lucky enough to host them for an afternoon of friendly football matches across the school.



In the second meeting of the Barnet Cross Country league this week. conditions were far from ideal. The runners had to tackle a boggy field in the cold and rain. All runners did a fantastic job despite the weather and were full of encouragement and determination. Congratulations to Phoebe for winning bronze in her race!





## TERMS DATES FOR 2024-2025

New term dates for 2024-2025 are now available on the school website [here](#)

## EMPOWER SOCIETY MEETING DATES – Mr Carter

The Empower Society meets several times during the year to discuss diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in our school. Please take a note of the meeting dates below. Meetings take place from 8-9am at the Lower School library. All students are welcome to join and should email [EmpowerSociety@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:EmpowerSociety@thearcheracademy.org.uk) to express interest.



8<sup>th</sup> December, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> July

## ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY UPDATE – Mrs Clarke

Our Year 10 photography students enjoyed a trip out to The Photographer's Gallery last week. They took in the work of Daido Moriyama and outdoor work by Sian Davey. They will be recording their research in their books. It was also fun to stroll along Oxford Street and encounter the Christmas lights!





Our Year 10 art students also had a wonderful opportunity, on Thursday afternoon, to go behind the scenes at the Slade School of Art, UCL. We were invited to view ongoing projects and all the facilities that the prestigious school has to offer. Our artists were able to ask the degree students questions about their practice.

We visited an exhibition at the Wellcome Collection on our way back to the station called 'The Cult of Beauty' which examines beauty practices throughout history, including some very bizarre techniques! The students will be composing a page in their books as a response to the experience.



## THE BIG DRAW COMPETITION – Mrs Clarke

Big Draw is coming back to:  
**The Archer Academy**  
18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December

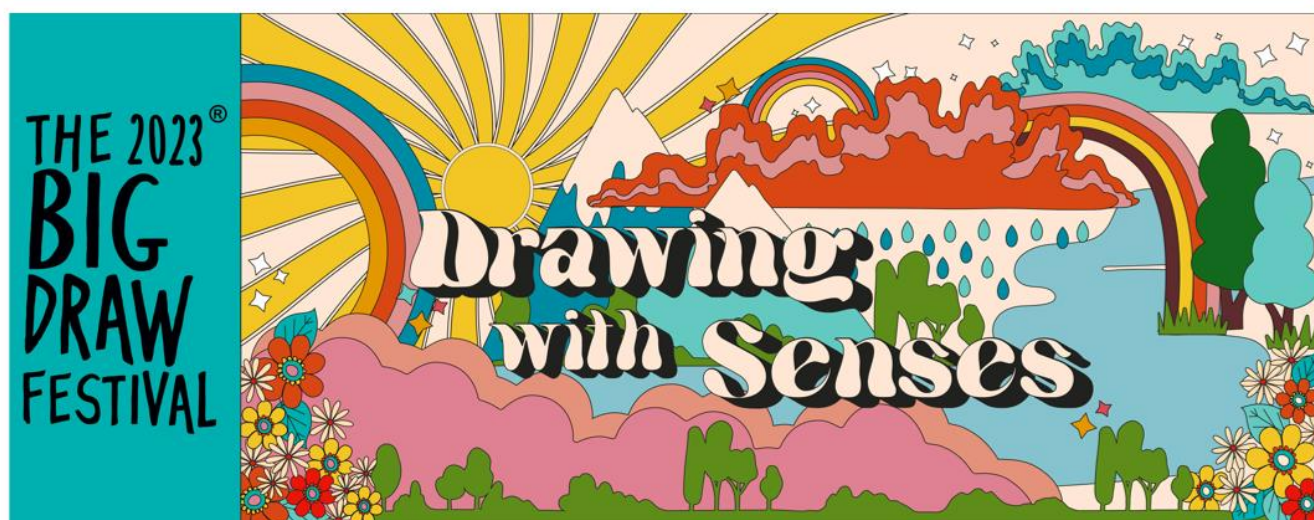
Drawing with blindfolds,  
long sticks, hammering,  
printing, film editing...



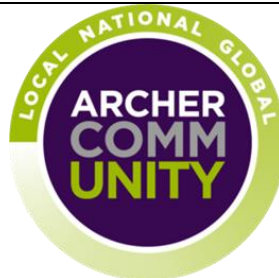
Well done to those of you who have  
already entered the art competition!

There will be many unusual ADT  
lessons on these days.

Please visit the Upper Reception  
and the Sports Hall lobby for special  
lunchtime activities!







## FREE DR BIKE SESSIONS

Barnet Council's Parking team has arranged free Dr Bike sessions run by qualified bicycle mechanics in December. Members of the public can take along their bicycles to have a free, full safety check, which includes the condition of tyres, rims, gears, brake function and tyre pressure and adjustments can be made if required.

The sessions will take between 9am and 3pm on:

Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	09/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	10/12/2023
Watling Avenue Car Park, Burnt Oak, HA8	16/12/2023
Lodge Lane Car Park, North Finchley, N12	17/12/2023
Marsh Drive Car Park, West Hendon, NW7	23/12/2023
Stapylton Car Park, Barnet, EN5	30/12/2023



## LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist



New in the Lower School Library: The exciting Amulet graphic novel series is now in. "A richly drawn graphic-fantasy series and a must for all fantasy fans." Kirkus Reviews



Festive reading - get in the holiday spirit with a festive book from the LS Library!



### Call for Parent Volunteers:

We are still recruiting volunteers for the Parent Reading Scheme at the Archer, where a trusted adult listens once a week to a Lower School student who may not be reading at his or her target level. If you find your schedule has changed in the new year and you can give us an hour a week, please contact Ms Appelquist for more information - [mrsaappelquist@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:mrsaappelquist@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

Have a great weekend, everyone, and keep reading!

## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

### Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

I have been so impressed with the effort and application of the Year 11s throughout the mock period so far. They have showed a real dedication and maturity in their approach to their exams and should be exceptionally proud of themselves.

One more week to go! Let's finish with the same drive they have shown this week, and look forward to a well-deserved winter break.

### **Year 10 – Mr McSherry**

I hope you've had a chance to read and digest my email that I sent earlier this week. This week we have been focusing on being respectful in our community and generally trying to make the most of the space and opportunities that we have. I hope your child takes this opportunity to express their respect for everything that we do at the Archer Academy!

Remember, if your child has received a postcard this week, or does so next week, this will be their ticket to the reward / celebration in the last week of term. I have a few ideas for this but have encouraged them to approach me with theirs. I really want to recognise positive behaviour in our community by creating a suitable reward for their efforts.

We have just about collected all the outstanding ILPs at this point in Year 10. We started the week with the same amount of submissions as Year 7, I think that's always a good sign!

I hope your child is understanding that this process of target setting, particularly now, is such a crucial part of their GCSE journey, and really will have an impact.

I have been very excited this week as Ms Warner has helped me to print all the ILPs, arranging them into a very user-friendly format. This will allow them to be reviewed by students ahead of the next LRD day.



Koki / Charlotte B - For embracing our school motto of working hard and being nice to people

### **Year 9 – Ms Le**

The Tutor team and I are delighted to congratulate Year 9 on a brilliant week filled with achievements and enthusiasm. Two weeks remaining of this term and the stamina the students have shown to their studies has not gone unnoticed. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Heads of Houses, Mr. Carter and Ms. Mouskides, for their joy in witnessing students' active participation in House football. A special cheer to Ms. Mouskides for leading Lovelace to victory.

This week's registration activities have been centred around fostering a broader perspective on life after school. We hope these discussions have sparked valuable reflections on future career paths. Encouraging students to consider the wider picture is a vital step towards their holistic development.



Martha and Nina H – for outstanding composure and passion in the History debate

### **Year 8 – Mr Hilton**

Thank you for those that have already contributed. I'm delighted to launch our Year 8 'Reverse Advent Calendar'. The concept of a reverse advent calendar is a twist on a holiday tradition. Instead of receiving a daily gift, our students contribute making a positive impact on our local community. Please encourage your child to bring one of the following items next week:

- Canned soup
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta
- Rice

- Toiletries
- Sanitary products

On the last day of term, we will take the 6 large boxes to the local foodbank.

It was lovely to see so many students enjoying our Winter Disco on Wednesday night. Even I was caught dancing at one point!

Finally, our students have been participating in House competitions. Congratulations to 8FHA for winning House Dodgeball. I'm looking forward to watching House football this afternoon.



#### **Stars of the Week**

Inigo S – for his outstanding work in Technology  
Elizabeth Y – for her kind donations to our Reverse Advent Calendar

### **Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer**

Year 7 have had a busy time this week. From the winter disco to revision skills workshops, students have engaged very well and I hope they found each opportunity enjoyable and useful in the long run.

All parents will have been emailed about changes in classes that will take place from next week in English and in Science. Maths will take place after the Christmas holidays.

I look forward to announcing the winner of the reward trip for the form that has received the most merits since Learning Review Day. We will be bowling next Thursday and the winning form will be emailed today.



#### **Stars of the week**

Georgia 7FJO and Joseph 7JAB – for their willingness to be involved in wider school life

#### **DATA PROTECTION – Michele Harrison**

Our data protection policies are available on our website including our Privacy Notice for Students and Parents which explains how we hold and process your personal information. Please contact Michele Harrison [dpo@Theacheracademy.org.uk](mailto:dpo@Theacheracademy.org.uk) if you have any questions in relation to these policies.