

19th January 2024

Dear all,

It was a pleasure to host over 100 grandparents at Lower School on Thursday afternoon. It was simply lovely to have their company and hear them talk and reflect about their families; alongside their own experiences of school. However, for me the event was yet another timely reminder of just how superb our students are. The students basked in the responsibilities they held as waiters, greeters and performers and just made me very proud – they are the very best ambassadors of their school.

Next week sees our spring 'Free Week'. I hope that Archer families will join students and staff in the concept of simply slowing down a little and generating some time and space to focus on what is really important, the joy of learning, curiosity and a feeling of a job well done – our studies, learning resources and planning being organised and secure. We have explored the concept of making pledges to give personal intent to the week ahead. Do ask your child about their intentions for next week, and how they might gain from it.

I had the pleasure of hosting Headteacher lunches this week, thank you to all the students invited for your company. I look forward to recognising and celebrating further student achievements in the coming weeks.

Huge congratulations must go to all students in Years 7 to 10 for successfully completing their Depth Assessment Fortnight. I am very aware of the amount of hard work and commitment that students have demonstrated to this important work and look forward to marking the successes achieved together.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison  
Headteacher

**Thought for the week:** *"It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan."* Eleanor Roosevelt

## KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

Term dates for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and can be found here:

<https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/calendar/>

Key dates over the next two months:

### January

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 Year 10 and 11. 'Managing Exam Stress' talk by Sophia Davison for Year 11 parents, 6.15pm

### February

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> – Talent Show, 7-9pm, organised by the Parents Association

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> – Year 9 Careers Fair. Bright Ideas student talk, 3.15pm

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> – Year 9 Options Evening, 5-7.30pm

Fri 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 11 coffee morning with Sophia Davison, school psychotherapist, 9-10.30am

Mon 12<sup>th</sup>-Fri 16<sup>th</sup> – HALF TERM

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> – Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> – 8.40am start for all students

Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> – Bake Sale, hosted by 7JRW, 3pm

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb-Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Mar – LitFest

Wed 28<sup>th</sup> – Year 8 options evening, 5-7.30pm

## March

Mon 4<sup>th</sup>-Fri 8<sup>th</sup> – Year 10 Work Experience week

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> – Great British Dance Off competition

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> – Welwyn Youth Drama Festival

Tues 12<sup>th</sup> – Learning Review Day (timetable suspended for 1-1 meetings with tutors)

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Sophia Davison parent talk on 'Understanding the teenage brain', 6.15-7.30pm

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> – Parent coffee morning with guest speaker, 9.15-10.30am

Mon 18<sup>th</sup>-Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – Science Week

Tues 19<sup>th</sup>-Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> – Spanish trip for Year 9 and 10

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> – INSET Day

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bake sale hosted by 7FJO, 3pm

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> – HPV Immunisations for Year 8. Year 10 Core Subjects Evening 6-8pm

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> – Last day of term. Midday finish

## 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)

## FREE WEEK – Miss Jouhal

After a successful Free Week in the Autumn term, our second scheduled Free Week takes place next week from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Free Week is an opportunity to ensure, within the busyness of school life, that there is time to pause and reflect, to think about what we are learning and how we are feeling. The aim is to slow down a little and focus solely on the core business of teaching and learning and the joy of deep curiosity into the topics we are studying.

During Free Week, students will review their targets from last term's Learning Review Day to evaluate what progress has been made so far. They will review key dates and events coming up in the school year to add to their planners to help with long term organisation.

Students have created a pledge or 'hope cloud' for the week, signifying their intention for Free Week to ensure they make the very best out of it. Whilst there is no homework due in during Free Week, students should ask themselves 'what productive or reflective tasks can I do with this time instead?' Please do talk to your child about how they can maximise the aims of the week. Thank you to all students and parents who completed our evaluations during last term's Free Week.

## ARCHER'S GOT TALENT – The Archer Parents Association

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February



After the huge success of last year's 'Archer's Got Talent', we are holding another talent show on Thursday 1st February, 7pm at lower school.

This will be a spectacular evening of Archer students' many magnificent talents! Don't forget to buy your tickets on ParentPay.

All students are invited to take part and perform their talent on stage. Talents can be anything from dancing, to juggling, roller skating, comedy, singing, football skills, magic, karate and more. Please encourage your child to talk to the CPA department if they would like to be part of Archer's Got Talent.

## GRANDPARENTS' AFTERNOON – Mrs Ruback

It was lovely to welcome over 100 Archer grandparents to school on Thursday for Grandparents' Afternoon. Our guests enjoyed beautiful dance, drama and music performances, as well as a delicious afternoon tea, and a tour of the school from their grandchild.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special afternoon, and to all our student waiters, greeters and performers who helped make the grandparents feel so welcome.



## BRIGHT IDEAS SESSIONS – Miss Jouhal



 <p><b>BRIGHT IDEAS FOR STUDENTS</b></p> <p>BE INSPIRED &amp; LEARN SOMETHING NEW</p>	<p><b>Bright Ideas for students are back!</b></p> <p>Bright Ideas are FREE talks or workshops held at our school by experts, professionals or interesting people in society. The purpose is to enable students to dig deeper into a topic, be inspired about a career path, or to simply learn something new. They will occur once a half term on a Friday after school for 30-40 minutes in either the Upper or Lower dining room.</p> <p>The first one takes place on <u>Friday 2nd Feb</u> at 3.15pm in the Upper School dining room. The session will be led by John Hajdu MBE, a Holocaust survivor, and part of the organisation Holocaust Educational Trust, who will share his incredible life story with our students. To attend, students should sign up via the form here, also found on their year group MS Team: <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/KKkJQLCx9c">https://forms.office.com/e/KKkJQLCx9c</a></p> <p>If this is your child's first commute to Upper school from Lower, we will organise a teacher to walk them over after school. Simply indicate this on the form.</p> <p>The next Bright Ideas talks take place on: Friday 15th March, Friday 3rd May and Friday 21st June, one of which is led by a professional gamer....! More information shared next term.</p> <p>If you have any questions, please contact your tutors or Ms Galliver and Ms Jouhal.</p>
<p><b>MANAGING EXAM STRESS TALK FOR YEAR 11 PARENTS – Sophia Davison</b> <b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6.15-7.30pm</b></p>	
	<p>Sophia Davison will be giving a talk on <u>31<sup>st</sup> January</u> at 6.15pm at Lower School on 'Managing Exam Stress for Year 11 Parents'. Sophia will use her experience as a school psychotherapist, as well as a parent of three teens, to help equip parents on how they can best support their child as they approach the exam season, what to say / not to say, and how to manage perfectionism, anxiety and procrastination.</p> <p>Please let us know if you plan to attend here: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/240107036545347">https://form.jotform.com/240107036545347</a></p>
<p><b>ART COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES – Ms Clarke</b></p>	

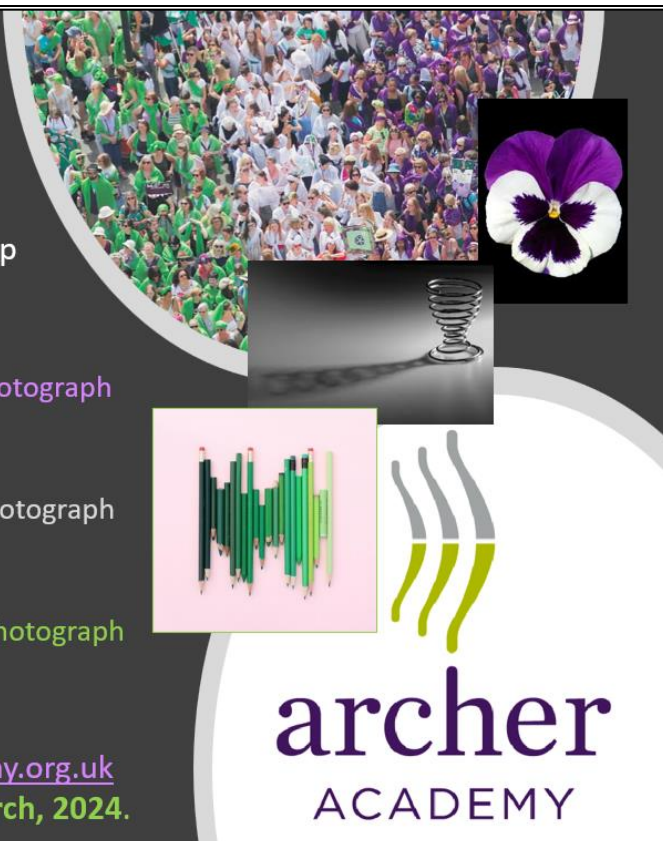
## 2024 Spring Term House Photography Competition

**The Challenge:** Take a close-up photograph of an everyday object, let it fill the frame.

- If you are in Seacole house photograph something purple.
- If you are in Ignatius house photograph something silver or grey.
- If you are in Lovelace house photograph something green.

Please email your entry to:

[mssclarke@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:mssclarke@thearcheracademy.org.uk)  
no later than: **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.**



This is the sixth year that the **Royal Academy** has held an exhibition for young people aged between 4 and 19 years.

Archer students have previously had three pieces of work in the online exhibition.

**2024 Entries: An optional Art challenge for all year groups:**

If you would like to try for a chance to exhibit your work at the RA, please make a piece of work from **any** material on **any** subject. Your work will need to have taken considerable time and thought to produce. Please see the video link for examples of work made by previous exhibitors.

Please contact Ms. Clarke with any questions:  
[mssclarke@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:mssclarke@thearcheracademy.org.uk)  
**Deadline: Friday, 15th March.**  
Enjoy!

**Young Artists' Summer Show**

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

## CAREERS FAIRS, REQUEST FOR HELP – Ms Bami

Could you talk to students about your profession at one of our Careers Fairs coming up?

Year 9 – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February morning

Year 10 – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March morning

At the Careers Fairs, students will have the opportunity to approach various stands to explore different professions and ask questions about the skills and requirements needed for specific careers, with the aim of making informed choices about their future pathways, as well as GCSE / Post 16 choices.



If you could spare some time to take part in one of the fairs, please email Ms Bami, Director of Vocational Curriculum and Careers, [sbrami@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:sbrami@thearcheracademy.org.uk)



## HEADTEACHER LUNCHES – Miss Harrison

Miss Harrison enjoyed wonderful lunches with students this week at Upper and Lower school to celebrate the achievement of being awarded the Headteacher Exemplary Effort Award at the end of last term. Well done all!



## PRE LOVED UNIFORM SALES – Ms Rodis

### PRELOVED UNIFORM SALES – Ms Rodis

Our popular preloved uniform sales will be held on the following dates:

#### **Learning Review Days**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### **Coffee mornings (Lower school)**

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### **Archella Summer Festival (Lower school)**

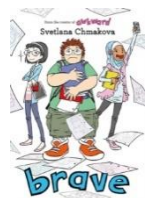
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Please bring cash or card, all payments and/or donations are much appreciated. If you cannot make any of the above dates, please email [welfare@theacheracademy.org.uk](mailto:welfare@theacheracademy.org.uk) with a list of what you need and we will do what we can to help.

At the Learning Review Days we will also display any lost property that's been building up.

## LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist

### New in Lower School Library:



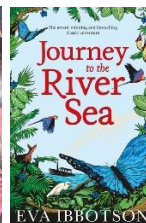
Jensen has always played the middle school game one level at a time, but suddenly, someone's cranked up the difficulty setting. Will his daring daydreams finally work in his favour, or will he have to find real solutions to his real-life problems? For fans of Reina Telgemeier.

Jacqueline Wilson hits the serious subjects with warmth and sensitivity in her latest book set in 1960.



### What to read?

It's that time of year when we need warming up! If you're tired of feeling chilly, check out these books where the heat is a main character:



### Events:



**The Children's Bookshop** in Muswell Hill is again running its sell-out Creative Writing Course with children's author Steven Butler. Starting 24<sup>th</sup> January, see [here](#) to book your place.

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

## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

### Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

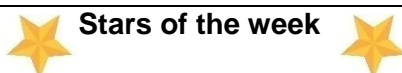
I hope you all managed to attend your parents evening appointments on Wednesday. It seemed like some real purposeful conversations were had and I hope you are clear on next steps needed for your young person to push forward in their individual subject areas. A reminder that the link to all teacher email addresses is <https://theacheracademy.org.uk/staff/>. Please don't hesitate to reach out to subject teachers if needed.

Resit exams take place next week. An excellent opportunity for students to have another go. Please do encourage them to take this seriously. My message now to students is all about staying ready for their exams. With just over 100 days left we really are in the final stretch, all students should be regularly revising, ideally with a structured revision timetable to hand.

Next week is Free Week. Year 11 will still be receiving some revision-based activities but there should be a reduction in homework set. This is a perfect opportunity for students to reset themselves and prepare for the difficult few months ahead.

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 6.15-7.30pm, there is a talk on 'Managing Exam Stress' for Year 11 parents from Sophia Davison, our school psychotherapist. Sophia will talk to parents about how they can best support their child as they approach the exam season, what to say / not to say, and how to manage perfectionism, anxiety and procrastination. Please let us know if you will attend here:

<https://form.jotform.com/240107036545347>



### Stars of the week

Molly L – for demonstrating maturity and looking after the school environment  
Jack F – for consistency and determination in his studies

#### Year 10 – Mr McSherry

The new Year 10 assembly day is Wednesday, which I know you'll all be very excited to hear. During Wednesday's assembly we discussed the use of Tassoami. I am in the process of using this tool to award students for usages, daily goals, correct answers, and general engagement.

Each week we will celebrate this achievement in our assembly, as a year group. Each student that has engaged in this valuable online learning tool will then be entered into a weekly raffle, I will draw names! Anyone awarded for any of the previous, or lucky enough to be successful in the raffle, will be added to a **lunchtime on the high street** list and will enjoy that on a Wednesday in the near future. It feels important that we reward students for completing specific homework tasks (Science), as well as acknowledge their commitment to independent learning (English).

I also discussed Free Week. You will see further information included in this week's newsletter above. I have challenged your son/daughter to really think about how they can maximise this 'gained' time. It is not merely a 'week with no homework'. How might they enhance their sense of well-being? How could they have a very obvious pause and time to reflect following their assessments over the last fortnight? We will work with them on Monday in form time to have them commit to doing something, taking action, to ensure they make the most of this time afforded to them...

Finally (I promise), I confirmed the deadline for submitted work experience placements with them, this is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February. If you are unable to find a placement for your child, you will be allocated one, and at that point we will not be able to guarantee where or what that is... Do continue to do your very best to support your child in securing the most aspirational work experience placements possible.



### Stars of the week

Eva C – for always working hard, and being kind  
Idris F – for achieving the most daily goals on Tassoami in Science, across the whole year group

#### Year 9 – Ms Le

Well done to all of Year 9 for completing assessment fortnight. I know these first two weeks have been hard and exhausting but you showed great resilience. Here you can see Year 9 students choosing to do some extra revision and working very hard during their lunchbreak for their English assessment.

House Basketball was a huge success - well done to all students who participated. All the progress they have made in basketball lunch clubs were put to good use. I look forward to seeing who will be victorious.



In assembly this week Miss Harrison launched the Year 9 Into 10 GCSE Options. The assembly included information about the coming weeks and what would be expected of them, as they will be making difficult choices and taking on a lot more responsibilities with the learning. I could tell how curious students were about the process with the amount of questions asked. A mix of nerves but mostly EXCITEMENT. Please reassure your child they will sit through subject specific assemblies, attend Options Evening and further discuss their choices on Learning Review Day 2, as we guide and support them through the process together.



### Stars of the Week

Samy T (9BDA) and Moosa C (9JHA) – for excellent engagement across all lessons



## Year 8 – Mr Hilton

It was lovely to celebrate our first form group rewards trip. 8ATH had the opportunity to visit Flip Out (a trampoline park in Brent Cross). The next winners will be announced just before half term, so watch this space!

By now your child will have finished their second assessment fortnight. I know how hard they've been working. I can't tell you the number of revision cards I saw out at lunchtime. Showing their dedication to their studies. Just before the winter break revision workshops were put in place for your child to support them.

Next week is Free Week. An opportunity for our Year 8's to reflect and think about their futures. Our form time activities will be focused on this message next week.



**Stars of the week**

Parsa G & Lily-Rose F – for their outstanding Thematic Learning presentations

## Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

Year 7 have had their assessments during the majority of this week and have done well with this challenge. In a short but very busy term, completing assessments first is no easy task. It has been a pleasure to hear of the efforts students have put into their work this half term, with 7JAB impressing with Raft-Building in Thematics, and my Thursday morning Geography class showing inquisitiveness and diligence with rivers. Aside from that, there has been the Headteacher's Lunch this week with Miss Harrison, students performing and helping out in Grandparents' Day, and our Year 7 Girls Football Team going strength to strength with another victory. I look forward to future games.

Next week is Free Week, a chance to pause and be mindful. No homework should be due during next week for Year 7 but homework may be set for the week after. I encourage Year 7 spend the extra time continuing a hobby or spending some extra time with family (maybe even helping with the housework)! Generally, I would like hear of them doing something they enjoy and that was worthwhile with the extra time.



**Stars of the week**

Asher G 7HCI – for excellent contributions to Geography and always trying your best!  
Oliver J 7JRW – for always being friendly and a consistent, exemplary attitude to your learning

### 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.