

9th February 2024

Dear all,

Our Yr11 and Yr9 prefect teams have led a superb 'Think Pink Day' today. A range of bake sales and workshops have taken place to raise the profile of the many different and terrifying international conflicts in our current world and the devastating impact this has on communities. The day has supported fundraising for UNICEF and enabled a real opportunity for students to feel that they are making a positive difference.

It was wonderful to see Year 9 parents, alongside students, at Year 9 Choices Evening on Wednesday. It is clear that students are relishing the depth and breadth of curriculum choice available to them, alongside the agony of decision making! We look forward to next steps here, alongside Year 8 beginning their choices process after Half Term.

We will be leading a 'Random Acts of Kindness' Week across the Wc19th February, linking to the national day taking place on the 17th February. The aim of this work is to act as a reminder of the small gestures of kindness that have the power to change the world. The hope being that by spreading love and positivity, we can create a more compassionate and caring society. We will be asking all staff and students to perform random acts of kindness and inspire others to do the same. We hope that we can make our community a better place, one act of kindness at a time, putting the spotlight on our central school rule of 'Word hard and be nice to people'.

Archer Accelerate runs across Monday to Wednesday next week for Yr11, with a rich range of revision workshops. The sign up looks excellent and is further testament to how hard students are working.

I wish all Archer families a lovely Half Term.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *"It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves"* William Shakespeare

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:

February

Mon 12th-Fri 16th – HALF TERM

Wed 21st – Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Thurs 22nd – 8.40am start for all students

Fri 23rd – Bake Sale, hosted by 7JRW, 3pm

Mon 26th Feb-Fri 1st Mar – LitFest

Wed 28th – SEND parent coffee morning, 9.15am. Year 8 options evening, 5-7.30pm

March

Friday 1st – Year 9 and 10 Careers Fair

Mon 4th-Fri 8th – Year 10 Work Experience week

Tues 5th – Great British Dance Off competition

Thurs 7th – Welwyn Youth Drama Festival

Thurs 7th- Cultural Society trip to Everybody's talking about Jamie [fully booked]
 Tues 12th – Learning Review Day (timetable suspended for 1-1 meetings with tutors)
 Wed 13th – Sophia Davison parent talk on 'Understanding the teenage brain', 6.15-7.30pm
 Thurs 14th – Parent Social night, organised by the Parents Association. Details to follow
 Fri 15th – Parent coffee morning with guest speaker, 9.15-10.30am. Bright Ideas student talk, 3.15pm
 Mon 18th-Fri 22nd – Science Week
 Tues 19th-Sat 23rd – Spanish trip for Year 9 and 10
 Wed 20th – INSET Day
 Fri 22nd – Bake sale hosted by 7FJO, 3pm
 Wed 27th – HPV Immunisations for Year 8. Year 10 Core Subjects Evening 6-8pm
 Thurs 28th – 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

BLOCK 2 ENRICHMENT UPDATE – Miss Galliver

Two of our student Enrichment Ambassadors have written reports this week on enrichment:

Mika Y, Year 8 Enrichment Ambassador:

This week, Year 8 students had their second week back into enrichment. From what I have noticed, our Year 8 students are having an exquisite time obtaining teamwork skills which I saw during Girls' Football and Mad Science, enthusiasm which I saw during Karate and Rock climbing, but what I saw most was how our Year 8 students are such a well-rounded community who are always looking out for each other.

Keshav A, Year 10 Enrichment Ambassador:

Students participated in various activities across different classes and clubs:

- 1. In Zen, students enjoyed mindfulness drawings.*
- 2. In the DT Studio with Mr. Noronha, they designed keyrings.*
- 3. Mr. Harris led activities in "Learning to Love You More."*
- 4. In Mr. Doyle's enrichment class, students learned to create fictional characters.*
- 5. The Creative Writing Club in the Library focused on writing lovely stories.*
- 6. In ARCMAGE, students traded cards and played video games with Mr. Rosenwick.*
- 7. The feminist society, led by Ms. Grelet, explored various aspects of feminism and notable figures like Simone de Beauvoir.*
- 8. In Mandarin class, students learned self-introductions.*
- 9. Music class involved playing songs on different instruments like the piano.*
- 10. Mx. Bowen facilitated debates on controversial science topics.*
- 11. Outside, students had the opportunity to engage in various sports offered by the school along with Mr. Cifci and Mr. Clark.*



BRIGHT IDEAS LECTURES – Ms Jouhal



Bright Ideas are a series of talks and workshops held once a half term by experts, professionals or interesting people in society. For our first Bright Ideas lecture of the year, we were honoured to be joined by John Hajdu MBE, a Holocaust survivor from Hungary, who shared his incredible life story with our students, both during and after World War II.

Thank you to all the students who attended and listened so attentively to John's powerful account and for asking such insightful questions. You can find out more about John Hajdu here:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resource/john-hajdu/>

Our next Bright Ideas talk will be held after school on Friday 15th March. Details of the guest speaker will be shared shortly.

YEAR 7 THEMATIC LEARNING UPDATE – Mrs Vandervelde

Year 7 enjoyed a wonderful Chinese New Year celebration on Wednesday to commemorate the Year of the Dragon, as part of their Thematic Learning unit. They sampled Chinese food; made their own hóngbāo (celebratory red envelopes) and had a go at Chinese calligraphy.

After half term, Year 7 will be continuing their Thematics unit on the Chinese New Year and making and performing their shadow puppet shows based on Chinese legends.

We wish all our families who celebrate the lunar new year a very happy new year!



SPORTS UPDATE – Mr Clark



Year 8 Archer Academy Boys v Finchley Catholic High – Monday 5th February

Match report by Luke B, 8I-ATH

In a tense quarter final match, we faced arguably the strongest team in Barnet who are currently top of Division 1. The Archer Boys started the match very slowly and went 1-0 down within the first 10 minutes and things got worse as we conceded 4 more goals leaving us 5-0 down at half time. With many of the boy's heads down Mr Cifci gave an amazing, inspirational team talk providing the boys with a glimpse of hope. The second half started with Archer scoring a goal and this gave us confidence and belief, this was soon followed by our second and third goals.

10 minutes remained and we still needed 2 more goals to go level and then out of nowhere, Sonny hit a fabulous strike from outside the box curling it into the left-hand corner. We continued to pile on the pressure looking for that all-important equaliser. With just a couple of minutes remaining, Jasper hit the most perfect volley, slicing it into the top corner leading to wild celebrations.

As the full-time whistle blew the game ended 5-5 but it wasn't over just yet. As it was a cup tie, the match went straight to penalties. Archer was the first to start and Mickey coolly fired home his penalty. The shootout continued with both teams scoring, missing and some outstanding saves from our keeper, Santi. It continued into sudden death and the 7th penalty was dispatched by Rupert. Finchley had to score to stay in it, their player stepped up and missed the target meaning. We were through to the semis and we could finally celebrate an amazing comeback and victory.

This week's match results:

Y8 Boys football v Finchley Catholic: **Draw 5-5 (Archer Win on Penalties)**

Y11 Boys football v St Andrews: **Draw 0-0 (St Andrews Win on Penalties)**

In other sporting news, congratulations to Phoebe (Y11) and Amber (Y9) who were both picked to represent Barnet in the Middlesex Cross Country Championships on Tuesday afternoon. Both ran superbly; Phoebe with a very respectable mid-table finish and Amber finishing 8th, with the possibility of representing Team England. Well done!



SEND PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING – Mrs Bickers
Wednesday 28th February

We will be holding a SEND Parent / Carer Coffee morning on Wednesday 28th February at 9.15am. All parents of children with SEND (special educational needs and disability) are welcome to attend.

We are delighted that our Educational Psychologist, Dr Emma Sagzan, will be joining to discuss the role of Educational Psychologists in school and how school, home and the Educational Psychology service work together. Please sign up here if you plan to attend:

<https://form.jotform.com/240382677188366>

We would like to share some other exciting dates that are coming up:

- 18-24th March - Neurodiversity Week - SEND student forums, speakers and a SEND fiction bookclub. More details to follow
- Tuesday 24th April, 9.15am – Welcoming new SEND families to our school
- Monday 17th June, 9.15am – SEND parent/carer coffee morning with guest speaker



**Neurodiversity
Celebration
Week**

Further details to follow in due course. We look forward to welcoming you to these events.

YEAR 9 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY WORKSHOP – Ms Le

70 Year 9 students attended a Holocaust Memorial Day workshop on Monday at Finchley Reform Synagogue.

They listened thoughtfully as they learnt about the impact of the Holocaust, including learning about Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker who helped save over 2000 children from the Nazis. They also heard a survivor tell their story, and completed an interactive workshop on the relevance of the Holocaust today. Thank you to all students who took part in this moving session and to FRS for providing this valuable opportunity for our school to take part in.



YEAR 9 CURRICULUM CHOICES – Ms Le

Year 9 have been exploring the various options available to them as they make important decisions about their GCSE choices and future pathways.

Heads of Department have led Options Assemblies throughout the week to give students valuable insights into the diverse academic options available, as well as extra-curricular and vocational

opportunities, as they progress to Upper School next year. Curriculum Choices Evening on Thursday gave both parents and students an opportunity to learn about courses in more depth. An exciting time for Year 9 to think and reflect on the next stage of their personal and academic journey, with the final deadline for submitting choices on 15th March.



FLAIR RACIAL EQUITY DATA – Ms Mahoney

As part of the schools Equity agenda you will be aware we have been focusing on talking about and identifying racial discrimination in our community. Over the past year we have been surveying staff and students using Flair Race and Ethnicity Analytics to understand their experiences of racial discrimination.

Last academic year we provided anti racism training and assemblies to students with a focus on them understanding what racial discrimination is and how to challenge these behaviours. This year our survey identified that racist jokes are still a concern amongst our student body and that we need to develop an apology framework. Staff want to feel more confident to challenge racist behaviours and have training in how to develop our curriculum so that it is more diverse. We have booked training for staff on globalising the curriculum on our INSET day on 20th March and we are going to revisit training on microaggressions for both students and staff. This is difficult and challenging work, but we are proud of the progress we are making and the dialogue this process is enabling us.

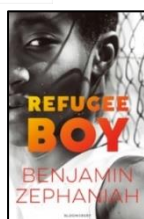
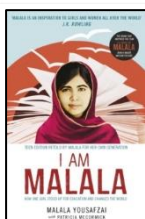
LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist

19th February marks the beginning of **Random Acts of Kindness Week** at Archer Academy. [Research](#) has shown that reading fiction develops and increases empathy, an important part of kindness. What's the kindest thing you've read about in a book? See the Lower School Library for suggestions for fantastic reads that demonstrate kindness.



Thematic Learning

February 10 marks the Lunar New Year celebrations—Y7s Thematic Learning homework is to create a shadow puppet! Come to the Lower School Library to check out this week's issue of ***The Week Junior***, which details instructions on how to make a dancing dragon!



Pastoral Reading:

Attention Year 7s and 8s! Check on Teams for your Quizzes on your Pastoral Reading Books—due *Monday the 19th*!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

As we approach the end of term, I want to express my gratitude for the incredible dedication and effort shown by our students. The upcoming half term, somehow, marks the last complete, uninterrupted period before the exams, I can't believe how fast it has come. I am delighted to see so many of the year group signed up for Archer Accelerate. Their commitment speaks volumes about their readiness and determination to excel in their exams, I have every confidence that they will achieve great success.

While there have been triumphs, there have also been moments of disappointment. The Year 11 boys football team, despite their valiant efforts, faced a tough loss in the cup semi-finals against St Andrews. Losing on penalties is always a bitter pill to swallow, but their journey isn't over yet, as they gear up to face SMSJ in the other cup semi-finals after the break.

Please look out for this week's bulletin for important Year 11 dates coming up. I look forward to seeing students back after the break, refreshed and ready to tackle what comes next.



Erin W and Nava I – for bringing so much more focus to their studies

Year 10 – Mr McSherry

I want to let you know that Work Experience is now at the forefront of our minds. With half-term this week, there is not long to go before your child embarks on an unforgettable experience of work, a much-needed dose of reality, a glimpse of adult life. We will be in touch with you very soon regarding everything you need to know about work experience, please do be patient with us, it's a huge job, and we are so nearly there!

A key question I would really like you to ask your child this weekend:

Where is your place in the tutor group line-up for assembly?

Your child will tell you that this is not just important for fire drills, but also for our year group assemblies on Wednesday mornings. I assisted many of them this week in realising their rightful place in their form line and would not like to have to do this for the remainder of the spring term, and certainly not into the Summer term. Rest assured if they don't know, they should.



Stars of the week

Felix B – for demonstrating great conversational skills, and making our new students feel at ease, well done!

Oscar H – for demonstrating a renewed maturity and approach to learning.

Year 9 – Ms Le

A very busy week for Year 9. Thank you to those of you who attended the Options Evening on Wednesday. This is such an important part of the students' educational journey and I am glad we were able to mark it in a formal way for them. Please do continue to have conversations with your child, if you have questions, you can find the email addresses for all the heads of department on the Archer website or contact your child's form tutor. <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/staff/>

A reminder of some key dates:

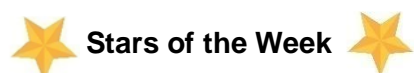
Learning Review Day 2 - 12th March - most will submit their GCSE options on this day.

Final deadline for submitting options - Friday 15th March.

As we approach half-term, now would be the perfect time for your child to think carefully about the subjects they are most passionate about and to begin researching different career paths they hope to explore.

After half-term, Year 9 will take further strides towards developing their independence. There has been a clear focus on punctuality across this term. We know being on time to lessons is key, for school and preparing them for the wider world. Therefore, starting next term, Year 9 will have no line-ups! I have no doubt students will be pleased with this news and will put their best foot forwards.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term.



Stars of the Week

All Year 9 drama students for their outstanding performances in Drama for their assessments. Students have been exploring theatre practitioners from Brecht to Stanislavski. They used a nursery rhyme of their choosing to apply the skills of the practitioner and they absolutely smashed it. Superb performances this week.

Year 8 – Mr Hilton

How do you react when you're 5-0 down at half time? You pull it back to 5-5 and win on penalties of course! Huge congratulations to our boy's football team showing resilience to make it through to the Semi-Final.

Today, Year 8 heard from Miss Harrison in regard to launching our Year 8 options. More detail and information will follow but half term is a great opportunity to begin discussing their choices. Please note dates for your calendars below.

What to expect next term:

- Parent Consultation Evening - 21st February
- Options assemblies taking place for students in the second week back
- Options Evening for parents and students - 28th February, please save the date
- Learning Review Day - 12th March
- More reward trips
- LitFest
- TenX Challenge in Thematic Learning – more details to follow

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term.



Stars of the week

Inigo S and Toby K-G – for their outstanding contributions to Enrichment this week.

Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

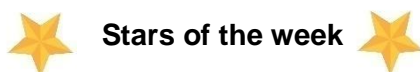
We have officially reached the halfway mark of Year 7. A big milestone that your child has achieved.

As ever, I continue to be impressed by so many students in Year 7 in their commitment to wider school life, willingness to be involved, and consistency. Just this week Mr Carter has raved about his Year 7 students and their Drama work; we have yet another victory for the Year 7 girls' football team; and we officially raised the most money of all year groups this Monday in the Year 7 bake sale! Thank you so much to all parents and students who baked and the House Ambassadors who so ably ran the stalls.

When we come back we have Learning Review Day 2 on 12th March and Safer Schools Day on 21st March, further information is to come. We will continue to have Archer Cafe's which have been excellent thus far in demonstrating Year 7's collaborative skills.

A gentle reminder on Homework, if there is an issue with a child's login for a subject specific platform, please do reach out to the form tutor or your child's teacher in the first instance. Students should be using their planner to note their homework and not just relying on Teams to ensure they are taking accountability for their own home learning where possible.

I wish you a restful half term.



Scarlette, Kadmiel, Sasha, Ciaran, Aryana – for their commitment to their House Ambassador role this week. Thank you for your efforts!

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@Thearcheracademy.org.uk if you have any questions in relation to these policies.