

23rd February 2024

Dear all,

I hope that all Archer families had a lovely half term.

Across the week we have focused on kindness through our 'Random Acts of Kindness' week. I have long believed that Maya Angelou, author and poet, hit the nail on the head when she said *"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* Our focus on kindness has provided a timely reminder that how we interact with others on a daily basis is one of the most important things we do. It does not matter who we are, how we treat others is one of the defining features of kindness. I hope those random acts of kindness may have landed in some Archer homes.

You will be aware that the government has introduced new guidance to schools regarding mobile phones. Please note that our restrictions and expectations surrounding mobile phones remain unchanged, smart phones are banned and whilst students may carry a basic model mobile phone (brick phone) these must be tuned off and not used during the school day. Our rules have been in place since 2015 and have been incredibly impactful in keeping our students safe and reducing any unnecessary distractions to learning. Parents are asked to support their young person in making good choices here.

The spotlight shines on Year 8 next week as the year group prepare to make their curriculum choices. I look forward to meeting all parents and students on Wednesday evening.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *"Life is about being positive and hopeful, choosing to be joyful, choosing to be encouraging, choosing to be empowering."* - Billy Porter

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 26th Feb-Fri 1st Mar – LitFest

Wed 28th – SEND parent coffee morning, 9.15am. Year 8 Foundation GCSE 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)

Thurs 14th – Funky Parent Bingo Night, organised by the Parents Association, 7.30-10.30pm

Fri 15th – Parent coffee morning with Elevate, 9.15-10.30am. Bright Ideas student talk, 3.15pm

Sat 15th-Sun 16th – DofE Bronze Expedition

Mon 18th-Fri 22nd – Science Week and Neurodiversity 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

April

Fri 29th Mar-Fri 12th Apr – Easter holiday
Mon 15th – First day of summer term
Tues 16th – Year 8 parent breakfast morning
Wed 17th – Sophia Davison talk on 'sensitive and anxious children', 6.15-7.30pm
Mon 22nd-Fri 26th – Wellbeing Week
Wed 24th-Fri 26th – Year 10 Paris trip
Wed 24th – Year 7 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm (online)
Thu 25th – Late start for students, 8.40am
Fri 26th – Bake sale hosted by 7HCI, 3pm

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

FUNKY BINGO NIGHT FOR PARENTS – The Archer Parents Association Thursday 14th March



The Archer Parents Association are delighted to present...

Funky Musical Bingo Night! An entertaining evening of bingo with a twist, open to all parents.
Thursday 14th March 7.30pm. Buy your tickets on ParentPay. £22 for one, or £160 for a table of 8.

Sit with friends or make new friends and play hilarious musical bingo, hosted by a professional bingo entertainer. A full dinner is included in the ticket price. There will be vegetarian / meat options and a cash bar. All proceeds go towards building a new drama studio at Archer. Book your tickets today!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS – Mr Sun

Congratulations to Isabella F, Evie R, Ilan C, Shreya B, Cara S and Weronika S on receiving their Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Awards! Their dedication, resilience, and commitment to personal growth are truly commendable. Well done!



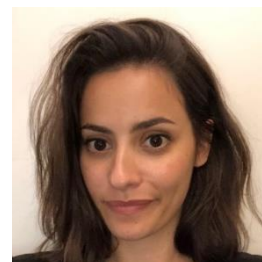
SEND PARENT/CARER COFFEE MORNING – Mrs Bickers

Wednesday 28th February

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

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

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



Please also note the dates of two further events coming up:

- Tuesday 23rd April, 9.15am – Welcoming new SEND families to our school
- Monday 17th June, 9.15am – SEND parent coffee morning with guest speaker

PARENT COFFEE MORNING WITH ELEVATE EDUCATION – Mrs Ruback

Friday 15th March



Our next parent coffee morning will be held on Friday 15th March at 9.15am at Upper School. We will be joined by Elevate Education, an award-winning study skills organisation that helps students become more effective learners.

Elevate will talk to parents about how to guide their child through the exams process, including note-taking strategies, effective study habits, how to self-motivate, manage time, and successfully prepare for assessments, with easy-to-action techniques to help young people face exams with confidence.

This event is open to all parents from Years 7-11. Please sign up here if you plan to attend:

<https://form.jotform.com/240524815237353>

More information about Elevate Education can be found here: <https://uk.elevateeducation.com/home>

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK – Miss Harrison



IDEAS - Be kind

- ▶ Give compliments to as many people as you can
- ▶ Leave a kind note for someone
- ▶ Open the door for someone
- ▶ Listen to someone
- ▶ Make a new friend

Be Helpful

- ▶ Tidy up for someone else
- ▶ Pick up litter
- ▶ Help someone get organised
- ▶ Reorganise someone's bag or locker

Be Giving

- ▶ Lend a pen
- ▶ Buy someone a drink
- ▶ Make someone lunch
- ▶ Give them a thoughtful note
- ▶ Make someone a gift

This week, staff and students across the school have taken part in Random Acts of Kindness. We have been delivering small, kind gestures to one another to spread positivity and happiness throughout our school and to bring a smile to the faces of friends, peers, and colleagues.

EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS CLUBS – Mr Clark

Extra-curricular sports clubs begin again on Monday 26th February. Please check the timetable below for the updated clubs on offer.

Clubs guidelines:

- Students who do not have PE on the day of their club will be able to change into their PE kit at the end of the day. They must not wear their PE kit during the day.
- Students must be prompt to training sessions and bring a water bottle.

- Year 10 and 11 netball and football training is taking place during core PE lessons.

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School 7.30am	ASTRO		Rugby Club	Y9 Basketball Training		
Lunch Time	SPORTSHALL			Volleyball Club		
After School	SPORTSHALL			Y7-8 Basketball Club		Badminton Club

MATHS DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Mrs Sampson

Woodhouse College Mentoring Programme



Every Wednesday, students from Year 11 have had the opportunity to receive mentoring from Woodhouse College students after school. These sessions have been well attended and it has been great to see former Archer Academy students support students in Year 11.

UKMT Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the Year 9, 10 and 11 students who participated and received certificates in the UK Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge. Three students have been invited to participate in the next round.



The Junior Maths Challenge, which is for students in Years 7 and 8, will take place on Thursday 25th April. Past papers for this challenge can be found on the following link:

<https://ukmt.org.uk/current-past-papers/jsf/jet-engine:free-past-papers/tax/challenge-type:67/#free-past-paper-anchor>

GCSE+ King's College Maths School

Students in Year 9 were given the opportunity to apply for the GCSE+ programme at King's College Maths School. Below is an account from Zara J-M and Sarah Q who attended the first session this month.

"The GCSE+ Math course is a weekly programme at King's College Maths School where you can explore maths problems and work with like-minded people from all over London. We were lucky enough to attend the launch event this Thursday alongside few other Archer students. At the launch event, we were given a briefing on the Math School's values and what the course will be about.

Throughout the two-year course, we will be exploring many GCSE topics and concepts. We will be strengthening our understanding and improving our reasoning skills. We will also expand on some GCSE topics to allow a better understanding of Further Math and A-level topics.



During the lessons, we are constantly supported by teachers, student helpers and our peers. All the attendees were kind and willing to help each other learn by explaining all questions and asking questions. We thank Mrs Sampson for introducing this programme to us and the King's Maths School for providing us with this wonderful opportunity."

nrich

The nrich website contains a wealth of information on mathematics, including live problems, activities to help students think more mathematically and advice for parents to support their child at home.

This information can be found on the following links.

Students – <https://nrich.maths.org/students/secondary>

Parents – <https://nrich.maths.org/parents/secondary>



SPORTS NEWS – Miss Marquez

Congratulations to the Year 9 basketball team who won 20-14 against Saracens High School on Thursday!





Struggling to get your child to attend school?

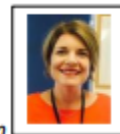
Register for this FREE webinar! All parents/carers welcome.

Wednesday 6th March 10am – 12pm on line

The Virtual School in conjunction with AC Education are hosting this webinar on school attendance, a very hot topic.

There are lots of reasons why attending school can become complicated. For some children and families not attending school is far more than a choice however, for these children it is a case of *can't not won't*. When the situation is one of Emotionally Based School Avoidance stress levels are high for everyone. Parents and Carers have a key role to play in supporting school attendance, however, can often be left wondering what is the best thing to do?

In this training we will look at why problems can arise and what are the risk factors. How the school avoidance is rooted in neurobiological systems (in an easy-to-understand way!) that can sometimes make behaviours difficult to understand and we will also consider why working together is the only path towards solutions. Whether you have a child who is experiencing EBSA currently or you just want to find out more, just in case, this is a space with a warm welcome and practical information to help you. We will consider each person's roles and responsibilities, working successfully as a multi-agency team and navigating a system which can feel both familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. There will be time for questions and discussion as we aim to provide you with up-to-date knowledge and skills for supporting children experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance.



Trainer: *Your trainer is Amelia Brunt, a specialist teacher, trainer and supervisor working with educational complexity. With almost 30 years of experience as a classroom teacher, SENDCo and SEMH consultant, she works from a sound grounding of evidence-based trauma informed practice. This training will provide you with both a good place to begin and to develop your EBSA learning journey.*

Register here: [Barnet Virtual School - EBSA webinar for parents and carers - Amelia Brunt Tickets, Wed 6 Mar 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Barnet Information Sharing Session with Parents/Carers

Barnet SEND Information Advice and Support Service is pleased to announce an in-person information session for Barnet resident parents/carers of children with special educational needs or disability.

This is a free event where they will have an opportunity to meet with other parents/carers and young people. The Barnet Inclusion Advisory Team will be giving a short presentation on what is available in schools and will be available to answer any questions.

- Date: Wednesday 28 February 2024
- Time: 10am to 12.30pm
- Location: Colindale Office, 2 Bristol Avenue, NW9 4EW

To register please click [here](#)

If you have any questions, please contact: sendiass@barnet.gov.uk

Autistic Speakers - Parent/Carer and Professional Zoom Seminars

BELS Advisory Team for Autistic Children and Young People are very pleased to welcome Autistic guest speaker Tigger Pritchard who will speak about 'Autistic Anxiety: Causes and Solutions'

The online talk is free, but it is essential that parents/carers/staff register.

Date: 26 March at 10am or 28 March at 6pm (please register for one talk only)

Please sign-up [here](#)

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist

Events:



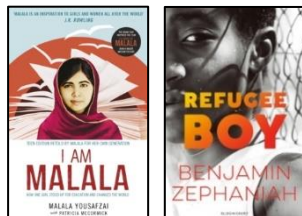
The Y8s celebrating a correct answer

On Thursday the Archer Academy participated in the North London Heat of the National Literacy Trust's Reading Champions Quiz. Our Year 7 and Year 8 teams did admirably and had a great morning displaying their extensive knowledge of children's literature!



Our able Y7 Team

Pastoral Reading:



The Year 7s have beat the Year 8s with 20 students getting 100% on their Pastoral Reading Quiz vs. Year 8s 12 students. Each 100% earned 5 merit points!



The longlist for the prestigious Carnegie Medal for Writing came out over half term—do any of them look interesting to you? When the shortlist is announced in March, Ms Appelquist will be running a Carnegie Shadders Book Club. Watch this space!

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

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

Unbelievably, we are in our last uninterrupted half term of Year 11's Archer journey. I can't quite believe it myself.

We really are at the business end of it all. I would please encourage you to be reminding students that one last push is what we need. At this point the time left until the start of their exams is approximately the same amount of time they will get in holiday time after. They can do it!

Please do continue to keep an eye of the Year 11 bulletin sent out every Friday for key information, and point your child towards additional opportunities wherever possible. Please also get in contact with your child's form tutor if you/they need anything over the coming weeks.



Stars of the week

Emma W – for taking a leading role in the leavers committee
Phillip M – for showing such dedication to his studies

Year 10 – Mr McSherry

Work Experience – I would like you all to know that employers have been emailed this week to complete the final confirmation of your child's work experience placement, due to take place the week after next.

In Wednesday's assembly I discussed the work experience booklet with your child and explained the process as a whole. Rest assured, I will do more and more of this as we draw closer to Monday 4th March.

If your child has not got a place, we are working hard to allocate them one. We will be in touch with you next week either way!

If there are any updates with regards to your child's work experience placement then please do email me directly, as soon as possible.

I would also like to point out that on Friday 1st March we have the Careers Fair event taking place at school for students in Years 9 and 10.



Jaye R and Itay H – for making a very accomplished start to life at Archer Academy

Year 9 – Ms Le

I hope you all had a wonderful break. It was lovely to hear how students spent their time away from school.

Year 9 started the week off with their final Options Assembly delivered by Mr Ruffles. The GCSE Options form will go live on Monday 11th March and will close on Friday 16th March. If your child is still unsure of which options to choose, please could I encourage you to reach out to Heads of Departments directly for support.

The week ended with an assembly from Mrs Bami to prepare them for Careers Day next Friday. Mrs Bami is looking forward to handing out gift card prizes (individual prizes) and Krispy Kreme doughnuts (form prize) to the best and most detailed careers booklets. The winners will be announced on 1st March.

Upcoming dates and events:

1st March - Year 9 Careers Day (workshops, assemblies and careers fair)

12th March - Learning Review Day 2

20th March - INSET Day



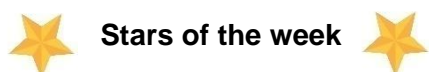
Emily B (9BDE) – for always helping the teacher in her enrichment
Ketevan A (9KCL) – for revising hard for her upcoming science assessment and supporting others to do well

Year 8 – Mr Hilton

What a fantastic start to the new half term!

Just before the end of last term, Miss Harrison delivered a special assembly to mark the beginning of the Year 8 into Year 9 Foundation GCSE Options. Next week, Head of Departments will be leading on assemblies to ensure students feel well informed about the different options. Our Options Evening is on the 28th February - next Wednesday. Parents/Guardians, if you are yet to RSVP and book your slot for the evening, please do so at your earliest convenience. The evening will provide you with all the information you need to guide and support your child through the options process.

It was great to speak with many of you at Parents Consultation Evening. I hope you enjoyed quality time with your teachers and found the meetings helpful. If you have subject specific questions following your meetings, please contact your child's subject teachers directly for further clarification. Their emails can be found on the school website.



Elliot H-S (8FHA) & Nancy S (8FHA) for their consistent hard work and excellent behaviour in lessons.

Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

Well done to Year 7 on their first week back and for getting involved with their learning from the off! Teaching staff have been impressed with the creativity shown and effort made so far. I have been particularly impressed with the work that has been collaborative and analytical on display in Geography and Thematics respectively.

Thank you to the students that support Year 6 Stretch and Challenge lessons on Fridays, it was a pleasure to see you in action. We also enjoyed 7JRW's bake sale which was a lovely end to the week. I look forward to next week's Spelling Bee competition that will be completed in Year 7's English lessons. And not to forget, well done to the students that took part in the National Literacy Quiz! The breadth and variety of our Year 7's engagement in school life fills me with pride.

On Tuesday 12th March, we will have our second Learning Review Day, an important moment to discuss your child's academic progress. Please do ensure your appointment is booked with your child's tutor, or myself if that option is available. Students will be completing reflection on targets that they made in November to see how much progress they have made towards them.



Stars of the week



Bo G 7MDV – for being empathetic and kind to your peers
Emilio S 7SGR – for showing a great attitude to helping in the community

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.