

26th January 2024

Dear all,

Our community has taken a slightly different pace this week as a result of 'Free Week'. It is clear that students have enjoyed a reprieve in relation to homework and I hope that this break will enable a renewal of energy in the coming weeks. We look forward to evaluating the format and impact of the week to enable us to continue to evolve our approaches moving forwards.

This morning we were privileged to come together as a whole school to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. We focused on the central theme of the 'Fragility of Freedom'. Never has such a theme felt more poignant and tangible as we navigate so many challenges to the peace of our world. We explored the story of Nicolas Winton and the extraordinary actions he took, with no recognition, to protect and support children during the Second World War. We used this to help us examine the importance of never being bystander, always standing up to what is wrong and to always act with humility and kindness. The messages of today's assembly lead into community action being led by student leaders and prefects on the 9th February. On the 9th February students will be leading a charity day to support UNICEF, raising awareness of the horrors of international conflict and the importance of peace. There are more details later in the newsletter but I look forward to supporting students in their powerful plans here.

Earlier this week, I wrote to all parents to share a reminder about processes surrounding ParentPay and the purchasing of food in the Dining Room. Thank you to all parents who have taken immediate action to top up ParentPay accounts, this has been so helpful. Next week, administrative staff will be supporting students across the week in managing their balances.

It was a true joy to celebrate Yr11 success, yesterday, with the 25 highest performers in the recent Mock Exams, with an Afternoon Tea. Each student deserves to be so proud of their accomplishments, with the foundations firmly laid for future success. I asked each student for a secret of their success, these felt well worth sharing (for some gentle inspiration) '*maintain a good balance between revision, school work and free time*', '*keep calm*', '*maximise every lesson*', '*go to all the interventions after school, for more time with your teachers*' and '*build your notes up over time, don't leave it until the exams*'.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: "A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one." George R.R. Martin

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

Wed 31st – 'Managing Exam Stress' talk by Sophia Davison for Year 10 and 11 parents, 6.15pm

February

Thurs 1st – Talent Show, 7-9.15pm, organised by the Parents Association

Fri 2nd – Careers Fair. Bright Ideas student talk, 3.15pm

Wed 7th – Year 9 Options Evening, 5-7.30pm

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

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 – Year 8 options evening, 5-7.30pm

March

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
 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

GOVERNOR UPDATE- Claire Straus

Do you have a knack for finance? Join us as an Associate Governor on the Finance and Audit Committee.

What We're Looking For:

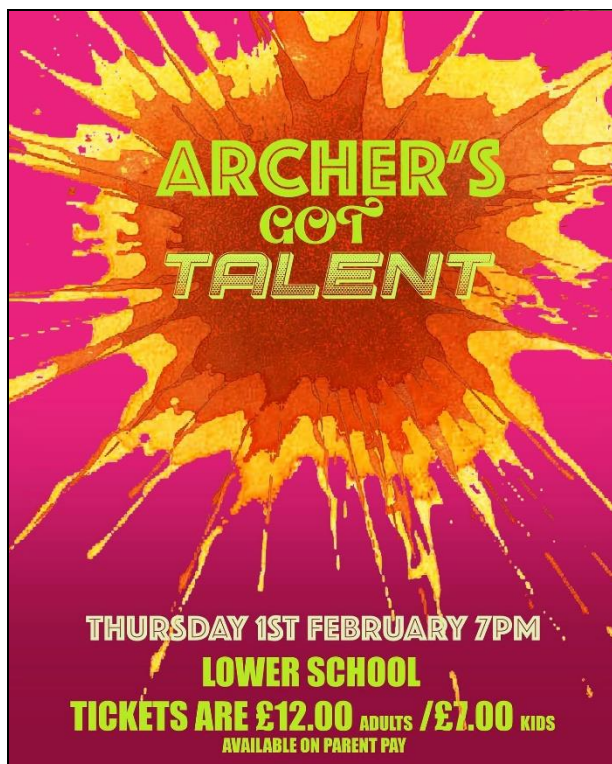
- Strong financial understanding
- Comfortable diving into financial data
- Ability to ask insightful questions
- Team player who thrives in collaboration
- Genuine care for our school

Your Role: As an Associate Governor, you'll be a member of this important committee of the governing board which ensures sound management of the Archer's finances and resources. This includes planning, monitoring and probity in line with the statutory and non-statutory guidance and good practice. We meet 6 times/year usually in person and are a friendly and welcoming team.

How to Join: If you're interested or would like to know more, please email Claire Straus, our Chair of Governors at claires@thearcheracademy.org.uk

ARCHER'S GOT TALENT – The Archer Parents Association
 Thursday 1st February





Archer's Got Talent is on Thursday 1st February at 7pm. Don't forget to buy your tickets on ParentPay to make sure you don't miss out on this spectacular event, featuring 25 stunning acts and performances from our incredibly talented Archer students. All profits go towards building our new performing arts studio at Archer.

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT – Mrs Sampson

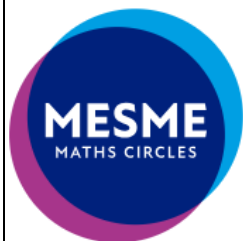
UKMT Mathematical Challenges

Year 9-11 Archer students were entered into the prestigious UK Mathematics Trust Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. The competition took place on Wednesday 24th January and I look forward to sharing the outcomes in a future edition of this newsletter.

If you would like to have a look at the type of questions our students faced, please click on the following link: <https://ukmt.org.uk/current-past-papers/jsf/jet-engine:free-past-papers/tax/challenge-type:70/>
Huge thanks to Mr Sun for organising this.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust



MESME – Maths Circles

Congratulations to the eight Year 7 students who were selected for a place on the MESME Maths Circles programme this year.

The purpose of this scheme is to support high-attaining students to develop their mathematical excellence, so that they go on to have a greater and richer range of future personal, employment and economic choices.

Woodhouse Maths Mentoring Programme for Year 11 Archer Students

As a result of our partnership with Woodhouse College, a team of their A Level Mathematicians are volunteering to act as Maths Mentors to our Year 11 students.



They will spend an hour a week tutoring students in pairs or individually towards their GCSE Maths exams by working through practice papers.

These sessions will run from 3.45-4.45pm in rooms UF06 and UF08 on the dates listed below:

24th and 31st January

7th, 21st and 28th February

20th and 27th March

For students commuting from lessons at Lower School, we ask they make their way over as quickly as they can.

Dr Frost Maths Website

The Dr Frost website is our maths homework provider. Please ask your child to watch these helpful videos on how to complete Dr Frost tasks:

Video 1 – How to Complete an Assigned Task

<https://youtu.be/7PdBrp93iA4?feature=shared>

Video 2 – How to start an independent practice

<https://youtu.be/2PKqsv7bK50?feature=shared>



AN EASY WAY TO HELP ARCHER ACADEMY – Mrs Ruback



Did you know, if you sign up to *easyfundraising*, part of what you spend with your favourite brands will be donated to Archer Academy, and it won't cost you any extra?

Easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands including John Lewis, Argos, M&S, Amazon, Tesco and many more, who all donate part of what you spend to Archer.

Sign up to easyfundraising here – <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/29QTCF/>

THE BRILLIANT CLUB SCHOLARS PROGRAMME – Miss Jouhal

28 students across Years 8 and 9 have been selected to take part in the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme.

This 8-week programme involves PHD tutors and university researchers teaching university-style tutorials to groups of students each week. It's a unique opportunity for students to experience university-style teaching. At the end of the programme, students complete an extended final assignment project, and visit a leading university to find out more about student life at university.



LAUNCH OF WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – Miss Jouhal

We are excited to announce the launch of our after-school clubs programme on Wednesdays from 4-5pm. These clubs are designed to provide our students with valuable opportunities for skill development, teamwork, and personal growth.

You will shortly receive an email with more information about the clubs on offer. In summary, they are:

Debate Club – enhance critical thinking and public speaking skills

Run by: Debate Mate via EducationUK

Year group: 7-11

Maximum number of students: 20

Coding Club – learn the exciting world of programming and problem-solving

Run by: Mr Farquhar-Smith, an expert Alumni student

Year group: 7-9

Maximum number of students: 15

Dance Club – learn contemporary dance, improve coordination, and build confidence

Run by: Little London Dance Studio

Year group: 7-11

Maximum number of students: 20

Advanced Rugby – refine rugby skills, build physical fitness, foster teamwork on the field

Run by: Saracens Rugby Club

Year group: 7-11

Maximum number of students: 20

Battle of the Bands: Rock Band – work as a team to make rock music

Run by: Alex Menaker, longstanding external music provider at Archer

Year group: 7-11 (musical talent required)
Maximum number of students: 15, to make 3 bands

Clubs will run for a total of 10 weeks, beginning the week commencing 19th February.
There will be no sessions during school holidays or INSET days.

How much will clubs cost?

Participation in these clubs requires a fee of £105 for the 10-week course, which helps cover the costs of instructors, equipment, and resources. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive a 50% discount at a reduced rate of £52.50. Please note if your child is unable to attend a session, we are unable to provide a refund.

How do I sign up?

To register your child for any of these clubs, please complete sign-up via ParentPay by Monday 5th February. Several clubs run at a limited capacity. Once the deadline has passed, names will be drawn at random. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Miss Jouhal, MissSjouhal@thearcheracademy.org.uk

GCSE DANCE TRIP – Mr Cassidy



The GCSE dance cohort had the exciting opportunity to spend a day at The BRIT School this week, one of the leading Creative and Performing arts schools in the UK.

They took part in contemporary and commercial dance workshops and watched the Year 13 students in class and perform. This was a fantastic day where the students were able to gain a valuable insight into the performing arts industry.



BRIGHT IDEAS LECTURE – Miss Jouhal **Friday 2nd February**

Bright Ideas for students are back!

Bright Ideas are FREE talks or workshops held at our school by experts, professionals or interesting people in society. They will occur once a half term on a Friday after school for 30-40 minutes in either the Upper or Lower dining room.

The first one takes place on Friday 2nd February 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: <https://forms.office.com/e/KKkJQLCx9c>

The next Bright Ideas talks take place on:

Friday 15th March

Friday 3rd May

Friday 21st June

More information will be shared next term. If you have any questions, please contact your tutors or Ms Galliver and Ms Jouhal.



ENRICHMENT UPDATE – Miss Galliver

As we approach the beginning of Block 2 enrichment next week, we celebrated the Archer Arrows Enrichment Award winners from Block 1. The Year 8 Arrows winners were awarded in assembly this Thursday, and the other year groups will be awarded next week. These students demonstrated excellent commitment and progress throughout the enrichment programme – well done!

We look forward to Block 2 enrichment starting on Tuesday 30th January for all year groups. We have a great variety of exciting enrichments on offer. Further details will be shared with students on Monday.



Archer Arrow Enrichment Award Year 8 Winners from Block 1 Enrichment

SPORTS UPDATE – Mr Clark

As the season draws closer to the end, so does the chance of obtaining silverware! We have a number of football teams still in cup competitions. The Year 7 girls football team are into the Barnet League Cup final after beating JCOSS in the semi-final last week. Good luck!

Week of 15th January

Y10 Netball v Hendon: **Win 13-8**

Y7 Girls football v JCOSS: **Win 3-1 (Semi-Final)**

Week of 22nd January

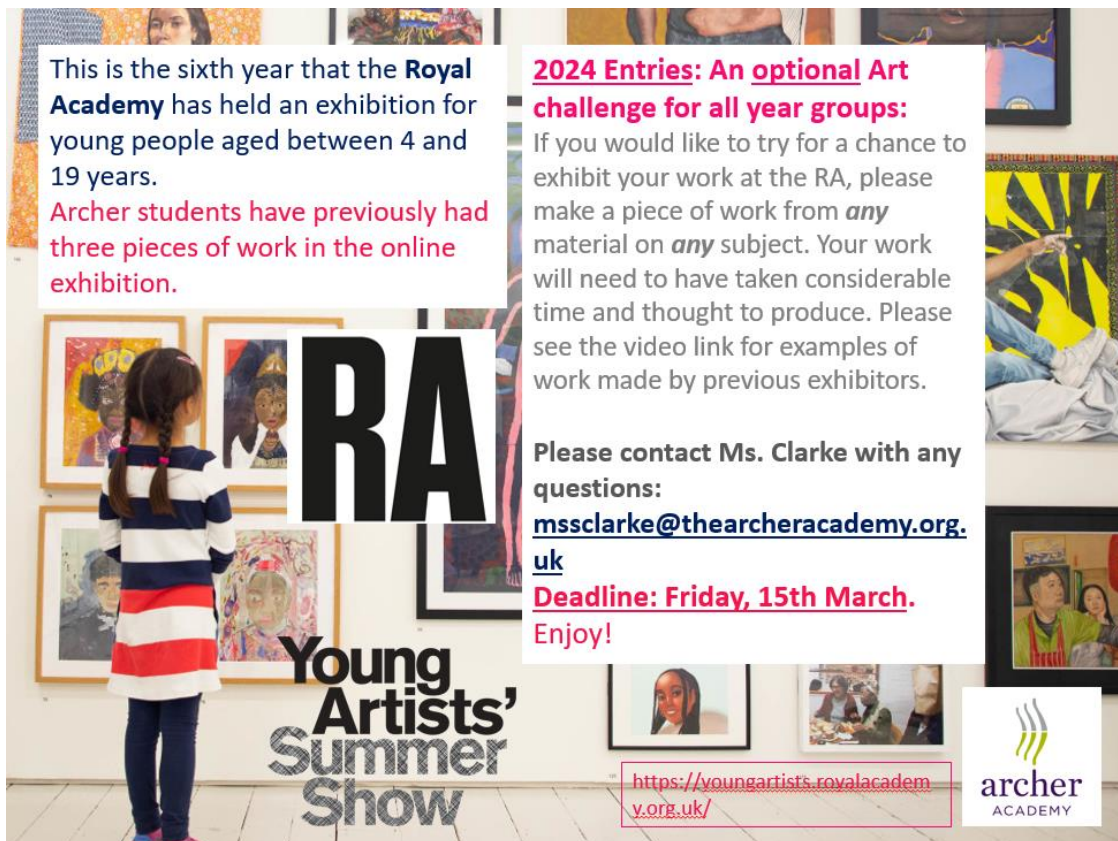
Y89 Girls football v Compton: **Win 3-1**

Y7 Netball v Wren Academy: **Win 13-6**

Y10 Netball v King Alfreds: **Lost 10-4**



ROYAL ACADEMY ART COMPETITION – Ms Clarke



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

Deadline: Friday, 15th March.
 Enjoy!

Young Artists' Summer Show

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

archer ACADEMY



All Things Autism, Parent and Carer Q & A Sessions

Run by The London Borough of Barnet & Barnet Education & Learning Service (BELS)
 Tuesday 27th February 2024, either 12pm–1pm or 6pm–7pm

An online Q&A session for parents and carers of children and young people living or attending schools in Barnet to include information on how to support your child at home, working with your school, autism support offer, pre-diagnostic support, autism hub, and a chance to submit a question for the presenters.

To sign up for the 12pm-1pm session please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/87ZD8ZX3Bw>

To sign up for the 6pm-7pm session, please use this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/NaLbdeuYdP>:

If you have any questions or queries, please email ayala.broughton@Barnet.gov.uk

The 2024 Supported Internship Fair

Wednesday 28th February – 10am-12pm and 1-3pm

West London College Hammersmith & Fulham

More details and registration link:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on?q=west%20london%20supported%20internship>

Virtual Mental Health Workshops – managing anxiety

BICS are inviting parents/carers to join a free two-part series of virtual mental health workshops which aims to increase your knowledge on anxiety and provide you with some skills and strategies to assist your young person in coping with their anxiety.

PART ONE: Tuesday 30th January 2024, 9:30 – 11:00am or 12:00 – 1:30pm

PART TWO: Tuesday 6th February 2024, 9:30 – 11:00am or 12:00 – 1:30pm

Sign up link:

Talking Teens Parent Group

4-week course at Barnet & Southgate College to help parents deal with the challenges of raising a teenager.

Sessions are on Wednesdays starting 5th June. Contact Kastur Dadaga for more info: 07921 282 236

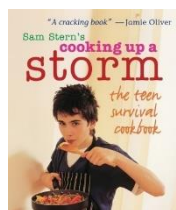
FREE February half term activities for young people in Barnet

Including basketball, guitar lessons, football, art, movie nights, cooking lessons and more

To register: [Barnet Youth – Child and Family Early Help Service -Events?CalendarID=88](#)

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist

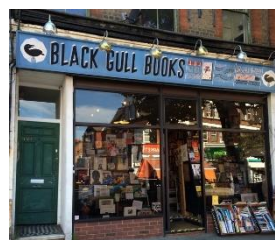
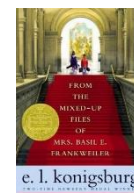
This week we commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day. The Lower School library is featuring a display with some important and informative books for you to learn more.



The Archer is cooking! The recent cold weather seems to have led to a surge of home cooking--recent borrowings of cookbooks from the Lower School Library have gone through the roof, with the most popular being Sam Stern's *Real Food, Real Fast*. Fans will be interested to note we've got his first book in—*Cooking Up a Storm: The teen survival cookbook*. Email [Ms Appelquist](#) a picture of your creation to be featured here in the newsletter!

Neglected Book:

This month's neglected book is *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler*, by E.L. Konigsberg. When Claudia decides to run away, she knows better than to run in the heat of anger into the wilderness. No, she chooses to do it in style—and decamps with her brother to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A charming and intelligent tale for fans of the *London Eye Mystery* or *Chasing Vermeer*. Remember, a book review for a neglected book earns you *twenty merits!*



Finally, we wish a sad farewell to our local used bookstore, **Black Gull Books**, which closed its doors on Sunday. They were a great resource for out-of-print and more obscure books as well as recent releases for a lower price. You can still visit their sister shop, **Boom Cat Books**, in Camden Market.

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

PINK FRIDAY

We are a group of Year Eleven students who are passionate about raising awareness about the recent rise in global tensions. To play our part in and do what we can, we have planned a fundraising project. To ensure impartiality, we have selected UNICEF as our charity due to their particular focus on children. Our focus of 'putting a spring in your step' is to neutrally educate and provide our peers with an opportunity to discuss and educate each other on various world issues. Developing an understanding of the deep complexities surrounding these issues and how to address them in a classroom context, on social media and with each other are very important skills we need to develop.

We will do this in a whole school assembly on the 9th of February with various guest and student speakers. Bake sales will also be held, one per year group starting with Y7 on Monday, Y8 on Tuesday, Y9 on Wednesday and a collective Upper school bake sale on Thursday. Please aid your

children for this by preparing sweet treats and providing them with money for their own enjoyment while knowing you are aiding our cause. On Friday, alongside the whole school assembly we will have a non school uniform day that we are calling 'Pink Friday' students will all be obliged to wear pink (if they choose not to we will have various shades of pink face paint for them!) We will also be selling pink ribbons and other pink items to embrace the spirit of the joys to come in spring (including the hopefully changing weather!) Please keep your eyes peeled for more news on this that will be coming in future newsletters

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

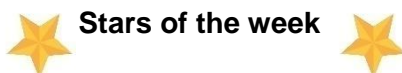
Next week sees the second round of one-to-one interviews take place. The schedule is on Microsoft Teams along with the task that needs completing in preparation. Students will be seeing the same person as last time and I'm highlighting the importance of punctuality to ensure every student is seen.

The Year 11 boys football team got through to the cup final on Thursday night beating JCoSS on penalties after a nil nil draw. The boys showed real resilience, despite not playing at close to the level we have come to expect, they kept it tight at the back and managed to show composure in front of the goal in the penalty shootout.

Friday saw a whole school assembly to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and there will be further follow-up opportunities to explore this next week.

Can I point your attention to the Maths Mentoring Programme for Year 11 students where A Level Mathematicians from Woodhouse College come to Archer to tutor students for their Maths GCSE. Please see above information from Mrs Sampson, Director of Maths, with the dates of these sessions.

Finally, a reminder that Sophia Davison, our school psychotherapist, will be giving a talk to Year 11 parents on Wednesday 31st January at 6.15pm at Upper School on 'Managing Exam Stress'. She will talk about how you can best support your child through exams, what to say / not to say, and how to manage perfectionism, anxiety and procrastination. Please do let us know if you plan to come by clicking here: <https://form.jotform.com/240107036545347>



Luca S – for a dominating performance in goal during the semi final
Maya J – for putting real effort into her studies

Year 10 – Mr McSherry

What has your child done with their Free Week?

We have really focused this week on encouraging students to have a mindful pause, to take stock and to look after themselves. I really hope they were able to maximise the opportunities afforded to them.

Our Tassomai competition continues... once again, acknowledging your child's efforts with regards to daily goals, correct answers and general engagement. Is your child using it? Do they know their login? Why would they not be using it?

A reminder once again that the deadline to find your child a work experience placement is a week today, Friday 2nd February. If you are unable to find a placement for your child at that point, we will allocate them 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, but rest assured, whatever stage you're at with it, we will be in touch following the deadline with information regarding next steps.

Finally, Sophia Davison, our school psychotherapist, will be giving a talk to parents on Wednesday 31st January at 6.15pm at Upper School on 'Managing Exam Stress'. She will talk about how you can best support your child through exams, what to say / not to say, and how to manage perfectionism, anxiety and procrastination. The talk is predominantly aimed at Year 11 parents whose children are taking their

GCSEs, but Year 10 parents are welcome to attend too. Please do let us know if you plan to come by clicking here: <https://form.jotform.com/240107036545347>



Luca O - for showing great initiative and organisation in arranging his work experience placement
Oscar H - for demonstrating a good shift in the right direction with regards to work ethic in class

Year 9 – Ms Le

Year 9 students were in good spirits after a rejuvenating Free Week. We hope your child has enjoyed this break and has made strides toward the goals they set in their pledge.

As there is no assigned homework during Free Week, we encouraged students to consider the best ways to utilise this time wisely. Whether it be reflecting and setting short and long-term academic and personal goals or fostering a plan for their achievement.

Suggestions for making the most of Free Week include revisiting past subjects, exploring new interests, and getting a head start on upcoming events and subject topics. This valuable time serves as an opportunity to reset and reposition, promoting a positive outlook for the rest of the term.

While academic success is crucial, we also emphasise the importance of balancing school with personal interests and enjoyment.



Patricia C (9KCL) and Joseph S (9SMU) – for excellent engagement in Mr Hilton's History lesson

Year 8 – Mr Hilton

With Free Week it's been a great opportunity for our year group to pause and reflect. Our form time activities have been focused on wellbeing and students have set personal targets. Students have also had the opportunity to hear and reflect on Holocaust Memorial Day and our whole school assembly today was linked with this theme.

Congratulations again (I'm certainly not getting bored of repeating myself!) to our Year 8 Girls teams beating Compton this week. Keep it up guys!

Enrichment begins next week. I know how excited they are for their choices. Like Block 1, Block 2 will run for 10 weeks finishing just after Easter.



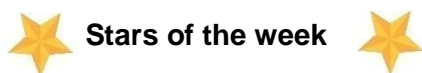
Charlotte T 8MWO and Kyle M 8ATH – for giving sophisticated and articulate answers during the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme

Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

Free Week has come to an end with what I hope has been a chance to pause and reflect on successes. I hope that students have taken the opportunity to help out at home, spend some quality time with family or keep up with a hobby. Year 7s made pledges for the week and used their planners effectively to record key dates for the term ahead. Holocaust Memorial Day was also spoken about in form and well done for students having mature discussions around a sensitive topic.

There are 2 weeks left of this half term and I hope that this can be a chance for students to continue to "show the best version of themselves". I say this a lot to our year group and thank you to those students who I can always rely on, both in and out of the class. To support this, may I ask that you go through your child's timetable with them and ensure that they have written it into their planners to best support organisation and punctuality, particularly after break and lunch.

Enrichment (Block 2) begins next week and therefore students will finish Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4pm. I hope students are looking forward to finding out their Block 2 Enrichment choices next week. Block 2 will run for 10 weeks until just after Easter.



Sophia H 7HCI - for always doing the right thing
Nerea RM 7JAB – for contributions to the Year 7 football Team

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 if you have any questions in relation to these policies.