

1st March 2024

Dear all,

We had the joy of lifting yet another trophy on Monday when our Year 7 girls' football team won the Barnet League. A huge well done to all involved. 2023-2024 is proving to be the successful year in sporting victories in the school's history – we may need to invest in another trophy cabinet.

This week has seen the power of literature front and centre for students, with a rich range of opportunities as part of LitFest. Alongside, Careers Day for Year 9 and Year 10. It has been wonderful to see both events afford such rich stimulus for students, opening their eyes to wider ideas and the expansive world around them.

It was such a pleasure to welcome Year 8 students and their parents to school on Wednesday evening, to discuss the joys of curriculum personalisation. I very much look forward to exploring their final choices with them and preparing to build their Year 9 curriculum.

Next week sees our Year 10 cohort head off on Work Experience and Year 11 complete their March Mocks. We wish both year groups good luck in these different pursuits and look forward to celebrating their achievements with them.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start."* Jason Collins

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:

March

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

Tues 5th – Great Big Dance Off competition

Thurs 7th – Welwyn Youth Drama Festival

Thurs 7th – Cultural Society trip to 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'

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

Thurs 14th – Parents' Funky 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 talks, 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 'the teenage brain', 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



Tickets are selling fast for our **Funky Musical Bingo Night** on Thursday 14th March 7.30pm!
Don't forget to buy your tickets on ParentPay so you don't miss out on this fabulous evening of bingo with a twist. Tickets are £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.

This is no ordinary bingo – book your tickets today to avoid disappointment!

YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM WIN THE BARNET LEAGUE – Ms Le



Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls Football Team who are the new champions of the Barnet Schools Football League!

The girls won all their games in the league final tournament on Tuesday, without conceding a single goal – winning 2-0 against Totteridge Academy, 3-0 against King Alfred School and 6-0 against Saracens High School.

A hearty well done to all the team and to Ms Le on a brilliant season and a very well deserved first-place title!

Looking ahead, on 18th March, the team will play in the final of the Barnet League Cup against Wren academy. This will be a chance for them to 'do the DOUBLE' this season! Fingers crossed!

LITFEST WEEK – Mr Doyle



This week, we celebrated English and literacy in all its forms during 'LitFest'. Students enjoyed a host of activities including author visits, poetry writing sessions, Bananagram games, and creative workshops about remarkable female writers.

Author Miriam Halahmy spoke to Year 8s about her inspiring new book, A Boy from Baghdad, and poet Hector MacDonald delivered excellent creative writing sessions to Year 7s. Next week also sees our exciting Year 7 Spelling Bee competition. Who will the winner be?

BRIGHT IDEAS TALK – Ms Jouhal

Friday 15th March

Our next Bright Ideas talks will be held on Friday 15th March from 3.15 - 4pm. We will be joined by two exciting speakers as follows:

Lower School Talk:

Issy Vandervelde, Video Games Journalist – KS3, Lower School Dining Hall

Issy is a video game journalist. He's always loved games, and developed a passion for writing at university, so he wanted to find a career that combined both. He currently reviews games, attends preview events, interviews developers and streamers, writes guides, opinion pieces, criticism, and tweets a lot. We are thrilled that Issy will be speaking to us about what games journalism is, how to get into it, and dispelling some of the myths surrounding it (he doesn't get paid to just play games, unfortunately!).

All students are welcome to welcome to join this talk, which is targeted at Year 7-9 students.

Sign up for your free space here: <https://forms.office.com/e/S4HPLPZ6L7>

Upper School Talk:

Sarah Sackman, Barrister and Local Campaigner – KS4, Upper School Dining Hall

Sarah Sackman is a local community campaigner and a barrister specialising in public and environmental law. She is Labour's parliamentary candidate for Finchley and Golders Green. She will speak to students about her career, as well as why it's so important for young people to be engaged in politics and their local community.

All students are welcome to welcome to join this talk, which is targeted at Year 10-11 students.

Sign up for your free space here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/aVaTbvzhf8>

Bright Ideas for students are a free opportunity to inspire students about future career paths and to learn something new. Students will be able to attend a free talk once a half term about an inspiring career or topic. Previously we've had successful talks on Climate Change investigating in Antarctica, and Cybersecurity, which have led to Archer students pursuing these interests, and recently we welcomed Holocaust survivor John Hajdu MBE with his inspirational life story.

We are currently looking for more speakers - do you have any contacts? Please get in touch with Miss Jouhal or Ms Galliver.



PARENT COFFEE MORNING WITH ELEVATE EDUCATION – Mrs Ruback

Friday 15th March

PARENT COFFEE MORNING



FRIDAY 15TH MARCH
9.15-10.15AM, UPPER SCHOOL



WITH ELEVATE EDUCATION
STUDY SKILLS ORGANISATION

How to guide your child through exams with effective study habits, self-motivation and time management skills



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 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>

SEND PARENT FORUM – Mrs Bickers



Thank you to all parents who attended our SEND Parent Forum on Wednesday this week.

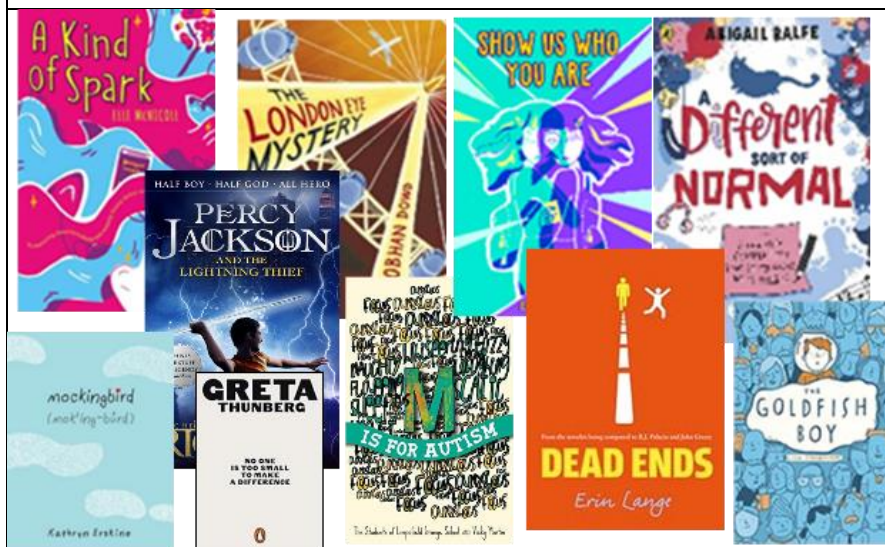
There was an informative and helpful presentation from Dr Emma Sagzan from Barnet's Educational Psychology Service and then Mrs Bickers, Head of SEND and Inclusion, gave a short presentation on upcoming events. We finished with a Q&A session where we covered such topics as: understanding and supporting students with common anxieties and barriers to attending school, how we shared information about students with teachers and wider staff, how we gather student and parent voice about provision in school and the training that is provided to staff.

The slides from the forum can be found on this link: [Parent Workshops | Archer Academy \(thearcheracademy.org.uk\)](https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/parent-workshops)

We were also asked to provide opportunities for parents with SEND students to meet more informally to get to know each other and share experiences. We're pleased to confirm that our next SEND parents forum, on Tuesday 23rd April, at 9.15am will be focused on this and will also include an invitation to new parents who are joining our school in September 2024, to meet with existing parents and staff.

NEURODIVERSITY WEEK – Mrs Bickers

18th - 22nd March



In celebration of our wonderful and complicated brains, Archer Academy is hosting a **Neurodiversity Book Club** pop-up during Neurodiversity Week (18-22 March).



Choose from one of these amazing reads (or bring your own). Then join Mrs Bickers and the Year 9 Literacy Prefects on Tuesday 19th March at lunch to discuss and share your thoughts!

YEAR 8 PARENT BREAKFASTS – Mr Hilton

Tuesday 16th April

Year 8 parents are invited to Lower School on Tuesday 16th April to enjoy breakfast together, as well as with Head of Year Mr Hilton, and Year 8 form tutors.

We hope that lots of parents will come along to get to know other each other and to celebrate the success of our Year 8 students.

There are two time slots for the breakfast morning, as follows:

- Tutor groups RKE, ATH and FHA will be at 8:50-9:35am
- Tutor groups JGA, MWO and FBO will be at 9:45-10:30am

Please sign up on the link below and bring a breakfast dish to share with other parents. <https://eu.jotform.com/build/240532906726356/publish>



THEMATICS UPDATE – Mrs Vandervelde

Year 7 wowed their classmates and their Thematic Learning teachers with their group-devised shadow puppet shows. This brings our unit on Chinese New Year to a suitably festive close. Well done Year 7 on some superb collaborative performances.



AFTER SCHOOL WEDNESDAY CLUBS – Ms Jouhal

There are still a few spaces available for rugby, dance and debate clubs on Wednesdays at 4-5pm.

Debate Club:

Run by Debate Mate via Education UK – enhance critical thinking, public speaking and persuasive skills while engaging in stimulating discussions.

Dance Club:

Run by Little London Dance Studio – students will learn contemporary dance, improve coordination, and build confidence.



Rugby Club:

Run by Saracens - refine rugby skills, build physical fitness, and foster teamwork on the field.

If you'd like to join, please email Ms Galliver or Ms Jouhal:

MissSjouhal@thearcheracademy.org.uk

MsJGalliver@Thearcheracademy.org.uk

YEAR 7 BAKE SALES – Mr Raghuveer

Every month, a Year 7 form hosts a bake sale, in which the class bakes cakes and sells them to the rest of the school. This give the form a chance to run and manage their own project, while raising funds for Archer. Well done to students from 7JRW who did a fantastic job in promoting and selling their cakes last week. The next bake sale will be hosted by 7FJO on Friday 22nd March.



You may know that 'Friends of Market Place Playground' have been working with Barnet Council and East Finchley Community Trust on plans to transform Market Place Playground next to Archer's Lower School campus. We are delighted to share the news that construction will commence on site on 4th March 2024.

Work will take place between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. The work is likely to continue until the summer, as the space is having a complete refurbishment. The playground will be closed and fenced off whilst the work takes place.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact parks@barnet.gov.uk

Thank you for all your support during the past 3 years. We are delighted that work is finally beginning on this exciting project.

<https://friendsofmarketplace.org.uk/>

East Finchley's Got Talent 2!!

Date: Sunday 21st April 2024

Where: Phoenix Cinema, N2

Time: 2 - 4pm

Have you got what it takes?

Do you have a talent that you can demonstrate on a stage in 5 minutes? Can you sing, dance, play, perform magic or do something so unique and extraordinary that you just have to share it with the world? If so, East Finchley's Got Talent 2 wants to hear from you! The winner gets the opportunity to perform on the Community Stage at this year's East Finchley Festival on 23rd June in Cherry Tree Woods.

21 APR 24
East Finchley's Got Talent
2pm – 4.30pm

east finchley
town team #HIGHROADN2

PHOENIX
CINEMA



If you think you can wow the judges and the audience with your talent, please email:

efgottalent2024@gmail.com telling us a bit about your act. The applications deadline is Friday 5th April.



Struggling to get your child to attend school?

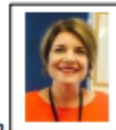
Register for this FREE webinar! All parents/carers welcome.

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.

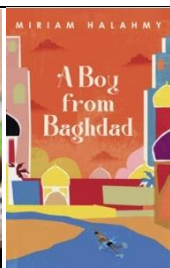
Register here: [Barnet Virtual School - EBSA webinar for parents and carers - Amelia Brunt Tickets, Wed 6 Mar 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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



The Y8s acted out some Arabic and Hebrew vocabulary.



On Monday the Y8s kicked off **LitFest** with a superb author visit from Miriam Halahmy, who presented her book, **Boy from Baghdad**. One lucky Year 8 won a copy as the prize for best question, and two more books will be awarded for excellence in creative writing!



Winner for 'best question!'

Did you ever need a better excuse to bring in an overdue library book? Ms Appelquist is unashamedly bribing you to bring in those long-overdue books! Offer good this week and next.



A Very Sweet LitFest Deal Library Amnesty:

Bring in a book that's more than two weeks overdue and receive a sweet in return—it's a win-win!



7th March is World Book Day, and this is a reminder to use your £1 voucher toward any book of your choice or for a **free** short read by a popular author—there are some great ones on offer this year! Come see Ms Appelquist if you have not received your voucher yet.

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

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

Students were given their statements of entry in form time this week. This is a document showing every GCSE exam that they have been entered and what tier of entry. Please may I ask you look over this closely to ensure everything you expect to see is on there (and nothing you don't). It then needs to be signed and returned to school by the end of next week.

Students were given time in form on Friday to complete a bespoke timetable using their statement of entry - can you ask to see it? Have they pinned it up somewhere?

Next week sees the students sit their last formal exam point before the GCSEs begin in May. Please can I ask that you support your child by ensuring they have a full compliment of equipment over this weekend. Students are expected in school for the entire day every day. The only exceptions to this are:

- If students don't do History they do not come in on Wednesday morning until breaktime.
- If students don't do geography they leave at lunchtime on Thursday.
- If students do not take a language they come in at break on Thursday morning and leave at lunch on Friday afternoon.

A reminder of two key things to do:

- Review, sign and return statement of entry

- Check equipment for exams

Don't forget to keep reviewing the Year 11 bulletins which include key dates such as Archer Accelerate over Easter (Tuesday 2nd – Thursday 4th April), and the Leaver's Assembly and Ball on Friday 24th May.



Nathan L and Maleeha M – for being consistent, conscientious and hard working students

Year 10 – Mr McSherry

Work Experience is now upon us.

You will have received all of your child's placement details, they certainly have. Please ensure, if they haven't done so already, that they have contacted their employer to confirm details ahead of Monday!

We really do hope this opportunity is maximised and your child learn a lot, and enjoy their experience of the world of work.

Please do encourage them to complete their work experience booklet, this includes a daily diary. These were issued earlier today. They must be completed, taken with to all placements each day, kept safe and returned to school on Monday 11th March.



Keti S and Yashi T – for always being kind and being a good role model to peers

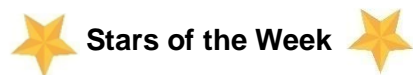
Year 9 – Ms Le

This week has been truly delightful. Students have spent the week preparing for Careers Day.

Today, Year 9 students experienced their inaugural careers fair. The morning commenced with the distribution of timetables, work-packs, and a briefing outlining the day's schedule.

Students engaged in conversations with various professionals, listened to an inspiring speaker, and delved into the UniFrog platform to contemplate potential paths in the world of work. I strongly recommend having a conversation with your child to gather insights into their day and to explore potential career aspirations.

A reminder to book your appointment with your child's tutor for Learning Review Day, if you haven't already done so.



Liam and Zara JM – who received a number of complements from parents on how they articulated themselves during the Year 8 Options Evening

Year 8 – Mr Hilton

It was fantastic to see so many Year 8s and their families at our Year 8 Options Evening. During this time students had the opportunity to speak with teachers of potential subjects to study in Year 9. Attendance was excellent and students seemed to really value the event. Many teachers have commented on how impressed they were by the questions and intrigue shown by our year group. Please ensure your child has made their choices by Friday 15th March. A link will be posted on the Year 8 MS Teams shortly.

Options are:

Green Block (one choice) - Further Science, Business Studies, Computer Science, Food Technology, PE, Photography, Politics, Psychology

Purple Block (two choices) - Art & Design, Dance, Music, Drama, Design & Technology, Graphics

To support our year group with their choice, the information booklet and our choices assemblies have also been posted on Year 8 MS Teams.



Stars of the week

James A 8FHA – for making real progress in French and showing excellent resilience
Luke B 8ATH – for volunteering in the community supporting Year 6 students

Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

Week 2 of this half term complete. I cannot begin a review of this week without mentioning the Year 7 Girls football team, who are officially the best team in Barnet! It is an absolutely brilliant achievement and will be the first of many trophies, I am sure. Huge credit must go to Miss Le for her leadership of the team.

There has also been a great buzz around LitFest this week, I hope you are all using your Book Tokens wisely. Finally, Ms Vandervelde was glowing in her review of the Chinese New Year Puppet Theatre shows!

A reminder to book your appointment with your child's tutor for Learning Review Day. If you are unable to come in for the 12th March, please do let your child's tutor know in the first instance to book in a conversation about your child's progress.

As well as this, you will have been sent a letter if your child is completing First Aid Training at Learning Review Day. Please could you check if your child's surname is between G-M for the timings for the training session? Your child will be instructed to leave the session for their appointment if there is an overlap.

Looking forward, there is national careers week next week, and on this, I am pleased to announce 'Take My Child to Work Day' will be held on 13th May. Please may I ask that you let us know by the end of the half term where you would like your child to complete their placement, even if it is with you! Additionally, if you have space to take a second child, it would be greatly appreciated in the community. Further details to come and I am excited to see where in the world of work our students get to experience.



Stars of the week

Wissam A 7SGR – for consistently doing the right thing and hard work in your lessons
Sebastian I 7FJO – for your always upbeat attitude around the school, it's infectious!

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.