

8th March 2024

Dear all,

This has certainly been a rich week for our students, on so many different levels, and I simply feel very proud of every Archer student. For me, simply hosting a number of Headteacher lunches and taking a wonderful Cultural Society trip to see 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' were true highlights. A huge thank you to all the young people whose company I have enjoyed.

For Yr10 the week has seen them flourish on Work Experience, growing up before our very eyes and truly impressing both employers and school staff. It was a privilege to witness Mr Gillo and Mr McSherry return for placement visits on Thursday, both clearly beaming. For Yr11, they have shone in their maturity and composure across their Mock Exams – whilst we can't make this a fun experience, I can see that it is has been valuable and that students feel this. For Yr7, the opportunity to begin their Thematic Learning Community Project and spend the afternoon exploring the origins of the school and meeting with school founder, Avis Johns, was very special. Then across Yr7 to Yr9, staff have been blown away by the talent and accomplishments of students in prestigious dance and drama competitions this week. Firstly, with our junior entry in the Great Big Dance Off taking first place on Tuesday. The students performed on a par with professional dancers, a huge well done to them alongside Mr Cassidy and Miss Harris. Then, a stunning performance by the Junior Archer Players in the Welwyn Youth Drama Festival last night. We won't receive the result of the judging in the drama competition, until Saturday evening and the close of the festival but with the adjudicator stating *'the piece had many deep elemental emotions, which was incredible given the age of the cast. Such ambitious theatre and totally engrossing'* – we are all hopeful for trophies for the superb cast and Mr Carter.

A few key reminders as we move into the final weeks of the term. Firstly, a reminder that if a child is required to leave school during the day for an appointment, that they must be collected from the school by a parent. It is not appropriate for students to leave the school, during the school day, unaccompanied. This requirement forms a core aspect of our safeguarding policy and it is important that it is followed consistently. Parents are asked to ensure that this longstanding expectation, on the part of the school, is built into arrangements for appointments. Secondly, pencil cases are looking a little sparse and this is impacting of standards of work. A kind request to all parents to stock up on essential stationery – my apologies if this involves delving into the murky depths of your child's school bag! A particular reminder about the importance of a range of pens and pencils (including one red and one purple), alongside the all important glue stick. Thank you in advance for your support here.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *'There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me.'* Jane Austen

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

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



We have a few tickets remaining 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.

Book your tickets today to avoid disappointment!

THE GREAT BIG DANCE OFF COMPETITION – Miss Harris



Congratulations to the Archer dance team who are the South East champions of 2024!

They came FIRST in the Regional Heats of the Great Big Dance Off competition on Tuesday night, for the second year running. The team gave a stunning performance of 'Dream State' by Son Lux.

Well done to the whole team and of course Miss Harris and Mr Cassidy. Next stop.. National Finals in Cheltenham on 1st July!

WELWYN YOUTH DRAMA FESTIVAL – Mr Carter



The Archer junior drama team gave an exceptionally powerful performance at the Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival on Thursday, on its 80th anniversary.

The cast of 26 have been working tirelessly for months on the dramatic tragedy Antigone and were given high praise by adjudicator Bob Tomson for their 'courageous, ambitious and totally engrossing' production, which 'tackled huge complex issues with deep elemental emotion and imaginative performances'.

Mr Carter was also applauded for his incredible vision, leadership and 'striking innovation' as 'an inspired director' who used 'highly original, daring choreography and dynamic staging'.

Whatever the results of the competition (yet to be announced), we could not be prouder of the dedication, energy and phenomenal talent of the whole cast. Well done to everyone involved!

YEAR 9 AND 10 CAREERS FAIR – Ms Brami

Year 9 and 10 students enjoyed an excellent Careers Day last Friday, exploring different careers and thinking about where their passions lie. The day featured talks from professionals from various fields, as well as workshops on how to use Unifrog, our destinations platform which helps students explore and compare courses and apprenticeships.

A highlight was the careers fair in which students were able to speak to a variety of professionals about their jobs and career paths. Thank you to all the businesses and organisations who took part.



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE – Mr McSherry

Year 10 students have completed a week's work experience this week in a variety of roles and businesses. They did an excellent and professional job and received very positive feedback across the board on their courteous and helpful attitude, enthusiasm, and punctuality.

Thank you to all the organisations who hosted Archer students and gave them a valuable insight into the world of work, helping them to make connections with new people and professionals, and explore what careers inspire and motivate them.



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

elevate
education



archer
ACADEMY

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>

HEADTEACHER CELEBRATIONS AND WELCOMES – Miss Harrison



Miss Harrison enjoyed a wonderful Headteacher's Lunch this week to celebrate Lower School students who received a high number of merits in December. Congratulations to all students.

Miss Harrison also hosted 'elevenses' with new students who have recently joined our school in various year groups, to welcome them to Archer Academy.

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 and criticism. 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 are a free opportunity for students once every half term to hear about interesting careers, learn about new and topical issues and find out something inspiring about the world outside the school gates.

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



UPPER SCHOOL TALK FROM MIKE FREER MP – Mr Ruffles

Friday 22nd March



Mike Freer, the Conservative MP for Finchley and Golders Green since 2010, will be delivering an online talk, open to all Upper School students on Friday 22nd March at lunchtime. He will talk about his fascinating experiences of being an MP and share his insights about the functioning of our democracy. All students in Year 10 and 11 are encouraged to attend, and particularly those studying Citizenship GCSE. Details and sign up sheets will be shared on Teams next week.

YEAR 8 PARENT BREAKFASTS – Mr Hilton

Tuesday 16th April



Year 8 Parents' Breakfast Morning

Tuesday 16th April

8:50-9:35am Tutor groups RKE, ATH, FHA

9:45-10:30am Tutor groups JGA, MWO, FBO

- Enjoy time with Year 8 parents, Mr Hilton, and Year 8 form tutors
- Celebrate the success of Year 8 students

Please bring a breakfast dish to share



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.

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 here: <https://eu.jotform.com/build/240532906726356/publish>

CULTURAL SOCIETY TRIP – Miss Harrison



Miss Harrison led a fabulous outing to see the hit coming-of-age musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' on Thursday night as part of the Cultural Society. Students and staff alike really enjoyed this fun feel-good show. Look out for details of the next Cultural Society trip coming up soon.

THEMATICS UPDATE – Mrs Vandervelde

Year 7 were incredibly privileged to hear from Avis Johns this week, founder of Archer Academy, about how our school came in to being from a kernel of an idea to what it is today. The students were captivated and asked fantastic questions about the origins of their school. This falls within our unit on 'Our Community' with an emphasis on local activism and what it can achieve.



RAMADAN PRAYER SPACE - Ms Mahoney

We will be providing dedicated spaces for prayer and reflection at both school sites during Ramadan.

The rooms will be available during lunchtime from 1.05-1.25pm each day from 11th March and will be supervised at the entry and exit points.

If your child is fasting and / or wishes to pray during lunchtime, please complete this brief form so we can best support our Muslim community.

<https://form.jotform.com/240663741744358>

All staff will be reminded of how best to support students who are fasting, particularly in physical activity and hot weather. If you have any questions or concerns please do reach out to your child's Head of Year.





Choice's College Supported Internship Programme - Open Day on Tuesday 26th March

A chance to learn about our internship, visit some of our placements and have an exclusive tour around the Royal Free Hospital as well as a Q&A with staff and current interns.

Open Day location: **WAC Arts, Old Town Hall, 213 Haverstock Hill, Belsize Park, London NW3 4QP**

We have two time slots for the day:

- **Morning – 10 am – 11:30am**
- **Afternoon – 1:30 pm – 3pm**

Please email morgan.jennings1@nhs.net if you would like to attend, stating a preferred time slot
Specialist Post-16 Institution

[Choices College \(formerly Project Choice\) Application Form](#)

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.



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.

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'

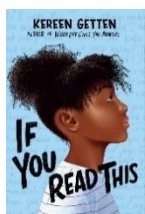
The online talk is free, but it is essential that parents/carers/staff register.

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

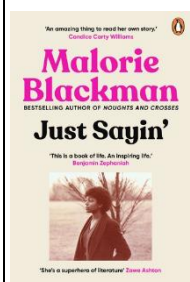
Please sign-up [here](#)

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist

New in the Lower School Library:



If you liked ***When Life Gives You Mangoes***, you'll love this one. Before she died, Brie's mum always created a treasure hunt for her birthday, but as Brie turns twelve, her mama has one more surprise.



Sheets is a whimsical story of a girl, a boy, and a haunted laundromat. A graphic novel for fans of Raina Telgeimeier.



One of Britain's best loved YA writers, Malorie Blackman, shares the inspiring story of how she became a writer.

Don't forget to use your **World Book Day** voucher! See Ms Appelquist if you have not received your voucher yet.



Events:



Fans of **Ace of Spades** will want to see Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé in conversation with popular author Benjamin Dean (author of **How to Die Famous**) about her newest YA mystery. Tapping into the Dark Academia aesthetic, **Where Sleeping Girls Lie** is a haunting and compulsive contemporary mystery of secrets, lies and revenge. At Waterstones Piccadilly Monday 11th March. See [here](#) for tickets.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr Constantinou

That is it. The final set of formal examinations before the real thing!

The mock exams have been great, the cohort has conducted themselves very well and appeared to be very well prepared for this important assessment point. Time will tell of course, students can expect their results slips just before we break up for the Easter Holiday. Main focus of improvement, uniform. Students must be in perfect Archer Academy uniform for their GCSEs in the summer, no CPA kit, no hoodies and no trainers - this was not the case throughout this week. This is not to detract from a brilliant effort from all involved this week.

Just two and a half weeks now until the Easter Holiday... do look out for more Archer Accelerate opportunities across that first week (2nd - 4th April), more details will be shared by Dr Morrison.

Pricing has been confirmed and choice of colours available. What am I talking about? Leavers' Hoodies of course. Keep your eyes peeled on ParentPay. Your child will have until the end of term to make their selection with their tutor/ the leavers committee and decide what hoodie they would like. They'll have to decide on colour and personalisation, and make sure their choices are logged with tutors. In the meantime, I will be opening the payment, giving you an opportunity to secure this lovely parting gift for your child. I will write to you with more details very soon.

Year 10 – Mr McSherry

Work Experience. What a week it has been.

Staff have enjoyed seeing students in different settings, and applying themselves well in the world of work. Employers have been nothing but impressed with the year group.

Please can I ask you to let your child know the following on Friday, or over the weekend:

- They should be very proud of themselves.
- They should also have completed their booklets (up to the 'Friday 8th March' entry).
- They are to bring their booklet with them to school on Monday - This is a MUST.

- They will spend the first two hours of the day on Monday in a year group assembly, followed by some key reflection activities with tutors and supporting staff (as well as preparing to LRD2 on Tuesday of course!)*

*This means Y side do not need PE kit. So full school uniform please.

Haven't seen your child's booklet? Ask them.

We do have to take a moment and reflect here, all of you too. I want to thank you all for securing the work placements for your children that you have, and then for supporting us in the placements we have found. It has not been easy I know. We have done something significant here, together.

Thank you so much for your support. A valuable experience for your child, that I am sure of.



Keshav A – for sourcing the most aspirational work experience placements, independently
Tariq AR – for demonstrating a mature and proactive attitude in his work experience placement, helping young people to learn

Year 9 – Ms Le

What a wonderful week it has been at our school! I am thrilled to share the incredible efforts of our Year 9 students who participated in the Drama competition. Their hard work and dedication have been truly commendable, and I couldn't be prouder of their collective achievements.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for Learning Review Day 2 on Tuesday next week (12th March).

On Monday 11th March, students will receive their personal Choices Entry Webcode link and passcode. This marks the official opening of the options form for Year 9 into Year 10 GCSE Options. **Students have until Friday 15th March, to finalise and submit their preferences.** Should any student accidentally submit the wrong options, there's no need to panic - they can simply complete the form again.

For any questions or assistance, please feel free to reach out to Tutors directly or contact me. We are here to ensure a smooth transition for our students as they embark on this exciting phase of their academic journey.



George S (9SMU) – for taking every step possible to improve his punctuality at school.
Lily S (9TDY) – for being a helpful buddy for new students, helping them settle into their new school.

Year 8 – Mr Hilton

It gives me great joy once again to say how talented our Year 8 students are. I had the joy of watching 'Antigone' last night. Seeing members of year group be a part of the cast has truly been a highlight of my time at Archer Academy so far.

I also know how proud Miss Harris is of our four students who participated in the dance competition earlier this week. Delighted to say that they're heading to nationals! Please join me in congratulating them.

On Tuesday we have our second LRD day, please make sure you have booked your appointment with your child's form tutor. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.



Hannah A, Gabriella A, Arisa G, Venya H, Manami M for their award-winning performances in the dance competition earlier this week.

Year 7 – Mr Raghuveer

Year 7 have continued to develop their skills in a wide variety of subjects this week. It was lovely to introduce an element of Drama in History this week whilst studying Thomas Becket. Year 7 have also moved onto a new rotation of sports in PE with athletics and volleyball.

Perhaps what was most memorable about this week is the launch of our new project in Thematics, Our Community. On Wednesday, one of the founders of our school, Avis Johns, delivered an assembly for the year group and they really took a lot from it. I look forward to them going out in the community next Wednesday!

As a reminder Tuesday 12th March will be our Second Learning Review Day. To best support this, please may I ask you to remind your child of the following:

- Full school uniform and planners needed for the appointment.
- Draft targets completed before meeting.
- Final targets uploaded onto the Assignment on Microsoft Teams (set on Tuesday).
- If your child has First Aid Training, they must meet at the picnic benches at either 8:45pm or 12:45pm. This information has been shared with the year group and it is their responsibility to attend the correct session and to remember to attend their Learning Review Day appointment.
- If you cannot attend Learning Review Day, please get into contact with your child's tutor to secure a follow up meeting.



Stars of the week



Hazel DPC 7JRW – for excellent conduct and an improvement in engagement all around school.
Sofia E 7HCI – for your continued excellent effort in History and Geography, it doesn't go unnoticed!

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.