

10th January 2025

Dear all,

Happy New Year. It has been wonderful to welcome students and staff back to school this week.

The New Year brings the opportunity for reflection and resolution. Our focus on building 'habits', in relation to character, conduct and learning is at the heart of our work as Archers this year and the New Year has provided the space to reflect on what has been achieved and to set some goals, both as a community and as individuals, for the spring term and beyond.

Next week sees the beginning of Depth Assessment Fortnight for students in Year 7 to Year 10. Please do take the opportunity to review your child's timetable with them, available on MS Teams, to ensure that they are best prepared for success. I would like to extend my best wishes to every student.

A reminder about stationery and warm coats! I had hoped that Father Christmas might ensure that every child was reequipped for the new term but this is not consistent. It is essential, especially in light of assessments, that your child has a full stationery set (including a glue set and scientific calculator) each and every day, so that they are ready to learn. Additionally, warm coats are very much encouraged in light of the temperatures.

Finally, today we must say 'au revoir' to Mr Mustafa who heads off on paternity leave. We look forward to hearing all of Mr Mustafa's news as his new family life begins.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

"Every morning we are born again. What we do today is what matters most."
Gautam Buddha

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY – Mrs Ruback

Term dates for 2025-2026 can be found here: [Calendar | Archer Academy \(thearcheracademy.org.uk\)](https://thearcheracademy.org.uk)

Key dates over the next two months:

January

Mon 13th- Fri 24th – Depth Assessment Fortnight

Wed 15th – Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Fri 24th – Bake sale hosted by 7JHA, 3pm

Mon 27th – Fri 31st – FREE Week (no homework or assessments)

February

Wed 5th – Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening, 4.30-8pm

Thurs 6th – Bright Ideas Talk for students, 3.20-4pm

Wed 12th – Year 9 Options Evening, 5-7.30pm

14th-16th – Year 10 trip to Berlin

17th – 21st – HALF TERM

Tues 25th – Online Q&A with Sophia Davison, adolescent psychotherapist

Thu 27th – Learning Review Day (timetable suspended for 1-to-1 meetings with form tutor)

Fri 28th – Year 9 & 10 Careers Day

March

3rd-7th – Year 10 work experience week

3rd-7th – Year 11 mock examinations

Wed 5th – Year 8 Options Evening, 5-7.30pm

Thu 6th – Welwyn Youth Drama Festival

Fri 7th – Parent Coffee Morning with guest speaker, 9.15am

Mon 10th – Great Big Dance Off competition

Thurs 13th – Cultural Society Trip to see Starlight Express

Fri 14th – Year 7 Bake Sale, hosted by 7ICH, 3pm

17th-21st – Neurodiversity Week and Science Week

24th-28th – LitFest

Wed 26th – Year 10 Core Subjects Evening, 6-8pm

Thurs 27th – Bright Ideas Talk, 3.15pm

28th-29th – Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition

END OF TERM ASSEMBLY AND CHARITY COLLECTION – Miss Harrison



We enjoyed wonderful performances and readings from students and staff at our final whole school assembly of 2024, and we congratulated winners of the Archer Way and Maths Awards.

Thank you to everyone who supported our winter collections by donating chocolate gifts for the Finchley Foodbank and money for Save the Children on the last day of term.



TAKING EXERCISE BOOKS HOME – Mrs Gillham

Students in all year groups are now able to take their exercise books home to support their learning outside of school. This initiative is designed to help students reinforce and extend their learning by reviewing and completing tasks at home.

To further support students, could you please encourage students to use the following top tips to help their organisation:

- Store books in a designated place to avoid losing them

- Get school bags ready the night before – with the correct books for the correct lessons the following day
- Always double check before you leave for school that your bag is packed
- Avoid eating or drinking near books to maintain good condition.

A reminder that exercise books are an essential tool for learning and without them, student classwork could be interrupted. To encourage good organisational skills, students who do not return their exercise books to lessons will be issued with an equipment code. We trust that students will embrace this new responsibility and appreciate your support in helping them maintain good habits in managing this.

DEPTH ASSESSMENT FORTNIGHT – Mrs Gillham

13th-24th January

A reminder that Depth Assessment Fortnight for Year 7-10 will take place from Monday 13th - Friday 24th January. This provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their academic progress and allows teachers to assess learning outcomes to better support individual progress.

Students should take note of the following guidance to make sure they are well prepared for success:

- Review MS Teams: make sure homework revision tasks have been completed as well as additional independent revision
- Plan ahead: students should review their assessment schedules in advance and be prepared for each day. A copy can be found here: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Depth-Assessment-Fortnight-Jan-2025-.xlsx>
- Be prepared: bring the necessary materials, such as pens, pencils, rulers, calculators and any other equipment specified by teachers to each session
- Good self-care habits: try to encourage good sleep habits and support this with good routines before leaving home in the morning- make sure students have had breakfast and are well hydrated and well organised to start the day.

We encourage students to view assessments not merely as a measure of academic achievement but as a meaningful opportunity for self-reflection. As always, teachers and staff are available to address any questions or concerns leading up to and during this period of time.

For any questions, please contact Mrs Gillham - Deputy Headteacher (Academic)
MrsLgillham@thearcheracademy.org.uk

STAY CONNECTED – Mrs Ruback

Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up to date with school news and photos.

Facebook @TheArcherAcademy
 Instagram @archeracademy
 LinkedIn @archeracademy



Also, each tutor group has an informal WhatsApp group for parents run by the Class Rep. On these groups, you can ask questions about school and connect with other parents.
 To join, please email kruback@thearcheracademy.org.uk

BIG DRAW FESTIVAL – Miss Ashraf

Big Draw Week was a fantastic event in which we celebrated drawing and creativity and its impact on wellbeing and engagement. Over the last week of term, students thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of activities at both sites including collaborative doodle drawing, clay workshops, cookie decorating, and bracelet making. Students demonstrated a strong interest and excitement for the subject and were keen to explore more. The week showcased how important creative expression is for engaging students and enhancing their learning experience.



YEAR 11 ICE SKATING TRIP – Mr Gillo





Year 11 enjoyed a festive ice-skating trip to Glide ice rink at Battersea Power Station at the end of term. A well-deserved opportunity for the year group to relax and have fun together after their mock exams.

ALUMNI INSIGHTS TALK – Mrs Ruback



Thank you to all the Year 10 and 11 students who attended our first Alumni Insights talk.

Four Archer Alumni students, Hannah, Sebastian, Sumaya and Louis, came back into school to share their experiences and advice about Oxford and Cambridge Universities. It was inspiring to hear them speak so passionately about their subjects, their colleges, and life at Oxbridge.

Look out for details of our next Alumni Insights talk coming up.

YEAR 7 BAKE SALE – Mrs Ruback

Thank you to 7JNO for hosting a fabulous bake sale, providing delicious cakes and biscuits for students and staff to enjoy, while raising money for the school.
The next bake sale will be hosted by 7JHA on Friday 24th January.



YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE – Mr Constantinou

3rd – 7th March



CAN YOU OFFER A WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT TO AN ARCHER STUDENT?

Work experience is an opportunity for young people to:

- gain a valuable insight into the world of work
- find out what inspires and motivates them
- explore their skills and interests
- meet new people and build a network of contacts
- communicate with professionals in the real world

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP



Year 10 students will take part in work experience during the week of Monday 3rd – Friday 7th March 2025.

There are a number of students who are still looking for placements. If you, or someone you know, can offer an aspirational work experience placement to a Year 10 Archer student, please fill in this quick form:

<https://form.jotform.com/250087072420347>

For any queries, please email Mr Constantinou, Head of Year 10.
Mrmconstantinou@thearcheracademy.org.uk

BUSINESS TRIP TO THE MUSEUM OF BRANDS – Mrs Agrawal

On 17th December, our Year 10 Business class went on a fantastic trip to Museum of Brands in Notting Hill. Students enjoyed two engaging workshops – product design (students were challenged to design and make their own smoothies) and customer profiling (students created a profile of target market for different businesses).

Students learnt a lot about the value of building a brand and worked in teams on many interesting tasks. They were enthralled with the time tunnel displays where they could visualise brands coming to life from the Victorian era to modern times. Our students returned feeling more confident in understanding branding as an important aspect of any business.



NEW MENU AT UPPER SCHOOL – Mr Alcock

We are very excited to be offering a new menu at Upper School which features new options and more grab-and-go choices. Thank you to students who attended our 'foodie feedback' groups and provided valuable suggestions. We hope you enjoy the new offering. New catering menus will be uploaded to the school website next week.



LAMDA CLASSES – Ms Rodford

We are offering Year 7 students the opportunity to sign up to LAMDA classes with Anne-Marie Conway on Fridays from 3-4pm at Lower School. This is in addition to our well-established LAMDA classes for Year 8 and 9 which take place on Mondays and Thursdays after school.

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) is the speech and drama equivalent of a music grade, which begin at a basic level and culminates at Grade 8. Classes are run in a fun, relaxed, workshop style. Students are encouraged to choose their own pieces and then develop the skills necessary to perform their pieces to an external examiner.



If you would like to sign up, please contact Anne-Marie Conway on aconway@thearcheracademy.org.uk

This is a paid, extra-curricular class. Fee information will be shared once you email.

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY – Ms Fleckney

We are looking for a part-time Science Technician to join our science department, to be responsible for the safe and effective running of science resources under the guidance of the Head of Science. This is a part time position and are flexible about how this could be spread across the week. For more information and application details, please click here: [Work with us | Archer Academy](#)



MEDICAL UPDATE – Ms Rodis

We are offering Year 9 the Td/IPV and Meningitis ACWY vaccination to help protect our community from: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio & Meningococcal disease, which can cause meningitis and septicaemia.

To give consent for your child to have these important vaccines, please click here: <https://ncl.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2024/barnet>

We will write again with more information once dates are confirmed. Please contact the BARNET IMMUNISATION TEAM (not the school office) with any immunisation queries, on: barnet@v-uk.co.uk Tel: 0208 432 7075

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – Mrs Ruback



Could you talk to Year 9 and 10 students about your profession at the Archer Careers Fair?

Students will work their way round stalls, speaking to professionals about their careers, and asking questions about the skills and requirements needed, with the aim of making informed choices about their future pathways.

Career Fair information:

Date: Friday 28th February

Times: 8.30am - 12.30pm (including setting up and packing away)

Location: The Archer Academy, Lower School Sports Hall

If you are able to help, please complete this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/P8miYNNP53>.

We are specifically looking for people from these professions:

- Accountancy Banking and Finance
- IT
- Environmental
- Charity Sector
- Leisure Sports and Tourism
- Legal
- Retail

Please reach out if you have any questions:

Sonila Bami (Careers & Vocational Curriculum Leader) sbrami@thearcheracademy.org.uk

Jo-Anne Rampling (Careers Consultant) jrampling@thearcheracademy.org.uk

Thank you for your support.

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT – Mrs Sampson

The GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2024

During the last week of term, Year 10 students had the opportunity to engage with the GCHQ Christmas Challenge 2024. This intriguing annual initiative invites both children and adults to immerse themselves in a festive puzzling adventure that stimulates critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Year 10 students enjoyed the challenge which revolved around the geography of GCHQ offices around the UK, enabling them to work together and enhance their problem-solving abilities. To see the challenge, please click on the following link:

<https://www.gchq.gov.uk/files/GCHQ%20Christmas%20Challenge%202024.pdf>

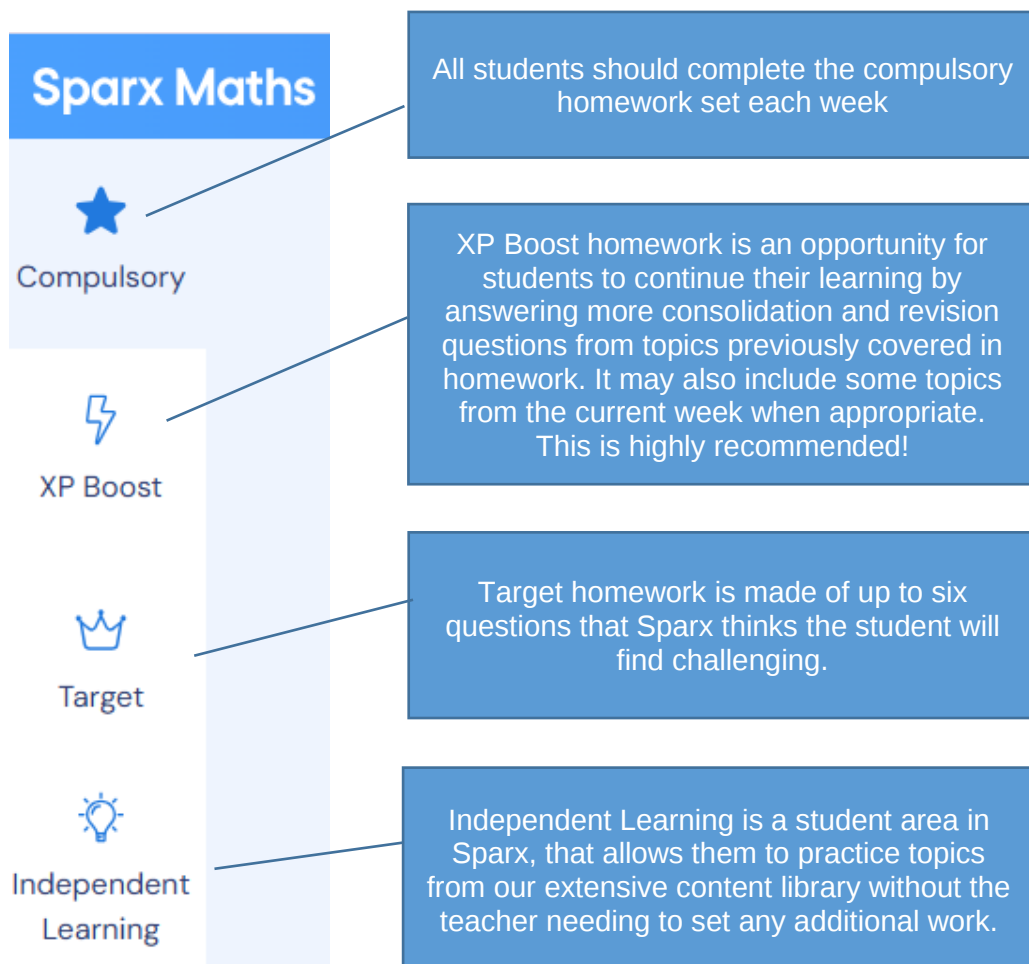


Below is an account from Rowan, Henry and Shachar in Year 10

"We really enjoyed the GCHQ Christmas challenge as it gave us the opportunity to work together and develop our problem-solving skills. Each puzzle revealed a certain UK landmark. We worked as a team to decipher the puzzles utilising different skills. We enjoyed our challenge and can't wait for next years!"

Sparx Maths

Students are encouraged to use Sparx Maths to prepare for their upcoming assessments. Below is some useful information on how to use the site to complete homework and independent practice.



Casio Webinar

Casio Education UK have released a webinar on how to use the ClassWiz calculator. To access the recording, [please click here](#)



Woodhouse Maths Mentoring

A team of A Level Mathematicians from Woodhouse College have volunteered to act as Maths Mentors to our Year 11 students this term.

They will spend an hour a week tutoring students in pairs or individually towards their GCSE Maths, working through GCSE Maths practice papers and supporting Year 11's with challenging questions.

These sessions will run on Wednesdays from 3.40-4.40pm (directly after school) on these dates:

8th, 22nd, 29th January

5th, 12th, 26th February

12th, 19th, 26th March

WOODHOUSE
COLLEGE

Please click on the link below to sign up for the session(s) that you would like to attend.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Bh3iJeExei>

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist and Miss Livingstone

Welcome back!

I'm looking forward to hearing all about what books you read over the holidays; remember, a well-written book review earns 10 merits, so drop by the library to pick up a template!

New Year's Resolutions:

Many of us have 'read more' on our list of New Year's Resolutions. To help you stick to it, come to the Lower School library to browse or get recommendations from Ms Appelquist, and why not take the **Seven in Seven Archer Challenge**? Read 7 books from seven continents by July and write a book review of each one. This is a great chance for you to improve your concentration, stay accountable, develop your empathy *and* your vocabulary, earn merits, and win prizes! To start you out easy, here are some suggestions for Europe, available in the Archer Libraries:

There are many more! Ask your librarian for suggestions.



Brrrrr:

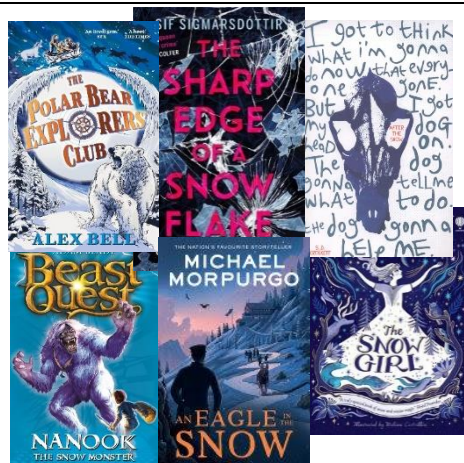
If you can bear it, check out our display in the LS Library featuring freezing cold adventures:

New in Lower School Library:



For a spooky escape from the cold, enjoy our new Goosebumps graphic novels.

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



Why not start the new year with some **no-pressure netball**? It's a great way to get a bit of exercise alongside a group of local women of all ages and fitness levels.

We have two, women-only netball sessions run by a qualified coach from England Netball in the lower school sports hall **every Tuesday**.

Back to Netball 6.30-7.30pm is perfect for beginners or returners, and

Netball Now 7.30-8.30pm is great for those who are more experienced or faster on their feet.

First session free. Thereafter sessions are £6.

No special kit needed, just clothes you can move in, some trainers and a water bottle.

New term starts on 14th January. Come and celebrate every goal with us!

More info: Sophie.Johnson@englandnetball.co.uk or avis.johns@btinternet.com

Free Language Enrichment Programme training run by BELS

3-session online course for parents/carers of Early Years and Primary/Secondary aged children and young people on supporting their child's speech, language, and communication.

January 28th, February 11th, March 4th, (evaluation on March 18th) 2025. [Sign up here](#)

Any questions please contact Emily Bartlett; Emily.Bartlett@Barnet.gov.uk

Link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6736436606>pwd=NXcva2dvMkxJZnVkTEpnVG5HNHREQT09 Meeting ID: 673 643 6606 Passcode: SALT

BACPAC: Free Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers

6-session online training and support programme for parents/carers of children aged 6-19, with a diagnosis of Autism. This course is available free of charge to families living in Barnet.

Topics include: An overview of what it means for your child to be Autistic, Communication, Sensory needs, Understanding emotional regulation/'behaviour'.

Please click here to see [flyer](#) for further details and a link to sign-up.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 – Mr McSherry

What a pleasure it was to welcome the Year 11 students back to school following the Christmas break. They arrived in one of two ways from what I could see... either fresh faced and ready to go or clearly exhausted from an unpredictable holiday sleeping pattern. Both understandable. Nevertheless, all of them collected their mock results on Tuesday afternoon with great enthusiasm and curiosity.

In this week's assembly I encouraged each and every one of the students to think about the results they achieved and to hold on to the way they felt once they'd opened their envelope. This is an important point of reflection for them all, without exception. I encouraged all students to act. To take responsibility and to focus on the things they can control. Things such as hard work and effort, as well as the time and sacrifice that is required moving forward.

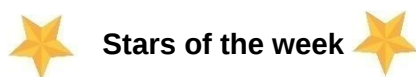
I would urge you to explore the details of the fully comprehensive New Year bulletin, take a note of the key dates that are approaching, and discuss these with your child. As ever, all information will be sent to you, and all information will be made available for them on MS teams. Please do encourage them to engage with this carefully. You'll also see details about further support that is available for students at lunchtime in the computer suite.

I wanted to draw your attention in particular to the Year 11 Parents Evening that is scheduled for next week on Wednesday 15th from 4.30pm. I wanted to take this opportunity to stress that it is very important that all parents and students attend. The evening is conducted online, so I would expect to have parents and students on camera. I would like to stress that if you're unable to take part personally, please proceed to book these appointments, and then arrange for a supporting adult, a family member, or even family friend, to support your child.

This is such an important opportunity with the mock exams in mind, and then looking ahead to March, and then the summer of course.

Any issues, please do reach out to your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Have a great weekend and have them get as much rest as they can.



Stars of the week

Elena E – for securing an incredible result in her PE GCSE mock exam paper.

Jessica P – for encouraging her peers and celebrating their achievements.

Year 10 – Mr Constantinou

Year 10 have clearly returned feeling refreshed and raring to go. I've been exceptionally impressed by their hard work in their lessons as I walk around the building this week.

Next week sees the beginning of their assessment fortnight. Hopefully you have seen them preparing well at home over the holidays, if the answer to that question is a resound no (always a possibility over the winter period) please do prompt them to maximise their time this weekend in order to best prepare.

Thank you to those who have completed the Jotform for work experience placements which all Year 10 students are taking part in from 3rd – 7th March. Below is the link to the form if you are yet to complete it. <https://form.jotform.com/242894428863370>

To reassure you, currently all that's been asked is for the students to find a placement. If you have any questions or queries regarding this, please get in contact with your child's form tutor. You are also free to give the email address of your child's form tutor to any company that is requiring confirmation of dates etc. For those who have tried but are unable to find a placement, we will begin meeting with students next week to support them with this process.

I hope you and our students have a lovely weekend, filled with hard work and revision, perhaps with a bit of rest built in!



Calum Y – for consistently trying his hardest in his lessons.
Lia B – for always having such a positive energy at school.

Year 9 – Mr Hilton

It is great to see all the students back at school! I hope you and your child had a restful break and are ready for an engaging term ahead.

This term, we are placing a significant focus on careers education. To support this initiative, your child will be working through a comprehensive careers booklet each week. This resource is designed to assist them in navigating the choices process, which begins in earnest this term. During assembly on Wednesday, I took the opportunity to go over the important dates for the upcoming weeks. Please see these highlighted below and make a note in your diaries:

- **Mon 3 – Fri 7 Feb** – Choice Assemblies
- **Wed 12 Feb** – Year 9 Options Evening
- **Thu 27 Feb** – Learning Review Day 2
- **Fri 28 Feb** – Careers Day
- **Fri 14 Mar** – Deadline for submission

Additionally, I would like to remind you that Depth Assessment Fortnight begins next week. It is essential for students to refer to the timetable that was sent home prior to the Christmas holidays, it is also available on MS Teams. This week, we encourage students to focus particularly on Languages, History, Geography, and Art, Design and Technology (ADT) subjects.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or the subjects they should be prioritising, please do not hesitate to reach out to their respective teachers.



Kasra P – outstanding effort in Maths.
Muneeb A – excellent work as a senior prefect.

Year 8 – Mr Raghuveer

Welcome back to Year 8, I hope you all had a restful holiday and are ready to build on our strong start last term. A huge welcome to Mr Muranda, who joins our tutor team taking over 8JRW temporarily. His email address is: mrjmuranda@thearcheracademy.org.uk.

The Spring term begins with Assessment Fortnight next week and I shared a few questions with students in Assembly on Thursday:

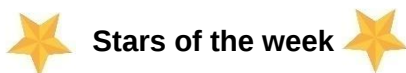
- Have you taken your books home to revise?
- Have you got access to the Assessment schedule and made a revision timetable?
- Do you know what subjects you made a target for in LRD1?
- Have you asked your teacher for support in revision?

I trust students have spent some time revising over the holidays, and following our decision to allow students to take their books home on a regular basis, there will be an opportunity for students to show the initiative they have taken with these upcoming assessments. I very much look forward to my Year 8's completing their assessment on Oliver Cromwell.

This week, I have spoken to the cohort about two exciting events that are part of the journey of all Year 8 students. The Options process for Year 9 and our Bushcraft Residential.

Options - This will mark the first occasion that students in Year 8 have had a chance to personalise their learning for Year 9. It provides a valuable insight into the GCSE process, for both students and parents. More information to follow but it is something I will be referencing with year group on a consistent basis.

Bushcraft - Thank you to parents that have paid the deposit for the trip, reminders have been sent if needed. It promises to be a wonderful end to the year. Please email your child's form tutor or myself if you have any questions or concerns.



Ruth G 8SGR – consistently excellent in all aspects in the classroom. Keep it up!

Evie RJ 8ACL – excellent commitment and dedication to school. Well done!

Year 7 – Miss Le

Happy New Year! I hope all Archer families had a joyful and restful festive season. Year 7 have returned to school with great enthusiasm, and the tutor team and I are excited to build on the successes of last term.

This week, Year 7 participated in a number of House events during PE. It was fantastic to see how collaboratively they worked within their Houses, and we're all looking forward to finding out which House was victorious soon!

During tutor time, students will continue reading *I Am Malala* and will also focus on learning about healthy relationships. I encourage you to discuss these topics with your child over the weekend as we aim to deepen their understanding in the coming weeks.

A few key reminders:

- Students must have their reading books with them every day, along with their copy of *I Am Malala*.
- Students should come equipped with a fully stocked pencil case, including a glue stick, scientific calculator, spare pens, and both a purple and red pen.
- Students wear their CPA kit only on days they have Drama or Dance.

I kindly ask all parents to take a moment to ensure your child is fully prepared for their learning and attends school ready each day. Thank you for your continued support.



Hanna A 7NAS - for always being kind and helpful.

Adam M 7NAS - for good contributions in his Geography classes.