

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 1 2024



**MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER**

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,  
Welcome to the Barnhill spring term 2024 newsletter.

**New rewards programme**

It has been another busy and successful half term here at Barnhill. I would like to congratulate the many students who have received postcards and certificates from the new rewards programme. It is very positive to see so many achievements being made by all year groups. Please do encourage your child to collect as many positive points in lessons and around the school as possible. It always helps children to aspire to good words and deeds.

**Parents survey**

At Barnhill we always encourage feedback from parents and carers. Your views help us to address areas for improvement, while building upon our successes. I would be grateful if you could complete this short survey to help us understand the views of parents at this time. It should take no more than 4 or 5 minutes. [Click here](#) to complete it now or scan the QR code.

**Events this half term**

I would like to thank all staff and students for the co-curricular opportunities that have been enjoyed this term. These opportunities not only showcase the diverse talents within Barnhill, but also demonstrate our commitment to students broadening their cultural capital through teamwork. Some highlights can be found below:

We were visited by renowned singer-songwriter Hannah Jane Lewis this term who delivered a master class for our Year 10 music students. The day concluded with each student composing and performing their own song, showcasing remarkable talent and creativity.

In January, our Year 11 Prince's Trust students explored post-16 options at Uxbridge College. The visit provided insights into various courses, with many students securing places after engaging talks and tours.

Our Key Stage 4 students embraced the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, exploring volunteering, physical fitness, skills, and expeditions. Miss Evans-Brown has secured funding, allowing 75 students to participate in the programme for free. A summer term expedition to the Chiltern Hills awaits, which promises to be a valuable experience 'beyond the classroom'!

Barnhill's Sixth Form team organized an Art Exhibition, auctioning prints of GCSE and A level artwork during Parents' Evening. The event raised over £300 for Save the Children, highlighting the wonderful creative talents of Barnhill students while contributing to a really important cause.

Finally, I thank you all for your ongoing support of the school and for being such an important part of the school community. We always aim to provide the best education and your support is such an important part of our joint success.

Warmest regards,

*J. Jones*

MR J JONES  
Headteacher

**PARENT AND CARER SURVEY**

Your view counts!



Closing date

Friday 16 February

### PRINCE'S TRUST STUDENTS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Year 11 Prince's Trust students visited Uxbridge College on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Students were given a tour of the college and had talks from members of staff about the different courses and pathways.

There were many highlights during the visit, however all students really enjoyed seeing the car mechanic workshops and were amazed and excited to see the travel and tourism facilities.

All in all, the trip helped all students have a clearer idea of post 16 options. Subsequently they all made applications to Uxbridge College during their Prince's Trust lessons and many have already had interviews and places secured.



### STUDENTS GET A MASTER CLASS IN SONG WRITING

People often hear songs and assume that they are made by “one chance in a lifetime” singers or multi-millionaire record producers, something that is unattainable for almost everybody. But this couldn't be further from the truth, and this is something that Year 10 music students learnt recently thanks to a visit from a professional singer-songwriter.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Hannah Jane Lewis spent the day with our year 10 music class showing them the way that songwriters construct songs and lyrics and how their tireless work in the background of the music industry helps shape so much of the music that we hear today. To put it another way, “behind the famous face there are 20 songwriters that helped them to make the music they perform”. She shared lots of advice for writing songs when you lack inspiration and gave tips for how to make a song stand out and get stuck in a listeners head.



By the end of the day, all of the students had written a song from start to finish and performed them to each other. The results were nothing short of incredible!



## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a programme designed to encourage and recognise young people's achievements in a range of activities, including volunteering, physical fitness, and outdoor exploration. The program is open to young people aged 14 to 24 and is divided into three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

For KS4 students (aged 14-16), the Bronze level is typically the starting point. To achieve the award, participants must complete a set number of hours in each of the program's four sections: volunteering, physical, skills, and expedition. The requirements for each section vary depending on the level of the award and are designed to challenge participants and help them develop new skills and interests.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is widely recognized and respected by employers and educational institutions, making it an excellent addition to a young person's CV or college application. It also provides participants with a sense of achievement and the opportunity to develop important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Miss Evans-Brown has managed to source funding for this year's cohort, allowing 75 students to participate for free in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. She is looking forward to taking them on the expedition during the summer term, where students will be able to enjoy the Chiltern Hills, and develop new skills beyond the curriculum.

## POETIC LANGUAGE EN ESPANOL

Thank you to Miss Aguilera, Curriculum Lead and teacher of Spanish, for getting us involved in **Poesiae** and for the article below. Poesiae the first Global Modern Foreign Language poem recitation competition. Spreading the love learning and speaking foreign languages.



Eighteen of our outstanding linguists at Barnhill recently demonstrated their talents in the prestigious Spanish poetry competition, Poesiae, which drew participation from 250 schools worldwide. This incredible event serves as a platform not only for linguistic excellence but also for the development of oracy skills and self-confidence. We celebrated their achievements in an assembly, where certificates were awarded to all participants. It was a moment of pride and accomplishment for everyone involved.

We are thrilled to share some insights from our students about their experience in this enriching competition:

*I chose to join the Poesiae Spanish poem competition because I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring out creativity between art and languages. The poem I chose was: "Con tal de que duermas" by Gabriela Mistra. I thought that there was a lot of imagery and ideas which can enhance both subjects in the most positive and beautiful way. I was also motivated by understanding and analysing Spanish poems to increase my vocabulary. **Neha Year 9***

*I love Spanish poetry because it shows a lot of diversity of Spanish culture and Spanish language. I find it amazing that words can reveal a beautiful picture about people, history, and daily things in life. One day I would like to travel all around the world to learn and understand people and languages. **Venka Year 10***

*The reason I decided to participate in poetry competition was because I have some real problem with pronunciation in Spanish. I participated to improve pronunciations. The poem I selected was called "La playa tiene una torre" by Antonio Machado. **Gurleen Year 10***



### CHILLING WITH N-ICE

Year 10 students had a very nice experience when they embarked on a captivating journey into the realm of science that went far beyond their regular lessons. The excitement kicked in when they began exploring fascinating topics such as changes of state and covalent bonding, injecting an extra dose of curiosity into their day.

As the day progressed, the students found themselves immersed in hands-on activities featuring the enigmatic dry ice. This offered them a unique opportunity to put their newfound knowledge into practice through a series of engaging experiments. With bubbling enthusiasm, they eagerly investigated the mysteries of state changes, creating an atmosphere brimming with both fun and learning.

The joyous atmosphere was contagious, and it was evident that the entire experience was a hit among the students. Laughter and smiles filled the air as everyone revelled in the excitement of the day, making it not just a learning experience but a memorable and enjoyable one for all.

#### Student testimonial:

*I had an extremely intriguing and interesting experience during my recent dry-ice experiments. Although the 'singing' spoon experiment was fascinating and made me question the science behind it, my favourite activity was the 'Bubble Tray' experiment, where water and fairy soap mixed together to make bubbles, and dry ice was added to it.*

*I learned many new properties of the substance, such as sublimation, and refreshed my knowledge of covalent bonding. Several safety precautions were in place, such as wearing goggles and insulated gloves, to ensure our safety.*

*Overall, this experience enhanced my knowledge and engagement in scientific activities and Chemistry itself.*

**Varneet Year 10**



### CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD 2024

Our year 12 chemists recently sat the **Chemistry Olympiad 2024**, a worldwide competition held by the Royal Society of Chemistry, with over 10,000 participants.

Our students scored between 2-14 marks out of 85.

In previous years as little as 14 marks have been awarded bronze awards, showing the true difficulty of this test.

It's been 2 years since our school did this, and we are waiting for the certificates from RSC that give the students either a bronze, silver or gold award, which can be used to support applications for universities.



## SCIENCE CLUB

During the last weeks, our Barnhillians enjoyed using their creativity skills to build rafts and catapults. Students also explored 'density' through the completion of the 'Dancing raisins' experiment, an exciting activity that investigates why an object, that normally sinks, floats. The STEM Activities were a great way for our students to explore key science and engineering concepts in a practical way.

*I had lots of fun creating this cool helicopter raft, if I had to make it again, I would put the sticks closer so there are no gaps.*

**Muhammed Year 8**

*It's fantastic that through these extracurricular clubs, our students are able to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate a passion for science.*

**Mrs Mohobuth - Head of KS3 Science**





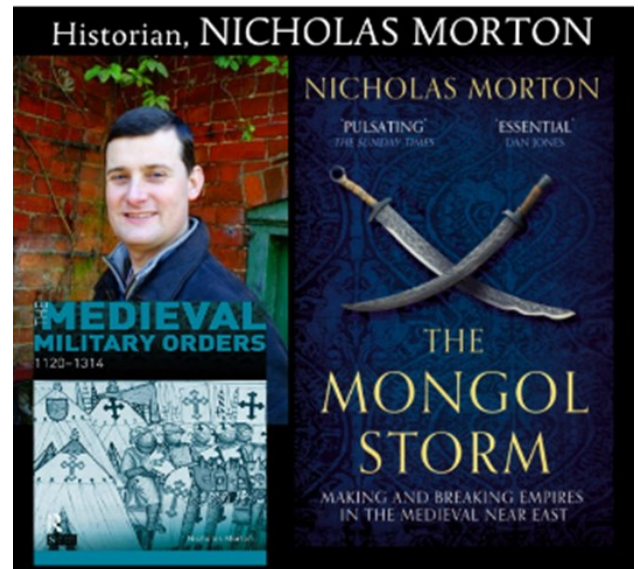
### TALK WITH DR NICHOLAS MORTON

Dr Morton is a professor at Nottingham Trent University and they specialise in Medieval studies. Additionally, they have recently written a book entitled "The Mongol Storm".

Being a well-informed professional, they offered us the informative opportunity to learn about 'Qaraqorum', the capital of the Mongol Empire. Dr Morton began the talk by thoroughly explaining what Qaraqorum was and why it was so significant to the Mongols, which included why the city was different from its counterparts in different empires.

Next, the professor mentioned the city's importance and who would live or visit the city, the fundamental role that women played in the running of the city; while also touching on why women played a large part in the organisation and running of the Mongol Empire, and then a couple of features of the Mongol rule were discussed, including the diversity of the Empire but also the fearsome nature of violence that was integrated into the culture.

Finally, some of the students asked questions and expressed their curiosity, and Dr Morton was able to answer all of the questions in a satisfactory manner, leaving all of the students enlightened.



### INSPIRATIONAL VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Students in Year 12 immersed themselves in the life and legacy of Winston Churchill on a visit to the Imperial War Museum: Churchill War Rooms in December. The trip, organised by the History department, formed part of their Britain 1930 – 1997 History A Level course.

While touring the museum they saw rooms constructed beneath Whitehall where Churchill and the Imperial Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the war during the Blitz.

Serena said: 'We were able to consolidate our learning about Churchill ranging from his childhood, career in the military, his political wilderness years, and role as PM to his victory of the second election. Audio guides were given out and the class was able to engage in the activities the museum held such as short film clips as well as being fortunate to have an insight into the environment of the bunkers, bedrooms, and the map room where most of the important strategic decisions were made. The class was satisfied and loved the museum, as it was highly engaging and benefitted our learning on the course.'





**YEAR 7 POETRY SLAM: PROUD TO BE**

*“We may not all be winners of the competition, but we are all winners to ourselves”* - Mohamed 7B

On Wednesday 7th of February, ten of our talented and courageous poets made the journey to William Byrd Primary Academy with Miss McGrath and Miss Falad to compete in the MLP’s annual poetry slam. The brief this year was to write a poem expressing pride in who you are, and our poets did not disappoint! With topics ranging from religion, race, identity, and culture, our poets showcased just how much they take pride in who they are and what they do. The competition was strong, but our poets were not dismayed! They gave inspiring and passionate performances. Eventually, Barnhill emerged victorious, the overall winner’s prize going to Azaan Khan in 7J. We are proud of all of our competitors and the effort they put into the competition. A huge thank you to Ms Petsopoulou, Miss McGrath, and Miss Falad for helping to organise the trip and in-school competition! The names and the awards are listed below.

FINALISTS	
Name	Class
Kye’Rel	7K
Samaa	7E
Ritchelle	7A
Shivanshi	7A
Azaan	7J
Imaan	7I
Mohamed	7B
Emaan	7F
Hibo	7I

WINNERS	
Name	Class
OVERALL WINNER - Azaan	7J
FIRST PLACE - Samaa	7E
SECOND PLACE - Imaan	7I
THIRD PLACE - Shivanshi	7A



YEAR 7S INTER FORM FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Year 7 have been battling away in the intertutor football league. Unbelievably, there is so much still hanging in the balance with only 1 more game to go!

The final round of fixtures will take place after half-term and with over 140 students involved across 3 months, the Year 7s have been fantastic.

Some brilliant football has been on display, alongside incredible moments of magic and all Year 7 students should be commended on their sportsmanship throughout.

See the latest league table below:

# Year 7 Tutor Football League

## Gameweek 8 Results



Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

7A	2 - 2	7H	FT
7C	1 - 1	7F	FT
7D	0 - 0	7E	FT
7J	2 - 1	7I	FT

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

7B	2 - 0	7G	FT
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Tutor	Played	Wins	Draw	Loss	Points
7H	8	6	2	0	22
7B	8	5	3	0	21
7J	8	5	2	1	20
7G	8	5	1	2	19
7A	8	4	2	2	18
7F	8	2	2	4	14
7C	8	2	2	4	14
7I	8	2	1	5	13
7E	8	0	2	6	11
7D	8	0	2	6	9

9<sup>th</sup> Game

7I v 7A

7H v 7B

7G v 7C

7D v 7F

7E v 7J

GAMES WILL START AT 12:20

MAKE SURE YOU EAT BEFORE P4

Year 7 boys made it through to the Borough finals for sports hall athletics and competed really well. Although they did not win to go through to the London Youth Games they were a credit to themselves, the year group and the school.

Well done boys!

La'shay  
Ilyas  
Yazin  
Jamal  
Leon  
Pojan





## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 5-9 FEBRUARY 2024

National Apprenticeship Week kicked off, with students across Barnhill taking part in events and activities to learn more about different career pathways. This year's event focussed on 15 different subjects, including Drama, Geography, History, IT, and Maths, among others.

The aim of the week was to provide students with insights into different careers and the opportunities available to them. Various events and activities were organised by schools, colleges, and businesses to give students hands-on experience and help them make informed decisions about their future. The subjects covered during the week reflect the diverse range of industries and career paths available to young people. From creative fields like Drama to more academic subjects like Maths and History, there's something for everyone to explore.

Events being held during the week included workshops, talks by industry experts, and hands-on activities such as coding challenges and design challenges. Students were also encouraged to ask questions and engage with professionals in different fields to gain a better understanding of what their careers could look like.

National Apprenticeship Week is an important event that helps students discover their passions and interests and make informed decisions about their future. By exposing them to a variety of career paths and providing opportunities for hands-on experience, the week helps to equip young people with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their chosen field.

Mr Clyne, Sports Lead and PE teacher said the Year 9 Sports Science group were really engaged in their session. The students started by discussing in groups their plans at the end of year 11 with most of them stating that 6th form was their number one choice. I talked about my own experience and the importance of picking what was right for them and not being influenced by what their friends may be doing. Students were then tasked with identifying which apprenticeships were real ones and which were not in the field of sport. Once they had done this they had some time to further research any that were of any interest to them.

There were really good conversations going on and those that it did not interest were researching different apprenticeships outside of sport.

At the end of the session, all students said it was useful and they enjoyed the session and all put their hand up when asked if an apprenticeship now something that they would consider.

Really positive session and I really enjoyed delivering this with the group.





### **BARNHILL VITH FORM STUDENTS SET EXAMPLE AS POSITIVE ROLE MODELS**

The students of Barnhill Sixth Form are stepping up to the plate and making a difference as positive role models. These students have taken on various leadership roles and are serving as mentors for younger students.

One of the ways in which these students are contributing is by volunteering to help with lunchtime duties. They can be seen supervising the playground, assisting in the cafeteria, and performing other tasks to make sure that younger students have a safe and enjoyable lunchtime experience. By doing so, they are demonstrating responsibility and setting an example for younger students.

Apart from assisting at lunchtime, Barnhill Sixth Form students are also supporting younger students in many other ways. For example, they are serving as reading mentors, helping younger students improve their literacy skills and develop a love of reading. They are also providing emotional support to those who may be struggling with personal or academic issues.

The most visible way in which Barnhill Sixth Form students are making a difference is by organizing and running a year 7 football tournament during lunchtime. This event has become a highlight of the school year, with students from all years getting involved and showing their support. By taking on this leadership role, the sixth form students are not only demonstrating their organisational and teamwork skills but also inspiring younger students to participate in school life and pursue their own interests.

These students are setting a positive example for others to follow. Their contributions to school life are making a real difference and helping to create a supportive and inclusive school community. The staff and faculty at Barnhill are proud of their students and grateful for the positive impact they are making.



### ASPIRATIONAL Y12'S TAKE A TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE

Year 12 Barnhill Sixth Form students have been given the opportunity to visit Peterhouse college at Cambridge University for a day trip. The visit was designed to give the students an insight into the life of a Cambridge student and the opportunities that a Cambridge degree can open up.

The prospective Oxbridge candidates were given a tour of the college and the university campus, including the libraries, lecture halls, and student accommodation. They also had the opportunity to attend a lecture and a seminar led by a Cambridge academic and to ask questions about the admission process and the university experience.



The students were impressed by the academic standards and the resources available at Cambridge University. They also appreciated the support and guidance provided by the college and the university in helping students achieve their goals and succeed in their academic and personal lives.

Mr Jones expressed his pride in the students and their achievements. He praised the students for their hard work and dedication, and their commitment to their studies and their community. He also thanked the college and the university for providing the students with such a valuable and inspiring experience. The day trip to Peterhouse was just one example of the many initiatives aimed at supporting students from diverse backgrounds to achieve their academic and personal goals. Programs like this are essential in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential and succeed in their chosen careers.

The students who attended the trip were inspired by the experience and are now more motivated than ever to pursue their dreams of studying at a top university like Cambridge. They hope that the visit will help them to achieve their goals and to make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.





### 'DRAWING' A CROWD FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

Barnhill's Sixth Form team organised its first Art exhibition where prints of GCSE and A level art work were auctioned during a recent Parents' Evening with all proceeds going to the charity Save the Children. Over £300 was raised for the charity whilst also raising the profile of our talented artists.



### SWEET SURPRISES

With Valentine's Day around the corner, the Sixth form team endeavoured to host an event in order to spread kindness across the school and generate funds for charitable initiatives. The event featured the sale of heart-shaped chocolates; students and teachers enthusiastically participated in this event by placing an order to buy a valentines treat for someone within the school, in which they hand wrote a message along with their names, or chose to remain anonymous if they wished to.

The event took place across 3 days where a stall was set up in the foyer during lunchtimes and decorated with balloons and confetti in order to match the theme of Valentines. The response exceeded our expectations, with sales doubling by the second day and the need to replenish more stock of the chocolates, as we sold out after each sale. The packaging of the treats and the delivery of the chocolate gift bags was a collaborative effort of students, showcasing a sense of community.

Overall, it was great to see everyone coming together to spread a little love from all year groups and it was very successful as we raised over £350. The event not only raised money for charity but also showcased the incredible generosity and compassion there is within our school.





## KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 19 February	Start of Spring Half Term 2
Monday 19 February - Friday 1 March	Y11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs)
Monday 26 February	Y10 Workshops 'I love you mum, I promise I won't die' Wizard Theatre company production on drugs & knife education
Thursday 29 February	Y12 Parents' Evening
Monday 4 March - Thursday 14 March	Y13 Pre Public Exams (PPEs)
Wednesday 6 March	Y11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 14 March	Y8 Options Evening
Thursday 21 March	Spring Concert 7-8pm
Wednesday 27 March	Deep Learning Day (all students off timetable)
Thursday 28 March	Term Ends
Monday 15 April	Summer Term Starts
Friday 19 April	INSET Day

**BARNHILL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

Barnhill Community High School, Yeading Lane, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 9LE

enquiries@barnhill.school | 020 8839 0600 | [www.barnhill.school](http://www.barnhill.school)



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