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*‘The beautiful thing about learning, is that no-one can take it away from you’ (BB King).*

*The willingness to learn and the need to grow is what will take you places.*



Dear parents and carers,

This has been a term to remember. The two key pillars of a high quality education are superb academic standards and rich personal development curriculum.

In this newsletter you will read of all the fantastic opportunities students enjoyed to take advantage of both of these pillars.

I was especially pleased with the mature leadership our students have shown in the community. They have achieved a great deal; be it travelling to galleries and museums or performing in the marvelous spring concert. I am very grateful to all the staff who go above and beyond to make the school such a special place to learn.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all students on the superb achievements they have made this year and to thank the parents and families for your ongoing support of the school.

Please enjoy the spring term newsletter. For regular updates, please use the news section of the school website.

Many thanks

Mr J Jones, Head teacher

**Behaviour in the Community** is an area we constantly monitor to maintain a positive learning environment in which our students can thrive and feel safe. Our behaviour policy is consistently applied and we are delighted that this academic year so far (up until the end of February) students have accumulated over **26,628** positive points. Points are recorded on our ‘Go 4 Schools’ system and information is included on the termly Attitude to Learning reports.

Points are earned in recognition of effort, progress, achievement or good conduct and can lead to awards from certificates, chocolates, post cards or phone calls home to vouchers. This term one lucky student from each year group won a lap top!

**Y7: Yezna**

**Y11: Julia**

**Y8: Kamyra**

**Y12: Houda**

**Y9: Zach**

**Y13: Areeb**

**Y10: Ismael**

## Deep Learning Day—30th March

Thank you to Mr Edwards, Assistant Headteacher, for coordinating the second of our Deep Learning Days. It takes a huge amount of planning to organise all of the trips and activities to engage our 1500+ students and offer stimulating experiences to broaden and extend learning.

On the day, 670 students were off site on trips, 25 guests came into school to deliver sessions and 116 staff were involved. Activities for each group are below:

Year 7 - 210 students went to the RAF Museum

Year 8 - 120 students went to Tate Britain

Year 8 - 6 STEM students went to Brunel for a criminology workshop

Year 8 - 150 students enjoyed an English extravaganza with a visiting poet.

Year 9 - experienced 9 different careers events

Year 10 - 210 students went to the British museum (zero artefacts broken!)

Year 10 - 24 Oxbridge candidates went on a trip to Oxford university

Year 11 - students participated in 10 different physical team building activities

Year 12 - students went on 2 different trips to Brunel university





## Spring Concert

The spring concert was a huge success thanks to the talented performers and the support and organisation of the music team led by Mr Taylor.

The moment the doors opened, there was a party atmosphere created by Mateusz working magic on his laptop with a club themed DJ set.

There then followed a musical extravaganza from soloists playing classical pieces on the piano and viola to bands playing pop and rock and vocalists performing ballads or singing harmoniously as part of the choir.

There is so much talent at Barnhill - all were worthy of a golden buzzer which took the form of a Headteacher Gold Certificate posted home to the performers during the Easter holiday.







## Y12 Geography Field Trip to Essex & Suffolk

As part of their A-level study, Year 12 Geography students embarked upon a five-day fieldwork skills course run by FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) experts. The field trip aimed to teach students how to:

- devise compelling hypotheses;
- collect reliable and varied data;
- present their findings appropriately;
- draw up geographical conclusions.

Students began their journey in the Constable town of Dedham where they investigated the key concept of 'Place' – and the importance of perception – through Emotion Mapping, Soundscape Auditing and Photo Montaging. Students then journeyed to Ipswich to examine the success of regeneration efforts along the waterfront. They were even able to speak with Elizabeth Hughes, the Mayor of Ipswich, who was able to shed light on upcoming developments; an unexpected opportunity to gain some valuable primary data!



*Students along Ipswich Waterfront with the Mayor*

Walton-on-the-Naze was the next stop and this investigation centered on its locally funded coastal management strategies.

Students collected Beach Profiling and Saturation level data to determine how these defenses have altered the characteristics of the beach.



*Students in Walton-on-the-Naze collecting physical geography*



The intensive five-day experience culminated in an opportunity for students to conduct an independent enquiry into an interest of choice. Hypotheses ranged from:

‘Globalisation has led to cultural diffusion in Ipswich’ to

‘Rock Armor on Walton-on-the-Naze can be considered sustainable.’

Students conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and were a credit to Barnhill. A special thanks to Mr Williams for accompanying me on the trip.

Mrs Panesar, Curriculum leader Geography

## World Book Day 2022

This was one of our first celebrations at the start of this half term and this year marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Book Day. The aim of the charity is to promote reading for pleasure which is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. Designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.



Barnhill Staff celebrated WBD with a range of activities for our students, including 'the masked reader' in which students had to guess which teacher read the text; creative design of book-marks to promote the value of reading; staff's literary character dressing up which aimed to enrich students' cultural capital/appreciation for reading and department book recommendation posters designed by Mr Dixon. Special thanks to Ms Winter, Ms Farooq, Ms Petsopoulou, Mr Devereaux-Ward and Mr Dixon for organising activities across the school.

*Staff members fully embraced the spirit!*

*Pictured left: Ms Farooq, Mr Dixon, Ms Petsopoulou, Ms Miesegaes, Mr Watts and Mr Devereaux- Ward.*

*And below: The Three Witches from Macbeth, striking dramatic pose*



**Well done to our Book Mark Makers:**

'Reversible Design' by **Amina**

'The More Places you Go' by **Neha**

'Red & White Read' by **Shayne**

'Read a Book' by **Arshpreet**

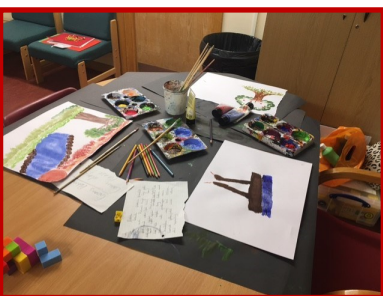
'Get Lost on a Good Book' by **Saleha**

'Enjoy Reading' by **Kaiya**

'Fiction & Non Fiction' by **Aryan**

## SEND Team News

This department is responsible for supporting pupils with any special educational needs or disabilities and run a number of intervention programmes tailored to make the curriculum accessible to those students who may need additional adaptations.



Recently, 'Art Therapy' classes have been introduced aimed at building confidence along with improving communication and fine motor skills. These sessions run fortnightly for students in Years 7 & 8. Pictured below are some of the students with their colourful creations.

Gardening Club was also launched this term and two of our Y10 students have been outstanding ambassadors in the local community working at the Urban Garden Centre every Thursday.





## Army Force Atlantic - 4 Soldiers, 1 Boat, 3000 Miles

Laura was one of the 4 crew members who rowed across the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua. It took the team 40 days, 23 hours and 57 minutes.



Laura explained the massive task of planning, preparation and training for the event and how the crew had to develop not only physical fitness and endurance but mental strength, determination, discipline and resilience. They didn't just have to know how to row, they received medical and life saving training; they had to learn about all the mechanical and technical aspects of the boat; they had to learn about navigation and radio communications and they had to work as a team.


It was an incredible challenge deserving of a world record and recognition, proving with the right tools, team and commitment, anything is possible!

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is the world's leading youth achievement award. It encourages young people to push their personal boundaries, gain new skills and enhance CVs and University applications. Further information about the scheme can be found here ([www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org))

At Barnhill the DofE scheme is voluntary with pupils able to enter the Bronze award in Year 10 and Gold in Year 12.

Since January, students have been working towards their award through volunteering, building physical fitness and learning new skills. From helping out at the YMCA, the local primary school, assisting teachers in the playground and tutoring younger siblings to playing dodgeball, football and clocking up 10.0000 daily steps to learning how to cook, knit and develop artistic skills.

On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 41 pupils took part in training for the expedition part of the award. Pupils learnt how to read an Ordnance Survey map, identifying map symbols, use co-ordinates to find a specific location and recognise contour lines to avoid walking up steep hills.



Students were split into two groups with half being tasked with gathering equipment including ruck sacks for hiking, sleeping bags and pitching tents and the other half planning their route using map reading and compass navigation skills. Students then got to swap activities.



Students also had a lesson on the Countryside code to learn how to conduct themselves around farm animals and respect the countryside and a session on basic first aid.

Although students were a little shocked to find they will actually have to carry their own rucksacks and walk for around 8 hours, they have embraced the challenge so far and are looking forward to the expedition which will take place in the Chilterns.



Special thanks to Miss Taylor and Mr Mowle who 'pitched in' to support students with setting up tents – they each managed to clock over 15,000 steps walking around the field offering help.

## Year 10 Looking Ahead

Spring term has been a very busy and inspiring term for our year 10's. There have been guest speakers hosting assemblies to ignite ambition as well as opportunities to develop aspirations and students have learned different approaches to being a good citizen within the community.

The term started with assessment as they sat 'mock' exams and had the opportunity to experience what it will be like to take their GCSE's come summer 2023. It was impressive to see how well the students managed their time and how seriously they took the exams. It was hugely satisfying to see the progress the students had made since their last assessments and the improvements both academically and in their attitude to learning.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Y10's attended the National Apprenticeship Show at Sandown Park Racecourse. The students had the opportunity to visit a number of stands representing a range of apprenticeship schemes offered by employers and training providers for post 18-year olds. From the army to horseracing! One of our students is pictured below 'jockeying for position!'

There was lots of information available and the students really embraced the experience, asking questions and collecting material to help them identify possible options in the future.



## Year 11 Testing Times!

The Year 11's have recently sat their Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) in preparation for their official examinations which will commence in May. Following the PPEs, all students were invited to a Mock Results Day to receive their results – there were many proud and happy faces. The top 50 students for progress were treated to a tea party as a reward for their efforts.

Appreciating that, as the exam season approaches, it is a very anxious time for our students, we have introduced 'Feel Good Friday' where students can choose from a range of activities, including board games, football, basketball, table tennis and circle time, all designed with well-being in mind and to help relieve stress. Tutors have been equally keen to participate in the sessions with some enthusiasm - Ms Rasoul has scored a number of baskets against the boys, Mr Caughie has shown off his board game skills and Ms Ahmed has played some cracking shots against the girls in Table Tennis.

To support students with their studies, we arranged a number of Saturday School sessions. Further revision and study sessions are planned during the Easter break to enhance academic knowledge and confidence.

Do please offer lots of praise and encouragement to boost morale and help instil good routines leading up to these important exams; plenty of rest, early nights, and a good breakfast will help with concentration (Breakfast Club in school is available daily from 7.45am). Preparation is key and double checking your child has the right equipment before each exam will also be really helpful.

## Barclays LifeSkills

The year nine students are part of the Barclays Lifeskills programme aiming to develop their career aspirations and preparation for the world of work.

The 2nd workshop of six focused on preparing for interview, handling finances and career progressions.

During this session, they looked at growth mindset and how to overcome adversity in both a personal and professional capacity.

Students worked through scenarios and role-play to develop their understanding further. Listening to inspiring characters from all walks of life about how they had overcome challenges and enjoyed success. One student commented that it had given him the confidence to try something new and not just think he would fail.







## Jolly good sports!

Our PE department have been involved in a number of activities around sport, leadership and community. PE is not only an important part of the curriculum but is essential for health & wellbeing and sporting activities encourage teamwork, resilience, confidence and co-operation which are also essential life skills.

Mr Clyne involved some of our Y9 students in the **‘Change 4 Life’ Festival**.

Change4Life is a national campaign that aims to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent people becoming overweight by encouraging them to eat better and move more. One of the students who took part, Isaaq, summarised the experience:

*The C4L festival was a great experience for all of us. Our goal was to create a set of activities that would motivate kids to take part in sport and enjoy it. We all had to explain and demonstrate our activities to the students, and then take a lead on it whilst they took part. Many of the kids thoroughly enjoyed the activities and left the event with smiles and happiness. The C4L festival challenged our organisation, adaptability and communication skills whilst building up our confidence and leadership. As a group, we all learnt a lot through taking part.*



Year 9 student leaders assisted our local **Taekwondo School** in delivering ‘taster’ sessions to Year 3 and 4 students from Hillingdon Primary Schools.

The Barnhill leaders had a great time teaching the youngsters new skills and safely going into defensive combat. Mr Reid was very proud of the way the students represented the school and for making the day a great experience.

**Panathlon** is a national charity which gives thousands of young people with disabilities and special educational needs every year the opportunity to take part in competitive sport. Barnhill’s sports leadership students from Year 9 have been involved in the scheme: **Advay, Aliasgar, George, Harvey, Keyon, Lucas, Owais, Riley, Roneet, Sabith, Stanley, Taha, Zach & Zakriya.**

In March, Barnhill hosted a Multi-Sports Event involving seven different local primary schools and also attended a day to support the North West London Disability Panathlon at the Moberley Leisure Centre in Kilburn. The leadership team were a credit to the school ensuring the events ran smoothly, explaining the tasks and assisting students with mild to severe disabilities.



The students showed patience and high levels of motivational energy to make the day a positive experience for the youngsters.

James Tinney, Penathlon organiser, said *‘Thanks, Jake, for involving your leaders & helping throughout the event! They put a lot of work into it and all the competitors had a good time. Be great to involve your leaders again’.*



In February, Mr Clyne took representatives from the sports leadership team including Dina, Elouise, Ethan, Hamna, Ishaaq, Reet, Simon and Zach to the Paralympic Boccia qualifiers. Boccia is a sport based on the game of bowls and is contested at local, national and international levels by athletes with severe physical difficulties.



## England V Ivory Coast Year 9 Sports Science Trip 29.3.22

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March the PE department took 50 Sports Science students to Wembley Stadium to watch the England Men's Football Team play against The Ivory Coast in an International friendly.

England won the game 3-0 in a game that had everything; goals, a red card and VAR checks alongside cheering on paper aeroplanes to make it to the pitch from the crowd being a highlight.

This is the second trip to Wembley the school have been able to organise and the students really seemed to enjoy themselves. They were a credit to Barnhill Community High School. A big shout out to Team PE for making the trip possible and giving the students a memorable experience.



## Girls Football Festival Year 9 Sports Leaders 30.3.22

It is a big year for Women's Football with the European Championships being held in England later on this year.

It is the perfect opportunity to get as many students involved in football as possible with the game growing more and more each year. Our wonderful Year 9 leaders led a Girls Football Festival on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at Barnhill which was a huge success.

Girls from years 3,4,5 and 6 from a range of different schools attended and were involved in a rotation of 8 different football stations testing different skills.

The feedback from schools was very positive and the girls seemed to really enjoy the experience. The Year 9 leaders were exceptional and worked together brilliantly to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Watch this space, lots more leadership and football events to come in the Summer term.





## British Science Week

The week of 14-20 March was British Science Week and the theme was **‘Growth’**.

The Science Department put together a whole host of activities for students to get involved in. The enrichment menu consisted of a number of ‘Do Try This at Home’ challenges and a carousel of practical activities.

Students participated in the **British Science Week Poster competition** where they had the freedom to depict any kind of growth, a chance to let their imagination run wild, and an opportunity to enhance students’ autonomy and agency in learning.



KS3 students investigated ‘*how the nutrients in compost affect the rate of the growth of seedlings*’. Our young scientists enjoyed watching carrots, beans, and peppers seeds germinate and grow before their eyes. Reflection sheets completed by students described the practical activity as a **‘magical experience’**, where key 21st-century skills such as collaborative, communication, and critical thinking skills were sharpened.

Students who displayed exceptional engagement and resilience were awarded stickers and certificates.

Additionally, students celebrated the diverse people and careers in science & engineering. Classroom discussions were focused on the questions: ‘*What do you imagine when you’re asked what a scientist looks like? Are you picturing lab coats, goggles, and conical flasks? How about the person? Are they a White man with grey hair, who resembles Albert Einstein?*’ Students were reminded that science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) sectors are far more diverse than this stereotype suggests; that there are people working in labs, at universities, in innovation centres, in businesses and out on construction sites, who come from so many different backgrounds, and who have taken lots of different routes into their career. The discussion tremendously boosted our students’ **wisdom** and **aspirations**.



## And a little Nature: Prince’s Trust

Year 10 Prince's Trust students had a lovely day in the sunshine at Whipsnade Zoo. The students spent the day learning about different animals and their habitats.



They were all amazed to learn that Lions sleep for up to 21 hours a day. The highlight of the day was seeing Cinderella the Brown Bear who had only recently come out of hibernation.







## Tolerance & Diversity

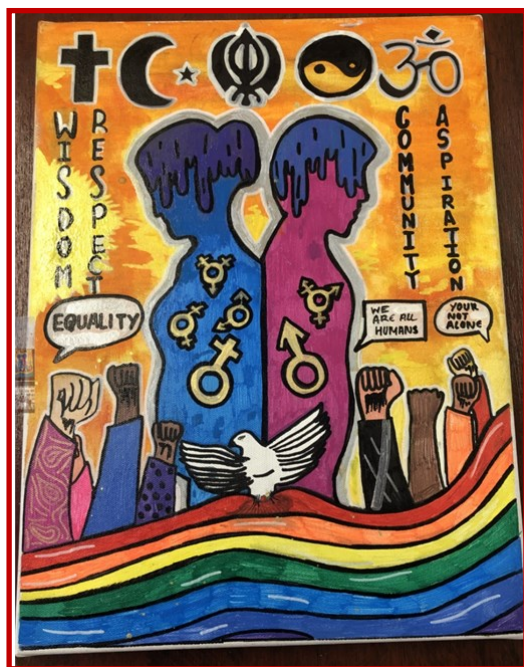
A community focus this term was around appreciation of diversity and demonstrating tolerance. A competition was held to design a poster encompassing these values.

The response was positively overwhelming and we truly have some very talented and creative students. We had the difficult task of choosing three finalists from over 100 entries. It is clear that a phenomenal amount of work went into each design. Our staff community voted on the final three and the results are below.

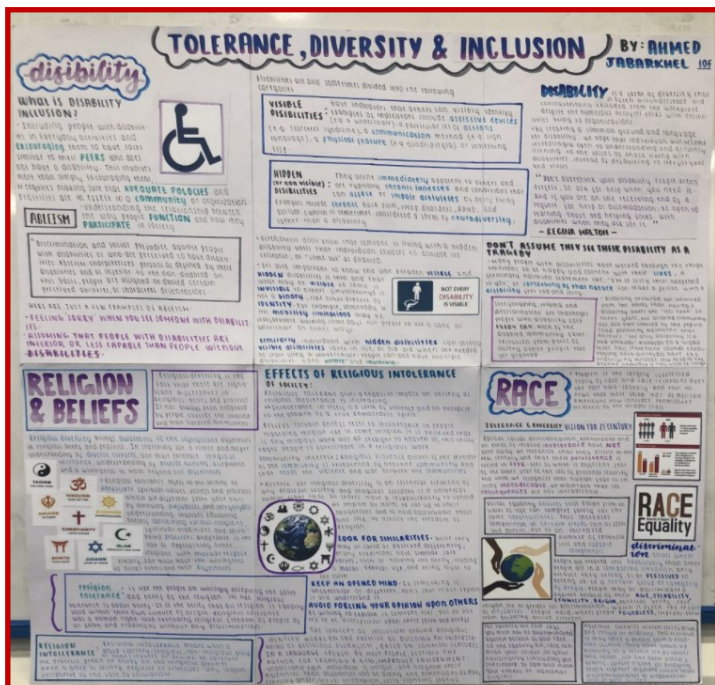
In first place, **Shayne in Y7**. Shayne received an iPad and his design will be made into a board measuring 2Mx1.75M. This will be displayed in school as part of our Museum of Culture.



2nd Place: Jugaad, Y9



3rd Place: Ahmed, Y10







# Deep Learning Day—So many fantastic experiences all on one day!

Year 7 students attended the RAF Museum and got to learn about the science behind the planes as well as take part in a hands on workshop. They got to explore the museum and see different hangers housing a range of different planes from history.



Mr Clyne, Head of Y7, said It was a really great trip; the students were a credit to the school and were even complimented by a member of staff from the museum for their exemplary behaviour.



110 Year 8s participated in three bespoke creative writing sessions at Tate Britain inspired by famous paintings and painter such as Turner and Blake.



There was also lots going on in school too. From engineering and problem solving activities to poetry work shops with author of ‘Impression, Charnjit Gill’

