



NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2 2024



MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we begin the summer term, it is a good time to look back at all the achievements and exciting events that have taken place. The school has again been a very busy place and I have been very impressed by the dedication, and good spirit of the students and staff. The term finished with another very successful music concert which showcased the best of artistic talents at Barnhill. I have been particularly impressed by the students' charitable activities. They have raised money through cake sales and donated this to Save the Children.



Ofsted Inspection

We are delighted to announce that Barnhill Community High School has been graded as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. This judgement is the highest category attainable which was achieved by all the hard work of the school's staff, students, parents and families. We are always keen to improve our quality of service, so please do pass any feedback, comments and suggestions to us. You can read the full inspection report on the school website by [clicking here](#).

World Book Day

Students celebrated the joy of reading on World Book Day, embracing the diverse stories that make reading so rewarding. Performance artist Chanje Kunda captivated our Year 7 pupils with engaging poetry readings and a thought-provoking workshop. I am sure that she has ignited a passion for storytelling in many of the students.

Our most enthusiastic readers also visited the British Library. They explored the 'Treasures Gallery' to attend a Creative Writing workshop. It was a wonderful visit to celebrate the written word and the power of imagination.

Sixth Form University Success

We are thrilled to announce the outstanding achievements of our Year 13 students in their university applications. With 93% of the cohort applying this year, including offers from both Oxford and Cambridge. It is a very significant achievement to be made an offer to one of the world's top universities, so we wish them the very best of luck with their examinations. I know they treat the challenge with utmost seriousness.

Jack Petchey Celebration

A group of girls in year 9 won this year's Jack Petchey award. For their prize they chose to attend a women's football match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge. The students witnessed an exciting game, with Chelsea winning 3-1. Special thanks to Ms Panesar, Ms Love, and Ms Calaca for their support, and to the students for their exemplary behaviour.

Partnership with the Thames West Language Hub

Barnhill has proudly joined the Thames West Language Hub. This prestigious partnership allows staff and students to enhance the learning of a modern foreign language as well as enjoy the cultural education that is a part of learning MFL.

Deep Learning Day

The term finished with a wide variety of cultural enrichment experiences. Year 11s enjoyed team building and problem-solving challenges to help them let off some steam from their revision. The sixth form cruised the river Thames and visited the London Eye. Year 7s enjoyed the safari on a visit to Whipsnade Zoo and Year 8s explored the best of scientific knowledge on a visit to the science museum.

As we reflect on the achievements and experiences of the spring term, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our all members of the community for their support of the school. I wish you all a happy and successful summer term. Please do stay in touch if we can be of any assistance.

Warmest regards,

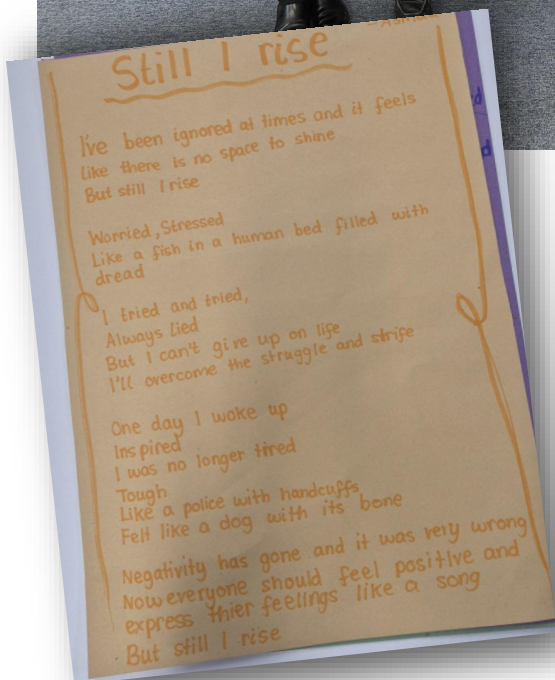
J. Jones

MR J JONES
Headteacher

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March saw Barnhill Community High School celebrate the importance of reading for 'World Book Day'. Throughout the week, posters had been put up across the school advertising the diverse literature and voices of those old and new enjoyed by members of staff to promote a key message to our pupils - that reading is key to success. Performance artist, Chanje Kunda, delivered a wonderfully engaging assembly to our enthusiastic year 7 pupils who are currently enjoying timetabled Accelerated Reader library lessons to help promote fundamental literacy skills. Many of the poems she read out from her collection combined the comedic with the tragic and spoke to many of the concerns of the 21st century - the pressure to conform and the struggle to be true to ourselves. This was followed by a workshop focussed on dreams and encouraging pupils to explore the fantastically tactile world of words that produced some excellent pieces of creative writing. Students worked incredibly hard during this session, commenting that 'it was the best thing this year' and were brave enough to share their responses with the year group where they were rewarded for their efforts by Ms. Winter, Deputy Head Teacher'.

We are proud of our students and look forward to planning more trips like this in the future.



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Barnhill top readers were rewarded a trip to the second biggest library in the world, the British Library. The Year 7 and 8 students who have read the most books in a term, discovered the Treasures Gallery and other collections within the library as well as the King's Library Tower.

The students also attended Creative Writing workshop and were thoroughly inspired.

It was a 'literaturely' a fantastic day with lots of books, reading and writing!

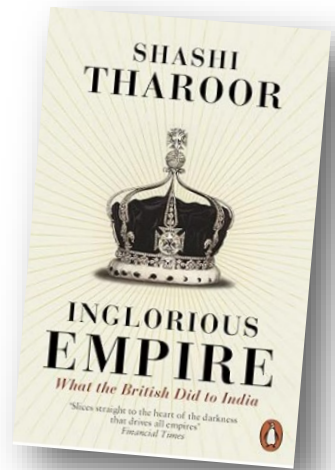


RESEARCH INTO THE RAJ

Year 12 A-Level students studying the British Empire 1857-1967 were bought books on the subject to deepen their understanding of such an important topic and promote a love of reading.

Serena reviewed . Here are her thoughts below.

Inglorious Empire by Shashi Tharoor explicitly explores the brutality of British colonialism. It is a blistering critique of the British Empire and undermines the argument that Britain were “benign imperialists”. Throughout the book, an overwhelming amount of evidence is provided to counter apologists for empire’s perspectives, such as how Britain deindustrialised India through demolishing their competitive textile industry by establishing a company monopoly. By the 18th century, 25% of global trade in textiles were from India, but this diminished once the British removed their competitors from trading globally.



The looting of India explores how the British sacked India’s wealth via the East India Company whereby corrupt officials such as Robert Clive exploited the subcontinent resulting in him becoming one of the richest men in Europe. This theft of India can be seen throughout imperial rule, as the book explores, stating that around £18m were extracted from India from 1765 to 1815, and this theft continued until the 20th century though harsh taxation.

Tharoor mentions the ‘myth of enlightened despotism’, touching upon the numerous famines that swept across the subcontinent and how brutal British response was – mentioning increased taxes, Churchill’s controversial solution to the Bengal Famine in 1943 and even how some refused to intervene due to Malthusian principles (nature’s response to overpopulation).

Violence, such as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre highlights the brutality of imperial rule, demolishing any argument that British rule was “enlightened” and that colonialism helped bring moral civilisation to others.

This book consistently condemns the view that the British were “benign” imperialists (ruled gently) by raising the issues of deindustrialisation, the constant use of violence and the policy of divide and rule as a strategy adopted by the British to control India, which led to the Partition into India and Pakistan, whose conflict remains unresolved today. Thus, this book shows that it is inaccurate to state that British rule was that of ‘enlightened despotism’ when violence and suppression of trading links was present in the subcontinent.

Here's a link to the book: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Inglorious-Empire-What-British-India/dp/1849048088>

SIXTH FORM SUCCESS!

As January ended, so did the university application season for our Year 13 students. 93% of the year group have made applications to university through UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), with 3% having Gap Years and the final 4% applying for apprenticeships.

We also had 18 early entry UCAS applications from students who wished to apply for either Oxford or Cambridge, Medicine, and Dentistry. I am delighted to announce that following the interview process, Soraya Moussoum and Benedict Murphy have been made conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge:

Soraya – University of Oxford – Theology and Religion

Benedict - University of Cambridge – History

Both students worked incredibly hard to put together their applications and prepare for the interviews, which took place in December. Benedict said, 'I'm proud to have received my offer and am working hard to achieve the grades to meet it.' Soraya said, 'I am blessed with the opportunity to study at Oxford - the support I received from Barnhill made it possible!'

The Medicine and Dentistry interviews have now begun, and our other early entry students are starting to receive offers for both Medical & Dentistry Schools. Students have been receiving offers from October onwards, and so far, our Year 13 students have been made offers from, Imperial College London, the University of Edinburgh, Leeds, Bristol, Birmingham, York, King's College London and UCL to name a few. We are so proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing more offers roll in as the term moves on.



STUDENTS ON THE ROAD TO HIGHER EDUCATION

A group of year 12 students visited Loughborough University this week to learn more about the university's facilities and student life. During their visit, the students were given a tour of the impressive facilities, including modern lecture halls, state-of-the-art science labs, and a cutting-edge sports complex. The students were impressed with the breadth and depth of the resources available, which would provide them with a world-class education.

In addition, the students attended a student finance talk where they learned about the financial aspect of university life. They were able to ask questions and gain insights into the various types of student loans and grants available, as well as the importance of budgeting and managing finances.

The most valuable part of the visit was the opportunity for the students to speak to current undergraduates about their experiences at Loughborough University. They were able to ask questions about academic life and social activities, and they found the insights and advice from the current students to be incredibly helpful.

Overall, the year 12 students left the visit feeling inspired and excited about the prospect of studying at Loughborough University.



LET'S TALK LANGUAGES

Barnhill is now officially part of the Thames West Language Hub, alongside Twyford Trust schools and other great partners.



The launch event was held on Tuesday 5th March at Ada Lovelace High School. It was a day filled with lots of excitement and optimism.

Highlights of the Day:

- **Curriculum Development:** Engaging discussions on designing dynamic language curricula that empower students to thrive in a globalised world
- **Assessment for Learning:** Exploring innovative assessment methods that nurture growth and celebrate linguistic achievements
- **Wider Learning:** Inspiring sessions on how language learning extends beyond the classroom - connecting cultures, fostering empathy, and opening doors to endless possibilities

We look forward to working collaboratively, nurturing linguistic curiosity, celebrating diversity and building bridges across borders.



A COMMUNITY GARDEN CENTRE WITH A DIFFERENCE...

Supporting young people with low-esteem

We are super pleased to have featured in the most recent publication of Hillingdon People.

Visit our [website to read the article](#) or [click here the full publication](#).



DEEP LEARNING DAY

During DLD, the Sixth Formers developed their cultural capital by taking part in the London River cruise and London Eye trip, and it was an experience to remember. Despite the less-than-ideal weather, the students were determined to make the most of their day and take in the historical sites that London has to offer.

The day started with an early morning journey to London, with the students eagerly anticipating what the day would bring. They arrived at the Thames River pier and boarded the boat that would take them on a scenic tour of the city. As the boat made its way down the river, the students marvelled at the stunning architecture and landmarks that lined the riverbanks. From the Houses of Parliament to the Tower Bridge, they were able to see the city from a unique perspective.

After the river cruise, the students made their way to the London Eye, a giant counter-lever observation deck—not a Ferris wheel, as we were told multiple times—that provides panoramic views of the city. Despite the rain, the students were undeterred and excitedly boarded the capsules that would take them high above the city. As the wheel slowly turned, the students were able to see some of London's most famous landmarks, including Buckingham Palace, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the Shard.

The trip was not just about enjoying the sights, however. The students were given historical commentary on the landmarks they were seeing, which helped them appreciate the significance of each site. They learned about the history of the Tower of London, the role of the Houses of Parliament in British politics, and the construction of the Shard, the tallest building in the United Kingdom.

The trip was also a great opportunity for the students to develop their independence and confidence as they navigated their way around the city and took in the sights on their own.

Overall, the London River cruise and London Eye trip was a huge success. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day, and it was an excellent way for them to learn more about the history and culture of our capital city. The trip was a testament to the resilience and determination of our Sixth Formers, who refused to let the weather dampen their spirits. We are proud of our students and look forward to planning more trips like this in the future.



KEY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 15 April	Summer Term Starts
Friday 19 April	INSET Day (no school for students)
Thursday 25 April	Parents' Evening Y7
Friday 26 April	Sixth Form Careers Fair in School
Monday 6 May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 May	Start of Exam Season
Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May	Half Term

BARNHILL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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