

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN TERM 2 2023



*Happy Holidays*

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our newsletter, which showcases some of the fantastic work going on in school, and the brilliant achievements of our young people over the last half-term.

We have welcomed inspection teams from Ofsted at two of the trust's schools this term. We await publication of the inspectors' report for Belmore Primary and celebrate the inspection outcome at William Byrd – now officially an Ofsted 'good' school.

The inspection report for William Byrd opened with the line "Pupils feel safe and are kept safe at this happy school". This is both richly deserved recognition of the great work of the team at William Byrd, and a powerful reminder of what we want our schools to be – safe, nurturing environments in which all of our children can thrive and succeed. You can read the full report [here](#).

Congratulations to all the pupils who supported Children In Need this year. All of our schools helped to raise funds, with Barnhill raising an impressive £1,400! A big thank you to everyone involved.

*B. Spinks*

**MR B SPINKS**

Chief Executive



## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I write at the end of a tremendously busy and rewarding term at Barnhill. In addition to all the usual high-quality lessons and hard work, the students have also enjoyed a wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities.

The term has come to a close with a great deal of celebration. Our termly deep learning day was a great success. Students in year 11 led the way with an education in becoming 'changemakers'; learning the qualities to shape a future as a leader. Other year groups enjoyed a mixture of trips to Kew Gardens, The British Museum and the Battle of Britain bunker. Students who remained in school had a range of challenging extra-curricular activities, including; university preparation for the sixth form; GCSE study skills from our visiting speaker, the memory genius Dr van der Spoel; practical skills in food and sewing; murder mystery solving; maths problem solving and IT masterclasses. It was a wonderful example of active and engaging learning.



The winter concert was again the flagship event of the Autumn. The audience were treated to a wonderful range of musical talents, with Luke in year 7 winning the head teacher's gold award for his piano recital of Bach's '*Prelude No 1 in C major*'. It is always such a high-quality event with singing, bands and the choir. The students clearly get such confidence from performing and it is a real treat to see their talents. The music department also ran trips this year to the Royal Festival Hall and – to my favourite place in London – the Royal Albert Hall.

The last day of term will be a celebration with students wearing clothes to represent their own cultures and Christmas jumpers. It is always very heartening to see the students work so hard with charitable events to help those in need. Proceeds from the term's charitable events will be donated jointly to Children In Need and the Medecins Sans Frontieres who are doing so much to support the innocent victims of the war in Gaza. Our thoughts are with them and all who are suffering this Christmas.

Finally, I wish to thank all staff for working so hard to challenge and support the students this year, and as ever, I wish to thank all parents and families for their support of the school. At Barnhill we aim to serve our local community with the best standards of education. Please do continue to play such a strong part in the school's journey and do provide feedback to help us improve.

Warmest regards,

*J. Jones*

MR J JONES  
Headteacher

AUTUMN 2 2023

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Thanks to all the members of the Student Leadership team who helped to organise a number of events for Children in Need.

Sumeya shares her experience below of a very busy day!

*I had the most amazing time helping out at the 'Children in Need' bake sale, football charity match and Year 7 disco. It was such a blast and I wanted to share my experience with you all! The bake sale was a huge success and we raised an amazing £1400! The sale was decked out in all sorts of colourful decorations, and the tables were overflowing with delicious treats. There were cupcakes, brownies, cookies, you name it! My job was to attract different year groups with a megaphone (even though I was told me of all people did not need it) and make sure they were in an orderly queue with pockets full of coins ready to spend. Every time I peeked into the sale I was so excited to see them disappearing in no time as people rushed to make donations in exchange for some sweet treats. It was incredible to see how everyone in the school came together to support such an important cause.*

*One of the best parts was seeing everyone's excitement as they picked out their favourite goodies. It was heart-warming to see them enjoying themselves while also understanding the importance of giving back to those in need. I couldn't help but feel a little proud of the whole event, knowing that we were making a real difference in the lives of children who really need it. Then came the charity football match between the Year 12s and teachers on the Astro field where the atmosphere was electric as music blasted across the pitch. The 6th form and staff turned up to show their support for their favourite team. The match kicked off with both teams showing off their skills from the start. The year 12s displayed their A-game on that pitch showing some real talent and the teachers showed that while they may have some grey hairs, they've still got some serious tricks up their sleeves. The crowd was going crazy for every goal and near miss but as the whistle blew the score was so close it could've gone either way. But you know what? In a charity match like this everyone's a winner. The real victory was the amount of money we raised from the tickets and how we all came together as a community in high spirits to do our part for those less fortunate.*

*The year 7 disco was another highlight of the event. The school hall was transformed into a dance floor, complete with a big ring of colourful balloons glow sticks and the latest music. The kids showed up in their coolest outfits, ready to have a great time. It was such a joy to see them all having fun, dancing their hearts out, and making memories with their friends. Everyone had so much energy and enthusiasm, and keeping up with them on the dance floor was a workout in itself. But hey, I loved every minute of it! There's something infectious about the energy of a room full of happy, dancing kids, even Ms Rahman, Mrs Winters and Miss Howell were letting out their inner dancer as soon as 'Candy' by Cameo was played. I found myself smiling and laughing right along with them!*

*At the end of the night, I felt a sense of pride and satisfaction. I couldn't help but think about the impact our little event would have on the lives of those less fortunate children. It was a reminder that even the smallest acts of kindness and generosity can make a big difference in the world. So, if you ever get the chance to volunteer at a charity event like the 'Children in Need' bake sale or year 7 disco, I highly recommend it. Not only is it a lot of fun, but it's also a great way to give back to your community and make a positive impact on the lives of others. I can't wait for the next opportunity to get involved and do my part to make the world a better place, one bake sale and disco at a time!*

*Huge thank you to Hadi and Hannan (Head Students Year 12) for organising all of the events with their team of prefects alongside Miss. Taylor and Miss Love.*



## WORLD SCIENCE DAY

**From the universe expanding to the phones in our pockets, science is everywhere.**

Each year, on 10<sup>th</sup> of November, the World Science Day for Peace and Development helps our Barnhillians to remember this fact and offers an opportunity for everyone to engage in scientific debates and activities.

To celebrate the occasion, over 750 students from Key Stage 3 collaboratively participated in the investigation **'How much mass can aluminium foil boats float?'**, whereby they displayed our school's fundamental values (respect, wisdom, aspiration and community), consequently fueling their passion to be the next generation of scientists.

Our students understand that when we celebrate science, it creates the desire in our youth to explore and experiment and develop problem-solving skills and an understanding of the world.



## A YOUNG MUSICAL PRODIGY

**Arjun R: A Young Musical Prodigy at The Anchor**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 will be a day to remember at The Anchor as we host a sensational performance by the young and incredibly talented pianist, **Arjun R**, at our Christmas Market. At just 14 years old, Arjun R has already made a name for himself in the world of music with his extraordinary skills and passion for the piano and film scoring.



**[Click here](#)** to read the full article.

### KS3 SCIENCE CLUB NEWS

Our weekly Science club is an exciting way for our students and enthusiasts to explore and engage with the world of science. The club provides an opportunity for individuals to learn about different scientific disciplines, conduct experiments, and participate in various scientific activities.

This term, our Barnhillians explored the digestive system of frogs in a hands-on way. The session was supported by our inspirational year 9 GAMA students, **Mateusz, Yohann, Devan, and Malay**, who acquired exceptional leadership skills. All students were able to enhance their scientific knowledge, develop critical thinking skills, and cultivate a passion for science.



### **'STEPPE'-ING INTO HISTORY'**

In order to complement part of our history course, '*Genghis Khan and the explosion from the steppes c.1167 – 1405*', our history teachers, Miss Thomas and Mr Khan (no relation!) took our class to see the play 'Mongol Khan' in theatre.

The play was staged at the London Coliseum and delivered in Mongolian. During the two and a half hour production, we were afforded an insight into the culture and foundations of the Mongol Empire through puppetry, music and dance and lavish costumery. We were given a glimpse into the cultural practice of Shamism, a belief system that includes medicine, religion, a reverence of nature and ancestor worship where Sharmans were believed to have the ability to communicate with spirits. The play gave references to Temujin himself who later becomes more famously known as Genghis Khan and leader of the Mongol Empire.

Overall, everybody found the trip very entertaining, enjoyable and beneficial to the understanding of such a complex and secret history.

**Armaan**

**Y12 Student**



## SEW ON AND SEW FORTH

The DT department has been creatively active with a buzz of cooking, sewing and designing. The food department invited in BM caterers who did a fantastic demo on garnishing the final finish to dishes to help our GCSE students produce 'Master Chef' standard of presentation for their dishes.

### Textiles:

- Year 7 have been designing Ugly dolls
- Year 8 worked on an animal theme to design and stitch a drawstring bag
- Year 9 researched heroes and villains as inspiration for their cushions

### Deep Learning Day was a carousel of Christmas themed activities:

- Food Tech produced indulgent chocolate truffles
- Textiles designed a Christmas stocking and DT packaged it all up with a creative finish

We are lucky to have such a talented team to lead and encourage our students to be creative; to give them a 'taste' of how to cook and the opportunity to develop practical skills alongside the academic curriculum.



## FOR THOSE ON A SHOE STRING - A SHOEBOX FULL OF FESTIVE CHEER

Y10 Prince's Trust students, with the amazing help of Safa and Aimal (Head Boy and Head Girl) successfully delivered 19 boxes full of gifts today to Hillingdon Food Bank. These gifts will be given out to families in need in the local community.

Thank you so much to everybody who donated and made this possible and to the students for sharing their experience below.

**Mrs Martincevic**

**Teacher**

I am part of the Y10 Prince's Trust Class.

For our community project we wanted to help children who don't have very much, so we collected shoe boxes, wrapped them in nice paper and filled them with toys and gifts that had been donated by students and staff in school.

We also made some cards and messages to go in the boxes. We made 19 boxes in total.

Today we delivered the boxes to Hillingdon Food Bank, who will give them out to the children.

Peter the Project Manager showed us around the centre and explained what they do. Hillingdon Food Bank helps 1000 families each week. I enjoyed doing this project and it was good to help others.

**Abdullah**

**Y10**

As we walked through the doors of the food bank, we were immediately struck by the sense of purpose and compassion that filled the air. The dedicated prince's trust students were the unsung heroes of this operation, tirelessly working to sort, organise, and distribute gifts to those in need. Their commitment to making a difference in the lives of others was truly inspiring. The head girl and I are truly honoured to be a part of this.

**Aimal**

**Head Boy Y13**



## TRADITIONAL COMEDY TRANSCENDS ALL LANGUAGE IN PANTOLAND

O yes it does!

Ms Vockic and Mr Nash took a group of twenty EAL children for an outing at The Beck Theatre.

This year's performance was Beauty and the Beast and the children thoroughly enjoyed the show.

Salim said *'the show was fun. I saw lots of things that I hadn't seen before.'*

Satina wrote: *In the middle of the show me and my friend realised it was about the cartoon Beauty and the Beast and it became even more entertaining.*

Abdullah gave a brilliant recount of the story - particularly impressive when English is not his first language.

Thank you to Mrs Vockic for organising the trip. Live theatre is such a special occasion and we are sure the students will remember and treasure the experience.



## DEEP LEARNING DAY WITH DRY ICE

Today was an absolute delight for our Year 10 students as 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.

### **Students' 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 10A**



## WINTER CONCERT

The longest school term is drawing to an end. Days are becoming shorter. The weather is forcing us into coats, scarfs and mittens. Yet, despite all of this, the Winter Concert has never failed to warm us and energise us as music teachers!

A whole new cohort of 250 year 7 students join us every year, each with their own musical experience and journey stretched out ahead of them, some of whom performed or helped on the tonight. The older students, that in previous years may have been unsure about performing to such a large audience, were now the ones encouraging others and building a musical community to be proud of. For the first time ever, we had performances from classroom lessons to share as well.

Everyone really enjoyed the concert, and we are so glad that we were able to invite parents/ carers to join us for what was a fantastic evening.

We would like to pass our thanks to the performers who practice so much to make these evenings enjoyable. They have such impressive skills and talents. Performing to a live audience is a very special opportunity, one that all children remember most from the school experience.

### With special thanks to...

**Our Compères:** Cherish and Erin

**Our Sound Engineer:** Aaron

**Our Lighting Engineer:** Rayan

**Our Stage Crew:** Cayden

**To our amazing peripatetic teaching staff:** Anya (Voice), Ed (Drums), Eddy (Guitar), Karen (Piano)

**Miss Johnston** for all the printing and reprographic support

### Your kind donations

We were blown away last concert by the donations we received. As promised, we put this money to good use by replacing our broken microphone stands and buying microphone cables so that we could stop renting in this equipment for every concert. This is all in use tonight and has made a huge difference!

These donations help us grow and develop the music department here at Barnhill. We're now saving £600 for two new higher quality guitars for the huge number of guitarists in the school (£1 per audience member would get us 25% of the way towards this goal).

Whether you choose to donate or not, thank you for coming this evening to support our amazing students!

## Concert Programme

### My Christmas Prince (Mya)

Mya with music from Cayden

### Believer (Imagine Dragons)

Five 9s - Darryl, Karishna, Malay, Yohann & Yvie

### Drivers License (Olivia Rodrigo)

Jenovia, John, Abbie, Chris, Rob

### Prelude (JS Bach)

Luke

### Sway (Michael Buble)

Marwan, Jackie, Chris, Rob

### Back to Black & Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?

Abbie, Bansari, Darryl, Destiny, Iga, Janae, Taraa & Yvie

### Love Story (Taylor Swift)

Jaycee & Rob

### Happier Than Ever (Billie Eilish)

Euan

### Faded (Alan Walker)

Devan, Malay, Yohann & Rob

### Inevitable Conflict (Yu-Peng Chen)

Arjun

### Wonderful Christmastime (Paul McCartney)

Abbie, Euan, Hollie, Ibrahim, Joanie, Salva, Chris

### Underneath the Tree (Kelly Clarkson)

Shanika, Keyon, Chris & Rob

### What I've Done (Linkin Park) &

### One Way Or Another (Blondie)

Erin, Jackie, Joanie, Keyon, Suraiyah



## PRINCE'S TRUST STUDENTS SERVE UP A TREAT FOR LOCAL SUPER SENIORS

Each year, as part of their contribution to the community and Prince's Trust programme, students are required to organise a community event. They planned a tea party for 40 senior members of our community. It was a very traditional afternoon tea of sandwiches and cake presented and served beautifully.

A truly great occasion and a lovely opportunity to hear stories from the past. One guest actually attended the opening of the original Barnhill Secondary School back in 1949!

Tavii and George share their own experience below:

On Tuesday I went to a Christmas party with Miss Martin, Mrs Roberts, Miss Shutler, Mrs Gibbons, Mrs Martincevic and there were senior citizens who needed my help with the other year 9 students as well. I was serving the cakes, sandwiches, tea and coffee and more sandwiches and more cakes and more cookies. The ladies on my table said they would give me 11 stars. Mrs Roberts made the coffee. There was also Miss Abdillahi, she helped me carry the coffee to the people. We watched some singers, a girl called Isabella danced to Arabian nights and they played Bingo. I liked it a lot.

### Tavii Y10

During the Princes Trust senior citizen's party, I was a waiter and served the tea, coffee, scones and cakes to the senior citizens. It was very enjoyable and there were some good performances including, the piano, dancing and singing.

### George Y10



## KEY DATES

EVENT	DATE
INSET Day	Monday 8 January
Spring Term starts for all students	Tuesday 9 January
Y11 Parents' Evening	Thursday 18 January
Y10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 1 February
Y9 Options Evening	Thursday 8 February
Half Term	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February
Y11 Pre Public Exams (PPEs)	Monday 19 February - Friday 1 March
Y10 Workshops 'I Love You Mum, I promise I won't die' Wizard Theatre company production on drugs education	Monday 26 February
Y12 Parents' Evening	Thursday 29 February
Y13 Pre Public Exams (PPEs)	Monday 4 March - Thursday 14 March
Y11 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 6 March
Y8 Options Evening	Thursday 14 March
Spring Concert 7- 8pm	Thursday 21 March
Term Ends	Thursday 28 March
Summer Term starts	Monday 15 April
INSET Day	Friday 19 April

**BARNHILL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL**

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