

SPRING TERM

Senior Leadership Message

This edition: Mr Rawlinson, Assistant Headteacher.

Barnhill has made a big and welcome culture shift towards rewards and a positive conduct culture. Each half term, roughly 20 certificates per year group are issued to recognise students who consistently get the small things right.

Deep Learning Day was a huge success. As a school that is continuously restless in search of perfection, we are already reflecting carefully on how to make the next one even better. And although it may feel far away, Summer Term rewards trips will be here before you can say Seasonal Affective Disorder! So students should get the preparation in now through daily positive choices, strong routines, and consistent effort.

Alongside this positive momentum, we need to be clear-eyed about one major barrier to learning and wellbeing: **smartphones and social media**. Thank you to the many parents/carers who already monitor usage carefully. Your support makes a real difference. Governments are responding to real harm: Australia introduced world-first restrictions on social media accounts for under-16s in December 2025 (see: [Australia's under-16 social media ban begins](#)), and in the UK [calls for similar action](#) are growing.

Phones also fragment attention, undermine concentration, disrupt sleep and reduce learning time. For this reason, Barnhill is tightening its mobile phone policy: phones must be switched off and out of sight anywhere on school premises — including as students approach the school gates on leaving. Any phone seen in use on site will be confiscated.

We need your help: please reinforce these expectations at home, check app use and privacy settings regularly, and consider a basic “calls-and-texts-only” handset instead of a smartphone ([for example, a Nokia 105](#)).

We know smartphones are popular, but popularity does not equal benefit. The writing is on the wall.

Barnhill's Got Talent [The alternative BGT!]

Barnhill has so much talent and we will be delighted to showcase this to you in true BGT style next **Wednesday 28th January**.

Not to be missed. Doors open 4:30pm

Flu Jab

The last session for students to receive the immunisation in school is next **Wednesday 28th January**. This is only for students who have not had the flu vaccination since September 2025. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination, please complete the consent form sent home with your child and return it to school as soon as possible.

Barnhill's Wall of Fame

Our students at Barnhill are amazing and Mr Chavda, Teacher of Economics and Geography with wider responsibility as Director of Culture and Engagement, is laying the foundations to build a wall of fame from ‘bricks’ named after students who have achieved success beyond school; be it in sport, taking part in a club or contributing to an event or charity, or in music or drama or where they have been awarded or recognised for efforts in any field. Get in touch and let us know by emailing: enquiries@Barnhill.school with ‘Wall of Fame’ in the subject line. We look forward to sharing your success stories.

Barnhill in the Community

The Sixth form held a ‘Movie Night’ and voted to watch the classic ‘Home Alone’ comedy whilst enjoying popcorn and treats. The event raised funds used to purchase groceries which were donated to a local Foodbank to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Reporting Student Absence via Website

There is now a ‘pop up’ box on the landing page of our website with a link to ‘**Absento**’ so you can notify us of any absence or appointments. To close the

pop up, simple click on the 'X' to continue to the website.