

SPRING TERM

Senior Leadership Message

This edition: Ms Winter, Deputy Head

Teaching & Learning at Barnhill: Bringing Our Learning Cycle to Life

Barnhill classrooms have had a fantastic buzz this term as teachers bring the **Barnhill Learning Cycle** to life in every lesson. We start each session by setting the tone through our strong **Routines & Culture** — Strong starts with clear expectations — which help everyone settle quickly. The *Do Now* gets students thinking straight away by **activating prior learning**, and teachers share the learning journey, so everyone knows where the lesson is heading. We're also putting lots of emphasis on **pre-teaching vocabulary**, making sure students have the language they need before diving into new content.

In the **Activation** stage, teachers are getting stuck into explicitly teaching new knowledge and skills, breaking content into manageable chunks and modelling each step through the classic *I do – We do* approach. Students are using **Think–Pair–Share** to rehearse ideas aloud, explore vocabulary, and build confidence before responding independently. Throughout the lesson, teachers are checking the understanding of **all** students — not just a few hands up — and deciding whether to move on or reteach so that every learner is secure.

Once students hit the **Application** part of the cycle, they get to practise and apply what they've learned through high-challenge tasks supported by smart scaffolding. Live marking, peer assessment and self-assessment help them sharpen their work in real time.

The lesson then moves into **Consolidation**, where students complete an Exit Ticket, reflect on what they've learned, and connect the lesson back to the bigger picture. This final stage helps teachers spot any misconceptions and plan next steps — ensuring every lesson builds towards progress. It's been brilliant to see students engaging so confidently with the cycle, and we look forward to even more growth as the term continues.

Diary Dates

Y11 PPEs continue until next Friday 6th March.

Parent Evenings:

Y13 – 12 March

Y10 – 16 April [New Date] This event has moved and will now take place on the first Thursday after Easter.

Ramadan Mubarak to all who are observing this holy month in the Islamic calendar. Prayer rooms are available in school during lunch times for students wishing to pray.

We Will Rock You! On 24th & 25th March.

Rehearsals have begun in earnest, and the cast are working hard on our first major production for many years! [Box Office Opens](#) (click on the link) on **Monday 2nd March**. Tickets are **free** but space is limited so please reserve your place in advance.

TikTok and Social Media 'Campaigns'

We remain vigilant to trends and posts which encourage undesirable or inappropriate behaviour affecting the wellbeing and safety of our students and the wider community. We apply our [behaviour policy](#), which extends beyond the school gates, with vigour and strive to remind and educate our pupils on the standards we expect and the impact of social media helping them to navigate the online world safely and with caution. There are numerous sites offering further information regarding online safety; guidance from the NSPCC can be [found here](#).

Milo – Our Dog Mentor

You may recall we adopted [Milo](#) last year who works alongside our Lead Counsellor, Mr Wakefield. He has become a very popular addition to the Barnhill community and next week will be out and about during lunch and break times. Students are given strict [guidelines](#) about being around Milo and Mr Wakefield is equally sensitive to those who do not wish to engage with dogs.

BGT

More photos uploaded to the BGT post on our [website!](#)