

AUTUMN TERM

Senior Leadership Message

This edition: Ms Ponnuraj, Assistant Headteacher

Small Habits, High Aspirations

This week, we are celebrating the opportunities that help our young people grow in confidence and ambition.

Alongside our Sixth Form Open Evening and Black History Month celebrations, we are reminding students that small, consistent habits make a real difference to their learning.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a great success. It was lovely to see parents, carers and students so enthusiastic about the courses and extracurricular opportunities available in Key Stage 5. The evening offered families the chance to explore the next stage of their education and consider the possibilities ahead.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff and students who helped make the evening so welcoming and informative.

Year 11: Planning Your Next Steps

Following the open evening, we encourage Year 11 students to discuss their interests and future ambitions with their families. Compare course options, check entry requirements and consider how your choices support your longer-term goals. Speak to your teachers if you need guidance.

Build independence and resilience

When work feels challenging, encourage your child to make a start, use their notes and identify exactly where they need help. Asking a thoughtful question and learning from a mistake are valuable steps towards becoming a confident, independent learner.

Make Time for Reading

Encourage your child to read regularly and talk about what they discover. A novel, biography or an article linked to their interests can offer a useful starting point. Ask them to share an interesting idea or explain a new word.

Take One Positive Step

This week, encourage your child to choose one small action: contribute an idea in a lesson, ask for help, explore a school club or improve a piece of work after feedback. Small steps can build confidence and open up new opportunities.

Celebrating Black History Month

Barnhill is celebrating Black History Month with a special assembly for every year group. This is an opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions of Black individuals and communities, deepen our understanding of history and reflect on the importance of respect, equality and belonging.

At home, please ask your child what they have learnt from the assembly and whose story inspired them.

Dolce will be serving delicious dishes inspired by BHM up to half term. [Menu here](#)

Artificial Intelligence

Last week Mr Church, Teacher of Business Studies and leader of learning technology, delivered assemblies to students on the subject of AI. He said 'AI is going to be part of our students' lives. It will increasingly feature in education, university, apprenticeships, employment and everyday life.

Trying to pretend it does not exist is not the answer. Instead, we want our students to understand what AI can do, where it can go wrong, and how to use it safely and responsibly.

The young people who benefit most from AI will not simply be those who use it the most. They will be the ones who know when to use it, when to question it and when not to trust it'.

Mr Church put together a [comprehensive overview](#) for parents which we hope you will find informative.

Barnhill in the Community

Save the Date! **Saturday 24th April 2027**

We are planning a fun filled **family & community day** at the start of the summer term to raise funds for students and school projects for the benefit of all.

We are keen to get everyone involved to make it a truly community event – neighbours, other schools, local businesses and services - so if you or anyone you know can help with donations, resources, ideas, a helping hand on the day, then now is the chance to step forward and get involved.

Please email dbradshaw@barnhill.school with **Community Day** in the subject line; we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please watch this space for future updates.