

AUTUMN TERM

Senior Leadership Message

This edition: Mr Hillman, Assistant Headteacher

This week, we concluded our series of Parent Information Evenings, and it was fantastic to welcome so many of our families into school. These evenings are such an important part of our work in partnership with parents and carers, and it has been particularly pleasing to receive such overwhelmingly positive feedback. Many parents commented that they now feel better equipped and more confident to support their children at home.



Our assemblies this week, led by Mr Church, focused on the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence. With AI becoming an increasingly important part of young people's lives, the sessions provided students with valuable and practical guidance on how to use these technologies safely, responsibly and effectively, while remaining aware of the potential risks associated with being online. Mr Church is preparing an article for parents which will be shared in next week's newsletter.

There has also been plenty happening beyond the classroom. We concluded our Year 7 football trials, with Mr Shepherd commenting that we appear to have "one of our most talented groups of student athletes in some time". It has been fantastic to see such enthusiasm and ability from our newest students, and we look forward to seeing how they develop throughout the year.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students have completed their first assessments in Key Stage 4. These assessments provide an important opportunity for students and teachers to see how well they have adapted to the increased expectations of upper school study, while also helping us identify where further support and challenge may be needed.

Sixth Form Open Evening - Thursday 8th October

School will finish at normal time for all students and there will be no period 6 lessons. The event is open to our current Y11 students as well as students from all other schools who may be considering sixth form for their next steps. Students are expected to attend in business attire and be accompanied by a parent.

The evening provides an excellent opportunity to gain a detailed insight into life as a sixth form student at Barnhill, explore the opportunities available to our students and understand clearly the entry requirements and general expectations for our A-Level programme.

We look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their families from across Hillingdon.

Black History Month

The theme this year is "Honouring Our Communities".

The History department will be hosting assemblies and the Art department will be running a competition for students. Our caterers, Dolce, have put together a [special menu](#) for the month

See more about BHM [here](#)

National Poetry Day

Thursday 1st October, was National Poetry day. During our 'Pause for Thought' moment, Mr Wootton, English teacher, read out the poem '[Nature Bites Back](#)'. Miss Shelvey has organised a competition for students to write their own poem inspired by a colour. They have until next Friday to enter with a chance to win a prize.

Sixth Formers in the Community

This week we recognised a number of sixth formers who have contributed in the community. One group were involved in a translating 'Baby's First 100 Days' book aimed at new mums and another group were applauded for helping a member of the public with a lost mobile phone. Further information on these and other stories can be found in our [latest news](#) on the website.

Key Dates

The [website](#) (scroll down on the home page to the 'Diary Dates' section) and app have now been updated with events for the academic year including Parents' Evenings and Deep Learning Days.