

# Friern Barnet School Newsletter

‘Enjoy and Excel’

Autumn 2, 2024

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/>



## Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another busy term I wish you a very peaceful Christmas break. As usual it has been a very busy term with many activities, events and trips.

Thank you to all the students and staff who put on such a tremendous production of ‘Oliver!’. The show was a triumph with many stand out performances. The cast this year was young, with many students from KS3 involved. Two matinees and three evening shows later all parents and visitors, including the Mayor of Barnet, came out full of joy and delight.

Recently we hosted a visit by Catherine West MP and Councillor Sara Conway. They met with a group of students as part of the Barnet Council campaign to end gender based violence. Catherine is a new MP to this area following a review of the constituency boundaries. It was good to see her in school, talking with students and showing an interest in Friern Barnet.



As usual in the run up to Christmas staff and students have been bringing in food for our local food bank. We know that some of our families will be finding it difficult to keep on top of their energy bills, rent and food costs. There is help available, including the Household Support Fund which we have been sending out to families before the holidays. Please let us know if you need any help or support.

Term starts again for students on Tuesday 7 January 2025 and there is a lot to look forward to in the new year.

One of our students wrote a lovely poem about regret last year. This excerpt is from a poem called ‘Miss’ by Leo Sakishige. It encourages us to make the most of what life gives us; don’t let opportunities slip away.

Your train was about to depart;  
I rushed to the platform through  
The jostling crowds, desperate  
To make it in time and see you:  
I had things to say.  
I got to the platform, and saw  
A glimpse of your waving hand:  
I pelted;  
I reached out;  
my fingertips scraped the air  
-I missed it.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Simon Horne

Head Teacher



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If you require a copy of  
our newsletter in large  
print please contact the  
main office on  
020 83682777

## Attendance matters

Attendance is an incredibly important part of ensuring the continued academic success of our students. We look forward to your continued support.

Here is a reminder about the expectations of attendance for the next school year.

### Late Arrivals

Parents and carers, we need your help encouraging your child to leave home in sufficient time to ensure that they arrive to school by 8:30am to avoid being late! Students arriving between 8:40am – 9:00am must go to their form class to be registered.

### Students arriving after 9:00am

Students arriving after 9:00am will go directly to Student Services to sign in before receiving a late slip. Arrivals after 9:00am will be classed as unauthorised absences and six in a four week period will result in a Fixed Penalty Notice(FPN) being issued.

### Please Note:

Absences can only be authorised by the school. Calling the school informs us of why your child is absent and the school will decide which code is appropriate. Medical evidence will need to be provided in order to avoid receiving a FPN before or after a school holiday.

### Back gate

Please note, the back gate on Crescent Road shuts at 8:40am until the end of the school day. Students who arrive after 8:40am will be asked to walk around to the front entrance on Hemington Avenue.

### Punctuality to lessons

In order to maximise learning time it is vital that students are punctual to their lessons. Poor punctuality to lessons is very disruptive to learning. If you have a text from the pastoral team explaining that your child was late to any lessons, please take the time to speak to your child about the importance of this.

### Monitoring your child's attendance on Firefly

To help you keep track of your child/children's attendance, you can monitor attendance, lates, authorised and unauthorised absences on Firefly.

### Attendance procedures

If your child has a cough or a cold, please send them to school with tissues and a water bottle. We will contact home and offer a paracetamol if required.

If your child is sick and unable to attend school, please call student services before 8:45am.

If your child has a medical appointment during the day, please inform student services of the appointment in advance and supply them with a copy of the appointment letter/appointment card. **Missing registration should be avoided.**

Have a wonderful festive season and happy New Year.

Ms S Thomas  
Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Year 11(i/c of attendance)



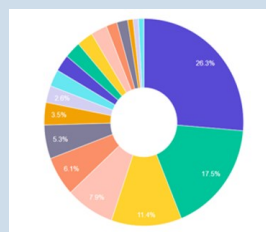
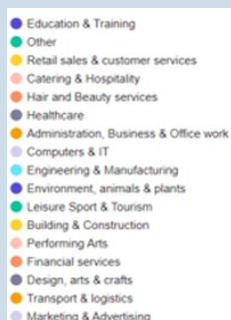
The autumn term has been very busy for our Year 10 and 11 students with lots of careers related activities. Both year groups have been working on their CV and personal statements, learning how to identify their personal skills and attributes.

The spring term will see careers activities across all year groups. I am available at breaktime Monday to Thursday in the careers library, for all students to pop in with any questions.

Ms Baterip, Careers Officer



Year 10 Students are currently contacting employers to arrange their work experience placements 19 -23 May 2025. 112 unique employers supported our students in 2024, placements were varied and in several different industry sectors. Students are expected to find their own placement and have received some information to help them with this process. This can be found on Firefly. The deadline for finding a work placement is 24 January.



## Year 10

This year we are working with the charity Spark! to support our Work Experience (WEX) programme, some lucky Year 10's have been selected to take part in the Way to Work programme launched last week.



## Year 11

This term we have had assemblies from many different Post 16 providers, offering A Levels, T Levels, Vocational Qualifications, Apprenticeships and Traineeships. We will continue with Post 16 provider assemblies in the new term.

Year 11 have been busy with College and Sixth from Open Days and have started making their applications. The image shows some of the Post 16 destinations of past Friern Barnet School students. If you are completing Post 16 applications, please add Ms Baterip as your referee [m.baterip@friern.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:m.baterip@friern.barnet.sch.uk).



**Year 11 Careers meetings will continue in the spring term.**

## Creative arts

### Tuition

#### 1-1 Instrument Tuition

Thank you to those who have booked for next term. The new timetable will be available outside the music room and added to Firefly. For more information please contact the Creative arts office.

#### LAMDA

Contact the Creative arts office for more information.

Benefits of doing LAMDA is available here: <https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/resource.aspx?id=94206&officeint=on>

Follow us on: @friernbarnetschool and fbs\_dance



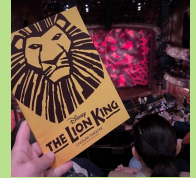
## Creative arts continued

It has been a busy autumn term with inspiring workshops, incredible performances and memorable trips. Here is a look at some of them.

**September** - we were very fortunate to have a puppetry workshop led by Bigfoot Arts education. The two-hour workshop allowed our acting students to explore and learn about the art of puppetry, which led to a really fun and interesting puppet making session where the students got to bring their creations to life. Well done to all our EAPS students that participated, you created some amazing puppets! *Mr G Merry, Head of Drama*



**October**—the EAPS program students went to ‘Dance Works’ studio in central London for a Lion King Musical theatre workshop. The workshop was an amazing experience and helped all the EAPS improve their dance, singing, and acting skills. We learned one of the musical numbers from the show called ‘He lives in you’. It used traditional African style movement and the movements of the animals in the show, whilst singing and acting at the same time! After the workshop we had lunch at ‘The actor’s church’ in Covent Garden, and we got to enjoy the market as well.



In the afternoon we headed to the Lyceum theatre to watch the Lion King. The EAPS thoroughly enjoyed the show, we thought it was creative and fun and we loved it when the scene we learnt came up, it was amazing to see it performed by the professionals. I would really recommend going to see the Lion King, the singing was amazing, and set was so brilliant too! *Written by CJ, 8E.*



**November** - Year 7 stage debut - all the year 7 students took to the famous FBS stage to perform in their ‘Stage Debut’. This years theme was ‘Stories through Time’ and each faculty explored how they would represent this in their first schemes of learning. In Art the students looked at designing and printing their own book covers for the FBS community library. This wonderful work of Art was on display in Reception and each piece was unique.

In Drama the year 7s explored various dramatic styles and each form created a version of the fairytale little red riding hood. From silent movies, to pantomime, each form performed their pieces showing excellent stage awareness, voice projection and outstanding teamwork.

In Dance the year 7’s studied iconic dance styles at different ERAs of time, from the Charlston of the 1920s to the present day. The dances were energetic and fun and each student developed their rhythmic movement skills, as well as special awareness.

In Music the year 7’s all came together to sing ‘When I grow up’ from the musical version of the story ‘Matilda’ a perfect fit for our theme! The all stood up with pride and showed their musicality and pitch awareness as they all sang together in unison. Their parents looked beyond proud as they watched their children perform, and the Creative arts faculty were very



impressed with their developing progress, confidence and growing appreciation of arts and

**December** —being a backstage helper for Oliver! has been such an awesome experience. I got to see how much teamwork goes into making the show happen, from setting up props to helping with quick costume changes. Even though I’m not on stage, it’s cool to feel like part of something big, and singing in the wings with Mr. Merry, the drama teacher, was one of the best parts. Working on Oliver! showed me that a musical isn’t just about the performance and that backstage crew is just as important and keeps the show together. I’m extremely glad I was able to have the opportunity of working alongside the actors and making memories.

*Written by Marie, 11F.*



Joining the school and getting cast as one of Fagin's boys in *Oliver!* has been amazing! It's helped me develop my dance skills (which I never thought I'd enjoy so much) and make new friends along the way. The best part has been feeling like I'm part of something so big and exciting - it's incredible to see how everyone's hard work comes together to create such a great show. Being part of *Oliver!* has definitely made my first year at Friern Barnet school unforgettable.

*Written by Dylan, 10C*



## English

### FBS Parent-Staff Book Club!

Thanks so much to everyone who has come along to book club so far this year.

Each half term in 2025 we will continue to share the experience of reading a book, discussing our thoughts about it and other interesting topics. There will be refreshments and an opportunity for socializing too.

If you think you might be interested, please do come along to the next event on **Wednesday 12 February at 6-7pm** in the LRC, where we'll be discussing a short story collection called 'We don't know what we're doing' by Thomas Morris.

Do come and say hello, regardless of your experience with reading – all are welcome! It will be a chance for you to meet other parents and get to know the staff even better. If you have any book suggestions for future book clubs, bring them along too! I look forward to seeing many of you there.

*Miss Admoni, Head of English*

**Future book club meeting dates for your diaries from 6.00pm to 7.00pm in the LRC:**

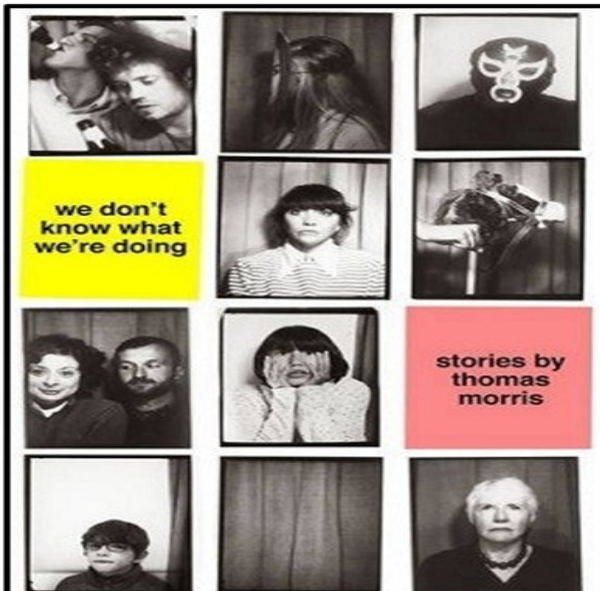


Wednesday 12 February 2025

Wednesday 26 March 2025

Wednesday 14 May 2025

Wednesday 9 Jul 2025



A brother and sister find themselves at the bottom of a coal mine with a Japanese tourist; a Welsh stag on a debauched weekend in Dublin confesses an unimaginable truth; and a twice-widowed pensioner tries to persuade the lovely Mrs Morgan to be his date at the town's summer festival...

Thomas Morris' debut collection reveals its treasures in unexpected ways, offering vivid and moving glimpses of the lost, lonely and bemused. These entertaining stories portray the lives of the people who know where they are, but don't know what they're doing.

*"Outside, autumn lurks like a mugger. You can feel the change in the air, on your cheeks. My boss told me that before it was a video shop the place used to be a garage. The car park is where the forecourt used to be. And there's something about this bottom part of town that feels like a garage, like somewhere that people are only passing through."*

**FBS Reading recommendations!**

Why not spend some time this holiday, cozying up with a lovely read! All of these books are available in the LRC.

**Picture book:**

The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland by Carys Bexington and Kate Hindley



A mash -up of the famous poem 'The Night Before Christmas' and 'Alice in Wonderland' - truly magical.

**Key Stage 3 and up**

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief by A.F. Steadman



Skandar and the Unicorn Thief is a fantasy adventure book about a 13-year-old named Skandar Smith who dreams of becoming a unicorn rider.

**Key Stage 4 and up**

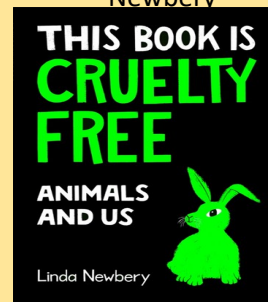
The Loop by Ben Oliver



This is a science fiction novel about a teenage prisoner in a futuristic prison who must escape to save the world.

**Non-fiction:**

This Book is Cruelty Free – Animals and Us by Linda Newbery



Linda Newbery offers tips and advice on how to live a life that doesn't cost the earth.

**Reading and home learning meeting on 17 October**

Thank you to all parents who joined our online meeting on supporting your child with reading and home learning earlier this term. For anyone who missed it you can access a summary of the recording here, as well as some more recommended reads:

<https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/learning-resource-centre-lrc/improving-reading>

**FBS Trumpet**

The FBS Trumpet is a student newsletter providing students with a platform for their voices to be heard. This is a newsletter for the school community, run by the students.

All students can contribute and are invited to demonstrate their talents and express their opinions through the newsletter all year round.

Articles can be about events in and outside the school, and any topical issues. If you want to contribute, please send a digital copy of your article to your English teacher.

**Editorial meetings are held every Thursday break time in M2-2; please, feel free to come along and get more information.**

**Read the latest issue here: [FBS Trumpet — Friern Barnet School](#)**



Y9 Art students took time to celebrate some black icons.

## FBS Writers' Circle 2024-2025

After the success of the inaugural Writers' Circle last year, it has been joyous to welcome the new cohort of keen and talented writers to this year's Writers' Circle. So far, the group has already proven to be dedicated, creative and extremely generous and supportive with feedback and comments on each other's work. We've seen short stories, poems and meditations, and have some great pieces lined up too.

Writers' Circle is open to any KS4 students and runs on Wednesday lunchtimes in M1-1 on a drop-in basis, so if you or someone you know is eager to find out more, please let me know, or just drop by!

Miss Admoni, Head of English

### Extracts from some of the writing shared over the first term of Writers' Circle

#### Halloween – Rosie, 11E

If ghosts were real, I'd know where to find you.  
I would climb out of my window and meet you there.  
I would travel far away from here.  
Far, far away.  
I would meet you there, under that tree, in that garden.  
If ghosts were real.

#### Lakeside – Kai, 11B

The waves roll over the pebbled beach  
They whisper softly and teach  
They show me how to reach out,  
How to let others breach my walls,  
I cry as they crumble  
Why'd they make me insecure  
They're strong but I'm humble  
My internal Tartarus rumbles

### The Library Times by Zara 10A Friern Barnet School's LRC Newsletter

The *Library Times* is a termly newsletter created by our dedicated library ambassadors. It features:

- **Book Reviews & Recommendations:** Get the lowdown on the latest books to borrow and read.
- **Event Highlights:** Recap of recent library events, from National Poetry Day to World Book Day, complete with fun activities and competitions!

Events have included *Fantasy* themes for World Book Day, with Harry Potter and Star Wars decorations. We had themed stations, and even a real-life sorting hat (courtesy of YouTube). We also host quiz competitions with chocolate prizes through Kahoots—always a hit!

Here is what some students have to say about the LRC:

"My favourite thing about the LRC is borrowing new books and seeing what is available. I have attended lots of events, and the quizzes are always fun—especially with the chocolate rewards!"

"The revision guides are really useful, especially since many people cannot afford to buy them. The LRC also has great fiction books!"

"The books related to our GCSE subjects are really helpful. I have enjoyed events like Poetry Day, and I love the decorations we make and put up!"

"I love the comfortable reading spots by the fiction books section. It's a cozy place to relax with a good book."

The LRC is a wonderful space for both students and staff, filled with resources, events, and a welcoming atmosphere. Keep an eye out for the next edition of *The Library Times*—it is always an enjoyable read!

**We look forward to seeing you in the LRC soon!**

**Read the latest Library Times here:**

**<https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/learning-resource-centre-lrc/the-library-times>**

### FBS Black History Month Speech Competition 2024

This October, the English department continued the tradition of holding the annual Black History Month Speech Competition. Three orators were shortlisted apiece for the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 competitions. The theme for this year's speeches was 'Reclaiming Narratives'; students interpreted this theme in a variety of ways. Some students spoke ardently about members of their own families and communities; others gave thorough and well-researched presentations



about understated figures in Black British history; and some treated the audience to impassioned and personal calls to continue fighting for social justice. The competition was judged by members of staff from across numerous departments. All our burgeoning orators took home books as prizes, and one stand-out speaker from each category took home the well-deserved cash prize. The competition was a fantastic reminder of the breadth and depth of talent that FBS students possess, as well as the drive and passion that motivates them. Read more about the competition, including the winners and their speeches in the latest issue of The Trumpet! <https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/fbs-trumpet>



### FBS Debate Club Competition

On 12 November, twelve students from Year 8 to Year 11 participated in a debate competition at South Hampstead High School. The event was sponsored by Sex Ed Matters and the motions debated were topical PSHE issues including relationships, toxic masculinity and inclusivity. Here is one student's account:

*The debate competition that our Debate Club entered was fantastic! All the students involved had the opportunity to argue and convince others of their points, even if they didn't personally agree with it. The competition was a great chance for students to learn how to argue their ideas respectfully and convincingly. Written by Ben, 8E.*

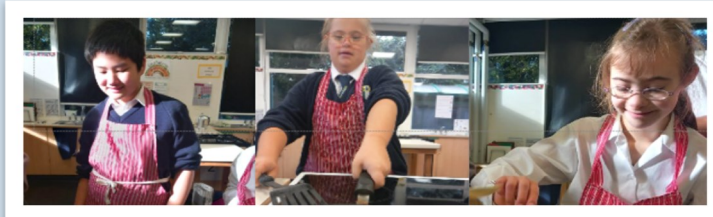
**Debate Club look forward to entering more competitions in the future. If any Year 8s-11s are interested in joining, the club is Friday after school in M2-3. Speak to Ms Bachelor for more details.**

## Learning Support

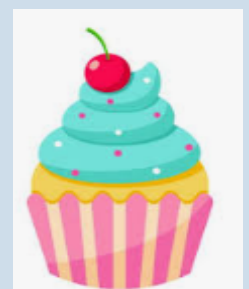
This term our ARP students have been busy.



Our year 8 ARP students continue to visit the farm to look after the animals. In October they took part in some spooky Halloween activities and fun was had by all.



Some of our ARP students have been making and tasting pancakes and fairy cakes this term in food wise lessons with Miss Buckel.



Our Year 7 ARP students are still visiting the park every week and recently Year 9 ARP students learnt about travel safety at Edgware Bus Garage. They all ended the autumn term by going to see Aladdin which they enjoyed!!!



## Mathematics

The maths faculty have had another busy term engaging students with Sixth Form maths mentors, university links and participating in competitions. There's more to come next term with a focus on STEM related opportunities.



Congratulations to Jayden (8C), Fazlullah (7F) and Jesse (8C) who were the top 3 students respectively at FBS in the England Rocks Timetable online competition. This was a national Timetable competition run by [trockstars.com](https://trockstars.com) with hundreds of schools participating.

On Wednesdays after school, we have the privilege of having the opportunity to have A level Maths students from Woodhouse Sixth Form College tutor a group of our Year 11 students.

Furthermore, we are proud to announce that we will again be working with MathsMakers to provide a GCSE booster small group online tuition programme for 6 weeks on Saturdays from mid January 2025 for many of our Year 11 students. The cost to parents for the programme is £60 (payable via ParentPay) with the remaining cost covered by the school. Places are awarded on a first-come-first served basis.

On 12 December we had Imperial College London Mathematics School run a successful workshop on 'Fold & Cut Theory' with our Year 8 top set students.



All these initiatives and workshops will help our students to boost their confidence and attainment in maths.

## PE

### Girls Sporting Academy

This half term has been packed with a lot of successes for our PE students! We have had lots of extra curricular clubs running with good attendances. We started a brand new club called 'Girls Sporting Academy' and took a team to play Ark Pioneer Academy in a friendly fixture. We ran out 2-0 winners in difficult muddy conditions; the girls were excellent and goals from Starla either side of half time saw us come out on top in a close game! The club runs on Thursday, and we would love for more girls to attend.



### Extra Curricular Clubs

Our extracurricular timetable can be found on our website:

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/parents-and-students/extra-curricular-clubs/>

## Resilient Schools Information

### Looking after your mental health through the school holidays:

- Remember to download the [Kooth](#) app onto your phone if you need online support
- If you or someone you know is struggling, then please speak to an adult and/or book an appointment with your GP. Remember it is OK to not be OK, it is not a sign of weakness! Ask for help.
- Take a look at our school website for support with mental health and wellbeing: [Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Friern Barnet School](#) - (leaflet can be found in different languages)

Stay safe and know that there is lots of support available if you need it.

**kooth**

**Kooth is here, year round.  
Even when schools are out.**

Find support for your mental wellbeing,  
no matter what's on your mind.

Visit [kooth.com](http://kooth.com) today

BICS - Supporting Children and Young People's Wellbeing and Mental Health Service to children, young people and families in the borough.

If you are struggling with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties, contact us them for help if you live in the borough or attend a Barnet school.

Please click on the link for further information: [About BICS | Barnet Council](#)

**BICS** Barnet Integrated Clinical Services

**Supporting children and young people's wellbeing and mental health**

**Could BICS help?**

Visit our website for support, advice, how to refer and online resources.  
[www.barnet.gov.uk/bics](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/bics)

## Top tips on how to talk to your children about their feelings

It can be so tricky to bring up difficult topics, and talking about emotions with your children can sometimes feel more than a little daunting for parents and carers. You may worry about saying the wrong thing, making your child feel uncomfortable, and even worry about making them feel worse. But the fact you want to explore emotions with your child is enough, even if sometimes it doesn't go as you planned!

Here are some handy tips on how you could begin talking to your children about their feelings.

### Think about whether your child feels ready to talk

Just because you want to talk doesn't mean they feel ready to talk. Look out for the things they say, and their body, too, for indicators on whether they really want to talk about their feelings.

### Ask them what they need

It can be tough to talk about how you feel, and when we want to talk about things as parents, children don't always want to or feel ready. Asking what a child needs from you can help them feel more in control, heard, and respected.

Children might also not know what they need, so suggesting a few options can be a good starting point. For example, do you need some space right now?

### Think about the setting

Talking about feelings can be really sensitive, so making sure the space is private, comfortable, and feels safe for your child can be key to a positive outcome.

### Choose your timing wisely

Talking about feelings, or any difficult subject, can be quite sensitive. Choosing a time when you are both calm and relaxed can be more useful than choosing a time when there are any heightened emotions already at play.

### Name it

Sometimes it can be hard for children to identify their feelings. Naming what you observe can help them to do this. For example, when talking to a young child, you might say, 'You seem really angry today, I can see you are clenching your hands, and you don't have a happy face. I wonder if anything has made you angry or upset?'

### Practice asking open questions (rather than closed ones)

Talking about feelings, or any difficult subject, can be quite sensitive. Choosing a time when you are both calm and relaxed can be more useful than choosing a time when there are any heightened emotions already at play.

### Model it

Being more open and honest about how you yourself feel (in an age appropriate way, of course) can normalise the idea of talking about emotions. Children who see that adults also have big feelings, doubts, get scared or anxious, get frustrated with others at work, etc. might feel more comfortable opening up themselves.

### Take away the intensity

It can be pretty daunting (on both sides) to sit down to talk about something as important as feelings. But decreasing some of the intensity can sometimes reduce the pressure and make things a little less stressful.

### Get creative

We might feel a pressure to have all the answers and say the right things, but sometimes, we just need to think a little differently. Helping our children express their feelings through play or using art materials can be just as important and useful, especially for much younger children whose natural language is often play.

### Listen carefully

This sounds pretty straightforward, but sometimes, when we care, we may jump into problem-solving mode a little too hastily. And while it might come from a really good place, it's not always helpful.

If you are struggling to talk to a child in your life about their feelings, or you want to talk to the team about anything at all, you can reach out to us by logging into [qwell.io](#)



## Guidance for parents

### Keeping your child safe online

Please refer to our school website where parents can access useful websites on how to keep your child safe:

[Safeguarding and E-Safety - Friern Barnet School](#) -



# High Achievers Awards for Autumn 2024



<b>Art</b>				
Elsa 7E	Bello 8D	Mille 9C	Harriette 10D	Pavlena 11C
<b>Business</b>				
			Leonardo 10C	Niket 11F
<b>Computing</b>				
Mojtaba 7A	Jozef 8E	Ollie 9D		
<b>Computer Science</b>				
			Shawn 10C	Sindi 11B
<b>Dance</b>				
Tamzin 7B	Ayana 8E	Ava 9E	Maia 10E	Lyra 11B
<b>Design and Technology</b>				
Alex 7B	Naomi 8B	Ali 9A	Mario 10C	James 11E
<b>Drama</b>				
Sidney 7E	Joelle 8A	Setayesh 9B	Lois 10E	Caiden 11B
<b>English</b>				
Margita 7A	Morola 8C	James 9B	Jazlynn 10D	Grace 11D
<b>Film Studies</b>				
			Spyridon 10F	Kelsey 11A
<b>French</b>				
Joanna 7B	Melissa 8B	Avantika 9B	Mikaela 10B	Andreia 11A
<b>Geography</b>				
Melissa 7A	Ameera 8F	Georgia 9E	Kamelia 10C	Rizwan 11F
<b>History</b>				
Finn 7B	Sumaiyah 8B	Alesha 9E	Ersida 10A	Truska 11F
<b>Learning Support</b>				
Bradley 7D	Orly 8A	Geraldine 9A	Sarah 10B	Charlie 11A
<b>Mathematics</b>				
Sumaiyyah 7F	Kazuki 8A	Alona 9E	Behrad 10C	Sumaya 11C
<b>Media Studies</b>				
			Nathan 10A	Maisie 11E

# High Achievers Awards for Autumn 2024



**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Music				
Olivia 7B	Tatsu 8A	Raha 9A	Andreea 10E	Cemre 11A
PE				
Steven 7A	Klara 8E	Kiara 9F	Davide 10E	Troy 11F
Abiyah 7F	Tristan 8C	Lewis 9E	Kyra 10D	Evin 11B
Religious Studies				
Kayra 7B	Lena 8D	Maggie 9A	Hana 10C	Tasin 11A
Science				
Thenuka 7D	An Xin 8D	Chuaib 9E		
Combined Science				
			Serxho 10D	Kai 11B
Biology				
			Nirvana 10C	Orion 11C
Chemistry				
			Conor 10B	Balint 11F
Physics				
			Abdullah 10B	Mai 11A
Spanish				
Saaqib 7D	Ben 8E	Taliyah 9E	Lena 10E	Diljin 11D

## Able and Ambitious

### Launch event for Able and Ambitious

Huge congratulations to everyone who was selected. Whether you are currently in the A&A cohort or not, remember to check the A&A pages on Firefly regularly for details of projects and extra-curricular activities you can participate in!



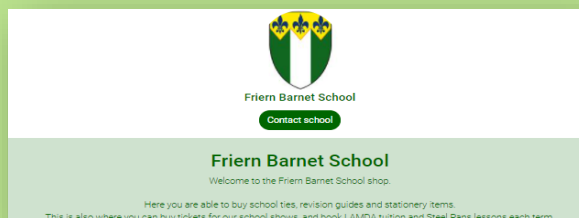
On the 28 November, Mr White and Ms Bachelor held an Able and Ambitious celebration and an introductory session on what it means to be able and ambitious. They explained in detail the incredible activities that students have participated in already, and what able to ambitious has to offer for new students joining this year.

*Written by Laura, 11B*

### School Shop

Parents/carers can buy revision guides, stationery items, tickets for school shows and school ties on our School Shop. Please click on the link for further information:

[School Shop](#)



### Firefly

We use the Firefly Parent Portal to inform parents /carers about their child's learning, progress and achievements. We expect all our parents to activate an account so that they can access a range of information which will keep them updated on essential matters about school.

Firefly allows Parents to:

- View your child's timetable including their current and next lessons
- View your child's home learning
- View your child's electronic school report
- Keep your personal contact details up to date



Please click on the link for further information on how to activate your Firefly account:

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/parents-and-students/firefly-parent-portal/>

### Canteen

The canteen is open at the following times:

**Breakfast:** 8.15am – 8.40am

**Break:** 11.00am – 11.20am

**Lunch:** Key Stage 3: 12.20pm - 12.55pm and Key Stage 4: 1.20pm - 1.55pm

**Topping up lunch accounts** - school dinner money needs to be added via ParentPay before 10.00am to allow students to be able to buy lunch on the same day. We recommend topping up over the weekend as ParentPay can be busy on Monday mornings sometimes causing delays with payments. You can also set up a free email alert: Click on the link for further information (follow instructions for free email alerts as text message alerts are charged) : <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4410756555025-How-to-set-alerts#how-to-set-alerts-0-0>

Just a reminder, when making payments can we ask you not to use the 'One click payment' method as this can take up to 5 days to clear which then delays money going onto your child's lunch account. The best way is to add money to the basket and check out using 'Other Payment Methods'. Click on the link below for further information: <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4410737893649-How-to-pay-with-credit-or-debit-card>

**Daily spend limit**— there is a default daily spend limit of £3.50 and no food costing above that limit can be bought. This limit can only be changed by emailing [school@friern.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:school@friern.barnet.sch.uk)

Students on Free School Meals can spend up to £2.65 a day. Parents/Carers are welcome to top up their lunch accounts.

**Help** - if your child needs help with their pin code, thumb print or they have been told they do not have sufficient funds on their account, please remind them to come to the main office so we can help them as we do not want anyone to go hungry.

## Trips

There have been a number of trips that have gone out this term such as Sky Studios for our Media and Film Studies students, Year 10 French trip to watch a French movie and have lunch at la Petite Colline to name a few.

View some of our other trips below:

### Year 7 trip

On Friday 29 November, the whole of year 7 travelled to South Kensington to visit the Natural History Museum. Each form were set various challenges to complete during their day which included things such as taking creative selfies with statues and finding out more information on different groups of animals. It was a lovely day and the students worked really well together. I look forward to organising our next year group trip in the new year.

*Ms C Morgan, Head of Year 7*



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### English trip

On Monday 18 November, a group of year 9 English students were taken to The Old Operating Theatre in Southwark to support their novel study of Catherine Johnson's 'Sawbones'. The group were an absolute pleasure throughout the trip, thoroughly relishing the sights of London during their journey to the museum. Highlights of the day included: lunch on the steps of St Guy's Courtyard, tackling the 52 narrow steps into the Grade II listed museum, a lecture demonstration of 18<sup>th</sup> Century medicine (and how to publicly amputate a leg) as well as exclusive access to the museum. The interactive displays were fascinating and insightful and, if nothing else, reminded our students of the absolute value of our NHS.



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### Geography trip

Year 9's visited Kew Gardens to enhance their understanding of Rainforest Biomes. The students took part in an educational session, as well as, roaming around the site, with a particular highlight being 'The Hive' and the 'Princess of Wales Conservatory' which housed multiple different climatic areas of the world. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



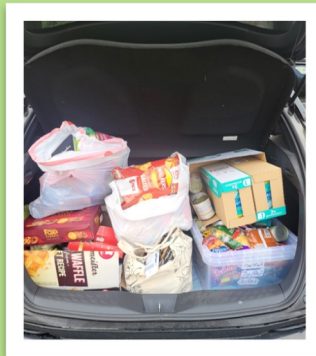
Well Done

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop

On 14 November we had a Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge workshop and from this our finalists were selected to deliver a speech on a topic of their choice to their peers in a year 10 assembly.

Congratulations to Nirvana and Nathan who won and will represent Friern Barnet School in the Barnet Finals which is going to be held on the 14 January 2025.

A big thank you from Friern Barnet School



Thank you for all your donations for the Muswell Hill Foodbank.

All the items were collected by the Muswell Hill Foodbank on Monday 16 December.

[Muswell Hill Foodbank - The Trussell Trust](#)

Thank you for supporting the Poppy Appeal this year.

We raised £55.73 from selling poppies and poppy related items.



## Welcome back to our ex year 11 students



Celebration time—it was lovely catching up with our ex year 11 students on 26 November. They collected their GCSE certificates, caught up with staff and each other.

We wish them well in the future.

Good luck class of 2023—2024.



## BACE Holiday and information

**FREE!**

BACE Holiday Activities / Camps run throughout the Winter Holidays from: 23 December 2024 until 03 January 2025.

Please click on the link below for information on free BACE activities.

[Barnet Youth – Child and Family Early Help Service -Events?CalendarID=131](#)

Click on the link to view their brochure: [024461-BC4689---Barnet-Youth-Magazine-Winter-2024-DIGITAL.pdf](#)



<https://barnetyoungcarers.org.uk>

## Is your child a young carer?

If your child is, or you think they may be a young carer, then they are not on their own. Barnet has over 6,500 young carers. We know that all young carers are different and have different challenges and play different roles within their families/households. What we do know, is that with the right support, most young carers can thrive and live the lives they want to. And that is where we come in.

Our programmes provide great activities for young carers of all ages during the school holidays and some really special opportunities. We can also help them if they are struggling at school. Our education support includes free tutoring in all subjects and can really help them get back on track if their caring role has had an impact on their school work. We also have a mentoring programme which gives them the opportunity to have a skilled and experienced mentor – many of whom have been young carers themselves – to talk to them about their experiences. This can be delivered during the school day or online at a convenient time.

We also run group mentoring sessions (led by our professional mentors) within their school day, where they can meet with other young carers in their school and support each other in all aspects of their day, inside and out of school.

Barnet Young Carers schools programme manager, Sandra Langham, would love to hear from you or your child and answer any questions or queries you may have, or if they would like to utilise one or some of these amazing services, please email her on: [Sandra.Langham@barnetcarers.org](mailto:Sandra.Langham@barnetcarers.org)



## Reminders and notices

### Online Parenting Courses

Being a parent has never been easy and there are no manuals for it. Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses, to make this challenge a little easier. If interested please follow the link below:

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>



### LET'S GET TALKING SOCIAL CLUB

EVERYONE WELCOME, A TIME TO MEET NEW PEOPLE, LAUGH, CHAT OR SIMPLY JUST HAVE A COFFEE WITH US ALL. A FREE DROP IN FOR THE COMMUNITY.

EVERY THURSDAY 2-4 @ ARTS DEPOT NORTH FINCHLEY.

ALL FAQS BELOW....



PLEASE EMAIL: [loizou\\_john@gmail.com](mailto:loizou_john@gmail.com) ahead of arrival.

EVERY THURSDAY AT ARTS DEPOT 2-4.

FIRST FLOOR CAFÉ – UP THE ESCALATORS.

ASK FOR JOHN – ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.....



### Student lockers

To purchase a locker for the rest of the school year, please click the link: [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals)

THE UK'S NO.1 SCHOOL LOCKER.

# Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS

An illustration showing several students interacting with lockers in a school hallway. One student is climbing a ladder to reach a high locker, another is using a laptop, and others are standing nearby.

## 2 SIMPLE WAYS TO RENT YOUR LOCKER.

- Visit [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals)
- Scan this QR Code

**Once on the web app do the following:**

- Enter your **LOCATION**
- Choose your **PREFERRED LOCKER AREA** from the drop down menu (if available)
- Click on **CHECK AVAILABILITY**
- Where prompted enter your details and read and agree to the terms and conditions
- Click on **RENT LOCKER** and follow the instructions for entering your payment details
- You will then be emailed a locker code and the number of your locker compartment

**How to Access your Locker:**

- Go to the locker number detailed on your confirmation email
- Enter the **4 digit code** detailed on your confirmation email and open the lock
- Should you forget your code it can be reset by visiting [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals) and clicking on the re-issue my locker code link

# Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS

An illustration of an open locker filled with school supplies like books, bags, and sports equipment.

## LOCKERS, FROM AS LITTLE AS 12p PER DAY. SIMPLE. SAFE. SECURE.

Kids these days carry a lot of expensive equipment, from trainers and clothing, to books and sportswear. So, it's scary to think that the average student loses 7 items per month.

Having a school locker can help to reduce these numbers. Providing a consistent, secure location for students to store possessions safely. With the added advantage of keeping books dry and promoting better back health.

And, when you compare the cost vs replacing a school jumper, the decision is simple.

STUDENTS LOSE AN AVERAGE OF **7** ITEMS PER MONTH

Visit [locker.rentals](http://locker.rentals) and book your locker today.

[enquiries@locker.rentals](mailto:enquiries@locker.rentals) [www.locker.rentals](http://www.locker.rentals)

## Reminders and notices continued

### Dates to Remember

20 December	Last day of the Autumn Term
6 January	Staff Development Day
	SEND Outcome Review Day
	Year 11 Kick Start Review meetings
7 January	First day of Spring Term
16 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening
6 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening
12 February	Book club for parents and staff
17 - 21 February	Half term holiday
27 February	Year 9 Options Evening
13 March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
26 March	Book club for parents and staff
4 April	Last day of Spring term

### From Student Services

#### Absence

Please report your child's absence each day by 8.45am, clearly stating their name, form class and reason for absence. You can either call 020 8368 2777 and press Option 1 'To report your child absent' or email:

[attendance@friern.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@friern.barnet.sch.uk)

For medical or other appointments during the school day, notification is required **in advance**. Routine appointments/check-ups should be made out of school hours wherever possible.

#### Non-medical absences

Permission for all non-medical absences must be authorised by Ms Thomas, Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Year 10. Please fill in a leave of absence form and email it, in advance, to [school@friern.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:school@friern.barnet.sch.uk)

[Attendance - Friern Barnet School -](#)

### School Streets

Just a reminder to parents/carers, if you are driving your child to and from school please remember vehicles are not permitted to enter Hemington Avenue or Bethune Avenue from 8.00 - 9.00 am and from 2.45 - 3.45 pm.

Please see our website for further information: [Barnet School Streets - Friern Barnet School -](#)

### Mobile Phones

A reminder that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones whilst at school. Thank you for your support with this clear school rule.

### Contact Details

Please let us know by emailing [school@friern.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:school@friern.barnet.sch.uk) if you have changed any contact details or moved house as soon as possible.

#### ParentPay contact details

If your mobile number or email address has changed, please up date your details on ParentPay so you do not miss out on any important information.



**Wishing you a restful break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**