

BARCLAY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th October 2022



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The time seems to be whizzing by and the summer holidays feel like a long time ago!

As you know, the students have a two week half-term holiday this year so that we are in line with the other secondary schools in our Trust. This was also a perfect opportunity for everyone to take a cheaper holiday if possible. Hertfordshire County Council is supplying Free School Meal vouchers for eligible families for the first week and Future Academies is providing them for the second.



Sadly, Mrs Oram will not be continuing in her role as Head of Year 8 and Miss Bickerstaff will be going on maternity leave at the end of next week. Miss Walsh will be taking over from Miss Bickerstaff and she has been shadowing since September. We will now be recruiting for a new Head of Year. In the meantime, Year 8 parents should contact Mr Dawe, who is the Head of Key Stage 3.

There were far too many people dropping their children off in the car park when I was on duty this morning. This can be very dangerous. Please can you drop your children off in Walkern Road and in time for an 8.25 start.

I was very pleased to be able to host a headteachers' meeting at the school yesterday. It was a good opportunity for me to show colleagues all the improvements that we have made and to talk about what we did last year to achieve our excellent results. With your continued support I know that we can go from strength to strength.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Dr Matthew Laban

Principal

SPORTS

Table Tennis

On Wednesday, our Under 13 and Under 16 table tennis teams participated in a District Table Tennis Tournament. Our PE staff worked with Stevenage Sporting Futures to help deliver and host the event. We are delighted to announce that our U13 girls and U16 boys won the competition and will both now be representing Stevenage at the School Games County Finals in December. In addition, a big well done as well to our U13 boys and U16 girls who ended second in their competition, all pupils attending the event came away with medals in one of our best performances in the competition to date. Well done to all involved it was a great sporting afternoon.



Year 7 Football

Our Year 7 football team beat Nobel 4-0 this week in an impressive and disciplined performance. Barclay started on the front foot, going 2-0 up very early, from here we scored a third close to half-time. In the second half our team showed true positional discipline and organisation to hold off Nobel pressure. Charlie then showed individual excellence with a fantastic free kick from outside the box to make the score 4-0. A great performance all round, well done to the team. Barclay 4-0 Nobel, scorers: Charlie (2), Hulk (2).



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



Monday 10th October was World Mental Health Day, our Mental Health Lead Rachel Buttress developed a whole school initiative which saw the whole school take part in wellbeing activities and a reflection on mental health. Every year group focused on a specific theme all in support of wellbeing. Mrs Crouch and our Student Mental Health Ambassadors also supported the day and our students with a lunch time Pop Up stall that all could visit. We saw some really great awareness around mental health and fantastic sharing of strategies and supportive advice. We have some extremely kind and caring students; we are proud of them all!

The 5 ways to wellbeing

The five ways to wellbeing are simple things that we can all do to improve our emotional health and wellbeing:

- **Connect**
- **Be active**
- **Take notice**
- **Keep learning**
- **Give**



What are five important core skills in making life choices?

Planning: being able to make and carry out concrete goals and plans

Focus: the ability to concentrate on what's important at a given time

Self-Control: Not just noticing the people and situations around us, but also understanding how we fit in

Flexibility: the ability to adapt to changing situations

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 19th October – School Production - Grimm's Tales

Thursday 20th October – School Production - Grimm's Tales

Monday 24th October – Friday 4th November – Half Term Holidays

Monday 7th November – Return to school

Friday 11th November – Y10 What Career Live! at London Excel Centre

Barclay Academy presents:
PHILIP PULLMAN'S
GRIMM TALES

Wednesday 19th October

&

Thursday 20th October

6:30pm start

Adult £5

Child £2.50

AVAILABLE ON SCHOOL GATEWAY

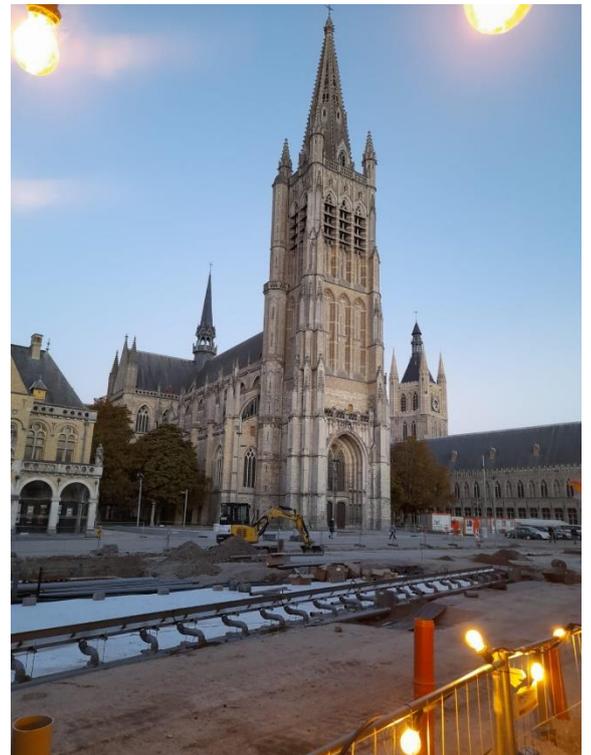
BATTLEFIELD TOUR

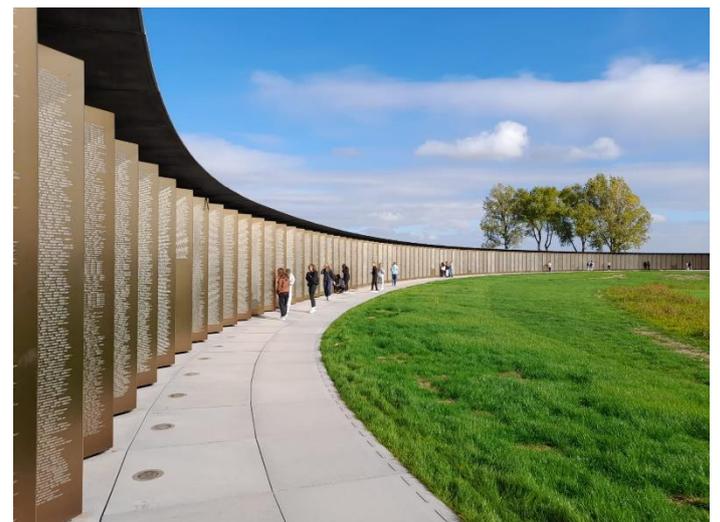
Last week, 45 students from years 9 and 10 went on a poignant 3 day Battlefield Tour in France and Belgium. This involved visiting a number of historic sites of the First World War around The Somme and the Ypres Salient.

The tour focused on the stories and ordeals of soldiers from Stevenage and the Hertfordshire Regiment. Students were extremely thoughtful as they reflected on the horrors of the War and tributes were also made to relatives of students who lost their lives during the Great War.

The weather was extremely kind with it being warm and dry throughout. Some of the memorials visited included Vimy Ridge, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Notre Dame De Lorette, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Essex Farm and Thiépval Memorial.

Amelia and Jackson represented all at Barclay Academy and laid a wreath at the iconic Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres. This historical event has happened every single day since 1928, remembering the soldiers with unknown graves across the Ypres Salient.





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