

BARCLAY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th November 2023



Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable half-term break. It was certainly nice to have two weeks.

Today, we held special assemblies to commemorate Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday that will take place this weekend. The Head Boy and Head Girl will be joining me on Sunday morning to lay a wreath at the war memorial in Old Stevenage. If any other student would like to take part in this then they need to meet me, dressed in full school uniform, at the car park at the back of where Waitrose used to be at 9.55am.

I was very pleased to accompany half of Year 8 on Monday on a trip to Bosworth to visit the Heritage Centre and the battlefield. The rest of the year group went on Tuesday. We were very fortunate with the weather on both days and it was a wonderful trip. Thank you to Mrs Forsdyke and the History department for organising such a memorable experience.

The Year 11 mock exams start on Monday. It is essential that there is 100% attendance for these exams. Year 11 attendance needs to be excellent for this crucial year and we will be making additional telephone calls and home visits to chase this up if necessary.

Next Friday – 17th November – is our Trust wide INSET day and so school will be closed. A message has also gone out to say that we will be closing slightly early on Wednesday afternoon (2.15pm) in order to facilitate some training on a new computer system that is being introduced.

Our new toilets in the Maths corridor are finished and are in use at long last. As with all building works, there was a delay but I am pleased to say that our new and increased number of toilets are now in place.

Please remember that all students now have to wear their blazer to school. They must have it with them at all times and it is compulsory to wear it in assembly.

As always, please get in touch with your child's form tutor or Head of Year if you have any questions or queries.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Dr Matthew Laban
Executive Principal



ART

The Art department have created two Remembrance Day displays for our school. Year.10 have created beautiful watercolour studies and the KS3 art club created work resembling stained glass windows



Y8 BATTLE OF BOSWORTH VISIT

On Monday and Tuesday, year 8 visited the key battle sites of the Battle of Bosworth. Last term, year 8 learnt about the rise of the Tudors and the pivotal role the battle played in their ascendancy. The students were able to stand on the very site where Richard III and his men camped on the penultimate night before the battle. Students were shown the main events of the battle by historians who positioned them in the troop formation so students could relive the conflict. Afterwards, students went into the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre where they were able to try on the chainmail and helmets that both the Houses of York and Lancaster would've worn. It was a very immersive experience for the children who behaved well and were very respectful to both the historians and the sites they visited.



Y8 FUTURE FORWARD

Year 8 this week enjoyed 'Future Forward', an engaging theatre and integrated workshop presentation, looking at options for future routes and how these can lead to a fulfilling future for all. The show was an informative and fun introduction to post 16 & 18 pathways, focusing on the different options available (including different routes to higher education and widening participation) and the importance of planning for a successful future.



HISTORY INTER-FORM COMPETITION

Thank you to all of the students who entered the Interhouse Armistice competition in honour of Remembrance day. Year 7's challenge was to create an artefact from WW1. The number of entries was impressive and it will be very difficult to decide a winner. Very detailed items from tanks to gas masks were made and showed a real passion and enthusiasm for the subject. Year 8 recreated recruitment posters which enabled them to think deeply about the purpose of propaganda and the emotional impact it had. Year 9 produced 3 very profound diary entries from the perspective of a soldier, each piece was thought provoking and demonstrated a real degree of historical empathy.



The World War I Diary

Dear Diary today my heart is heavily burdened by the weight of the world around me. As I sit here in the trenches my weary soul is consumed by horrors of war the cries of anguish that pierce the night and the emptiness that lingers with every fallen comrade. World War I has cast its shadow upon our lives forever changing the course of our existence.

I remember how it all began. The anticipation the sense of duty and honor that pulled us away from the comforts of home. We believed our cause was just marching forward with pride and bravado oblivious to the horrors that awaited us. But as the days past turned into weeks and weeks into months the grim reality settled upon us like a suffocating fog.

The trenches that stretch for miles have become our homes. They are damp cold and unforgiving mirroring the desolation within our hearts. Here amongst my brothers in arms I have witnessed both beauty and cruelty of humanity. The camaraderie that endures amidst the chaos and destruction is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.

But oh diary the toll this war has taken on us all is immeasurable. I have seen young boys barely old enough to hold a weapon crumble under the weight of their own innocence lost. The heavy eyes of my comrades bear witness to the nightmares we endure the atrocities we've witnessed and the lives that are forever shattered.

Sometimes in the rarest of moments of reprieve we gather around a makeshift fire sharing stories

I've only been here for a matter of days yet it's as if it's been years. The ongoing repetition and suffocating cycle of terror war and loss is almost becoming normal to me. It's my life now. The world outside this Hell is unknown just like the feeling of joy. At this moment my feet are buried in wet mud and I'm sat on a 3 legged chair. A reflection of me. Broken, unstable however still fighting to make a difference. But what difference have I made. Were all the deaths on my behalf worth it? I can't help but feel the weight of regret engulfing every inch of my existence. Half of me has been lost and soon the rest will be taken. No matter how hard I avoid these traumatic memories they always return to haunt me. Even the rain which is meant to provide nourishment to the earth only brings woes as they feel like the tears of my fallen comrades drowning me. We can't allow that sacrifice to be in vain but what can I do? Tomorrow is another day another blood bath another loss maybe another miracle.

Dragul Jurnal

Tara noastra a fost aruncata intr-un vort al razboiului mondial. Ca soldat din Romania, am stat la marginea unui destin neamur. Tara noastra este astazi la o margine de existenta. 17 august 1916

Dezorganizat, procesul de mobilizare a fost lent. Ne-am infinat unitatea si suntem in drum spre primele linii. Desi inima noastra este gata, randamentul este scazut. 1 septembrie 1916

Conflictul este acut. Si noi am puter bătălie dintr-o poziție defensivă. Potrivit planului, trebuie să ne retragem din poziția noastră. 22 octombrie 1916

In fata noastra, Muntii Carpati sunt inarmati. Potrivit planului, trebuie să ne retragem din poziția noastră. 22 octombrie 1916

Dear Diary,

Our country has been thrown into the turbulent maelstrom of World War I today. As a soldier from Romania, I stand on the edge of an unknown destiny. Our country is hearing the call to arms, and I, along with my allies, have heeded it with unyielding resolve. 17 August 1916

disorganised, the mobilisation process has been erratic. We have established our way to the front lines. Though our hearts are heavy, we remain firm in the hopes of securing our historical legacy and defending our country.

us. We have fought bloody battles against the Central Powers. The sound of artillery and gunshots. The living conditions are harsh. We persevere anyway, knowing that our sacrifice

our homeland is under siege, and the weather and frigid temperatures are making our battle

on the bravery of our soldiers is evident despite the

arms with heavy hearts. The cost of war and the sacrifices we make are worthwhile. But we



PRE – LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Barclay Academy's Second Hand Uniform Shop opening time is Wednesday 1.30pm - 3pm

Please email admin@barclay.futureacademies.org to check stock levels with the size, requirements and arrange an appointment, which will be on Wednesday between 1.30-3pm to collect. Anyone that would like to donate old reusable uniform please hand into Reception.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 14th November – PTA AGM 6pm

Friday 17th November – INSET DAY

Monday 27th November to Friday 1st December – Virtual Mock Interviews Year 11

Thursday 30th November to Tuesday 5th December – Book Fair

Monday 4th to Friday 8th December – Virtual Mock Interviews Year 13

Tuesday 5th December - Carol Concert Evening Year 7

Thursday 14th December – Year 11 Parents' Evening

Monday 8th January – INSET Day

Thursday 18th January – Year 13 Parents' Evening

Tuesday 23rd January - Year 9 GCSE Options Evening

Thursday 1st February – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Thursday 15th February – Year 8 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 28th February – Friday 1st March – PGL Adventurous Activities Trip Year 7

Monday 4th to Thursday 7th March – Malaga Spain Trip Year 9 and Year 10

Thursday 7th March – Year 12 Parents' Evening

Monday 11th to Friday 15th March – Year 12 Work Experience Week

Thursday 14th March – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March - Year 10 Work Experience Week

Tuesday 26th March – Year 7 Parents' Evening

LIBRARY BOOK FAIR

We will be hosting our Book Fair in the Library during lunchtimes on Thursday 30th November until Tuesday 5th December.

SCHOLASTIC
Book Fairs
COME TO THE
HALF PRICE
BOOK FAIR
and earn **FREE BOOKS** for our school*

Books featured include:

- LA ROLLER COASTER BOY** by LISA THOMPSON, Illustrated by DEBRA COBBELL
- THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES** by SUZANNE COLLINS (13+)
- ENDGAME** by MALORIE BLACKMAN (13+)
- DEAD POPULAR** by SUE WALLMAN (13+)
- LION DOOR** by CHRISTAL Q. RAUF (NEW) - From the author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*

CHOOSE FROM OVER 200 OF THE BEST NEW BOOKS FROM ONLY £2.99!

*Free books are subject to school and local book club rules. See your Book Fair Organiser for details.



BARCLAY ACADEMY PTA PRESENT
YEAR 7 SCHOOL

DISCO

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER | 5-6:30PM | £2 PER CHILD PAYABLE ON SCHOOL GATEWAY |
SNACKS & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY (CASH ONLY)



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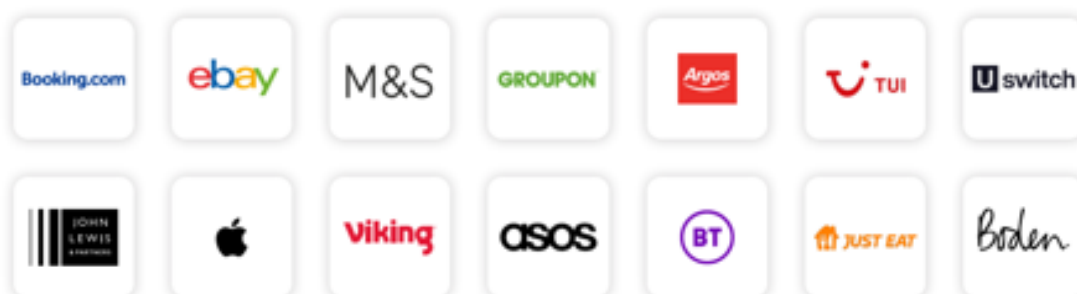
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It won't cost you any extra!

**Sign up before 10th November for
your chance to be entered into a
prize draw to win a £10 Amazon
Voucher!**

How to sign up

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www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause
- 2 Search for us
- 3 Your favourite brands donate whenever you spend with them



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