

BARCLAY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th February 2023



Dear Parents

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope everyone had an enjoyable half-term break. This week seems to have been busier than ever with lots going on!



As many of you will have seen, our new gates are now fully installed. This means that parents should not be driving into the school grounds unless they have an appointment or a prior arrangement. Only parents who have a booked meeting, or those who are dropping off a student with a medical need, should be driving into the school car park. Everyone else should be dropping their children off in Walkern Road and not in the narrow approach road. We have had to install these gates to enhance our security and to ensure that students can walk safely through the car park in the mornings and afternoons.

Wednesday 1st March is the next one of the nationally organised teacher strikes for our region. School will only be open to Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students and to identified groups of students. These students must arrive at school at normal time (by 8.25am). Year 11 students will have a programme of lessons for that day. The school will be closed for all younger students in Years 7 – 10 and they will be expected to complete their homework and ensure that they are up-to-date. Additional money will be placed on the school canteen accounts for those students who receive Free School Meals so that they can buy food to take home for the strike day.

I was delighted to see all the fantastic photographs from the Iceland trip. It looked an amazing visit and I have had excellent reports from the Year 9 and Year 10 students who went. As you know, Barclay Academy was one of the first schools in the country to relaunch international visits after Covid when we went to Iceland last year and I am pleased that this has continued.

Two of our Sixth Form students went on a day trip to Auschwitz on Tuesday when they represented the school on a visit organised by the Holocaust Education Trust. They had to get the first flight from Stansted in the morning and the last one back that night. It was a very long day but a memorable and worthwhile one.

Most of our Year 7 students have gone on a PGL residential trip this week so our programme of trips has continued. I am very grateful to all the staff who are involved in putting these trips together. Barclay Academy certainly has an excellent enrichment offer and we mean to continue organising these trips because they are so beneficial.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes,

Dr Matthew Laban

Principal

Knowledge | Aspiration | Respect

STEVENAGE SCHOOLS PARLIAMENT



This week Year 10 Student Council members represented Barclay Academy at the Stevenage Schools Parliament held in Stevenage Council Chambers. In attendance were leading figures from the area including The Mayor of Stevenage Councillor Margaret Notley & The Mayoress of Stevenage Councillor Cathy Bibby.

Amongst other discussions students were invited to apply for the position of Youth Mayor 2023/24. Stevenage Youth Mayor formally represents and promotes the interests of young people who live, work or are in education in the borough, it is also an ambassador role.

Being the Youth Mayor for Stevenage involves:

- Representing the young people of Stevenage at engagements and meetings of the Council.
- Holding a seat on Stevenage Youth Council where you will feed back in civic events and Council meetings.
- Managing a Local Youth Budget.

Youth Mayor candidates will be elected by their peers through a democratic election process. Candidate will be supported with their election campaign by staff from Stevenage Borough Council and Services for Young People, Hertfordshire.



Applications close on 6th March.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH – MARCH 2023



Next week Year 7,8,9 & 10 will attend an assembly led by Dr. Kate Vigers, author and expert on the Special Operations Executive, the 39 female Secret Agents of the Second World War. Dr Viggers will also host a Q&A with History Club.

The 'Herstory' Club & Miss Jakes meet weekly to discuss Women in History and the current issues that women in society face. They are producing some fabulous resources which will be displayed in classrooms and on the dedicated display area in school. Well done to the 'Herstory' club for their passion and enthusiasm.

SPORT

On Wednesday morning a group of Year 8 students had the opportunity to gain some insightful knowledge in how to become a sports leader. The event was kindly hosted by Stevenage Sporting Futures. The event showed the leaders how to plan and officiate different activities. This was a great first step for these sports leaders and will look forward to having them help out at different sporting events throughout the upcoming year.

On Thursday the Year 8 boys football team played against Marriotts school. The game was held at Barclay. It was a big game for the boys, as if they won, they would gain promotion. It was a nervy start, with Marriotts going 1-0 up but the experience of the team showed, and the boys came away with a 4-1 win. Player of the Match goes to Alfie R who came away with a hat-trick and an assist. Everyone in the team should be proud of themselves.

GARDENING CLUB

Barclay Academy's Garden club are one of 5 UK garden groups helping create content for the RHS's campaign to get people gardening this year. This starts with the Big Seed Sow running March 27th to April 2nd. We will be documenting our seed sowing endeavours to inspire and inform others to grow their own plants from seed.

Find out more at www.rhs.org.uk/BigSeedSow and on social media where you might notice someone familiar.



YEAR 7 PGL

120 Year 7 students ventured to PGL Liddington near Swindon for an action packed 3 day programme. Taking part in an exciting mix of outward bound adventure activities. Students had the best time polishing off their team building and communications skills. Staff were extremely impressed with their attitude and attainment over the 3 days. Well done Year 7!



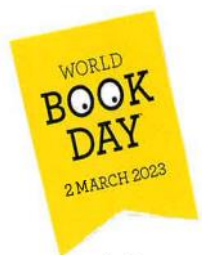
YEAR 7 PGL



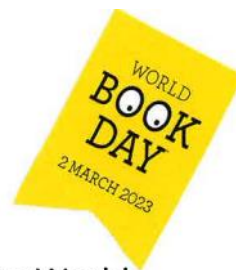
YEAR 7 PGL



WORLD BOOK DAY



World Book Day Library Events 2023



Join us in the Library at lunchtimes on the following days to celebrate World Book Day 2023

Monday 27th February – Make a Bookmark or Design a Book Cover

Tuesday 28th February – Book Word Puzzles/Crosswords/Word Searches

Thursday – 2nd March – Authors Live (Come and watch author Keith Gray talk about being an author and his latest book 'The Climbers' via the projector)

Friday – 3rd March Read Only Library (Please note the Library will be closed except for those students wanting to read quietly)

THERE ARE SOME OTHER ACTIVITIES PLANNED AROUND SCHOOL YOU WILL HEAR ALL ABOUT THOSE NEXT WEEK.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 28th February – Y12 Parents' Evening

Monday 27th February – Tuesday 7th March – Y13 Mocks

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Wednesday 8th March – Year 8 trip to Hampton Court Palace

Thursday 9th March – Y10 Parents' Evening

Monday 13th March – Friday 17th March – Y12 Work Experience

Monday 20th March – Friday 24th March – Y10 Work Experience

Thursday 23rd March – PTA Quiz Night

Tuesday 28th March – Year 12 trip to UCAS Discovery Exhibition

Thursday 30th March – Year 7 Parents' Evening

PRE – LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

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

