

The Barney

Friday, 2nd December 2016

Bulletin





A Weekly Word from the Heads of School

This week has been a relatively quiet week. The cast and crew who were involved in 'the Addams Family' musical are just about recovering. However, rehearsals for the Junior Musical 'Kiss me Kate' are now well underway. With the days getting shorter, Christmas decorations going up and Christmas trees popping up around school, the atmosphere this week has been rather festive and jolly. This Wednesday

was evensong, and we were given the privilege of listening to the Chapel Choir sing beautifully; something which we will look forward to at the Carol Services.

It has been wonderful to see how many colourful shoeboxes filled with presents have been spotted around Chapel, Christmas is truly about giving, a part of the Barney ethos.

We also hope that all Sixth Formers attending the masquerade ball have a wonderful time, and good luck to the 1st Rugby team for their match against Durham this Saturday.



Alex Booth and Salma Ali





The Michaelmas Christmas Market was a huge success once again on Sunday and thanks must go to the Barney Friends for their continuing support and organisation.



Top of the Bench



Congratulations to the Top of the Bench team who won the Regional RSC Chemistry Competition at Teesside University on Wednesday. They will compete in the National Finals next Easter. Joe Roff, Ryan Liu, Toby Robinson and Caleb Ellis represented the school.



Breaking News!

Ella Bowen, who won a place in an International Netball Tournament in Singapore, will be playing in the final tomorrow, vs Malaysia. Good luck to her from everyone at School.



Rugby/Hockey Tour Fundraising

We are collecting old clothing, bedding, curtains etc. to fund raise for the Rugby and Hockey tour and the Sri Lanka trip next summer. If you are having a pre-Christmas sort-out, we would be most grateful if you could bring your unwanted items into school. Please deliver in dustbins bags, or you can pick up 'Bags 2 School' bags from General Office.

Items include: Clothing, Shoes paired and tied together, handbags, hats, bags, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and blankets.

They DO NOT ACCEPT school uniform, pillows, cushions, duvets, blankets, carpets, rugs or corporate clothing.

The bags will be collected mid January 2017.

Congratulations to the Sewing Club who have raised £100 for GOSH and £40 to continue to run their club.

Studying languages at university

Today, ex-pupil Heather Appleby came to talk to students in Years 9, 10 and 11 about doing languages at university and about the opportunities they can open up for you. For example, the main attraction is spending a year abroad due to the wide variety of cultural and social experiences on offer. Heather studied French, Spanish and Italian at Durham University and spent 3 months in Majorca working at a children's holiday centre, followed by six months working at the tourist information in Méribel in the French Alps. During that time she lived practically on the ski slopes in an apartment at the end of the cable car. As soon as that finished she dashed off to Italy where she taught English in a small town near Lake Garda for the final three months.

She told us how she had gained a lot more confidence from living in contrasting environments and having to cope in all sorts of situations. Her friends had spent time in a wide variety of countries, not only in Europe. They had been in places like Mexico, Bolivia, Russia and Morocco. Some had studied in Siberia where they had encountered bears and reindeer walking down the street. Quite a difference from a normal day in Durham!

We found out that it is possible to combine studying one or more languages with learning about history, politics, business and lots of other subjects. Another exciting possibility is to learn a new language such as Arabic, Russian or Chinese. At the end of the course Heather's language graduate friends had found all sorts of career opportunities open to them. Some had joined the Armed Forces as linguists, training to act as interpreters in conflict zones. Others had got jobs in banks or companies where you might not think you need a language, but employers like the fact that you have learned how to listen and communicate well with other people through living abroad. Then, if there are opportunities to represent that company abroad, it is the language graduates who are chosen to go. Some of her friends are working in the hospitality industry or in temporary jobs teaching English or working as a holiday rep. We would like to thank Heather for taking the time to talk to us about life at university and about how studying languages is a great preparation for future life.

Maddy Forsyth, Sarah Robertson, Katie Taplin, Y11



The Chapel Choir

After singing Evensong in School on Wednesday, our dedicated Chapel Choir made their way to St. Mary's Church to delight the congregation in Richmond.

On Wednesday evening, the Chapel Choir, Barney Singers and Wind Band performed the first of our Christmas concerts of 2016 which was a brilliant success having sung choral evensong for the school in the afternoon. Thank you to the members of St Mary's Church in Richmond, Mr Dearsley for rehearsing the choirs and to Mr Donnelly for rehearsing the Wind Band.

Nathan Barker



Thoughts for the Week

Altruism – The Christmas Spirit?



Why do people go out of their way to improve life for others? What is it that's so "good" about making something better for others? Perhaps it's that we, as modern society, have been encouraged into thinking it's something desirable.

Given that the Christmas Season is approaching, I'm sure that people are beginning to feel that warm, tingly sensation of being friendly to one another. Just the suggestion that being selfless is a bad thing would make you instantly disagree.

But if you look at life from a basic, primitive, level, it's survival of the fittest. There is no evolutionary advantage to putting yourself at risk in favour of someone else's benefit. You could argue that the favour may one day be returned, but then that isn't true altruism. That partially works for your own gain; whoever you helped would be in your debt. You'd have gained some degree of power over them. True altruism can be defined as an action performed by an organism that works towards, either indirectly or directly, the benefit of another organism, with no expectation of compensation for the action.

Some people believe that there is an "altruism gene". If this is the case, would such a gene be a positive, or a negative thing? Could such a thing be perceived as a biological advantage? Surely you would consider this gene a flaw, since it would create higher chances of loss for the organism. A study by German researchers tried to identify such a gene, and took DNA from 101 men and women. Focusing on a certain gene called the COMT gene; they conducted an experiment that allowed the participants to gamble/win some money. After the games, they were provided a choice; they could donate as much of the money anonymously as they wanted to a charity after being shown a touching ad. The results showed that some people who had certain variations of the gene donated twice as much as the others who did not have this gene. In fact, 20% of the people with the gene donated *all* the money they had won. The results showed that 25% of the population do not have an altruistic variation, while the other 2 variations are split 25% and 50%.

So, might you be one of these people blessed (or cursed) with this gene? With or without it, human kindness can still be taught. Charity, selflessness, and generosity are not exclusive to those with the gene; human society has proved that it isn't *always* survival of the fittest. Undoubtedly, kindness *will* be reflected and returned in this new modern society. So, does that mean that true altruism may no longer be possible? Throughout our closely packed society, where people have been able to reach one another easier than ever, kindness will always be reciprocated.

Especially at Christmas.

Michael Liu

If you could do anything tomorrow what would you do?

What would you do? Would you spend time with your loved ones? Would you do all the things you've ever wanted? Would you spend all your money? Whatever you do would you want to be alone? I wouldn't, especially around Christmas. All of the presents, the food, the weather and, most importantly, the atmosphere; all of this contributes to "the most wonderful time of year"! Every year we all do the same thing, we go buying presents for friends and family thinking that we are being more giving than we normally are but are we? Yes we give actual things but are they necessarily better than giving kindness and all the clichéd, sentimental things we give but you can't see. So this year make sure you give things which aren't objects because the sentimental things normally mean a lot more.

Stephanie Schnurr

BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL CHAPEL

**A Festival of Nine Lessons
&
Carols**

Wednesday 14th December 7.30pm
Friday 16th December 5.30pm

BARNEY CHAPEL MUGS



**Complete one-off design!
Amazing stocking filler!**

And only £7!

Available from General Office... whilst stocks last!

**Don't leave it too late...
you may end up feeling a mug!!**

**Design approved by the Charity Committee &
all profits will support our Christmas Charities**