



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

Dear Barney Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to introduce what I hope will be the first termly Enrichment newsletter. This is designed to provide a regular update of the ways in which your children learn outside of the classroom, whether through trips, workshops or other activities, and how that benefits their academic progress.

As you are aware, the huge range of offerings beyond the classroom at Barney is staggering; I hope that by providing a regular update you will be able to see for yourselves the ways in which our students can benefit. I provide below a short summary of some of the activities run by each department during Michaelmas Term 2022, as well as some highlights of the upcoming term.

We also offer Academic Enrichment as an activity during the week; while this is compulsory for academic scholars, any student is welcome to attend, and I have provided written summaries from the students of some of the activities they have done this term.

We are hugely proud of our enrichment at Barney, and if you have any questions about what we are doing to support your children in developing their academic interest and ability, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Dr. S. T. Nichols
Head of Academic Enrichment
STN@barneyschool.org.uk

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Art

- Visit to the Laing Art Gallery (Newcastle) to see Lindisfarne Gospels
- Workshop with Paul Raymond at the Hatton Gallery

Biology

- Year 13 field trip to Malham Tarn
- Reading competition

Business Studies

- Year 8 Future Business Magnates competition, run by Business Durham

Chemistry

- Year 9-11 'Top of the Bench' competition at Teesside University
- Year 13 Women in Chemistry trip

Classics

- Year 13 trip to Hadrian's Wall



OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM



Drama

- Theatre trips: 'Othello' (Frantic Theatre); 'A Doll's House'; 'Jack Absolute Flies Again'
- Sixth Form Production: SIX

DT

- Year 12 product design visit to Bowes Museum

English

- Year 7 & 8 Workshop with Barrie the Punctuation Man
- Year 10 & 11 attended a production of 'A Christmas Carol' by Quantum Theatre
- Year 9 Mini Saga Creative Writing Competition

Geography

- Year 11 trip to Iceland
- Year 13 field trip to the Lake District
- Year 13 field trip to Newcastle
- York and District Geographical Association Sixth Form Lecture

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Maths

- Year 9 Maths enrichment lecture at Teesside University
- Year 10-13 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

MFL

- Year 7-8 United Kingdom Linguistics Olympiad
- Year 12-13 trip to production of Molière's 'Tartuffe' at Birmingham Repertory
- European Day of Languages: 3 students spoke in Chapel about learning English as a foreign language, or about learning another language for study abroad
- Duolingo challenge to spend as little as 5 minutes a day learning a language. Several students have a streak of at least 175 days in a row, and one has even managed 300!

Politics

- Year 12-13 participation on Question Time

REP

- Year 7 trip to St. Mary's Church to study the Jewish origins of Christianity
- Year 9 Religion and Science trip to Centre for Life in Newcastle to study environmental ethics
- Year 11 Workshop with Durham University Theology department
- Year 11 & 12 visit to the Lindisfarne Gospels in Newcastle



Physics trip to CERN, Switzerland

Classics trip to Greece (Years 9-13)

Maths trip to Florence Nightingale Day
at Lancaster University (Year 12)

Psychology trip to London (Year 12)

Politics workshop at Leeds University
(Year 13)

Drama & Theatre Studies trip to
'The Ocean at the End of the Lane'
at Sunderland Empire/ 'KIN' at the
Northern Stage

School production of 'Les Misérables'

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Year 7 & 8



Ella, Year 8

“

This term in Academic Enrichment, we have learned about many things involving fake news, life skills, optical illusions, looking at different graphs and of course having fun, by playing games that tie into these subjects. We learnt that the optical illusions can easily trick us and our eyes and brain react differently to what it actually right in front of us. We looked at certain graphs of how certain things had influenced and followed each other in numbers. As well, we looked at fake news and how to spot it, the different types and which one we can trust. Of course, playing games was very fun, playing Mafia and spotting how people lie and the different ways of doing it, coming up with our own truth or lies and finding ways to hide the lie too our use of words and body language and obviously many more fun and teachable moments, finishing the last session with a laugh!

”

Last term we covered:

- *Problem solving and critical thinking*
- *How can you disagree with someone respectfully?*
- *How do you engage with someone you think is wrong?*
- *What is 'fake news' and why is it a problem?*
- *How do you work out what is true?*
- *How can you identify fake news?*

Year 9-11



Isabel, Year 11

“

I enjoy taking part in an enrichment programme where we do sessions every other week to discuss and learn about various different topics. Some topics that we have looked at are current affairs including politics and strikes. In these sessions we discussed why the strikes are happening, whether what the people are doing on strike is right, and what the government could do to meet their demands. We have also done workshops on effective revision strategies ahead of our mock exams. This was extremely useful as we discussed the science behind how revision works with the forgetting curve, and which methods are the most effective.

”

Last term we covered:

- *Why have we got a Prime Minister we didn't vote for?*
- *Is Britain systemically racist?*
- *Facial recognition*
- *What would you do if you were Prime Minister?*
- *Should you have the right to protest?*
- *The Poet Laureate*
- *Why are strikes happening and how would you deal with it?*

“

So far this year we have covered a wide range of topics in our enrichment sessions from the Royal Family to Just Stop Oil to how to form an argument. I thoroughly look forward to our bi-weekly meetings, as I feel they are an amazing opportunity to have available to us, in which we can express our views freely and debate to build on those opinions. I also enjoy that fact that I get to hear my peers' beliefs, something which in no other environment I would hear about, especially beliefs which contradict mine, so I can scrutinise my own opinions more. I think my favourite session so far would be the one on green energy, as I am completing an EPQ on renewable energy it helped me to consider the political aspect on solutions to the current energy crisis, as well as learn lots of very useful information on the topic. These meetings provide a useful chance to stay up to date on current affairs, which can be hard with so much else going on, and I am extremely grateful for this.



Will, Year 12

”

Last term we covered:

- *Is this the moment to abolish the monarchy?*
- *How far can you take the right to protest?*
- *Should we keep funding the war in Ukraine?*
- *Was COP27 a waste of time?*
- *Is Britain systemically racist?*





REAR OF THIS BUILDING
GENERAL PORTESQUE
14 NOVEMBER 1885