



BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL

ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT NEWSLETTER

08.12.2023

Dear Barney Parents and Guardians,

As usual, term has disappeared in a blur and we are already approaching Christmas. Our students have been remarkably busy once again, and the purpose of this newsletter is to give you a flavour of the activities they have been engaged in, outside of the classroom, to stretch and develop their interests and academic ability. From the incredibly popular Iceland trip for Year 11 Geography students to a trip to the Houses of Parliament for Sixth Form historians and politicians, there has been something for everyone, and I would encourage your children to take advantage of these outstanding opportunities.

On a practical note, I would like to take this opportunity to make you aware of the new @barney_academic feed on X (the artist formerly known as Twitter); academic staff will use this feed to highlight activities and trips as they take place. It will also provide helpful links to the school website, where, under 'Senior School', you will find 'Academic Enrichment News'. Here, you can read summaries of the trips and activities written by the students themselves. Please do follow this feed and help us celebrate academic achievement as it happens.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new Academic Scholars for 2024-25; as with all Scholarships at Barney, this is a prestigious award in recognition of outstanding ability or attitude, and provides students with a range of opportunities to develop further. Many of these opportunities are open to interested students whether Scholars or not; please see below for details on the Academic Enrichment programme, and do not hesitate to contact me if your son or daughter would be interested in taking part.

Finally, I would like to wish the very best of luck to our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they prepare for their mock exams in January; I hope that they are able to find a healthy balance between revision and taking a well-earned rest.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. S. T. Nichols

Head of Academic Enrichment
STN@barneyschool.org.uk

UKMT Senior Maths Challenge Results

	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Bronze	Joe A Luca G Ben C Sophie M	Ciara J Maximilian O Jakob L Mika M Alexander M Alexandru R Sylvan T Seth C Ethan D Daniel R Kurara I Arne W Oliver S	Jack E Marten H Robbie V
Silver	Seb B - Best in Year	Arran L Neve H James T	Will W - Best in Year
Gold		Charlie A - Best in School	

Many congratulations to

- Charlie A (Year 12) who achieved a Gold award in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and qualified to take part in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo competition.
- Neve H (Year 12) who achieved a Merit award in the UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls.





Art

- Art & DT trip to London, including the National Gallery and the Design Museum (Year 12 & 13)
- Workshop with visiting artist, making lanterns for Christmas parade (Year 12)

Biology

- Trip to Blencathra (Year 13)
- Lecture from Alasdair Frost, veterinary surgeon (MedSoc)
- Royal Society of Biology 'Biology Week'

Business Studies

- Industry Day (Year 12)

Chemistry

- Trip to London (Year 12 and 13)
- Trip to Science Live (Year 12)
- Top of the Bench competition at Teesside University (Year 9-11)

Classics

- Trip to Chesters and Vindolanda (Year 13)

Computing

- Visit to the School of Computing at Newcastle University (Year 12-13)

Drama

- Trip to Frantic Assembly's "Metamorphosis" at York Theatre Royal
- Trip to "Footloose" at Darlington Hippodrome
- Trip to "Noises Off" at Newcastle Theatre Royal
- Trip to "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Newcastle Theatre Royal
- Senior Play: "Accidental Death of an Anarchist" (Year 12-13)
- Workshop with "The Three Inch Fools" (Drama Scholars)

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Economics

- Weekly discussion group
- All students reading 'Can't we just print more money?'
- RES Young Economist of the Year
- FCDO Next Generation Economics 2023 competition

English

- Barrie the Punctuation Man (Year 7 and 8)
- Visiting performance of 'Macbeth' by Three Inch Fools (Year 10)
- Lecture from Dr Rebecca Gordon, Lecturer in Social Sciences at the University of West of Scotland (Year 12 and 13)

Geography

- Field Trip to Lake District (Year 13 Geography students)
- Field Trip to Haweswater (Year 11 Geography students)
- Trip to Iceland (Year 11 Geography students)

History

- History and Politics trip to the Houses of Parliament (Year 12 and 13)

Mathematics

- UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (Year 12 and 13)
- UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls

MFL

- European Day of Languages

Music

- Trip to The Glasshouse, Gateshead for Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performing Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue
- Music Scholars' Concert at The Witham
- Trip to The Glasshouse, Gateshead, for Beethoven's Fifth Symphony
- Trip to The Glasshouse, Gateshead for Yolanda Brown performing jazz
- Autumn Concert in Big School
- Recital Room Concerts (Sue Ferris, Daniel John Martin, Richard Dawson)
- The Bowes Museum Christmas Concert

PE

- Sports Scholars' trip to Leeds University to gain an insight of the Sports Programmes offered by the TASS accredited Universities (Sport England Talent Pathway)

Psychology

- Visit to Northumbria University for a Psychology taster experience (Year 12)



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Year 7 & 8

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This term in Academic Enrichment as a group we have been focussing on aspects of the law. We focussed on this topic in various ways, such as games discussions and presentations. An example of an interesting session we had, run by one of our own Sixth Formers, was a deep dive into different types of crime and associated punishments: we were provided with a list of questions around this subject to find out what different types of crime had different amounts of retribution. This was a session where we as a group gained a lot of useful information and acquired a wider perspective on this particular topic. Another part of this subject I found captivating was how the civil and crown courts operate, and how in one court you could be found guilty yet in another you are not guilty. The famous line of ‘presumed innocent until proven guilty’ (first said by Sir William Garrow) really does apply in the crown court today as they have to be ‘beyond a reasonable doubt’ and be sure that the defendant is accountable for the crime that was committed. In Academic Enrichment we focus on parts of the education that are not necessarily in the timetable and I find many of the subjects useful and incredibly interesting. The discussions and research into law and many current affairs has helped me broaden my horizon and awareness to the world around me.

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Charlotte, Year 8

This term, we have covered:

- *UK law*
- *Guilt and innocence in law*
- *Crown and civil court systems*
- *Israel and Gaza*
- *The war in Ukraine (presented by one of our own Year 8 students)*





Year 9-11

These sessions take the form of bi-weekly discussion groups or workshops, focussing on areas outside the curriculum. Students are encouraged to engage with current affairs, and demonstrate critical thinking or evaluation skills.

This term, we have covered:

- *Russell Brand and violence towards women*
- *The Israeli-Palestinian conflict*
- *The budget, the economy, and cutting taxes*
- *Women's rights (led by one of our Sixth Formers)*

Year 12 & 13

As with Years 9-11, these are bi-weekly sessions where students are expected to take a lead in discussing extra-curricular topics. These are excellent preparation for university seminar-style learning: students are asked to read ahead and then contribute their own opinions, before being challenged and asked to respond. Creating a culture of intellectual curiosity and friendly debate is essential to stimulating academic growth, and our students have responded very positively.

This term, we have covered:

- *Transgender women in chess (proposed and led by one of the Sixth Form themselves)*
- *The Israeli-Palestinian conflict*
- *The King's Speech, the NHS and banning cigarettes*
- *Fermi problems*

A background image of a cricket match on a green field. In the foreground, a batsman in white kit is crouching near the stumps, which are labeled 'BARNARD CASTLE SCHOOL'. In the background, a bowler in white kit is visible, and an umpire in a dark suit is standing to the right, pointing. The scene is set in front of a stone building with windows.

ECB UMPIRING COURSE

We are delighted to be the first School in the UK to offer a Level 1 ECB-accredited Umpiring Course for our staff and students

Friday 5th January 2024

Students who are interested in gaining this qualification should contact Mr Clough, Master i/c Cricket, via lcc@barneyschool.org.uk

A background image of an equestrian event. A rider in a dark jacket and purple helmet is jumping a dark horse over a white and red striped obstacle. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

EQUESTRIAN TEAM NOTICE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

A gentle reminder to previous members of the Equestrian Team to return any outstanding kit that they have loaned from School

Please can you return any items to General Office or contact Miss Charlotte Galvin to arrange their safe return via clg@barneyschool.org.uk