

Friern Barnet School Newsletter

‘Enjoy and Excel’

Spring 2, 2025

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/>



Dear Parent/Carer

The spring sunshine is here, leading us into the holidays. Thank you for all your support this term.

A lot has been happening in school recently. There are times when it is hard to keep up with all the things that are going on. To give you a flavour of recent activities here is a quick summary: poetry trips in town; learning support bowling competition; animation workshop; geography field trips; world book day; book swap; reading visits to primary schools; Globe trip; Macbeth theatre trip; Barnet dance festival; dance workshop; music workshop; maths university trips; trip to the sugar and slavery exhibition in the Docklands; feeding lambs on a farm; ‘Tenner Challenge’ for our year 10 entrepreneurs. In addition to this Ms Admoni, our Head of English, has been out to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as part of her work for the Paul Mellon Centre, helping children across the UK understand British art and culture. These trips and events have all been a source of much joy.

The summer term will be another busy term. Please check your calendars as we start the term with several four-day weeks for one reason or another.

We recently had a poetry competition in school. World Poetry Day this year celebrated the power of poetry to inspire and unite. The world can seem a troubled place right now, our lives seemingly at the mercy or whim of others. The poem below was written by Lily in year 11 and shows us the way to peace.

Peace

In quiet skies, the world stands still,
A gentle breeze, a calm heart's thrill.
No battles fought, no voices raised,
Just soft whispers of peace, unphased.
In silence, we find our way to heal.

Lily A

Yours faithfully

Simon Horne
Head Teacher

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If you require a copy of
our newsletter in large
print please contact the
main office on
020 83682777

Attendance matters

Attendance is an incredibly important part of ensuring the continued academic success of our students. We look forward to your continued support.

Here is a reminder about the expectations of attendance for the next school year.

Late Arrivals

Parents and carers, we need your help encouraging your child to leave home in sufficient time to ensure that they arrive to school by 8:30am to avoid being late! Students arriving between 8:40am – 9:00am must go to their form class to be registered.

Students arriving after 9:00am

Students arriving after 9:00am will go directly to Student Services to sign in before receiving a late slip. Arrivals after 9:30am will be classed as unauthorised absences which could lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. The threshold for a FPN is 10 sessions (a session is half a day) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks.

Please Note:

Absences can only be authorised by the school. Calling the school informs us of why your child is absent and the school will decide which code is appropriate. Medical evidence will need to be provided in order to avoid receiving a FPN before or after a school holiday.

Back gate

Please note, the back gate on Crescent Road shuts at 8:40am until the end of the school day. Students who arrive after 8:40am will be asked to walk around to the front entrance on Hemington Avenue.

Punctuality to lessons

In order to maximise learning time it is vital that students are punctual to their lessons. Poor punctuality to lessons is very disruptive to learning. If you have a text from the pastoral team explaining that your child was late to any lessons, please take the time to speak to your child about the importance of this.

Monitoring your child's attendance on Firefly

To help you keep track of your child/children's attendance, you can monitor attendance, lates, authorised and unauthorised absences on Firefly.

Attendance procedures

If your child has a cough or a cold, please send them to school with tissues and a water bottle. We will contact home and offer a paracetamol if required.

If your child is sick and unable to attend school, please call student services before 8:45am.

If your child has a medical appointment during the day, please inform student services of the appointment in advance and supply them with a copy of the appointment letter/appointment card. **Missing registration should be avoided.**

Have a lovely Easter break.

Ms S Thomas

Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Year 11(i/c of attendance)

Art and Design

Several of our Year 8 students recently took part in a series of design workshops with the architectural firm MATT+FIONA. During these sessions, they explored the concept of 'Learning Landscapes,' reimagining various areas of their school environment. The students expressed their ideas through design sheets and sculptural work.

Their creations will be featured in the 'Learning Landscapes Exhibition', which will be held at the artsdepot - Apthorp Gallery from 6 to 19 April, open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

We warmly invite you to visit and view their innovative work!



Creative Arts

We would like to welcome Rohil who is our new Creative arts administrator.

Please email him at R.Ghosh@friern.barnet.sch.uk if you need any assistance with music tuition, LAMDA or anything linked to Creative arts.



Tuition

1-1 Instrument Tuition - thank you to those who have booked for next term. The new timetable will be available outside the music room and added to Firefly. For more information please contact the Creative arts office.

LAMDA - contact the Creative arts office for more information. Please see the link for the benefits of doing LAMDA <https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/resource.aspx?id=94206&officeint=on>

Follow us on: @friernbarnetschool
and fbs_dance



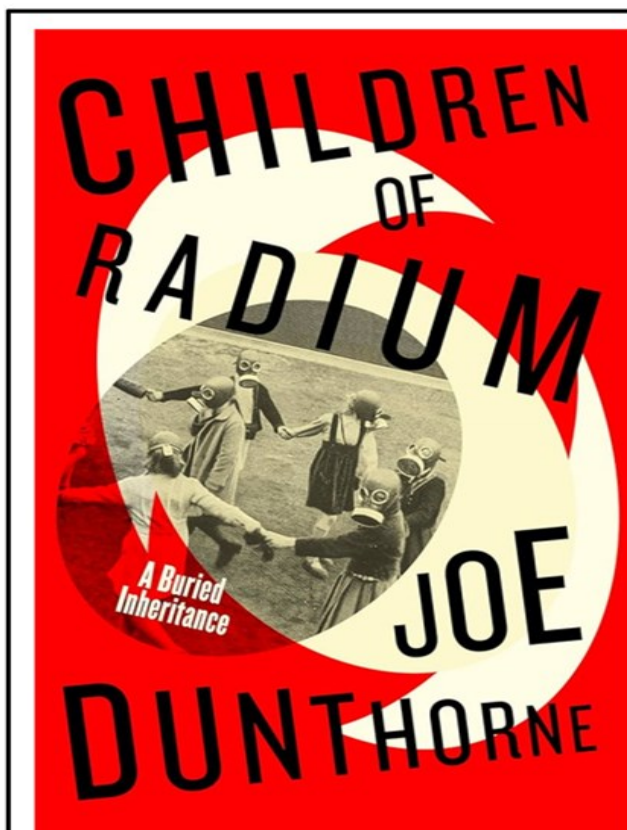
FBS Parent-Staff Book Club!

Each half term in 2025 we will continue to share the experience of reading a book, discussing our thoughts about it and other interesting topics. There will be refreshments and an opportunity for socializing too.

If you think you might be interested, please do come along to the next event on **Wednesday 14 May at 6.00-7.00pm** in the LRC, where we'll be discussing a novel called 'Children of Radium' by Joe Dunthorne.

Do come and say hello, regardless of your experience with reading – all are welcome! It will be a chance for you to meet other parents and get to know the staff even better. If you have any book suggestions for future book clubs, bring them along too! I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Miss Admoni, Head of English



When novelist and poet Joe Dunthorne began researching his family history, he expected to write the account of their heroic escape from Nazi Germany in 1935. Instead, what he found in his great-grandfather's voluminous, unpublished, partially translated memoir was a much darker, more complicated story. "I confess to my descendants who will read these lines that I made a grave error. I betrayed myself, my most sacred principles," he wrote. "I cannot shake off the great debt on my conscience."

Siegfried Merzbacher was a German-Jewish chemist living in Oranienburg, a small town north of Berlin, where he developed various household items, including a radioactive toothpaste called Doramad. But then he was asked by the government to work on products with a strong military connection—first he made and tested gas-mask filters, and then he was invited to establish a chemical weapons laboratory. Between 1933 and 1935, he was a Jewish chemist making chemical weapons for the Nazis. While he and his nuclear family escaped safely to Turkey before the war, Siegfried never got over his complicity, particularly after learning that members of his extended family were murdered in Auschwitz.

Armed only with his great-grandfather's rambling, 2,000-page deathbed memoir and a handful of archival clues, Dunthorne travelled to Munich, Ammendorf, Berlin, Ankara, and Oranienburg—a place where hundreds of unexploded bombs remain hidden in the irradiated soil—to reckon with the remarkable, unsettling legacy of his family's past.

Future book club meeting dates for your diaries from 6.00pm to 7.00pm in the LRC:



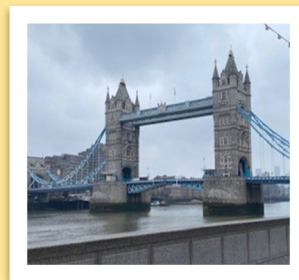
Wednesday 14 May 2025

Wednesday 2 July 2025

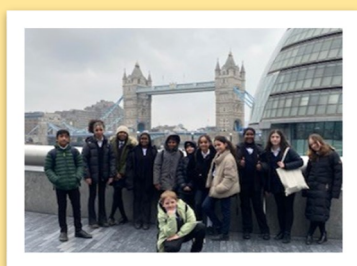
Young City Poets 2025



Young City Poets is the National Literacy Trust's annual poetry writing programme, which helps to inspire students to write poetry of their own, based on the city around them and a specific iconic London cultural venue. Over the course of the programme, students meet to write together, learn about poetry from their teachers as well as a professional poet, visit a venue in London, all culminating in some of their poems being published in an anthology to be shared nationwide.



Selected Year 7 students from FBS are currently participating in the programme, which commenced in February this year. Alongside regular workshops with me about 'all things poetry', the group attended a site visit to Tower Bridge on 13 February. During our visit, students were treated to a personalised tour of the venue, as well the opportunity to participate in a tailor-made workshop. Using inspiration from the trip, students will go away and work on poems inspired by these individual objects, as well as the city itself. I look forward to reading their drafts and seeing their final pieces. I also want to commend the students on being an absolute credit to the school on the trip – they were a real joy to spend the day with! **Well done!**



A few weeks later, the Young Poets had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with renowned poet Paul Cree. During the session, Paul encouraged students to bring personal experiences into their poetry, helping them explore how to create powerful imagery with their words. His dynamic approach inspired the students to think creatively and experiment with different styles.

By the end of the workshop, the students had written some impressive drafts, showcasing their dedication and imagination. The session left them with new techniques and a deeper appreciation for poetry, and it was clear that Paul's guidance had sparked their passion for writing. Paul also remarked that this was one of the most interesting groups that he's ever worked with!

I look forward to seeing their final poems, and will be sure to share them in the summer issue of the newsletter.

Miss Admoni, Head of English

FBS TRUMPET



Read all about it.....

FBS Trumpet, the student newsletter is going from strength to strength.

The reporters for the newsletter are from all year groups. These young reporters have shown passion and enthusiasm for various topics and events covered in the newsletter. Although most of the reporters are part of the Able and Ambitious group, writing for the newsletter is open to all members of the student body.

FBS Trumpet — Friern Barnet School (fireflycloud.net)

Mr Mawere, Deputy Head of English

The Globe Theatre



On the 12 March, a group of Year 9 and Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to watch a live performance of Macbeth at the iconic Globe Theatre. As Macbeth is a key text studied at GCSE, this experience provided Year 9 students with an engaging introduction to the play's themes, characters, and dramatic elements. For the Year 10 students, it served as a valuable chance to deepen their understanding and reinforce their knowledge in preparation for their exams. Watching the play performed in its intended setting brought Shakespeare's work to life in a way that reading alone cannot, making it a memorable and enriching experience for all who attended.

The story follows Macbeth, a soldier and Thane of Glamis, who while travelling with his friend Banquo comes across the Three Witches. The mysterious beings reveal a prophecy that Macbeth will become Thane of Cawdor and then king, and that Banquo's children will become kings. Subsequently, Macbeth is given the title Thane of Cawdor, confusing and terrifying Macbeth and Banquo even more. However, the idea of grasping power consumes both Macbeth and his wife Lady Macbeth, and they plot to murder King Duncan. With the deed committed and Duncan's heirs Malcom and Donalbain having fled in fear of accusation, Macbeth becomes king. Despite this, Macbeth remains threatened by the fact that the prophecy mentions Banquo's kin becoming royalty, so Macbeth orders the death of Banquo and his son Fleance. Banquo is murdered but Fleance escapes. However, Banquo's ghost returns to haunt Macbeth, terrifying the tyrant. Macbeth returns to the witches, who assure him that he will be safe until Birnam Wood comes to Dunsinane, and that he will not be killed by anyone "of woman born". Meanwhile, Macduff, Thane of Fife, joins Malcolm's growing army who wish to defeat Macbeth. After learning this, Macbeth slaughters Macduff's family. As the army marches and Macbeth prepares for battle, Lady Macbeth dies after slowly having been driven to madness by guilt. Macbeth discovers that the army has used the branches of Birnam Wood as camouflage, and when the two sides meet, Macbeth is slain by Macduff, who was born by a caesarean section and therefore was not "of woman born". Finally, Malcolm is rightfully crowned king.

Overall, the play was a triumph with many of the students. The inside of the Globe theatre, although packed full of people, was arguably breathtaking, and there was an impressive view from where we were sitting. To maintain authenticity with the Elizabethan era, the actors did not use microphones, and kept the script true to its origins, but interestingly, there was a modern theme to the performance in the costumes and props. For instance, the actor who played Macbeth wore a tracksuit during the scene where he killed King Duncan. Numerous performers executed astonishing feats, such as backflips, suspending themselves from ropes, and precarious lifts, leaving the audience awestruck. In conclusion, the trip was a success with the students, who thoroughly enjoyed it.

By Ali, Thomas and Cleo in Year 9

LRC

On 13 February, Year 8 students at FBS enjoyed a fun and engaging day with author Simon James Green, featuring a comedy writing workshop and an inspiring talk titled 'Own the Awkward!'. Simon captivated the students with his humorous writing style and shared personal stories about his life and the challenges he faced in becoming an author.

Students were inspired by how Simon's real-life experiences influenced his books. After the talk, a select group took part in a lively comedy writing workshop, where they crafted their own stories with Simon's guidance. The workshop was interactive and rewarding, with students sharing their work and celebrating their creativity. Overall, the day was a blend of education and entertainment, leaving a lasting impact on all who participated.



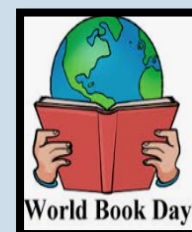
Comedy Poetry Workshop with author Simon James Green on 13 February.



Library Ambassadors' Cypher Game

World Book Day and Cypher Game in the LRC

World Book Day is an annual event that celebrates literature and the joy of reading, also known as the Day of the Book or World Book and Copyright Day, organized by UNESCO to promote reading, publishing, and copyright awareness around the globe.



Our Library Ambassadors are a team of enthusiastic students who help organise library events, guide younger students, and promote reading across the school. They collaborated with the LRC Manager to develop a Cypher Game to celebrate World Book Day, their input was vital in providing the ciphers, significantly contributing to the event's success. This year's theme was 'A Series of Unfortunate Events', designed to spark imagination through decoding activities in a mysterious atmosphere, enhanced by dim lights and battery-operated candles.

The Cypher Game was an exciting experience for participants, who in teams, raced against the clock to decipher encrypted messages using the key provided. The goal was to be the first team to unscramble the ciphers, adding a competitive edge to the activity. The game emphasized teamwork, as students collaborated and communicated to solve the codes, while the sense of urgency and mystery, inspired by 'A Series of Unfortunate Events', heightened the excitement.

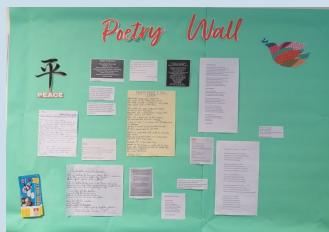
One of the most exciting aspects of the Cypher Game was the way students worked, sharing ideas and helping each other solve the puzzles. The necessary collaboration during the game prompted a sense of teamwork, strengthening participants' problem-solving abilities and encouraging clear communication skills that are valuable not only for academic success but for life beyond the classroom.

Book Swap

We hosted a Book Swap on 7 March with donations from school staff allowing students and staff to exchange books. The books were organised into sections for KS3, KS4, non-fiction, and an adult table, offering something for everyone.

The combined Cyber Game and book swap sparked renewed enthusiasm for reading. The event highlighted the fun of reading, solving puzzles, and appreciating mysteries within books.





World Poetry Day Celebration: Poetry Wall and Writing Event

The LRC celebrated World Poetry Day with a Poetry Wall from 17 to 21 March. Many students contributed by sharing their favourite poems, and some even brought in their very own original works! It was a wonderful display of creativity and passion for poetry.

Students were invited to craft their own poems on the theme of Peace and Inclusion. We are delighted to announce the winners:

- Rafael, 8D, for the Best Original Poem on Peace
- Aleena, 8F, for the Best Poem on Peace

On the day of the event, students received creative writing prompts centred on the themes of Peace and Inclusion. The library was filled with energy as students worked both independently and collaboratively, supporting each other through the creative process. Everyone enjoyed some sweet treats as they wrote their poems, making it a fun and memorable experience.

This event not only allowed for personal expression but also provided a chance to celebrate diverse perspectives and the joy of creating together.

Mrs Camarena
LRC Manager



WORLD POETRY DAY Peace and Inclusion

Come to the LRC on March 21st
to celebrate with us

World poetry day is a global event
to celebrate the power of poetry,
to inspire and unite

Poetry Wall Week
March 17th to 21st
Add your favourite poem or a poem of your
own to the wall in the covered way. Don't
forget to sign your poem and smile for the
cameras when you add your work!

Poetry writing
March 21st breaktime
Come to the LRC and create a poem of
your own while having sweet treats! A
prize will also be awarded to the winner of
the poem wall.



Hub

Over the past 8 weeks, students in the Inclusion Hub have been attending Equine therapy with an organisation called Strength and learning through horses, in Barnet. This has been a fantastic opportunity for our students to groom and work on the ground with all different types of horses. This has helped our students gain insight into their strengths, difficulties and with relationship dynamics. The students have overcome so many barriers and fears, learnt so many new skills and have bonded wonderfully with the horses. Well done!



Miss N Ayscough, Inclusion Hub HLTA

Year 8 ARP Farm Trip

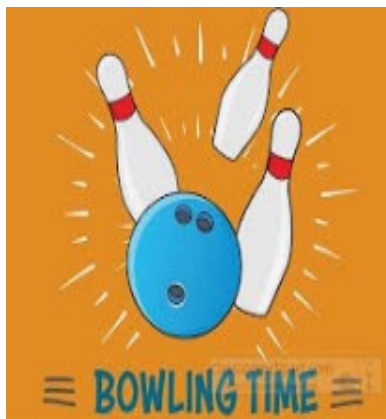
The Year 8 ARP students; Nathan, Jaydon, Orly, Rajaunie and Abi, all got the opportunity to feed the lambs at Aldeham Country Park farm on Monday 10 March 2025. This is not a job that is usually on offer. More often, we are mucking out smelly animals such as chickens, ducks, and goats, but this was a real treat and as you can see by the pictures the students really enjoyed it.

We work very hard at the farm, whilst you are all in a lovely warm house or school during the day, we work outside, sometimes in freezing, wet conditions. The students have to get rid of all the dirty bedding in the animals living area, and then put in fresh straw for the animals that they are working with. Another one of our jobs is 'litter picking', you would be surprised by how much rubbish accumulates around the farm.

I think I would be right in saying that the students, Mrs Moruzzi, Mrs Demitriou and I thoroughly love working at the farm.



Mrs K Roddis, HLTA



In January we took two teams to a tenpin bowling competition for SEND students. All the students had a great time and are looking forward to the next event.

Well done to Zack and Madheeha who were the FBS top two!



Maths

National Maths Competition

On 29 January over 100 students from Years 9 and 10 participated in a National Maths Competition.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate for their outstanding achievements.



Maths continued

On Thursday 27 March, we took 20 of our top set Year 8 students to Imperial College London in South Kensington, where they experienced an engaging blend of physics and maths in a real-world context. At Imperial's Blackett Laboratory, students participated in a range of carousel activities, including exploring surface tension to understand solvency, investigating magnetic fields and waves to see how they produce motion, and examining the causes of drag while exploring design techniques to reduce it. They also learned how centrifugal forces help stabilise the position of objects and gained insight into Euler's theory, specifically focusing on odd vertices in graph theory. The day concluded with a fascinating tour of the university, ending at Queen's Tower.

Imperial College
London



On Monday 24th March Dr. Nick Sharples and Dr. Brendan Masterson, Maths lecturers from Middlesex University, visited FBS to deliver a bespoke **Interactive Space Maths session** to two of our year 7 classes.

The session was part of the university's research project designed to use space exploration to engage students with mathematics through fun activities and games to help students develop their mathematical skills.

Students learned about the strong connection between science and maths, the importance of accurate mathematical calculations in designing space rockets and were introduced to more advanced mathematical tools (e.g. trigonometry).

One of the session activities involved students using their recent learning from their maths lessons on the topic of 'Area & Perimeter' to design solar panels to maximise efficiency. Student designs were taken back to the university for consideration in the university's development of an educational, space-themed web-based game "2000 + 1: A space maths odyssey" making our students co-creators of the game!



Dr. Nick Sharples
Senior Mathematics
Lecturer



PE

Football



Year 9 - after defeating Hendon 5-2 in the last round, the Year 9's season came to a close last week with a playoff defeat to a strong Mill Hill County side.

There is lots to be optimistic about next season. There have been steady improvements over the last 12 months from many players such as Thion, Hamza, Aboufazi and Arjon, which when added to our attacking talent with Jacob and Nikolas will mean scoring goals will continue to not be an issue.

The Year 8 players who have joined the team are very talented and have had a big impact, especially Tristan and Oli. Sead, Anas and Morola have also shown great promise. Next year they will all be physically much stronger, which is what happens when boys go into Year 9.

For next year, we need all players to continue to train regularly with their clubs (or join one!) and hopefully someone in the year will emerge as a goalkeeper. All players will be encouraged to attend athletics clubs and competitions next year, as obviously being fitter and stronger will obviously lead to better performance!

Well done to everyone!

The Year 10 football team has had a very successful season this year.

Headline results included wins against St Andrews, Bishop Douglas and London Academy, only losing to JCOS all season. Mario has shown big improvements as the season has gone on, and the back three of Davide, Alfie and Matteo is very Italian style in its uncompromising nature. The wing backs Leart and Leon have provided good energy and quality in all of the games.

The midfield of Miraj and Mohamed has worked well this year, and as a two they have had to cover lots of ground. The front 3 of Romeo, Pedro and Sabawoon have scored lots of goals, especially on the counter-attack. Aggression and volume is provided by Kledi, Sebastian and Murad.

For next season, we need to build on our solid defending to show more bravery in showing for the ball when in possession, especially against the stronger teams in the borough.

Well done everyone.

Mr P Soave, Head of PE



Trampolining

This term has seen lots of achievements from our students in PE, both in lessons and in extra curricular clubs. We have had huge turnouts for trampolining in particular; with 16 of our best students being selected to represent the school at a Barnet Schools Competition on 6 March. A massive shoutout must go out to all those who were selected and competed at the event:

<u>Year 7 and 8 Category Girls</u> Charlotte and Sofia	<u>Year 7 and 8 Category Boys</u> Samuel, Judah, Steven and Anas
<u>Year 9 Category Girls (14 entrants)</u> Alona, Luna, Evie and Yulia	<u>Year 9 Category Boys (14 entrants)</u> Nikolas and Abiola
<u>Year 10 /11 Category Girls (38 entrants)</u> Nika and Sarina	<u>Year 10 /11 Category Boys (19 entrants)</u> Zahir and Ritchie



Further congratulations must go out to those who returned with medals!

Well done to Charlotte for winning silver for a 2nd place finish and Nikolas and Alona for winning bronze for 3rd place finishes.

Congratulations to Year 7 and 8 boys for winning the gold in the team competition and the Year 9 girls for winning silver as a team!

Mr R Carruthers, PE Teacher

Volleyball on Fridays

Social volleyball has been a big hit on a Friday in particular with year 8 and 11 students. On Wednesday 5 February nine year 11 students and one year 10 student participated in Barnet Volleyball Tournament it was a great opportunity to be able to moderate the GCSE student's performance and have a fab time! The competition was held at Hendon School and there were teams from Mill Hill County and Totteridge Academy. The FBS teams gave a good account of themselves finishing mid table.



Ms S Thomas, PE Teacher

Resilient Schools Information

Looking after your mental health through the school holidays:

- Remember to download the [Kooth](#) app onto your phone if you need online support
- If you or someone you know is struggling, then please speak to an adult and/or book an appointment with your GP. Remember it is OK to not be OK, it is not a sign of weakness! Ask for help.
- Take a look at our school website for support with mental health and wellbeing: [Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Friern Barnet School](#) - (leaflet can be found in different languages)

Stay safe and know that there is lots of support available if you need it.



kooth

Kooth is here, year round.
Even when schools are out.

Find support for your mental wellbeing,
no matter what's on your mind.

Visit [kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) today

BICS - Supporting Children and Young People's Wellbeing and Mental Health Service to children, young people and families in the borough.

If you are struggling with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties, contact us them for help if you live in the borough or attend a Barnet school.

Please click on the link for further information: [About BICS](#) | [Barnet Council](#)



BICS Barnet Integrated Clinical Services

Supporting children and young people's wellbeing and mental health

Could BICS help?

Visit our website for support, advice, how to refer and online resources.

www.barnet.gov.uk/bics

Top tips on how to talk to your children about their feelings

Think about whether your child feels ready to talk

Just because you want to talk doesn't mean they feel ready to talk. Look out for the things they say, and their body, too, for indicators on whether they really want to talk about their feelings.

Ask them what they need

It can be tough to talk about how you feel, and when we want to talk about things as parents, children don't always want to or feel ready. Asking what a child needs from you can help them feel more in control, heard, and respected.

Children might also not know what they need, so suggesting a few options can be a good starting point. For example, do you need some space right now?

Think about the setting

Talking about feelings can be really sensitive, so making sure the space is private, comfortable, and feels safe for your child can be key to a positive outcome.

Choose your timing wisely

Talking about feelings, or any difficult subject, can be quite sensitive. Choosing a time when you are both calm and relaxed can be more useful than choosing a time when there are any heightened emotions already at play.

Name it

Sometimes it can be hard for children to identify their feelings. Naming what you observe can help them to do this. For example, when talking to a young child, you might say, 'You seem really angry today. I can see you are clenching your hands, and you don't have a happy face. I wonder if anything has made you angry or upset?'

It can be so tricky to bring up difficult topics, and talking about emotions with your children can sometimes feel more than a little daunting for parents and carers. You may worry about saying the wrong thing, making your child feel uncomfortable, and even worry about making them feel worse. But the fact you want to explore emotions with your child is enough, even if sometimes it doesn't go as you planned!

Here are some handy tips on how you could begin talking to your children about their feelings.

Practice asking open questions (rather than closed ones)

Talking about feelings, or any difficult subject, can be quite sensitive. Choosing a time when you are both calm and relaxed can be more useful than choosing a time when there are any heightened emotions already at play.

Model it

Being more open and honest about how you yourself feel (in an age appropriate way, of course) can normalise the idea of talking about emotions. Children who see that adults also have big feelings, doubts, get scared or anxious, get frustrated with others at work, etc. might feel more comfortable opening up themselves.

Take away the intensity

It can be pretty daunting (on both sides) to sit down to talk about something as important as feelings. But decreasing some of the intensity can sometimes reduce the pressure and make things a little less stressful.

Get creative

We might feel a pressure to have all the answers and say the right things, but sometimes, we just need to think a little differently. Helping our children express their feelings through play or using art materials can be just as important and useful, especially for much younger children whose natural language is often play.



If you are struggling to talk to a child in your life about their feelings, or you want to talk to the team about anything at all, you can reach out to us by logging into [qwello](#)

Guidance for parents

Keeping your child safe online

Please refer to our school website where parents can access useful websites on how to keep your child safe:

[Safeguarding and E-Safety - Friern Barnet School](#)



High Achievers Awards for Spring 2025



Art				
Joanna 7B	Joelle 8A	Raha 9A	Kyra 10D	Mai 11A
Business				
			Kai 10D	Albi 11C
Computing				
Amina 7D	Safa 8D	Ali 9A		
Computer Science				
			Behrad 10C	Evin 11B
Dance				
Elsa 7E	Jessica-Jade 8C	Ava 9E	Maia 10E	Ted 11A
Design and Technology				
Matvii 7D	Joseph 8A	Amelia 9D	Ola 10D	Rene 11F
Drama				
Olivia 7B	Ndapandula 8B	Maggie 9B	Mai 10D	Cienna 11A
English				
Thenuka 7D	Ameera 8F	Georgia 9D	Kamelia 10C	Pavlena 11C
Film Studies				
			Jordy 10C	Andreia 11A
French				
Ahmet 7B	Kazuki 8A	Mathilda 9B	Emma 10C	Niket 11F
Geography				
Dylan 7B	Sofia 8A	Ishani 9E	Chloe 10C	Lyra 11B
History				
Zaynab 7D	Destiny 8E	Vanessa 9D	Nirvana 10C	Sindi 11B
Learning Support				
Milo 7E	Matthew 8E	Zack 9B	Huseyin 10B	Myah 11F
Mathematics				
Melissa 7A	An Xin 8D	Alona 9E	Conor 10B	Balint 11F
Media Studies				
			Salma 10A	Sueda 11D

High Achievers Awards for Spring 2025



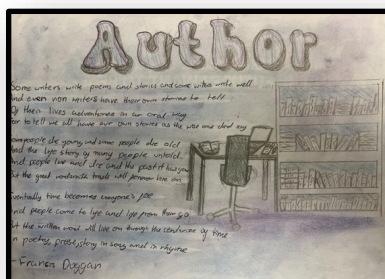
Music				
Hazel 7F	CJ 8E	Jamie 9B	Yuka 10B	Orion 11D
PE				
Silva 7B	Elsinor 8F	Jacob 9E	Mateo 10A	Mohammed 11B
Adora 7F	Morola 8C	Evie 9E	Sarina 10A	Cole 11B
Religious Studies				
Alehandra 7E	Lotte 8E	Thomas 9B	Mikaela 10B	Sumaya 11C
Science				
Asa 7B	Ben 8E	Luna 9B		
Combined Science				
			Andrii 10F	Vanessa 11B
Biology				
			Davide 10E	Yaseen 11F
Chemistry				
			Zara 10A	Tugche 11A
Physics				
			Andreea 10E	Orges 11A
Spanish				
Saaqib 7D	Klara 8E	Shaun 9E	Jazlyn 10D	Rosie 11E

Thank you

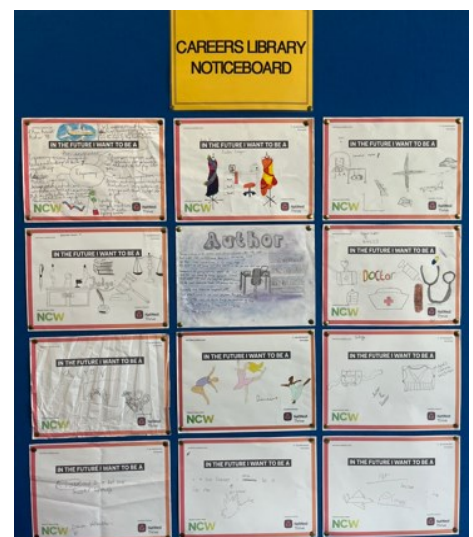
During National Careers Week, Year 7 were asked to design posters about what they would like to be in the future.

The colourful posters are on display on the Careers noticeboard in the LRC.

Thank you to all the Year 7's that took part in the activity, it is wonderful to see our students aspire to careers in many different industries.



Well done to Gaja in 7E, whose poster was selected as the winner by Miss Morgan and takes centre stage on the display.



Congratulations



Congratulations to Salma, 10A, for being shortlisted for the Papatango Young Playwrights' Award 2025 with her monologue 'Pure and Utter Jealousy'. This is a huge achievement!

Salma's monologue will be performed at a celebratory live showcase of the shortlisted work on the main stage at the Park Theatre in London on Wednesday 25 June. All students that completed in the Papatango writing monologue programme 2023/24 (whilst in Year 9) will be invited to the performance also.

Young Playwrights' Award

Young Playwrights' Award

Launched in 2022 and modelled on our New Writing Prize, our Young Playwrights' Award identifies and celebrates some of the UK's promising young writers, showcasing their work to a wider audience and supporting them on their playwriting journey.

[Young Playwrights' Award - Papatango Theatre Company - Award-winning new writing](#)

Useful information

School Shop

Parents/carers can buy revision guides, stationery items, tickets for school shows and school ties on our School Shop. Please click on the link for further information:

[School Shop](#)



Friern Barnet School

Welcome to the Friern Barnet School shop.

Here you are able to buy school ties, revision guides and stationery items.
This is also where you can buy tickets for our school shows, and book LAMDA tuition and Steel Pens lessons each term.

Firefly

We use the Firefly Parent Portal to inform parents /carers about their child's learning, progress and achievements. We expect all our parents to activate an account so that they can access a range of information which will keep them updated on essential matters about school.

Firefly allows Parents to:

- View your child's timetable including their current and next lessons
- View your child's home learning
- View your child's electronic school report
- Keep your personal contact details up to date



Please click on the link for further information on how to activate your Firefly account:

<https://www.friern.barnet.sch.uk/parents-and-students/firefly-parent-portal/>

Canteen

The canteen is open at the following times:

Breakfast: 8.15am – 8.40am

Break: 11.00am – 11.20am

Lunch: Key Stage 3: 12.20pm - 12.55pm and Key Stage 4: 1.20pm - 1.55pm

Topping up lunch accounts - school dinner money needs to be added via ParentPay before 10.00am to allow students to be able to buy food on the same day. We recommend topping up over the weekend as ParentPay can be busy on Monday mornings sometimes causing delays with payments. You can also set up a free email alert: Click on the link for further information (follow instructions for free email alerts as text message alerts are charged) : <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4410756555025-How-to-set-alerts#how-to-set-alerts-0-0>

When making payments can we ask you not to use the 'One click payments' method as this can take up to 7 days to clear which then delays money going onto your child's lunch account. The best way is to add money to the basket and check out using 'Other Payment Methods'. Click on the link below for further information: <https://parent-support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/articles/4410737893649-How-to-pay-with-credit-or-debit-card>

Daily spend limit— there is a default daily spend limit of £3.50 and no food costing above that limit can be bought. This limit can only be changed by emailing school@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Students on Free School Meals can spend up to £2.65 a day. Parents/Carers are welcome to top up their lunch accounts.

Help - if your child needs help with their pin code, thumb print or they have been told they do not have sufficient funds on their account, please remind them to come to the main office so we can help them as we do not want anyone to go hungry.

News and events

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge is a programme managed and delivered by Speakers Trust, the UK's leading public speaking organisation and is supported and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation. Our aim is to amplify young people's voices by building confidence, developing skills and creating platforms for young people to share their stories and ideas to empower not only themselves but each other. In this way, we champion effective, positive communication to use in education, employability and social change.

Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge gives free communication skills training to Year 10 students in every state school in London and Essex. Through our workshops we empower over 30,000 young people each year.

Workshops take place during a school day with an approved Speakers Trust trainer. All our trainers are highly experienced professional speakers, all with DBS certificates and up to date safeguarding policy knowledge.

Well done to Nirvana and Nathan who represented Friern Barnet School at the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals on 14 January at the London Academy.



Barnet Dance Festival

Barnet Dance Festival - on 10 March year 7 dancers and Impel Elite attended Barnet Dance Festival 2025 and did a fantastic performance at the artsdepot.



Trips

Some of the trips students have been on this term.



Brit school - students from our Step into Dance Street Dance Club attended the Brit school to perform their piece and also took part in a workshop led by Brett Sewell.

We arranged a theatre trip to see 'MJ the Musical' on 18 March for FBS Music, Drama and Dance students in Year 10 and year 9 EAPs at the Prince Edward Theatre. Students and staff had a wonderful time.



Year 11 Prize Giving

Congratulations to all our awardees at our Prize Giving Ceremony on 2 April 2025.



Year 10 Business 10 x Challenge in March

The 10 x Challenge is a highly interactive and fun programme introducing enterprise and financial education and enhancing key skills, including communication, creativity, problem solving, teamwork and confidence to our year 10 students who study Business.

Students are pledged £10 to use as start-up capital to get their enterprise off the ground. They have to set up their business coming up with an idea of a product or service they can sell and gain first-hand experience of what it's like to be an entrepreneur.

Well done to the students that took part. The students get to choose what they do with their own profits. It was a great event and the enterprises sold out during KS3 lunch.



Well done to KK noodles (1st Place), Clean&Go (2nd Place) and O&N Jewellery (3rd Place)

BACE Holiday and information

Please click on the link below for information on free BACE holiday activities.

[FINAL-024585-BC4828---Barnet-Youth-Spring-2025-DIGITAL1.pdf](#)

FREE!

Barnet Youth
Spring 2025

Free Spring Camps and Activities

Free trips to
Laser Quest, Flip Out and Theatre

Fun Days
Science Shows, Magic Shows and Nerf battles

Volunteering
Could you be a Holiday Activity Volunteer?

[barnetyouth.uk](#)

Caring for people, our places and the planet

BACE Holidays: Fully funded by the Department for Education

How to book...

STEP 1
Go to [www.barnetyouth.uk](#)

STEP 2
Click **BOOK NOW**

STEP 3
Select the project

STEP 4
Search and enrol

Please email byes@barnet.gov.uk or BACEHolidays@barnet.gov.uk if you would like this booklet in larger print, Braille or in your language.

BACE Here are the steps to finding your Holiday Activity eVoucher Codes:

STEP 1
Open your emails and search: hello@holidayactivities.com
Check your Junk mail too!

STEP 2
Open email and click the View Voucher button:

STEP 3
Scroll to the bottom and copy your child's 16 Digit eVoucher code

STEP 4
Go to [www.barnetyouth.uk](#) or click View Activities and search the BACE Holidays Activities on offer.

STEP 5
Select the child and insert the voucher code in the cart OR login to your account and update your voucher code.

Additional Steps:
Holiday Activity Vouchers (BACE Holidays ONLY)
To access BACE Holidays, you will need to be eligible for benefit-related Free School Meals. You MUST insert your 16 Digit Holiday Activity Voucher code sent to you via email in the cart on the [barnetyouth.uk](#) website.

Please note: Each eligible child will have their own voucher code. All codes will be sent on 07 March 2025 to the email you receive correspondence from the schools.

Holiday Clubs

NON STOP Action!
SMALL STEPS. BIG FUTURES.

JOIN US FOR OUR EASTER CAMP
FOR 5 - 12 YEAR OLDS

MONDAY 7TH - THURSDAY 17TH APRIL
AGES 5-11: 10AM - 3PM / AGES 12-17: 3PM - 6PM

Don't forget to use your UNICARD VOUCHERS

£116
(Includes lunch)

£30 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT AVAILABLE
Book before SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025

BOOK ONLINE NOW
[www.NonStopAction.co.uk](#)

CAMP PHOENIX
Youth Activities

SPEND YOUR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH US

Our Camp Phoenix youth development programme is available throughout the school holidays from Easter to October 2025. Activities are open to anyone aged 9-18 years, regardless of whether you have lots of experience or not.

Paddlesport Courses
Learn to paddle, canoe or windsurf with us through our multi-day courses and half-day taster days.

Sailing Courses
Learn to sail through our 8/10 day taster courses.

Fun on the Water
The day out on the water is a great way to try a new activity or just have some fun on the water.

CONTACT US:
info@phoenixoutdoorcentre.co.uk
[www.phoenixoutdoorcentre.co.uk](#)

PIVOTAL NETBALL ACADEMY
SPRING NETBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS

TUE 8 APR - WED 9 APR - THUR 10 APR
TUE 15 APR - WED 16 APR

10% SIBLING DISCOUNT

PIVOTAL NETBALL ACADEMY
10AM - 3PM
RECEPTION TO YEAR 10
£32 PER DAY
(HALF DAYS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

Children of all ages & abilities welcome

Our Holiday Camps have four sessions per day:

- Fun and engaging warm up activities
- Attacking skill practices in a range of scenarios
- Defensive skill practices in a range of scenarios
- Game based activities, where skills are applied to a match

BIRTHDAY PARTIES & SPECIAL EVENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

07592 018 982 [WWW.PIVOTALNETBALL.COM](#)

HOCKEY
EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS

Day Camps
Mon & Tues
7 & 8 April
14 & 15 April

Scan the QR code for booking

LOCATION
Southgate Hockey Centre, Snakes Lane, Oakwood, London EN4 9PS

www.southgatehc.org.uk/juniors/camps

EASTER RACKET CAMPS
OAKLEIGH PARK TENNIS & SQUASH CLUB

CAMP 1
7TH - 11TH APRIL

CAMP 2
14TH - 18TH APRIL

TENNIS OR SQUASH 9.30AM - 12.30PM
TENNIS AGES 4-16 YEARS / SQUASH AGES 6-16 YEARS

MULTI RACKETS 1.30PM - 4.00PM
AGES 4-16 YEARS: TENNIS / SQUASH / TABLE TENNIS / PICKLEBALL / BACNETBALL

PRICES

DAILY
TENNIS OR SQUASH 2.50-3.00
MULTI RACKETS 2.50-3.00
FULL DAY (TENNIS OR SQUASH & MULTI RACKETS) £4.00-4.50

FULL WEEK
TENNIS OR SQUASH 12.50-15.00
MULTI RACKETS 12.50-15.00
TENNIS OR SQUASH & MULTI RACKETS £20.00-25.00

CAMP REVAMP NOW 9.50-11.00AM

WWW.OAKLEIGHPARCLUB.CO.UK

BARNET LAWN TENNIS CLUB
EASTER TENNIS CAMPS

SIGN UP FOR OUR EASTER TENNIS CAMP! YOUR CHILD WILL IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS, STAY ACTIVE, AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN DURING THE SCHOOL BREAK!

BOTH FULL & HALF-DAY CAMPS AVAILABLE

Book via the QR code or visit our website [www.barnetlts.com](#)

NYC
NETBALL YOUTH CAMP

Ashmole Academy
Cecil Rd, London N14 5RJ

Giving junior netballers the chance to get together and take to the court during the school holidays!

7th-9th of April
10am - 3pm

£115 for non-members
£90 for members

3-Day Camp

Contact: sophie.johnson@englandnetball.co.uk

Book online - <https://engage.Englandnetball.co.uk/sessionfinder>

EBSA WEBINAR

DOES YOUR CHILD SUFFER WITH EMOTIONAL BASED SCHOOL AVOIDANCE?



01. INSIGHT FROM PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOTHERAPIST'S
02. THURSDAY 24TH APRIL
03. 7-8PM
04. Q&A AT THE END

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/555173102?pwd=46LWZlVWlWZ3pRMAPGd0YUZWlGTO5pdjB0d0pM=88494785291>

Parents and carers join the EBSA webinar on 24 April—[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

GAMING AND GAMBLING AWARENESS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS



Ygam are working with the Metropolitan Police to offer an online information session to help develop your understanding of gaming and gambling harms, enabling you to have open conversations with your children.

Workshop overview:

- Gambling: exploring the influences on children and young people
- Gaming: discussing the benefits and concerns
- The blurred lines between gaming and gambling
- How to spot the signs of harm
- Useful tips to create a healthy gaming balance
- Where to get help and support

WHAT MIGHT INFLUENCE A YOUNG PERSON TO GAMBLE?

WHAT IS A LOOT BOX?

WHY ARE IN-GAME ITEMS SO IMPORTANT TO YOUNG PEOPLE?

We also have a dedicated Parent Hub which aims to provide information and guidance to help you safeguard your children against the potential harms of gaming and gambling. Find out more here: parents.ygam.org

Book your FREE place now!

DATE: Tuesday 29th April 2025
TIME: 19:00 - 20:15
VENUE: Online via Microsoft Teams

To register, please scan the QR Code or click [HERE](#)



[Parents Bespoke Workshop Booking | Ygam](#)

Reminders and notices

Student lockers

To purchase a locker for the rest of the school year, please click the link: www.locker.rentals

Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS



2 SIMPLE WAYS TO RENT YOUR LOCKER.



1 Visit www.locker.rentals



2 Scan this QR Code

Once on the web app do the following:

- Enter your LOCATION
- Choose your PREFERRED LOCKER AREA from the drop down menu (if available)
- Click on CHECK AVAILABILITY
- Where prompted enter your details and read and agree to the terms and conditions
- Click on RENT LOCKER and follow the instructions for entering your payment details
- You will then be emailed a locker code and the number of your chosen compartment

How to Access your Locker:

- Go to the locker number detailed on your confirmation email
- Enter the 4 digit code detailed on your confirmation email and open the lock
- Should you forget your code it can be reset by visiting www.locker.rentals and clicking on the reset my locker code link

Secure

LOCKER.RENTALS



LOCKERS, FROM AS LITTLE AS 12p PER DAY.

SIMPLE. SAFE. SECURE.

Kids these days carry a lot of expensive equipment, from trainers and clothing, to books and sportswear. So, it's scary to think that the average student loses 7 items per month.

Having a school locker can help to reduce these numbers. Creating a consistent, secure location for students to store possessions safely. With the added advantage of keeping books dry and promoting better back health.

And, when you compare the cost vs replacing a school jumper, the decision is simple.

STUDENTS LOSE AN AVERAGE OF **7** ITEMS PER MONTH

Visit locker.rentals and book your locker today.

enquiries@locker.rentals www.locker.rentals

Reminders and notices continued

Dates to Remember

22 April	First day of Summer Term 1
24 April	ARP students Parents' Evening
1 May	Year 7 Parents' Evening
2 May	Staff Development Day
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday
14 May	Parent/Staff Book Club (LRC)
19 May	Year 10 work experience week
26—30 May	Half Term
23 and 30 June	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
2 July	Parent/Staff Book Club (LRC)
9 July	Sports Day
16 July	Reward trip day
18 July	Last day of Summer Term 2

Please click on the link for term dates: [link](#)

For a more comprehensive list of dates, please visit the school website: www.friern.barnet.sch.uk



Have a restful Easter break from all the staff at FBS.

From Student Services

Absence

Please report your child's absence each day by 8.45am, clearly stating their name, form class and reason for absence. You can either call 020 8368 2777 and press Option 1 'To report your child absent' or email: attendance@friern.barnet.sch.uk

For medical or other appointments during the school day, notification is required **in advance**. Routine appointments/check-ups should be made out of school hours wherever possible.

Non-medical absences

Permission for all non-medical absences must be authorised by Ms Thomas, Assistant Head Teacher and Head of Year 11. Please fill in a leave of absence form and email it, in advance, to school@friern.barnet.sch.uk

[Attendance - Friern Barnet School -](#)

School Streets

Just a reminder to parents/carers, if you are driving your child to and from school please remember vehicles are not permitted to enter Hemington Avenue or Bethune Avenue from 8.00 - 9.00 am and from 2.45 - 3.45 pm.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that students are not allowed to use their mobile phones whilst at school. Thank you for your support with this clear school rule.

Follow FBS on Twitter and Instagram



Contact Details

Please let us know by emailing school@friern.barnet.sch.uk if you have changed any contact details or moved house as soon as possible.

ParentPay contact details

If your mobile number or email address has changed, please up date your details on ParentPay so you do not miss out on any important information.

No Junk Food

Foods that are high in sugar and preservatives can have a negative effect on behaviour. Please do not allow your children to bring in family packets of crisps, sweets, cookies, energy and fizzy drinks.