

Friern Barnet School Newsletter

‘Enjoy and Excel’

Spring 2, 2026

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



Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish you all a very happy and restful Easter break. Thank you once again for all your support over the term. January seems ages ago; it finally feels as though Spring is in the air.

There have been so many great things going on in school recently. I will just highlight two for this short introduction to the newsletter. Year 10 business studies students completed the 10X Challenge last week. Students are given £10 to start a mini-enterprise; they then have to collaborate to produce a product that they can sell. On Thursday 19 March they held a fair at lunchtime. The aim was to maximise profits. The winning group, ‘The crepe lab’, made £103 profit, an extraordinary achievement. Clearly entrepreneurs of the future.

On 25 March we held a dance show in the evening. Many students from year 7 up to year 11 took part and they were sensational. I am not sure how many of the over 130 Barnet schools run such an event, but I do not think many do. The choreography and the costumes made for a great kaleidoscope of colour and activity. It was a real joy to behold and once again demonstrated how important the creative arts are, helping to create a rich and diverse curriculum in schools. Thank you to all the parents, carers, governors and members of staff who turned up to watch and support the students.

Term starts again on Monday 13 April at the normal time. I leave you with this great little poem by Charlotte Zolotow. Say it aloud, recite it with your kids at the breakfast table or hold it in your head as you go out for a walk:

Some people talk and talk
and never say a thing.
Some people look at you
and birds begin to sing.

Some people laugh and laugh
and yet you want to cry.
Some people touch your hand
and music fills the sky.

Yours faithfully,

Mr 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

(i/c of attendance)

Careers Week – Visit from Dr Davidesko for International Women's Day

As part of our Careers Week at FBS, Year 9 students attended an inspiring assembly led by Dr Davidesko, an obstetrician and gynaecologist who specialises in endometriosis and complex benign gynaecology, currently practising at King's Hospital in London, and developing expertise in minimally invasive and robotic surgery. During the session, Dr Davidesko offered students a valuable insight into the day-to-day life of a surgeon and shared important considerations for those interested in pursuing a career in medicine.

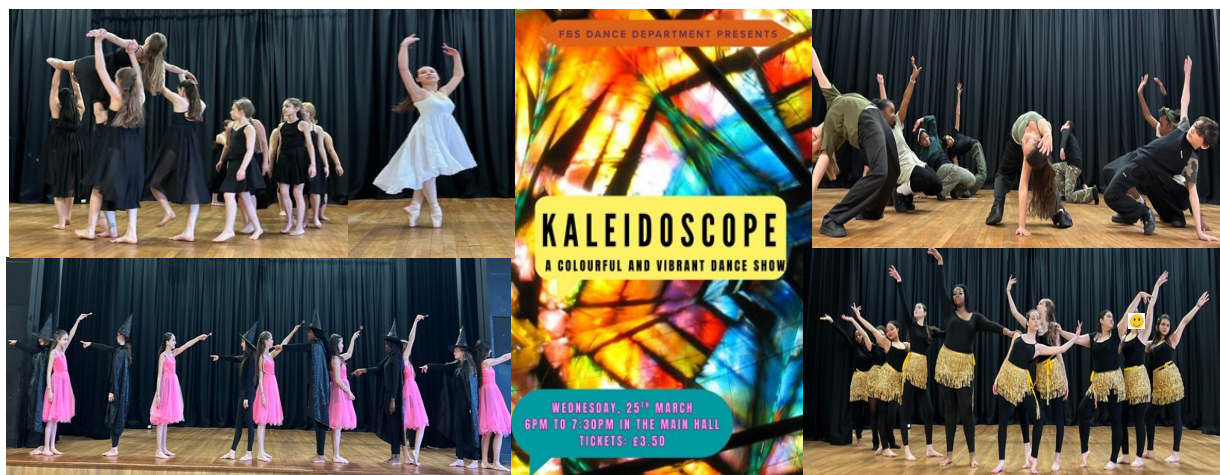


Following the assembly, Dr Davidesko led an interactive workshop for students from Years 7–10, featuring a range of challenges linked to her medical and surgical practice. Students were particularly engaged by the laparoscopy machine, which gave them the opportunity to practise their surgical skills. It was a challenging yet enjoyable experience for all involved.

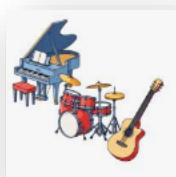
Creative Arts

On Wednesday 25 March we hosted our annual dance show 'Kaleidoscope'. It was a huge success and some of our fabulous solo and duet pieces were created and choreographed by our own students.

Congratulations to our wonderful dancers.

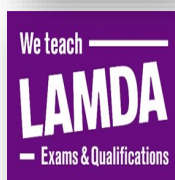


Tuition



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 onto Firefly. For more information please contact the creative arts office.



LAMDA

If your child is interested in doing LAMDA, please email Mr Ghosh at R.Ghosh@friern.barnet.sch.uk for further information.

This term has been an incredibly busy and exciting one for the Performing Arts department, filled with inspiring trips, outstanding performances, and impressive student achievements across drama, dance, and music.

We began the year with our **LAMDA examinations**, and we are delighted to share that the results were truly outstanding. Our students demonstrated exceptional dedication, confidence, and performance skills throughout the examination process.

LAMDA Results:

Ava	Grade 3 Verse & Prose	Distinction
Josef	Grade 2 Speaking in Public	Distinction
Riayana	Grade 4 Solo Acting	Distinction
Sophia	Entry Level Solo Acting	Distinction
Sirin	Grade 2 Verse & Prose	Merit
Evie	Grade 4 Solo Acting	Distinction
Rafael	Grade 3 Verse & Prose	Distinction
Alona	Grade 2 Verse & Prose	Merit
Gaja	Grade 1 Verse & Prose	Merit
Sidney	Grade 2 Verse & Prose	Distinction
An Xin	Grade 3 Speaking in Public	Distinction
Milo	Entry Level Solo Acting	Merit



Year 10 Dance students also enjoyed a wonderful choreography workshop at **Trinity Laban**, where they worked with professional practitioners to develop creative movement ideas and refine their performance skills. The experience was both inspiring and challenging, giving students a real insight into professional dance training.

February brought a range of enriching opportunities for our students. We welcomed a school visit to watch Rhum and Clay's remarkable one-man production *Mistero Buffo*. The performance captivated students with its physical storytelling and inventive theatrical style, followed by a fantastic practical workshop for selected Year 9 and Year 10 Drama students.

Dance students also took part in a trip to **Step Into Dance**, where members of the Street Dance Club explored new techniques, styles, and performance approaches alongside other young dancers.

Meanwhile, all Year 9 students participated in engaging **DYCE Theatre workshops**, focused on developing critical thinking skills through drama. Students found themselves immersed in a humorous yet thought-provoking scenario — competing over the final roll of toilet paper in a supermarket, a playful reflection on the challenges of the COVID era. The workshops encouraged collaboration, problem-solving, and imaginative thinking.

Our GCSE Drama students attended a performance of *Lost Atoms* by **Frantic Assembly**, providing an outstanding example of physical theatre in practice. The students were inspired by the company's dynamic storytelling and thoroughly enjoyed seeing techniques studied in class brought vividly to life on stage.

March has been an especially busy and rewarding month. Our **Old Vic Schools Club** students attended their third workshop and theatre visit, this time focusing on prop-making and design. The experience culminated in a trip to see *Arcadia* at the Old Vic Theatre, giving students valuable insight into professional theatre production and performance. We would also like to congratulate our Year 11 music, dance, and drama students, who have successfully completed all of their coursework. Their commitment, resilience, and creativity throughout the process have been truly commendable.

Ms Westwood, Head of Creative Arts



National
Literacy
Trust



A Journey Through Words: The Young City Poets of 2025/2026

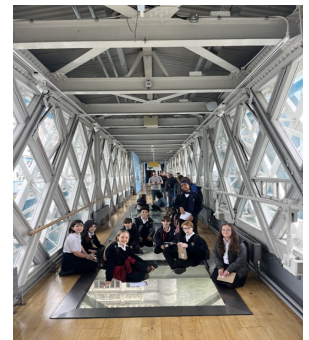
The Young City Poets initiative, a flagship writing programme from the National Literacy Trust, has once again inspired our students to find their voices. This annual project encourages young writers to use the urban landscape of London and its world-renowned cultural landmarks as a canvas for their own original poetry. Throughout this journey, our students engaged in a series of collaborative writing sessions, learned from both their teachers and industry professionals, and explored the heart of the city, all leading toward a national anthology publication and a grand performance at St Paul's Cathedral.

From the Classroom to the Clouds

Our Year 7 cohort from FBS began their poetic odyssey in October. The process was multi-layered, starting right here in the classroom with workshops led by me. We delved into all things poetry, exploring structure and style to build a strong foundation.

To take their inspiration to the next level, the group travelled to Tower Bridge for an immersive site visit. Beyond just a tour of the museum, the students were challenged to face their fears on the famous glass walkway, a literal 'high point' of the trip! This landmark served as a powerful muse; back at school, the students translated their experiences into verse. During our post-visit session, we worked through the

hurdles of writer's block using creative exercises to ignite new ideas. I was particularly impressed by the amount of independent writing the students produced outside of our scheduled time!



Polishing the Craft with Paul Cree

The momentum continued a two weeks later when we were joined by professional poet Paul Cree. Paul led an intensive workshop that pushed the students to move beyond the surface and include more raw, personal responses in their work. He was struck by the level of commitment and the high standard of creativity our Year 7s brought to the table.

A Grand Finale at St Paul's Cathedral

After five months of hard work and artistic collaboration, our students' efforts resulted in a collection of truly fantastic poems, many of which have been selected for the YCP Anthology (now available to order on Amazon by clicking [here!](#)) The peak of this five-month journey took place at the iconic St Paul's Cathedral. Before the nerves of the performance set in, we took advantage of the beautiful weather and ate lunch together in the stunning Cathedral gardens, soaking in the sun and the historic surroundings.

Once we headed inside the magnificent building, the atmosphere was electric. Before the performance began, the media team caught up with us, and two of our students, Alexandra and Evelyn, were interviewed about their work and the school's involvement in the project. We are so proud of how they represented FBS; keep an eye out for that footage on the website very soon!

In the heart of the Cathedral, four of our courageous students stood before a large audience to deliver beautiful readings of their work. Following the rapturous applause and the presentation of certificates, the students enjoyed a well-earned break with juice and biscuits. This was a lovely opportunity for them to relax and chat with students from

English continued



Participating in Young City Poets has been a revelation. It has been a privilege to watch these students sharpen their creative writing techniques and find sophisticated ways to articulate their thoughts. They have built a lasting bridge between themselves and the arts, and I hope they carry this passion for poetry for years to come.

It's clear the girls absolutely loved the experience, in fact, Eveline had the giggles all the way home! I couldn't be prouder of their achievements. **Well Done, poets!**

Miss Suci, Teacher of English



When the spotlight shines on the bridge,
The river answers without any fear, The
sky from dark turns into clear,
Don't you worry the stars will appear,

Alexandra P



When morning spills its golden fame,
Across the Thames, she speaks her name,
Her drawbridge arms unfold with pride,
To let the stately vessels glide,

Steamers come, with banners bold,
Brought tea and silk and whispered gold.
While merchants, sailors, Kings and
Queens,
Passed through her gaze of ancient dreams.

Eveline T

FBS Trumpet

The FBS Trumpet is a student newsletter providing students with a platform for their voices to be heard. This is a newsletter for the school community, run by the students. **All students can contribute and are invited to demonstrate their talents and express their opinions through the newsletter all year round.**

Articles can be about events in and outside the school, and any topical issues.

If you want to contribute, please send a digital copy to your English teacher.

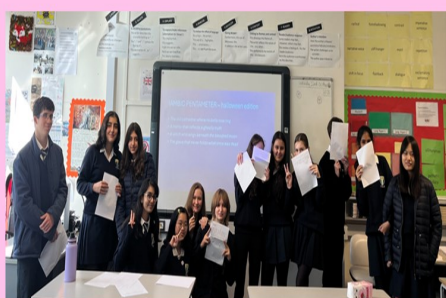
Editorial meetings are held every Thursday, at break time, in M2-2.

Please come along and get more information.

Read the Trumpet here: <https://friernbarnet.fireflycloud.net/fbs-trumpet>



Creative writing club !



Creative writing club !

Every Wednesday KS4 Lunch
With Miss Suci in M2-7

*Year 10 and Year 11
welcome!*



Winter Lights Writing Competition

On **12 December**, the LRC hosted the **Winter Lights Writing Competition**, a seasonal celebration of creativity. Students were invited to submit an original piece of writing in a genre of their choice, inspired by winter festivals or personal winter experiences. Entries were judged across **KS3 and KS4**, with winners selected for their originality, and quality of writing.

Alongside the competition, students enjoyed a range of festive activities: writing and decorating Christmas cards, and helping to transform the LRC with winter-themed decorations. Handmade paper snowflakes, created by students during breaktimes in the days leading up to the event, added a special touch. Despite the snowy theme, the atmosphere in the LRC was warm, welcoming, and full of seasonal cheer, making it a truly memorable event for all who attended.

Key Stage 3 Winner

Winter Lights and everything nice!

Winter Lights very bright
Shining across the cold nights

Christmas is near,
So have no fear

Come and dance under the winter lights!

Winter lights very nice
Hot coca with cinnamon spice

Snowballs being thrown,
Parents making their own

And all we need is winter lights!

Winter nights finally here,
Everyone starts the Christmas cheer

Almos Christmas but not just yet,
Parents making their perfect bets

On whom will dance under the winter lights!

Kelace, 7A

Key Stage 4 Winner

Winter lights

Such a time to be delighted
Even though the day has darkened
The souls of people light up
Like a candle that never melts
the poor woman that wept, no longer
Weeps!

For her joy has been restored by the
jolly

Lights that always shine
Despite the icy winds that haunt us,
Love and joy will always knock at the
door of our hearts

And you shall see the lovely arts
That the winter lights offer

Mikaela, 11B



The Library Times



The Library Times is Friern Barnet School's library termly newspaper. You can find copies of the Library Times on the LRC's desk. Want to contribute? You can present your cartoons, poems, short stories & more! Speak to Mrs Camarena in the library or see one of our ambassadors.

Debate Club

- Join Debate Club to improve your public speaking and presentation skills in an inclusive and supportive environment!
- Learn how to create, improve and present strong arguments, and engage in passionate debate with other students.
- We don't just do debates – we also do mock criminal trials based on real-life cases and situations that have happened!
- We enter debate competitions across Barnet, where you get access to tailored feedback from experts in how to improve your arguments and oracy.
- In M2-3 on a Friday at 3:15pm
- Open for all years.



Lunar New Year

The **Student Parliament** hosted a lively **Lunar New Year** celebration in the library, sharing fun and interactive displays that explored how the New Year is celebrated in different cultures around the world. Students learned about traditions from the Philippines, Spain, Germany and Colombia, discovering how people welcome good luck, prosperity, and new beginnings.

The celebration included tasting round foods inspired

by the Philippines, where round shapes symbolise prosperity and good fortune. Students also joined in the Spanish tradition of eating **12 grapes**, each representing a wish or resolution for the months ahead. A popular photo booth returned to reflect a Colombian and Latin American tradition, where people carry an empty suitcase to invite future travel and adventure in the New Year. The event was a colourful and engaging way to learn about global customs while celebrating together.



Storytelling Week

Storytelling Week in the LRC was a celebration of imagination, creativity, and curiosity, and it was open for everyone to take part. Throughout the event, students were encouraged to think creatively and put their own twists on well-known stories, showing how powerful and entertaining storytelling can be when ideas are explored together.

It was very enjoyable to see the familiar tales of **Little Red Riding Hood** and **Cinderella** transformed in unexpected ways. Each contribution was surprising and entertaining, demonstrating that there is no single “right” way to tell a story. The session was guided by Mrs Camarena, who asked the necessary questions that helped students develop their ideas and think more deeply about characters and plots, and to piece the final story together.



A huge well done goes to everyone who participated for their creativity and confidence, and thanks to the student ambassadors who helped make the event possible. Storytelling Week was an enjoyable experience for all, and we hope to see it again in the LRC next year.

Simon James Green visits year 8!

On the 4 February, FBS was excited to welcome author Simon James Green for a special visit. The morning began with a Year 8 assembly, where Simon introduced us to his popular books, including *You're the One that I Want* and *Noah Can't Even*. He brought the stories to life by reading hilarious extracts aloud, keeping everyone entertained with his humorous style. His books explore important themes around growing up. Whether you are a keen reader or not it is worth giving them a try.

Later during period 3, a small group of year 8 students, a few from each form participated in a workshop event with Simon. We created a story; many students were

able to contribute their ideas and illustrations as we went along. This was very engaging and entertaining for everyone. Interestingly, the topic of AI was talked about by ~Simon and how authors' work is stolen and used without their permission, a very informative discussion. Overall, this was a fun, creative lesson and it was enjoyed by many.

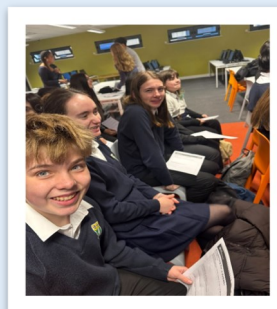


English continued

Debate Club competition

On 11 February, a group of 10 students across Years 7 to 11 attended a debate competition at Ashmole Academy in the evening. After being given the opportunity to mingle with students from other schools across Barnet, Friern Barnet School competed in teams of two or three, with three rounds of debates. Three of the four teams who competed won a round, which is an excellent achievement for all teams involved. Notably, Kamelia T in 11C had the highest speaker score across multiple rounds - another commendable achievement. This was a great opportunity for those students that participated, as they were able to meet new students, build upon

their public speaking skills in a challenging but supportive environment, and receive tailored feedback from expert judges on improving their oracy skills. Well done everyone!



Year 9 Globe Theatre Trip

Our big annual trip to the Globe theatre is always the most anticipated visit on the school calendar. This year, it happened on the 9 March when eighty enthusiastic year 9 students had the opportunity to watch a play in the iconic Shakespearean theatre.

The play on offer this year was Romeo and Juliet, arguably the most famous love story, highlighting the tragic consequences of a long-standing feud between two families- the Capulets and the Montagues. The production was a modern take on the main issues in the play, many of which are still very relevant today. On stage, we were reminded about the thorny issue of knife crime which has had devastating effects on some families, especially in London. There was a call to "Put down your weapons" at the beginning, with actors holding portraits of young victims of knife crime.

Adding to the intriguing love story, young people from the two families were featured as gangsters performing tricks on bicycles, grabbing phones in the streets and constantly fighting each other. Some of the mentioned activities resonated with the audience as this is witnessed on our streets or viewed on TV regularly.

Our students enjoyed the play immensely although one or two purists voiced their preference for a classic production. All in all, this was another invaluable experience for the students and certainly a day to remember.



Mr Mawere, English Teacher

Learning Support

The ARP students have been busy this term.

On 11 February our Year 9 and 10 ARP students took part in a bowling competition run by the charity Panathlon. Our Year 9 ARP students came first and are through to the finals. Rajaunie scored 133 with lots of strikes and spares and it was his first time bowling. Well done to our ARP students!



Year 8 ARP students had fun by creating the Solar System during one of their science lessons.

They were enthusiastic and did an amazing job with their science experiment



Our Year 8 ARP students work very hard every Monday, 'mucking out' various animal enclosures on the Aldenham Country Park Farm. It is hard work and sometimes very smelly!

On the 2 March they were rewarded with a lamb feeding session. They had to bottle feed some lambs that have been orphaned by their mums, and they were all amazing and very caring towards the lambs. Well done!

Mathematics

On 28 January over 100 students from Years 9 and 10 participated in a National Maths Competition.

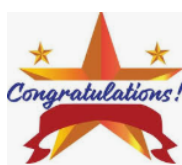
Congratulations to

Avantika in Year 10 who had the best score in the school in the recent UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge.

Tatsuma who is the Best in Year 9

All the Silver Award winners - **Ryan, Khadijo, Elin, Itamar, Zhenya, Cleo and Thomas.**

All the Bronze Award winners - **Georgia, Oliver, Zeineb, Bettina, Ali, Alona, Bejna, Lai, Baqer, Marcelina, Sead, An Xin, Serhat, Lotte, Naomi, Filip, Kasandra, Joelle Descartes, Safa and Alexander Nikolov**



Mr Spyrou, Maths Teacher

Mathematics

At the start of this term, Ms Gooriah came in from Imperial College to do a 'masterclass' with our top set. I thought it was just going to be a long lesson, but she started talking about expanding our knowledge on maths and using a part of maths that was displayed on our maths map in the corridor. It's called Topology. It sounded very different from what we were used to.

Ms Gooriah didn't give us a worksheet. She said maths is a 'creative discovery'. I think she meant that we need to use our brains to explore things instead of just memorising formulas for a test.

The whole room was quiet when Ms Gooriah showed us the mobius band. It looked like a strip of paper, but that was just the beginning of a long investigation. The results were counterintuitive and fascinating, for example, when we were cutting the mobius band in half, we were expecting to get two halves, instead the band didn't break in parts, but it became thinner and even longer!

Before this masterclass lesson, I knew that the mobius strip was used in conveyor belt designs, but I never appreciated how unpredictable the results of an investigation on a mobius band can be when you have one in your hands. When we experimented further, we got all sorts of results. Once, when the two strips were intertwined in a different way, we achieved a heart-shaped band. This was a real twist!

Asa, Year 8

PE



In February we were invited to Hendon School for a friendly volleyball match. I was informed by the teacher that she had a group of girls that were inexperienced players and that they would appreciate some competition.

You can therefore imagine the surprise on everyone's faces when they saw the other team kitted out in volleyball kit with knee pads and a 6ft 7 volleyball coach stood at the net.

After calming their nerves through a thorough warm up, supported by the coach we were ready to play! Despite there being a considerable difference in experience it was a close fought match losing 25-21 in the first set and 25-19 in the second. All players came away from the match proud that they had played well and had risen to the challenge.

Well done: Setayesh (captain), Avantika, Alesha, Vanessa, Rihanna, Xander, Rio, Jai and Arya.

Ms Thomas, PE Teacher

Extra curricular clubs after school

We offer a variety of extra-curricular activities at FBS. Our clubs and activities help students to develop friendships, gain new skills and increase confidence. Our clubs take place afterschool, students can attend and there is no need to book.

[Extra-Curricular Clubs - Friern Barnet School -](#)

Science

This term, our Year 7, 8 and 9 students enthusiastically took part in British Science Week, joining schools across the UK in celebrating science, innovation and discovery.

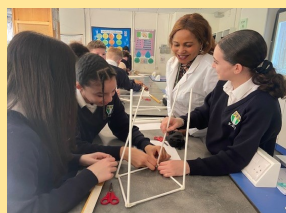
Throughout the week, students engaged in a range of exciting, hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Students engaged in creative design tasks and real-world applications of science; they demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and scientific thinking.

Year 7 students explored key scientific concepts of weight by building bridges to withstand load. Year 8 students built on their knowledge of towers to construct one that can withstand force yet stand tall. Year 9 students took on more complex challenges, applying their scientific understanding on density, mass and volume by building boats which can carry enough mass without sinking.

It was inspiring to see students thinking like scientists — asking thoughtful questions, testing ideas, learning from mistakes and refining their approaches. Many students showed remarkable creativity and confidence, particularly when presenting their findings and explaining their reasoning.

British Science Week not only strengthened subject knowledge but also highlighted the importance of science in everyday life, future careers and global problem-solving. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and maturity shown by all year groups.

A huge well done to our students for their commitment and curiosity and thank you to the staff who supported the activities throughout the week.



Ms Appah, Deputy Head of Science

Able and Ambitious

It has been another busy term for our Able and Ambitious students, with opportunities offered across the curriculum! The Creative Arts faculty organised a dance workshop provided by Trinity Laban Conservatoire and a performance of the award-winning Rhum and Clay show 'Mistero Buffo' for 190 students in years 9, 10 and 11, followed by a workshop.

The Maths faculty entered over 100 year 9 and 10 students for the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge: congratulations to all the students who competed in this! They also encouraged KS4 students to participate in supra-curricular activities, such as signing up for Imperial College London's Maths Extra programme or attending the talk 'How maths gives us the edge over AI', delivered by Dr Junaid Mubeen. Meanwhile, all KS3 science classes undertook a STEM-focused construction project – designing and building either a model bridge, tower or boat – as part of British Science Week.

14 year 8 students have started the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, working with a PhD tutor from UCL to research, plan and write essays with the title 'Back to my own country: Windrush, migration and belonging in modern Britain' This will conclude next term with a visit to a Russell Group University.

This year we have expanded the Industrial Cadets Bronze programme, with four groups of year 9 students taking part. They will work with a mentor from the STEM field to create a project addressing a STEM-related problem, generate a model and written report and present it to other students and STEM professionals. Look out for an update in the

Summer term! Industrial Cadets also ran a Challenger project for 90 students in KS3, which involved them designing a rollercoaster: see below for a student's account of the event.

Other events this term included a group of year 11 students visiting Cambridge to learn about university life, the debate club participating in The Oracy Club inter-school debate competition, and the conclusion of this year's Young City Poets project.

We also celebrated Careers Week by giving students a chance to meet experts in career fields they were interested in. This included a talk about careers in law delivered by Ms Katz and Ms Russ, who have both worked as solicitors, and a workshop run by Dr Davidesko in which students interested in a career in medicine were able to apply their science skills and even practice keyhole surgery! (Fortunately on a simulation device, not a real person). These photos show students enjoying the event.



Finally, huge congratulations to Zara Rosenthal in year 11, who has been accepted to participate in the Caius Eleven-Up Online Programme, a series of webinars aimed at year 11 students aspiring to apply for Oxbridge universities. There are only 400 places available nationally, and we're thrilled that Zara will be part of this elite group!

Ms Newey, Assistant Head Teacher

The Able and Ambitious programme has continued to expand, offering a range of enriching opportunities designed to challenge and inspire students across multiple year groups. A key highlight has been the involvement of 14 Year 8 students in the Brilliant Club Scholars Programme, where they engaged in university-style learning and have now successfully completed their final assignments. This marks a significant milestone, demonstrating their development in independent study, critical thinking, and academic writing.

Building on this success, four teams of Year 9 students have recently begun their three-month Industrial Cadets Bronze Project Challenge. This initiative provides students with the opportunity to work collaboratively on real-world engineering and industry-based problems, further developing their problem-solving, teamwork, and project management skills. Updates to follow in the summer term.

In addition, 80 students from Years 7–9 participated in the Industrial Cadets Challenger Event, where they explored the principles of engineering by designing and building strong structures for a rollercoaster ride. This hands-on

experience encouraged creativity, resilience, and practical application of STEM knowledge, while also promoting engagement with future career pathways in engineering and industry.

Viktor, year 7 student - "In the industrial cadet's workshop we learnt about STEM. It was so exciting being able to build, work with friends and think outside the box. Building and breaking the roller coaster was fun and this has led me to consider becoming an engineer."

Ella, year 9 student - "The industrial cadet's workshop was so fun, we tried making a structure out of 20 paper straws and only 1 metre of tape, which was difficult! We also made a rollercoaster which was stressful, but we used teamwork and we persevered with it, and our group was the first to make a working loop too. Overall, I would really recommend doing it if you get the chance."

We continue to seek out new challenges and experiences for our students, aiming to inspire young minds and create long term aspirations.

Mr White, Able and Ambitious Co-ordinator

Uniform expectations

Friern Barnet Uniform/PE Kit Reminder

You must have black/ charcoal trousers, and they must be **tailored**, which means **no** leggings, jeggings, yoga pants or jogging bottoms.



You must have a black polo shirt with the school logo and striped loose shorts or track suit bottoms. Sports leggings are allowed but **thin** leggings are not!
No cycling shorts/ hot pants!



You must have a navy jumper/ cardigan with the school logo.



Shoes must be **ALL** black leather/ leather look.

Our uniform list can be found on our website [Uniform - Friern Barnet School -](#)

Wellbeing for students

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

1. 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.
2. You can also access lots of support via Firefly, go to *Resources on Firefly => Resilient Schools => Mental Health Support*
3. Take a look at our school website for support with mental health and wellbeing: [Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing - Friern Barnet School -](#)
4. Stay safe and know that there is lots of support available if you need it.

Feel like you could use some emotional support?

No problem is too small at Kooth. Explore our mental wellbeing community for free, safe and anonymous support.



Sign up for free at [Kooth.com](#)

The holiday period can be difficult for some. If you need support during the Easter break, or if someone you know needs extra mental wellbeing support during the holiday season Kooth is still available.

Go to [kooth.com](#) to chat to a practitioner today or to find out more about support.



Support for parents and carers | Barnet Council

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 Term 2026



ARP				
Nicole 7B	Madison 8A	Orly 9A	JJ 10A	
Art				
Samantha 7B	Olivia 8B	Yana 9F	Ava 10E	Jessica 11B
Business				
			Elin 10C	Lusjana 11C
Computing				
Arwa 7A	Mojtaba 8A	Klara 9E		
Computer Science				
			Henry 10F	Behrad 11C
Dance				
Elijah 7D	Kianna 8B	CJ 9E	Luna 10B	Lois 11E
Design and Technology				
Wilf 7B	Ola 8B	Ameera 9F	Chloe 10D	Mario 11A
Drama				
Marlie 7D	Annabelle 8E	Mustafa 9E	Lai 10C	Emma 11C
English				
Oliver 7E	Maida 8A	Besida 9E	Erin 10E	Maia 11E
Film Studies				
			Ali 10A	Andreea 11E

High Achievers Awards for Spring Term 2026



Food Preparation and Nutrition				
Mia 7D	Adele 8A	Rafael 9F	Maria Beyonce 10B	Hana 11C
French				
Jay 7A	Eve 8A	Linda 9A	Thomas 10B	Kamelia 11C
Geography				
Alex 7B	Elsa 8E	Safa 9D	Hudson 10F	Salma 11A
History				
Archie 7D	Thenuka 8D	Sead 9B	Baqer 10D	Ana 11C
Learning Support				
Louisa 7E	Xander 8B	Louis 9F	Leo 10E	Josiah 11C
Mathematics				
Rio 7B	Gaja 8E	Tatsuma 9A	Yulia 10F	Yuka 11B
Media Studies				
			Jess 10C	Daniella 11A
Music				
Alexandra 7B	Dylan 8B	An Xin 9D	Josh 10F	James 11C
PE				
Hanna 7B	Ethan 8A	Sofia 9A	Amelia 10E	Davide 11E
Harrison 7E	Shannice 8A	Tristan 9C	Itamar 10C	Sheila 11D
Religious Studies				
Tal 7D	Melissa 8A	Aleena 9F	Riayana 10E	Chloe 11C
Science				
Hannah 7B	Asa 8B	Joseph 9E		
Combined Science				
			Paris 10A	Jordy 11C
Biology				
			Avantika 10B	Conor 11B
Chemistry				
			Maggie 10A	Paulina 11
Physics				
			Evie 10A	Leonardo 11C
Spanish				
Julia 7D	Sirin 8D	Destiny 9E	Kiara 10F	Jazlynn 11D



CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS IN THE 2026 10X CHALLENGE



We are delighted to share the exciting outcomes of this year's 2026 10x Challenge—a dynamic enterprise initiative that brought out the creativity, resilience, and business acumen of our students. Over the past four weeks, participating students were each given £10 and challenged to develop and grow their own businesses. From ideation to execution, they demonstrated remarkable commitment, innovation, and teamwork while applying real-world skills such as financial management, marketing, problem-solving, and communication. Throughout the challenge, we witnessed an impressive range of business ideas—from carnival games to food stalls—each reflecting the entrepreneurial spirit of our students. The experience has not only been engaging but also invaluable in preparing them for future opportunities.

We are especially proud to present the final leaderboard, showcasing the outstanding achievements of our top-performing teams:

10th place Profit: £53 	9th place Profit: £53.78 	8th place Profit: £56.20
7th place Profit: £59.15 	6th place Profit: £68.45 	5th place Profit: £77.40
4th place Profit: £83.57 	3rd place Profit: £85.80 	2nd place Profit: £93.53
1st place Profit: £103.50 	Profit: £103.50 	

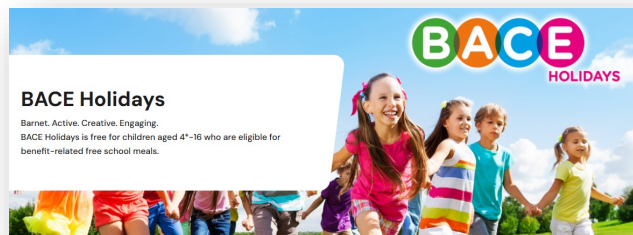
Activities during the summer holidays

BACE Holidays stands for Barnet. Active. Creative. Engaging. Holidays!

[Barnet-Youth-Spring-2026-Magazine.pdf](#)



[Barnet Youth – Child and Family Early Help Service - Positive Activities - Positive Activities](#)



[Barnet 0-19 Early Help Service - BACE Holidays](#)



Is your child a young carer?

A young person who supports or lives with someone with a disability, illness, addiction or any issue that affects their day to day living, whether it be a parent, sibling, family member or friend, that young person automatically qualifies as a young carer. At Barnet Young carers, we support and acknowledge their caring roles.

· All children, once registered, will receive a Leisure pass for FREE swimming and discounted sessions within Better Gyms in the Barnet and surrounding areas. YC Parental Referral Form <https://barnetyoungcarers.org.uk/parental-referral/>

A 1:2:1 mentoring programme which gives them the opportunity to meet with a qualified mentor (most of who

have themselves been young carers) to boost confidence and offer emotional and moral support.

Activities in school holidays e.g. theme park trips, theatre trips, arts and crafts courses, kayaking courses and much more. (once registered, you will automatically receive notifications of events).

Please complete the above referral form to register your child/ren. For any questions or queries, please feel free to contact me at any time on;

Email; Sandra.Langham@barnetcarers.org
07955 286087

[Barnet Young Carers | supporting all young carers in Barnet](#)

Year 8 trip

On 18 March our Year 8 students enjoyed a truly memorable ice skating trip, filled with laughter, teamwork, and new experiences. The day began with a beautiful walk through the park, where the glorious sunshine set the perfect tone for what was to come. Spirits were high as students chatted, strengthened friendships and built new connections along the way.

At the ice rink, it was a delight to see everyone supporting one another. Whether they were steady on their skates or finding their balance for the very first time, students showed remarkable encouragement and kindness. For some, this was their first experience of ice skating, and it was wonderful to witness their determination as they bravely moved away from the sides and challenged themselves to improve.

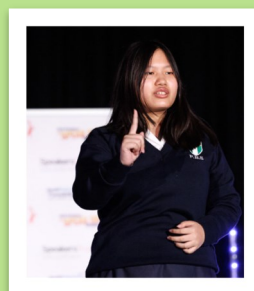
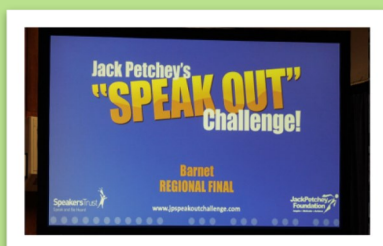
The trip was not only a chance to try something new, but also an opportunity for students to grow in confidence, resilience, and cooperation. The joy on their faces said it all, this was a day full of achievement, laughter, and shared success.

We are incredibly proud of how Year 8s represented the school, and we look forward to many more experiences like this in the future.



Jack Petchev Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals

The Barnet Regional Final took place on 4 February at Hendon School and it was a fantastic celebration of young people sharing their stories and ideas. Congratulations to Elin and Ava in Year 10 for representing Friern Barnet School.



Thank you

A big, heartfelt hank you from FBS for all your wonderful donations for charity.



£335.81 raised for Children in Need

[We're there for you- BBC Children in Need](#)



£135.00 raised for Barnet Young Carers

[Barnet Young Carers | supporting all young carers in Barnet](#)

School lockers

Please click the link: www.locker.rentals to purchase a locker

secure locker rental
thinking outside the box

Two simple ways to rent your locker

Simple, safe, secure...

Visit www.locker.rentals **or** **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 locker 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 reissued by visiting www.locker.rentals and clicking on the re-issue my locker code link.

For all other enquiries, please email enquiries@securelockerrental.uk

Secure Locker Rental Limited, Suite A, 82 James Carter Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7CE
01493 300000-0435



We use the Firefly Parent Portal to inform parents/carers about their child's learning, progress and achievements. We are expecting 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 electronic school report
- View your child's timetable including their current and next lessons
- View your child's home learning
- Keep your personal contact details up to date

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

[Firefly Parent Portal - Friern Barnet](#)

School Shop

Parents/carers can buy revision guides, stationery items, and school ties on our School Shop. The link can be found under the Parents and Students menu on the website or click on the link below:



[Friern Barnet School \(parentpay.com\)](https://parentpay.com)

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 10.30am to allow students to be able to buy lunch on the same day. We recommend topping up over the weekend as ParentPay can be busy on Monday mornings sometimes causing delays with payments.

Just a reminder, when making payments can we ask you not to use the 'One click' payment 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'.

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 £2.86 a day. Parents/Carers are welcome to top up their lunch accounts.

Help - if your child needs help with their pin code, finger 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.

Reminders and notices

Dates to Remember

13 April	First day of Summer Term 1
17 April and 1 May	Year 8 HPV vaccinations
20—24 April	Year 10 Work Experience week
30 April	Year 7 Virtual Parents' Evening
4 May	May Day Bank holiday
7 May	Start of GCSE exams
25 to 29 May	Half term
1 June	First day of Summer Term 2
10 June	Sports Day
17 July	Last day of Summer Term

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

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 Mr Robinson, Assistant Head Teacher. Please fill in a leave of absence form and email it, in advance, to school@friern.barnet.sch.uk

Medication at school

Parents/Carers must complete and return a medical form to the main office when their child requires medication. All medication must be supplied by the parent/carer and needs to be in its original packaging including the prescription label. All medication, including pain medication or antihistamines, need to be stored in Student Services. **Students should not be carrying around any medication in their bags or taking medication without staff supervision.**

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/The Ridgeway, N11, from 8.00 - 9.00 am and 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.

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.