

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

It is hard not to feel festive at this time of year in school, with the House Christmas Tree competition, the Christmas Card competition, Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumper Day and the Christmas Show. There are so many staff and students involved in making these activities a success and they all deserve great praise and thanks.

At this time of year I am reminded of my late grandmother, she was a great story teller and would fill our minds with imagination and wonder, as well as telling my sisters and I about life growing up in large family in Ireland. Times could be hard but the family spirit and particularly the Christmas spirit they had, meant that the household was full of love and laughter. She told me of a lovely story about a very poor family who could not afford any presents at Christmas. On Christmas Eve, they all went to bed in pretty low spirits. Unbelievably, when they woke up on Christmas morning, there was a mound of presents under the tree. They tried to control themselves at breakfast, but finished their meals in record time. Then the fun began. The mother went first. The family surrounded her in anticipation, and when she opened her package, she saw that she had been given an old shawl that she had 'misplaced' several months earlier. The father got an old axe with a broken handle. One of the girls got her old slippers. One of the boys got a pair of patched and wrinkled trousers. Another got a hat, the same hat he thought he had left in a restaurant. Each old cast-off came as a total surprise and the room was filled with excitement and anticipation for the gifts. The family couldn't work out where the gifts had come from. Until one of the boys owned up. For several months, he had been hiding away things that were 'missing'. Then, on Christmas Eve, after everyone had gone to bed, he had quietly wrapped up the presents and placed them under the tree. The family remembered this as one of the finest Christmases they ever had.

At a time where Christmas spirit can sometimes go awry; it is important to note that presents, toys and gifts may well be forgotten but acts of kindness will always be remembered. I wish all the students, families and staff at EBS a wonderful and festive break.

L. Swaine, Headteacher

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Harry Hodgkinson whose winter landscape painting was chosen to be the front image for the EBS Christmas Card this year! There were some great images submitted by other students, and Ms Swaine had a difficult choice to make!

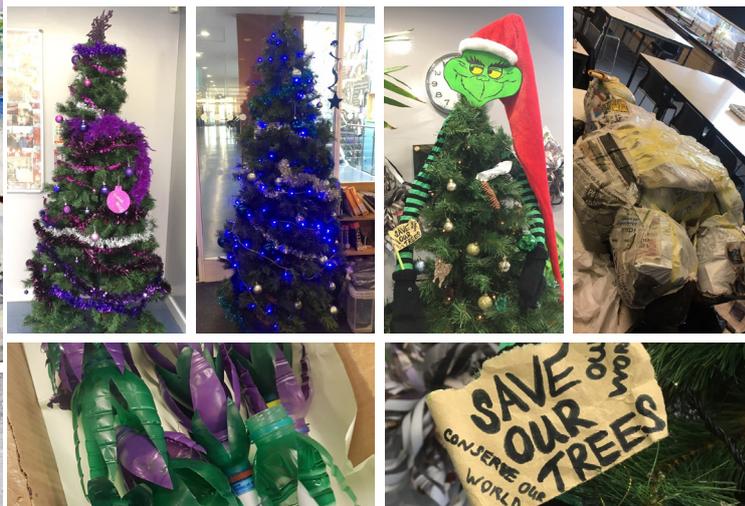


Well done to all the runners-up!
 A: Kiara Hodosi-Leon
 B: Amelie Usher
 C: Hamid Zarifi
 D: Milo Manning Beale



CHRISTMAS TREES ARE NEARLY READY

The House Christmas Tree Competition is currently in full flow with students and House Ambassadors gearing up for Judgement Day this Monday! This year, each House was tasked with decorating the trees and allocated spaces with their own decorations made from re-cycled materials to promote our Green Team's action against climate change. All Houses have been busy producing decorations ranging from intricate stars made from magazines, a giant Olaf Snowman and Christmas Trees from recycled plastic bottles. We look forward to seeing the finished articles on Monday!



THE REINDEERS ARE BACK!

The EBS reindeer are back again this year by popular demand. If you missed out last year, now is your chance to own one - details on the school website! We also have some other Christmas items!



MORE CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS!



The Barnet Championships took place last Thursday at Allianz Park. Our students were fantastic and achieved some amazing results. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent Barnet at the Middlesex championships:

Yr 7: Hannah Hindmarch, Yr 8: Tommy Narvaez-White, Yr 9: Daniel Banyard, Yr 11: Elena Roncarati, Senior Boys: Dylan Hepworth

STUDENT LEADERS DELIVER WORKSHOP

On Monday 9th December, Anthea Lambi (9C), Ayanda Mthabela (9A), Kelsey Laws (9A) and James Adelagun (7D) organised and carried out a creative writing picture book session for Year 5 Primary School students. They lead discussions and delivered activities related to picture book organising and picture book research. The Leaders then helped the younger students design and make their own picture book with the help of our Writer in Residence Caroline Green. "We liked interacting with the children and hoped that they enjoyed it as much as we did. We hope to do more in the future possible with a new theme. A big thank you to Caroline Green and Mr Carrington for helping us organise and carry out the session." - Anthea Lambi. Well done to all four leaders who were a credit to EBS!



DO YOU HAVE ANY SWEET TINS TO SPARE?

The Food Department would be really grateful for any donations of empty large (650g) sweet tins/boxes (e.g. Celebrations, Heroes, Quality Street, etc.). Thank you!

UNIFORM AFTER CHRISTMAS



Don't forget, trousers with the green background are acceptable, those with the red are not. Also, whilst students may have their nails done over the festive period they can not have painted/false nails on their return to school.

BEST ATTENDERS OF THE WEEK!

Year 7: **7H** with **98.52%** ● Year 10: **10H** with **96.77%** ●
 Year 8: **8B** with **98.67%** ● Year 11: **11E** with **94.23%** ●
 Year 9: **9E** with **99.00%** ●

Well done to each of these forms - keep it up! Remember:

'Every school day counts'.

Congratulations to Chama who have three forms at the top - Tutu are still hanging in there though with two! Don't forget to pick up your tokens from your Head of House.

A CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

A massive thank you to all students that contributed to the huge donation of goods for Homeless Action in Barnet. Our Sixth Form Fundraising Ambassadors have been busy over the past few weeks promoting the Christmas Collection and their hard work paid off this week when a large hoard of goods was collected from all four Houses. A special well done to Keller House who managed to contribute the largest amount of goods for the charity. HAB were surprised at the amount of goods that EBS donated and thanked us wholeheartedly for our "exceptional donation". For over 20 years HAB have been providing help for people who are homeless in Barnet. Their core aim is to bring about positive change in the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and help them plan for and realise a better future. If you wish to make further donations or find out more about HAB please visit their website [here](http://www.homelessaction.org.uk).

A special thanks goes to our Sixth Form Ambassadors Berhan Keraaziz, Ella Moss, Katie-Mia Diamandi, Krishnaa Sodha and Evie Craggs (pictured outside centre) who helped to deliver the goods to the HAB centre on Thursday. A huge thank you to Mrs Irish for organising and coordinating the collection on behalf of the school.



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We're still here to help over the festive season

24/7 access to self-help materials and daily online counselling available over the holiday period

Chat to friendly counsellors online, 565 days a year

Read self-help articles written by other young people

Join peer-to-peer support forums



PTFA AGM: 14th January at 7:30pm. All parents and carers welcome and there is a chance to see how you can support the school and all the students.

DO THE RIGHT THING!

Congratulations to all the Do the Right Thing winners from the last two weeks!

2nd December 2019

Yr 7: James Traynor
 Yr 8: Sofia Marino
 Yr 10: Charlie Church
 Yr 11: Emily Foster
 Sixth Form: Neo Merkis, Sophie Roberts and Leah Haghighi

9th December 2019

Yr 7: Zoe Sandford
 Yr 8: Rose Solomou
 Yr 10: Madeliene Dalton
 Yr 11: Scarlett Keeshan-Surriddge
 Sixth Form: Hartman Chen

