

## ELEPHANTS IN CAPTIVITY

During the Sixth Form Open Evening last week, I was reminded of a favourite story of mine - one about elephants in captivity. Captive elephants are often tied by a chain to a small stake. It is obvious that these powerful animals could easily break the chain or uproot the stake; the elephants can break free at any time, but for some reason, they do not. I discovered that when the elephants are very young and much smaller, their captors use a small chain and small stake to keep them captive, and at such a young age, the flimsy chain and stake is enough to hold them. At first the small elephants try to walk off, but eventually they learn that such efforts are futile, so stop trying. Even when they grow strong enough to break free – they do not. The elephants think they know they are trapped so they never try to break free again. The real binding is not physical but mental.

Like the elephant, many people spend their lives believing that there are things that they can't do because they failed at it once or had a bad experience. Here at EBS, we encourage students out of their comfort zone and support them to realise that with motivation, hard work and resilience, (sprinkled with a little kindness), anything is possible. A sprinkling of EBS kindness was reported to me this week: a local doctor called the school to inform us that three of our students helped an elderly lady who had fallen and called an ambulance for her. The doctor informed us that without the pupils' assistance the lady would be in a much more serious situation, but she is making a speedy recovery. We often hear of young people being a nuisance in today's society, but we are proud of the positive actions our students take.

*"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."* - Aristotle

L. Swaine, Headteacher

## LETTER FROM BARNET HEADTEACHERS

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Headteachers and Governors of the nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in Barnet are committed to providing a world class education for your children. We have, for some time now, developed powerful and effective partnerships which see us working together to secure high quality provision across all of our schools.

We are concerned that current levels of funding are now seriously threatening this high quality provision.

On 23rd November 2018, Headteacher representatives met with Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, and Mike Freer, MP for Finchley and Golders Green, and presented a briefing paper, setting out a number of points. As a group, we are now sharing this with you and hope that you will be able to support our endeavours in raising awareness of our concerns at every possible opportunity by contacting government and local council officials. You can read the paper by clicking [here](#).

In particular, we believe that contacting your local MP and raising your concern might have an impact. You can contact Theresa Villiers at [theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk](mailto:theresa@theresavilliers.co.uk). Schools and governors alike are determined that quality, and inclusive provision should be protected and would like to hear from you if you feel you can help us in that endeavour.

With Kind Regards,  
L. Swaine, Headteacher

## REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE REMINDER

Please remind your child to bring in a reusable water bottle, which they can refill from the water coolers positioned around the building, free of charge. An increasing number of students are missing the beginning of lessons asking for plastic single-use cups, which is also bad for the environment. It is important that students have access to water during the day to maintain their wellbeing and to remain alert and engaged in lessons. Bottled water is also available to purchase from the canteen and outside food kiosk at breaktimes.



## JONNY GELLER (CURTIS BROWN, CEO) VISIT



Jonny Geller is Joint CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of the company Curtis Brown and Managing Director of the books division. The company has a long and illustrious history as a world renowned Literary Agency representing many of the most famous figures of the literary and political world throughout the twentieth century including Winston Churchill, John Steinbeck, Samuel Beckett, AA Milne and DH Lawrence. Many great authors have passed through the portal of Curtis Brown in their careers, and many of these remain clients to this day. EBS was extremely lucky to secure such a prestigious speaker for our Year 10s, 12s and 13s through the charity [Speakers For Schools](#).

Jonny's speech was very inspiring covering the work of a Literary Agent as well as general tips about working in the creative industries. Literary agents represent authors and sell authors' books to publishers. They also represent TV programmes and musical theatre as well as actors. Jonny received 150,000 manuscript novels in the post last year, but obviously not all were suitable to be published. His job is to spot those that might make it! A debut novel could be worth £5000 to £500,000. We were told that 190,000 books were published last year in the UK and that adults generally read 5-10 books every year.

To find out more about his visit, please check out the story on the school website by clicking [here](#).

A. Cobb Librarian & G. Carrington

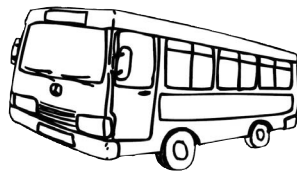
## RECRUITING NOW!

We are currently recruiting. If you would like to join our team, please click [here](#) to see all details on the school website.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BUS USERS

A reminder to parents that if your child travels to and from school on the bus, then they must have a valid 11-15 Zip Oyster photocard or a 16+ Zip oyster photocard. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that their child has one as per the information supplied on the TfL website. Failure to present a valid oyster card can result in your child being asked to get off the bus. If the oyster card has been lost, then a new one has to be applied for. In using the oyster card, you must ensure your child adheres to the Behaviour Code set out in the terms and conditions of use.



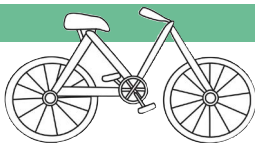
## COLD WEATHER



As the weather gets colder and potentially wetter, can I request that students wear appropriate outdoor coats to stay warm and dry whilst they are outside for morning and lunchtime break as well as when travelling to and from school.

## ROAD SAFETY & BICYCLES

With the darker evenings, it is important for students to be aware of traffic when crossing the road and using bicycles to get to and from school. Please encourage your child to use their bicycle sensibly and with consideration to other road users. We will be covering road safety with KS3 in PSHEE session next week and we will follow this up with a Road Safety drama presentation on Friday 7th December for all Year 7s.



## EAST BARNET SCHOOL PTA

Please join us at your annual **PTA AGM** being held on Tuesday 4th December at 7pm, when PTA officials will be elected. We are inviting nominations for the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; please submit nominations for any of these positions by Monday 3rd December. The PTA are looking to change to a Parent Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) which will allow a wider group to support our activities and also be able to be nominated as officials. This is under consultation and will also be discussed at the AGM.



**Be a winner**  
with our very own lottery!

**PTA LOTTERY:**  
5 winners were drawn at the November Quiz night – including the £300 top prize won by Sue D – Congratulations!!  
October & November's winning numbers were: 46 (£300), 111 (£50), 67 (£25), 85 (£25) & 53 (£15). It could be you next month! If you want to be in with a chance of winning one of December's 3 monthly prizes, you can join and have a little fun whilst supporting your school. Only £15 for one number for the year, 11 monthly draws x 3, payable via ParentPay. December's draw will be made at the PTA AGM.

Do you know "Mrs J Allen or Dr Allen" who have previously been associated with the school or may have attended an event? If you do, please contact the PTA on [pta@eastbarnetschool.com](mailto:pta@eastbarnetschool.com) as we have some good news for them!

## STARTING YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING ONLINE?

Sign up now to the Giving Machine! Click [here](#) for more info.

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO EBS!

Students should sign up on the list with their Form Tutor next week for Christmas Lunch which will be during the last week of term. Please make sure that your child's ParentPay lunch account is always in credit.

# East Barnet School

Book with your Form Tutor by Tuesday 11th for

# Christmas Lunch

## Thurs. 20th December

### Christmas Menu:

Fresh free-range Turkey (Halal option available)

or Mediterranean Vegetable Wellington

### Accompanied by:

"Pigs in Blankets", stuffing balls, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding  
seasonal vegetables & gravy

Followed by a selection of Seasonal Desserts



**£3.20**

pre-booked students only

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas  
from the Catering Team

**SCHOOL DINNER PRICE:** Due to rising costs, please note that the price for a Hot Main Meal Deal and Dessert will increase by 10p to £2.50 per day from January 2019.

## WRITER IN RESIDENCE YEAR 7 TALK



Caroline Green, our very own Writer In Residence, spoke to all of Year 7s last Monday 12th November. Caroline talked about her inspiration as both a Young Adult writer and also compared writing for children with writing books for adults which she now does as well. She said it is harder to write for children than it is for adults! In her previous career as a

journalist Caroline went under cover to investigate a story and even interviewed one of the astronauts involved in the moon landings! Caroline has written four Young Adult books including *Dark Ride*, *Cracks*, *Fragments* and *Hold Your Breath* (all available in the Library). To find out more about the event, please click [here](#).

## BEST ATTENDERS OF THE WEEK!

Year 7: **7A** with **99.33%**

Year 10: **10F** with **94.17%**

Year 8: **8H** with **98.28%**

Year 11: **11D** with **97.20%**

Year 9: **9B** with **97.14%**

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

**'Every school day counts'.**