

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back, I hope you had a wonderful break. I was delighted to hear from some of our Year 9 students that their holiday was too long and that they had missed us! The term has started positively, students look smart and have come back with a good attitude. This term is an important one; with the impending exams. We have seen the return of focused, determined and hard-working students; many of whom were in over the two-week break in intervention to consolidate their learning. Like with everything in life, preparation is key. We have been preparing the students, but it is imperative that students put the hours of work in at home, that they eat well and sleep well. Please ensure that your child is working hard at home and seek out any additional support that we can offer. We look forward to what is set to be a fantastic term.

L. Swaine, Headteacher

SISTER ACT WAS AN ABSOLUTE TRIUMPH! HALLELUJAH!



Our production of *Sister Act* was amazing - and you can quote me on that. At a time when few other schools even attempted to stage a theatrical production, our incredible kids did THAT! In all honesty, we should haven't done it. It was a complete nightmare, but was all utterly worth it. The difficulty of getting everyone together was such that the first time we had the whole cast together was the second performance! This is the fourth musical I have directed at EBS and it has undoubtedly left me with the most pride. At first glance, it's simple - singing nuns being chased by gangsters. How tough can that be? In reality, this show is really hard! The students resiliently tackled an extremely difficult vocal score, with fast lyrics, and even faster dance moves.

Alan Menken's songs are challenging and written for a professional singer - luckily, we have one in the extraordinary Scarlett Irish. The only thing that matches Scarlett's talent is her work ethic. From the start of the rehearsal

process, she led the company with focus and zero ego - the perfect role model for the next generation of EBS performers. Scarlett's portrayal of Deloris van Cartier was superbly sung, skilfully navigating the arc of the journey that the character undertakes, and more than anything, extremely funny. She's got funny bones. Deloris meets her match in this play in the form of Mother Superior, played gleefully by the equally indomitable, Eleanor Rachel. To me, the overarching theme of *Sister Act* is friendship - particularly female friendship - and these two great friends embody it completely. That the culmination of Eleanor and Scarlett's time together at EBS is the building of Deloris and Mother Superior's trust and understanding was perfect, and a total privilege to observe.

Arjun Patel played the role of 'Sweaty' Eddie Souther to perfection; his bumbling Police Officer with a huge crush on Deloris and a soulful desire to be 'that guy' to make her happy.

Arjun's big solo number, complete with the miraculous costume change from Police uniform to John Travolta-style white suit as he hit an impossible high note was a wonderful highlight. The nuns of the Queen of Angels convent were absolute joy. Their transformation from out-of-tune rabble of eccentrics to funky soul Sisters was joyous and hilarious. From the quirky humour of Sofia Casotti, the masterful rapping of Anna Volstad, and the fact that Lottie Rachel only fell over once this time, the levels of performance that were achieved by all of the nuns cannot be overstated.

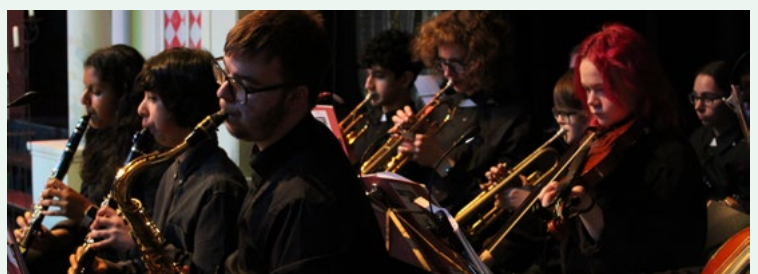
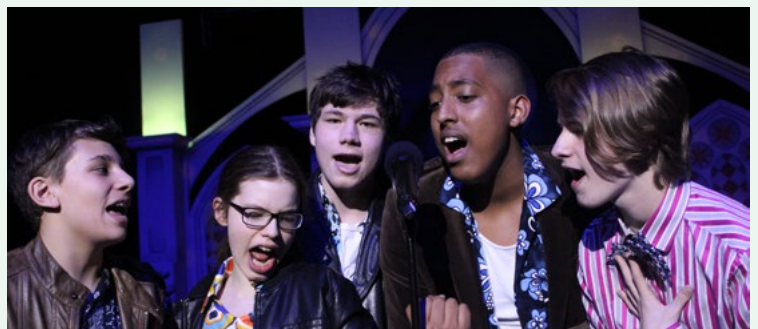
In pursuit of Deloris was the Cameron Molloy and his incompetent gang. They were adorable and hilarious, particularly as they enacted their plan to seduce their way into the convent with the song 'Lady in the Long Black Dress'. The boys worked so hard on their songs and scenes from day one of rehearsal and had the audience braced for laughter each time they walked on

stage. In addition, a special mention needs to go to Charlie Taylor, who stepped in very late in the rehearsal period to play the role of Monsignor O'Hara and did so brilliantly. He saved us, and is now our totally favourite person.

I always say that the ultimate quality of a show is dictated by the small moments that come from a committed and focussed ensemble, and this bunch were fantastic. They brought the energy and fun to Sister Act, especially with The Hustle, and their rapturous receptions for the Pope!

This show was a great big baptism of fire for Ms Gough, who came into school and found herself as Musical Director of an over-ambitious show, with an orchestra that didn't really exist. Along with the living legend that is Mrs Eustace, a new young orchestra was somehow found and raised to the great heights that we all witnessed in Sister Act. What our Music Department consistently manages to achieve never ceases to amaze me!

Many more acknowledgements need to be made to those without whom the whole simply would not have happened. Ms Buczman pushed the dancers to results that we didn't know they could achieve, and Ms Carnegie-Gomez was my ever-reliable sounding-board and barometer for judgement on my many bad ideas. If you laughed at the gang, it's because of the work and dedication of Mr Steele, who came into school on his days off many times in order to rehearse with the cast. In keeping with our belief in student leadership, the costumes were designed and co-ordinated by Katie Creaghan, a superb Year 13 student of Drama and Textiles, who is going on to study Costume Design at Wimbledon College of Art. We will watch her career closely! Alice and Katie Nicotra worked wonders on lighting and sound, while Samuel Board ran the sound and mics backstage.



I was delighted that our former student James Baker agreed to return and lead a team of younger students through the Stage Management of the show, passing on his experience and professionalism to the next generation of people who wear all black that you never see but are just as important as all of the actors.

I'm sure you will agree that the set for the show was extraordinary. The realisation the design was made possible by the huge brain of our Artist-in-Residence, John Williams and the unparalleled skill of Mr Boast. Honestly Mr Boast is just the greatest. Props were designed and created by the evergreen Mrs Chandler, and Ms Sabourin (the latter of which I shamefully forgot to thank at the final performance).

The final acknowledgement had to go to Mr Potter, without whom we would have been singing quietly in the dark. His effort, energy, sheer persistence dragged me through the tough moments and inspired the best ones.

After two years of pain for the theatre industry, it feels so good to be back and sharing the unique communal feeling that only theatre can create. I've never experienced an emotional response to a show as I did from the cast and crew of Sister Act. It was an extremely special show, by an extremely fabulous group of people. We miss it already. See you next year.

Mr Messios, Head of Drama

85 YEAR CELEBRATIONS ARE STARTING



In the last edition of EBS News, we told you about our 85th birthday year and how we were going to be celebrating. Well, the celebrations are starting next Wednesday 27th April. We are rolling back the clock to when we first opened, and our wonderful Chef Manager has created a menu - based on an interview with a 90 year old neighbour - that reflects those early years, that will hopefully still be appealing to our students today. This was the war period, and in fact, the school was closed for a time as the EBS boys helped to build Anderson Shelters in the local area. Fast forward to today, and we will be decorating the Kitchen with posters from WWII; some of the messages have become relevant again today, such as, make do and mend, and grow your own vegetables. To create the right atmosphere we will also be playing some wartime music, (think Vera Lynn), but definitely no air raid sirens!



SUMMER FAYRE UPDATE

A huge thank you to everyone that responded to our email to put up estate agent boards. Our target was originally 30 boards and we have hit it! Mantle Estates who we are partnering with for this initiative have said we can keep going, so our new target is 50 - if you haven't got involved yet, but would like to, then please email 85@eastbarnetschool.com. Don't forget, it can be anyone in the community, so if you have any local friends, in-laws, parents, etc, just ask them to email us if they are happy to support this vital fundraising. If you missed our email over the Easter Break, here it is:

1 minute to spare
Clear your diary and pen us in for Saturday 25th June 11am - 4pm!

2 minutes to spare
With 2 minutes to spare, you could make a cuppa and send an email to 85@eastbarnetschool.com and let us know you want an ESTATE AGENT BOARD - that's it!

5 minutes to spare
If you have 5 minutes, why not speak to your employer about MATCH FUNDING or SPONSORSHIP. You could even SPONSOR us via your own business! Send an email to 85@eastbarnetschool.com when confirmed!

10 minutes to spare
With 10 minutes, you could nag your children (and their friends) to have a clear-out and take a BRIC-à-BRAC TABLE for only £5! If you want to book, send us an email 85@eastbarnetschool.com - sorted!

5 hours to spare
If you are free on 25th June you could have your own clear-out and run a CARBOOT or perhaps you own a small business and you would like to showcase and sell on your OWN STALL?
Either way, drop us an email at 85@eastbarnetschool.com for more info!

EAST BARNET SCHOOL

HEAD OF HOUSE UPDATE

This term **Mr Steele joins the team as Head of Chama House**. He joins: **Mr Davies - Head of Keller House**, **Ms Brady - Head of Murray House**, **Miss Kerr - Head of Tutu House**.

As we enter the Summer term, which is going to be full of opportunities to gain House Points, I wish all the Houses the very best of luck!

D. Bailey, School Lead on Houses

WE ARE RECRUITING!

We have a some really exciting vacancies on our website for teaching roles, just waiting to be filled by the right people. If you, or someone you know is a Maths, Science or D&T specialist, we would love to hear from you. Due to promotion, we also have a rare opportunity for an Assistant Headteacher. All close soon though! For more information [click here](#).



PTFA CHANGES

Following on from our PTFA questionnaire that was sent a couple of months ago, we are making some changes to the PTFA and the offerings that are made. The first of these changes is that the PTFA Lottery in it's current format is stopping. If you are already a player, you should have received notification of this from the PTFA directly. Draws will take place in April/May and then June/July, with usual methods of notification. Any monies paid in over the coming weeks will be refunded.

The PTFA lottery is a great way for us to fundraise, but we are taking some time to look at the way we can run it more effectively. With this in mind, we do anticipate that a school lottery will return in the future. When we have decided the way in which it is going to be run, we will be in touch with further details, and we hope that many of you will be happy to support us again in that way.



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