

THE FESTIVE SPIRIT IS HERE!

As we approach the close of this eventful term and look forward to the festive holidays, it's a pleasure to share some highlights of our vibrant school community. Our Winter Concert on Tuesday was a resounding success, showcasing the incredible talents of our students. The dedication and enthusiasm on display were truly heartening. From solo performances to African drumming, the range of talent on display was truly phenomenal. A big thank you to everyone who participated, attended, and contributed to the wonderful atmosphere. The Christmas Lunch was an extraordinary affair! The delicious aromas, the laughter and the festive cheer filled our dining hall. We would like to extend our thanks to our amazing catering team for the culinary delights that had queues stretching down the corridors. This was coupled with our annual Festive Jumper Day. Our school was a sea of winter hues and it was lovely to see students and staff alike embrace the joyous spirit of the season. As we break for the festive holidays next week, we encourage each of you to take a well-deserved break, spending quality time with loved ones, and embracing the joy that comes with this season of celebration. In closing, we want to express our gratitude to our dedicated staff, our supportive parents, and our fantastic students for making this term a memorable one. Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a rejuvenating break.

L. Coffill & R. Lashley Allen, Co-Headteachers

THE EBS WINTER CONCERT

The Winter Concert 2023 was a huge success. We were all super proud of the achievements of our students and it felt rather Christmassy too! There was a mixture of our regular musicians and some new faces which we look forward to watching grow. The performances of some of our KS4/5 students were truly outstanding and really inspired our younger musicians. There was a last-minute rush of ticket sales following our first day of technical rehearsals, when everything started to come together. Our students could see they were going to be part of something special and urged their friends and families to come along. The audience were great; they listened with respect then added supportive cheers and rapturous applause adding to the magical atmosphere of the whole evening. All of our students performed to an incredibly high standard and the technical team ensured the production side – sound, lighting, visuals and staging, ran like clockwork. Having said that, I would like to give a special mention to some stand-out performances; Nuria Mahony performed a complex jazz piano version of *Como Siento Yo* by R González with such feeling and expression I was covered in goosebumps. Hewad Baheer supported Emily Sexty's voice of an angel with a beautiful, emotional and very difficult accompaniment. So impressive. Alex Sandeman's arrangement of *A Cruel Angel's Thesis* by Shiro Sagisu was proof that he deserved the Music Award at this year's EBS Awards Ceremony. The tune stuck in our heads all night. The GCSE Music group raised the roof with their rendition of *Valerie*. It was tight, fun, lively and full of confidence. I can't wait to see what they come up with next! Samuel Board and Amelie Watson-Wade reminded us all just how talented they are by performing all the parts to their numbers by pre-recording their accompaniments which were played under their live parts on the night. Thank you to everyone who took part, all who came to support, and Barnet Windows for sponsoring our magical evening.

R. Gough, Head of Music



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR RAISED...



Thank you to everyone who attended the recent Library Scholastic Book Fair or enthusiastically participated as a Student Library Assistant. There was a real buzz around the collections and we managed to raise **£305.54** earning **£76.39** of rewards to spend on new library books. Woohoo!

WINTER JUMPER DAY RAISED...

On top of looking fantastic last week, our Winter Jumper Day raised over **£800** for Save the Children!



PTFA NEWSLETTER: If you missed it last week, the PTFA have launched a [brand new monthly newsletter](#). Please support them if you can!

TRUE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!



A huge thank you to Andy and the team at Greengrocer's Choice for donating a real Christmas Tree to EBS! Greengrocer's Choice is located just behind The Spires in Barnet and are currently selling trees, but sell fresh fruit and veg all year round! Check them out!

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR VISIT

A group of Year 8s successfully participated in the Inspire's Premier League Programme where they looked at ways to improve their wellbeing by developing life skills, resilience and motivation, particularly around future goals. As a reward the students got to visit the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Wednesday 13th December where they went on a stadium tour and attended workshops run by the Met Police and London Ambulance service. The feedback from both these services was fantastic and East Barnet students were praised on their impeccable behaviour.



FOOD DRIVE FOR BARNET!

Wow, what a great donation! Thank you to all of our families who kindly donated to the Chipping Barnet Foodbank. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by those in crisis in Barnet.



ENGLISH DECEMBER LECTURES

Year 13 English students had the opportunity to attend four lectures in December, delivered by leading theorists in the field of language study. One particular highlight was Deborah Cameron's session on Language and Misogyny. Students were able to experience university style learning and an enjoyable day was had by all!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT EBS

The EBS Kitchen put on an amazing spread for our Christmas Lunch! It was lucky we had any left, because that pesky Elf on the Shelf had been hiding in the kitchen for the last 24 hours! Fear not, he has now been safely rehomed for Christmas!



CHANGE IN COMMUNICATIONS

EAST BARNET SCHOOL

WAYS WE ARE CHANGING COMMUNICATION HOME

1 TUESDAY LETTERS



We will be sending a digital letter home weekly on Tuesdays with important updates.

2 MCAS NOTIFICATION

Parents/Carers will receive an MCAS notification of these Tuesday letters at approx. 5pm.



3 WEBSITE



Articles you would normally find in EBS News will now be in the 'top news' section of the website. No need to wait - check it out!

4 EBS NEWS

EBS News will now become an end of half-term summary of all the fun things we've been up to!



Yesterday we sent a letter home about the ways in which we are changing communications home. The letter is available in your 'Important Documents' on MCAS. An infographic has been included here for a clear overview of how communications will change in January 2024.

MCAS is the way we are communicating home, therefore it is very important to download the app, or login to the website, so you don't miss out on the exciting opportunities and important notices we have for you and the students.

If you are having any problems with using MCAS then please email mcas@eastbarnetschool.com for help from one of the support team.



EAST BARNET SCHOOL IMPORTANT NOTICES

We recognise that the school holidays can be a stressful time for some, please be aware that the Kooth helpline for students remains open over the break (with reduced hours) offering free, safe and anonymous support for young people, and Qwell is available for staff. In a crisis or for urgent help call 020 8702 4040

Kooth's live chat hours over the holiday period

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
25th December (Christmas Day) - 4pm - 8pm
26th December (Boxing Day) - 4pm - 8pm
31st December (New Years Eve) - 4pm - 8pm
1st January (New Years Day) - 4pm - 8pm

Other days over the holiday period will follow our usual live chat hours of 12pm - 10pm on weekdays and 6pm - 10pm on weekends.

kooth.com

kooth

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www.qwell.io

Qwell

MY SAY MATTERS - OPENS TODAY!

The 2024-26 national Youth Parliament and Barnet Youth Ambassador Scheme election process is opening today! All information required for students and parents is contained in this [candidate pack booklet](#). Application deadline is 25th Jan.

Barnet Youth Parliament and Youth Ambassador Elections 2024-2026

CANDIDATE PACK

Process starts on 15 December 2023
Scan the code to find out more!



EXAMINATION ETIQUETTE

Mock and REAL exams are running 9th – 19th January. Kindly help us keep the building quiet, by letting your child/children know that whilst they are moving between lessons, whether inside or outside (near the building) we need them to be respectful and mindful of their volume.

KITCHEN MENU CHANGES

In light of our sustainability goals, the Kitchen will be changing the menus next week. We are aiming to use up all of our ingredients so no food goes to waste - better for us, better for you and better for the planet. The food in the Kitchen is always fantastic, and what better way to finish the year than to have a surprise each day!

TOP TIPS FOR CHRISTMAS

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](#) for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company - but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... 'Tis the best time of year!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year - like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmas past? You could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Set down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary - you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parceling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for reading stories. Get cozy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris Van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering - perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Meet Anna, a digital design and cyber safety specialist with postgraduate qualifications in education. She can provide training and support to schools, colleges, universities, local authorities, employers and community groups. She also provides advice and support to individuals in their homes and workplaces where the number of people and personal is prioritized.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.12.2023

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: We aim to ensure that

students take responsibility for coming into school fully prepared for their day and would like to remind all parents/carers that we will not accept PE kits, work books, homework, etc in the main office. Whilst we understand that we are close to the end of a long term and students are tired, they must ensure that they have all they need for their day. I would kindly request parents/carers to remind their children to be prepared and appreciate your understanding and assistance. The Front Office

BACE WINTER - CLOSING SOON!

In receipt of benefit-related FSM? You will be eligible for BACE. Click [here](#) to book, click the image for the booklet!



MEDICATION FORM

In the letter sent home on Tuesday, you will have seen a notice about filling in a form if you would like our Medical Officer to administer medication to your child (prescription or non-prescription). These forms are now available on the [Parent/Carer page](#) on the EBS website.