



NEWSLETTER

15th July 2025

Upcoming:

Tuesday 15/07
Year 7 Kew Gardens Trip

Tuesday 15/07
Year 8 Bletchley Park

Tuesday 15/07
Year 9 Nuclear Mud Races at
Brentwood

Wednesday 16/07
End of Term Assembly at St Jude's

Wednesday 16/07
Last day of school (finish at 12:00pm)



Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems extraordinary to be writing to you at the end of my first year as Head at this wonderful school. Reflecting on that year, I feel both a deep pride and a deep gratitude for the estimable achievements, developments and opportunities which have been accomplished in the school community.

As you would expect, our students have had a year of intellectual stimulation in the classroom, extending their knowledge and curiosity, and we of course wish our Year 11 and 13 students enormous luck for their public exam results in August, when we hope they will feel their hard work has been rewarded and recognised. However, as we all know, the school is about so much more than this. Our students have jumped at every opportunity to enrich their understanding of themselves, the communities they are part of and their wider world, opportunities which have been provided through the school's commitment to holistic education and facilitated by the unwavering dedication and support of our excellent staff. In numerous school events, charity fundraising drives and our ever-growing army of volunteers, we have seen students exercise altruism, leadership and resourcefulness; in an array of superb music, drama, dance and art showcases, we have seen our students create, commit and collaborate; in local, regional, national and even international competitions in sports, technology, research, we have seen our students excel. And through membership of countless clubs and societies, and partaking in a huge range of trips, students have had the opportunity to apply theoretical skills in practical contexts, appreciate connection, representation and culture; and build new friendships. Beyond this, the school's commitment to pastoral support and wellbeing has been ever-present, with a real focus on consolidating strategies for positive mental health, countering academic anxiety and promoting peer connections. You will be able to read about these endeavours in even more detail in our school magazine for 2024-5, to be published in the coming days.

Donations to HBS Trust: <https://www.hbschool.org.uk/about-us/support-us/>

This year's edition of the school magazine has been compiled with the input of a student editorial team and contains a range of student-penned articles and artwork- a fitting reflection itself of the opportunities listed above.

The end of a school year is inevitably poignant as we say a fond farewell to some cherished members of staff. This term, we say goodbye to Ms. Conway-Mortimer, our school librarian - who has over the last three years, championed and celebrated reading cultures at all ages in the school. Dr. Gillott also moves on, and we thank him for his expert delivery of advanced and further mathematics, the passion he has shared with our students for his subject, and his staunch advocacy for the achievements of women in maths. And, after twenty years at the school, Mr. Chernick is leaving us for a well-deserved retirement. Formerly Head of Music, and currently Deputy Head of Music here, Mr. Chernick has inspired thousands of girls over the last two decades through his music teaching and leadership of a range of bands, orchestras, groups and choirs. It is a wrench to lose such a well-loved teacher - and institution! - of the school but we know that there will be many opportunities for him to join with us musically in future, and we look forward to those. We send all of our staff leavers our warmest wishes for the future.

As a school, we have moved forward this year in a number of ways - and it will have been apparent that there is an increased focus - and urgency - around fundraising for the school. Additional contributions from parents are very much needed in order to complement the centralised funding which does not at present fully support the ambition we have to maintain our beautiful (but expensive!) site, and renew, refresh and upgrade our resources and invest in learning opportunities for the future. We are truly grateful for the generous contributions of those who are able to contribute. We are mindful that it is important for you as parents to understand better how funds raised from the community are put into action to support our aims, and for this reason, Mrs. Hatcher has produced the first, of what we hope will be many, impact reports - so you can see where your contributions are going. Next year, we also look forward to sharing more of our targeted fundraising aims. In the meantime, I do please urge anyone who is not yet contributing but is able to, to sign up to a monthly contribution at:

<https://www.hbschool.org.uk/about-us/support-us/>

As you will see from the report, it really does make a tangible difference to what we can offer our students.

Next year looks set to be another exciting adventure; we will be building upon development aims established this year and starting to share and realise a revised set of school values more deeply, meaningfully and widely: authenticity, curiosity, endeavour, connection and kindness. I look forward to communicating with you further then. As we look forward to the next academic year, I encourage all students to continue to strive for learning, to be supportive of one another, and to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. But before that, of course, I wish you and your families a restful and joyous summer break.

Mrs E. MacLeod

Headteacher

www.hbschool.org.uk

My BAFTA Experience as a Finalist

A few months ago, I submitted my weekly computing homework... little did I know that I would become a finalist at BAFTA HQ for a Game Designer award! I was really surprised when I found out I was a finalist — especially because I've never thought of myself as a big gamer. What I did enjoy a lot was the art side: designing the characters and imagining the world of my game.

My game, “Reef Revival” is an adventure game about a little, pixelated yellow sea sponge called Spongy, who has to rebuild the Great Coral Reef after a huge storm sweeps him far from home. With help from his friends - Sheldon, a wise old clam, and Tilda the sea turtle - players gather coral, solve puzzles, and explore the ocean. There's one important rule: you can't touch the coral, or it dies. So, players must be clever and work as a team.

Going to the BAFTA HQ was amazing. It was great seeing my game up on display with so many other creative game ideas. It was even more exciting that two other HBS girls in my year were also finalists: kudos to Amy J. with “The EcoBots” and Beatriz S. with “Seashell Bay”. We're really proud of getting into the top 10, out of everyone who entered in the UK!



Making the video for the showcase and speaking to people from the industry was a bit nerve-wracking at first, but it turned out to be a lot of fun. I've learnt that even if I didn't start off as someone super into games, I really love the creative side of games which involves storytelling, characters, and graphic design.

Being part of YGD has made me think differently about what I enjoy and what I might want to do. Who knows? Maybe you'll be playing one of my games in the future...

Arabelle M, Year 7

Well done to the 5 HBS students who were finalists - Arabelle, Amy, Bia, Trisha, Jiya. Arabelle was also featured on BBC Newsround and you read her story here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cev4818ezpio>



Support for Children with Autism and SEN

BELS Autism Parent/Carer Summer Holiday Programme

For Information

Professionals and parents/carers will deliver modules designed to increase your knowledge and skills with understanding Autism and using practical strategies to support your child.

The criteria for accessing the free programme:

- Barnet Resident
- Child has a diagnosis of Autism
- Child is 0-6 years old

For further information and a link to sign-up

<https://admin.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/04%20BELS%20Autism%20Parent%20Carer%20programme%20Summer%20holidays%202025.pdf>

BACPAC: Barnet Autism Course for Parents And Carers

For Information

An Online Parent/Carer Training Course, Autumn Term 2025

A comprehensive training and support programme for parents/carers of children aged 6-19, with a diagnosis of Autism.

This course is available free of charge to families living in Barnet.

A 6-session online training course, covering topics including:

- An overview of what it means for your child to be Autistic
- Communication
- Sensory needs
- Understanding emotional regulation/'behaviour'

This course also gives parents/carers an opportunity to learn together online and share experiences.

Please see: <https://admin.barnet.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-07/03a%20BACPAC%20flyer%20Autumn%2025.pdf>

SEN Summer Activities

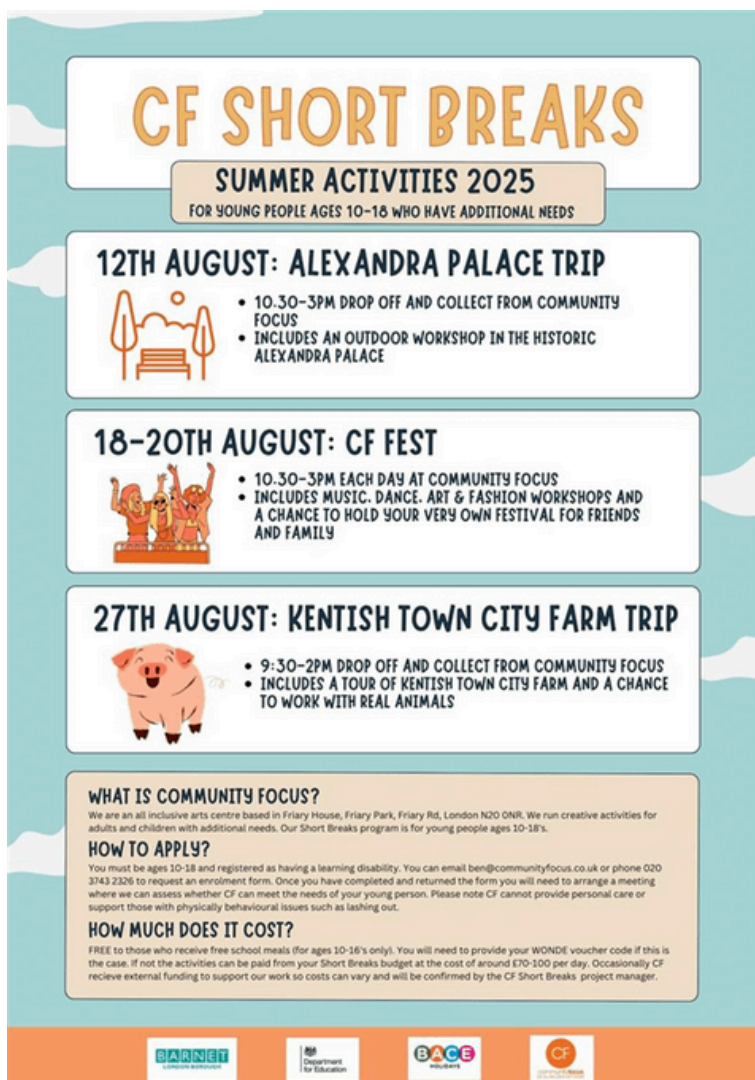
For Information

We would like to let you know about our Summer activities for young people aged 10-18 with autism and learning disabilities.

We are working again with Barnet Youth this Summer, as they will be covering the costs for young people with on Benefit Related Free School Meals with relevant WONDE vouchers, bookings of which will go live later this week.

For those not eligible, thanks to funding from John Lyon's Charity we are able to offer all other places at a reduced rate

We still have some spaces left, so if you haven't signed up yet, or know someone who would like to join us, now is the best time to! More information on our activities below.



CF SHORT BREAKS

SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2025
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 10-18 WHO HAVE ADDITIONAL NEEDS

12TH AUGUST: ALEXANDRA PALACE TRIP

- 10.30-3PM DROP OFF AND COLLECT FROM COMMUNITY FOCUS
- INCLUDES AN OUTDOOR WORKSHOP IN THE HISTORIC ALEXANDRA PALACE

18-20TH AUGUST: CF FEST

- 10.30-3PM EACH DAY AT COMMUNITY FOCUS
- INCLUDES MUSIC, DANCE, ART & FASHION WORKSHOPS AND A CHANCE TO HOLD YOUR VERY OWN FESTIVAL FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY





27TH AUGUST: KENTISH TOWN CITY FARM TRIP

- 9:30-2PM DROP OFF AND COLLECT FROM COMMUNITY FOCUS
- INCLUDES A TOUR OF KENTISH TOWN CITY FARM AND A CHANCE TO WORK WITH REAL ANIMALS

WHAT IS COMMUNITY FOCUS?
We are an all inclusive arts centre based in Friary House, Friary Park, Friary Rd, London N20 0NR. We run creative activities for adults and children with additional needs. Our Short Breaks program is for young people ages 10-18's.

HOW TO APPLY?
You must be ages 10-18 and registered as having a learning disability. You can email ben@communityfocus.co.uk or phone 020 3743 2326 to request an enrolment form. Once you have completed and returned the form you will need to arrange a meeting where we can assess whether CF can meet the needs of your young person. Please note CF cannot provide personal care or support those with physically behavioural issues such as lashing out.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?
FREE to those who receive free school meals (for ages 10-16's only). You will need to provide your WONDE voucher code if this is the case. If not the activities can be paid from your Short Breaks budget at the cost of around £70-100 per day. Occasionally CF receive external funding to support our work so costs can vary and will be confirmed by the CF Short Breaks project manager.

For more information or to sign up, please email ben@communityfocus.co.uk

Barnet Champs

On Tuesday the 1st of July, our Athletics' team had an amazing time participating in Barnet Champs. Despite the sweltering heat (a staggering 33°C!), everyone performed to an incredibly high standard, with lots of medals across the year groups.

Gold medallists

Y7: Odera (discus)

Y8: Ruhi (discus)

Kuyil, Iwinosa, Isabella, Meera (relay)

Y10: Hitha, Honoree, Huilin, Aiko (relay)

Silver medallists

Y8: Ailun (800m)

Y9: Amelia (800m)

Rhea (shot put)

Y10: Yashu (shot put)

Aiko (long jump)

Hitha (800m)

Bronze medallists

Y8: Isabella (200m)

Y9: Dhruvi (discus)

Anjali, Asmitha, Rhea, Mathilde (relay)

Y10: Yashu (discus)



It was thrilling to watch so many races throughout the day, from nail-biting sprints to gruelling middle-distance events, all of which kept the crowd on the edge of their seats. The atmosphere made the day even better: the encouraging cheers, the excited chatter, and the energy of the crowd created a buzz that lasted from start to finish.

Aside from the track events, we were all stunned by the distances that our athletes could jump, throw and push shot puts. The remarkable strength and power showcased in the field events left us all amazed by those who took part.

Finally, a massive thank you to our PE department (Ms. Rodwell, Miss Fusi and Miss Stern) who were officiating at the finish line, motivating us during all of our races. We could not have done this without their support!

Hitha R, Year 10



Rounders Tournament

On Wednesday, some of the Year 8s competed (and won!) in a rounders tournament hosted at Ashmole School. From the moment we all stepped into the minibus, we were super enthusiastic and ready to compete to the best of our ability. We won our matches and worked our way up into the final against Wren Academy. Though the final was tough (and a very close call) we managed to claim first place, with our excellent playing and teamwork.

The tournament was a learning experience for us, and we learnt that communication is key in order to work to our full potential as a team - both when fielding and batting. We also learnt that sometimes taking risks is necessary if you really want to succeed.

It was an exciting afternoon and we are very proud of ourselves! We also love the medals!

Ruhi G, Year 8

Careers events at the HBS Summer Fair: 'Beyond A levels'

For the first time, the summer fair included two panel events linked to careers education. These were very well-attended with a mixture of students and parents. The panels were organised by Dr Jaya Sajnani, from Global Talent Solution (<https://globaltalentsolutionhub.com/>) and the members of the PTA. Panel members comprised the following:

- Leisa Nichols-Drew, Chartered Forensic Practitioner, Associate Professor De Montfort University
- Nicole Kille, Exec Director, International Education Administration, University of Akron USA
- Sanjay Ramdath, Vice President of BMCC, City University of New York
- Inderjeet Bhasin, Director Clinical Research Services Thermo Fisher Scientific, Cambridge
- Samudra Dasgupta, Deputy Programme director - Aerospace Engineering University of Bristol

The first panel discussion focused on global education, the processes to apply, opportunities available and benefits. It was inspiring to hear about the many opportunities for students, whether for full undergraduate courses abroad (and the funding that is available), years of study abroad included in some 4-year courses with UK universities, or shorter opportunities within courses or as extra-curricular trips and even virtual ones (via initiatives such as COIL (collaborative online international learning)). All were agreed on the range of benefits for students themselves in terms of enriching experiences and the opportunities to experience different cultures, perspectives as well as the development of valuable life skills such as time management, resilience, problem-solving and adaptability. The benefits to employers were also stressed, as they seek to ensure their employees are global citizens, with the open-minded, curious mindset that can bring.

The second panel discussion addressed the pressing question of what students should be doing to equip themselves in a fast-evolving workplace with an increasing use of technology. Panel members discussed both the opportunities and threats posed by AI, in particular the potential threat to junior roles, and the importance of students equipping themselves with critical thinking, communication and problem solving skills. They were encouraged to seek out opportunities to consciously develop these skills both inside and outside the classroom.

All in all, it was an informative and thought-provoking afternoon, providing an interesting contrast to the tombola and baking activities going on elsewhere!

Green Team: The Greenprint Challenge

This year, the Green Team has made tremendous efforts to improve the sustainability of the school, and get as much of the school involved as possible- one crucial aspect of this was promoting the biodiversity within the school.

The GreenPrint Challenge, run by Green Team Prefects, was an opportunity for students across all years to put forward submissions with creative ideas about how they would design and create the wildlife area behind PSHE, which the Green Team is enthusiastic about. Submissions were required to contain research on a variety of plant species, their contributions to the environment, affordability, accessibility and maintenance costs, concluding with an evaluation of the benefits and risks that each discussed plant had for our school's environment.

There were countless submissions which impressed everyone in the Green Team, however there were a select few that stood out. Congrats to Rachel Yang, Charlotte Desai and Mytheli Pillai for their amazing, entertaining submission that won First Place!

We look forward to using the wonderfully ideas across these submissions and incorporating them in the wildlife area that everyone will benefit from!

Akzhayaa N and Sharvari A, Year 12



Green Team: fundraising for a pond and wildlife garden at HBS

Back in the Spring Term, the Green Team put in an application for funding to create a pond and wildlife garden at HBS, in order to increase the biodiversity of the School's site and to create a beautiful area for students to relax, learn and be immersed in nature. We were delighted to receive £3500 from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association, and £500 from the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust. In order to raise additional funds, the Year 12 Green Team organised a whole school non-uniform day in July, in which students were invited to dress in a way inspired by nature and the environment. We have raised £600 and counting! I am also indebted to the Year 12 Green Team prefects for raising additional funds by running events at the PTA Summer Fair, at which they raised £244. I look forward to updating you on the progress of the project in the next academic year.



Year 7 Residential Trip to Château Beaumont, Normandy

Normandy was our Year 7 trip and an amazing way to end the year. We stayed in Château Beaumont - a beautiful location in the countryside. We took a long coach and ferry to get to there but it was worth it for all the fun times we had. During the week, we visited old historical sights as well as markets and activities on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, such as rock climbing and ziplining. One of my favourite moments was the disco we had on the last day when everyone was singing and dancing together. The trip was the perfect ending to the year. *Yiyan, Year 7*

The Normandy trip was really fun - definitely one of the highlights of this year! It was really great to see all the different historic places we visited like Mont St Michel, a castle and the landing beaches. My favourite was the market, where we got to practise our French and haggle the best prices. Our stay at the Château Beaumont was amazing as well, with different entertainment each night, particularly the disco on the last night, and all the new activities we got to try. I had so much fun exploring Normandy - thanks to all our teachers who came with us, especially Mr Haywood. *Natali, Year 7*



