ISSUE 514

End of Half Term

EBS NEWS

FRIDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026

Headteacher's Message

I am once again struck by the breadth of opportunity and the strength of experience we are able to offer our students at East Barnet School.

This edition of the newsletter captures what makes our community so special. From celebrating the determination of our Year 11 students at the Girls With Goals Afternoon Tea, to sporting success at the Panathlon SEND Swimming Competition, to national-level achievement in snooker – our students continue to impress us with their commitment, talent and character.

There have been remarkable cultural and academic experiences too: A-Level Media students gaining industry insight at Sky Studios Elstree, Drama students inspired by live theatre at the Bridge Theatre, Year 9 immersed in the magic of the West End, and Year 12 students visiting Oxford University and hearing from one of our own alumni. Our Year 11 Art students explored Camden and Tate Modern, while our Brilliant Club scholars graduated with honours after completing university-style study. We were also proud to host visitors from China, strengthening international friendships and broadening horizons for everyone involved.

Alongside this, our commitment to high-quality teaching and professional development remains central, as demonstrated through our ECT Conference and ongoing focus on adaptive teaching. Events such as National Handwriting Day and Veganuary also remind us that learning and personal development happen in many different ways across our school.

What shines through all of these stories is not just achievement, but our commitment to developing the whole child. Whether in the classroom, on stage, in competition, or on educational visits, our students continue to demonstrate the values that define our school community.

Thank you, as always, to our staff, students and families for your continued support. I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes and memorable moments from the last half term.

L. Swaine
Headteacher

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...and lots more!

Girls With Goals Afternoon Tea

On 15th January, we hosted our first Year 11 celebration event. Girls with Goals celebrated the hard work and determination of the Year 11 girls, recognising their commitment in completing their first set of mock exams. The event welcomed inspirational guest speakers Rahma, Shirley and Ivy. Rahma shared her powerful story, from being excluded from school to completing a law degree. She spoke to the Year 11 girls about how it's never too late to turn your life around. Shirley, from Youth Realities, delivered a talk on confidence and self-belief, offering the girls practical tips for maintaining a calm and positive headspace during challenging times. Ivy also shared her experiences of accessing Youth Realities' services and explained how helpful she found them. The attendees were encouraged to share something they were proud of about themselves, and it was wonderful to hear so many positive and supportive conversations. We can't wait to celebrate more of Year 11s successes in the months to come!

Snooker Success Continues

We are delighted to share another update on Emilio's impressive snooker journey, following on from our previous post (Snooker Talent – 5th November 2024) celebrating his success. Emilio recently competed in the English Under-14 Snooker Championship, where he played four matches in the group stage and won all of them. He then went on to the quarter-finals winning 2-0, the semi-finals winning 2-0, and then the final winning 2-0 again! During the day, he achieved breaks of 37, two 48s, and a high break of 60, demonstrating both skill and consistency against strong opposition. A real highlight of the day was the opportunity to meet professional snooker player Kyren Wilson, making the experience even more memorable. Read more about Kyren mentioning Emilio in his press interview here.

Panathlon SEND Swimming Comp Success

On Friday 23rd January, eight of our Year 7 students with EHCPs proudly represented EBS at Panathlon's SEND Swimming Competition, competing against teams from other schools. We are delighted to share that our students performed brilliantly and brought home bronze medals – a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, determination, and teamwork. A huge thank you goes to Mr Baxter for safely transporting our bronze medallists to the Olympic Stadium, and to Ms Chapman and Ms Hone for their invaluable support of our EHCP students throughout the trip. Your encouragement and care made the day a great success. We are already looking forward to the next Panathlon SEND event, which will take place on Wednesday 11th February. EHCP students from across the year groups will be selected to take part in Ten Pin Bowling, and we can't wait to see them shine again! Well done to all involved – we are incredibly proud of you!

Amazing A-Level Media Trip to Sky Studios

Our A-Level Media Studies students enjoyed an unforgettable and inspiring trip to Sky Studios Elstree, packed with creativity, industry insight, and hands-on filmmaking. Students took part in an exciting workshop led by Sky professionals, gaining real-world knowledge about how the media industry operates behind the scenes. They were also given a guided tour of the incredible studios where major productions such as *Jurassic Park* and *Wicked* have been filmed – a truly eye-opening experience for aspiring filmmakers. One of the highlights was watching the latest movie trailers in Sky's epic cinema, giving students a true big-screen experience and insight into professional exhibition standards. Read more about the group using green screens and creating their own short film, including many more pictures here.

Sixth Form Drama Go *Into The Woods*

January is often seen as a gloomy month – but not this year! Our Year 12 and 13 A-Level Drama students (along with a few special guests) ventured *Into the Woods* at The Bridge Theatre to see Stephen Sondheim's iconic musical. With Red Riding Hood's cape firmly on and a basket full of theatrical enthusiasm, they experienced a production that was both magical and deeply moving. The performance was outstanding. We laughed, we cried, and we left the theatre inspired – with many already hoping for a return visit. Opportunities like this allow our students to experience live theatre at the highest level, enriching their understanding of performance, staging and musical storytelling. A fantastic evening and a brilliant start to the year!

Veganuary Returns to EBS

January is Veganuary, and the EBS Kitchen took full advantage of that by having a complete day of vegan only options. The menu was received very well, and students were surprised how great they tasted!

Year 9 Casts a Spell on the West End

At the start of February, 60 very excited Year 9 students marched out of school and headed to the Palace Theatre, for what can only be described as a *magical* day out. Our mission: to watch both parts of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* in one epic day. From the moment the lights went down, it was *Lumos!* The production was jaw-dropping: disappearing actors, flying Dementors, time-turning chaos, and stage magic so slick it had students whispering "How did they do that?" louder than the actual dialogue. Honestly, if someone had shouted *Expecto Patronum,* no one would have questioned it. Even better than the show? The students. They were brilliant – engaged, and spellbound for hours on end (no *Imperius* Curse required), and not a single chocolate frog was thrown. Between shows, it was less *Accio Firebolt* and more *Accio McDonalds*, as nuggets were levitated, fries disappeared, and happiness levels rose dramatically. By the end of the day, we were exhausted, inspired, and fully convinced that live theatre is pure magic. *Mischief managed.*

ECT Conference

We were pleased to host a fantastic cohort of ECTs (Early Career Teachers) in their first year of induction. The quality of discussion and engagement around adaptive teaching was exceptional. The cohort left with a deep understanding of what adaptive teaching is, the steps involved in being truly adaptive and a range strategies for the classroom. In developing a deep understanding of adaptive teaching our cohort of ECTs now have a range of tools they can use to support the formation of increasingly complex and flexible mental models which are free from misconceptions and gaps in knowledge. The conference provided the time and space for colleagues to develop and reflect on their practice ready to "go live" in the classroom.

Year 11 Visit Camden and Tate Modern

Our Year 11 GCSE Art students recently enjoyed a trip to Camden and the Tate Modern as part of the research element of their GCSE Art exam project. The day began in the vibrant heart of Camden, where students took part in a location photoshoot designed to capture the unique character of the area. From the bold street art and colourful market stalls to the eclectic shop fronts and lively atmosphere, Camden provided endless visual inspiration. The trip encouraged them to think like professional artists – observing closely, experimenting with different angles, and confidently documenting their own creative responses to an urban environment. In the afternoon, we travelled to the Tate Modern, where students explored a wide range of contemporary artworks to support their exam themes. Seeing works first-hand allowed them to analyse scale, materials and techniques up close. Read more about the students' trip by clicking here. We are looking forward to seeing how this trip influences their work.

Year 9 Brilliant Club Graduates

Congratulations to our outstanding Year 9 scholars, who have successfully completed their Ethnomusicology 'degree' course and will graduate on Wednesday 25th February. This academically rigorous programme challenged students to engage with university-style study, culminating in an extended essay exploring the similarities and differences between Gamelan music in Java and Bali. Tackling such a specialist and analytical topic at this stage in their education is an impressive achievement in itself. We are delighted to share that all 14 students passed with honours, with four achieving the equivalent of a First-Class award – an exceptional accomplishment. Their commitment, resilience and intellectual curiosity throughout the course have been exemplary. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the high standards they have maintained. Congratulations to each and every one of our graduating scholars, what a fantastic achievement! Click here to see an example of their work.

Visitors from China

We were once again very fortunate to invite students from China to experience life in a North London school. Each visitor had an EBS 'buddy' that they experienced life with for a week, seeing all lessons, breaks, lunchtime and clubs – a real cultural exchange. The absolute highlight was the closing ceremony where there were some brilliant performances, and such a lovely speech from one of the student visitors which you can read in full here and we have put an excerpt of below. We look forward to welcoming more visitors in the future!

> *It is truly an honor to stand here today, representing all Chinese students, to share our heartfelt experiences after this wonderful one-week immersion study in East Barnet School. Looking back over the past seven days, every moment has been etched into our memories as a precious treasure – one that has brought us growth, insight, and friendships that transcend borders.*
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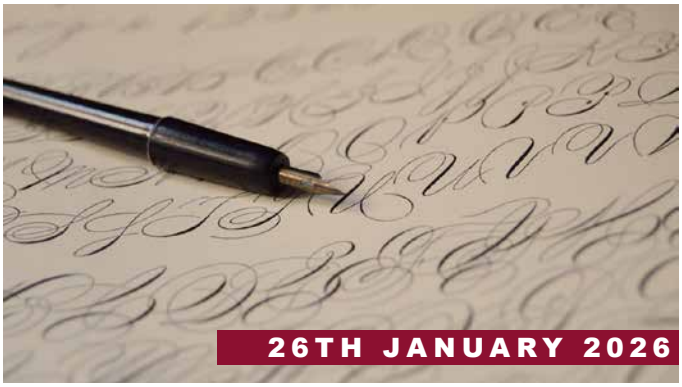
> *Before arriving, we anticipated many challenges, and language initially seemed like the most daunting barrier. At first, we were hesitant to speak, worried about mispronunciations or being misunderstood. However, through the warmth and patience of our buddies, something beautiful happened: we transitioned from awkward silences to lively conversations.*
>
> *As we reflect on this week, we realise that this immersion study is more than just a personal journey; it is a meaningful step in the friendship between China and the UK. As the Chinese proverb goes, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Every laugh we shared and every connection we built is a brick in the bridge between our two nations. We are proud to have contributed to this bond.*

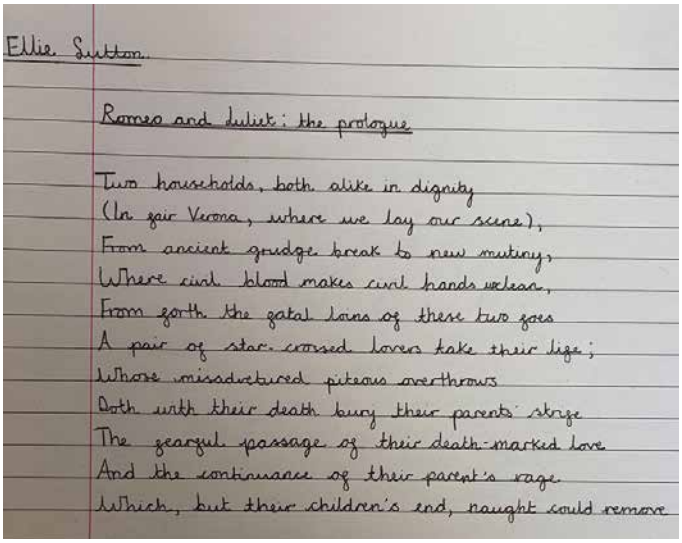
Year 12 Visit Oxford University

On Tuesday 10th February, 35 Year 12 students were given the exciting opportunity to visit Christ Church College at Oxford University. The aim of the visit was for our students to experience a world-renowned educational setting. Throughout the course of the day, students sampled an academic lecture, took a tour of the college, had discussions about the process of applying and how to enhance their application to a highly competitive institution, and even got to have a two-course meal in the famous 'Harry Potter' dining hall! Although many would say this was the highlight, for me it was the Q&A session we had with the student ambassadors and the main reason for this, was because one of the ambassadors was one of our former students, Sophia Zavrou-Blackstock. The whole day was fantastic, but seeing Sophia in her capacity as an ambassador for Christ Church was truly inspiring, and a great message to our students that these opportunities and aspirations are well within their reach. The positivity amongst the students on the journey back was great and exactly what we aimed to achieve by providing this opportunity. Here are some photos to showcase the amazing architecture and to try and convey some of the experiences of the students.



National Handwriting Day

We were delighted by the level of interest, enthusiasm, and impressive talent shown in this year's Handwriting Competition for National Handwriting Day. The standard of entries was exceptionally high, making judging a real challenge. However, we had to find some winners! We were pleased to announce that the winner of the Key Stage 3 competition was Ellie Sutton, the winner of KS4 was Elyah Bassong, and the winner for KS5 was Angelika Cervenakova - congratulations to all on this fantastic achievement. Their careful presentation, consistency, and attention to detail truly stood out. Congratulations to all students who took part!



Ellie Sutton.

Romeo and Juliet: the prologue

Two households, both alike in dignity
(In fair Verona, where we lay our scene),
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;
Whose misadventured piteous overthrows
Doth with their death bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their death-marked love
And the continuance of their parent's rage
Which, but their children's end, naught could remove

Redpath
Moving & Storage

On the Move

Moving house in the spring? Need a reliable moving company? Look no further than Redpath! EBS is in partnership with Redpath Moving & Storage, a friendly local company with over 30 years of experience and based just down the road in N20. Support locally and help East Barnet School earn £50. If you are planning a move or need storage, why not get a free, no-obligation quote from Redpath?

Want to advertise your business here? All funds raised go back into the school to benefit the students. Please email info@eastbarnetschool.com for the attention of Nina Bain for more info.