

24th September 2021

Dear all,

This week has seen Year 11 take part in 1-1 interviews with senior staff to support them at this crucial stage in their educational journey. It has been a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to spend such quality time with my students, exploring their ambitions, priorities and agreeing focus points to support them in realising their potential. I am regularly reminded of just how incredible and special our students are, but to have such powerful and focused discussions with so many of them really brought this home. Despite the huge challenges of the past two years it is evident that Archer students will let nothing stand in their way of securing their success and happiness, knowing that their hand will always be firmly held by school.

This week we have seen a number of positive cases of COVID amongst our student body. Whilst we have not hit any public health thresholds in relation to increasing our control measures, it is essential that we all continue to take good care. Our control measures are already high, in relation to cleaning, ventilation, social distancing and the wearing of face masks. However, we can clearly see the importance of Lateral Flow Testing in the cases we have experienced in school this week. Parents are urged to support their child in completing and logging a Lateral Flow Test on Monday and Friday mornings. From Monday, we will administer Lateral Flow Tests in school to any student who has not completed this at home, but has been identified as a possible close contact (as long as we have consent). This will involve the delegation of staff resources away from other areas of school life, please do support us and your children here, by completing the test at home as far as possible.

Yesterday, communications were shared with parents regarding the COVID vaccine for young people aged 12 to 15 years. All schools have been asked to provide a vaccination centre for their students. Our vaccination date has been confirmed for Monday 11th October. Information has been shared with families by Public Health, but we will put together a factsheet for parents and students next week.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *"Strive not to get more done, but to have less to do."* Francine Jay

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Term dates for 2021 2022: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/term-dates-2021-2022/>

September

Mon 27th – flu vaccinations, years 7 – 11

Weds 29th – settling in evening, year 7, 4.30 – 8pm

October

Weds 6th – Open Evening, school closes midday

Thurs 7th – late start to school, students arrive 10.30am

Fri 8th – INSET day, school closed

Mon 11th – COVID vaccinations – all year groups

Thurs 21st – Prize Giving, by invitation from 7pm

Fri 22nd – school closes for half term at 1.30pm, after lunch

Mon 25th – Fri 29th – half term holiday

November

Mon 1st – school starts, 8.30am

Weds 3rd – year 11 core subjects evening, 6.30 – 7.30pm

Weds 3rd – Fri 5th – Kingswood residential trip, year 7
Weds 17th – year 10 core subjects evening 6 – 9pm

KEY INFORMATION:

Covid testing: All students should test on Mondays and Fridays to keep our community safe. [Upload your lateral flow result](#) before your child comes to school.

Covid vaccinations: Please complete your online permission form for your child to have their covid vaccine in school on Monday 11th October. You should have received an email on Thursday with details.

School photos: year 7 (portraits and class group), year 10 (portraits) and year 11 (class groups) have recently had school photos taken and slips with ordering information have been sent home with students. Please order online by 27th September for free delivery to school. Photos will be delivered to school around half term and distributed to students. If you do not have your child's slip, you can contact info@schoolphotographs.co.uk and the photography company will be able to assist.

Parentpay

Please ensure your child's ParentPay account has a positive balance and pay for any outstanding items.

Timings of the school day

Lower	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Upper	Year 10	Year 11
Arrival	Grass	Playground	Astro	Arrival	Car Park	Car Park
Lesson 1	08:20	08:20	08:25	Lesson 1	08:20	08:30
Dismissal	Green gate	Schools +	Green gate	Dismissal	Causeway	Causeway
Mon/Weds	15:30	15:35	15:40	Mon/Weds	15:30	15:40
Tues/Thurs	15:00	15:05	15:10	Tues/Thurs	15:00	15:10
Tues/Thurs Enrichment	16:05	16:10	16:15	Tues/Thurs Enrichment	16:00	16:10
Fri	15:00	15:05	15:10	Friday	15:00	15:10

Homework club: Homework club will run in the IT suites for 1 hour after the school day finishes on the following days:

Lower

Monday, Thursday, Friday

Upper

Wednesday, Friday

The library is also open daily for Upper School students after school.

ELEVENSES WITH MISS HARRISON



Well done to the year 7s who were invited to have elevenses with Miss Harrison to celebrate their outstanding work on The Phantom Tollbooth projects.

TOP REVISION TIPS – Mrs Gillham

Getting ready for depth assessment fortnight – Revision Top Tip Number 1

As depth assessment fortnight approaches, students should make time each week to consolidate their learning or revise their work. This will help to retain new knowledge and skills, and allows them to build confidence for their lessons the following week. Mind maps and flash cards are a great way of condensing ideas and summarising the key ideas and concepts that have been learnt during the week, here are some tips on how to do this well:

Mind Maps:

Mind maps or spider diagrams:

- Put your key question, exam question or a key topic in the centre;
- Use subtopics or subheadings;
- Add key pieces of information;
- Develop some of your points;
- Add symbols or images;
- Use different coloured pens or highlight different points;
- Use different sized pieces of paper.



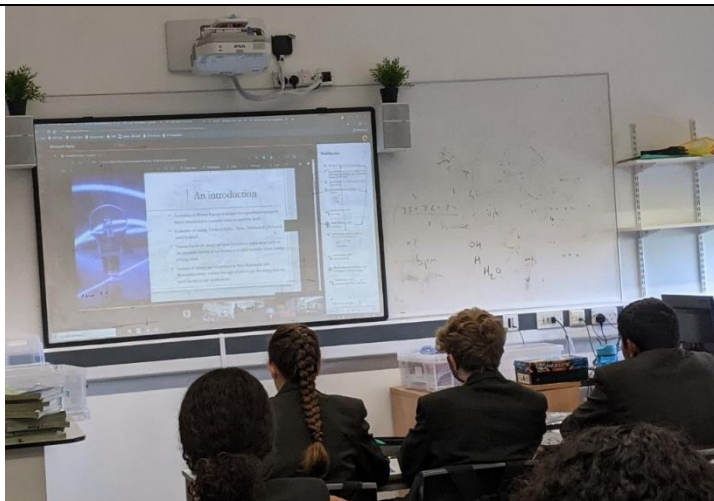
Revision Cards:

Revision cards:

- A5 or A6 size;
- Key questions, headings or subheadings on each one and key information;
- Lots of cards with different information, answering one question;
- Move them around or **stick** them down on larger pieces of paper or around your room with blue tack.

- **Summarise:** Once you have written out your revision notes, it's time to condense that information into small manageable facts. This is where memory cards come in to play.
- **Word power:** For each topic, write bullet points of key facts on a set of index cards.
- **Organise:** Categorise the facts into sub-categories, then sub-sub-categories so you can understand how they all link together.
- **Link:** Don't just remember the key facts on the cards. They should act as prompts for all the other revision facts you've been learning.
- **Portable:** The great thing about small index cards is that you can put them in your bag/pocket and take them anywhere. That way you can look at them on the way to school or even when you're out shopping!

RENEWABLE ENERGY TALK – Ms Keen



Renewable Energy for a Sustainable future!

STEM careers talk.

This week year 10 had the opportunity to hear from mechanical engineer Buddila Wijeyesekera. He talked them through his research into various renewable energy resources, the projects he is currently working on and other ideas for the future of energy. One of which is harnessing wave energy instead of fossil fuels for desalination of water, another uses bladeless wind energy.

Research vortex bladeless to find out more!

SPORTS CLUBS – Mr Clark

Extra-curricular clubs are now up and running, please see the clubs available in the timetable below. Clubs will run, where possible, on the days each year group has PE.

- KS3 Girls Football will become KS3 Netball after Christmas.
- KS4 Netball will become KS4 Girls Football after Christmas

20 th September – 15 th December						
		MONDAY YEAR 10	TUESDAY YEAR 9	WEDNESDAY YEAR 11	THURSDAY YEAR 7	FRIDAY YEAR 8
Before school 7.30 – 8.10	ASTRO			BOYS Football Year 11 JMC		BOYS Football Year 8 MCO
After school	ASTRO	BOYS Football Year 10 KCL	BOYS Football Year 9 IME		ALL Football Year 7 SLE & JRA	GIRLS Football Year 8/9 SLE
	MUGA					
	SPORTSHALL	GIRLS Netball Year 10 & 11 KAL				
						Year 9 students will need to change at the end of the day

SPRING INTO ACTION – Rachael Harvey



'SPRING' into action at the Big Bulb Bonanza in the Archer Mentoring Garden

Calling all green fingered (and not so green fingered) VOLUNTEERS!

We have 500+ spring bulbs to plant in the Archer garden and are looking for willing workers.

Weekend of the 2nd & 3rd October 10.30am to 2.30pm

Come to the beautiful mentoring garden at the side of the school (by the footbridge) and meet some of our very friendly Green Arrow gardeners. You will be guaranteed a very warm welcome and a handful

of spring bulbs. Everyone is invited grandma, grandpa, friend or neighbour. Bring some gloves, old clothes and a smile. We are looking forward to meeting a fresh army of Archer families at the garden gate!

Thank you all

Rachael and the GAGA's *Green Arrow Garden Association (GAGA)* a not-so-serious gardening group

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist & Mrs Horwitz

Lower School

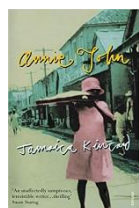
Y7s gear yourselves up—soon it will be time to choose your BookBuzz book.

Every year, Archer year 7s are entitled to order one free book from a selection offered by **BookTrust**. See [here](#) for information about this year's fabulous choices. Ms Appelquist will be coming to your class soon to help you choose.



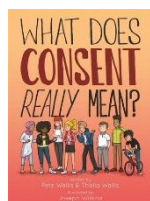
Y7 Library Inductions: Well done to the year 7s, who have been coming into the library during English lessons to learn how to use the library and borrow books. They have been exemplary Library patrons.

Neglected Book Corner:



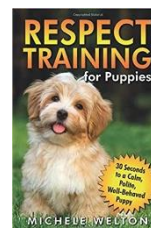
This week's Neglected Book is **Annie John** by Jamaica Kincaid. A coming-of-age semi-autobiographical story set in Antigua during the 1950s-60s, this book explores mental health issues, friendship, LGBTQ issues, and a fraught mother-daughter relationship through a series of vignettes about a bright and unusual girl.

New in Library:



A frank and accessible graphic novel exploring an important topic.

Tips to help make life with a new puppy easier—in 30 seconds!



Book reviews:

Remember, you can earn **10 merits** for every book review! Come to the library to get a template.

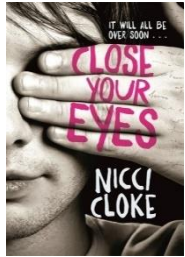
Have a great weekend everybody, and *keep reading!*

What's new at Upper School library

Come and visit or get in touch via email Mrsrhorwitz@thearcheracademy.org.uk



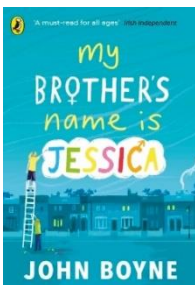
TOGETHER APART is a collection of finding love in unexpected places during an unprecedented time... each with the one thing we all want: a guaranteed happy ending.



Close Your Eyes/Nicci Cloke: Southfield High School is oh so normal, with its good teachers, its bad, and its cliques. And then there's Elise: the pretty one. But at the start of Year 11, when the group befriend the new boy, Elijah, things start to change.



Where We Go From Here/ Lucas Rocha: Ian has just been diagnosed with HIV. Victor, to his great relief, has tested negative. Henrique has been living with HIV for the past three years. In this book, the lives of Ian, Victor, and Henrique becomes intertwined in a story of friendship, love, and stigma-a story about hitting what you think is rock bottom, but finding the courage and support to keep moving forward.



My Brothers name is Jessica/John Boyne: Sam has known his sister Jessica all his life. Tonight, is the first time they're going to meet... An already volatile family is thrown into chaos when Sam's older brother, Jason, gains the confidence to tell her family that she is actually **Jessica**.



Blood Family/ Anne Fine: A dark and gripping tale of a young boy's struggle to escape the horrors of his childhood.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 - Mr McSherry

The end of another week and we have made some real progress with those basics - uniform and punctuality. Far fewer behaviour codes being issued for these things, particularly in comparison to year 10, not that I am competitive.

Week beginning Monday 11th of October is depth assessment fortnight for year 11. Students will be given a piece of work which will be depth marked by their teachers. An opportunity for us to gather some assessment data, but also a chance for students to put all that hard work to good use!

The year group still seem very settled and hard working in classrooms. It is being felt around the Upper School.

As our Friday afternoons together shift towards a career and 'life after year 11' focus, here are some questions for you to pose this weekend to your child:

What subjects do you enjoy the most?

What might you like to study next year - A-Levels or a vocational course?

Which sixth forms / colleges offer which courses?

What is required at GCSE to access these courses?

Rest assured we will be exploring this information together. However, surely it would do no harm to have your child think about these things and be more engaged in the whole process, it is their future.

Have a lovely weekend.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Ella L - for impressing in her subjects and during her interview this week.
Victor B - for demonstrating great maturity in his interview this week with Mr McSherry

Year 10 - Miss Alcock

It has been a busy week for year 10. They have started their annual enrichments and taken part in the whole year reading exam. The year group have demonstrated excellent maturity and impressed our exams officer with their conduct when taking part in the exam.

I asked staff to share any positivity from their lessons so far, here are some of the wonderful comments shared:

- Mr Ruffles - My SPPEC class were absolutely exceptional in the intro to mental health lesson - really mature discussion and some great written work produced!
- Mr Evelyn - my year 10 French set have been exemplary since the start of the year. Excellent behaviour, inquisitive minds and asking questions I would be expecting from an A-Level class - definitely kept me on my toes!
- Miss Rodford - The year 10 Drama cohort have made an incredible start to GCSE Drama - so impressed with the work they have been creating already and cannot wait to see what they achieve this year.
- Mr Barrow - has been super impressed with his geography class – a special well done to Lola, Olive and Marco who have really hit the ground running! Keep it up all of you.
- Mrs Williams - I'm impressed with all of 10CWI Maths group, they have made a brilliant start to the year.

I would like to make parents aware that from next week students will not be able to request any GCSE subject changes as the 2-week window has now closed.

Please could I ask parents to make sure your child has a face mask? As a year group we are going through many disposable masks, and I would really love to see the year group all bringing their own in from home. I would also like to remind parents that students should be coming into school in their blazer on days they are wearing uniform and with an Archer hoodie when they are in PE kit. Any non-Archer items will be asked to be removed.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Kerem - for his excellent start to the year
Asher - for his constant support to staff and always offering to help

Year 9 - Mr Constantinou

Being head of year 9 has been truly special this week; hearing the wonderful prefect interviews, house ambassador speeches and seeing students' engagement in lessons have all been brilliant. Ms Gunn and myself had the privilege of interviewing our prefect applicants - I was so impressed with their preparedness and confidence, demonstrating maturity far beyond their years.

In Lifelong Learning this week the students have studied Britishness and Multiculturalism. I have had some brilliant conversations with the students and have been most impressed with their ability to have reasoned and respectful debate with each other, despite conflicting opinions. In assembly students were reminded about what constitutes bullying, and reminded of the key school rule, 'work hard and be nice'.

Students were also reminded of some of the school rules this week, with two of the key ones being:

- No smart phones
- No trainers unless in CP kit

Can I please ask that you reinforce this message at home to allow us to focus on the more important things at school.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Jack F - leading the year group with a staggering 65 positive points already this year
Sylia B-B - applying herself so well this year, really dedicated to making the most of year 9

Year 8 – Mr Wick

Year 8 have got into the flow of term this week with the start of the year already feeling like a distant memory! This week we have welcomed 2 more new students into Year 8, thank you to those in the wider Year 8 community who have shown them real support and care.

This week's assembly we are visited by a filmographer, Toby Norman, as the first of a series of talks about different, interesting careers. We were also visited by Dr Michael Farfan, who gave a talk during lunchtime to students who are thinking of pursuing medicine.

Y8 students are starting to feel the full flow of Archer school life. It can be tough, coming back to normal, full days of school. We noted that these are challenging times for everyone, particularly students at school. We are doing our best to find a healthy balance of support and nurturing, whilst ensuring we are preparing your child in the best way we can for learning, and for their future. Despite the fact that the current situation is changeable, the tutor team and I really believe that it is structure and consistency which will allow your child to flourish while at school.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Tommy B 8CSU and Sara A J 8JBA for incredible efforts this week

Year 7 – Ms Ogbaselase

Another week filled with hard work and fun.

I had the pleasure of visiting lessons where students have had opportunities to explore Bunsen burners in science, grid references in geography and creative writing in English. Students also rose to the challenge of completing their baseline assessments – they should feel so proud of how they have managed this. Also lovely was seeing so many year 7s take part in PE trials on Thursday after school. I look forward to seeing students in action soon. Well done to all for making the most of opportunities and modelling the Archer Way.

We look forward to meeting with parents for our annual Settling In Evening on Wednesday. Do ensure you have booked an appointment with your child's tutor. I will also be available on the evening and look forward to seeing families once again. If you have any queries, please do contact the school so that we can support.

 **Stars of the Week** 

Clara in 7SMU and Alvaro in 7SRA - for being polite and demonstrating the Archer way consistently. Keep up the superb effort.