

14th January 2022

Dear all,

As a school community we have been focusing on the concept and importance of having high expectations of ourselves and all that we do, as part of our New Years Resolutions. It has been impressive to see the impact of this focus across the week, most particularly in the approach of students in Years 7 to 10 to their depth assessments and by Year 11 in their analysis of their Mock Exams.

Today we have shared details of our upcoming 'Free Week'. I hope that Archer families will join students and staff in the concept of simply slowing down a little and generating some time and space to focus on what is really important, the joy of learning, curiosity and a feeling of a job well done. The week will also provide the opportunity to ensure our work, resources and planning are organised and secure. We look forward to sharing more in the coming weeks and then evaluating this work together.



Do look out for a special email from me on Monday regarding exciting news about our Raise the Roof campaign. A very high profile celebrity will be the patron for this project and I can guarantee it will cause some excitement! I can't quite believe the support we have received and I am so grateful to our parent community for making this possible, by making the introductions. We really could be in a position to build our new studio in the summer, ready to be enjoyed by students in the autumn. Anything truly is possible!

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *'If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude'* Colin Powell

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY:

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

Term dates for 2022 2023: <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/term-dates-2022-2023/>

January

10th – 21st depth assessment fortnight, see article below

Tues 18th – Year 8 HPV immunisations, letter sent out by email

Weds 19th – Year 8 parents' consultation evening 4.30pm – 8pm

Thurs 20th – Cultural Society trip to see Nutcracker!

w/c 24th – Year 9 choices assemblies

w/c 24th – Free Week, see article below

Mon 31st – Lower School parent workshop with Sophia Davison 6-7pm, [MS Teams link to join](#), **please note change of date**

February

Weds 2nd – Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening

Fri 4th – Year 9 Careers Day

Fri 4th – Archer café 7JRA

w/c 7th – Archer Adventures in Numberland Week

Fri 11th – school breaks up for half term

Mon 14th – Fri 18th – half term holiday

Mon 21st – School starts 8.30am

Tues 22nd – Year 9 & 10 HPV immunisations, letter sent out by email

Thurs 24th – Learning Review Day 2

Mon 28th –Upper School parent workshop with Sophia Davison, 6-7pm, see below for details

KEY INFORMATION:

Covid vaccinations: Parents should have received a text message/email from the NHS with information regarding booking 2nd vaccinations for students. Parents should make appointments for their children. It is likely the vaccine will be offered at the school but we are awaiting confirmation of schedules from the NHS. If you have any questions about the Covid vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds, you may be interested in an online discussion hosted by NHS North West London. These sessions will provide information, and answer any questions you might have about the vaccine and immunisation program, including questions related to clinically extremely vulnerable children. There are two opportunities to attend:

Thursday 20th January from 11am to 12pm - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-vaccine-program-for-12-to-15-years-tickets-242875205277>

Wednesday 26th January from 7pm to 8pm - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-vaccine-program-for-12-to-15-years-tickets-243513414177>

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.

Parentpay: Please ensure your child has a positive balance on their account for this term.

HEADTEACHER'S AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY EFFORT - Miss Harrison

Each week Heads of Year review the merits and achievements of each student and I then have the pleasure of celebrating this hard work. Each month, students are awarded the Headteacher Exemplary Effort based on their merits. Significant congratulations go to the winners for December, such an impressive achievement and students deserve to be very proud of themselves. Who might it be in January? The first award winners of 2022?

Headteacher lunches will take place in the w/c 24th January to mark and celebrate the accomplishments of these students (joining the winners from November).

December 2021 winners:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Lyn K Alex R Gerardes S James V Andrew C	Alex B Ashley B Nikola S Gene N Gabriel TS	Lauren B Shaan JM Jamal A Zena A Isabella F	Olti B Asher I Daniel J Angela A Jonida K	Mia H Ella L Marina M Karen A Umaimah B

FREE WEEK – Miss Jouhal

We're very much looking forward to the launch of our 'Free Week' during the week of 24th January. Archer families will have received detailed central communication from Miss Harrison, but here is a short snapshot below.

The aim of 'Free Week' is to simply slow down a little and to enable us to focus solely on the core business of teaching and learning, the joy of deep and rich curiosity into the topics we are studying and to create some space to feel fully in control.

What will 'Free Week' involve?

For students 'Free Week' will see no homework being set, no assessments or wider academic deadlines. There will be no wider school activities and the focus will be solely on the curriculum and the classroom. This week has been deliberately scheduled to follow Depth Assessment Fortnight and during the break in enrichment. There will be no wider extra curricular clubs during 'Free Week' but annual enrichments, as part of Archer Plus, will continue for Year 10 and Year 11 students.

What do we hope students will gain from this week? How do we hope they will use the additional time generated?

We hope that students will take the opportunity for a mindful pause and a reset. Students will be encouraged by their tutors to use the additional time to catch up any outstanding homework or remote learning, for a spot of housekeeping and to ensure that everything is up to date. Students will be encouraged to ensure that their books and folders are up to date, that their academic work is well organised. The hope being that students will achieve that wonderful feeling of being organised, in control and that everything is in its rightful place.

FREE WEEK
W/C 24TH JANUARY 2022

Monday **1** A mindful pause

Friday **5** Reflect, reset and reposition

Sunday **7** Get ahead

Wellbeing Committee

ENRICHMENT UPDATE – Ms Le



This week we returned for week 7 of enrichment, and I can already see the final products within String Art and Lino Printing taking shape. They look incredible, you should be so proud of what you have achieved so far. We can't quite believe that next week will be the last session of block one and no doubt, our enrichment teachers will be finding it very difficult to pick their Archer Arrow award winners.

Students who are awarded an Archer Arrow will get their first choice in block 2, so it is important students do their absolute best next week to give themselves a strong chance of being nominated. On the w/c 24th Jan, there will be an Archer Arrow celebration.

We are very much excited to get block 2 of enrichment started with new and exciting activities. I can confirm we will be introducing hockey to our enrichment programme for the first time at the Archer, alongside fencing, rock climbing and kickboxing. There is so much to look forward to.

Key dates for enrichment are as follows:

w/c 17th Jan - Last week of enrichment for Year 7-9 and Thursday enrichment for Y10.

w/c 24th Jan – Year 11 enrichment fairs will take place.

w/c 31st Jan – Year 7-9 enrichment fairs will take place virtually during enrichment time. Year 10 will have their Thursday enrichment fair on 3rd Feb.

Block 2 of enrichment for year 7-9 & year 10 enrichment on Thursday will officially start after half term (w/c 24th Feb). Dates of each session are detailed below.

Tuesday (termly)		Thursday (termly)	
Session 1	22/2	Session 1	LRD
Session 2	1/3	Session 2	3/3
Session 3	8/3	Session 3	10/3
Session 4	15/3	Session 4	17/3
Session 5	22/3	Session 5	24/3
Session 6	29/3	Session 6	31/3
Session 7	19/4	Session 7	21/4
Session 8	26/4	Session 8	28/4

VEGANUARY OPTIONS AT THE ARCHER – Michele Harrison



We hope your children are enjoying our new spring menus which are available on our website <https://thearcheracademy.org.uk/parents/#>

Following the feedback we received from last term's catering survey, we have introduced vegan options in lower and upper school at least twice a week and have already received positive comments from students. We will continue to monitor the take up of these meals and will adjust the summer menus accordingly. Any feedback received will be very useful as we continue to shape our catering provision.

We may have to make a few last minute changes to the menus given some supply problems we are experiencing in line with the national problems being faced by many organisations. Please bear with us as we endeavour to keep this to an absolute minimum.

THE FOURTH PLINTH COMPETITION – Ms Clarke

The Fourth Plinth - Trafalgar Square – Schools Art Competition



The Archer Academy Art Department are inviting you to design a piece of artwork for the plinth. We will enter your work to be considered for the National Competition.



Contemporary artists are regularly invited to design work to go on the fourth plinth.



DEADLINE: 1st March. *Hand work in a file cover with your name on it.*
RULES: Design an appropriate piece of artwork for the fourth plinth using any media. You may work alone or in a group. Your work will be photographed or scanned (if it is no bigger than A3) by the Art team and it will be entered in the National Government Competition. Postcards will be awarded to students who appear to have spent significant time on the work. **Contestants must be aged between 12 and 15.** The government are offering 39 art prizes and a group exhibition at City Hall for the winners.

THE ARCHER BOOKCASE – Miss Harrison



Thank you to everyone who supported our Building the Archer Bookcase appeal last term. All students are now able to enjoy reading their very own copy of each book on the Archer shelves. By the end of their time at school, every student will leave with a bookcase of at least 20 books.

THE GREEN ARROWS – Archer Garden



While the garden is resting for winter the Green Arrows are busy brainstorming. We are looking for local groups or businesses who might like to share our garden.

Do you know anyone who would love to use our beautiful garden space to run workshops, clubs or community meetings? If you have any ideas or contacts please send us an email:

greenarrows@Thearcheracademy.org.uk

Other exciting plans for this year include building a garden wc and a woodland cabin. Ambitious but

that's the Archer way! See how the garden was created on our new Instagram account @thearchergarden https://instagram.com/thearchergarden?utm_medium=copy_link

ONLINE PARENT TALKS – Ms Mahoney

Due to the positive feedback we have received from Year 7 parents, following the presentation from our resident child and adolescents psychotherapist, Sophia Davison, we are going to run two further talks on **“Parenting in the digital age, how to manage your child’s digital diet.”**

The talks will run from 6-7pm, on MS Teams owing to current restrictions, for Lower School. We hope to be able to run the Upper School Talk in person but this will be confirmed nearer the time. **Please note new date for the lower school talk – now on Monday 31st January.**

Lower School	Monday 31 st January, 6-7pm. Please use this MS Teams link to join.
Upper School	Monday 28 th February

LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist & Mrs Horwitz

Lower School

Hiya Cats, hope you're settling in for the new year. We've already been deluged with reviews and a book-hungry cohort (especially Y7) is clamouring for more reading material. Check in with Ms Appelquist to see if the books you've requested have come in!

Book Reviews:

Thea B on *Once*: *I recommend this to anyone who loves adventures and fast-paced books.*

Lily S on *Once*: *I think it is a very sad book but it is really engaging and really makes you feel like you're inside it.*

Nathan H on *Point Blanc*: *It takes slightly too long for the plot to build up. However the climax is great.*

Joey S on *Wonderscape*: *A perfect mix of adventure, comedy, strategy, danger and fun; all the things you need to make a great book.*

Clara C on *Catching Fire*: *I would recommend it, as it is funny & chilling & exciting.*

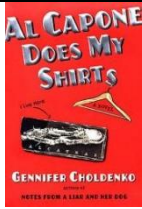
Martha MS on *And Then There Were None*: *I recommend this book to anyone who loves murder.*

Iris E on *Refugee Boy*: *It is actually happening and people need to know about that.*

Toby S on *Real Food, Real Fast*: *Brilliant for kids!*

Nina H on *Tom Gates: Excellent Excuses*: *It was an excellent book.*

NEGLECTED
BOOK CORNER!



"You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to." Alcatraz, 1935: Moose and his family live in the grounds of the most formidable and high-security prison in America. When Moose and his friends come up with a money-making scheme using the prisoners' labour, things get complicated.

Remember, you can earn 20 merits for a review of this or other neglected books!

New in library:



Thanks to a generous donation, we've got the entire *Alchemyst* series now available in the Lower School Library. Great for fans of Harry Potter and Percy Jackson, this six-book series features a brother and sister fighting the forces of evil through time.

Stories to warm you up: Are you tired of reading books about Christmas, or winter, or snow? Here are a few books guaranteed to remind you of hot days and blazing sunshine:



All available in the Lower school Library!

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

Upper School

Happy 2022...wishing you a year filled with Stories, Books and lots of Library Visits!

Library and Computer Lab Year Group Bubbles remain the *same*

Year 11

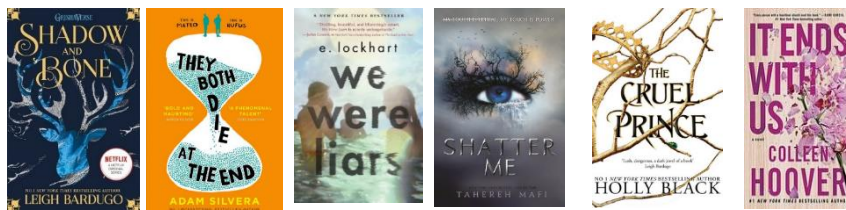
Monday: 12:50 – 13:30 (Lunch) and 15:45-17:00
 Tuesday: 10:30 -10:50 (Break)
 Wednesday: 12:50 – 13:30 (Lunch) and 15:45-17:00
 Thursday: 10:30-10:50 (Break)
 Friday: 12:50 – 13:30(Lunch) and 15:45-16:00

Year 10

Monday: 10:20 – 10:40 (Break)
 Tuesday: 12:30 – 13:30 (Lunch) and 15:45 – 17:00
 Wednesday: 10:20 – 10:40 (Break)
 Thursday: 12:30 – 13:30 (Lunch) and 15:45 – 17:00
 Friday: 10:20 – 10:40 (Break)

Heard of **BookTok** -the fastest growing book club you will ever visit, the go to place for all content pertaining to books, reading, writing with book reviews, writing tips, plot re-enactments of popular novels? Click [here](#) and [here](#) to find out more! **A note of caution to parents though...** it is an open platform, and some content might not be to your liking for your teenager, but what a great way to also join and get involved and engage with your child about their reading choices.

Some (there are many more) of the recommended titles **ARE AVAILABLE** in the library! Reminder to keep the reviews coming in to **EARN** 10 Merits! mrsrhorwitz@thearcheracademy.org.uk



PE DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Miss Alcock



Year 9 had an excellent start to the netball league this week. Playing away against St Michael's on Wednesday, two netballs teams took part. The girls played brilliantly with the A team winning 23-11 and the B team having a very close game drawing 10-10.

Players of the match, voted by St Michael's were Anna and Solea. All the girls have demonstrated their commitment since the start of the year, with over 18 girls coming to training every week. It is safe to say all the girls are improving and I'm excited to see how they progress through the league. Well done all of you!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 - Mr McSherry

How are those sixth form/college applications going? Please do encourage your child to Apply! Apply! Apply! Form tutors and I are busy writing references currently, so please do encourage them to get going with a minimum of Plan A, Plan B and then Plan C.

In this week's SPPEC lesson we discussed vaping. At this point in time, it felt important to raise the issue amongst the year group and ensure we were well positioned to educate, to provide information about the dangers of vaping as well as dispelling any popular myths on the subject. We then followed up with some additional information as well as some key discussion questions in form time this afternoon.

What did your child learn about vaping this week? Why not have an open conversation about it and ensure you follow up should you or they have any questions regarding this.

Hoodies are creeping back in again, please do your best to ensure your child is not wearing any type of hoodie with their school uniform. They are permitted to wear their Archer hoodie when in PE / CPA kit, otherwise - no hoodies please!

Have a lovely weekend.



Narin A and Molly M - For making an excellent contribution in SPPEC this week during discussion

Year 10 - Miss Alcock

This week the year group have impressed me and the head of upper school with the way they have applied themselves during their assessments. Students have another week of assessments planned for next week and need to check SMH work for information from their teachers.

Please can I ask parents to double check uniform and equipment and make sure your child is coming to school in full school uniform or PE kit with their school bag and pencil case. Tutors will be checking equipment and uniform on a weekly basis. Please note that students are only permitted to wear a single stud earring in each ear. Students will be asked to remove any additional earrings/hoops or other jewellery.



Olive and Harith for their excellent work in GCSE PE.

Year 9 - Mr Constantinou

The students have worked so hard this week during their depth assessments, I know there has been some anxiety and therefore feel it is important to remind them that this is just one point of assessment and not a formal exam point. It is, however, obviously important they work hard and try their best.

We have also had some excellent extra curricular activities taking place, a particular highlight being how well the girls netball team did on Wednesday after school, please see the PE update for more details.

In lifelong learning this week we have looked at strategies to think about when making choices. The focus this term is very much on empowering the students to make the most informed choices they can in choosing their GCSE options next month. Please do have conversations at home to support this.



Jamal A - making a fantastic start to the new term
Solea C - excellent effort in netball, Miss Alcock was so impressed

Year 8 – Mr Wick

I am so happy to be writing my update this week as it's been wonderful to see our year 8 cohort having their first full week back. They have engaged so well with their first of two assessment weeks - please do refer to SMH for next week's schedule.

Year 8 have thrown themselves into our form group two-week merit competition. After this first week, the data shows a close race with 8CBA in front and 8KCL close behind. But it's all for grabs by the end of next week!

This half term we are focusing on "Our Future Self" as our theme for lifelong learning. We are discussing how study skills can impact college, revision skills, hobbies and future life. We want year 8 students to interact with their futures and have a chance to discuss this with their brilliant tutors.

This week our lifelong learning session focuses on "Careers" as students are given the opportunity to interact with potential career choices as well as discussing what might be a good fit for them.

An ongoing project that all forms will be doing this term is our amazing charity project. I've tasked forms with creating exciting and inventive ideas to make as much money as possible for their form's chosen charity. Ideas so far have been "buy cheap pizza and sell it for profit" or "make cool stuff and sell it". I am very excited to see students and tutors working together to invent some original money making schemes.

On the 20th January, we will have an online event at 5pm where you can hear from the Bushcraft company about what this residential trip is all about.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6441824642608933136>

To attend this parent session, please sign up using the link above. This can be done in advance so you have all the details you will need to log in. On the day, please log in using the details you are given when you sign up. You may need to download some software for this, so please allow some extra time when signing in. This software can be easily deleted once the session is completed.

Finally, to remind you, the HPV vaccinations are happening on Tuesday 18th January. Please do email me if you have questions.

★ Stars of the Week ★

Arwen B and Samal M who have worked so hard and received so many merits this week!

Year 7 – Ms Ogbaselase



Year 7 have excelled in their first full week of the term. While it has been wonderful seeing students throw themselves into all aspects of their learning, what has been most impressive is how Year 7 have, quite simply, embedded the brilliant basics. Not only have we secured the strongest attendance across all year groups but we are also top of the honour roll. A huge well done must go to all – such excellence is no small feat!

In lifelong learning, tutors launched our new charity drive. I have set each form the task of choosing a charity that holds meaning to them. Over the next two terms, we will hold an inter-form competition to see how much we can raise for those selected. I hope that each child will find their own way to raise awareness, have a positive impact and engage with our wider community – all of which are key components of what it means to be an Archer.

Lastly, well done to 7SMU for leading our first Archer café. A lovely start to the weekend.

 **Stars of the Week** 

DeNero in 7JRA for demonstrating kindness to all and a real zest for learning. A particular well done for building a wonderful model of Norman castles.

Zena in 7REV for being polite, kind and hard-working. Well done for modelling the Archer Way.

Keep it up!