

4th March 2022

Dear all,

We have had a real sense of the normality we have been seeking across school this week. This has been seen and felt in school trips, the Lower School Student Social and Year 8 Curriculum Choices Evening. It has been very special and reassuring to spend time with students exploring learning beyond the classroom and then to welcome a whole year group of parents into school to discuss the joys of curriculum personalisation. I do know how fortunate we all feel to be able to enjoy this sense of community and variety once again.

On Tuesday we were thrilled to welcome Matt Lucas to the school, as our Patron for our Raise the Roof Campaign. Matt met with a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students for a Q&A session and was certainly put through his paces! Do enjoy the photographs and detail later in the newsletter. We so look forward to building this relationship and maximising the support that Matt can afford us in raising the funds for our new studio.

Across this week staff have run a series of lunchtime workshops to help students understand the conflict in Ukraine. We feel very aware of just how complex this situation is and want to ensure that our students are well supported. As a community we are very keen to assist the humanitarian effort surrounding the people of the Ukraine and in the Wc 21st March we will be running a fundraising campaign to support the British Red Cross and their appeal. This campaign will be led by Year 10 students with events across the campus.

Next week sees our Year 10 cohort head off on Work Experience and to a range of incredible opportunities. We wish every student good luck and look forward to hearing all about their achievements.

With my very best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Thought for the week: *'Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing.'* Harper Lee

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/>

March

w/c 7th – Wellbeing Week, lower school

Fri 11th – Non uniform day, lower school, dress as a super hero, bring in £1 donation for our Upper School Wellbeing Garden Project

w/c 7th – Year 10 Work Experience

w/c 14th – Science Week

Weds 16th – INSET day (students off school)

Thurs 17th – Cultural Society trip to see & Juliet, applications now closed

Fri 18th – Parent coffee morning with Miss Harrison and guest speaker, Dr Hugh Selsick, Consultant in sleep medicine and psychiatry, on the topic of teenage sleep, 9.15am – 10.15am

Weds 23rd – Spring Concert

Thurs 24th – Parents Association Quiz Night

Mon 28th – Managing your child's digital diet, year 10&11 parents with Sophia Davison, see details below

April

Fri 1st – Last day of term, student finish 12pm midday
Mon 4th – Mon 18th – Easter holidays
Tues 19th – Summer term starts 8.30am
Weds 27th – Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening, 4.30 – 8pm

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.

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



We need YOU!!

Our events are run by parent volunteers and we need parents to come forward in order for them to go ahead. Please email parentsassociation@thearcheracademy.org.uk if you can lend a hand, either in the run up to the event or on the night itself. We are currently recruiting for:

Parents' Quiz Night – Thursday 24th March 7.00 – 10.30pm
Archella International Festival – Saturday 16th July

Student Social

A great night was had by all at our lower school Student Social. Students had pre-chosen their song choices and our DJ got everyone on their feet and showing their moves on the dancefloor. We were also able to open the Archer garden as a chill out zone, thanks to the help of the Green Arrow team and students toasted marshmallows round the fire pit.

Thank you to all the parent and staff volunteers, these events are made possible because of your help and hard work.

Parents' Quiz Night – Thursday 24th March, 7 – 10.30pm, lower school

Tickets £22 each, includes dinner

We have been overwhelmed by the table bookings for this event. There are now just a handful of tickets left. If you would like to attend and are not already assigned to a table, please email: parentsassociation@thearcheracademy.org.uk as soon as possible to secure your place. It will be first come, first served for the few remaining tickets.



The event will be hosted by Avis Johns, Founder of the Archer Academy and general all-round superstar and local legend, MOBO award winning DJ Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock.

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Table Sponsorship

If you would like to promote your business, this year we will be offering parents/local businesses the opportunity to sponsor a table where your company name will be displayed on the night. Please email parentsassociation@thearcheracademy.org.uk to arrange.

Event Sponsorship

If you know of a company that would like to sponsor the event, please get in touch and let our treasurers Sara or Ella know: parentsassociation@thearcheracademy.org.uk

A STAR VISITOR – Mrs Csaky



Film actor, comedian and Great British Bake Off star Matt Lucas visited this week to inspire a group of year 10 and 11 students. Matt has generously agreed to be the patron of **Raise the Roof**, our campaign to raise funds to build a performing arts studio at school. This was just the first in a number of ways he is planning to share his time.

Matt answered students' questions about his own school days and how much being involved with drama meant to him. He spoke of how he auditioned for the National Youth Theatre where he met his friend and future collaborator, David Walliams. He also talked about the determination needed to be a successful actor, noting that although there is a glamorous side to the job, it involves hard work and early morning starts on set, and that no matter who you are in the business, you still have to audition for roles.

Matt advised students that it's either feast or famine for an actor and that they should have a secondary career to pursue alongside acting. He recounted many funny stories from the set of Dr Who as well as his new film Wonka in which he stars with Timothée Chalamet.

Students also discussed with Matt how the impact of the pandemic had affected them and how important it is to have the physical contact of drama and dance back in their lives.

Matt will be visiting the school again to do an assembly for all students, and hosting a special 'Evening With' to raise funds for the new performance space in the coming months. But for now, having delighted both students and staff, he was off to learn his lines.

We are now over halfway to our £300,000 target and would like to start work this summer in order to have the new performance space ready for next academic year. So the race is on to raise the remaining funds, which is why Matt's support is so vital.

We would welcome information about, or links to, any relevant trusts and foundations that might be interested in supporting the campaign. Individuals or organisations who may be able to help should contact the Headteacher's PA, Jessica Scott at jscott@thearcheracademy.org.uk

LOWER SCHOOL WELLBEING WEEK – Ms Martin



Next week we will be running our first Well-being Week for students in years 7 to 9.

This is an excellent opportunity for your child to build on their ability to face up to challenges and develop their resilience. Throughout the course of the week, your child will complete daily resilience sessions each morning with their session one teacher. The week is based around the theme of superheroes and each day will have a specific theme directly linked to wellbeing and channelling our inner super being! Across the week, we will be hosting a range of activities linked to the theme for each day.

All students will have the opportunity to take part in:

- Resilience session each morning
- Social media workshop on Wednesday with the GAV programme for schools
- Non-school uniform superhero theme day on Friday, your child should bring £1 to take part

In addition to these activities, there will be some other well-being sessions running throughout the school day. Including:

Breathing, yoga, canine meet and greet, kickboxing, gardening, bush craft and fire pit, card making workshop, basketball, mindfulness colouring

We look forward to sharing highlights of the successes of our well-being week with you in the newsletter. Should you have any questions, please get in touch: msamartin@thearcheracademy.org.uk

FREE WEEK HIGHLIGHTS - Miss Jouhal



Archer staff and students were provided with a 'Free Week' last half term. Below is a snapshot of our evaluation, showing the week was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed.

What did our staff think?

- The week allowed time to refocus on teaching and learning
- The week was well timed after assessments to support with marking
- It provided time and space to reflect
- The week was an enjoyable shared experience across our school community for parents, students and staff

What did our students think? We received 294 responses!

What factors had a positive impact on your 'Free Week'?

- 86.1% said 'Free Week' met or partially met the aim of providing a calendared and mindful pause after assessments
- 87.7% said 'Free Week' met or partially met the aim of providing an opportunity to catch up on homework, remote learning work and/or general revision
- 80.3% said 'Free Week' met or partially met the aim of providing an opportunity to reflect on long term goals
- 78.6% said 'Free Week' enabled them to practice mindfulness
- 88.8% said they used 'Free Week' to get their study spaces organised at home

How did students spend their time?

Thomas T: "I attempted to do all my homework due for Free Week before the week actually started so I could actually be 'free' during the week!"

Matilda S: "I made sure to keep my evenings free and try to focus on my hobbies and where I want to go after Archer"

Ayan M: "I used the week to refresh my routines and enjoyed having a nice pause to get ready for the term ahead properly"

Camilo G: "I set up a work station at home"

Mujtaba C: "I made sure my homework was caught up on, and I set plans to revise and clean up any housework and academic revision I had to catch up on, or wished to get ahead on"

Hyojun K: "I started my revision on the year 9 curriculum because I haven't done year 9 at The Archer since joining in September"

HEADTEACHER'S LUNCH - Miss Harrison

Lower School Headteacher lunch was an absolute treat this week. Huge congratulations to the students invited as recognition of their achievements.



PARENTS COFFEE MORNING – Mrs Scott



Miss Harrison would like to invite all Archer parents to join her for a parents' coffee morning on Friday 18th March from 9.15am - 10.15am, Lower School. Please book your free place here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parents-coffee-morning-teenage-sleep-tickets-276946784287>

We will be welcoming Dr Hugh Selsick, consultant in sleep medicine and psychiatry, to talk about the fascinating topic of teenage sleep, followed by a Q&A session.

You will also have the chance to have a chat with other parents from different year groups and catch up with Miss Harrison.

MANAGING YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL DIET – Ms Mahoney

We are really pleased to announce that we are running a KS4 presentation on "*Managing your child's digital diet*" designed specifically for parents of students in years 10 & 11 on Monday 28th March, 6pm in the upper school dining room.

This will be led by our child and adolescent psychotherapist Sophia Davison. We have had fantastic feedback from parents following the two previous sessions and very much hope to see you there.

ECONOMICS TRIP – Mr Ruffles



Year 10s had the opportunity to meet and work with young employees of top economics consultancy firm FTI in the City. Activities included exercises exploring taxation, government spending and local council spending priorities.

STUDENT SUPPORT – Miss Devi & Miss Jouhal

To support our school community in understanding the complexities of the current Ukrainian - Russian crisis, a range of lunchtime sessions took place throughout this week. The purpose of these sessions was to support our student and staff body in understanding the context of the alarming headlines and footage they may have seen in recently. Resources and discussions focused on the historical context and the roots of the conflict in the hope that staying informed will help our community in navigating their emotions at this difficult and complex time.

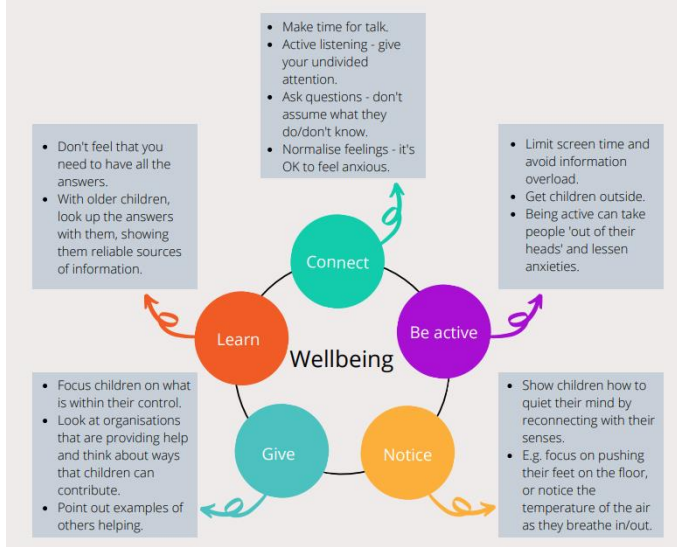
We are keen to provide further opportunities and are making good use of student voice to inform future provision. A reminder that any student who is distressed about what they are seeing or hearing should speak to a member of staff for support.

The link below is a video offered by BBC and Newsround providing advice for young people who are finding themselves upset by the news, students and families may find this helpful.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>

We look forward to supporting and working with our students going forward and thanks to all students who joined the sessions.

The Ukraine - helping children cope with world conflict.



Talking to your child about world conflict - Dragonfly Mental Health Guidance

At Archer Academy we believe there are five ways to wellbeing. These are evidence based ways of looking after your mental health. Here, we think about how they can support children during a time of heightened anxiety and fear amid world events. Children under 7 are unlikely to take on board much of what is going on, so it can be best to wait for them to bring it up. With older children and teenagers, adults have less control over where their information comes from. Ask them questions to determine what they know and correct any misconceptions. With older children, respond to questions but don't overload them with facts. Keep messages simple and offer reassurances about the distance and the minimal risk of events directly impacting them or their families. Teens might have 'what if' questions - help them reality check these 'what ifs', explore what they could do in certain situations and focus

them on the things they can control.

If you or your child have any concerns about their mental health or wellbeing please contact your child's Head of Year or tutor in the first instance.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM – Ms Gunn



Our wonderful student leaders have been very busy in the past fortnight. A group of our upper school team held a bake sale and sold handmade pride wristbands for the charity 'Give Out' who fund projects to support the LGBTQ+ community all over the world. Very well done to our team and thank you to everyone who supported us by buying baked goods and wristbands.

Our academic prefects continue to support with homework club at lower school and our younger students are really feeling the impact of this support.

Our year 11 team have met twice to discuss various school wide issues and we can't wait to share the outcome of our discussions with you soon.

Both the upper and lower school Student Leadership teams will meet once a week going forward so please contact our wonderful head students, lead prefects or Ms Gunn to have your say on future discussion topics

Well done Team

FOURTH PLINTH COMPETITION – Ms Clarke

Well done to all of the students who entered the National Fourth Plinth design competition. Their entries should be displayed online soon after the weekend. Archer students are submitting a range of beautiful drawings and some adventurous sculptures and installation pieces. The pieces deal with both serious and humorous issues, for example: this bag designed for the Queen's anniversary by Olivia S, and the beautiful pencil drawing of a whale by Laila E.

All those who entered will receive a postcard and we will keep our fingers crossed for the results!



ENRICHMENT – Miss Le



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...times outside a... on the stage... on the... morning of Thursday 17 February. The sun was out but this didn't help as the young woman was regularly drenched throughout the shoot by a rain machine stationed on the pavement. Between shots the crew tried to keep her from shivering by wrapping a coat round her. Let's hope her next shoot is on a warm beach somewhere.

Activities build bonds between schools

Martin Primary and the Archer Academy in East Finchley are building bonds with activity sessions in which students from both schools take part. Year 6 students from Martin Primary visit the Academy every Wednesday to take part in sports, dance, yoga and multi-sports. As spring arrives, they will be widening the choice of sessions to include rock climbing.



Ambassadors: Extended Curriculum lead Miss Le with Year 6 Archer Academy students

Students from both schools got together for a celebration assembly and teamwork certificates were awarded to those who took part, as well as special awards for week.

Sundays at 5pm
Green Man Community Centre
Strawberry Vale, N2 2BA
EVERYONE WELCOME
To our informal services followed by afternoon tea
020 884 1100
www.greenmancommunitycentre.co.uk



Our second block of enrichment is in full swing for all year groups, from year 6 - 11. Our year 6

resumed their enrichment programme and were super excited at the opportunity of rock climbing. Our instructors were so impressed with all the students they have taught so far.

This block of enrichment packs a punch with the lights of kickboxing, karate and Jiu Jitsu introduced back into the enrichment programme. It was also great to see our Archer Award winners so pleased in their enrichments, after working so hard in the previous block to secure this reward. I already can't wait to see who will win the Archer Arrow Award this time round.

Our community enrichment programme has also made the news this week. Please check out this month's The Archer newspaper: <http://www.the-archer.co.uk/archive/2022/2022Mar07.pdf>

HAMILTON TRIP – Mr Carter

A group of year 9 music, dance and drama students were lucky enough to go and see the musical Hamilton this week. Students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and we were humming the music all the way home!



10x CHALLENGE FOR YEAR 8 – Mr Barrow

Year 8 are taking part in the 10x Challenge from the 28th February to the 21st March. The 10X Challenge is a national competition for young people aged from 11 – 19 years. The Challenge is free and run by Young Enterprise, the UK's leading enterprise and financial education charity. From the 14th March we encourage students to bring in no more than £10 to support the year 8's in establishing successful businesses. Thank you in advance for your support here.

YEAR 11 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP CAMPAIGN -RAISING AWARENESS OF PEER ON PEER ABUSE

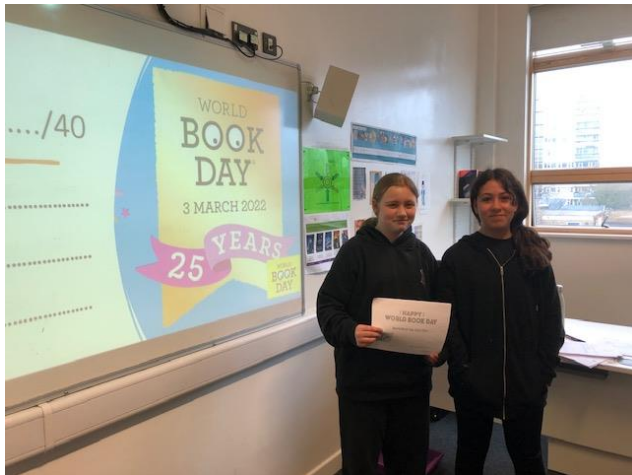
Year 11 GCSE Citizenship students have been working incredibly hard to research the complex topic of peer on peer abuse and prepare a campaign to raise awareness of the issues and then influence school and educational policy. Please look out for their upcoming questionnaire for parents, staff and students to support them in further exploring how we can secure positive change in our school community.

From the students: The aims of our project are to raise awareness about peer-on-peer abuse, consent, and equality in relationships, particularly for Upper School students, so that they can make good and safe choices. In addition, to support this ambition, we aim to provide education and resources for teachers and parents so that they can better understand the challenges young people in 2022 face regarding these topics, and hope to prompt an improvement in the PSHE curriculum. With your support, we believe we can make a positive and necessary impact on our school.



LIBRARY CORNER – Ms Appelquist & Mrs Horwitz

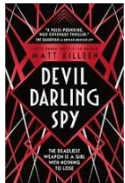
Lower School



World Book Day

Year 8s marked World Book Day with a form quiz to test their literary knowledge in their English lesson on Thursday.

New in Library:



1940: Sarah—the undercover Jewish girl who infiltrated a Nazi boarding school—is in Africa to stop the spread of a lethal man-made disease. The sequel everyone’s been waiting for!

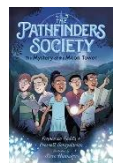
Book Reviews:



Takuya on *Goodnight Mr Tom*: *I really recommend this book because you can understand the reality of WWII and also it the last bit was very cool!*

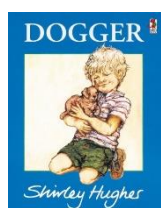
Hugo on *Rooftoppers*: *My favourite character is Charles because he is the one who shows the book’s motif the most, to never ignore a possibility.*

Naama on *The Pathfinders Society*: *I couldn’t wait to see what happened in the end!*



Events:

Did you enjoy *A Kind of Spark* and *Show Us Who You Are*? The author, Elle McNicoll will be signing her new book, *Like a Charm* next Saturday the 12th March.



RIP Shirley Hughes, creator of children’s classics *Dogger* and the *Alfie* series. A talented author and illustrator, she sold more than 10 million copies of her books. She also wrote a gripping WWII story of the Italian Resistance—*Hero on a Bicycle*—which is available in the Lower School Library.



Pastoral Reading Book Cover Competition!



There were so many amazing entries--the judges found it incredibly difficult! Congratulations to the winners—please see Ms Appelquist to collect your prizes.

International Women's Day is next Tuesday—come and pick up a book with some dynamic and powerful heroines:



These and more available in the Lower School Library!

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

Upper School

Upper Library... Resources

As part of the upper school library offering to our students, technology in the form of two desk top and ten laptop computers are available for students to access; be it for revision, homework, and/or research. The laptops are stored in the laptop caddy and can only be used in the library. They may not leave the library. Students scan them out and in again once complete.

Students enjoying using the technology in the Library



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 11 - Mr McSherry

In this week's assembly, as promised, I shared all information with the students regarding their Core Subject Exams, which begin next week. I have talked and talked about preparation and maximising opportunities. Please relay these consistent messages with your child at home and encourage them to pay attention to the details of the timetable to ensure they are best placed to achieve their potential at this important monitoring point.

Based on the key information provided, I wonder if you could ask your child the following questions in the hope they may have the answer -

On which site are all exams taking place?

Is there enrichment next week?

Will you be sitting in your normal classroom seating plan?

What time should you arrive in the morning?

Will Mr McSherry see any students wearing PE/CPA kit across the week, at all?

Looking at the timetable and organisation, what is the extra detail around the history/geography exams?

They also had a follow-up session with tutors on Thursday afternoon to ensure they were all well informed. I look forward to seeing your child on Monday ready to attack the week and put their best foot forward.

Have a lovely weekend.



Karo K- for securing a very exciting post-16 option!

Year 10 - Miss Alcock

It has been a busy week for year 10 making sure the students are set for the start of their work experience next week. The students have worked incredibly hard to secure their placements with some students being placed at the most incredible companies.

Please do make sure students are confident with the timings of the day, what to wear, who their main contact is and what the requirements are for lunch. All students will have a visit from a member of staff whilst on placement to see how they are getting on.

When the students return on Monday 14th they will all start at US for a whole school assembly.

I look forward to seeing and hearing how the students get on.

The students got to round off the week taking part in the Careers Fair where they got to take part in workshops, assemblies and sessions with their tutors.

Well done to all students who supported with the year 8 Options Evening - thank you to those who all gave up their time to support particular departments.



Farah for her brilliant contribution in English
Stan for his resilience finding a work experience placement
and supporting some of his peers to find their placements.

Year 9 - Mr Constantinou

This week saw many exciting opportunities for year 9, supporting the year 8 options process as senior students at lower school, a trip to see Hamilton and the lower school social, just to name a few. I am delighted that we are able to start offering these opportunities again and look forward to seeing our year 9s taking up these opportunities going forward.

In assembly this week we celebrated World Book Day - with a wonderful video showing our students love of reading. Your child will have been given a £1 book voucher to redeem against a book of their choosing.

A gentle reminder about uniform as we are starting to see some bad habits form in the year group.

- Trainers should only be worn with their CPA/PE kit. These should be predominantly black - white trainers are not allowed.
- Students should be wearing their regular Archer school uniform on all days they do not have PE or CPA lessons.

- Students should not be wearing jewellery (except a single studded earring in each ear) or make up to school.
- Any hair that is past the shoulder should be tied up.

I would appreciate your support in ensuring our students attend in the correct uniform to enable us to focus on the more important elements of their school lives.

★ Stars of the Week ★

Phoebe M - for her consistency and work ethic in all her lessons.
Patrick C - for his engagement with school life and positive attitude

Year 8 – Mr Wick

Excitingly, on Wednesday year 8s and their families came into school in person. What a joy to see everyone without the barrier of a screen. During this time students had the opportunity to speak with teachers of potential subjects to study in year 9. Attendance was excellent and students seemed to really value the event. Please ensure your child has made their choices by Friday 11th March here: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2tMZ2aRla0GLHFq8h_noGaQbdrGaAkhDpu3wV5zBJIJURVUwVUtSSkozTERPUUFESDZLMUZTRFNTOC4u

Options are:

Green Block (one choice) - Computer Science, Italian, Additional Science, Food Technology, Psychology, PE, Photography, VCert Business Studies.

Purple Block (two choices) - Art & Design, Dance, Music, Drama, Design & Technology, VCert Engineering.

On Thursday, students were invited to the Lower School Social. It was an absolute hit as students were dancing, eating, and socialising after so long apart. I am so happy we were able to pull off such an event and that it was so well attended.

★ Stars of the Week ★

Sidney & Shreya from 8JBA - both students (and the whole form group!) have worked very hard to raise money for WaterAid by selling produce at a bake sale. Such a lovely effort by all well done.



Year 7 – Ms Ogbaselase

It was wonderful to meet with parents on Monday for our meeting on Take My Child to Work Day. We also explored this as a year group collective during our assembly on Tuesday. The buzz is palpable, and I look forward to discussing the opportunity we will together afford your child on the day. Today

marked the deadline for the parent letter – if this is something you have not yet got around to, please do so over the weekend. I will then use final numbers to firm up our plans next week.

Likewise, Thursday marked the return of our real life events with our Student Social – I was very impressed by some of year 7's moves on the dancefloor! It was also lovely to have the support of our Parents' Association. If this is something you would like to support with future events, please do get in touch.

Next week marks Wellbeing Week. With over a third of the year group having signed up for various activities, I look forward to the opportunities this will afford students. In particular, Ms Martin and I are very much looking forward to yoga on Tuesday morning! Please do discuss this with your child, and if they are yet to sign up, do encourage their participation.

★ Stars of the Week ★

Gerardas and Lia in 7NAS for being a role model to your peers and demonstrating excellence in all you do. Well done!

