



PARENT BULLETIN: PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Autumn term 2022/2023 - November 2022

Dear families,

It has been a busy start to the new half-term with Year 7 having two making memories events in their first week back. A fantastic trip to the cinema to watch Disney's Coco in Spanish was quickly followed by an informative and enjoyable Your Life, You Choose day focused on keeping them safe. We also held our first Sixth Form open evening and were delighted to see so many pupils and their families engaging in positive conversations about their post 16 options. It was particularly pleasing to see so many pupils from other schools in Barnet coming to see our offer.

We have been in our new building for exactly a year and we are pleased that the pitches at the school field are now completed. The AstroTurf pitch will be available for use in the coming days, but grass pitches need to be allowed to grow and develop for about a year before they can be used, so we will not have access to that pitch yet. The old Orion nursery, which will become the changing rooms will be completed in the spring term.

Our neighbours to the back of the school have now removed the fence which was blocking our second pupil gate, so we can now leave via that exit at the end of the day. Please note that it will not be opened in the morning. Pupils who live in those houses and flats, or pupils who live in the direction of The Orion School/Mill Hill can exit from that gate from Monday 7 November. Parents who pick up children in cars might find it easier to park along Grahame Park Way and wait for their children to walk through the housing development to them - it is still double yellow lines, but at least they are not on a dangerous bend and will not block buses like on Corner Mead. **Please do not park in the new estate** - there is a sign which says without a parking permit you will be fined £100!



Please look at our new website or one of our social media channels to keep up to date with our news.

Congratulations to our new parent governors Michael Green and Aramide Oke.

Academic Year 2022 / 2023	
Autumn term	
Wednesday 23 November	INSET day
Friday 16 December	Last day of autumn term
School finishes at 12.00pm	
Monday 19 to Friday 30 December	Christmas/autumn holidays
Spring term	
Monday 2 January	Bank holiday
Tuesday 3 January	INSET day
Wednesday 4 January	Year 11 only
Thursday 5 January	Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 return

Please see below for some useful sites for support with the Cost of Living.

The team at [Good Thinking have put together a new cost of living article](#) to give you some practical tips and links to support organisations.

The GLA's [Help With the Cost of Living online hub](#) continues to be updated with a range of information to support Londoners, including on money and mental health.

The BIG Charity Project

To enable our pupils to develop empathy and a sense of community we would like to launch the BIG charity project for winter, as below: This will also be a house competition.

- Year 7: Operation Shoebox pupils bring in small gifts for a house competition to fill shoeboxes for children around the world who may not get a Christmas gift this year.
- Year 8: Food bank donations for a local food bank; pupils will be asked to bring in donations of canned food. We will have house colour crates in learning group rooms to collect donations.
- Year 9: Donations of items to support women's shelters and targets of domestic abuse, such as toiletries, etc
- Year 10: Donations for Crisis at Christmas; items such as scarves, gloves, hats and socks
- Year 11: Food bank donations for a local food bank; pupils will be asked to bring in donations of dried food, cereals, rice, pasta, etc.

#Togetherwecreate



Art



Music



Drama



DT

