

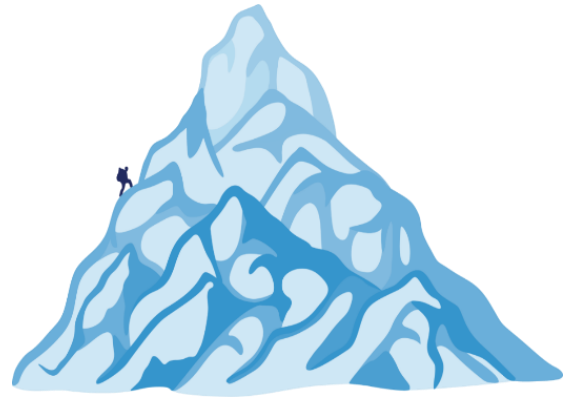
THE BA TIMES

Latest news and bulletin updates

Letter from the Editor: Mrs Horner

As we approach the end of the first half term, this edition marks the beginning of the BA Times.

It is both a celebration of all we've achieved and a heartfelt thank you to our incredible school community. This issue is a tribute to the ambition and determination shown by our student editors, who have worked tirelessly to create this issue.



A message from the co-editor: Ms Brown

As this year's co editor, I'm excited to help bring fresh voices and new ideas to our school newspaper. Our goal has been to highlight the achievements, events, creativity and opinions of students across every year. Whether it's news, interviews, sports or student work, we hope that this issue reflects the ambition, determination and respect of our school community. Thank you for reading and supporting student journalism.

Barnsley Academy is Rights Respecting School Gold!

Holly S and Mrs Horner

This half term, Barnsley Academy were thrilled to be awarded our 'GOLD' Rights Aware award from UNICEF.

UNICEF – the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights – grants the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) to schools that commit to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.



Gold is the highest award given by UNICEF UK and shows a commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. Only 8% of secondary schools in England have achieved the Gold Award.

Sports at the Academy

Alessia S

After interviewing the sports department here is all the latest news:

First, let's start with football: the girls' team had a match at Oakwell, they did very well and finished in 3rd place. The year 9 and 10 boys' football team beat Trinity Saint Edwards! The year 7 and 8 boys' football team have some upcoming matches as well.

Let's move on to Netball! A South Yorkshire Netball officer came in for 3 weeks to start off our new netball club. If you are interested, please sign up on Arbor as teachers will now be taking attendance.

Our most loved sport which had the most people attending is Badminton! Although it's not currently running because of exams and some other complications we hope it will continue again soon.

"More people are attending clubs than ever before." -Mr Parkinson

We encourage students to go and try out a sport. A UK survey showed that 5,481 students (aged 13-15) found that greater sports participation in school was associated with higher levels of wellbeing and more concentration in lessons and higher grades. Don't be shy to try out something new, be curious, be brave, be ambitious, be determined!

If these sports don't appeal to you don't worry! There will be new ones coming after Christmas such as rugby or basketball, and there will be even more upcoming, so watch this space and speak to your form tutors or the PE department for more info.

Also, we'd like to shout out to those who went on the GCSE PE residential trip. They were away for 3 days rock-climbing and cycling in Cowling North Yorkshire and stayed on site in a residential. Everyone did well and got amazing grades, all the students represented the school brilliantly. A big well done to them for their amazing efforts!

Barnsley Academy Remembers

Findlay M

On the 11th of November 2025, Barnsley Academy came together with a day focused on Remembrance Day, to commemorate all the soldiers who had lost their lives, as well as animals and also, to thank the many veterans for their service.

In form time, we focused on the experiences of soldiers. We did this to teach students about people's past experiences and that not all veterans are the same.

We commemorated Remembrance Day as a school. The two head students recited the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrea.

Our lead Governor and Mr Pitcher both gave emotive speeches about why it is important that we honour Remembrance Day and then the two-minute silence started. The school orchestra played 'The Last Post' as we all participated in the two-minute silence.

I felt this was important to do as a school because it would be an honourable thing to learn and a very important day for lots of people, and the fact that it should be a celebratory day, especially as a UNICEF Gold's Rights Respecting School. This has been accomplished for many, many years and that's why students are proud to be a part of Barnsley Academy.



This November Air

Ruby Daw

*As the poppies grow
And the sun disappears
Flanders field is basked in black
This cold November air
And the sound of silence on the wind
My comrades and fellow men lay still
The air is cold
And the poppies wilt
As the autumn air shifts to winter
And the snow makes the air bite and
claw
But so long as you breathe
And the sun rises over Flanders field
We will not be forgotten
As weeks turn to months
And the poppies grow and die
Our memory remains
Lest we forget*

An Insight into the Curriculum – RE and PSHE

Arya W

In this article I will cover the different topics in RE and PSHE at Barnsley Academy throughout different year groups.

RE: In year 7 pupils learn about origins of Abrahamic faiths and will investigate Judaism and Christianity in their lessons. Throughout year 8 students cover the religion Islam and philosophy religion. Year 9 pupils discover life and death - which is about the afterlife. In RE for students in year 10 pupils learn about religious philosophy and ethics which is an academic discipline that examines major world religions through the lenses of philosophy and ethics.

PSHE: the Year 7 curriculum covers nutrition, change, puberty and hormones, age-appropriate behaviours, personal boundaries, and the law of explicit images on the internet. During year 8 pupils look at a range of different issues and concepts such as stereotypes, discrimination, mental and physical health, relationships and consent. Throughout year 9 students cover a range of other topics including personal responsibility, freedom of expression, the dangers of alcohol, smoking and drugs and further develop

their understanding of what positive relationships look like.

All year groups cover the very important topic of relationships, sex education and health and wellbeing. If you find any of these issues worrying, please speak to a trusted adult.

The RE Department have identified students who showcase the academy values in their lessons:

Year 7: Lily Baker, for courage in her studies and she even brought in an example of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics to show and present to the rest of her classmates.

Year 8: Poppy Savage, for showing ambition inside and outside the classroom.

Year 9: Samuel Brown for using incredible effort during extended writing in lessons, he has shown perseverance and determination in lessons.

Year 10: Charlie Stevenson and Angel Amoako for making a fantastic start to GCSE RE and going above and beyond

Year 11: Megan Coupland and Jan Tomczak for exemplary effort in and outside of lesson.

Outside of the Curriculum – Trips and Visits

Alessia S, Elena S

Trip to Barnsley Magistrates Court

On September 30th Year 9 went on a exciting trip to Barnsley Law Courts. The aim was for students to get to learn more about law and how a case is handled. Everyone got the chance to learn new things and even to experience how to be members of the court.

Before the journey all students gathered to the canteen to look over their scripts, attendance was done to ensure everyone was present. Afterwards everyone hopped on the school mini bus.

Upon arrival everyone had to go through security then afterwards everyone went inside the designated court. There was a kind lady which introduced the sittings and the basic rules people are obligated to follow in court.

The barristers, solicitors' clerk and judge had to wear a wig and a robe.



The case:

The case was about a knife crime. Which was based on a real case. The year 9s found him not guilty.

Student feedback:

Students were really happy about the trip and more interested in law. Therefore the trip was a huge success everyone came back inspired. It was a perfect mix of education and fun. It helped bring in a lot of knowledge on the law which was brilliant.

Interview with Mr Pitcher

Alessia S

What inspired you to become a principal?

"I used to work in finance but I didn't value it, I wanted to work with people"

This led to Mr Pitcher becoming a teacher because he wanted to change lives. He felt that by being a principal it would mean he could leave a positive impact on as many people as possible.

What do you enjoy when it comes to having such a important role?

"I like going into lessons, talking to students to see what they have been up to."

How do you think school has changed since you first started?

"There has been a big improvement in behaviour and the quality of learning has improved."

"We have ever been closer to achieving the world class education"

Mr Pitcher believes as a school we have been improving a lot in behaviour in learning, everyone is working hard and doing well.

What upcoming projects or events are you most excited about?

"I am very excited for the winter concert – all students which have taken part have

been so brave and they have practised so hard."

"I am also looking forward to our community work- we want to make the community and our school united"

What advice would you give to students who want to make the most out of school life?

"There are too many choices in life, so school values makes it simple to follow."

"School values lead a path for students to follow in or out of school"

"Always embrace opportunities."

What qualities do you think makes a student stand out?

"I think that the qualities that make a student stand out are manners, respect and empathy. When you have empathy it makes it easy to get on with people and most of the time empathists are good listeners"

What's a fun fact students don't know about you?

"I am a Harry Potter geek; at my wedding all the tables were named after Harry Potter houses... I put some people on the Slytherin table on purpose, as a joke (not really)." "My kids have to first read the Harry Potter books then watch the film."

If you could swap careers for a day, what would you choose and why?

“I would be a professional sports man: more specifically tennis, winning the Wimbledon final.”

How do you see the school changing in the next few years?

“I would see every student feeling like they belong at school; school will be a place where students want to go to. Students will have good GCSE results and opportunities.”

What message would you like to share with the school?

“For new year's the most important thing is commitment- an idea to be willing to take the first step and commit to it.”

To all the students who will come back after the new year and who want to improve academically or just in general don't be afraid to try new things and fail, if you try and commit that's all that matters. Instead of regretting that you didn't do anything all year, it is much better knowing that you tried something new maybe out of your comfort zone and that you failed, because you didn't only fail you gained experience in life you aren't always going to succeed.

“Be brave enough to fail. Ultimately, we learn from failure.”- Mr Pitcher

BA Celebrates the Holidays

Adebola A

Edited by Wahuji A

Christmas is an annual festival on the 25th of December, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. In the UK, Christmas is celebrated through family gatherings, a large dinner, and the exchange of gifts. But for other countries, the tradition is very different from ours.

For example, in Australia, the locals celebrate Christmas on the beach, due to the warmer weather. In Japan, many tend to eat fried chicken (especially from KFC!). In fact, they see Christmas Eve as romantic rather than religious. In Nigeria, Christmas is much more religious, including decorating churches, church choirs singing Christmas carols and much more.

We asked various students their opinions about Christmas:

What does Christmas mean to you?

“Christmas means celebrating the moment when God showed His love in the most personal way possible by coming into the world as Jesus Christ.”

“Spending time with family and friends”

What is your favorite part of Christmas?

“Eating with family.”

“Opening gifts.” Other than Christmas, there are many other religious celebrations, such as:

Eid al-Fitr (Islam): This festival marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting by celebrating the completion of a religious duty and giving thanks for the strength to fast and greet each other by saying “Eid Mubarak” which is Arabic for “Blessed Eid”.

Vesak (Buddhism): This festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of Siddhartha Gautama, who is commonly known as Buddha. People visit temples, give to others, meditate, and join lantern displays or candlelight processions.

Hanukkah (Judaism): This festival is a Rabbinic Jewish festival celebrated for 8 days, commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Jewish Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.

Diwali (Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism): This festival is the Hindu festival of lights, symbolising the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. This celebration lasts for around five or six days.