



# Barnwell Bytes

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## HEADLINE

### Barnwell Rocks Regional Heats!

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## Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents

It is nice to be able to report a lot of positives to you about the school in this edition of **Bytes**, which reflects the range of extra curricular activities we are involved in.

Firstly, we are delighted to see our students win the **Regional Rock Challenge** at the *Gordon Craig Theatre* recently. The students who took part were excellent and now go forward to the national competition in Portsmouth. To show our strength in these areas we have also finished this term with Drama performances as part of a National Theatre scheme, Easter Show and Gym and Dance Evening. A lot of activities and all credit to staff and students alike.

An early Easter this year has meant us cramming a lot in to this term so that we keep things clear to focus upon the exams next term. When we return after Easter we will be in to the exam season with SATs, internal Year 10 exams and external exams for Years 10-13 to follow.

Have a good Easter break and I look forward to a successful term on our return.

**Mr R Westergreen-Thorne - Headteacher**

## Rock Challenge 2008 Regional Winners!

Up to 60 Barnwell students took part in the regional heats of the National Rock Challenge competition and won seven awards culminating in the overall first place position!

Performing on stage in full theatrical ceremony, the students impressed the judges to win the following awards: the Hertfordshire Police Award for **Best Drama Skills** and **School Community Support**, the Stevenage Community Safety Partnership Award for **Healthy Lifestyle**, the Connexions Award for **Media Management**, the Stevenage Borough Council Award for **Best Hair and Make-up Design**, the Herts in Trust Award for **Most Entertaining Performance** and the Chiltern Radio Award for **Best Soundtrack**.

Congratulations to all the students involved and a big thank you to *Miss Brown, Ms Pellen, Miss Gentry, Miss Jones* and *Miss Bishop* for organising the performance from conception, through rehearsal's to the fantastic winning finale.



## Barnwell's Happy School Acclaim Hits The Comet's Front Page

The Comet newspaper; North Herts award winning free local, featured Barnwell's "Happy School" winning claim on its front page last week. The report continues:

★ A school in Comet country is officially the happiest in the land. Barnwell School, Stevenage, has won a national Competition to appear in a film about the importance of happiness in effective schooling. Headteacher *Richard Westergreen-Thorne* said: "We are very pleased to have won this competition and to be considered the happiest school in the country. I believe passionately that the key for success at school is that children feel safe and happy. For us to win this recognition reflects the hard work and commitment of very many students and staff."

Teacher *Judith Ellinger* convinced judges with examples of why the school's students were happy and why Barnwell is special. The competition was run by educationalist *Alistair Smith* who filmed beaming faces at the school on Friday. The film will be used to promote his happy philosophy in other schools.



### North Herts Secondary Swimming Gala

A number of students represented Barnwell in the **North Herts District Swimming Gala**. After last years success of the Junior Girls winning the competition we were keen to replicate and build on this achievement. All the students performed to their best and were a credit to the school. Special mention goes to *Ross Gillo, James Sutherland, Emma Stewart* and *Abbie Livingstone* for their outstanding individual performances.

### Year 10 Evening

A reminder to all Year 10 Parents that we are holding an **Information Evening** in the East Campus Hall on:

**Wednesday 16th April**

Covering topics such as 'What next after GCSEs?' and 'What is expected in exams' etc. There will be opportunities for informal conversations with staff and refreshments will be available. In addition, Miss Pritchard will be available to discuss any work experience queries you may have. Please pop along to any of the three presentations taking place at:

**6:00pm, 6:45pm, 7:30pm**

### Reading Tip of the Week

Introduce the bookmark. Remind your youngster that you don't have to finish a book in one sitting; you can stop after a few pages, or chapter, and pick up where you left off at another time.



### Get Involved and Volunteer in Herts!

Volunteering is a fun way to learn new skills, meet new people and put something back into the community. There is an amazing range of opportunities on offer across Hertfordshire where you can make a difference, so why not give it a try?

The best route into volunteering is through your local Volunteer Centre where you can find information about nearby opportunities. You can visit [www.volunteeringherts.org](http://www.volunteeringherts.org) to find your nearest Centre. Whatever your background, interests and aspirations there are hundreds of exciting volunteering opportunities waiting for you!

### Spotlight on....

**Mrs Johnson**

**Learning Leader Post 16**



**I drive:** Toyota Rav 4

**If I have time to myself:** I love reading

**You wouldn't know it, but I am good at:** Playing chess

**Movie heaven:** Shawshank Redemption

**Comfort eating:** Cadbury's Crème Eggs

**When I was a child I wanted to:** Be a policewoman

**I wish I'd never worn:** A rara skirt

**My spare cash goes on:** My little girl Katie

**It's not fashionable but I like:** Take That

**If I were Prime Minister I would:** Make sure cancer treatment medication was free and available to all.

Interview conducted by: *Ethan Draper & Bradley Porter*

## Year 10s Work Experience Timetable

This year Barnwell is running 3 separate work experience weeks for Year 10 pupils. The students have been divided up according to the coloured option route they currently follow. The dates organised are:

**Yellow Route:** 14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> April

**Blue Route:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July

**Red Route:** 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July

Yellow route pupils are nearly organised and shall be contacting their employers over the next couple of weeks. This year the placements available are listed on a specific website and pupils will have to select their choices online. They have been given their own unique PIN number which must be kept safe.

As always pupils have the opportunity to get their own placements if they want. It is essential that they get their prospective employer to complete a 'Referral Request Form' given out on Learning Review Day and return these forms to school by: **Blue Route – 11<sup>th</sup> April and Red Route – 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

This will give the Careers Service enough time to complete any necessary Health and Safety checks.

If you have any questions then please contact *Miss Pritchard* at school.

## Barnwell Enterprise Ambassadors support Stevenage Borough Council

Six Barnwell Enterprise Ambassadors were recently invited to Stevenage Borough Council offices to help with a project they are currently working on.

The council are looking for ways of informing young people in Stevenage, what they do, how young people can help and work with them, what jobs they have on offer plus much more. *Elaine Simpson*, the school coordinator for the Council, has put together a prototype board game to pass on all this information in a fun and relaxed way. Our Ambassadors were the very first students in Stevenage to play the game.

The Ambassadors took their roles as advisors very seriously and offered advice on how to make the game more playable and exciting. It is hoped that this game when produced will be played in all the schools in Stevenage. A big thank you to the Ambassadors who were: *Alice Wren, Sophie Wainwright, Maisy Hockey, Tanisha Milner, Ben Evans and Ryan Lawrence.*



If anyone is interested in becoming an ambassador, please see *Ms Coyte* at school or email [J.Coyte@Barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:J.Coyte@Barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

## Pouvez-vous parler français ?

### Können Sie Deutsche sprechen?

Year 9 students recently had speakers come in to explain to them the importance of a second language.

Students heard from a Company Director of a haulage firm in England and Germany, a recruitment agency representative and Ms Cowburn a language teacher at Barnwell, who previously worked in industry using both French and German.

The students asked many questions and came up with a wide range of enquiries however they all appeared to agree that this skill was one they would like to learn.

Thank you to the speakers who did a great job.



## Year 7's reflect on school life so far

At the end of February Year 7 took part in a "positive intervention" afternoon.

It was an opportunity for the students to look back on the time they'd had at Barnwell so far. The afternoon was split into three sections where the students created posters that described a successful student, took part in team building games which developed their skills in cooperation and trust and finally they celebrated students' achievements in an award assembly with certificates presented to successful students nominated by their peers.

## Exam Results

We have recently received results from exams taken in January including Year 10 & 11 Science, A and AS Level Maths, Business Studies and Psychology. You will be pleased to know that overall the results were very good. These are modular exams which mean that the marks received go towards the final results for the students when added to other modular results—for example those taken this summer.



## Calling all Dads!

Are you at a loss when it comes to knowing what to do with your little ones or what makes your older ones tick?

Would you like something different to do with the kids that will not cost the earth? Come along and find out about positive activities that you can enjoy together.

### **A Saturday Morning Dads and Kids Club**

is starting on

**12<sup>th</sup> April 10.30-1.30pm**

at the community room in  
Barnwell East Campus  
for dads and children of **all** ages.

£1.50 for a family  
(1 dad & 2 children, additional  
children 50p)



No need to book just come along!

## **Come and try something new at Barnwell School**

### **Maintain and upgrade your PC**

(course code KP258)

Learn PC repair from the monitor to the mouse,  
from memory to motherboard

Starts 21.04.08 7.00-9.00pm for 10 weeks

### **Digital Photography for all**

(course code KP261)

Learn how to get the most out of your  
digital Camera.

Starts 21.04.08 7.00-9.00pm for 10 weeks

### **Digital Photography for Improvers**

(course code KP264)

Improve your skills by learning  
advanced techniques.

Starts 21.04.08 7.00-9.00pm for 10 weeks

### **ICT Skills for life**

(course code KP267)

Increase your confidence and grasp the basic  
principles of computing.

Starts 24.04.08 7.00-9.00pm

**To book or for more information contact**

**Central enquires on 01462 424239 or**

**enrol at [www.nhc.ac.uk](http://www.nhc.ac.uk)**



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