



# Barnwell Bytes

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## HEADLINE

**Adventure's  
All Round  
at Barnwell...**

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## Headteacher's Letter

Dear Parents

This edition of **Bytes** will be reaching you a week before our Learning Review Day (LRD). I do hope that you find the day helpful to you as it allows us to share current work and progress, to praise what is going well and tackle any issues before we go too far in the term.

The LRD is one of a number of recent events for parents, such as the Year 7 Information Evening and Year 11 Post 16 Evening. Thank you to all of you who have attended these sessions. Your attendance really strengthens the partnership we have in supporting your children's education.

Finally, I am delighted and very proud that one of our former students *Daniel Miles* has achieved a First Class Honours Degree. *Daniel*, as the article in this edition reminds us, has been blind since birth and spent all his education in mainstream schools (ourselves and Longmeadow).

Whilst *Daniel* was with us he was a super role model for our students and our community. His recent success shows that he continues to be an example to us all of what we can achieve.

**Mr R Westergreen-Thorne - Headteacher**

## Year 7 PGL Adventure Weekend

A sunny Friday evening saw 60 Year 7s eagerly awaiting the double-decker coach that was to take them on their adventure weekend.

After a delayed journey the students and staff arrived at PGL in Surrey. They grabbed something quick to eat and made their way to the dorms for a good nights sleep ahead of the packed schedule of activities.

All students and staff had a fantastic weekend of climbing heights, swinging on ropes and pushing themselves to the limits, even the rain couldn't stop their enjoyment! A big thanks to all the staff who accompanied the students, who were all extremely



### Extended Learning Club

Barnwell's very own Reading Assistant *Ms Carter*, would like to remind students and parents that the Learning Resource Centres are open every day — on both campuses — for students to complete their Extended Learning, with support if they need it.

Both Centres have PC's available for the students to use, as well as a wealth of information on the shelves.

### Web-Bytes

Have **Bytes** delivered into your Inbox. Simply log on to the website:

[www.barnwellschool.co.uk](http://www.barnwellschool.co.uk)

In the bottom right hand corner is a link to include your email address. Each issue of **Bytes** will appear in your inbox every other Friday.



### Parents' Notes...

#### Uniform

Parents are reminded that students should be dressed correctly each day for school. The Uniform Policy can be found in the parents' handbooks, in students' planners and on the website.

### Year 7 Data Collection Sheets

Please can you return the forms as soon as possible to *Mrs Shenton* in the office. Thank you.

### Dates For Your Diary

**Fri 17 - Thu 23 Oct** CATS Tests

**Fri 24 Oct** Learning Review Day

**Mon 27 Oct - Fri 31 Oct** Half Term

### Reading Tip

Set aside a regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork, the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner, or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 10 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.



### Word Play for Poetry Day



There is still time for students to get their entries in for the Learning Resource Centre's Poetry Competition.

Coinciding with the National Poetry Day on 9th October, student's from both campuses are invited to send in poems written about "Work" in any of its guises.

The Upper School students have the added theme of "Environment" to write about.

Entries are to be handed in by 7th November with the winners receiving a prize.

### Visual Impairment No Barrier To Achievement

Barnwell's Visual Impairment Base recently had cause for celebration when ex-student, *Daniel Miles* gained a First in his degree of Creative & Media Writing.

*Daniel* has been a brailist since nursery school and even helped VI Base Leader *Mrs Chamberlain* when she was studying Braille. *Daniel* completed his school life at Barnwell which ended with him achieving three good A Levels.

The Barnwell website, as part of its ongoing enhancements, has now implemented its high contrast ability for any visitors with visual impairment or screen reading difficulties. At the top right hand corner is the High Contrast button that changes the view of the website.

### Spotlight on....

**Mrs Macey**

**Receptionist West Campus**



**I drive:** Renault Laguna

**Movie heaven:** Romance films

**Comfort eating:** Cakes and sweets

**If I had time to myself:** I'd go to a spa

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

**When I was a child I wanted to:** be a nurse

**I wish I'd never worn:** Drain-pipe jeans

**My spare cash goes on:** my children

**It's not fashionable but I like:** Barbara Streisand

**If I were the Prime Minister I would:** make a 4 day week.

## Linguists Fantasy At Festival Of Languages.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September students from Barnwell were invited to take part in the European Day of Languages at the Hertfordshire Development Centre at Robertson House in Stevenage

16 Year 7 students took part in a live lesson with Miss Hanna all about fashion, clothes and colours. They were also part of the closing celebration that included a very enthusiastic German Rap.

This was a fantastic celebration of languages including Italian, French, Spanish and German that was represented by each age group from primary through to secondary students and beyond.



## Petite Francais For Little People

You may have heard in the news that all children from Year 3 upwards are now expected to learn a foreign language as part of their primary school curriculum. This year over a thousand primary school children in 14 schools in and around Stevenage are receiving weekly French lessons from Barnwell's Languages teachers. This is part of an exciting new project to support primary schools in providing language lessons, helping to train primary school teachers and providing resources and ideas for them to use.

## Activity Weekend Sets Staff On The Up And Up!



Recently a group of brave staff from Barnwell ventured north in the mini-bus for a weekend adventure they would never forget.

The mixed group were shuttled up to PGL's newest site at Caythorpe Court in Lincolnshire on a Friday evening for a weekend full of activities including abseiling, climbing, giant swing, high ropes, Jacob's Ladder, trapeze, zip wire and anything else that appears to be height orientated!

All the staff were extremely well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Each took home a big grin and a body full of bruises. Well done.

## Year 7's Cognitive Ability Tested

All Year 7 students will be sitting CATS or Cognitive Ability Tests next week. These tests are an assessment of a range of reasoning skills.

The tests look at reasoning with three types of things, these being words, numbers and shapes or figures. The results of these tests will determine the Learning Sets of the students.

Further information is on the Website under Parents > CATS

## District Footy Reps



Congratulations to the following students who have been picked to represent the District at Football.

Under 14: *Kieran Mitham, Danny Farrell and Jack Taylor*

Under 15: *Daniel Bond, Charlie Pearson, Jack Dungan and Brian Vernage.*

## Barnwell Gets Licence To Cook

Barnwell has decided to incorporate the new government initiative *The Licence to Cook* programme into Food Technology lessons earlier than the countrywide deadline of 2011.



It allows our Middle School students to prepare and produce a range of dishes alongside learning new skills such as food safety and hygiene, health eating and wise food shopping. At the end of the year the students will take an online test with a *Licence To Cook* certificate awarded to those that pass.

Recipes will include pizza toast, vegetable chowder, koftas, rock cakes, ratatouille, vegetable curry.

Students will be given a list of ingredients a week before their practical lesson. If you have difficulty in providing the ingredients, please contact the food teacher prior to the cooking date to arrange alternative provision.

Key	Study Tips	Information	Key	Study Tips	Information
<p><u>Week Beginning</u> <u>Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Oct</u> Year 7 C.A.T tests</p> <p><u>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> October</u> Learning Review Day</p> <p><u>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> October</u> Half Term Holiday</p>	<p><i>'Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out'</i> (Robert Collier)</p> <p>It is so important for all students to keep working hard each and every day. Some days are more challenging but my advice is to keep putting one foot in front of the other and you will reach your goal. Small steps...</p> <p>Ensure you have all your equipment in your bag the night before. Avoid the morning rush!</p>	<p>I write this column following the Year 7 <i>Information Evening</i> which was a lovely evening and gave us the chance to meet so many supportive and engaging parents and guardians.</p> <p>If you couldn't make it you should have been sent your 'important information' pack in the post.</p> <p>We look forwards to meeting the parents and guardians of all our students in the up and coming Learning Review Day.</p>	<p><u>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> October</u> Learning Review Day</p> <p><u>Mon 27<sup>th</sup> - Fri 31<sup>st</sup> October</u> Half Term Holiday</p>	<p>At KS4 students need to develop good memory/recall skills. One example of a good way to do this is to use acronyms to help remember important facts or processes.</p> <p>Here are a few that are already used in school</p> <p><b>Drama</b> <u>G</u>esture <u>E</u>motion <u>M</u>otion <u>S</u>pace</p> <p><b>English</b> <u>C</u>an (content) <u>T</u>he (theme) <u>L</u>onely (language) <u>M</u>an mood) <u>S</u>ing(structure)</p> <p><b>Maths</b> <u>B</u>rackets <u>I</u>ndices <u>D</u>ivision <u>M</u>ultiplication <u>A</u>ddition <u>S</u>ubtraction</p>	<p>Our year 11 into 12 evening was a great success with many students coming to inquire about courses available in the 6<sup>th</sup> form. We are extremely fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of both level 2 and level 3 courses. If anyone would like further information they should contact Mrs Johnson, Mr Triggs, Mr Roberts or Mrs Latta.</p>

Mr Patching – Senior Leader  
KS3 'Learning and Achievement Co-ordinator'  
[m.patching@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:m.patching@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

Mrs Latta – Senior Leader  
KS4 'Learning and Achievement Co-ordinator'  
[r.latta@barnwell.herts.sch.uk](mailto:r.latta@barnwell.herts.sch.uk)

**Vacancies**  
**ICT Admin Support Assistant**  
**9 hours at H3 grade**

Further details and application forms can be obtained from the school website.

**REVISION GUIDE SALE AND BOOK FAIR**  
**24TH OCTOBER 2008**

9:00am until 3:00pm

In the Learning Resource Centres East & West.





**Bikeability Training from an experienced local cyclist and Mum**

"Learning how to cycle properly makes cycling much more enjoyable and safer for everyone - children, adults and other road users"

Individual and Group lessons available.

**Tina Walker 01438 235881 - [www.cycleinstructor.co.uk](http://www.cycleinstructor.co.uk)**



