

BARCLAY ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th April 2024



Dear Parents / Carers

We were delighted to welcome thirty students from Spain at the beginning of the week which continues with the link we made last year. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet some Spanish children the same age as them and to practise their Spanish.



A group of Year 8 and Year 9 students are off on a football and netball weekend today. I hope that they have a really good time.

As you know, I want us to have the highest of standards here at Barclay Academy. That is why school uniform should be perfect and attendance has to be excellent. A recent study has shown that a one grade improvement in every subject at GCSE equates to £207,000 in extra lifetime earnings. Students succeed when they have excellent attendance. We want every child to succeed at Barclay Academy but they have to be here to guarantee that success.

Please remember that students must not be wearing hoodies to school. Hopefully, the weather will now be improving but, if it is cold, they must be wearing a proper navy blue or black school coat.

Have a lovely weekend.

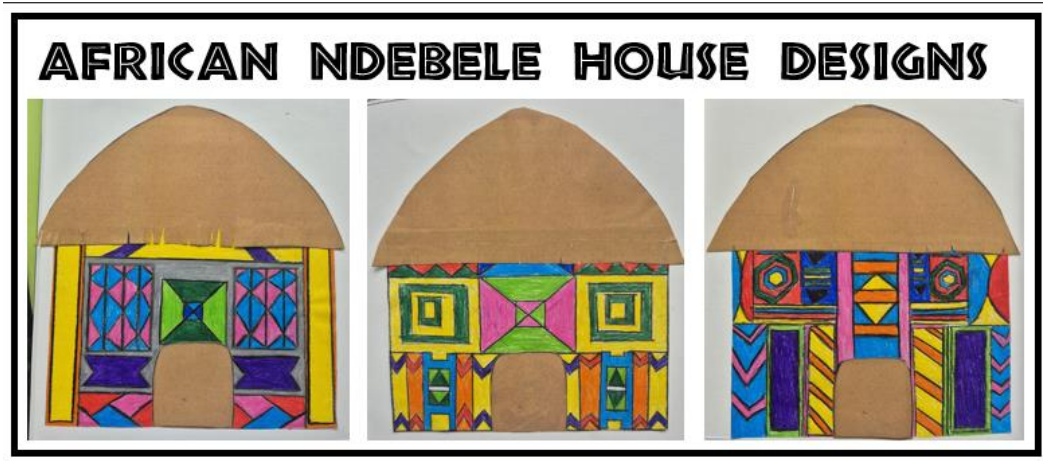
Best wishes,

Dr Matthew Laban

Executive Principal


CULTURAL WEEK

Year 7 students created pieces inspired by Ndebele patterns. While in the art club, students produced a piece that drew inspiration from culture.:



Esther Mahlangu

- Esther Mahlangu is part of a tribe called Ndebele located in Africa. She paints vibrant geometric works based on traditional Ndebele design.
- The walls are still originally white-washed, but the outlines and colors have significantly changed. The patterns and symbols can be seen today with a rich black outline and a vivid color inside. There are five main colors represented: red and dark red, yellow to gold, sky blue, green, and sometimes pink.
- Dr Esther Mahlangu was born in 1935 in Middelburg in Mpumalanga. She was taught the art of Ndebele design and house painting from her mother and grandmother as is tradition in Ndebele culture.
- Although she had been painting from a young age she was first recognised in 1986 when she was invited to an exhibition in France.
- She has collaborated with many brands such as John Legend and Belvedere Vodka, British Airways, and Conans des Garçons.
- Esther Mahlangu is such an important artist as she kept Ndebele painting a live tradition and taught many young girls and boys how to be creative and paint. She is one of Africa's most famous artists.
- My personal preference of her art is that she has great creativity and bold colours which I love, and I think she is a great inspiration to many young people and artists.



The image features a collection of Ndebele geometric patterns. On the right side, there is a vertical banner that reads "NDEBELE ARTIST RESEARCH". Below the text, there are several examples of intricate geometric designs, including a large central pattern with a starburst motif and a portrait of Esther Mahlangu wearing traditional Ndebele headwear and jewelry.



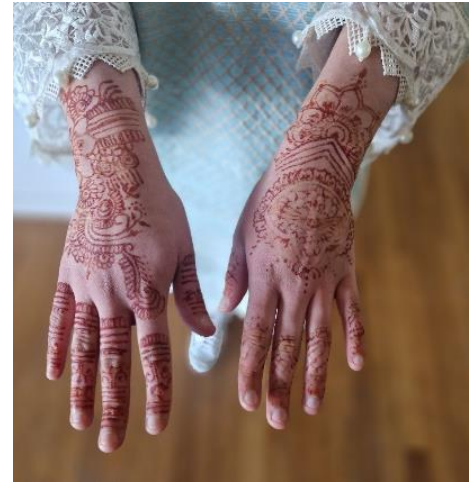
CULTURAL WEEK



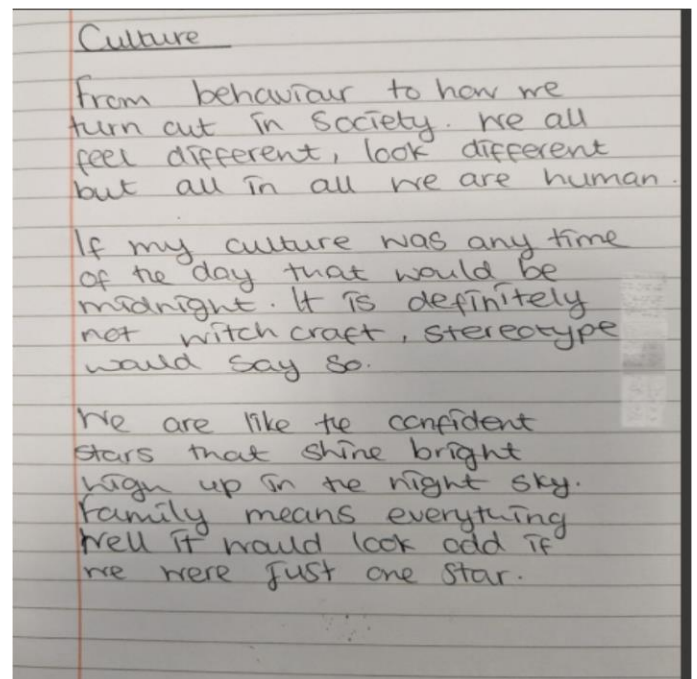
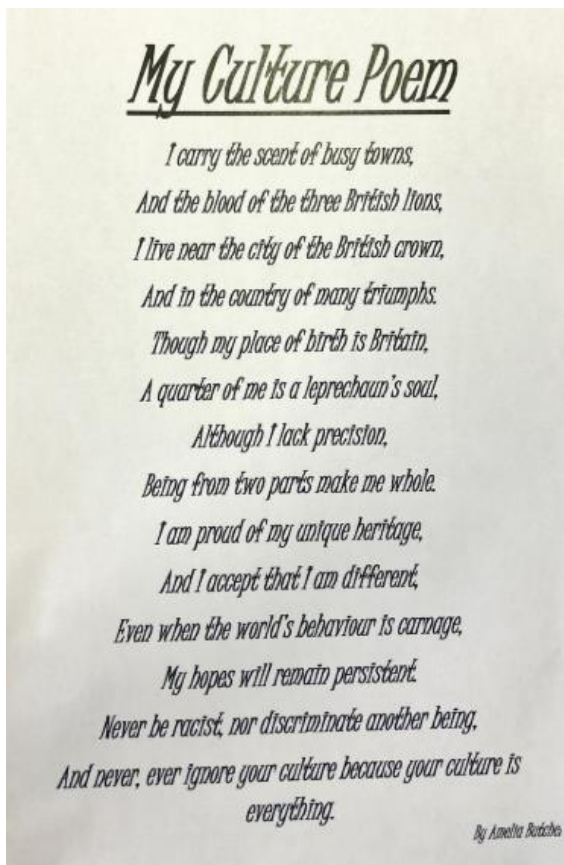
Last week, our Culture Week concluded with a non-uniform day, allowing students and staff to proudly wear their cultural outfits. It was heart-warming to witness some individuals embrace this opportunity and engage in discussions about the origins of their attire.



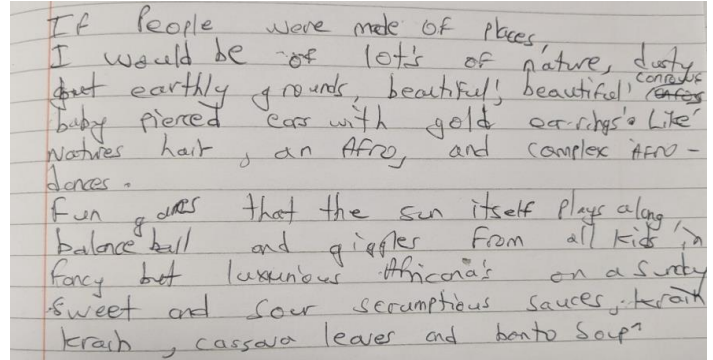
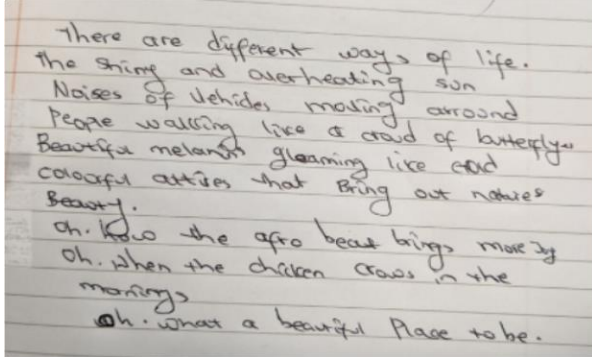
CULTURAL WEEK



During the week, English classes delved into poetry writing, resulting in impressive creations. The standout winners with their poems were Year 7 Amelia B with 'My Culture' & Year 9 Student Brianna M with her poem 'Culture'.



CULTURAL WEEK



Notably, one of our Y8 students delivered an outstanding presentation about his birth country, Zimbabwe, at the TED talk club. As part of his presentation, he taught the audience a few phrases in his home language - Shona

Here are five Shona phrases they shared

Hello (when you have not seen someone for a long time): Makadii

Brother: Mukowa

Father: Baba

Be quiet: Nyarara

Thank you for coming: Maita basa nekkuu

JUST TALK POETRY COMPETITION

We have wonderful news from Just Talk that Oluwajoba in Year 7 has placed runner up in the recent poetry competition, the competition was Hertfordshire wide with many entries. The theme was "The Power of Small". Well done Oluwajoba on this achievement. The judges were very impressed and also pass on their gratitude for every entry - Well done Barclay.

The Beauty of Being Small

In a world vast, I stand so small,
A mere speck, hardly seen at all,
Amidst towering giants, I quietly roam,
In whispers of grass, I find my home.

In the grand expanse, I find my place,
A tiny being in a cosmic grace,
Though diminutive, my spirits bright,
Glowing softly in the darkest night.

In the shadows cast by towering trees,
I dance for joy, feeling the breeze,
For in my smallness, I find my might,
A spark of wonder, a guiding light.

So let me revel in humble size,
For in this world, I see no lies,
For being small is not a plight,
But a testament to life's delight.

SPANISH IMMERSION DAY 2024



On Tuesday 23rd April, the MFL department welcomed Twenty- five Year 9 Spanish students and their teachers from Antonio Robinet Colegio in Cantabria. Accompanied by José Herrera from Links Into Spanish, our visitors engaged in a valuable exchange.

They were paired with twenty-nine Year 9 Barclay students, who have chosen to pursue GCSE Spanish next year.

The day started off with an icebreaker speaking activity, followed by collaborative work in mixed Anglo-Spanish groups. Together they prepared a bilingual presentation highlighting the differences and similarities between their respective schools. It was an enjoyable experience as Barclay students took on the role of language teachers for Antonio Robinet students, and vice versa.

The Barclay students also gave their Spanish counterparts a tour of the school. After more

activities and a well-deserved lunch break, their returned to complete their joint presentations. In the afternoon, each mixed group confidently delivered their speeches. Antonio Robinet students in English and Barclay students in Spanish.

The judges were impressed by all participants. The day concluded with friendly chats, networking and a game of football on the field before bidding farewell to our visitors.

Year 9 had a fantastic time during this linguistic immersion day, honing their speaking skills and forming new friendships.

Special recognition goes to Sam C, a Y12 Spanish student, who provided invaluable assistance throughout the day

We are looking forward to repeating this experience in 2025.



SPORT



On Thursday, our Year 9 sports leaders took part in a Year 5/6 Tag Rugby competition. Six primary schools today part, and was ran by Stevenage Sporting Futures.

Our leaders took part in delivering a number of different activities. It was great to see how confident these leaders have become over the last year.

All leaders received great praise from both the sporting future team and the primary teachers.

Special mention to Cameron and Blake who both were highly praised by all staff.



ATHLETICS

It was a great first meet for our Year 7 and Year 9 Athletics teams. It was great to see lots of new faces, some of those it was the first time they had represented Barclay.

Some special mentions go to Frimpong in Year 7 who came away with 1st in the 100m and long jump. Amanda and Abbie in year 7 who both took 1st place in the A and the B long jump competition.

We have lots of 2nd , 3rd, and 4th places.

Year 7:

Annelise - 4th in Javelin

Tilly - 3rd in Javelin

Josh - 2nd in 200m

Charles - 1st in 200m

Maya - 2nd in 1500m

Bobby - 4th in Long Jump

Adam - 3rd in High jump

Louie - 4th in Javelin

Abbie - 3rd in 200m

Miller - 3rd in shot put

Emilia - 4th in 100m

Tilly - 2nd in 800m

Y9:

Alfie H - 200m - 4th

Well done to all involved and don't forget about athletics club on a Tuesday after school.

→ VOTE

LAHAINA SUTHERLAND

for Youth Mayor of
Stevenage 2024-25

WHY ME?

1. I will work to promote **inclusivity**.
2. I will work with the council to ensure that young people feel **safe**.
3. I will open more **exciting opportunities** and experiences



HOW TO VOTE:

You must be a **young person living or studying in Stevenage**.

Scan the **QR code** or follow the **link** and **fill in the information**.

CLICK HERE

[Voting link](#)

SCAN WITH
CAMERA

MAKE
YOUR VOTE
COUNT!

Stevenage
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Lahaina Sutherland is a Year 12 student at Barclay Academy who has been shortlisted as a candidate for the Youth Mayor of Stevenage. The Youth Mayor of Stevenage is a spokesperson for young people and is awarded a budget of £2000 to spend on youth initiatives. Her aims are to promote inclusivity, increase opportunities and experiences for young people, and ensure that young people feel safe throughout the borough.

Students have been voting throughout the week voting for Lahaina using the QR code in her poster, please can you encourage your child to vote.

Make your vote count!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK



Congratulations to the following students for being invited to Feast Friday with Dr Laban. The students were chosen at random from the Feast Friday weekly raffle. All students who have received a Student of the Week award are entered into the raffle.

Year 7

Freddie H 7ATH1
Nathaniel K 7HER1
Saran K 7HER1
Andreea P 7ZEU1

Year 8

Joshua M 8APO
Marvelous U 8ATH1
Aimee M 8ZEU2
Harry M 8ATH1

Year 9

Lennon E 9APO2
Rebeca P 9APO2
Alexander III M
9APO2
Kimiya C 9ATH

Year 10

Hermionie B
10APO2
Aleena A 10APO2
Imogen H 10HER

PRE – LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Barclay Academy's Second Hand Uniform Shop opening time is Wednesday 1.30pm - 3pm

Please email admin@barclay.futureacademies.org to check stock levels with the size, requirements and arrange an appointment, which will be on Wednesday between 1.30-3pm to collect. Anyone that would like to donate old reusable uniform please hand into Reception.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May – Half Term

Tuesday 25th to Friday 28th June – Year 12 Visit to Krakow, Poland