



Merry Christmas!

Headteacher Update: Mr Matthews

Welcome to our newsletter for the autumn term. There's been a huge amount going on and I hope it gives you a flavour of school life at Edgbarrow.

School Events. Open Evening was a hugely busy and popular event, next year's intake will be 240 students as a 240 year group leaves Year 11 next summer. The deadline for applications has now passed and we look forward to places being offered at Easter. Sixth Form Open Evening was our busiest yet, with over 400 families registered for the event. My thanks to the staff and students who helped put these two huge events on. We are considering changing the dates for these events with the possibility of the main Open Evening

moving to late in the summer term and the Sixth Form event moving to earlier in the autumn term.

Thank you so much to all those who attended the Christmas Shopping Evening. There were lots of fantastic stallholders in the atrium and the student stalls in the main hall. The staff band and school choir did a wonderful job of entertaining us. When the final total is calculated we should raise over £3,000. My thanks to the PTA who did a brilliant job of coordinating the event and to our Year 7 and 8 tutor groups for organising their stalls.

There have also been numerous school trips, sports events, groups and clubs that are shared later in the newsletter.

Goodbye and Welcome. We have a few goodbyes this Christmas. Firstly, we say goodbye to Stephan Hallet who leaves us to continue his career at a school closer to home. We thank him for his work in the languages department and wish him every success.

Siti Yatirawana will also be leaving us at Christmas. Siti is a dedicated teacher who has made significant contributions to social sciences and music. Always ready to support productions and music events, we know she'll be missed. Siti is taking an opportunity to work closer to home and we wish her every happiness.



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We also say goodbye to Holly Hustler who joined us in 2019. Holly has been a hugely valuable member of our social sciences department, turning her hand to several subjects and always delivering lovely results. Holly has also supported our pastoral team as Deputy Head of Year and most recently in co-ordinating student leadership opportunities. Holly has achieved a well-earned promotion to Head of Year at a local school, we know she'll be brilliant.

We welcome Francis Martinez to a permanent post in the maths department; Ventura Ruiz Villar is returning for two terms to teach Spanish and French; Debbie Smith (former Head at Sandhurst) is joining the social science team for a day a week; Jo Kitching is moving from her role as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant to become a teacher of social sciences; Katie Warren joins the Learning Supervisor team; Julia Moulinier has joined as a Librarian and Yolanda Balague, Georgina Harris and Georgie Chinchon join our Progress department. We wish them a warm welcome. The arrival of some new staff provides some much-needed relief to shortages, but we continue to need your help in sharing adverts and encouraging people to apply.

Winter Weather. My annual reminder that our emergency procedures can be found [here](#). In the unlikely event that we need to close, we will provide work via Google Classroom for students to complete but will not operate a live timetable on the first day of closure. Should any closure persist, we will ask students to follow their normal timetable from home, with either live lessons or work set on Google Classroom.

Attendance. We have received a visit from the Education Secretary's delivery team. The government are keen to return attendance to pre-covid levels and we are one of a number of schools who have had some success in this area. My thanks to families and students, attendance and timekeeping have recovered well and I am grateful for your support, my thanks also to Mrs Fisher our Attendance Officer who never misses an absence!

And finally... It is always a pleasure to read the newsletter at the end of a long term. There is much to celebrate and it is a great opportunity to showcase what the students have achieved. My thanks to all of them! My thanks also to the staff and families that support them. I'd also like to thank Wokingham Vineyard for gifting all our departments with a lovely tub of chocolates!

Have a fantastic Christmas, enjoy the time spent with those close to you. We look forward to welcoming the students back at normal time on 3rd January.

S Matthews, Headteacher

wokingham
vineyard



Governing Body Update

A very Happy Christmas from the Governors. As we accelerate towards Christmas, I would like to thank the school for all the hard work that has gone into this term. Whilst processes and policies are central to ensuring a well-run school it is the people that make the difference; a big thanks therefore to all the staff for their drive, determination, and passion to make Edgbarrow a great place to study.

A big well done to the school on the introduction of ClassCharts which has received great feedback and is showing promising results. It has taken a considerable amount of time to get this up and running - thanks go to all the staff, but Louise Rea-Palmer and Alison Mullane in particular.

As the Governing Body we pride ourselves on having a strong working relationship with the school allowing us to have robust and meaningful discussions. It is a challenging time for education, and we are constantly in dialogue with the school to make sure that the decisions made are in line with the school's plan and ensure the best possible outcomes for the students. We do this through a variety of means, from regular committee meetings to departmental link visits and other ad hoc meetings. This year the Governing Body has a particular focus on safeguarding, wellbeing (of staff, SLT and students) and supporting the school in making sound financial decisions.

This term we have welcomed three new governors; Emily James our new Co-opted Governor, Oli Johnson our Staff Governor and Sonia Kay our newly elected Parent Governor. Finally, I would like to recognise the contribution our outgoing Chair David Boothe made in steering the Governing Body and supporting the school over four years, particularly through the challenges of covid and Ofsted.

Wishing you all a lovely festive break.

Daphne Hill, Chair of Governors



Thank You



We're really grateful for a recent donation from Concept Financial Planning, a local company who are new to the village. The donation of £500 to our maths department will go towards upgrading our online textbook resource.

Concept's Director and Financial Planner, Carl Wilkinson, visited the school to present the gift to our Head of Maths, Denise Holloway, and Headteacher, Stuart Matthews.

The PE department has been very fortunate to receive numerous sponsorships from various local businesses for new team and staff kits. We are very grateful to Storyy, CT Bell, Step Up, Frank Schippers, Hardwicke Fruit & Veg, Two Sisters, SCS and Lambert Smith Hampton who have all supported the PE department this term. The kits are very smart and the students feel very lucky and proud to be wearing them to fixtures. See [page 12](#) and [page 13](#) for photos of some of our teams in their new kit!



With thanks to our Raffle Prize Donors



PTA News

It's been another enjoyable term for the PTA. We welcomed some new, regular members who provided much-needed new ideas and help at the Christmas Shopping Evening.

There are many opportunities for you to be involved in the PTA. Help us with just one activity a year, become a regular member of the committee, or become part of the core team and a trustee of the PTA, actively involved in the running of the PTA. To find out more about getting involved, contact me at pta-chair@edgbarrow.co.uk.



Fundraising Update

Our annual **Sponsored Walk** raised just over £13k. Thank you to all the students for their participation and to all of the generous people who sponsored them.

Bag2School takes place every term and is managed by PTA member Tanya Jacobs. This term it raised £370. Thanks to those who donated items.

PTA Christmas Shopping Evening raised £3k in funds for the PTA. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time before, during and after the event to make it a success. Thanks to parents/carers who donated prizes for the tombola. We are also very grateful to all the local businesses that continue to support us by donating prizes for the raffle (see [page 3](#) for further details).

Secondhand Uniform. We now have a dedicated email address PTASecondHandUniform@edgbarrowschool.co.uk.

Please email with any requests for secondhand uniform. (NB. *this email address is not monitored daily, but we aim to reply within a week.*) Welcome to Sally Fleck who will be working with Helen Thompson for the rest of this year, ready to take the reins next year.

Vacancies

URGENT: Treasurer

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we are seeking a new Treasurer to start as soon as possible. Edgbarrow PTA is a registered charity and the Treasurer is a trustee position so it's imperative we find a volunteer who can take this on.

Secretary

Our Secretary, Catherine, will be stepping down from the PTA at the end of this school year. The Secretary role is another crucial role in the PTA. The main responsibilities are monitoring the PTA's mailbox and taking the minutes at the PTA meetings.

Vice Chair

We've been seeking a new Vice Chair to support the PTA and help with liaising with the school and other groups.

If you're interested in any of these roles, please get in touch with me at pta-chair@edgbarrowschool.co.uk.

Upcoming Events

PTA EGM Meeting	PTA Quiz Night	Careers Convention	School Production
Tuesday 23rd January 7-8:30pm Edgbarrow	Friday 2nd February 7-9pm Edgbarrow Sixth Form	Thursday 7th March 6:30-8:30pm Edgbarrow Sixth Form	Grease 20th - 22nd March Edgbarrow
At this EGM the PTA constitution will be updated and we hope to formally appoint a new Treasurer. Come along and meet other volunteer parents/carers and help plan future events.	Save the date for the next PTA Quiz Night. Once again hosted by Malcolm May, it's always a popular evening! More details will follow soon by email and on Facebook.	If you or your company would be keen to take a space at the careers event please email PTA CAREERS	We always need volunteers to help serve refreshments at the school productions. Volunteers get in free to watch the show too!

To keep in touch... You can join our WhatsApp group, drop us an email, or follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the latest Edgbarrow PTA information, dates for upcoming events and PTA meetings/AGM.

And finally... I want to thank the PTA team, volunteers, and the school's PTA liaison staff for all of their hard work. Without your volunteering spirit and generosity, the PTA could not support the school as we do and make a difference for all the students.

On behalf of the PTA committee, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ella Page, PTA Chair

Keep in touch!

Facebook: facebook.com/edgbarrowpta
Email: PTA@edgbarrowschool.co.uk or
PTA-Chair@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

Head of Year News

Year 7: Miss Pilgrim

A very warm welcome to Edgbarrow School. Our Year 7 students have made a great start to life at Edgbarrow. The transition days at the end of last term gave me a chance to get to know our new students a little. Since then, they have taken on the challenge of starting a new school and a whole new way of working. This involves getting to know many different teachers, the layout of a large school, and the various support structures that we have in place for students. Not an easy task - but the Year 7 tutor team has been very impressed by how the students have thrown themselves into every task and how they have worked well together as a year group.

Year 7 has been making the most of the various co-curricular activities we offer both during and after the school day. There's a wide range of clubs, including various sports and subjects as diverse as science (see [page 6](#) for more details) drama, philosophy, cooking, board games, and many more. Please visit the [co-curricular page](#) for more details.

A high point of the year so far is the residential trip to the Pioneer Centre in Kidderminster. The students enjoyed the many activities including archery, abseiling, trek course, caving, team building and zip wires; more importantly, they supported each other in achieving things some had not believed possible. The weather was very kind to us and the food plentiful. The students were extremely well-behaved and made a very positive impression on the staff at the centre, and on the many Edgbarrow staff who supported the trip. The year group has also more recently visited Neasden Temple as part of their philosophy, ethics and religion learning. [Click here](#) to hear more about this trip and see photos.



We have also had the fun of supporting the Parent Teacher Association with the Christmas Shopping Evening. The Year 7 students worked hard to design, equip and run their own fundraising stalls at the event, raising nearly £400 for PTA funds.

Our Student Progress Evening, provided a welcome opportunity for our hard-working tutors to meet parents face-to-face, allowing an opportunity to share how well the students are settling in at Edgbarrow. It is also excellent to see all the positive points the Year 7s have been achieving on ClassCharts, reaching nearly 24,000 positive points as a year group in the first three months - which is a fantastic achievement.

Outside school, our students are dancers, sportspeople, musicians, volunteers, carers and so much more. I hope students continue to share with their tutors all their fantastic achievements both inside and outside of school, so we can all celebrate their hard work and dedication.

This has been a brilliant start to a five-year journey at Edgbarrow and I can't wait to see what comes next. I wish my wonderful tutor team, the Year 7 students and all parents/carers a wonderful and relaxing break. Thank you for working so hard with our Year 7s, and we look forward to the new year.

E Pilgrim



Year 7 Christmas Shopping Evening stalls

Year 8: Mr Burrell

The autumn term is a particularly long one and challenges the resilience of staff and students alike. I'm very happy to say Year 8 has had an extremely busy and successful start to the year. I am delighted to see so many students involving themselves fully in life at Edgbarrow.

We've already had our first fundraising event for our chosen charity, Thames Hospice. The bake sale was well supported and allowed us to recognise some of our students on ClassCharts for their enthusiastic volunteering. Our charity and form reps work on our fundraising activities under the guidance of Miss Myatt and Miss Baxter, our Deputy Heads of Year. Planning is already well underway for a new event - the "Reindeer Run", to be held in the week before Christmas.

Many of our students volunteer to be representatives within their tutor groups and in the wider School Council. Those involved represented the year group admirably during our recent anti-bullying week and prepared an online assembly to remind all students of the dangers of bullying within the school community.

As I write this piece, Christmas is fast approaching and we have just had the PTA Christmas Shopping Evening. Just like last year, I was amazed at the creativity of the year group and the hard work of students and staff as they prepared their stalls to run on the evening. On the night, the students ran their stalls with enthusiasm and a great sense of responsibility and we hope to have raised a good amount in support of the Parent Teacher Association, which does so much to support the richness of life at Edgbarrow. My particular thanks go to our wonderful Year 8 tutors for their commitment and willingness to enter into the spirit of the evening.



It is important that our students make the most of all the opportunities that come their way either at school or out of school. Many of our year group are joining in with clubs and activities at lunchtime and after school. It is so important that students develop their interests and try as many different clubs and activities to discover hidden talents and new hobbies. This is crucial in their development as individuals.

To help them work on their personal development we have also included opportunities in tutor time for them to reflect on different character traits. Each half term we are highlighting two characters for them to be mindful of and look at how they show these. This term we have considered courtesy, volunteering, teamwork and leadership. All students have had the opportunity to consider what these mean and think about what they have done to show these.

After such a busy term I hope that students enjoy a fun, restful Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to working with you all in the new year.

T Burrell

Science Club

Science club is back this year and has had brilliant attendance from students in Year 7 and 8. The club offers a fabulous way to enjoy Science in a different way than in lessons. Lots of fun has been had this term making film canister rockets, parachutes, fruit batteries, fire writing and lots of other activities. We are busy planning some exciting activities for next term which will include flame tests, making lava lamps plus much more!

Science club takes place every Thursday 3.20pm - 4.20pm in S6. No need to book, just turn up!



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Year 9: Mr Dangerfield

Christmas is nearly upon us and we are almost at the end of our first term in Year 9. It has been a long term and I have been impressed with the way students have risen to the challenges of their final year in the Key Stage 3 curriculum. The students have really taken to the introduction of ClassCharts and the vast majority are now regularly seeing how brilliant they are doing in school with all the positive points they are receiving. When I look at the data of ClassCharts for Year 9, I am blown away that only 4% of the entries are negative with the other 96% being made up of positives such as class contributions, excellent effort and excellent classwork to name a few. Hopefully, as parents/carers you are also finding this information useful and when any negative issues do arise, the regular communication allows us to work more effectively together to resolve them.

We have recently started the options process and have asked students to start thinking about the types of subjects that they may like to study in Years 10 and 11. This process will continue into the spring term and will involve an **Options Information Evening on 11th January, 5-7pm** (further details will be emailed in January) and the opportunity for students to have taster lessons in some of the subjects that they have not been exposed to yet. The tutors and I will be discussing options with individual students and ensuring choices made are appropriate for them to achieve success in Year 11. This is an important time for the students and I would urge you to attend the Options Evening and discuss any possible choices with subject teachers to ensure that you have the relevant information to support your child when they make these decisions. I look forward to working with you and your child as they decide on their options.

Year 9 Options - Key Dates

Options Evening: Thursday 11th January, 5-7pm

Options form deadline: Thursday 1st February

Students have taken some assessments during December and I was pleased to see the maturity and dedication with which the majority of them approached their revision and preparation for these pieces of work. By now students will have received their grade report. It is important that students see where they can improve as well as all the positives they are given. One area that will come up for many after the assessment is needing to do extra work outside the classroom. Revision is never a popular topic but students need to make sure they are starting to revise for all assessments so they can begin to find what revision techniques suit them and which don't. The message I keep telling students is that unfortunately, just re-reading class notes is not the most effective technique. Please visit our [Revision Information page](#) on the school website where you can find lots of revision tips and advice.

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The students have been amazing at attending co-curricular activities both at lunchtime and after school. There is such a wide range of activities available and I am pleased to see so many students attend these regularly. I encourage all students to consider picking up a co-curricular activity in the new year, whether a sporting club or one of the non-sporting activities. Both boys and girls are very strong in a variety of sports and I am excited to see what the year group can achieve over the next term. We also have a number of Year 9s who will be part of the whole school production of 'Grease' so I look forward to seeing that at the end of next term.



The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award has been launched with Year 9 and I look forward to working with the students to help them achieve their award, alongside developing a wide range of skills for the wider-world. Many students have already started their volunteering, skill or physical elements of the award and it is fantastic to see so many engaged. We also have the Disneyland Paris trip in July, so please make sure you check your emails for updates about this if your son/daughter has signed up for the trip.

Finally, I would like to thank the wonderful team of Year 9 tutors and other teachers who work with the year group. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working closely with you in 2024.

Merry Christmas!

R Dangerfield



Year 9 Careers Day



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Year 10: Miss Kadodia

I have been delighted with the positive start Year 10 has made this term to their GCSE courses. They have coped well with the increased workload that comes with Key Stage 4. So many of them have adopted a mature and conscientious approach to their studies, which has set them up to do well over the next 18 months. I regularly visit lessons and I am always so impressed with the positive approach from the year group. Staff regularly stop me to tell me how much they enjoy teaching their Year 10 classes. At the end of term, we will hold our celebration assembly and I look forward to recognising the many achievements they have had this term.

Over the summer several students undertook language exams in Spanish, French, Polish and Russian and they all achieved glowing 9s which was just incredible to hear such a huge well done to those involved. We have also had some amazing successes in dance exams, football trials and representing the school in different sports since September. Some of our boys have also played for the Year 11 team and helped with GCSE moderation. We also have a few students taking on an extra Latin GCSE this year which again is amazing. To see the time students put into their hobbies alongside their studies with such enthusiasm is brilliant and perfectly complements a healthy work-life balance.

Further to this, a group of ten students have become peer mentors and I had the pleasure of popping into their most recent meetings with Year 7 students and it is so lovely to see the kindness and nurturing nature of our students, especially with some nervous Year 7s! We also have Year 10s volunteering as Sports Ambassadors, School Council members and this year, Prefects. It is truly wonderful to see them put so much into Edgbarrow life and grasp all the opportunities given to them. I couldn't be prouder!

As we approach the new year, we do need to turn our attention to the first set of mocks for Year 10 (not very festive I know!) but this is their first opportunity to experience formalised internal exams, and this can sometimes be anxiety-inducing and a bit daunting for them. Please do reassure your child that at this stage the results are nothing to fret over, they just give us areas to work on, allow us to identify any possible access arrangements and in some cases, give them a nudge to start revising at home. We will work on revision techniques in PSHE lessons and tutor times but it is always worth going through some work with them at home too. Please visit the [Revision Information pages](#) on our website for further advice.

However, the Christmas holidays are also a time for a well-earned rest and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Y Kadodia

Year 10 Health & Social Care

Year 10 Health and Social Care students have had an exciting half term attending two trips! Students went to Plus Three Nurseries to see what they have been learning on growth and development and how it is promoted within the nursery setting.

Students also attended a tour of Royal Berkshire hospital in collaboration with Health for Youth whereby they visited various wards and departments to see a typical day in a hospital and what it may be like to work in this sector

H Hustler, Social Sciences



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Year 11: Mrs McClatchie

Well, I said this year would go fast and before we know it, we find ourselves at Christmas! What a busy term this has been with mocks, trips, controlled assessments, coursework deadlines, production rehearsals and various sporting activities to mention just a few. The year group have continued to throw themselves into all aspects of school life, normally with a smile on their faces. As their Head of Year, I could not be prouder of this group of young people.

I was delighted to see their mature approach towards their mocks in November. It was evident that so many of them had worked hard to ensure they were as prepared as they could be for the exams. I know that when the students receive their mock results, they will listen to the feedback from their teachers, seek support from classroom teachers and their tutors and do their utmost to give themselves the best possible chances in the summer. This mature approach continued during their Sixth Form taster day and I was impressed with their attitude and approach. We look forward to welcoming all those who have applied to our Sixth Form next September.

As I have told the year group, the mocks are a learning experience and we must use this positively to see how we can develop and improve in the build-up to this summer's exams. To support the students, several strategies are being used to help them progress. Students are involved in tutoring, revision sessions and embracing opportunities for the support offered by staff. In the spring term, two priority revision sessions for each subject will be compulsory for students to attend. Alongside this, we also have the services of Student Support when needed. I would ask you to please encourage your child to make the most of every opportunity that they are offered and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. For further advice on revision please visit the [Revision Information pages](#) on our website.

School life outside the classroom is continuing and although the time the students will need to revise will increase, I still strongly encourage them to get involved in the activities they love and enjoy to keep the workload more manageable.

This term the netball and rugby teams have been playing in various fixtures and continue to be very successful. We continue to work with our chosen charity COATS and are looking to send Christmas cards to the elderly who go there. The yearbook team are starting to work on putting this together and after Christmas, I will be looking for volunteers to help me organise their prom.

I will be encouraging the students to make the most of the Christmas holiday to rest and take some time away from

their studies so that they return in January refreshed and ready for what is always a busy term for Year 11. I will also encourage them to spend some time on outstanding work to reduce the pressure on them. It is also an opportunity for them to try to tackle topics that they are finding difficult so that they can ask for help once back with their teachers. As always some will need help not to overload themselves, whereas others will need encouragement to keep doing some study over this time.

Finally, I would just like to say a big thank you for all the help and support that you as parents/carers have given. The next six months are going to be crucial in the run-up to exams in the summer and any support and extra little nudges the students need to complete work or revision would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to working together to ensure every member of the year group fulfils their potential next year. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

E McClatchie

EXAM INFORMATION

Important exam information and the exam timetable is available on the [exams area](#) of the school website.

Coping at Christmas

Christmas can be tough. That's why it is always important to know someone is listening.

		
 0300 123 3393	 Text SHOUT to 85258	 116 123
 Helpline	 24/7 text service	 24/7 Helpline
 mind.org.uk	 giveushout.org	 samaritans.org
		
 Text YM to 85258	 0800 58 58 58	 0800 068 4141
 24/7 text service	 Helpline for men	 Under 35s Helpline
 youngminds.org.uk	 thecalmzone.net	 papyrus.org

Sixth Form News

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Hume

Hi all. Merry Christmas! This first term of the academic year is often challenging as we all settle into new routines; either starting as a new Year 12 or stepping up to Year 13. Our Sixth Form numbers have risen once again this year, with 217 students currently in Year 12, and 175 in Year 13. We are really pleased to have welcomed more than 70 "new" students in addition to our "through" students.

I am pleased to say that Year 12 has had an excellent first term, managing both the additional responsibility and independence with assurance. Enrichment activities have been enthusiastically taken up including; sports and fitness, debating club, EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) and mental health awareness have all had impressive levels of attendance. Enrichment is such an important part of life in the Sixth Form, allowing students to engage with our community and supporting their welfare.

Similarly, Year 13 has also risen to the challenges facing them; they have achieved some fantastic outcomes in the recent sets of mocks and are now well placed to begin building on these in preparation for another set of mocks in February and the real exams in the summer. We know this can be a tough time in the academic year, but we feel our students are working so well, with good regimes in place as far as academic progress is concerned. Destinations for Year 13 are also an important focus in the autumn, in terms of applications to apprenticeships and universities, and they have made incredible progress. We have had many students completing their UCAS applications and a significant number who have received offers. In addition, students applying for Oxbridge and medicine have been offered interviews - we wish them all the very best as we await the outcome of these.

The Student Leadership Team have done a great job in welcoming new students, as well as undertaking a series of events including a very successful tuck shop at the Sponsored Walk and a brilliant presentation at Open Evening. As you can see from their update (below) they have many exciting plans for the next part of the academic year.

Thank you for all the support from families this term. We hope that you all manage to have a break over the Christmas period. Our students must rest as this has been a very busy term - just keep the work ticking over sensibly ready for the challenges ahead.

Best wishes to all of you for a safe and Happy Christmas!

R Hume and the Sixth Form Team



Sixth Form stalls at the Christmas Shopping Evening

GCSE CERTIFICATES & EXAM INFORMATION

GCSE exam certificates (Edgbarrow leavers) are available for collection from school reception between 9.30am-4.30pm (avoiding break and lunch time). If you want to nominate someone to collect on your behalf, please contact the examsoffice@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

Important exam information and the exam timetable is available on the [exams area](#) of the school website.

From our Student Leaders



Hi everyone! We've loved every moment of our time as student leaders so far. We've had the opportunity to run some amazing events for the whole school like the Culture and Heritage Day, where we celebrated our diverse school communities with food and music. The Sponsored Walk tuck shop was a success as always! Within the Sixth Form, we have enjoyed arranging events such as a sports and games afternoon in the summer term, a pyjama day before half term, and a football fundraiser. Looking ahead, the team is focused on running some more fundraising activities such as our upcoming quiz night, to raise money for prom. Speaking of prom, we're pleased to announce the booking of this year's senior prom at Easthampstead Park Hotel.

Thank you for engaging with the team and all our events this year, from all of us, Merry Christmas!

Flavia and the Student Leadership Team



Year 12 social science students had a trip to see Witness for the Prosecution at County Hall in London. This was to highlight the intricacies of a court case and how juries can be manipulated by witnesses, lawyers and the defendant.

News Around School

Careers & Work-Related Learning

Year 12 Speed Careers Event. In November we held our Year 12 Speed Careers Event, with 17 companies attending and 21 employees. We had a wide range of sectors present including health care, IT, planning, utilities, retail and science. Our students engaged well and we have received positive feedback on the event overall. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about a wide range of job roles and will support them going forward with their career exploration.



Year 9 Careers Day. We also held a Year 9 Careers Day in November. Eight companies and 13 employees attended. Students spent an hour at the event and had an opportunity to engage with all the employers. Sectors present included science, retail, utilities, IT and marketing and had the opportunity to speak to our Careers Advisor from Adviza. Again, we received positive feedback from students, staff and employers.

Adviza are in school every week, and all Year 11s will attend a careers guidance appointment either in a group session or on a 1:2:1 basis to support their decision-making process further. There have been opportunities for some Sixth Form students to have appointments at key transition times. As mentioned previously, Adviza were present at the Year 9 Careers Day and students were shown the website and given a handout to encourage further exploration. There will be opportunities for some 1:2:1 appointments for Year 9s before making their option choices. We have also held several drop-in sessions this term and will continue to offer these throughout the rest of the academic year.

Parents/carers and students can also access the [Adviza Careers Portal](#), here you will find lots of information to support your child/children's career journey. The home tab has links for students, parents/carers, and events (where you can register to attend employer events) as well as a webchat facility.

Our annual **Careers Convention** will take place on Thursday 7th March 2024, we have 42 exhibitors confirmed to date. Week commencing 4th March 2024 is National Careers Week #NCW and we will be holding a week of careers-related assemblies. If any parents/carers work for an organisation that might be able to support these please do get in touch (see advert opposite for exhibitor sign up).

Year 10s will have a mock interview with a member of the local business community in late March and they will be working on their CVs in school soon. Again, if any parents/carers or their employers could support the programme please do get in touch.

Year 10 Work Shadowing. This year we are asking parents/carers to source two days of work shadowing during the enrichment days in July 2024. Further information will be circulated early next term.

To support Year 11s this year we have a dedicated **Careers Google Classroom** where we post information on open events, webinars, and work experience opportunities and we would encourage all Year 11 students to join and make the most of this useful resource.

K Robinson, Careers Manager



INVITE TO EXHIBIT!



EDGBARROW CAREERS CONVENTION
7TH MARCH 2024, 6:30-8:30pm

- Meet the next generation of employees!
- Promote job opportunities, courses and career paths in your industry
- Opportunity to engage with/offer advice and guidance to over 250 students and parents/carers

email: pta-careers@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

EXHIBITOR SIGN UP:

Over 40 exhibitors already confirmed! Limited spaces available.

PE Department

Netball

This term we have hosted over 200 students from schools such as Garth Hill, The Holt, Ranelagh and Sandhurst, to name a few, at our Edgbarrow netball tournaments. The level of netball across Years 7 to 11 has been really impressive. In each tournament, we have come between 1st and 4th out of 8 teams.

A special thank you to our two sixth formers Nellie Baumgart and Kerris Reynolds who have been our reliable amazing netball officials who have umpired flawlessly every tournament. We genuinely couldn't run such a large event without them. Remember if you love netball, get yourself to a local club and keep playing.

Sixth Form Netball. The Sixth Form girls have had two matches this term, their determination level has been outstanding with some excellent play across the court, bringing the ball quickly and efficiently from defence to attack culminating with some fantastic shooting meaning that both matches were won by a significant margin!



Rugby

Year 7. The Year 7s who have come to training have been amazing this term. With the majority of players having never done contact rugby before, they have picked it up beautifully learning new skills like tackling, rucking and positional play. This was put into practice at the Bracknell tournament where we had plenty of players. The boys did amazingly, putting their skills into practice and picking up a couple of wins with only one loss. A special shout out to Braxton Dickinson for sharing his knowledge and Harry Riley and Freddie Adamson for getting stuck in. Well done to everyone else also for your efforts. Let's keep bringing the numbers to training next year as we will be playing 15-a-side!

Year 8. The boys had great success in local tournaments going undefeated in both. They have also competed in a tournament at Reading Blue Coat school against lots of private and grammar schools who play much more rugby in their curriculum. The boys managed to win just under half of their games and made all games extremely competitive.

Year 9. Again another strong year from the Year 9 rugby team. They have gone from strength to strength and the time spent in Barcelona definitely helped. We've had two tournaments this year in which we won every game. The highlight was the try that Joseph McQuillan scored in the last match of the last tournament in which he took a high catch deep in our own half, dummied a pass, sidestepped several players and ran the length of the pitch to score the winning try. There were a number of standout performances and the team is really gelling and putting together 'proper' team performances. County Cup fixtures are still to come!

Year 10. The current Year 10 teams have always been one of our strongest teams in recent years with the majority of the team playing outside of school. So far they have played the Sandhurst tournament where we won by a significant margin. Some of the boys then stepped up and aided with the GCSE moderation for Year 11 playing against Ranelagh where we won again, you could not tell they were the year below! Having received a bye in the first round of the cup we have Reading Blue Coat in the next round, this will not be an easy game but I am confident our boys will do us proud. Keep up the good work!

This year the Year 10 boys made it to the semi-finals of the Berkshire Cup beating Reading Blue Coat 26 - 0 in the quarters with some quality running from Phoenix Dickinson, organisation from Max Gillings and great rucking from Lawson Osborn. We then faced Park House School in the semi-finals where we lost 14 - 5. I think if we had an injury-free team and full squad we would have made the finals. We were unlucky with a couple of late knock-ons and unforced errors but the boys kept their heads up and did the school proud.



@EdgbarrowSchool



Edgbarrow School - Official



www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk



@edgbarrowofficial

Girls Rugby

This term we were able to attend an introduction to rugby hosted by Bracknell Rugby Club. The purpose of the day was to allow girls to experience rugby coaching and to have them confidently play contact games by the end of the afternoon. A big well done to the 16 girls from Years 7 and 8 who took part, especially to those who had never played any rugby before. Our thanks to Bracknell Rugby Club for hosting the afternoon. Hopefully, we will be able to attend more events like this in the future.

Morgan Rec Grand Opening



The PE department was invited to the grand opening of the new sports activity ground at the Morgan Rec back in September. After a few motivational words from Mr Matthews; Mr Johnson, Mr Fisher and Miss Madz took on

some students in the time trial around the course. Watch video footage on the [Edgbarrow PE instagram](#) page! It was a great turnout and lovely to be part of a community event.

Football



U13 Indoor Football tournament was held at Bohunt with 12 teams across the county. They were amazing, with a special mention to Martha Budden in goal, incredible

keeping. All the girls had some real skill and managed to reach the final of the whole tournament where they narrowly lost 1-0 to Newlands. We are so proud of them and look forward to football season after the break. See you in 2024!

U13 and U15 Girls Football tournaments were held on a very cold morning in Reading and our teams did brilliantly against some very tough schools. There were over 13 teams at this event across Berkshire. The U13s won 5, Drew 3 and Lost 4, coming in at 8th. With the U15s winning 6 and losing 4, they finished 4th. We are so proud, and the level of football was incredible. We are very excited for the upcoming football season starting in January.

We also love how smart we are looking in our sponsored shirts (see photos above). Thank you to Two Sisters and SCS Ltd who made us look like rock stars! We certainly got many compliments. We're grateful for all our sponsors this term (see [page 3](#) for more details).

At the start of November, the Sixth Form team organised a 6-a-side football tournament on the Astro. There was a great turnout with some very close matches. This produced two winning teams from the two leagues. From these teams, one final team was produced to take on the mighty teachers! The teachers' team consists of those who come to 'Friday night football', so we are a well-trained unit. The teachers put up a good fight for the first 20 minutes holding off their attacks, but the younger players' fitness soon got the better of us when Josh Njampa scored about 5 goals securing their win. We are after a rematch soon, but maybe Josh can play for the teachers...

T Fisher, PE

Basketball

So far, the Year 8/9 team has had one tournament against Sandhurst and Ranelagh winning both games. Considering it was their first fixture the boys played extremely well and demonstrated some good technical skills during games. The Year 10/11 team were busy with exams during their first fixture but have another coming up this week. We have a very promising team so hopefully will perform well against the other local schools.

Penathlon

We took a group of students from our Progress department to Bracknell Leisure Centre to compete in a panathlon event which is an adapted multi-sports event in which students worked on their teamwork, communication skills and resilience. The students were a fantastic team and once again great representatives of Edgbarrow. They finished in 5th place and had such a great time.



Cross Country

We took two teams of students to the Bracknell Secondary Schools Cross Country Event on Friday 10th November at Great Hollands Recreation Ground. Each six-person team consisted of a Year 7, 8 and 9 boy and girl who each had to run a muddy 1.5km through the woods before handing over to their next teammate. Everyone ran exceptionally well, and one team came second overall securing themselves a silver trophy.



Philosophy, Ethics & Religion

We are excited about the new branding for the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Department (previously Religious Studies). All of our students have started the year really well, showing lots of enthusiasm for the topics we are covering and everyone has got stuck into discussions around philosophy, ethics and religion, such as how to treat others appropriately, for example by investigating the role of Zakat in Islam, Dharma in Hinduism and debating the most appropriate way to treat criminals in the UK.



The highlight this term has been our Year 10 GCSE students, who have had a brilliant start to their GCSE course - we are really proud of them. They have been studying religious and non-religious attitudes to human rights, with a particular focus on censorship and free speech. To highlight this, we were fortunate enough to welcome Helen, a guest speaker from Amnesty International, to present to our students the work Amnesty do to shine a light on prisoners of conscience around the world - people who are put in prison by their government simply for speaking out on issues such as gender equality. Our students will also get the opportunity to participate in Amnesty's 'Write4Rights' programme, where students all over the world are invited to write an open letter to prisoners of conscience about the injustices they are suffering. Not only will these letters be sent by Amnesty International

directly to these prisoners, but the campaign will also highlight the human rights abuses taking place globally in 2023.

In Year 7, students have been studying Hinduism, with a particular focus on the role of Vishnu as the sustainer of the world. To explore this topic further, our students were visited by 'grandma' who read to them from the Bhagavad Gita. The Bhagavad Gita is a holy Hindu scripture, said to have been composed by Krishna, an avatar of Vishnu, and includes many teachings about how Hindus are expected to treat others and how to live a spiritual life. The students can't wait for 'grandma' to visit again.



C Hinz, Head of Philosophy, Ethics & Religion



Year 11 GCSE students benefited from a lesson on 'the role of a prison chaplain' from a visiting Chaplain at HMP Bronzefield. The Chaplain spoke about her life in a female prison and the support she gives to the prisoners. The students showed keen interest in her daily life within the prison and what prison life entailed. They asked a variety of fascinating questions which led to a superb critical debate.

On 5th and 6th December, Year 7 visited Neasden Temple, a traditional Mandir designed and constructed entirely according to ancient Vedic architectural texts. Both groups had a wonderful, spiritual day where they were able to experience a Hindu ceremony, an exhibition about Hinduism and complete workbooks on the traditions and history of the Hindu faith. We were able to partake in a presentation about the construction of the temple and its vibrant history. Also we have the opportunity to see the impact this has on the local community within North London. Students engaged well throughout the day and were engrossed in Hindu culture. The students were a pleasure to be with and were a credit to the school. Finally, they asked fascinating questions linked to the Mandir, the Hindu religion and areas of study covered so far throughout our philosophy, ethics and religion lessons.



Neasden Temple Trip, 5th Dec (Forms P, Q, R and half of S)

C Thurgood, Philosophy, Ethics & Religion

Music

Music has had a busy start to the year with students and staff taking part in numerous events over the past couple of months. Every week, students have entertained Years 7 and 8 whilst walking into assembly. Thank you to all those who have performed; we have listened to vocals and various instruments play including saxophone, piano, drums, and guitar as well as students who have composed their own pieces. If you are interested in performing, please come and see me.

Later on in November, the choir and the staff brass band performed at the Edgbarrow Christmas Shopping Evening. We all enjoyed performing a variety of Christmas tunes and getting into the festive spirit.

The choir also performed at the Crowthorne Late Night Shopping Evening on 1st December. Although it was cold, it was a wonderful evening and onlookers praised the performance you all gave. A special thanks and well done to our soloists for a fantastic performance.

Thank you to all those involved in the production of 'Grease' so far. The main cast has worked hard on rehearsing all the scenes and we are now starting to block in all the ensemble cast. Please keep a look out for the rehearsal schedules that are on the production notice boards and Google Classroom. We look forward to performing for you all on 20th, 21st and 22nd March.

Lastly, a huge thank you to the staff brass band and the choir for performing in the end-of-term assembly. You all deserve a well-earned rest.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

S McAdam, Head of Music



Library



We have been very busy this term with providing library lessons for Key Stage 3 and hopefully giving students the starting point to becoming knowledgeable library users. I have also had the honour of being a judge for the BBC's 500 Words competition this term which is always a great thing to be a part of.

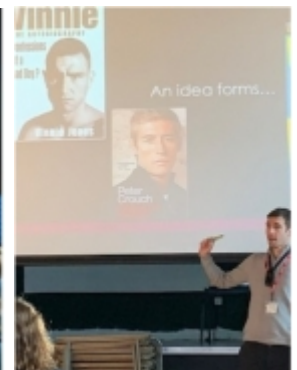
First off, we would like to say a massive thank you to all those families who have donated books through our [Birthday Wish List](#) (click on the link to view our list!), it is so helpful and so appreciated to be able to add those extra books to stock.

You may have noticed that we now have a new team member in the library. Mrs Moulinier is proving to be a great asset to the library and I'm sure you'd all like to join me in welcoming her to the school.

This term we have been really lucky to have Seth Burkett come in to talk to all Year 7s about his football career and his journey to becoming an author and ghostwriter. It was really interesting to hear him talk about living in Brazil and Sri Lanka and the lessons he learned there, in both football and writing. We are hoping he will be back next term to facilitate a writing workshop with some of our keen young writers.

Closely following Seth's visit, we hosted the Scholastic half price book fair again. We had a great selection of books this time and it was nice to be able to talk to parents about books and reading at the Christmas Shopping Evening. Unfortunately, we did not sell enough to claim any commission but we are glad we managed to get some books to kids anyway - that is always worthwhile!

N Mansfield, Library



Science

CERN Trip



Combining nuclear physics and the Christmas spirit never felt easier. A-level physicists, chemists, biologists and computer scientists joined our annual pilgrimage to the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The trip started early on Wednesday 15th November, allowing us to reach Geneva just in time for brunch, followed by a visit to the History of Science Museum. It contained myriads of historic pieces of equipment, reminding the students of the progress made in the last centuries, alongside many extremely engaging interactive devices to discover and feel physical laws that govern everything from the formation of galaxies to our day-to-day lives.

Then, we walked on a promenade along the Lake Geneva waterfront, followed the winding streets of Geneva's Old Quarters and reached Saint Pierre Cathedral. The evening was concluded by dining at a traditional Swiss restaurant to live alphorn, bell ringing and yodelling as we relished cheese fondue, sausages and frites.

The next day was dedicated to CERN. We were lucky to visit the Antimatter Factory, where physicists create anti-hydrogen to study how the laws of physics affect antimatter; and a CERN Data Centre, which is responsible for processing and storage of petabytes of collision data produced by the Large Hadron Collider every second! Both tours were conducted by real physicists who work at CERN.

Afterwards, our students checked out the brand-new Science Gateway Exhibition at CERN which they thoroughly enjoyed. We then had lunch at the CERN cafeteria, surrounded by more physics lecturers, PhD students and engineers. Unfortunately, our visit was cut a little short due to the President of France, Emanuel Macron, being as eager as us to see this amazing exhibition. We did not fret and used the extra time to visit Geneva's Christmas markets that had opened their doors that day.

This trip wouldn't be possible without Dr Bingham, Ms Agate and Mr Burrell, to whom I am very grateful.

A Kishkar, Science



Syngenta Trip



On a wet and windy mid-November morning, the Year 13 chemistry students visited Syngenta which is a global agrochemical company just outside Bracknell. After a brief introduction outlining the company's ethos, we put on lab coats and goggles which we had to wear as a condition of the tour around the different chemical facilities.

The chemists in the labs were enthusiastic about their work and showed us around many of the high-tech pieces of equipment that they employ to make and analyse new compounds. In the synthetic lab, we saw many working fume cupboards with reactions bubbling away. The analytical lab had large machines cooled by liquid helium to help identify the structures of molecules they were making.

One of the most amazing places we visited was the Artemis lab where scientists make and test new formulations using a programmable robot that moves around with a very large crane-like arm doing many delicate actions. The students had so many questions that Dr Martin recommended we book a longer trip next year. The company looked after us well and the students were very impressed by the labs. My thanks to Ms Agate and Mr Law for arranging the visit.

B Bingham, Science

FOLLOW US ON



@edgbarrowscience

Maths

It has been another fantastic term of co-curricular mathematics with some fabulous UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Maths Challenge results and a trip to Wellington College!

Maths Olympiad for Girls. In September, six students in Years 11, 12 and 13 sat the 2-hour Maths Olympiad for Girls paper - our largest number of entries ever. This highly challenging paper requires students to not only tackle problems which go far beyond the GCSE specification but also clearly show their reasoning. The students who took part were:

Year 11: Aleesha Mishir and Keziah Trainer

Year 12: Ella Farrington, Katie Finucane and Lilli Williams

Year 13: Rebecca Singleton

Huge congratulations to all of them for their fabulous efforts with special mentions going to Aleesha, Lilli and Rebecca for scoring high enough to receive merit certificates!

Senior Maths Challenge 2023. On 3rd October, 39 students in Years 12 and 13 sat the multiple choice UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. This year's offering from the Trust was a particularly tricky set of problems - an example of one of the early ones is given below for you to try. See bottom of page for the answer.

Year 12		Year 13	
GOLD	Maria Mandache* (Best in Year)	GOLD	Lucas O'Riordan* (Best in School) Oscar Wolfenden Adam Mansfield
SILVER	Lewis Hartley Lilli Williams Katie Finucane James Davies Ruth Barnett Ella Farrington Isaac Remedios	SILVER	Ivan Poon Will Wolton Ashton Grimmett Elizabeth Jolliffe Abigail Croyden
BRONZE	Henry Down Oliver Henry Lillian Scarr Savir Sharma	BRONZE	Emily Wells Joshua Cavell Oliver Wells Freya Bunyan Sophie Claydon Rebecca Singleton Dominic Webber Ellie Simpson

6. How many lines of three adjacent cells can be chosen from this grid, horizontally, vertically or diagonally, such that the sum of the numbers in the three cells is a multiple of three?

A 30 B 24 C 18 D 12 E 6

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16

Maria, Lucas, Oscar and Adam all qualified for the follow-on round - the Senior Kangaroo which took place on Wednesday 15th November.

Taking Maths Further 2023 - Wellington College. On 30th November, four students in Year 10 were fortunate enough to attend a roadshow at Wellington College hosted by the Advanced Maths Support Programme. The itinerary for the day contained several exciting talks including "The Science and Art of Decision Making", "The Mindreading Power of Numbers" and "Mathematics in Wonderland" as well as a keynote speech by Nicole Cozens entitled "Maths in Space". The day culminated with "The Dragon Quiz" an exciting fast-paced competition against other schools.

The students had a fantastic time and said that their favourite part of the day was the "Mathematics in Wonderland" talk by Jeff Trim.

M Meyer, Maths

Drama

Drama Club. We were very excited for our Year 7 and 8 drama club to have their very first performance on Thursday 30th November of *A Visit from St. Nicholas* by Clement Clarke Moore. Congratulations to all involved and a big thank you to Mr Franklin and Mrs Dix who created the piece.

Trips. This term has been full of exciting trips for the department. On 28th September we went to see *Blood Brothers* at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and on 28th November, we had a fantastic evening watching *Dear England* at the Prince Edward Theatre. We are looking forward to offering many more opportunities in the new year to watch some brilliant theatre!

A very Merry Christmas from the Drama Department!

R Carr, Head of Drama



The correct answer was (b) - 24.
To read more about why please follow the QR code and look at page 5:

Attendance & Absence

In routine matters of absence, we would be grateful if parents would contact the school before **8.30am ON EACH DAY OF ABSENCE** if a student is going to be away. We need **DAILY** notification of your child's absence to ensure they are safe. Failure to provide a reason for absence will result in an unauthorised mark being applied. If your child has a medical appointment that interrupts their school day, please ensure that we are also made aware of this.

The school has a dedicated telephone line and email address specifically for absence reporting. Please note that the telephone number is only able to take messages and you will not be able to speak to a member of staff. The telephone number is: **01344 467675**, alternatively, please email the school (absence@edgbarrowschool.co.uk) on **each day of absence**.

If we do not have a reason for a student's absence, under our First Day Response system contact will be made with home.

If a child becomes ill whilst at school they will be looked after until a parent/carer can collect them from school. The school does have fully qualified First Aiders who can provide medical assistance where necessary. Contact will also be made with the parents/carers as rapidly as possible. In an emergency, an ambulance may be called to take the child to the hospital, but treatment cannot usually begin until a parent gives consent. We respectfully ask that if your child has a minor ailment (e.g. cold or cough) that they attempt a day in school. Our school First Aid team will make contact with you to arrange for you to collect your child if they feel that they are not well enough to be in school. Alternatively, quiet spaces can be provided for your child to work in.

IMPORTANT: PUPILS WHO SUFFER DIARRHOEA/VOMITING SHOULD NOT RETURN TO SCHOOL UNTIL 48 HOURS AFTER THE LAST EPISODE OF VOMITING OR DIARRHOEA.

Permission will not be given for family holidays during term time. Any request for Leave of Absence should be made using the form on our website, ([Leave of Absence Request Form](#)) which is also available from Reception. Any absence during term time has a detrimental effect on learning and social interactions. Students with poor attendance may be invited to an Attendance Action Plan meeting or be required to provide medical evidence for any absence or appointment, in consultation with the Education Welfare Service.

It is extremely important that emergency contact numbers are kept up to date. Please inform us immediately if personal details change.

M Fisher, Attendance Officer



Don't forget to check ClassCharts for 100% Attendance 'Badges' and Edgpoints!

Attendance Matters

Minutes late per day	Equates to days of teaching lost in ONE year	Which equals this number of lessons missed
5 mins	3½ Days	17 Lessons
10 mins	7 Days	35 Lessons
15 mins	10½ Days	52 Lessons
20 mins	14 Days	70 Lessons
30 mins	21 Days	104 Lessons

Attendance during ONE school year	Equates to days absent	Which is approximately	Which means the number of lessons missed
94%	10 Days	2 Weeks	50 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11½ Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	13½ Weeks	340 Lessons

Greater than 95% Attendance	77% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs, including Maths and English, when attended more than 95%
Less than 90% Attendance	43% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs, including Maths and English, when attended more than 90%
Less than 80% Attendance	32% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs, including Maths and English, when attended more than 80%

Source: Department of Education

Reminders

Term Dates

Spring Term 2024	
Staff Inset Day	Tuesday 2 nd January
Start of Term	Wednesday 3 rd January
Half Term	Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February
Last Day of Term	Friday 28 th March (school closes at 12.05pm)
Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st January
Summer Term 2024	
Start of Term	Monday 15 th April
Half Term	Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May
Last Day of Term	Friday 19 th July (school closes at 12.05pm)
Staff Inset Day	Monday 22 nd & Tuesday 23 rd July
May Bank Holiday	Monday 6 th May

Term dates for 2024/25 can be found on our website at:

www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk/termdates/

Further dates for events, trips and exams can be found on our website calendar:

www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk/calendar/

Medical Hub

Please visit our online [Medical Hub](#) for all our information about First Aid, medical support for students and all medical forms.

Pastoral Information

Please visit our website for updated policies on [Uniform](#), [Authorised Leave of Absence and Behaviour](#).

Support for Service Children



Service children are children with one or more parents currently serving in the British Armed Forces.

As a school we are entitled to claim additional money for all Service children on our roll under the government's funding arrangements and this has also

been extended for Service children for up to two years after their parent has retired from HM Forces.

If you are in or recently retired from HM Forces, please would you confirm this by emailing secretary@edgbarrowschool.co.uk who will send you the relevant forms.

Contacting Us

Please do not reply to messages from InTouch as they are not received by the school. Emails should be directed to: secretary@edgbarrowschool.co.uk and they will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Free School Meals

If you would like to see if you are entitled, please select this [LINK](#) to apply. Applications can be completed online at: www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learn-free-school-meals

Personal Development

Look out for our termly [Personal Development Newsletter](#) with information about SMSC and the PSHE curriculum. This will give you an insight into what your children are accessing, and also enables you to have important conversations with your child on pertinent and emerging topics.



Noticeboard

STUDENT ABSENCE

We would like to remind parents/carers that we have a dedicated telephone number for reporting student absence whether it's a medical appointment or absence from school.

The number is: **01344 467675**.
Parents can also advise of absence by using the email absence reporting facility on the school website.

ATTENDANCE

Although we strive for high attendance from our students, if you know your child is unwell or injured and not fit to be in school please do not send them. If a student becomes unwell or injured during the course of the school day it is the parent/carer's responsibility to collect their child or arrange for a responsible adult to do so. Please ensure that your contact details are kept up to date so we can efficiently ensure the health and safety of your child.

ADDITIONAL MEDICAL NEEDS/HEALTH CARE PLAN

The lead first aider kindly asks that all students requiring medication in school and a health care plan please remember to update these as medical needs change/arise. Please make a note of the expiry date of any medication coming into school. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that medication kept in school is in date in case of emergency use. Many thanks in advance for your help. If you have any questions, please contact
Keely.Benn@edgbarrowschool.co.uk

STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE

The Centre is for any students experiencing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties that may have an effect on their learning. Students and parents are welcome to contact Mrs Martin and her team directly. However referrals will always be agreed with the Head of Year. The team can be contacted via the main school number on **01344 772658**.

STUDENTS' PERSONAL PROPERTY

Parents should note that school cannot be responsible for personal property of students whilst the students participate in off site activities. The school will not be liable for loss of or damage to such property should this occur. By agreeing that your child may participate in the activity proposed, you also acknowledge and agree that the school shall have no liability in this respect.

NON-SMOKING SITE

May we remind parents and other visitors that we are a non-smoking site, therefore smoking is not permitted anywhere within our buildings or grounds.

SOFT FOOTBALLS

Please remind students that they should bring soft footballs (not leather ones) into school to play at lunchtime.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

If it is necessary for students to take any medication in school (including non-prescription medicines), the medication and a signed consent form (this form can also be downloaded from the school website) must be handed in at Reception where it will be stored safely. The medication should be sent in its original container, complete with the expiry date and dosage details. The student must come to the medical room at the required time to report to the First Aider before taking the medication.

MOBILE PHONES

It is a serious breach of examination regulations to bring a mobile phone into an examination room – see the school website for more details. Please ensure that students do not bring mobile phones to school during examination sessions. At other times mobile phones should be switched off and remain hidden and not used at any time on the school site.

LOST PROPERTY

Items of lost property can be reclaimed from Reception at lunchtime from 1.45pm onwards only. Items of PE kit are kept in the PE department for a short time before arriving in Reception. Can we please remind all parents that all personal effects should be named and that unclaimed lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

Please could any medical appointments be written in your child's planner and can they also be reminded to sign out at Reception when they go to their appointment.

MINIBUS

Can students please make sure that when using the school minibus they do not eat when travelling in it and certainly do not leave any litter behind. Furthermore, please do not wear dirty boots while travelling in the bus and ensure that the whole bus is left clean and tidy after every journey. This is a fantastic bus; let's make sure we can all enjoy it.

PARACETAMOL

Paracetamol can be accessed via the Lead First Aider if needed. Contact with the parent/carer will be made for consent. We hope this will enable your children to remain in school and that they will be more comfortable and able to concentrate on their lessons. We will of course still ask you to collect your child if they remain unwell or in severe pain. An accurate record is kept of Paracetamol use. If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the **Lead First Aider** on **01344 772658**.