

Newsletter

Issue no. 93 - Autumn Term 2022

Headteacher: 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 returned to normal and we were delighted to welcome approximately 600 people to the school site. It was lovely to see lots of our current parents and carers too. The deadline for applications has now passed and we look forward to places being offered at Easter. The Sixth Form Open Evening was also exceptionally busy and to date, we've received over 350 applicants! My thanks to the staff and students who helped put these two huge events on.

As school returns to normal operations, we were also able to host the PTA Christmas Shopping Event at the end of November. Lots of stalls, visitors and Christmas spirit! We had to spread into two areas this year, opening up the main hall to stallholders for the first time. Thank you to all of those who braved the cold and supported the event and of course our thanks to the PTA for organising. Our initial estimate puts funds raised at £3,500, which is brilliant.

The Winter Concert also took place in the first week of December. We had over 200 in the audience who were treated to a wide range of performances, from music to drama to Christmas readings. Well done to all involved, it really was a treat to see the stage being graced by so many talented students. Our thanks to Miss Carr, Mrs Cruickshank, Mr Franklin and Miss Yatirawana for pulling the event together.



PTA Christmas Shopping Evening



Open Evening



Winter Concert

At the time of writing, we have still not received a draft of the Ofsted report, this means it is unlikely to be released to parents until the new year. Once again, our thanks for your kindness and support during the inspection.

Goodbye and Welcome

We have a few goodbyes this Christmas. Firstly, we say goodbye to Stacey Omokaro who has completed a year with us as a Learning Supervisor. Stacey is spending more time with her family and preparing to train as a teacher. Louisa Bufton has been with us for four years. Louisa has worked in the student support department, working with vulnerable students who will have gained a great deal from her patience and kindness. Our loss is the NHS's gain as she takes on a new role in the service.

We also say goodbye to Sharon Buckerfield, one of our librarians. Sharon has been with us for nearly nine years and has been brilliant at welcoming students to the library and supporting them with their reading. Sharon always goes above and beyond to make our library a place that students want to visit. Sharon is moving on to a role outside of education and we wish her well.

Natalie Jones joined us as a newly qualified teacher in 2017 after completing her training with us. Natalie is always full of energy, both in the classroom and most recently as she completed a maternity cover for the role of second in the English department. Natalie led us through the reading element of the Ofsted inspection and did a fantastic job. Natalie is off to become a Head of English and we know she will do a brilliant job; we wish her every success.

Marieke Griffiths joined us as a teacher of English in 2015. During her time, she has held various roles in the department, becoming Second in Department and responsible for literacy. Those who have been taught by Marieke will have experienced enjoyable lessons and learnt a huge amount from a dedicated and passionate teacher. Marieke has started a family and has recently relocated. We are hugely sad that she's moving on, but know that she will be a star in her next school and wish her every success.

Winter Weather

Just a 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

There has been a high level of absence over the last two weeks as staff and students alike battle various winter viruses. Attendance at school is hugely important as we look to keep students on track and avoid gaps in their learning; hopefully, the worst has passed and attendance returns to our normal high levels next term. It remains key that if students are unwell and present with a temperature, please keep them at home to avoid the risk of spreading illness but return to school as soon as they are fit. Please [click here](#) for the latest school nursing newsletter from Berkshire Healthcare.

And finally....

Congratulations to all the students who feature in this newsletter. It is truly amazing to see so many talented students and the vast array of activities that are undertaken.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the staff. The Autumn term is always long and tiring but I am extremely grateful for all they do and with the stress of an Ofsted inspection thrown in, they and the students deserve a well-earned rest.

Have a fantastic Christmas, and enjoy the time spent with those close to you. We look forward to welcoming the students back at 9:45am on 4th of January.

Merry Christmas!

S Matthews, Headteacher

Merry Christmas



Santa and his elves paid a visit to classes this week!

The Winter Concert

A huge congratulations to all involved in the Winter Concert which took place on Wednesday 7th December to a sold-out audience. The concert, led by Mrs Cruickshank, was a true celebration of the Performing Arts at Edgbarrow, with vocal performances from the choir and soloists, as well as dance and drama acts. The concert also featured some of our very own staff performances! A big thank you and well done goes to all of the students involved as well as Mrs Cruickshank, Mr Franklin, Miss Yatirawana, Mr Marshall, Mrs Huxtable, Mr Riley and Mr Portnow.



Edgbarrow FM

We are very excited to launch Edgbarrow FM! Set up by our Performing Arts department, the station will allow us to explore many aspects of school life.



We begin this initiative by releasing our very first podcast: Edgbarrow Escapes. In this podcast, our student host Daniel Joyce asks his guests to imagine that they have been marooned on a desert island with nothing but three of their favourite songs, two books and one luxury item. In each episode, Dan will be joined by a different member of the Edgbarrow community.



To listen to the podcast with our first guest Mr Matthews, please [click here](#).

R Carr, Head of Drama, Acting Head of Performing Arts

PTA News

Hello, my name is Ella Page and my son joined Edgbarrow School in September 2021. In September this year, I was elected as the new Chair after being the PTA Social Media volunteer for one year. Richard Love has stepped down from his role as Chair as his son is leaving school next year, but he has agreed to act as Vice Chair to support me in my new role until the end of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard for all his hard work over the past six years and really appreciate his guidance going forward.

Lisa Kemp has taken over as Treasurer from Hannah Owen. I would like to thank Hannah for her two years as Treasurer, keeping our finances in check and helping to transition us to more digital systems.

I am delighted to be able to update you on the new elected PTA Committee:

- Chair (Ella Page)
- Vice Chair (Richard Love)
- Treasurer (Lisa Kemp)
- Secretary (Catherine Nottage)

With the cost-of-living crisis, there is no doubt that this will be a tough year for all of us. If anyone has experience in obtaining grants for school projects, or any suggestions on how we could raise more funds for the school, please contact me directly at PTA-Chair@edgbarrowschool.co.uk Thank you!

Fundraising

This term, students have been busy with the Sponsored Walk, we have had a Bag2School collection and more recently the Christmas Fayre which was well attended and a great event after an absence of two years. These events, and other fundraising methods like Amazon Smile, EasyFundraising and the second-hand uniform sale have raised over £15,500 so far since September! Please see opposite for some simple fundraising ideas that we can all get involved in. We will let you know in the next newsletter where these funds will be used. In the meantime, select the link to watch our video '[Where do PTA funds go?](#)' showing how PTA funds have previously been used.

Join our team!

Volunteering for the PTA not only raises valuable funds to benefit our children, but it is also a great way of meeting other parents/carers and having some fun. We're always in need of volunteers for the painting weekend to help freshen up some classrooms, the gardening day, or providing refreshments at various school events and concerts. Requests for volunteers are all posted online so please follow our [PTA Facebook page](#) or visit www.facebook.com/edgbarrowpta.



And finally... I would like to thank all the PTA volunteers, as well as the school PTA liaison staff, for their hard work and support in the past months. Without your volunteering spirit and generosity, the PTA could not support the school as we do and make a difference for all the students. I hope to see many of you at the next PTA meeting in January - everyone is welcome!

Upcoming PTA Meetings:

- Tuesday 17th January 2023
- Tuesday 25th April 2023

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

Ella Page, PTA Chair



Do you buy from Amazon? We can receive donations every time you purchase from Amazon Smile at no extra cost to you. Just select Edgbarrow School Parent Teacher Association as your chosen charity of choice when you shop at www.smile.amazon.co.uk or with AmazonSmile turned ON in the app.



Bag2School Having a clear out at home?

Collections are arranged after every half term. We will let you know when the next collection will be. Information about what Bag2School collect can be found here Bag2School.com/what-we-collect.

Bracknell Forest Lottery

Bracknell Council have created a weekly lottery. Tickets cost just £1 a week and from every ticket sold, 60p will go directly to us, just select Edgbarrow School PTA as your chosen charity.

Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! Find out more information at: www.bracknellforestlottery.co.uk.



Easy Fundraising You can turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations. Sites like John Lewis, Argos, Sainsbury's, M&S and 4000+ others are all in the Easy fundraising network. Find out more at www.easyfundraising.org.uk.

Donate to our School Fund with
JustGiving

JustGiving Voluntary tax-free donations can be made via JustGiving.

Easy2Name Order name tags and labels at Easy2Name.com. Use code: FR-EDGBARROW-20 to generate 20% commission for the PTA and free shipping.

Year 7 News

Head of Year: Mr Burrell

A very warm welcome to Edgbarrow School.

Year 7 students have made a great start to life at Edgbarrow. Our 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 this strange new world.

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 also subjects as diverse as Philosophy, Cooking, Board Games, Problem Solving and many more.

High points of our year so far have included the residential trip to the Pioneer Centre near Cleobury Mortimer (see photos below). Students enjoyed the many activities including archery, abseiling, raft building and zip wires; more importantly, they supported each other in achieving things some had not believed possible. The weather was kind and the food plentiful. The students made a really positive impression on the staff at the centre, and on the many Edgbarrow staff who supported the trip. Our Student Progress Evening the day after we returned provided a welcome opportunity for our hard-working tutors to meet parents face to face, a luxury denied to us over the last couple of years.

We have also had the fun of supporting the Parent Teacher Association with the Christmas Fayre. Our tutor groups were asked by the Music Department to provide seasonal musical interludes for the shoppers, and entered into the spirit of the occasion to great effect. We had a Christmas Rap, we had students singing in German - and every group gave it their all. In addition, the Year 7 students designed, equipped and ran their own fundraising stalls at the Fayre, raising £300 for PTA funds.



Outside school, our students are dancers, sportspeople, musicians, volunteers, carers and so much more.

This has been a brilliant start to our five-year progress through Edgbarrow life. I can't wait to see what comes next. I wish my wonderful tutor team 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.

T Burrell



SCIENCE CLUB

Do fun experiments!

Science Club is back!

Every Thursday, 3.20 - 4.20

S3

All year 7 & 8 welcome!

Learn amazing facts!

Year 8 News

Head of Year: Mrs Cooper

Year 8 has had an extremely successful start to the year. It has been a very busy term and I am delighted to see so many of the students involving themselves fully in life at Edgbarrow.

I was particularly pleased to see so many of the students volunteer to be representatives both within their tutor groups and in the wider School Council. Those involved with the School Council represented the year group admirably during our recent antibullying week allowing the activities during the week to be student-led. I was particularly impressed with those that helped present the assemblies during the week as they spoke with confidence in front of large audiences delivering their message clearly. They were absolute stars.

The PSHE reps will meet with the PSHE coordinator during the next few weeks to discuss the work completed this term and form a fundamental part of our student voice, helping us to improve our delivery of the PSHE content in a way that students find most accessible. We are also lucky enough to have Charity and Form Reps who will be working on our fundraising for our chosen charity this year, Teenage Cancer Trust. Together they will raise awareness of the charity and develop fundraising opportunities throughout the year.

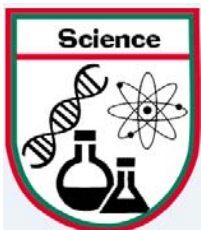
As I write this piece, Christmas is fast approaching and we have just had the PTA Christmas Fayre. I have been amazed at the creativity of the year group and the hard work during lunchtimes of a number of the students as they prepared their stalls to run on the evening. On the night, the students ran their stalls with enthusiasm and a great sense of responsibility. There were lots of other different games to play; Pin the Nose on Rudolf, Sweet Pong, Lucky Dip, Biscuit Decorating and Xmas Skittles were just some of the great games that the tutor groups ran.



The message that I like to give to the students is to make the most of all the opportunities that come their way either at school or out of school as it is so important that the students get involved in a variety of activities. Many of our year group are taking this on board and 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 in tutor times, opportunities 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 the children 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.

J Cooper



Science Club - All Year 7 and 8 welcome

Do fun experiments and learn amazing new facts!
Every Thursday, 3.20pm - 4.20pm in S3.

Follow the science department [@edgbarrowscience](https://www.instagram.com/edgbarrowscience) on Instagram



News Around School

Art & Photography

Our department is enjoying being able to use the new building, in its entirety, to full use now that we can complete all the practical aspects of the courses. The ceramic area is back up to speed with Year 7 students looking at sea life and finishing off their pots, ready for firing and glazing next term. Years 7 and 8 are printing, looking at colour and graphics and have produced some lovely artwork. Year 9 have completed their exam and we are really pleased with the quality of their final pieces. Year 11 are working very hard on the completion of their coursework.



Year 12 Photographers are completing the skills section of their course which has culminated in a sketchbook of experimental and physical manipulation of natural images. Year 13 Photographers have been making cyanotype sun prints to add to their skills by using different media to produce their images. They are due to finish their coursework soon and are working on their final pieces.

The Art and Photography department have got off to a productive start this Autumn term, with both GCSE and A-Level being able to participate in trips relevant to their coursework.



The GCSE Artists went to Marwell Zoo to start their animal project and produced some lovely sketches in the Tropical House, both from observation, and their photographs. The GCSE Photographers commenced their Shape and Form project by searching for letters of the alphabet and other 2D and 3D shapes in Windsor.



Sixth Form Photographers have visited the Photographers Gallery and been able to use their learnt skills to photograph their surroundings and then add these to their PowerPoints.

Our after school club has produced some lovely work using watercolours and pastels and has also made natural colour wheels with beautiful coloured leaves and petals found on the school grounds.

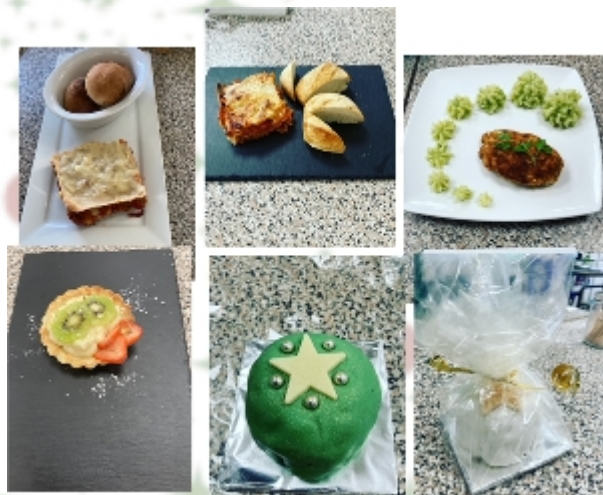


A Jackson, Art & Photography

Cooking & Nutrition and Hospitality & Catering

It's been a busy term in Cooking and Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering!

- Year 7 have been busy making rock buns and healthy pizza toast
- Year 8 have been making bread rolls and completing their pizza assessment
- Year 9 have been busy making sauces; roux, ragu, ratatouille and sweet and sour
- Year 10 have cooked lasagne for their Mock exam and de-boned a whole chicken then made roast dinner and chicken kiev with the portioned chicken. They also made mini Christmas cakes in baked bean tins as well as trying to cut down on food costs and get in the Christmas spirit!!
- Year 11 are busy practising for their practical exam in January.



Thanks for all your support in providing your children with ingredients, we hope you enjoy all they've made.
Merry Christmas!

L Catanach, J Crowe and C Pashen

Science Trips to CERN and Syngenta

The physics trip to CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear research), Geneva on Wednesday 12th October did not disappoint. On Wednesday evening we dined at a traditional Swiss restaurant to live alphorn, bell ringing and yodeling as we ate cheese fondue. A walk by Lake Geneva was breathtaking on our way back to the hostel. Then on Thursday morning, we arrived at Geneva station hoping to hop onto a tram to CERN. Unfortunately, the tram drivers were on strike but by a stroke of luck a CERN education officer spotted us looking bemused and he was able to arrange for our safe passage to CERN via a different route.



The highlights of our tour around CERN were seeing the Control Room where the four key experiments are operated from. You could see the two dots on one of many large screens, showing the two beams of particles being accelerated at 11,000 times per second around the 27km LHC ring - now that is fast! Next was a bus ride to the ALICE detector and although it was not open underground, we got to see part of an old detector built by a global team of engineers and physicists which is looking at modelling events just after the big bang. Amazing! There was just enough time to visit the CERN shop of course for a memento of an unforgettable visit before catching a train back to Geneva in a double-decker carriage that also impressed many of us. My thanks to Clare Agate, Andrew Kishkar and the Year 13 students themselves.



Syngenta is a global agrochemical company at Jealott's Hill and many of the Year 13 chemists took the opportunity to visit it on Wednesday 9th November. An excellent schedule had been arranged. After a brief introduction about the company, we were split into two groups, donned with lab coats and goggles and whisked away to visit four scientific areas. Our guide demonstrated equipment in the synthesis labs and showed us how magnets are used to see the structure of molecules in the Analytical Lab with amazing devices. Students were interested in the workings of the Process Department and a large robot in the Artemis Lab runs day and night and looked very futuristic.

This was a jam-packed 3-hour visit to a company we are lucky to have on our doorstep and the students were suitably impressed by their welcome. Many thanks to Clare Agate and the Year 13 students.

B Bingham, Science

Social Sciences

Social Sciences have had visitors from The University of Reading Outreach Team who have delivered informative and practical sessions to students in Years 10, 11 and 13. The sessions have included topics on physiological conditions such as Parkinson's disease where the students were able to wear a special suit that simulated the feelings experienced by individuals with the condition such as tremors. The Year 10 students were able to participate in some tests that measure heart rate, and blood pressure, and got to play on an iPad which allowed the students to see in an interactive way how the body systems work.

The Year 12 Social Sciences students went to see 'The Psychology of Serial Killers'. This was an opportunity to listen to a forensic psychology lecturer discussing the fascinating yet troubling topic of the psychology of a serial killer. They heard about the differences in serial killer classifications and explored examples such as Fred and Rose West and the Moors Murders.



S Pedder, Social Sciences

Geography Club

This year the Geography Club are planning a few climate-related projects:

- Run an effective anti-litter and anti-plastic campaign, working with our new caterers and encouraging students/classrooms to recycle more.
- Promote sustainable living around the school and in lessons - golden thread through the school.
- Renovating the school pond to make it an educational resource - we have started on this by planting some spring bulbs, we also have plans to create bug and hedgehog hotels and to make the pond more appealing with a mural.
- Connecting with other schools to improve awareness of climate change and sustainability in the local community.

Please encourage students to come along to Geography Club Tuesday after school in H1, the more the merrier!

L Briggs, Geography

Maths Challenge

This term a number of students have taken part in the UKMT competitions. Four students from Year 11 took part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls tackling some really challenging problems that required extended reasoning and lateral thinking. The students were Katie Finucane, Gabriella Jones, Victoria Miller and Bella Purvis. All four did fantastically well (and had fun!) but special congratulations to Katie Finucane and Victoria Miller who both achieved a Merit certificate.

A group of A-level students took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge:

| | Year 12 | | Year 13 |
|---------------|--|---------------|---|
| GOLD | Oscar Wolfenden Lucas O'Riordan* | GOLD | Adam Cox Tom Pearce* |
| SILVER | Will Wolton Adam Mansfield Joshua Cavell Ashton Grimmett Ivan Poon Jamie Lovell Oliver Wells | SILVER | Samuel Remedios Kailen Meade Sahib Dhillon Maxwell Lau Arran Phull Darrell Funani Rosemary Purvis Thomas Barnett |
| BRONZE | Amelia Gow Rebecca Singleton Ellie Simpson Dominic Webber Abigail Croyden | BRONZE | Angelo Diaz Zak Crean Katherine Mott Emmanuel Padilla |

* also received a certificate for 'Best in their Year'

Tom Pearce also achieved a certificate for Best in School.

The four students who were awarded a Gold certificate also qualified for the Senior Kangaroo which proved to be a fiendishly tricky but fun experience for all involved.

The maths department would like to thank all the students who have taken part in the enrichment activities this term and congratulate those that have been awarded certificates.

Well done!

D Holloway and the Maths Team

Library News

It's been another busy term in the library! We unfortunately had to cancel our Year 7 author visit, Dave Cousins, due to covid. We are in the process of rearranging it; hopefully it'll be in March. The upside is that it gives you a chance to buy his books as Christmas presents in preparation for his visit!

Our big news in the library is that after eight and a half years at the school Mrs Buckerfield has very sadly moved on to pastures new. We were all really sad to see her go but wish her well in her new adventures. So that means we have a new librarian! Mrs Daniel has just started with us and I'm certain she will be a great addition to the team.

Unfortunately, we couldn't get the Scholastic Book Fair for the same dates as the Christmas Shopping Evening this year but we will be hosting it in school 6th - 12th December. I'm hoping for lots of Christmas bargains as the books are all half price!



One of our aims for this year is to work with all of the departments across the school to help spread a love of reading and boost literacy skills. With that in mind we have been creating book lists for departments that highlight some of the books we have that may be of interest to those subject areas. So far, we have created lists for Maths and Science and I'm currently working with History. I'll be posting them on our library Instagram as they are completed. Please follow us [@edgbarrowschoollibrary](https://www.instagram.com/edgbarrowschoollibrary) and like our posts.



Our Birthday Book Amazon Wishlist is still active if anyone would like to donate a book to the library. We are always very grateful for all books received. Click here to view [Edgbarrow's Birthday Book Wishlist](#).

Thank you and Happy Christmas.

N Mansfield, S Buckerfield and S Daniel

Accelerated Reader

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been busy quizzing this term with over 550 quizzes taken so far!

Congratulations to our first word millionaires: Imogen Barker who has read a total of 1,115,772 words so far this term and Emily Remedios with 1,109,069 words!

100% Club

There are now 93 members of our 100% club! Come and visit the English corridor to find your names on our display.

N Jones, Literacy Co-ordinator

Music & Performing Arts

Wellington College's Festival of Musical Theatre

We were very excited to perform as part of Wellington College's Festival of Musical Theatre at The GW Annenberg on Friday 21st October. The event saw schools from the local area invited to come together to celebrate all things musical theatre. As part of this jam-packed production, Edgbarrow performed two songs, one from the hit musical & Juliet and the other, a taster of things to come from our production in March: Billy Elliot. A huge well done goes to Mollie Bourton Cole, Abbie Ratcliffe, Isabel Hinchin, Reese Smith, Isabelle Rance, Abbie Morris and Dzi Juru who performed with confidence and professionalism to an audience of 900!



Black History Month Competition

Throughout Black History Month, students chose 15 pieces of music from 62 listed on the Black History Month calendar. Many different genres and artists were featured including Stormzy and Quincy Jones. As part of the competition, students listened and described their reactions to each piece and submitted entries to be part of the competition. A huge well done goes to the following pupils who won a prize for their entries: Sophie Owen, Eliza Appiah, Grace Sollomon-Phillips, Emma Hewlett, Grace Lawrie and Erin Nothard.



Drama and Music Stars

This term, we launched our drama and music star programme, where we celebrate those students who have shown excellent dedication, teamwork and engagement in the performing arts. Congratulations go to the following students who are receiving an award. Drama: Mahala Brookes, Sandeep Cheema, Tomer Merzer, Sam Mansfield, Liam Parsons, Grace Jacobs-Cusack, Suvali Sharma, Ollie Habgood, William Brandist, Tom Jackson, Samika Joshi, Sophie Cross. Music: Felix Morris, Sophia Cruxton, Megan Hickey, Sophie Cook, Max Gillings, Joe Finucane, Anywn Howley, Sofia Duares, Natasa Albert, Emily Remedios, Hannah Bradley, George Maynard, Edith Scarr, Louis Wright, Daniel Joyce, Jordan Crittenden.

Alumni news

We love to hear from our alumni and were thrilled to see Aylin Scott, a former Edgbarrow student, perform at The Battersea Arts Centre in a play called Three Winters on Wednesday 23rd November. The performance was wonderful and we are very proud to have been part of Ally's journey into theatre!



Come From Away

On Tuesday 29th November we were very excited to take our Key Stage 4 and 5 Drama, Performing Arts and Music students to see Come From Away at The Phoenix Theatre, London. With the show due to close in January, it was an amazing opportunity to see a fantastic piece of theatre!

Musicians in Assembly and Open Evenings

This term has seen many of our wonderful musicians playing in the Year 7 assemblies and for Open Evenings. A big well done goes to the following: Darrell Funani, Dylan Applin, Billy Bartlett, Sofia De Melo Fortuna and Leo Rodriguez, Susannah Nash, Eva Jones, Jessica Thomson-Smith, Daniel Joyce, Katie Hemmingway, Jemima Kennedy, Carissa Coles, Anwyn Howley and Joe Finucane.

Return of Swing Band

Swing Band is back! Led by Mr Meyer, students have really enjoyed rehearsing together, with songs such as Summer Nights and Make You Feel My Love, echoing down the music corridors. We can't wait for their first performance in the near future! If any instrumentalists would like to join in, Swing Band practice runs on Wednesdays after school and they would love to hear from you!



R Carr, Head of Drama, Acting Head of Performing Arts

PE Department

Tennis - Lawn Tennis Association Youth Schools Regional Finals. Representing our Year 9 and 10 team were Jake Griffiths, David Kruger, Oli Walker and Will Maynard. They met Churcher's College of Hampshire. They won the singles games 3-1. In the doubles meet, a 2 - 0 win. An overall Result of a 5-1 win. The opposition was the toughest opponents Edgbarrow have been drawn against in a long time, and although the overall score was a clear win, each game had really high-quality tennis from both schools. Watching these gentlemen play was a privilege. At Edgbarrow we have some extremely talented tennis stars, and I very much think, watch out Wimbledon!

Representing our Year 7 and 8 team were Alex Rynhoud, Austin Bowker, George Maynard and Joe Montana. They met D'Overbroecks School of Oxford in their first meet. They won their singles 3-1, and a doubles domination of 2-0. Another 5-1 win from our young guns. In their second meet, they played Churcher's College of Hampshire. This was a big challenge and in the singles and doubles, we were defeated. Credit to Churcher's College, who had some exceptional young talent representing their team. That made our Year 7 and 8 Team runners up in the Regional Finals, and we couldn't be more proud. Well done boys!



Real Tennis Trip. The Year 12 A-Level group had an opportunity to go to Wellington College to experience some Real Tennis with one of Wellington's coaches. They have been studying sport in pre-industrial Britain so this really helped them apply their knowledge to one of the main sports that the upper class played at this time. They all had great fun and certainly learnt some new rules of the game.

Netball - Year 7 had their first netball match on a cold evening against Garth Hill. They were fantastic, winning 8-4, with Akua Adu-Gyamfi getting player of the match, on her birthday too! A fantastic defensive performance and stopping Edgbarrow from losing their initial lead. The ladies played really nice netball, which improved as they got comfortable in the game. What a pleasure! Well done to Florence, Cara, Olivia, Grace, Akua, Elsie and Sadie.



Year 8 won 11 - 3. Three quarters were super close with one goal in it, and then in the final quarter, Player of the Match and superhero of the game Sophie Cook scored 7 goals in a row, leading to a great victory for Edgbarrow. A great performance from all involved; Vanessa, Lia, Izzy, Emmy, Tilly, Hannah and Sophie. Well done!

Year 9s got the season off to a flying start, they had a tournament held at Edgbarrow and we were able to field two strong teams into this tournament. The girls played with determination and skill, working hard as a team and showing great control in bringing the ball down the court to allow the shooter to do what they do best and score lots of goals. We're looking forward to many more matches with them during the season.



Year 10 - I have been delighted to see so many Year 10s being involved in netball this year. We were able to enter two teams in the tournament we hosted earlier this term, with both teams performing really well. The A team were unlucky to only finish second on goal difference! All the girls were a credit to the school and not only played well but were able to help with the running of the teams while I concentrated on running the tournament. We have also had several friendly games where we have been very successful. I look forward to many more games where the girls continue to show what excellent netballers they have become.



Year 11 Netball Tournament - Our team of Gabi, Lilly M, Erin, Lily L, Lizzie A, Afia, Emily R, Jeannie and Eloise dominated this Bracknell School Tournament with four consecutive wins. Erin played particularly well as centre and really controlled the game. Gabi and Lily L definitely had their shooting hats on. These ladies played outstanding netball. I would also add that their success will be down to the out-of-school clubs they play for and that they have all hugely improved. This is as big an advert as any, that joining a local club for your chosen sport will always support growth and development. Find a local netball club NOW!



Year 7 Rugby. The Year 7 boys have really enjoyed being competitive in many tournaments against local schools this term. Edgbarrow held the first tournament of the academic year in September winning three out of the four games after only a couple of training sessions under their belt. With a little more training and a few extra boys joining, the team went on to three more local tournaments in the area winning all of them and not losing a game. The boys were then confident going into the Berkshire Rugby Festival held at Bluecoat School but quickly realised that the opposition was a massive step up. They all put maximum effort into the festival and won two, drew two and lost five games on the day. They made all matches competitive against the private schools that played. They never put their heads down and battled to the end so well done boys.

Year 8 Rugby. Another great year for this very talented group of students in Year 8. Attendance to Rugby was the strongest by any year group by a long way with 50 plus attending regular training. Due to the huge interest, we managed to field two teams at the Bracknell Schools competitions. The teams were mixed ability but really challenged throughout and won the majority of their games. The standout performers were Ryan Batt and Will Mackie. They had a friendly against Bohunt in a very tough-fought game in which a lot of lessons in tactics and strategies were learnt. In what was a messy first half with little communication both teams went in at the break at 2 tries each (Ryan and Luke scoring). The discussion at halftime was about structure, lines and discipline, the boys listened and executed the game plan perfectly winning 35-20 and Luke Gray running in 3 tries! We look forward to taking this group of raw but talented boys on Sports Tour.

Year 9 Rugby. Edgbarrow has a very strong Year 9 rugby team with many of the players playing outside of school. As a result, they have done fantastically in the games that they have played. In the first tournament held at Edgbarrow, they beat all other Bracknell schools participating except for Ranelagh whom they drew with. There were some convincing wins with some stand-out performances from Phoenix and Lawson. In the second tournament at Sandhurst, we won all games with plenty of tries from Max Gillings. In the third tournament at Brakenhale The boys once again beat all teams with some outstanding rucking, tackling and team plays. A huge well done to all the boys who have been coming to all the training and fixtures, you have been a pleasure to teach and I look forward to next season. The strength of our squad this year is also shown by the number of players who have successfully made it into the London Irish DPP which is a result of all their hard work, So a special well done to; Max, Lawson, Phoenix and Koby. I would also like to give a special thanks to Adam Gillings for all his help with the teams this year.

Year 10 Rugby. Our Year 10 rugby team is always very strong despite the year group being so football orientated; we have been competitive and beaten every team in the Bracknell borough except Ranelagh who we are yet to play. Captain Bailey has led from the front with his physicality and ball-carrying prowess alongside Joel, Liam and Qasim. This has also seen Joel go through the selection process and be selected for the London Irish DPP. The year group has grown in numbers and some boys who have not taken part in school rugby are now regulars on the teamsheet every week such as Harley and Harrison. The team will grow and we look forward to carrying on our fixtures after Christmas.

Year 11 Rugby special mention. Three boys from Year 11 (Noah, Daniel and Oscar) have also been selected for the London Irish DPP and have also stepped up and played for our Sixth Form team when possible and not only taken part but have been able to imprint their authority on the game.

Sixth Form Rugby (joined with Ranelagh). This year has been a very successful year from a Sixth Form rugby perspective. We were promoted last year so it has been a challenge but a very competitive league. We have lost three games and won four with tough battles against Claire's Court where despite a tough game the boys' defence and effort were excellent and it was a great opportunity for the team to play at Braywick park... home of the mighty Maidenhead RFC. We also had a tough battle with Windsor Boys but due to assessments going on in both schools we fell on the wrong side of the draw again. Our style of play and cohesion with new pupils to the Sixth Form and Ranelagh has grown throughout the term with regular training sessions and this was made evident through a hard-fought win against Salesians college who are known for being a powerhouse in our league. Despite being the only state school in the league and having far less contact time with our lads the boys have been a real testament to both schools and we look forward to entering the playoffs where we face Claire's Court again.



Basketball - Now that rugby season has died down basketball has started to take over. The Year 7s had a 4s competition held at Edgbarrow at the end of November. Here we split the boys randomly into four teams playing across court. The boys showed some serious skills, hitting some three-pointers and some excellent lay-ups. There has been some real improvement since the start of the year. Their next tournament at Sandhurst we entered two teams into two separate tournaments. Again, the boys showed some real determination and excellent skills allowing them to narrowly come second by 1 basket in both competitions. Well done to the Year 9s who performed well in the Brakenhale tournament scoring some fantastic baskets. They just need to grow an extra foot for next year to help with defence!



Girls' Football - Year 8 & 10. This first game was a 7-a-side friendly round-robin against Eagle House School. The girls came first and second out of 4 teams. The second was the Berkshire wide 5-a-side competition at Bulmershe school. This was an amazing tournament. Each Year 8 and 10 team played 11 games, which took the whole day. Both teams showed great

talent throughout the games and a huge amount of determination and hard work winning or drawing their first 4 or 5 games. After a couple of near losses, Year 10s came third out of 12 and the Year 8s mid-table. The girls really did the school proud. A special shout out in Year 8 to Emmy and her many goals and Annalise for her creativity around the pitch. In Year 10 Anna M showed some real grit in tackles, Kiera J showed off her serious shooting skills and Anna E was out-classing people all over the place.



O Johnson, Head of PE

Year 9 News

Head of Year (Acting): Miss Pilgrim

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 that the students have risen to the challenges of their final year in the Key Stage 3 curriculum.

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, Student Progress Evening 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 discussing choices that are appropriate for them to ensure success in Year 11. This is an important time for the students and I would urge you to attend as many of the events as you can to ensure that you have the relevant information to support your child when they make these decisions. Please make sure you have these dates in your diaries and check the website for updates. I look forward to working with you and your child as they decide on their options.

They 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. I am looking forward to seeing how they have all performed and how their grades look when we have our Year 9 reports in January.

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.



The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award is about to be 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 Barcelona Sports Tour in May and Disneyland Paris trip in July, so please make sure you check your emails for updates about these.

As the term ends I am looking forward to the Winter Concert where we have Year 9 students involved at all levels from backstage to performing.

We will also be celebrating their successes during the term with our celebration assembly. Many of the students have achieved several Edgpoints and they will be congratulated on these successes in the assembly. The students are now able to 'spend' their Edgpoints in our online Edgshop and I ask that you speak to your child about this and encourage them to cash in some of their well-earned points.



My thanks go to the wonderful team of Year 9 tutors and other teachers who work with the year group. Thank you for your hard work and support with the students. I would particularly like to express my thanks to Mr Macfarlane, who is my Deputy Head of Year and Mrs Gascoigne, our SLT link this year.

I would 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 2023. Merry Christmas!

E Pilgrim

Year 9 Options - Key Dates

- Options Evening - 12th January, 6pm - 7:30pm
- Year 9 Online Student Progress Evening - 19th January, 4pm - 7pm
- Option forms deadline - 2nd February



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Year 10 News

Head of Year: Mrs McClatchie

I have been delighted with the positive start Year 10 have made this term to their GCSE and BTEC 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. Next week, we will hold our termly celebration assembly and I look forward to recognising the many achievements they have had this term.

As always, the year group continue to be heavily involved in all aspects of school life. It makes me extremely proud to see them develop their talents in so many different ways. PE remains a popular place for them to develop and excel, with successful teams in netball, rugby and girls' football this term. We were one of the few schools that managed to field an A and B team at the netball tournament, with both teams playing exceptionally well and the A team narrowly missing out on winning the whole tournament. The girls' football team recently played in a 5-a-side tournament with 20 local schools and came second. I have spent several cold evenings before it became too dark supporting the boy's rugby team who have also been extremely successful.



Year 10 has been leading the peer mentoring scheme this year and has done an amazing job at settling and supporting a large number of Year 7 students. It is so good to see some of our year group who struggled when they came to secondary school be able to draw on their own experience to support their mentees.

The School Council has a great group of Year 10s who are taking on a more leading role now as the Year 11s start to focus more on their exam courses. Several of them came and spoke to the year group in assembly and did an amazing job. The work they do for their fellow students is outstanding and is a vital point in communication between the student body and staff.

As a PE teacher, I have been particularly proud of the Year 10s who have become PE ambassadors this year. They do fantastic work supporting our local primary schools in different sporting festivals. They also support the PE department in many co-curricular activities.



I am really looking forward to attending the Winter Concert later this week, where I know many Year 10s will be showing off their musical skills. On several trips through the main hall today I got glimpses of the performances to come and was so impressed.

We continue to have our weekly interform quiz which is hotly contested by all the tutor groups. They are still competing for the right to take our giant bath duck 'Duckless' home to celebrate Christmas!

This has been an extremely long and busy term and we are all looking forward to the Christmas break. I would like to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to working with you all again in the New Year!

L McClatchie

Hydration and Diet in School

Even though it's getting colder outside, it is just as important to stay hydrated and here are some reasons why:

1. You will be able to concentrate better
2. You will feel more energised and less tired
3. If you don't drink enough it can lead to headaches and dizziness
4. It stops your throat and mouth from feeling dry.



It is also so important to eat, not only to help you grow but to help with concentration and prevent headaches. Eating also helps your body produce a type of immune cell to help your body fight against viral infections and there are plenty of colds flying around at this time of year.

So during these colder months, please remember to stay hydrated, eat well and wrap up warm.

K Benn, Lead First Aider

Careers & Work Related Learning

Year 13 Speed Careers Event

In October we held a Year 13 Speed Careers Event. 21 employees from 17 different companies attended. We had a diverse range of employers including the Metropolitan Police, Thames Water, Syngenta, the NHS, the Army, Vodafone, Network Rail and the Home Office to name a few. The students engaged really well with the employers and we had lots of very positive feedback from the employers on the questions that were asked and the genuine interest students showed. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about a wide range of job roles and will help them going forward with their career exploration.

We will be repeating the event in April 2023 for our Year 12s and hope to also run a Year 9 careers day as well. If any parent/carers work for companies who could support these events or any aspects of the careers programme please do get in touch.



Assemblies and Presentations

We have held a few assemblies and presentations this term including one from Boyer Planning for Year 10, and for Year 11 on their Options Post-16, Apprenticeships and from the Activate College Group. All assemblies and presentations are available on the [school website](#) so students and parents/carers can view them.

Adviza is 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 further support their decision-making process. There have also been opportunities for some Sixth Form students and Year 9s to have appointments at key transition times. Some of you will have taken advantage of the appointments that have been available with a careers coach from Adviza at Student Progress Evenings. There will be further appointments available next term at the Year 9 and 12 evenings on a first-come, first-served basis.

adviza
BRIGHTER FUTURES

WEBCHAT

Got a careers question?
Chat to one of our professional careers advisers online

OPEN DURING SCHOOL TERM TIME (EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS) MONDAY TO FRIDAY, 9AM TO 5PM.

adviza.org.uk/careers-guidance-for-you

Parents/carers and students can also access the [Adviza Careers Portal](#), where you will find lots of information to enable you to support your child'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 9th March 2023** and we have 49 exhibitors confirmed to date. The week commencing 6th March 2023 is National Careers Week #NCW and we will be looking to hold a week of careers-related assemblies.

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 parent/carer could support the programme, or their employers can please do get in touch.

Year 10 Work Experience

We have also launched work experience for Year 10s which is due to take place during the week commencing 10th July 2023. There is a lot of paperwork involved with this understandably, so thank you for your patience. If you still have forms to complete, can we ask that you return them to school asap, especially the Pre-16 Form which must be completed for all students. If you are planning to secure an Own Placement the deadline for returning Own Placement forms is **Monday 16th January 2023**.

K Robinson, Careers Manager



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Year 11 News

Head of Year: Mr Dangerfield

Wow, what a long term it has been. Mocks, Ofsted, trips, controlled assessments, productions and more. As a year group, we have certainly embraced the philosophy of 'make the most of every opportunity'. As their Head of Year, I could not be more proud of this group of young people.



I was delighted to see their mature approach towards their Mocks in November. It was clear that so many of them had worked hard to ensure they were as prepared as they could before the exams. I know that following our Brown Envelope assembly, when the students received their Mock results, that they will listen to the feedback from their teachers, seek support from teachers and tutors and do their utmost to give themselves the best possible chances in the Summer.

To support the students there are a number of strategies that are being used to help them progress. Students are involved in tutoring, revision sessions and embracing opportunities of support offered by staff. In January we will invite students to be involved in our mentoring programme where appropriate and we will also be running our '9-5' intervention for students who need that regular revision/catch-up time after school to provide individuals with a space to complete focused work. There will also be two priority revision sessions for each subject which 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.

School life outside the classroom is still continuing and although the time the students will need to revise will step up I still strongly encourage them to get involved in activities they enjoy to keep the workload manageable. We have a large group of prefects who are working with the lower school to help run key events, more sporting opportunities will happen and we will also be raising money for our chosen charity of 'Coats'.

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.

Finally, I would just like to say a big thank you for all the help and support from parents/carers.

The next six months are going to be crucial in the run-up to exams and any support and extra little nudges the students need to complete work or revision would be greatly appreciated. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.



R Dangerfield

Yr 11 cake stall at Christmas Shopping Eve

Sixth Form News

Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Hume

Greetings and a Merry Christmas to all our students and their families. This first term of the academic year is often challenging as we all settle into new routines; either starting as a new Year 12, stepping up to Year 13, or in my case taking on a new role. I have had some real insight into adapting and stepping up in the last few weeks as Head of Sixth Form (which I have to say I absolutely love). This term has been a steep learning curve for all of us! However, just as with the new students, I have been well supported by the great team in the school.

We were delighted to welcome a new Year 12 cohort into our Sixth Form community and they have had an excellent first term - managing both the additional responsibility and independence with assurance. Enrichment activities have been enthusiastically taken up; Sport, Debating Club, EPQ and Craft Club 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 support their welfare.

Destinations for Year 13 are 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 have received all five offers. In addition, students applying for Oxbridge, medicine and veterinary sciences have been offered interviews - we wish them all the very best as we await the outcome of these.

Year 13 has achieved some fantastic outcomes in the recent Mocks and is 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 our students are working so well, with good regimes in place.

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, a brilliant presentation at Open Evening and an Ofsted visit to boot! I was incredibly pleased with how well all students behaved during the recent inspection visit. They showed themselves to be what I know they are; kind, considerate, thoughtful and intelligent young people, who can confidently explain their views. They really did the school proud.



Open Evening

Our Sixth Form students continue to impress me with their effort and hard work, as well as maintaining a lively and fun environment.

We are looking forward to some exciting events coming up in 2023, including a quiz night to be hosted by Year 13 student leaders, and of course the student prom. I know that the dark days of November and December can make coming to school difficult, but I hope that our Sixth Form is a little beacon of light in the middle of winter, and we can all work together to look forward to the return of spring along with all the exciting things that brings.

R Hume

Summer Exams 2023 Students will receive a statement of entry by February half term, and a final exam timetable by the Easter holidays. Visit our [school website](#) for all exam dates.

Other News

Morgan Rec Update

Crowthorne Parish Council has been awarded a community safety partnership grant to provision detached youth work services in Crowthorne from November 2022 until March 2025. The service will be provided one evening a week by The Wayz, from Bracknell.



The Parish Council has chosen The Wayz to provide the service in the hope that the detached youth workers can work closely with the youth worker based on-site at Edgbarrow. It is hoped that in this way, there will be effective lines of communication between the parish council, school and other stakeholder organisations who have been involved in helping the parish council to fund and commission the service.

Crowthorne continues to suffer with considerable antisocial behaviour and Thames Valley Police have now identified the Morgan Recreation Ground as a priority policing area to try and help us tackle antisocial behaviour. We have been fortunate to have input from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Bracknell Forest Council's antisocial behaviour team, Crowthorne Hopezone and Royal Berks Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS), in drafting the bid and defining the commissioning model. Without input from all of these agencies, we would have been unable to secure the bid.

The Wayz will bring their youth workers into the parks and open spaces in Crowthorne, in a sign-written minibus. RBFRS has indicated that The Wayz will also be able to pre-book the community room at the Fire Station, so there is a warm, dry drop-in space for youth workers and young people if the weather is bad.

Please be aware that the youth workers will try to engage with young people. The youth workers are all recruited in line with safer recruitment practices, safeguarding trained, DBS checked and trained to deliver outreach services in



communities. They will have clear identification and clothing with The Wayz branding so they are clearly identifiable to the public and young people.

The parish council has also, recently, passed a resolution to regenerate the old basketball court at the far end of the Morgan Recreation Ground with:

- multi-marked hardcourts which will be freely accessible for netball, basketball and five-a-side football
- an assault course and calisthenic bars to provide age-appropriate recreational equipment for young people
- a walking/running track (phase two of the project).

This range of equipment was chosen following extensive consultation (including with Edgbarrow students), so should encourage more positive and engaging activities for young people.

M Saville, Crowthorne Parish Council

Mr Riley's 50k Run

On 17th September, Mr. Riley, one of Edgbarrow's English teachers, ran 50 kilometres for the Huntington's Disease Association. He was diagnosed with the condition in 2021 and sadly lost his father to Huntington's in the summer of this year. He ran a gruelling course from Southampton to Winchester via the Itchen Way and finished outside his favourite pub, The Wykeham Arms. He has raised £11,102 so far this year and aims to keep raising awareness of Huntington's.



Absence Reporting

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. 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 such time as the child is able to return home. The school does have fully qualified First Aiders who can provide medical assistance where necessary. Contact will also be made with the parents 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

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

NOTICEBOARD

STUDENT ABSENCE

We would like to remind parents and carers that we have a dedicated telephone number for reporting student absence whether it be going to an appointment or not going to be in 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. His 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

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

We have the facility to offer Paracetamol to students if the need arises. This can only be accessed via the Lead First Aider. If the Lead First Aider assesses that the use of Paracetamol is necessary, she will first telephone the parent/guardian for consent. An accurate record is kept of Paracetamol use. We hope that 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.
If you have any concerns regarding this please contact the **Lead First Aider** on **01344 772658**.

Please remember...

Personal Development @ Edgbarrow

Look out for our termly Personal Development newsletter with information about SMSC and the following term's PSHE curriculum. This will give you an insight into what your children are accessing, but also enables you to have important conversations with your child on pertinent and emerging topics, as they progress through the year. You can read our latest issue [here](#).



Free School Meals Application Form

If you would like to see if you are entitled, please select this [LINK](#) to apply.

The form can also be completed online by visiting www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/learn-free-school-meals

Pastoral Information

Please see the links below for updated information on Uniform, Authorised Leave of Absence and the Behaviour Policy.

- [School Uniform](#)
- [Authorised Leave of Absence](#)
- [Behaviour Policy](#)

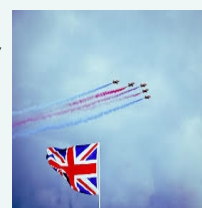
InTouch

- please do not reply to messages received -

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

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.

Diary Dates 2022 - 2023

For further Term Dates please visit our website at:
www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk/termdates/

| Spring Term 2023 | |
|------------------|--|
| Bank Holiday | Monday 2 nd January |
| Staff Inset Days | Tuesday 3 rd January |
| Start of Term | Wednesday 4 th January |
| Half Term | Monday 13 th February to Friday 17 th February |
| Last Day of Term | Friday 31 st March (school closes at 12.05pm) |
| Summer Term 2023 | |
| Staff Inset Day | Monday 17 th April |
| Start of Term | Tuesday 18 th April |
| May Bank Holiday | Monday 1 st May |
| Half Term | Monday 29 th May to Friday 2 nd June |
| Last Day of Term | Thursday 20 th July (school closes at 12.05pm) |
| Staff Inset Day | Friday 21 st July |
| Autumn Term 2023 | |
| Staff Inset Days | Friday 1 st , Monday 4 th September and Friday 24 th November |
| Start of Term | Tuesday 5 th September |
| Half Term | Monday 23 rd to Friday 27 th October |
| Last Day of Term | Friday 15 th December |

