

# NEWSletter

31st January | 2025



## Headteacher's Message

This week, I am delighted to share some of the fantastic achievements of our students, both within school and beyond. From the artistic transformation of Keresley Grange's corridors to the inspiring leadership displayed at the Youth Leadership Conference, our students continue to impress with their creativity, dedication and ambition.

Our Year 12 students also had the opportunity to visit the University of Oxford, gaining valuable insight into higher education and future possibilities. Year 11 are now days

away from their first set of trial exams. A very important time and they should all be revising hard. Whether the students are pleased or not with the outcomes, the feedback from these exams will be crucial for them to understand what they need to work on going forwards to improve grades.

Year 9 Options Evening will be on Monday 3 February at 5.00 pm. This will be a crucial evening to explore the courses available.

We also have our PRIDE Showcase Day on Wednesday 5 February. Please do contact Hub leaders if you have any queries about appointments.

The Bridge - Mrs Stafford  
stafford.a1@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

The Gateway - Mr Barrett  
Barrett.P@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

Year 9 – Miss Owens  
owens.b@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

Year 10 – Mrs Bradbury  
Bradbury.j1@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

Year 11 – Mr Singh  
singh.h@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

Post 16 - Miss Wilcox  
wilcox.a@barrhill.coventry.sch.uk

**Mrs E Martin**

# Exploring the Science of Language: A Fascinating Lecture on Language Acquisition

This week, our students had the unique opportunity to attend a high-attaining lecture on language acquisition, where they explored the complexities of how humans learn languages. The session, led by Mr Smith, delved into key theories and research on how children develop language skills, the role of environment versus genetics and the cognitive processes involved. Students were engaged by interactive discussions and thought-provoking examples, gaining deeper insight into both the science and the social aspects of communication.

It was a fascinating experience that broadened their understanding of linguistics and sparked many interesting questions and ideas for further study.



We have noticed a significant increase in the number of students handing in money instead of using the ParentPay system. As we are a cashless school, we kindly request that all parents use ParentPay for their child's transactions.

Please make sure to top up your child's account the night before, so the funds are available on our system before they purchase food at the tills. This will help reduce queuing times and ensure all transactions are processed quickly and efficiently.

Thank you for your cooperation.

# Barr's Hill Students Shine at Youth Leadership Conference

On Monday, Barr's Hill students participated in an inspiring Youth Leadership Conference held at Langley School in Solihull. The event was part of the Youth Sport Trust Inclusion Sport Programme, designed to empower students with special needs while developing their leadership abilities. Throughout the day, students had the exciting opportunity to meet and engage with Anna Turney, a former Paralympian in alpine skiing. Anna shared her personal journey and took part in a Q&A session with our students, offering valuable insights and inspiration. The students also had the chance to practice a variety of sports games they will be leading during the next programme in May, as well as plan for further leadership roles within the school. At the end of the day, each student was awarded a certificate and a Youth Leadership badge, recognising their hard work and dedication. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievements. Their leadership journey is just beginning and we can't wait to see them put their skills to the test in May!

The Barr's Hill students will be back in action in May, leading and inspiring others with the skills and confidence they've gained from this incredible experience. Stay tuned for updates on their progress!



Year 7 rotation in Art has allowed students to explore the formal element of tone. They have used pencils or watercolours to create their assessment pieces.

# Keresley Grange Story Corridors

Over five weeks in the Autumn term, our talented Year 12 Art and Photography students have brought the corridors of Keresley Grange Primary to life with stunning story-themed artwork. Drawing inspiration from beloved childhood books, the sixth formers have created beautiful, immersive scenes.

Each piece reflects the creativity and dedication of our students, showcasing their technical skills and imaginative vision. From whimsical landscapes to heartwarming characters, these artworks not only brighten the hallways, but also celebrate the timeless power of storytelling.



Reminder to all Parents:

our Year 9 Options Evening is on Monday 3rd February!  
Don't miss the chance to explore subject choices for next  
year and support your child's future. Be sure to book  
your tickets here: [bit.ly/4aqkbQE](https://bit.ly/4aqkbQE)

# Year 12 Visit to the University of Oxford

This Tuesday, a group of Year 12 students had the exciting opportunity to visit the University of Oxford, specifically Keble and Brasenose Colleges. During the trip, students were given guided tours of both colleges, gaining a deeper insight into life at Oxford, as well as the range of facilities available to students. They also had the chance to explore the extensive extracurricular opportunities Oxford offers, which students are encouraged to engage with throughout their studies.

We spoke to some of the students who attended the trip to hear their thoughts on the experience and how it has influenced their university aspirations.

## How did you find the trip?

*"I found it very informational and educational. In particular, the opening talk from Keble College was extremely helpful in giving me a better understanding of student life. It helped me realise how the teaching methods at Oxford differ from other universities." - **Wiktoria**, Year 12*

*"I thought the trip was really interesting. We learned a lot about Oxford life and how students balance academic work with social life. The lecture at the start was particularly helpful in explaining how to apply to Oxford and what the application system involves." - **Adriana**, Year 12*

## Did the trip make you more inclined to apply to Oxford in Year 13?

*"Yes, definitely. I like how Oxford offers a more individualised, personalised approach to learning, which really helps students excel." - **Wiktoria**, Year 12*

*"It gives me hope about applying to top, prestigious universities." - **Adriana**, Year 12*

## After learning that you can only apply to either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge, which one are you most drawn to?

*"Oxford for sure! I felt that Oxford has a much stronger sense of community, which was reinforced by the student ambassadors who gave us the tour of the colleges." - **Wiktoria**, Year 12*

All students who attended the trip were particularly impressed by Oxford's teaching structure, which fosters a collaborative learning environment. Many students noted that the nature of lessons, often resembling group discussions, encourages a strong sense of community and collective learning, which they found very appealing.

This visit has inspired our students, and we look forward to seeing how their experiences influence their university choices in the future.



Ready, set go! It's time to exercise your imagination, with a chance of having your work exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts. Aged 4 - 18? Enter your work into the Young Artists' Summer Show by 5th March 2025. It's free to enter, so get involved 🎨

Put something along the lines of 'if you are interested please speak with Mrs Stafford for more information.'



**TENNIS LESSONS**

**BOOK YOUR FREE TASTER SESSION TODAY**

GROUP LESSONS RUN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK  
ALL AGES AND ABILITIES WELCOME

TO DISCUSS FURTHER POP COLLEN AN EMAIL  
ON [INFO@EVERYTHINGTENNIS.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@EVERYTHINGTENNIS.CO.UK) OR  
MESSAGE ON 07717 057547

TWO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS:  
SPENCER PARK,  
SPENCER AVENUE  
COVENTRY  
CV5 6NQ  
AND  
COVENTRY AND NORTH  
WARWICKSHIRE TENNIS CLUB  
BINLEY RD, COVENTRY CV3 1HB

WE ALSO OFFER INDIVIDUAL LESSONS FOR  
BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN

The poster features a background of a tennis court with a large yellow tennis ball in the foreground. A small photo of a child playing tennis is in the bottom left corner.

**TENNIS**

**FEB HALF TERM CAMP**

Join us this February half term for some tennis fun.  
Not to worry if your child hasn't played before, all abilities are welcome.  
Rest assured we have the clubhouse to take cover if the weather isn't on our side.

Ages 5 - 17 yrs old

Sibling discounts available

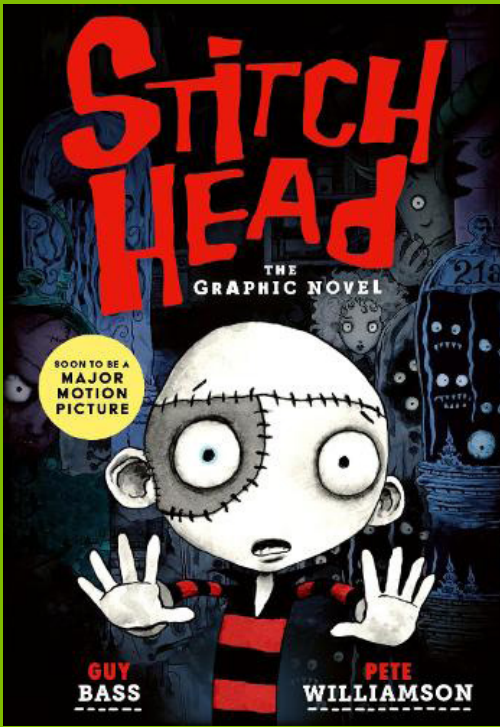
18TH, 19TH AND 20TH FEB

Half day 9:00 - 12:00 or 12:30-3:30 £12  
Full day 9:00 - 3:30 £20

COVENTRY & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE TENNIS CLUB  
BINLEY RD, COVENTRY CV3 1HB

Get in touch with Collen to book on 07717 057547 or [infoeverythingtennis.co.uk](mailto:infoeverythingtennis.co.uk).

The poster features a red background with a yellow tennis racket and a green tennis ball. Two white stars contain the text "Ages 5 - 17 yrs old" and "Sibling discounts available".



## Library Ambassador Book Review

This week's review has been written by Zoe LH from  
7M

Book: *Stitch Head: The Graphic Novel*

Zoe says: It was intense with strong ties to found family and friendship. Stitch head learns the true meaning of friendship.

Rating: 5/5

## Book of the Week

*Escape from Planet Alcatraz: Prisoners of the Poison Sea*

Description: After a recent daring escape attempt, Zak Nine and his Quom friend Ero are imprisoned in the most inescapable region of Alcatraz. The boys are locked in separate cages, hovering at the end of unbreakable chains over a boiling sea of poison. How will the boys escape their latest dilemma? Even if they break out of their cells, how will they travel across the venomous waters to safety? It is the most perilous adventure yet as the boys try to escape from Planet Alcatraz.

