

17 January 2025



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final

Well done to Anna-Maria Demetriades who proudly represented our school in Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final, which took place last Tuesday evening. With her humorous speech entitled “Short and Tall”, Anna-Maria captivated the audience with her passion, resilience and self-deprecating humour. She competed against 19 other representatives of Barnet borough schools, who were judged by the panel of oracy experts, and although she did not win, she has shown courage in the challenging art of public speaking. We are immensely proud of what she has achieved, but more importantly, we are very impressed with the creativity and hard work she has shown in preparation for the final. Following her achievement, Anna Maria will become a mentor for other Year 10 students in our school who will be completing their Spoken Language Assessment in May as part of the GCSE course.

Please follow the link below for full photo coverage of Barnet Regional Final of Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge:

[Album Display - Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge](#)

Mrs Bassington | Head of English

17 January 2025

As we move quickly through this academic year, St Andrew the Apostle Greek Orthodox School continues to be a hub of activity, growth, and learning.

Last week, our Key Stage 3 students participated in the Sparx Reader trip, expertly organised by Ms. Bassington. This trip was an excellent experience, filled with engaging and educational activities designed to enhance students' love for reading. Our students took part in a pottery workshop before browsing and purchasing books in a local independent bookshop. All our Key Stage 3 students are expected to meet their goal of 300 points each week, a target that underscores the importance of accurate reading. This skill is not only vital for their immediate academic progress but will also serve them well as they prepare for their GCSEs, A-Levels, University and the world of work. We extend our gratitude to Ms. Bassington for her dedication and effort in making this trip a rewarding experience for our students.

We are anticipating the upcoming celebration of the Feast of the Three Hierarchs, with Father Gregory leading the festivities. This significant event in our Greek Orthodox calendar honours the contributions of St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom. It presents a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in unity and reflection.

On Friday, our students embarked on an exciting Geography field trip. This outing provided them with practical, hands-on experience that will directly support their coursework. Fieldwork is a crucial component of the Geography curriculum, offering students the chance to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. We know that this experience will deepen their understanding of geographical concepts and allow them to have a greater appreciation for the world around them and support them with their revision for their upcoming mock GCSE exams.

As we continue through this month, we are also looking forward to a series of important school events. Our Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Evening are key opportunities for students and families to plan for the future. These events will provide information and guidance as students make critical decisions about their pathways. We encourage all Year 9 students and their families to attend these evenings and take advantage of the support and resources available.

None of these achievements and plans would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff. Their commitment to providing a high-quality education and nurturing environment is the backbone of our school's success. We thank each staff member for their invaluable contributions.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff and look forward to a productive and fulfilling month ahead. Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community.

Christopher Martin | Deputy Headteacher

Upcoming Key Dates and Information

- **Wednesday 22 January** - Epping Forest Geography field trip
- Click [here](#) to access **Term Dates**



Faith in Action: Living with Respect and Trustworthiness

As we continue our journey through the school year, our focus turns to the Christian values of *respect* and *trustworthiness*. These two values are essential in building a strong, faithful community rooted in love, understanding, and mutual support. In our daily interactions, both in and out of the classroom, we encourage our students to live out these values, following the teachings of the Church and the examples set by the saints.

One such inspiring figure is St Maximus of Rome, a devoted leader known for his unwavering commitment to the Christian faith. Serving as the Bishop of Rome during a time of great challenge, St. Maximus was renowned for his deep respect for the Church and his trustworthy leadership. His life exemplified humility and service, as he dedicated himself to supporting the poor and defending the teachings of Christ. St Maximus teaches us that respect means honouring God, others, and ourselves, and that trustworthiness is shown through faithful service and integrity in all we do. His example calls us to be dependable, compassionate, and respectful in our own lives.

In our school community, we are seeing wonderful demonstrations of respect and trustworthiness among our students. From showing kindness to classmates to taking responsibility for their learning, our students are developing into individuals who can be trusted to act with integrity. We encourage families to continue nurturing these values at home, reminding our children that respect is shown through words and actions, and trustworthiness is earned through consistency and honesty.

We are also looking ahead with great anticipation to a significant celebration in our Orthodox faith. At the end of January, we will joyfully observe the Feast of the Three Hierarchs—St Basil the Great, St Gregory the Theologian, and St John Chrysostom. These three great saints are honoured for their wisdom, teachings, and their lasting influence on the Christian Church. Their lives remind us of the importance of learning, humility, and respect for God's word.

We are especially grateful that Father Gregory will be joining us to lead a special service in celebration of this feast. His presence and spiritual guidance are a blessing to our school, and we look forward to coming together in prayer and reflection. During this service, we will also partake in the traditional cutting of the Vasilopita, a cherished custom that symbolizes blessings and good fortune for the year ahead. This tradition, in honour of Saint Basil, serves as a joyful reminder of generosity and the importance of sharing with others.

As we prepare for this meaningful event, let us reflect on how we can continue to show respect and build trust within our school and beyond. May the examples of St Maximus of Rome and the Three Hierarchs inspire us to lead lives of integrity, compassion, and faithfulness.

We invite all families to join us in prayer and celebration as we honour these great saints and embrace the blessings of the new year. Through respect for one another and trust in God's plan, we will continue to grow as a strong, faith-filled community.

17 January 2025



Sparx Reader Reward Trip

On Friday, twenty KS3 students were rewarded for their excellent progress in daily independent reading at home. Students were selected based on the highest Sparx Reader scores on 16 December 2024, with six additional students nominated by their English teachers. These students impressed us with their effort and determination in reading at home; they have proven that there is a book for everyone, that anyone can enjoy reading, if they open their mind and put their heart into it.

On the day, students thoroughly enjoyed the pottery painting activity, where they could unwind and unleash their creative talents. This was followed by a much-anticipated visit to a bookstore, where students were able to browse and choose their favourite book, purchased for them by the school. The day finished with a trip to a local restaurant, where we already started planning the next Sparx Reader reward activity for the end of the spring term.

The trip was funded by the school and the photos of smiling faces have proven that the money was certainly well spent.

Since the launch of the Sparx Reader in early October, our KS3 students have read an impressive 1050 books. We cannot wait to reward more of our readers in April.

Mrs Bassington | Head of English



17 January 2025



Icon Donations: A Huge Thank You!

We are incredibly grateful to the [Greek Cypriot Brotherhood](#) for their generous donation of these beautiful icons to our school.

The icons have found a cherished home in our Chapel, where they will be appreciated by all.

Thank you for your kindness and support!

From left to right:

George, Mr Karaolis, Mrs Karaolis and Mr Hounsell.



17 January 2025

Celebrating Students' Success

In school, students are recognised for their positive actions when staff award achievement points. You can see your child's achievements on My Child At School (MCAS) and last term, students totalled an incredible 19753 achievement points! These were split in the following categories:

- 13593 were given to student who had brilliant efforts in class
- 1476 were given to students who produced outstanding work
- 4684 were given for students who demonstrated the school values

Please do check MCAS daily to see the recognition your child receives so that they can continue to share their successes with you. To reward and recognise this excellent effort, students have taken part in several rewards this week. The winning form class of each year group has had a form time rewards session where they were treated to hot chocolates, board games and sports activities. Ms Casey, Year 10 winning form teacher, particularly enjoyed her morning!

The top five students were recognised in an afternoon event of Tea with the Headteacher where they too, shared treats and hot drinks whilst speaking about their aspirations and sharing their reflections on their first term.

We are so proud of these students and look forward to seeing which students qualify next half term!



17 January 2025

Student Council

The STA Student Council recently had a highly productive first meeting to kick off the Spring Term. This term, students will engage with various staff members to discuss and amplify the student voice in different areas of school life. We are particularly excited about meeting Mr Martin next week to explore the role of faith in our school, as well as an upcoming visit to the new school building, which promises to be an enlightening experience for all involved.

Mrs Bicarregui | Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form



Strategy



Club



Join the Strategy Club at lunchtime on Mondays and Tuesdays in room Ma3! Test your wits with games like chess, Connect 4, backgammon, and checkers. Strategy games improve critical thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills—key for academic success. Interested? Sign up with Mr Dogan today!



17 January 2025

Sports at STA



Sporting Success!

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 student, Alice, who has recently qualified for the English Gymnastics Squad. Alice is looking forward to the London Championships in March and her international competition in Greece in the summer. Good luck, Alice!

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher and Teacher of PE

Dance Club

This week we had over 50 students attend dance club, and it was wonderful to see them perform and rehearse! They now have their eyes set on the Barnet Schools Dance Festival, which takes place in March.

A huge thank you to our Year 10 leaders and choreographers, Raya and Isabella.

Miss Walt | Assistant Headteacher and Teacher of PE



17 January 2025

Meet the St Andrew the Apostle School staff!

Hello, my name is Mr Dogan, and I am the Head of Mathematics and Business Studies here at St Andrew the Apostle School. I’ve been part of the school since the summer of 2019, and it has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I truly enjoy working in such a friendly and supportive environment, and seeing my hard work appreciated by both students and colleagues is very satisfying.

I studied Mathematics and Education at King’s College London and have been teaching since 2001. Before pursuing teaching, I spent six years in accounting at Royal Mail, but I soon realised that teaching offered a unique excitement and fulfilment that I couldn’t find elsewhere.

Outside of school, I enjoy travelling, discovering new places, and experimenting with new recipes in the kitchen. If I could have dinner with three celebrities, it would be Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp, and Arsène Wenger—of course, we’d talk about Arsenal FC!

I’m passionate about helping students succeed, and I look forward to continuing to support their growth.



Hello, I’m Ms Rafique, and I’m proud to be a Business Studies and Geography teacher here at St Andrew the Apostle School. My journey with this wonderful school began long before I officially joined in July 2024. During my PGCE, I was fortunate to complete my second placement here, where I developed incredible connections with both staff and students. As my placement came to an end, I was genuinely saddened by the thought of leaving such a supportive and inspiring community. So you can imagine my excitement when a position for a Teacher of Business Studies opened up—I didn’t hesitate to apply and was thrilled to continue my journey here! In my free time, I love baking, although I’ll admit it doesn’t always go to plan! My recent attempt at a red velvet cake didn’t quite hit the mark, but I’m determined to perfect it on my next try. Beyond baking, I enjoy exploring new food spots with my sister and cousins. So, if any students have great recommendations, I’m all ears! When I’m not indulging my taste buds, I enjoy unwinding with action-packed TV shows like ‘The Rookie’ and ‘SWAT’. That said, I’m also a big fan of comedy classics like ‘Brooklyn Nine-Nine’ and ‘The Office’ (US version)—because who doesn’t love a good laugh? If I could host a dream dinner party, my guest list would undoubtedly include Nathan Fillion, Alyssa Diaz, and Melissa O’Neil. I’d whip up my very best dishes in hopes of convincing them to spill some exclusive spoilers for the latest season of ‘The Rookie’!

17 January 2025

An Exciting Opportunity for Our Talented Students: Perform at the Royal Albert Hall!

Do you dream of performing on one of the most iconic stages in the world? This could be your chance! The Barnet Education Arts Trust (BEAT) is looking for three outstanding soloists to perform at their *All Under One Sky* gala concert at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall on **Tuesday 1 April 2025**.

What's the Opportunity?

The chosen soloists will have the honour of opening the concert by performing the first song of the evening, accompanied by BEAT's incredible orchestras, bands, and a massed choir of over 1,000 voices!

If you're a student with a passion for singing, this is your opportunity to shine on a world-famous stage.

Audition Details

- **When?** Tuesday 4 February, OR Thursday 6 February, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM (you'll be given a specific time slot).
- **Where?** Dollis Primary School, Pursley Road, NW7 2BU.

Who Can Audition?

This opportunity is open to all students attending our school.

What Will You Sing?

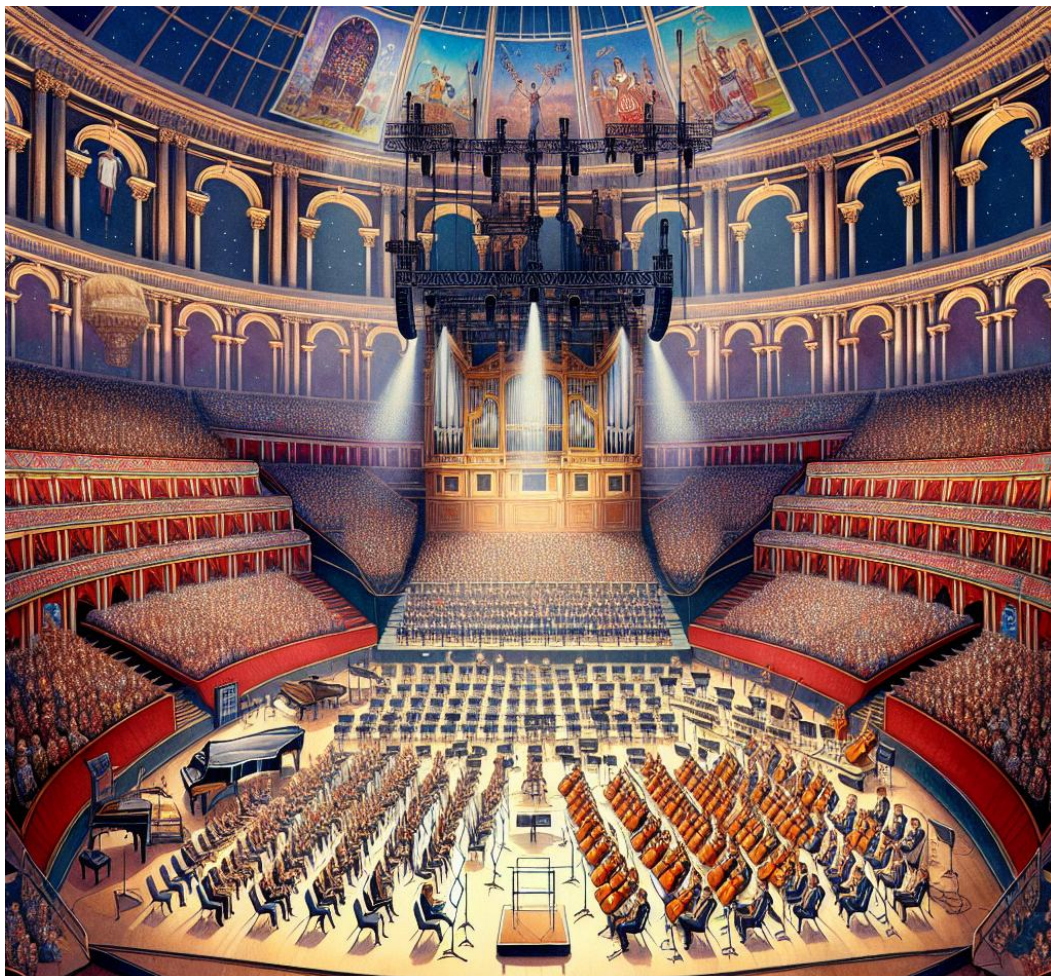
Auditionees will perform the opening solo from *Another Day of Sun*, a vibrant and inspiring piece from the film *La La Land*. To help you prepare, BEAT will provide an audition pack with audio and lyrics.

How to Apply

To book your audition or ask any questions, please contact **Sophie Boden** at sophie.boden@beatrust.org.uk.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to showcase your talent and be part of an unforgettable musical experience. Don't miss your moment to make your mark at the Royal Albert Hall!

Mr Lasithiotakis | Lead teacher of Music



Creative Writing Competition

Hello from the other side.

I feel like I may have been here before.

I would say I'm sorry, if I thought that it would change your mind.

On a warm summer's evening on a train bound for nowhere...

I want to set the world to rights, but you know, I don't know where to start.

You've stolen lives and broken dreams; no man can be a deity.

Look, if you had one shot or one opportunity, to seize everything you ever wanted in one moment, would you capture it or just let it slip?

Like a bat out of hell, I'll be gone when the morning comes.

Acknowledgements: Lyrics sourced from Adele, The Cure, Hurtsfall, Eminem, Incubus, Kenny Rodgers, Killswitch Engage and Meatloaf.

Songlines

Celebrate writing along with the other five schools in the Russell Education Trust. This challenge gives you some 'stolen' lyrics from songs. Choose one to inspire your own piece of writing and include the lyrics somewhere in your piece.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form. All winning entries will be published in a book and the overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school.

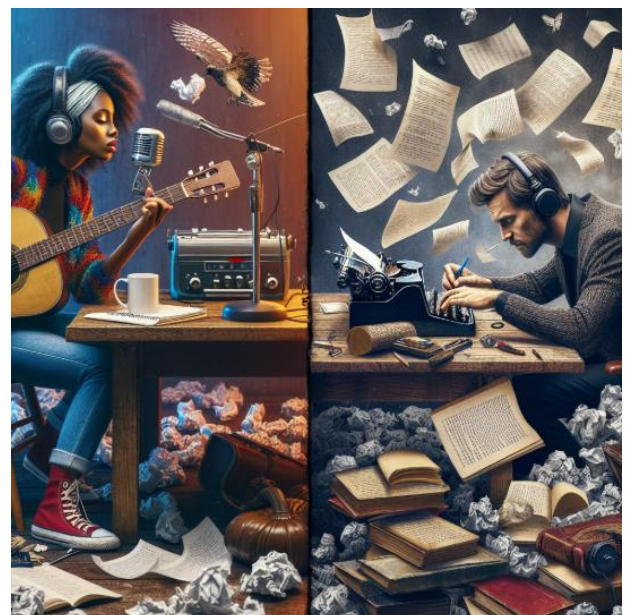
Your piece of writing cannot be longer than 1000 words it must be submitted electronically as a typed document submission.

Please make sure that you proofread your work carefully.

The deadline for entries is

Friday 31 January 2025.

If you have any questions as please speak to **Ms Bassington, Head of English**



17 January 2025

Maths and Reading Leaderboard



Dr Frost – Top 10 users in School

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
1	Kavin Y11	19563
2	Sofia Y11	18028
3	Zara Y11	16567
4	Katina Y11	14807
5	Savan Y12	14118
6	Luca Y10	13811
7	Nicholas Y11	13189
8	Unyas Y11	12691
9	Gabriel Y11	12475
10	Yianni Y11	12135

Dr Frost Maths is an online learning platform designed to support students in mastering maths skills. It offers a range of interactive resources, including video tutorials, practice questions, and step-by-step solutions across all key stages. The platform is used for weekly homework, allowing students to practise and reinforce topics covered in lessons. It also provides personalised feedback to help track progress.

Top 3 Students for each year group

Rank	Student	Total Mastery
Year 7		
1	Teshan	8466
2	Ayaz	3677
3	Dominic	2656
Year 8		
1	Tia	7985
2	Aurelia	7296
3	Alex	6740
Year 9		
1	Andreas	11147
2	Alaya	9852
3	Bowen	9611
Year 10		
1	Luca	13811
2	Hana	11562
3	Anna Maria	10267
Year 11		
1	Kavin	19563
2	Sofia	18028
3	Zara	16567
Year 12		
1	Savan	14135
2	Christos	11430
3	Theo	10666
Year 13		
1	Gabriella	11861
2	Natalia	10832
3	Giorgio	8093

For revision, Dr Frost Maths is an excellent tool, with resources covering a wide variety of topics, past exam papers, and challenges to help students prepare effectively for assessments.

Parents can also monitor their child's progress, ensuring they are keeping up with the work and improving their understanding of maths.

This platform ensures students get the support they need to succeed in maths.

Mr Dogan | Head of Maths & Business studies

Sparx Reader

Sparx Reader – Top 10 Readers in School:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
1	Teshan	29458
2	Dominic	28982
3	Ella	10966
4	Anu	10534
5	Wealth	8935
6	Alaya	8444
7	Moyosoreoluwa	7893
8	Chika	6669
9	Michelle	5704
10	Anaya	5407

Sparx Reader is an online reading platform allowing students to regularly read books for pleasure. Everyday reading is not only a relaxing activity, but also allows students to expand their ideas, vocabulary and improve understanding of any text they will face in exams or as adults.

Sparx Reader offers students a choice of books at their reading level, as well as ensuring they read books with understanding by completing check-in questions along the way. The platform is used for KS3 English weekly homework; students need to achieve minimum 300 points each week (this equates to approximately 30 min of careful reading).

We are very pleased that many of our students exceed this target every week, with some top scorers achieving well above a thousand points a week. Since the launch of Sparx Reader a month ago, our KS3 students have completed amazing 2902 hours of careful reading and read altogether 1067 books so far. Truly well done!

Top 3 Students for each year group:

Rank	Student	Total SRP
Year 7		
1	Teshan	29458
2	Dominic	28982
3	Wealth	8935
Year 8		
1	Ella	10966
2	Anu	10534
3	Anaya	5407
Year 9		
1	Alaya	8444
2	Ilya	6669
3	Niya	5704

Please ask your child what they are currently reading, and perhaps you can enjoy listening to them reading out loud a section of their current Sparx book.

Mrs Bassington | Head of English

Winter Pressures – Helping You Get The Care You Need

For Information

A&Es across Barnet and our neighbouring boroughs are under significant pressure, with a high number of flu cases, particularly among children and young people. Please follow this advice to all parents and carers on keeping yourself and your children well.

- Flu cases are currently very high in Barnet. If you think you or your child may have flu, find out what steps to take: [flu symptoms in children](#) and young people and [flu advice for adults](#)
- It's not too late to get vaccinated. If you are [eligible for a flu jab](#), contact your GP or [book an appointment at your local community pharmacy](#). Has your child missed their flu vaccination at school? [Find catch-up clinics in Barnet](#).
- Your GP practice is here to help. We have made additional evening and weekend GP appointments available throughout winter for adults and children across Barnet. [Find out how to book](#)
- Your local pharmacist can provide expert advice and medicines for minor health conditions – and you don't need an appointment. Find out about the services pharmacies offer: [Think Pharmacy First](#)
- NHS urgent treatment centres or walk-in centres can help with urgent, but non-life threatening, injuries or illnesses.
- This might be sprains and strains, suspected broken bones, injuries, cuts and bruises, stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhoea, skin infections and rashes, or high temperatures. [Find details of local centres](#)

Find out more about how to get the care you need from [Your Local Health Team](#).



Pharmacy

Barnet's Free Home Energy Fix – Apply Today

For Information

With rising energy prices, many Barnet households are feeling the pressure, with 10% estimated to be facing fuel poverty. Help is available. Barnet Council has partnered with Groundwork London's Green Doctors Service, to provide free home energy support to residents, to cut energy bills and stay warm this winter.

By making a referral to the Green Doctor scheme, you'll receive:

- A free home energy visit: Tailored in-person or over the phone advice, based on your specific needs.
- Energy-saving kit: Items like LED bulbs and draught-proofing materials to keep your home warm.
- Guidance on energy efficiency: Tips on reducing energy use, switching suppliers, and accessing grants.

This service is available to households that meet certain criteria, including those on low income, over 60s, families with young children, or pregnant, and individuals with ongoing medical conditions.

Plus, eligible residents who apply for the Green Doctor service by 28 February 2025 will have the chance to win one of four £100 B&M gift vouchers.

With 40% of the borough's carbon emissions linked to residential energy use - not only will you save money, but you'll also be contributing to Barnet's goal of becoming a net zero borough by 2042.

Help yourself or someone you know by referring them today. Find out more and check eligibility at www.barnet.gov.uk/homefix.


Sunita Trehan

Senior Campaigns Manager for Planet.


Strategy and Resources London Borough of Barnet

Prefix of the week


Demo- [Greek] - people/population



Democratic
(relating to government by the people)



Demography (statistical study of the composition of human populations)



Endemic
(disease or condition prevalent within a particular population)

TURTLE KEYARTS



"It was amazing and I didn't want it to end!"

Aaron
Turtle Opera participant
2023

JOIN OUR FREE MUSIC & DRAMA PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Four days of workshops with a professional composer and director, creating your own stories and music for an informal performance. A specialist team from Turtle Key Arts will support the group, enabling fun and friendships!

- FOR **11 TO 15 YEAR OLDS**
- Dates **Tue 18 - Fri 21 Feb**
- Time **11:00am til 3:30pm**
- V&A Museum
South Kensington
London SW7 2RL

APPLY NOW! Free
Limited spaces available

COMPLETE THE STEPS TO JOIN.

Scan the **QR code** to reach the registration page.


Submit the **online form** and we'll send you a reply.

Call us on **020 8964 5060**

Email ellie@turtlekeyarts.org.uk



Turtle Opera is produced by Turtle Key Arts in collaboration with V&A South Kensington, English Touring Opera and Royal College of Music. Funded by The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.




Download the Studybugs app

for reporting your child's absence.


A quick and secure way to report absence due to illness and send messages to school.








Studybugs







PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Supporting parents and schools in **BARNET** navigating smartphones and social media with children

A talk with Children's Mental Health Advocate and SFC North London Regional Leader **Nova Eden** and tech expert **Kevin Tibble**

Thursday 23rd January 2025, 19.00-20.30
Saracens School, Corner Mead, NW9 4AS





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

JUSTALK KIDS

Barnet Youth

FREE activities and ideas for ages 0-19

barnetyouth.uk

Parents: feeling too busy rushing around to find out what your son/daughter is learning at school? Check out the curriculum online on our website to find out more: [Curriculum](#)





BELS
Barnet Education & Learning Service

BELS Advisory Team
for Autistic Children and Young People

Designated Safeguarding Leads

Click below for more information

Safeguarding at STA



Miss Walt



Mrs Viala



Mrs Poole

[Click here](#) to view all Extracurricular club's schedule