



Christmas Edition 2022

## ACS NEWSLETTER



### Season's Greetings

*From the Governors,  
Headteacher and Staff at  
Alperton Community School,  
we wish you a very peaceful and  
restful Christmas and  
New Year.*



Dear Parents/Carers,

How time flies! We have once again reached the end of an incredibly busy and productive term. I am sure you will enjoy reading about some of the fascinating events and projects we have embarked on this term. My personal favourite was the return of the Winter Concert in December. It brought home to me just how much we missed these community events because of COVID. It was a pleasure to see the event reborn, bringing our school, parents and community together to enjoy a wonderful array of performances.

Next term begins with the very important Mid-Year Examinations for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. These examinations are an important indicator of the progress your child is making at school. They will provide important information to teachers about any gaps in your child's knowledge and understanding. The secret to examination success is preparation. The more work your child puts into reviewing their work and practising at home, the more successful they will be. It is therefore important that your child makes the very best use of the revision resources that can be found on the VIP Zone. We will use the results as the foundation for our conversations with you during the parent evenings, which take place during the spring and summer terms. You can use the school calendar to find out when the event will run for your child by clicking [here](#). The exams are particularly important for Year 9, as it will help inform us about the most appropriate subjects your child will study when they choose their GCSE options in March. Of course, Years 11 and 13 will have a final (and very important) second round of mock (PPE) examinations in the spring term in the run-up to their final examinations, which start in May.

As we begin the Christmas break, it is important for us to consider those who are less fortunate than we are. As the cost of living continues to increase, we know this will affect a number of students and their families in our community. We have embarked on a number of initiatives to support our community including food donations and charity fundraising – you can read about this throughout the newsletter. We have also launched a special help page on our website, which will be a one-stop page with information about all the local resources and sources of support and advice. You can find this information by clicking [here](#). The information here is useful for everyone. If you do find things very difficult over Christmas you can also find information on Barnardo's and Brent's Out of Hours Family Support Helpline [here](#).

I very much hope that you and your family enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year. We start the spring term on Tuesday 3rd January at the normal time with registration at 8:30am.

# Engaging and inspirational Alumni Day with Tayyab Rahman



Last week, Alperton Community School welcomed back another former pupil, Tayyab Rahman, who left Alperton 15 years ago.

Tayyab is The Salesforce Platform Manager at Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity where he implements innovative IT solutions to help raise money for the Hospital.

On his arrival at Ealing Road, he was met by two Year 8 students, Fatimah and Chris, along with Mr Rayleigh who gave him a full tour of the new school building. The students asked him many questions about his current role and what he could remember about attending the school.

After lunch we walked across to Stanley Avenue and Tayab met with two Year 12 students, Rehana and Noor, who gave him a full tour of the school and then he met with many of our staff members, both old and new.

He then gave a careers talk to a number of sixth formers in the library. His talk was very personal and inspirational and it was really interesting for the students to hear such passion from someone who had attended ACS.

It was yet another wonderful day welcoming back such an amazing former student who was extremely complimentary about our school. Tayyab remarked that it was lovely to return to the school that had provided him with such a wealth of experiences and successful qualifications and although it was surreal to return, he had a great time meeting such wonderful students and engaging with staff members, some of whom he remembered from when he was at ACS.

# Remembrance Day

In November our school commemorated Remembrance Day. At 11am staff and students observed a 2 minute silence. Afterwards, Ms Fretwell played the Last Post by trumpet in the canteen. Staff and students bought poppies and made donations at lunch and break time to further commemorate the day. Students also participated in a free poppy craft during break and lunch time. A special thank you to Ms Cathcart for organising this event.



# Weekly Careers newsletter

Please click on the link below to view the first two editions of our careers newsletter. The newsletters will be updated weekly on our website, so please check the Careers section regularly for updates.

**OPPORTUNITIES**  
The National Space Academy will be hosting online careers conferences for students and parents/guardians, thanks to the UK Space Agency. These conferences will allow viewers to find out about some of the most exciting job opportunities within an ever-growing industry. Jobs within the sector range from working with satellites to help predict the weather and farmers to better understand their crops to designing and building rockets to becoming a space lawyer. This date is this week so register ASAP! [Click here to register.](#)

**JOB OF THE WEEK**  
**3D**  
3D printing technicians manufacture products, including biomedical implants, car parts, aerospace components and fashion accessories. You can earn £19,000 to £38,000 per year and expect to work 37 to 40 hours a week. There will be 60,000 more 3D printing technicians jobs in 2026. [Click here to read more.](#)

**LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION FACT**  
There was an increase in the number of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in July to September 2022, with the total currently estimated to be 728,000, up from 711,000 in April to June 2022. [Source](#)

If you have any questions or need support, please email [careers@alperton.brent.sch.uk](mailto:careers@alperton.brent.sch.uk)

## Mental Health Support



Zumos

If your child needs mental health support over the Christmas period, Zumos is a social enterprise offering free end-to-end mental health support and resilience building tools for all students.

To get access to their services, please visit their website [www.zumos.co.uk](http://www.zumos.co.uk) and click on 'Join us'. Any school child can get free access to Zumos using the free code "studentzumos".

## Inspiring art workshop with artist Sarah Pimenta

On Wednesday, 23 November Alperton students took part in a special art workshop with the Artists in Residence artist Sarah Pimenta. Students had an amazing time working with the artist and learning about screen printing. The workshop was filmed by Sky Arts and broadcasted on the Russell Howard Hour Show on 1 December. Please see below some wonderful pictures of our students working the artist.



## DT Lego Robotics Workshop

On 18th November a group of year 9 students attended a robotics workshop where they designed and built a vehicle using advanced lego blocks. They learned coding to create a mechanism that allowed the vehicle to perform a task and worked in teams to successfully produce a creative and functional prototype. Please click on the image below to see some photos from the event and also the December exhibition of the DT Work of the Month created by our talented students.



**DT - WORK OF THE MONTH**  
December

## The third Business Breakfast at Alperton Community School

In November, Alperton Community School invited more local employers to have 'breakfast' at our Ealing Road school in order to network, discuss potential career opportunities for our students and to continue to build long term relationships with local employers.

Mr Rayleigh, Senior Leader for Careers and School Community Collaboration, organised the event and we had representatives from Brent Council, Norwegian Wood architects and a local artist. The staff were greeted by two Year 8 students, Jack Metherell and Vritee Jiten, who introduced themselves to the guests and asked questions about the school and their own career aspirations.

The guests discussed how they could help ACS including Career talks, work place visits, work experience opportunities, attending the careers fair on Wednesday, 19th April 2023, donations for library book tokens and attending drop down days such as interview skills, CV writing and what to expect from a job.

The breakfast was another success and the employers were all very keen to work with the school and our students in the future and we once again look forward to hosting more business breakfasts with other local companies as this will continue to provide our students with opportunities to learn about what work is really like and what it takes to be successful in the workplace.



## Students take part in fun and inspiring Flamenco show and workshop

On Thursday 8 December, Alperton students had the opportunity to take part in an exciting Spanish Flamenco show and workshop. They had the chance to practice and sing along a professional Flamenco band and take part in a dance workshop, learning basic Flamenco rhythms and movements. The students had a fantastic time during the activities and asked if we could repeat the workshop next term. Many thanks to Mr Delitzeoglou and Artists in Residence for organising this wonderful event for our students.



## Alperton Book Fair 2022

At the beginning of December we hosted a fantastic book fair at our Ealing Road and Stanley Avenue Libraries with a wide range of books on display. The book fair was a success and attracted many curious students. Thank you everyone for showing so much interest!



# Alperton Community School has been awarded the very prestigious 'Quality in Careers Standard'



ACS are delighted to have been awarded the prestigious and highly sought after 'Quality in Careers Standard' through Investor In Careers for its Careers Education Information and Guidance programme in October 2022 having fully met the necessary criteria and are now full holders of the award for the next three years.

The Quality in Careers Standard Award is a nationally recognised award and it is the

highest accolade a school can receive for excellence in this area of school life. The external assessors commented that 'there is a whole school approach to CEIAG, with strong Senior Management and Governor support, a committed and well organised Careers Leader, who has worked hard to develop a comprehensive CEIAG programme and is highly valued by students, staff and external partners, there is a very comprehensive careers section on the school website and a detailed CEIAG policy, which is reviewed and amended every two years, there is a strong careers education, information, advice and guidance in the 6th Form, a varied programme of career talks which all students can access, good use of the Unifrog on-line careers resource, which the school buys in and is available to all students.' ACS offers a wide range of careers education related activities such as the annual careers fair, a careers programme by form tutors for all year groups along with additional careers themed packages of support for sixth form students and work experience programmes for students in Years 10 and 12. In addition, students have access to an external qualified careers advisor.



The careers department at ACS is here to empower all students with the knowledge, skills and experiences to make sound career and academic decisions, prepare for satisfying employment and develop successful lifelong career plans in an evolving global world of work.

Quality careers education and guidance is the key to social mobility. It is about showing our students, whatever their social and family background is, the different options open to them and helping them to make the right choices to set them on the path to rewarding future careers. The school will be re-assessed for this fantastic award every 3 years.

**The Quality in Careers Standard Certificate**

**The Quality in Careers Standard Letter**

## Senior Kangaroo UK Mathematics challenge

Special congratulations go to Nikhil Kirticuma and Dev Shah who were invited to participate in the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo UK Mathematics Trust challenge. Participation in this event is by invitation only with students having to achieve a very high score in the Senior Mathematical Challenge before being considered. Nikhil was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the Senior Kangaroo challenge which means he achieved a score in the top 25% of the most elite mathematicians of his age across the country.

## Safeguarding newsletter

Please click on the image below for the latest edition of our Safeguarding Newsletter with tips and advice on how to keep your child safe.



## Online Safety Tips during holidays

If your children are getting any new games, apps or software this holiday season, the poster below from National Online Safety has tips and advice for parents on how to minimise Online Safety risks and helping you ensure the only Christmas surprises are nice ones!



## Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 8 December, our school took part in the annual "Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day" celebrations to help raise money for children in need. On the day, our staff wore their most wonderful woolies and donated £2 to the Save the Children Charity. The School has raised over £200. Many thanks to all staff and students who made a donation.



## Donations to local charity Sufra

A big thank you to all staff and students who have donated so many items for the past two weeks to help the homeless this Christmas. The Sixth Form students collected bags of donations (clothes, towels, food, hygiene products) which will be dropped off to the local Food Bank Sufra in North West London.



## Excellent presentation of the "Your Life You Choose" programme



On 17 November our Year 8 students took part in the Your Life You Choose program, a multi-agency presentation run by magistrates in North West London that educates young people about crime and its consequences. The students took part in a carousel of workshops with police officers, magistrates, paramedics and inclusion officers learning about the importance of making informed decisions and the consequences that follow when taking a wrong turn in life. The

programme is a great way to raise awareness about crime among young people and teaches them how to keep away from it.

The students were very engaged in the workshops, asking questions and showing interest in the subject. Many thanks to Ms Cathcart for organising the event.



## Year 7 students create wonderful Odd Socks designs for Anti Bullying Week

Last month Alpernton celebrated Anti Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day which took place from Monday 14th - Friday 18th November. The theme of this year was *Reach Out*. The Odd Socks Day was a great way to celebrate what makes us all **unique** and our Year 7 students created some wonderful Odd Socks designs, which you can see below. Remember that being bullied is never your fault. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk and ask for help.



## Have your say on Brent's Landlord Licensing Consultation.

Please click on the image for details.



# Incredible musical performances at Alperton Winter Concert

On Wednesday 12 December Alperton Community School hosted a fantastic Winter Concert. It was great to hear a really wide range of performances with many different instruments ranging from drum band, to choir, violin, guitar, keyboard and the very impressive ACS band; and that's without mentioning the wonderful Year 7 comperes. Thank you to the staff and parents who came along to show their support. We are already looking forward to the next performance! Thank you to Ms Ernestine, Ms Fretwell, Ms Bowerman and Mr Holland for organising such a wonderful evening.



**ALPERTON  
SCHOOL  
LETTINGS**

**All our facilities can  
now be booked  
ONLINE!**



Should you wish to check our availability and make a booking, please visit our:

**SCHOOLE HIRE WEBSITE**

For more information you can also contact our School Office.

## Spectacular Winter Fair at Alperton

The winter fair that took place at Ealing Road on Wednesday 14th December was a spectacular success. The Sixth Form Youth Ambassadors excelled themselves by organising an amazing number of stalls including henna, a steady hand, magnetic darts as well as the food stands and in particular the chocolate fountain and the candy floss. Thank you to all staff and students who generously donated to the event and all of the money raised will be going to Great Ormond Street Hospital.



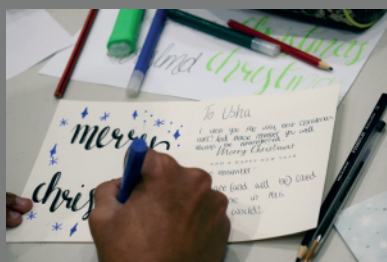
## Christmas Dinner Tips

Whilst Christmas is a wonderful time of year with lots of family time and presents, it can also be very stressful. The chef from our catering company Innovate has put together the ultimate Christmas go-to guide - talking you through the main elements of your Christmas dinner with some hints to reduce costs and utilise leftovers. Please click on the link below to view the guide.



## Christmas Card Intergenerational Project

On Wednesday 13 December students took part in the Brent Christmas Card Inter-generational Project and created these wonderful Christmas cards for the elderly residents of Kenbrook and Coplands Nursing Home! Well done everyone and thank you to Ms Ryan for organising this!




# Alperton Family Support

Alperton Community School is here to support its students, their families and the wider community during these very difficult times. If you are struggling with financial hardship, please click on the link below for more information about the support services available from your council and other local organisations:

**NEED EXTRA HELP WITH FINANCES?**

Please click on this link to find out what support is available



**Barnardo's and Brent Out of Hours Family Support Helpline**

Our helpline and webchat service will provide families in Brent with access to a Barnardo's family support worker during evenings and weekends. The service is part of Brent's Family Wellbeing Centres. Our experienced and friendly team will offer information, advice and support and can help you with:

- Your and your child's family support and wellbeing needs during evenings and weekends.
- Registering with a Family Wellbeing Centre.
- Accessing other services in Brent, including support with the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Who can access this service?  
Our service is free to access for any family living in Brent.

Translators are also available on request. Please note that this is not a crisis service – if you or someone you are with is in immediate danger call 999.

How can I access the service?  
The service will be available by scanning the QR code.

Or by telephone on 0800 158 2356. You can also schedule a video call by contacting: [brentfamilysupport@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:brentfamilysupport@barnardos.org.uk)

Opening Hours:  
Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6pm – 10pm

**Brent** **Barnardo's**

# Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday, 3 January  
Start of Spring Term (08:30am)
- Thursday, 26 January  
Year 8 Parents Evening
- Thursday, 9 February  
Year 12 Parents Evening
- Monday, 13 February - Friday, 17 February  
Half Term

# Holiday and Food Programme (HAF)



Brent Council receives funding from the Department for Education to deliver a **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** as part of a national scheme. The aim of the programme is to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, encouraging them to engage in interactive and fun activities.

The programme offers free places at holiday provision in the Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays for school-aged children in Brent who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

The **Christmas 2022 Brent HAF programmes** is now live and it will take place between **17 December 2022 and 2 January 2023**, with eligible children able to access **4 days of HAF funded activities** between these

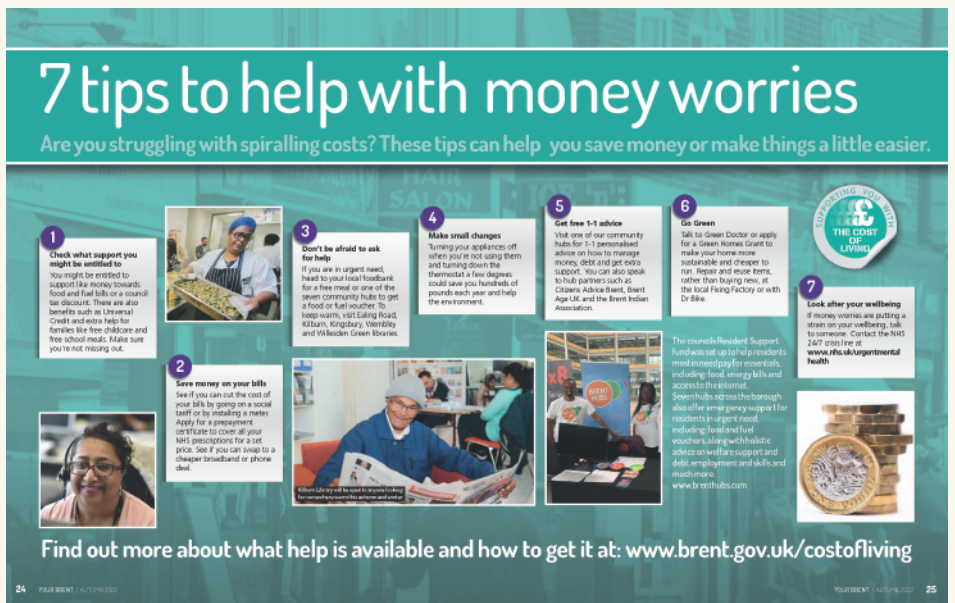
dates. Please click on [this link](#) for more information about the programme and to register.

As part of the HAF Programme, the provider Ominira is organising a 'Winter Camp' which will include activities such as coding and robotics, financial literacy, arts & crafts, dance, drama, sports, film-making and photography, food technology and many more workshops, as well as trips, with an intention of giving children the best Christmas holiday ever! For more information about the programme and to book a place, please check out the leaflet above or visit their website by clicking on [this link](#).

# Support with the Cost of Living

If you are struggling with the rising prices, help is available through Brent Council during this winter to support you through the cost-of-living crisis. They can help with bills, food or other household essentials and emergency assistance. To ask for help, please visit their website: <http://brent.gov.uk/costofliving>

A leaflet with more information can be downloaded by clicking on the image below:



**7 tips to help with money worries**  
Are you struggling with spiralling costs? These tips can help you save money or make things a little easier.

- 1 Check what support you might be entitled to**  
You might be entitled to support like money towards food and fuel bills or a council tax discount. There are also benefits such as Universal Credit and extra help for families like free childcare and free school meals. Make sure you're not missing out.
- 2 Save money on your bills**  
See if you can cut the cost of your bills by going on a social tariff or by installing a meter. Apply for a payment protection to cover all your NHS prescriptions for a set period. See if you can swap to a cheaper broadband or phone deal.
- 3 Don't be afraid to ask for help**  
If you are in urgent need, head to your local foodbank for a free meal or one of the seven community hubs to get a food or fuel voucher to keep warm, visit Ealing Road, 424am, Kingsbury, Vintobly and Willesden Green libraries.
- 4 Make small changes**  
Turning your appliances off when you're not using them and turning down the thermostat a few degrees could save you hundreds of pounds each year and help the environment.
- 5 Get free 1-1 advice**  
Visit one of our community hubs for 1-1 personalised advice on how to manage money, debt and get extra support. You can also speak to hub partners such as Citizens Advice Brent, Brent Age UK and the Brent Indian Association.
- 6 Go Green**  
Talk to Green Doctor or apply for a Green Homes Grant to make your home more sustainable and cheaper to run. Repair and reuse items, rather than buying new, at the local Frang Factory or with Dr Bika.
- 7 Look after your wellbeing**  
If money worries are putting a strain on your wellbeing, talk to someone. Contact the NHS 247 care line at [www.nhs.uk/urgentmentalhealth](http://www.nhs.uk/urgentmentalhealth)

Find out more about what help is available and how to get it at: [www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.brent.gov.uk/costofliving)