

THE HAMLET HERALD



'Outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters'

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S NOTE

I'm going to have a 'music' theme to my piece this week:

We are asked on a regular basis if children learning instruments out of school can take their ABRSM music examinations with us at school. Unfortunately, the answer has to be 'no' and I wanted to take the opportunity to communicate why this is. We are not actually an ABRSM Centre, our nearest ones being central London or Bromley. While we have an examiner visit once a year for any of the children who learn with us at school ready to take exams, managed by our music team, this is very different to being a Centre. Firstly, unlike a centre, we do not get paid for having a visit. In fact, it costs us! We try to keep any costs as low as possible to our parents and carers; we cannot possibly extend this beyond school provision. Secondly, if we were to become a Centre and open-up examinations to the wider community, our music rooms would be regularly out of action for any curriculum or ensemble music teaching to our Hamleteers. We just do not have that capacity, nor the admin staff to manage the application process, and logistics involved with other music tutors and accompanists on the school site.

If your child is receiving private music tuition, it really is the responsibility of the music tutor themselves, working with parents, to apply for music examinations at an external centre. We are always happy to authorise a morning/afternoon session of absence for children to do this. As always, please email absence requests in advance to the office.

Assisted Purchase Scheme: This is a government initiative that enables parents and carers to purchase musical instruments without paying VAT, therefore making a saving of 20%.

We are happy to promote this scheme for our young musicians **at the point of secondary transfer**, as we are mindful that many secondary schools do not provide instruments. We open this scheme in the Autumn term for our **Y6 musicians**, with a **deadline** to apply before the end of **February** each year.

To be eligible, pupils **must be receiving musical tuition in the instrument at school**. Parents firstly select and reserve the chosen instrument from a retailer participating in the scheme. The parent/carer pays the VAT-free cost of the instrument to the school, we then purchase the instrument and reclaim the VAT. For full information, please download this [leaflet](#).

KEY DATES

Tuesday 10th December

Christmas Celebration at St. Barnabas: 10am and 2pm.
(Ticketed event)

Choir performing at the Dulwich Choral Society Carol Concert, St. Stephen's Church Dulwich, 7:30pm

Wednesday 11th December

Y5 children (45 last year) to 'bury' Burbage Time Capsule
Start to bring in your Christmas food bags for the Norwood and Brixton Foodbank

Thursday 12th December

Christmas lunch – wear your festive headgear!

Friday 13th December

9am, deadline for bringing in Christmas food bags
Bassistry Arts music workshops for Y5/6 and celebration performance to whole school
PTA Christmas cake sale, 3:25pm, Village playground

KIDSCAPE ANTI-BULLYING WORKSHOP

Kidscape have kindly forwarded us a resource that they are happy to share following our recent evening workshop. There are many more slides included than were actually shown during our evening, and not necessarily in the order we followed. To view this resource, you can go to our *Parent and Carer Café* tab on the website, or just click [here](#).



WEEKLY HOUSE POINTS

Topaz Water	Ruby Fire	Garnet Earth	Sapphire Air
182	161	90	114

PTA NEWS

Thank you everyone for making the Christmas Fair such a success with so many of you volunteering to make it happen. Without such community spirit these events could not happen. The children were so vocal about their appreciation and excitement for having such a fun event to kick off the season.

Warm hearts all around! To boot, we made £6235 while having fun.

Don't forget to get your Christmas party tickets for December 13th, 7:30pm till late. You can purchase through Eventbrite. Everyone should have an email link. If not, email dulwichhamletpta@gmail.com. Party proceeds are also going to fund Christmas parties and a panto for the children. We are also trying to raise enough to update our IT, add to the musical instruments budget and top up the library budget.

Christmas Trees! At the Plough Pub on Lordship Lane, you will be able to buy your Christmas tree and choose to donate 1 token/tree = £5 to our school. So if you're getting a real tree this year, consider going to the Plough and giving us a donation.

Are you going to the Hamlet Ensemble Christmas Music Concert on December 17th? If your child is performing, you will not want to miss out on the PTA bar which will be set up prior to the performance. So come early, from 6:30pm, to enjoy a relaxing drink before the performance.

Don't forget that we have been accepted by the Co-op fundraising team to have our own fundraising site. A percentage of purchases goes from Cooperative Supermarkets and funeral services to Dulwich Hamlet PTA. In addition, the Co-op also gives us some funds when anyone takes out a membership and lists us as their chosen charity. We are currently up to £68.00! You can join online at: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>.

There are so many more fundraisers to come. We have had some interesting new ideas put forward for our next term, so watch this space. Thank you so much to all the parents for making the PTA such a fun fundraising success.

Gillian and Philippa Chair and Co-Chair.



CHRISTMAS TREES!



Xmas Tree Aid will be fundraising through Christmas Tree sales at The Plough Pub, Lordship Lane, Dulwich SE22 8JJ.

If you decide to buy a tree, there will be a ballot box system where you can pop a token into

DHUS's box, 1 Tree = 1 token = £5 for the school.

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CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES/END OF TERM

Christmas Celebration at St. Barnabas: We are now in the final rehearsal stages of our Christmas Celebration. It would help us and your child if they knew all the words to the songs off by heart. The words have been sent home via the book bags, please encourage your child to re-visit and learn them over the weekend.

Polite reminder - no food or coffee cups are allowed in the church. There will be a collection at the end of each performance, the proceeds of which will be going to the Royal Osteoporosis Society, our chosen charity for this Christmas.

A big thank you to all those children who entered the Christmas play programme front cover design competition. After much deliberation we have 3 winners; congratulations to: Valentina 40, Noah 6SP and Hana 5P. All of the entries are on display in Pickwick building as part of our Christmas display.

Festive Hat Day Thursday 12th December: We are inviting all children and staff to wear a festive hat or head piece for the day for the small donation of £1, which we will add to our fund raising efforts for the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

We will also be eating our traditional Christmas lunch on the same day, with both children and staff coming together to enjoy an extended lunch break with festive activities.

Reminders: All before and after school clubs have now finished, including the morning mile.

We are looking forward to receiving your generous donation of food bags for the Brixton and Norwood Foodbank. Please send them in via the office from Wednesday 11th December.

Term finishes with a final registration at 1:25pm on Friday 20th December. Whilst we are in full-flow of Christmas activities, there is still so much learning going on. We ask you, therefore, not to withdraw your child from school. We are all keen to get to the holidays, but pieces of work, projects, visits and visitors, end of term assessments are all taking place. It really is 'business as usual'. But as well as this, there are end of Christmas term 'rite of passage' activities, which through the children's eyes are definitely the memorable ones. The year group parties and pantomime especially are always firm favourites.

Thank you.

