

The Seagull



Issue 793 Friday 13th February 2026

Week beginning 23rd February 2026 is Week 2

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A Triumph for Jo Richardson: *Oliver!* Takes Centre Stage



HEADTEACHER'S NEWS

As we reach the February half-term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements of this term so far and extend my thanks to our whole school community.

Firstly, huge congratulations to everyone involved in our school production of *Oliver!* The talent, dedication and teamwork shown by our students—both on stage and behind the scenes—were outstanding. Staff and families who supported the production should also feel immensely proud; it was a wonderful reminder of what creativity, collaboration and commitment can achieve.

I hope students have enjoyed the many opportunities open to them this half term, particularly those students who attended the residential trip to Trewern!

We were also pleased to welcome families into school for our Year 9 Progress Evening. This marks an important milestone as students begin the process of making their GCSE option choices. The thoughtful conversations taking place between students, parents/carers and teachers have shown just how seriously our young people are considering their next steps.

Looking ahead, the next half-term is a particularly important one for our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they move into the final

stretch before their examinations. Their focus, resilience and ambition will make all the difference in the coming months, and we are here to support them every step of the way. To help them feel confident and prepared, we will be running a programme of half-term revision sessions for Year 11. These sessions are designed to reinforce key knowledge, fill any remaining gaps, and build strong study habits ahead of the exam season. We strongly encourage students to make the most of these opportunities.

Half-term begins on Monday 16th February 2026. I hope you all have a restful break, and we look forward to welcoming students back at 8.30am on Monday 23rd February 2026. A reminder that school will be partially closed for Years 7-10 and Year 12 for Eid Al-Fitr on either Thursday 19th or Friday 20th March 2026. We will confirm the date nearer the time.

Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your continued support. Your encouragement, communication and partnership make a real difference to our students' success and wellbeing.

Wishing all our families a restful and well-deserved half-term break.

Ms Keane
Headteacher

Gold Seagull Winners

Congratulations to the Gold Seagull winners:



Anastasia and Aiza in Year 7, Emilia in Year 8, Rojus in Year 9, Tudor and Hella in Year 10 (pictured above).

Daniel & Luca in Year 7 and Obehi in Year 10 (pictured below).

Triple Gold Seagull winner - Emmanuella (pictured on the right).



Maryam, Maimouna, Bethany, Ileen, Nicole and Fatema in Year 7, madison in Year 8, Catarina and Rifah in Year 9, Nusrat in Year 10 (pictured above).

Double Gold Seagull winners – Sophia in Year 9 and Abigael in Year 10 (pictured below).



Connie and Riley in Year 7, Amari in Year 8, Liyaanah in Year 9 (pictured below).

Double Gold Seagull winner – Grace in Year 10 (pictured below).



Fola Year 10 and Georgia in Year 10 (pictured below).



Ms Keane
Headteacher

Student absence/late to school

To report a student absent or late to school, please use one of the below options:

- Email - absence@jorichardson.org.uk (please also send proof of appointments to this address)
- Phone – 020 8270 6222 - Select option 1 to leave a voicemail with student name, tutor group and reason for absence or lateness
- MCAS – Attendance – report an absence (please note this is not yet live for all app users)

This must be done on the morning of each absence and will ensure that you do not receive a late/absent text. If you need to speak to a member of the attendance/medical team, you can also contact them using one of the above options requesting a call back.

Any absence not reported using the above methods may result in an unauthorised absence.

Student appointments during the school day

We request that appointments are made outside of the school day or during school holidays where possible.

Where this is not possible, please ensure that the School Office and student are aware of the appointment in advance by either sending the student in with the appointment card or writing a note in the student's planner and asking them to come to the School Office on the morning of

the appointment to request an exit mark to allow them to leave lesson on time.

Students must be collected by an adult on their contacts list and are not allowed to leave the school site unaccompanied during the school day. It is the student's responsibility to make their way to the School Office on time. When the adult arrives and reports to reception, the student will be released to them.

In the case of an emergency appointment, please call the School Office in advance to allow enough time to collect students from lesson and to be ready before you arrive to collect them. Proof of appointments should be sent to absence@jorichardson.org.uk.

Lost property

Please remind students who have misplaced items to check lost property; this is available at the start and end of the school day and during social times. All lost property is disposed of at the end of every full term.

Mrs Garland
Office Manager

Textiles Club



I would like to start by thanking the students who every week come down to DT and give 100% on what they do - your commitment and dedication are impressive and very inspiring.

Over the last term we had a few new starters, and it has been wonderful to see the girls supporting each other, demonstrating resilience and resourcefulness, sharing tips and ideas.

I am extremely proud of all textiles students; they all aspire to be their best and engage with the opportunities and challenges new techniques may bring, and it's lovely to see how confident and resilient they all have become.

You are a wonderful bunch to be around, always keep up the good work.

Miss Mir
Teacher of design Technology

A Triumph for Jo Richardson: Oliver! Takes Centre Stage



After months of dedication, creativity and collaboration, the Jo Richardson Community School production of Oliver! has truly captured hearts, imaginations and standing ovations.

Our journey began in July 2025, with auditions that revealed an extraordinary depth of talent across the school. By September, rehearsals were in full swing and, from that moment on, students and staff worked tirelessly to create not just a show, but an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Excitement built steadily towards performance week, beginning with a very special primary school performance on Tuesday 19th January, where our young audiences were completely spellbound by the energy, storytelling and spectacle on stage. The production officially opened on Tuesday evening, followed by performances on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st January, and what followed can only be described as magical.



This production of Oliver! has been far more than a school show; it has been a celebration of talent, teamwork and belief in young people. It

has shown what is possible when a community comes together with a shared vision and a passion for excellence. From the powerful principal performances to the energy and precision of the ensemble, every student played a vital role in bringing Victorian London to life. The cast demonstrated outstanding professionalism, resilience and an incredible work ethic throughout the process.

The feedback has been nothing short of phenomenal. Audience members described the production as “the best show Jo Richardson has ever done” and said it made them feel as though they were watching a West End performance. The standard of acting, singing, dancing, music and technical work was exceptional, with many commenting that there are truly budding stars in our midst.



Behind the scenes, an enormous amount of work went into making this production such a success. Our technical team, stage crew, musicians and band worked tirelessly to create a slick, atmospheric and professional show. The live band, under expert musical direction, added real depth and excitement, while the lighting, sound, set, costumes and props transformed Boothroyd Hall into a world that fully immersed the audience in the story of Oliver Twist.

This production was a true team effort, involving colleagues across departments,

support staff, volunteers and members of the wider school community. Special thanks must go to all those who supported with set construction, props, technical expertise, front of house, ticket sales, promotion and photography, as well as to our external supporters who helped make this production possible.



Above all, we are incredibly proud of our students. Their commitment, teamwork, kindness and determination have been nothing short of inspiring. They supported one another, rose to every challenge and showed just how powerful school theatre can be when everyone pulls together.

Thank you to every single person who contributed to this remarkable production. *Oliver!* has truly been a masterpiece and a shining example of what Jo Richardson Community School can achieve.

The Drama Department

Anne Frank Trust

In January the Religious Studies department had the privilege of working with the Anne Frank Trust.

Twenty-eight students from Years 8 and 9 were chosen by their RS teachers to take part in a two day workshop learning about the life of Anne Frank, reflecting on how she might have felt when war broke out and she went into hiding and what we can learn from this and how to apply this knowledge to today's society.

They have explored all areas of prejudice and discrimination in our world today and have worked on presentations to take back to their lessons to show their peers.

Mrs Wing
Teacher of religious Studies

Year 12 First Give FINAL



Year 12 have been working as Tutor Groups on a project to develop a presentation on behalf of a charity. They have been creating social actions to raise awareness of both the charity and its cause.

On Monday 26th January a group from each form presented to Year 12 and a panel of judges their completed project. The panel of judges comprised of the Mayor of Barking & Dagenham, a member of Barking & Dagenham Youth Dance, Ms Keane (our very own Headteacher), Ibrahim & Deborah from Year 13 who had both been part of First Give last year and being part of the winning group for 2025. Gosia from First Give, who completed the workshop with the presenters, hosted the final.

Having done the workshop to get last minute hints and tips about improvements and impact, the students provided an amazing final bonanza of innovation, information and emotion across all six charity presentations. Each one had a unique selling point, and they all stuck to the clear rules about number of slides and slide information.

Audience participation was required in several of the presentations and Year 12 duly supported their peers by taking part with full effort. Presenters spoke clearly and, in many cases, without the need for prompt notes! Some groups were colour co-ordinated, others used props and merchandise to deliver their message.

Closing comments from the judges showed the level of achievement from all groups. Ms Keane has judged over the last few years and was quick to point out that, yet again, the level of presentation had risen, providing the judges with a difficult task. Ibrahim agreed that they would have had a tough fight on their hands had his group presented this year.



The groups have supported a wide range of charities in their projects. The six on show were, "NIA" - Ending Violence Against Women

& Girls; The “Ben Kinsella Trust”- Stop Knife Crime; “The Sickle Cell Society” - Supporting people affected by Sickle Cell Disorder; “The Hygiene Bank” - Ending Hygiene Poverty Together; “Wellbeing of Women” – The Women’s Health Charity; “Via Subwize” - Drug & Alcohol Abuse Support.

12C & 12D were given the judges’ “Special Commendation” awards for “Innovation & Creativity” and “Supporting and Raising Awareness for a Small Charity” respectively. The winning group were 12B representing the “Ben Kinsella Trust”- Stop Knife Crime. Their message was powerful and hard-hitting. 12B showed their range of social action with Year 9 and this proved a defining piece of evidence with the judges. When the charity spoke with 12B they were passionate about their role in bringing this plight to the bigger audience. 12B has provided over £1,000 to help them do this, £1,000 being the donation from First Give to the winning presentation.



A very successful and rewarding project; hard hitting messages have been delivered and awareness raised across all charities represented. There will be a whole school non-uniform day later this year to further support all the six charities. During the day Year 12 teams will be on hand at information hubs to raise understanding and awareness even more in our school community about the great work these charities do.

Congratulations to all those involved, not just the presenters.

Fabulous job Year 12!

Miss Campbell
Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Tremendous time in Trewern!

We had a wonderful week away in Trewern! It was a bit chilly, but we had an amazing time.

The students did a selection of activities in Wales involving canoeing, caving, climbing, archery and bushcraft. One group even managed to visit the farm.

The students each had their own duties and they excelled in taking part and carrying these out. We had a great time making memories and experiencing things that we don't usually get to in Barking and Dagenham.



Check out our Trewern 2026 Blog to hear some more about our time there.

Miss Lea
SEN Teacher

Drama Students Take the Lead



Earlier this term, 30 Drama students from Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in the Take the Lead programme, a year-long initiative designed to develop confidence, communication and employability skills through creative practice. Run in partnership with The Old Vic Theatre, the programme gives students the opportunity to work alongside industry professionals, take part in inspiring workshops, and explore how drama skills translate directly into the world of work.



The launch of the programme was a fantastic day out in London, including workshops led by Old Vic facilitators and talks from professionals about their career journeys. A particular highlight for our students was their visit to the Royal Bank of Canada where they took part in a workshop focused on real world employability skills such as CV writing, interview techniques and networking. The students approached every challenge with enthusiasm, maturity and professionalism.

Throughout the day, our students were outstanding! Fully engaged, supportive of one another and confident in unfamiliar environments. They represented the school impeccably and were exemplary ambassadors, doing the Drama department extremely proud. Most importantly, the students absolutely loved the experience. They gained confidence, built new skills, met students from other schools and left feeling inspired about their future pathways, both within and beyond the arts. A huge thank you to all staff, partners and organisers who

made this opportunity possible. We are very excited to see how our students continue to grow as the Take the Lead journey unfolds.

Miss Bryan
Co-Head of Drama

Flete East London workshop



A group of students attended a workshop with Flete East London last Friday with the opportunity to apply for their Flete East London programme in which they aim to support local athletes to achieve sporting excellence alongside whole-person development.

Flete East London supports gifted and talented young athletes aged 11–18, providing holistic support alongside their sport (including strength and conditioning, sport psychology, lifestyle support, mentoring, and access to development opportunities through our partner network).

If selected for the programme, Flete East London aim to:

- Identify and develop potential elite sporting talent
- Facilitate athlete progression and/or performance success
- Provide potential elite athletes with access to alternative sports, including non-conventional sports
- Diversify the regional and national sporting talent pool
- Implement a whole-person approach to developing talent in East London
- Support local coaches with talent development, progression to Elite Talent Pathways, Continued Professional Development and education

The students were extremely well behaved and were very eager to apply for this amazing opportunity.

Students who attended were: Marcella, Noah, Sam, Samson, Carn, Teddy, Kornelija, Alex, Charlotte, Riley, Atene, Zhanet, Naleeyah, Shamaar, Michelle, Cainan, Estelle, Jona, Ardit,

Ernis, Sienna, Hannah, Jason, Louie, Aaliyah and Riley.

Miss Bevan
Teacher of PE

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February half term revision timetable

- Arrive on time. Meet in Castle Green.
- Bring equipment (pen, calculator, exercise book)
- Non uniform - but all other rules apply (no phones/airpods)

	9.00am – 11.00am	11:15am - 1:15pm	1:30pm - 3:30pm
Monday 16th February	Combined science (foundation) Boothroyd Hall Mr Tizzard	Combined science (higher) Boothroyd Hall Mr Tizzard	
Tuesday 17th February	Maths (foundation) - non calculator Boothroyd Hall Mrs Morris Media coursework support MS1/MS2 Ms Harland/Ms Patel	Maths (higher) - non calculator Boothroyd Hall Mr Gaudoin Media coursework support MS1/MS2 Ms Harland/Ms Patel	Media coursework support MS1/MS2 Ms Harland/Ms Patel
Wednesday 18th February	Computer Science IT1 Mr Campbell GCSE Business (all students) BS1/BS2/BS3 Ms Wright/Ms Howe/Ms Henry	GCSE Business masterclass (invite only) BS1/BS2/BS3 Ms Wright/Ms Howe/Ms Henry	BTEC Enterprise BS1/BS2/BS3 Ms Wright/Ms Henry
Thursday 19th February	Maths (foundation) - calculator Boothroyd Hall Mrs Morris	Maths (higher) - calculator Boothroyd Hall Mr Gaudoin	
Friday 20th February		Construction (group 1) DT4 Ms Dormer	Construction (group 2) DT4 Ms Dormer Hospitality DT2 Dr Ojewunmi