

# SCHOOL

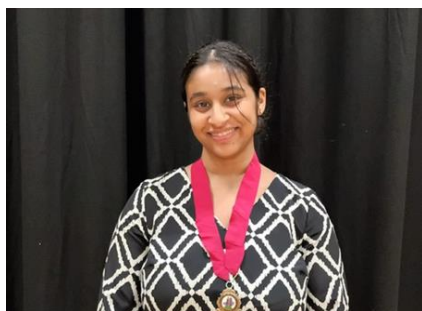
Shining a light on highlights, opportunities, and support in and around secondary schools in the borough.

Barking & Dagenham

## spotlight

### School news

May 2025  
Barking Abbey



#### Raspreet Singh named as B&D Young Mayor

The votes are in, and Raspreet Singh, a student at Barking Abbey School, has been elected as the new Young Mayor of Barking and Dagenham by her peers in the Barking and Dagenham Youth Forum. Raspreet's term will run from March 2025 to February 2026 and throughout her term, alongside the BAD Youth Forum sub-group, she will be raising money for Richard House Children's Hospice.



#### Payden Essay Competition Reward Trip

Two of our students Nabiha and Iqra have won the prestigious Payden Essay Writing competition. They recently enjoyed a fantastic reward trip to Payden, where they took part in a valuable networking experience including insightful conversations and an informal lunch. They also got to attend the prestigious Mansion House where they were presented with a winning certificate and gift vouchers. Congratulations.



#### Nigerian Principals visit Barking Abbey

In February, the school hosted a large group of Nigerian Headteachers and Principals who wanted to visit schools in the UK to see what they could take back to improve their own schools. They were impressed with the behaviour and how the students were self-motivated. A traditional homecooked school lunch was served of pie, mash, gravy and vegetables and the Headteacher was presented with gifts for the school.

### Young people news

Youth Offer Taster Club



#### Help design our youth offer website

We have an incredible range of youth activities and opportunities available in Barking and Dagenham. However, we know that these aren't always easy to know about or find information on. That's why we're in the process of designing a new website which will make it easy for young people, parents and schools to find out what activities are going on near them. We want some help though. On Thurs 15 May, 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Barking Town Hall, we're holding an open session for young people to have their say on what the website should look like. A hot meal and £10 voucher will be given to each child who takes part.

Scan the QR code or text 07845661367 to take part.

# SCHOOL spotlight

## Parent news



### Lots of youth activities available in B&D

Across the borough there a huge range of free activities for your kids to get involved in after school and at the weekend. From boxing to drama to football and even music production, there's something out there for everyone.

Find out what is going on [here](#).



**Across the borough there are a huge range of activities for your kids to get involved in after school and at the weekend.**

### Get following the police

The Police now have their own WhatsApp broadcasting channel. Give them a [follow](#) to be kept up to date on latest news, events and important information. For the specific local police team's WhatsApps and to find out what your local police teams are doing, click [here](#).

The police are also on [Facebook](#) and [X \(Twitter\)](#).

## Other news

### Young people and vaping

Vaping is not for children and young people. Their developing lungs and brains mean they are more sensitive to its effects. Nicotine vaping is substantially less harmful than smoking, but it is not risk-free. That's why there's a minimum age of sale for vaping products in the UK and it is illegal to sell nicotine vaping products to anyone under 18 or for adults to buy them on behalf of under-18s.

In some instances, vaping from a young age can lead to young people moving onto more addictive products as they get older.

If you're aware of a retailer selling either nicotine vapes or tobacco products to under-18s, you can report them to the council by emailing [tradingstandards@lbld.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@lbld.gov.uk) or via the Citizens Advice online portal.

In Barking and Dagenham, the council runs a Responsible Retailer Scheme for the selling of vapes where it encourage local businesses to sign up and agree to sell vapes responsibly. This means not selling them to young people under 18, checking IDs and making sure that they aren't selling illegal vapes. The council regularly runs test purchasing operations to ensure businesses are following the rules and selling vapes responsibly.



# SCHOOL spotlight

## How to report

### Find out where and how to report

Are you worried about your child? Are you concerned about who they're spending time with? There are plenty of ways to report issues including anonymously:

**In an emergency:** Call 999 and ask for the police

**Non-emergency:** Call 101 or visit your local police station

**Online:** Report a crime [online](#).

**Report to the school anonymously:**  
[office@barkingabbeyschool.co.uk](mailto:office@barkingabbeyschool.co.uk)

**Report anonymously via Crimestoppers:**  
[crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) and 0800 555 111

**Reporting anonymously for young people:**  
[www.crimestopper-uk.org/fearless](https://www.crimestopper-uk.org/fearless).

**Report areas you don't feel safe:** [Street Safe](#)



## Activities



### Barking Junior Parkrun – 100<sup>th</sup> event

Barking Junior Parkrun is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> event at Barking Park on Sunday 15 June and we're encouraging all young people to get involved.

Junior Parkrun is a free, fun, friendly, weekly event organized by volunteers of ages for children aged 4 to 14. The 2k parkrun events take place on Sunday mornings and is a great way for the family to be physically active outside together.

Why not get involved and head down on a Sunday morning? If interested, contact [steve.camacho@parkrun.com](mailto:steve.camacho@parkrun.com)



### Barking Sports 4 Change

Did you know that Barking Sports 4 Change run a range of FREE activities around the borough for boys and girls aged 11 – 18?

These sessions take place Monday to Friday from 3.30pm to 7pm and Saturday and mornings.

Activities include football, boxing, basketball, netball, martial arts and MMA.

Get your child into something positive after school rather than hanging around the streets.

For more info, email [info@barkingsports4change.org](mailto:info@barkingsports4change.org)