



Double anniversary: Former headteacher Sonia Singham, left, with Councillor Alison Moore and executive head Stefan Roos at the Holy Trinity Primary School celebrations, and, right, Archer Academy headteacher Lucy Harrison with students at the end of term.

Happy birthday to East Finchley's oldest and youngest schools

By Justine Csaky and Stuart Miller

Neighbouring East Finchley schools Holy Trinity Primary and the Archer Academy secondary are both celebrating special anniversaries this year. The oldest school in the area, Holy Trinity primary, is 175 and the youngest, Archer Academy is 10 years old. Both are rated outstanding by OFSTED.

Archer Academy held a Wonder Week of '10 good deeds to celebrate 10 great years' where each year group will be taking on long-term community projects which provide students with opportunities for active citizenship and volunteering within the local community, focusing on food poverty, primary school partnerships, environmental work and care for the local elderly community.

The school also welcomed

back over 700 former students for two celebration evenings and held an afternoon tea for staff, governors and trustees both past and present.

Gala evening

To mark the official opening of the school by author Michael Morpurgo ten years ago, the school will be holding a Cocktails and Canapes gala evening on Saturday 9 September. All past and present parents and teachers are welcome to join to

eat, drink, chat and enjoy live entertainment from comedian Ian Stone and music from Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock's band.

This particular event is a fundraiser for Raise The Roof, a campaign to build a performing arts theatre at Archer. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://tinyurl.com/archer10ticket>.

Special reunion

Meanwhile, Holy Trinity held its own celebration when former staff and teachers came

back to meet current pupils and parents immediately after the school's annual summer concert, with a barbecue, live music and a DJ to keep the party spirit going.

The assembled crowd of pupils, parents and former students were entertained by speeches from outgoing Mayor of Barnet Council Alison Moore, past head teachers Tim Bowden and Sonia Singham, and current head teachers Kirsty West and

Stefan Roos.

Linked with Holy Trinity Church, the school and church were designed by the famous Victorian architect, Anthony Salvin and opened in 1848 in the historic red brick buildings on East End Road, N2, now occupied by The Learning Experience nursery. Planning for the current school in Eagans Close began in 1972 and it was opened in 1975 by the area's MP Margaret Thatcher.

Young athletes show their class

Congratulations to two young East Finchley athletes for their performances on track and field last month. Fortismere student Elkie Baker won a bronze medal in the Junior Girls discus event, representing Middlesex at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham. Elkie is currently ranked first in the U15 Girl category in discus, with a personal best distance of 35.27m.

And East Finchley schoolgirl Maya Michlic showed her speed in the 800m race running against boys and girls from schools across the borough at the Barnet All Primary Schools Annual Athletics Competition. Maya, a Year 6 pupil at Akiva School, East End Road, N2, came third in the semi-final heat in the event at the StoneX Stadium, the home of the Saracens rugby team, at Barnet Cophall.



Track and field: Elkie Baker, left, and Maya Michlic



Stage stars: Students from the Archer Academy performing Matilda the Musical at the ArtsDepot.

Students stage high-energy hit

Archer Academy staged a whole school production of *Matilda the Musical* at the Arts-Depot in North Finchley in July.

The show featured four actors playing the part of Matilda alongside a cast of 100 student performers. The audience was enthralled by the high-energy dancing, acrobatics, singing and imaginative set and props, including more than 30 scooters on stage, which meant this show really had it all.

And congratulations to The Archer Academy for coming second in the finals of the national Great Big Dance

Off competition. The secondary school's dancers were up against 20 other regional winners from across the country at

the final in Cheltenham, where they performed a striking dance to *Goodbye Song* by Cynthia Erivo and Terence Blanchard.

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