

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017 EDITION 1

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



Welcome to our first edition of the new look newsletter, which contains a selection of some of the great and wonderful things that happen at Hammersmith Academy week in week out.

Being involved in the Academy on a daily basis, it's easy to overlook just how much is available to students in the form of trips, activities and developmental experiences in a single term alone.

Within these pages it is clear to see how dedicated our staff are in bringing to life our 'Growth-Mindset' outlook which forms the backbone of all that we do.

Our previous academic year ended on a high with students at GCSE, AS and A Level achieving our best results to date and meeting and exceeding their personal expectations. Their achievements are a testament to our belief that any student from any background can succeed here.

The start to this academic year has seen the beginning of new student journeys in the form of our Year 7s who, as I write, are already settled as fully fledged members of the HA community. New Year 12 students have begun their own paths towards university and the world of work, throwing themselves into internships and placement opportunities available to them.

On the charity front, the HA community has, once again, raised large sums for the various charities supported this term. The charitable spirit is very much in keeping with our value of respect and it is wonderful to see this in action.

Every term, the Academy promotes important national and global topics which affects the lives our students. This term we have taken part in Parliament Week which saw our students seeing the Houses of Parliament in action, our local MP Andy Slaughter visiting the Academy and a mock referendum. Seeing them engaged in this important topic reassures us that the future is in good hands.

It is wonderful to see just how extensive enrichment opportunities are here at the Academy. We have an RHS award winning garden and team, there is a busy after school Session 3 Music timetable which is both diverse and inclusive, opportunities for students to develop an interest in STEM and the numerous trips that go on throughout the term.

As we reflect on the many events this term, we also keep an eye ahead on the exciting events to come which include our musical In The Heights, the Big Quiz Night and a number of planned trips, including a visit to Hampton Court.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the great things that have happened at Hammersmith Academy this term. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

YEAR 7'S WELCOME

A STUDENT'S FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL IS ALWAYS ONE TO REMEMBER. HERE AT THE ACADEMY THE FIRST DAY MARKS THE START OF A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY.



Year 7 students leaving the Academy to a 'clap-out' ceremony to mark the end of their first day.

The new Year 7 students arrived on a September morning full of excitement and were welcomed through the gates by their tutors, teachers and Student Achievement Managers (SAMs).

Their first day was tailored to assist them with forming important relationships with staff and making new friends, both of which are vital to a successful start to a secondary education.

Students had a taste of what to expect at line-up and the chance to explore the facilities to help them find

their way around.

Mr Kynaston, the Headteacher, spoke to the new students in the Theatre, with a presentation on the Academy's values and expectations, an introduction to the growth-mindset that all members of the HA community adopt.

The speech ended with the tie-ceremony, with every student receiving a tie from Mr Kynaston to mark the occasion of them becoming fully fledged members of HA.

Students left the Academy in a 'clap-out' procession to the school gates. ■



YEAR 9 TIE CEREMONY

STUDENTS TAKE PART IN A CEREMONY TO MARK THE START OF THEIR GCSE JOURNEY.

Year 9 sees the start of a new chapter in the lives of our students. They transition from KS3 to KS4 beginning their journey towards GCSE.

To mark this change in responsibility and academic outlook, students are presented with a Year 9 tie by Mr Kynaston, as a daily reminder of their new maturity. ■



WELCOME

BEST EVER A LEVEL RESULTS

HAMMERSMITH
ACADEMY
CELEBRATES BEST
EVER A LEVEL
RESULTS, WITH
STUDENTS MAKING
SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS ACROSS
THE BOARD.



AS Level students, Nasir and Umut show off their results.

Standout Statistics

- Economics: 100% A*-C (80% A*/B)
- Geography: 83% A*-C
- Biology: 100% A*-C (80% A*/B)
- History: 75% A*-C
- Maths: 73% A*-C
- Sociology: 81% A*-C (52% A*/B)

We've seen another significant increase in all grades at A2 with over 50% A*/B, 79% A*-C and at least 97% A*-E for all subjects.

Over 80% of all students are going to university which places us in the top 100 state schools for successful university applications.

Headteacher Gary Kynaston said, "We are so proud of our students' achievements and to see all their hard work and efforts rewarded. At HA, we provide a warm and professional environment where students can grow both intellectually as academics ready to take on new challenges and as confident, upstanding citizens. We know they leave us with great self-confidence to begin the next stage in their learning journey. We would like to thank our Sixth Formers for their immeasurably positive contribution as role models for our younger students. They will all go on to be great standard bearers in our society. I would like to thank the

teachers for their tireless work and all our parents and families for the support they have given our students to achieve these, our best ever A Level results."

Associate Head Jonathon Lisseman said "The students showed great resilience and worked hard



Amatullah proudly showing her A Level results.

especially with the more difficult linear examinations. Their all-round performance has been impressive. They have shown determination and have exceeded expectations especially from their starting points. They richly deserve their current and future success." ■

GCSE SUCCESS

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY ACHIEVED OUTSTANDING GRADES IN ONLY THE ACADEMY'S SECOND YEAR OF GCSE RESULTS.



GCSE students with Mr Kynaston celebrating their outstanding results.

Students have once again surpassed expectations and handled the transition to the new 9-1 GCSEs for English and Maths with aplomb.

The results are a ringing endorsement of the Academy's belief that a fair-banded cohort are no less able to achieve. Since opening in 2011, the policy of selecting a 'fair-banded' intake of students has shown that students can make great progress and score well against national average expectations.

Impressive Individuals

Head Boy, Amandeep, took 12 subjects – achieving 3 grade 9s for each of his English and Maths, the top score in this new type of exam. He additionally scored 9A* and Distinction* in IT. This is the equivalent of 13A* placing him in the top 0.1% of students nationally. When asked about the Hammersmith Academy effect he said: "Just belief. You are encouraged and helped to be the best you can be. I am so happy and ready for the future."

Natalie, Deputy Head Girl, achieved a tremendous 3A* and 6A equivalents. She said, "I feel good and relieved. The academy provided every opportunity. There was no shortage of ways to do well, improve and get better. The teachers have made it incredible!"

Hameed, who took 11 subjects and got 8A* and 3As, said: "Wow! I am proud of my achievements. Thanks to everyone who helped me."

James achieved equivalent grades of 8A*/2As. James said, "It has been all worth it. I am really happy and excited."

Sarveen scored an amazing 7A*/6A grades showing that dedicated hard work and quiet determination pays

off. He said, "It is fantastic. I wanted this so much and have succeeded."

“HA has given me confidence... this academy has helped me achieve more than I expected.”

Jamel took 12 subjects and attained 6A* and 6As equivalent. When asked how he did it, he replied: "I'm really happy because I've met my personal targets. HA has given me confidence. I knew I had potential but this academy has helped me achieve more than I expected."

Headteacher Gary Kynaston said, "I am consistently amazed by our students. They have yet again shown great resilience and determination to succeed. It is fantastic to see their efforts so richly rewarded with these brilliant results. They have proved that no matter what your background is, you can achieve great things." ■

Standout Statistics

- 75% of students achieved 5 GCSEs A*-C equivalent.
- 65% achieved 5 A*-C including English and Maths.
- 74% 9 – 4 in English Language, 80% 9-4 in English Lit
- 71% 9- 4 in Maths.
- In total we got 100 A*s or equivalent (compared to last year's 50) and 166 A grades.
- 23% of all grades were A*-A equivalent.
- EBacc: 47% Standard pass/40% Strong pass (National 26%).

SOAS LANGUAGE DAY



Year 9 students at the entrance to SOAS.

LANGUAGE STUDENTS VISITED SOAS TO TAKE PART IN A LANGUAGES CHALLENGE AND TOUR THE UNIVERSITY. MILCAH AND ANIS (YEAR 9 STUDENTS) TELL US ABOUT THE VISIT.

The visit began with a campus tour. What we enjoyed most about this trip was the amazing library. We were told there were 1.5 million books and it was amazing to look down from the balcony and see rows and rows of books.

In our session, we learnt Thai. We were taught to say greetings, and numbers, as well as days of the week. We looked at the Thai letters,



and they were really intriguing; similar to the letters in the Japanese and Mandarin alphabets.

We also looked at Thai culture, reading and learning about the Thai Ghost stories - mainly about female ghosts and the gory traits they had. We were told that people in Thailand would listen to these tales, and see them as love stories, rather than horror stories.

Overall, we enjoyed our day out and we're excited about the Language Competition which goes on all year.



DT IN HYDE PARK

HYDE PARK IS AN AREA RICH IN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY AND AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR YEAR 12 DT STUDENTS TO SEEK INSPIRATION FOR THEIR PAVILION PROJECTS. JAMEL (YEAR 12) RECALLS THE TRIP.



As an introduction to A Level DT, we spent a day in Hyde Park looking at the many structures, in particular the pavilions, to help us with our own pavilion designs.

We were given a task sheet to identify areas best suited to place my design and find common themes to use. I also spent time exploring the Serpentine and the types of activities that happen there.

My highlights of the trip were discovering how big Hyde Park actually is, since I had never been there previously, and the Serpentine with its different species of birds inhabiting it, showing how much biodiversity there is in London.

The pavilion by the Serpentine was my form of inspiration. It is attractive, with its roof forming wave-like shapes depicting moving water. Its main function is as a dining and meeting area, in keeping with my design ideas which will also include both children and adult spaces such as a pool and dining facilities which changes with the seasons.

This trip was a great introduction to our course and exposed us to London culture we had not experienced before. ■

CAREERS AT KIDZANIA

IN OCTOBER, YEAR 7 STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO NEARBY KIDZANIA TO TAKE PART IN 'THE FUELLING YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUTURES' EVENT, TO INSPIRE THEIR FUTURE CAREER CHOICES. CAREERS CO-ORDINATOR, MS HARROWES, RECALLS THE DAY'S EVENT.



Year 7 students became radio presenters, veterinarians, pilots and many other professions.

Year 7 students from the Academy were invited to take part in a careers event devised by The Careers & Enterprise Company held at KidZania in London. The event was a celebration of all the work the network conducts throughout the UK.

The main focus of the day was to open the minds of students to the vast number of different occupations that are out there and what skill-set they should develop in order to

become employable within that field of work.

Students toured the mini indoor city trying their hand at different careers that were showcased. They were taught what life was like in a multitude of professions, such as a day in the life of a vet, fireman, pilot or even a news presenter.

There were numerous activities held in a variety of unique and interesting settings aimed at piquing the

students' interests, including a British Airways cockpit and a Cadbury factory.

At the close of the event, two of our students were courageous enough to stand in front of over a hundred attendees to talk about their day and their highlights from the event. ■



Ms Harrowes interviewing Year 7 students Leonie and Seraiah on stage in front of a packed audience.

MERCERS' ENTERPRISE

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS ENTERED THE MERCERS' ENTERPRISE COMPETITION HELD AT THE MERCERS' HALL IN LONDON. CEO CALVIN (YEAR 12) RECOUNTS THE EXPERIENCE.



The winning team with Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, at the Mercers' Competition.

“A very interesting insight into the world of business and enterprise.”

In September, a group of 8 Sixth Formers started preparing for the Mercers' Enterprise Competition. The competition requires teams to devise a product and a company, then pitch it in front of a judging panel and an audience in the Mercers' Hall in London.

It was a very challenging competition. Not only did we have to produce a unique and commercially viable product idea, but each member of the group was responsible for different parts of the company.

We had to produce a 5 year financial projection for our company, a viable marketing strategy, a design and production plan and conducting our own market research.

Together with our two business mentors, Francis and Chris, we created a toy-like product which attaches to the tap making handwashing fun for young children, improving hygiene and health.

On 24th November, after weeks of preparation, we pitched our product idea to the judges and other guests at the Mercer's Hall. It was an incredible experience and team member delivered their sections of the pitch perfectly. The competition gave us an greater understanding of entrepreneurship. We learned

valuable skills such as how to present a business pitch and how to run a business. We won the Mercers' round of the contest and the prize was £4000 for our Academy! We now progress to the grand final which will be at Mansion House at the end of January 2018.

This has been a very rewarding experience for all of us. Lika said this has been a “very interesting insight into the world of business and enterprise” and Hamsa exclaimed “it was a brilliant experience to present in the Mercers' Hall in front of so many people”.

We would not have won without the support of our mentors, Francis Wathen, Chris Watney, and Ms Steyn our Business Studies teacher. ■

The Winning Team

- Calvin (CEO)
- Charlie (Research)
- Lika (Marketing)
- Hanna (Marketing)
- Jamel (Production & Design)
- Hamsa (Finance)
- Mohamed (All-Rounder)
- Fathima (Charlie's PA)

FARADAY CHALLENGE

THE INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY FARADAY CHALLENGE IS AN ENGINEERING BASED COMPETITION FOR SCHOOLS.

The Faraday Challenge Days, which are run all over the UK by the IET, give students the opportunity to research, design and make solutions to genuinely tough engineering problems. The Challenge is all about letting the students be creative and use their own problem-solving skills to explore their capabilities as engineers.

Hammersmith Academy hosted a round of the Challenge on 9th October 2017. Twenty four HA Year 8 students were selected to take part based on their enthusiasm and high level of achievement in a combination of the Maths, Science and Design Technology subject areas. During this round HA took on students from Ark Burlington Danes Academy.

Students were asked to design a brand new attraction for Thorpe Park by the park's head engineer. Each team was allocated Faraday currency from which to purchase materials and build a prototype. At the end of the event, the teams had to present their design idea and prototype to a



Year 8 students took part in the Faraday Challenge which had a Thorpe Park theme this year.

judging panel.

The winning team was one of our own, comprising of Rahima, Asma, Shiraz, Sorab, Jacob and Ali. Congratulations to them! The winning team are invited to the Institute of Engineering in July to present their idea and compete for prizes.

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the day which brought engineering careers to the forefront of their minds, they finished the day saying "we found the competition really fun because it was interactive. Our team communicated better than we thought so we were able to get through the tasks smoothly". ■

STEMETTES

NINE GIRLS FROM THE ACADEMY WERE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN A STEM EVENT DEvised BY THE STEMETTES.

Encouraging girls to study and ultimately have careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) is a benefit to both the individual and the economy.

At HA we actively promote STEM to our students. Working in partnership with STEMettes, an award-winning

social enterprise working across the UK and beyond, to inspire and support young women into STEM based careers, nine girls from the Academy were invited to take part in an app building challenge.

The event was hosted by global management company, Accenture. Attendees were given a tour of their London-based offices, before starting on the day's task of designing an app for a musical festival. The app's main purpose was to act as a point of information, sell tickets and as a social media hub.

After an afternoon of planning and designing, students from the



attending schools pitched their app to the judges. ■

SPACE MARK AWARD

HAMMERSMITH
ACADEMY AWARDED
A SILVER SPACE
EDUCATION QUALITY
MARK (SEQM) FOR
THE SIGNIFICANT USE
OF SPACE IN THE
CURRICULUM.

Hammersmith Academy is proud to receive the Space Education Quality Mark (SEQM) awarded by STEM Learning.

In order to qualify for the award, the Academy had to demonstrate that space-based education was well resourced, that space related topics were incorporated throughout a wide range of activities and lesson planning, alongside STEM clubs and activities.

Ms Silcocks, Science teacher, said "this award represents the importance we place on STEM education at Hammersmith Academy.



STEM subjects are seen by many as the job creation subjects for our student; this award shows our commitment to them". ■

GARDENING AT HA

HAVING A GARDENING SPACE IN AN INNER LONDON SCHOOL POSITIVELY INFLUENCES OUR STUDENT WELL-BEING. DR KIRWAN TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE GARDENING PROJECT.

Having a green space is a rarity for schools in inner London. Yet gardening can have a positive effect on students, helping to reduce stress and improve student attainment.

The HA garden project is now in its third year and it has come on leaps and bounds. We have done incredibly well with the space and we continue to explore how we can improve on it.

The Academy has recently been awarded the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Student Garden Team of the Year Award 2017 for the garden project, a most spectacular achievement for an inner London school. The prize for winning this award is a new greenhouse which will increase the amount of work that can be done in the garden!

As a result of this achievement, our winning team and garden were featured in the RHS magazine.

The success of the programme has seen gardening extended into a



new tutor time programme, where a different tutor group comes down to the garden each week to maintain the space and learn about plants in the process; exposing as many of our students to the garden as possible.

A recent survey indicated that less than 50% of our students have any



form of a garden so being able to learn and experience a green space contributes massively to their holistic well-being and this is reflected in the survey undertaken: more students felt relaxed and able to socialise after a session in the garden. Our aim is to continue building on that success. ■

RHS TEACH MEET

HAMMERSMITH
ACADEMY HOSTED
ITS FIRST ROYAL
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY TEACH
MEET SESSION IN
NOVEMBER.



RHS Teach Meet underway in our Science classroom.

The Royal Horticultural Society held a Secondary Science Teach Meet session at the Academy in November.

The aim of these sessions is to provide teachers with a series of plant-based science experiments that have been designed to inspire the imagination of students whilst meeting the KS4 Biology curriculum.

Teachers and technicians from across the borough and beyond were invited to learn how to incorporate

plants into their lessons and encourage their students to learn about plants.

The RHS team brought along barrow loads of plants and equipment for attendees to experiment on and take cuttings for their schools. They commented about the Academy saying "it's wonderful to see a school with its own garden used so successfully, a great place to for us to teach about the use of plants in lessons". ■

HA'S OWN EGGS



Did you know that Hammersmith Academy has three hens which live in our garden? Our students have named them Voldemort, Gary and Aisha.

The chickens live in a purpose built pen and are cared for by the students during Tutor Time. They lay eggs regularly which staff can buy; the money is put towards their upkeep.

Why not come visit them in the garden when you're next at the Academy! ■



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

THE ACADEMY TOOK PART IN MACMILLAN'S NATIONWIDE FUNDRAISING EVENT IN SEPTEMBER.

This year's Macmillan Coffee Morning saw teachers and support staff creating bakes with a departmental theme.

There were several entries from the Maths Department, a surrealist cake created by the Art Department, a globe cake created by MFL and even a huge cake in the shape of one of our chickens, just to name a few of the highlights.



In all, the bakes raised a total of £102.34 for Macmillan. Well done to all the bakers and to those who made donations. ■

CHILDREN IN NEED

THIS YEAR'S CHILDREN IN NEED TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER.



The school community was greeted at the gate by a giant Pudsey on the morning of BBC's Children in Need.

Students and staff had the chance to win Pudsey in a raffle; just one of many fundraising events that also included bake sales, guess the number of sweets in a jar and wearing a spots and stripes item of

clothing.

As always, the four houses were competitive throughout the day trying to beat one another for the crown of bake sale champions. The winners were Lovelace ahead by just 60p!

A total of £1,022.67 was raised by the Academy for the cause. ■

Bake Sale House Totals

- Lovelace: £221.99
- Tesla: £221.39
- Berners-Lee: £183.65
- Gates: £126.80



MUSIC AT HA

THE FOCUS THIS TERM FOR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TO MAKE MUSIC EVEN MORE INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL STUDENTS. MS SLAV, HEAD OF MUSIC, EXPLAINS.



This term the Music Department has been focusing on encouraging students to be more creative and perform at a higher level, both within and beyond the classroom.

“Choir has really helped me gained confidence in myself.”

The Key Stage 3 curriculum has been revamped to include more composition and opportunities for independent group work in lessons.

Students will have the opportunity to develop a range of soft skills such as collaboration, adaptability and the ability to prioritise.

Long term, students will develop transferable skills that are highly valued by employers, whilst at the same time discovering a breadth of other cultures and creativity through music.

Alongside the curriculum changes, the after-school Session 3 music provision has been overhauled and extended so that every student, regardless of ability, can participate and benefit from the advantages

of playing and performing music. Students have really enjoyed and benefitted from this. Mariam in Year 7 said “choir has really helped me gain confidence in myself”.

It has been encouraging to see students take part in a number of musical events this term. We have hosted a preliminary round of the Battle of the Bands competition which saw several of our students enter.

The end of November saw our Chamber Concert take place on the Mezzanine for the first time. This short concert featured instrumental and vocal performances, filling the Mezzanine and Cafeteria with music.

Our showcase event was the Autumn Concert. This was very much a celebration of all the musical talent at the Academy. The concert took place in our Theatre and featured performances by our ensembles and bands including the Rock Band, Choirs, Steel Pan Band and Orchestra, as well as several solo performances.

Overall, this has been a wonderful start to the academic year for the Music Department and will springboard us to more ambitious musical projects for the rest of the academic year. ■

A WIDE RANGE OF MUSIC ACTIVITIES ADDED TO THE SESSION 3 THIS TERM:

MONDAY - CHOIR

Open to all students, no audition required.

TUESDAY - MUSIC

TECHNOLOGY Open to all students who are interested in using iMac software GarageBand and Logic Pro to create or produce their own music.

WEDNESDAY - ORCHESTRA

Open to all students who play an instrument.

THURSDAY - ROCK BAND

Open to students who play traditional band instruments (vocals, keyboards, drums, guitars and bass), who are interested in developing band skills.

FRIDAY - STEEL PANS

Open to all students willing to give Steel Pans a go.

FRIDAY - GCSE/MUSIC THEORY CLUB

Recommended for GCSE students, but also open to any student wanting to improve their music theory knowledge.

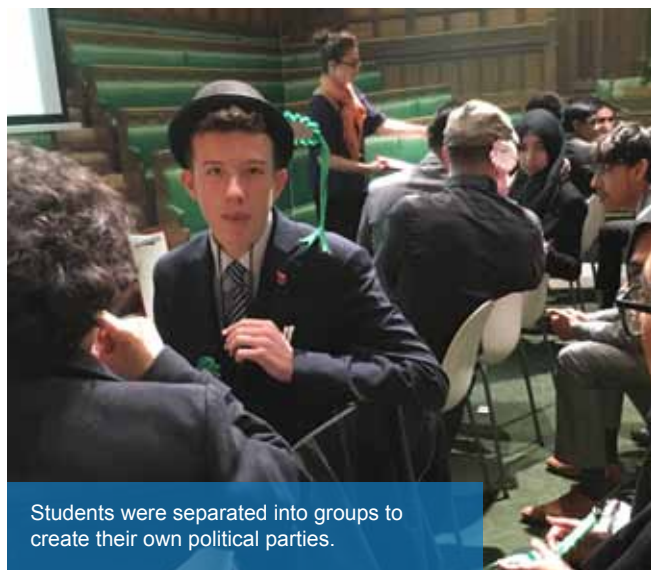
PARLIAMENT TRIP

AS PART OF PARLIAMENT WEEK, YEAR 12 POLITICS STUDENTS VISITED THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO EXPERIENCE HOW BRITISH DEMOCRACY OPERATES AND MEET THE ACADEMY'S OWN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT. CALVIN (YEAR 12) TELLS US ABOUT THE VISIT.



Year 12 Politics students at the Houses of Parliament for Parliament Week.

On 14th November, our Year 12 Politics class travelled to the Houses of Parliament, the heart of British democracy. I was very excited to see where the biggest political decisions in the country are made, and witness the British democratic system, which we have studied so intensively in class, at work; debating important legislation such as the EU withdrawal bill.



Students were separated into groups to create their own political parties.

The building itself was amazing. We entered into the Palace of Westminster through the 900 year old main hall; the ceiling was made of wood and the architecture reflected

the ancient history of the building. The hall itself seemed as big as a football pitch.

Firstly, we split into two groups and went to see the places where legislation is debated and decisions are made; the House of Lords and the House of Commons. After making our way past statues of former Prime Ministers and antique paintings, we arrived at the House of Lords, where it is a democratic right to go to the galleries and watch the debates taking place in the chamber (the same applies to the Commons). Sitting from the top of the House, we looked down as the Lords debated a bill related to the expansion of space exploration and travel.

Next, we went to the House of Commons, my favourite part of the trip. We watched from the galleries, MPs were debating the EU withdrawal bill, the piece of legislation that will convert all existing EU laws into British laws. It was extremely interesting

to see some of the most influential politicians debating laws that will affect our lives; it gave us a clearer view of how democracy works.

To end the day, we took part in a workshop where our class was split into groups, each of these groups represented a political party and we were given two minutes to make a two-pledge manifesto. Among the manifesto pledges were the abolition of tuition fees and raising the tax threshold. We explored the different electoral systems and their advantages and disadvantages. For example, our current system of First-Past-The-Post, is not very representative of nationwide votes, but it allows MPs to have strong links with their constituencies.

We were visited by our local MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, Andy Slaughter, at the end of the session. It was an incredible experience to get to talk with him; he spoke about Brexit and its effect on the UK political system, and his views on our current electoral system.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic experience for our whole class. Fellow student, Sufyaan said: "The trip was a fun and informative, and I enjoyed learning about the history of Parliament". ■

MP VISITS HA

THE ACADEMY'S OWN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, ANDY SLAUGHTER, SPOKE TO YEAR 9 STUDENTS ON A NUMBER OF POLITICAL ISSUES.

The Academy was pleased to welcome Andy Slaughter on Friday 17th November, the final day of Parliament Week.

Mr Slaughter, MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, spoke to Year 9 students about his journey through politics and what politics is about for young people.

He emphasised how important it was for our students to express their political view through voting. Students asked why the voting age was 18 rather than 16, an issue close to Mr Slaughter's heart.

Mr Slaughter also covered political issues which students will have seen in the daily news, namely Brexit.

At the end of the talk, students were invited to put questions forward to Mr Slaughter and no topic was out of bounds. Students raised a number of difficult topics, asking why young



Andy Slaughter, MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, with Year 9 students.

people should trust politicians and their promises and what MPs were doing to counter homelessness in London.

Hammersmith Academy would like to thank Mr Slaughter for his time and answering the students' questions in such depth and detail. ■

POLLING STATION

STUDENTS CAST THEIR VOTES TO MARK THE END OF PARLIAMENT WEEK.

During Parliament Week, students have been learning how the British political system works, how their voices matter and why they should take ownership of their own futures.

In order to put what they have learnt into practice, a polling station was set up for students to cast their vote on whether it was ever justified to overthrow a democratically elected government.

For many, this was the first experience of a polling station. ■



INSIGHT PROGRAMME



Sixth Form students with the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

THE HA INSIGHT PROGRAMME IS FOCUSED AROUND OUR WEEKLY SPEAKER EVENT THAT GIVES THE SIXTH FORM ACCESS TO A WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES. HADEEL (YEAR 13) TELLS US WHAT THE PROGRAMME MEANS TO HER.

This term's Insight Programme has been incredibly diverse for my fellow Sixth Form students. We have had enlightening talks and discussions with Adnan Sarwar (documentary film maker and Communities Editor for The Economist), Tim Woollias (Google) and the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

The standout speaker for me was Iona Lawrence, Director of the Jo Cox Foundation. Having a personal interest in International Development, she was the speaker who I was most keen to hear and speak to.

Ms Lawrence started with a summary of Jo Cox and her work. While I knew who Jo Cox was and what she stood for, such as being part of the Refugees Welcome movement or addressing the Aleppo crisis, it was



Hadeel with Jo Cox Foundation's Iona Lawrence and fellow students.

refreshing to hear a perspective from someone who knew her personally.

At the end of her talk, I introduced myself. I took the opportunity to ask questions about careers in the development sector as well as advice for higher education and which universities were best to study International Development. She shared her knowledge and experience of working with past organisations like Save The Children.

Ms Lawrence kindly offered me work experience for 2 weeks in October and February at their office. Although I'm still contemplating the amount of career choices out there, I'm excited to have somewhere to start and I feel reassured knowing I have brilliant guidance and support.



Documentary and filmmaker, Adnan Sarwar took part in a Question and Answer session.

FOCUS ON FUTURE

THIS TERM HAS SEEN A FOCUS ON LIFE BEYOND THE SIXTH FORM AT HA. CAREERS CO-ORDINATOR, MS HARROWES, EXPLAINS JUST SOME OF THE MANY CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN.



Students entering Sixth Form are encouraged to look ahead to careers and opportunities that are available to them. The Sixth Form Team regularly provides students with updates on internships and work experience which are invaluable for helping students stand out among the crowd.

Pathways to Law at University of Roehampton

Mohamed (Year 12) successfully applied on to the Pathways to Law programme. The programme includes a number of law taster sessions and academic workshops, as well as trips to the Inner Temple, Supreme Court and Royal Courts of Justice. Participants will also get the opportunity to apply to have a law mentor, take part in a work placement at a leading law firm and will be invited to attend a residential law conference at the University of Warwick.

Ofgem Internships

In October, students Calvin and Justin (both Year 12) worked at Ofgem, an independent National Regulatory Authority.

Calvin and Justin were placed within two teams; Legal and the Office of the Chief Economist. They had to research relevant competition law cases with summaries and links to help prepare for a State of the Market report.

Ofgem were impressed with both Calvin and Justin's attention to detail and attitude to the challenging work asked of them.

King's College K+ Scheme

Three Year 12 students have been accepted on to the King's College K+ Scheme. Nilanjona, Bushra and Nadia began the course this term.

K+ is a two-year programme of events, activities and academic workshops created to help support university applications and provide the skills required to become a potential undergraduate student.

Students who successfully complete the programme are eligible for the K+ variable offer to study at King's worth up to two A Level grades lower than the standard offer.

One of the highlights of K+ is the Spotlight Summer School. It's a free,

non-residential programme packed full of exciting development activities.

There are only 300 places on offer from 1800 applications, so competition has been intense. Congratulations to our girls for getting on the course and starting their journey to university. ■

Follow Sixth Form on Twitter @HA_6thForm

Our Twitter account is for Sixth Form students and parents. The focus is on careers, university and apprenticeship advice, articles to expand your learning, plus a little bit of celebration of our lovely students. This is the main way we share vitally important information with you about university summer schools, careers events and work experience opportunities – crucial stuff that will help you get ahead in your career. You don't have to subscribe to the account to read it – just search on Google for Hammersmith Academy Sixth Form Twitter account – and make a habit of checking it daily!

JACK PETCHEY'S "SPEAK OUT" CHALLENGE!

THIS YEAR 19,000 STUDENTS IN AND AROUND LONDON AND ESSEX WILL TAKE PART IN THE COMPETITION.

Jack Petchey's "*Speak Out*" Challenge! is a programme aimed at developing the oracy skills in students who may not otherwise get the chance to speak in public. It is run by the Speakers Trust and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

On Monday 13th November, the programme provided in-school workshops for all our Year 10 students. Each student had to prepare a piece to deliver in public.

Year 10 students Ayan and Farah were selected to represent the



Trainers from the Speakers Trust at the Academy for a Year 10 training day.

Academy at the regional finals at the West London Free School. Ayan spoke confidently about the importance of identity, exploring what it is that makes us individuals and questioning the audience in

a speech entitled 'Who are You?'. Farah eloquently discussed issues around the social responsibility we all have, skilfully using an extended metaphor to reflect ideas back at the rapt audience. ■

SHEDLOADS OF ART

THE ART SHED IS AN INSPIRATIONAL HUB AND GALLERY SPACE LOCATED IN THE GROUNDS OF THE ACADEMY.

The Art Shed was officially opened by Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, on Thursday 23rd November.

The Art Shed is nestled in the KS3 play area and its concept is to inspire our Technical Art students, whilst also being a gallery space in which to display impressive work from both Art and Design Technology.

Ms Holland, Head of Technical Art, said "the Shed is a brand new dynamic art space for our students to enjoy, and curate. We look forward to all the creative possibilities and collaborations it will bring". ■



Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, officially opens the Art Shed.

DROP DOWN DAY

DROP DOWN DAY IS A DAY WHERE ALL STUDENTS COME OFF TIMETABLE TO FOCUS ON TOPICS THAT ENSURE A HOLISTIC EDUCATION. MS GIKA, ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER KS3, RECALLS THIS TERM'S EVENT.



Team building activities in the Sports Hall helped students develop important skills which will benefit them in future careers.

Every Drop Down Day has a central theme which will contribute to the students' holistic development. The focus this term for KS3 students was Community and Teamwork whilst KS4 and KS5 focused on Careers.

Year 7 and 8 students spent the day in the Sports Hall developing their teamwork skills through a host of

different activities. Some were aimed at improving verbal communication and others at developing trust. Year 7 students were also introduced to the HA Passport, an initiative that will ensure students become well-rounded and mindful citizens.

For the KS4 students, the day was spent looking ahead to their future

and preparing for life beyond the Academy. Year 9 began work on career profiles and a brainstorming session on visualising where they will be 10 years on from now.

Year 10 meanwhile, spent time preparing for work placement applications and learning interview techniques which will serve them well in the future. Year 11 students focused on further education and applying for Sixth Form.

Year 12 had an intensive carousel of employability workshops, giving vital top tips and golden rules for CVs, cover letters and emails, interviews and early preparation for writing their UCAS personal statements. They finished off the morning with an employer panel presentation by one of our key business partners Tideway West, talking about the diversity of careers in engineering.

It has been very exciting seeing the students really engage with their future careers; planning paths for themselves and setting high aspirations! ■

BREAKFAST AT HA

BREAKFAST IS KEY TO STUDENTS MAXIMISING THEIR ACADEMIC POTENTIAL. THE ACADEMY OFFERS A BREAKFAST SERVICE EVERY MORNING SO STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE TO MISS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY.

Multiple studies have shown that the odds of achieving an above average educational performance are up to twice as high for students who eat breakfast, compared with those who do not.

To ensure our students get off to the best possible start on a daily basis, the Academy offers breakfast in the cafeteria at a reduced cost. Between 8am-8.25am students can choose either 3 items for £1.25 or 5 items for £1.85. There are both classic and healthy choices on offer.

So why not get your child ready to face a busy day with a HA breakfast! ■

Breakfast Menu:

- Chicken Sausages
- Bacon
- Mushroom
- Scrambled eggs
- Beans
- Hash browns
- Toast
- Porridge
- Fresh fruit
- Fruit salad
- Pastries

3 items £1.25, 5 items £1.85

IN THE HEIGHTS

IN THE HEIGHTS IS A MODERN MUSICAL SET IN THE HISPANIC-AMERICAN NEIGHBOURHOOD OF WASHINGTON HEIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

Tickets

£4 for adults

£2 for concessions

Tickets can be purchased from www.ticketsource.co.uk/HA.

In The Heights is a musical different from anything else around, with a unique style of music and storytelling.

Written by the man behind the critically acclaimed Hamilton, In The Heights is a Tony Award winning show set in a vibrant Latino neighbourhood of Washington Heights in New York.

“The cast have put in so many hours; from the singing to the acting to the choreography, the students have worked on it all.”

Life has always been a struggle in this 'Barrio' but residents now find themselves up against a new fight against gentrification.

Ms McLoughlin, Director of the musical says “I can't wait for parents and guests to see this modern



musical. The cast have put in so many hours; from the singing to the acting and the choreography, the students have worked on it all. This will be a very exciting performance and I look forward to seeing you all there!”

Tickets are on sale now, see info box on the left for more details. ■

MONOLOGUES

AS LEVEL DRAMA STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE AN ASSESSED PERFORMANCE AS PART OF THE COURSE.

Monologues are perhaps one of the most testing forms of dramatic performance for actors. There are no other actors for support or staging to distract the audience.

Our AS Level Drama students must complete an assessed monologue performance as part of the course. This year's crop of Year 12 actors performed monologues from several genres, including challenging scenes from Cigarettes and Chocolate and A Clockwork Orange.

Congratulations to all our actors who performed so well on the evening. ■



Pavun (Year 12) delivering his monologue from A Clockwork Orange.

MEDIA MASTERCLASS



Sixth Form Media students with Ollie Wiggins (second from left).

SIXTH FORM MEDIA STUDENTS WELCOMED OLLIE WIGGINS, A FREELANCE PRODUCER FOR DISNEY AND A FORMER DIRECTOR FOR ITV AND CHANNEL 4, TO DELIVER A MEDIA MASTERCLASS.

At Hammersmith Academy we believe that the best way for our students to understand the professional world is to learn directly from the individuals in industry.

In October, Sixth Form Media students were lucky enough to attend a Media masterclass put on especially for them by Ollie Wiggins. Ollie is a highly experienced producer and director who has worked for Disney, ITV and Channel 4.

Students had the opportunity to experience a professional interview set up, learning which camera angles to use and how to edit footage post filming. This enabled the students to place the theory they have been



learning in a real world context.

A long 'Q&A' session followed this, with students asking Ollie about his time and experiences within the industry and working on high profile projects and studios.

We would like to thank Ollie for volunteering his time to inspire our students. ■

FILM PREMIERE

SIXTH FORMER PRODUCES SHORT FILM FOR THE PORTOBELLO FILM FESTIVAL.

Sixth Form Media student, Amir, co-produced a short film titled *Blindspot*. The film is centred around the Grenfell tragedy and the responses in its aftermath, following a fictional family and the members' emotional responses to it.

Blindspot was shot in just 3 days, using high budget equipment. The film was premiered at the Portobello Film Festival.

Amir said, "this was a real learning experience working alongside directors and filming schedules." ■



SPORTS ROUND-UP

THIS TERM HAS BEEN A TYPICALLY BUSY ONE FOR THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT. HERE IS A ROUND-UP OF ALL THE SPORTING NEWS FROM THIS TERM.



Year 8 Girls' Football Team ready for their match.

Boys' Football

The boys have been committed fully to the football programme on offer, with Years 7-9 regularly having around 20 students at morning sessions.

Year 10 have recorded some excellent scores including an impressive 7-1 win over Reach Free School.

Year 9 made a spectacular comeback from 2-0 down against Kingston Grammar School eventually winning 5-2. They also recovered from a 3-0 deficit to draw 3-3 against St Thomas Moore School in the QPR League.

Year 11 started strongly in the QPR League triumphing 8-1 against Ark Burlington Danes Academy.

Girls' Football

The Year 8 girls have made a fantastic start to their season, making it to the third round of the ESFA National Cup.

Year 10 girls reached the quarter finals of the Inner London Cup – we lost, but the girls fought hard and

gave it their all and did well to get to this point.

They have also made excellent progress in the QPR League, winning all their games played so far.

Netball

The Year 8 girls have won their first

league game this term and have come third in the Hammersmith and Fulham Netball Tournament. They have more games scheduled for the netball league and we have high hopes for their continued progress.

BMX

Girls in Year 9 have started a nine week BMX course which takes place in Hammersmith. This is in preparation for the Winter Youth Games competition which will be held at the Olympic Park.

Rugby

Rugby has had a slower start, managing to play a few fixtures at Year 8 and 9 level. The standout success so far was a comfortable win for the Year 8 team against Latymer Upper C team, winning 11 tries to 4.

Mr Beattie and Mr Wood also took a group of students from Year 7-10 to Twickenham to watch England vs Argentina in the first Autumn international. The trip took place on 11th November and the group witnessed the remembrance day pre-game memorial service, which included listening to the Last Post before observing a minute's silence.

Sportswoman of the Term

Ayan (Year 10) has become an exceptional leader in sport over the past 3 months. She has regularly played in netball, handball and football fixtures and is proactive in captaining the Year 10 girls football team alongside Jenna. She is committed to regular attendance at Session 3 clubs – both before and after school - and she consistently conducts herself in a manner that is deserving of this award. Ayan is able to motivate others and influence a team in a positive way. She works hard for others and brings a clear and level head to football matches. ■



Sportsman of the Term

Michael (Year 9) has become an inspirational member of the football and rugby teams over the past two years. He regularly attends morning football sessions and took part in the winter nets sessions for cricket. He has stepped up this year in the football team, becoming a vital member, producing several high quality performances. His strength lies in rugby where he is the school rugby captain and leads by example. His performance has flourished outside of school, where he trains for London Irish U14s and has progressed through the first round of selection trials. ■



The game then followed and the group were on hand to see a comfortable England victory.

Basketball

We have entered into both a KS3 and KS4 Basketball League (HA hosts the KS4 League), and play fixtures every Wednesday (Year 10/11) and Thursday (KS3 – Year 7 and 8/9). The Year 8/9 Team that play on a Thursday at Burlington Danes Academy are unbeaten in the season, winning all three games (against Fulham Boys, West London Free School and Fulham College) thus far. The Year 7 Team have had many positives as well, beating West London Free School too, but lost to Fulham Boys and Fulham College.

The KS4 Team have only played one

game, but are also technically unbeaten in the league as they beat Hurlingham 30-10, with Joemah Clarke (Year 11) scoring 21 of our points on that evening!

Badminton

In Badminton, a KS3 Team travelled to Fulham Boys for a Badminton Tournament. Unfortunately, they did not win a game but it was pleasing to see the boys demonstrate a fantastic level of resilience and

remain positive throughout! ■

Follow Sports on Twitter
@HA_Sport



The Year 10 football team have notched up some impressive victories this term.

ON BOARD THE GLORIANA



Miss Cutting with Ashley and Anwar on board the Gloriana before rowing down the River Thames.

On 23rd September 2017, I was given the huge honour of being selected to row the *Gloriana*, The Queen's Rowbarge.

The barge was created for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and celebrates the Commonwealth. It's also an inspiration for social solidarity, a showcase for traditional British boat building and

craftsmanship, and as a symbol for encouraging people to engage with the River Thames and the sport of rowing.

Being on board the *Gloriana* has increased my passion for rowing and I have gained an appreciation for the River Thames and the many things it's being used for.

It was a privilege to be able to talk

ASHLEY (YEAR 13)
REPRESENTED THE
ACADEMY, ROWING
THE GLORIANA, THE
QUEEN'S ROWBARGE.
HERE SHE RECOUNTS
HER DAY.

to successful rowers who share the same interest for the sport and to receive more knowledge about the history of rowing and how it relates to the modern day.

From sharing my experience, I can only hope that I have raised more awareness about rowing and opened the minds of other students to the idea of joining a rowing club. ■

ACADEMY QUIZ NIGHT

NEXT TERM THE ACADEMY WILL BE HOSTING THE BIG QUIZ, A FUN-FILLED EVENT FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Hammersmith Academy's Big Quiz is the perfect way to chase away those post-Christmas and New Year blues.

This fun-filled evening is open to all members of the Academy community. It is an opportunity for parents, staff and students to either put together teams, perhaps in their tutor groups or with friends, or simply come along and join a team and meet new people.

The evening will consist of several rounds of questions interspersed with entertainment and snacks are included. Quizzers are also welcome to bring dishes or any food they wish to contribute towards the evening. First prize will be money, with spot prizes awarded throughout the night.



Tickets cost £4 per adult and £2 per student.

If you would like to take part, as an individual or as a team, please email headspa@hammersmithacademy.org. Places are limited so be sure to get in early! ■

The BIG Quiz
Friday 26th January
6pm - 8pm

A fun filled quiz evening for students, staff and parents

Students must be in a team with a parent, tutor or member of staff. Either reserve a table for your team or let us know you would like to attend and we can put you into a team.

£4 per adult
£2 per student
Food, entertainment and prizes provided

Please email headspa@hammersmithacademy.org if you would like to attend - there are limited spaces

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