



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021 EDITION 12

## IN THIS EDITION:

MAYOR'S AWARD • CLIMATE KICK START AWARDS • NEW HOUSES • CHARITY NEWS  
SHAKESPEARE PERFORMANCE • ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP • ART GALLERY VISITS • STEM  
WELCOME YEAR 7S • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • CAREERS NEWS • AND MORE!

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



It has been a fabulous start to the new academic year. Students have enjoyed returning to a school that is once again operating without the limitations imposed on extra-curricular clubs, concerts, school trips and year group mixing. Students are reinvigorated doing the things that build character, develop key life skills and create friendships.

We can see the confidence in students building as the weeks go on. They feel a real sense of ownership over the things they feel passionate about and the topics they consider 'their' issues. This was most evident when Hammersmith Academy was named a winner of The Mayor of London's Climate Kick-Start Award.

There have also been many individual successes this term. Two HA students were honoured at the inaugural Mayor's Rifle Regiment Award and another has been awarded a very prestigious STEM Engineering scholarship.

This new academic year has also ushered in a number of new updates and improvements. There are now five Houses which reflects our diverse community and the wider breadth of interests of our young people. Our facilities have also expanded, with a brand new SEN hub, new classrooms and staff work spaces, and a new look fitness suite.

Our new Year 7 students have transitioned and settled brilliantly into secondary school life, fully embracing the HA way. Their team building day was a great success, preparing them for a quick start and making friendships that will last for

the remainder of their lives.

The Academy's STEM provision continues to offer all students access to opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. As you will see, our students have been excelling across a whole host of competitions, scholarships and projects.

Charity is back in a big way. Students have thrown themselves into fundraising activities, something that is core to our active citizenship values. Students wore red in support of the charity Show Racism the Red Card, raising over £200 in donations. Pudsey the bear made a welcome return to Hammersmith Academy for Children in Need. Students and parents generously donated baked goods for the bake sales and raised over £1000 for their efforts!

Year 11 students are looking ahead to their futures, considering career options with specialist one-to-one support and receiving insights from a dedicated panel this term. They will now be turning their attention to applications to our Sixth Form and their forthcoming GCSE examinations.

There is much to celebrate this term and we hope you enjoy reading about the successes of the term in this edition of The Academist. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher



# CLIMATE KICK START AWARD



Hammersmith Academy students and Ms Hodder were awarded the prize by Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan at the Barbican Centre.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, with the support of Bloomberg L.P., named Hammersmith Academy a winner of the Climate Kick Start Prize, alongside four other London secondary school winners.

The Climate Kick Start Prize were awarded to schools with pioneering environmental projects to engage young Londoners in climate action.

Prize winners were announced at a star-studded ceremony at the Barbican, hosted by the Mayor and TV presenter, Paralympian and climate activist, Ade Adepitan MBE. Each of the winning schools have been awarded £10,000 to kick-start or accelerate environmental action.

Hammersmith Academy was awarded the prize in order to develop the Outdoor Healthy Kitchen Project which will give students the chance to learn how to cook healthy meals using produce already grown in the Academy's garden. It will also encourage more fruit and vegetables to be grown.

The Mayor addressed students at the event about their role in tackling some of the planet's biggest threats - climate change, deforestation, biodiversity loss, air pollution and single-use plastics, as well as what governments and businesses need to do to help accelerate climate action.

The award coincided with the Youth and Public Empowerment Day of the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) – giving London students the chance to make an impact during this important time of environmental action.

We are very much looking forward to the Outdoor Healthy Kitchen Project coming to life later in the academic year. This will be the third expansion of the garden space since the project began and will enrich the lives of our students and staff further still.

Congratulations to Ms Hodder and Mr Pillow and to all the students and staff who work so hard in making the garden such a wonderful resource. ■

## HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY WINS TOP LONDON CLIMATE PRIZE.

“ Each of the winning schools have been awarded £10,000 to kick-start or accelerate environmental action. ”

# NEW HOUSES

THIS TERM THE ACADEMY INTRODUCED FIVE NEW HOUSES THAT REPRESENT A WIDER FIELD OF EXPERTISE AND BACKGROUNDS.



The academic year started with an exciting update to the Academy's House system with the introduction of new House figureheads and an expansion from four to five Houses.

The House System provides a healthy competitive spirit throughout the year amongst students across all aspects of student life. From sports days to charity bake sales, students vie to be the top performing House to accumulate points throughout the year. At the end of the year, the House with the most points wins the House Award.

When the Academy first opened a decade ago, students voted to have four representatives from the world of technology as the Academy House figureheads. Since then, the Academy has grown in both number of students and in areas of specialism. So in 2020, it was decided that the Houses needed updating to reflect the larger cohort and the diversity of the Academy.

During the 2021 summer term, the Junior Leadership Team began the process of putting together a long list of potential new representatives, all of whom are leaders in their fields and professions.

Students then presented to staff and governors, putting forward a case for each of the nominees and

why they believe they should be chosen based on their achievements and contributions to society. From these presentations, the long list of nominees was reduced to a shortlist of 10 nominees.

After much deliberation, the final five were selected. We felt it important that these figures represent not only personal excellence but also the diversity of our own community. Our students felt it was also important to pay homage to the Academy's first cohort of students who were in the same position in the Academy's first year, by keeping Lovelace as a figurehead and therefore continuing their legacy.

A new purple colour was added alongside the existing four colours of red, blue, green and yellow and making up the five colours of the Houses.

At the start of this new academic year, students were all given new House ties and adjusted very quickly to the new system, getting fully competitive during the competitions and charity fundraising!

We will find out at the end of the academic year which House is crowned the winner of the House Shield. ■

## The Five New Houses

- **LOVELACE** – Ada Lovelace is considered the first computer programmer.
- **ATTENBOROUGH** – Sir David Attenborough is a renowned naturalist, author and broadcaster.
- **JOHNSON** – Katherine Johnson was a trailblazing NASA mathematician.
- **MCQUEEN** – Sir Steve McQueen is a British filmmaker and director.
- **KHAN** - Fazlur Rahman Khan was a Bangladeshi-American structural engineer pioneer.



# MAYOR'S RIFLE REGIMENT AWARD

YOUNG PRIZE WINNERS FROM H&F WERE CELEBRATED AT THE FIRST ANNUAL MAYOR'S RIFLE REGIMENT AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE CAVALRY AND GUARDS CLUB IN GREEN PARK.



Headteacher, Mr Kynaston congratulating Marley and Bayan on their Mayor's Rifle Regiment Awards.

Two Hammersmith Academy students were recognised for their contributions to their local communities at the inaugural Hammersmith and Fulham Mayor's Rifle Regiment Award. This is a newly-established award sponsored by the borough's regiment, The Rifles, Cllr Morton and Mayor PJ Murphy. The F Rifles Company is the British Army's West London Reserve Infantry and is based in Princess Louise House in Hammersmith Road.

Marley (Year 12) was recognised for his social contribution. He is the Chair of the Masbro Youth Club Youth Committee and member of the H&F Youth Council and is aiming to run for Youth Mayor. His leadership in running projects such as the London Youth City Leaders Community programme, and mobilising young people for good causes such as

delivering food parcels to the elderly during the pandemic has been a shining light for other young people to aspire to.

Bayan (Year 11) was lauded for her contribution to sport. She is a regular attendee at the football sessions hosted by Sulgrave Youth Club and Chelsea FC Foundation, showing massive commitment and enthusiasm each week.

The awards ceremony took place at the Cavalry and Guards Club in Green Park and included speakers Major Tattershall and Major Vandaele-Kennedy of the Rifles, Mayor PJ Murphy and Councillor David Morton, H&F representative for the Armed Forces Community.

In his speech, Mayor PJ Murphy said: "We want to shout out their selfless achievements and say 'Thank You'."

“We want to shout out their selfless achievements and say ‘Thank You’.”

# BFI LONDON



Year 13 student, Layla with director Jeymes Samuel at the gala screening of *The Harder They Fall* at the Royal Festival Hall

## MS HARROWES REPORTS BACK FROM THE RED CARPET EVENT AT THE LONDON FILM FESTIVAL.

Sixth Form students were offered a totally fabulous opportunity to attend the gala opening night of the BFI London Film Festival to see the World Premiere of *The Harder They Fall* in early October. As part of a long-standing relationship with the Black Ticket Project, an initiative dedicated to creating cultural access points for Black young people, a group of 12 received free tickets and joined a glamorous gala night audience on the red carpet at the Royal Festival Hall.

studios around London by the likes of Warners, Netflix and major US investment companies and there is a serious shortage of qualified production personnel, making it a great career opportunity going forward. Director Jeymes Samuel has promised to come and speak to Sixth Form students as part of the Insight Programme in the future and we look forward to welcoming him and helping our next gen filmmakers into the production roles of the future.

“Director Jeymes Samuel has promised to come and speak to Sixth Form students as part of the Insight Programme...”

Inspired by the real-life stories of African-American cowboys and featuring an all-star cast, Jeymes Samuel's feature debut was an explosive and stylish Western. HA students enjoyed a pre-screening talk with the director, cast and crew, and subsequently met, not only the director, but also lead actors Idris Elba and Regina King, and London's Mayor Sadiq Khan.

It was an inspiring and uplifting evening with a diverse audience and a strong sense that the film industry is changing and that production careers should be open to all. The recent growth in demand for TV content has resulted in increased levels of investment in film and TV



Students met the stars, including Jay-Z, Idris Elba and Jeymes Samuel.



# NEW FACILITIES



The fitness suite has been refurbished and remodelled and will provide an even better experience for students in lesson and after school.

## THE ACADEMY OPENS NEW SEN BASE, CLASSROOMS, STAFF WORKROOMS AND REVAMPED FITNESS SUITE.

Students and staff returned after the half term break to a newly expanded Academy building. The expansion project has created a brand new Special Educational Needs (SEN) base with separate one-to-one workroom and offices, classroom, a refurbished and remodelled fitness suite, focus room and quiet work spaces for staff.

This has been the result of two year's of planning and building and these new state-of-the-art facilities will

provide an even better teaching and learning environment for students and staff.

Students are already enjoying using the new spaces during their lessons and staff have been appreciative of the private work spaces during their non-teaching time.

Thank you to the Facilities Team for keeping the whole project on schedule with minimal disruption to the school day. ■



The new SEN Base is a space for students to work one-on-one with a teaching assistant outside of their everyday class lessons.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU!



Year 7 students take to the water in their team built rafts, racing against each other and seeing who stays afloat the longest.

**YEAR 7 SPENT A TEAM BUILDING DAY AT LONGRIDGE ACTIVITY CENTRE IN SEPTEMBER. YEAR 7 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT MANAGER, MS GOWIE REPORTS.**

Starting secondary school is an exciting yet daunting time. Students often worry about whether they will make new friends and how they will fit in to their new school.

Each year the Academy organises a one day team building day at Longridge Activity Centre in Maidenhead for students in Year 7 to help them transition into secondary school life.

The aim of the day is for individuals to get to know fellow students in the year group, particularly those who are not in the same tutor group, as well as learning key team working skills. These include communication, working to individual strengths and weaknesses and channelling the competitive spirit in a positive way.

Students take part in a variety of activities which include canoeing, raft building, wall climbing and

constructing the tallest crate tower.

All the activities were designed to personally challenge the students. For many students this is the first time that they have had the opportunity to take part in activities on the water. The climbing wall was a real test, particularly for those who do not like heights and students did brilliantly overcoming their fears and trusting in their own abilities.

The highlight of the day for the students was the raft building, with teams having to construct a raft out of barrels, wooden planks and rope. Teams had a set building time before taking to the water in a competitive race.

It was fantastic to see the students supporting each other throughout all the activities. Students left feeling better connected to their year group and with new friendships to take with them into the academic year. ■



# FIRST DAY

NEW STUDENTS EXPERIENCED THE ACADEMY'S TRADITIONAL FIRST DAY WELCOME.



Year 7 students completed their first day and experienced the traditional clap-out from staff.

Year 7 students enjoyed their first day at Hammersmith Academy which was filled with induction activities designed to help them integrate into secondary school life and get to know their classmates better.

Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, welcomed the students with a tie ceremony. Each student received

their House coloured tie and made their pledge to commit 100% of themselves and be upstanding citizens.

The day ended with students departing the Academy to a clap-out from staff which is always a great occasion for both students and their parents. ■

“ Each student received their House coloured tie and made their pledge to commit 100% of themselves... ”



Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, handed Year 7 students their new ties during the tie ceremony.

# HOMEGROWN FRUIT JUICE

THE ACADEMY PRODUCES FIRST BATCH OF ORGANIC HOME GROWN  
APPLE AND PEAR JUICE.



Year 7 students were the first to taste the Academy's organic apple and pear juice.

The Academy has been growing vegetables in the garden for a number of years. Each school day, students come down to tend to the crops; watering, weeding and feeding in all weathers and seasons.

Alongside vegetables, students have also planted fruit trees. Unlike the annual vegetables, fruit trees take several years to mature and bear fruit.

Student gardeners planted apple trees three years ago and this summer our apple trees produced a large enough crop to be harvested for the first time. This has been very rewarding for the young gardeners who have lovingly looked after the trees.

Ms Hodder, Environmental and Sustainability Lead said, "We thought it would be a lovely idea to use the apples in a way that can be enjoyed throughout the year. So we decided to take the harvest to a professional juicer who would produce our very own fruit juice! It just so happens that a local resident had harvested their own homegrown pears and donated some to be juiced alongside our apples."

Year 7 students were invited to be the first to give the juice a taste test and they all gave it a thumbs up. One student gave his review saying, "This is the best juice I've had! Better than what we get in the supermarket." ■

“ This is the best juice I've had! Better than what we get in the supermarket. ”



# CHAMBER CONCERT

MUSICAL EVENTS MADE A WELCOME RETURN TO THE ACADEMY AFTER A LONG HIATUS. HEAD OF MUSIC, MS SLAV RECALLS THE OCCASION.



Student talent was on full display during the Chamber Concert, featuring a broad range of instruments and vocals.

“After such a long break from live music, the sound of these stunning performances floating throughout the Academy was very welcome.”

This term saw the very welcome return of musical concerts, the first in almost two years since the pandemic started.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November on the Sixth Form mezzanine, an audience gathered accompanied by (electronic) candlelight and biscuits to watch some of our talented HA musicians perform.

We saw performances from chamber concert veterans including Ayushi (Year 10) on guitar, playing the iconic ballad by Leonard Cohen “Hallelujah” and Rhodes (Year 11) performing some epic and virtuosic pieces on piano.

There were debut performances from Tia (Year 11) on piano, and Trixie (Year 10) on voice. Notably we had two performers who not only performed but also composed their pieces, with a chilled ballad from Ameera (Year 13) on guitar and voice, and an epic piano composition from Raphael (Year 11).

After such a long break from live music, the sound of these stunning performances floating throughout the Academy was very welcome.

Congratulations to all the musicians who performed. They put

in a huge amount of effort rehearsing, especially having not performed in such a long time.

We are very much looking forward to the next concert, which take place every term to give all students learning an instrument the opportunity to perform in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Congratulations to all the performers who put on such a brilliant performance. ■



The evening featured debut performances alongside veteran student performers.

# SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS TOUR



LAMDA bought a fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream to Hammersmith Academy's theatre.

Four Athenians run away to the forest inhabited by fairies, in a comedic twist of events involving romantic triangles and confusion!

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) brought their production to Hammersmith Academy, the actors created an instantly engaging and visual performance for all of us GCSE Drama students by using set and sound to make us feel as if we were in their location of the magical forest.

The production made great use of the round staging, with the audience sitting around the action which was an effective choice as it allowed the actors to move around the audience, entering and exiting through the audience to successfully engage with the audience and making them feel part of the show.

This show met my expectations because they challenged themselves and made the piece that they

performed funny and engaging, particularly through their use of acting skills to portray the characters. The costumes they used to showcase these characters were very modern despite being a Shakespearian play which really appealed to a younger audience.

When the performance ended, we attended a workshop to practically explore the play and to learn about careers in the acting and theatre industry. I learnt that a career can be achieved in drama by joining a drama school like LAMDA. These actors were professional, and they used all physical acting and vocal skills, and were also multi-roling to display the different acting skills they have.

Overall I learnt a lot from the experience and I look forward to attending our next theatre trip which will inspire me to devise ideas for any future practical work. ■

**ELIZA (YEAR 9)  
REVIEWS AN  
INSPIRING  
SHAKESPEAREAN  
PERFORMANCE BY  
LAMDA.**



# GRENFELL PLAY



Year 9 students outside the Tabernacle, a community theatre in Notting Hill, ahead of the performance of the performance.

## ASYA AND LINA (YEAR 9) GIVE THEIR REVIEW OF VALUE ENGINEERING: SCENES FROM THE GRENFELL INQUIRY.

“ One of the  
standout  
moments featured  
a letter written by  
a man who had  
been living in the  
tower for 5 years.

”

Set in a courtroom, the Grenfell Inquiry play shows the story of how the Grenfell fire affected the lives of those who lived in and around the tower.

The performance reflects the true story of their perspectives throughout the ongoing inquiry. With true facts and speeches that were spoken in the courtroom, the Grenfell Inquiry play helped gather understanding of how awful the situation was and still is for those who lived there.

From the show, not only have I come to better understand the ongoing inquiry, it also demonstrated how verbatim theatre is used. I learnt how writers can take real events and words spoken and recorded by journalists to create a shorter, yet still informative and engaging performance.

This production was not like the typical theatre show and was a great experience. The end-on staging and the lighting from above the seats made the inquiry feel even more real making the audience feel as if they were actually in the courtroom. They had multiple spotlights rigged to the ceiling and there were seats both

beside and in front of the stage.

When the play ended, It definitely wasn't what I expected however I quite liked the suspense and interesting story line. It was very interesting and not my typical preferred type of theatre show, but I would definitely go to see another piece of verbatim theatre if I ever get the next opportunity.

One of the standout moments featured a letter written by a man who had been living in the tower for 5 years. He had expressed his worry about the cladding, the sprinklers, and various different problems with the building. It showed that people were aware that this building was not safe for the residents living there.

The production showed us that there were many problems with safety in the building and how the residents' concerns were ignored.

The show inspired me in multiple ways and when it was over, I really wanted to one day try my own piece of verbatim theatre and maybe one day take on one of the roles of the actors on stage that day. ■

# SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD



Students and staff wore an item of red to celebrate and raise money for Show Racism the Red Card in October.

HA STUDENTS WORE RED IN SUPPORT OF SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD.

“That is why Hammersmith Academy has been named a lead school...”

Show Racism the Red Card (SRtRC) is the UK's largest anti-racism educational charity established in 1996 with the aim of working in schools and other educational settings throughout the UK. Their primary aim is to educate young people and adults about the causes and consequences of racism, something teachers and students here at Hammersmith Academy are very passionate about. That is why Hammersmith Academy has been named a lead school for promoting and fundraising for the charity each year, something which we are very proud of.

To end our Black History Month activities, we participated in the Wear Red Day event on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October where both students and staff wore an item of red. Students were asked to bring a donation of £1 in order to support the charity in the amazing work that they do in schools across the UK. Additionally, across the week, our Anti-Racism and

Diversity Junior Leadership Team put up posters across the Academy, sold badges and wristbands in tutor time raising the profile of the day.

Additional thanks to Ms Harrowes for forming the strong links with the charity, enabling us to make a difference within a field we feel so strongly about and to Mr O'Hana-James and Ms Adeoye for creating fantastic educational assemblies.

A special thank you also to all students and teachers who got involved, wore red and donated money during the day! In total the Academy raised £200.05 from donations from the wear red day. ■

Show Racism the Red Card	
Grand Total	£200.05



# PUDSEY RETURNS

CHILDREN IN NEED IS ONE OF THE MOST FAVOURED OF CHARITY DAYS. MS WILLIAMS, REPORTS ON A VERY SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING DRIVE.



The Junior Leadership Team were busy promoting Children In Need and visited each of the tutor groups selling merchandise for the charity.

The Junior Leadership Team's (JLT) organisation of this year's annual Children in Need fundraising was a huge success. Throughout the week of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November a number of activities were conducted in order to support the charity and raise as much money as we could.

The JLT worked tirelessly, selling and promoting the merchandise for sale, even filming an advert for Tutor Time. Students sold an array of items from badges, to wristbands, to Pudsey headbands, both before school and during tutor time with the aim of raising as much as they could! It was lovely to see so many students wearing merchandise and showing their support for the charity which supports many young people across the UK and abroad.

We ended the week of fundraising with our second house competition of the year, our Children in Need Bake Sale where students and staff were asked to bake a cake to support their House to raise the most amount of

money! The competition was fierce with the canteen flooded with cakes and treats for students to buy them the day. The thing that I was the most impressed with was the effort staff and students put into making home cooked treats. Our final fundraiser was our Pudsey Bear Raffle which was won by Reben in Year 7!

A special thank you to the House Coordinators for all of their support during the House Bake Sale, and to all students and staff who baked cakes or bought a cake from the sale throughout the day that allowed the charity event to be such a huge success.

Congratulations to Lovelace House who raised an astounding £334.05, winning the House competition! We are looking forward to all the charity events still to come, including the big Race for Life event in the summer term. ■

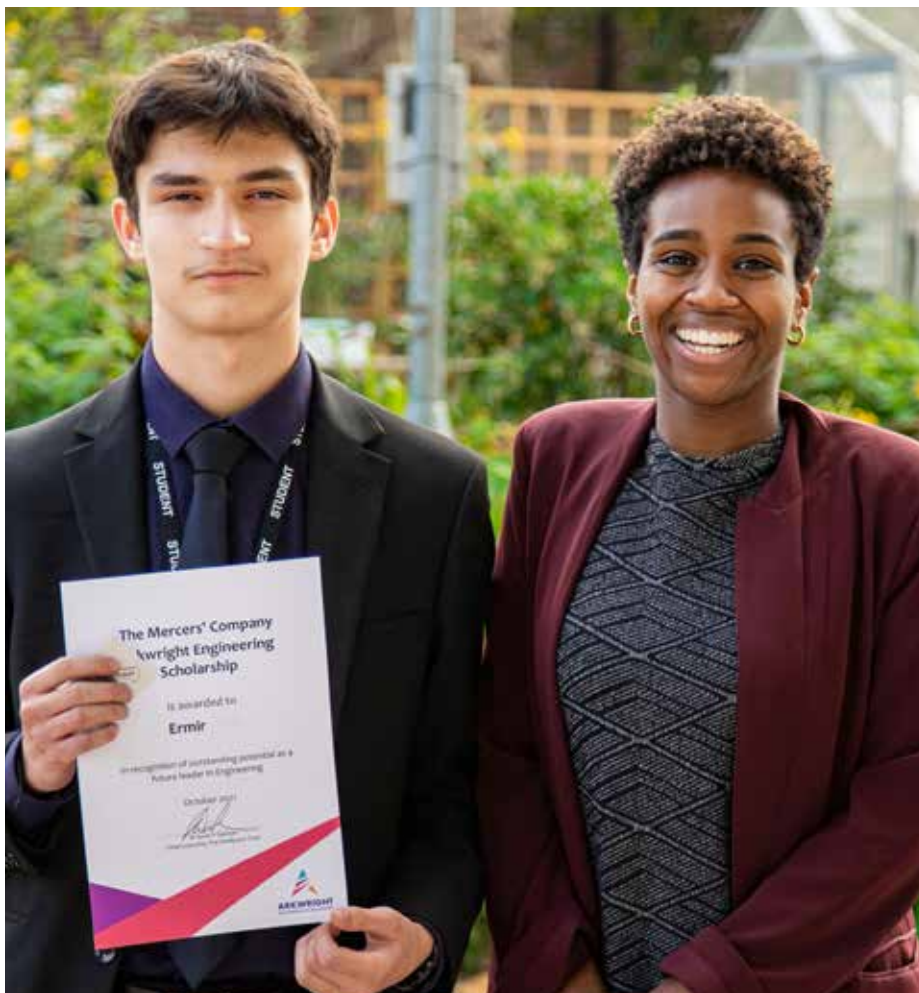
“We ended the week of fundraising with our second house competition of the year, our Children in Need Bake Sale.”

## Charity Total

Lovelace	£334.05
Johnson	£205.96
McQueen	£146.07
Khan	£128.57
Attenborough	£100.25
Other Sales	£194.09
Grand Total	£1,108.99

# STEM SUCCESS

STEM COORDINATOR, MS FERRELL, UPDATES US ON ALL THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE ACADEMY'S STEM PROVISION.



STEM Coordinator, Ms Ferrell, presented Ermir with his Arkwright Engineering Scholarship Certificate this term.

## Arkwright Scholarship

Applications for the 2022 Arkwright Scholarship has begun!

The programme is the most esteemed engineering scholarship scheme of its type in the UK, providing supports in various forms to help scholars achieve their goals.

Having been nominated by their teachers, STEM enthusiasts in Year 11 have started writing their applications with the support of Ms Ferrell and Arkwright representative John Coleman. Our Arkwright Scholarship applicants this year include, Thomas, Yosif, Mahamad, Ahmad and Iman.

Just to be nominated is a fantastic achievement and we wish them all the best as they aim to follow in the footsteps of Arkwright Scholar, Ermir (pictured) who was awarded an Arkwright Scholarship this term and received his certificate and sponsorship from the Mercers' Company.

## Lego League Challenge

The Lego League Challenge team has been working hard during Session 3 to build and code their entry for the First Lego League Regional Tournament in January. Returning to competitions in a face-to-face format, the team will be heading to the Bechtel: Engineering,

Construction London offices to compete. Interested in joining the team next year? Look out for Lego coding workshops next term!

## Imperial Makerspace & The Makerspace Manual

Over the last few years, Hammersmith Academy students have benefited from the exciting opportunities offered by Imperial College London's Makerspace Challenge at the 'Invention Rooms' in White City.

Last month, Imperial Makerspace held a book launch for their *Makerspace Manual*; a book for teachers, students and anyone who has an itch to make and create. It's packed full of lessons they've learned in setting up the Makerspace and working with young people across the borough and fostering their passion for creating, as well as useful resources and careers guidance.

Hammersmith Academy students feature in the *Makerspace Manual*, with a particular shout-out to HA alum Cindy Xhebro; the first ever Makerspace winner and winner of the Innovator of the Year at the Youth Achievement Awards 2019.

We look forward to using the manual in school and seeing more HA students, head down to the Makerspace workshops to put their STEM skills and creativity to the test.

Look out for invitations to apply for the next round of the Makerspace Challenge!

Marley (Year 12) said, 'I attended the maker challenge because I wanted to challenge myself in my

### Arkwright Scholarship Award

- £600 to fund a personal engineering project
- Support and mentoring through Sixth Form and UCAS Applications
- Career support



communication, team working and leadership skills as well as fine tuning product design processes from the digital skill, using CAM and CAD, prototyping, development and marketing.

I found the programme really enjoyable as the staff were very supportive and made things easy to understand, we were given lots of freedom and were encouraged to make mistakes and learn from them. This meant that as a team we were able to understand each other better and create a really fun project.'

## Mark Evison Foundation - STEM Projects

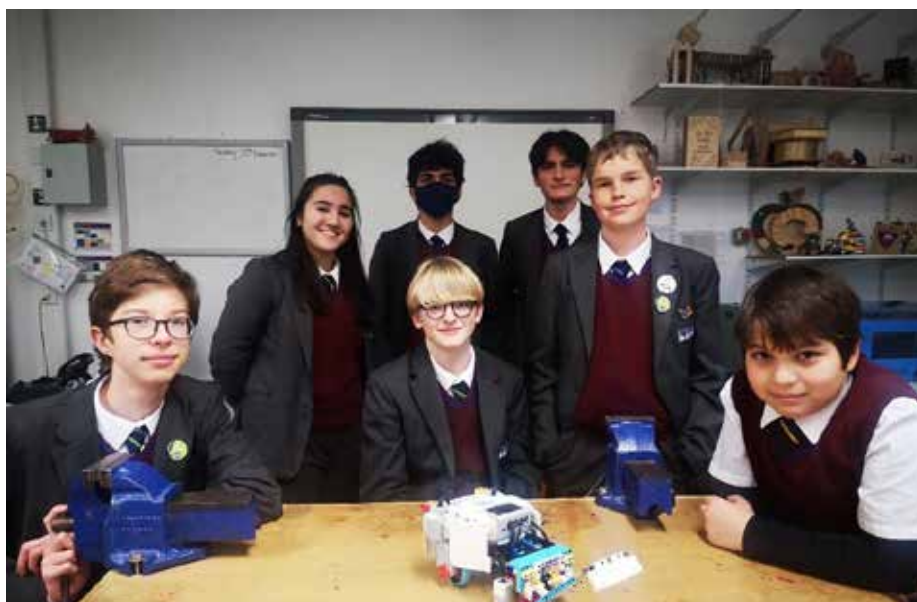
At the end of last year, Hammersmith Academy Sixth Formers were given the opportunity to apply for the Mark Evison Award, which gives young people the opportunity to develop their own challenging project.

The foundation invites young people to create and plan projects which are personally challenging. Such projects develop confidence, strength, resilience and breadth, as applicants take independent ownership of something they are keen to do.

Several students chose to apply and further their passion for STEM; working hard to complete highly professional designs. Here are the projects our Year 13 have been developing:

### Autonomous Car

Year 13 students, Layla, Batoul, Khya, Matthew and Denis are developing an autonomous car. They said of the project, "Our main project idea was to create an autonomous car robot, that is a fully functioning car without the need for human intervention. Having a camera perched on the top of the car allows us to implement an algorithm that allows the car to follow a route as it moves; therefore, the car knows when to run the motors forwards, backwards, and stop the car accordingly. The steering of the car is controlled by a servo. As for



Hammersmith Academy's Lego League Team are preparing for the live competitions later next year in London.

the physical structure, we created the body of the car entirely from scratch, using a laser cutter in the DT room.

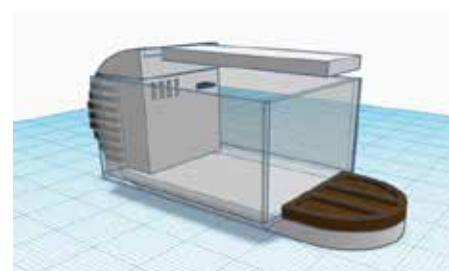
We've learnt a lot whilst undertaking this challenging project. Being a computer science/engineering-based project, made us interested in exploring STEM careers, regardless of our previous knowledge, and introduced us to new concepts within physics and computer science. For example, using the Raspberry Pi computer for the first time, learning different inputs and outputs, dealing with voltage, and just overall applying, and expanding, on our knowledge from GCSE and A Levels.

The project also gave us an opportunity to experience the hardware and software that we'll be studying at university – giving us ideas of different areas we could research and discuss, hence giving us an excellent opportunity to create an outstanding university application."

### Tropical Fish Tank

Anis in Year 13 was inspired by his previous GCSE DT project to create a fully operational tropical fish tank for the STEM project. He said of his Mark Evison Project, "After the application and interview was successful, I started working on the project with around two weeks left until the summer holiday and spent Monday-Friday in the DT Workshop creating online templates and designs, cutting and finishing the

wood and laser cutting the acrylic for the overall base and structure. I took all the parts home and then fabricated all the parts together. Not everything went to plan though, but I managed to overcome the setbacks and I soon had the final



structure assembled, glued, and finished together. After receiving the cut-to-size glass, I then joined the tank structure with silicone and did the required water tests as well as adding my own filtration system. Overall, the project was completed in three weeks. The whole process was a massive learning curve that allowed me to learn new methods and processes of manufacturing and above all showed me how much I could do when I persevered and worked hard to complete my project."

# CAREERS 1 TO 1



All students in Year 11 received a one-to-one interview with a trained careers adviser to help them discover the career paths that best suit their unique set of skills and interests.

## CAREERS COORDINATOR, MR DENNESS, UPDATES US ON THE CAREERS PROVISION FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS THIS TERM.

In September, every Year 11 student took part in a 30 minute one-on-one careers interview with a trained career adviser from McDermott Educational Consulting.

The sessions took place using Microsoft Teams and helped students think about their next steps, both for when they finish Year 11 and for their longer-term futures.

While HA has always provided students with personal guidance, this was the first time, following a successful pilot last year, that an entire year group had the chance to experience an interview with a qualified careers adviser.

It would be understandable for any young person to feel unsure about their future career in the current climate. The news is full of stories about youth unemployment and the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on young workers, who have been hardest hit by the pandemic in terms of job losses. There is also uncertainty over university places, with some institutions in financial difficulty and others struggling to keep up with demand over the next few years.

In this context, it is vital that young people get the best advice possible to make the career choices that are right for them. The advisers from McDermott Education were armed with information about labour market statistics, entry routes into different careers, universities, apprenticeships and traineeships and more, to answer the wide range of queries thrown at them by Year 11.

Rachel McDermott, head of McDermott Education, said: "the students were a joy to work with, there was such a variety of different career and study ambitions among them but they were all determined to work hard to achieve their goals. I have no doubt this year group will go far". One Year 11 student said that before the meeting she had: 'a very vague idea of what I wanted to do and the meeting helped me understand how to get there and gave me a clearer idea of what I wanted to do'.

After a highly successful week in which over 130 interviews took place, Year 11 can now concentrate on a challenging but exciting year ahead, with a better idea of what the future might bring. ■





# NEXT STEPS EVENT

PARENTS AND STUDENTS GOT THEIR CAREERS QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY A DIVERSE GROUP OF PANELLISTS.



The Next Steps panel consisted of individuals from the Department of Work and Pensions colleges, Chelsea FC, alumni and current Sixth Form students.

While their focus remains on their immediate goal of preparing for their GCSE exams, our Year 11 students are also actively thinking about what comes next. After their one-on-one career interviews in September, the students and their parents were invited to attend the Year 11 Next Steps panel event on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> November. The aim of the event was to present the students with a wide range of options to inform their plans for after they complete their GCSEs. While for many students contemplating the run-up to their exams this may seem like a long way off, all the panellists emphasised the importance of planning ahead to make the right decisions.

After introductions from their Student Achievement Manager Mr Fitchett and Head of Key Stage Ms Simonovski, the students settled in to listen to the panel. Chaired by Head of Careers Ms Harrowes, the panel included Ms Cutting, Deputy Head of HA Sixth Form, Mary Cunningham from the Department for Work and Pensions, Jo Swan from West

London College, Tyra Mills Female Engagement Coordinator at Chelsea FC and an ex-HA student, and Mustafa in Year 13 and Shehab in Year 12, both current students at HA Sixth Form.

Ms Cutting was able to provide the Year 11s with an insight into some of the differences between Year 11 and Sixth Form, explaining that while Sixth Form is still quite structured, students are expected to manage their own time effectively and become independent learners. Mary spoke about the apprenticeships route, highlighting that there are now very few roles that cannot be accessed through an apprenticeship. Jo talked about the differences between studying at college and sixth form, explaining the range of more vocational courses that West London College offer in areas including hairdressing, sport and construction. Tyra spoke about her journey after HA, which took her from a BTEC Sport course at college, to Arsenal FC, and finally to Chelsea and a place in a prestigious Nike

promotional campaign. Mustafa and Shehab both discussed their experiences at HA Sixth Form, with Mustafa revealing that he found putting his suit on in the morning got him in the mindset to learn which was important to him, while Shehab talked about the many different extra-curricular opportunities that he had already been able to access in his first term at Sixth Form. Each panellist brought their own fascinating perspective and gave our students and their parents a sense of the breadth of options available post-GCSEs.

The spirit of the evening was summed up by Ms Cutting, who advised the students not to lose sight of the exciting moment they were at in their lives, with many opportunities in front of them. With the Year 11s beginning their November mock exams the following week, the event provided a timely reminder to the students of what they were working towards and the rewards awaiting them for their hard work. ■

# WCIT DINNER

YEAR 12 STUDENT, MAWADA, WAS INVITED TO ATTEND THE WCIT SIXTH FORM DINNER AND REPORTS ON THE EVENT.



Sixth Form students met Past Master of the WCIT and HA Governor, Mr Birtles during the evening. Members of the WCIT were impressed with the students' debating skills.

A selected group of Sixth Form students were invited by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) to attend annual Sixth Form dinner, held at the WCIT Hall in London's Barbican.

The dinner is an opportunity for students to research and present on pressing IT topics that affect us in front of WCIT members and their fellow students. It is also a chance for WCIT members to meet Hammersmith Academy students who they support as sponsors.

At the start of the event we were served drinks and were introduced to members of the WCIT, including Mr Birtles, one of the Academy's governors. Throughout the introductions there were small conversations before being seated for the dinner.

During the meals we had engaging and challenging conversations. This was a new and different experience for most of the Hammersmith Academy students, and we were very grateful for this kind of opportunity as it is quite different to being in a

classroom environment.

The topics of the evening's discussions included how we could use artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve action taken to tackle cyber bullying, racism and other forms of abuse on social media.

We spoke about the current issues regarding racism and hate speech which was very interesting to me as it made me more aware of what is going on right now and how it is an issue particularly for young people on social media.

We heard a wide range of diverging views, opinions and some strong arguments that were made on both sides of the debates.

In conclusion this event has helped with my learning as it has made me more aware and careful when using social media platforms. This was a fascinating and educational event. I hope to be able to attend more events like this in the future. Thank you to the WCIT for inviting us to the evening and to our teachers who attended with us. ■

“ We heard a wide range of diverging views, opinions and some strong arguments that were made on both sides of the debates. ”



# GALLERIES GALORE



Art students enjoyed the return to London galleries which is a source of influence and inspiration to their own creative output.

Our HA Artists were delighted to see gallery doors reopen after being closed for so long. This term, our students have made the most of the opportunity by travelling around London to see some of the top exhibitions and galleries our city has to offer.

## Royal Academy

Year 12 A Level students attended the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

The annual Summer Exhibition is the world's oldest open submission exhibition, meaning anyone can enter their work to be considered for inclusion. This year's exhibition was curated by Yinka Shonibare, a contemporary British-Nigerian artist living in the United Kingdom with an eye for colour and patterns which stood out across the exhibition.

The exhibition offered a diverse range of art with something to see in every direction! Student, Elliot fed back on the day, saying "I loved seeing the breadth of artwork by different contemporary artists - their techniques and processes have

definitely influenced my own project". Esugen added, "There was a real variety of art styles and materials, such as using mirrors and lights behind canvases, it has reminded me how diverse art can be. It was an inspiring day out!"

## Hayward Gallery

GCSE students spent a day at the Hayward Gallery on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November to view the exhibition 'Mixing it Up – Painting it Up', a show bringing together 31 contemporary painters who exploit the unique characteristics of their medium to create fresh, compelling works of art.

The gallery was open for an exclusive viewing for secondary schools and we were lucky enough to hear a talk by the gallery director and curator of the show, Ralph Rugoff. We all left feeling very inspired!

Over the coming months, students will take the influences that caught their attention during the visits and incorporate it into their own examined coursework. ■

**THE ART DEPARTMENT TOOK STUDENTS TO VISIT LONDON GALLERIES THIS TERM. HEAD OF ART, MS SAMUELS TELLS US MORE.**

“The exhibition offered a diverse range of art with something to see in every direction!”



# 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.



Girls from Hammersmith Academy spent a Saturday at Wasps training ground seeing what it takes to make an elite athlete. They met some of the team during their visit.

## British Schools Trampolining

Year 10 student, Zoe competed at the Schools competition on 28<sup>th</sup> November in the Under 19 Girls

Intermediate category.

She did very well, as it was only her second external competition since the club's return after lockdown which

stopped all training for 18 months. A long time to be out of training and competition!

This was Zoe's first time competing in this category which 34 gymnasts entered.

After competing two solid routines, Zoe finished in a fantastic 19<sup>th</sup> place. We are so proud of Zoe, and can't wait to get back into training to develop more somersaults so she can be even more competitive in the group next year!

## Year 9 Boys' Football

Sport fixtures have been few and far between this term, so when the opportunity presented itself students relished the chance to be competitive.

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November, Year 9 Boys took on Phoenix Academy in a local derby match up against former HA PE teacher, Mr Hand's Phoenix



Year 9 Boys' Football team took home a win against Phoenix Academy in one of the limited fixtures this term.



boys team. So there was a lot riding on the match!

The match was a very competitive affair with 9 goals in total. There was fantastic play from all members of the team. Haytham made some fantastic saves to keep Hammersmith Academy in the game throughout the match.

Elios and Rafael were steadfast defenders and challenged all attempts in the home half. Juan played a comfortable game at right back and linked well with Abdelbasset and Samuel who dominated throughout the game with his power, speed and agility.

Abdelbasset displayed plenty of energy and desire with excellent teamwork with Samuel. Emad was very comfortable in defence and at the same time created plenty of opportunities as a striker.

Omar was playing in his very first competitive match and displayed a very tidy game. Well done on a solid debut. Darragh defended well at full back and played solidly.

At the final whistle, Hammersmith Academy were victorious with a 5-4 victory over Phoenix. Samuel was top scorer with a hat-trick finding their target. Abdelbasset was the second highest goal scorer with two of his own finding their mark.

Well done to the team who competed to such a high standard despite not having much match practice. We hope to have a few more fixtures set in the diary in the new year.

### Girls Rugby

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Ms Tyndall organised a trip to visit Wasps Rugby Club's training ground to have a training session with some of England's 'Red Roses' players who also play for Wasps Women as their premiership club. The 20 girls from HA were part of 70 young women from the south east of England who took part in tackling drills, attacking play workshops and they also had a chance to take part in game at the end of their visit against people in their own age groups.

Afterwards the girls all received a goody bag and were invited to meet the players for a Q&A session. This included Bryony Cleall (England and Wasps) and Celia Quansah (GB Rugby Sevens squad). After the Q&A we all got snacks from the ground and watched Wasps Women play Sale Sharks. It was inspiring to see the professional women play rugby and the HA students did us proud.

### QPR Ticket Offer

Hammersmith Academy works closely with local sporting outreach

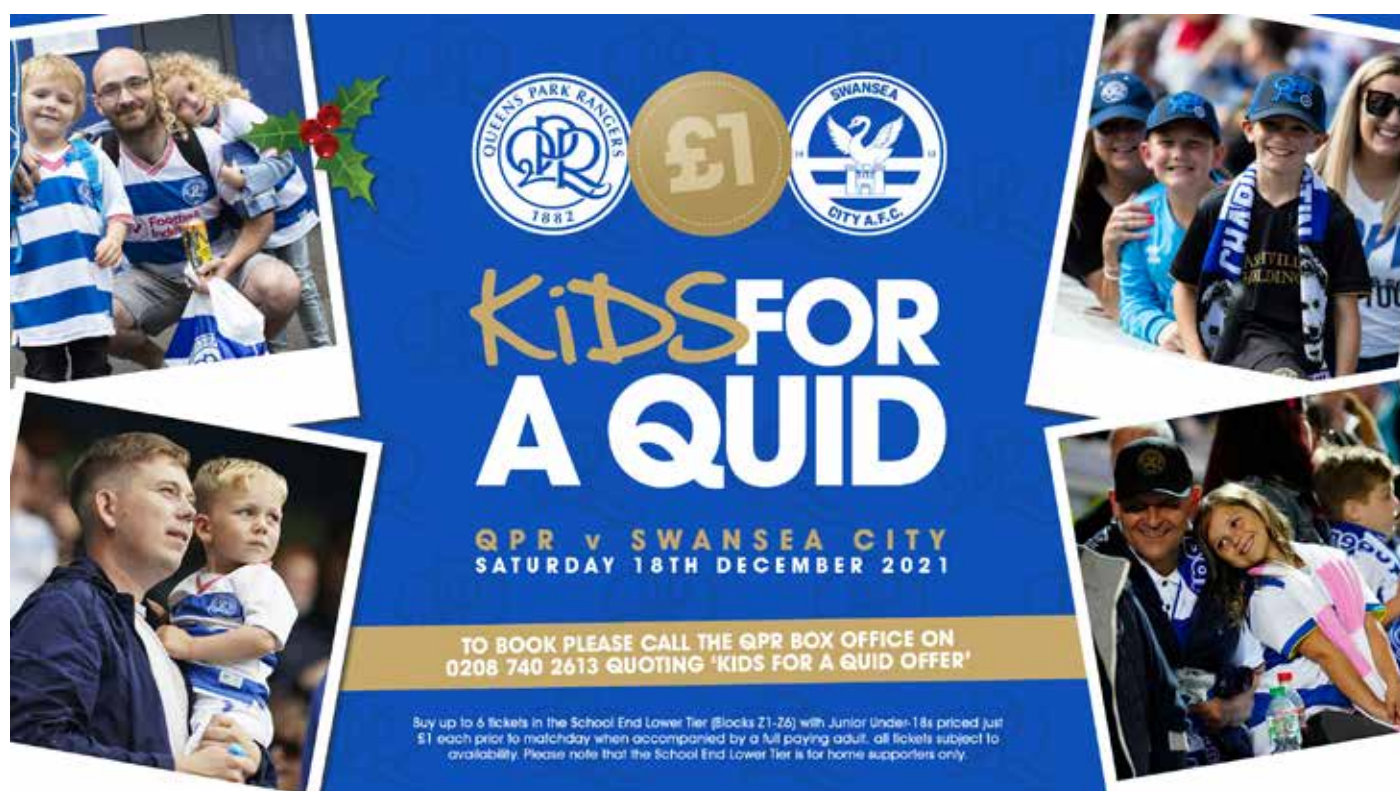
organisations, including Queen's Park Rangers. One of their outreach aims is to get more young people involved in sport participation whether it is playing or watching.

QPR is offering Hammersmith Academy families discounted tickets in their *KidsForAQuid* for their QPR v Swansea fixture on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 3pm.

This is a great way to experience live sport. If you would like to take advantage of this offer please call the QPR box office on 0208 740 2613 and quote 'Kids for a quid offer'. ■

### Follow Sports on Instagram

 @hasport1



**KIDS FOR A QUID**

QPR v SWANSEA CITY  
SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2021

TO BOOK PLEASE CALL THE QPR BOX OFFICE ON  
0208 740 2613 QUOTING 'KIDS FOR A QUID OFFER'

Buy up to 6 tickets in the School End Lower Tier (Blocks Z1-Z6) with Junior Under-18s priced just \$1 each prior to matchday when accompanied by a full paying adult. All tickets subject to availability. Please note that the School End Lower Tier is for home supporters only.

## Hammersmith Academy

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on at HA every day!



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