

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



It has been a seamless start to this new academic year; a stark contrast to last year's mass testing of students and staff.

Our academic and extracurricular offering is back to full capacity, bringing together a myriad of experiences, experts and enrichment to our students.

This term alone we have welcomed a variety of guest speakers who have each brought their unique stories and experiences. One of the highlights this term was the BBC 100 Share Your Story event, celebrating the BBC's centenary and promoting careers in the world of media. We were very lucky to have the BBC's Chief Content Officer attend as a guest speaker and speak about her role and career journey.

Our Sixth Form Insight Programme brought in experts from the world of finance and banking, exploration and more.

There have also been numerous new events that we have introduced to the Academy, including Bikeability, a training programme that encourages young people to cycle safely and responsibly, whilst encouraging a healthy and sustainable way to travel.

HA students face modern global issues and they want to be active agents in finding solutions to these big topics. Our student gardening and sustainability team are part of Global Action Plan's pilot scheme called the Schools Good Life Charter, exploring the elements of everyday

lives that have a significant impact on our planet.

Community has always been at the heart of what we do and this term alone we have raised money for *Children in Need*, *Show Racism the Red Card* and *Save the Children*.

There is an increased focus on personal development and the HA character. What it means to be a well-rounded individual who thinks of others and leads the way. Our development programme includes extensive extracurricular provision and enrichment opportunities.

Our new Junior Leadership Team have been announced. The JLT play an important role in representing the student voice, feeding back on key aspects of the student experience and leading on fundraising and events.

All of this has led to the Academy's spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) education being awarded a gold award from the SMSC Quality Mark. A fantastic recognition of our student character development. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

BBC 100 SHARE YOUR STORY



Year 10 students with presenter, Jasmine Takhar and celebrity guest, Amber Butchart, an author, broadcaster and lecturer in fashion history.

To mark the BBC's centenary, the corporation launched Share Your Story, a landmark project to inspire young people to achieve their career goals and help realise their ambitions. A special interactive assembly has toured the UK using stars and staff and the power of storytelling to share personal stories of resilience, career journeys and the work of the BBC.

Hammersmith Academy welcomed BBC's Chief Content Officer, Charlotte Moore and fashion historian and broadcaster, Amber Butchart. Hosted by presenter, Jasmine Takhar, guests were asked about how they came to be in their careers, what advice they would give to those looking to get into the media and their favourite BBC moments.

Students were fascinated to discover Charlotte's role in deciding what shows make it on to television, BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds. Charlotte was asked about her favourite shows that she has worked on including The

Great British Bake Off and Dr Who. Charlotte then turned the tables and asked students about their viewing habits, their favourite shows and what programmes they would like to see being made.

Amber, spoke about her passions in fashion and history and how they have led to a career as an historian, author, broadcaster and lecturer. She emphasised the importance of allowing personal interests and passions to influence subject choices and potential careers. What really grabbed the students' attention was Amber's work on forensic garment analysis, helping to solve crimes through clues left behind on clothing.

The event closed with the BBC encouraging students to share their stories by becoming a BBC Young Reporter, the BBC's journalism and media project which supports young people to develop content creation skills, find out about careers in broadcasting and share their own stories. ■

BBC BRINGS POWER OF STORYTELLING TO HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY.

“ Students were fascinated to discover Charlotte's role in deciding which shows are made... ”



YEAR 7 MAKE A SPLASH!



Water Ball was especially popular with Year 7 students. The aim is to get to the other side before the opposing team.

YEAR 7 STUDENTS SPENT THE DAY AT LONGRIDGE ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR A TEAMBUILDING EXPERIENCE. MS GOWIE TELLS US MORE.

Starting secondary school is a significant moment in the lives of Year 7 students. There are a lot of new experiences to adjust to, new friends to make and a much bigger school to find their way around.

To help students settle in at the start of the academic year, the Academy took students to Longridge for a day of teambuilding activities. Students had to work in teams in a variety of tasks including canoeing, crate building, abseiling and water ball.

Each of the activities were designed to be challenging yet fun with the aim of pushing students out of their comfort zone.

Students left with a sense of camaraderie and excitement from the trip, and we have seen a real difference in confidence and daily positive interactions.

It was a brilliant day overall, full of new experiences and students have taken away wonderful memories from the trip. ■

“ We have seen a real difference in confidence and daily positive interactions. ”



REMEMBERING HER MAJESTY

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY STUDENTS APPEARED ON BBC NEWS IN REACTION TO THE PASSING OF HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.



Hammersmith Academy students appeared on BBC News, joining voices from across the UK in remembering her Majesty the Queen.

The Academy community was saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty, the Queen on Thursday 8th September 2022.

Having been on the throne for 70 years, her reign encompassed the lifetime of most people in our community.

Following the news of Queen Elizabeth's death, we knew the importance of marking it respectfully and thoroughly and taking some time out to pause and think about who she was and what she represented.

In tutor time on Friday 9th September, we collapsed the usual schedule and all students took part in a session where we reflected on Queen Elizabeth and her life. We ended it by watching the video of the Queen having afternoon tea with Paddington Bear to mark her Platinum Jubilee.


Right at the end the session, we held a two-minute silence where everyone stopped and just quietly thought about the life she led and the legacy she leaves behind.

While everyone has a different relationship with the monarchy, what everyone agreed on was the service she gave to our country and how her death really feels like the end of an era.

In addition to the events in tutor time, students were invited to appear on BBC News to explain what the Queen meant to them and their families, joining the many voices from across the UK. ■

“There was a special tutor time looking back at the Queen's life and key moments in her reign.”

 Watch the video:

Watch the students joining voices from across the UK in remembrance of the Queen. 

WHAT NEXT FOR ME?

DECIDING WHICH PATH TO TAKE AFTER GCSE CAN BE OVERWHELMING. THE ACADEMY'S NEXT STEPS EVENT IS DESIGNED TO HELP YEAR 11 STUDENTS MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION.



The Next Steps event featured a college fair, with stands from a variety of further education providers, including representatives from Queen's Park Rangers and many others.



In September, the Academy's Careers Team was delighted to be able to return to holding the Next Steps Choices Evening for Year 11 students and their parents alongside a full Post-16 Choices Fair.

Our students and parents first heard from a range of speakers, including some they knew very well. Mr Flitton, Head of Upper School who has seen

a number of different Year 11 cohorts, spoke about some of the different choices available, including the differences between life at HA Sixth Form and at a college.

Two of our current Year 13 students, Marwa and Naeem, gave their perspective on HA Sixth Form, their experience of studying with us and spoke about their plans for the future.

Finally, Mary Cunningham from the Department of Work and Pensions talked about the apprenticeship route, outlining the different types of apprenticeships available and the reasons why students might consider this pathway. Thanks to our brilliant speakers, students came away with a sense of the different key pathways open for them.

Students were then free to explore our college fair, with 9 local post-16 providers present. Each provider had a stall and lots of information for our students to take away and consider.

Thank you to the Chelsea Centre for the Creative Industries, the North Kensington Centre for Skills, London Screen Academy, Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge ASK, William Morris Sixth Form, St Charles Catholic Sixth Form College, QPR, Fulham Cross Sixth Form and West London College for coming and for helping our students consider a wide range of options for their next steps.



The event began with a panel discussion with a Q&A session.



CAREER PATHWAYS

MR DENNESS, CAREERS COORDINATOR, EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCUSSING FUTURE CAREER GOALS AND HOW TO ACHIEVE THEM.

The autumn term is a particularly important time for Year 11, as a lot of their major decisions about their next steps come early in the academic year, to allow them time to focus on building up to their GCSE exams.

In September, our Year 11s all had a 1-1 careers meeting online with a qualified external careers adviser. These meetings were a chance for students to think about what they wanted to do, both straight after their GCSEs and in the longer-term, as well as helping them focus on the actions they need to take now to achieve their goals. In their own words, our students said:

"Talking to somebody helped to clear my thoughts and helped me to understand my own intentions. It also helped to get advice on where I might want to go to College/Sixth Form (regarding setting). For example, I might not want to go to a busy sixth form because I like quiet settings."



Every Year 11 student received an online 1-2-1 meeting with a qualified careers adviser.

"My adviser had very good insight into what is needed and how to achieve my dreams. I gained newfound knowledge and how the workplace can look to you and how university worked. [my adviser] was top notch."

"Please do this for future Year 11 as it will give them confidence and clarity for their future endeavours."

Our students acquitted themselves brilliantly during their meetings and were highly praised by the advisers for their professional conduct. ■

ALUMNI TALKS LAW

We were delighted to welcome back Linda Ali, one of our ex-students, sharing her story with over 50 students in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12. She was a brilliant role model and example of the fantastic things our students can do once they leave the Academy. We asked two students, in Year 9 and Year 12, to share their reflections on the event.

Jonathan (Year 12) said, "Linda gave us insightful advice about how to pursue a career in law. For example, she explained that she regretted focusing on A Levels that she believed would look good on her CV rather than those she was truly passionate about. After graduating university with a 2:1 in Philosophy, taking a Law Conversion Course, and completing her LPC she was able to become a trainee solicitor at Mishcon de Reya. She also had work experience as a paralegal under her belt that enriched her CV. It also allowed her to develop skills

working in various industries which meant she was able to adjust quicker into her role as a trainee solicitor, thus demonstrating the importance of work experience. Linda recommends studying an alternative degree at university rather than Law, as it allows you flexibility in your career and a Law Conversion Course is just as valued than a law degree when applying to firms."

Claire (Year 9) added, "Linda showed me that the work needed to attain your goals needs to start early. We should put in 100% effort now, rather than cramming everything into a short amount of time, as it means you'll have higher chances of attaining the grades you need. She told us to put ourselves out there and ask for as much work experience as possible, as it will give us a chance to show of all your personality traits. I took away from this talk to make the most of the opportunities that come about." ■



Linda Ali shared her expertise with Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form students.

CLIMATE KICK START AWARDS AT BLOOMBERG

THE ACADEMY'S WINNING TEAM WERE ON HAND AT THIS YEAR'S AWARD SHOW TO UPDATE ON THE ACADEMY'S WINNING PROJECT.



Last academic year, Hammersmith Academy was announced as one of five winners of the first ever Climate Kick-Start Prize. The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, awarded each of the winners, £10,000 to kick-start their environmental projects which engage young Londoners in climate action.

The Academy's winning bid was to create an outdoor kitchen that educates students on sustainable food and healthy eating, building upon the Academy's successful gardening programme.

The announcement coincided with Youth and Public Empowerment Day of the UN Climate Change

Conference in Glasgow (COP26).

This term, our gardening and sustainability team were invited to participate in this year's prize-giving ceremony at Bloomberg's headquarters in the City of London. Students updated attendees on the Academy's outdoor kitchen project, taking them through the different phases of the construction.

Attendees had an opportunity to share their stories and sustainability initiatives with fellow schools including this year's winners.

A particular highlight of the day was meeting all the celebrity ambassadors. ■

“Hammersmith Academy was announced as one of five winners of the first ever Climate Kick-Start Prize.”

EXPLAINING KEW

YEAR 11 STUDENTS BECOME THE FACE OF KEW GARDENS' YOUTH EXPLAINERS PROGRAMME.

Kew Gardens' Youth Explainers programme gives young people the chance to learn about plant science and conservation at one of the world's most iconic botanical institutions.

During their volunteering sessions, students help to engage with visitors and educate them on the plants in the iconic Temperate House.

This summer, Year 11 students Titas and Zoe were accepted onto the prestigious programme as two of only 25 participants. Their hard work and excellence was recognised by Kew Gardens who featured them on this year's recruitment campaign.

Both Titas and Zoe have enjoyed their time at Kew so much so that since completing the programme they have stayed on as volunteers. ■



Titas and Zoe with the Kew Gardens poster that they feature on.

GOOD LIFE CHARTER

As last year's winners of Sustainable School of the Year, Hammersmith Academy has been chosen to pilot Global Action Plan's Good Life Charter Programme.

15 students passionate about living sustainably have been selected from Year 9 and Year 10 to be Good Life Champions.

The group is currently working to create a Good Life Charter that will guide our school to becoming a more sustainable space for everyone. Our charter will act as a template for other schools who also want to become more sustainable institutions.

The Good Life Group have been completing workshops related to sustainability and have successfully audited the Academy to better understand, as a community, where and how we can be more



The Academy's newly selected Good Life Champions are taking part in a number of Global Action Plan workshops.

sustainable. The results will form the basis of our action plan which will be shared with everyone in the coming weeks.

The group will also be raising awareness of everyday items which have a significant impact, such as the fashion and fast food industry. ■

SMSC GOLD AWARD



MS ADEOYE,
ASSISTANT
HEADTEACHER,
ANNOUNCES THE
ACADEMY'S NEW
GOLD AWARD.



Character development is central to student development and prepares young people for a successful future.

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) education develops the overall student character across the breadth of the curriculum.

We are delighted to have been awarded a gold award by the SMSC Quality Mark for our SMSC delivery.

They recognised that SMSC 'values underpin everything the school does and are visible all around the school both through display and through talking to and observing student learning'.

At Hammersmith Academy we believe that it is important to educate the 'whole' child. Building the character of students is a fundamental part of the role of educators. We strive to build resilient, reflective and responsible young people who as active citizens benefit their communities.

Our students are taught about the importance of being kind, charitable and treating people of different backgrounds with respect. We are so proud to have been recognised by this body for our achievements in this area. ■

ARMISTICE DAY



Students raised money for the Poppy Appeal, selling poppies and merchandise throughout the week.

The Academy marked Armistice Day with a minute's silence, honouring those who have lost their lives or have been affected by conflict and war.

Tutor time not only focused on the conflict of the Second World War, but also on the conflicts happening today. For some members of the Academy community, these conflicts affect family members and friends.

Students raised money for the Poppy Appeal in the week leading up to Friday 11th November, selling poppies and collecting donations. Thank you to all those who contributed. ■

CHILDREN IN NEED

STUDENTS, STAFF AND PARENTS RAISE MONEY FOR THIS YEAR'S CHILDREN IN NEED CAMPAIGN.



Students spent the week selling Pudsey merchandise for Children in Need which included Pudsey ears, wristbands and badges.

Our annual Children in Need fundraising event took place throughout the week of the 14th November. Our Junior Leadership Team sold a range of merchandise such as Pudsey ears and badges before school and during tutor time. The Academy was full of students wearing merchandise and showing their support.

The week ended with our Children in Need Bake Sale where students and staff were asked to bake or buy a cake to support their house in raising the most amount of money for

charity! The competition was fierce with the canteen flooded with cakes and treats with students buying them throughout the day. I was most impressed with the effort staff and students put into making home cooked treats. Congratulations to our raffle winner Chloe in Year 11, who took home our giant Pudsey Bear.

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 made this charity day a huge success. ■

**Total Raised
£850.00!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**



There were so many fabulous bakes donated by parents, students and staff.



CHARITY

DNA PERFORMANCE



Quirky Bird Theatre Company brought to life the Drama GCSE text. Students can visualise the characters and the interactions between them.

GCSE DRAMA STUDENTS WATCH THEIR EXAMINED TEXT COME TO LIFE. HEAD OF DRAMA EXPLAINS.

On Thursday 1st December, a cast of young theatre professionals from Quirky Bird Theatre Company brought a fantastic performance of Dennis Kelly's DNA to Hammersmith Academy Theatre for our GCSE Drama students.

DNA is studied by all drama students as part of their GCSE studies through performance and written analysis. Throughout the performance, students were captivated by the engaging characters as they

analysed the performance skills of each of the professional actors.

Students gained further insight into the show during the live Q&A after the performance where they were able to ask questions to the cast regarding the design choices made by the lighting, costume and set designers, supporting the quality of their written exam.

We thank Quirky Bird and look forward to welcoming them back to Hammersmith Academy next year. ■

OH YES IT IS!



The entire Year 7 cohort was invited to watch Jack and the Beanstalk at the Lyric theatre on Friday 25th November.

This annual pantomime performance is a highlight in the Drama Department's calendar, as for many Year 7 students, this is their first experience of live theatre.

By participating in the lively pantomime tradition, students visualise what they have been learning in their lessons this term, helping them to memorise the content.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and being part of the lively dramatic atmosphere! ■

STRANGE CLAY

GCSE STUDENTS VISITED A SPECIAL EXHIBITION TO HELP INSPIRE THEIR OWN CREATIONS. HEAD OF ART, MS SAMUELS, EXPLAINS.



Year 9 students had an exclusive experience at the Hayward Gallery which was only open to secondary school students. Visitors were allowed to get up close to view the ceramic artworks.

On Tuesday 29th November our Year 9 Art students were lucky enough to attend an exclusive day at the Hayward Gallery to view the *Strange Clay: Ceramics in Contemporary Art* exhibition. The exhibition features 23 international, contemporary artists who playfully examine the plasticity and the possibilities of ceramics.

The gallery was open only for secondary schools and we were one of three schools lucky enough to be chosen to attend. Students took part in four different practical workshops across the day, in addition to a private viewing of the exhibition and an exhibition curator Q&A.

During the workshops, students responded to the exhibiting artist and learnt a range of sculptural techniques. These workshops included using recycled mixed-media portraits to respond to the works of Leilah Babirye and create fabric sculptures, inspired by Lubna Chowdhary. These works were then photographed and projected onto the wall next to the artist, so our Year 9

artists have exhibited their artwork in the Hayward Gallery!

Taha said of the experience, "It was really cool to see such a range of artwork being exhibited, a personal favourite was the Lindsey Mendick installation, I have never experienced immersive art before. I also really enjoyed making and presenting our plasticine sculptures inspired by the artist."

Erin enjoyed the activities saying, "My favourite part was doing the scavenger hunt, it really made me pause and look at the artwork. It was made even better as I won the scavenger hunt and got to take home my own ceramic kit! My favourite art was the giant squid by David Zink Yi and Rachel Kneebone, it was a combination of both creepy and beautiful."

Bara commented, "It was such a great day! While I did really enjoy all the workshops, my favourite part was just being allowed to look at all the different artwork, everything was just so different from each other.

My favourite piece was the giant sculptures by Takuro Kuwata, what is really cool about his work is that they have been fired in the world's largest kiln!" ■



The giant squid by David Zink Yi and Rachel Kneebone was a student favourite.

DROP DOWN DAY



Wheelchair basketball helps teach students inclusivity, teamwork and thinking of others.

The Academy's first Drop Down Day of the year took place on Wednesday 19th October. The theme of this day was Mental Health, focusing specifically on motivation. Throughout the day, students participated in a range of workshops, all designed to test and develop their own motivation under different circumstances.

Each year group had a different schedule across the day. Sessions included a motivational talk by Anthony Bennett, known as Miracle Man, who shared his personal story of how his resilience was tested through his near-death experience.

Year 9 students took part in Wheelchair Basketball sessions, where students learnt about inclusivity and teamwork. Year 11s had a presentation by Squash Falconer, who spoke about her journey as an explorer and adventurer. Additionally, there were sessions about mindfulness breathing, drawing and journaling and many, many more.

Now more than ever, it is so important to take time out of our busy schedules to focus on our mental health. Proactively pausing, learning about and then applying mindfulness

strategies is crucial in managing our emotions and building resilience in difficult situations. During the mindfulness session, there was an overwhelming sense of calmness across the Academy, later one student described their experience, saying "It was powerfully calm and reminded me how important it is to sometimes press pause".

Students discussed the importance of talking about mental health more, whether opening up a discussion around stigmas, sharing your own challenges or simply asking someone how they are. We can all play our part.

In the afternoon, we went on to have our first Beyond the Curriculum sessions. Students got to experience a range of sessions from subjects they do not usually cover on a daily basis with Key Stage 4 students going back to subjects they no longer take during GCSEs, while Key Stage 3 had stand-alone sessions exploring Financial Literacy and Literacy.

Thank you to all our students, staff and external providers for your engagement and contributions throughout the first Drop Down Day of 2022. Now bring on Drop Down Day two and three...! ■

MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION ENSURES STUDENTS ARE READY TO FACE LIFE'S CHALLENGES. MS SAMUELS RECOUNTS THE DAY.

“Now more than ever, it is so important that we take time out of our busy schedules to focus on our mental health.”

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SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

JACK PETCHEY'S "SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE" ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO USE THE POWER OF THEIR VOICE TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. RUBEN (YEAR 10) REPORTS ON THE EVENT.



During the sessions, students were coached by professional speakers who provided hints and tips and plenty of encouragement!

Jack Petchey's "Speak Out Challenge" helps young people to communicate confidently. The programme starts with an expert led workshop who helps students to create a speech and deliver it to fellow classmates and judges.

During the day, we took part in a range of different activities such as a vocal task where we had to repeat whatever Ms Ore said but in a slower pace in order to practise saying a lot in a short amount of time.

Then, we worked on memory techniques by repeating a certain number of girls' names (beginning with 'A', for example) within 5 seconds.

When it came to writing our speeches, Ms Ore helped me and others brainstorm different ideas we could write about and how best

to construct an engaging speech, learning how to balance my breathing and pace when publicly speaking.

We also learned different ways to keep an audience engaged for the duration of a speech. I know that learning these skills of public speaking and speech writing will help me in my future.

We all gave our speeches in front of our classmates and the judges picked the best ones to go on to the regional final.

My Jack Petchey experience was amazing as our expert helper, Ms Ore, really encouraged me and the rest of my peers to take part with 100% focus.

It was all together a brilliant and insightful experience which I enjoyed - and if I am speaking for the rest of my peers, it seemed they did, too. ■



MEET THE JLT



Meet this academic year's Junior Leadership Team. The JLT represents the wider student body in important key areas of Academy life.

THE JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM IS THE ACADEMY'S STUDENT VOICE, HELPING TO PROMOTE IMPORTANT ISSUES AND EVENTS. MS WILLIAMS, JLT LEAD, UPDATES US.

“The JLT have already played a leading role in a number of activities this term...”

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The Junior Leadership Team (JLT) plays a leading role within the school community and provides a forum for students to share and voice their opinions.

The JLT models to other students, what is meant by the Hammersmith Academy character and influencing others for the better. Additionally, as HA citizens they promote the values of kindness, equality and charity through their actions.

This term we announced this year's JLT members for 2022-2023. Members are selected based on a criterion of a high number of achievement points, consistently displaying positive behaviours and being ready, responsible and respectful.

The recruitment process began back in September with all students encouraged to apply. Candidates were then asked to partake in a face-to-face interview before the final 30 successful students were confirmed.

The JLT have already played a leading role in a number of activities this term including charity fundraising for Show Racism the Red Card, Children in Need as well as Remembrance Day poppy selling. Students have also been feeding back on several key areas relating to teaching and learning.

We look forward to seeing the continued good work of the Junior Leadership Team and being a positive influence on the wider student body and continuing to develop the HA character. ■

Anti Racism & Diversity Team

- Tasnim (Year 7)
- Kebron (Year 7)
- Darne (Year 8)
- Sara (Year 10)
- Rowena (Year 10)
- Kayden (Year 10)

Events & Community Team

- Isis (Year 7)
- Sofia (Year 7)
- Zaki (Year 9)
- Amira (Year 10)
- Tegan (Year 10)
- Nayomi (Year 10)

PRIDE (British Values) Team

- Hussein (Year 7)
- Holly (Year 8)
- Otillie (Year 9)
- Betul (Year 10)
- Holly (Year 11)
- Khyran (Year 11)

Personal Development & Wellbeing Team

- Marko (Year 7)
- Alyssa (Year 8)
- Claire (Year 9)
- Eliza (Year 10)
- Kiara (Year 10)
- Asya (Year 10)

Teaching & Learning Team

- Milan (Year 7)
- Deksan (Year 8)
- JJ Yursalem (Year 8)
- Akram (Year 9)
- Hannah (Year 10)
- Patryk (Year 11)

SESSION 3 OFFER



Year 7 students with their Session 3 choice cards during the Session 3 Fayre. During the event students visited different stalls showcasing what activities were on offer.

The Session 3 Fayre in September marked the official launch of activities that are available for the current academic year. Year 7 Students had the opportunity to get a taste of what will be on offer during these clubs.

There are a wide variety of teacher-led clubs ranging from subject specialist ones such as Spanish Drama, Languages, Art and Computing, to hobbies and interests such as Chess, Craft, Cooking and Board Games. With around 30 clubs running, there is something for everyone!

Students have taken up the extra-curricular clubs with a lot of enthusiasm. There has been an increase in participation in Physical

Education Clubs, complemented by the opportunity to play competitively against other schools. A number of matches have taken place for Boys' Basketball, Boys' and Girls' Football across the term. This enrichment opportunity has given students the chance to apply their skills in different environments out of a school setting.

One of the highlights this term has been the Chess Team participating in the U19 National Tournament. Although one win away from qualifying for the next round, our students have continued to display determination and grit, as they attempt to qualify online in the coming weeks.

These teams provide students with

the opportunity to develop character and life skills beyond the classroom. It is always great to hear the positive feedback when our students represent HA and we are excited to see how our teams and clubs progress throughout the year. ■

SESSION 3 ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED WITH A BANG THIS TERM. MS LOPEZ, SESSION 3 COORDINATOR TELLS US ALL ABOUT IT.

“These teams provide students with the opportunity to develop character and life skills.”



COUNT ON US AMBASSADORS

YEAR 10 TEAM MEMBERS AMIRA, TEGAN, AHAM, AND HANNAH REPORT BACK FROM A FUN TRAINING DAY.



The Academy's Count On Us Team were invited as ambassadors, teaching other students how to play the game.

As members of the Academy's 2022 Count On Us team, we were invited to London Met Uni to share our knowledge of the games in the Count On Us Maths Challenge. We met students and teachers from schools interested in getting involved in the competition and taught them how to play each game, explaining them step by step and even playing some of the games as practice.

Teaching others to play the game 'hedgehog' was extremely entertaining as it is a really fun game and doesn't leave anyone feeling left out. The younger students really took to it, often asking if they could play again or for a rematch and as the rules weren't difficult to understand, most of the young students grasped the concepts soon and were able to get on with the game very quickly. All the schools had a go at 'hedgehog' and I enjoyed playing with all of them whether they played seriously, with humour, or just competitively; they all tried and worked together which

meant it was a lot easier for us to enjoy teaching them!

The interaction with students was very fun, not many people said much during play but when the conversations started it was quite fun. We got an insight as to how they were thinking through the game, but unfortunately they did not give much away!

As contestants from last year's Count On Us Maths Challenge, we were interviewed about how Count On Us influences us as students. We were asked what we would say to a friend if they found maths difficult. We explained that everyone can admit their strength and weaknesses but still overcome it if you put the right amount of effort in. We were also questioned what our favourite Count On Us maths game is, and we of course said 'hedgehog' as it tests our calculations of probability.

This experience was very fun and we want to thank Mayor's fund for London for hosting this event. ■

Sparx Maths Homework

Year 10 student, Aliza has been using Sparx to boost her maths skills for the last two years. She explains why every student should too!

"Using Sparx has definitely made a positive impact on my greater understanding of mathematics. One way Sparx expands our knowledge is the videos of teachers solving equations and problems step-by-step which helps us to understand concepts. These videos also help students to remember and they can always go back to it whenever they are stuck on a question or topic.

Sparx also has an independent learning feature where you can search any topic and choose a difficulty level that suits you, helping improve understanding significantly when it comes to revising for specific topics. These are just a few of the many great features of Sparx!" ■

SCHOOL PARTNERS



Student committee members from each of the partner schools met this term to discuss events and future projects.

THE WEST LONDON PARTNERSHIP (WLP) BRINGS SCHOOLS TOGETHER TO SHARE RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE. HA'S PARTNERSHIP DIRECTOR, MS HARROWES, EXPLAINS MORE.



Hammersmith Academy is one of the founding members of the West London Partnership (WLP), an association of secondary schools from both the independent and state sectors in West and South West London.

The Academy has been delighted to host meetings of the WLP Directors and the Student Committee this term, as well as a presentation from the Media Trust who are working to provide media careers insight for the state school partners.

The partnership is built on sustainable, collaborative projects, allowing the schools to share resources and expertise, address educational needs and enrich learning for

everyone. Our ambition is to share new ideas and initiatives to learn from each other to ensure maximum impact, to help to break down barriers and promote social mobility by being inclusive to all levels and abilities. For HA students, this means opportunities to attend events, both virtual and actual, at schools such as Latymer Upper, Putney High and St Paul's, but also to be part of organising events such as the forthcoming Battle of Bands, taking place at HA on 22 February 2023. ■



A meeting of the WLP Directors also took place this term, setting the agenda for this coming academic year.

CYCLE SCHOOL



The first group of students alongside the Bikeability trainers who work with each group of students each week.

MR WOOD INTRODUCES AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAMME THAT PROMOTES HEALTHY LIVING AND SAFETY ON THE ROADS.

In September, the PE Department launched Bikeability in Hammersmith Academy.

Bikeability is the only UK government-recognised cycle training scheme, funded by the Department for Transport and is designed to teach students the skills and confidence to cycle safely.

In groups of up to ten in their PE lessons, students are supervised by two professionally qualified National Standard Instructors and are taught how to safely cycle on roads around Hammersmith and Fulham with the aim of promoting the use of cycling

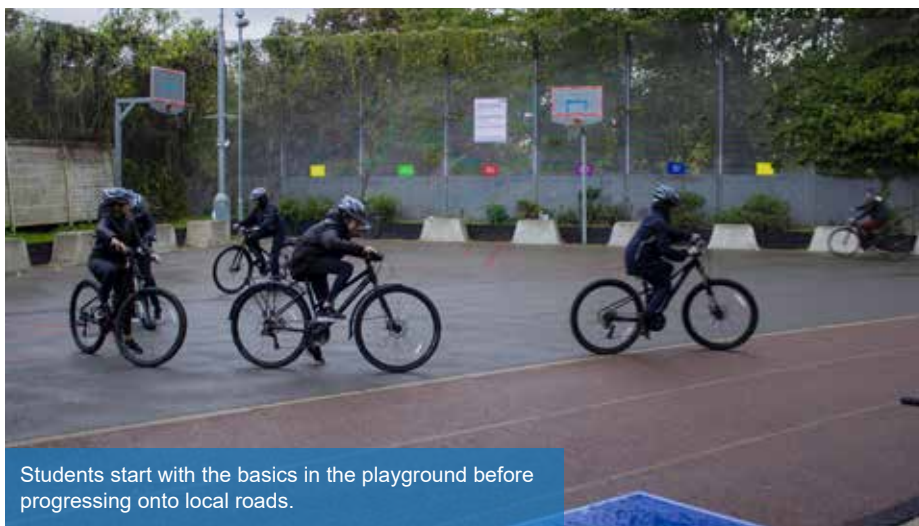
on a day-to-day basis whilst leading an active, healthy lifestyle in the process!

For the first few weeks, students built up their cycling knowledge and confidence at the Academy under the tutelage of the instructors before venturing onto the neighbouring roads and cycling alongside everyday road users.

Although this was daunting at first, students were fully supported by the instructors to put into practise all the highway code that they had learnt prior, and after a couple of sessions on the road, they were cycling confidently, understanding how to safely navigate the busy roads of inner-city London.

So far this term, the programme has enlisted 50 students onto Bikeability with the aim of expanding our current provision to Sixth Form students too in the New Year.

Bikeability has been a fantastic opportunity for students to learn lifelong skills, whilst raising awareness of the different sustainable modes of transport available to them, preparing the next generation to help meet the UK's net zero carbon emissions. ■



Students start with the basics in the playground before progressing onto local roads.

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.



Year 11 boys football team have had a busy but mixed season results wise.

Fixtures for HA students have come back with a bang in the first term of 2022/2023.

No fewer than 28 fixtures have taken place since September including football, netball, indoor athletics and basketball across Years 7-13 and has created a real buzz for staff and students alike within the department. We are looking forward to even more sport when we return in January.

Rugby: England vs Japan

Mr Beattie and Ms Jackson took 19 students from Year 7-11 to watch England v Japan, in a must win match for England's men, having lost their previous match. Inside the stadium the group found their seats which were just behind the touchline and the students had a great view of the pitch and all the action. The group arrived early enough to see

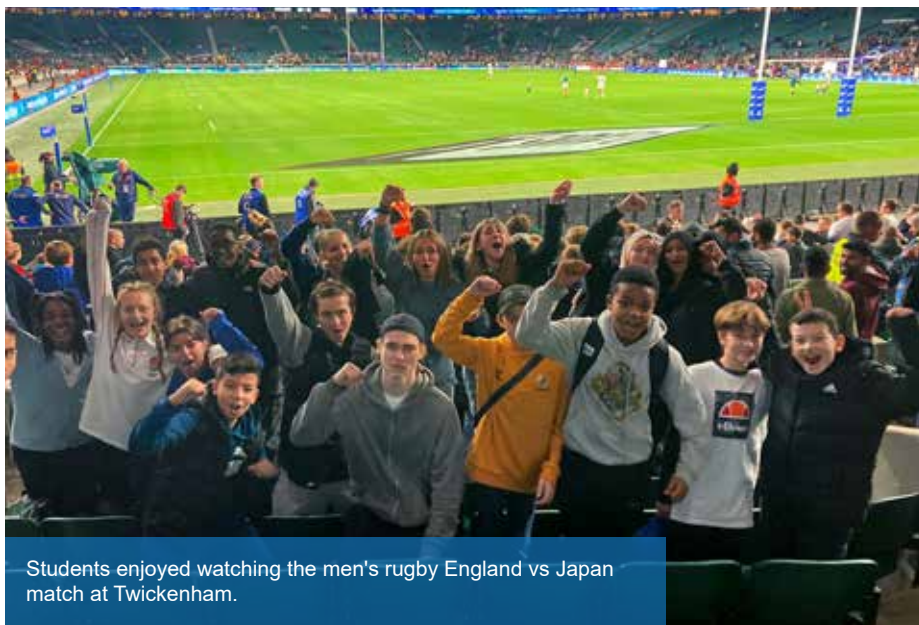
both teams warming up, the flags being brought out and the national anthems being sung. What an incredible experience for the students to witness!

England started the game off very well getting points in early which caused excitement from the students getting involved with the cheering and some of the songs being sung around the stadium. The match ended 52-13 to England and students stayed through to the very end to wave to the English rugby players.

Year 7 Boys Football

Year 7 boys football team are developing as a squad and have improved in their performances this term, despite struggling to gain their first win. Their third game was a high scoring game, ending with a 6-3 loss but a resilient performance with a good attitude to the game and a promising addition to the squad of Ayman who bagged a hat trick.

Squad: Ty, Adem, Joaquim, Jacob, Hussein, Abdulsami, Elijah, Rayan, Flash, Rehaan, Yasin, Ayman, Anir & Callum.



Students enjoyed watching the men's rugby England vs Japan match at Twickenham.



Key Stage 3 Basketball Team have qualified to represent Hammersmith and Fulham at the London Youth Games.

Other results are as follows:

- HA 0 vs 1 All Saints
- HA 0 vs 5 WLFS

Year 8 Football

The Year 8 football team have played 2 games so far, this season and have put together some incredible performances. The team are playing a brand of football which is reminiscent of Barcelona 2014. Although both fixtures have resulted in a loss, the attitude and application displayed from the students have been top class. Top Scorer so far is Malachi and Goal of the Season so far; Andre (Top Corner Free Kick, 25 yards).

Results:

- HA 2 vs 5 West London Free School
- HA 1 vs 4 Fulham Cross

Squad: Omar, Ayoub, Rakan, Kyrese, Ensar, Khyran, Lucas, Endrit, Ahmed, Andre, Malachi, Adham, Rayan, Guled, Musab & Reben.

Indoor Athletics

HA hosted the annual Year 8 Indoor Athletics Borough event in December where HA faced off against five other schools from the borough. The boys team posted a best ever results total for HA at this event and missed out on first place and qualification to the LYG finals by a mere four points!

The girls showed great resilience and competed well but were up against some very good athletes meaning they came fifth on the night.

We had the following students win

their events: Kyrese, Mark, Matthew/ Kyrese (relay) and Oscar. A huge well done to the squad: Oscar, Mark, Kyrese, Matthew & Aidan.

Key performances to note: Sophie, Asia and Anh in their events.

Squad: Sophie, Asia, Anh, Omayat, Zaenab & Jamila.

Sportswoman of the Term

Hannah (Year 7) has made an excellent start to her PE life at HA and has represented the Academy in both football and basketball.

She is the captain for the U13 girls football team and inspires her team mates through her ability and leadership skills. She will now play for both the boys and girls team after Christmas which is an impressive achievement!

This will replicate her selection for the junior NBA team where she was the only girl to be selected for the Year 7 team, where she was again one of the best players on the pitch.

Looking ahead, Hannah has also been selected for the Year 7 girls indoor athletics team and the Year 7 girls netball team. She is a delight to teach and her sporting ability is off the scale.

An amazing start, well done! ■



Year 10 Boys Football

The Year 10 football team have had mixed fortunes in the opening games of the QPR League. Game one was a promising performance against a very strong Westminster Academy, losing 2-1 with the HA goal from Daejaun. Game two resulted in their first win of the season against St Thomas More with Samuel bagging two and Ali popping up with the winner in the final minutes of the game. Game three was a frustrating one, with HA going into a 3-1 lead at half time through Basset, Samuel and Isaiah. However, WLFS hit back in the second half with two goals with the game finishing a 3-3 draw. Game 4 was the most disappointing with a 6-2 defeat to KAA. Goals coming from Ali and Rafael. A key find for this game was the addition of Ty as goal keeper, despite the defeat, a very impressive debut and a good addition to the squad.

Squad: Ty, Haytham, Abdelbasset, Emad, Ali, Yahya, Kerem, David, Rafael, Elios, Samuel, Ramzy, Juan, Daejaun, Isaiah, Yasir, Moahamed & Charlie.

Sportsman of the Term

Haytham (Year 10) is a leader amongst the Year 10 sporting teams and demands the highest from all of his team mates.

His sporting ability is of a very high standard and this has been noted in all of his GCSE PE assessments and in his selection for the school football and basketball teams. Furthermore, he has been added to the Year 11 football squad which is testament to his quality of performance.

This, coupled with his impressive work in GCSE theory lessons, puts Haytham in the top group of students for his progress in GCSE PE and his sporting ability and academy representation. He is also committed to boxing and swimming outside of school, again performing these to high levels.

A very talented sportsman who could go far in the field. Well done. ■





The Year 10 girls football team have been up and running this academic year.

Year 10 Girls Football

The Year 10s lost their first game 4-1 however they dug deep and kept going till the final whistle despite the result which showed great resilience and determination to carry on even when the game wasn't going their way.

Jr NBA

This year, we have entered our Year 7 and 8 students into the Jr NBA. The Jr NBA League was created for 11-13 year olds (Year 7 and Year 8) boys and girls in secondary schools to participate in basketball and represent one of the 30 NBA teams. This season we have been selected as the Sacramento Kings and LA Clippers and provided with new kit too!

The league's objective is to leverage the excitement of the NBA to inspire more children to participate in basketball through a fun and positive experience with the sport. The league also aims to promote NBA values such as sportsmanship, teamwork, attitude, respect and healthy living through league games and other activities and events. It is clear to see this league meets their intentions, as the students have been so excited following their first round of fixtures in December.

Basketball

HA entered the Junior NBA tournament for the first time this year and played their first two fixtures in November. They faced a strong Hamstead team in the first game which proved to be a huge learning curve for the boys and used this as motivation to improve in their second game against All Saints. HA came out 19-12 winners in a tight and competitive game. Key point scorers were Malaki and Oscar. All boys played their part in the evening and now need to push on and develop further to achieve qualification in the tournament.

Squad: Khyan, Kyrese, Oscar, Mark, Adam, Rayan, Adham & Guled.

KS3 Basketball

Despite not participating in any friendly matches this year, the team have trained well throughout this first term. In their first ever London Youth Games Qualifying tournament since the pandemic, they beat BDA 39-15 to set up a finale against Hurlingham in the final week of the term, with the winners progressing on to represent Hammersmith and Fulham in the games! In a tense, cagey finale, HA ran out eventual winners 34-30 against a well-spirited Hurlingham side. Akram, Malakhi, Oscar

and Kyhan were all instrumental throughout the game. A first round tie against another borough from London awaits in January!

KS4 Basketball

Following a successful 2021-22 season, the KS4 team started with a loss against Phoenix Academy in a friendly in early September. In the London Youth Games Qualifiers in December, HA were one game away from representing Hammersmith and Fulham Borough after beating BDA 38-11. However, Phoenix continued to prove to be a difficult team to beat once again, sweeping HA aside 41-26 in a tense finale. Congratulations to Phoenix in the next round of the LYG!

Year 11 Football

Following a highly successful previous season and pre-season, which saw a pleasing 6-2 win over BDA, the Year 11 Football Team have made an outstanding start to the QPR League, beating All Saints CC 9-1. The team featured 4 Year 10s on the day, with Haytham, Kerem, Abdelbasset and Samuel all stepping up to perform well! We look forward to seeing how the season progresses once we return in January! ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

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