

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

April 2019 EDITION 5

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



The Spring term is the shortest term of the academic year, yet this has been just as eventful. Students and staff have really pushed themselves in broadening their experiences beyond the curriculum.

This term has seen yet more success in the Sixth Form with two Oxbridge offers made, one each for Calvin and Bushra. In addition, 44 students have received Russell Group university offers.

It comes as no surprise that our Sixth Form has recently been ranked the Number One state school Sixth Form in the Borough on student progress. This means our Sixth Form students make more progress here than even most private schools and larger colleges.

Community and charity remain central to our ethos and this is reflected in the numerous events such as the collection for the Foodbank, the Inter-generational Gardening Project and Red Nose Day.

Careers has been a real focus this term. National Careers Week saw students travelling across the capital visiting top employers, universities and apprenticeship shows.

The Academy held its first ever STEAM Careers Fair which was an absolute success with over 30 corporate and specialist employers attending, including the likes of BP, The Adecco Group, BBC Studios and Goldman Sachs, to name just a few.

The Performing Arts Calendar is at its busiest during the Spring term. Sister Act kicked off the term's proceedings with one of the biggest cast and crew HA has seen. It was very well received with both evenings sold out.

In March, members of our choir were part of Convo, a music project which saw students perform at the Royal Albert Hall. A lifelong memory for them all.

The Academy is now being recognised further afield as an excellent centre for education. Our students' opinions have been sought by media outlets, including LBC Radio, and we have appeared at the BETT Show, a national industry trade show.

It has been fantastic to read about the many student success stories this term. Our students strive to be the best which is evident in the number of awards won both within school and beyond. Many more students have taken opportunities made available to them, whether it is to improve their employability and university offers, or to feed a passion in a particular subject area.

I hope, when you read this edition of the newsletter, you get a sense of the positive and dynamic atmosphere every Hammersmith Academy student is part of. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mr Kynaston'.

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

INTO FILM PROJECT



Students write, act and film their short film as part of the Into Film project.

Throughout the course of the Autumn Term, a group of Hammersmith Academy students took part in Into Film's Moving Minds project. The project's aim is to explore and promote mental wellbeing through the process of filmmaking.

Students in Year 7 through to Year 13 were given the chance to work with professional filmmakers to devise and create their own short film to highlight aspects of wellbeing they thought were important to them.

Over many after school sessions students were taught the skills necessary to devise a story line, film and edit their short film. Ms Leon who oversaw the project said, "It was clear to see that the students were getting more confident with the new skills they were learning. As the weeks went by they were working more and more as a team."

The Academy's completed piece is titled Triple Sided and explores the important themes of anti-bullying, positive friendships and social, academic and family pressures. It follows the story of Sam, a student who is trying his best to stay on top of things, but his life is made difficult by a bully named Charlie.

Leading the way

Hammersmith Academy was chosen by Into Film to be the face of the project and they visited the Academy to record a promotional video to explain the aims of the project.

Ms Gika and Ms Leon were amongst the staff interviewed to discuss the project. During the interview Ms Gika commented on the project, saying, "This project was really an inspirational platform for students to discuss and debate issues about mental health. We think that anything that engages the students creatively will always have a wider impact."

Thomas in Year 7 was part of the project and one of the students featured in the promotional video. He said, "Film is a very good way to represent visually certain information that people can't just read off a page, sometimes it is a lot more helpful to have a graphic image in front of them."

Our students were invited to Regent Street Cinema, considered the birthplace of British cinema, for the launch of their film. ■

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY LEADS THE WAY ON NATIONAL FILM PROJECT FOR SCHOOLS AND YOUTH GROUPS.

“

This project was really an inspirational platform... to discuss and debate issues about mental health.

”



Students were at Regent Street Cinema to launch their film.



Watch the films:

Hammersmith Academy's video about the project and the students film.

BREXIT ON LBC

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS REACT TO A HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE ON THE BREXIT WITHDRAWAL BILL.



Sixth Form students were not old enough to vote during the EU Referendum held in 2016, yet arguably, they are the generation that will feel its effects the most. Should a second referendum be called, they will be old enough to vote and have their say.

Calls for a second referendum came all the more louder following the MPs vote on the EU Withdrawal Bill on Tuesday 15th January in the House of Commons, where the Bill suffered the biggest ever government defeat.

The following day, five Year 13 students spoke live on LBC's Nick Ferrari show reflecting on the vote and what it might mean to them in the weeks ahead. They were asked how they would have voted if given the chance to in the 2016 referendum and whether they would like to see a second referendum to give their generation a voice.

Students were mixed in their responses with some dismissing the need for a second vote because it risks undermining democracy, whilst others were keen to be able to exercise their democratic right and have the opportunity to vote. What was clear was that they were happy to have their opinions listened to. ■

“It was nice to get our opinion across and how we felt about the Brexit process.”



 Watch the report:

Listen to the full LBC interview on our YouTube channel.

STUDENTS VISIT THE ONE SHOW

SIXTH FORM MEDIA STUDENTS WERE INVITED ONTO THE SET OF BBC'S ONE SHOW TO SEE A LIVE BROADCAST IN DECEMBER. MS FERRELL WAS IN ATTENDANCE.



Hammersmith Academy students on the set of BBC One Show.

Sixth Form students were given the opportunity to visit the set of BBC's The One Show just before Christmas.

The show is broadcast live from BBC Broadcasting House in Portland Place in central London.

Students were in the audience to experience how a live show is put together and the complexity of the technology required to broadcast.

They watched as presenters Alex Jones and Amol Rajan guided viewers and the show's guests through a 30 minute live show.

When the show finished the Sixth Formers were allowed onto sofas of the famous set for a photo opportunity and chatted with the presenters. It was an exciting evening for us all! ■

PERSONAL SAFETY

The Academy and the Metropolitan Police Safer Schools Team would like to remind students and their parents to be vigilant when travelling to and from the Academy.

We have been informed of a number of thefts in the local borough where high value items have been stolen. In particular Apple Air Pods which are popular amongst students.

Please make sure that you keep all of your belongings secure and not on

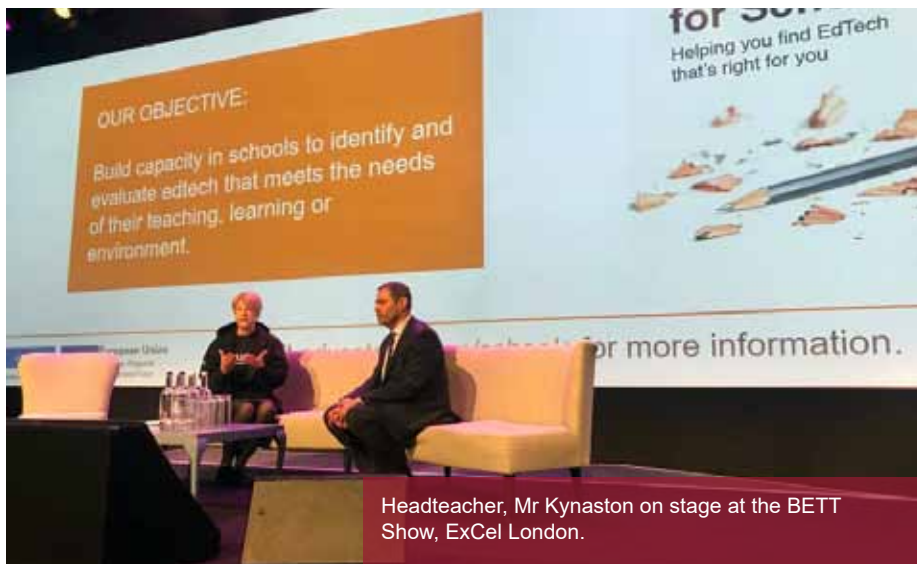
show. This will prevent opportunistic criminals from targeting you.

It is important that if you feel uneasy about people who are around you that you should go to a place of safety and contact the police.

Students are encouraged to discuss any issues with a member of staff and the Academy's Safer Schools Police Officer, PC Waite, who usually visits the Academy every Wednesday. ■



HA AT THE BETT SHOW



Headteacher, Mr Kynaston on stage at the BETT Show, ExCel London.

HA HEADTEACHER'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE BETT SHOW IN LONDON.

The Bett Show showcases the latest products and developments in education technology. The show is attended by schools, colleges and academies from all over the country, looking for ideas and products to help students succeed in their studies.

This year Hammersmith Academy's very own Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, was invited to address the attendees as a keynote speaker alongside Rose Lucklin, Professor of Learner Centred Design and Director of EDUCATE London, UCL.

They spoke about the importance and benefits of artificial intelligence within schools and why schools should embrace changes. During the speech, they dispelled some of the myths surrounding AI in education, such as technology replacing teachers or that technology will make students more engaged.

Mr Kynaston said after the event, "It was an honour to be invited to speak about something which the Academy is passionate about. We should not be afraid of embracing something which can enhance the lives of students and teachers." ■

“We should not be afraid of embracing something which can enhance the lives of students and teachers.”

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LSE POTENTIAL

YEAR 8 STUDENTS SECURE PLACES ON PRESTIGIOUS LSE PROGRAMME.

Congratulations to two Year 8 students, Malachi and Hashim who have been selected to take part in the LSE 'Promoting Potential' programme.

This is a prestigious programme and competition for places is high. Students have to submit a personal statement and an application to be considered for it.

Whilst on the programme, Malachi and Hashim will be able to spend time at LSE and learn about the range of social science subjects. They will also be able to experience university life firsthand and meet current university students who will encourage those on the programme to pursue a future in higher education. Well done boys! ■

CHRISTMAS IN WINCHESTER

YEAR 7 & 8 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT MANAGER, MS GOWIE, RECALLS THE IMPROMPTU TRIP TO WINCHESTER'S CHRISTMAS MARKET.



Traditionally, students in Year 7 celebrate the end of their first term at the Academy with a trip to a Christmas market in France.

For Year 7s this is an exciting time as they have just settled into secondary school and made new friends.

However, this year's planned trip to Lille's Christmas Market was affected by the ongoing 'Yellow Vest' protests in France and the Academy decided to visit Winchester's Christmas market as an alternative.

On Friday 14th December, a coach full of Year 7 students set off with excitement. For many students it was their first time visiting the historic city in Hampshire. Winchester dates back to the Roman period and beyond and has one of the most beautiful cathedrals in the country.

When we arrived the group walked through the city towards the cathedral

which is home to the Christmas market. The Year 7s got straight into the festive spirit and were excitedly looking at all the stalls before buying presents.

After an hour of shopping, we all stopped for lunch in the market and there were plenty on offer to please everyone.

Once lunch had energised the group, the students were very excited to get onto the ice at the cathedral's ice rink. A Year 7 student commented, "The Christmas market trip was so fun. We all loved the ice rink the most and we didn't want to leave. I brought presents for my mum and dad!"

All in all it was a fantastic day out for the students which made up for the disappointment of not being able to travel to France. ■

“ We all loved the ice rink the most and we didn't want to leave. ”

STEAM CAREERS

HA'S FIRST EVER STEAM CAREERS FAIR WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, PROVIDING NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS. CAREERS LEAD, MS HARROWES, REPORTS ON THE EVENT.



Hammersmith Academy's first ever Careers Fair attracted exhibitors from the science, technology, engineering, arts and maths sectors – the

so-called STEAM careers. We were incredibly pleased to see so many Year 10 – 13 parents and students at the event, which took place in both

the theatre and canteen.

From major energy providers to investment banking, artificial intelligence-powered tech start-ups to theatre and film, the Royal Navy and the Army to new media agencies, exhibitors generously gave advice and time to our students. They spent the evening sharing insights into careers and the kind of skills needed to succeed in their sector, and some students were even offered work experience or apprenticeship opportunities.

Feedback after the event was nearly 90% positive and comments included "I have found some very interesting jobs that I didn't even know existed", "loved it" and "great event!". We will definitely be running it again and particularly want to thank our amazing exhibitors who made it all happen. ■

LEGO WARS

First Lego League is for young people aged 9 to 16 years of age, working in teams of up to ten students with a supporting adult coach. Each year the league releases a new challenge for teams to complete in a tournament format.

First Lego League challenges students to think like scientists and engineers. This year the tournament was held at Queen Mary University and Hammersmith Academy competed against schools from across London.

Lead Programmer, Fulco in Year 8, said of the event, "It was a really fun day, with lots of different rounds including presenting and competing with our robot. Now that we know the what to expect from the competition,



STEM Ambassadors working together on their Into Orbit challenge.

we know what to do and how to prepare for next time.

I am confident that we can improve significantly based on what we

earned. We are all really excited for next year's Lego league challenge!" ■

LITERACY 100



Students are encouraged to visit the Library where they will find our Literacy 100 books.

This term the Academy introduced an exciting new initiative to improve student literacy across all the year groups. The 'Literacy 100' is a list of the 100 books chosen to appeal to students of all age groups and representing a wide range of genres, including Women, Dystopia and War.

The ability to read well and possess a wider vocabulary are key to success across all subjects. It helps students to decode different texts and understand examination questions, which many students find challenging. We know that students who have the ability to answer examined questions may compromise their success by simply not fully grasping the question. Additionally, exam boards are

demanding a wider vocabulary from students.

The 'Literacy 100' drive will see students reach a reading of age of at least 17 years of age, so that no text holds any fear for them in their lifetime. Students will continue to benefit greatly from possessing a varied vocabulary in later life. It will help them to access resources at university and improve their communication in the workplace and in the wider world.

Students will be able to access the books and the 'Literacy 100' list from the Library. The librarian is on hand to guide students on book selection and discuss the 'Literacy 100' list. ■

RED NOSE DAY

THE ACADEMY WAS DRESSED IN RED TO RAISE MONEY FOR COMIC RELIEF'S RED NOSE DAY.



Students with some beautiful homemade cupcakes for the inter-house bake sale.



The Academy community raised an incredible £1,307.07 for Red Nose Day. Students and staff all made a £1 contribution at the gate to dress in red and there was a competitive inter-house bake sale.

Students set up cake stalls over two consecutive days to see which

house would make the most in sales. Lovelace emerged victorious, even having to replenish their stocks.

Thank you to all those who made donations, there were some very impressive cakes over the two days which really contributed to the impressive total! ■

FOODBANK

THE ACADEMY COMMUNITY RAISES A SPECTACULAR AMOUNT FOR HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM FOODBANK IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.

At the end of the Autumn term, the Academy set a challenge to all tutor groups to help raise donations for Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank in time for the Christmas season.

Tutor groups were set a challenge to see how many donation boxes they could fill, with each box having a list of items that it must contain. As each box was completed students had to leave them underneath the Academy's Christmas tree in reception.

We were bowled over by the huge number of these 'advent' boxes which surrounded the tree on collection day, with nearly 50 boxes all full of items. The Sixth Formers helped pack all the boxes into the minibus and deliver the donations to the centre.

This year the Foodbank will be focusing on cooking and budgeting courses for families, as well as Easter holiday club sessions to help support families that will benefit from the provision. The hope is that continual donations will see a summer holiday club too which will



entertain and feed up to 30 children at a time.

All of this is only possible through the generous donations of people such as our parents, staff and students. The Foodbank would like to offer their thanks to the Academy community for raising such an incredible amount

and at an important time of the year for families.

The Academy will continue to support the Foodbank at key times of the year, so keep an eye out for future announcements. ■

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



Do you live on Greenside, Leysfield, Cathnor, Goodwin or Melina Roads? Are you concerned about anti-social behaviour and crime occurring near your child's school or playground? Would you like to join with your neighbours to keep the Cathnor Park area a safe and friendly community for your child?

The Cathnor Park Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a new initiative to bring the local community together, by

creating a better integrated network of neighbours looking out for each other and their area. We hope to help residents, and children in particular, feel safe and confident interacting with their local environment and community.

To join or learn more, please email cathnorparknhw@gmail.com with your details. This scheme is backed by the Askew Police Safer Neighbourhoods team. ■

COMMUNITY PROJECT SUCCESS

THE ACADEMY'S INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT REACHED ITS DONATION TARGET. DR KIRWAN TELLS US MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT.



Students from all Year Groups planting a new herb garden at the Elgin Close Resource Centre.

The Elgin Intergenerational Garden Project sees residents of Elgin Close Resource Centre and students from Hammersmith Academy working together to create an inclusive and enriching gardening space.

The project, supported by Hammersmith Community Gardens Association, provides multiple benefits for older residents including engagement with young people; feeling part of the local community and getting regular exercise. Students in return, learn skills from older people; feel valued and develop confidence.

The project first began in January 2018 and it was immediately successful for both our students and residents of Elgin Close. The students in particular enjoyed seeing all their hard work transforming the garden space being enjoyed and

making a difference to the lives of the residents.

I am pleased to announce that after fundraising over the Christmas and New Year period we have secured the funding to run the project again this year.

This truly is a rewarding and life-changing partnership. I have seen the difference it makes to the lives of both students and residents in a really short time span. Everyone mucks in together in the garden with lots of laughter and big smiles and it's instantly transformative.

A massive thank you to all the parents and friends of the Academy, as well as organisations in the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and beyond, who have generously supported this project with their donations as we simply cannot run this without the funding. ■

“ I have seen the difference it makes to the lives of both students and residents in a really short time span. ”

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

THE ACADEMY WAS A PIONEER SCHOOL FOR THE CONVO MUSIC PROJECT. HEAD OF MUSIC, MS SLAV, TAKES US THROUGH THE JOURNEY WHICH LED TO THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.



Hammersmith Academy choir performed at the Royal Albert Hall alongside professional musicians and other schools.

Convo is an ambitious music project devised by the Tri-borough Music Hub to give students access to the very highest music education. The project took students on a journey of musical discovery and participation, culminating in a spectacular performance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Hammersmith Academy was involved right from the very beginning as a pioneer school back in 2017, helping composer Charlotte Harding to develop her final composition.

Over the past 18 months, students continued to meet regularly to rehearse with musicians from the project.

The showcase performance took place at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 7th March, where over 30 schools took to the stage. Amirah in Year 7 talked about her participation, "I enjoyed this experience. Although it was difficult to learn the songs, I persevered. It was really fun, I would love to experience this again." ■

STOPWATCH DRAMA

StopWatch Theatre Company with Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation delivered a powerful and moving drama piece to highlight the dangers of drug use and the emotional fallout that happens when loved ones are left behind.

They visited the Academy in January to put on the show 'I Love You Mum' based on the story of Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who tragically died after taking drugs on a night out.

Students were moved by the loved ones' reactions and reflected on how easily people can lose their lives when taking illegal substances. ■



StopWatch Theatre Company brought their show to educate students on the dangers of drugs.

SISTER, SISTER!

THIS YEAR'S DRAMATIC HIGHLIGHT BROUGHT LAS VEGAS AND CHURCH TO HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY'S THEATRE. MS DALE, ACTING HEAD OF DRAMA, TAKES US BACKSTAGE.



Sister Act was an all inclusive affair featuring cast and crew from Year 7 through to Year 13.

Hammersmith Academy's annual musical is the highlight of the performing calendar. This year's production was Sister Act, a musical based on the cult classic 90s film starring Whoopi Goldberg as a Las Vegas showgirl on the run after witnessing a crime.

The Drama department began auditions back in October 2018 and from the moment the cast and crew

were chosen, students worked hard after school and weekends to perfect their routines and musical numbers.

This was one of the most ambitious productions to date with the largest cast and crew ever to grace the Academy's theatre. Sourcing costumes was a real challenge for the team given how large the cast was!

Creating sets that portrayed the atmosphere of Las Vegas and a Catholic church required much imagination from the tech and facilities departments.

The show ran for two nights in January with both shows sold out and judging by the audiences' reaction, the students pulled off an incredible performance.

It was great to see so many Year 7s making

their musical debut at this production. For others it was the last time they will get to participate in a school production. We say goodbye to Diaz, Jason, Sandro, Shomar and Danielle who are in Year 13 and have been key parts of the previous shows here.

Thank you to all those who came to watch the show and support our talented students and to all those who assisted, supported and made this production happen. ■

Cast and Crew

Diaz, Eniola, Isabella, Danna, Iona, Layla, Courtney, Sandro Thomas, Dante, Jason, Radwan, Khalil, Danielle, Shomar, Bayan, Mariam, Milcah, Tanisha, Liyan, Malaak, Farhana, Anastasia, Lily, Isklead, Naomi, Bayan, Sara, Mariam, Georgia, Yasmin, Ayushi, Sienna, Malika, Touré, Kayleigh, Ella, Bethanie, Hafiz.



MAKING MEDICS

YEAR 10 STUDENTS
TOOK PART IN A
MEDICAL CAREERS
WORKSHOP AT KING'S
COLLEGE LONDON AS
PART OF NATIONAL
CAREERS WEEK.



Year 10s learning how medics conduct medical procedures on patients.



On Wednesday 6th March, 40 Year 10 students travelled to King's College London's Guy's Campus, right in the shadow of the Shard. They took part in a Medical Careers Activity Day, led by first and fourth year medical students.

The morning started with academic sessions deepening their understanding of the digestive and cardiovascular systems. Students got to diagnose patients based on their medical history and learnt to take blood using real needles on a model vein complete with fake blood!

After lunch the students went on a tour of the campus, and were

fascinated to visit the library and see the students studying hard. They also learnt about wider life on the campus, including the variety of societies on offer at the student union.

For the final part of the day the students learnt a variety of practical clinical skills, including bandaging, CPR, taking blood pressure using a stethoscope and even learning to suture a wound on a dummy arm. The students received lots of praise from the team for their engagement and enthusiasm. Many of them were inspired to apply for medicine-related degrees in the future, so KCL should keep an eye out for their applications in a few years time! ■

DIGIGIRLZ WINNERS

On Friday 8th March, eight girls from Year 8 travelled to Microsoft's headquarters to take part in their DigiGirlz event as part of National Careers Week.

The event's aim is to showcase careers in the technology sector in which girls are still underrepresented.

During the event each school team had to come up with an inclusive piece of technology and then present it in a Dragon's Den style presentation in front of a panel of judges.

The girls came up with a tech fridge designed to aid people with visual or hearing impairments. The fridge actively tells users when products expire and prints or sends shopping lists to a phone app.

They did such a fantastic job with their design and presentation that they were awarded the prize for most innovative idea and best presentation. They were presented with a plaque to display back at school. Well done girls! ■



Team HA at Microsoft's headquarters in Paddington.

ACCENTURE TRIP

THIS TERM A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM YEAR 11 VISITED THE ACCENTURE OFFICES IN THE CITY. MS BALL REPORTS ON THE DAY.



Students enjoyed a career awareness day at Accenture's offices in London.

Accenture is a leading global technological services company. They work with over 4000 other companies across the world to design and develop technology needed to run their business. They are consistently ranked as one of the best companies to work for. The application process is highly competitive, with over four rounds of testing and interviews used to sift through the tens of thousands of graduate and school leaver applications each year.

The aim of the trip was to provide networking links for students into the corporate world, to experience

a rigorous interview with a senior member of staff at a leading organisation and to learn more about future career opportunities.

Students first had to complete a business task used in the Accenture interview process. They had to work in teams to provide corporate advice to the CEO of Rainforest Café, in order to win the contract. There were several challenges to overcome along the way, including team members being taken away to complete other tasks. The students presented their suggestions and Accenture staff chose the winning team.

The highlight for the students was testing out a new virtual reality game that Accenture have designed, using VR headsets, which they found disorientating but fun!

The students were inspired by the working environment. They now have a much better idea about the different roles that you can have at Accenture and other leading consultancy companies.

The experience gave the students contacts and opportunities that many people would not be able to access. The students represented Hammersmith Academy very well and the day was enjoyed by all. ■

APPRENTICESHIPS



The National Apprenticeship Show gives students access to top employers.

The National Apprenticeship Show showcases over 100 employers and providers from across the UK. Year 10 students travelled to the event in Esher to discover what future careers might appeal to them.

They spent the morning asking the exhibitors about apprenticeship

opportunities and how they can access them. The Year 10s will soon be experiencing a week's work experience around London and this was an excellent time for them to make connections with national employers.

Students really enjoyed the diversity of the careers on show and were pleasantly surprised by the careers that they had not even considered or knew existed. ■

INNOVATOR AWARD

Hammersmith Academy student Cindy was crowned Young Innovator of the Year at Hammersmith and Fulham's Youth Achievement Awards. The Awards celebrates young people doing amazing things in the borough.

Cindy won the award for creating trainers with built-in speakers which can be connected to a device via Bluetooth, such as a smartphone. She aims to find a way for the trainers to be powered using kinetic energy by charging the shoes as the wearer moves.

Based at the Reach Out Makerspace in The Invention Rooms at Imperial's

White City Campus, the Maker Challenge encourages young people from the local community to get hands-on by creating their own prototype products and gadgets.

HA alumni member Hadeel was also nominated in the Young Volunteer category for her work as a Youth Councillor, but missed out on the award.

Congratulations to both Cindy and Hadeel on their nominations. To be nominated for the awards is no mean feat and the recognition of their work is well deserved. ■



Cindy receiving her award at the H&F Youth Achievement Awards.

JACK PETCHEY WINNERS



The Jack Petchey winners received their awards at Kensington Great Hall.

Students are nominated for a Jack Petchey Award based on their contribution to school life and their approach to academic studies.

At the start of February, students nominated by the Academy were invited to an awards evening hosted by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Particular praise to Iman who was nominated for her pride and commitment to learning. She is always supportive of others.

Asia in Year 7 has already proven to be a very hardworking student and has settled into the Academy exceptionally well. ■

WINNERS OF THE JACK PETCHEY AWARDS ATTENDED A CEREMONY AT KENSINGTON GREAT HALL. MR FLITTON, TELLS US ABOUT THE AWARDS.

Congratulations to our Jack Petchey winners!

- Malaak
- Sabrina
- Courtney
- Aidan
- Asia
- Najma
- Iman

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

THIS TERM HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME WITH ITS SISTER SCHOOLS.



Year 10 students helping primary schools during the Eco-workshop.

“Secondary students were ambassadors, helping primary students to learn about recycling and sustainable materials.”

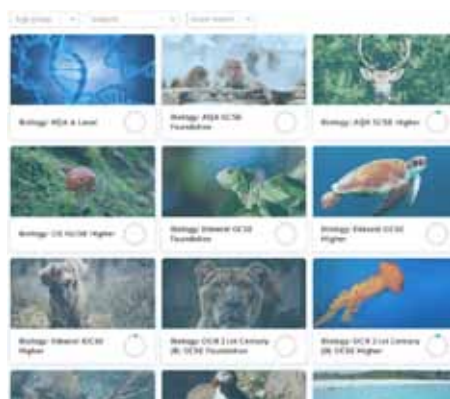
The School Partnership Programme provides students from Hammersmith Academy, St Paul's Girls' School and St Paul's School, access to enrichment opportunities that extend beyond the national curriculum. The three schools have each hosted events this term.

A main focus is the eco-partnership initiative which sees the schools promote environmental issues. St Paul's Girls' held an Eco-workshop

which taught students how society can live sustainably. Secondary students were ambassadors, helping primary students to learn about recycling and sustainable materials.

HA hosted a talk by environmental activist Solitaire Townsend. She highlighted the damage plastic waste has been inflicting on the ocean environment and laid down a plastic reduction challenge for those attending. ■

SENECA REVISION



Students have access to free revision exercises and tips.

Hammersmith Academy students and teachers now have free access to Seneca - a revision and homework platform making studying more fun.

Seneca is an interactive way to learn official course content. Their web app covers 150+ exam board specific courses condensing what students need to know for their exams. The software is able to identify gaps in learning. For instance, when you get a question wrong, the platform will repeat the topic in different formats and their smart algorithm has proven to make students remember topics

twice as fast.

The revision tool was introduced at the start of the year to give students a head start with their revision as topics are completed in class. The feedback from students has been very positive and we encourage parents to look at the content to help their children revise, particularly leading up to the GCSE and A-Level examinations.

Seneca is completely free for students, teachers and parents who can sign up via www.senecalearning.com. ■

MODERN ART

YEAR 8 ART AMBASSADOR STUDENTS VENTURED ACROSS THE THAMES TO DISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF MODERN ART. ACTING HEAD OF ART, MS NEWCOMBE, REPORTS ON THE DAY.

On an unseasonably warm February day, Year 8 Art Ambassador students visited Tate Modern to explore the works of the world's greatest artists.

For many students, this was the first time visiting the art gallery and they were hugely impressed by the size of the building and the vast amount of art on display.

The aim of the trip was to broaden the students' knowledge of art and the different forms of art that encapsulates modern art.

Throughout the day, students had to complete an activity book using the influences from the different artists' work, which included Lichtenstein, Matisse and many others. ■



Roy Lichtenstein was a particular favourite of the Art Ambassador students.

WELLBEING DAY



The Violence intervention Project teaches students to use their emotions in a positive way.

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH SAW THE WHOLE SCHOOL COME OFF TIMETABLE TO FOCUS ON STUDENT WELLBEING. MS GIKA EXPLAINS.

Once a term, the Academy comes off timetable to focus on important issues that affect our students. This term's Drop Down Day focused on mental health and wellbeing.

School life has its own pressures, whether it is exam related stress or friendship and relationship issues, students should develop ways in which they can best deal with them.

Students attended various talks and workshops which covered a spectrum of topics. These included meditation, yoga, a workshop by the Violence Intervention Project on how to harness emotions positively, a social media detox session, drug awareness, healthy living and a visit from Johnson Beharry who was awarded the Victoria Cross.

These days are vital to providing our students with a holistic education that extends beyond the national requirements. We believe that it makes our students more rounded individuals. Thank you to all the external speakers and organisations who contributed to our mental health and wellbeing Drop Down Day. ■

UNIVERSITY OFFERS



With a 10% rise in the proportion of our students applying to university, we're absolutely delighted by the offers coming in for this year's A2 cohort. Of those who applied to Russell Group universities, 97% received an offer, including students now studying hard to get the grades for Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Bristol, Exeter, Warwick, Southampton, Queen Mary, UCL, King's College London and LSE!

But it's not just about Russell Group universities, we're pleased to see our students receiving offers for courses that are more unusual or specialist; for example Fashion Buying Management, a foundation year for Aerospace Engineering and Computer Games Design.

We've been offering advice and support for students in the run up to interviews, working hard on practice questions and preparing art and architecture portfolios. We're also there to help them decide which offer to take and what their next steps are.

Our advice for students this year has also included insight into changes in the higher education sector. There are now more foundation year courses which allow students who

are not on track for top grades to spend a year preparing for the first year of their degree. This feels to us like a positive development, widening access to good universities. Less positive is the fact that universities are making more unconditional offers (where students don't have to achieve any A Level or BTEC grades) as a way of enticing students to make them their first choice. Research by UCAS has shown that applicants who accept an unconditional offer are more likely to drop their A-Levels by two or more grades.

Pleasingly we have a number of students currently applying for apprenticeships. Students who studied for a degree traditionally attracted a 'graduate premium', earning more than in their life-time than non-graduates in their careers. But some research is now suggesting that top apprenticeships can actually be more beneficial, particularly as the cost of student loans don't have to be factored into long-term earnings. The sensible choice for many students is to apply for both degrees and apprenticeships, and then have the option of being able to make an informed choice. ■

CAREERS LEAD, MS HARROWES, TAKES US THROUGH A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL UCAS APPLICATION CYCLE.

“Of those who applied to Russell Group universities, 97% received an offer.”

PROGRESS SCORE

Hammersmith Academy's Sixth Form has, this term, been ranked the number one state school Sixth Form in the Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The progress score ranking is based on student progress during their time in Year 12 and Year 13. This means that Sixth Form students make more progress here than even the majority of private schools and larger colleges.

The Academy has been able to add significantly to students' progress through excellent teaching and by providing extensive opportunities beyond the classroom. Our dedicated Sixth Form team provides an holistic approach to achieving student success. All of which adds up to HA being ranked so highly. ■

SCHOOL	PROGRESS SCORE
Chelsea Independent College	+0.25
Hammersmith Academy	+0.22
Lady Margaret School	+0.21
Latymer Upper School	+0.15
The London Oratory	+0.11
St Paul's Girls School	+0.12
St James Senior Girls School	+0.03
Ark Burlington Danes	+0.00
The Godolphin and Latymer School	-0.03
Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College	-0.08
Sacred Heart High School	-0.08
West London free School	-0.15
William Morris Sixth Form	-0.31
Phoenix Academy	-0.50

**Source GOV.UK - School Comparison 2018*

ALUMNI VISIT

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD STUDENT AND HA ALUMNUS AMARI MET POTENTIAL YEAR 11 STUDENTS OXBRIDGE CANDIDATES.

Former Hammersmith Academy student, Amari, returned from his first year at University of Oxford where he is currently studying Economics & Management at Lady Margaret Hall.

He was invited to speak with current Year 11 students to offer some advice and guidance on how best to prepare for an application to highly selective universities.

Amari also spoke about his first semester at Oxford and how he found the transition process from Sixth Form to university and being away from home.

Two Year 13 students, Calvin and Bushra, have received offers from Cambridge and Oxford respectively this year and they were on hand to offer additional insight to the Year 11s. They stressed the importance of speaking with the Sixth Form team,



Amari speaking to a group of Year 11 students who are considering Oxbridge and Russell Group universities.

even in Year 11, about what support and opportunities are available to them. Bushra explained, for example, how she took full advantage of King's College London's K+ Scheme aimed at broadening university access.

The students left energised and with a better understanding of the university application process. ■

MATHS UPDATE



Head of Mathematics, Mr Sykes, hands out the awards to the Hegarty Maths winners.

This term has been a very busy one for the Maths Department. There have been various competitions taking place to encourage students to improve their mathematical learning and skill application.

Puzzle of the week

Alongside the usual Puzzle of the Week brainteasers, we saw not one, not two, but three special edition puzzles! Students calculated the price to set for tickets to the Academy performance of Sister Act in January, puzzled over who sent Valentine's cards to whom between the Maths and English departments in February, and saw some World Book Day themed puzzles in March. Well done to all those who have taken part this term.

Hegarty Maths Competition

Head of Maths, Mr Sykes, launched an impressive Nando's competition for students completing the most Hegarty Maths quizzes over the half term break. There were three hardworking students who took home the Nando's vouchers: Kairon, Jonny and George. Well done boys!

Count on Us Maths Competition

Every year, HA competes in the Count On Us challenge. This is a London-wide event coordinated by the Mayor's Fund for London and the Jack Petchey Foundation. Students battle against other schools on arithmetic and problem-solving challenges.

Ms Suganthakumaran, Mr Jan and Ms Miller have been training Year 9 students, along with Charlie in Year 10 and some Year 12 mathematicians.

The Year 9 students held their own mini tournament last week and the final team members have been selected. They are: Safwan, Alaa, Salvatore, Ayoub, Tehya with Ali on the bench ready to step up. Good luck guys, do us proud!

A big well done from the Maths Department to all those students who have taken part in the maths competitions and events this term.

As always, remember to stay tuned for weekly puzzles. There are house points at stake! ■

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TERM FOR THE MATHS DEPARTMENT. TEACHER OF MATHEMATICS, MS GOSTLING KEEPS US UPDATED.

Puzzle of the Week Leader board:

- Berners-Lee - 64
- Tesla - 32
- Gates - 29
- Lovelace - 12

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 8 Girls Rugby team took competed in the London Youth Games Rugby Championships.

Sixth Form Sport

Throughout the year it has been fantastic to see our Sixth Form students engaging in all of the sport on offer from Session 3 clubs. So far we have run a Sixth Form girls fitness club, girls boxing, badminton, dodgeball, rounders, basketball and football.

A KS4 and KS5 boys boxing club started at the end of March in the sports hall on Fridays during the after school Session.

We will continue to arrange some friendly fixtures for the Sixth Form football team who played well against BDA but ultimately lost in their first game of the season.

The Session 3 board is constantly updated with new activities and sports. Students should see Ms Cutting to discuss any of the clubs or to suggest new ones.

London Youth Games Rugby Championships

Year 8 girls reached the finals for the London Youth Games Rugby Championships which took place on Thursday 21st March. They have already won the Hammersmith and Fulham Championships and go on in the tournament to represent the Academy and the borough.

This is a fantastic achievement and no team from Hammersmith Academy has ever reached this level of competition for Rugby. Captaining the team will be Lily and Sara will be vice-captain. Good luck to all students involved!

National Indoor Junior Rowing Championships

On Friday 15th March, Year 8 and Year 10 Academy rowers travelled to the Copper Box Arena in Stratford to compete against 1,700 young rowers.



Hammersmith Academy rowers competed alongside 1,700 other young rowers at the Olympic Park.



Hammersmith Academy rowers met Olympians and even got to handle Olympic medals at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships.

Run by London Youth Rowing, the event is a legacy of London's 2012 Olympic Games and is the biggest junior indoor rowing competition in the world.

Our young rowers competed in multiple rounds against other schools from across the London region throughout the day. There was some top performances from our side but ultimately they were beaten by sides with much more rowing experience.

Overall, the event was a brilliant occasion for our rowers who not only experienced some top rowing and a feel for the competition level, but also had the opportunity to meet professional athletes.

VIP guests included three-time Olympic Champions Andrew Triggs-Hodge and Pete Reed. Some of our students were privileged enough to speak with them about their rowing experiences and even handle their Olympic medals.

Well done to all the competitors. They all left with a better understanding of competitive sport preparing them for future competitions. ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

 [@hasport1](https://www.instagram.com/hasport1)

Sportswoman of the Term

Over the past 7 months Lily has committed to the England Rugby programme that we have run in Games lessons.

She has shown herself to excel at taking in new information and applying it in a game or training session. She shows excellent tactical awareness and positioning and she is not afraid of a tackle.

Lily has committed her spare time to improving her rugby and has become a member of Chiswick Rugby Club. Lily was chosen to be the captain of the Year 8 girls rugby team and she led the team to victory in the Hammersmith and Fulham borough tournament and she captained the team in the London Youth Games finals in March.

In both PE and Games lessons, Lily works hard and is a pleasure to teach. She is strong, fierce and brave and fully deserving of this award. ■



Sportsman of the Term

Olivier has shown huge commitment to his progress in PE and games. During GCSE PE Olivier has progressed in both theory lessons as well as practical lessons.

Mr Wood has been impressed with Olivier in core PE as he has excelled in basketball, handball and table tennis which will also help him progress towards his practical GCSE score. During theory lessons Ms Tyndall has been impressed with his attitude to learning as he has developed a sound knowledge of a variety of topics over the term. In games lessons, Olivier has stood out in rugby. Olivier is relatively new to the game yet has been a standout performer and we are now seeking a local club for him to progress further in the sport. Olivier has also been a regular in the football team over the year and produced consistently high levels of performance for the school team. An excellent term for Olivier. ■



Hammersmith Academy

25 Cathnor Road, London W12 9JD

T: 020 8222 6000

E: info@hammersmithacademy.org

W: hammersmithacademy.org

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on at HA every day!



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