

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 EDITION 9

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COMMUNITY GARDENING • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • A-LEVEL RESULTS • AND MORE!

A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



The start to this new academic year has been like no other that any of us have ever experienced.

Students have been away from school for six months and it has been wonderful to welcome them back once again.

Of course the routines they once knew have had to be adjusted to ensure we remain as Covid free as possible, but the students have taken to the safety measures superbly. They have become accustomed to wearing face masks in communal areas and sanitising their hands and work spaces without thinking.

Schools have had to balance the physical safety of both students and staff against the need for emotional wellbeing and educational development, and here at Hammersmith Academy we have found a sustainable equilibrium.

It has been brilliant to see students developing so quickly and making up for lost ground caused by the lockdown period.

We have learnt an awful lot this past year and we have listened carefully to the feedback from parents, students and staff. One of the key messages that we have heard loud and clear is that everyone's experience of IT and digital access varies greatly. This makes teaching and learning beyond the classroom inconsistent and students progress at different rates.

To combat this, we launched our ambitious Digital Equality initiative which will see every student at the Academy receive a Chromebook for use at home. This will be a game-changing initiative that will make real positive differences. We have been

able to do this with the generosity of our sponsors, The Mercers' Company and The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists.

Although it's natural to think that covid restrictions equates to limited extra-curricular opportunities, this has not been the case. We have found innovative and safe ways to deliver these important experiences to students.

This term, our students have been just as busy winning prestigious awards, taking part in community outreach projects and personal development opportunities. Our Year 10 students have wasted no time in participating in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge, and applying for expeditions both within the UK and abroad, just to name a few.

The Academy's Anti-Racism and Equality Group is making excellent headway in implementing a programme of activities to help our community towards a shared understanding of important issues and how to have challenging and progressive conversations.

Despite the challenges beyond the Academy, we have come together to successfully provide the much needed learning environment and the conditions conducive to positive personal development. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Kynaston', written in a cursive style.

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

DIGITAL EQUALITY



Headteacher, Mr Kynaston launched the Digital Equality initiative live on BBC Radio London.

Hammersmith Academy has launched an ambitious Digital Equality initiative which will see every student provided with a Chromebook.

During the lockdown period academies and schools supported students and their families with home learning. Teachers provided a host of resources online, including live lessons and presentations, all accessible through the Academy's web portal.

The Academy listened to the experiences of both parents and students and one thing that was made abundantly clear is that families' digital access is widely different. For some families, every individual has a form of device, but for others, children vie for access to the one device in the household. This disparity in digital access means that students fall behind rapidly. Teachers also find supporting home learning incredibly challenging, having to identify each child's level of digital access and tailoring to those specific circumstances.

To level the playing field, Hammersmith Academy launches its Digital Equality initiative which will see every student receive a Chromebook to use and keep in

the home. This will ensure that all students have the same digital experience and a standardised level of access to digital learning resources and live classes should students see themselves home learning again. Students will no longer have to compete for access in the home. Furthermore, parents have the added benefit of the Academy's safeguarding tools on the device which maintains student safety and upholds appropriate use.

The initiative is free to all students at the Academy, and the intention is to continue this provision for future generations of students. Parents are being asked to contribute in some way if possible, with a suggested £20 per term, or £60 a year for a total of three years. This goes to a ring-fenced budget to reinvest in devices for the next generation.

The Academy is funding this initiative directly with the support of its two livery company sponsors, The Mercers' Company and The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. ■

ALL STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A CHROMEBOOK FOR HOME USE TO ENSURE STANDARDISED ACCESS AND NO ONE FALLS BEHIND.

“ One thing that was made abundantly clear is that families' digital access is widely different. ”

WELCOME YEAR 7

YEAR 7 STUDENTS START THEIR HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY IN TRADITIONAL HA STYLE.



Year 7 students ended the day to the Academy's traditional 'clap-out' to the school gate.

This year's new Year 7 cohort were welcomed to the Academy with their own special induction day.

Students were greeted by Headteacher, Mr Kynaston, who welcomed them to their first day at secondary school. They started with a lineup to help familiarise them with what is expected of them each morning.

Unlike previous years, students also had an extra element of hygiene to become familiar with to facilitate a safe return to school.

During the day students were given a tour of the Academy to help them find their way around. It is quite a jump from primary to secondary school and everything seems so much larger.

The Year 7s enjoyed taking part in induction

tasks, forming new friendships and getting to know their teachers and Student Achievement Manager.

After a whole day of taking in new information, students ended their first day with Hammersmith Academy's traditional tie ceremony where students become fully-fledged HA students.

On their departure, students were greeted by a 'clap-out' where staff come together to applaud the completion of their first day and the start of the next stage of their academic lives. ■



RETURNING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

STUDENTS RETURNED TO SCHOOL FROM LOCKDOWN TO A WHOLE NEW WAY OF KEEPING EACH OTHER SAFE.



Over 100 hand gel dispensers were installed throughout the site and students are encouraged to sanitise throughout the day.

Students in England returned to school in September after six months away in lockdown.

The Academy spent the summer planning and implementing safety measures to ensure the safe return of students and staff.

These Covid secure measures include keeping Year Group bubbles

separated and having different start and end times. Students and staff are required to sanitise and wash hands throughout the day.

In the classroom, students and staff sanitise their learning and work stations with anti-viral wipes before each lesson.

More grab-and-go options have been added to the menu to allow for more distancing during each lunch session.

Students have adapted superbly to all the safety measures and taken to heart the Academy's mantra of 'I protect you, You protect me'. ■

“ Students have adapted superbly to ...the Academy's mantra of 'I protect you, You protect me'. ”



CHILDREN IN NEED



House Coordinators got seriously competitive during the fundraising days for Children In Need. Whichever House raised the most money took home the House Points.

STUDENTS RAISE A BIG SUM FOR PUDSEY AND BBC CHILDREN IN NEED.

This year's BBC Children In Need fundraiser required a little more imagination than in previous years. The traditional bake sales could not happen, so staff and students had to get inventive to find other ways to raise funds.

Students and staff pulled out all the stops and came up with new merchandise to sell, including the Ms Martin's own designed and made Pudsey badges featuring the individual House colours.

More impressively, Ms Samuels enlisted the help of her mum and gran to help make facemasks with Pudsey's trademark polkadot pattern. Ms Samuels sourced the fabric and planned carefully how to make them.

Of course, there were the standard official Pudsey ears and wristbands too.

The House Coordinators were in full competitive mode, each trying their very best to raise the most for their House. Ms Williams, Mr Wood, Ms McGechan and Ms Moore set up their stations with collection buckets and sold as much merchandise as they could.

By the end of the day, Lovelace were crowned the champions, raising almost £100 more than Tesla, the second placed House.

Overall, a fantastic £1,050.93 was raised for Children In Need.

Well done to everyone who contributed and took part in the fundraising. The money raised will fund local charities and projects that help remove the barriers that are facing children and young people, so that they can thrive. ■

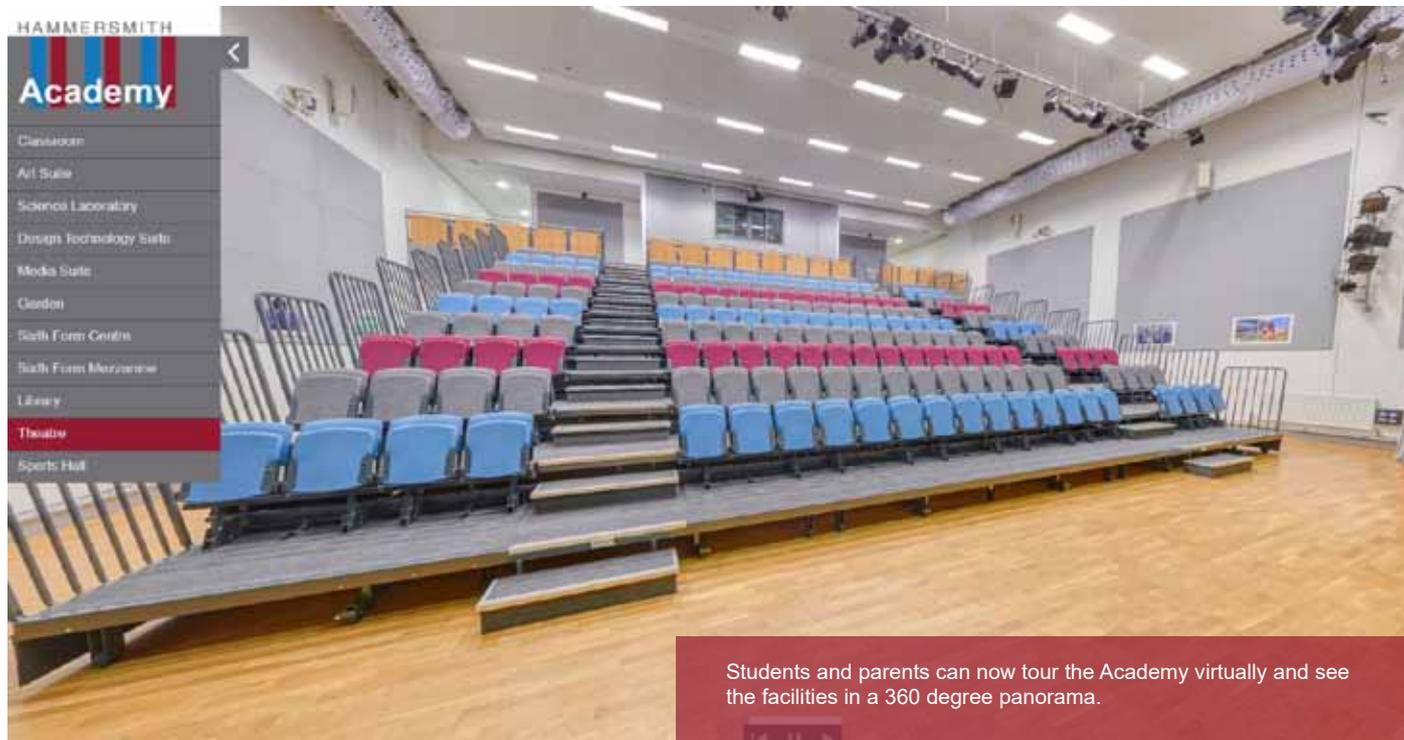
Totals Raised

- Lovelace £339.37
- Tesla £253.05
- Gates £213.47
- Berners Lee £205.39
- Duck race £39.65

Grand Total £1,050.93

VIRTUAL VISIT

PARENTS AND STUDENTS LOOKING TO APPLY FOR A PLACE AT HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY CAN TOUR THE ACADEMY ONLINE.



During the summer, the Academy embarked on an exciting project to create a 360 tour experience for prospective parents and students looking for a secondary school or Sixth Form in September 2021.

With visitors unable to attend Open Days in person, the tour provides the next best thing with a voiced tour of the facilities, including the classrooms, science laboratories,

Library, the Theatre and the Garden.

During the online tour, visitors can access student and alumni talks, galleries and videos showing what happens in each of the spaces.

The tour can be accessed on the Academy's website and will be available all year round for visitors. Why not take a tour with your friends and family! ■

“Visitors can access student talks, galleries and videos showing what happens in each of the spaces.”



[▶ Take a Tour!](#)

Click here to visit our website and take a tour.

URBAN FOOD AWARD WINNERS

THE URBAN FOOD AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS THE ENTERPRISES, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN PUTTING GOOD FOOD ON THE CAPITAL'S PLATE.



The student gardening team were delighted to be crowned winners of the Young Food Ambassador category in this year's Urban Food Awards.

The award shines a spotlight on a young person, or small team of people, aged 25 or under who are campaigning within their school, college, university or wider community for a better food and farming system.

The judges commented. "The students at Hammersmith Academy have been creatively using the space they have to grow food in and welcome nature into the school!

They demonstrated a wide impact by running a whole school gardening

programme, maximising on limited space to increase biodiversity and food growing. By upcycling cans for planters, building insect hotels, and planting pollinator-friendly flowers they take urban biodiversity to the next level. The students grow food for Hammersmith and Fulham Food Bank and engage the whole school through their environmental leadership programme. A really impressive bunch!"

The students have worked incredibly hard on the garden and thoroughly deserve this award. By having their efforts recognised in this way shows just how far the project has come and how far reaching the benefits of it are. Well done! ■

“ They demonstrated a wide impact by running a whole school gardening programme. ”

COMMUNITY PLANTING PROJECT

ACADEMY STUDENTS SPREAD THEIR GARDENING SKILLS TO BENEFIT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. MS HODDER AND MR PILLOW HIGHLIGHT THE PROJECT.



The Academy's gardening team started the academic year with a new community outreach project which will see students transform and maintain the public flower beds on Melina Road.

The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has given permission for the students to clear some of the bedding and plant species which will help increase the biodiversity in the local area and to create a beautiful space for the local residents.

Plants have been selected to provide food and shelter for wildlife and interest throughout the different seasons. The project is being supported by Hammersmith Community Garden Association who are donating all the planting.

The students were so eager to start the project and came in during a day in the summer holiday to begin the

work or preparing the beds; removing stones and weeding. Ms Harrowes also made an appearance, helping the students during the process.

Gardening students will continue to look after the community plots over the next 12 months.

The project has already won a Green Flag Award, which recognises and rewards well managed parks, green spaces, and recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom.

A huge thank you to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for giving permission and entrusting us to look after the plots.

We look forward to these plots developing over the next 12 months! Why not have a look for yourself when you are outside the Academy.

“ The project has already won a Green Flag Award which recognises and rewards well managed parks, green spaces. ”

GOLD STAR CAREERS

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY'S CAREERS TEAM, MS HARROWES AND MS SEMPILL, WINS ONE OF THREE TOP ANNUAL AWARDS IN LONDON FOR CAREERS. WE INTERVIEWED MS HARROWES FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT.



Hammersmith Academy has always given Careers the high priority that it merits and we are delighted that our work has been recognised at the end of a challenging year. Our young people are ambitious about their futures, but we work hard to ensure that our Careers programme is inspiring, relevant and timely in order to give focus to that ambition and positively impact on their academic attainment.

All young people need and deserve help making the right choices at the right time and we take pride and real pleasure in putting together a programme that nurtures and motivates in equal measure. Whilst we are a dedicated Careers department of two, the team really includes the London Enterprise Adviser Network, the Careers & Enterprise Company, our many wonderful employer partners and our

super-engaged staff. I feel extremely lucky to work in such a positive and life-affirming role and it gives me great pleasure when we hear back from our alumni about their successful progression beyond the school gates.

Delivering a Careers curriculum and student support during a pandemic has not been without its challenges, but we have adapted and delivered extended Clearing support for UCAS places, online Year 12 and Year 11 future choices events, virtual work experience and employer engagement events, and regular briefings to share opportunities and help build employability skills. We look forward to moving back to face-to-face activities at some point in 2021, but in the meantime are full of enthusiasm about our whole school Careers programme that remains vital within the constraints of virtual.



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to our three Jack Petchey winners, Vuttiaphat, Kairon and Toure. They have set an excellent example for other students by their positive actions.

Each year, Jack Petchey Foundation recognises 14,000 student Achievement Award winners and invests £3.5m through the Achievement Awards scheme.

Awards are not solely for academic achievement, they also recognise a personal triumph for someone who has faced a challenge, a young person who has pushed themselves outside of their comfort zone or it may be an opportunity to recognise the outstanding efforts of a team player.

Students are nominated by their peers, an important part of the scheme is the involvement of young people in selecting the award winners for their hard work and efforts. Recognition and celebration by their peers is a very important element of the awards.

Each award winner will receive a certificate, pin badge and a book from Sir Jack Petchey himself. They also receive £250 to spend for the Academy. The winners will help decide how to spend the money to benefit other students.

Toure

Toure is a model student who has consistently surpassed all school expectations. She is kind, friendly and always has a smile on her face. Her positive attitude spreads warmth to her peers, and she is a role model for all to aspire to. Toure works extremely hard and make the most of all opportunities that come her way. She has made an extremely positive impact on the HA community and is thoroughly deserving of this award.

Kairon

Kairon is an incredibly mature young man who had a profound impact on his Year Group, leading from the front with great dignity. He is a role model for all students and always sets high standards for himself.

Vuttiaphat

Vuttiaphat is a kind person who has a positive impact on his peers. He works hard in every lesson to ensure that he makes progress and continues to persevere when facing challenges. He has a positive impact on the Academy community and is a role model for others to aspire to. ■

THE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS RECOGNISE THOSE WHO PUT IN THE EFFORT AND DO THEIR BEST. MR FLITTON, INTRODUCES THE WINNERS.



PRIZE WINNERS



Year 7 prize winners receiving their first set of rewards from the Academy's Reward Shop.

STUDENTS RECEIVE THEIR FIRST PRIZES OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR FROM THE HA REWARD SHOP. MR FLITTON EXPLAINS MORE.

“Students have the opportunity to select up to six prizes across the academic year, which reflects the six prize categories available.

Hammersmith Academy values the hard work, effort and achievement of students in all Year Groups. Throughout the academic year, students are rewarded with points for their positive work and behaviour, and they collect these to spend in the Reward Shop.

The Reward Shop was set up to celebrate the positive actions and students are able to select prizes six times in the year.

The prizes that a student can select is determined by their 'Overall Conduct Points' which is calculated by subtracting any 'Behaviour Points' away from their total number of 'Achievement Points'. This is calculated each half term and students can then spend their points at the shop.

Students are able to select a prize if they meet the target number of points by the given deadline. Students have the opportunity to select up to six prizes across the academic year, which reflects the six prize categories available.

” The prizes in each category increase in value, hence the number of points required to reach each category also increases. Prizes start small at the beginning of the year and increase in value as each term passes.

The first half of the term has seen an impressive 237 students achieve prizes, with Year 7 being the most rewarded Year Group.

Well done to all those students who secured enough points to spend in the shop this term. Keep up the great work! ■

Prizes Awarded So Far:

■ Year 7	81
■ Year 8	63
■ Year 9	35
■ Year 10	35
■ Year 11	19
■ Year 12	2
■ Year 13	2

Grand Total 237

TESTING TIMES

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY IS ONE OF A HANDFUL OF SCHOOLS IN THE UK TO TAKE PART IN A PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND STUDY.



Mr Kynaston led the way on the first round of testing which took place in the Academy's Sports Hall. The test consists of both a swab and blood test.

Many aspects of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) remain unknown given how recently it emerged. To find out more, Public Health England is embarking on a year long study in schools across the UK to monitor how the virus behaves in a school setting.

Students and staff at HA have been invited to take part in the study which began in September and provides participants with information on whether they have coronavirus at the time of the test, as well as whether they have covid antibodies present.

The testing takes place on four separate occasions over the year which will provide the study with an annual set of data to learn from.

Findings from the nationwide study will go on to inform important governmental decision making

around the tackling the virus and education.

Paediatric medical staff set up a test centre in the Sports Hall where they conducted the testing.

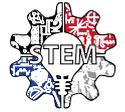
Ms Simonovski who is the Academy's organiser described the study as, "a fantastic way for students and staff to know whether they have the virus and to take appropriate action if necessary. By taking part we not only protect each other, but we are also playing a vital role in helping the government to tackle the virus and keep education at the forefront."

If you would like to find out more information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-paediatric-surveillance>. ■

“By taking part we not only protect each other, but we are also playing a vital role in helping ...to tackle the virus.”

FULL STEM AHEAD

MS FERRELL TAKES A LOOK AT WHAT STEM OPPORTUNITIES STUDENTS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO THIS ACADEMIC YEAR.



Hammersmith Academy students at last year's Makerspace Challenge at Imperial College.

The Academy is dedicated to developing its STEM programme, offering students a wealth of opportunities to gain invaluable problem-solving key skills that integrate the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).

With current restrictions in place, some activities may have a slightly more remote format however, where there's a will, there's a way and more than ever, the world needs creative young people with STEM skills, ready to contribute to our ever changing world. So, look out for the following exciting programme of activities and challenges coming to HA this year!

IET Faraday Challenge

A one day workshop and competition where students work in teams to research, design and make solutions to a tough engineering problem using a mixture of materials and electronics. The theme for this is a secret until competition day. HA has a great record in this competition and has previously won the National Championship.

UKMT Mathematical Challenge

The annual challenge is back!

Students in Year 7 -11 will be selected to take part and put their mathematical problem solving skills to the test in this international competition.

FIRST® LEGO® League

In this competition students work together over several weeks to explore a given topic and to design, build and program an autonomous LEGO® robot to solve a series of missions. They gain real-world problem solving skills, grow their critical thinking, coding, and design skills through hands-on STEM learning and robotics. The HA Lego Team are poised and ready to take on this year's challenge!

FIRST® Tech Challenge

'Where stem meets sport'. In this robotics challenge, students will design a robot to take on a global challenge. Each team operates like a business – creating a brand and delivering community outreach – before uniting to compete in tournaments and earn awards. Supported by a mentor, young people develop technical knowledge like coding, learn about engineering and design principles.

Urban Flyers: Drone Challenge

This programme introduces young people to programming/coding via a variety of drone activities. Sessions will be delivered by other young people (peer-learning) who are trained in this field.

Makerspace Challenge

Offered by Imperial College, The Reach Out Makerspace which is located in White City, has a variety of tools such as 3D printers, scanners, laser cutters, woodworking equipment and much more. This unique immersive environment provides young people with a space to experiment, design and innovate. After applying for a place, students will work after school and at weekends to develop and create a design with the support of Imperial staff and students. Past HA students have impressed Imperial, with many coming away with fantastic prizes!

Scholarships & Awards

Arkwright Scholarship

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most esteemed scholarship of its type in the UK, designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering.

Year 11 students have been selected and will be completing their applications in January. They'll be hoping to follow in the footsteps of successful Arkwright Scholar, James in Year 13, who is currently working towards studying aeronautical engineering at university.

HA STEM Award

The new scholarship programme will be a series of workshops which allow students to complete a hands-on STEM based challenge independently or as a group. The workshops will instil independence and a growth mindset, while introducing STEM career opportunities. ■

A-LEVEL RESULTS

YEAR 13 STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR RESULTS IN THE MOST UNUSUAL ACADEMIC YEAR



Nedal, Kayleigh, Mohammed, Zarlisht and Hamza were among the top achieving Year 13 students in the summer.

“The Academy has helped me turn myself around and be successful and I want to be able to return in the near future to help other students.”

It has been a very strange year for Sixth Form students across the UK with disruptions to lessons and the examination season as a result of the national lockdown.

Despite this, students were rewarded for the hard work they had put in over the course of their time in the Sixth Form, with grades awarded based on mock exams, course work and assessments.

Standout Successes

Mohamed was the Academy's top achiever scoring A*A*A*A*, and secured a place at Imperial to study Physics. He said, "I am over the moon that I have achieved the university that I have aimed for. The Academy has been brilliant throughout the lockdown period."

Nedal scored an impressive A*A*AA, and is studying Architecture at Westminster. "It was disappointing we couldn't sit our exams, it would have been more of an achievement to get the results that way. The teachers have been amazing and really helped me put together a portfolio for my application. I am enjoying university and studying the subject".

Zarlisht attained A*AB and secured her place to study Dentistry at Queen Mary said, "I was upset about the exams being cancelled and not being able to show off the hard work that I put in over the two years. Dentistry is something I have wanted to do for a long time and I am so happy to get in. No one knew this was going to happen and the Academy has done all it can to support us through it and to make sure we were not disadvantaged. I want to thank the Sixth Form Team for helping me with my application and the support throughout, it has made such a difference.

Kayleigh achieved A*AB and is at Leeds studying English Literature and Theatre. She commented, "It was very tense waiting for the results and the government making changes at the last minute did not help. In my case I think the system has been fair and the grades I have been awarded are a fair reflection, although I think I could have achieved higher grades if I sat the exams, but the priority was to get into university. The Academy has been really supportive, emailing us and tweeting important information when school was closed. I'm enjoying university, it is a challenging time for

university students but I am happy to be on my course."

Hamza decided to take a different route at the end of Year 13 and enter the world of work by securing an apprenticeship with IBM. He said, "I applied for the apprenticeship before the lockdown and had just passed the assessment before school ended in March. It was stressful as IBM did not know whether they would be able to run the scheme and it was very daunting as I had two university offers which I was going to turn down. The process started off strongly but after the interview it went quiet because of the lockdown.

I was so relieved to hear from them this week and that I had been successful and the scheme is going ahead. I want to thank the Careers Team as they helped work on my CV and took me through the application process step by step. I have come a long way from the student whose behaviour was very bad and on the brink of exclusion a few times. The Academy has helped me turn myself around and be successful and I want to be able to return in the near future to help other students." ■

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020



One of the many events in Black History Month was an Art Competition and Exhibition. Students were asked to express their thoughts on racism and equality.

- Thought-provoking interviews with role models from our own community, including entrepreneur and founding Chair of Governors Tom Ilube, ex-student and serial volunteer Hadeel Elshak and founder of Acton's Descendants group Margaret Noel.
- A series of wonderful entries to our student art and media competitions.
- £500 raised through a Wear Red Day for Show Racism The Red Card and Descendants.
- Students volunteering to be part of the newly formed Anti-racism & Diversity Youth Leadership Group which will be leading on student voice going forward.

IN OCTOBER THE ACADEMY CELEBRATED A REINVIGORATED BLACK HISTORY MONTH.

Black History Month was celebrated in a much-invigorated form at the Academy this year, led by the recently formed Anti-racism & Diversity Group. The intention was to amplify the impact of the annual event by providing a range of interventions and opportunities for staff and student involvement around a theme of Past, Present & Future. A huge amount of work went into producing a programme of assemblies, tutor time content, posters around the Academy, recorded interviews and personal contributions, competitions and fundraising, connecting with students, staff, parents and our wider community to celebrate the contribution of inspiring Black British people.

We deliberately chose to take a celebratory tone, but also grabbed some good opportunities to discuss challenging issues, for example looking at what we thought about cultural appropriation in the context of the Notting Hill Carnival.

There was so much about the month that was great, but particular highlights included:

We asked some of our prize winners to share their thoughts about the celebration and Manel (Year 7) by said: "I find Black History Month a very important topic as it is based on those who made huge sacrifices and changes to our modern world just because they were disliked by people due to the colour of their skin. My favourite activity had to be the Art Competition where we had to make a PowerPoint slide and you had to talk about a Black Briton who had made a difference in society." Amira (Year 8) added: "It's a time to recognise Black people and talk about their history and struggles. I enjoyed participating in the poster competition and I think BHM is going to become an even bigger thing since it's an issue that means a lot to people and society".

Feedback from the wider student body included the observation that this shouldn't be a once a year opportunity to embrace anti-racism and make change which very much reflects how we feel. HA will continue to develop the whole heart, mind and body of our students to become strong characters, active citizens and leaders that can bring positive change and help create a fair and just society. ■

It's a time to recognise Black people and talk about their history and struggles.

GCSE RESULTS

GCSE STUDENTS CELEBRATED THEIR RESULTS IN A VERY UNUSUAL ACADEMIC YEAR.



Top achieving GCSE students celebrated their results and entry into the Academy Sixth Form in the summer.

GCSE students faced a challenging wait for their results this year, with exams being cancelled and government changes to how grades are awarded.

HA students had nothing to worry about with many achieving top grades and in line with their expectations.

Standout Successes

Batoul was the Academy's highest achiever, scoring a spectacular 9 grade 9s and is now in HA Sixth Form. She said, "It was stressful leading up to today's GCSE results, including all the confusion with how we were going to be awarded our GCSE grades. Overall, I'm delighted with my results. I'm grateful for the support I received from the Academy, from weekly emails assessing our progress, to detailed tasks to assist our learning. Teachers were kind enough to outline our next steps, following GCEs, ensuring our transition to Sixth Form was as

smooth as possible."

Lilith attained an impressive 7 grade 9s and 2 grade 8s. She explained, "I am so happy and relieved to get the results that I received. Thank you to all the teachers who supported us, they really helped me."

Kyha achieved 6 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s and a grade 7. She added, "The Academy has really kept us motivated and thinking about next year's education by giving us transition work and that helped settle my nerves. I'm already thinking about a career in sports."

Matthew secured 4 grade 9s, a grade 8, 2 grade 7s and 2 grade 5s. He said, "The Academy did an amazing job supporting us. From day one of school closure I pushed myself with A-Level content because I knew that nothing could change my GCSE grades, and I was in constant communication with the Academy and St Paul's School's engineering society for help with my physics

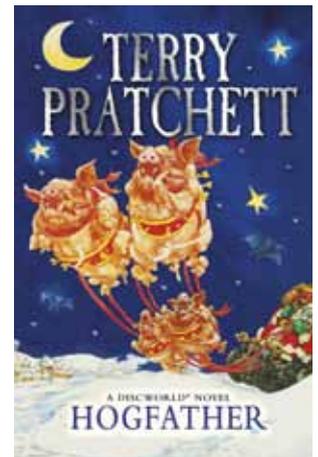
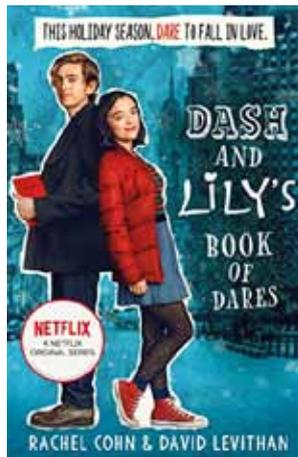
project."

Milcah attained 5 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and a grade 5. She explained, "GCSEs have been a strange experience for all of us this year, with us not taking the exams, only hoping we had done well enough in previous assessments to get the grades we wanted. I think lots of people, myself included, had some reservations in not working that little bit harder during mocks to make sure they got the grades they wanted, but nobody could have foreseen the GCSE examinations being cancelled. I feel it was a good decision to base grades on the teacher assessments instead, as, ultimately, the teachers are ones who are best informed on their own students, not the government or Ofqual."

Other top achievers include Osuke with 5 grade 9s, 3 grade 8s and a grade 6. Amber with 5 grade 9s, 2 grade 8s a grade 7 and a distinction BTEC.. ■

FESTIVE READS

LIBRARIAN, MS HARNEY, SELECTS HER TOP THREE READS FOR THE FESTIVE PERIOD.



“ This has just been made into a series on Netflix and it is just as wonderful to read as it is to watch!

This winter break, why not pick one of Ms Harney's top 3 festive reads to delve into. Here's her selection and why they are must reads!

Dash and Lily's Book of Dares

This has just been made into a series on Netflix and it is just as wonderful to read as it is to watch! I picked this book as it teaches you to let go of your fears and just be yourself and it will get you in the holiday spirit!

I'll be home for Christmas

This book has different short stories and poems from all our favourite authors such as Holly Bourne, Kevin Brooks and Benjamin Zephaniah. This is a great Holiday read as all of

the extracts are based around the theme of home. Some of them might be sad, some of them uplifting but all of them are heartwarming.

Hogfather

Set in the Discworld – a flat planet balanced on top of four elephants standing on the back of a giant turtle – Death has to step in to make sure everyone gets their hogwatch presents in the morning while his granddaughter tries to make sure everyone wakes up in the morning!

Intelligent, witty and laugh out loud funny, it's a winter read not to be missed. If you are looking for a laugh this winter – Terry Pratchett is the way to go! ■

ONLINE TUTORING



This term A-Level students received additional tutoring support to help give an additional boost to their studies and revision.

The sessions were led by highly qualified tutors who specialise in the individual subjects, through the power of the internet. Each tutorial is accompanied by detailed resources, including videos and visual aids.

Tutoring throughout the academic year will go some way in helping students to fill any gaps in their understanding and help them perform better in the final exams. ■

A-Level Biology students in an online tutoring session with a tutor in the Sixth Form Centre. Students talk directly to the tutor throughout the session.

SPEAK OUT!

JACK PETCHEY AND SPEAKERS' TRUST SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE RETURNED IN SEARCH OF INSPIRING STUDENT VOICES.



Samiullah and Leila were chosen from over a hundred Year 10 students to represent Hammersmith Academy in the finals of the Speak Out Challenge competition.

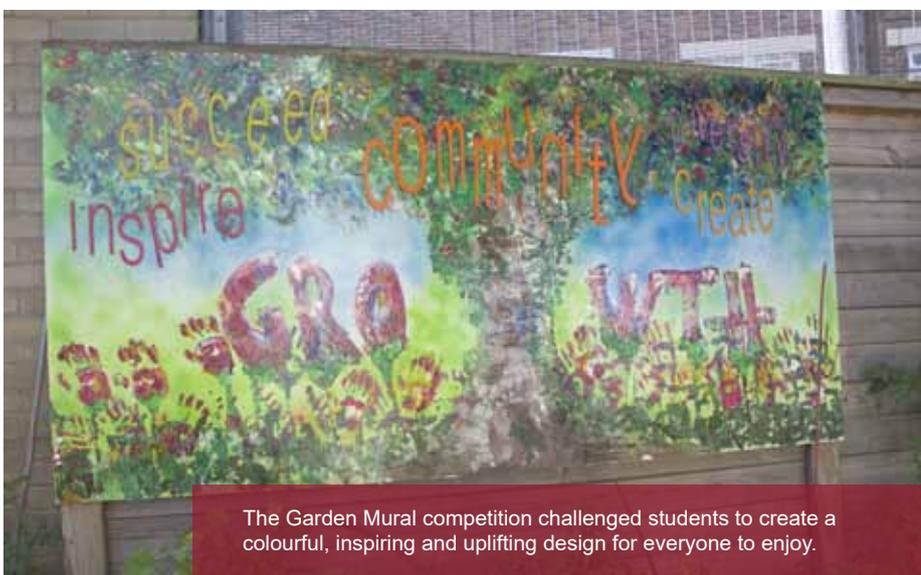
In the first term of each academic year, all students in Year 10 take part in Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge workshop led by speaking coaches. The competition encourages students to use the power of their voices to make a difference.

From those workshops, six students are selected to go on to the HA finals. The finalists then perform a short speech in front of the Year 10 cohort and judges in an assembly. The two most impressive students will then go on to represent the Academy in the Speak Out Challenge finals against students from schools across London.

Congratulations to Samiullah and Leila who have been chosen as the Hammersmith Academy winners. They now go on to the competition finals in the new year. ■



GARDEN MURAL



The Garden Mural competition challenged students to create a colourful, inspiring and uplifting design for everyone to enjoy.

During the lockdown period the Art Department launched a competition for Year 9 students to design a positive mural for the garden.

The brief was to create a design that was uplifting and inspiring for all members of the Academy.

There were many entries, but one in particular caught the eye of the judges. Tarah (Year 10) produced a vibrant design which was in keeping with the garden.

Ms Martin helped bring the design to life by creating a full-sized painting in the garden in time for the return of all students to school in September. ■

EXTINCTION REBELLION

YEAR 12 POLITICS STUDENTS AMIN, ZINAH AND TAWHEED RECALL
THEIR EXPERIENCE OF TALKING TO EXTINCTION REBELLION



Charlton Brown from the pressure group Extinction Rebellion, spoke virtually with students during a politics lesson.

As part of our A-Level Politics studies, we are regularly introduced to speakers from a variety of backgrounds.

This term, we were joined by Charlton Brown from the pressure group Extinction Rebellion (XR) which came to prominence in 2019.

During the online discussion Mr Brown gave us an overview of what the pressure group is about and why they focus on environmental issues. XR have 10 key aims which form the principles of the group.

Mr Brown explained in detail about each of the aims and went on later to talk about how effective their tactics have been to get their message across to the public.

He provided examples of the group's successes as a result of their work such as getting parliament to pass an emergency bill.

For us students, the presentation gave us a direct understanding of the group without having it filtered through the internet or news sources which most of the time create a negative impression of pressure groups and can sometimes form the opinion for you.

Speaking directly to people with firsthand experience has changed and broadened our own views and opinions. Prior to this experience, some of us in the class used to think that pressure groups mainly caused disruptions rather than trying to solve real issues.

After the discussion we had, it definitely made us think about their point of view and the positive aspects of pressure groups. Whether we agree or not, they have made progress to make the world a better place for future generations. ■

“The presentation gave us a direct understanding of the group without having it filtered through the internet or news sources.”

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EXPEDITION OPPORTUNITIES



Students will have the opportunity to apply to go on expeditions both within the UK and to far flung corners of the world.

Hammersmith Academy is one of only a handful of schools affiliated with British Exploring Society (BES) via the Ambassadors Programme. This important relationship provides access to life-changing opportunities for our students.

Past Academy explorers have benefitted hugely from the experience, discovering qualities of themselves that they previously were not aware of.

We are very pleased to announce that this year's programme is expanding and will see expedition opportunities offered to students in Year 10, as well as our usual offering to our Sixth Form students.

BES has a long history of running expeditions. Successful applicants will have the chance to learn how to thrive in an amazing environment, immersed in a wilderness setting and learn to work together to face unknown challenges. Young explorers will have a number of adventurous objectives that they

complete whilst on expedition.

Year 10 students will be able to access the programme for the first time with an expedition in the Scottish Highlands over the Easter and Summer holidays.

Previously, Sixth Form students have travelled to the Peruvian Amazon, the Canadian Yukon and on a tall ship to Iceland. Whilst last summer's expeditions were cancelled, we are very excited to be able to offer Sixth Formers the chance once again to apply to join an expedition to either the Amazon or the Yukon in this coming summer.

To be considered for a place on the expeditions, students must make an application and go through a rigorous interview process with both Academy staff and members of BES.

Places are much sought after and successful applicants will have to go on to fundraise part of their expedition cost. ■

THIS YEAR'S AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME IS EXPANDING TO INCLUDE YEAR 10 STUDENTS.

“Successful applicants will have the chance to learn how to thrive in an amazing environment.”



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 7 Session 3 Football Club took place after school on the MUGA,

Year 7s Shine in Sport

Each term the PE Department want to celebrate success in our lessons. Due to Covid restrictions we haven't been able to go offsite or compete in fixtures and sporting events, but that hasn't stopped our students displaying the 4Rs in their lessons.

We have been impressed with our new cohort of Year 7 students who have worked hard, engaged well and who have brought energy and enthusiasm to their lessons. Particular Year 7 and Year 8 students that have stood out in fitness, netball and badminton lessons are:

- Sadmaan (Y7)
- Kawser (Y7)
- Aaron (Y7)
- Sami (Y7)
- Makel (Y7)
- Grivelma (Y7)
- Jack (Y7)
- Zosia (Y8)
- Yasir (Y8)
- Asya (Y8)
- Haytham (Y8)
- Zebah (Y8)
- Juan (Y8)

Session 3

Our KS3 students are currently having a 3 week Session 3 trial for our after school programme that will begin (COVID-dependent) in January 2021 for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students. If you'd like further information on our Session 3 Clubs, please see our website.



Year 8 Girls Football Team under the floodlights on the MUGA.

Our KS4 students are covering netball, handball, badminton and fitness in their lessons. We have been impressed with the resilience of our KS4 students and their reciprocity as they work together in lessons.

Particular students that have stood out are:

- Mojtaba (Y9)
- Ranad (Y9)
- Georgia (Y9)
- McOwen (Y9)
- Zavier (Y9)
- Rahkarah (Y9)
- Omar (Y9)
- Omar (Y9)
- Erion (Y9)
- Harry (Y9)
- Sam (Y10)
- Shaimaa (Y10)
- Tom (Y10)
- Dylan (Y10)
- Lily (Y10)
- Jamie (Y11)
- Caitlin (Y11)
- Waleed (Y11)
- Shuaib (Y11)

We look forward to seeing the Session 3 programme expanding in the New Year and hopefully providing sessions for other Year Groups. ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

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

Sportswoman of the Term

Since arriving at HA, Asya has immersed herself within all opportunities available to her in PE! It has been a pleasure not only teaching Asya, but also witnessing firsthand her attitude, application and resilience to academic success - this was the case throughout the entirety of the first lockdown, as she completed all of her home learning tasks to an excellent standard, even taking the time to upload her efforts onto our social media platform, @HA_Sport1. Consequently, Asya has had a fantastic term in PE, building on last year. Asya is an integral part of all our Year 8 girls sports teams and, despite no fixtures currently taking place, she has been a regular attendee to our weekly Year 8 Girls Football Session 3 with Mr Hand.

Well done on a fantastic term, and we are looking forward to seeing what she continues to achieve in PE over the new year. ■



Sportsman of the Term

The PE department have been very impressed with Zavier in every lesson this term. He is punctual and in full kit each lesson.

Zavier always puts 100% effort into every task that he is set and he often offers help to others in the class. His knowledge and understanding is growing as he starts his GCSE PE and his performance in badminton and handball have been excellent. He is an all round positive character to have in a lesson and he works hard with his football and boxing commitments outside of school too. Zavier sets himself high standards and meets them continuously, which influences others in a positive way. Excellent term Zavier!

We are expecting more of the same after Christmas! ■



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