

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022 EDITION 13

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



What a term it has been! On paper the spring term is the shortest of the academic periods, yet this has been one of the busiest on record for the Academy.

The term commenced with a visit from the Secretary of State of Education, Mr Nadhim Zahawi who wanted to personally see how the Academy has been educating and supporting students over the course of the pandemic. He expressed his gratitude to the staff, in particular the support staff for implementing all the government's Covid testing measures. I am proud to say we left an impressive mark as Mr Zahawi referenced the Academy on the BBC later that week.

His Worship the Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham was also a visitor this term. Being a former teacher himself, the Mayor was keen to see the Academy in action and to give thanks to both students and staff for the way they have faced the challenges of the pandemic head on. His visit also highlighted the work of a mayor and the community.

I want to thank both Mr Zahawi and the Mayor for taking time out of their busy schedules to meet our students and staff. Their messages of thanks given in person makes us all feel valued and appreciated.

The Academy welcomed Ofsted who conducted a standard inspection in January. Inspectors spent two days at the Academy looking at all aspects of school life, from teaching right through to the whole Academy Community. We are delighted to announce that the Academy maintains its Good School rating and the inspection report clearly reflects

the outstanding aspects of our provision.

Pleasingly, the school experience for our students is back to the level it was before the pandemic. There are opportunities, activities and trips galore. Our school musical, Buggy Malone, was an absolute triumph. We can tell just how much students and parents have missed these events. We have welcomed many guest speakers in person this term from a diverse range of professions and backgrounds. Students really do value these important connections.

We have also adopted new skills learnt over the periods of remote learning which continue to benefit our students. This term classes have joined online discussions about the conflict in Ukraine and with a member of the House of Lords to name a couple of examples.

It has been an enriching term for all of us at Hammersmith Academy and I hope you enjoy reading about the many experiences and opportunities our students have had. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

SECRETARY OF STATE VISITS HA



Secretary of State, Mr Zahawi was greeted by students and the Headteacher on his arrival.

Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, visited Hammersmith Academy to see how the Academy has been coping with the extra demands brought by the pandemic, such as the mass testing of students before their return to school in January and the wearing of facemasks.

Mr Zahawi was greeted by students and Mr Kynaston on his arrival and the visit began with a tour of the Academy, which included the newly opened SEN Base, classroom suites and refurbished fitness suite. Mr Zahawi stopped by a variety of classes to ask students about their learning experience and joined them in lesson activities.

The Academy's gardening team were keen to showcase why the Academy was named Sustainable School of the Year at the Global Action Plan awards, RHS School Gardening Team of the Year and winner of the Mayor of London's Climate Kick-Start Prize. He met the young gardeners who gave planting demonstrations

and introduced Mr Zahawi to the chickens and the guinea pigs.

After his tour of the Academy, Mr Zahawi spoke with teachers and support staff about the challenges in the sector and personally thanked them for their efforts during the pandemic.

At the end of his visit, students presented Mr Zahawi with a plant that they had grown during their gardening time.

Mr Zahawi was impressed by what he saw at the Academy, so much so that he referenced Hammersmith Academy on several occasions during a live BBC interview later that week and in an interview with TES Magazine. ■

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION, NADHIM ZAHAWI, VISITED HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SPRING TERM.

“Mr Zahawi referenced Hammersmith Academy on several occasions during a live BBC interview later that week.”

Watch the BBC Clip:

Nadhim Zahawi mentions Hammersmith Academy on the BBC.

A THANK YOU FROM THE MAYOR



The Mayor stops by a Year 10 maths class to talk with students about their school experience.

THE MAYOR GAVE THANKS IN PERSON TO BOTH STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR THE WAY THEY OVERCAME THE CHALLENGES FACED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS.

His Worship the Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham visited the Academy to say a big thank you to staff and students. Over the course of the last two years, schools have faced numerous challenges including remote lessons during lockdown and Covid testing.

The Mayor was greeted by students, Mr Kynaston and Assistant Head, Ms Adeoye. The students were immediately impressed by the Mayor's electric car, complete with gull wing doors. The Mayor allowed students to sit in the car and explained the importance of the Borough's sustainability objectives.

Students along with Ms Adeoye led the Mayor on a tour of the Academy,

where he stopped by classrooms to speak with students and to highlight the work of the Mayor.

At the end of the tour the Mayor held a question and answer session with students and staff where they discussed a variety of topics, such as their experience of living in Hammersmith and Fulham, what being part of the Academy Community is like and winning Sustainable School of the Year.

At the end of his visit students presented the Mayor with a money plant and runner beans, grown during their gardening sessions, as a memento of his visit. ■

“The Mayor allowed students to sit in the car and explained the importance of the Borough's sustainability objectives.”



BBC LONDON NEWS

STUDENTS DISCUSS GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMINATIONS ON BBC LONDON NEWS AFTER EXAM BOARDS RELEASE ADVANCED INFORMATION.



In February, Ofqual released new information to students sitting GCSE and A Level examinations in the summer.

As part of this updated information, examination boards provided a list of topics that will be examined for each of the subjects with the aim of focusing students' revision and preparation and offset some of the interrupted learning for students nationally.

BBC London News wanted to hear from our students about how they felt with the release of this information and whether they felt it was helpful to them.

BBC reporter, Tolu Adeoye interviewed Yosif, Malaak, Amber and Ali to get their reaction at the information and how it affects their preparations.

Ali told the BBC, "Some of the subjects I'm quite happy with, other subjects it feels like they have taken nothing out of our spec."

Malaak added, "I feel like they should

have done it in December, or maybe at the start of Year 11 when we could have covered just these topics...Our school has really helped us, given us interventions, given packs to help us."

Yosif said of the new information, "Of course I am stressed with the exams coming up but I think that is natural just like any other year, now there is another layer of stress with these specifications."

Amber, "For me personally, there is a sense of excitement because it is the first time I am doing any big exams."

The Academy has provided support for students in each of the subjects they are studying. Subject teachers have worked with students to go through all the information provided by the exam boards, as well as giving student important strategies for revision to ensure they are well prepared and armed with all the resources they need to succeed. ■

[Watch the BBC Clip:](#)
GCSE and A Level students
speaking on BBC London News.

SPELLING BEE

MR GLAVANIS REPORTS FROM THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE INAUGURAL INTER-HOUSE SPELLING BEE.



Spelling Bee winners Uluc, Makel, Anisha and Alyssa with Mr Kynaston and Mr Glavanis.

Hammersmith Academy ran its first school wide Spelling Bee this year with every student taking part.

A Spelling Bee is a contest that puts students' spelling skills to the test. Contestants must spell a given word accurately and are provided with a definition to provide a contextual clue.

The whole school participated in tutor groups to find the best spellers. Those winners then made it through to the highly competitive year group final in the Theatre where friends,

family and teachers encouraged them from the audience.

At the end, with an elimination round, winners were pitted against one another and it was Uluc, in Year 11 who had no peer and ran out a deserved winner as he contemptuously spelt out whatever word we, the so called adults, could just about pronounce. We're ever so proud of all who competed, challenged themselves and overcame the nerves of public performance. Well done! ■

“Contestants must spell a given word accurately and are provided with a definition to provide a contextual clue.”



Year Group Winners

- Year 7 - Alyssa
- Year 8 - Makel
- Year 9 - Amira
- Year 10 - Anisha
- Year 11 - Uluc

DROP DOWN DAY



The Miracle Man, Anthony Bennett, was the keynote speaker on Drop Down Day. His incredible personal story was a motivational eye opener for students.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PERSONAL SAFETY WERE THE FOCUS OF THE THIS TERM'S DROP DOWN DAY. MS SAMUELS TAKES US THROUGH THE DAY'S EVENTS.

“It was powerfully relaxing and it took all the negative energy away from me.”

On the 12th January, we held our first Drop Down Day of 2022, focusing on the theme of Mental Health and Safety. Throughout the day students participated in variety of workshops including a motivational talk by Anthony Bennett, known as Miracle Man and exam-stress management sessions run by the charity, *4YoungMinds*. There were teacher-led sessions on mindfulness breathing, drawing, journaling and more.

Now more than ever, it is important that we take time out of our busy timetables to focus on mental health. Pro-actively pausing, learning about and then applying mindfulness strategies is crucial in managing our emotions and difficult situations. During the mindfulness session, there was an overwhelming sense of calmness across the Academy. One student spoke of the positive benefit they took from the session, commenting, "It was powerfully relaxing and it took all the negative energy away from me".

As there had been

such a positive response from the strategy-sharing session during Drop Down Day, for our Mental Health Awareness Week the following month we focused the session of wellbeing strategies. For this session, staff across the Academy shared the strategies they use to look after their own mental health. This highlighted the importance of talking about mental health more. Whether it's opening up a discussion around stigmas around mental health, sharing your own challenges or simply asking someone how they are - we all have a part to play.

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



FUTUREBUILD

YEAR 10 STUDENT, ZOE, DELIVERED A KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AT THE EXCEL LONDON.



Zoe in mid-flow during her keynote speech, explaining all the sustainability work the Academy has conducted over the last few years and the exciting projects ahead.

Students at Hammersmith Academy and their contemporaries value the importance of sustainability and ecology. They care about the immediate environment and the wider global impact their actions have.

During Tutor Time and Session 3, the Academy's young gardeners have been contributing in various ways to improve biodiversity, reducing waste and recycling more.

One of our most dedicated environmentalists at the Academy, Zoe (Year 10), was invited to give a keynote speech at Futurebuild, a construction industry exhibition at ExCel London, after impressing with her presentation at the student COP26 last year.

The aim of the speech was to highlight the work of the young

gardeners, the importance their generation places on sustainability and the environment, and to inspire the construction industry to put those considerations at the forefront of design and build.

Zoe's presentation showed off the work of the Academy which includes building insect hotels out of recycled material, working with the charity Rain Umbrella to plant trees both in the UK and in Brazil, planting local areas with plants that encourage biodiversity and a future sustainable outdoor kitchen.

The final part of the presentation showcased the Academy being awarded Sustainable School of the Year for its work to improve the environment both locally and globally.

A huge congratulations to Zoe for being a superb ambassador! ■

QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

YOUNG GARDENERS PLANT TREES TO MARK THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE AND INCREASE BIODIVERSITY.



The gardening team planted the six young trees around the Art Shed Gallery to mark the Queen's jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy.

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is an initiative that began in May 2021 in the United Kingdom in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. To increase and protect the native tree cover, people across the country are asked to create this green gift for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.

As part of this initiative, the Woodland Trust is supplying 3 million saplings free to schools and community groups to plant in their grounds and spaces to add to this national gift.

Hammersmith Academy were donated six trees by the Woodland Trust consisting of five hazel trees and a rowan tree. These trees have been specifically chosen to suit the local urban area.

The gardening team chose to plant the trees around the Art Shed Gallery where there are currently no trees and so will add to the biodiversity in the area. The trees will help teach students about the importance of trees to the environment and the fight against climate change.

The student gardeners built protective frames out of recycled wood to encircle the young trees which will help them to get established and off to quick start.

These young trees will be a legacy for the younger students who will help to look after them and watch them grow and develop over the coming years.

Keep an eye out for updates on our new trees and the projects our young gardeners are working on. ■

“The trees will help teach students about the importance of trees to the environment and the fight against climate change.”



YOUNG CREATIVES

THE ARDAGH YOUNG CREATIVES PROGRAMME WELCOMES A GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO EXPLORE ASPECTS OF DESIGN.



Year 11 students, Fathi and Tom, both took part in last year's programme and were on hand to launch this programme to young designers in Year 10.

The Design Museum recognises that the design world isn't as visibly diverse as it should be and wants to make a positive change. Each year, the Ardagh Young Creatives programme welcomes a cohort of young people from London into their programme. The programme, for 14 to 16 year olds from underrepresented groups, invites young people to explore all aspects of design and how it can be used to help solve issues in the world around us.

Working with established and emerging designers, students learn about design processes and methods through hands-on workshops, conversations, collaboration and co-design. All of these efforts culminate in a live build in front of the Design Museum.

Last year, we were very lucky to have two of our students, Tom and Fathi, selected to join this programme. Tom and Fathi subsequently worked closely with The Design Museum, collaborating with their mentors and fellow young designers in a range of fields. In February, they presented to our Year 9 and Year 10 art students alongside representatives from the Design Museum, and shared their

experiences on the programme.

When presenting to the students, Tom said, "being a part of the Ardagh Young Creatives at the Design Museum was an excellent gateway into the creative industry. Through the programme, I learnt about the process of design from start to end. From the initial idea, learning the process to execute this and then exhibiting it, along with a group of young designers, in a public space has been an exceptionally rewarding experience." Fathi simply put it as "one of the best experiences of my life!"

This year, we are very excited to have even more students apply to

take part in the programme with 12 applications made already. We are very much looking forward to seeing what they produce in their exhibition in July 2022! ■



Tom during a photography shoot with professional photographer Taran Wilkhu. Photo courtesy of Design District.

NEW ART LIBRARY

THE ART DEPARTMENT RECEIVES A GENEROUS DONATION OF 500 ART BOOKS TO FORM A NEW ART LIBRARY. HEAD OF ART, MS SAMUELS TELLS US ABOUT THE OPENING.



Elizabeth Petter Thompson's family and friends officially opened the Art Library this term.

The Academy officially launched the HA Art Library this term, the latest addition to our Art Department. We were honoured to have received a donation of an incredible collection of over 500 art books from local artist and art teacher, Elizabeth Petter Thompson, who sadly passed away.

Since receiving the donation last summer, the Facilities Team, along with Ms Wajler and Ms Martin, have been busy transforming the former art store cupboard into an incredible library, fitted with LED lights and beanbags (thanks to Mr Harrowes!). What I have really grown to realise is this collection is not just a donation of books, but a complete change in how students access and understand art. We are so proud of the library and excited to see how students utilise and enjoy this new resource.

Elizabeth's husband and daughters came in for the official ribbon-cutting and students shared their artwork and their thanks to the family. Makel, Year 8, explained that this resource is one of the reasons behind him choosing to take Art GCSE next year. Skarlette, Year 11, known as

the 'book stamper' after spending hours of her free time stamping every book with a logo dedicated to Elizabeth, explained that through this process she felt like she really got to know Elizabeth as a person, coming across notes, photographs, drawings, exhibition tickets within the books. Skarlette shared how these mementos gave an insight into what an inspiring artist, art teacher, friend, mother and wife Elizabeth was.

Thank you to all the students who attended the event, especially to Makel and Skarlette, who presented beautifully to Elisabeth's family. A big thank you again to Ms Wajler, Ms Harrowes, Ms Martin and the Facilities Team for making this all possible. ■

“ This resource is one of the reasons behind him choosing to take Art GCSE next year. ”



BANK OF ENGLAND

THEY SAY MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND, BUT WHAT DOES MONEY ACTUALLY MEAN? MS ERDMANN AND HER ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS STUDENTS ASKED THE BANK OF ENGLAND.



Senior Policy Analyst, Helena Patterson, gave a talk on economics in practice.

On Monday 21st February, the Economics and Business department welcomed Helena Patterson. Ms Patterson is a senior policy analyst in the Bank of England's Markets Directorate. During a one-hour session with the Sixth Formers studying Economics and Business, she delivered a presentation on 'Economics in practice'. The focus was on the Bank of England's role in using interest rates to control inflation. Also discussed was the role of the Bank of England as a regulator of financial institutions, setting rules and regulations for banking practice.

A key aspect of the bank is its ability to inspire consumer confidence in the entire banking system, giving peace of mind to customers and guaranteeing the safe return of customer's deposits.

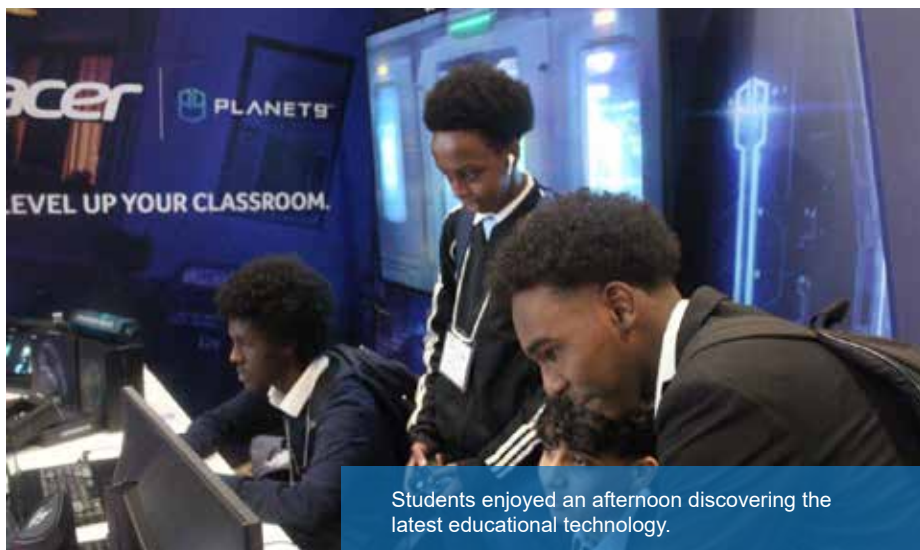
Ms Patterson added a personal touch to the presentation, by detailing her career and route into the Bank.

The students responded positively and were given the opportunity to ask questions about other aspects of the bank as well as Ms Patterson's career. ■

BETT SHOW

Sixth Form students studying Business and Computer Science visited the BETT Show in March to discover the latest technology in education. Students talked to professionals in the tech and education industry about their innovations and how they operate as a business.

Students enjoyed being some of the first ones to trial programmes and games before they become available to schools and universities. They were impressed with how engaging and interactive learning can be. ■



Students enjoyed an afternoon discovering the latest educational technology.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS



Matthew is one of two students with an Oxbridge offer this year, amongst a record number of UCAS applications.

This year saw a new record for UCAS applications at Hammersmith Academy, with 118 submitted by the deadline; amounting to 86% of Year 13 students.

As always, our students applied for a broad range of courses. In total, 20 students applied for Computer Science or Artificial Intelligence, a degree that is increasingly valued by employers for the technological skills its graduates can bring to a rapidly changing digital world. Psychology also stands out as a popular option, picked by 11 students, as does Law, chosen by eight. We clearly have many caring individuals in Year 13, with 15 applications for healthcare-related courses, including Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Midwifery, Physiotherapy and Optometry. These headline figures should not obscure the considerable variety in our students' applications, however; from Animation to Zoology, if you can name a course, it's likely a HA student has applied for it!

After the submission date comes the sometimes-nervy wait for offers. At the time of writing, offers are still coming in daily for our students and we are keeping our fingers crossed for all those waiting to hear back from their choices. So far, we have

been delighted to see offers from the University of Oxford for Alicia (History) and Matthew (Computer Science), who both applied to Magdalen College. Many more of our students have received offers from top Russell Group Universities, including Imperial College London, Durham University and the University of Nottingham. Deferrals due to Covid and demographic factors mean that this year has been one of the most competitive to apply to university, so we are especially pleased for all our students who have received offers during this challenging time. Now comes the hard work to get those grades!

Finally, we are also very proud of our students who have decided that UCAS was not for them this year and are currently hard at work on gap year plans and apprenticeship applications. We have students preparing to apply across a wide range of areas including software, electronics and radiography, as well as degree apprenticeships at companies like JP Morgan, IBM and Sky TV. Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly more high profile and we are encouraged that our students are considering all their options for future study. ■

**CAREERS
COORDINATOR, MR
DENNESS, GIVES US
A ROUND UP OF ALL
THE UCAS ACTION
THIS TERM.**

“Many more of our students have received offers from top Russell Group Universities.”

THE PAPER BIRDS

PAPER THEATRE
DELIVERED A YEAR
10 GCSE DRAMA
MASTERCLASS.



Year 10 Drama students during their workshop which explored verbatim theatre, movement and characterisation.

The Paper Birds are recognised as UK leaders in verbatim theatre and specialise in taking complex subjects and making it accessible to young audiences.

They visited Hammersmith Academy to conduct a workshop with Year 10 GCSE Drama students ahead of starting their own devised performances for their assessments.

The Paper Birds shared with students some of their own methods and

techniques for devising theatre in the workshop and introduced students to verbatim theatre, movement and characterisation.

The Paper Birds then performed their co-commissioned performance 'Broke' about real life stories from the frontline of poverty.

Students took away valuable techniques and confidence from the workshop which will prove invaluable in their own GCSE work. ■

I LOVE YOU MUM

I Love You Mum, I Promise I Won't Die tells the true story of 16 year old Daniel Spargo-Mabbs who died after taking ecstasy in 2014.

Wizard Theatre and the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation brought the play to Year 10 students to raise awareness of drug use and highlight the importance of making the right choices.

Students were moved by Daniel's story and were particularly struck by how his devastating death had affected his family and friends and the wider community. ■



Actors from the Wizard Theatre brought Daniel's story to the Academy's Year 10 students.

BUGSY MALONE

THE ACADEMY'S THEATRE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A WORLD OF MASS SPLURGING, SPEAKEASIES, SINGERS, SHOWGIRLS AND HOODLUMS. MISS WILLIAMS TAKES US BACKSTAGE.



The final scene of the show was a riot of splurging at Fat Sam's Grand Slam! It was the first show since the pandemic and students were full of enthusiasm.

This year brought the exciting opportunity to stage Buggy Malone as the annual musical. The cast and crew have been working hard since September, more determined than ever to create an outstanding show after the disruption that has been caused to the arts by Covid-19. It goes without saying that a Hammersmith Academy school production is a large commitment,

however the sense of community and group dynamic that I have seen amongst the students throughout the rehearsal process and on the show nights, really made everything worthwhile.

This year, due to the outstanding array of talent shown in the September auditions, the Performing Arts Faculty double cast some of the main roles: Blousey, Fat Sam,

Tallulah and Fizzy. This meant that we could showcase even more talent than in previous shows.

The final performances had outstanding singing, ensemble choreography and acting scenes which showcased the real talent that we have here at Hammersmith Academy. A special mention must also go to the talented crew members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create smooth and seamless transitions. I would also like to thank all of the teachers who supported the show through coming to watch or providing the amazing costume and props.

In the coming weeks, cast and crew will be invited to an Oscars evening where they will watch the show back and be presented with some well-earned awards for their hard work. We hope that the show has given them life-long skills and that these experiences will remain in their memories for life. Thanks to St Paul's School who helped with props and staging. ■



OFSTED



We are delighted to announce that the Academy continues to be an Ofsted Good School.

Inspectors visited the Academy in January to conduct a routine inspection of the quality of education on offer, the extra-curricular provision, the Academy's ethos

in action, safeguarding processes, student behaviour and other targets.

Here are a selection of the comments from the report:

- Pupils learn to behave kindly and respectfully towards one another, making the school a harmonious place. Poor behaviour is rare.
- Teachers have high levels of subject expertise. They are skilled in helping pupils to learn, remember and apply key knowledge.
- Pupils talk confidently about past learning. They produce high-quality work and enjoy using what they have learned before to understand new concepts.
- Leaders have put in place strong provision for pupils' broader development. Staff know pupils well and encourage them to take advantage of the wide range of opportunities on offer.

Thank you to our parents for supporting and trusting us to educate your children. It makes a huge difference in fuelling our desires to attain the best for every student. ■

REVISION FOR ALL

GCSE AND A LEVEL STUDENTS GIFTED REVISION GUIDES FOR CHRISTMAS.



Students received a bag of revision guides and materials from the Academy before breaking up for the Christmas holiday.

“This means I now have all my revision books and I do not have to wait to begin my revision!”

”

Revision is a process that all students taking examinations will have experienced at some time. It helps students to consolidate learning and improve knowledge recall.

However, we know that students do not have the same experience when it comes to revision and the associated resources. To get students off to the best of starts, the Academy gifted every GCSE and A Level student with a personalised revision bag

containing revision guides for each of their subjects.

A Year 11 student commented by saying, "Thank you for my revision guides. This means I now have all my revision books and I do not have to wait to begin my revision!" Another student said, "It's great that my parents don't have to get these for me and these are the exact ones we need." ■

CLUBS GALORE



Students took time exploring the different Session 3 stalls to see what after school clubs are on offer and to choose the clubs which best suits their interests.

Extra-curricular enrichment forms a vital part of personal development. For students at Hammersmith Academy, the Session 3 after school clubs deliver a wide range of experiences to cater for all interest and tastes.

In February, the Academy hosted a Session 3 Fair for Key Stage 3 students to help them decide which clubs to sign up to for the academic year. Each club had a stall set up and manned by the club leader, displaying some of the activities that they would be taking part in if they signed up.

There was huge range on offer, including the popular Board Game Club, Science Club, Chess Club, Italian and Spanish Clubs, Open Art Studio, Eco Club, Table Tennis Club and many more. This diversity of clubs provides students the opportunity to develop important skills such as communication and teamwork, expanding cultural knowledge and learning life skills such as knitting and computer coding.

Students enjoyed being able to talk to club leaders and taking part in sample activities. ■

SESSION 3 AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS PROVIDE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT.



HOLOCAUST



Ms Samuels introduced students to her family's story and how they escaped the persecution by coming to the UK.

Each year 27th January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in 1945. To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day this year at the Academy, I shared my family's personal story of their experience at the time, through a series of assemblies across the week.

Throughout the assemblies, I spoke about the importance of remembering

those who have been persecuted and discriminated against as a result of their identity. More so, I discussed the complex relationships that exist between our identities, our culture, the way we live our lives and where we are from, and the names that we go by and how these represent us to the wider world.

A story I shared was that of my great grandmother, Rose Bardowski. While

originally from Poland, shortly before the war she moved to the UK and avoided Nazi persecution, hence how I am here today. During the time of the war, to keep her religious identity hidden, she changed her names from Bardowski to Bard, as Bardowski was a recognisable Polish-Jewish surname at the time. Once the war ended, this change stuck with an ongoing fear around the sense of 'otherness' with carrying a recognisably Jewish name. This name continued with my grandad, my mum and myself.

We all have a responsibility to shed light on these old identities in addition to showing awareness and sensitivity to the prejudice and discrimination that allows such horrendous acts of dehumanisation to take place.

Thank you to all students for listening so attentively to my family's story, for speaking to me afterwards and sharing the stories of their own families. It really highlighted the importance of solidarity and during any time of darkness, how we can come together to discuss, learn and make our voices heard. ■

DRUG AWARENESS

YEAR 11 STUDENTS WORK WITH FOOTBALL JOURNEYS TO DEVISE AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS.

Students in Year 11 have been working with Football Journeys to devise a workshop for students in Year 8 to highlight the dangers of drugs and county lines.

Year 11 students devised engaging ways to get their message across to their younger counterparts. Accompanying their PowerPoint presentation, was an acted segment which demonstrated the psychology used by those who recruit young people into illegal drug distribution.

Well done to Toure, Malaak and Hamdi for leading on the project and being such great role models for the younger students. ■



Toure, Malaak and Hamdi with instructors from Football Journeys, Emmanuel Akin and Hannah Anketell.

POLITICS TODAY



Students analyse the last general election during their talk on general election systems.

On Thursday 17th March, Year 12 Government and Politics students were joined by two guest speakers from the UK Parliament Digital Sessions. The guests brought together students' knowledge on General Election systems and outcomes to consolidate their understanding. Students engaged in discussion about the strengths and weaknesses of the UK Parliament electoral system, known as 'First Past The Post', and explored the impact that this system has on the outcomes of our elections and the consequences this has for the nature of our democracy.

Speaking to those who are directly involved in politics and governance enhances the understanding of the topics learnt in the classroom. ■

UKRAINE DISCUSSION

STUDENTS WERE INVITED TO JOIN FORMER BBC DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT AND RUSSIAN EXPERT, BRIDGET KENDALL IN A LIVE ONLINE Q&A.



Students joined other schools across the UK in a live Q&A with Russian expert, Bridget Kendall.

Young people across the country have been watching events unfold in Ukraine on the news. To help students better understand the complexities of the Russian invasion, students from the Academy joined a live online event hosted by ex BBC Diplomatic Correspondent and Russia expert Bridget Kendall.

Students submitted questions such as how this conflict started, why NATO is not entering Ukraine, what effect sanctions are having on every day Russians and what Putin's end goal could be. Thank you to Big Ideas for inviting HA to take part. ■

WORLD BOOK DAY

THE LIBRARY MARKS WORLD BOOK DAY WITH A HOST OF EVENTS AND GIVEAWAYS. MS HARNEY, LIBRARIAN, RECALLS THE CELEBRATIONS.

World Book Day came to the Academy's Library on Thursday 3rd March with a number of activities, competitions and giveaways.

We had a fun competition where students had to guess book titles from silhouettes of the cover artwork. Not as easy as it sounds!

Students also received free books and book tokens on the day to spend at bookshops.

March was also Women's History Month and to mark the occasion the Library's main display featured books by female authors or with strong female characters. ■



There was a lot of excitement in the Library, with the vouchers and free books being very popular.

RED NOSE DAY



Students donated money to wear an item of red for Red Nose Day.

STUDENTS AND STAFF WORE RED TO RAISE MONEY FOR COMIC RELIEF.

Comic Relief's Red Nose Day came to the Academy on Friday 18th March. Students donated money to replace their tank tops for an item of red clothing and donned their red noses to support the cause.

The charity raises money to support amazing projects and organisations to make a difference to the lives of

millions of people across the UK and around the world.

Thank you to all the parents, students and staff who made or donated baked goods for the bake sale and to our Junior Leadership Team for promoting the fundraising and selling the red noses. In total we raised £670.63 for the charity. ■

Final Total:

£670.63

Thank you to everyone who donated!

A DAY AT THE ZOO



Students taking the ASDAN course spent the day with keepers learning about animal husbandry.

As part of the various enrichment courses run at Hammersmith Academy, a group of seven students spent the day at London Zoo to explore the incredible features of some of animals studied in the Animal Management ASDAN course.

Zoos are by design an ideal educational environment with visitors learning more about wildlife, animals, their habitats, their needs and how they are cared for.

Students can choose which aspects of the zoo they prefer to engage with and explore the different professional roles that make up a zoo. During

the trip students saw the importance of taking care of the environment as it has a significant impact on the lives and welfare of animals and participated in a rainforest workshop where they looked at the many different types of animal adaptations. They also went through a wildlife exhibit where they had a close look at some amazing rainforest animals such as the Two Toed Sloths and the Red Titi monkeys. Hammersmith Academy believes that education about wildlife and habitat conservation is extremely important and trips such as these contribute to developing life-changing ecological values. ■

STUDENTS TAKING THE ASDAN COURSE SPENT THE DAY AT THE ZOO LEARNING ABOUT ANIMAL CARE. MS FIORENZI TELLS US MORE.



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 9 & Year 10 boys Basketball celebrating their 43-19 win against Phoenix!

Year 10 Boys Football

HA made the short journey across Shepherd's Bush to face off against close rivals Burlington Danes Academy in their first game of the season. In recent years, this has proven to be a high scoring and competitive game, and this was no different. The Year 10 team had

numerous players making their full debuts for the side; Harry, Kai-Leung, Omar, Suhaib, Kavar and Samuel.

After a bright opening ten minute spell, which saw Erion and Xavier hitting the woodwork, HA were opened up with a swift counter-attack and BDA calmly slotted past debutante Harry. Unfortunately,

things got worse for HA as they found themselves 2-0 down just five minutes' later, with BDA's No. 9 running through once again. Despite this, HA surged once more and went close with Amin having a shot well saved at the end of the half.

HA started the better side after the interval and were rewarded from their first corner of the half, Kavar, making his highly anticipated return to BDA, played a short corner to Ryan, whose cross-come-shot was parried to the path of Musa who calmly headed the ball into the empty net. Just moments later, Erion ran through and was brought down in the box. Samuel, making his debut, calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to make it 2-2. There was no stopping HA, as Xavier calmly rolled the ball past the keeper following a mazy run.

However, for all of HA's efforts, a momentary lapse in concentration led to HA giving away a free-kick on the edge of their box. HA failed to clear their lines on numerous occasions and BDA levelled the score with a half-volley on the edge of the box.

Nevertheless, HA kept their heads



The Key Stage 4 girls Football Team enjoyed a return to competition this term.



Year 10 Boys Football Team got off to a flying start this term as competitive sports returned after a long break.

up and this time, Xavier became the provider, intercepting the ball in midfield, playing a swift one-two with Kavar before putting in a delightful cross into the box, with Erion on hand to smash the ball high into the net, giving the keeper no chance. Unfortunately, the fourth goal went the way of BDA, as an inviting cross was deemed to have hit the arm of a HA defender and they dispatched the penalty. With just a minute of extra-time left to play, the crowd at BDA were all eager to see if there would be a winner; they wouldn't be disappointed. Similarly, to HA's third goal, Xavier was found with a great through ball and smashed the ball into the top corner, causing mass celebrations in the corner from the boys! In the dying embers of the game, Harry was called into action, with a 30 yard shot destined for the bottom corner, Harry managed to get across well and palm the ball to safety.

At the final whistle, Hammersmith Academy took home the win 5-4.

A fantastic first game for Year 10! ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

 [@hasport1](#)

Sportswoman of the Term

Elena has excelled in GCSE PE this year, often going above and beyond in her studies, which has resulted in excellent theory results to date.

She has also performed very well in the practical aspect of the course, most notably in Table Tennis, showing much promise.

Additionally, Elena has represented the Year 9 Football Team this season, putting in some eye-catching performances and being a strong member of the team!

We look forward to seeing Elena develop further this year and becoming even more of a sporting all-rounder. ■



Sportsman of the Term

Musa has had a fantastic year in PE! Alongside his superb engagement in his regular PE lessons, Musa has been an ever-present member in both the Basketball and Football teams this season.

He has thoroughly enjoyed the return of competitive sport and has shown great competitive spirit in his outings.

In his last outing for the Year 10 Football Team, he was made captain and marked the momentous occasion with four goals in a 9-2 win against Phoenix Academy.

He has been a true role model to his peers. ■



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on at HA every day!



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