

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 EDITION 16

## IN THIS EDITION:

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BATTLE OF THE BANDS • GOOD LIFE GROUP • CAREERS FOCUS • CHARITY NEWS  
QPR CHALLENGE • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • AND MORE!

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



The academic year continues in full flow with none of the restrictions or constraints of the past couple of years. There has been a real drive this term for students to experience the outdoors beyond the confines of London and the M25.

We have had two Outward Bound trips, one with Year 9 and Year 10 to Wales and another with Year 8 to the Lake District. These trips were transformational. With students starting hesitantly, adjusting to new surroundings and experiences and becoming increasingly confident over the week, pushing themselves to do things they never envisaged doing. Students took away vital life skills that remain a lifetime.

This term has been a celebration of many successes. Our Duke of Edinburgh students have received their Bronze Awards for completing their programme, eight students were honoured for their contributions to school life at the Jack Petchey Awards, and two outstanding individuals were presented with the Hammersmith & Fulham's Mayor's Coldstream Guards Prize. Congratulations to them all.

Being able to express your talent in areas of interest is crucial to developing character and deepen passions in extracurricular and cultural activities. There have been numerous opportunities to do so this term with our chess tournament, Battle of the Bands, STEM clubs, Session 3, and many more.

We have welcomed notable speakers, including politician and political activist, Gina Miller who spoke with our Sixth Form Politics students to give a firsthand account of the machinations of politics and the media.

Sustainability remains at the forefront of students' minds. Our 'Good Life Group' continue to work with Global Action Plan to make positive changes around the Academy, pitching innovative ideas for implementation.

Our Careers Team has been working hard to organise a plethora of events and highlights for students across the Academy. From personal statement workshops, university trips and visits to financial institutions, through to speakers from Sky and NHS. There has also been a focus on National Careers Week, shining a spotlight on why it's important to focus on your future.

Inside this edition of the newsletter you will see the depth and breadth of the experiences and opportunities our students have embraced. These are just a fraction of the highlights from this term! ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher



# OUTWARD BOUND WALES



Students spent a week in Wales taking part in challenging once-in-a-lifetime activities in surroundings in stark contrast to Hammersmith & Fulham.



The Outward Bound Trust was established in 1941 and is the original provider of outdoor education. Their mission is to unlock the potential in young people through discovery and adventure in the wild.

Eighty students from Year 9 and Year 10 travelled to Aberdovey in Wales in February to experience life away from the city and discover more of themselves and their abilities.

Students wasted no time in getting stuck in. After acquainting themselves with their accommodation, they made their way to the beach for the first of their activities, followed by an evening of team building exercises.

The following morning, students split into their teams for the week with challenges devised by the group leaders. These included Jacob's

Ladder and aerial course, which required teammates to work together to reach the summit. No easy task with each rung getting increasingly wider.

Another team activity saw teams having to build a seaworthy vessel. Students had to work together using logs, barrels and rope to construct the vessel, before launching it into the ocean with students paddling on board. The winner was the team that travelled the furthest and stayed afloat the longest!

Rock climbing and abseiling were also on the week's agenda. Students had to overcome the natural fear of heights as they ascended the rock face. Once at the top, students took in the incredible view of the Welsh countryside.

One of the hardest challenges was the expedition, requiring students to plan their hiking route and prepare their camping equipment for an overnight stay in the wilderness, leaving behind their creature comforts. Despite this, students

**THE OUTWARD BOUND EXPERIENCE IS A LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP KEY SKILLS AND MAKE LASTING MEMORIES.**

“Students had to overcome the natural fear of heights as they ascended the rock face.”





One of the activities saw students constructing their own seafaring vessel from logs, barrels and rope and launching it into the ocean.

fully embraced the experience, enjoying the beautiful scenery and camaraderie.

It was a pleasure to see students come out of their shell and adapt to the challenges of the week. Not

only did they push themselves in ways they have never done before, students were so supportive of each other, helping one another to overcome their fears. This was a recurring theme throughout the week, further reinforcing the Academy's values of reciprocity, reflectiveness, resilience and resourcefulness.

Since returning from the residential, students have drawn on their Outward Bound experience to help face challenges in everyday school life, such as persevering when tackling difficult concepts or when sitting assessments and exams. ■

# OUTWARD BOUND LAKE DISTRICT

A GROUP OF YEAR 8 STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO THE LAKE DISTRICT TO DEVELOP KEY SKILLS. MS GOWIE UPDATES US ON THE TRIP.

Twelve Year 8 students travelled to Ullswater in the Lake District to take part in an Outward Bound programme. The aim of the trip was to raise aspirations, connect with nature, develop curiosity and the desire to aim higher and think bigger. We wanted students to seek out new opportunities and develop skills to cope with setbacks. These are key skills required for success in their education and employment.

Before every activity there was a skill-based discussion with the trip leader. Students were able to discuss how each of the activities linked back to the Academy's ethos and character development.

One of the activities was camping which required students to prepare for a day long trek and an overnight camping session. Students had to show responsibility for preparing and packing their own equipment and clothing, as well as pitching their own tent and cooking equipment. Students also had to cope with weather conditions which they were

not accustomed to. Since returning from the trip, students have an added appreciation for being organised and prepared for school, which is less challenging in comparison.

Addy said, "I really enjoyed the Outward Bound trip especially the activities. Camping was challenging as we had to do everything ourselves."

Dmytro added, "The activities really challenged me. They were hard but rewarding. I really enjoyed the night line where we were blind folded and had to do an obstacle course. The leader wasn't very good and we kept on falling over!" ■



Students took part in a week long series of outdoor activities, including gorge climbing.

# ART & POSTCARDS



Year 10 Art students spent a day in Tate Modern to seek inspiration for their GCSE portraiture project.

## Tate Modern Visit

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 44 Year 10 students had the privilege of visiting Tate Modern on South Bank. Tate Modern is one of the most prominent contemporary art galleries in the world, and the trip was planned to support students working on their upcoming GCSE Art Portraiture project.

The students were excited to visit the museum, and for many, it was their first time visiting the Tate Modern. Alysha was impressed by the variety of art on display. She said, "It was amazing to get to see so many different artists from a range of movements in one place. I found each room really interesting and left feeling inspired!"

During the trip, our Year 10s had the opportunity to participate in a range of different workshops which built on their experimental, as well as observational drawing skills. The workshops were designed to provide the students with an opportunity to directly respond to the artwork on display in the gallery.

Students were impressed by the vastness of the collection, which included works by famous artists like Barbara Kruger, whose work is being used as inspiration for

their portraiture project. Frida said, "Kruger's use of text and images was really interesting. I can see how her style could be used to create a powerful portrait."

The trip to the Tate Modern was an excellent opportunity for Year 10 students to broaden their artistic horizons and gain inspiration for their upcoming projects. The students left the gallery feeling motivated and excited to apply what they had learned in their own works of art. As Carlos put it, "There's something really special about Tate Modern. Seeing the art in such a big and open space really gave me a new perspective on the pieces."

Overall, the trip was a valuable experience, and the students appreciated the opportunity to learn more about contemporary art in the unique surroundings of Tate Modern. The Art department is looking forward to seeing the creative works of art that the students will produce, inspired by their visit to the gallery.

## HA Postcard Auction

The Art Department is excited to announce HA's first ever Postcard Auction, led by two talented students in Year 10, Ruben and Verity. This exciting event will be a fantastic opportunity for students, teachers,

friends and family to purchase unique and valuable works of art, all while supporting the school's fundraising efforts for new ceramic making equipment.

The auction involves two stages; the first stage is making the postcards, where everyone is welcome to decorate and submit as many postcards as they like. The second stage is the auction itself, where all postcards are auctioned off to the highest bidder. The artwork is signed on the back, so buyers have the option of either guessing the big-name artists or buying what they like.

This event is an excellent opportunity for everyone to showcase their artistic skills and creativity while bringing the school community together for a worthy cause. Whether you're an art enthusiast or looking for a unique piece to add to your collection, the postcard auction is the perfect opportunity to have some fun while supporting the school.

Ruben's and Verity's dedication and hard work is a testament to the creativity and innovation of our students at Hammersmith Academy and we are excited to make this event a success! ■



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



Last year's Duke of Edinburgh participants received their Bronze Award certificates for successfully completing their expeditions, skills and volunteering.

**MR FITCHETT,  
DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD  
COORDINATOR  
CONGRATULATES  
BRONZE AWARD  
STUDENTS.**

“ On the back of this success, this year 30 Year 10 students have signed up to the DofE Bronze...

”

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme challenges young people to push themselves in a variety of ways to learn new skills, improve physical activity and volunteering.

Last year, 28 Year 10 students took part in the DofE Bronze Level. Participants spent 12 months learning new skills which culminated in a summer expedition to Bentley Copse in Guildford. Students were assessed by official assessors and had to demonstrate planning, independence and teamwork.

To prepare for this assessment, students had several planning sessions which included navigation and route planning, map reading,

equipment and kit preparation, before going on a practice expedition in East Grinstead.

Congratulations to all the students who took part and successfully completed their Bronze Award. We are so proud of their achievements and dedication towards the programme throughout Year 10.

On the back of this success, 30 Year 10 students have signed up to the DofE Bronze this year. They have undergone and completed training for Countryside Code, First Aid, Expedition Aims and they are now working towards their Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections of the award independently. ■



This year's Bronze Award cohort are currently planning for their summer expedition and completing their volunteering.

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

NINE EXTRAORDINARY SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED A PRESTIGIOUS MAYOR'S COLDSTREAM GUARDS PRIZE.



The annual Mayor's Coldstream Guards Prize is championed by the Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham and awarded in partnership with 17 Company, The Coldstream Guards, one of the borough's main Army Reserve Units.

Each prize rewards students' hard work, enthusiasm, and achievements. This year's awards celebrated students for their academic and sporting accomplishments, their social contribution, and their efforts in overcoming adversity.

Two of the winners are Hammersmith Academy students. Hannah in Year 10 won the Academic Achievement award and Xavier in Year 11 was honoured with Sporting Achievement award.

"Zavier plays football at the Watford Academy and juggles his academics alongside, he is a true role model to

his peers. Hannah is a model student who never fails to deliver on her academic studies. She impresses in every subject." added Mr Flitton, Head of Upper School.

The winners were invited to an award ceremony held at Princess Louise House, the 17 Company Army Reserve Centre in Hammersmith. The awards were presented by Cllr Daryl Brown, Deputy Mayor of Hammersmith & Fulham, Cllr David Morton, Borough Representative for the Armed Forces Community and Major Rudy Vandaele-Kennedy of 17 Company, The Coldstream Guards.

One of the judges – Cllr Alex Sanderson, H&F Cabinet Member for Children and Education said, "Picking just nine students was extremely tough. We were incredibly impressed by the entries and worked to pick winners who had really gone above and beyond over the last year.

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated – your hard work is inspiring."

The nine students will have the chance to attend a further three lunches where they can share and gain experiences with each other and their hosts, including Kevin McGrath OBE, Deputy Lieutenant for Hammersmith & Fulham.

Each winner received an engraved plaque and will be invited to a celebratory lunch at the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards in Windsor later in the year. The students will attend a number of personal development workshops in 2023, all organised by The Coldstream Guards.

Each school with a winning student receives an engraved Coldstream Guards statuette. ■



# JACK PETCHEY



## JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS LONDON AND ESSEX.

“Winners are nominated by their peers which is an important part of the scheme...”

”

Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners are young people who have gone above and beyond in their achievements. The Award recognises both academic and personal triumph. An important part of the scheme is that winners are nominated by their peers.

Seven winning students from Hammersmith Academy were selected from a long list of nominees.

- Darne (Year 8) is a model student who consistently surpasses all school expectations. Her positive attitude spreads warmth to her peers.
- Leonard (Year 8) is a kind and conscientious role model and his engagement with all aspects of school life is exemplary.
- Otilie (Year 9) is a polite and respectful young person who is supportive and encouraging to their peers and is someone that can be approached for guidance and support.
- Stefan (Year 9) has helped a number of students and is someone that can be

approached for guidance and support. His positive outlook has a great impact on others.

- Juwon (Year 11) is a hardworking student with an interest in sport and has represented the Academy sporting teams on many occasions.
- Joe (Year 11) is a conscientious, positive role model to his peers. Joe's peers, have described him as helpful, kind and thoughtful.
- Tianna (Year 11) is a kind and positive student who consistently surpasses all school expectations and has made a positive impact on the community.
- Nesma (Year 13) is a model student who works extremely hard and makes the most of all opportunities that come her way.

Award winners were invited to attend the award evening held at Kensington Town Hall to receive their medal and certificate. They will also receive a £300 grant to benefit the Academy. ■



# CHECKMATE

TOURNAMENT ORGANISER, MR RUSSEA FILLS US IN ON THE ACADEMY'S INAUGURAL CHESS TOURNAMENT.



The Academy's first Chess Tournament was fiercely contested with over 40 students competing over two days of competition.

Hammersmith Academy held its first ever chess tournament in February having built up a large number of regular attendees to the Chess Session 3 Club.

The tournament attracted over 40 participants in a thrilling competition held in the Academy's Theatre. For many of the competitors, this was the first time they had experienced competition conditions, including the use of a chess clock which keeps track of the remaining time a player has in a game of chess and displays the time for each player separately.

Competitors keenly showed off their mastery of the game, demonstrating their individual strategies and tactics.

Two students stood out in particular against some very stiff competition. Pau in Key Stage 3 and Emir in Key Stage 5 collected the most points over five rounds of play.

The competition was closely competitive, Anas and Leandro in Key Stage 4, and Hussein and James in Key Stage 3 deserve a

special mention as they missed out on first place by just a single point.

Overall, the tournament was a fantastic success, showcasing the strategic thinking and intellectual capacity of the students.

We will be looking to expand the number of competitive matches and students taking part in chess, so if any students missed the chance

to compete, there will be other opportunities very soon!

## Chess Club

Chess Club takes place every Thursday after school in S13A and all students are welcome to join. See Mr Russea for more details. ■



Key Stage 3 winner, Pau and Key Stage 4/5 winner, Emir were awarded their certificates in Chess Club.

# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

THE WEST LONDON PARTNERSHIP BATTLE OF THE BANDS SAW YOUNG MUSICAL TALENT COMPETE TO BE CROWNED TOP BAND. MS HARROWES, REPORTS FROM THE CONCERT.



Teratoma from Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School were named the best band on the night by the panel of industry judges.

A night of creativity, collaboration, high expectations and extraordinarily diverse performances lifted the roof at Hammersmith Academy earlier this term. Bands from seven of the West London Partnership's 11 schools hit the stage for an audience of friends and family, performing one song each in front of a panel of four industry judges. Cardinal Vaughan's band Teratoma were crowned champions, performing a cover of Kings of Leon's Use Somebody, with Wimbledon High's Neptune in second place and our very own Double Dudes stepping up to collect third.

The West London Partnership is a coalition of 11 local schools from both the private and state sector that work together to share expertise, facilities and resources to benefit

the students. A student committee meets regularly to develop ideas for collaboration and this was the first student led WLP event to get off the ground. Charity and community are central themes to the partnership, so proceeds from the event will be donated to the Felix Project, a foodbank charity the Academy has worked with since 2020. Ticket prices were kept deliberately low, but even so the evening raised more than £200.

On the night of the show there was a real air of excitement. Whilst the bands waited in the green room for their time on stage, the three student comperes from St Paul's School, Putney Girls' School and Year 12 Hammersmith Academy student Mariam kicked off the

“ Hammersmith Academy's Double Dudes performed a reworked version of The Song of Twilight ”



show, introducing the bands and interviewing the panel of judges. The judges had been recruited for their wide-ranging industry experience and connections to the school and our thanks goes out to Chris Ancliff, Evan Cooper Davies, Marissa McKinnon and Chrissi Turner for their expertise, warmth, good humour – and total lack of Simon Cowell vibes! They were hard pressed to make their decision from the bands and gave plenty of positive feedback for the polished performances; it was evident just how much work and rehearsal time had gone into the acts. Hammersmith Academy's Double Dudes were the youngest performers; Charley and Jeremie from Year 7, performed a reworked version of The Song of Twilight on piano and drums and amused the judges with their confident introduction and gifts of handmade Double Dude merchandise.

Collaboration is a word that is often over-used, but it's worth noting just how genuinely positive and energising it was to bring students of all ages from seven very different schools together under one roof. They all rose to the occasion, sharing friendship, professional support and biscuits over an afternoon of rehearsals and evening of performance. Thanks to all the schools who took part, West London Partnership Coordinator, Ms Dariya, Year 10 HA student Tegan for her organisational skills and to all the supporters on the night. ■



The judging panel Chris Ancliff, Chrissi Turner, Marissa McKinnon and Evan Cooper Davies (left to right) had a very difficult decision to make.



### **Congratulations to all the bands who took part in the battle!**

- **Guts, Law & Erder – Latymer Upper School**  
“Great Balls of Fire” (Cover)
- **Big Fish – Putney Girls’ School** - “I am not getting excited” (Cover)
- **Chimp Invasion – St Paul’s School** - “Green Room” (Original)
- **The Double Dudes – Hammersmith Academy** - “The Song of Twilight” (Cover)
- **Neptune - Wimbledon High School** - “Back to Black” (Cover)
- **Teratoma – Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School** - “Use Somebody” (Cover)
- **Chaos in Harmony – St Paul’s Girls’ School** - “It’s all Futile, it’s all Pointless” (Cover)



Hammersmith Academy was well represented by the Double Dudes, Charley and Jeremie (pictured left), Tegan (middle) who is HA's student representative on the West London Partnership council, and Mariam (right) one of the comperes on the night.

# STEM UPDATE

STEM COORDINATOR, MS FERRELL PROVIDES AN UPDATE ON THE ACADEMY'S SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS PROGRAMME.

## Pilot Academy Kitchen

The Academy has joined with Leith's Cookery School this year to bring the essential life skill of cooking to students. HA is part of their national pilot for the brand new, 'Leiths' Academy Kitchen'.

Year 8, 9 and 10 participants were selected to join the new Session 3 Club based on a creative application process. While some of the programme involves cooking sophisticated meals at home; the students have worked closely with Ms Wan and Ms Ferrell to come up with the ideas and source equipment to bring cooking to HA.

In the first cooking session, students got creative with pancake recipes. Nikita in Year 9 said, "I enjoyed learning how to make food, working as a team with my friends and learning new skills. I found it to be a wonderful experience and am more independent."

Stefan in Year 9 added, "We were able to independently test things out which meant that we could learn from our own mistakes and improve each



The new Session 3 Cooking Club began with easy pancake recipes.



This year's Lego League team have been busy preparing for the competition against other schools.

time we tried again. I would love to see more opportunities for us to cook at school."

## Imperial College London: I-Explore

For the third consecutive year, Hammersmith Academy welcomed second year Medicine, Biochemistry, Biology and Physics students from Imperial College, as part of the I-Explore programme, a partnership project between the world class university and local schools. The programme is designed to introduce school students to the university experience, as well as open students to the idea of studying STEM subjects (Science technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine).

Year 9 student, Mahnoor commented, "I hope to learn more about medicine as it has sparked an interest in me. I enjoy science and learning about the courses and even though we have plenty of time to decide what we want to do at university, I believe that I want to do medicine because of the programme."

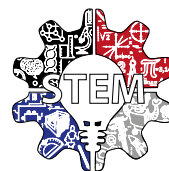
## Lego League Challenge

The FIRST LEGO League challenge theme this year is 'SUPERPOWERED'. The team will not only need to apply coding skills

they have developed over the last few seasons but also use their STEM knowledge to solve a challenging set of problems around energy sources, storage, distribution methods, and energy consumption.

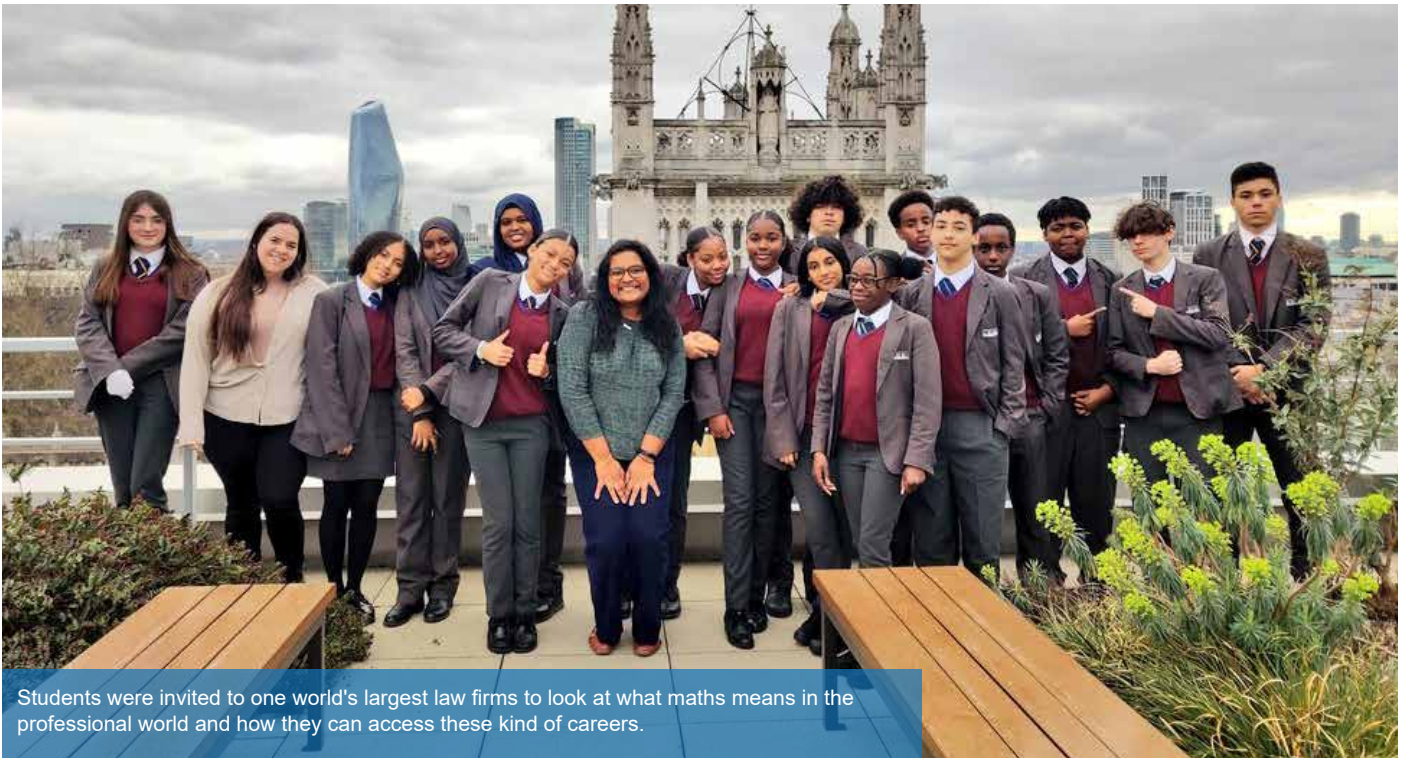
The HA Lego League team this year is led by Year 11 veterans Leo, Ted and Titas who have been working hard to code a very sophisticated autonomous robot. The energy challenge of the task will be led by promising new recruits in Years 8-10. Best of luck to the whole team who will take part in the regional competition!

Year 9 team member, Otilie said, "I have an interest in STEM so I thought it would be good way to expand my interests. I had tried Lego coding before and enjoyed it so I jumped at the opportunity to do it again. I'm looking forward to trying out new skills and improving my coding abilities, developing ideas related to this year's theme of power, working with the other club members and getting the team t-shirt!" ■





# MATHS IN ACTION



Students were invited to one world's largest law firms to look at what maths means in the professional world and how they can access these kind of careers.

## YEAR 10 STUDENTS ROWENA, ELISE, VERITY, HANA AND KASUN TELL US MORE ABOUT THEIR AFTERNOON OF PRACTICAL MATHS AND FINANCE.

“A lawyer named, Claudia inspired us with her passion of tackling the illegal use of technology the significance of her job...”

Twenty Year 10 students were invited to Weil, Gotshal & Manges - one of the world's largest law firms to explore and discover practical maths and finance in action. The aim of the visit was to show what maths means in the everyday world of work and talk to professionals about how to access jobs in their career sector.

We visited their offices in Chancery Lane which was very modern and had a great view overlooking London. On arrival, we were greeted at reception and took the lift to the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. They had set up one of their big office spaces for us, with pens and notepads for us to take notes during the event; as well as lunch, drinks and snacks.

Tobias looked after us while we were there and started the session off by telling us about the law firm and the industry in general. The diversity in careers and jobs roles is surprising and this trip was eye-opening and a great opportunity to figure out more things to do in any industry not just in law.

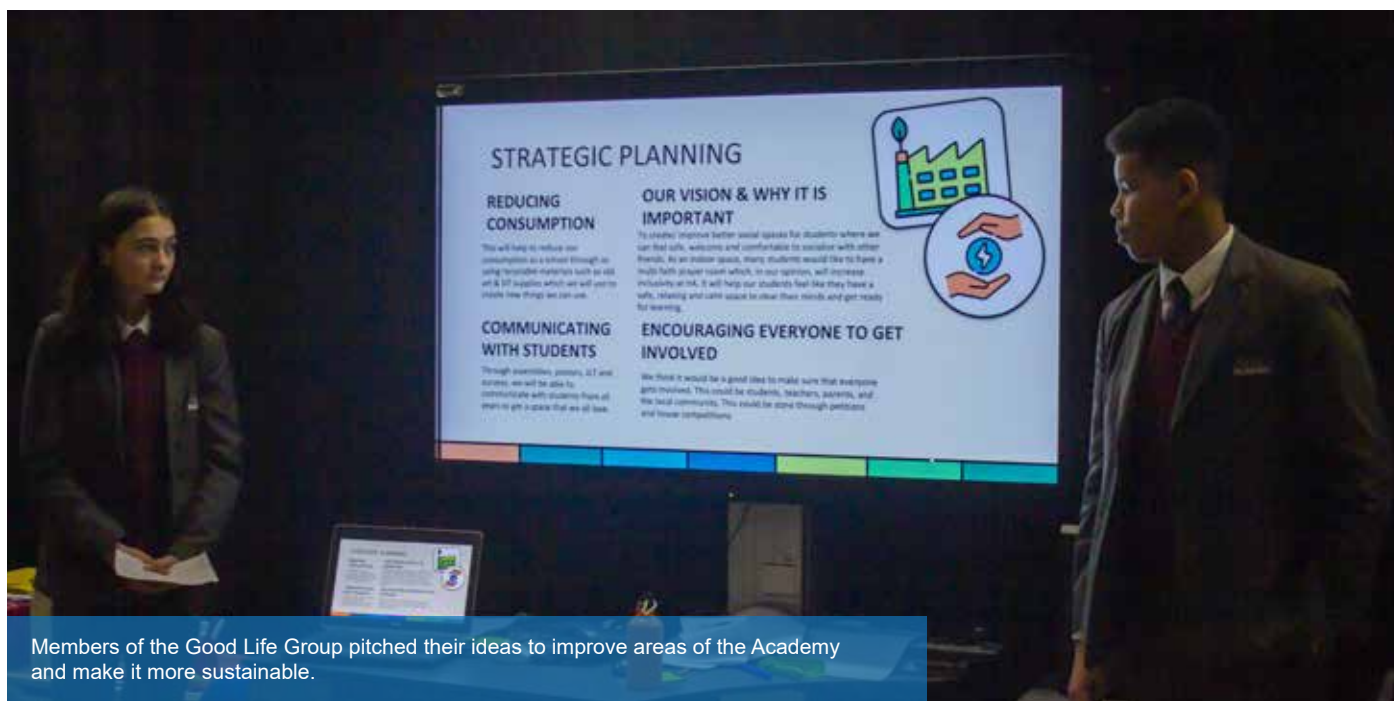
We had a networking session with lawyers, where we gained valuable insight from across all positions in the company. It was an exciting

opportunity to meet new and interesting people. Learning about their back-stories and their place of work gave us an insight into the world of law. Before speaking to the volunteers we thought law was just about court cases and arguing, after speaking to them we learnt about all different areas of law, such as technology, banking and family cases. A lawyer named Claudia inspired us with her passion of tackling the illegal use of technology and the significance of her job and mentioned well-known celebrities that she had previously worked with.

We played a board game in small groups called Road to Riches, which is all about making financial decisions. It was interesting having conversations with lawyers about the game as they were able to give us insight about the world and finances.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Weil, Gotshal & Manges is an amazing law firm with great employees. We learnt a lot and it was a privilege to have the experience. We learned a lot of new things that we did not know before. A big thank you to Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Mayor's Fund for London for giving us this opportunity. ■

# GOOD LIFE GROUP



Members of the Good Life Group pitched their ideas to improve areas of the Academy and make it more sustainable.

It's been a busy term for HA's Good Life Group (GLG) which is made up of 15 environmental and climate conscientious students who want to make our school environment even more sustainable. They are working closely with our amazing partners at Global Action Plan.

The group came up with ideas to improve the Academy's sustainability and overall student wellbeing. Students pitched their ideas to members of Global Action Plan and to Headteacher, Mr Kynaston. The panel of judges were impressed with two key ideas; revamping the Academy's safe space area and introducing Meat Free Monday.

Improving the safe space area in the

playground will benefit everyone at HA. The aim is to bring it back to life and make it an even better place to relax and unwind! To support this project, our students have been working with West12 Shopping Centre who have kindly offered to provide the materials we need. Other local community groups have also been quick to offer their support so it's surely going to be an amazing community event effort.

Our other big project is Meat Free Monday. This is a way for us to take responsibility and play our part in tackling the climate crisis. GLG will join forces with another local organisation called Nourish Hub, who will explore creative and delicious

vegetarian options to replace meat on Mondays. Reducing meat consumption is the single biggest action we can take as individuals and HA students want to lead the way. ■

**MR O'BRIEN EXPLAINS WHAT THE ACADEMY'S GOOD LIFE GROUP HAS BEEN PLANNING THIS TERM.**

“This is a way for us to take responsibility and play our part in tackling the climate crisis.”



Students pitched their ideas to a panel of judges including Headteacher, Mr Kynaston and Gardening and Sustainability Lead, Mr O'Brien alongside Global Action Plan.



# CAREERS FOCUS

THIS TERM, THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY BUSY, COORDINATING A WIDE RANGE OF FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS ACROSS THE YEAR GROUPS.



## STEM

Promoting STEM Careers is always an important part of our careers programme. This term, we started off in January by welcoming a brilliant speaker, Dr Neil Uphadyay, Consultant Radiologist at Charing Cross and St Mary's Hospital, who addressed Year 12 Biology students. This talk was arranged as part of Imperial College London's Medic Mentor Programme, which links practising doctors who teach at Imperial with local schools. Dr Uphadyay shared fascinating insights into his work, including the reality of challenges such as long hours and excessive workload in the profession.

Later in the term, Year 10 and Year 12 students heard from first- and second-year UCL medical students, as part of the UCL Next Top Doctor programme, which introduced students to the medical application process and what studying medicine is really like.

Meanwhile, in March, 60 Year 8 students were selected to take part in a HS2 engineering workshop.



Sky TV showcased their apprenticeship opportunities to Sixth Form students across a variety of departments including cyber security and marketing.

As well as introducing students to some of the exciting STEM careers they could consider when they leave school, the students also got to find out about specific roles that might be available for them at HS2. During the workshop, students got very hands-on, working in teams of four to first design a floorplan for a 'station for the future', featuring sustainable energy, accessible spaces and futuristic amenities, then to build a 'tunnel' out of 40 paper straws that had to withstand a kilogram weight. Each task allowed students to develop key skills, such as teamwork, problem-solving and leadership, that will stand them in good stead in their future careers.

## Universities

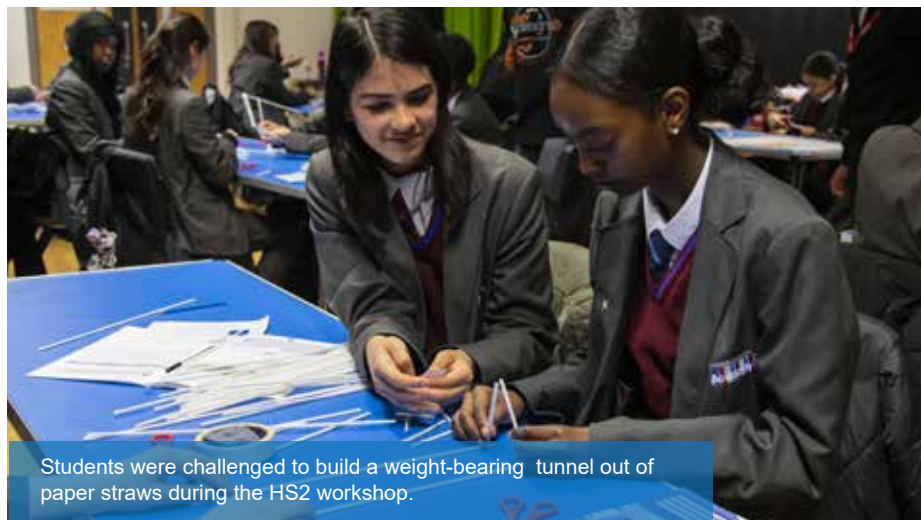
Working with top universities through the HA careers programme is not just about STEM subjects. In February, a group of Year 10 students attended a session run by the London Interdisciplinary School. During the session, students were set a wide-ranging global problem and encouraged to use interdisciplinary, lateral thinking to problem solve.

Our Oxbridge programme for high achieving Year 12 students has started in earnest, with a February information session from Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, followed by a trip to Oxford University's Pembroke College in March. Students who aspire to apply for these highly selective universities are encouraged to begin super-curricular research now to strengthen their applications.

In Key Stage 3, 30 Year 8 students went out on a trip to Brunel University, organised alongside our partner organisation IntoUniversity. The students had a brilliant time, with activities including campus tours by current students and taster sessions.

## Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer excellent alternative routes for students and increasingly our Year 13s appreciate



Students were challenged to build a weight-bearing tunnel out of paper straws during the HS2 workshop.



Year 12 students visited a rainy Oxford for a tour of Oxford University in March led by our own Mr Rose.

that the challenges and rewards are equal to university, and avoid the need to take out a student loan. This term we introduced our students to several apprenticeship providers. First, we hosted an apprenticeships insight event run by Sky TV, during which Year 13 students heard about the exciting roles available at Sky, including in Development Operations, Cyber Security and Marketing. Our students took part in a series of

exercises designed to replicate the assessment day group activities that Sky use to select their candidates.

Year 13s were given the opportunity to sign up for a trip to the head office of BlackRock, the world's largest asset management company. BlackRock are recruiting for a number of top apprenticeship roles within their business that have been set aside for HA and a small number of pilot schools. Students are now

waiting anxiously to hear if they are through to the next stage.

## National Careers Week

If all this wasn't enough, we celebrated National Careers Week, with a round of assemblies and newsletters sent to students. Our assembly focused on why careers education is such an important part of what we do as a school, as well as encouraging them to take the opportunities available to them at HA. These include Unifrog, our award-winning careers platform that all students, from Year 7 to Year 13, are signed up to. Parents are also able to access this valuable resource to find out more about university courses, apprenticeships and how to make excellent applications; please get in touch if you'd like us to send you the parent sign up code.

Finally, our careers programme benefits hugely from collaborations with local businesses. If you, or someone you know, would like to be involved in any way, please get in touch! ■

# QPR DRAGON'S DEN

This term, students in Year 8 have been receiving weekly mentoring sessions with Queen's Park Rangers (QPR) as part of the Premier League Inspires programme.

One of the projects requires students to devise a social action project to pitch to representatives including guests from 'Imagine 2030' - a climate change organisation from Hammersmith & Fulham and QPR players in the style of Dragons' Den.

Hammersmith Academy's team came up with the idea of 'Wallet Saves', recycling old goalkeeper's gloves into wallets and card holders. The judges were so impressed by the concept and the pitch that they selected HA as the winners.

One of Dragons, David Wilkins from Imagine 2030 who was keen to praise the participants' ideas, "It was interesting to see the process of how the young people thought of their ideas around making better use of



Hammersmith Academy's winning team with the Dragons, including QPR players.

resources that we currently have.

We really liked the winning project as it ticks a lot of boxes. We didn't realise that goalkeepers use so many gloves, so it's great to see that they were utilising products that footballers normally throw away. We liked the sustainability side of it.

It was also interesting to find out that goalkeeper gloves are often branded, so it definitely adds value that fans of the football club will be interested in buying."

Well done to the Year 8 students who came up with the winning idea! ■



# COMIC RELIEF & DEC



The Junior Leadership Team were out fundraising for our nominated charities this term.

After the terrible Turkey/Syria earthquake in February, the Academy community decided to include Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) as part of their fundraising this term, alongside Comic Relief's Red Nose Day.

Students got creative making unique badges, selling red noses and raffle tickets, with the week culminating in a competitive House bake sale.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and provided baked goods for the sale! ■

## Charity Totals:

- Disaster Emergency Committee = £502.76
- Comic Relief = £318.06

## WE PROTEST!



Year 8 students embraced the spirit of protest by creating banners inspired by events across modern history.

The 8A and 8K history classes got their first taste of protest when studying the Suffragettes and Suffragists this term.

Students learnt about the movement, the methods used and ultimately wrote on what they felt was the main cause of success for the women's rights movement. To really gain some insight into what it was all like, Mr

Glavanis encouraged the students to research new topics of injustice the classes felt strongly about and create banners inspired by protesters of the time.

There were some fantastic creations and students spent a lot of time researching topics in depth, using resources in the library, online and in textbooks.

For Module 5, History students will continue to delve into this theme by studying the Civil Rights Movement in our own area of Hammersmith & Fulham.

Well done to all the students for putting in so much effort into their project. ■

# TASTE TESTING

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS TASTE TEST A NEW DEVELOPMENTAL MENU TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DINE IN AND EAT MORE HEALTHILY RATHER THAN VISIT LOCAL FAST FOOD OUTLETS.



The Academy's new Head Chef, encourages Sixth Form students to try new dishes and give feedback on the recipes.

The Academy's new Head Chef has been devising a new menu to encourage more Sixth Form students to dine in, guaranteeing them a healthy and nutritious meal which is both delicious and filling, as well as value for money.

Sixth Form students have more independence than other students, including being able to leave the Academy at lunch time and eat elsewhere. Naturally, students will want to explore the local eateries, however, not all provide a healthy all-round meal for the value that is on offer in the Academy's cafeteria.

As part of the developmental process, the catering team conducted two days of taste testing with Year 12 and Year 13 students, asking them for feedback on a variety of dishes suggested by students including Lasagne, Beef Burger, vegetable stir fry noodles, spicy chicken wings with rice and carrot cake with butter cream frosting.

## New Catering Pod

After the Easter break, Sixth Form students can look forward to a brand new experience with the opening of a food pod in the playground.

The pod will provide students with fresh, healthy and delicious grab-and-go options during break and

lunchtimes. These will also be value for money to persuade students to frequent local fast food outlets less often. ■



Sixth Formers enjoyed taste testing the new dishes and providing feedback to the catering team.



# SPONSOR'S DINNER



Year 12 students were invited to the WCIT Hall in the Barbican where they were greeted by the Master of the WCIT and members of the WCIT who also serve as Hammersmith Academy governors.

The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) is one of two livery companies who sponsor the Academy. The annual WCIT Sixth Form Dinner invites Sixth Form ICT and Computer Science students to debate contemporary technological topics over a formal dinner.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity for us to discover more about who the WCIT are and how they support our school, and to network with professionals in the technology sector. We had the privilege of meeting Mr Wirszyocz, Master of the Worshipful Company and some of the Academy's own governors and WCIT members.

For the presentations, we were split into four groups to speak on the evening's discussion topic which was on the different ways Artificial Intelligence could improve Cyber Security and how AI could affect everyone in the future.

We delivered our presentations in between each of the formal dinner's three courses and debated over the details of the presentation with WCIT members during the courses.

Some of the topics that we discussed

included the ethics of AI and whether AI is sustainable as a form of technology. These presentations and discussions were eye opening, showing us which areas we could explore further and develop a deeper understanding of the innovative world of technology.

This trip also brought us other opportunities to network and build connections with industry professionals who can help give us advice on our career endeavours.

Furthermore, the dinner developed our personal confidence and character as we presented our opinions on topics we had little knowledge about prior to our research and the dinner. We also learned from our peers and how to have meaningful conversation.

We thank the WCIT for inviting us to the dinner and to the WCIT members who were so generous with their time and for welcoming our ideas during the evening. ■

**ICT AND COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS WERE INVITED TO AN INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING DINNER BY THE WCIT. YEAR 12 STUDENTS, RANIA AND TIFFANY RECALL THE EVENING.**

“Some of the topics that we discussed included the ethics of AI and whether AI is sustainable...”

# GINA MILLER VISITS



Gina Miller spoke to Sixth Form Politics students and gave a firsthand account of the political workings of Westminster.

On the anniversary of Brexit itself, Gina Miller, the face of citizens standing up to Government, came to the Academy to speak to A Level Politics students about her personal journey into law and politics and the workings of the UK's political system.

Ms Miller is famous for her Supreme Court cases where she successfully challenged the powers of the Prime Minister and defended Parliament on two occasions. The first when the then Prime Minister, Theresa May tried to begin the Brexit process without a vote by Parliament and again when her predecessor, Boris Johnson prorogued Parliament (kept it closed).

Her talk was informative and enlightening as it not only contributed to the current debates and discussions we are having in class but also topics beyond that. It was particularly interesting to discuss current political issues with someone actively trying to change the rigid political system by starting her own political party - the True and Fair Party.

We asked for her thoughts on an elected House of Lords - a current

ongoing debate in parliament. We also discussed what reforms she would introduce to create a healthier democracy such as reforming the current electoral system. She spoke passionately about her desire to ensure the government can be held accountable efficiently. She emphasised the importance of an independent Supreme Court as she explained how the Supreme Court had upheld democracy on multiple occasions. On the other hand, we were also able to challenge her beliefs too. For example, how she believed her party would form a government, discussing the current political dilemma of a 'two-party' voting system.

She also discussed the hurdles and attacks she has faced in her political career such as racism and sexism. To hear how she is still advocating for what she believes despite the challenges was motivating and insightful. Her final advice for us, the younger generation, was to make sure we are politically aware and encouraged us to start voting as soon as we can as it is our future that is impacted by present-day politics. ■

**POLITICIAN AND ACTIVIST, GINA MILLER, PAID SIXTH FORM POLITICS STUDENTS A VISIT. ELAHA (YEAR 12) REPORTS.**

“Ms Miller is famous for her Supreme Court cases where she successfully challenged the powers of the Prime Minister...”

”



# VOTING BREAKFAST



Politics students tuck into a cereal breakfast as voted for by fellow classmates, but is it what they voted for?

Political concepts can be difficult to see in action from textbooks alone. To help students understand the difference between two different voting systems; First Past the Post and Proportional Representation, Head of History and Politics, Mr

Glavanis, put on a special breakfast demonstration!

If Party A wins 4 votes, Party B wins 3 & Party C wins 3, under First Past the Post, Party A wins. Those who voted for Party B and C are not represented.

An alternative to First Past the Post is Proportional Representation where Parliament is made up proportionally. So Party A has 40% of the seats and Party B and C has 30% each.

The Year 13s had a demonstration of these electoral systems using breakfast cereal. Students had to decide whether they wanted a First Past the Post Coco Pops, even though they didn't choose Coco Pops, or a Proportional Representation mix of Coco Pops with Rice Krispies with Frosties, even though they may not want the other two cereals.

Students were quick to comment on their preferences and the pros and cons of each of the systems. The demonstration brought to life what students have been studying during their lessons, giving them a better understanding of the electoral principles. ■

## PARLIAMENT TRIP

Year 12 and 13 Politics students ventured to the heart of our democracy with a visit to the Houses of Parliament.

While we were meant to have workshops, strikes meant we were given tours instead and in truth lucked out.

Our students have been through the Kings entrance in parliament where in a few months time King Charles will walk. It isn't open to the public but was for us that day. Sheer opulence, decoration and history oozed from every corner.

Our guides led us through the House of Commons and Lords, the Royal rooms and the famous Lobby.

We saw amazing sights including the panels depicting Henry VIII and his wives. His children including Elizabeth I were shown, as well as England's famous victory over the



Sixth Form students had a very special tour of Houses of Parliament as a result of the train driver strikes.

Spanish Armada. Quite a unique experience!

Year 13 were also treated to a walking tour of Whitehall where they took in protests, Downing Street and

Westminster Square.

Thank you to Ms Phillips, Mr Denness, Mr Pereira and Mr Glavanis for organising an eye opening trip. ■

# 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 Football

Since January, the Year 7 football team have developed and made huge steps forward. A tough start to the academic year meant the team struggled to pick up that first win before the Christmas break. A much better display against Holland Park still resulted in a defeat but they showed great resilience, pushing HP all the way despite losing 5-3. This was then turned into a win against Phoenix with a 3-0 result. Two tight games against KAA and Westminster Academy were also fought out but narrow defeats entailed. Roll on Fulham Cross Academy and BDA with two 2-1 victories with the final game against BDA the most thrilling with a winner from Jacob with the last kick of the game. Mr Beattie is delighted with the progress made and looks forwards to see what Year 8 brings.

Squad: Ty, Adem, Callum, Hussein C, Abdurraheem, Hussein E, Rayan, Flash, Rehaan, Yasin, Hanna, Joaquim, Saadaq.

## Year 9 Football

A similar story of the Year 7 squad can be said of the Year 9 squad. A slow start to the season meant victories were hard to come by. A visit to Fulham Cross Academy ensured a stop to this run of defeats by producing the performance of the season and beating them comfortably 6-1. Due to some Year 9s not showing the attitude needed to represent the Academy, some Year 8s stepped up to support the Year 9 team and this new mix and balance of squad is much stronger and competitive. Thus giving us a focus going into the Year 10 season.

Squad: Micaiah, Andre, Yasin, Werd, Idajet, Kamron, Taiyo, Sami, Sean, Khyan, Zaki, Malakhi, Zakaria, Mattawos.

## Year 10 Football

What a season this is turning out to be for the Year 10 football team. After a shaky start to the season and a change in squad, the team has pushed on and turned their season around. Before Christmas they only managed 1 win, 1 draw and 2 defeats. Since the turn of the year

they have bounced back with 3 wins and a draw which has pushed them back into contention to qualify for the QPR play offs. It would be unfair to highlight individuals who have stood out as the whole squad have played their part, culminating in the best performance of the season against a very good Capital City Academy with a 4-0 win. Potentially the most important result so far was the 2-1 win against All Saints. Trailing 1-0 at half time, HA needed a result to keep the play off dream alive. A tweak in formation from 4-3-3 to 4-4-2 added more goal threats through Samuel. It was Samuel who equalised mid way through the second half. In a dramatic finish, Samuel raced through one-on-one with the goal keeper in the last minute of the game and slotted the ball under the goalkeeper to ensure a 2-1 win. Absolute scenes in the celebration after the goal – the buzz of the win was ecstatic. This was after a 1-1 draw with BDA, and 4-0 wins against Phoenix and Fulham Cross Academy. One more huge game against Holland Park with a win or a draw needed to take us through.



Squad: Ty, David, Charlie, Kerem, Elios, Raf, Samuel, Haytham, Baseet, Juan, Mahmoud, Emaad, Omar, Isaiah.

## Year 11 Football

The Year 11s have carried over their fine form from Year 10 into this season's QPR League, winning four out of their five League games. This has ensured that Hammersmith Academy will progress to the QPR League Final at either Loftus Road or Hanwell Town on May 6<sup>th</sup> weekend.

Following earlier victories in the season against All Saints (9-1 Win) and Phoenix (3-0 Win), the team faced three games (WLFS, Holland Park and BDA) in the space of a week. Against WLFS, a catalogue of uncharacteristic errors saw the team deservedly lose 8-2, with Xavier and Musa showcasing moments of sublime skill to finish well. This would prove to be a well-deserved wake up call, and valuable lessons were learnt as HA convincingly beat Holland Park 2-0 in a professional performance, with Musa again popping up with two fantastic finishes to take the three points. Kavar was the stand-out player, with an inspiring performance in midfield. Finally, against BDA in battering weather conditions, HA would race into a 2-0 lead courtesy of goals by Samuel. In the second half, as conditions worsened, BDA came back via a penalty and mistake. However, Samuel ensured HA cemented second place in the league with a well timed goal to complete his hat-trick.

## Girls' Sport

The girls have had a steady stream of football matches and both teams are currently sitting 'mid table' as we approach the end of the football season. Highlights have been Hannah (Year 7) scoring a left footed goal – scoring in the top right corner against BDA and Elena (Year 10) being our top goal scorer for the KS4 team. Players have worked hard for each other and we've had some impressive individual performances in new positions – such as Frida (Year 10) as goalkeeper. The Year 12 and Year 13 girls enjoyed a night of sport which was great fun – playing basketball and kinball; Session 3 membership has been strong for the girls with regular attendance to netball, gym and football.



Year 9 Football has been revitalised by the addition of members of the Year 8 squad.

## LDN Phoenix Basketball

Since the turn of the year, we have partnered with LDN Phoenix Basketball to provide our students with an additional coaching session on a Monday evening to refine the fundamentals and develop overall game play. Coach K has been fantastic in working with our Year 7 students in particular, providing engaging sessions which has

seen a consistent number turn out on Monday evenings. Following our return from Easter, we will be looking to arrange a 3v3 Borough Tournament as well as launching a Summer Camp for our students to attend in the summer. For more details on this, please email [JWood@hammersmithacademy.org](mailto:JWood@hammersmithacademy.org) ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

@hasport1

## Sportswoman of the Term

Asya has worked tirelessly this term to combine her GCSE PE personal exercise programme with her rowing performance at FRBC.

She has interleaved her goals for rowing with her coursework to ensure a well tailored and accurately executed training programme which has then led to a clear improvement in her rowing performance. She showed high levels of independence, completing sole student circuit training (whilst all others had more than one student working in groups on their training method).

All this is coupled with high levels of performance in her games class, showing excellent engagement in both the BMX and fitness modules of work. She has been a model student in all aspects of PE life and is a role model of others to follow.

A huge well done. ■



## Sportsman of the Term

Zavier has done fantastically well in managing his time throughout his 5 years at HA, balancing his academic studies and his sporting endeavours, which includes playing for Watford FC and England as well as boxing on a weekly basis.

In addition to this, he has been ever-present in the HA Football Team, helping the side to their first QPR Finals in May at Loftus Road. During this season, Zavier has proved instrumental in the team's success, providing numerous moments of magic in games to both assist and score important goals. Most notably, this came in the final game of the season, with two crucial assists as HA went on to beat BDA 3-2 to secure the place at the finals.

Within GCSE PE, Zavier has consistently improved in his theoretical knowledge, making huge improvements in his recent mock examinations. ■



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