

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019 EDITION 6

## IN THIS EDITION:

ITV NEWS FEATURE • STUDENT EXPLORERS • DON GIOVANNI REIMAGINED  
TEACHING EXCELLENCE • CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW • GREEN FOR GRENFELL • YEAR 11 PROM  
YEAR 9 RESIDENTIAL • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • AND MORE!

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



As you look through this edition of The Academist newsletter, you will see just how much we have packed into this summer term.

This is traditionally the busiest term, with many of our students sitting GCSE and A Level exams. Yet, this term has not just been wholly focused on examination results. We have still found the time to do the incredibly important extra-curricular elements which deliver a well rounded education.

There has been a real focus on mathematics this term, starting with our new wall graphics to help our students remember important formulas. We also hosted our first ever Maths Week London and saw our Year 9 students launch the Santander 'The Numbers Game' Roadshow.

Our students continue to make lasting memories. Year 8 students had a wonderful time in Norfolk for their residential trip, learning to push themselves and trusting in each other to achieve bigger things as a team.

This summer we will see five of our Sixth Formers travel on once in a lifetime expeditions to the Peruvian Amazon, Canadian Yukon and Iceland, as part of our Ambassadors Programme.

Charity remains central to our ethos of reciprocity. This term alone we have supported Solidarity Sports, a charity that works closely with families of Grenfell Tower, as well as Cancer Research. We have also been on the receiving end, having books donated to our library.

STEM continues to be at the forefront with students being recognised for their analysis work on data from

the Twinkle space mission. Year 8 students presented a project at the Materials Matter Student Conference in Oxford.

Our garden continues to bring in opportunities with our student gardening team being invited by the RHS to a young person's breakfast at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show. Our students' love for growing plants is now benefitting members of our borough with produce going to the local foodbank. The positivity around our garden programme has even attracted the attention of ITV News for National Gardening Week.

There has been an abundance of individual successes this term, both student and staff. Noor in Year 9 achieved a silver medal at the English Schools' Athletics Association Track and Field Championships, whilst Ms Suganthakumaran has been highly commended in the Inspire Schools London Teacher of the Year award. Just two examples of many.

The end of the summer term also marks the closing of personal chapters. The Year 11s ended their GCSEs with a prom on the Thames and we say a fond farewell to our Year 13s who go onto university and the world of work. We wish all our leavers the very best of luck. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher



# ITV NEWS AT HA



Reporter, Lauren Hall, recording students busy at work in one of the Academy's greenhouses.

National Gardening Week is the UK's biggest celebration of gardening, with events held up and down the country. This year's event took place between Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April through to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Hammersmith Academy was asked to take part in an ITV News feature about the benefits of gardening in schools. Reporter, Lauren Hall, visited the Academy having heard about the multiple awards the garden had won.

She spent the afternoon following the gardening team as they carried out their duties, which included planting

seeds, dividing and potting up vegetables, weeding and watering.

The feature extolled the virtues of a school garden and how students benefit greatly from having access to a functioning green space.

Primary schools commonly teach students gardening, but is a rarity in secondary schools.

Dr Kirwan said, "I think there is a clear impact on morale in the school, among staff and among students. If a secondary school isn't operating some kind of gardening activity, it is a missed opportunity." ■

## HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY FEATURED ON ITV NEWS FOR RHS NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK.

“ If a secondary school isn't operating some kind of gardening activity, it is a missed opportunity. ”



Students were asked how the garden benefits their education and wellbeing.

 Watch the report:

Watch Hammersmith Academy's appearance on ITV News on our YouTube channel.

# 24 WEEKS

24 WEEKS WAS WRITTEN BY A LEVEL STUDENTS KAYLEIGH AND BETHANIE. KAYLEIGH EXPLAINS HOW THE PLAY CAME ABOUT.



The play explores the difficult debate and choices unexpected motherhood brings.

Year 12 Drama students are required to devise their own drama piece as part of their A Level course. Students can explore themes and plots from a variety of topics.

Bethanie and I were inspired by Brecht's play *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, specifically his exploration of injustice and the role of women in society.

24 Weeks depicts a young, pregnant girl and the decisions that she has to make in modern society. When doing this, we wanted to highlight all of her different options, and the factors that could influence her decision.

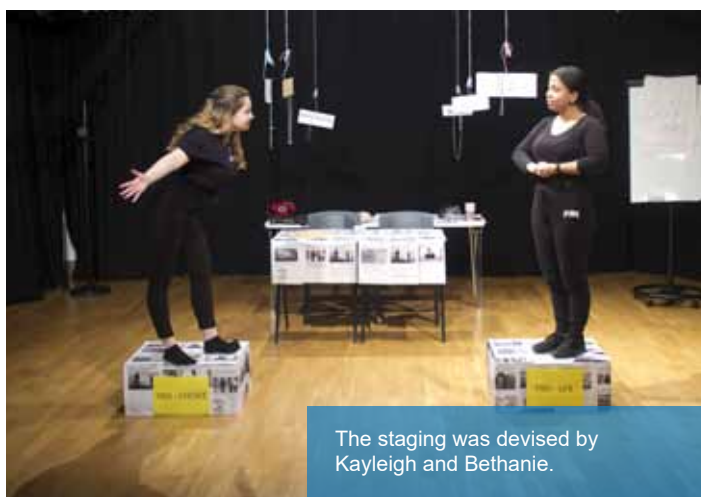
This is particularly evident in the debate scene, where I play a pro-life activist and Beth plays a pro-choice advocate. This was a very intense scene. It was important for us to portray both sides of the argument as Brecht would have.

In light of the sensitive topic, we wanted to make sure that we did our research so that our piece could be as informative and thought-provoking as possible. We interviewed staff members on how they juggled work

life and family. We researched the abortion ban in Alabama and how people across the state felt about it, and took a look at popular culture. We found that all of these pressured women in society, particularly a need to have children.

We enjoyed creating this performance and it has benefited us in many ways, allowing us to develop as individuals. It has been a rewarding experience to create and produce our own play, and we feel extremely grateful that we have been able to inspire and influence an audience on such important topics. Drama has been a key part of both our lives, and we are lucky to be supported by incredibly talented staff. ■

“ I play a pro-life activist and Beth plays a pro-choice advocate. ”



The staging was devised by Kayleigh and Bethanie.



# OPERA REIMAGINED



Sheriff of the City, Liz Green, with Hammersmith Academy students during a rehearsal which was held in the Academy Theatre.

## STUDENTS REMAKE DON GIOVANNI WITH THE HELP OF GARSINGTON OPERA AND THE LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL. HEAD OF MUSIC, MS SLAV EXPLAINS.

This year, The Lord Mayor's Appeal is supporting a musical project with Garsington Opera to inspire young people to get involved in opera and classical music.

The project sees students reworking Don Giovanni, a tale of a nobleman with a complex and murderous love life. Mozart's opera was first performed 300 years ago

The students' interpretation fuses the genres of rap, YouTube, and opera. Students have been heavily involved with writing new lyrics and composing songs to give the tale a modern

twist, whilst still keeping elements of the famed opera. Students have also designed the set and costumes for the production.

Sheriff of the City, Liz Green, visited the Academy during one of the rehearsals to check on the progress of the performance. She commented, "It's visits like these that make our positions special. It's great to see how young people have been so involved in creating something so brilliant."

The official performance took place at the Old Library in Guildhall, City of London. ■

# SILENT THEATRE

Year 9 Drama students participated in a workshop delivered by Bush Theatre, a local theatre company which we have built a relationship with over the years.

The focus of the workshop was to develop techniques to deliver performances using non-verbal communication and movement.

The students were given scenes to create using their initiative. This is not as easy as it sounds and they got progressively better with their improvisation which will help them creating their pieces next year. ■



Students devising their own performance without the use of words.

# FOOTBALL AND MATHEMATICS



Students with World Record holder Dan Magness at the London event.

SANTANDER'S 'THE NUMBERS GAME' ROADSHOW UTILISES THE POWER OF FOOTBALL AND UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF NUMERACY.

A whopping 43 per cent of Brits regret not taking maths more seriously at a younger age, research by Santander has found. The younger generation are particularly affected, with Generation Z (18-24) having the least confidence when it comes to money management.

In response, Santander, official sponsor of the UEFA Champions League, working in partnership with the charity National Numeracy launched an educational football-themed roadshow – 'The Numbers Game' – aimed at raising awareness of the importance of numeracy and the crucial role numbers play in everyday life.

Hammersmith Academy students were invited to welcome the Roadshow to London. Students appeared alongside Jeremy Lynch from the freestyling football duo F2Freestylers and World Record holder Dan Magness and attempted a range of taxing challenges. Jeremy said "We're really excited to be touring the country with Santander to help inspire more young people with the power of numbers. Maths might seem to some like a dry school subject, but it's so important to our everyday lives – whether it's keeping

on top of the latest football stats or looking after your finances."

Students were split into two teams, competing against each other throughout the morning. The first event saw the students having to hit numbered targets to reach the correct totals whilst trying to achieve the fastest kick.

The second challenge of the day involved UEFA Champions League statistics, where teams had to score the most points answering a series of complex questions which included stadium capacity, number of goals scored and ball possession by all the different teams in the league. The challenge ended with a mini football game between the two Hammersmith Academy sides, with teams joined by Jeremy Lynch and Dan Magness.

Nathan Bostock, CEO of Santander UK, said: "We want to encourage greater appreciation and application of these numeracy skills in everyday life."

The launch was covered by media outlets from across London and two of the Academy's students were interviewed by BBC about the experience. Each student left with a football signed by the F2Freestylers.

“We want to help raise awareness and improve numeracy through football's widespread appeal.”

 Watch the video:

Watch students in the Santander 'The Numbers Game' Roadshow on our YouTube channel.



# MATHS WEEK

THE ACADEMY TOOK PART IN THE FIRST EVER MATHS WEEK LONDON. ORGANISER, MS SUNGANTHAKUMARAN, RECALLS THE WEEK.



The first ever Maths Week London took place between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> June. Supported by Mayor's Fund for London, Construction Youth Trust and a range of volunteers, we had a week full of great activities.

The week began with Year 7 and 8 exploring Pythagoras' Theorem with the Construction Youth Trust. Students cut specific measurements of string and created triangles to explore the theorem. Experts from the construction industry, including Tideway London and Balfour Beatty, were then on hand to share how they use maths in construction.

There was also a student treasure hunt to discover their teachers' favourite shapes and numbers. Miss Gostling created a worksheet where students had to draw graphs, find the most popular shape and the mean of each department's teachers' favourite numbers. Tutor groups also tackled the '24' game puzzle of the week.

Thursday saw Year 9 and 10 students involved in a panel discussion on the importance of mathematics. The discussion started with their first maths memory, then discussing how they solve problems

and their top tips for succeeding in GCSE maths.

John from the Department for Transport told students about how he works to improve the rail network around the whole country, for example, using more seats and shorter journey times. He explained how maths helps decisions involving large sums of money and problem solving difficult issues.

Steph, who works in insurance, told students about how her work with Uber requires her to calculate pricing and risks to optimise contracts.

John from adam&eveDDB, an advertising agency behind the famous John Lewis Christmas adverts, explained that despite having a team of people who do the number crunching, he still needs to be able to understand the numbers and figures.

Also on the panel were two Sixth Formers, Hafiz and Karim, who told us about their experiences of GCSE maths. Students found it very useful to hear from students who have succeeded in securing the GCSE grades they need for their future courses. ■

“ He explained how maths helps decisions involving large sums of money... ”

## Top tips from the panel:

- Start revision now!
- Use Hegarty Maths
- Identify & work on weaknesses
- Zoom in & out at problems
- Ask teachers

# GROWING FOR FOODBANK

DR KIRWAN TALKS TO THE ACADEMIST ABOUT A NEW CHARITABLE INITIATIVE THAT HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS THIS YEAR.



Gardening students harvested the first set of crops and presented the produce to the Foodbank.

Last academic year a decision was made to extend our already successful garden, more than doubling the green space. This extension has allowed us to grow far more fruit and vegetables this year than ever before.

At the start of this academic year, we decided to use this space to help our local community by growing a large variety of crops to donate to Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank.

The vegetables and fruit will be used in their Eat Well Spend Less courses aimed at teaching families cooking skills and learning to budget well.

In the spring, we spent a little time researching the needs of the Foodbank before buying the seeds, germinating them and growing them on. Students have lovingly cared for

them during tutor time, watering them and feeding them.

The first collection took place at the end of June, where Foodbank staff visited the Academy to pick fresh garlic, radishes and onions.

The collections will continue to take place throughout the summer as different vegetables and fruits come into season. Student volunteers will continue to tend the garden throughout the summer holiday.

Sian Gates, Assistant Manager at the Hammersmith and Fulham Foodbank, said, "We cannot provide these vital services to the local community without your support. Thank you once again. Would you please extend our thanks to your colleagues, parents and pupils." ■

“We cannot provide these vital services to the local community without your support. Thank you once again.”



# RHS BREAKFAST



The student gardeners receiving their goodie bags at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The Chelsea Flower Show is the world's most prestigious show in the global gardening calendar. This year, Hammersmith Academy's young gardeners were invited by the Royal Horticultural Society to the 'Young Persons' Breakfast' at the show.

During the morning's event, gardening experts took to the stage to congratulate them on their horticultural efforts in the Academy garden and highlight why their work matters. Following the breakfast, students were given a tour of the show gardens and the Great Pavilion.

Omar in Year 7 said of the experience, "There were lots of great designs and flowers. We learnt about the history of the show and how they put it together, which was really interesting." ■

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# GREEN VOLUNTEERS

**CORPORATE  
VOLUNTEERS HELP  
KEEP THE ACADEMY  
GREENERY LOOKING  
FRESH AND TIDY.**



HCGA corporate volunteers tamed the shrubs along the boundary and gave the area a tidy up.

Hammersmith Community Gardens Association (HCGA) is a local environmental charity that aims to improve health and wellbeing through gardening and green spaces.

Corporate companies volunteer their time to help HCGA maintain green spaces to enable as many as people

as possible to access green spaces. In June, corporate volunteers visited HA to tidy up all the shrubs along the boundaries of the site.

Thank you to all the volunteers who spent the day working hard to provide us with a tidy green space. ■

# BOOK DONATION

THE ACADEMY RECEIVED A GENEROUS DONATION FROM LONDON CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT. LIBRARIAN, MS HARNEY, TELLS US MORE.

At the start of the summer term, the Academy Library received a generous donation of books to add to our shelves from London Children's Book Project.

To date, the charity has given out 42,000 books to young people and schools across the capital. The charity is passionate about helping children to enjoy books and read for pleasure, overall improving their literacy.

These books tie in nicely with the Academy's 'Literacy 100', a list of 100 books tailored to our own students. You can find the list at the Library's information desk.

The Library and all those at the Academy would like to thank the charity for the generous donation. If you would like to find out more about the charity, please visit [www.childrensbookproject.co.uk](http://www.childrensbookproject.co.uk). ■



Students helped unpack the large number of books donated by the charity.

# UNIFORM DONATION

YEAR 11S DONATE THEIR UNIFORM AFTER FINAL GCSE EXAMS.

June saw the Year 11 students come to the end of their GCSE exams. As is tradition, on the final day of their examinations, students marked the occasion by getting their shirts signed by their fellow students and staff.

From September, Year 11 students will be wearing their own business wear as they head into Sixth Form.

As they will not be needing their uniform next year, Year 11 students donated their uniform to the Academy so that other students can benefit.

The Academy keeps donated uniform in lost property for students to borrow, as well as for those students who may not be able to afford to purchase brand new items. Thank you to all those who have donated so far. Donations are accepted all year round, so please keep giving. ■



Year 11, Klara, donating her set of uniform to the Academy.



# BAKE 4 GRENFELL



The Academy's specially designed badges and ribbons were on sale at the school gate.

FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2019 MARKED 2 YEARS SINCE THE GRENFELL TRAGEDY. THIS YEAR THE ACADEMY RAISED MONEY FOR SOLIDARITY SPORTS.



Two years have passed since the terrible tragedy that befell Grenfell Tower and its residents. The Academy showed its support by holding a fundraising day to raise money for a local charity which has a close connection with those directly affected.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019, students, staff and members of the Academy community brought their green themed baked goods to raise money for Solidarity Sports.

The charity is based in west London and supports children from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who have experienced trauma. The charity has a direct connection with Grenfell having supported children

who lived in the tower.

As well as a bake sale, the Academy made 'Hammersmith Academy 4 Grenfell' badges and ribbons and hair ties from green fabric donated by Goldbrick Fabrics. These were sold during the school day. They proved to be so popular that more had to be made.

Solidarity Sports joined in with the bake sale and there was a familiar face among the visitors. Former student, Hadeel, volunteers for the charity and was keen to support the fundraising.

The Academy would like to thank all those who supported the event. A total of £663.00 was raised and this would not have been possible without the generosity of supporters.

Solidarity Spots said, "Your amazing efforts contribute to us providing an exciting summer full of new and happy memories to children recovering from trauma in and around Kensington & Chelsea." ■

“Your amazing efforts contribute to us providing an exciting summer full of happy memories...”

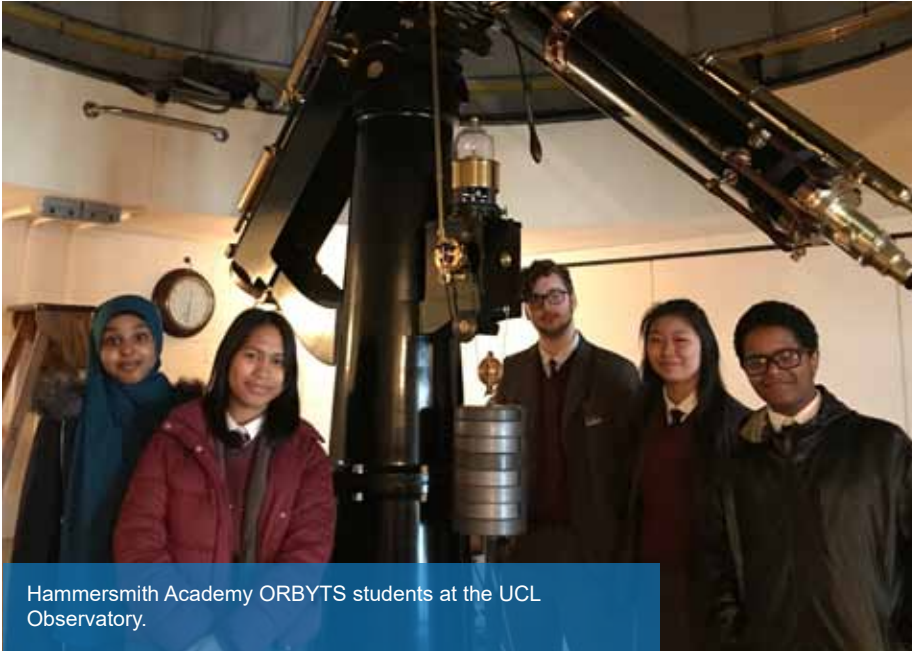
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Former student and Solidarity Sports volunteer, Hadeel (second from left), returned to joined the bake sale.

# ORBYTS PROJECT

YOUNG RESEARCHERS AMAL, ANGELITA, VIVIEN, GEORGE AND HOZYFA TELL US ABOUT THE ORIGINAL RESEARCH BY YOUNG TWINKLE STUDENTS (ORBYTS) PROJECT.



Hammersmith Academy ORBYTS students at the UCL Observatory.

The ORBYTS project is an educational programme in which secondary students work on original scientific research from the Twinkle space mission.

Students who are part of the project work on genuine collected data and

have the chance to have their name published alongside scientists.

Here's what our Year 11 ORBYTS young researchers had to say:

"In our ORBYTS project we looked at protostellar outflows (light emitted

from early stars) to investigate the molecules present. This research is useful because if complex structures like amino acids can form in space, we can start to understand the origin of life on this planet.

We conducted research on data using professional science programs, databases and resources. Our data was collected from the Iram-30m telescope about the amount of light emitted at different frequencies. We recently presented our findings at UCL to leading scientists in the Twinkle Space Mission.

This project has given us unique opportunities to collaborate with real scientists and gain confidence in public speaking. We've had excellent opportunities including visits to UCL Observatory, talks from leading researchers in exoplanets. ORBYTS was a great learning experience because our professional research leader supervised our research and really explained complex ideas to us. We've learnt a lot of physics along the way! I would certainly recommend it." ■

## MODEL STUDENT

Geography students in Year 9 have been studying sustainability in cities this term. Over the half term break, students were tasked with designing their own version of what such a city would look like in the near future.

Marley returned to the Academy with a hugely impressive model, complete with a city scape, nuclear power station, solar farm, turbine farm and hydroelectric power station.

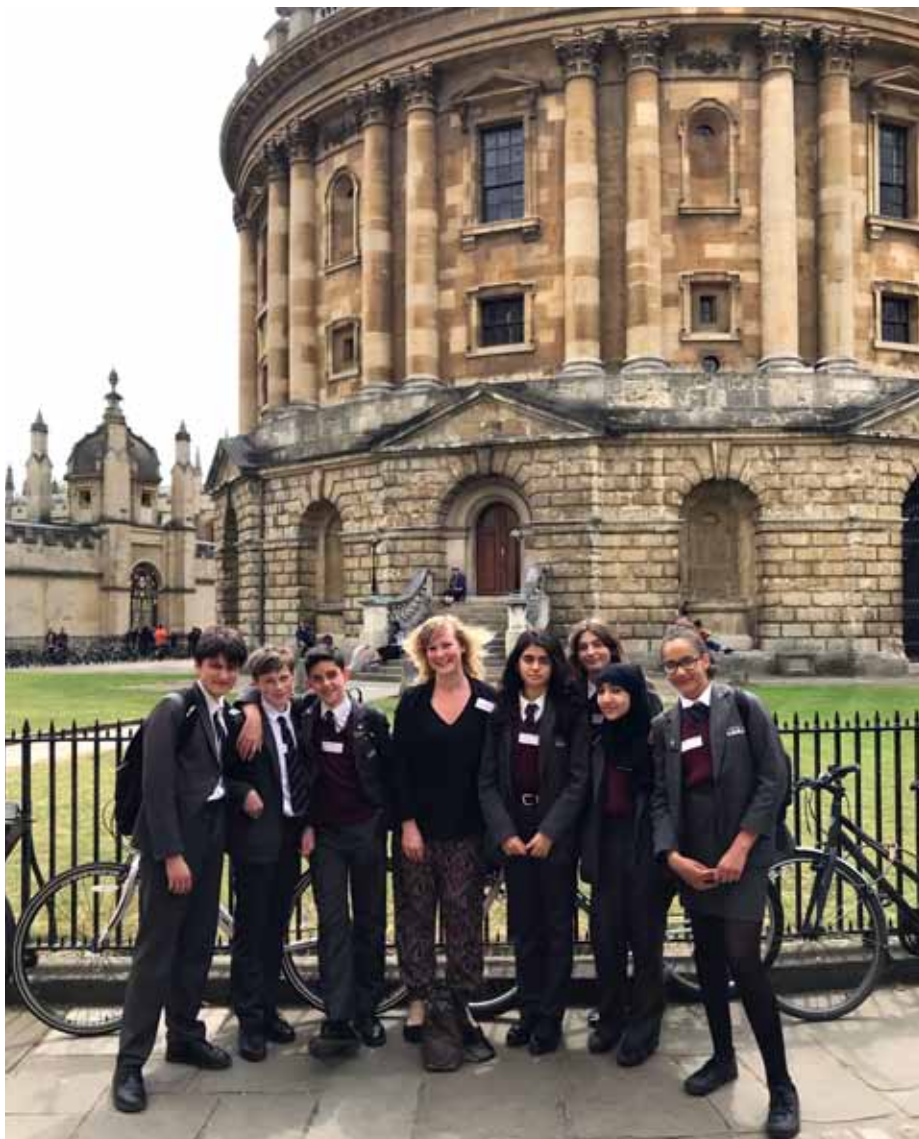
His model deserves a very special mention given its scale, level of detail and excellent representation of the topic studied. Well done Marley! ■



Marley with his impressive future sustainable city, complete with nuclear power station and biodome.



# MATERIALS MATTER



Year 8 students travelled to Oxford to take part in the Making Materials Student Conference.

THE MAKING MATERIALS MATTER PROJECT ENGAGES YEAR 8 STUDENTS IN MATERIAL SCIENCE. MS HORN AND DR IQBAL EXPLAIN.

“Over several weeks the students worked on their prototype; they even spoke to the European Space Agency and NASA!”

A group of Year 8 students have been working on an exciting project through University of Oxford called “Making Materials Matter”

The project engages with Year 8 students and teachers of science from state schools with the aims of enriching the science curriculum, increasing awareness of Materials Science and supporting teachers in raising aspirations and inspiring their students to pursue further study of the physical sciences.

Our students were tasked to design a base for astronauts to live in whilst carrying out research on the Moon. Over several weeks the students worked on their prototype; they

even spoke to the European Space Agency and NASA!

They presented their prototype to the Materials Department researchers at the University of Oxford, where they answered complex and detailed questions about the structure of their design. This included what the base would contain, how it would be fixed to the ground, how it would withstand storms and protect astronauts from UV radiation.

Their presentation and communication skills developed throughout the project, with the final piece highlighting their confidence, subject knowledge and commitment to the project. ■

# ACCESS TO KEW

YOUNG PEOPLE  
HAVE THE CHANCE  
TO WORK WITH  
KEW SCIENTISTS  
ON THE KEW YOUTH  
EXPLAINERS  
PROGRAMME.



Students playing an identification game as part of the Youth Explorer Programme at Kew.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew have started a new outreach programme to help the young people of Hammersmith and Fulham to access its historic collection and open career opportunities.

This term Academy students have signed up to the Kew Youth Explainers training programme which aims to develop communication and presentation skills under the guidance of experts.

On graduating the course, students will volunteer in the Temperate House twice a month between April and September.

As part of the programme, students can complete a CREST Award which is an excellent CV and UCAS application builder. Adrianna in Year 10 has been awarded a Gold CREST Award for her detailed project on the False Banana plant. ■

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## CREST AWARD

GEORGE IN YEAR  
11 WAS AWARDED A  
BRONZE CERTIFICATE  
FOR HIS CREST  
AWARD PROJECT.

The CREST Award is a nationally recognised accreditation scheme for STEM which inspires young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers. Students can use it to bolster their UCAS applications.

George in Year 11 took part in a residential workshop based at St Paul's School which supports students in completing a STEM project. George's submission focused on materials used on space missions.

On the back of the award, George has been accepted on to Imperial College London's STEM challenge, a three day residential.

Congratulations to George on both these achievements and for following his academic passions. ■





# WE PROTEST!

YEAR 7 EXPLORE THE HISTORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS. MR GLAVANIS, TEACHER OF HUMANITIES, EXPLAINS WHY IT MATTERS.



Year 7 students proudly showing their protest banners in their humanities class.

Early in the summer term Year 7 students spent their humanities lessons studying the civil rights movements for women in the UK in the early 20th Century and black Americans in the 1960s.

They approached the subject by questioning whether peaceful or violent protest was more acceptable to enact change and discussing what

their choice would be. There were some very intelligent answers among the group.

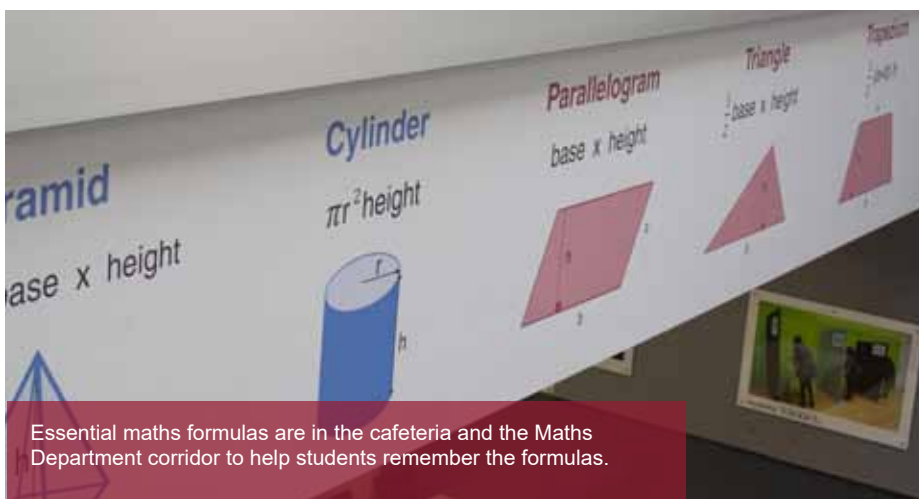
Learning about the struggles these different groups of people faced puts into perspective the protests and struggles of people today.

Students particularly enjoyed learning about the protest banners used by

the protesters of the time and were challenged to come up with their own artwork.

7E really embraced the spirit of the civil rights protest by creating their own banners and placards. Some of them were even inspired to go on marches this year in London. Well done for their excellent designs and engagement in their project. ■

## MATHS FORMULAE



Essential maths formulas are in the cafeteria and the Maths Department corridor to help students remember the formulas.

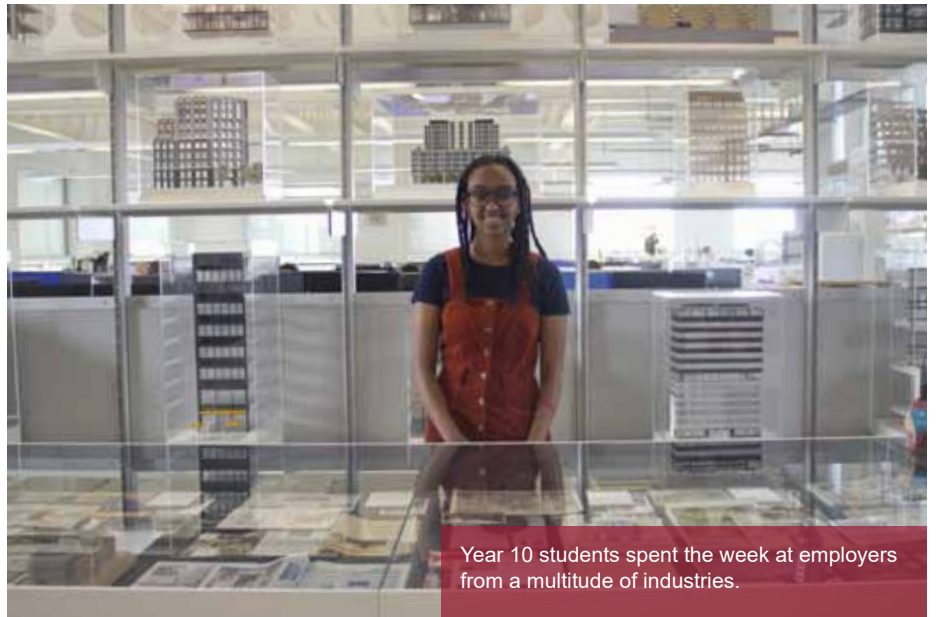
Maths formulae appeared at the start of the summer term in the Cafeteria and the Maths Department corridor to help students remember important examined formulae.

Mr Sykes, Head of Mathematics, picked out key formulae that students are expected to memorise for their GCSE and A Level exams.

He said, "Seeing these everyday will make it easier for students to visualise when they are sat down with their exam papers are in front of them. We will be incorporating them into our maths lessons next year." ■

# WORKING 9 TO 5

YEAR 10 STUDENTS WENT ON WORK EXPERIENCE TO GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WORKING LIFE. MS CAMPBELL TELLS US WHAT HER STUDENTS GOT UP TO.



Year 10 students spent the week at employers from a multitude of industries.

“For the majority of students, this experience was the first time they engaged with adults that are not relatives or from the Academy.”

Work experience is an important way for our young people to understand what awaits them after education. As adults, we take for granted how daunting a workplace can be.

Earlier in the spring term, where possible, students had to source their own placement in careers that interest them.

This year's cohort were particularly diverse in their workplace choices, from architects to cafés and aeronautics to retail, travelling across the whole of London.

For the majority of students, this experience was the first time they engaged with adults that are not relatives or from the Academy. Not an easy task. This experience is as much about learning how to interact with colleagues as it is learning the discipline of being punctual and reliable.

Lucca said of his experience, "The work experience was very enjoyable because it showed what the world of work is like. I got to interact with customers and how business works and the



day to day challenges they face. I enjoyed the experience so much that I got a summer job from it!" ■



# TEACHING EXCELLENCE

MS SUGANTHAKUMARAN WAS NOMINATED FOR INSPIRE SCHOOLS LONDON TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD. MR SYKES TELLS US WHY SHE IS DESERVING OF THE NOMINATION.



Ms Suganthakumaran with her letter of recognition from Inspire Schools.

“She is kind, caring and will always put aside her time for those of students...”

Ms Suganthakumaran was nominated for the Inspire Schools London Teacher of the Year Award because of her fantastic work as a form tutor, going above and beyond for her students, creating a family like atmosphere and supporting pupils even after they leave the school.

She is also fantastic at seeking out opportunities for pupils to experience maths or alternative experiences such as maths in industry, organising maths

week and motivating and supporting girls to further their mathematics education. She is kind, caring and will always put aside her time for those of students, nothing is too much time, effort and she will go out of her way to ensure pupils get the best.

Congratulations to Ms Suganthakumaran for being highly commended and for being a role model for all students at the Academy. ■

## GARDEN CHAMP



Dr Kirwan is a central part of the Academy's gardening programme and responsible for creating and maintaining the award winning garden.

The award recognises adults who work with young people to promote gardening in all its forms.

This term Dr Kirwan was nominated for the RHS School Gardening Champion of the Year competition, in recognition of his tireless promotion of gardening. He was awarded a certificate for his contributions to our students. ■

# YEAR 11 PROM

YEAR 11 STUDENTS CELEBRATED THE END OF THEIR EXAMS IN STYLE ON THE THAMES. YEAR 11 SAM, MS CATO, REPORTS ON THE EVENT.



Year 11 students enjoyed an evening of sightseeing and music on the river Thames to celebrate the end of their GCSE exams.

The Year 11 Prom marks the end of a stressful few months of revision and intense concentration, as well as being the final occasion they will be together as the same group of students that started 5 years ago.

Students boarded the boat at Putney in full glamour, ready for an evening

of celebration and sightseeing along London's River Thames. The boat was complete with a dance floor and DJ, a food station and an under 18 bar, all fittingly decorated. The prom guests passed the Palace of Westminster, Big Ben and Tower Bridge to name just three highlights.

No Prom would be complete without a Prom King and Queen being crowned. Students voted for who they thought were most deserving and this year's royal couple were Amarin and Monika.

There was a lovely atmosphere the entire evening and it was fantastic to see all of them outside of the school environment beginning their transition into adulthood.

It has been a real pleasure being their Student Achievement Manager over the last few years and I wish them the very best of luck for their results at the end of August.

I look forward to seeing many of them starting in the Sixth Form in September. ■



Students turned on the glitz and glamour for the Year 11 Prom.

## Prom Royalty:

- Prom King: Amarin
- Prom Queen: Monika



# EXPLORERS



Charlie, Kayleigh, Hafiz, Amran and Hamza were selected to take part in three separate expeditions this summer.

Five of our Sixth Form students will embark on incredible life-changing expeditions this summer with the British Exploring Society (BES).

BES is a youth development charity, founded in 1932. It believes that challenging experiences can transform the lives of young people. The Academy started the Youth Ambassadors Programme with BES last year, which allows HA students access to expeditions on the condition that they help promote the programme so that future students may benefit from the partnership.

Charlie, Kayleigh, Hafiz, Amran and Hamza will be travelling as part of a larger expedition team to three very different locations.

Kayleigh, Hafiz and Amran will travel to the Canadian Yukon, whilst Hamza will visit the Peruvian Amazon and Charlie sails on a tall ship to Iceland.

The aim of these expeditions is to carry out important scientific research, such as local weather patterns and how they fit into the bigger global warming picture.

Having secured their places on BES expeditions after a challenging interview process, the five students,

have spent this year fundraising to support their journeys.

Fundraising is an important requirement of the expedition process, helping students to appreciate responsibility and ownership of their place. They have been very entrepreneurial with their fundraising, from setting up their GoFundMe pages to selling friendship roses for Valentine's Day.

To prepare for their time in the wilderness, students have taken part in weekends away with their 'fire', the name given to their expedition teams. Students from across the country come together to learn the necessary survival techniques and get to know all members of the expedition team.

Hafiz said of the expedition, "It's almost surreal, in a few weeks we will be on the plane. Making sure I have all the equipment and everything is nerve-wracking, but I'm really looking forward to the expedition, It's going to be an experience I know I will keep with me the rest of my life."

We wish all five students the best of luck on their expeditions and we look forward to hearing accounts of their time in the wild when they return in August. ■

**THIS YEAR'S  
AMBASSADORS  
PROGRAMME  
SEES FIVE OF OUR  
STUDENTS TRAVEL  
TO THREE DIFFERENT  
REMOTE LOCATIONS.**

“It's going to be an experience I know I will keep with me the rest of my life.”



# KNITTING TALENT

At Hammersmith Academy, students are encouraged to try their hands at a variety of skills. The knitting club meets every Tuesday at tutor time, and students learn the skills required to create their own projects.

Rahkarah in Year 7 attended the weekly sessions learning how to cast on, knit and casting off. During the half term break, Rahkarah used those skills along with an instruction video on YouTube and returned to the Academy with a bobble hat that she had made herself. ■



Year 7 students proudly showing their newly created knitted craft.

## GIVE US A SHOUT

STUDENT WELLBEING IS ALWAYS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE ACADEMY AND THIS TERM WE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING 'SHOUT'.



Shout is the UK's first free 24/7 text service for anyone in need of support at a time of crisis. This term the Academy has been promoting the service to all students who can access support at any time.

Students can access the service by texting 'Shout' to 85258. A trained crisis volunteer will listen

to any concerns or issues without judgement by texting back and forth. The support will end once they feel a person is in a calm and safe place. The service can be accessed on a mobile device or on a computer.

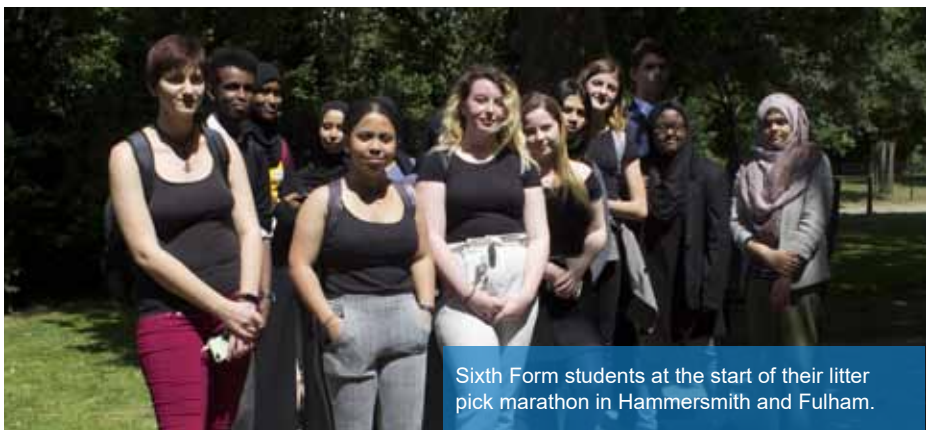
Parents can find out more about the service by visiting the Shout website [www.giveusashout.org](http://www.giveusashout.org). ■

## COMMUNITY CARES

This term, Year 12 students wanted to do their bit for the local community and chose to tidy up a public green space.

On a sunny afternoon, students made their way to Furnival Gardens in Hammersmith and Fulham to carry out a litter pick ahead of a sweltering weekend, which was bound to attract many people to the garden.

Well done to all those who took part in this community clean up. ■



Sixth Form students at the start of their litter pick marathon in Hammersmith and Fulham.



# YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL



Students attempt to scale the climbing wall. The weekend was filled with challenging activities including archery, wilderness survival and climbing a giant ladder.

Residential trips are a rite of passage for secondary school students. For many, it is the first time away from home where they learn important social and teambuilding skills that cannot be developed purely from a normal classroom setting.

During residentials, students are challenged to do activities that are beyond their comfort zone. It is not everyday that students get to abseil a 30 foot high wall! This is a key builder of confidence and learning to trust yourself in unfamiliar situations.

On their first evening, students were tasked with building a shelter in woodland with minimal instructions. As a team they had to figure out how best to make their shelter. This task really challenged their leadership abilities and communication skills.

A couple of the highlights for the Year 8 students were archery and orienteering. Both challenges brought out their competitiveness and it was a chance for them to show how well they can cope under pressure. It was great to see students who are normally reserved at school come to the forefront.

Naomi said of the trip, "Going

on the residential was a great experience that allowed us to develop out leadership, social and communication skills."

Ahmad added, "I enjoyed bonding with my peers and improving our communication with each other."

We are really pleased with how well the Year 8s developed a group. Every student left that little bit more confident in their ability to communicate with their peers and made those cherished memories. ■

**KINGSWOOD IN WEST RUNTON, NORFOLK, WAS THE DESTINATION OF THE 2019 YEAR 8 RESIDENTIAL. MS GOWIE REPORTS ON AN ACTION PACKED WEEKEND.**





# 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.



U13 Cricket won the Hammersmith and Fulham cricket tournament against Fulham College Boys' School.

## A Head For Heights

Year 9 student, Noor, has come second in the High Jump at the English Schools' Athletics Association Track and Field Championships in Birmingham.

This is a spectacular achievement. Noor is now ranked second nationally in his age group.

Noor had to go through two rounds of qualification before he was able to represent London at the championships. He represented Hammersmith and Fulham at the Regional Athletics Final with a winning jump of 1.78m which qualified him for the final.

In Birmingham Noor jumped a height

of 1.75m to take silver, which is short of his personal best jump of 1.83m. The winning jump was 1.87m.

Congratulations to Noor on his success and we are sure there is much more to come from this young athlete.

## U13 Cricket Success

The U13 cricket team are now H&F cricket league winners! In a pool against Burlington Danes Academy and London Oratory School, HA started off with a comfortable win against BDA. Runs were scored freely by George, Tom, Musa and Thomas. With the ball, HA were dominant and BDA were never in with a chance of reaching the desired runs. Strong bowling from Musa, George, Tom and Lincoln resulted in a comfortable win.

In the final they faced Fulham College Boys at King's House. HA lost the toss and Fulham College Boys' chose to bowl. We batted really well, hitting 106 runs off 18 overs. George was top scorer with 33 with Musa (18) and Ernie (14) helping out well. Fulham College Boys' could



Noor took home the silver medal from the English Schools' Athletics Association Track and Field Championships in July.





Year 7 girls brought home the silverware against Hurlingham Academy at Loftus Road.

not cope with our bowling attack and were soon losing wickets. A team effort in the bowling resulted in a comfortable win. Wickets were taken by Musa (2), Ernie (1), Lincoln (1), Zuhair (1), Genc (1) and Alex (2) who got the last two wickets in the final over, leading to wild celebrations from the boys.

### QPR Plate Final

Both our Year 7 and Year 8 girls qualified for the QPR League Plate final at Loftus Road. The Year 7 team were up first against Hurlingham Academy, and after 3 spectacular goals, the final score was 3-0 to Hammersmith Academy.

A special shout out has to go to Georgia whose goal awarded her player of the match. After being their presentation, the girls were straight back on to the pitch to support the Year 8s.

The girls returned to the Academy victorious with the plate to show their fellow students.

I am looking forward to seeing what the girls can do next year. ■

**Follow Sports on Instagram**

@hasport1

### Sportswoman of the Term

Chika has had a brilliant term in PE. She has continued building on her performances throughout the year and this has been evident this term.

Chika has competed for the Academy rowing team, both on the water and on the rowing machines, with her most notable achievement being that placed fifth at the London Youth Games for Indoor Rowing.

Furthermore, Chika has been able to use her strong knowledge of tennis and netball, both of which she plays outside of school, to turn her hand at any sport asked of her and is always fully engaged and enthusiastic.

Chika should be very proud of what she has achieved throughout the year, but especially in this term – Well done on an excellent term! We look forward to seeing her development of the next few years. ■



### Sportsman of the Term

George has captained the U13 Cricket Team expertly this term and has led them to winning the H&F U13 cricket league. George has committed to the morning and after school cricket training sessions all term, being one of the most committed students in the club. Within the games we have played, George has impressed with both the bat and ball. His best two batting performances were against a tough London oratory school, securing our place in the final with a knock of 16 runs off 15 balls. Most impressive was his batting display in the final, where he tallied 33 runs off 32 balls, hitting 5 fours in the process. With ball in hand, George has picked up several wickets, yet more importantly it is his conservation of runs that has kept the opposition run total down to a minimum to help the team succeed. And excellent summer term for George, well done. ■



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