



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION 18

## IN THIS EDITION:

CAPTURING SOLAR ENERGY • GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP • CHESS TOURNAMENT  
STUDENTS WALK RED CARPET • CULTURAL DAY • DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD • CHARITY NEWS  
ROAD SAFETY • DEPARTMENTAL NEWS • AND MORE!

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



We start our fourteenth year on a big leap forward towards a more sustainable future, with 422 solar panels installed on the roof, providing a fifth of our energy needs.

This undertaking has been two years in the making, with the student sustainability group playing a crucial role in starting the conversation to a greener future.

This is a shining example of the positive impact of student voice. Student leadership plays a central role here at HA and our Junior Leadership Team are the day-to-day representatives, providing student perspective and leading on key issues such as charity, sustainability and wellbeing.

Speaking of charity, it has been a superb term of fundraising for great charities, BBC Children in Need and Macmillan Cancer Support. Students, parents and staff have been so generous in their support both in terms of donations and giving up their time to bake for cake sales.

This term we have received recognition from TfL for our efforts in promoting safe and healthy travel. We are now a Travel for Life Silver accredited school. This coincided nicely with our Road Safety Week awareness in November which saw students taking part in a range of activities including Bikeability, a road safety workshop and starting a TfL Pioneers Programme.

There have been an incredible range of guest speakers who have visited this term, including high profile

individuals in their fields of expertise. From our MP, Andy Slaughter, to world leading paleoanthropologist, Prof Lee Berger and entrepreneur and business leader, David Giampaolo, our students have been exposed to worlds far beyond their day-to-day experiences.

As always, cultural experiences form a crucial part of our curriculum. Year 7s started their HA journey with a residential to improve teamwork and develop key skills such as communication and critical thinking. Year 10 students embraced the power of public speaking with Jack Petchey Foundation's Speak Out Challenge. Sixth Form Media students walked the red carpet on the premiere of the film *The Book of Clarence*, a wonderful way to bring to life and apply what they have been learning in class.

All in all a fantastic term packed full of developmental and academic experiences across the year groups.

Enjoy reading this term's edition of The Academist. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Kynaston'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher



# EMBRACING A SUNNIER FUTURE



422 individual solar panels were installed across the entire span of the building over the summer break by a team of 10 specialist installers.

The Academy undertook an ambitious solar panel installation project over the summer holiday, taking a significant step towards a greener future.

The project consists of 422 strategically positioned solar panels covering the entire building's roof span, and will generate a substantial portion of the Academy's electricity needs, equivalent to powering a fifth of the annual consumption and reducing the overall carbon footprint.

The Academy's student-led sustainability group has been one of the driving forces behind the scheme, helping to start discussions two years ago in an effort to slim down the school's impact on the planet's resources.

Kembla Limited, a leading renewable energy solutions provider, expertly executed the installation. Their dedicated team of 10 specialists worked tirelessly for a month to install and integrate the solar panels into the school's infrastructure.

Headteacher, Mr Kynaston said of the project, "This is a big leap forward. Not only is it sustainable from a resource and carbon footprint perspective, but also economically. Schools have to balance their accounts, and this will help futureproof against any shocks in the energy market."

Cllr Wesley Harcourt, H&F Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Ecology, lauded the project as a powerful example of local organisations uniting for climate action. "Hammersmith Academy demonstrates the effectiveness of solar panels in cutting energy costs and reducing our carbon footprint."

This project is the latest in a line of sustainable successes at the Academy, which includes overhauling all lighting to energy efficient LED bulbs, being named Global Action Plan's Sustainable School of the Year 2021 and the Mayor of London's Climate Kick-Start Prize 2021. ■

**THE ACADEMY  
UNVEILS ITS SOLAR  
POWER PROJECT  
AFTER A SUMMER  
LONG INSTALLATION.**

“The project consists of 422 strategically positioned solar panels covering the entire building's roof span...”

# COLDSTREAM GUARD AWARDS



Left to right: Cllr Daryl Brown (Deputy Mayor) Cllr. Bora Kwon (Civic Renewal), Cllr. Alexandra Sanderson (Children and Young People), Mr Flitton, Deputy Head of Sixth Form, Year 11 student, Tegan and Major Vandaele-Kennedy.

Year 11 student, Tegan has been honored with a prestigious Coldstream Guard Award for her exceptional academic achievements. The award is presented by 17 Company, The Coldstream Guards, recognising young individuals who consistently go above and beyond, excelling both academically and in their extracurricular pursuits. Each recipient, nominated by their teachers, underwent a rigorous selection process, competing against 26 other nominees.

Tegan was unanimously commended for her inquisitiveness, dedication, and commitment to supporting others. Her active involvement in every school musical production since joining in Year 7, coupled with her valuable role as a member of JLT and her responsible attitude in whole-school campaigns, exemplifies her passion for learning and engagement.

At the award ceremony held at the 17 Company Army Reserve Centre in Hammersmith Road, Tegan expressed her gratitude for the recognition, stating, "It's great to be acknowledged for the things I've done at school, and I know my mum is very proud."

Each winner will receive an individual plaque presented by 17 Company at assemblies held in the New Year across the four winning schools. Additionally, they will be invited to join past winners at a celebratory lunch at the 1st Battalion, The Coldstream Guards in Windsor, Berkshire.

Major Vandaele-Kennedy, representing 17 Company, Coldstream Guards, expressed immense pride in recognising the outstanding contributions of the award winners and their commitment to their personal development. ■

**YEAR 11 STUDENT  
WINS PRESTIGIOUS  
HAMMERSMITH &  
FULHAM AWARD.**



# YEAR 7 ADVENTURE TEAMBUILDING



Dragon boating was one of several exciting water based activities during the day. Students competed in teams to be crowned champions of the water.

**MS GOWIE TOOK  
YEAR 7 STUDENTS  
FOR AN ADVENTURE  
TO DEVELOP KEY  
SKILLS AND BUILD  
NEW FRIENDSHIPS.**

“These valuable skills will undoubtedly prove beneficial in their academic endeavors and personal growth.”

In October, Year 7 students embarked on an exciting adventure to Longridge Activity Centre to develop teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills, providing them with an opportunity to challenge themselves and step outside of their comfort zones.

Upon arrival, students were greeted by an enthusiastic team of instructors who guided them through a variety of adrenaline-pumping activities.

Kayaking and canoeing challenged their balance and coordination, before competing in a dragon boat race against fellow Year 7s to bring out their competitive spirit and test their ability to work as a team.

Stepping onto dry land, the students faced challenges of a different kind. Climbing walls tested their determination, while aeroball required quick reflexes and teamwork.

Crate stacking encouraged strategic thinking and communication, while Jacob's Ladder demanded perseverance and problem-solving skills.

Laser tag provided a thrilling finale to the day, as students put their agility and tactical team skills to the test.

Throughout the trip Year 7s displayed enthusiasm, resilience, and support for one another. They learned the importance of working together, communicating effectively, and solving problems as a team. These valuable skills will undoubtedly prove beneficial in their academic endeavors and personal growth.

Rielle in Year 7 said, "I enjoyed the residential because there were so many fun activities to do and to experience with new friends. Going on this trip increased my skills such as being resourceful, finding ways to help in the activities. Respectfulness, knowing how to talk in certain situations. Reciprocity, learning how to include people to benefit everyone and Resilience, trying again and learning when to ask for help."

The trip provided our young learners with an unforgettable experience that combined fun, challenge, and personal growth which will have a lasting impact on their time at the Academy. ■

# CHARITY ROUND-UP

MS SAMUELS, CHARITY LEAD, REPORTS FROM A BUSY TERM OF FUNDRAISING AND HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANT ISSUES BEHIND THE CHARITIES.



As the Autumn term comes to a close, we take a moment to reflect and celebrate the incredible generosity and community spirit displayed during our various charity events so far this academic year.

This academic year there has been a focus not just on raising money for great causes, but also on understanding why we want to help others and the work of the individual charities throughout the year.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Kicking off this academic year's charitable efforts on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, we hosted a staff-only bake-off competition as part of the MacMillan Coffee Morning. The aroma of freshly baked treats filled the air as our dedicated staff came together to raise £152 for Macmillan Cancer Support. This event not only showcased the baking talents of our staff but also demonstrated our commitment to making a difference in the lives of those affected by cancer.

## Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, the school community united to Wear Red for Show Racism the Red Card. Students enthusiastically donned red clothing and purchased merchandise, contributing to a total fundraising total of £326.45. This event coincided with the Academy's Black History Month focus.

## Remembrance Day

As November arrived, we the Academy came together to mark Remembrance Day on the Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Our school community joined the nation in paying tribute to the sacrifices of our armed forces and together we raised £355.45.

Paper poppies and HA-made wooden poppies, crafted by our talented Year 12 art students, were sold to raise funds for The Royal British Legion. A poignant minute of silence observed during tutor time provided an opportunity for reflection and unity.

## Christmas Jumper Day

Wrapping up the term on a festive note, we donned our Christmas jumpers on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December where we raised £424.73 for Save the Children. Students made a donation to replace their tank tops with their favourite festive jumper.

The day also included a delicious Christmas dinner and a PSHE session that shone a light on the valuable work carried out by Save the Children. Staff generously donated what they thought the Christmas meal should cost to the Charity.

All in all, this has been a fantastic term of charitable giving. Across all the charity events this term, our school community has raised an impressive total of £2,207.49.

Just as important is the time our community has given to creating items and baked goods to sell for great causes. ■

**Total Raised this Term  
£2,207.49!!!**



# PUDSEY POWER

THE ACADEMY COMMUNITY RAISED MONEY FOR BBC'S ANNUAL CHILDREN IN NEED EVENT.



Johnson House came out on top of the fundraising efforts raising the most money for Children in Need and winning the House Bake Off Competition.

This year's Children in Need fundraiser was nothing short of spectacular with the community coming together to support a very popular cause. The event, bigger than ever, featured our Pudsey Bear merchandise shop, a massive bake sale, and the exciting addition of the first-ever HA Bake Off competition.

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Sixth-Form leadership team led the student participation, embodying the event's core purpose – to help others in need. Students also engaged in a PSHE session looking into where the funds raised for Children in Need go and how they support members of our own community.

The HA Bake Off brought out the creativity in our students, challenging them to create bakes inspired by their House representatives – Ada Lovelace, Catherine Johnson, David Attenborough, Fazlur Rahman Khan and Steve McQueen. The variety on show was impressive, including computer-themed treats for Ada

Lovelace, a celestial display of rockets and planets for Catherine Johnson, and nature and jungle-inspired confections for David Attenborough and more.

The judging panel, consisting of Ms Jackson, Ms Samuels, Ms Adolphus, and Mr Kynaston, had the very difficult task of judging the creations. The winners were:

- 1st Place - Anisha (12J)
- 2nd Place - Fiona (7L)
- 3rd Place - Alyssa (8J) and Annalise (8A)

Collectively we raised a huge £948.86! Johnson House took the lead in fundraising, demonstrating exceptional generosity amongst the Houses.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed either in donations, helping to sell merchandise or provided fabulous bakes for the sale!

## House Charity Competition

1 <sup>st</sup>	Johnson House
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lovelace House
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Attenborough House
4 <sup>th</sup>	McQueen House
5 <sup>th</sup>	Khan House

**Total Raised**  
**£948.86**

# CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP



The Junior Leadership Team is comprised of four working groups that oversee key areas of Academy life.

The Junior Leadership Team (JLT) represents student voice in key areas across the Academy.

In the past couple of years, JLT has contributed to some very ambitious ideas, including reshaping the Houses so that they are more inclusive and reflective of today's society, introducing solar panels and a new academy jumper.

Each academic year the Academy selects a whole new JLT team. In order to be considered for a JLT role, students have to apply and go through a selection process.

The response this year was overwhelming, with over 100 applications from students across Years 7-11.

The selection process involved a tough two-stage application and a face-to-face interview with staff. The competition was fierce, and the selection process challenging due to the incredible talent and passion displayed by all applicants.

After much careful consideration, we are proud to introduce this year's Junior Leadership Teams:

- **Sustainability JLT:** Leading the charge in promoting and

implementing sustainable practices within our school and the wider community.

- **Egalitarian Citizens JLT:** Committed to fostering a culture of equality and inclusivity.
- **Personal Development and Well-Being JLT:** Dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of our students and staff, focusing on personal growth and mental health.
- **Teaching and Learning JLT:** Working as a bridge between the staff and student body to improve the teaching and learning experience at our school.

The new teams are already getting stuck in this term. The Sustainability JLT are working with TfL to help students travel more safely on public transport and coming up with ideas to reduce pollution in London.

We are confident that they will contribute significantly to the positive growth and development of our school community and look forward to their new ideas in the year ahead.

Congratulations to this year's JLT members! Thank you to all the students who applied. ■

**STUDENT VOICE COORDINATOR, MS WILLIAMS INTRODUCES THIS YEAR'S JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM.**

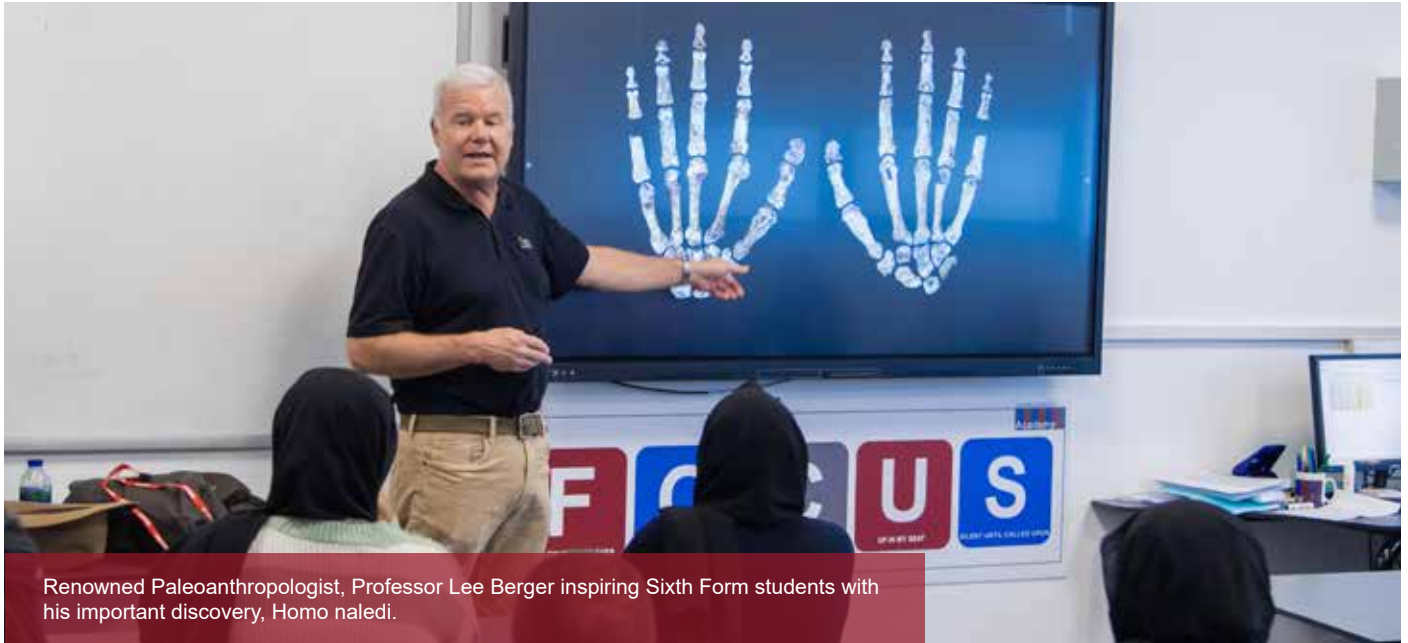
“The response this year was overwhelming, with over 100 applications...”

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# CAVE OF BONES

EXCITING NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PARTNERSHIP BEGINS WITH A SPECTACULAR DISCOVERY. THE ACADEMIST CAUGHT UP WITH DANIELA (YEAR 12) TO FIND OUT MORE.



This academic year, Hammersmith Academy began an exciting new partnership with National Geographic to bring leading expert speakers into the classroom.

The first speaker in the series was Professor Lee Berger, an award-winning paleoanthropologist whose explorations into human origins on the African continent, Asia, and Micronesia for the past three decades have resulted in many new discoveries, including the discovery of two new species of early human relatives – *Australopithecus sediba* and *Homo naledi*. These discoveries were recognised by the Smithsonian as among the ten most important scientific discoveries of the decade in 2020. A current National Geographic Explorer in Residence, Berger won the first National Geographic Society Research and Exploration Prize in 1997.

He transported the students to the remote corners of South Africa, sharing tales of his expeditions that unearthed fossils that have revolutionised our understanding of human origins.

A highlight of the talk was his Netflix documentary, *Rising Star: The Dawn*

*of Humanity*. This film chronicled his team's perilous journey into the depths of the Rising Star cave system in South Africa, where they unearthed the remains of a previously unknown human ancestor, *Homo naledi*.

A Level Biologist, Daniela said of the talk, "Professor Berger explained his difficulties in finding the perfect team, and the methods in which he reached out through social media to find members that were qualified and small enough to fit into the entrance of the cave. His team managed to find evidence of their diets, lifestyles and possible rituals by venturing further into the cave. Lots of intriguing questions were asked to which Professor Berger answered them all with overflowing enthusiasm, sharing remarkable and hilarious facts about his experience of a lifetime and contributing to science with the aid of National Geographic and experienced his team."

We are already looking forward to welcoming more speakers as the year rolls on. Next up in the series in January is Charles Emogor, world expert on pangolins, a critically endangered species considered the world's most illegally trafficked animals. ■



“ He transported the students to the remote corners of South Africa, sharing tales of his expeditions that unearthed fossils... ”

# EPPING FOREST

YEAR 11 GCSE GEOGRAPHY STUDENT, ROWENA RECOUNTS A DAY SPENT IN EPPING FOREST COLLECTING DATA FOR THEIR FINAL COURSEWORK SUBMISSION.



GCSE Geography students travelled to Epping Forest to collect data from rivers and streams for their coursework.

To support us in Paper 1 and Paper 3 of our GCSE Geography course, we travelled to Epping Forest in October to study stream and river landscapes.

In the morning we arrived at Epping Forest Field Centre where we had a classroom lesson about the importance of river and streams to the landscape, and looking at erosion, transportation and deposition that occurs in water courses.

The guides gave us further information which complemented and solidified our existing knowledge learnt in class and covered measuring techniques we were to use.

After this, we went out into the forest to conduct the practical part of our trip. We were led downstream by our guide to collect data on the depth (using a metre ruler), width (using a measuring tape) and velocity (using a cork and stop watch) of the river

across three different sites in the upper, lower and middle course.

Following demonstrations from our guides, we were allowed to complete this work independently by going into the water and record our findings in order to reach our own conclusions about how these characteristics changed as we moved downstream, and were also encouraged to draw sketches of each so that we could see the physical changes in the river.

This trip was extremely helpful to both our GCSE Geography Paper 1 and Paper 3 coursework as it allowed us to better understand the subject content taught to us as we waded feet first into the water. ■



Students collected data which included the velocity of water in streams.



# LEARNING GUIDES

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS ENHANCE KEY STAGE 3 LEARNING. ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER, MS ISSE EXPLAINS HOW PARENTS CAN USE THEM TO SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING.

Our primary objective is to reinforce classroom learning and nurturing critical skills during every child's educational journey. To achieve this, we have introduced Learning Guides, which contain knowledge organisers for all the subjects students will study at the Academy.

Knowledge organisers assist students in structuring and organising key information about specific topics. They provide a concise and organised summary of crucial information, making it easier for students to revise and gain a deeper understanding of the topics taught in lessons. This approach enhances comprehension, retention, and the ability to apply acquired knowledge.

The Learning Guides are invaluable tools to support homework, consolidate learning completed in lessons, and build subject-specific vocabulary. These resources are designed to facilitate pre-lesson preparation, aid revision for



Year 7 and Year 8 students received their Learning Guides at the start of the term.

assessments, and empower self-assessment through individual or parent-led quizzes. Additionally, they serve as visual aids that promote active learning, self-directed study, and a deeper understanding of the

subject matter.

We encourage all parents to look through the guides with their child and use the guides to support learning outside of the classroom. ■

## SPEAK OUT!

This term, Year 10 students had the opportunity to participate in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, an initiative that empowers young people to find their voices and share their ideas with the world.

Expert trainers from Speakers Trust conducted public speaking workshops, engaging students in a series of exercises and activities designed to enhance communication, presentation, and critical thinking skills. Under their guidance students gained confidence to step out of their comfort zones and share their unique voices with their peers.

At the end of the workshops, students presented their speeches on a topic that held personal significance to them.

The impact of the Challenge extends far beyond the realm of public speaking. Students who participate develop a deeper understanding of empathy and learn to respect and appreciate the viewpoints of others. Additionally, they cultivate resilience and the ability to thrive under pressure, skills that will serve them well throughout their lives.

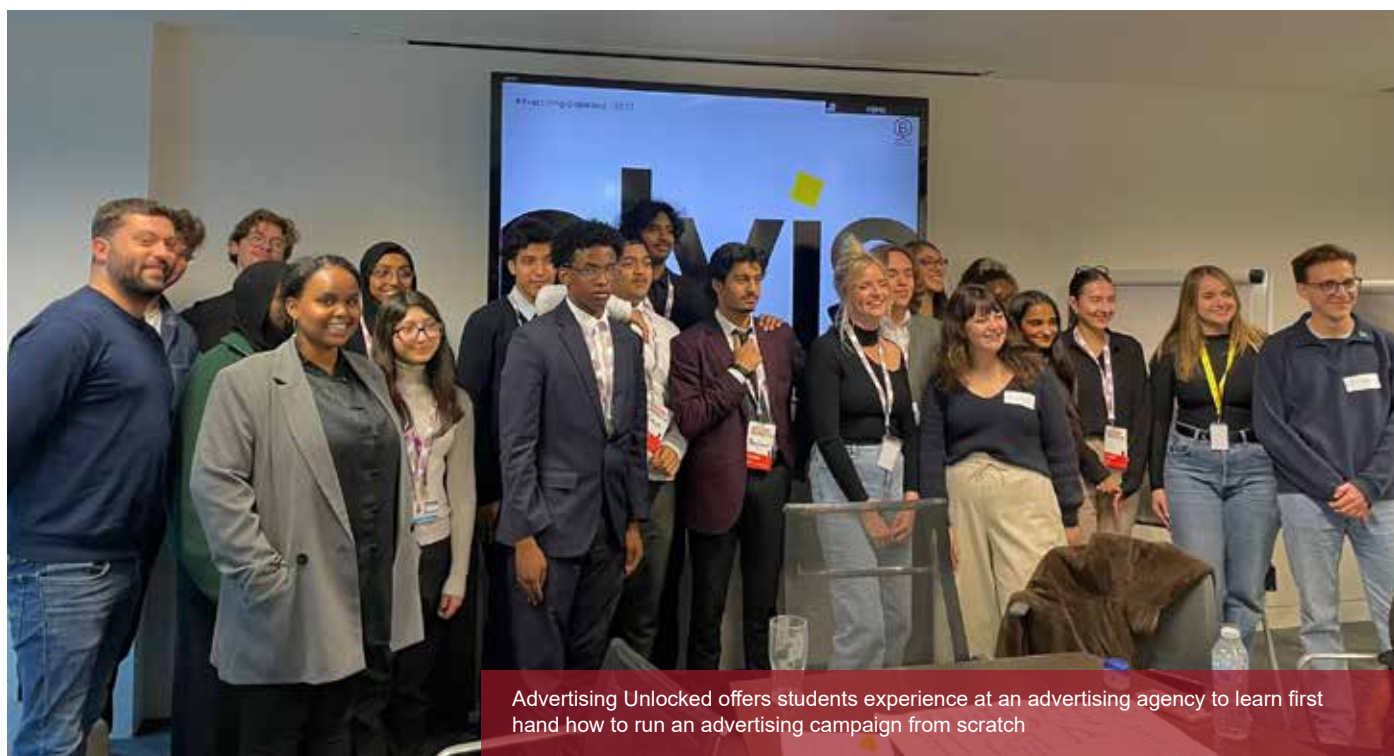
Year 10 students really embraced the opportunity to hone their communication skills and develop their confidence as public speakers. The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge has undoubtedly left an indelible mark on their lives, empowering them to become the leaders and changemakers of tomorrow. ■



Expert trainers from Speakers Trust conducted public speaking workshops.

# DYNAMIC CAREER PARTNERSHIPS

MS HARROWES, HEAD OF CAREERS & CULTURAL CONNECTIONS AND MS ALI, CAREERS COORDINATOR UPDATE US ON A TERM OF CAREER OFFERINGS.



Advertising Unlocked offers students experience at an advertising agency to learn first hand how to run an advertising campaign from scratch

Hammersmith Academy has long been committed to providing students with not just an education but a journey that extends beyond the classroom, preparing them for a future of possibilities. Central to this mission are our strategic partnerships with organisations dedicated to nurturing talent and broadening horizons.

IntoUniversity, a stalwart in our collaborative programme, embodies our commitment to breaking down barriers for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Over the years, it has been instrumental in helping young minds navigate the path to higher education. Delivering two impactful workshops annually for each year group, topics range from "Introduction to University Life to "Becoming an Independent Learner."

The Construction Youth Trust (CYT) is a long-standing partnership that catapults our students into the world of the built environment. The Building Future Skills programme for Year 12 students, held during the October half term, offers an immersive three-day experience on a construction project site. This hands-on opportunity not only provides a practical understanding of the sector but also exposes students to diverse professional roles within construction.

As part of Advertising Unlocked, a select group of Year 12 students immersed themselves in the vibrant world of advertising with a visit to the West End agency, Elvis. The day involved a comprehensive building tour, the opportunity to engage in a client brief exercise, participating in speed networking sessions, and receiving invaluable CV and interview tips. The students gained

first hand insights into the various roles in an advertising agency and were delighted by the experience, with a number of them coming away seriously considering a future career in the industry.

Thank you to all our partners who offer up these opportunities, enriching our careers programme and enabling us to successfully achieve our Gatsby Benchmarks. Beyond traditional academics, these experiences broaden perspectives, instil a deeper understanding of diverse professions, and equip our students with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the complexities of the professional world. ■



# YEAR 11 NEXT STEPS



The Year 11 Next Steps event featured a host of further education providers who were on hand to speak to students and parents about courses on offer.

## YEAR 11 IS A PIVOTAL YEAR WHEN IT COMES TO DECIDING ON NEXT STEPS AND CAREER PATHS FOR LIFE BEYOND SCHOOL.

This September, our Year 11s participated in a 1-1 career interview as part of their preparation for the transition from secondary school to post-16 education. A pivotal moment in a student's academic journey, this personalised career insight from a qualified careers adviser is incredibly helpful as students navigate the diverse array of options available to them. Well-equipped advisers from Bryony Thomas Careers Consulting gave the students an opportunity to explore options they may not have previously considered, including further education colleges, UTCs, T-Levels and apprenticeships.

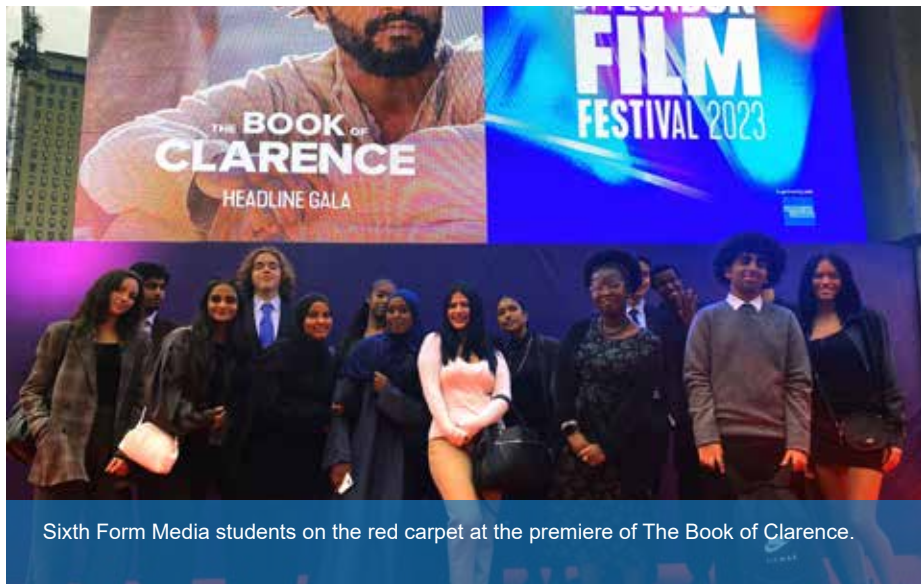
It was an extraordinarily successful week; 141 students had a careers interview, gaining a deeper understanding of the skills and qualifications required in their chosen fields. Describing their interview one student said that "it helped widen the view of what I wanted to do and how to take the steps to achieve it." Another student gave us positive feedback on the advisers, explaining that she was "friendly and talkative, listened to me while also giving valuable input."

Following on in October, we held our annual Year 11 Next Steps/College Fair which was our biggest yet! It was an inspiring evening for both parents

and students to explore a range of local colleges such as the London Screen Academy, and Morley, West Thames and West London College. Meanwhile in the theatre, a great panel of speakers from gave students and parents the opportunity to hear about apprenticeships, colleges and what HA has to offer for them. Feedback from parents was positive and 100% agreed that the event was helpful and that they feel more able to help their child with choices going forward.

To round off this series of future planning events, Year 11 students recently experienced a glimpse into their academic future with a dynamic taster day at the Sixth Form. Engaging in taster lessons, insightful Q&A sessions with current students, and exclusive socialisation in Sixth Form areas. A select group of Year 11 students also visited a local college for a bespoke experience. With taster sessions across various subjects, these students gained valuable insights into alternative academic pathways. ■

# MEDIA STUDENTS ATTEND PREMIERE



Sixth Form Media students on the red carpet at the premiere of The Book of Clarence.

The Book of Clarence, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, LaKeith Stanfield, and David Oyelowo made its world premiere at the London Film Festival in October held at the BFI and Sixth Form Media students were lucky enough to be invited!

They met members of the cast and listened to the director and

producer talk about the film. Head Girl, Ruth was in attendance and commented, "The movie had caused a lot of controversy when the trailer aired due to its take on Christianity. Clarence is a man who does not believe in God, yet uses the Christian faith to his advantage, scheming and taking advantage of its followers.

We see him gain friends, build a relationship and by the end, even becoming a better man.

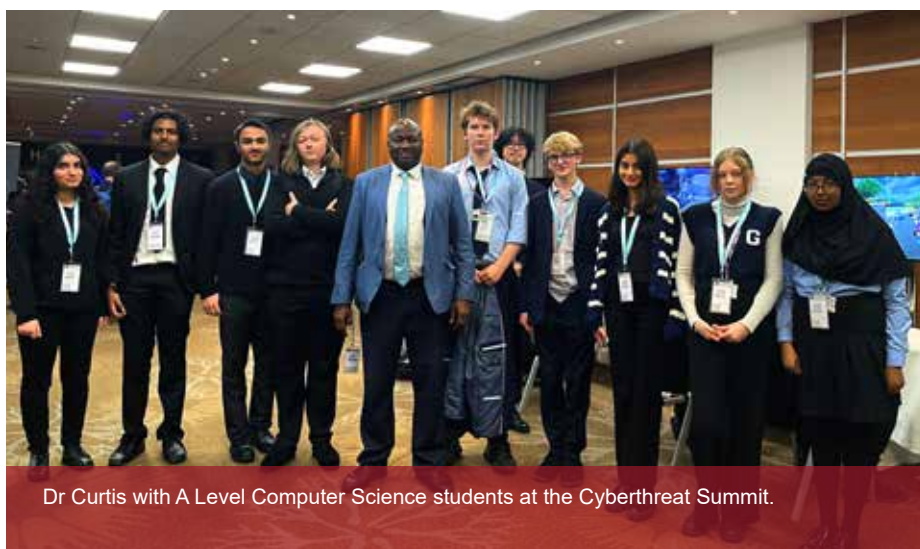
I thoroughly enjoyed the film, from the narrative to the soundtrack, down to the details in the editing. Every aspect of the film came together to build a compelling and funny story. The personality of the producer is reflected perfectly through this piece. The producer Jeymes Samuel, AKA, the Bullits, is an eccentric man, full of energy and proud of his work and background. This reflected through Clarence's poorer background, innovative personality, as well as his beats of humour which are emphasised throughout the plot.

Overall, I am glad to have been part of this trip and can't wait for the world to see this piece and hopefully appreciate its artistry and intriguing narrative the way I have."

Thank you to Ms Harrowes who organised student participation through the London Film Festival and former colleague Ms Albert. ■

## CYBER SECURITY

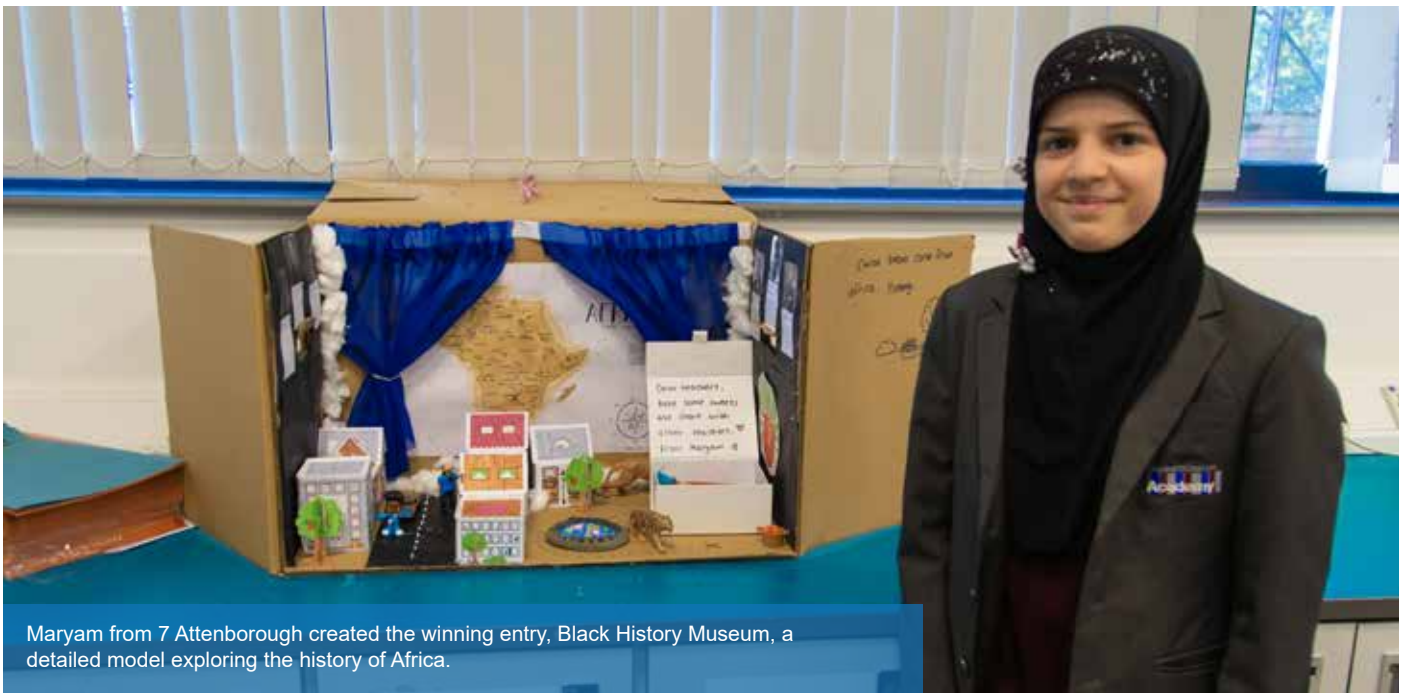
Sixth Form students led by Dr Curtis (Head of Computer Science & IT) had a transformative experience at the Cyberthreat Summit held at the Novotel hotel in Hammersmith. The summit provided a unique opportunity for A Level computer science students to immerse themselves in the dynamic world of cybersecurity. Attending presentations by industry leaders offered valuable insights, fostering a deeper understanding of real-world applications and challenges in the field. This exposure not only enriched their academic knowledge but also ignited a passion for cybersecurity, paving the way for future success in the ever-evolving tech landscape. ■



Dr Curtis with A Level Computer Science students at the Cyberthreat Summit.



# BLACK HISTORY



Maryam from 7 Attenborough created the winning entry, Black History Museum, a detailed model exploring the history of Africa.

During October's Black History Month, all students at the Academy were given the opportunity to conduct an independent research project of their choice linked to Black History.

The purpose of the project was to inform and inspire students from all backgrounds to appreciate the contributions of different cultures and influential figures of black heritage.

Students were encouraged to enter their research work as part of a House competition by writing a short summary about how their research project linked to one or more of our HA Values.

Each entrant could display their research findings in different formats and we received entries with a wide range of media and formats including: poems, posters, essays, scripts, and animations. There were a fantastic number of entries and some quite standout pieces of work.

Horace who was awarded second place explained how the project linked to the Academy values, "I think I have shown resilience during this project because it required lots of time and patience to draw similar illustrations on every frame as my animation project has over 1000 frames in total. I have shown

resourcefulness in my research about the Mali Empire using various sources including YouTube and BBC Bitesize."

Congratulations to the winning entry, Maryam in Year 7 who blew the judges away with her detailed model of a Black History Museum which she made during her half term break.

Well done to everyone who put in so much effort into their submissions. They were clearly well thought-out and researched, showing how each of the entrants learnt something new about black history. ■

## BHM Competition Winners:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place: Maryam (7 Attenborough) - £50 voucher**  
A fantastic cardboard model of a Black History Museum.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Horace - 8 McQueen - £20 voucher**  
A wonderful animation about the history of the Mali Empire in Africa.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Azzurra – 12 Lovelace - £10 voucher**  
A brilliant black British romance film synopsis.

## MS CARRENA TELLS US ABOUT THE ACADEMY'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMPETITION.

“There were a fantastic number of entries and some quite standout pieces of work.”

## House Competition Winners

**1<sup>st</sup>** Lovelace House

**2<sup>nd</sup>** McQueen House

**3<sup>rd</sup>** Lovelace House

# ROAD SAFETY WEEK



Students got a driver's eye view of the road to help them understand the dangers large vehicles pose for road users.

STUDENTS EXCHANGE PLACES WITH LORRY DRIVERS TO SEE A WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE FOR ROAD SAFETY WEEK.

Road Safety Week took place from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Each year schools across the UK get involved to share important road safety messages.

The Academy got involved by hosting the *Exchanging Places* event in partnership with the Metropolitan Police. The interactive experience raised awareness of the challenges lorry drivers face in seeing cyclists and pedestrians on the roads, empowering students to stay safe while sharing the road with these large vehicles.

Metropolitan Police officers from the cycle safety team were on hand to provide expert guidance on safe practices around lorries, proper positioning, signalling, and the importance of wearing reflective clothing.

Students then had the opportunity to climb into the cab of a stationary lorry and experience the driver's perspective firsthand guided by a police officer.

This immersive experience highlighted the numerous blind spots

that lorry drivers must navigate, emphasising the importance of remaining vigilant and visible when sharing the road with these vehicles.

The event was met with positive feedback from students, and many were surprised by the areas around the vehicle that the driver could not see which left them with a new appreciation for larger vehicles. Overall, it delivered a powerful message and will help to improve the safety of all those using the roads. ■

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## SILVER STATUS

The Academy is delighted to have been awarded a Silver Accreditation in Transport for London's (TfL) Travel for Life programme. This award recognises the positive contributions schools make to safe and sustainable travel.

TfL's Travel for Life, awards gold, silver, or bronze based on the number of activities completed by the school.

Hammersmith Academy's Silver status recognises active participation in over 120 possible TfL activities that support active and sustainable forms

of travel such as cycling, walking and public transport use. It also aims to make positive changes to the climate and local environment by reducing emissions.

The next step for the Academy is to go for gold! Already, the Junior Leadership Team are participating in a new TfL Pioneers Programme which will see students plan assemblies and create awareness campaigns to help promote safety and the health benefits of active travel. ■





# OUTDOOR EDUCATION BILL

THE ACADEMY WAS INVITED TO THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED OUTDOOR EDUCATION BILL.



Andy Slaughter MP (left) with Year 11 student, Tegan and Mr Kynaston, Headteacher at the event.

The proposed Outdoor Education Bill sees every child experience a residential before finishing school education. The 'Let Us Out' campaign spearheaded by the Outward Bound Trust aims to get the bill passed into law.

In December, Year 11 student, Tegan was invited to the campaign event held at the Palace of Westminster, along with Hammersmith & Fulham MP, Andy Slaughter, and Headteacher, Mr Kynaston.

The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including MPs, representatives from the education sector, outdoor education providers, and children's charities.

During the event, Tegan had the opportunity to engage with donor sponsors, local MPs and influencers to discuss the importance of outdoor education and the impact

of the campaign. She shared her experiences of outdoor residentials including Outward Bound and Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and emphasised the positive impact they have had on her personal and academic development.

It is hoped that the 'Let Us Out' campaign can gain momentum in the coming months, with support from schools, teachers, parents, and young people across the country.

Congratulations to Tegan for being an excellent ambassador, representing the Academy, Hammersmith & Fulham and Outward Bound Trust, and speaking so brilliantly to the attendees. Her enthusiasm and passion resonated with the attendees, who were impressed by her articulate presentation and personal experiences. ■

“Tegan was invited to the campaign event held at the Palace of Westminster...”

# BOXING WORKSHOP



Boxing improves wellbeing by relieving stress and improving sleep, as well as providing physical benefits.

Hammersmith Academy has been working with West London Zone, an organisation helping young people build relationships and skills needed to thrive in adulthood.

This term the organisation brought in the London Sports Trust (LST) to

work with Year 9 boys in the form of a boxing workshop to promote physical activity, improve confidence and teamwork amongst peers.

The sessions have been led by coach, Eric Sumner who has built an excellent rapport with the boys

and has commended their discipline and commitment in attending the sessions. The programme has been well received by the students and has allowed them to get active, whilst also acting as a release from the pressures of the school day.

Boxing not only has physical benefits such as improving cardiovascular health but also mental health and wellbeing too, such as relieving stress and improving sleep.

The boys have worked hard to improve their hand eye co-ordination and we have seen confidence grow over the past few weeks.

London Sports Trust also runs safe camps throughout the holidays in various locations in Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea to enable young people to stay active throughout the holidays, so do look out for updates if this is something you would be interested in. ■

## MUSIC NEWS

### English National Opera

Students in Year 7 were invited to step into the role of an ENO (English National Opera) Composer by responding to, and resolving, a purposefully unfinished operatic piece titled 'Blue, Red, Yellow...'.

Students immersed themselves in an imaginative world and experimented with music, colours and text, to create their own bespoke ending. Students will receive certificates from ENO in January during their celebration week. Some students will feature on the ENO website and have the opportunity to be selected for a bespoke animation being created for their compositions.

### Winter Concert

This term saw the return of the annual Winter Concert. The evening showcased the work students 'have been doing outside of lesson

time during Session 3 activities or individual music lessons. The evening featured first time solo performances from our Year 11 GCSE students Aham (11J) and Ozzy (11K) as well as our core extracurricular groups: Choir, Rock Band and KS3 Band.

This year's concert goes also had the opportunity to experience the original compositions of Music Tech Club students, including two with live vocals. There were incredible debut performances of their own compositions from Daniel (7J) and Adelice (7M) backed up by Emilia (7J). An extra special well done to these Year 7s for being brave enough to share their compositions with us, and to perform in their first, hopefully of many, concerts at HA.

Finally, a special mention to our Year 13 performers. The evening was expertly hosted by Mariam, with

outstanding vocal performances from Bayan and Naomi. Upon joining HA in 2017, these students immediately threw themselves into the expressive arts, getting involved in almost any vocal opportunities on offer. Between them they have performed at multiple concert venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, and in all of the Musical Productions at HA. These 3 students have participated in some capacity in every concert we have had over the past 7 years. They are the embodiment of talent, reliability and, most importantly, commitment.

### Moana Jr

The highlight in the music calendar is Moana Jr, this year's musical. Performances take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Look out for more information in January. ■



# OPENING GAMBIT



A picture of concentration! The tournament was an evening of fierce competition with qualification at stake.

Hammersmith Academy hosted the first round of the U19 National School Chess Championship qualifier that showcased a thrilling display of strategy and skill.

The Academy's team competed against formidable adversaries from West London, with the team of 6 engaged in an intense series of matches.

The qualifiers began with a challenging match-up against West London Free School. Despite a valiant effort, Hammersmith Academy's team faced an initial setback by losing in the first round. However, the team quickly rebounded with resilience and

strategic prowess by securing victories in subsequent matches.

A pivotal moment arose as they squared off against arch-rivals, Phoenix Academy. After securing a much-celebrated win they continued their winning streak, clinching victory against Gunnersbury Catholic School, in a captivating showdown.

Every player who competed in the qualifiers earned an esteemed English Chess Federation ranking.

We look forward to continue nurturing and fostering a culture of chess excellence, inspiring students to reach new heights in competitive chess. ■

**MR RUSSEA REPORTS FROM THE THE U19 NATIONAL SCHOOL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER.**

“The Academy's team competed against formidable adversaries...”



Mr Russea with Hammersmith Academy's chess team. Every player who competed in the qualifiers earned an esteemed English Chess Federation ranking.

# POLITICS IN PERSON

HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM MP DROPS BY TO DISCUSS LIFE IN POLITICS AND ANSWER STUDENT QUESTIONS.



Andy Slaughter has been the MP for Hammersmith and Fulham since 2005 and served in Labour's shadow government.

“ He spoke about the pressures of representing different viewpoints...”

”

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November the Academy welcomed Andy Slaughter MP, the Member of Parliament for Hammersmith & Fulham, for an insightful session with Year 11 and Sixth Form Government and Politics students.

Mr Slaughter, a seasoned politician with over 20 years of experience in Parliament, engaged our students in a lively discussion about the world of politics, the responsibilities of an MP, and the importance of active citizenship.

He began by providing a comprehensive overview of the role of an MP, emphasising the importance of representing their constituents' interests in Parliament. He highlighted the various

responsibilities of an MP, including scrutinising government policies, debating legislation, and engaging with constituents on local issues.

Mr Slaughter encouraged students to engage with the political process and make their voices heard. He emphasised that democracy thrives when citizens actively participate in shaping their communities and influencing policy decisions.

Students raised a range of topics, from the UK's political system to global issues, including recent events in the Middle East.

Students gained a deeper understanding as a result of Mr Slaughter's firsthand account bringing to life what they have learnt in class. ■

## THINK TANKS



In December, Emma Revell, Head of Communications & Public Affairs at the Centre of Policy studies visited the Academy to discuss the work of think tanks.

During the talk with A Level Government & Politics students, she explained the work of think tanks and how they play a role in making and influencing global and national policy.

She explained in detail how they go about researching topics of interest and understanding public opinion, as well as detailing how different think tanks concentrate on specific policy areas.

At the end of the presentation Emma answered student questions in detail including how they provide information to government and how they help to draft legislation. ■



# ART FILLED AUTUMN



Year 12 Art & Photography students at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

## HEAD OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY, MS SAMUELS RUNS US THROUGH ARTISTIC HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AUTUMN TERM.

As we wrap up a busy and creative term in the Art Department, we take a look back at some of the trips and events our students have been immersed in, from captivating exhibitions to hands-on workshops.

### Royal College of Art

Our Year 12 Art students travelled to the Royal College of Art to attend an Open Day to find out more about courses on offer for life after Sixth Form.

Engaging in a variety of workshops such as 3D sculpture, architecture, and graphic communication, they immersed themselves in the

cutting-edge world of contemporary art. Roj, a student who attended, said of the visit, "The Royal College of Art Open Day was inspiring. It opened my eyes to the endless possibilities within the art world and has really got me thinking about my next steps."

### Taylor Wessing Photography Prize

Another highlight this term was the Taylor Wessing Photography Prize at the National Portrait Gallery, attended by both our Year 12 Art and Photography classes.

Showcasing talented young photographers, gifted amateurs and established professionals, the competition celebrates a diverse range of images and tells the often fascinating stories behind the creation of the works. The selected images, many of which are on display for the first time, explore both traditional and contemporary approaches to the photographic portrait whilst capturing a range of characters, moods and locations.

During the visit, students also delved into the National Portrait Gallery's general collection, leaving with a renewed sense of inspiration. Foteini, an Art and Photography student, said, "The trip gave me tons of ideas for my Art and Photography projects. It was a really inspiring day that sparked creativity for both of my portfolios."

### Session 3

Our busy Session 3s have been abuzz with creativity during our Open Studios filled with Key Stage 3 students each week. Additionally, our Moana Set Design club has been hard at work crafting set pieces and props for the upcoming school production, showcasing the collaborative and artistic spirit of our students.

We are already looking forward to the an array of art trips and events in 2024 including talks at galleries, the launch of the Ardagh Young Creatives programme, our Design Museum Take Over Day, our End of Year exhibitions, and more. ■



Students got hands on during the Royal College of Art Open Day.



# SPORTS ROUND-UP

THIS TERM HAS BEEN A TYPICALLY BUSY ONE FOR THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT. HERE IS A ROUND-UP OF THE SPORTING NEWS.



Year 8 Boys Football Team at their match against Phoenix Academy. They have had a very successful season to date.

## Boys Football

The Year 8 Football Team has had a stellar start to the season, securing victory in both of their initial games, against Phoenix and Westminster Academy, and solidifying their position at the top of the table. Displaying exceptional teamwork, skill, and determination, the team showcased their prowess on the field, outplaying their opponents to claim

decisive wins. In particular, the 8-4 win against Phoenix was a standout performance, with goals from Ty, Adem, Elijah, Walid and Yasin. The players' commitment to training and strategic play has paid off, reflecting their dedication to success. As the team continues to build on this early momentum following an inconsistent season in Year 7, they look poised for a successful and competitive season ahead.

## Girls Football

Throughout the first term we have had a number of football fixtures for Year 7 and Year 8 Girls. All the girls have represented the school in extremely positive way and have worked extremely well as a team. Communicating to each other and taking on feedback given to them during the game and applying it to the fixture. They had a close match against BDA and Holland Park but lost both of these and an 11-0 win against Phoenix Academy. Through these fixtures the girls have learnt the importance of positioning and making lead runs to help their teammates during the game.

Noticeable performances are from Lybica, Hannah, Bess, Lily and Rielle.

## Sixth Form Football

The Sixth Form Football Team kicked off their season with an exhilarating friendly match against BDA, emerging victorious with a thrilling 4-3 win. Renato was Player of the Match, scoring a delightful 20 yard free-kick with just 10 minutes to go and the score level at 3-3. The team's performance showcased a blend of



Year 7 Girls Football Team scored an impressive victory against Phoenix Academy.



skill, resilience and strategic play, providing a promising glimpse into what lies ahead in the upcoming season. The players demonstrated their ability to work cohesively on the field, with both offensive and defensive prowess on display. The hard-fought victory in the friendly not only served as a confidence booster but also highlighted the team's potential for success as they gear up for the challenges of the official season. With this positive start, the Sixth Form Team looks well-prepared and determined for a successful campaign ahead in the QPR League.

## Basketball

In the KS3 Qualifiers, HA faced off against Hurlingham, Fulham Cross and West London Free School in a LYG Qualifying Tournament, with the winning team representing Hammersmith and Fulham. After beating Fulham Cross and West London, HA faced off against Hurlingham in a winner takes all game as both had won their other two games. The match did not disappoint, and with the scores level at 20-20 after 15 minutes, we headed to overtime. With just 20 seconds left, Joaquim scored from the corner with a mid-ranger, sending HA through to the next round. We will face The American School of London in January.

In the KS4 Qualifiers, HA had a disappointing exit. After representing Hammersmith and Fulham in 4 of the previous 6 years, HA were confident they could qualify once more. However, early defeats to West London and BDA meant that qualification was no longer a possibility. HA did well to beat Phoenix, who won all their games up to that point of the competition. Nevertheless, with a fairly new look team with lots of debuts to students, this puts us in good shape for the coming seasons!

## Girls Rugby

A group of Year 7 Girls travelled to Wasps FC to complete in a training day and fixtures with other schools from the area. They received coaching from professional rugby players, who taught them about handling of the ball, catching and the rules of the game. The girls performed fantastically and learned how to play rugby and then applied this into games where they won all 3 games,

they completed in. The engagement and enthusiasm from everyone was incredible.

"The Rugby Tournament was very fun and I really enjoyed it. Everyone had countless opportunities. Even in the cold and the rain everyone still had fun! Everyone was included or doing something active like supporting teammates." - Hala 7 Khan

"I really enjoyed the Rugby Tournament because it was very fun and competitive and I love competitive games and sports! I met new people and had a lots of exercise , I enjoyed myself very much." - Nour 7 Khan

Player of the Match was Hala and honourable mentions for their fantastic effort and determination are Ryshae, Lyibica, Mariam, Seada. Well done to everyone!!

## Year 9 Football

So far this season Year 9 have played two matches. The first being a home fixture against Holland Park, where the students put in an solid performance although they suffered a defeat. However when the next

fixture occurred the following week, introducing a new tactical system saw them change from a 4-3-3 to a 3-5-2. HA went to BDA and starting emphatically and went 1-0 up within the first minutes. Incredible defensive displays and great attacking flair constantly put BDA under pressure, but in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute BDA managed to score. Finishing the game 1-1. Overall great building blocks have been placed for a successful season.

Follow Sports on Instagram

 @hasport1

### Sportswoman of the Term

In GCSE PE, Elena has consistently demonstrated academic prowess, proving that excellence in education is a priority for Elena.

What truly sets Elena apart from other students is her consistent dedication to her sporting passions outside of school. She has excelled in the discipline of Taekwondo.

She has also been able to balance the rigorous demands of coursework with the physical and mental challenges of Taekwondo, exemplifying resilience, discipline, that makes for a HA student.

Her ability to seamlessly integrate academic pursuits with the rigours of martial arts speaks volumes about her character and determination.

We look forward to Elena's future achievements which are sure to come very soon.

Well done Elena! ■



### Sportsman of the Term

This term Charlie has exhibited an exemplary understanding of the principles and theories that underpin GCSE Physical Education.

His commitment to academic excellence is not just commendable but reflects a genuine passion for the subject matter.

He has excelled across multiple sporting disciplines making him a true all-rounder, but stands out in football in particular.

Academically, Charlie has also performed well, excelling in his Module 2 PE assessments.

Furthermore, his skill, dedication, and sportsmanship in practical settings have not only contributed to his personal growth but have also set a standard for his peers to aspire to. ■



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