

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



Student talent features heavily in this term's edition of *The Academist*. I continue to be amazed at the achievements of our young people. Their passion is what makes Hammersmith Academy a vibrant place that welcomes all kinds of interests and skills.

Our much anticipated musical was Disney's *Moana*. What stood out in this production was the sheer depth of talent and student involvement. From Year 7 right through to Sixth Form, all year groups were represented. Not only was acting, singing and dancing on full display, so was the student talent that created the scenery, props and lighting.

We are delighted to celebrate the Academy's first ever published student author, Jonathan Harii who launched his book, *Against the Odds* alongside Ahmad Ghaddar who illustrated the cover on World Book Day. A quite incredible achievement.

Our Lego League team have made it all the way to the national finals of the FIRST® LEGO® League after competing against schools in London. They demonstrated programming skills and innovative architectural ideas that impressed the judges.

Key Stage 3 students showed off their design and imagination for British Science Week, submitting their homemade models to the Science Department. The number of outstanding creations which made the judging very difficult.

Year 12 Computer Science students triumphed at this year's Hackathon event with their group presentation and impressive solution using the latest developments in AI.

Nine students received their special Jack Petchey Award medals at an award ceremony in central London. These winners were chosen by fellow students and recognised for their contribution to school life.

Our students' success doesn't just stop once they leave the Academy. Our alumni go on to amazing futures, making waves in the world and taking our ethos and values with them.

This edition of the newsletter sees the introduction of a new alumni feature where we catch up with former students to see what they have been up to. It is always a joy to see talent continue to blossom and develop as our young adults take all they have learnt into the wider world.

I hope you enjoy reading about all the student talent that is on show here at the Academy as much as I have. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

MOANA MUSICAL



This year's musical cast consisted of students from across all year groups, including Teagan (Year 11) as Moana, Louie (Year 9) as Hei Hei and Adelice (Year 7) as Pua.

This year's highly anticipated school musical, Disney's *Moana*, captivated audiences over three nights in February 2024. Months of preparation culminated in a mesmerising performance that showcased a multitude of student talent.

Students began auditioning in the autumn term as soon as the musical

was announced and the cast and crew invested countless hours into perfecting their roles and honing their performance, rehearsing after school and at weekends. Their commitment extended beyond the traditional realms of acting, encompassing the challenge of mastering Tokelauan and Samoan languages alongside their lines, choreography and singing.

Unlike previous productions, *Moana* featured students from across all the year groups including new students who joined in Year 7 and Year 13 students who had previously never taken part in a production. *Moana*, being a well known film, clearly was a draw in getting students to take part.

Creativity and ingenuity was on full display. From crafting props to designing sets and costumes, students took ownership of every aspect of the production, transforming the theatre into the vibrant world of Moana's Polynesia.

The first performance was a full dress rehearsal matinee for students from local primary schools, John Betts and Greenside. The young audience members were thrilled and provided just the right amount of feedback ahead of the first main performance.

THE ACADEMY
BROUGHT A POPULAR
DISNEY CLASSIC
TO THE STAGE FOR
THIS YEAR'S MUCH
AWAITED MUSICAL.

“From crafting props to designing sets and costumes, students took ownership of every detail, transforming the theatre into the vibrant world of Moana's Polynesia.”

PERFORMING ARTS



Students were responsible for all aspects of the show including lighting and costume.



Year 11 students, Kayden and Amira as Maui and Moana aboard the camakau raft.

With a few hours to make minor adjustments and improvements before the opening show, there was a nervous energy amongst the cast and crew but they needn't have worried as they put on a spectacular show.

There were several standout moments that left a lasting impression on the audience. Notably, an imaginative swap in the actress portraying Moana, with the role shared between Teagan and Amira, adding depth and diversity to the character. Additionally, the recreation of the churning sea using handheld fans and material was a stroke of brilliance, immersing viewers in Moana's oceanic journey.

Ms Samuels and the Art Department did a superb job alongside the artistic students in creating the backdrops and scenery, as well as show stopping props such as

the raft, shields with indigenous designs that form the symbolic boat, to the creation of a giant puppet embodying the fiery force of Te Ka, and the umbrellas morphing into a shimmering crab shell!



Ava brought her drama experience to the musical, helping students to make props and running the lighting for all the shows.

Ava Kaur Ghir, a graduate of the American Theatre program at Rose Bruford Drama School and The New School in New York, played a pivotal role in the production. Initially assisting with prop-making, Ava volunteered to lead voice and warm-up workshops with the students. She also took charge of handling the lighting for the shows at HA.

Ava's connection with HA is through her mother Ms Martin who is the Academy's Art Technician—a true family affair!

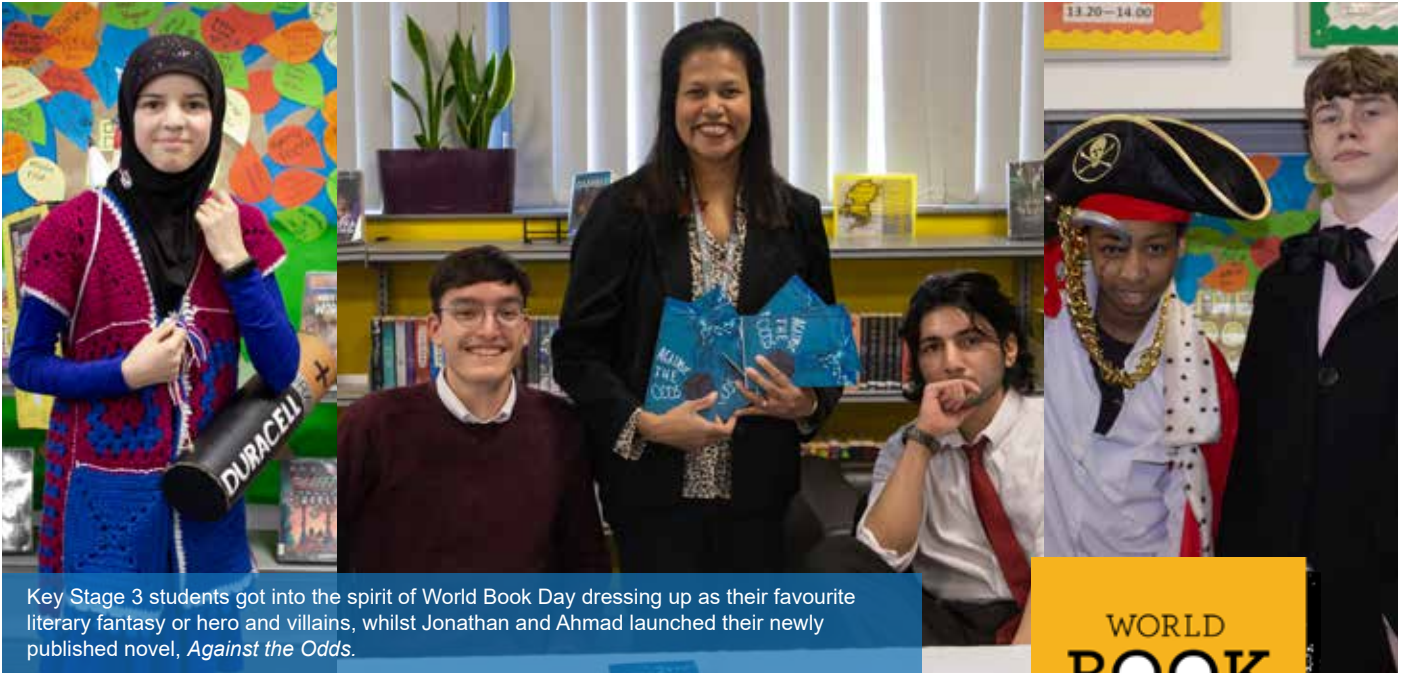
Thank you to our volunteers who gave up their time to make this show possible. Mr Charles our Choir Leader and Ms Tawiah the Lead Costume Maker

A special mention to Ms Slav, Creative Director for putting together a spectacular show and to Mr Proudman, Assistant Director and Ms Dodd, Stage Manager, Ms Samuels and the Design Committee, Mr Yimini, Sound Engineer, Ms Lopez, Assistant Stage Manager, and to all the students who contributed to the most memorable show.

We extend a special thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time to help bring the show to life and run the show nights.

Congratulations to all the cast and crew for their commitment, passion, and talent. Their efforts brought Disney's *Moana* to life on our theatre stage, captivating audiences and leaving a lasting impression. ■

A LOVE OF BOOKS



Key Stage 3 students got into the spirit of World Book Day dressing up as their favourite literary fantasy or hero and villains, whilst Jonathan and Ahmad launched their newly published novel, *Against the Odds*.

LIBRARIAN, MS HARNEY TELLS US ABOUT THE COSTUMES AND STUDENT BOOK LAUNCH ON WORLD BOOK DAY.

“The Academy's library played host to a special author talk and book signing event.

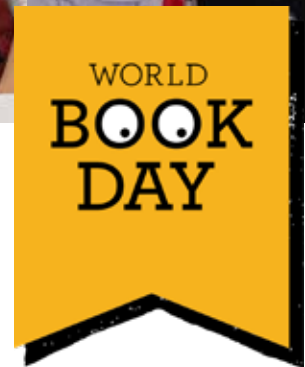
The Academy was filled with literary characters on World Book Day as students in Year 7, Year 8, and Sixth Form donned imaginative costumes. This year's celebrations, centred around the theme of fantasy, heroes, and villains.

Among the standout ensembles were iconic figures such as *Cruella de Vil* and her entourage of dalmatians, the miniature heroes from *The Borrowers*, the spirited ninja *Naruto*, and the time-travelling *Doctor Who*. Even staff members joined in on the fun transforming into characters like the regal *Queen of Hearts*, the mischievous *Harley Quinn*, and the enigmatic wizard *Harry Dresden*.

A photobooth was set up in the Library so students could have a memento from the day and props and extra costumes were available so students who had been unable to dress up could still take part.

” Throughout the day students were welcomed into the Library with free World Book Day books and book tokens to use at participating book stores.

Adding to the festivities of the day, the Academy's library played host to a special author talk and book signing event, featuring two of the



Academy's very own students! Jonathan Harri and Ahmad Ghaddar, unveiled their debut novel, *Against the Odds*. The book, born out of Jonathan's Mark Evison Foundation project, captivated the reader with its gripping storyline and compelling characters.

During the talk, Jonathan shared insights into his creative process, detailing the inspiration behind the narrative and the development of its characters. Meanwhile, Ahmad delved into the artistic journey behind the book's cover art, revealing that he had crafted a staggering 15 initial designs before settling on the final masterpiece.

The day not only celebrated the joy of books and reading but also showcased the remarkable talent and imagination of the Academy's students.

Well done to all the students who took part. It was fantastic to see all the imagination come to life and literature's power to inspire us. ■

OUTWARD BOUND 1

XELA (YEAR 9) TRAVELLED TO ABERDOVEY, ON THE SNOWDONIAN COAST TO TAKE PART IN AN OUTWARD BOUND EXPERIENCE.



Mr Hall's group after taking to the water challenges on the beach.

In January the whole of Year 9 travelled to Wales to spend a week taking part in outdoor activities to challenge ourselves in an unfamiliar environment.

The highlight of the trip was the expedition. I enjoyed the views and being able to see everything around me from the top of the hills as we hiked.

I have learnt that I really like outdoor adventure activities and although it was tough, it gave me a sense of achievement and pride. For example, a significant memory was the dip in

the estuary on the first day. We had to get into freezing water, each time getting a little deeper and I was the only one who went fully underwater.

I definitely recommend Outward Bound to other students because it challenges you to do things you would never imagine doing. I was scared to go down on the rock slide at first but ended up doing it five times with my friends, and I am glad I braved the fear.

The whole experience was fun yet exhausting as it tested our fitness and endurance. During car trips to and from the outward-bound base camp we would sleep or just rest!

Overall it was a brilliant experience that I shall not forget. ■

“ Although it was tough, it gave me a sense of achievement and pride. ”



Students overcame the challenges of the outdoors, including the stunning peaks on their hillwalks.



THE
OUTWARD
BOUND TRUST

OUTWARD BOUND 2

ERIC (YEAR 8) TELLS US ABOUT HIS LAKE DISTRICT EXPERIENCE AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED HIS OUTLOOK.



A select group of Year 8 students travelled to Lake District for a week of self discovery and to experience the great outdoors of the British countryside.

Going on Outward Bound in the sprawling countryside of Lake District was so much more than just a trip; it felt like a huge adventure finding out who we are, how well we work together, and just being amazed by nature's freedom. We stayed in this historic cabin right in the middle of green fields and scenic marshes. It was an enriching experience.

One of the highlights of the trip was the white quartz littering the eroded

paths, showing the remains of the volcanic eruptions that has shaped the countryside today.

Hiking was the main thing we did, and wow, did it push us! It wasn't just about walking a lot; it was learning to stick together and keep going, no matter what. Every step on those paths taught us to keep trying, help each other out, and enjoy every bit of progress. And the views? Totally awesome! Everywhere you looked, it

was just stunning – green foliage everywhere, the smell of rain on dirt, and birds singing like they were part of a fairytale.

The most epic part was this massive waterfall. It was a majestic sight– so powerful and beautiful. Standing there with the water crashing down and mist spraying on us felt like being in another world. Then, out of nowhere, these supersonic loud fighter jets flew over us, breaking the sound barrier. It was this wild mix of peaceful nature and aviation.

This whole trip was way more than just hanging out outdoors. It taught us about not giving up, being there for friends, and that there's so much more that we can do than we think. We came back not just with cool memories of nature and the jets but feeling like we could take on the world in a whole new way. It made us want to keep pushing our limits, get curious, and just dive into whatever adventure comes our way with everything we've got. ■



Eric (centre) alongside his fellow team members on their snowy hike.

HOUSE COMPETITION

THE HOUSE SYSTEM PROVIDES STUDENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY EVENTS THROUGH FRIENDLY COMPETITION. HOUSE COORDINATOR, MS JACKSON WRITES.



The Science Department ran a model making competition to mark British Science Week. Students had to submit models explaining scientific concepts and their learning.

This term has been abuzz with House competitions. Alongside our charitable fundraisers and bake sales, various competitions have been taking place across different departments.

One of the highlights was the fantastic MFL competition, where students showcased their creativity by making something inspired by the Mexican festival Day of the Dead. From face painting to baking and crafting, the entries were outstanding. Congratulations to our winners, Sara (7L) and Sa'Ad (7A).

We also hosted a remarkable Science model making competition, challenging students to create imaginative models based on real-life science applications or demonstrate scientific concepts. The level of participation was impressive, with exceptional submissions from many students. Special mention goes to Oliver (7K), our Year 7 winner, and Flash (8A), our Year 8 winner.

The HA Big Draw, our Art competition, was another highlight of the term. With over 30 students participating in a competitive three-hour drawing of a still life, it was no easy feat. However, the Year 12 art student judges were amazed by the quality of the entries. Kudos to our winners: Flash (8A), Alessia (7J) and CJ (7J).

Ending the term on a high, we introduced the incredible Sixth Form trivia quiz for the first time ever. The atmosphere was electric as representatives from each House battled it out in front of a live audience. Congratulations to McQueen House for emerging as the winning House, earning valuable points towards the House Cup.

As for the current standings in terms of fundraising, competitions, and House Points, Attenborough House leads the way, followed by Lovelace, McQueen, Johnson and Khan.

However, with a full summer term still ahead of us, there's ample opportunity for changes in the standings. Looking ahead, we're gearing up for the upcoming competitions, Sports Day, Race for Life, and more - bring on the summer term! ■

House Charity Competition Standings

1 st	Attenborough
2 nd	Lovelace
3 rd	McQueen
4 th	Johnson
5 th	Khan

TFL PIONEERS

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY CONTINUES SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL SUCCESS WITH TFL PIONEERS PROGRAMME. MS WILLIAMS FILLS US IN ON ALL THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS THIS TERM.

Our Junior Leadership Team has been participating in the Transport for London (TfL) Pioneers Programme. This initiative, conducted in collaboration with the London Transport Museum, aims to instil in secondary school students the values of active, responsible, and safe travel.

The TfL Pioneers programme, empowers students to become advocates for sustainable travel within the school community. Students identify travel issues that affect their community and devise comprehensive plans and activities aimed at addressing these concerns, all with the assistance of London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham and TfL.

Since the start of the programme in January, our team has been engaged in various workshops facilitated by TfL. Through these workshops, students have undertaken several initiatives, including the creation of a vibrant travel noticeboard adorned with information and tips for both staff and students.

JLT have also developed an innovative obstacle course designed to highlight the dangers of phone distractions whilst on the move. Year 7 students will be invited to take part



Bikeability students with the Academy's Silver Accreditation Certificate awarded by Transport for London.

in the obstacle course in the summer term.

Currently, JLT is gearing up for a series of awareness assemblies tailored for peers in Year 7. These assemblies will provide crucial information regarding safe and sustainable travel practices and being responsible citizens when travelling on public transport.

On successful completion of the programme, students will receive

a Schools, Students, and Teachers Network (SSAT) student leadership accreditation in recognition of their leadership skills. Students will also be invited to a special TfL event held at London Transport Museum in the summer to congratulate them on their achievements.

In addition to the Pioneers Programme, Bikeability continues to run at the Academy during PE sessions and in break times. So far, over 150 students have received bike training from professional instructors, covering general bike maintenance and how to stay safe when cycling.

Once a week, a more advanced group of young cyclists take to the local roads with instructors to learn how to negotiate roads, traffic and pedestrians safely in accordance with the highway code. Participating students feel more comfortable cycling and more confident in taking their newly acquired skills with them into their adult lives.

With students leading the way in sustainable travel, it is hoped that the Academy takes a step closer to being awarded a coveted gold status accreditation for its school travel plan. ■



JLT students during one of their TfL Pioneers sessions.

PANGOLIN PASSION

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIST, CHARLES EMOGOR, TALKS PANGOLINS, RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION AS PART OF THE ACADEMY'S NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP.



Pangolin expert, Charles Emogor visited the Academy to talk to students about his scientific work with pangolins and how he found his calling.

As part of our ongoing partnership with National Geographic Society, this term we welcomed Charles Emogor, a passionate pangolin scientist and PhD candidate at the University of Cambridge. His visit sparked curiosity and ignited a sense of environmental responsibility among our students.

Mr Emogor delivered an engaging presentation about pangolins, a highly endangered species. His infectious enthusiasm for these unique, scale-covered mammals really brought the talk alive. He shared fascinating details about their ecology, highlighting their endangered status due to illegal poaching, and the ongoing conservation efforts. Beyond the science, he spoke about his personal journey, highlighting the pivotal moments that steered him towards a career in research and advocating for endangered species.

Adding a personal touch, Mr Emogor

shared a surprising fact: despite growing up in Nigeria, a region where pangolins are native, he had never actually encountered one as a child. This personal anecdote emphasised the urgency of conservation efforts and resonated deeply with the students.

Through interactive activities and captivating storytelling, Mr Emogor encouraged students to explore their own passions and consider how they can contribute to positive change. His visit left a lasting impression, fostering a deeper appreciation for pangolins and the vital role scientists play in protecting our planet's biodiversity.

Next up in the series is Dr Sada Mire, a Swedish-Somali archaeologist, art historian and presenter. Dr Mire holds a PhD from UCL's Institute of Archaeology, London and she is the only active Somali archaeologist, working in Somalia and Somaliland.

“Despite growing up in Nigeria, a region where pangolins are native, he had never actually encountered one as a child.”



MONEY MATTERS

YEAR 11 STUDENT, ASYA EXPLAINS WHY FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH HAS BEEN HELPFUL FOR STUDENTS AT THE ACADEMY.

In January, the Academy marked Financial Literacy Month, dedicating PSHE lessons to equip students with the knowledge and tools needed to make sound financial decisions. Led by the Maths Department, the initiative covered a wide range of essential topics, promoting financial awareness for students of all year groups.

I found the financial literacy sessions extremely helpful and interesting as it was a completely different topic than is usually talked about in maths and tutor time. I found the session about budgeting especially eye-opening as it gave my peers and I a greater insight into how money is used in the real world, and more importantly how quickly money can be spent if you aren't careful with how it is used. Furthermore, the lesson plans were engaging as the worksheets



Year 11 students discussed the dangers of gambling and the law which protects young people.

and open class discussions were an interactive method to learning and I noticed many more of my classmates were taking part in sharing their opinions of spending and saving money. Overall, I found the financial

literacy week to be very successful as the insightful topics created a noticeable amount of enthusiasm, interest, and excitement to learn more about sensible spending. ■

JACK PETCHEY

Nine outstanding HA students have been awarded the prestigious Jack Petchey Award for their exemplary conduct, dedication, and positive influence within the school community.

Recipients were nominated by their fellow peers, each demonstrating exceptional qualities that embody the core values of the Academy.

The winners were invited to an award ceremony at St John's Smith Square in London.

Among the deserving winners is Alyssa, whose polite demeanor and unwavering support for her peers have made her a popular figure in school. Alyssa's positive outlook and willingness to lend a helping hand have made her an inspiration for others.

Sixth Former, Jonathan has consistently exceeded expectations with his kindness, friendliness, and



Hammersmith Academy winners with their medals. Students top row (l-r) Oscar, Millie, Alyesha. Students bottom row (l-r) Marcus, Annalise, Alyesha, Jonathan, Frida.

determination. His infectious smile and positive attitude have created a ripple effect of warmth and inspiration throughout the school community.

Frida, Oscar, Millie, Alyesha, Marcus, Annalise, and Rania have also been recognised for their outstanding contributions. Whether through academic excellence, exemplary

behaviour, or dedication to supporting their peers, each of these students has made a lasting impact on the school environment.

Congratulations to all the winners. They help make the Academy a welcoming and supportive environment. ■

WOMEN'S DAY



Staff shared who their female inspirations were during the assemblies and difference they have made to them. These included family members, colleagues and former students.

TEACHERS SHARE THEIR OWN EXPERIENCES ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

On International Women's Day this year, we reflected on the unsung heroes and influential women in our lives.

The assemblies began with women who have made significant contributions which have changed the world but have been forgotten due to having to use their husband's name or having their ideas taken without permission. These included Josephine Cochran who designed the first dishwasher and Dr Shirley Ann Jackson who invented Caller ID.

Staff, including Ms Samuels, Ms Matthews, Ms D'Silva, Ms Suganthakumaran and Ms Brooke, shared personal stories about inspiring female figures who have left an indelible mark on them. From family members and close friends to colleagues, ex-students and notable personalities, each tribute was personal and poignant.

The main message from the assemblies is inspiring others doesn't always involve changing the whole world. It's about making a positive impact on the people around you,

regardless of the scale. You might be someone else's inspirational person, without even realising it. It could be you today, or your future self.

Every action you take, every word you speak, has the potential to inspire others and make a difference in their lives. So, whilst changing the world is admirable, being inspiring is about making a difference wherever you are, no matter how big or small.

You have the power to inspire, starting right now! ■

MR HYDE & MACBETH

In March, the Year 11 cohort watched their GCSE Literature texts brought to life by Quantum Theatre.

Students will be examined on *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Macbeth* in the summer and this experience was designed to help students understand the dynamics between the characters and timeline of events.

Before each performance, English teachers discussed literary styles, dramatic effect and use of language to help prepare for effective answers to key questions in their final examination papers. ■



Quantum Theatre brought *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *Macbeth* to life for Year 11 students.

WCIT DINNER



Year 12 Computer Science students at the WCIT Hall where they networked with WCIT members before sitting down to a dinner debate.

Each year the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, one of the Academy's sponsors, invites Year 12 Computer Science students to a dinner debate with fellow WCIT members at the Livery Company's Hall.

This year's topic was whether the education sector should welcome the use of AI or abstain from it, how regulation can be maximised, and how to make a case for use of AI in the sector - such as for marking exams, assisting students, etc.

The dinner gave us an opportunity to discuss the varied impacts of technology in society. Specifically, discussions on AI and its applications in education, the emergence of ChatGPT and other useful new tools, the ethics behind using them and their impact socially and economically.

Attending the dinner was a valuable, enjoyable experience that enriched our understanding of the current landscape in technology, as well as giving us the opportunity to network with members of the WCIT. ■

MOHAMMAD, YEAR 12 COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENT ATTENDED THE WCIT DINNER AND LOOKS BACK ON THE EVENT.

HACKATHON WIN



The event was held at City, University of London

Hackathon is a competition for Sixth Form Computer Science students to find technological solutions to societal issues. The event is run by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and City, University of London. This year's challenge was artificial intelligence (AI) in education and teams were given a problem to solve using the latest technology.

Hammersmith Academy produced the winning team with judges

impressed with their all-in-one app designed to help people focus, communicate, and work together. They explored how AI could enhance personalised learning, provide real-time feedback, and create adaptive educational platforms.

The event was a great learning experience for our students and gives them confidence to take into future careers in the tech and STEM fields. ■

VOTING KNOW-HOW

FIRST TIME VOTING CAN BE A SEEMINGLY COMPLEX PROCESS. SHOUT OUT UK VISITED THE ACADEMY TO ANSWER STUDENT QUESTIONS AND DISPEL MISCONCEPTIONS.



Representatives from Shout Out UK spent an afternoon talking to students who are eligible to vote for the first time this year.

“SOUK's initiative empowers young people to be active participants in our democracy.”

Earlier in the spring term, the Academy welcomed Shoutout UK (SOUK), a social enterprise dedicated to empowering young people through political and media literacy education. Their visit aimed to equip our students with the knowledge and confidence to navigate the voting process and become informed citizens.

SOUK representatives led engaging discussions, highlighting the importance of voting and providing clear information on how to register, cast a ballot, and identify

reliable sources of information. They emphasised the crucial role young people play in shaping our democracy and encouraged students to be critical thinkers and responsible voters.

In today's complex world of social media, understanding how the government functions and discerning truth from misinformation is more critical than ever. SOUK's initiative empowers young people to be active participants in our democracy, ensuring their voices are heard and shaping a brighter future for all. ■

MIDDLEGAME



The regional stage of the competition saw Hammersmith Academy take on Greenford High School for a place in the Championships.

In January, the Academy hosted the regional stage of the National Schools Chess Championships with eight Schools qualifying in West London.

Hammersmith Academy was matched up against Greenford High School, a formidable team. Six students from each school were paired up to face the opponent with 50 minutes to battle it out in a classic style of chess. The competitive match ended 4-2 in favour of Greenford.

Competing students will get a chess rating from the English Chess Federation and HA will have another chance to qualify for the Championships. ■

CHARITY SUCCESS

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY TERM OF FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE GIVING. MS SAMUELS, PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, REPORTS ON THE ALL THE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS.



Mr Kynaston gets into the Comic Relief spirit alongside Ilinca (Year 10) and Milan (Year 8) as they collected donations at the start of the school day.

Charity remains at the heart of the HA community, and once again, our fundraisers were fully committed to helping others in need. Despite the challenges and injustices in the world, we possess an incredible ability to take action and make a difference.

The recent events unfolding in the Israel/Gaza conflict have been distressing to witness, and as a school, we wanted to help those in need. Sixth Formers helped organise a significant bake sale on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February, raising funds for Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). MSF provides essential medical assistance, shelter, water, sanitation, and food to those in need, regardless of ethnicity or personal beliefs. The event was a tremendous success, raising an astounding £585.85.

On Friday 15th March we had Comic Relief, which was another memorable occasion, as we raised a remarkable £650.06. The funds collected will be utilised both locally and globally, supporting initiatives such as community food centres, vital health

services, and safe spaces for local youth.

The day itself was bustling with fundraisers, from purchasing handmade red nose badges to entering the giant sweet raffle, inter-house bake sale, and the highly anticipated HA Bake Off competition. Students enthusiastically engaged in all aspects of the event, contributing to its resounding success. Notably, Lovelace House took charge of the

bake sale, raising £87.22.

Furthermore, the Bake-Off competition was fiercely contested, with Annalise (8A) claiming the top spot, followed closely by Rielle (7L) and Alessia (7J) in second place, and Charlotte (7L) in third. Special recognition goes to Ms Slav for her exquisite Lovelace honey cake, truly a masterpiece. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated. Now, let's gear up for Race for Life in the summer term! ■



Ms Jackson and Ms Samuels with some of the star bakes as they judged the entries for the House bake off competition.

ALL THINGS ART!

HEAD OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY UPDATES US ON THE MANY ARTISTIC STUDENT EXPERIENCES THIS TERM.



Year 9 art students took inspiration from the contemporary sculpture exhibition at the Hayward Gallery which included some very expansive fluid works of art.

Another bustling term has passed in the Art Department, brimming with trips, competitions, exhibitions, and more. Once again, we are astounded by the creativity and enthusiasm displayed by our students. Here are some highlights from this term.

Tate Modern

On Friday 23rd February, Year 10 students had the privilege of visiting Tate Modern. As one of the most prominent contemporary art galleries globally, Tate Modern provided invaluable support for students undertaking their upcoming GCSE Art Portraiture project. This trip offered Year 10 students an exceptional opportunity to broaden their artistic horizons and draw inspiration for their forthcoming projects. Suha summed up the experience, stating, "There's something truly special about Tate Modern. Viewing art in such a vast and open space gave me a fresh perspective and made me appreciate art even more!"

Hayward Gallery

On Friday 8th March, our Year 9 artists visited the *When Forms Come Alive* exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. This exhibition, characterised

by its immersive and playful nature, provided students with a plethora of strange yet fascinating artworks, from floating jellyfish to fabric intestines. In an age increasingly dominated by digital encounters, these pieces evoke the joy of physicality and movement. Students engaged in various drawing tasks, immersing themselves fully in the artwork. Daniel described the experience as "unlike anything I have seen before and unlike anything I could even imagine!"

The HA Big Draw

On Wednesday 28th and Thursday

29th February, we hosted the HA Big Draw, a thrilling three-hour drawing competition where students competed across different Houses to complete still life drawings. Judged by our Year 12 Art students, the competition showcased an exceptional standard of drawings, making the judging process almost impossible. After much deliberation, we were delighted to announce the winners:

- 1st place: Flash (8A)
- 2nd place: Alessia (7J)
- 3rd place: CJ (7J)

Congratulations to all students who participated, pushing their boundaries and producing fantastic artwork!

Perspective: A-Level Photography Exhibition

The new A-Level Photography course has been in full swing for two terms, and to celebrate the outstanding work of Year 12 students, we hosted a mid-year exhibition for students, parents, and the wider school community. This exhibition showcased their projects exploring Perspective, Light, Manipulation, and Communication. Students proudly presented their work, serving as a source of inspiration for younger peers. The exhibition was a resounding success, and we eagerly anticipate the future endeavours of our HA Photographers! ■



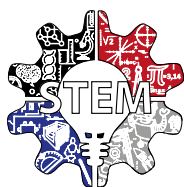
The HA Big Draw saw students take part in a marathon three hour classic still life drawing session in the Art Department after school over two consecutive days.

LEGO LEAGUE FINAL



HA's Lego League team has qualified for the competition finals which take place in Harrogate in April after impressing at the 'MASTERPIECE' event.

**HAMMERSMITH
ACADEMY TEAM
REACHES LEGO
LEAGUE NATIONAL
FINALS. STEM
COORDINATOR AND
HEAD OF DT, MS
FERRELL REPORTS.**



The FIRST® LEGO® League is a global science and technology challenge for teams of students, to encourage an interest in real world issues and develop key skills that are crucial for their future careers. Students work together to explore a given topic and to design, build and programme an autonomous Lego robot to solve a series of missions.

This year's challenge was called 'MASTERPIECE' and was all about the role science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM) plays in the arts.

In February students were invited to compete in a tournament against other London schools.

The tournament day involved a 3 stage process; a robot game, presentation and interview.

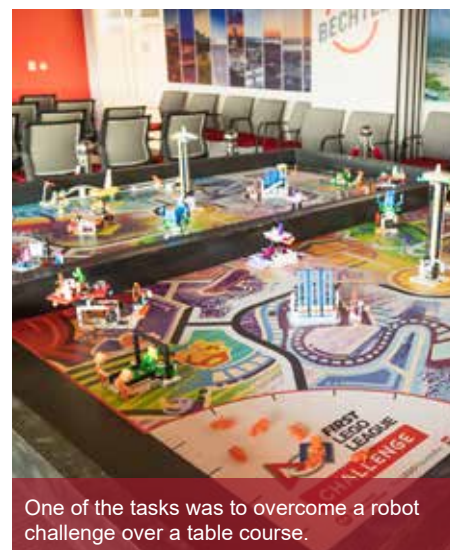
The robot game – the team put their coding and building skills to the test. In this competition, the team came 2nd, tipped last minute by 5 points.

A presentation of their innovation project - the team designed STEAM themed additions for the HA playground, including a dedicated graffiti wall and a games room under the MUGA - was shared and demonstrated through a scale model.

For this they won the 'Innovation Award'

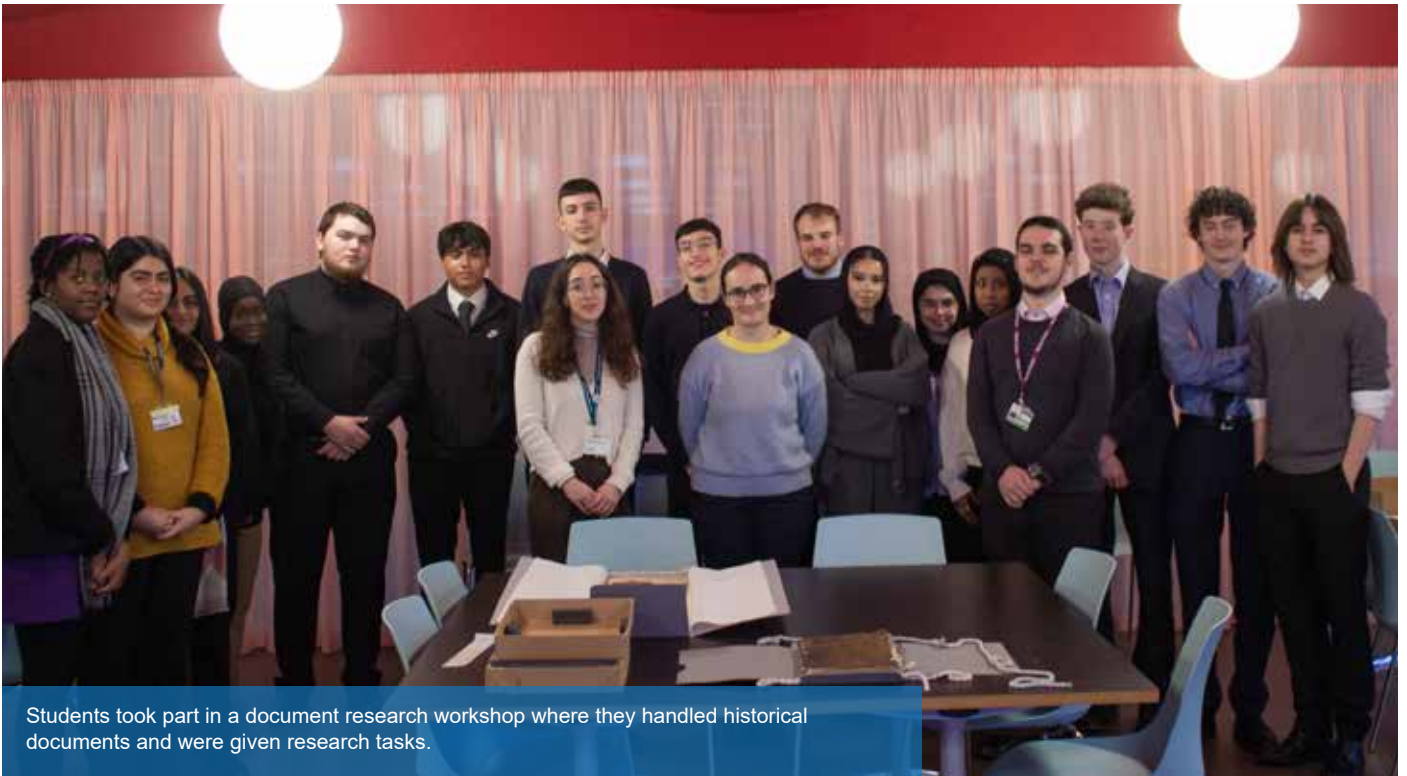
The FIRST® Core Values interview- the team shared how they worked together to implement the core value as a team.

The team impressed in all three areas, demonstrating outstanding resilience throughout the competition and outstanding sportsmanship. As a result, the team came away with the 1st place prize and have been invited to the National Finals in Harrogate in April, where they will compete against 75 different teams from all over the UK! ■



One of the tasks was to overcome a robot challenge over a table course.

NATIONAL ARCHIVE



Students took part in a document research workshop where they handled historical documents and were given research tasks.

The National Archives holds many relics from over the last 1,000 years of British history, including the Domesday Book, which was written in 1086 and is therefore the oldest government record held in the National Archives. It also notably holds Sir Henry Cole's rat (a rat that was stored in the national archives because it chewed on important documents and was used as evidence to show the poor conditions of the records!)

The National Archives was created to protect and preserve government records whilst providing accessibility to the public. The safe storing of historical records is essential to preserve our knowledge of the past, and allow future generations to understand the heritage of the world around them. Fortunately, we were able to hold these documents and look through them. I felt unsure when struggling to carry centuries-old documents with my bare hands: not wanting to rip, tear or break any part of it. It was a great weight of responsibility. The variety and importance of the documents was impressive: some were political pamphlets and some were privately written letters by English monarchs.

Many were sealed with intricate stamps. Perhaps the most interesting document we were shown was the court record of the trial of King Charles I, who remains the first and only British monarch to have been executed.

The trip to the National Archives was a valuable, new and exciting experience. It deepened our historical knowledge, our understanding of the work of historians, and increased our awareness of national history. We learnt the significance of preserving records and sharing them with the public.

I initially thought that the National Archives was simply a library filled with historical records, but I now understand that it is a crucial guardian of records, that holds a key to the past. ■

A LEVEL HISTORY STUDENTS SPENT A DAY AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES TO LEARN ABOUT DOCUMENT RESEARCH. YEAR 12 STUDENT, HAFSA RECALLS THE DAY.

“Perhaps the most interesting document we were shown was the court record of the trial of King Charles I

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CAREERS IN ACTION

WORKPLACE VISITS GIVE STUDENTS A REAL INSIGHT INTO DIFFERENT CAREERS AND A SENSE OF WORK ENVIRONMENTS. CAREERS COORDINATOR, MS ALI, TAKES US THROUGH THE TRIPS THIS TERM.



Year 13 students with a keen interest in a financial career were invited to BlackRock's offices in the City for an insight day.

As part of our embedded careers programme, we put a firm emphasis on trips that provide interesting encounters with higher education and employers. Visits to workplaces are vital to build students' understanding of learning and career opportunities available to them, as well as helping them recognise what skills and qualifications they'll need.

This term has seen HA students explore a number of different sectors. In early Year 13 students with a keen interest in financial apprenticeships had the opportunity to visit BlackRock for an insight day. They networked with professionals from the American multi-national asset management company, building their understanding of the various careers involved and apprenticeship opportunities available at the company. Best of luck to our applicants!

Meanwhile our Year 12 biologists leaned into the world of scientific careers during their visit to the Institute of Cancer Research. Through laboratory tours and networking sessions, students gained first hand exposure to the

exciting possibilities within the field of life sciences. Moreover, thanks to our colleagues at Hammersmith & Fulham Council, another group of Year 12 students had the privilege of visiting the Imperial White City hub, where they engaged with professionals in the life sciences sector, collaborating in projects to bridge sciences and real-world challenges such as those posed by ageing populations and pandemics.

Our Year 9 students were treated to a thrilling day at TeamSport Acton, where they explored potential careers in motorsport through karting experiences and hands-on STEM challenges. A sincere effort to increase awareness and break down barriers in motorsport, we hope this opportunity sparked a group of potential motorsport enthusiasts.

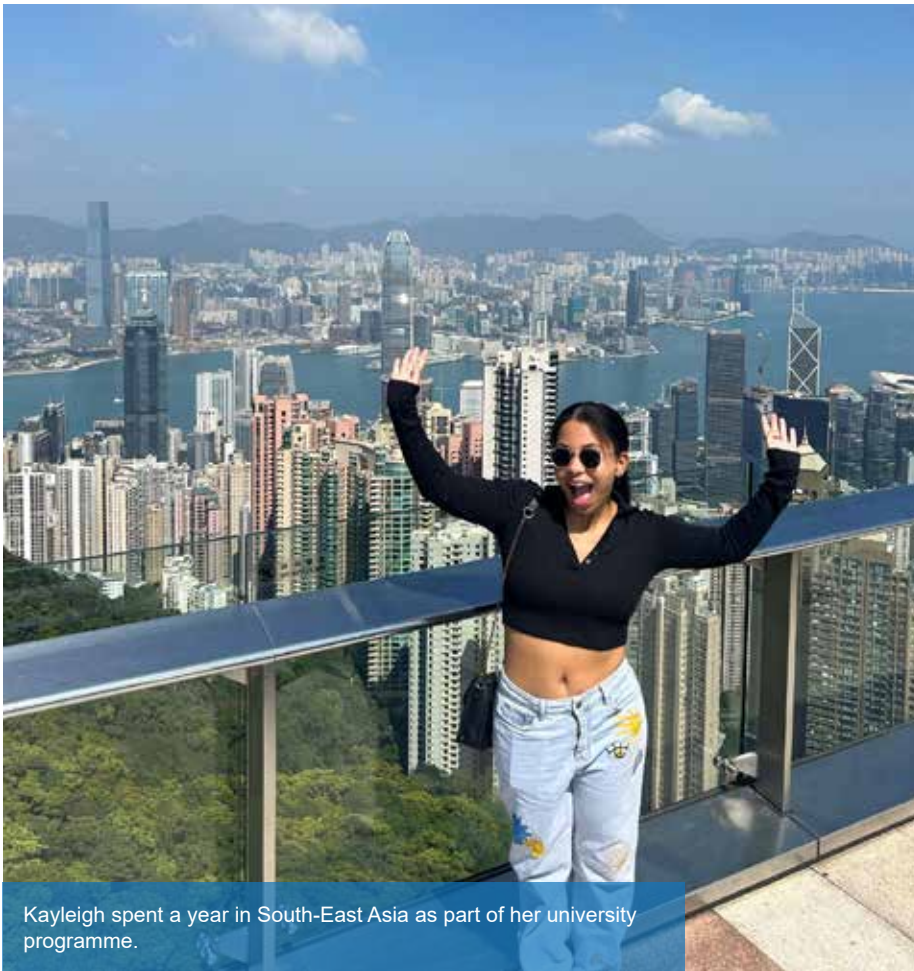
These encounters exemplify the HA careers commitment to providing students with practical experiences that deepen their understanding of career opportunities, and we're looking forward to forthcoming trips, including private equity firm Inflexion, Bank of America and a lunch with judges at the Old Bailey. ■

“ They networked with professionals from the American multi-national asset management company. ”

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY
CAREERS



MEET THE ALUMNI



Kayleigh spent a year in South-East Asia as part of her university programme.

OUR ALUMNI GO ON TO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND FUTURES. IN THIS FEATURE WE CATCH UP WITH, KAYLEIGH CORBIN (HA 2013-2020).



HA: What career/education journey did you go on to after HA?

KC: I went to the University of Leeds to study English Literature and Theatre Studies. I am currently in my fourth and final year. I went on a study abroad programme where I lived in Singapore for a year and travelled across South-East Asia as part of my studies.

HA: What skills did you develop at HA that you have taken with you?

KC: I was someone who took advantage of every opportunity that arose during my time at HA. Because of this, I was extremely busy and that has only gotten more so since university. Between studies, a job, societies, a social life, and sleep, it can be hard to manage. However, practising juggling a busy schedule at HA made me more than ready for it at university. I absolutely love being involved in so much and that's because of the fact that I spent my teen years preparing for it. Taking

on positions of responsibility at HA (Head of the Junior Leadership Team & Stage Manager roles) gave me the confidence to pursue ones at university that have made securing jobs much easier.

HA: What are you doing currently?

KC: As I am still a student, I haven't properly started my career yet. However, I work alongside my studies in the International Student Office as a student intern managing one of the schemes that benefits international students. I have had a variety of jobs since leaving HA but this one has been the most fulfilling and has guided me in choosing what I would like to do when I leave. I know that I want to continue helping people in some way and my future career will align with this.

HA: What do you look back fondly on during your time at HA?

KC: My favourite part of HA was the annual school musical. I looked forward to doing it every year and

was involved from Year 8 - Year 13. I even came back at times after leaving to help out. The skills I gained were invaluable; learning to commit myself and manage my time was essential. I gained all of my friends through this, who I'm still friends with over 10 years later! We always sit and talk about our days at HA and how thankful we are that it brought us all together.

HA: What advice would you give to current HA students?

KC: Take advantage of every opportunity possible! Join the JLT, go on school trips, offer to tutor younger students - all of this will give you skills and experience that are truly invaluable in the long run. You will be so much better prepared for the next steps in life having already had these experiences. Whether you are going to university, going straight into the workplace, or taking some time out, you'll be thankful that you experienced Hammersmith Academy to the fullest!



PARTNERSHIPS



Year 12 student, Daniela spent two weeks on a science placement on a Nuffield Research Programme at Barts Institute of Health.

Students at Hammersmith Academy are encouraged to participate in extracurricular programmes to gain insight into subjects and careers and develop transferable skills. As part of our focused career support to the Sixth Form, the Careers team distribute a careers newsletter every half term with fantastic opportunities filled with work experience, university programmes and apprenticeship webinars.

Ilham in Year 12 interviewed her fellow peers to shed light on various programmes students are involved in.

Young Enterprise

The Young Enterprise programme sets its focus on entrepreneurship and financial education. Year 12 economists meet weekly to discuss their product and fundraising plans.

Selling Christmas cards as their first project, the group saw the HA Winter Concert as an ideal opportunity to set up shop. Rather than having a set price, they instead offered a minimum donation of £2.

Immense success was seen in the group's fundraising efforts, totalling to £517.91, primarily through the sale of Christmas cards, including £201 raised through a widely successful movie night. Students watched *Into the Spiderverse*, (with many thanks to Ms Adolphus for her support).

The group did hit a few bumps along the road. One instance was making sure attendees to the movie night had parental consent which they just remembered the night before. Fortunately, quick thinking as a group resulted in them writing their own permission slips and distributing them in their tutor period. Finally, another success, the night received great enthusiasm from attendees.

Overall, the Young Enterprise Programme channels the creativity of students into a cause that they are passionate about and sees its results in the development of entrepreneurial thinking whilst making a profit.

Pelican Programme

I'm currently participating in the Pelican Programme run by Corpus Christi College at the University of Cambridge. A student-led discussion of literature with a focus on lesser-known literary works and analysis and interpretations of texts in fortnightly online meetings.

These meetings are a fantastic opportunity to examine literature through a critical lens amongst like-minded students. The collaborative aspects shine through in the programme's assembly of individuals from diverse backgrounds across the UK, as each perspective provides a unique element to the discussions.

Currently studying a 17th century tragedy, *A Woman Killed With*

Kindness, the group hosts debates with an emphasis on argumentative skills and we collaborate to challenge each other's ideas. What is unique about this play is that despite being written in Shakespeare's time, the play's tragedy focuses on common people unlike the wealthy subjects usually depicted in Shakespearean literature.

The programme will conclude with a residential trip where myself and fellow programme members will be able to meet in person and discuss further our findings, as well as learning more about English at the University of Cambridge.

Nuffield Research Programme

The Nuffield Research Programme is a two-week science placement where students work on a collaborative project contributing to their chosen sector of science; including but not limited to engineering, technology and medicine.

A-Level biologist Daniela's chosen sector was biomedical science, an important field for the aspiring medical student.

She said, "My favourite part of the programme was the trip to Barts Institute of Health where we heard talks from medical students and professors."

As a part of their research, the students spoke to a range of medical professionals; Daniela was able to shadow a physiotherapist as she met with a patient. Through this, she learnt how to use a respirometer which works to measure a patient's rate of respiration.

Daniela commended the programme for her development of personal skills, meeting and networking with fellow students in the city, as well as an insight into the field of medical research, as she worked towards a scientific report of her findings at the end of the programme. ■



SPORTS ROUND-UP

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



Year 12 student, Odhrán (pictured centre) has been selected by Fulham Reach Boat Club to take part in the inaugural Youth Boat Race.

Key Stage 3 Girls Football Fixture

Year 7 and 8 Girls completed in a football fixture against All Saints Catholic College. The girls had a strong start with Milan scoring the first goal bottom left corner of the goal from a great line ball from Hannah in defence. This meant HA had a 1-0 advantage, however All Saints soon scored a goal equalising the game.

Hammersmith Academy continued to play a strong game passing out wide and off-loading the ball to defence which allowed us to create height in the game assisting the next goal score by Milan. Then All Saints scored a goal making the score 2-2 just before half time. After half time the girls continued to tackle and put pressure on the goal however All Saints went on to score another 2 goals and the game ended 4-2 to All

Saints Catholic College.

All the girls played fantastically well and worked extremely well as a team and we were just unlucky with the result. Despite the loss the girls all said it was the best game they had played and really enjoyed the game and this was due to the great small unit play that was happening during the game and fantastic communication.

Player of the Match chosen from the opposition was Lily and Coach's player of the match was Bess.

The girls played in their new kit which was paid for by Jack Petchey Award money.

Year 11 Boys Football

Year 11 have had a fantastic start to the QPR League, winning both of their opening matches, against West London Free School (6-5) and Phoenix Academy (9-1). It was a fantastic opening match against West London Free School at King's House under the lights on Friday 15th March.

The match started off very cagey, with WLFS going a goal up inside



The Key Stage 3 Girls Football Team put up a good showing during their match against All Saints Catholic College.



Year 7 Boys Football Team secured an impressive 3-1 victory against All Saints Catholic College this term.

10 minutes following a lapse in concentration at the back for HA. However, HA responded quickly, with Samuel netting just minutes later. Samuel would go on to score four goals in the game, with Isaiah and Abdelbasset getting in on the goalscoring action too.

On Friday 22nd March, HA ran out 9-1 winners against a spirited Phoenix Academy. Samuel once again making the difference, scoring 5 superb goals. However, Juan scored the goal of the day, running past two defenders before coolly slotting it into the bottom corner.

Sixth Form Football

The Sixth Form Team have had a mixed season. Despite winning their first friendly of the season against Burlington Danes Academy 5-2, it was BDA who would come away with the three points in the QPR League, winning 4-3.

With lots of new players, this season is still all to play for, with the winners of their next game against WLFS securing a spot in the QPR League finals at Rayners Lane in May. ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

@hasport1

Sportswoman of the Term

Georgia (Year 12) continues to demonstrate exceptional skill and dedication to rowing, whilst managing her school work at the same time.

This term has been a very busy one as she has qualified for the School's Head of the River Race and the Junior Sculling Regatta, where her team came eighth out of 30 teams from across the country. An incredible achievement.

Over the Easter break Georgia will attend a training camp in the Netherlands before travelling to Belgium to compete in a regatta.

Her commitment to her passion is an inspiration to other students and shows what hard work can achieve in sport.

We look forward to seeing Georgia compete and develop further in her sport. ■



Sportsman of the Term

Odhrán (Year 12) is excelling in rowing. He trains regularly with Fulham Reach Boat Club and is an ambassador for the sport.

He has been selected to compete in the inaugural Youth Boat Race which is inspired by the Gemini Boat Race where Oxford races against Cambridge annually.

His participation in the Youth Boat Race will not only be a memorable experience but also promotes inclusivity and accessibility in sport.

Later this year, Odhrán will have the opportunity to trial for Ireland and we wish him the very best of luck in his national endeavour.

Rowing is not Odhrán's only sporting discipline, having previously participating in Judo. He personifies the excellence required to perform at an elite level of competitive sport. ■



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on at HA every day!



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