

Academy Newsletter



Artwork by Esmeray 8A2



Artwork by Wealth 10H1

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Even before I started at the Academy in September, I had a real sense of optimism about joining the Skinners' community. My first term has confirmed that I was right to feel so positive. I have nothing but gratitude for how welcoming the students, staff and wider community have been to me. Only three months into my role as Principal, I feel well and truly part of this vibrant and inclusive school and I am sure that there are many more exciting and positive experiences to come.

Ms S Jacob

This term has had many highlights that you will read about in the pages of this newsletter, but some of the events that have stood out to me include the visit from Foreign Secretary and local MP, David Lammy, our annual Prize Giving Ceremony, seeing our Year 11 and 13

students launch into their mock examinations with determination and resilience, our buzzing Year 6 and Sixth Form Opening Evenings, and (most importantly) getting to know some of the fantastic young people who come to this school and the passionate and dedicated staff members who support our students in their academic endeavours and pastoral care. There are still many more names and faces to learn, but this has been a delight.

Principal's Message Continued...

By trade, I am a politics teacher, so you can probably imagine my excitement when only a couple of weeks into term, I received a telephone call from the assistant to the Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, asking if he could visit the school. It was suggested that he do a tour of the school and meet a few students, but I felt we could make better use of his time by putting together a panel event where our students could ask him questions about his personal and political journey and current national and international political events. Pleasingly, he took up the challenge and spent over one hour in the drama studio with 40 or so students from Years 9 to 13 asking him all sorts of thought-provoking questions on every conceivable topic. I think he has probably had an easier time facing questions on Newsnight!

At our Prize Giving Ceremony in November, it was a pleasure to host



members of the Skinners' Company Court, including the current Master of the Company, the Right Honorable Earl of Woolton and our Chair of Governors, David Fitzsimmons. Proud family members attended to see their children receive awards for academic excellence, Head of Year Awards and special awards for 'Sporting Spirit', 'Triumph in the Face of Adversity', 'Community Contribution' and an inaugural Staff Award, presented to a longstanding and most deserving member of staff, Clare de Jode. A full list of award winners is given on page 6 & 7 and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the award winners for their fantastic achievements, academic and otherwise. The event was enlivened with a number of lovely musical performances, showcasing the talents of our students, and ended with a reception for the families

and prizewinners.

This term has been a busy one and has flown by, but in and amongst some of the events listed above, I have been laying plans with my Senior Leadership Team and wider staff body as to how we can make this already aspirational and thriving Academy even better. I am keen, in the coming months, to refine and enhance our curriculum offer, with more bespoke pathways and opportunities for our learners. Alongside this, I would like to extend our extra-curricular and enrichment offer. The summer GCSE and A Level examination results were excellent and represented a significant improvement on previous years, but there is still more scope to support our students to excel and I would like to see even more of our students achieve the very highest grades and progress onto courses at top universities or onto competitive higher apprenticeships at leading companies in a range of market sectors. I hope that both students and their families will lend their voice and suggestions on how the Academy can best support its learners and provide them with a outstanding educational experience in and outside of the classroom.

Whilst I have some big ambitions for the Academy to be realised in the coming months and years, at this point we have all earned a break, so I would like to wish all the students and their families a joyful and restful Winter Holiday and a happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming our students back to school in 2025!

Ms S Jacob
Principal, Skinners' Academy



Vice Principal's Messages

Students Shine With Over 100,000 Merits Since September

Ms Adediran, Vice Principal for Behaviour

Year 7 have settled really well into Academy life and at the end of their first term, they are a confident and positive addition to the Skidders' Academy community and are making their mark on the Academy as a whole.

Year 11 and 13 have set a great example to their younger peers with the commitment and focus they showed throughout their Autumn mock examinations, and Years 8, 9 and 10 are continuing to demonstrate the Academy values of excellence and respect earning over 115,000 merits!

We are very proud of this incredibly positive start to the academic year, and we look forward to sharing many more successes with you over the course of the year.



Ms Bell, Vice Principal for Quality of Education

We have had a wonderful start to this academic year which fills me with positivity moving into the winter break.

As the Vice Principal responsible for Quality of Education I am heartened by the commitment our staff have shown to the continued work on improving our curriculum and their continued drive to improve standards of classroom practice.

I hope you all have a wonderful break and enjoy the festivities!



As well as this, our students have continued to impress with their curiosity and enthusiasm in lessons - I have been shown countless examples of outstanding student work this term and I am always in awe of the amazing things our young people can achieve.

Warm Wishes from Skidders' Academies Trust

I'd like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment this term. As I have been round the school I have seen evidence at every turn of the enthusiasm teachers have for their subject and your passion for giving all our students the best education possible. I'd also like to thank all the support staff for their professionalism in what has been a difficult term at times.

This is an exciting time of change at the Academy and a huge opportunity to take the work you have been doing for the last few years to another level. I hope you can all enjoy a very relaxing holiday when it comes, and I wish you all a happy Christmas!

Mr Anderson, Senior Executive Leader, Skidders' Academies Trust



SKIDDERS' ACADEMIES TRUST

News from the Sixth Form

We are extremely proud of how Year 12 and 13 students conducted themselves in our first full term back, taking initiative in both their academic work and their involvement in the Sixth Form community.

Year 13 students were busy completing their first set of mock examinations where they all worked incredibly hard. They will receive their results on 16th December, which will provide them with an accurate grade for each of their subjects.

Year 12 have settled very well into Sixth Form life, taking advantage of a variety of opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. Lectures and excursions were enjoyed by many students.

It has been exciting supporting our Year 13 students submitting their entry for UCAS. It is always a pleasure reading their personal statements to hear about all the extra activities they participate in.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

On 3rd December, we welcomed Year 11 students and families from Skinners' Academy and external schools to our annual Sixth Form Open Evening. It was attended by a huge number of people. Prospective students had the opportunity to tour the Sixth Form facilities and find out about the courses available to them at Key Stage 5.

Applications are now open and the deadline to apply is 31st January.



“

Congratulations to three of our Year 13 students who have been invited for interviews at the prestigious Cambridge University

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At the end of February, Year 12 students will have an end-point assessment window, where they will complete assessments in their subjects; this will give them a good understanding of where they are currently at and provide some feedback for them moving forward to ensure that they maximise their success.

We are looking forward to another exciting half term that continues to be full of fantastic subject enriching activities.

Ms Pasterkamp

Gabrielly Fantin
Head Girl



The start of Year 13 has been a mix of anticipation and pressure as we begin to consider university choices and focus on predicted grades. It has given me the opportunity to reflect on my aspirations for the future and has motivated me to explore my interests further. I have taken several opportunities, such as travelling to Berlin and applying for the role of Head Girl. With the support of the Sixth Form team and my teachers, I have been able to strengthen my commitment to achieving my goals and overcoming challenges. This beginning has boosted my confidence for my future, and I look forward to starting 2025 with enthusiasm, aiming to do well in my A Levels while making the most of our final months at the Academy.

Muhammed Shahid
Head Boy



My experience of Year 13 so far has been both challenging and rewarding. Balancing rigorous academic work, university applications and extracurricular activities has tested my time management skills and resilience. However, I've also discovered a deeper sense of determination and adaptability, learning to prioritise tasks effectively and stay motivated during study periods. My goals for 2025 are to get good BTEC results and enter University College London to study my chosen course and further develop my academic skills. I want to make new connections, become more confident, and be ready for the challenges that await me at university.

Messages from Heads of Year

YEAR 7 HOY - MS AGYEI

I am extremely proud and amazed by the smooth transition of Year 7 this term. They have developed in confidence, organisation, building friendships and learning how to get to their lessons. These are all challenging tasks that they have masterfully risen to.

We are extremely proud of their organisation, they wear their uniforms with pride and professionalism and are true ambassadors of Skinners' Academy. There are over 150 students who have achieved 100% attendance this term. These are all real and tangible successes of the Year 7 cohort. Keep it up!



YEAR 9 HOY - MS ANTWI

Year 9 have made an excellent start to the year. They have been true role models for the younger students, providing assistance where needed, whether it be directing them to their lessons when they are lost, or supporting them with making new friends. They have shown real growth and maturity over the term and we are immensely proud of them.



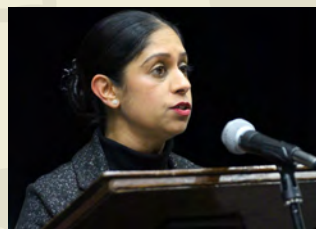
YEAR 8 HOY - MR LEGGE

Year 8 have been doing a great job recently at being kind to each other, this is much improved from half term 1. A big well done to the year group for reducing stage 4s. There has been a week on week improvement over the course of the term, which has been great to see. I'm immensely proud of Mizpah who is the only Year 8 on the merit leaderboard this term and congratulations and good luck to Deyon Chitolie who is currently on trial at Watford FC!



MERIT LEADERBOARD		
RANK	STUDENT	MERITS
01	MICHELLE (9J1)	2429
02	MIZPAH (8J1)	2356
03	OMER (9H1)	2339
04	ELEANOR (9H1)	2245
05	IHSAN (9J2)	2213

AS OF 17.12.24



YEAR 11 HOY - MS KAUR

Year 11 have started the Autumn term for the final time as a year group! The year group have come back with a positive mindset ready to prepare themselves for a very busy year ahead. They have had a strong start to the term, being organised and adhering to the high expectations of the Academy.

Year 11 were kept very busy this term with interventions and study clinics in preparation for their mocks which they went straight into after the half term break! Behaviour and focus during the exam period were very impressive, the year group did extremely well. We look forward to seeing great results!

Have a restful break, as the Spring term will soon be upon us.

YEAR 10 HOY - MS BELL

Year 10 have had an excellent start to the academic year, showing real maturity to meet the demands of KS4. Their hard work and commitment to tackle the more challenging content has been impressive, setting a strong foundation for success in their GCSEs.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms De Maria, who has done an excellent job stepping into my role while I recover from knee surgery. Her dedication and hard work have ensured that the year group continue to receive the support and guidance they need during my absence.

Prize Giving

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Community Contribution
Maya Choongh-Campbell



Head of Year 7 Award
Leo Grimes-Viort



Head of Year 8 Award
Tiliyah Ellis-Carr



Head of Year 9 Award
Ernest Markiewicz



Head of Year 10 Award
Julia Kaniewska



Academic Excellence
Jasmine Joseph (Y11)



Academic Excellence
Baris Sucu (Y13)



Sporting Spirit
Lukas Stougaard Nielsen



Triumph over Adversity
Beram Kurti



Staff Award
Clare De Jode

PRIZE



GIVING



Top Attainment & Progress Award Winners

Year 7

Erbilina Abazi | Emre Cinko | Kelly Djalega | Leo Grimes-Viort | Livia Barbosa Castro | Jonathan Eyob | Orgest Cela | Ruqayya Imran | Shai-Anne Dilworth-Wakefield | Yahya Ahmed

Year 8

Amia Turpin-Dickson | Arjon Germerji | Batuhan Aytekin | Eleanor Porter | Emir Gel | Irfan Ozdemir | Macey Smith | Nana Dong | Sam Huque | Yaren Orhan

Year 9

Erlis Abazi | Arlen Aliaj | Angelina Palumbo | Baris Dogan | Hanad Ahmed | Maciej Jusianiec-Murphy | Megan Alford | Sanaz Khamosh | Sara Rageh | Yousra Belouchat

Year 10

Abdullahi Abby | Berfin Isti | Dylan Obara-Evans | Evelyn-Daisy Hnat | George Auberson | Jorge Laudo Nunez | Mohamed Jama | Olivia Avgin | Oscar Koralenko | Rayyan Ahmed

Year 11

Arda Akaroglu | Cole Harwood | Dorela Kodra | Erdi Gungor | Freddy Peters | Holly Leeming | Jacob Shanks | Naomi Asrat | Oliver Paulo Carreno Quispe | Tyson Huynh

Year 12

Aisha Amla | Aleksandra Jachimowska | Calum Graham | Dilara Gur | Landson Manpower | Luis Palin | Maya Choongh-Campbell | Sevcan Cavga | Shon Bejaj | Zeynep Asal

Year 13

Abdi Hussein | Aushria Singh | Eman Zerrouki | Karolina Molak | Klaudia Tutak | Nafisa Hussain | Nehir Doldur | Nergis Bulut | Sylvia Tawiah | Tayiba Khan

2024

Trips & Visits

FOUR DAYS IN BERLIN

In the Autumn Half Term Holiday, our Year 12 and 13 A Level History and Politics students embarked on a memorable four-day trip to Berlin. As part of their A-Level History study of the communist German Democratic Republic (DDR), the trip allowed students to explore the realities of life under the DDR regime and visit significant historical sites.

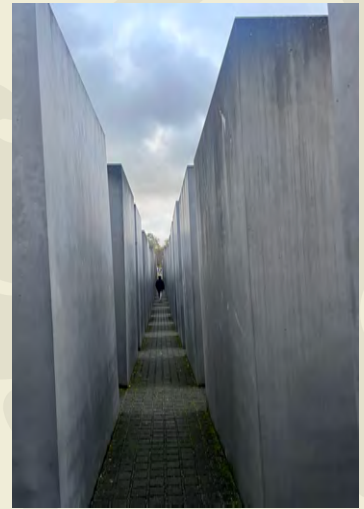
One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to the DDR Museum, where students were able to engage with interactive exhibits that vividly brought the East German experience to life.

In addition to the museum visits, the group explored the Topography of Terror, the Stasi Museum, and the Berlin Wall Memorial. Each offered a profound look into the impact of the DDR on everyday citizens and the division of Germany during the Cold War.

Students were particularly moved by seeing the famous "Socialist Kiss" mural on the Berlin Wall up close. The experience of walking through these sites was a powerful supplement to the students' academic studies, offering a real-world connection to what they had previously read about.



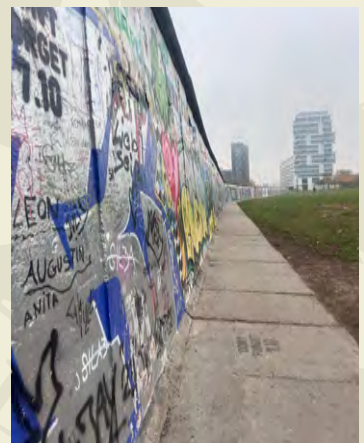
The trip wasn't all about history and politics though. The students also enjoyed some well-deserved leisure time, visiting the City's Christmas markets, going tobogganing and indulging in plenty of burgers. A fun quiz night and a game of bowling rounded off the trip, providing a light-hearted balance to the serious historical learning.



Visiting Berlin was a memorable experience which deepened my understanding of the history of the DDR. One of the highlights was the DDR Museum, where the interactive features brought East German life to reality. It was fascinating to enter the lives of DDR people in a way that textbooks can't achieve.

Year 13 student, Aisha Amla

As Aisha put it, "All in all, the trip was not only fun but also very beneficial to my understanding. I'm really grateful that we were able to go".



Trips & Visits

David Lammy Q&A with Skidders' Students

Mr Tobin

In addition to the Berlin trip, the History and Politics Department was thrilled to welcome Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, to the school for a special visit. For an hour, Mr Lammy engaged with a panel of students, answering a wide range of questions about his upbringing, his journey into politics and his views on current national and international political issues and events. Our students were

well-prepared, asking insightful questions on topics ranging from social justice to political representation. Samuel De Oliveira, Year 10, said, "It was a really surreal experience. I'm really grateful that David Lammy came in and listened to us as young people living in his constituency. His story was really inspiring and I feel like if he can do it, I can too." Mr Lammy's visit was a truly enriching opportunity for our students to engage with a leading figure in politics, gaining invaluable insights into his life and career. His openness in sharing his personal experiences and reflections on politics and race left a lasting impact on all those who attended.



Academy Reading Champions

On the 21st of November, Hackney's Secondary Reading Champions gathered at Homerton Library for the exciting launch of this year's programme. The energy was infectious as these passionate young people came together to share their love of reading and explore ways to promote reading for pleasure in their schools. The Reading Champion scheme empowers pupils to become reading advocates, sharing recommendations and creating a buzz around literacy within their schools



and across the borough. Skidders' Academy has successfully appointed 11 champions this year, from Years 9 and 10. Yaren, Year 9 said: "I had the pleasure to be elected as a Reading Champion. Thank you to all the adults who helped with the trip. It sparked a sense of responsibility within me and I am excited to share my love of reading and to motivate others Skidders' Academy students to read more too!" *Ms Martin*



The Sports Consultancy x FBB



A group of 16 Year 9 boys went to 'The Sports Consultancy' who support and find solutions to several football clubs, and a lot of businesses in the world of

sport. Tasks included creating a football club from top to bottom, including sponsors, stadiums, players, celebrity influencers, while managing budgets. The creativity and range of ideas from the boys blew the TSC team away. All groups then presented to the whole team on their designs. It was great to see

the boys looking at sports from a different perspective. After lunch, the boys took on another activity in the same groups, this time their task was to make an app for young people that will bring positive change to the world. The boys then had to pitch to a panel of professionals, 'Dragon's Den' style, showing great courage and maturity. It was a fantastic opportunity



to showcase their professional skills and they received brilliant feedback. The winners of the app idea were, Wayne, Destiny, Kemel and Balasz who were awarded some Amazon vouchers!

Ms Antwi

Trips & Visits

BECOMING A PUBLISHED WRITER

During the 2023/24 Young Writers' Programme, 11 students from Year 9 and 10 participated in 16 creative writing workshops led by their professional First Story Writer-in-Residence, Belinda Zhawi. By taking part in the Young Writers' Programme, our students joined a national network of young writers discovering the power and pleasure of telling their own story and telling it well. They developed their writing skills, creativity and confidence, and in the company of their Writer-in-Residence, were inspired to try new writing forms and styles which they may not have come across before. First Story offered several opportunities for our students. For instance, 13 of our students to attend a regional Connect event at University of Greenwich in July while 9 of them attended the Young Writers' Festival at the University of Cambridge on 27th March 2024. Khadija Senghor (now in Year 11) took part in the First Story Summer Residential while Daniella Koranteng (a First Story

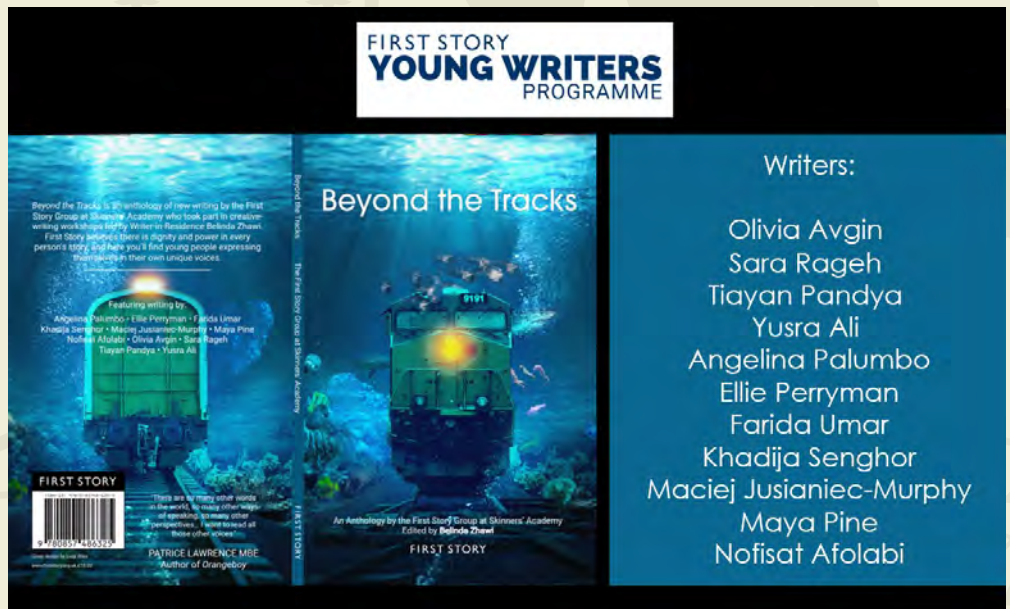


programme alumni from the Academy) was awarded a place in the Folio Academy Mentorship Scheme which gives talented First Story alumni the opportunity to be mentored for one year by experienced, acclaimed writers from the Folio Academy. In July, Daniella was among the mentees who read their work at the historic London Library with the opportunity to celebrate with family and friends.

Beyond the Tracks, the anthology for the year, was professionally published and launched this autumn on 13th November 2024.

The 2024/25 First Story Young Writers' Programme, with our fantastic writer-in-residence, Luan Goldie (a former Skinners' Girls School student), is being run by Ms Ali and Ms Akano.

The sixteen-week programme started on Thursday 15th November 2024 and continues every Thursday in F41 after school from 3:15 – 4:45p.m.



Writers:

- Olivia Avgin
- Sara Rageh
- Tiyan Pandya
- Yusra Ali
- Angelina Palumbo
- Ellie Perryman
- Farida Umar
- Khadija Senghor
- Maciej Jusaniec-Murphy
- Maya Pine
- Nofisat Afolabi

Trips & Visits

Visiting King's College, Cambridge University

Mr Hawkins

Five students from Skinner's recently visited the University of Cambridge as part of the Oxbridge Preparation Programme. The students visited the grounds of Downing College and the library of Emmanuel College. We then explored King's College, visiting the library and chapel, and having lunch in the dining hall. The day culminated in a talk from Dr Jeff Miley at Darwin College.

The students said:

"Our experience at Cambridge was unforgettable. The opportunity to be able to visit King's College and visualise the life of an undergraduate at Cambridge University gave us a greater insight of our further education path.

I admired the countless facilities that were presented to us, the wonderful library with books of all kinds, the delightful court etc.

As a student from London, it was a lovely experience to be able to see student life through a different lens... tranquil and graceful. Thank you very much for granting us this opportunity! The library, splendid courts and the amazing food; my visit to King's College will be forever memorable.

Thank you!"



"

The opportunity to explore the various parts of the college, especially its expansive library in all its captivating abundance, was incredibly motivating for the future. This experience was extremely enlightening regarding daily life as a Cambridge student, and being able to see the various facilities available was inspiring (and causes me to anticipate when I begin my life as a university student as well!). Thank you very much for granting us this chance to see into what King's has to offer.

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Trips & Visits

Year 7 Students Flourish with the Nature Protectors' Project



This half term, our Year 7 students have embarked on a six-week adventure in nature and conservation through the Nature Protectors Project. In collaboration with Edible Landscapes London, the programme is based in the beautiful forest garden in Finsbury Park. Each week, students explore a new aspect of the natural world, gaining hands-on experience and developing a deeper appreciation for our environment.

The journey began with a garden exploration, where students were introduced to the flora and fauna of the

forest garden. Highlights included identifying various plants and a lesson in sustainability with the garden's unique compost toilet! Students rounded off the day by crafting their own herbal tea blends from freshly picked garden herbs. In Week 2, the students learned the art of building dens. Armed with natural materials and their imaginations, the group worked together to create sturdy structures, fostering teamwork and problem-solving skills.

Week 3 brought an exciting scavenger hunt that challenged students to discover the garden's tiniest treasures and largest wonders. From massive leaves to delicate plants, our young explorers were amazed by nature's variety. To warm up after their outdoor adventures, the group enjoyed another session of herbal tea making, embracing the freshness of garden-to-cup creations.

By Week 4, students delved into the health benefits of nature, creating their very own herbal "medicines." Using ingredients like honey, ginger,



and elderberry juice, they learned how natural remedies can support well-being. The activity not only sparked creativity but also inspired thoughtful discussions about sustainability and self-care.

Looking ahead, students will continue to deepen their understanding of conservation and nature stewardship.

The Nature Protectors Project is proving to be a remarkable opportunity for students to connect with nature, learn conservation techniques, and develop a lifelong appreciation for the environment.

Stay tuned for more updates as our Year 7 students continue their journey to becoming true Nature Protectors!

Ms Hardy



Trips & Visits

JAMIE'S FARM



A group of Year 7 students have embarked upon a six-week programme at Jamie's Oasis Farm in Waterloo this term. On a small strip of land between Waterloo Station and St Thomas' Hospital you can find the farm, and over the course of six weeks our students have 'mucked in' and helped to keep the farm running. Tasks involved learning to care for the animals including a sow and her piglets, lambs, chickens and guinea pigs. This was some of their first experiences with these animals yet students embraced the opportunity to



I like the farm because about the people and animals they made me get better with animal because i never seen ginning pig goats so am really happy about that
from hameen

learn about their needs and took pride in caring for them properly.

As their confidence on the farm grew, they showed no hesitation in mucking out the animals. It was a true team effort!

Weeks 2 and 3 were all about building resilience as students set out to plant and care for seedlings, reflecting on the importance of perseverance for growth.

As the programme drew to a close, students took off their wellies and focused on their creative skills including cooking and making clay animals.

With hands a little dirtier, and creativity blooming like the seedlings they tended, these Year 7s are officially farmyard certified!



TERM DATES & KEY DATES

All students return to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 08:30am

Spring Term 2025:

Monday 6th January	INSET Day (no pupils on site)
Tuesday 7th January	All School Return
Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February	Half Term
Friday 4th April	End of Term (at 1:00pm)



Summer Term 2025:

Tuesday 22nd April	All School Return
Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May	Half Term
Thursday 3rd July	Year 6 Transition Day (no pupils on site)
Friday 18th July	End of Term (at 1:00pm)

Parents' Evenings:

Wednesday 8th January	Year 11
Wednesday 15th January	Year 13
Wednesday 22nd January	Year 9 & Options Evening
Wednesday 5th February	Year 7
Wednesday 19th March	Year 10
Wednesday 26th March	Year 8
Wednesday 23rd April	Year 12

Other Key Dates:

Sixth Form Taster Day All Year 11 Students Friday 17th January	Practical Mock Examinations Year 11 & 13 Monday 27th January - Friday 31st January	Parent Workshop First Aid for Parents 14/01/2025 5-6PM 	Parent Workshop Grooming/Exploitation 03/03/2025 5-6PM 
Mock Examinations Year 11 & 13 Monday 3rd February - Friday 14th February	End Point Assessment Year 10 & 12 Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February	Vaccinations - Year 9 DTP/MCWAY Thursday 13th & 27th February	Vaccinations - Year 8 HPV Tuesday 20th May Tuesday 10th June