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December 2012
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Autumn Term
Issue 06
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academy newsletter



Life at Skinner's' is always non-stop and this has been particularly evident since the summer. Following the participation of our Key Stage 3 students in the Olympics Opening Ceremony, two of our students (pictured above) were interviewed on the BBC News Channel and BBC Newsround about their experiences of being part of what some have billed, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Our September Year 7 cohort have now settled very well into Academy life. They thoroughly enjoyed their residential stay at Treejumpers at the start of the autumn term.

In contrast to the Year 7 residential our Sixth Form students spent a weekend residential in Kent devising their UCAS statements

in preparation for their university application process.

More recently, in November, we celebrated the achievements of our students at our second Prize-Giving Ceremony which was very well supported by our parents, students, and Governors.

Finally, we have had our first few gatherings of the Parents' Forum and if you would like to be a part of the committee to drive forward its activities, see details enclosed.

As this term draws to a close I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday. Best wishes.

Jenny Wilkins
Principal



Jenny Wilkins

Our Golden Olympic Summer



Skinner's' Students Accompany Elite Olympic Athletes as they Launch London's Olympic Games

With a global audience of 27m glued to their TV screens and 80,000 live in the Olympic Stadium glued to Danny Boyle's unfolding spectacle, 34 Skinner's' students were waiting in the wings, ready for their big moment.

Year 7 and 8 students from Skinner's' Academy in Hackney were selected to participate in the opening athletes parade as 'petal children' – the children accompanying each country, holding the copper petals that would eventually form the massive Olympic cauldron. The students walked with athlete delegations from countries M to P and Conrad, Year 8 (who accompanied the Mauritania delegation) describes his experience:

"We had to wait for long tiring hours waiting for our turn to come but it was worth it. My favourite part of the Olympic ceremony was when Mr Bean was hitting the same note on the keyboard and tried to reach for a tissue and grabbed an umbrella and started hitting the key so he could move over and he eventually got the tissue. He saw a man playing wonderfully and he threw his dirty tissue on the man's piano!

When I first walked out to join the opening ceremony I was shocked at what I saw. The lights were beaming down on me and at first I wondered if I'd got confused and it was a dress rehearsal because I couldn't see anyone in their seats. It was mind-blowing - the Olympics is truly amazing and it is definitely a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Following their big night on Friday, Mercy and Conrad were up and at BBC temporary studios from 6.30am the next morning where they shared their experience in live interviews on BBC Newsround and the BBC News Channel.



“”

It was a great opportunity... an opportunity which does not come around often, especially for kids like us. Following an audition earlier this year we were chosen as petal children and had to keep everything a big secret so we didn't spoil the surprise for the ceremony. We were very proud to be part of it and represent Hackney kids.

A big highlight for me on the night was meeting Usain Bolt. He was tall, calm, relaxed and didn't act like a celeb. I even got to shake his hand and give him a hug!

Mercy Osinlaru



“”

Participating in the 2012 opening Olympic Ceremony has truly been an honour experience to me and the country... as millions of viewers from around the world watched us parade in the stadium, including the Queen! The 2012 Olympic opening ceremony will irrefutably inspire lots of generations to come.

Ayorinde Elegbe



“”

In 2012 I had the greatest experience ever! Some people could only dream of getting to take part in the Olympics and it's something I will never forget and I'm really proud. I can imagine telling my grandson/daughter about the experiences that I've had this year. It really has been amazing.

Adelina Kalanyos



“”

Although the preparation and rehearsals for the Opening Ceremony were long and tiring for both staff and students, the night itself was incredible. It felt like a great honour to be part of such a fantastic ceremony. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience for all us and we were proud to be chosen to represent Hackney.'

Jenny Wilkins, Principal



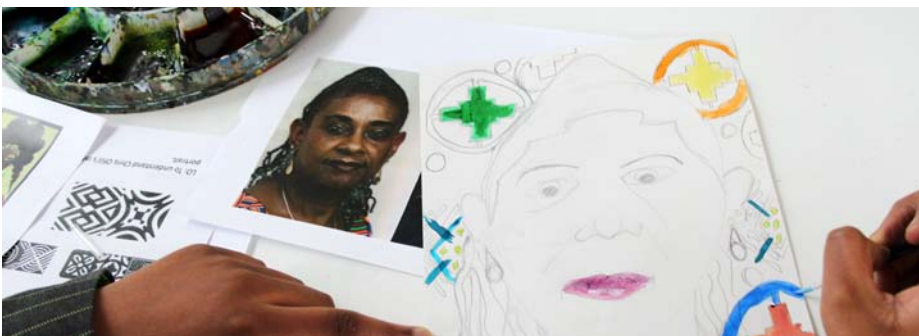
Welcome to Skinners': Treejumpers Induction

As has become an Academy tradition, in the first week of the academic year, the Year 7s went on a residential trip, designed to help the students get to know each other, start working as a team... and have some fun. Year 7, Tajai Brown reflects:

“I went to Treejumpers and the activity I liked the best was making the campfire because we had to work in teams and if I did not do that exercise, then right now I would not have the friends I have. The activity I found the scariest was the one where we had to pretend we were on islands and jump to get to safety - I found it difficult because we had to jump and I was scared I was going to hurt myself.

You will make loads of new friends (on the trip). The funniest thing that happened was when we were in the tent and no one would go to sleep and we were just talking and laughing. I learnt how team work is created and I learnt how to concentrate on tasks that could be dangerous if I do not listen to instructions first.”

“”
The most important thing that I have learnt during that time was that facing your fears isn't as bad as you think it might be. Saamia Mukhtar , Year 7



Celebrating Black History Month

To commemorate Black History Month in October, Year 8 students participated in varied activities including watching the Film Red Tails and learning about different black heroes. Some of the activities were spanned varying academic subjects, with Art, Science and Maths running their own sessions based on the Black History Month theme.

“I liked the Black History Month workshop because it was based on a fun and exciting film. This film, Red Tails was about the first black aircrew to fight in the WWII. It was very interesting as I like history and it gave me more insight into World War II and the racism back in those times. They had to fight for the allies but they couldn't get top roles because they were black.

They had to work as a team because they were the ones being discriminated so they had to be tougher than ever. They worked very hard and had determined to be the best. This made them one of the best aircrews in world history because they were up against racism, strife and anguish so that's why they were declared one of the best.”

Daniel Nwanebu, Year 8



Foundation Learning

Lea Valley Orienteering Trip

On Wednesday 14th November, the Year 9 Foundation Learning group went orienteering at Lea Valley Park in Cheshunt. The Foundation Learning course delivers an alternative curriculum to pupils in preparation for their GCSEs. The orienteering task was specifically designed to boost literacy and numeracy skills and encourage good sportsmanship in line with the Olympic values.

The groups learnt how to read co-ordinates and a compass. They learnt how to give direction and motivate a team, whilst all having a good time. The trip was enjoyed by students and staff alike who received certificates after successfully completing the course. What could be in store for the next Foundation Learning trip?

Ms Cotgrave



“”

Orienteering was fun to try out! You had to really concentrate when reading the co-ordinates and the compass and we all helped each other out. If you didn't read the compass properly then it would have taken you in the wrong direction and you wouldn't have solved the clues in time. I almost felt like I was in the army. I would like to do something similar like this again. Thank you to Mrs Ayeni and Ms Cotgrave and Ms Anglin for organising it.

Ali Doldor, Year 9

“”

The trip was fantastic! The boys won the orienteering task as we were the fastest at solving the puzzles and reading the compass. If we hadn't read the compass properly, we wouldn't have got to the correct points quickly enough. It was great having some fun and beating the girls!

Tyrek Campbell, Year 9

“”

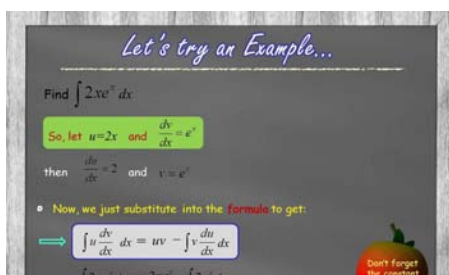
The Academy value I used the most whilst on the trip was 'Respect.' I had to be respectful to the instructors and work with others I'm not normally used to working with. I also had to be patient when listening to others ideas as we all had different ideas of where the clues might be.

Saamia Mukhtar, Year 7

“”

The Year 7 Maths Challenge was great. I solved a puzzle and had great fun. They put us in groups of five. The puzzles looked easy but were really hard. I was thinking that it would be boring but it was really fun and I was really happy.

Kevin Stirling, Year 7



Maths

A-Level Maths

All A2 Maths students have taken it in turn to teach the class a topic.

See here for a taste of how Year 13 students Siddiqa and Zumrut delivered their lesson on "Integration by Parts".

Ms Ottway

Prize-Giving

On 8th November, we held our annual Skinners' Academy Prize-Giving event – with prizes awarded to students who have clearly demonstrated that they exemplify the Academy core values.

In addition, prizes were awarded to students for BTEC and A-Level results and special prizes from Sir Michael Colman and the Skinners' School Old Girls' Association.

'Core Values' Prizes In addition to varied individual reasons see here for the general prize-giving criteria:

Friendship - Awarded to students who positively contribute to their peer group and/or truly value and encourage the contributions of others

Respect - For students whose conduct ensures they gain and give great respect

Equality - Students who exemplify the fairness and diversity of our community that gives us strength

Determination - Those who aim high and will not let minor setbacks divert them from their goals. They keep trying until they succeed

Inspiration - For those who set a fantastic example to the Academy community and strive to reach great heights

Courage - Not afraid to take risks and actively seek new experiences to learn new skills

Excellence - For those who strive for excellence, working hard to be the best



Vote of Thanks from Samroz Tandel Highest Achieving 6th form Student

Good evening, I hope that you have enjoyed celebrating the achievements this evening. A special thank you to the Master of The Skinners' Company, Mr Fell, for presenting our prizes and also to the members of court of Skinners' for joining us on this special occasion. I would also like to thank our principal Ms Wilkins for always seeking the best opportunities for us students and staff members and also for allowing this ceremony to take place. We really appreciate it. Congratulations to all the prize winners and thank you for joining us to celebrate our academic and many other achievements.

My name is Samroz and I'm a Year 13 student studying Maths, Further Maths and Chemistry at A-level. I have been part of the Skinners' community since Year 7 and I'm honoured to be giving the vote of thanks today on behalf of the student body. Yesterday I received my first conditional offer to study Maths from September 2013 from Queen Mary, one of the Russell Group universities... and hopefully this is just the beginning of the exciting opportunities for the future and representative of what Skinners' students can achieve with hard work.

On behalf of the students, I'd like to say thank you to The Skinners' Company, parents, governors and staff in the Skinners' community. In particular I would like to thank the teachers for their commitment, endless support and encouragement; not to mention their constant nagging. I now realise that this is solely for our own good!

The opportunities available to Skinners' students are infinite. You may have noticed that many of our younger students were involved with the Olympic opening ceremony, whilst some of the sixth formers got their very first paid job at the Olympic Park. I have also been honoured to represent Skinners' Academy along with members of The Skinners' Company at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch.

Skinners' through our values is committed to raising our aspirations and helping us be the best we can be. As an example, I've visited Cambridge three times since Year 10; the last time with some of our Year 8 students. "Inspiration" is indeed one of our values and it was great to have the opportunity to hopefully inspire some of our younger students the way staff have inspired us. Many of you will have strived to do your best in order to be part of this ceremony and I believe that represents the true spirit of our Academy.

Whether I end up studying at Cambridge, Queen Mary or another university from September, I hope this won't be my last Prize-Giving ceremony because I'd like to return even after starting university, remaining part of the Skinners' community and sharing future successes. Congratulations once again to all winners and thank you for joining us tonight.



Prize Winners 2011-2012

Values Prizes: Last Year's Key Stage 3

Atwell House		
Friendship	Sirin Gultekin	Ashley Fowler
Respect	Daisie Spiteri	Brando Williams
Equality	Bhoomi Varjivan	Engli Krueziu
Determination	Ana-Paula Mazarini	Morgan Charles
Inspiration	Adelina Kalanyos	Brandon Hamilton
Courage	Elif Sucu	Ravie Singh
Excellence	Esin Akdogan	Amel Mire
Overall Achievement	Leandra Logie-Clyne	Ronnie O'Connor

100% Attendance: Venus Brann-Nicol, Guilherme Da Silva, Jaden Hope, Neha Javed, Yasemin Kelimet, Tabassum Nusibhya, Agnieszka Rudnik, Catia Sousa Dimas, Athena Srawley

Judd House		
Friendship	Robyn Barrett	Atlas Turl
Respect	Larissa Dang	Wassim Choudhury
Equality	Chandra Scott-Corbett	Sam Goldsmith
Determination	Millie Hagland	Wiktor Posadzy
Inspiration	Wiktor Wilk	Shaun Johnson
Courage	Julia Vieira Machado	Mehmet Kivrakoglu
Excellence	Judith Appiah-Nuama	Yu Hao Dong
Overall Achievement	Valerie Bob-Manuel	Zacharia Moses

100% Attendance: Rayyan Bawazir, Shaquele Lewis-Frame, Mercy Osinlaru, Iffat Udin

Hunt House		
Friendship	Ezgi Kahraman	Conrad Bernard
Respect	Hanan Guthmy	Michael Odetola
Equality	Shaquele Lewis-Frame	Mustafa Kulekci
Determination	Diane Ejimadu	Samson Adeola
Inspiration	Connacht Sheffield	Kwamaine Frimpong
Courage	Dilara Sert	Jahmai Scott
Excellence	Rebecca Greaney	Derek Nguyen
Overall Achievement	Irem Yesildag	Leon Mabilia

100% Attendance: Tayyba Asif, Deegbah Kamara, Dahyim Karim, Oluwatobiloba Shokan

Prizes for Achievement in Sports

Sade Carter-Cox
Soulaiman Osei-Bonsu
Semmae Fenton
Dylan Rhooms

SSOGA Prize for Services to the Academy Key stage 3

Elsie O'Rourke

SSOGA Prizes for attainment in Key Stage 3

Jessica Dervishi
Mustafa Kulekci
Aishah Islam
Derek Nguyen
Rebecca Greaney
Kelell Davison-Thomas
Connacht Sheffield
Alish Dortgoz

Sixth Form Prize Winners 2011-2012

Last Year's Year 12 & 13s 2011-2012 Academic Year

Year 13 Leavers Prizes	
Applied Art & Design (Double A2)	Ewelina Sniegón
Applied ICT (A2)	Atera Rahman
Art & Design Textiles (A2)	Ewelina Sniegón Pinar Yalcin
Art & Design Photography (A2)	Akpaljit Kaur
Biology (A2)	Shamara Adams
Business Studies (A2)	Omoyemi Aileru Ceylan Doldur
English Literature (Cambridge Pre U)	Nazia Ahmed Saheera Ausaluth
English Literature (A2)	Sheila Mukalazi
Mathematics (A2)	Karolina Gajewska
Media Studies (A2)	Phillipa McIntosh
Polish (A2)	Ewelina Sniegón
Psychology (A2)	Atera Rahman
Sociology (A2)	Saheera Ausaluth Atera Rahman
Turkish (A2)	Aysen Tunc



**SSOGA Prize for Services
to the Academy
Key Stage 5**

Satone Johnson

Sir Michael Colman Prizes	
BTEC Business (Level 2)	Oluseun Olayinka Sinem Pala
BTEC Business (Level 3)	Daniela Andrea Gomez Vera Aiema Hayat
BTEC Childcare (Level 2)	Nihal Safi Nabeela Shah
BTEC Health & Social Care	Melat Haileselasse
Best AS Level Results	Samroz Tandel Juliana Volpato
Best A2 Level Results	Ewelina Sniegón

Sixth Form Achievement Award	
Agata Ciszewska	
Kaltun Said	

Last Year's Year 12	
Friendship	Deborah Munganga
Respect	Rachel Anyetei
Equality	Haydar Aydin
Determination	Oya Kucukler
Inspiration	Agata Ciszewska
Courage	Bobbie Hagan
Excellence	Samroz Tandel
Overall Achievement	Juliana Volpato

Prize-Giving 2012 & Music



A Year 8 Perspective

Prize-Giving was an exciting event at Skinners' Academy with lots of specially chosen people taking part in different things such as music, singing, Instruments, Drama, Pictures, Videos, Prizes and awards.

I was picked as one of the students to take part in the ceremony. There were different categories for winning a prize, including core values, attendance, and attainment throughout the whole year, sports and overall achievement. I received mine for having 100% attendance... always at school!

At lunch time on Thursday we had to practise the order we were going to go in and we also had our names on the seat that we would sit in during the evening. We practiced when we had to stand up, then we learnt how to take and shake hands with the master (shake hands with your right hand and take the award with your left hand).

The ceremony started 6:00 but we had to arrive at 5:30pm, after a little while of waiting we saw members of the Skinners' Company coming through the door. All the students of Skinners' Academy stood up to show respect. Once they all sat down we also sat down. Seeing them all was really exciting and everyone looked at their fascinating fur clothing. They talked to us for a bit and told us how this school developed from a skinning company.

Neha Javed, Year 8

Musical Performances at Prize-Giving

This year's Academy Prize-Giving Ceremony was an opportunity for the music department to shine. During the ceremony the One Voice singing enrichment group gave an assured performance of 'Sailing' by Rutherford and our new grand piano was shown off by Aren Caton Yener and Wiktorja Tomaszewska, both demonstrating excellent ability and confidence during their solos.

The ceremony finished with two fantastic performances from our steel pan players, who showed such energy and enthusiasm that many audience members left the ceremony dancing, or at least with a spring in their step! Afterwards, our GCSE students continued the musical entertainment while the refreshments were served.

Mr Slater



Music



National Voices for All

On the 22nd September four students represented Skinners' Academy as part of the National Voices for All choir. This is a new choir set up for students across the UK. The choir sang as part of the Teach First 10th Anniversary Celebrations at the Royal Festival Hall.

Students took part in an open rehearsal and performance of two songs that the choir had been working on since September. Emeli Sande 'Heaven' and a traditional English folksong, 'Follow the Heron.' Big congratulations to Diane Ejimadu, Ore Shoyinka, Anna Pietnicka and Samson Adeola, whose great singing and focus helped contribute to a fantastic performance.

Mr Slater

““

It was a great experience for everyone. We worked in an amazing venue and the performance was outstanding.

Samson Adeola, Year 8

Steel Pans at Skinners' Hall

On Friday November 16th three of our steel pans groups headed down to Skinners' Hall in Dowgate Hill to perform for guests of the Master of the Skinners' Company. All groups performed fantastically and were congratulated by their enthusiastic audience. Students really added to the party atmosphere at the event!

Mr Slater



GCSE Jazz Performance

October half term ended on a high with the GCSE music class putting on their own jazz gig. The class had spent the term exploring the genre and the unit ended with them creating their own versions of well know jazz standards.

All students performed and solos were given by Tabassum Nusibhya and Ediz Kesinkilic. Students, family members and teachers enjoyed the show and were extremely impressed with the level of skill and confidence shown by all of the performers. Congratulations to all students involved.

Mr Slater

““

I really enjoyed the jazz performance because I got to show off my talent and we put on a performance I was proud of. Jamali Gordon-Howell, Year 9



Jack Petchey Awards Performance

The music department was represented at the Jack Petchey awards ceremony held at Stoke Newington Town Hall on November 13th. The event was attended by students, teachers and VIPs from all over Hackney.

Tabassum Nusibhya (pictured, left) gave an outstanding performance of 'Cry Me a River' which not only wowed the fellow students of Skinners' Academy but received the loudest applause of all of the performers on the night!

Mr Slater



“ ”

I thought Tabassum was phenomenal. Her voice touched every heart in the room.

**Laolu Salvador,
Year 9 Prize Winner**

Static Science

In one of our Science lessons we learned about static electricity and how insulators can be made to conduct electricity. Dr O made us use the plastic rod to attract pieces of paper and we used balloons to make running water bend. We first have to rub the balloons on our heads before using it.

Dr O got a machine called Van de Graff generator and explained to us how it works. I stood in a plastic box and put my hands on the dome as Dr O turned it on. I didn't see it but my hair was standing up and the whole class were shouting and laughing. You can tell from the picture that the lesson was fun.

Dilara Sert, Year 9

Science



Business & Enterprise



Bank of America "Speed Banking" Experience

A group of BTEC National business studies students participated in the Bank of America Merrill Lynch speed banking programme organised by the Knowledge programme.

The Knowledge Channel as part of its objectives is to prepare students and young graduates for their future career. The programme aimed to raise the aspirations of London's students by showing them the opportunities available to them in the City and finance sectors. Students were given an insight into the world of work at the Bank of America. They also participated in a CV, personal statement workshop and building interviewing skills as well as a tour of the trading floor.

Ms Kurtuldu

““

I really enjoyed the experience at the workshop; I particularly enjoyed the tour of the trading floor.

Bahar Doldur, 6th Form

““

I found the mock assessment event really interesting. It taught us a lot about the assessments required for when you apply for specific jobs and university. Mine Arslan, 6th form

Mock Assessment Event at the Bank of England

The BTEC National Year 12 Business students participated in the Mock Assessment Centre workshop funded by Deutsche Bank and organised by The Brokerage Citylink.

The Brokerage Citylink is an independent not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with City employers to create a pathway to the City for young residents of London's inner-city boroughs. The idea of this programme is to give students an insight into psychometric testing, how businesses use these tests to recruit graduates and how to secure graduate jobs by successfully completing these tests.

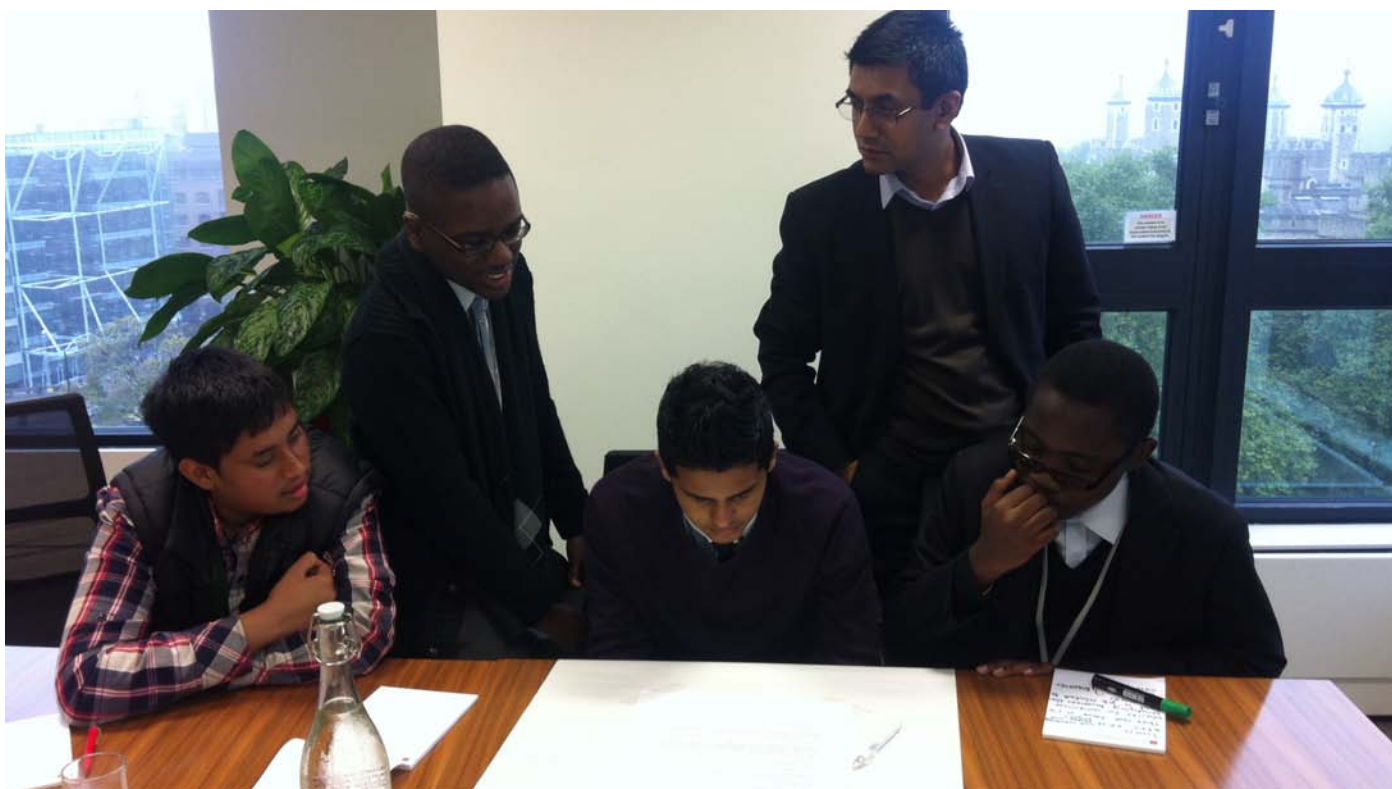
The workshop was held at The Bank of England. Students had the opportunity to practice several psychometric tests, as well as interview staff from the bank, and speak to advisors about how to secure a job at the Bank of England.

Ms Kurtuldu



Enterprise Day in Pictures





Represent London Programme

15 Year 12 Business students are participating in the 'Represent London 2020' programme. Represent London is an employability project that gives young people the opportunity to gain a wide range of employability skills. The project aims to give 200 young people, a series of high quality training modules offered by participating London Legacy companies such as Citi Group, BBC, and Allen & Overy. Our students will engage in a range of modules that will help them to become ambassadors for East London. The modules deliver a wide range of employability skills, enhancing self-belief and confidence levels.

On Monday 22nd October the students took part in the 'CV and interview skills' module held at the large global French investment bank Societe Generale.

On Wednesday 21st November students took part in the 'Thinking Beyond the Games' module held at The London Legacy Development Corporation. The London Legacy Development Corporation are responsible for the long-term planning, development, management and maintenance of the Olympic Park and its facilities after the London 2012 Games.

Ms Kurtuldu

““”

The Societe Generale module was based on CV and interview skills and techniques workshop. This was particularly useful because it helped us to prepare and develop the skills needed for an interview

Mahalimatu Kamara, 6th Form

Fundraising for Breast Cancer

In October, Ms K's Achievers International group helped organise a Wear It Pink cake sale to raise money for Breast Cancer. The group brought in homemade cakes with Ms. K bringing in badges and stickers. It was advertised days before and grabbed attention of the students.

The Cake Sale was one full swing at break. The Manager of the group Ozan was there with delight and said "This year's cake sale has been a great success. I want to thank Ms K for organising the plan with me. She is one of the best teachers I have ever met. Also the cakes are very delicious.

We made a mind-blowing £300 for the charity which was a great success.

Ozan Serce, Year 8



Enterprise & LRC



Book Fair Art Competition

As part of the Book Fair students were asked to create a poster promoting the Fair to students. The competition was displayed in the LRC and the winners were chosen by Ms Wilkins on the Friday before the Book Fair opened. Congratulations to Umaimah Ashif and Baran Komur, who won £15 and £10 vouchers to spend at the book fair for their excellent posters.



Scholastic Book Fair

Skinners' hosted its very first Book Fair this year as a joint literacy and business project. Run by the Sixth Form Business students, the Book Fair aimed to raise money for the school library, assist the 6th Formers in their Business Studies, generate excitement about books and reading, and provide students with access to half price books.

The Fair ran from the 3rd to the 5th of December and was open to students during their lunch break and after school, as well as to parents during the Parent's Forum and Social evening on Monday the 3rd.

We sold £579 worth of books and earned a £231 credit with Scholastic books. It has been such a success that we hope to repeat the event next year.



“

In organising this fair, I have learned that to make sure everything goes as planned and on time there has to be communication between everyone. This way, everyone is aware about what is happening.

We created job roles, contracts and a project delivery plan so that we knew tasks would be completed on time.

I realised that to organise a successful event, you need organisational skills, good time management and teamwork.

Oya Kucukler & Agata Ciszewska,
6th Form

Book Donations

Thank you to the Skinners' Academy governors and friends who donated hundreds of brand new books to our library to help encourage reading for pleasure.

We were lucky enough to be given a huge selection of fiction, from popular titles such as The Hunger Games to literary classics like How to Kill a Mockingbird.

These books are already being enjoyed by our very grateful students.

Ms Phillips

NOTE TO PARENTS

Skinners' Academy is participating in the Nestle Box Tops for Books promotion which enables schools to exchange box tops for books. If you buy Nestle cereals please remember to cut out the tokens and put them in the box by the reception desk. The promotion runs until the end of March 2013.

Reminder: Homework Help sessions are run in the library Monday - Wednesday from 4-5pm

Website

New Year, New Website

Visited us lately? You will soon notice some big changes to our website.

Please visit the all new Skinners' Academy website in January and beyond, while the site develops, to enjoy:

- ♦ A new layout with more information
- ♦ A more comprehensive 6th Form section
- ♦ Videos including highlights of events including Prize-Giving 2012 and the Careers Awareness Fair
- ♦ Access to connect with us on Twitter
- ♦ A new student and parent zone (including Academy policies and more)

The site will launch in January and you will see changes and developments throughout the spring term so please continue to visit www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Accelerated Reader

Skinners' students participate in Accelerated Reader as part of the literacy programme for year seven and eight. For those who are unfamiliar with the programme it involves students reading books and then taking a quiz online to test their comprehension. Students perform a reading test each term to determine reading levels and progress and are awarded prizes for quizzes passed successfully. As well as a cinema trip for the top twenty students each term, we also run an advisory competition which measures word count. So far this term the Year 7 and Year 8 students have collectively read over 14,146,334 words, which is a massive achievement.

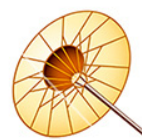
If parents would like to see their child's reading record you can logon via the Accelerated Reader page under Curriculum on the VLE.

Enrichment Focus

Introducing the Japanese Club

This year we are running a Japanese Club for the first time, providing pupils with an opportunity to learn about Japanese language, culture, customs, watching Japanese animation and to try out some fun hand-on activities such as origami (which turned out to be a lot more difficult than we thought!) or making Christmas cards in Japanese.

The club aims at inspiring pupils to develop the curiosity of the world and language knowledge beyond what they learn in regular language classes and so far the feedback from pupils has been very positive.



““

The origami was fun, creating a swan with gold paper was hard but the result was spectacular and I absolutely love this enrichment! The Japanese enrichment does exactly what it says on the tin, enrich you!
Armend Bajraktari, Year 8

““

The best thing about origami was that it was quite difficult in the beginning which made it even more challenging. Making origami became easier with help from my teacher, Ms Dabrowska. Now I want to learn more about origami and its history! I love our enrichment, don't you?

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Naema Hanif, Year 8
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Sixth Form in Focus

Sixth Form Speak Up for Young Londoners

A group of Skinners' Sixth formers who were employed by organisations related to the London 2012 Olympics played a part in having their say about youth employment after the Games.

The students were invited to participate in The East London Communities Organisation (TELCO - the founding chapter of London Citizens)'s meeting with the focus on both what London TELCO had achieved in relation to the 2012 Olympics (The first Living Wage Olympics), CitySafe (map of shops that provide havens for young people to feel safe) and housing (affordable housing) and what stance the organisation will have on legacy, including:

- Jobs (using the site for a youth summer programme that employs 500 16-18 year olds)
- Housing
- Inspiring a generation and
- Governance (having a voice with the London Legacy Development Corporation)

Sadia and Beauty took part in the event with Sadia speaking on behalf of the thousands of young people that were employed at the London 2012 Olympics and discussing her experience and how she hopes other people her age can have a similar experience.



“”

Working at the Olympics and Paralympics Games was great. I had a chance to meet many great people and work alongside them to achieve one aim 'deliver the greatest Olympics and Paralympics Games time ever' and it's happened. Meeting other volunteers and working with them was one thing, but seeing so many tourists within one city, city of London, was amazing. Being able to help those people, being there for them was worthwhile. If I ever have another chance to be part of achieving a huge goal, being part of the legacy, I will certainly go for it.

Agata Ciszewska, 6th Form

Women of the Future: Annual Launch

The Women of the Future Ambassadors programme is a unique initiative that connects award-winning women with sixth formers. The objective of the programme is to provide students with mentors and role models, thus strengthening the pipeline of talent among Britain's younger women

The annual reception took place on 15th October and was a memorable and inspiring one for our sixth formers involved.





UCAS "Boot Camp" Residential: A Jump Start to the Future

In October, Year 13 students went on UCAS Bootcamp Residential at Kingswood Activity Centres in Kent.

The aim of the weekend was to accelerate the UCAS applications process so that Skinners' Sixth Formers felt confident about the process and could get in as many applications as possible, far in advance of the deadline.

Students have now applied and a large number of Year 13s have started receiving offers to universities including Bath Spa, Queen Mary's University of London, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, Kingston, Portsmouth, Greenwich, Nottingham Trent... and one student even progressed to an interview to study at Cambridge University.

Sixth Form Snapshot



Careers Awareness Fair 2012



Career Prospects Come to Life at Annual Careers Awareness Fair

Following the Careers Awareness Fair in September, pledges to “Work harder, while keeping my dreams as my focus and motivation to succeed” and “work very hard and be someone important, change the world, have a story” – have been made by students who participated in the event.

These comments were in response to the question “What positive actions are you committed to taking to improve your career prospects, following this event” - highlighting that the event prompted students to take positive steps in a bid to achieve future career success.

Targeted at students in North & East London, the Careers Awareness Fair on Thursday 27 September 2012 is an annual event held at Skinners' Academy, Hackney and is designed to educate, inspire and motivate local students about their future prospects. It featured speakers including Aneeta Prem of Freedom Charity and Frances Williams, author of 'Everyday Heroes: Learning from the Careers of Successful Black Professionals'; 20+ businesses (including representatives from the NHS, IBM, Ernst & Young, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and more); local businesses including Hackney Empire; and 15+ universities including Cambridge, SOAS, Portsmouth, Middlesex and more.

It is our hope that increasing exposure to organisations, business owners, universities and further training providers will give students an edge regarding standing out in a crowded market; making some industry contacts; and helping them to make the right choices as they progress beyond school.

““

I think the event is run very well and all of the pupils that helped organise it were lovely. The school was welcoming and you can see that they are trying really hard to encourage their pupils, which is great as it only takes one person to inspire another for greatness to be achieved... I think there is a general perception of the Bar that puts people off and I think we broke that perception. Diversity is of utmost importance to the legal profession and everyone is unique and has something to offer the Bar.

Katie Sewell, The Bar Council

““

My highlight was chatting to enthusiastic and eager to learn young people. It was great to see staff and students putting energy and efforts to engage and support young people. Josie Vergese, BBC School News Report



“““

Following this careers event I am committed to working very hard and being someone important... changing the world, having a story.

Year 12 attendee

“““

By coming here you get the personal experiences. Seeing the website is what other people put there but to actually see it (i.e. meet representatives) in real life where they are telling you what it's like for them, I find that interesting. I feel more confident now.

Year 13 attendee

“““

You don't meet people like this on the street, do you?

Year 13 attendee

Look out for the event highlight video on the new Skinners' Academy website (from January).

“““

This is the second annual Careers Awareness Fair we have hosted and are proud to raise aspirations and support students' decisions about their future careers. One on one sessions, panel discussions and university student led sessions inspire and motivate... ensuring students are reminded that whatever the economic climate, hard work and determination will help them achieve their goals.

Jenny Wilkins, Principal

Humanities

Remembrance Day: Innocent Victims Memorial

Held on 20th November, the Innocent Victims Memorial was the inaugural remembrance service for children who have suffered as a result of conflict.

Professor Martin Parsons, whose research over 30 years into the impact of war on civilian children has convinced him they are forgotten, invisible victims of conflict, worked with the Abbey to hold the service.

The idea of the service is to make people more aware of the effects that war has on children and to get Parliament and local authorities to adopt November 20th as a War Child Remembrance Day as it is in some other countries

The service took place at Westminster Abbey and we laid a wreath on the memorial to the innocents by the West entrance.



Daughters of Schindler's List heroes visit Skinners'

In November, we welcomed the daughters of heroes from the film Schindler's List to give a talk about their parents' life, and the Holocaust.

2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of the film Schindler's List, the Academy Award winning film about German businessman Oskar Schindler and his efforts to save Jewish people during the Holocaust in WWII. One of the most iconic scenes in the film is the marriage between two inmates of Plaszow concentration camp. They married in secret in the women's barracks at Plaszow.

This moving scene is based on the true story of Joseph Bau and Rebecca Tennenbaum, who fell in love and married during their imprisonment. Miraculously, both of them survived the war and the Holocaust. Joseph Bau became an acclaimed artist, graphic designer, author and poet. In 1947 the couple had a daughter, Hadasa, in Krakow. In 1950 the Baus emigrated to Israel where they had another daughter, Clila, in 1956.

Recently Skinners' Academy was visited by the Bau sisters who shared their father's story. Thanks to the Anne Frank Trust for this unique opportunity to bring History to life.



“ ”

Their stories were fascinating and very interesting; they even let us ask questions on life in the olden days. I feel that we really understood and connected with Bau sisters.

Tosin Ajibade, Year 9



Geography GCSE Trip

In October, the GCSE Year 9 Geography students sailed down the Thames to visit the Thames Barrier. We are studying what would happen if London was flooded. The views of Westminster, Greenwich, the O2, London Docklands and City Airport made the case study really come alive for us. At the barrier we were shown how the flood gates worked, when, where and how they were built, the likelihood of needing a new barrier in the next 50 years and the cost to Londoners of a coastal flood.

Ms Syme

First Story Writers Festival

Friday 28th of September 2012. Another ordinary Friday. But not for a group of 15 students who attended the First Story writing festival in Oxford. This event held over 600 people from all over London.

It all started with the Skinners' Academy coach. After hours of coach journeying, we arrived. We entered Lady Margaret Hall, a university, and took in our surroundings. It wasn't as amazing as we'd all expected, just another historical brick building, with some modern modifications.

We were then rushed into a giant tent, where we heard Mr Phillip Pullman (author of several best-selling books including Northern Lights). He talked a bit, read an extract from one of his favourite books that made goose bumps rise on every ones arms and he talked some more.

After that the 'hall' was emptied and the schools were separated into different groups. We were ushered into a room and wrote some spectacular things, about cats and shells and other weird things.

When we were done working with our imaginations, we were again herded back into the 'hall' (tent) and some people read out their work. I was one of them, who bravely went up and read in front of more than 600 people.

After the readings a few more words were said and we went home. The First Story Project now continues on Tuesday afternoons and there will be a further update about the project soon.

Irem Yesildag, Year 9

English



Design & Technology



“ ”

Our trip to the London Transport Museum involved activities including making a tube track, touring the museum to look at the old buses and tubes and we met some engineers that work for Transport For London. We met a worker that worked for TFL for 30 years!

Iffat Uddin, Year 8

“ ”

During the trip we participated in a range of activities, which engaged us to work as a team to solve problems. Our tasks also included maths skills because we had to record how much money they were spending on each track and train every time.

Nasra Bana, Year 9

Inspire Day at the London Transport Museum

On Thursday 15th November 2012, a group of Year 8 and 9 Design & Technology students went to the TFL Map Depot. It was absolutely amazing, I enjoyed every minute of it, especially when we toured around the massive hall looking at different types of buses. We saw the first double-decker bus: it was bare (only metal parts) but it was basic and that's all that mattered. We then saw how the double-decker bus had evolved from the past to now; all the alteration to the engines and the designs of the seats inside. It was stunning; we didn't get to go inside the bus because they were 'ancient', but we did have a clear view through the windows.

The science and engineering part was brilliant - we did the 'braking egg experiment' challenge, and it was thrilling. It was basically a train unit using magnetic tracks stuck to a magnetic wall. We had an egg inside the magnetic train (which was on the track) and the team to get their train and egg to point A (using the braking strip; a strip of Velcro) and landing perfectly on the platform wins. Sadly my team did not win but we did have fun doing it. We had the dilemma of making the track steep so the train sped up or using level tracks so the train went at a steady pace. This challenge taught us a lot about 'kinetic energy' and 'potential energy', what they meant and how we use them. It was spectacular.

We also met some civil engineers who talked a bit about their professions in general and what they did for TFL. Their names were Roger and Colin, and they told us a bit about different types of engineering and what type of jobs were on offer when you do engineering in college. At the end of the day we had a big assembly on why we should choose engineering as a course, and how we can get started with engineering and what the wages we would get if we were apprentices in engineering. I was very excited at the end of the day and I wanted to learn more, but it was time to go home. This was a once in a life time opportunity, and I would love to go again.

Diane Ejimadu, Year 9

Year 7 Cushion Project

The Year 7 Textiles group have been designing and making cushions for the London Zoo gift shop. Students had to research the different animals which you could see at the zoo and then come up with designs suitable for young children. The cushions are still in progress but are looking great! Well done Year 7!

Ms Greco



GCSE Textiles Project

This term the new Year 9 GCSE Textiles group have been busy designing and making sports bags. They were each given the following design task:

'Every child is different. They have different interests, hobbies, cultures and much more. Your task is to design and make a sports bag which has pocket detail which reflects you as an individual.'

The group have been excellent and created some fantastic bags. Well done Year 9!

Ms Greco



Parents Corner

The Effects of Parental Attitudes on their Children Seminar for Turkish Speaking Parents

On 11th October, Skinners' Academy hosted a seminar for Turkish speaking parents run by Ms Aysu Oguz, a counsellor assigned by Turkish Education Office in London.

The seminar was the first of a series of talks for parents about education, parenting, how important the attitudes of parents are and how to communicate effectively. It was also a great opportunity for our school Turkish community to meet and share the experiences as parents of children in similar age.

A big thank you to Ms Dalkir for translations and help during the event.

Ms Jargot
Language Support/ EMA Teacher

Parents' Forum

Parents are encouraged to join the Parents' Forum. Attend meetings, get involved with the committee, plan events, meet other parents who also want to work together to help the Academy go from strength to strength. For more information, contact Parent Governor Ronnie O'Connor on ocoronroy@msn.com or Communications & Marketing Manager, Gina Visram on gvisram@skinnersacademy.org.uk or 020 8800 7411

““

This is exactly what I have been waiting for!

Parent attendee comment



““

I was very happy to see parents open to knowledge and eager to learn something new. I hope they will think more often about their attitudes towards their children. A small change makes a big difference

Ms Aysu Oguz

Art & Photography

““

I really enjoyed working with new people in Tate Britain. It was a brilliant classroom for the day and it has given me motivation to keep going. The opportunity was one I made sure I didn't waste.

Fadile Kaya, 6th Form

6th Form Portfolio Advice day at Tate Britain

This term a group of 6th form art students attended a workshop at Tate Britain designed to develop their portfolios. The students worked alongside university lecturers and practicing artist, creating new work in line with their current project themes. The students were given the whole gallery as a resource and they created work inspired by the Tate Britain environment. Their confidence was boosted when the lecturers made positive comments about their work and they were given achievable targets to improve their existing portfolios.

““

After lunch we showed our books to the tutors, I was told to add more annotating and it will be perfect. It was a great day as I learned a lot of new things and I know how to fill the gaps in my sketchbooks in time for my interviews at universities.

Berkan Demir, 6th Form



6th Form Photography Developments

The AS and A2 Photography students recently took their mock exam. The students worked for 8 weeks on the theme of viewpoints, investigating and developing their ideas before spending the whole day creating final outcomes. The students' completed final pieces are now on display in the school foyer and we are extremely pleased with the work created. The experience of the exam will hopefully inspire them to carry on the good work and in moving towards outstanding results later in the year.



“”

For our AS photography mock exam we spent a total of two months producing work in our sketchbooks. Our topic was “Viewpoints” and within that we chose our theme. Our sketchbook work included: experimenting with Photoshop, trying out new photography techniques, artist research, exploring different angles & viewpoints and practice work for the final outcome.

Fikriye Kiazim, 6th Form



Ideas Foundation Project

The Ideas Foundation project aimed to challenge sixth formers from Art, Photography and Textiles to develop a response to the ‘I am Creative Energy Saving Campaign from E-on.’

Students were encouraged to develop their independent learning skills by setting their own goals and deadlines, organising themselves and their work and managing their time.

The students had a unique work-based learning opportunity that opened up vocational opportunities, networks and access to work in the creative and media industry.

For more information about iam creative and the Ideas Foundation please visit the websites; www.iamcreative.org.uk and www.ideasfoundation.org.uk



“”

It was a pleasure to work with the students on this creative brief. The school, and the teaching staff from the art department were very supportive and instrumental in the completion of the project, I hope that the students learnt something that they can carry forward in their chosen careers.

Natasha Amegbe, Design Tutor

“”

The project has been useful as it requires teamwork and it’s almost like a work based setting, which has been not only enjoyable but useful, as it’s given me an insight to working life.

Beatrix Okoro, 6th Form

“”

By participating, I have learnt to manage a project

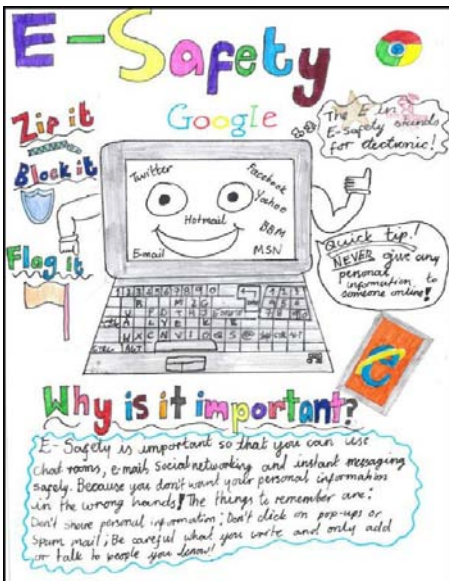
Meena Kaur, 6th Form

I.C.T.

“““

E-Safety is helping me understand trolling. One of my friends got trolled. I didn't know what it meant. So that's why I try to keep safe on the web. I have learned to deal with trolling by not reacting, ignoring the person or reporting them

Kevin Stirling, Year 7



“““

I think learning E-Safety in ICT has helped me because its taught me about the good things and the bad things about the internet for example we learnt about emails and the good and bad things about it.

Keziah Malungu, Year 7

E-Safety Essentials: Lessons for Year 7

Pupils in Year 7 have been given the opportunity to study a unit which helps them to explore a range of E-Safety related topics as follows:

- Ways in which E-Safety can help individuals stay safe online using any device.
- How ICT is affecting people at home, work and in the community in general
- Cyber bullying – discussing the term and any differences between bullying and cyber bullying
- Exploring the terms and dangers of online grooming and online trolling.
- Social implications of the use of other technologies to share and communicate information.

Pupils have been developing a very good understanding of the concepts explored, where they are able to explain how E-Safety issues affect individuals and provide advice on how to deal with situations such as Cyber-Bullying.

Ms Rao



“““

E-Safety has helped me a ton as I've learnt never to trust random people on the internet as it could lead to harassment. This had affected me as I have lots of clan friends (through gaming sites) that I never met before. E-Safety has taught me to set up a clan with people you know and trust.

Henry Vu, Year 7

Performing Arts



Anansi Performance

On Thursday 25th October, our Year 9 Drama students put on a lunchtime performance of Anansi, a popular tale of West African folklore. This was their first Drama performance as GCSE students and certainly won't be their last. Watch this space for more.

Julius Caesar Review

The theatre production of Julius Caesar is not for the light-hearted among us. It is certainly a tale that has no happy ending, one full of violence, betrayal and deception. One minute a character decides to do good then turns sinister when you least expect it. You can never assume anything while Julius Caesar's on stage.

But in this African version, it does have some comedic twist, most won't notice it since the play contains old words like 'thou' and 'thy' etc. When you see it you will truly get sucked in. You will be afraid that if you blink, you will miss a vital moment, that's how the play is; anything can happen at any given time.

In my opinion, Julius Caesar at the Noel Coward Theatre was a 5-star performance but again, that's my opinion. See for yourself.

Sapphire (Safi) Caesar, Year 9

(And my second name is Caesar. No pun intended)!

Extracts of a Private Peaceful Review

The performance of "Private Peaceful" adapted from the book by Michael Morpugo at Theatre Royal Haymarket showed me that the theme of loyalty in war is a very troubling thing. The main character had to face choices and make decisions between country, commands and siblings. The character of Private Tommo Peaceful is found on stage in the few hours before he is sent to his execution and we see his life story unfold before us.

Time is very important to him. He is a young man about to face death. He holds a watch which was given to him by his brother as he lay dying. He asked Tommy to give it in turn to his own son when Tommo returned from war, "it will never let you down". Tommo promised, but this promise was never fulfilled. Throughout the play he keeps looking at the watch to show he is afraid to fall asleep and miss any precious moments of this particular night.

He remembers all the people in his life and so the actor plays many characters. He convinces you that he is all these characters by changing his voice but also his gesture, expression, movement and use of space.

There are a couple of really memorable death scenes in the play. They used the sound simply. When Tommo's father dies, you can hear and practically feel the ground trembling as you hear the tree swoop down and land with a sickening crash on to the crumpled body of his father. When Tommo is executed the haunting music of a childhood song sort of scares you and the gunshot especially shocks you. There is no blood, no red light, just the sound.

I think that Tommo was foolish at first rather than brave. He gave into peer pressure to join up just because he was called a coward. Even though he wanted to be just like his brother Charlie, he still gave in to the pressure, half knowing what was up ahead. He was court martialled for not following orders and apparently being a coward. But he chose to attempt to save the life of his brother. Was this cowardice? He stood up for what he believed in, his family. This was an amazing and inspirational piece of theatre.

Aishah Islam, Year 8

“““

Private Peaceful was amazing and I would want to watch the brilliant and emotional one man play again.

Nicole Ojo, Year 8

Community Corner

Activities for the Community

While summer may traditionally be a time of “no more pencils and no more books”, a number of local Woodberry Down and future Skinners' Academy Year 7 students spent much of their vacation time in school – participating in activities aimed at young people in the local community.

In summer 2012, Skinners' Academy was proud to host two summer time initiatives, the Skinners' Academy Summer Leadership Programme and the Genesis Housing Excellence through Sport summer school. Both of these programmes were designed to engage young people, ensuring that learning didn't stop during the summer months.



The Genesis Excellence through Sport Summer School

Held through most of the summer holiday (30 July – 24 August), this programme was targeted at young people in the local Woodberry Down community, aged 8 to 13. Featuring activities including mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, roller-skating, drama and more, the aim was to engage with them in activities of a sporting and academic nature.

A definite combination of structure and fun, the 40 students (per day, average) started each day with a reminder of the code of conduct and a recap of the rules and regulations and through the varying activities on offer, generally gained improved confidence and communication skills; worked on their team building skills and had the chance to access opportunities they may not have been in a position to afford.

“ ”

Programmes like this are important to keep yourself engaged and sport is a great vehicle with which to do so. A real benefit of participation is that many students who were quiet and introverted at the beginning of the summer had developed confidence and gained respect of their peers at the end.

Junior Taylor, director of Excellence through Sport

“ ”

Committed to becoming a hub of the community, Skinners' Academy looks forward to hosting more successful Woodberry Down community focused initiatives in the future.

Jenny Wilkins, Principal



The Summer Leadership Programme

Created and delivered by The Kaizen Partnership, the overall aim of the programme was to support the young people in their transition to secondary school. It was established to help develop skills that will support them in being a pupil at Skinners' Academy, learn a new appreciation for themselves and others and explore what it takes to be successful both at school and in their lives.

Held between 9.30am and 3.30pm over the course of 10 days, the content included exploration of leadership/self-leadership/responsibility; goals and aspirations; conflict; identity, creating new possibilities and transition.

When asked to name “one thing you learned at the end of the summer school or improved on as a result of participating in this training”, replies included, “listening more to adults”; “to become less rude and not lose my temper quickly”, “to make friends” and “to work as a team” – all skills which will help to ease their transition into life at secondary school.



Community Corner / Useful Information

Interested in Starting a Business? Read about the Genesis Housing Four Steps Scheme Here

In November, Woodberry Down residents, local stakeholders, regeneration partners, and local businesses made their way to Skinners' Academy to see how entrepreneurial residents of our Woodberry Down regeneration scheme have found success starting their own businesses.

The Four steps to starting your own business programme offers residents in the Woodberry Down area free, tailored advice and support through a dedicated business advisor, helping them through every step of setting up, launching and trading as their own business.

Over 30 motivated residents signed up to the programme there and then, with many others keen to meet with the programme's business advisors to discuss their business idea and take the first step.

Residents also had the chance to pick up tips from some of the Four Steps scheme's alumni including success stories:

- Cre-Namic, whose expected turnover in their first year of trading is £400,000
- Meade TKD, who have won funding from top investment bank Investec, and
- Empressive Studios, who have played recording host to a number of reggae musicians.

Paula Hines, Community Development Manager said "The residents' response to the Four Steps scheme has been fantastic. The 21 businesses we've guided over the past 18 months provide an excellent example to others in the community, and we hope that it spurs them on to kick-start their own employment opportunities"

If you are a Woodberry Down resident and would like to find out more, visit: www.genesisha.org.uk



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Physical Education (PE)

Sports Boys / Girls of the Year 2011-2012

At the annual Prize-Giving event, the PE department awarded trophies to the top sports people for the work achieved in the previous year. This year the honour was given to Semmae Fenton and Dylan Rhooms (Year 8 prizes) and Sade Carter-Cox and Soulaiman Osei-Bonsu (Year 7 prizes).

All four have represented the academy in several sports and showed not only a high level of skill but good sportsmanship throughout. They have excelled in PE lessons, displaying outstanding work, combined with an 'I can attitude'. Many congratulations!
PE Team.

I feel very proud of my achievement. It felt so great knowing that there was so many individuals still I was chosen for one of the greatest awards I have ever achieved in sport. The feeling was very sensational and I'm sure anyone else in my position would have felt the same. Semmae Fenton



Under 15 Football: London Cup

The squad is a mixture of Year 8 and 9 students playing together to form the under 15 girl's football team. We participate in the Peter Hill Cup and are currently into the third round. We will be playing against Phoenix High, in Shepherds Bush next and if we win we will be in the quarter finals! To get this far we played some tough matches but enjoyed our recent 5-1 win over Bacons College in Southwark) All members of the team played really well especially Semmae, Sade, and Kahirah.

Tobi Shokan, Year 8



Netball So Far...

Following last year's very successful netball season aspirations for this year were high. Year 9 opened the season with three victories, beating Clapton, Cardinal Pole and Our Lady's. At present they have only lost to last year's champions, City Academy. Year 7s and 8s have also made a positive start, both winning two out of their three opening games. With lots more games left this season all teams are hoping to finish in the top three places in the league.



Hackney 6-a-side Football Tournament

The Year 9 and the Year 7 Football Teams have been representing the school in the Hackney 6-A-Side league. The teams play every Monday at Haggerston Astroturf.

The Year7 A and B teams lost a few matches at first but after we started practicing more we starting winning. Recently we have beaten Petchey and Mossbourne.

The Year 9 team have been playing together longer so have been doing very well in the league. So far the Year 9 team has only lost once to Bridge Academy beating teams such as Cardinal Pole and City Academy.

Every time we practice we always gets better which means that we are now better at, defending, passing and shooting. The tournament will continue until February next year and we hope that you will wish us luck so that we can keep on winning.

Khalia Reid (B Team Captain), Year 7

Cross Country

On Monday 15th October Skinners' Academy took part in the annual Hackney Schools Cross country, where over 130 students were competing across the marshes.

There were excellent team performances by Skinners' students and special mention must go to Kaarlo-Jay Wicks finishing 1st of Year 7 competitors as well as to Kwame Batchelor-Anokye who placed 4th and Kane Elkin, 5th. Year 8 also performed well with Eren Kinali in 4th, Soulaiman Osei-Bonsu in 5th and Atlas Turl in 6th place. Final congratulations go to our Year 9 students -Dylan Rhooms who placed 2nd and Laolu Salvador in 3rd.

Indoor Year 7 Athletics

Over the past few weeks 12 Year 7 students have been representing Skinners' Academy in The Hackney Indoor Athletics Championships at Urswick School. The Year 7 students have been competing in a number of Track and Field events such as, Shot Put, Triple Jump, Speed Bounce and individual and relay races. The Skinners' students have worked hard to compete against eight Hackney Schools for the title of the Championship earning themselves some well-deserved 1st place positions with some outstanding performances including:

1st place	Girls Year 7 relay team 4-lap run	Holly Davison , Kapryce Ellis, Evangeline Appiah-Nuamah, Khalia Reid
1st place	4-lap run	Kwame Batchelor-Anokye
1st place	8-lap run	Kaarlo-Jay Wicks
2nd place	Triple Jump	Khalia Reid
2nd place	Shot Put	Frances Antwi

At present the Skinners' team are in third place and are awaiting the final results.

Personal, Social & Health Education

PSHE at Skinners' Academy

Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) is an essential part of learning within the Academy. In their time at Skinners' Academy, students will all gain insight into the importance of personal wellbeing - including healthy lifestyles, personal identities, relationships and diversity; economic wellbeing and financial capability - including career and employability matters, self-development, enterprise and financial capability.

On 4 December, students throughout the Academy participated in a PSHE drop down day and focused on issues mentioned above. See here for some of the Anti-Smoking posters produced by Year 9s and 6th formers on the day.



National Anti-Bullying Week

At Skinners' Academy, students and teachers have been talking about bullying, such as cyber, physically, socially and verbally. Bullying can happen anywhere. It can happen on the internet, text messaging, in and out of school or with words.

What can you do to avoid bullying?

- Look at the bully in the eye and tell them to stop. Remember: physical violence is not an option, although you can try to stand up for yourself.
- If speaking up seems too hard or not safe, walk away and stay away.
- Stay away from places where bullying happens.
- Surround yourself with friends. The bully finds it harder to make any contact with you.

What should you do if you see someone being bullied?

If you see bullying, do not just stand by and watch the victim suffer in silence. Stand up for them.

- Talk to a parent, teacher, or another adult you trust. Adults need to know when bad things happen so they can help.
- Be friendly and comforting to the person being bullied. Show them that you care.

Lisa Hoang, Year 8