

July 2013

Summer Term
Issue 08

Skinner's'
academy



academy newsletter



It has been a pleasure to be Principal of the Academy, to be there for its inception, and to lead the staff into making the Academy such a vibrant and flourishing place to learn. Our predicated attainment levels for Year 7, 8 and 9 are on track. Year 9 students are currently on track to achieve our target of 70% 5 A*-C GCSEs with English and Maths - and they have two more years of KS4!

I have no doubt that a solid foundation has been laid ready for even greater success in the future when the first Year 11 GCSE examination results are announced in two years time.

In addition, Year 13 university applicants have been offered places so we eagerly await the A Level and BTEC results in August.

I have had the privilege of working with fantastic students, parents and an incredible team of staff and governors; I am sure that I will miss you all. I wish you every success and happiness for the future.

Have a safe and happy summer holiday and enjoy the sunshine!

Best wishes

Jenny Wilkins



Jenny Wilkins

Focus on Jenny Wilkins

After more than 15 years at Skinners', from January 1998 to August 2013 (first at The Skinners' Company's School for Girls and then Skinners' Academy), Principal Jenny Wilkins is moving on to new adventures. Her work in setting up and leading the academy to achieve outstanding attainment for the students is widely recognised. It's well known that Skinners' Academy aims to be a hub of the local community and is also worth recognising that Jenny herself has become a beacon of community cohesion (throughout Woodberry Down, Hackney, East London and beyond). She'll be missed by students, staff, parents and the community – and we all wish her the very best in her steps beyond Skinners' Academy.



““

Ms Wilkins has motivated me to improve and succeed. She has given me the potential to go further in my education. She is an outstanding Principal who I will greatly miss. Thank you for all your help and guidance.

Matthew Berry, Year 9

““

Ms Wilkins has helped me through some tight spots... she helped and believed in me. I'm going to miss her massively and she will always be on my list of my favourite people... Don't forget me Ms Wilkins.

Yomade Aileru, Year 9



“”

Ms Wilkins is always seeking the best opportunities for us and she never “boasts” about how she does it. She also never takes credit for the things she does for us. For example, she thought a student (me) deserved to attend The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Lunch. Despite all the changes my year group has been through since Year 7, she has always given us hope through the toughest times. She believes in each and every one of us. Skidders’ is what it is today all because of her and words aren’t enough to describe how much I appreciate everything she has done.

Samroz Tandel, Sixth Form
(Graduating from Skidders’ Academy this year)



“”

Ms Wilkins has surely made this seven year journey special by always giving us great opportunities to enhance our inter-personal skills and to engage in some serious networking outside of our Skidders’ environment. Through these opportunities, our confidence has strongly increased, and the encouragement provided by Ms Wilkins certainly made us overcome many barriers.

Juliana Volpato, Sixth Form
(Graduating from Skidders’ Academy this year)





Eurvoice: European Youth Parliament UK event

On 3rd May, I had the pleasure of accompanying five Year 9 students to a Eurvoice Forum at the Houses of Parliament. Students from all over London and two schools from Paris met to discuss and debate issues such as university tuition fees, unemployment and Britain's role in Europe. Skinners' students took an active role in the discussions and contributed significantly to the large debate at the end of the session. After this, students received a tour of the Houses of Parliament which allowed us to see the magnificent Westminster Hall, as well as the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Miss Merton



Cambridge University Visit

On Friday 7th June, 18 students including myself were lucky enough to be invited to a gifted and talented trip to Cambridge University. We took the train and when we arrived at Clare College I was amazed! First of all, it was enormous and had a beautiful river where you could punt. The schools liaison officer and Cambridge graduate Ruth showed us around. There was a large dining hall where the students could eat and an immaculate garden that was pruned regularly by a devoted gardener. We ate, and later we walked to Jesus College, which was amazing as well, but in my opinion Clare College was nicer because its architecture looked finer. In Jesus College a graduate called Brendan showed us around. There was a large Chapel, where we heard a talented Organist, and there was a huge field, for students to play sport in. We were told that once there were some huge metal dinosaur sculptures on that field, but not anymore.

To be honest I thought that both colleges were absolutely stunning and I thought I would like to study there.

Stanley Harrison, Year 7



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening 2013

On Tuesday 21 May, all parents/carers of our Year 8 students were invited to Skinners' Academy for an information evening regarding curriculum options for Key Stage 4. Quite uniquely, at Skinners' Academy we begin the KS4 curriculum from Year 9, allowing students an extra year of study in their chosen subjects to ensure they are fully prepared for their GCSE examinations.

During the evening, parents had the opportunity to find out more about the structure of the curriculum – from Ms Wilkins (Principal) and Mr Grice (Vice Principal); and more about the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) available to all students at Skinners' Academy (especially in the context of GCSE options) from Mrs Visram (Career development Co-ordinator). It was emphasised to audiences that age 13 isn't too early to start thinking about potential career direction and students were encouraged to start being self-aware and notice what subjects they excel in, areas and topics they are passionate about and what skills are emerging through their academics and extracurricular activities... and consider how these may impact the types of careers they might pursue – and more immediately, the GCSE subjects they choose. They were also reminded that they have access to the Jobs Explorer Database (JED) – student-friendly, well-researched, jobs information software that all students (and parents) can access via the VLE.

In addition to the presentations, students, parents and carers had the opportunity to speak to each department offering GCSE subject options from Year 9. This comprised stalls and information from teachers of Art, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Business, Economics, ICT, PE, Health and Social Care, Design & Technology and more. Students and parents were also encouraged to speak to the independent careers advisor in attendance from Hackney Prospects (formerly Connexions). See below for some photos highlighting different elements of the event.

The deadline for submitting options forms was Monday 3 June and students will have their options confirmed at the end of the academic year.





Higher Education, Higher Aspirations Week



Skinners'
academy

HIGHER EDUCATION, HIGHER ASPIRATIONS WEEK

(For all Skinners' students)

What do you know about university?

Want to find out about universities
across the country?

Interested in hearing from professionals who can tell you how
going to university impacted their career path?

We're having a university focused week from **Monday 8 – Friday 12 July**
featuring:



“”

The Into University Leadership
workshop was educational and
expanded my skills for the future.

Adewa Alaketu, Year 9

“”

I really enjoyed the talk and definitely
want to go to university.

Kelvin Berisha, Year 7

Skinners' students set their sights on the future

In July, Skinners' Academy held its first Higher Education, Higher Aspirations Week – a week designed to encourage all students at the academy to access information about university and higher education.

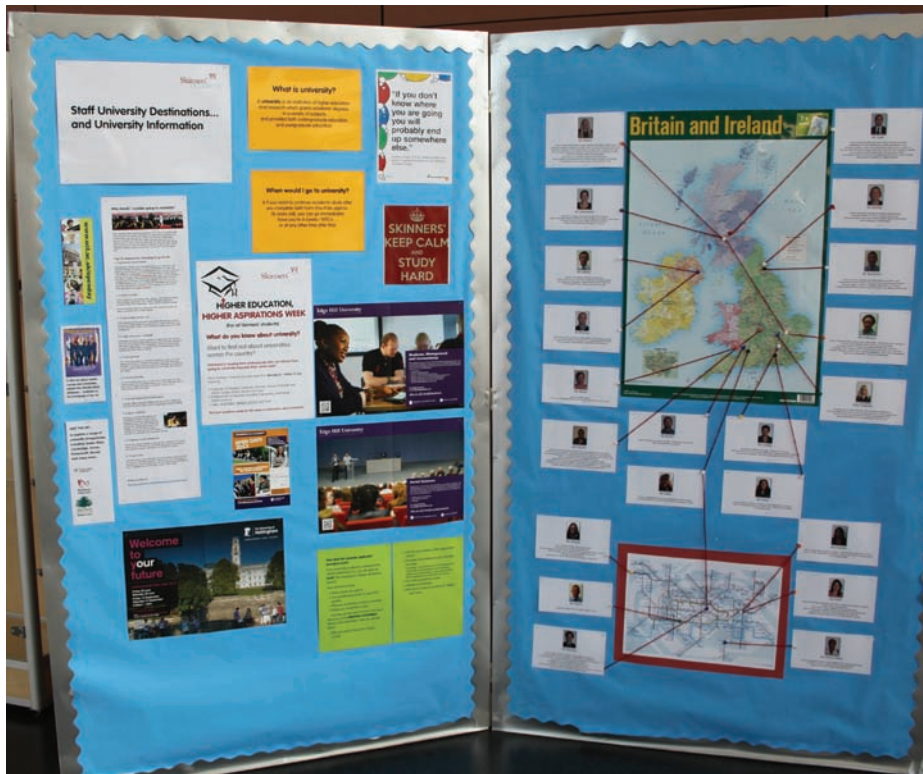
Encouraging our students to access information of this nature is not only an important part of the Gifted & Talented agenda but also the whole school Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme where we believe that it is important to equip our students with skills and information needed to help them aim high and positively set goals for their future.

From 8th – 12th July, students participated in assemblies, advisory quizzes, talks and workshops – featuring organisations and individuals such as:

- Oxford University
- Into University
- UCL Target Medicine
- University of Surrey
- Brunel University
- University of East London
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS – University of London)
- Crispin Bonham Carter – actor and director
- Aziz Mahdi – Relationship Manager from Standard Chartered Bank
- Christina Eagle from Bloomberg
- Vince Pizzoni – Engineer from Preng & Associates
- Pauline Mason – BBC Journalist
- Annie Moore – Freelance TV and Film producer
- A selection of former sixth form students

In addition, each advisory group participated in debates, geography and literacy tasks – all related to universities and careers and students were encouraged to ask members of staff about their experience of university.

The main message to all students was “It’s never too early to start thinking about your future” and responses from students suggest that our first Higher Education, Higher Aspirations Week was a success. Thanks to Ms Merton and Mr Rafferty for organising it.



“”

It was interesting to meet Rob (from Brunel) and hear about university. I didn't realise that you could move away from home to go to university – it sounds really fun.

Osbert Barnieh, Year 7



“”

The Higher Education, Higher Aspirations Week really got me thinking about my future and what I want to do when I leave Skinners'. I went to the medical workshop and it showed me how much work has to be done in order to achieve your goals. I already knew that I wanted to go to university but now, because of the workshops, I am also looking forward to it!!

Irem Yesildag, Year 9



“”

The UCL workshop was very inspiring and motivational. It was very useful as I aspire to become a doctor. It made me realise how tough it is to be able to become a doctor and go to medical school, hence I have to work beyond my limitations.

Hanan Guthmy, Year 9

“”

It was a pleasure to visit Skinners' Academy and meet such engaged and enthusiastic students.
Rob - 2nd Year student at Brunel University





Business & Enterprise



An Evening of Enterprise Excellence

On Tuesday 18 June, a selection of Skinners' Academy students who participated in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge were invited to an evening with members of the business and innovation community.

Held at Norton Rose, a global legal practice in the City, this event represented a truly unique and historic opportunity for leading entrepreneurs and business leaders - as well as two lucky schools, including Skinners' Academy - to listen to a stage interview with Lord Noon Kt, MBE about his life and business experience/ lessons and to hear a speech and engage in an open Q&A with Chuka Umunna MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

Skinners' Academy was represented by Year 9 students Yomade, Mehmet K, Tolu, Esin and Conrad – who were accompanied by Ms K (our Business Community Links Co-ordinator) and Saira Sadique from Business in the Community.

During the event, Mehmet stood up, introduced the Academy and stated that they took part in the Mosaic enterprise challenge. Yomade asked Chuka Umunna MP the following question: "During the Enterprise challenge we were taught and able to develop a range of enterprise skills? Which top 3 enterprise skills do you think is vital to have when setting up your own business?"

To date, our Year 9 Business and Economics students who have participated in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge have gained access and inspiration from a variety of business mentors and we look forward to continued participation in this initiative.

Founded by HRH The Prince of Wales, Mosaic's mentoring programme creates enterprising opportunities for young people. The programme is delivered by volunteers and lifts the aspirations of young people and closes the gap between aspirations and their attainment. By linking young people with inspirational role models in this way, the programme boosts young people's confidence, self-efficacy and long-term employability.

Ms Kurtuldu

“”

It was a very interesting event. The other school was well-prepared and they asked some good questions. I was very interested and motivated by the words of Chuka Umunna as he seemed to have a lot in common with my beliefs. His dedication inspired me. Then I asked my question and he asked what I thought and I talked about determination, risk-taking and confidence. He laughed and told me I'd go far, which made me feel a little important.

Yomade Aileru, Year 9



mosaic
the power of positive thinking



House of Commons Visit

On Tuesday 2nd July 2013, four Year 8 and four Year 9 female students were invited to the House of Commons to attend a special presentation led by female MPs on 'How to break into power when you are different from the Majority'

The evening was led by leading parliamentarians – Angela Eagle MP (Shadow Leader of the House of Commons) and Jo Swinson MP (Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and Minister for Women and Equalities in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport).

The event was organised by Apax Mosaic. Founded by HRH The Prince of Wales Apax Mosaic runs various mentoring programmes which create enterprising opportunities for young people. The programme is delivered by volunteers and aims to lift aspirations of young people, partly by linking young people with inspirational role models.

This event represented a fantastic opportunity for young females from across the UK to learn from inspirational parliamentarians about the attributes required to break into power when you are different from the majority and succeed in politics.



“ ”

Listening to powerful female MPs in Parliament was motivating. They were great role models.

Jaden Hope, Year 9

“ ”

The House of Commons event was really inspirational and I was extremely excited to take part. Listening and speaking to the politicians in power felt empowering and motivating.

Tolu Adisa, Year 9

Notice Corner

This Summer you can...

This summer: Make a difference and gain some volunteering and work experience through CSV Young Hackney. They are looking for 13-25 year olds to get involved in projects which can build your confidence and self esteem, boost your career options and more.

For more information, contact a member of the team on 02085104900 or younghackney@csv.org.uk

POSITIVE FUTURES

POSITIVE FUTURES is a youth volunteering project looking to recruit young people aged 13-25 years old to get involved in volunteering across the borough of Hackney.

Why volunteer?

- Build your confidence and self esteem
- Boost your career options, add to your CV
- Make a difference in your local community
- Meet new friends and have fun

EXAM RESULTS

This summer, public examination results are available to our students on the dates and times below:

GCE (i.e. A and AS Levels)
Thursday 15 August - 10am

GCSEs
Thursday 22 August - 10am



Queen Elizabeth Park Project

The Olympic Park Legacy Company launched a competition to design two new key areas in the future Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. A group of 25 Year 9 students have been participating in the project which is organised by The London Legacy Development Corporation, Groundwork London, CBS Outdoors Ltd and Enabling Enterprise. Over the last 6 months students have been using their innovation skills to come up with enterprising ideas to attract young people to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

In preparation for the final students were invited to visit CBS Outdoors offices where they had the opportunity to listen to some inspirational speakers about their jobs in CBS. Students learned about the different policies and marketing techniques involved in organising a project. Our students also had an opportunity to practice their pitch and presentation



In addition five students were invited to the well-known Dragons Den Entrepreneur James Caan's office Hamilton Bradshaw in Mayfair (pictured above). Students had the opportunity to meet James Caan and practice their presentation in front of him. He gave the group tips and ideas on how to improve their presentation techniques to the judges.

Remembering Olivia Rae Wicks...



Remembering Olivia

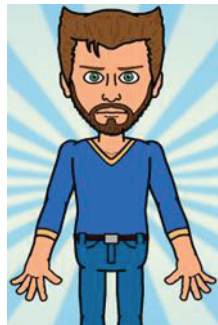
A Year 9 Memorial Service was held on Monday 22 July in memory of our Year 9 student Olivia Rae Wicks who sadly passed away on Wednesday 26 June.

Students prepared and planned a service dedicating songs and poems to Olivia's memory and in addition, Skinners' Academy is selling pink ribbons to help raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. Once we have received all donations we will forward to the Teenage Cancer Trust in Olivia's memory.

An award will be given every Prize-Giving called "The Olivia Rae Wicks Prize for Most Improved Student Attainment of the Year" in Olivia's memory. Students are also consulting on other ways of keeping Olivia close to our hearts.



ICT

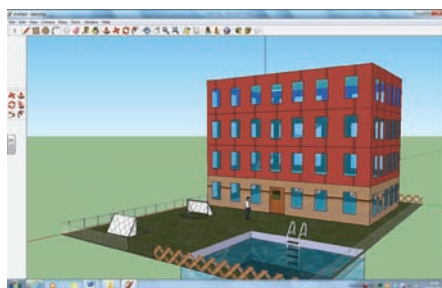
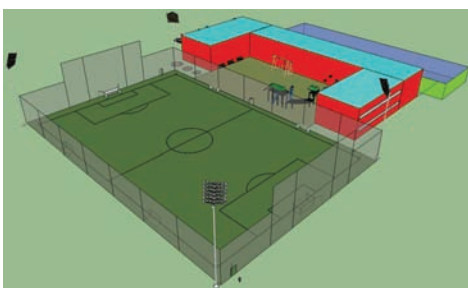
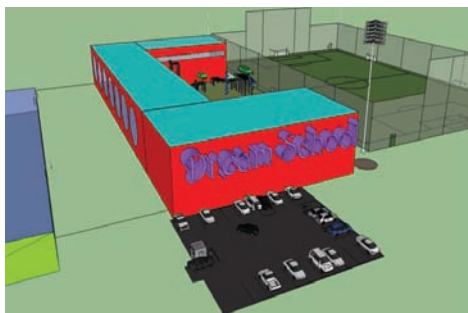


Virtual Reality in ICT

Students in Year 8 have been given the opportunity to study a unit which helps them to understand the concept of Virtual Reality. They have been developing their skills and use ICT to turn their ideas into visual representations using computer technology. The Virtual Reality unit has enabled pupils to:

- Understand the term 'Virtual Reality'
- Identify the uses of virtual reality in the real world
- Understand the concept of an Avatar
- Explore and understand the impacts of the use of virtual reality in society (commercial and personal leisure).
- Use planning and development tools to create a virtual representation of a 'dream school'
- Assess the benefits and limitations of using virtual models.

Students have developed a good understanding and appreciation for the process of designing and creating their own Avatars using online technology. They have also pushed their level of creativity and ICT skills to design and create their own virtual dream school. The range of 'dream school' designs created has really showcased the level of imagination of our ICT pupils.



“”

I really liked this unit because I got to be creative and it was challenging to try and make up my mind on my ideas. I got to use my imagination.

Daisie Spiteri, Year 8

“”

I really enjoyed this unit because we got to design creatively and independently. Also I got to use architectural skills.

Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo, Year 8

Task 2 Impacts of VR in: A Movie

Good impacts:

- It is entertainment for the people who are going to watch the film.
- It is easier than having to pile loads of costumes and make-up on the actors.
- It creates a better affect on the audience.
- It saves money.
- It is safer to use virtual reality, instead of actors having to risk hurting themselves for the movie.

Bad Impacts:

- You will have to work around the problems your going to face on the way.
- The design you want might not work on the actors.
- It will take a long time to set everything up before everyone gets to the set.
- The audience might not be convinced it looks good enough.
- Its going to take longer for the film to be made so they can design the faces, characters and setting.



Word Fest (Literary Festival) 2013

Meeting Malorie Blackman

On Tuesday 2nd July, we were delighted to welcome the new Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman to Skinners' Academy. She was invited to come by the Royal Society of Literature who work in partnership with First Story, the creative writing charity a group of Year 9 students have been working with this year. Over 150 students from Skinners' and 30 students from other Hackney schools attended a brilliant talk given by Malorie about her writing career and then had the chance to ask questions. Malorie's talk was inspirational. Students and staff alike were blown away by her enthusiasm, energy and humour. A highlight for many was getting the chance to meet Malorie and have a book signed by her.

Ms Merton



“”

When Malorie Blackman came to the school I was amazed by her vast amounts of children's books and novels. She explained in detail what her life as an author was like and even kindly signed our books - like Noble Conflict, a personal favourite.

Wassim Choudhury, Year 9

“”

I thought that Malorie Blackman was a cool and funny person. I like the way how she wrote about how racism is bad. Khalia Reid, Year 7

Celebrating Word Fest 2013

In celebration of Malorie Blackman's visit to Skinners' Academy we decided to launch our first ever Literary Festival entitled Word Fest 2013. As well as Malorie Blackman's visit we hosted a number of events during lunchtime and in class to celebrate reading and books in all its forms. Demonstrating the wide reach of books and reading, Word Fest activities were held in a range of subjects, such as Science where they looked at science fiction, and Art where students looked at illustration as narrative through Shaun Tan's *The Arrival*. As Word Fest and its activities were so popular we hope to run it every year in the future! For now however, you can see a snapshot of some of the activities that took place below

Word Count Competition

To celebrate our Literary Festival we ran a competition to see who could read the most words in a week. Our top ten readers were taken to Waterstones bookstore and allowed to pick a book for themselves and one for the library. Congratulations to our winners Shafiq Raufi, Elenora Sorodoc, Sumaiyah Ahmed, Sephora Luyindula, Maisha Miah, Ebru Kulekci, Derya Yucel, Melka Nezcic, Dogancan Aydemir and Rahmah Lunat.



Storyteller Nell Phoenix

On Wednesday 3rd July, professional Storyteller Nell Phoenix visited and ran two sessions with our students, explaining the history and tradition behind oral storytelling and how it passes down legends and cultural identity from generation to generation. Students were treated to a variety of energetically acted out stories in which they were able to participate. From tales of survival in the Amazon to a mathematically baffling camel conundrum, Nell's stories entertained and educated everyone lucky enough to hear her.

Ms Phillips

“““

I really liked Nell's visit. She told gruesome stories and made them seem real.

Peace Akintoye-Fatukasi, Year 7

Manga Workshop

To celebrate graphic novels and their place in encouraging reading, graphic novelist Karen Rubins visited Skinners' to run several workshops with students from all year levels. Ms Rubins is the award-winning author of many graphic novels and was the Comic Artist in Residence at the V&A in 2009. During her sessions she worked with students to examine how characters are constructed and demonstrated drawing technique and developing narrative.



Scratch Night

On Thursday 4th July, we held our first ever Scratch Night after school in the Learning Resource Centre. Students and staff were asked to come along and bring something they had created, stories, poems, anything they wanted to share. After a nervous start we were treated to writing of amazing quality and variety from poems about horses and courage to stories of post-apocalyptic horror. Students were enthusiastic and wonderfully supportive of each other, encouraging everyone to share their creations. By the time the session finished it was universally decided that we will aim to run Scratch Night at least once a term in the future!

Ms Philipps





English

“”

Meeting the Duchess of Cornwall was an amazing experience. The whole event was so prestigious, and I felt so special. To have the honour of a life time and hold a conversation with royalty was something so great words do not begin to describe. I hold great esteem for the organization that had enabled all this to happen. First Story has helped my writing style develop and my writing is becoming so much more than just words, and for that I am eternally grateful.

Sabah Hussein, Year 9

First Story Anniversary

Skinners' Academy has been fortunate to be working with the creative writing charity First Story for the first time this year and was lucky enough to receive a very special invitation to First Story's Fifth Anniversary event. Ms Wilkins, Miss Merton and Sabah received invitations to attend afternoon tea at Clarence House with HRH Duchess of Cornwall in April.

Miss Merton



Book Launch: Skinners' First Story Anthology

After 9 months of hard work, Year 9 students were finally presented with their printed and bound anthology of writing from this year's First Story sessions. The anthology, named 'The Story Circus', contains the work of 17 Year 9 students who have been attending workshops with Courttia Newland since October 2012. On Tuesday 16 July, students invited family, friends and staff along to their official book launch in the theatre and read their work aloud to an enthralled audience. The talent and enthusiasm of these students has been an inspiration to all involved and we are all very proud of their achievements.



Celebrating Jane Austen Day

Last year we celebrated the life of Charles Dickens and this year we decided to share our passion for Jane Austen. On Monday 8 July, students were treated to a range of activities based on the works of Jane Austen including writing exercises and designing book covers inspired by 'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies' and making Mr Darcy paper dolls. English teachers never miss an opportunity to dress up so taught their lessons in Regency costumes for the day.

A visiting poetry specialist was slightly surprised to be greeted by a gaggle of excited English teachers dressed as the famous Bennet sisters, Mr Darcy and Mr Collins – some of you might recognise this visitor as Crispin Bonham-Carter who played Mr Bingley in the BBC's famous adaptation of 'Pride and Prejudice'.



Maths

Junior Maths Challenge Success

On the morning of Thursday 25th April, 112 pupils from Years 7 and 8 sat the 2013 United Kingdom Mathematics Trust Junior Mathematics Challenge. The Junior Challenge is aimed at the top third of pupils in Years 7 and 8 and involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour under normal exam conditions.

The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. We are delighted with the number of certificates attained by our students this year.

Derek Nguyen achieved Best in School, Best in Year 8 and a gold certificate. Emer Sheffield achieved Best in Year for Year 7 alongside a silver certificate. Silver certificates were achieved by Year 8 pupil Yvana Tuladhar and Year 7 student Joseph Marino. Inan Sakar, Berfin Kama, Elif Sucu, Wiktoria Tomaszewska, Natalia Kosmala, Eren Kinali, Michael Booth-Gilbey and Michal Lisz from Year 8 and Calum Handovsky-Boyd, Rose Pepperday, Aren Caton, Chloe Anang, Felix Brocklehurst, Zilan Kalay, Adil Hussain and Alexix Powell from Year 7 all achieved bronze certificates.

Well done to all those who participated and congratulations to those who received a prestigious certificate.

Ms Ottway



Congratulations

Congratulations to all students on their work throughout this academic year and special mention to our Top 10 boys and girls in Years 7, 8 and 9 (as listed below)

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 7 GIRLS

Emer Sheffield	7A3
Joy Onuba	7J2
Rose Pepperday	7J1
Umaimah Ashif	7H1
Molly Greaney	7A3
Summayah Hoque	7J1
Zakiya Mahmud	7H3
Keziah Malungu	7J2
Sude Yilmaz	7A3
Zilan Kalay	7H1

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 8 BOYS

Derek Nguyen	8H1
Armend Bajraktari	8J3
Soulaiman Osei-Bonsu	8H2
Samson Adeola	8H3
Morgan Charles	8A1
Matthew Daniel	8H2
Mustafa Kulekci	8H1
Samuel Goldsmith	8J1
Michael Booth-Gilbey	8H1
Erim Bulut	8J3

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 9 GIRLS

Amel Mire	9A2
Rebecca Greaney	9H2
Connacht Sheffield	9H2
Leandra Logie-Clyne	9A2
Jaden Hope	9A2
Esin Akdogan	9A3
Daniella Cano	9H1
Aafreen Jaffer	9A1
Irem Yesildag	9H3
Sabah Hussein	9H3

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 7 BOYS

Felix Brocklehurst	7A1
Joseph Merino Barros	7A1
Zacharias Dowding	7J2
Argtim Ibisi	7J2
Alexix Powell	7H2
Stanley Harrison	7H1
Kane Elkin	7A1
Dylan Ball	7H3
Miles Broomfield	7A3
Giorgi Pichkhaia	7A1

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 8 GIRLS

Berfin Kama	8H3
Aishah Islam	8A3
Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo	8H2
Hanan Guthmy	8H1
Judith Appiah-Nuamah	8J3
Daisie Spiteri	8A1
Tyreeka Williams	8A3
Dhara Damania	8J1
Wiktoria Tomaszewska	8A1
Anna Pietnicka	8J3

TOP TEN ACHIEVERS YEAR 9 BOYS

Khalid Raufi	9A1
Kelell Davison-Thomas	9J1
Michael Odetola	9H2
Yomade Aileru	9J3
Alish Dortgoz	9J3
Conrad Bernard	9H1
Ronnie O'Connor	9A2
Brando Williams	9A1
Murat Apat	9J1
Juan Canaveral Morales	9H1

English as a Second Language

Museum Excursion

On Monday 13 May, the Language Induction Group enjoyed a trip to a selection of museums in South Kensington including the V&A, Natural History and Science Museum.

This group was created to introduce new students, who recently moved to the UK, to their new city. It has also enabled students to use their English skills in situations outside school. The group has been running since November, with the main aim being to boost English language skills of the students who have just started their education in England.

On the trip, the students were amazed by the V&A's collection of fashion and jewellery and all agreed that the dinosaur skeleton in the Natural History Museum was breath-taking. The students enjoyed exploring their own mind and playing interactive games in the "Who am I?" exhibition in Science Museum. Finally the group had lunch in Kensington Gardens – a lovely trip for this group who are getting to know London better and better.

Ms Jargot



National Gallery and London Aquarium Experience

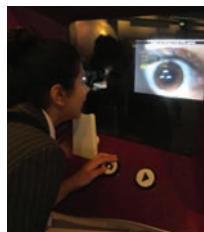
In July the Language Induction Group had an opportunity to visit National Gallery and see some of the finest paintings by Monet, Degas and Van Gogh. The huge gallery building seemed to be very vibrant, full of art enthusiasts, despite it being quite early on a Monday morning.

We spent some time analysing some of the pieces of art including the famous painting by Holbein, The Ambassadors, with the distorted image of a human skull.

A completely different and an even busier attraction we visited in the afternoon was London Aquarium. With its 500 species of fish and sea creatures from all of the oceans, it is a real carnival of colours and beauty of the sea life. The richness of the fabulous colours and variety of shapes and sizes made us constantly amazed and surprised. We could take pleasure in looking at fluorescent jellyfish, impressive sharks, scary crocodiles and even the cute little penguins.

As it was a very hot day, some of the students decided to "cool down" and experience a hurricane in a special hurricane simulator machine. It did the trick!

After we had our lunch by the River Thames, we had a relaxing stroll up to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Finally, we crossed the Thames walking on the Millennium Bridge and had a glimpse at some of the stunning buildings before we reached the tube station and returned to school.



“ ”

I liked the London Aquarium, particularly the sharks with their sharp teeth! Igor Lewicki, Year 8



Science

“”

I feel that the summer school I attended has helped me improve a variety of skills. I was shown how to control my hand to make silicon moulds, taught why teeth are so hard to destroy, and heard explanations about how the type of words someone uses can change a certain mind set. It is a scheme I look forward to continuing.

Sabah Hussein, Year 9

The Sound of Science

In a Year 7 Science lesson on 'Sound', students conducted a range of experiments. The class moved around stations and used materials such as a hanger and a string, a balloon, a slinky and a rope. Students were able to see that sound energy travels in waves and hear the vibrations of a sound wave through the different objects.

Ms Sleiman

Dentistry Summer School: Queen Mary University

Skinners' Academy has been selected to take part in a programme of events to encourage students to study dentistry at university.

In collaboration with The London and Bart's School of Medicine and Dentistry, four Year 9 students were accompanied by Ms. Khanam to Queen Mary University to take part in series of Summer School activities over two days, on 3 & 4 June. Each student has been paired with an undergraduate mentor to work with until they are in Year 11 and students will return to Queen Mary University next year to for more activities.



Design & Technology

Governor Visit

Eight of our top Year 7 students – Molly, Alexix, Gokcen, Nur, Aren, Felix, Klude and Tajai - were selected to take part in a special lesson to show their Design & Technology skills to visiting Chair of Governors, Rt. Hon. the Earl of Malmesbury.

The students had a great time making shortbread and fairy cakes and the governor also had a great time decorating his own shortbread biscuit.

Mr Williams



Hackney Technology and Science Day

On Thursday 27th June, 12 Gifted & Talented students from Science and Design and Technology took part in an annual challenge day at BSix college.

The Challenge Day aimed to increase interest in STEM subjects by working together in mixed-school teams. Within this format, the young people participating also develop social skills useful for life beyond school. Students took part in activities such as designing, building and racing electric cars, construction of the strongest bridge, building robotics using electronics, and learning about forensics by completing an E-FIT facial reconstruction of their teachers.

All the students really enjoyed the day and put a lot of effort into each challenge but a special well done goes to Armend Bajraktari, Elif Sucu and Mustafa Kulekci who all won their challenges and were presented with individual certificates and plaques by Deputy Lieutenant Colonel Roderick Morriss.

Ms Greco-Addo



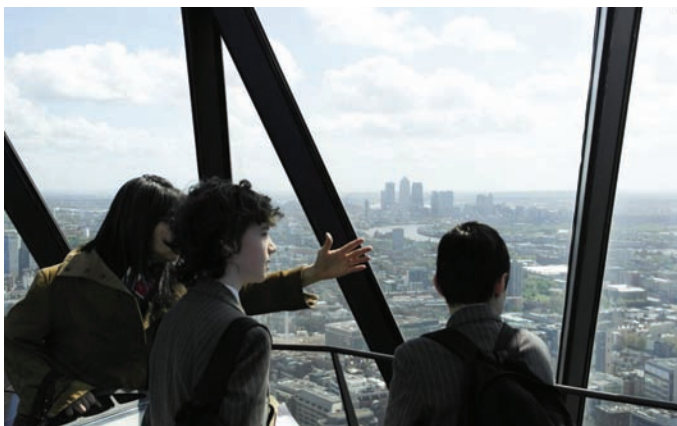
Art

Year 7 G&T Sculpture in the City Workshop

This term the Year 7 G&T students have continued their Sculpture in the City project by visiting the Gherkin and creating panoramic drawings of the London skyline. The top of the Gherkin became the classroom for the morning and the views were inspirational. This was followed by an exploration of space between the building surrounding Leadenhall Market, which involved recording the people's use of the space and discussing how art work could transform the interaction between pedestrian and building.

During the most recent workshop the students recorded the same spaces, this time with large installation sculptures in those spaces. For the last workshop the students will be creating viewing structures for members of the public to help view the sculptures from a range of angles and viewpoints.

Mr Devlin



““

Going to the top of the Gherkin was really exciting and we could see all of London which was amazing.

““

I really enjoyed climbing all over the sculptures as in galleries you can't always interact with the art work.

““

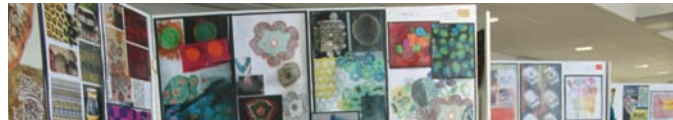
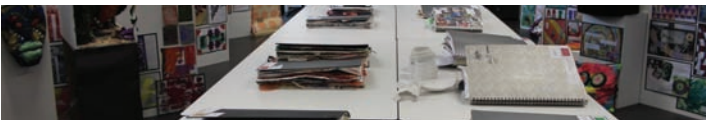
The workshops have made me think about how art can be used in public places to make life more interesting.





A-Level Exhibition Highlights

Please see here for some of the highlights from this year's A-Level art exhibition



TES Schools Award recognition

The TES Schools Awards celebrate those schools, individuals and teams whose dedication, innovation, and hard work are making a real difference to their pupils and their communities.

This year, one of our sixth formers, Philippa McIntosh had the quality of her creative work praised as she was shortlisted for an award and this is what she said of the experience:

"I took part in a competition with 'I Am Creative', an organisation that allows you to work on live creative briefs from some of the top brands in the UK. The brief required me to create a campaign to promote Digital Design & Technology in schools. This year I Am Creative is sponsoring the TES Creative. I created three posters and a stock motion video to promote Traditional 3D Printing as a form of Digital Design and Technology. The stock motion video shows me using a glue gun to create a tree and a high heel shoe using the process of layering. My final outcomes for this brief were successful in promoting Digital Design and Technology as I was one of four to be shortlisted out of several other schools nationwide for the final.

I attended the awards ceremony at the Park Plaza hotel in London. The 'TES Schools Awards' is a major event and I was very privileged to be a part of something so great. I did not win but was more than delighted to be shortlisted and come in the top three which was a brilliant achievement. The event was amazing. It was very classy and formal. The awards were presented by a talented comedian Dara Ó' Briain who also showcased his talent. This was a major high for me. Many thanks to Mr Barton and Ms Abubakr for all their help and support



Music

Year 8 Band Skills Performance

After a fantastic concert back in the spring, Year 8 returned bigger and better for another performance showcasing their talent. All of the work performed this evening was composed by students themselves and the combination of rock, pop and hip-hop made for an entertaining evening. All of the performers were fantastic and a special mention goes to Robyn Barrett for the improvement she showed on the day. Well done Year 8!

Mr Slater



Steel Pans perform at Amos Bursary Fundraising Dinner

The steel pans groups performed at The Grange Tower Hill Hotel for invited guests at a fundraising dinner celebrating the work of the Amos Bursary (a charity established to assist academically able British young men; from inner city schools with family connections to Africa and the Caribbean). Guests were charmed by the students who represented the academy absolutely brilliantly. The bands performed a number of classic songs from their repertoire and a few new tunes as well. It is always a pleasure to hear music performed by such energetic and skilful musicians – good job everyone!



“ ”

I really enjoyed the instrumentals and the vocal numbers. Everybody worked really hard.

Javaughn Eccleston, Year 8

“ ”

What a great experience – and we got to meet Patrick from Eastenders!

Diane Ejimadu, Year 9

Year 8's Got Talent

Year 8 is certainly a gifted year group and this was their chance to put their talents to the test. From dancing to rapping to instrumental skills there was much on show here. Our invited panel of judges did an excellent job and the winner will be revealed during the last week of term! Year 8 have had a great year musically and we look forward to working with many of you again next year as GCSE music students...

Year 7 Concert

The first of this summer's end of term concerts, this performance showcased the considerable talents of our year 7 students. Samba bands, strings, steel pans, soloists and the jazz band entertained students, parents and staff. It was particularly good to see some new faces on the stage this term and I look forward to hearing more from all of these students in the months and years to come. Keep it up Year 7!

Mr Slater



“ ”

It was a bit scary performing to such a big audience but I still enjoyed it and I thought I performed really well.

Shaila Miguel, Year 7

Expressive Arts

Barbican Box 2013

This is the second year that Skinners' Academy has taken part in the Barbican Box project. The students worked in collaboration with professional actors from Theatre de Complicite to create a piece of drama based on the "box" provided by the project leaders from the Barbican Centre. Our "box" this year was a suitcase in which we found neatly folded clothes, a map of San Diego, a pair of knitted bootees, a sweetheart brooch, a left hand glove, some information about Phantom Limb Pain and a note card wishing a man, "Ron", well with his therapy.

Ron became the main character of our play and the students explored who he was and what had happened to him in their drama classes and developed these ideas into a short play which they performed at the Barbican. See here for what a few of them said about the experience.

Ms Patterson



““

When taking part in the Barbican project, we learned a range of different skills. Taking part in this motivating experience was fun as well as educational. Along the way, we developed teamwork skills and the ability to work to a deadline. These skills are transferable and will benefit us in the future. I was excited as well as enthusiastic to perform in a theatre in which professionals perform. This has given me an insight on working in Drama. I'd love to do it again.

Tolu Adisa, Year 9



““

The Barbican Box project was a very good experience as it teaches you many things including team work, time management and what actors may have to go through if they wish to get into the industry of performing arts.

Salim Abdulwasie, Year 9

““

The idea of the Barbican Box project was a really good way for us to experience devising theatre from ideas and developing a story line from props. Being able to work with professional actors in rehearsal was an extraordinary experience and extremely beneficial for our play. We learnt new skills and what it's like to perform in a professional theatre, on a proper stage. Our day at the Barbican taught us about the schedules of actors on a daily basis and how a running theatre works, being able to perform there was an amazing event and will stay with us for a long time.

Connacht Sheffield, Year 9

Skinners' Takes to the Skies

A selection of our 6th formers win Inner City Gliding Scholarships

Earlier this year, Skinners' Academy Sixth Formers were presented with a unique opportunity... a chance to compete for a gliding scholarship – coordinated by a range of partners including The Air League Trust and British Airways. Huge congratulations to eight of our sixth formers who were successful in their application and will spend some weeks this summer learning how to fly. This unique experience has been made possible by the Air League. Andrew Perkins, Senior First Officer at British Airways describes the process to get to this stage, below:

“

There was an air of anticipation on 28th May as 15 sixth form students from Skinners' Academy Hackney arrived at the Waterside recruitment centre. This was the first time several had been that far west on the underground and all found the surroundings of BA HQ unlike anything they had seen before. One student commented “wow what a place, but it took over an hour on the tube, surely people don't do this every day?” The look of astonishment on her face when I said that many travelled for longer to work every day was a picture!

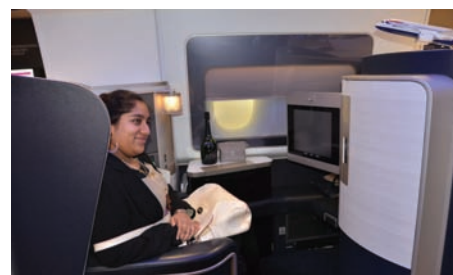
All had been selected by The Air League Trust to come for interview to win a two week gliding scholarship to be held this summer at London Gliding Club. These scholarships are intended not only to allow them the opportunity to learn to fly but to show these young people of what they are capable. Despite advertising previously across a diverse number of youth organisations and schools, there have almost never been any applications from urban young people. The Air League wanted to change this and working in partnership with Boeing and Linklaters they established a link with Skinners' Academy in Hackney earlier this year. When students learnt that the scholarships were just for them, The Air League was inundated with applications.

As everything evolved it became apparent what a unique opportunity this was. Most could not believe that we were showing an interest in them and offering the chance to do something they felt was completely out of their reach. The focus of this scheme has always been to use aviation as a tool to build inter-personal skills and self-confidence in young peoples' abilities.

Discussion with the school's Principal highlighted a desire to run a full selection process to expose the students to the processes involved in getting a job in a highly competitive market. This is where the partnership widened and the BA HR team offered their support and assistance. The process involved a 30-minute interview, a group exercise and written test to select eight successful candidates for a 2 week course to learn to glide, but also to give the students a real life insight into what is required to join a company such as BA. They also received a presentation on aviation career opportunities and a tour of the heritage centre and waterside. All the students without exception made a huge effort and it was obvious that the experience had made a lasting impression.

Involvement in the scheme has already opened the eyes of those from Skinners' Academy and we are certain the young people selected will benefit greatly from the scholarship. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by these young people from very diverse backgrounds has been remarkable. Several have expressed interest in BA apprenticeship and cabin crew schemes and I truly believe this demonstrates that giving someone support and self-belief can transform the contribution and part they can play in society.”

Andrew Perkins
Senior First Officer at British Airways



Congratulations on being selected:

Sevgi Akgoz

Farhin Mohmadarif

Mirela Gega

Roma Gajre

Zumrut Kaya

Melissa Pamuk

Agata Ciszewska

Kaltun Said

Modern Foreign Languages

Enriching day trip to France

On Tuesday, 4th June 2013 as part of the Enterprise and Enrichment day programme the MFL department took a group of students on a day trip to Boulogne, France. The main purpose of the visit was to enrich linguistic and cultural experiences, while also giving students the opportunity to witness and experience the internal dimension of enterprise in action.

Ms Grosman



Thank you Ms Marko...



38 years of service: Thank you Ms Marko

What do you say to someone who has been working for the same institution for 38 years! WOW! what an achievement; this accolade goes to Breda Marko, Assistant Vice Principal who was a former Head of History and Sociology and the Assistant Head at Skinners' Company's School for Girls and since September 2010 has been an Assistant Vice Principal in Skinners' Academy.

Breda has been teaching the Sixth Form Health & Social Care students for many years now and is responsible for the professional development of staff but particularly the NQTs (Newly Qualified Teachers)

In her own calm way she has taught her students and the NQT's to reach for great success.

She will be missed as a friend to all and a willing listener. We wish her every happiness as begins her well deserved retirement.

Ms Wilkins

38 years at Skinners'...

Main image shows Ms Marko in the 1990s.

Inset photo shows her Skinners' Academy staff photograph.

Congratulations and best wishes from all at Skinners'.

“”

Breda has been a fantastic team member and colleague - I can't even begin to imagine how many students and staff have passed through her hands and I wish her all the best for the next long phase in her life.” Ben Bazell, member of staff who's known Ms Marko since 1992!

Physical Education (P.E.)

Sporting Achievements

There have been a range of sporting achievements among our students this term and a snapshot of these successes is listed here. Congratulations!

- In June, Brando Williams was selected to represent Hackney at the London Athletic championships in the 100m.
- In addition Shaquele Lewis Frame was selected to represent Hackney at the London Youth Games 2013 in football.
- ... and a few of our students took part in the London Youth Games (see more information to the right).

London Youth Games

Europe's largest annual youth sports event, the London Youth Games took place in July and we're proud to share the good news that a number of Skinners' Academy students participated. Shaquele Lewis-Frame (Year 9) participated in the Hackney football team; Semmae Fenton (Year 9) participated in the Hackney Netball team which came 5th; Brando Williams (also Year 9) came 3rd in the 200m and Kane Elkin, one of our Year 7 students was part of the Hackney Tennis team that won bronze for Hackney at the London Youth Games at Crystal Palace. This event features thousands of competitors, 33 boroughs across London and this particular win represents the first tennis medal that Hackney has won in thirteen years... and all successes are to be commended. Congratulations

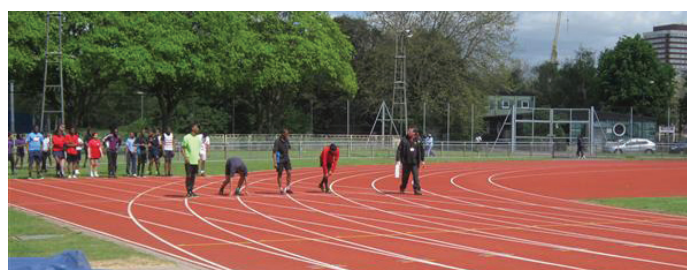


Hackney Borough Athletics Championships at Mile End Stadium

The Year 9 boys all competed well in the showery conditions at the Hackney Borough Athletics Championships held at Mile End Stadium.

There were outstanding performances from Joshua Agbagidi to win gold in the long jump, Ronnie O'Connor winning gold in the 300metres, and Brando Williams with silver in the 100metres. This was followed up by an excellent bronze medal in the 4 x 100 metres for Ronnie O'Connor, Brando Williams, Adam Akinlade and Owen Nwanebu.

Mr. Legge



Welcome to London: Hackney Athletic Championships Year 7 and 8

On Thursday 23 May, the Year 7 and 8 Athletics teams represented Skinners' Academy at Mile End Stadium to compete in the Hackney Athletics Championships. Overall the students worked well as a team and competed against eight other schools. Congratulations to all involved and a special mention to the following pupils who worked exceptionally hard to achieve the great results listed below:

1st	Holly Davison	100 metres
1st	Holly Davison	Triple jump
1st	Olivia Weston	Discus
1st	Kamara Martin	Discus
1st	Kahirah Marshall-McDavid	Long jump
1st	Peter Onuba	Shot Putt
1st	Tolunay Maden	High Jump
1st	Hamza Khan	Javelin
4th	Francesco Antwi	Shot Putt
4th	Evangeline Appiah	200 meters
4th	Atlas Turl	1500 meters
4th	Year 8 girls relay	



GB Athlete Visits Year 8

In June, Mr. Arthur arranged for one of his friends and training partners, Jahmal Germain to visit Skinners' and speak to his class about his journey to where he is today. Here is a snapshot of what he shared:

"My name is Jahmal Germain, I was born in Montserrat on 3rd July 1992. I am 20 years of age and have been training for the decathlon event for approximately two years. After having proudly served 3 years as a soldier in the British Army, I pursued my goal to become the next Decathlon Gold medallist in Great Britain. My talent and ability to perform within what is an extremely challenging and diverse discipline was made evident when after only 6 months of training, I was ranked within the UK top three.

I am currently working extremely hard towards representing the UK at the 2013 World Outdoor Athletics Championship, 2014 Commonwealth Games, 2015 World Championships, and the Brazil 2016 Olympic Games.

I am very passionate about my sport, and I possess a vast amount of natural ability which has been highlighted by Daley Thompson, Linford Christie, Greg Richards, Tony Jarrett and Tessa Sanderson, to name but a few. My present standing is that I have made it in the top three under 23 England Athletics Championships. Since then I have been assisted by the Tessa Sanderson Academy and Foundation who contribute towards my travel expenses and coaching fees.

Thank you for taking the time to read a little about my story

Yours faithfully,

Jahmal Germain



Physical Education (P.E.)

Sports Day 2013

Held in Finsbury Park, our annual Sports Day took place on a sunny day, 1st July and it was a spectacle enjoyed by all. The day involved a range of track and field events and in addition to some very sporty students and staff members, we were pleased to welcome GB runner Jahmal Germain who came along to support the event and challenge our own track star (Mr Arthur) to a race.

Congratulations to everyone who took part (competitors and supporters) and to Hunt for winning the Performance Shield, Judd for winning the Carnival Shield as well as Best Performing Team winners –Year 8 boys (Judd) and Year 9 girls (Hunt).

