

December 2011

Autumn Term
Issue 03

academy newsletter



Our students, parents and Governors celebrated the first Skinner's Academy Prizegiving in November this year. The prizes were presented by the Master of the Skinner's Company Mr Andrew Boggis Esq who focused on the origin of the Company which began in 1327 and the Company's tradition of supporting education across the sectors. The ceremony highlighted our student's achievements during the last year. The Sixth Form and Year 11 were praised for their excellent individual exam performances and all prizewinners including the Lower School received prizes for the Academy values of;

Friendship Respect Equality
Determination Inspiration
Courage Excellence

As you will read, we are starting to become an integral part of our community not just locally but nationally. Our parents have given us tremendous support, particularly the Parents' Forum. Recently parents returned to the classroom learning how to use and understand our ICT systems so that together we can monitor the progress of their children.

More of these parents training sessions will be held in the New Year.

As the end of the term draws close I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday. Best wishes.

Jenny Wilkins
Principal



Jenny Wilkins

The Skinners' Academy Adventure Begins

In September 2011, the whole of year 7 went on a fantastic journey to the Treejumpers centre in Kent. We all had a fantastic time joining in with all of the activities.

The whole year group bonded with each other and we all made friends with people we did not know before the trip.

On the first day of the trip, some of the students were afraid to talk to one another but after the trip, we all talk to each other now.

I think the two activities people were afraid to do was zipwire and trapeze. I think these were the scariest activities because they were both really high and some people were afraid of heights so it took some people a long time to come down from the top.

The easiest activity was roast bread on a stick in the woods and then we got to eat it.

I think everybody missed their own bed whilst they were on the trip because people complained about the white tents we slept in. It was really dark at night and there were tiny creepy crawlies that walked around.

We all had a great time and I think most of us would like to go to Treejumpers again

Kadisha Kaur Singh



“ ”

.....
Treejumpers was a great experience. There were a lot of fun activities and I made lots of friends

Chichi Iwuchukwu



“ ”

.....
The camping trip was a great way for us to get to know our new students and for them to get to know each other

Mr Rob Grice





Induction

From Hackney to Somerset...

As part of their induction, a selection of 6th form students were able to spend three days living on a real working farm near Bath in Somerset.

The students had to clean animal pens, herd sheep, re-house pigs and train horses.

There was also all the other work on the farm that didn't involve animals including building fences, logging wood and fixing walls.

We were also responsible for all our own cooking and cleaning and learnt to make some excellent home cooked meals we ate together in the barn.

We all learnt a lot on the farm including baby pigs squeal when you pick them up, herding sheep is harder than it looks (we almost had some getaway sheep on the motorway!) and welly boots are a necessity rather than a fashion statement around so much mud and animal muck.

As well as all the fun we learnt some important lessons too, we learnt where our food came from, the importance of animal welfare and that being a farmer is REALLY hard work.

Ms Potter



Jamie's Farm Induction Student Perspective

Moving into a new college can be difficult if it's in a completely different environment than you're actually used to. I believe you need to have a good relationship with teachers and fellow students to be able to do as well as you possibly can.

We got the opportunity to go to Jamie's farm in Somerset as an induction trip for sixth formers. Our initial thoughts about being on a farm were not very positive however we were still committed to make the two hour journey and seeing it for ourselves.

The barn was beautifully designed and had a warm and friendly atmosphere. After settling down we straight away got split up into groups and began exploring the farm. Our main responsibilities were to feed the animals and clean up after them. It was extremely hard as we definitely weren't used to cleaning up after animals on a regular basis – and what a smell! However working in groups meant that if one person gave up or didn't try then we all failed as a team. As if that wasn't enough, all of our technology was taken away from us... and although we resisted at first, we realised this experience wasn't about talking on the phone and listening to music as we always do in London, but actually a chance to experience the real life and having one-to-one conversation.

Each group was on a rota and we all got the chance to prepare lunch and dinner for everyone, and participate in all the farming activities. At the end we realised what an amazing experience we had. We became friends with students that attended our school who we never thought we would ever cross paths with. We built emotional relationships with the farmers- who proved us wrong, showing us how great life can be on a farm, they treated us like one of them. The trip showed us how life can be so different to what we currently lead and how friendships can be built in such a short time. We all feel so grateful that we took the chance and would never change that.

Dilara & Mirella, Year12



Prize Giving

On 8 November, we held our first ever Skinners' Academy Prize Giving event – with prizes awarded to students who have clearly demonstrated that they exemplify the Academy core values including friendship, respect, equality, determination, inspiration, courage and excellence.

In addition, prizes were awarded to students for GCSE, 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

Excerpts from speech by Satone Johnson Head Student

Good evening ladies and gentlemen... I would like to thank each and every one of you for supporting this event. Without your encouragement and support this would have not been achievable...

I have recently been elected as the first Head Student of Skinners' Academy and I hope to be good role model for my fellow students... I have not always taken my education as seriously as I should, however over the years Skinners' has impacted me greatly. A stable environment and good teachers have shown me the importance of a good education. I would like to give personal thanks on behalf of my fellow students to staff for their contribution to the school and also to Miss Wilkins for giving us the opportunity of becoming a new school.

Thank you for listening. God bless and enjoy the rest of your evening.

“”

Skinners' Academy has come a long way over the years and has achieved a lot, and with your support it will continue to make an impact on the community and we will strive together to get the best possible outcomes

Satone Johnson



Prize Winners 2010-2011

Last Year's Year 7 (2010-2011 Academic Year)

Sports Award
Connacht Sheffield
Nikolas Teran-Vaca

Skinners' School Old Girls Association (SSOGA) Prizes for Progress in Year 7
Yomade Aileru
Daniella Cano
Aafreen Jaffer
Amel Mire
Owen Nwanebu
Milo Seaman

100% Attendance
Guilherme Da Silva
Diane Ejimadu
Ashley Fowler
Brandon Hamilton
Reanna Jukes
Shaquale Lewis-Frame
Nyota Ndeke
Kienyuwa Omokaro
Nikolas Teran-Vac
Tracy Tran
Leah Whitehorn
Shicera Willam

Barton House		
Friendship	Casey Byrne	Yolanta Connolly-Muzyczka
Respect	Kamran Rzazada	Ana Paula Mazarini
Equality	Guilherme Da Silva	Ephanie Neto
Determination	Mehmet Kivrakoglu	Ilayda Tuncel
Inspiration	Ronnie O'Connor	Tabassum Dowla.
Courage	Wassim Malik	Millie Hagland
Excellence	Murat Apat	Irem Yesildag

Gray House		
Friendship	Michael Morris	Tracy Tran
Respect	Jahed Hussain	Melisa Akcadag
Equality	Jahmai Scott	Nasra Bana
Determination	Mohammed Bham	Farhana Begum
Inspiration	Eden Opata	Elsie Daisy O'Rourke
Courage	Usmaan Abed	Cynyee Wong
Excellence	Alish Dortgoz	Sabiha Alam

Newton House		
Friendship	Tosin Ajibade	Amandeep Kaur
Respect	Conrad Bernard	Adewa Alaketu
Equality	Leon Mabiala	Jaswinder Kaur
Determination	Rubel Rahman	Jaden Hope
Inspiration	Foday Jaiteh	Valerie Bob-Manuel
Courage	Hamza Demir	Boluwatife Duyile
Excellence	Thomas Heintz	Le'Andra Logie-Clyne

Page House		
Friendship	Daniel Cockran	Sirin Gultekin
Respect	Denzel Asiedu-Bouh	Zaynab Daudo
Equality	Brando Williams	Esin Akdogan
Determination	Ashley Fowler	Oreoluwa Shoyinka
Inspiration	Jamike Dike	Rebecca Greaney
Courage	Zacharia Moses	Elle Scott
Excellence	Kelell Davison Thomas	Connacht Sheffield

Prize Winners 2010-2011

Last Year's Year 11, 12 & 13s 2010-2011 Academic Year

Year 11		
Friendship	Rachel Anyetei	Siddiqa Tandel
Respect	Gizem Demerci	Asli Senkoy
Equality	Paulina Gawrylewska	Christy Ilesanmi
Determination	Zumrut Kaya	Juliana Valpato
Inspiration	Vanesia Asaftei	Shivani Patel
Courage	Lesley David	Bapi Pinto
Excellence	Chaya Khanna	Dhurgadevi Moorthy

**Skinners' School Old Girls
Association (SSOGA)
Prize for
Services to the Academy**

Deborah Munganga

100% Attendance

Deborah Munganga

Kirandeep Digpal



Year 12	
Friendship	Melat Haileselesse
Respect	Kiran Jot Kaur
Equality	Shannon Campbell
Determination	Aysen Tunc
Inspiration	Saheera Ausaluth
Courage	Laila Hadjimi
Excellence	Yemi Aileru

Year 13	
AS Level Results	Atera Rahmen
A2 Level Results	Marlena Szelag
	Louise Drammeh

Sir Michael Colman Prizes	
BTEC Health & Social Care Progress	Tsion Balcha
BTEC Health & Social Care Results	Cinar Yalcin Harpreet Lohia Makbule Kalan Ceylan Kalan
BTEC Business Progress	Karolina Gajewska
BTEC Business Results	Donnelia McLarty Patrycja Chmielewska Edyta Chmielewska Agata Ciszewska Karolina Gajewska
BTEC Art & Design	Lana Miller

Congratulations to our 6th form students who have now successfully started undergraduate degrees in Business, Law, Pharmacy, Medical Engineering, English, Journalism, Nursing, Architecture, Animation, Business Management and more at universities including Kings College, City University, Royal Holloway, University of East Anglia and Westminster among others.

GCSE Success



“““

Being a part of the class of 2006-2011 has been a great pleasure, including the transition to Skinners Academy... the teachers and students have been awesome! I can thank the school forever and it will never be enough as my success has only been possible because I spent five years (including the transition) in such a warm, caring and dedicated environment. When the period of full dedication towards my GCSE's approached, my teachers at Skinners' Academy played a huge role in motivating me to do my best.

Samroz Umar

With 4 out of 5 (81%) students gaining 5 A* - C grades and above in their GCSEs, there is a lot for us to celebrate. Furthermore, nearly 1 in 3 (32%) students excelled, gaining 3 A*/As in their GCSE results and 45% of students earned at least one A, highlighting the extent of individual successes.

“““

I am delighted with the exceptional individual success stories that we are celebrating, which is testament to the hard work and commitment of both staff and students during the first year of the academy.

Principal Jenny Wilkins

There were some fantastic individual achievements, including:

- Chaya Khanna - with 8 A*s and 5 As
- Dhurgadevi Moorthy – with 6 A*s and 6 As
- Shivani Patel – with 5 A*s and 6 As
- Samroz Umar – with 1 A*, 9 As
- Paulina Gawrylewska – with 1 A*, 8 As

Our next set of Year 11 GCSE students will be in 2015 when our current Year 8's sit the exams!

Design & Technology

Cooking Club



On Tuesday 29 November, we held the first of a series of three 'Healthy Lifestyle' mornings

Judd House had a whole day of healthy living and for one of the tasks we had to cook our own healthy plate. When we had to start I was worried because I didn't know what to make, but my partner Melisa helped me so we quickly made boiled egg with a tuna and sweet corn sandwich with a salad on the side and a fruit salad. We had to hurry because time was running out. At the end, Mr Dwaah tasted our delicious food but unfortunately we came in second with the boys coming in first but it was a fun experience learning how to cook and how healthy eating can really change things in life.

Just remember eat healthy and live healthy.

Shicera William

City Careers Open House Programme Years 7 & 8

Students in Year 7 and in Year 8 were selected to participate in the City Careers Open House (CCOH) programme organised by The Brokerage Citylink and the City of London Corporation.

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.

On Thursday 20th October, 30 Year 7 students visited BNP Paribas - a French investment bank situated in the City of London. BNP Paribas is the biggest banking group in France running both retail and investment operations. They work in 80 countries and employ over 200,000 staff. In 2010 they had a group banking income of €43.9 billion and they are the world's 11th biggest company.

As part of Global Enterprise Week on Tuesday 15th November, 40 Year 8 students visited Allen & Overy global law firm headquartered in London's Liverpool Street. A member of the UK's Magic Circle of leading law firms, Allen & Overy is widely considered to be one of the world's elite law firms, advising national and multinational corporations, financial institutions, and governments.

The City of London Corporation's City Careers Open House programme is designed to give our students an introduction and unique insight into the workings of the City, raising their aspirations and stimulating interest in some of the many City careers available. For both our Year 7 and 8s, it is a fantastic opportunity for students to get a head start on understanding the world of work and the huge variation of opportunities available.

Ms Selda Kurtuldu

Enterprise



Business Students show local area their Marketing Expertise

On Wednesday 23rd November, business pupils showed the Manor House area their business expertise by conducting market research. As part of their BTEC Business unit – Starting a Small Business – the six pupils have each come up with a unique business idea for the local area – ranging from a new Charles Dickens themed British Takeaway to an African Jewellers.

The students designed their questionnaire and, on the day, had to get as many respondents as possible in an hour, to analyse if their target market would be interested in their business concept. The girls excelled and managed to get over 80 respondents between them!

Raksha, one of the pupils involved said “It was a great experience because we had the chance to actually do our own research. It has also helped my confidence as I had to talk to approach people I did not know!”

Mr Peter Rafferty



Tremayne poses as Skinners' own Alan Sugar



Young Apprentice Challenge

As part of Global Entrepreneurship Week, two enterprise enrichment groups were challenged to set up two competing businesses and sell their products at break time. Both business groups had to decide on the products, price them and promote their business.

The event was a fantastic success, with Skinners' International winning the challenge. Both groups showed great entrepreneurial skills and fantastic selling techniques!

The money raised is being split between Childline, to show Skinners' Academy support for Anti-bullying Week, and Children in Need. Together with an earlier event in the term, the money raised so far for these two great causes is nearly £300!

Mr Peter Rafferty

““

We had a cake sale to raise money for charity, including Children In Need. My favourite cake was the Pudsey cake - it was really nice. I like this charity and did buy something from the sale. The cakes were very nice and I would want to eat them all again!

Harry Delaney, Year 7.



Enterprise Day

At the start of the new academic year our year 8 students revisited the Academy's business and enterprise specialism, focusing on the London 2012 Olympics. In teams of four, students were set the task of producing a board game from idea generation to final product production. Throughout the course of the day students were given the opportunity to develop key skills such as working in teams, communication, financial planning, numeracy and organisation; skills that they can readily transfer to support their learning in other subject areas. Year 8 are to be commended for the many excellent ideas they produced. Who knows, perhaps one of these board games could be the Monopoly of the future!"

Mr Rex Lewis

Enterprise Challenge Day

In November, Judd house took part in an Enterprise Challenge day which was jointly organised by teachers and business sixth form students. The students had to design and create a new water bottle brand. The students got to transfer their brand onto a water bottle which can be used in school. There were some fantastic designs that won prizes at the end of the day. All participants were awarded with an enterprise certificate for taking part.

Ms Potter

Enterprise & Art

Picture Perfect

Earlier this year 100 students aged 13-18 from schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets participated in a photography project

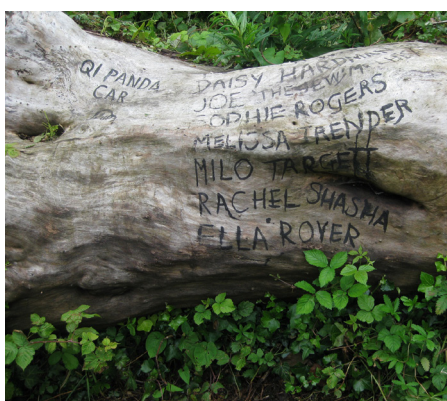
Its aims were to record their observations on the impact of the 2012 Olympics and its related developments, which will irrevocably change the areas where they live.

Six 6th form Art students were given the opportunity to take part in the London Legacy 2020 photography project competition - a project created to give young people in East London an opportunity to celebrate and document their neighbourhood through newly developed, high-level, vocational skills.

Through workshops, developed and delivered by a professional photographer and filmmaker, students were able to use photography to comment visually on the social and economic changes affecting their neighbourhoods.

One of the core aims is to provide a lasting legacy for East London, developing creative talent, to the highest standard, for local young people, providing them with long-term skills for media-related employment or for other jobs where their skills can be transferred. The students listed here were shortlisted out of the 100 candidates to attend the awards ceremony on the Tuesday 8th November 2011. The event was held at one the leading City Law firms, CMS Cameron McKenna.

Ms Selda Kurtuldu



Congratulations to our shortlisted students:

**Phillipa McIntosh (right in photo)
Judges Commendation Award
(for her fruit / skin picture below)**

Cansu Bozdogan (middle in photo)
2nd Place for the Nature category

Evelina Sniegion (left in photo)
2nd Place Art category

Melanny Marin – 2nd Place – Place
Category

Katarzyna Sadowska

Dilara Vahitoglu

Nosmot Ishola



The Fourth Plinth - Trafalgar Square

A dozen gifted and talented Year 8 students have entered the 4th Plinth School award competition. This has been led by Miss Antolik in the art department.

Students looked at examples of Plinths around London and then spent the day creating their own plinth. The work was of a high standard and we are very hopeful that our students will do well. Some students created 3D pieces whilst others produced painting or animations. Some examples can be found on the VLE under Art & design and their work has been uploaded to the Mayor of London 4th Plinth Award website.

The deadline is December 16th and the winner will be announced in January.

Miss Antolik



Art



Humanities

Trip to Skinners' Hall

On Monday 17 October, the Year 7 students went on a trip to Skinners' Hall to learn about Skinners' Company history

We took the bus to Skinners' Hall which was on Cannon Street. When we went in we left our bags in a room and then they took us to have juice and biscuits in a very beautiful room with a massive chandelier. A man then took us on a tour around the massive building, it was amazing, fascinating with lots of paintings, and showed us some of the artefacts from the Skinners' Company, the jobs they have and how they run their company. We all learnt about how it was a company who skinned animals and sold the skin.

Finally we completed a worksheet with questions about what we had learnt that afternoon. After that we went on a tour around central London and we saw lots of interesting things. The last thing we did was go to the Tate Modern gallery to draw a copy of a picture by Picasso. The gallery was huge with lots of fantastic paintings. We also went to St. Paul's Cathedral and saw the protesters on their first day of protesting against capitalism. I think it was difficult to stay in tents in that weather but the protesters didn't let the weather get in the way. Overall it was a very fun and interesting trip. We learnt a lot.

Jessica Dervishi

““

Skinners' Hall was magnificent! It had big chandeliers and I really liked the paintings. It was great experience and I want to go again.

Dhara Damania





Democracy in Action

Representatives from 6th Form came together at the Hackney Town Hall earlier this term to attend the Mayors' Question time. Jules Pipe, along with local politicians and members of the London Met Police had organised an assembly called Question Time. Question Time was an answer to the riots which shook London in August. As an area which suffered much damage and disorder, Hackney was left with many questions unanswered; where was the Mayor during the riots? What are the steps which the local councils are taking to improve the area? What really happened, and how can we use our experiences for good? Our girls sat in on the assembly, voiced their concerns to local MPs and police officers and also mixed with members of Hackney's council. They left able to encourage the rest of their year group of the progress being made locally and feel reassured that the council have made young people from Hackney a priority.

Ms Rachel Irwin

Visit to Auschwitz

In October, two of members of our 6th form, Ranae and Paulina, journeyed to Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp in Poland. This is part of the Lessons from Auschwitz programme, which aims to target racism and prejudice in schools by inviting pupils to learn historical lessons from the

Holocaust. It was a long and emotional day but our students are passionate about sharing their message of equality and freedom with their classmates. The girls are planning a talk for the Lower School, to be delivered in Assembly next term. They have also been invited to give readings and testimonies at Holocaust Memorial Day in January.

The students who took part in the mock trials were:

Rachel Anyetei, Sadia Aden Ana D'Ju, Zaneta Pietrzyk Phillipa McIntosh, Saheera Ausaluth, Yemi Aileru, Presely Kalusi, Kaltun Said, Kasia Sadowska, Mirela Gega Demet Cakantemur, Kiran Jot Kaur, Lawrencina Mensah

Order in the Court!

6th form took part in the Citizenship Foundation's Bar Mock trial at Southwark Crown Court on Saturday 26 November

The Bar National Mock Trial Competition gives young people an exciting and innovative insight into the workings of the legal system, and we had 14 students involved.

Rachel Anyetei, one of our defence barristers explains: "The competition is where you have to learn two court cases and then go against other schools in a real court in front of real judges to present either the prosecution or the defence of the case. One case was about armed robbery and another case was about an attack on a student. As the defence lawyer I had to prepare my examination in chief with my witness, Yemi Aileru and then my cross examination which I presented to the opposition. In preparation we went to see cases at the Old Bailey and watched two different murder trials which was really interesting and opened our eyes as to how court cases work. For my case I did the closing speech and fortunately the jury, who was made of students from other schools, voted in our favour and we saved Yemi from prison! It was really fun taking part, we got to work with a Barrister who really helped us, and although we didn't come first we discovered new talents for presenting an argument and we matched the 16 other schools taking part."

Mr Byram, who hadn't watched them practice, said that the standard this year was the best he'd ever seen. Thank you also to Beatrix and Seyi for joining us as the support.

Ms Rebecca Warren

Science

Skinners' Students Explore Space

On the 20th of July a group of intrepid year 8 students accompanied by Mr Huxley and Mr Mehr set out to explore mysteries of space travel (albeit within the confines of The Centre of the Cell, Whitechapel). Students were put through their paces undergoing the same physical tests that astronauts take before going into space. They learnt of the problems of food eaten at zero gravity (soup is off the menu I'm afraid!) and learnt about the dangers and difficulties of space travel.

Finally they got to meet Richard Garriot an actual astronaut and head of a company looking to make space travel available to everybody. The students showed great enthusiasm asking thought provoking questions and throwing themselves into every task. Who knows? Maybe one of them will be the first Skinner into orbit? Watch this Space.

Mr Huxley

Maths



UKMT Senior Maths Challenges

In November, 26 Skinners' Academy 6th formers took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge - aimed at 16-19 year olds in England and Wales. Stay tuned for further competitions

Ms Naomi Dews

The Science of Money

On Friday 5th November a group of Chemistry AS students were selected to participate in the science banknotes workshop held at the Bank of England in association with the Royal Society of Chemistry 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. In association with the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Bank of England invited schools from local boroughs to bring groups of sixth form students studying scientific subjects to find out about the science involved in designing and producing highly technical notes and printing them securely.

The programme aims to raise the aspirations of London's students by showing them the opportunities available to them in the City. During the day our students found out about the science behind the banknotes - the paper, its manufacture, the inks, the printing processes, learnt about the public security features, how they work, look and feel and how to spot counterfeit notes.

Our students were also given the opportunity to hear about the background of the scientists and engineers involved in bank note production at the Bank. They were fortunate to meet the Chief Cashier Chris Salmon who also gave them an insight into the working life at the Bank of England and how he became the new Chief Cashier.

Ms Selda Kurtuldu



Careers Awareness Fair

Stepping Towards Success

Inaugural Careers Awareness Fair at Skinners' Academy gets the thumbs up from students and businesses who attended

Designed to be a positive source of motivation, information and choice for young people, the Careers Awareness Fair held by Skinners' Academy for Year 10, 11 and 6th form students in north and east London was deemed a resounding success by students and exhibitors alike, with one student describing it as "life changing".

The event featured 14 universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Coventry, SOAS, Portsmouth, Westminster – as well as 25+ international and local businesses / organisations including Virgin, the NHS, Accenture, Hackney Empire, The Learning Trust and many more. Also on hand were on-air talent Gavin Ramjaun from ITV's Daybreak; Harriet Prest, Sky News reporter and author of 3 Steps to Success, Raphael Mokades.

With the current jobless total for 16 to 24-year-olds hitting a record high of 1.02 million recently - a rate of more than one in five (21.3%) and in a climate where words / acronyms such as "NEETS", "recession" and "unemployment" dominate the news agenda – feedback indicates that forums like this are much needed and there was a positive buzz from all involved.

“”

At this time, it is important that as a community, we are working together to increase the confidence of today's students when it comes to their future career prospects. I had a real sense of community atmosphere at the careers event as it was not only attended by our students, but also 5 other Islington and Hackney schools. We need to remind students that whatever the economic climate, they can succeed in their own journey, through hard work and determination.

Jenny Wilkins, Principal

My Experience

The careers awareness fair was a very successful day. I have gained so much more knowledge and understanding about universities and different jobs that I did not have before and I am now looking forward to the future. Before the fair I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and that has changed since

Ockeisha Grant, Year 12



“”

It was a fantastic honour to be asked to speak about my book, 'Three Steps to Success' at the Skinners' Academy Careers Awareness Fair. Taking those first few steps into the world of careers can be pretty daunting. Part of the challenge is a personal one: believing in yourself and taking control of your own destiny. Another part of the challenge is learning the rules – as I said to the pupils, 'If you want to play at Wimbledon, you've got to wear white!'

Raphael Mokades, MD Rare Recruitment & Author



“”

“I thought this career fair was the best fair I have EVER been to. Myself and the young people I took along had a fantastic time and valuable time. We enjoyed the networking opportunity. Both the staff and the young people involved in organising the event were also professional and accommodating... We even recruited over 15 young people to the YMA to help them with Media Opportunities – which is FANTASTIC.”

Susana Giner, Director, Youth Media Agency

A Year 12 student noted that before the fair, her confidence when it came to knowledge about different career industries options was a 1 out of 10, but after the fair, she felt that had risen to a 10 – describing the event as inspiring, interesting, motivating, educational, inclusive, empowering and positive.

... and this would not have been possible without the organisations who recognised the importance of taking the time to inspire today’s students. All students who responded to the event evaluation agreed that “Following the careers event, they feel better equipped to make decisions relating to further education and career goals” – an excellent basis upon which to look forward to the next one!

Mrs Gina Visram

If you, as a parent / carer are interested in representing your industry at the next Careers Awareness Fair, please contact Gina on gvisram@skinnersacademy.org.uk

“”

The fair was a great success and a fun and enjoyable experience. I enjoyed meeting the students and talking with them about their future prospects. I would be interested in participating next year because I feel that it was a useful way to inform the young of career opportunities in my industry and within my company.

Sabina Mitchell, Tax Manager, Virgin Management



Pictures: Left page, top: Jessica Cleverly - Recruiter from Accenture; Left page middle: Sabina Mitchell from Virgin Management speaks to some 6th formers; Right page top: the creative industries panel; and right: Gavin Ramjaun from ITV1s Daybreak with Ms Selda Kurtuldu

Sixth Form in Focus



Voyage of Achievement

Sixth formers Yemi Aileru and Levi Peterkin celebrated the finale of the Tall Ships Youth Trust Voyage of Achievement, when they sailed under Tower Bridge London on Wednesday 13 July while manning the yards of Tall Ship Stavros S Niarchos, 45-metres above the River Thames.

They were among a crew of 48 students from 24 schools from across England who set sail from Newcastle on a voyage which took them to Leith in Scotland and the Dutch port of Scheveningen before their arrival in London. During the HSBC funded voyage they worked in teams to scale the ship's masts, scrubbed decks, kept watch and practiced man overboard and other safety drills - all around the clock. They have great memories of the voyage which they described as a 'once in a lifetime experience'.

Throughout the Voyage, the students were mentored by the Tall Ships Youth Trust's crew, all experienced at carrying out youth work at sea. Tim Law, Operations Director of the Trust, said: "For 11 days, the students have been living in close quarters in a new and challenging environment. They have forged friendships, faced challenges and taken part in new experiences – at the same time developing skills that will stand them in good stead for their future lives."

Smart Start

Congratulations to Ifey, Nabila and Daniela who successfully completed the Allen & Overy Smart Star programme, with Nafisa's team even reaching the final!



“ ”

HSBC supports the Tall Ships Voyage of Achievement because we want to make a difference in the communities we operate in... sailing can be an inspirational experience and these voyages develop important life skills that young people can take back into their community, school or into a future career.

Peter Bull, Head of HSBC in the Community

Head Students

Congratulations Satone Johnson (right) and Ozlem Oz (left) for being elected Head and Deputy Head student respectively, for the 2011 - 2012 academic year.



Unique Advertising Achievement

Skinners' Academy teen talent has played an instrumental part in promoting the UK launch of a Hollywood blockbuster thanks to a project with Metro and 20th Century Fox, through the Ideas Foundation.

The Ideas Foundation inter-agency challenge saw six of the UK's leading creative agencies mentoring young people aged 16-18 from Skinners' Academy, to produce an advertising pitch in a week, last term. Fast forward to 31 October 2011 and Ewelina Sniegoń and Katarzyna Sadowska were on the red carpet at the launch of new Justin Timberlake movie, In Time, after the movie studio was wowed by their promotional ideas.

Together with their advertising agency mentors, the girls came up with an idea to 'win a year of your life', based around the film's premise about time as currency. Ewelina said, "I am really happy that 20th Century Fox, a global studio decided to use our main competition idea to promote the movie In Time, which indicates that whatever your age, young people can have an impact on the creative industries if they have a strong idea. During the process, we had a lot of support from our mentors at The Creative Floor and they made sure that we felt comfortable with our work and presentation. Since my partner Kasia and I won the competition, we feel like some doors have opened... and have been given a chance to be involved in some future projects. Overall I'm very glad I took part in this project... this journey showed me another side of the world I never knew how it worked, how interesting, fun and exciting it is. This project gave me faith in myself again and proved that I can achieve more than I thought I could."

Jenny Wilkins, Principal, Skinners' Academy said "The project enabled our students to experience the 'real' world of the media industries something we cannot provide in school but the impact on students learning by working with such talented mentors from the Media companies is immense. A big thank you to all of them but none of this would be possible without the partnership and innovation of the Ideas Foundation."



“”

I am really glad that I took a chance and took part in this Ideas Foundation project. I am excited that our competition creative featured in Metro, Heat and more as part of the launch... and I have much more confidence in myself than I did previously

Kasia Sadowska

“”

The young people responded with unique innovation... for the students this was an exceptional learning experience, for Skinners' Academy an achievement and for the Ideas Foundation, a project that went way beyond our expectations.

David Holloway OBE, Ideas Foundation





Looking Positively to the Future: Through A Camera Lens The Rep London BBC 21st Century Classroom Project

This summer, some of our sixth form students were inspired to positively look to the future... through a camera lens.

Alongside a small selection of other East London students, they experienced a taste of the world of video production on a training day at the BBC. Rep London, a programme funded by the Olympic Lottery Distributor (OLD), organised the session which involved students visiting the BBC's 21CC classroom in White City. This gave them exposure to broadcast quality digital technology, an insight into the latest editing techniques and their first on location assignment... to film East London Business Alliance's second One Movement event, a free youth sports festival designed to get young local people engaged in sports, also funded by OLD and sponsored by Nomura.

In the current climate where there is much debate about whether young people have a vision for the future, projects like this help to highlight that they certainly do.

“”

It was an amazing experience. We got the chance to be like the BBC reporters and camera crew... and seeing all the people [at One Movement] that are excited about the Olympics and were trying to get involved as much as possible was great... it shows that Hackney is ready for the 2012 Olympics

Daniela Gomez Vera, 6th Form

“”

The BBC experience was great as it showed me what I could be doing if I took up media in the future – and it's also something that will be good to include on my CV

Seyi Ebofin, 6th Form

“”

BBC 21CC works with students between the ages of 5 and 19 on a daily basis and are happy to be involved with this Rep London project. The Skinners' Academy students from Hackney were keen to learn and showed potential aptitude to enter the world of media – highlighting exactly the reason why it's important to engage young people with programmes like this. We'll look out for them in the future.

BBC 21st Century
Classroom Filmmakers



Student Action “ ”



Our Green Hero

Congratulations to Elle Scott who won a Key Stage 3 Green Hero prize at the recent Learning Trust Green Heroes Awards.

Nominated by Ms Potter, Elle was described as 'mature and committed' and someone who has worked really hard to advocate sustainability at Skinners' Academy.

As part of the school 'green group' she has gone above and beyond the call of duty – she puts information on the green notice board and posters to encourage double-sided printing; she has been involved in gardening projects and tree planting, and will be leading a group to create a vegetable patch and wormery. She also helps out with the recycling programme and has even found time to create a 'green mascot' for the school (pictured).



Women of the Future Conference

In the autumn term, four students from Year 13 - Seyi, Shamara, Ifeyinwa and I (Phillipa) were chosen to attend 'The Women of the Future Ambassadors Reception' at Cavendish Conference Centre. The evening gave us the opportunity to speak with women across a variety of sectors, allowing us to network and get an insight into their job roles. There were women from the creative industries, lawyers and business women.

We later had key note speeches from the Director of Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti and Miriam Gonzalez Durantez, Partner of DLA Piper and wife of Deputy Prime Minister. The conference as a whole allowed us to gain some useful career advice and guidance.

Philippa McIntosh, 6th Form

Skinners' Students Campaign for Better Buses

Last year several of our passionate Year 7's from the Young Chamber Council worked with TELCO to make real progress into improving local bus services. Our students were concerned with the issues arising at the Manor House and Woodberry Grove bus stops; mainly over-crowding due to there being too few buses. By collecting film evidence and timing the intervals between buses on the 254 and 253 route, the students established that there are not enough buses arriving at Woodberry Grove for the three local schools using the bus stop at 4.30.

With the help of London Citizens organiser Sebastian Chapleau, our students presented their evidence to Jennette Arnold, London Assembly member for the North East London constituency of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest at the GLA in London's City Hall. This led to Jennette Arnold agreeing with Skinners' students about something needing to be done. As a result of our students' work, she visited our school, witnessed our

problems at the bus stop and promised to secure future meetings with Arriva. Our students continue to work towards improving local bus services for their peers.
Ms Rachel Irwin

Sixth Form in the City

As part of Rep London, an employability project that gives young people the opportunity to gain a wide range of employability skills to make the best use of all the opportunities that the Olympics will bring – a dozen 6th form students got a taste of the City when they participated in October's 'Financially Speaking' module and November's 'Introduction to Sales' module.

The Financially Speaking programme sponsored by Citi and delivered by The Speakers Trust combines financial literacy with the learning of public speaking skills. Throughout the day, our students learned top money tips and responsible ways to make and save money. They played an interactive 'Marketplace' game to help them better understand money management and decisions. At the end of the day they each delivered a finance-themed speech, putting their new found skills into practice! Being able to communicate effectively and understand financial issues equips participants with crucial skills for all aspects of life and work – and the increase our students' abilities and confidence level was apparent by the end of the day.



The Introduction to Sales module was held at Aon, the leading global provider of risk management services, insurance and reinsurance brokerage, and human resource consultancy. Our students were given a 2-hour insight into this skill which is now necessary in all industries... again adding to their employability skills training.

LRC

National Short Story Week

November 7th – 11th was National Short Story Week and to celebrate we held a couple of events in the LRC. Author Ola Laniyan-Amoako visited Skinners to run a drama based writing workshop for thirty lucky year eight students. They were encouraged to use their imaginations to create improv style short plays and then to use those plays as the basis for their own short stories.

'It was really interesting finding out what age you can publish your writing. Meeting Ola was amazing because she made me want to write more creatively.' Ilayda, year 8

We also ran a short story writing competition for year seven and eight, which finished towards the end of November. Students wrote a story titled 'The Choice', with a length of approximately 1000 words and one winner has been selected from each year level. Congratulations to Kadisha Kaur Singh (Year 7) and Rebecca Greaney (Year 8), winners of the Skinners' Academy competition. Their work will be among the best ten pieces that we enter into the national competition, the winners of which will be announced next year.

Ms Susannah Phillips

Expressive Arts

Horrible Histories

The Horrible Histories Prom is part of the BBC Proms Season at the Albert Hall. The BBC had a relationship with Kids Company and wanted to a children's choir for this particular concert to reflect the audience of the very popular series "Horrible Histories".

The choir at school is a fully inclusive group of young people who wanted to participate. Rehearsing for the Prom was a great opportunity to learn from people in the business who know the discipline and commitment required to make it in the tough world of entertainment.

Our students lived up to their expectations and on the day of the concert sang with other children's choirs from London, the fabulous Aurora Orchestra and the cast of Horrible Histories. They performed in front of a sell-out crowd of 6,000 people and it went out live on Radio 3. It was filmed by the BBC and the programme aired on CBBC and BBC1 in September.

It was great to be involved in this opportunity of a lifetime; to sing at the Proms was simply amazing!

Miss Patterson

Additional Parent Information

VLE Reminder

Would you like to be able to access all of the learning materials for each of your child's subjects online at the click of a button? Are you ever unsure what your child had been given for Extended Learning (homework)? Would you like to be kept up to date with initiatives and developments in each of our subject areas?

To access all of this and more please go to www.skinneracademy.org.uk and click the VLE button at the bottom of the page (some VLE images below).

Each student has unique login details to retrieve and upload their work (this is the same as their school network login).

Our first parent ICT training session was held very successfully on 1st December. We plan to have more dates where you can attend and receive hands-on training in the use of our various IT systems. In the meantime please do ask your child to demonstrate the VLE to you.

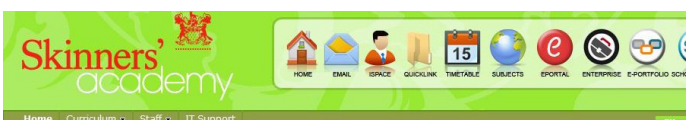
Mr. Rob Grice



Parents Forum Training

Designed to empower and inform parents, we held the first parental learning forum of 2011-2012 on 1 December. The evening focused on four key IT programmes used within the Academy - My Maths, Accelerated Reader, ePortal and the VLE.

With feedback including "Very informative... excellent delivery by staff", "Excellent... need to know!" and "A whole new world has just opened up" – we hope that if you couldn't attend this one, you will be sure to sign up for the January or February session. Dates to follow.



Application form for free school meals 2011/2012

Welcome to the Skimmers' Academy VLE



News Today's Lessons 08/12/2011 Ms Visram (GVI)

Free School Meals Notice

In Hackney, around 40% of young people are eligible for free school meals but not all of them take it up. This is particularly the case in secondary schools where students can feel embarrassed about receiving free school meals.

Eating a good meal at lunch will help students concentrate in lessons – so please make sure that if eligible – you sign up as you can save up to £390 a year.

To apply, ask at reception for a form or contact The Learning Trust on 020 8820 7248 or www.learningtrust.co.uk/pupil_benefits_and_grants

View All Site Content

Pictures

- Pictures

Documents

- Year 7
- Year 8
- Year 9
- Year 10
- Year 11
- Year 12
- Year 13

Welcome To Citizenship!

Citizenship is the coolest subject on the planet! Here we look at human rights, the law, politics, basically everything that affects YOUR life. Get involved, get stuck in, make a difference and get yourself an opinion!



Theatre Review

After taking part in a workshop, we all were treated to watch a show later in the evening, "Playboy of the Western World" which starred none other than Robert Sheehan who is well known for playing Nathan from Misfits with all of us sitting in the FRONT row seats!

The play set in Ireland in the 1900's has the theme of Love when Pegeen the barmaid falls in love with 'brave and heroic' Christy Mahon (Sheehan) and all of the other girls in the village taking a liking to him. Other themes included myth making such as when Christy greatly exaggerated in relation to killing his father and when everyone finds out the truth, their love for him soon turns into disgust and anger as the whole village sets out to lynch him.

The set was really great as the house does a 180 degree turn at the beginning of the show, and the costumes reflected on the characters personality really well.

I would recommend this to anyone who really likes English literature and also is interested in watching something that's a bit different and a little difficult to understand but at the end is more than rewarding. And of course those people who are a big fan of Misfits and Nathan (maybe they could get his autograph after the show!)

Sadia Aden

English



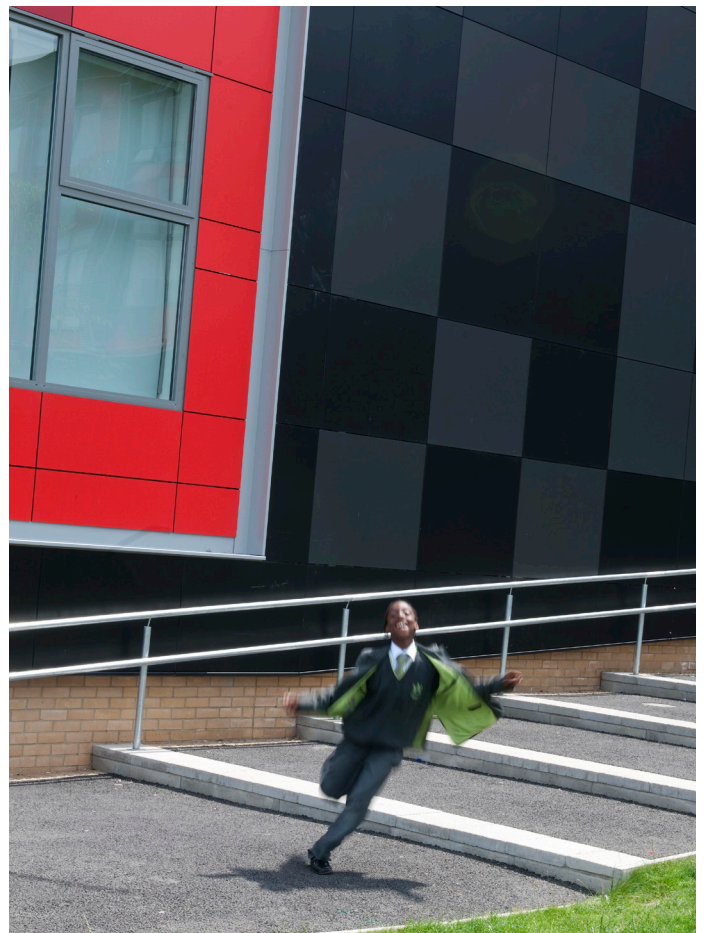
Celebrating Black History Month

This October, Skinners' Academy Year 7s and 8s celebrated Black History Month with a range of fantastic house assemblies including a short drama about Rosa Parks and student presentations about their black heroes.

Academy in Pictures

As you can see, it has been a busy few months here at Skinners' Academy, so here are a few extra pictures which also capture what we've been up to!





PE

Sports Day

Celebrating sporting spirit and excellence

Skinners' Academy held its first ever Sports Day at Finsbury Park athletics track on 9 September.

It was a fantastic occasion enjoyed by staff and students alike, with students competing in a range of events and supporting their house in the Carnival Cup. For this day specifically, students wore their house colours (instead of Academy sports kit) and created a fantastic atmosphere of sporting fun and excellence.

**Performance winners:
Atwell**

Carnival Winners: Hunt

**Best Girl Performers:
Hunt**

**Best Boy performers:
Judd**



Football Match Report

Skinners' Academy vs Bacons College

Going into our first game we were excited as well as nervous, this showed early on as we conceded after 2 minutes. A great cross meet by a fantastic volley put the visitors ahead early on in the game. Following the goal we piled the pressure upon the visitors however our greater possession was not reflecting the score line. After 20 minutes of pressure the Bacons defence eventually caved in with Mark picking up the ball in the box and smashing in an equaliser for Skinners' Academy, taking us into the second half, level, and motivated to snatch the win.

Coming into the second half Mr Brierley decided to bring on some fresh legs in the form of Javaugh, in a change which proved decisive in the game. Within 5 minutes of his inclusion Javaugh found the ball on the edge of the box catching the Bacons defence off guard, and hit a rifle of a shot passed the keeper to put Skinners in front. Following the goal you could see the opposition with their heads down after giving up their lead. We saw the game off with our two commanding centre backs silencing the Bacons striker's side, allowing us to claim our first victory and progress to the next round of the cup.

Year 7 football team

Season Highlights

Year 7 Indoor Athletics both boys and girls finished in the top 5

Cross country Year 7 and 8 all completed courses (results above)

Year 7 netball team currently undefeated (top of league)

Year 8 sitting in second position in league

Saturday league fixtures are fully established for boys Year 7 & 8