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December 2019
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Autumn Term
Issue 27
.....

academy newsletter



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Welcome to the Autumn edition of the Skinner's Academy Newsletter.

I took over from the previous Principal Tim Clark on the 21st October 2019 and will be leading the Academy until 31st July 2020 to ensure that high standards of behaviour and teaching are maintained whilst a recruitment process for a new permanent Principal takes place over the coming months.

My first impressions of the Academy are of a vibrant and exciting atmosphere where pupils want to learn and staff strive to ensure that all pupils are able to achieve their best.

As you will see in this newsletter there is a lot going on outside the classroom and the school in terms of extra activities, trips, music and drama. These form an important aspect of

what the Academy seeks to provide in order to give all pupils as many positive experiences as possible to contribute to their learning.

I am proud and privileged to be involved here and I am passionate about providing the best possible start in life to all pupils. I promise I will do my utmost over the coming months to maintain all that is good about the Academy and to help to make it even better.

John Beighton
Interim Principal, Skinner's Academy



J. B. Beighton

Year 7 Visit Wales

While in the middle of the Brecon Beacons, South Wales, Year 7 pupils were trudging up STEEP mountain sides, reaching top points of Pen-Y-Fan and alike, slipping and sliding through ICE-COLD but breath-taking waterfalls, and exploring tight and confined spaces in spectacular Welsh caves.

Complementing the main activities, our Year 7 pupils threw themselves into everyday independent living, supporting each other, sharing living space, and partaking in fun and beneficial team building tasks.

A big thank you to all the Skinners' staff involved, without them this wonderful trip could never have happened. Thank you to all staff at the Hampshire Centre for their hospitality and support. Lastly, Ms N Bell, thank you for the outstanding organisation of the trip.

Ms Hua, Teacher of Sociology & Psychology/HOY7



KS3 Reward Badges

Year 7 - Bronze (100 Positives)

- Henry Fitzgerald
- Keanu Campbell
- Leticia Santos
- Kerida Gustave
- Jonathan Antonio
- Holly Leeming
- Andrew Monks
- Cindy Veronique Kahunu
- Chen Leng Wong
- Tasniya Ahmed
- Lorraine Ferreira Sangiorgio
- Temaine Bernard
- Senel Celik
- Micah Rodney
- Faduma Bashir
- Rhayssa Rodrigues Dourado

Year 7 - Silver (250 Positives)

- Gerard Mina Tejada
- Yousra Kadiri Harrak

Year 8 - Bronze (100 Positives)

- Aleksandra Jachimowska
- Lubaba Tafannum
- Amira Ahmed

Year 8 - Silver (250 Positives)

- Mercedes Xavier



Prize Giving 2018-2019



Prize Giving Celebrations

On 7 November, Skinners' Academy held our annual Prize Giving ceremony, a celebration of the wide-ranging achievements of our pupils from the 2018-2019 academic year. Prizes were presented by the Master of The Skinners' Company, Mr Johnny Aisher, and recognised pupils' progress within a particular subject, musical and sporting excellence, as well as prizes for academic achievement and services to the Academy.

The evening boasted a range of musical performances. Ineta Bublyte, Year 12, performed a flawless piano rendition of 'Nuvole Bianche' by Ludovico Einaudi; Nardos Malaeke Samiel, Year 13, sang 'Clown' by Emeli Sandé; and our talented upper school steel band wrapped up the ceremony with a medley of songs by Burna Boy. Special thanks to the music department for the wonderful arrangement.

Subject Prizes Year 7	
English	Yaseen Mapara
Mathematics	Lilli Freel
Science	Harold Oliveira Nery
Art & Design	Nicole Queiroz
Computing	Melek Kelimet
Design & Technology	Mercedes Xavier
Drama	Chloe Peake
Geography	Julia Koltunska
History	Erisa Aliaj
Music	Thilini Bundhoo
Physical Education	Caitlin Alsford
Religious Studies	Zareenah Boksh
Spanish	Gabrielly Fantin

Subject Prizes Year 8	
English	Safiya Amin
Mathematics	Mohamed Cherid
Science	Sofenias Yohannes
Art & Design	Marab-Sha Jami
Computing	Anastasia Asaeva
Design & Technology	Juwayria Bana
Drama	Mateo Carmona
Geography	Michael Green
History	Christian Marquez Prado
Music	Nikita Zalovs
Physical Education	Yelda Erdogan
Religious Studies	Louis Perryman
Spanish	Justin Mina Tejada

Year 7 Sportsperson of the Year	
Natalia Heinrich	Abdisa Uka

Year 8 Sportsperson of the Year	
Rhia Daley	Nikolay Tachev

Year 7 Musician of the Year	
Caitlin Alsford	

Year 8 Musician of the Year	
Michael Green	

Year 7 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Mahdi Uddin	

Year 8 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Vedika Sandeep	

Year 7 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Ngozi Osuji	

Year 8 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Nissi Aboagye-Kumi	

Subject Prizes Year 9	
English	Vikash Singh
Mathematics	Aadil Karwa
Core Science	Mohammed Khamosh
Biology	Rudi Disney
Chemistry	Tyler Iteku
Physics	Nathaniel Dowding
Art & Design	Lily Bell
Business Studies	Rojda Terbas
Computer Science	Nicholas Layhe
Creative iMedia	Mark Olah
Drama	Zeynep Tuysuz
Food Technology	Josh Moses
French	Mahdi Roble
Geography	Gabriele Rudnickaite
Health & Social Care	D-Yandre Anderson
History	Rimshah Akhtar
Media Studies	Sameer Mohammed
Music	Gaby Marin Londono
Physical Education	Bibi Ndeke
Psychology	Blessing Sebastiao
Religious Studies	Alyssa Can
Resistant Materials	Mikolaj Majkowski
Spanish	Melis Tunc
Textiles	Olivia Janik
Travel & Tourism	Nathaly Narvaez-Martinez



Subject Prizes Year 10	
English	Boo Nero
Mathematics	Gabor Bakos
Core Science	Jasmine Norton-Hayes
Biology	Yasmin Ali
Chemistry	Marcel Latwinski
Physics	Suhayb Abdulahi
Art & Design	Yilmaz Koku
Business Studies	Haytham Hajee-Sheriff
Computer Science	Kevin Leite
Creative iMedia	Anya Abdulla
Drama	Buse Ganidagli
Food Technology	Kyarah Williams-Morris
French	Jamil Muteba
Geography	Beysim Beysim
Health & Social Care	Cynthia Arami Britez MacAreno
History	Anielka Jozwiak
Media Studies	Eduard-Andrei Marculescu
Music	Nisa Akdag
Physical Education	Tate Palin
Psychology	Berfin Konak
Religious Studies	Diana Faeldonea
Resistant Materials	Berkay Cokgezici
Sociology	Glorian Kazadi
Spanish	Willber Lima
Textiles	Luisa Alvarez Carrillo
Travel & Tourism	Humaira Parnigara

Year 9 Sportsman of the Year	
Ellie Lloyd	Emanuel Opoku

Year 9 Musician of the Year	
Rudi Disney	

Year 9 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Hafsa Amla	

Year 9 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Theodore Dowding	



Year 10 Sportsman of the Year	
Beritan Unek	Jordan Vibert

Year 10 Musician of the Year	
Jasmine Norton-Hayes	

Year 10 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Tajala Ali	

Year 10 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Chin Ho Chung	



Subject Prizes Year 11

English	Julia Heinrich
Mathematics	Raekwon Francis-Wood
Core Science	Adil Uddin
Biology	Kehinde Shomuyiwa
Chemistry	Anastasia Dmitrenko
Physics	Lauren Phillips
Art & Design	Ionut Morar
Business Studies	Ranbir Singh Bhaker
Computer Science	Aleksandra Marchewka
Drama	Maria Benitez-Arboleda
Economics	Godiva Chukwu
Food Technology	Dilan Meter
French	Shuley Miah
Geography	Rebeka Nagy
Health & Social Care	Magdalena Tutak
History	Ineta Bublyte
Music	Berke Cakir
Physical Education	Isabella Carvajal-Vargas
Religious Studies	Faheem Mohammed
Resistant Materials	Ali Cecen
Spanish	Caroline Rocha
Textiles	Karolina Fikiel
Travel & Tourism	Mariangeles Espejo Jimenez

Year 11 Sportsperson of the Year	
Kehinde Shomuyiwa	Ranbir Singh Bhaker

Year 11 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Mohammed Abubakar	

Year 11 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Akua Oseitutu	



Subject Prizes Year 12

English	Louisiana Kindo
Mathematics	Peter Murphy
Biology	Meher Kazmi
Chemistry	Michael Lahye
Physics	Ionut Tiplea
Art & Design	Zelal Batit
Business Studies	Sikandar Khan
Business Studies BTEC	Vicky Hoang
Computer Science	Hasan Ahmed
Digital Media	Huseyin Atim
French	Daniella Brown Llabrés
Government & Politics	Kaalayah Dixon
Health & Social Care	Oznur Oz
History	Yaa Opoku
Media Studies	Leighton Thomas
Music	Ty Levine
Sociology	Charlie Pavlicic
Spanish	Sara Lemos
Textiles	Nafla Asif
Travel & Tourism	Ragheb Saleh
LAMDA	Safiya Briscoe Francis

Year 12 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Deniz Koku	

Year 12 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Selin Ok	

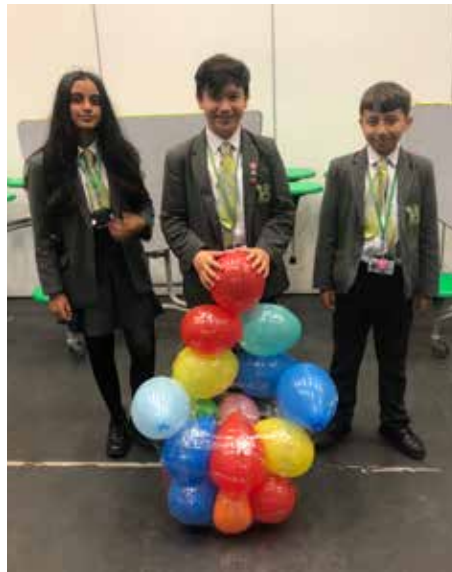
Subject Prizes Year 13

English	Dylan Ball
Mathematics	Adil Hussain
Biology	Baran Komur
Chemistry	Asma Mohamed
Physics	Tanvir Mohammed Hossain
Art & Design	Tajai Brown
Business Studies	Zack Dowding
Business Studies BTEC	Muzna Khan
Computer Science	Silviu Badica
Digital Media	Afzal Hussain
Economics	Resul Turan
Government & Politics	Kacper Siemieniako
Health & Social Care	Sumeya Abdulkadir
History	Luke Mcconville
Media Studies	Tutku Daghan
Product Design	Alper Altun
Psychology	Evangeline Appiah-Nuamah
Sociology	Louis Kythreotis
Spanish	Anais Arias-Galan
Textiles	Gokcen Sevim
Travel & Tourism	Jamie O'Connor

Year 13 Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Stanimir Zagorchev	

Year 13 Prize for Services to the Academy	
Selver Toygun	

Enterprise



A Day Out of the Norm!

On 15 July, all pupils from Y7 – Y10 took part in the Academy's Enterprise Drop Down Day. The fun filled day was designed to highlight the Academy's specialism and our following 10 Enterprising skills: Enthusiasm, Negotiation, Team Working, Effective Communication, Risk Taking, Planning, Resilience, Innovation, Solving Problems and Evaluation.

Each year group were assigned a different project. Pupils worked in their advisory groups alongside their advisor and support from additional members of staff. The team based projects were..

Year 7 : Water Bottles

At Skinner's Academy not enough pupils are drinking water throughout the day, and pupils are getting dehydrated! To solve this problem, every Year 7 pupil formed business teams and developed their own brand of bottled water.

Year 8 : Balloon Chairs

The staff room is lacking comfortable chairs. Year 8 were tasked with designing and building a new armchair for staff. The chair needed to have back support and arm rests and needed to withstand being sat on for at least 15 seconds without any of the balloons popping.

Year 9 : Board Games

At Skinners' Academy we have adopted the core values of the London 2012 Olympic Games; Friendship, Respect, Equality, Determination, Inspiration, Courage and Excellence. Year 9's mission was to design and create a board game which informed the player of our Core Values, had easy to follow rules, had a clear target market and was most importantly fun to play.

Year 10 : A New Reality

Year 10 were tasked with creating a new and unique reality tv show. In teams, they needed to create a six stage concept board explaining the narrative of their show. Their reality tv show needed to have a clear target audience and genre.

All four projects were team focussed allowing our pupils to fully develop their Negotiation and Communication skills. The projects also had clear 'problems' that needed solving, requiring teams to create a range of concepts before settling on their final ideas which utilised their innovation skills.

Finally, all projects ended with teams presenting their final outcomes to their peers with a three-minute pitch. Pupils evaluated the other teams on several elements giving a score out of five. Peer evaluation scores were combined and the highest scoring team in each advisory were awarded a prize.

The day went extremely well with several staff and pupils commenting that it was fun to do something different to the usual lessons. Well done to all pupils and thank you to all the staff involved. Congratulations to the 24 truly enterprising teams of pupils who won a prize.

Ms Dalia, Marketing Manager & Enterprise Coordinator

Sixth Form

APPLY NOW to Join Our Sixth Form!

We are now accepting applications from current Year 11 pupils who would like to join our sixth form (scan the code in the image below).

Keep reading to find out why some of our current sixth form students choose Skinners' Academy to complete their further education.

“”

Independence! We are encouraged to be independent but still feel supported. We are treated like young adults.

“”

Teachers guide us through our future prospects whether it be helping us with UCAS or completing apprenticeship applications.

“”

I enjoy the study periods. They are structured and really help me to get a deeper understanding of what I have been taught in my lessons.

“”

The staff offer us the support we need in order to succeed in the future. Staff live by the Skinners' Academy motto 'Be the best you can', and encourage us to do the same.

“”

There are many extra-curricular opportunities available e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Peer Mentoring and the Mark Evison Challenge.

“”

The help we get with our personal statements is second to none and means we are able to make really strong applications to university.

“”

The Sixth Form study area is peaceful, allowing us to work in a productive environment. Being able to study in such a dynamic and goal orientated setting enables us to reach our full potential.

“”

Staff are understanding of our different needs, I feel safe and supported. They truly care and keep us on track, whether it is with school studies, or our extra-curricular activities.

SKINNERS' SIXTH FORM

Daily **PASTORAL** sessions dedicated to ensuring students feel supported

PERSONALISED teaching aided by smaller class sizes

COMBINED A-Level & Vocational pathways designed to offer a varied approach to learning

Various **ENRICHMENT** opportunities e.g. DofE Gold

APPLY NOW!
Scan Me

DEADLINE: Friday 21 February 2020

post16@skinnersacademy.org.uk | www.skinnersacademy.org.uk
@skinnersacademy | facebook.com/skinnersacademy

Music



Year 7 Showcase 2019

The Year 7 Showcase is a chance for our newest pupils to show off all their hard work since starting their instrumental music lessons in September.

Following the dramatic, last-minute cancellation of this year's event due to a fire evacuation, all ensembles have now been recorded and uploaded to Instagram! Make sure you are following @SkinnersMusic to ensure you are fully up-to-date with what is going on with our young musicians!

Mr Chappell, Teacher of Music



National Youth Orchestra & Dudamel Visit

On 20 November, the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) visited the Academy with their new conductor Gustavo Dudamel. Gustavo is a world famous Venezuelan-Spanish conductor and the music director of the Orquesta Sinfonica Simon Bolivar and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

As a NYO Young Promotor I helped the NYO and Barbican teams to organise the visit and supported staff and musicians throughout the day.

Gaby Marin Londono, Year 10



Winter Concert - 17 December

This year's winter concert will be held on Tuesday 17 December! Come and join our music department and pupils to celebrate the season.

Audiences will be treated to Christmas carols and well-known seasonal songs performed by our musicians. It's a celebration of everything music at Skinners' Academy and refreshments will be available!

Caitlin Alsford, Year 8 (Concert Producer)

“

Performing at the Winter concert is an amazing experience. All musicians get to do what they love and share our talents with the audience.

Ken-Wei Lu

Recital

On 10 December we held our termly music recital in the theatre. The recital is a chance for pupils and audience members to dress up and nibble on canapés whilst they enjoy an evening full of classical music played by Skinners' musicians.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts TA



Beethoven Workshop

On 7 October, a group of Year 8, 9 & 10 pupils took part in a poetry workshop to adapt the adaptation of Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy'.

We all wrote our own poems around the theme of joy. We can't wait to see what is done in the adaptation.

Saskia Gacek Simmons, Year 10

Drama



““

I think A Very Expensive Poison was interesting. I liked the big costumes and the characters.

Overall I really enjoyed the play. It took us on an adventure to try and find out who poisoned the Russian.

Alyssa Can, Year 10

Monologue Competition

Year 9 & 10 drama pupils are involved in a monologue competition this year, run by Hackney Shed. Stage one of the competition involved pupils performing a monologue of their own choice in school.

Two finalists were chosen from Stage one and will move on to the final of the competition at BSix Sixth Form College to compete against other schools on 6 December.

There will be a prize for the winner of the competition, which is judged by industry professionals. Last year's panel had representatives from Hackney Empire, Punchdrunk Theatre company, and The Royal Central School of Speech & Drama.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts TA

““

The workshop run by Hackney Empire and the Royal Court Theatre was a difficult process but by the end of it I realised how much I enjoy writing my own material.

Beritan Unek, Year 11

A Very Expensive Poison

On 25 September, Year 9 & 10 drama pupils went to see 'A Very Expensive Poison' with Old Vic New Voices Schools Club at the Old Vic Theatre. The first show of four in the Old Vic New Voices Scheme. This magnificent play, based on a true story, by Lucy Prebble got lots and lots of applause.

The play is about the murder of Alexander Litvinenko, a Russian FSB secret service officer who specialised in tackling organised crime. He died in a London hospital in 2006 after being exposed to a radioactive element known as polonium-210. The play also has real words spoken by Theresa May who failed to act following Litvinenko's murder.

Zeynep Tuysuz, Year 10



Year 11 Writers Room

This year, the Year 11 drama class have been working with the Hackney Empire and Royal Court Theatre on a writing project. Over five weeks, drama practitioners from the Royal Court and Hackney Empire have been delivering a monologue writing project, helping pupils to write their own monologues from scratch that resulted in a performance of the pupils' work at the Hackney Empire by professional actors. The project explores narrative, form, character, and why we tell stories.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts TA

““

Knowing that I can write something that has an impact on an audience has really boosted my confidence in my drama lessons.

Abdul Ruhan, Year 11

Art & Design



Winner:
Maria Gusel,
Year 9



Winner:
Chiamaka Onwuli,
Year 8



Combined winning
design



Runner up:
Altan Aydemir,
Year 10



Runner up:
Kamoya Ranglin,
Year 9



Runner up:
Rory Smith-
Ridley, Year 9



Runner up:
Nicole Queiroz,
Year 8

Christmas Card

We would like to congratulate all the talented, creative pupils that entered this year's Christmas card competition. We had many wonderful entries from Years 7-10.

It was very difficult to decide on a winning card! So the final Christmas card design is a collaborative piece by Maria Gusel, Year 9, and Chiamaka Onwuli, Year 8. The two separate designs have been merged together to form this year's official Skinners' Academy Card.

Runners up:
Altan Aydemir, Year 10
Kamoya Ranglin, Year 9
Rory Smith- Ridley, Year 9
Nicole Queiroz, Year 8

If you are a winner, or a runner up please see Ms Memish for your prize.

Year 10 Art Trip

In October, Year 10 art pupils visited the Tate Modern. The aim of the trip was to provide pupils with inspiration for their current GCSE Project. Many pupils have since developed work influenced by Artists work they saw at the Tate Modern.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design

A-Level Trip

A-Level art students were invited to attend the annual Knitting and Stitching Show at Alexander Palace. The show offers visitors the chance to attend workshops, talks and see a wide range of craft materials.

Ms Biggs, Teacher of Art & Design/Gifted Coordinator

““

The trip to the Tate Modern was particularly inspiring. I saw many different art techniques used to create the work on display which I will use in my own work.

Lily Bell, Year 10

““

The Knitting and Stitching show was a really inspiring experience. I learnt a lot about different techniques and materials, and had the chance to talk to different artists about their work. Since attending, I have made porcelain buttons, needle felted and learnt to couch stitch, all of which I have incorporated into my current embroidery pieces.

Zelal Batit, Year 13



Year 7 & 8 Masterpieces

Year 7 & 8 pupils were put to the test when asked to create a masterpiece over the half term holiday. Pupils created a range of works including collage, sculpture, painting and embroidery. This task gave pupils the chance to work independently to express their own creativity. The images you see below are the works of pupils that have gone above and beyond expectation for Year 7 & 8 and they should all be very proud of their efforts.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



Portrait Commission

In October, I was commissioned to create a portrait of our former Principal Mr Clark which would be presented to him as a gift from pupils at his final assembly. Being asked to draw Mr Clark was an honour, and it provided me with the experience of creating a portrait within a time limit.

It took me two-weeks to complete the portrait. Although it was a stressful process, it was also greatly rewarding. I put in a lot of effort and dedication into the portrait to end up with something that I was proud of, and that would be worthy of gifting to our former Principal.

Gaby Londono, Year 10



Design & Technology

GCSE Food Experiments

Building on last year's successful 100% (9-4) results for Task 1, the current Year 11 food nutrition and preparation class have started their food science investigation with a positive and more confident attitude. I met with Chardannay Edwards, Year 11, to understand her learning and progress on Task 1.

Mr Ojewunmi: What experiment did you do and why?

Chardannay: For plan [1A] I stuck to the basic meringue recipe, separating the egg whites from the yolk, however, I used less sugar (100g) than the control (175g).

Similarly, in Plan [1B], I decided to add no sugar at all; this was to see if the egg white foam would coagulate and thicken as it did with the control recipe. I then recorded my results based on the formation of the foam.

Mr Ojewunmi: Which experiment was most successful, and why?

Chardannay: According to my results, plan [1A] produced the best foam formation. It had excellent expansion, it looked very glossy and white and had an incredible smoothness to it but also held its peaks very well.

Mr Ojewunmi: What further modification could you make?

Chardannay: I could use a sugar replacement such as cream of tartar and see what outcome it gives me.

Mr Ojewunmi: How would you evaluate your result scientifically?

Chardannay: Plan [1A] gained a high score in stiffness this shows that the air bubbles have been coated in protein bubbles which made the meringue hold the peaks and gave an ideal looking shape. Plan [1A] was more successful than [1B] because I added sugar to it which helps the foam structure become more stable.

Mr Ojewunmi, Teacher of Food Technology/AHOY9



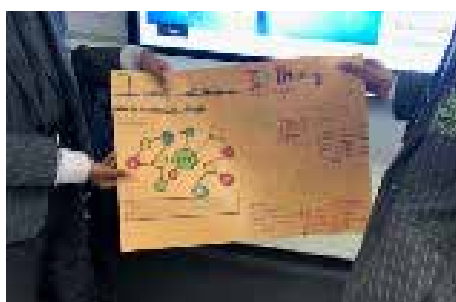
Structures & Paper Engineering Club

Introducing our new DT superstar – Naomi Asrat, Year 7! Naomi understands that paper is actually an incredibly strong material – ask her and she will gladly explain this to you.

She understands that the London Eye is constructed from steel pyramids which are joined at their apex and with diagonal stiffening at their bases. Such structures have excellent strength to weight ratios.

Naomi used her understanding of how the London Eye is constructed to build something herself. Even though her structure is made out of paper, it is extremely strong and very light. Look out for the completed structure hanging somewhere in the school in the next few weeks!

Mr Nayar, Teacher of Design & Technology

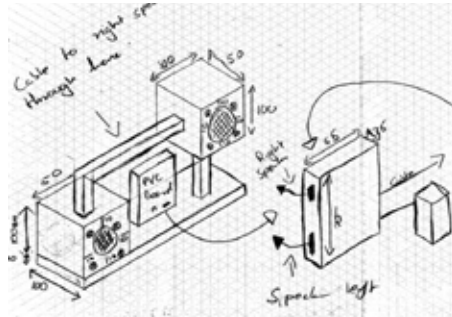
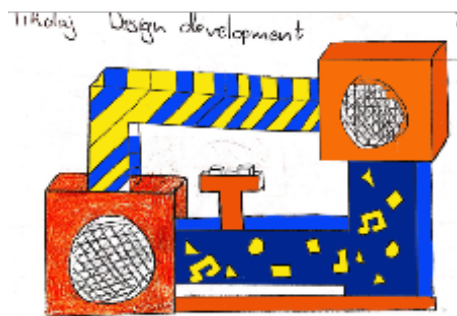


Presentations Trip; New & Emerging Tech

The Year 10 resistant materials group have been learning about new and emerging technologies and have created visually engaging and informative posters marketing these new technologies. This was a great opportunity for the pupils to learn independently as well as discover the impact that technologies such as Drones, 5G and Artificial Intelligence have on our lives.

Each group performed a three-minute presentation in front of the class and members of the DT department with great pride and enthusiasm. Presentations are now on display in the DT workshop for all year groups to see and learn from.

Ms Betiku, Teacher of Design & Technology



Dual Speaker Project

Last term, in resistant materials the Year 10 group had the chance to design and make their very own portable speakers.

The theme was set as the Memphis movement which is well known for its late 80s style that embodies quirky geometric shapes with bold colors and retro furniture.

The students were all successful in bringing their unique design ideas to life! A big well done to all!

Ms Betiku, Teacher of Design & Technology

Reggie Dabbs Talk

On 3 July, Year 7 & 8 groups spent the afternoon with the Hillsong Schools Project and Reggie Dabbs. Reggie Dabbs is a motivational speaker that has worked with pupils for the past 30 years, reaching over 1.5 million children a year.

He travels all around the world to get his message of hope and inspiration to as many young people as possible and is fast becoming one of the most in-demand speakers to help teenagers meet their problems head-on and overcome them. "You can't change your past, but you can change your future."

To engage the pupils Reggie began his assembly with interactive games, jokes and played a range of modern hits on his Saxophone. Messages included things regarding identity, self-esteem and reconstructing your mind set, affirming that the young people can bring change to the world.

Later in the session went on pupils were treated with free McDonalds and music in the playground courtesy of the Hillsong Schools Project team which as you can imagine went down a treat.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology



“ ”

I really enjoyed the event. Reggie was very motivational and inspiring.

Nica Sequeira, Year 9





““

The three-day trip was a very educational experience for us. We had a lot of fun while creating our bags to support charity.

We learnt how to use industrial machines and irons which were scary at first but then we got used to them.

We started every day at 10am. Our days finished late as we had a lot to do. It has made me excited about studying at university.

Blessing Ngunda, Year 10

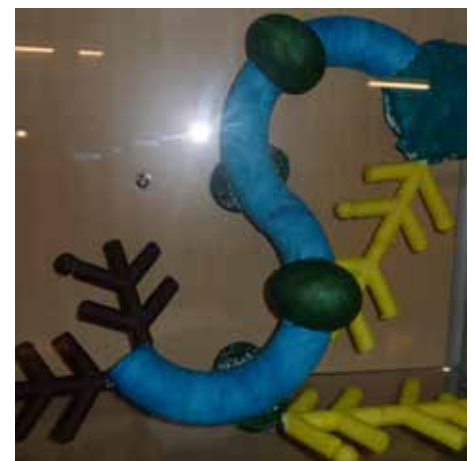
Textiles: Bags for Life Project

In July, Year 9 textiles pupils successfully took part in an intensive three-day design and making project at The London College of Fashion. The project focused on sustainability and entrepreneurship whilst exploring issues of waste and excess in today's society.

The project saw pupils using factory style machinery to up-cycle second hand clothing to create bags and other products that they will later sell to raise money for a local Hospice. The pupils did a fantastic job, attending every day and settling into the university style of studying within the fashion industry.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology

Science



Year 7 Cell Model Making Competition

This term, all Year 7 pupils took part in cell model making competition. Pupils had to get creative and design a cell whether it be plant, animal or bacteria. Competition was high, there were some fantastic models built but there was one clear overall winner, Maya Hemmami. Maya built not one, not two but FIVE types of cell! Flu virus, Blood cells, Plant cells, Eugenia and a Bacteria cell.

Runners up were Leticia Lemes Santos for building an Animal cell model, and Lorraine Ferreira Sangiorgio for building a Nerve cell. These models are proudly displayed in the cabinet near reception. The science department would like to say well done to everyone who took part in the competition.

At the time of printing this newsletter, the next Year 7 science competition will be coming to a close. In groups of three, pupils were tasked with designing a poster based on Organ Systems. The winning poster will be proudly displayed on the science notice board and will feature in our next newsletter in Spring.

Ms Zor, Teacher of Science/KS3 Coordinator



Computing



Year 7 Computing - E-Safety: Let's Talk About It!

As the amount of users of technology grows, so does the demand and the need for safety. Our Year 7 computing pupils have been learning about E-Safety as part of the curriculum. Pupils have considered and explored a range of e-safety issues affecting them and their peers – discussing ways in which problems can be overcome. Raising awareness of safety online as well as with the use of technology as a whole is an ongoing requirement in order to help educate and shape the future generations to be good digital citizens. Pupils made use of the literacy skills to write short stories inspired by a chosen aspect of e-safety. This has allowed our pupils to explore the chosen topic and advise readers of the consequences and actions that can be taken. The need for back-ups and back-up methods are also investigated to help pupils understand that valuable files and data need to be saved in case of malfunctions, theft or accidental damage to computer systems and storage.

E-safety needs to be considered when using various types of electronic communication devices such as:

- ♦ Mobile and Smartphones
- ♦ Tablets
- ♦ Laptops
- ♦ Desktop Computers
- ♦ Games Consoles that facilitate online gaming
- ♦ Smart watches

Can you think of any others? What about smart toys? Have you considered your digital footprint when using technology that has the capacity to communicate? Year 8 pupils have! Their study of e-safety this year encourages them to consider how their digital footprints can be created, managed and exploited. Our pupils are encouraged to develop their awareness of data sharing, even through the use of cookies, search histories and GPS-enabled devices.

Year 8 Computing Trip – The Addams Family

Year 8 computing pupils visited The Castle Cinema to watch the latest animated adaptation of The Addams Family, as part of The Into Film Festival promoted by Ms Bowling each year. This allowed us to be part of the largest youth film festival in the world.

Pupils were nominated for the trip as a reward recognising all their hard work and dedication shown in class during the first half term. This was a wonderful opportunity for pupils to celebrate their efforts with their peers and teachers as well as exploring the use of computer graphics in animation.

Into Film Festival has provided us yet again with a fantastic opportunity to reward our pupils. It is encouraging to see pupils working with such dedication and demonstrating behaviour for learning in an excellent way in computing. There was a great sense of appreciation and enjoyment from our nominated pupils.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/AHOY13



“ ”

I had so much fun and enjoyed the trip – thank you to the teachers for picking us and rewarding our hard work.

Zeynep Asal, Year 8



Bits & Bytes Club

Launched in October, the mission of this club was to inspire Year 8s to participate in the digital world and to see and experience how programming can be used in a mechanical sense. The club members got the opportunity to learn coding with BBC micro:bits (programmable micro-computers). During lunchtime sessions on Thursdays, the team used their programming skills to flash LEDs, code buttons and hack their headphones. They had fun making a dice, playing rock-paper-scissors and sending secret messages digitally. The team was chuffed to see their electric circuits in action (built using tangerines !!) and took pride in showing off their digital watches.

The micro:bit activities helped them understand many computing concepts linked to KS3 curriculum like inputs and outputs, hardware and software, variables, conditionals and loops and how various types of data (including text, sound and pictures) can be manipulated digitally.

Ms. D. Roji, Club Leader & Computing Teaching Assistant

AWS GetIT Amazon Bootcamp

In October, AWS GetIT club member representatives from Year 8 attended a bootcamp at the Amazon head office in London to receive expert advice on furthering the design of their app solution, as well as workshops on how to present the idea before submitting it into the finals.

AWS GetIT is part of a national initiative to bridge the gender gap in the tech industry, designed to inspire young people, in particular girls, to get into IT and gain digital skills. Pupils learn more about technology as a possible career option from industry experts, learn how to build and bring their application to market, and maybe even consider a career in IT and app making!

This gives our Year 8 pupils the unique opportunity to connect with inspiring female leaders in the IT industry, explore a career in technology and gain valuable employability skills. This is a great opportunity to exercise their Enterprising skills as well as using computational approaches to work as a team to come up with an amazing idea for an app for the inter-school and national app-building competition which is focused on solving an issue facing our school or our local community.

Thorpe Park Fright Night!

We making learning spookily fun and exciting – students don't even realise they are learning!

In October KS5 students in computer science and digital media had the opportunity to see and experience how Merlin Entertainments, a large entertainment organisation, promotes and executes a theme-based event using a range of graphics, digital graphics and technology at Thorpe Park Fright Night – perfectly timed for the build up to Halloween.

Students were able to identify and explore the ranges of digital graphics that they saw around stalls, rides and mazes to help capture the atmosphere of Fright Night, some of which were really effective – our students claimed to be brave throughout the night, but were they really? The trip was a thrilling experience for our students, screams of horror could be heard from around the park. The use of immersive technology in rides such as the Derren Brown Ghost Train brings the whole experience to life with the use of VR technology.



“““

Amazing trip! This is such an engaging means of exploring digital technology within the entertainment industry. Students had the opportunity to experience how the use of immersive technology can bring a spooky experience to life.

Mr Alexis, Teacher of Computing/AVP



“ ”

I really enjoyed the Grant Museum of Zoology, it really inspired me to create a robot and interact with it.

Kerida Gustave, Year 7

Bio-Robotics Club – Go Skinners' Girls!

Skinners' computing department have launched the new Bio-Robotics Club in partnership with UCL, to offer our female, tech-savvy pupils the opportunity to learn robotics skills inspired by nature itself. Bio-Robotics club members are made up of a mixture of Year 7, Year 11 and Year 12 female pupils, all of whom are passionate and keen to bring coding to life.

The partnership with UCL has given us the opportunity to use their robotics kits within the Academy. During the after-school club, club members explore and use the robotics kit to program movement inspired by snakes and caterpillars using Micro:bit technology and 3D printed parts.

In November, the Bio-Robotics club was invited to The Grant Museum of Zoology to learn more about the use of nature to inspire robotics, both now and in the future, from robotic bees to pollenate to wolves in agriculture. The visit also included a tour of UCL which was great for inspiring our female pupils to think ahead in their academic journey, some were inspired and keen to be part of their university life in the near future.

During the visit our club members explored animal anatomy to inspire them to develop solutions for four different challenges set by Carolyn Thompson, PhD student and Primatologist at UCL and ZSL UK, supported by UCL students. The challenges were presented as four different activity stations:

- ♦ Bone strength
- ♦ Skeletal system
- ♦ Locomotion without limbs
- ♦ Pentadactyl limbs.

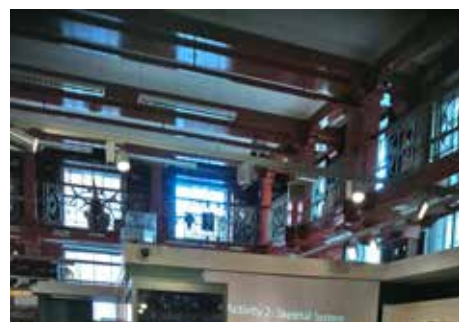
Our partnership with UCL has given our pupils the unique opportunity to connect with inspiring future female leaders in the IT industry, explore a career in technology and gain valuable employability skills. This was a great opportunity to exercise their enterprise skills as well as using computational approaches to work as a team to tackle the challenges presented to them. This has fuelled our club's excitement further, recently having written codes to make movements possible with servo motors – the caterpillar is now coming to life!

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/AHOY13

“ ”

I was inspired by both the university and the workshop. I now know what I can achieve if I work hard. I really enjoyed the trip and I am so glad that I am a Bio-Robotics club member.

Sasha Ryan, Year 7



Year 9 Computer Scientist – FDE Game Development

Fetch, Decode and Execute! The functions of a CPU (central processing unit) explored by Year 9 computer scientists in their quest to understand and develop a game based on the FDE to teach their peers. This mini project encourages our young computer scientists to make use of computational skills and enterprise skills to plan, design and create a game using technology – but wait! There is a catch, the game itself must not require the use of technology to play it, no really! This team-based mini project has seen our pupils create an action plan, explore skills within each team member in order to best allocate tasks, technical skills and creativity to bring their games to life.

Despite their ups and downs, team work is helping our young computer scientists to create a clever and fun teaching tool, educating their peers about the fetch cycle. The opportunity to see individual team members' skills being utilised effectively to achieve lesson targets is wonderful.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/AHOY13



“”

The group activities are very interesting because I am working with people I have never worked with before which helps me with my communication skills.

Natalene Hope, Year 9

“”

It's interesting to learn how the different parts of computers actually work.

Christivie Bwana, Year 9



Creative iMedia Explores Graphic Design and Editing Skills

Digital graphic skills development currently being explored and used by our Year 10 creative iMedia pupils is helping them to understand the level of work, effort and creativity required to produce graphics used by many industries across various sectors such as film, sports, entertainment and more.

As part of the qualification, pupils developed their understanding and appreciation for the design stage which helped them to plan and create their digital graphics. They needed to take into consideration dimensions, colour and research skills to become more self-taught and independent learners. First they created a visualisation diagram for a book cover to meet their client's needs. This enabled them to explore Adobe Photoshop, using pre-existing and new techniques to achieve specific effects. Examples are drop shadow, opacity and 3D shape. This was particularly useful for one pupil who created a 3D sphere which was then placed inside a ring to mimic the planet Saturn. This qualification also helps to promote and develop digital art skills using a graphics tablet.

It is encouraging to see pupils continuing to take risks and show a real sense of resilience whilst creating their digital graphics. Often pupils are seen to use their online research skills to find ways in which they could use Adobe Photoshop to achieve particular effects – search criteria: 'Amazing effects using Photoshop', really – that's how easy it is to get pro-level inspiration. Seeing pupils working hard and trying their best inspires me as a teacher to challenge my graphics editing skills too.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/AHOY13



Digital Day 2019 @ Skinners' Academy

Every year, Digital Day sees professionals from the world of tech and digital head back to school for a day with pupils. It is a chance for our young people to discover more about a digital career, and to take part in sponsored national challenges with some fantastic prizes up for grabs.

Last year 81% of teachers said Digital Day raised pupils' awareness of careers and opportunities in the digital industry. 97% of pupils said they understood the digital industry better, and 78% said they would now consider a digital job.

Digital Day hosted by Skinners' computing department was a successful event bringing us together with Ross Musgrove and Rowan Ling from Bravand, a digital design company founded by Jilly Cross. This was a one-day event that was delivered to our creative iMedia, computer science and digital media pupils. This was a fantastic opportunity to work with digital professionals that have worked with clients such as UCL, Sainsbury's, Nandos and more. Ross Musgrove and Rowan Ling, inspired our pupils, giving them:

- Insight into the depth and breadth of careers available in the digital sector.
- Practical advice on how to get into the digital sector.
- Understanding of the project lifecycle and the need to consider UX (User Experience) and UI (User Interface) when developing solutions for a client.
- Hands-on experience tackling challenges from brand sponsors

The challenges taken on by our pupils from brand sponsors required them to:

EPAM: Come up with a campaign that inspires young people to consider a digital career. It could be a video, an event, something fun on social media. Pupils needed to Go big. Go funny and NOT be afraid to be creative or weird with their ideas.

Micro:bit: If we don't protect our oceans, they can't protect us. Develop a prototype that can help 'remove plastic from the ocean', 'prevent trawlers taking too many fish from the sea', or 'change the way people think and act, so we stop polluting the oceans'. It could be a robot, a micro:bit or an app.

Wimbledon: 'My Wimbledon' is Wimbledon's personalised digital experience. It allows fans access to benefits and tickets. But what more could it do? How could the app appeal to the next generation of sports fans? Develop ideas for app content that might inspire young people.

Our pupils really impressed Ross and Rowan with their ideas which was presented to the whole group in the afternoon.

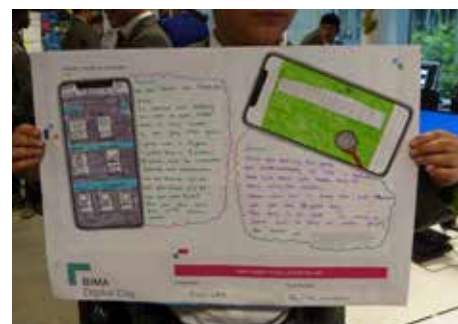
Girls Robotics Club

Girls Robotics Club continues into 2019/2020 – Great! Club members are busy using their robotics skills to further build their robot during lunchtimes. When fully assembled, the meconoid will measure 4ft in height and will also be able to tell jokes. This club has inspired and encouraged some of the club members to join the Bio-Robotics Club in partnership with UCL. These initiatives are our ongoing passion and drive to encourage more girls in computer science and digital technology as a whole, supporting a national drive to combat the gender gap.



We are part of an ongoing movement. We believe there should be more females working in the tech industry. We continue in our aim to change the perspectives of other females in our Academy and beyond.

The Girls Robotic Team, Year 11



Working with industry professionals is a fantastic way to raise awareness and promote careers in digital technology. Bravand were yet again amazing in delivering Digital Day to our pupils. It was great to see pupils support each other in their quest to complete their given challenges. The winning team cleverly made use of VR technology and e-commerce within their solution which really impressed the judges.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/
AHOY13



Sixth Form Taster Day

Taster sessions offered at the Academy are a great way for pupils to learn about the computer science and digital media subjects that they could study at sixth form. Making use of their existing enterprise skills helps us to shape taster sessions that give an insight into the work expected of them and challenge them to push the boundaries of learning.

This is an opportunity for us to get to know our prospective pupils a little better, which helps us ensure that courses and lessons offered are tailored to their needs, this is a strength of Skinners' sixth form.

Computer Science

Pupils were tasked with planning and designing an app around the concept of 'It's My Life'. Pupils were given the opportunity to use their research skills, demonstrating their inquisitive side, and teamwork skills to be able to prepare a short pitch communicating and exploring their app proposal in sectors of education and wellbeing.

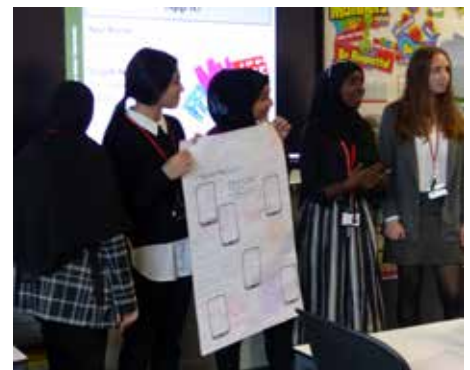
They did a fantastic job at explaining their understanding of the uses of app features for the given problem, using their soft skills to drive their points through. There are many aspects of computing that are used in a wide range of industries therefore it is extremely important for pupils to have an awareness of how and what technology is shaping the world of work and beyond in this ever changing digital world.

CTEC Level 3 in Digital Media

Digital media is a fast growing industry which uses both technical and design skills to achieve digital products across all sectors. Pupils took on the challenge to explore the use of sound in advertising which forms part of the overall branding for companies and products. During the taster session pupils investigated chosen brands and explored how they use advertising to promote their products to the mass market.

This was a great opportunity for pupils to understand the need to use research and analytical skills to explore existing advertising campaigns in order to inform their own design decisions. Pupils were able to exploit their use of enterprise skills acquired throughout their time at Skinners' Academy.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing/AHOY13



“

The taster day seriously changed my perspective of computer science and that females can be just as good if not better in this field - after all, we did win the taster day competition, designing an academic social media app.

Yasmin Ali, Year 11

A Level Computer Science – Project Research and Design Phase!

Year 12 computer scientists are in the process of researching and designing their programming solution for their client using computational thinking. As part of their A Level programme of study, students complete a programming-based project (worth 20% of the overall qualification). This provides our students with an opportunity to explore their project management, research and design skills in order to meet the needs of their client whilst considering UX and UI as the most important factors.

Some students will be creating an app-based solution for their client whilst others will be creating a computer game-based solution. Having real clients is adding to the challenge of this project, requiring students to use effective communication skills throughout to share their thoughts and to update their clients in terms of progress. They have to take on board the demands of their clients and interpret their needs. This project has seen students investigate suitable software applications to develop their solutions such as Unity. This year sees a range of creative ideas such as games based on dystopian worlds, mythology, snakes and adventure - it is encouraging to see that our students are willing and able to consider such complex briefs.





Travel & Tourism



Travel and Tourism – Thorpe Park trip

Last year, a group of Year 9 & 10 travel & tourism pupils enjoyed a fantastic day out at Thorpe Park. The day started with a Guest Care workshop hosted by Senior Education Officer – Toni Sage. The workshop included a presentation on the range of products and services offered to customers to ensure they have an awesome experience at the theme park. This included the extra benefits for guests staying at the onsite Thorpe Shark Hotel. Hotel guests get free breakfast, unlimited Fast Track passes until 11am and an hour to themselves at the resort before the main park opens to the general public.

Pupils gained an insight into how staff are trained to manage complaints and understand individual situations. This was followed by pupils delivering role plays about specific customer complaints within the park, and finding solutions to overcome the problem.

Overall, it was a brilliant trip and pupils had the entire afternoon to explore the park and experience the rides and direct customer service for themselves.

Ms Jackson, Teacher of Geography/ iC of Travel & Tourism



Year 9 Walking Tour of London

In March, last year's Year 9 travel & tourism group took a walking tour of London accompanied by myself and Ms Sanchez. We started at Piccadilly Circus and the statue of Eros (World's first Aluminum statue) and made our way down to The Mall. From here I pointed out the back of Downing Street and the back of Buckingham Palace (the bit with the gates is actually the back entrance). This is also where Marble Arch used to be.

Via Trafalgar square and the 'centre of London' (King Charles' statue) we strolled down to the River Thames and Hungerford bridge. Crossing over to the South Bank Centre, pupils learnt about the 1950 festival of Britain (of which the Royal Festival Hall is all that remains). Back over the Thames we ducked into Victoria Gardens and saw the Watergate – all that remains of the pre-Bazzalgette waterside Thames. His sewer, train and gas line now run under the gardens, creating a narrower Thames and the Victoria Embankment.

Our final stops were Covent Garden and Leicester Square. Here the pupils enjoyed watching the street performers, sights and sounds. This brief trip around Central London helped pupils with their Unit 2 BTEC work.

Mr Lyons, Teacher of Geography

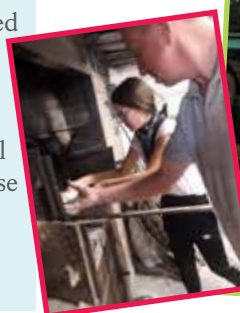
MFL

Visiting France

In June, the MFL department took 58 pupils to the Opal Coast in Northern France. We travelled by coach and ferry and packed several cultural activities into our three-day trip. Pupils enjoyed full board in the rural Chateau d'Eblinghem and availed themselves of evening activities such as a treasure hunt and a cheese sampling session.

Pupils visited the famous towns of Le Touquet and Boulogne, where they shopped and strolled along the beach. They also visited a chocolate factory, where they made their own chocolate (and got to take it home!). Other highlights included a visit to a snail farm where pupils, to their delight, were served freshly cooked snails and a visit to a traditional bakery, where they saw how bread was made. All activities were conducted in French and pupils had ample opportunities to practise the language.

Ms Bokhari, Teacher of MFL



Salamanca, Spain

40 pupils from Years 8-13 embarked on a homestay visit in Salamanca City, just outside Madrid to practice their Spanish speaking skills and experience the culture and family way of life. Each morning they were required to attend a local academy where they had lessons all taught in Spanish. It was a brilliant experience for them, and the itinerary was jam packed with educational, cultural and fun activities.

With their host family, pupils had exceptional cultural opportunities which allowed them to fully immerse in the Spanish language. Their host families knew very little English (if any), so pupils had little choice but to speak the language. Pupils were able to enhance their language skills simply by listening and absorbing the rhythm of the language and the accent. For example, they learnt the latest slang and common phrases/expressions used in the region. Pupils experienced what Spanish daily life was like, the culture, and the simple things such as meal times which are very different to the UK and hence required pupils to adapt to this as part of their experience.

In addition to the experience with their host families and Spanish lessons, each day pupils had the opportunity to see various tourist attractions in that region as well as experiencing local cuisines and flamenco dancing.

Overall, this trip was an incredible, cultural and linguistic experience for all pupils.

Ms Smith, Head of MFL



Day One

We arrived in Salamanca on Saturday. It was warm, sunny and pupils enjoyed the rich Spanish atmosphere. After an energetic start, pupils got to meet their host families and had a tour around the city centre. Pupils were nervous, but they were also very excited



““

What an unforgettable experience! I enjoyed the culture very much and enjoyed having discussions with my host family in Spanish.

Jaquan Byrue, Year 9

Day Two

We went to school in the morning and in the afternoon, we visited the Central Market of Salamanca (the oldest market of supplies of the city). The best meats, fish and vegetables and all products were seen. The live fish was also on display, which was fun to see.

““

It was an incredible experience, I got to meet new people and learn about Spanish culture. Central of Spain is beautiful. I liked the fact I was learning Spanish whilst I was having fun!

Shauna Booth-Gilby, Year 13





Day Three

After lessons, we visited “The Casa Lis”. This is a museum located in the ancient city wall of Salamanca. Also known as Museo Art Nouveau and Art Déco, it is a museum of decorative arts, with exhibits dating from the last decades of the 19th century to World War II. We saw the most impressive views over the city and the art in the house was spectacular.

We had a chance to explore the bell tower within Salamanca’s Cathedral. It was a great opportunity to see the structure of the cathedral and understand how it was built.

“”

I was scared to meet my host family, but after the first day the nerves settled down as my Spanish family were very accommodating. It was an amazing experience; especially the challenge of only speaking Spanish to our host family - my Spanish really improved.

Sebastian Chamorro, Year 9

Day Four

After school, we had a lesson in salsa dancing. We produced a whole salsa and bachata routine. It was spectacular.

We then had a paella cooking lesson where pupils created their own vegetarian and meat paella, it was a fun experience for all.

For our last activity, we went on a tapas tour which consisted of trying lots of different tapas in three different restaurants (a popular activity in Spanish culture). Pupils enjoyed the food immensely, the flavour fusions were delicious.



“”

It was amazing to learn about the history and culture of Spain and walk the beautiful streets of Salamanca at night, especially the Plaza Mayor. It was a something I will never forget

Aleksandra Jachimowska, Year 9



Day Five

Our final day. We did our final gift shopping in Madrid City and even had the opportunity to see the Real Madrid Stadium which pupils thoroughly enjoyed before we began our long journey home.

Gifted & Talented



Visiting Oxford University

On 22 November, 20 Year 8 G&T pupils had the opportunity to visit Wadham college at Oxford University.

Pupils were given a tour of the campus, had a careers workshop, and a visit to the natural history museum. Here they explored some fascinating exhibitions, had a talk about insects and birds, as well as getting to stroke/hold various insects! Pupils were also given an insight into University life and found the day very inspiring and motivating.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY9/
Talented Coordinator

Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

LRC Update

Start of Term

We've really hit the ground running, here at the LRC. The new year began with IT inductions for all Year 7 pupils where they set up their IT accounts and learned how to use their emails. These sessions were followed up by an introduction to our new library system and then they all chose a free book that they can keep from the Bookbuzz scheme. It's been a real pleasure to see them so enthusiastic about all that the LRC has to offer.

We welcomed our new member of LRC staff, Ms Semmami, and she has already created some beautiful displays.

Year 12 were introduced to e-resources suited for their new level of studies and LRC staff are being kept busy by many requests from pupils in every year group.

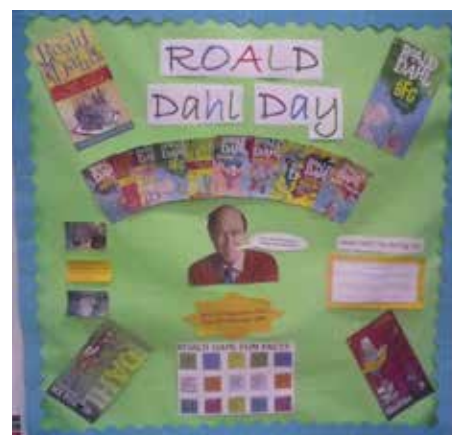
Dan Freedman

60 pupils were selected to attend a talk by Dan Freedman. Dan's career has taken him from being the in-house journalist for the Football Association, travelling with the England team to World Cup Finals, to writing the bestselling book and TV series, Jamie Johnson. He spoke about his latest title, Unstoppable, which is his first young adult book, and every child attending received a free signed copy. His talk was incredibly inspiring, with everyone enthused about reading, and the pupils asking Dan lots of interesting questions. Ahmed and Haitham Guthmy won a football that the FA had given Dan, which he signed for them. Jaquan Byrue won £5 for asking the best question. The talk was a positive event and initiatives are underway to build on its success.

Donations

LRC staff would like to thank Ms Murray, English TA, for her donation of books that will be particularly helpful to English A level students, and Mr Khan, IT Manager for his donation of humorous and KS3 literature books that will definitely keep our pupils entertained.

Ms Lutterodt, Librarian



Student Services

#HelloYellow

World Mental Health Day is held on October 10th every year to raise awareness of mental health issues and support good mental health for all. At Skinners' Academy, pupils and staff took the week to positively celebrate our mental health. As the definition from Young Minds says, our mental health is...

"The capacity to live a full, productive life as well as the flexibility to deal with its ups and downs. In children and young people, it is especially about the capacity to learn, enjoy friendships, to meet challenges, to develop talents and capabilities."

We had a week of assemblies looking at mental health; what our mental health is, ways to have positive mental health, how to look after your mental health, get support at the most difficult times, and how to be there for others.

We joined thousands of people across the UK in the Young Minds #HelloYellow campaign. #HelloYellow is about supporting ourselves and each other to have positive mental health and spreading the word that whatever you're going through you're not alone with your mental health.

We got involved at the Academy by:

- Having a wear yellow accessories day
- Holding a bake sale with loads of yellow baked goods
- Sharing yellow Beano jokes, a #Helloyellow playlist and playing wellbeing bingo

Pupils and staff were also encouraged to make #HelloYellow bunting with positive messages, drawings and quotes to suggest to each other ways of looking after our mental health...just a few of the messages are below:

"I go out with my friends to the park and play football"

"I spend time with my family"

"I play PS4"

"I read books that are funny. Also I like to draw animals"

"My friends help me express my feelings more, even when I don't want to"

"I like listening to music and drawing or watching stuff and talking to my friends"

"I like to draw and paint if I'm feeling down, I express my feelings through my art"

"I go looking for bargains in clothes shops"

"I like singing in the shower"

"I like doing sports like football and visiting new places"

"I go out for walks or ride my bike to make me feel good"

"Bubblebath & music"

There were also lots of suggestions related to other physical activities like basketball and yoga, and a lot to do with food!

We raised a fantastic £258 for Young Minds, the UK's leading charity committed to improving the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people.

Remember:

- We all have mental health the same as we have physical health
- Our mental health is the way we think, feel and behave
- You don't need to be an expert to talk about mental health or try to 'fix' someone's problems, just listen
- Talking about mental health doesn't need to be difficult and can make a big difference

Ms Devlin & Ms Farnon, Academy Counsellors | Ms Carroll, Academy Nurse | Ms De Jode, Head of Student Services



Information & Support

Childline

Tel: 0800 1111

Website: www.childline.org.uk
Advice, information, and you can talk to a counsellor online over the phone or online

Samaritans

Tel: 116 123 (free number)

Email: jo@samaritans.org

Website: www.samaritans.org
Open 24 hours a day for you to talk about anything that is troubling you

Young Minds Parents Helpline

Tel: 0808 802 5544

Open Mon – Fri, 9.30am – 4pm
(free number)

Young Minds

www.youngminds.org.uk

Time to Change

www.time-to-change.org.uk

Or see Laura or Jennifer in S20 or Mrs Carroll, Academy Nurse.

Physical Education (PE)

Sports Day Recap

Our annual sports day took place in the last week of the summer term. The sun was shining, the stands were filled, and our young athletes displayed great determination in disciplines including long jump, javelin, shotput, discus and high jump.

As always the highlight of the day was the races and in particular the Year 9 girls' relay (top picture). Due to a lack of runners, Mercedes Xavier, Year 8, stepped in to run the anchor leg for the Year 9 Atwell team. Within the last few metres Favour Adbisi, Year 9, who thought the Bronze medal for her team was in the bag, decided to slow down and walk towards the finish line (rookie error). Mercedes saw her opportunity and sprinted confidently past her opponent to nab the Bronze medal for her own team.

The day was a true success and we look forward to our next sports day in July 2020!



Year 10 Football

Skinners' Academy have had a positive start to the football season despite some tough results.

In the Inner London Cup vs North Dulwich College, Skinners' started slowly with some hesitance in defence and missed chances up front. Dulwich found themselves 3-0 up with 20 minutes to play. Skinners' showed their fighting spirit with a brilliant come back including goals from Jamal Adam and Jordan Vibert to level the score with three minutes to play. Cruelly, Dulwich scored a late winner from the penalty spot, but Skinners' can still be proud of their performance.

Their next game saw a 2-0 defeat in the league to Cardinal Pole, with Skinners' more than matching their opponents but missing several chances. Despite these results their performances are looking positive for the rest of the season.

Sports Leaders

As part of their sports leadership qualifications, Year 11 pupils have been teaching PE lessons to young pupils from Woodberry Down and Sir Thomas Abney Primary Schools. Year 11 boys are completing the Junior Football Leader Qualification, whilst the girls are completing the Junior Sports Leader Award.

Both groups have shown excellent patience, leadership and sports knowledge throughout the sessions which have been really enjoyed by the primary school pupils.





Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze (Year 10)

A big well done to the 122 Year 11 pupils who have recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Bronze Award. Pupils were required to complete four sections to achieve the award;

- Physical section - trampolining, boxing or vaulting
- Skills section - achieved through completing a first aid course
- Volunteering section – completed in their own time.
- Expedition

Pupils concluded the award with their expedition to Epping Forest in July. In groups of six, pupils had to navigate and walk from checkpoint to checkpoint carrying their tents, cooking stoves and food in their back packs. When arriving at the campsite they then had to put their tents up and cook their food using gas camping stoves.

All pupils found the expedition challenging but rewarding, and despite a few wrong turns, they all successfully hit their checkpoints and completed their routes!

Year 11 pupils will have the opportunity to continue with D of E and start their gold award if they stay on with us into the sixth form.

Year 10 pupils are currently starting the award with the aim of beating the 122 Year 11 pupils from the previous year!



Duke of Edinburgh - Gold (Year 12/13)

24 Year 13 students are mid-way through their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, spanning over 18 months. The Gold award includes longer versions of the volunteering, skills and physical sections, as well as a four-day residential expedition section.

Students have prepared for the residential section by taking part in University taster days, and science and technology residentials around the country, and thoroughly enjoyed them. For the physical section several students have taken up rock climbing at school, and for the skills section some students have learnt to drive, whilst others helped Year 10 pupils prepare for their Bronze expedition.

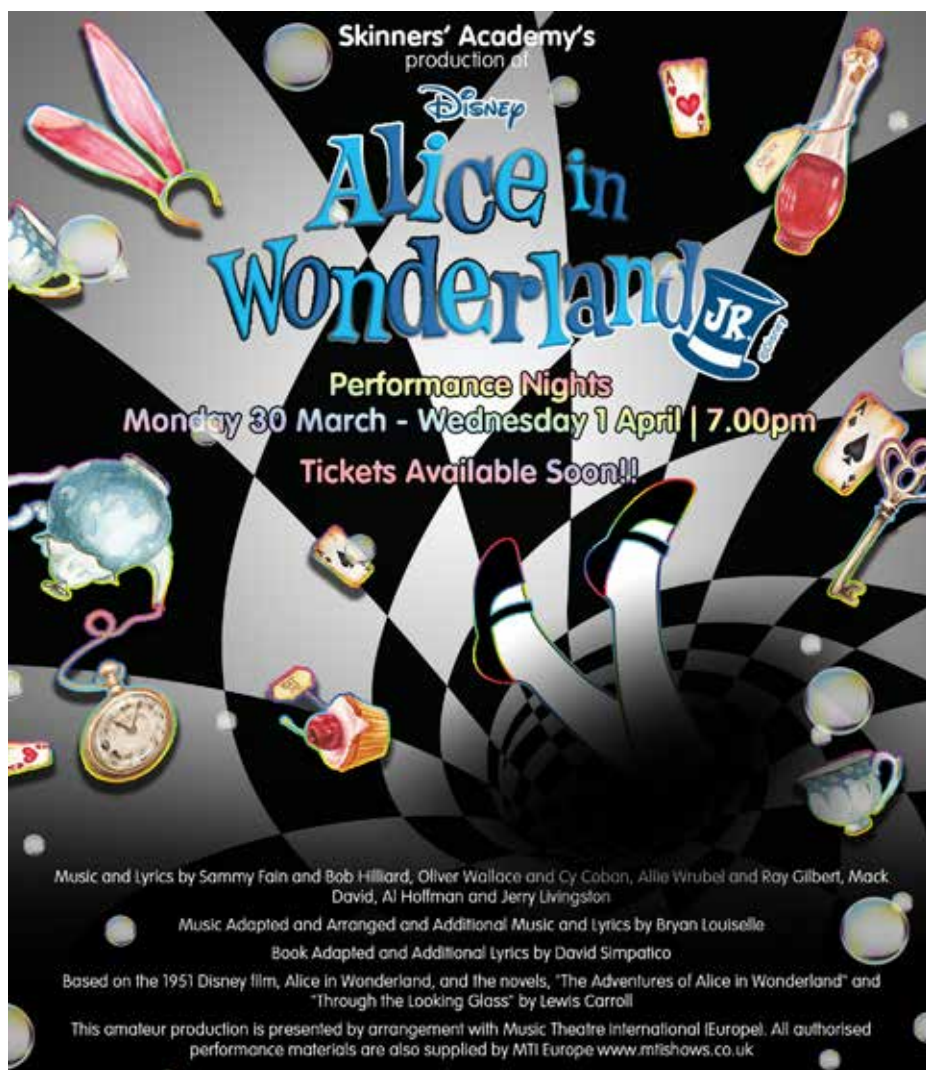
For the final expedition section, students are required to plan and navigate 'Wild Country' terrain for four days, as well as camping and cooking their own food. The practice expedition took place in July to the Brecon Beacons, Wales. Here they had to camp and cook on their camp cookers, whilst reading maps and walking routes in their group across the mountains in Wales. Students found this hard work but enjoyed it, and are looking forward to their assessed expedition this Summer.

Current Year 12 students have the opportunity to sign up and start their award over the next few weeks.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY9/Talented Coordinator



Academy Production



The Next Show is...

We have dropped into the weird, wonderful rabbit hole of rehearsals and soon enough we will be able to hop with the white rabbit to the stage where our production of Alice in Wonderland Jr. awaits us!

If you want to hop with us, the performance will start at 7pm on:

- 30 March
- 31 March
- 1 April

However, the Queen of Hearts is strict so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

COME and JOIN Alice on her MAGNIFICENT wonderland adventure!

Gabrielly Fantin, Year 8



Parents' Corner

You can find more information and keep up to date with news from the Academy all year round through our varying communication channels, including:

Our website:

www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Instagram & Twitter:

@skinnersacademy

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/skinnersacademy

Dates for your diary

Monday 6 January

Spring Term Starts

Wednesday 15 January

Year 11 Parents Evening

Wednesday 22 January

Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February

Half Term

Wednesday 18 March

Year 7, 11 & 13 Photographs

Wednesday 18 March

Year 10 Parents Evening

Wednesday 25 March

Year 8 Parents Evening

Thursday 2 April

Term Ends - 1.00pm

Friday 3 April

Staff PLD