

July 2023

Summer Term
Issue 36

academy newsletter



Just like that, we have reached the end of another academic year. When I reflect on this year, I am reminded of all the things that make Skinner's Academy such a special place. From welcoming our new cohort of pupils back in September 2022, to our Prize Giving ceremony in November and more recently our Cultural Day in July, it has been wonderful to see the Academy grow as a community this year.

As you read through this newsletter I hope you are as proud of our pupils' achievements as I am. Well done to everyone who has worked so hard to ensure our pupils thrive.

My final thoughts are focused on our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils who will be receiving their exam results

over the summer break. They have demonstrated commitment to their studies and we are hopeful that this will be reflected in their results. They are a real credit to their parents and carers and I look forward to celebrating their results with them in August.

With very best wishes for a restful summer.

Shereka James
Principal, Skinner's Academy



Cultural Day

On 20 July, we celebrated Cultural Day at Skinners' Academy. Pupils and staff were encouraged to dress to represent their culture, we were proud to see so many pupils actively take part in sharing their culture with each other. At break, we played music from around the world in the playground and at lunch we were treated to live music from our own steel band! Our canteen staff also served up a treat with food from various cultures.

Thank you to everyone who took part and the sixth form students who helped to put everything together, we can't wait for next year's event!

Ms Savage, Assistant Principal





End of Term Assemblies

We brought the academic year to a close on 21 July with our End of Term assemblies. Each key stage came together in the theatre to celebrate pupil achievements. Certificates were handed out for representing the Academy values, 100% attendance and most merits awarded. We also welcomed performances from some of our talented young musicians.

This year we welcomed guest speaker Jade Barnett. Jade works full time as an Outreach Youth Development Lead for the Prince's Trust, is a Senior Member of Young People's Action Group under the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit, a Young Ambassador for Connected Futures under Lewisham Council, Circle Collective and Phoenix Housing, a Young Advisor for the Diana Awards. Jade is also a self-employed Public Speaker and Facilitator sharing motivation, empowerment, inclusive practise, intentional behaviour and words, reducing school exclusions & protecting/raising awareness in supporting LAC, CL's and youth provisions.

Jade sent our pupils away with a message that they are great, worthy and unique.

Second-Hand Uniform Sale

Thank you to everyone who donated to the second-hand uniform sale. It was a huge success, helping lots of families and raising a whopping £594! This money will go towards helping other families in need through our hardship fund.

Ms N Bell, Vice Principal

Goodluck Year 11

Year 11 Leaver's Party

On 29 July, we bid our Year 11's a farewell at their leaver's party held at the Great Hall, Leyton. They pulled out all the stops and dressed to impress; it was a true red-carpet affair! It was a great evening and a great way to end their academic journey with us. The night was filled with smiles, laughter, food, music, phenomenal dance moves, a flower wall and a 360-photo machine to capture precious memories.

We want to wish all our pupils the very best in their future endeavours and believe they can and will excel in whatever they put their minds to. Remember to always 'Be the Best You Can'.



Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



The MFL Games

The MFL department recently held the 'MFL Games'! We selected two Year 9 classes (one French and one Spanish), and four Year 7 classes (two French and two Spanish) to participate in our own version of the Olympics.

Pupils were invited to play and compete in groups on several activities which challenged their knowledge on the target language. Activities included a coloured theme game, a description/obstacle guessing word game, a mystery box and more.

It was an opportunity not only to get out of the classroom after assessment week; but to see how much pupils could remember from their academic year in either Spanish or French. Pupils were very excited to get some fresh air and exercise in the playground and show their competitive side.

We hope this will be the first edition of the MFL Games with many more to come.

Ms Delos, Teacher of MFL



Careers

“ ”

Jaedyne is a lovely polite and confident young lady, who has shown that she can adapt to working in a very busy working school environment. She is very kind and gentle with all the children, she helped to work with small groups with reading, prepared work for lessons and sat in on lessons to assist.

Year 10 Work Experience

Well done to all Year 10 pupils who participated in work experience between 24-28 April 2023. We hope you all enjoyed your placements; we have had some fantastic feedback from your employers. Why is Work Experience so important?

- Learn about the world of work
- Find out about different careers
- Create ideas for the future
- Develop your skills
- Build your confidence
- Add to your CV

“ ”

Yusra worked really hard on her placement. She monitored patients' vital signs, recorded patient data, uploaded patients' files, welcomed patients and helped them to complete medical forms.

“ ”

Ashaard is very observant and would make a great Surveyor or Operations Manager in the future, his attention to detail in spotting defects was evident and he understood H&S very well.

“ ”

Hermon was very hard working and proactive. He displayed great empathy when working with the older members at the Centre, he was happy to support the team and undertake any tasks.

Local Village Network - Amplify Me

Local Village Network (LVN) is a grassroots charity set up in 2015. Founder Rachael Box and a team of volunteers worked with over 300 young people to create a series of programmes that put young people in control of their future.

Year 9 pupils began their six-week Amplify Me programme with LVN at the start of the Summer term and had the opportunity to be inspired by Team GB 400m sprinter Susanna Banjo.

In-between training and competing Susanna is also the facilitator for Local Village Network. Susanna has a great passion for sporting activity and loves teaching people about healthier life styles. Susanna started late in athletics but that did not deter her, she likes to show that it's never too late to start something. If you have drive and passion you can reach your goals.

Year 9 were supported through the Amplify Me programme by volunteers from Berkeley Homes. The programme and the shared experiences of all the Berkeley Homes volunteers gave pupils different perspectives on life as well as the confidence that they are valued and able to succeed. The different career journeys inspired pupils by bridging the gap between school and the world of work, raising awareness, and understanding of the depth and breadth of employment opportunities that are available to them not just at Berkeley Homes, but also in the professional environment as a whole. They learned about important skills needed and how to start developing them. The interaction with inspiring role models raised their aspiration, confidence, and resilience.

On 14 June, pupils visited Berkeley Homes Hackney development site office where they presented their pitch and had the opportunity to view Berkeley's new housing developments in Woodberry Down, Hackney.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead with Responsibility for Post 16 Study Area





Future Frontiers Programme

Future Frontiers is an award-winning education charity who work with schools and businesses across the UK to provide a programme of coaching and access to professional role models for young people.

Selected Year 10 pupils embarked on their four-week programme with Future Frontiers at Gentrack's London Office at the start of the Summer term.

Each pupil was assigned a volunteer employee from Gentrack for four coaching sessions that consisted of:

- ♦ Talking about the pupils' skills, interests and what's important to them
- ♦ Look into different careers and match them to the pupil's skills and interests
- ♦ Learn about what qualifications they can study after their GCSEs
- ♦ Introduce each pupil to someone from the career that they are interested in and help them to start planning for their future

Pupils were given a workbook to complete throughout the programme with their coach and were awarded certificates on completion of the programme.



London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

On 26 & 27 June, six Year 12 students were invited to spend two days at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). LSHTM is renowned for its research, postgraduate studies and continuing education in public and global health.

During the two days at LSHTM, students got to visit their labs, teaching spaces, meet a range of young researchers (PHD students) and hear about their work. Students also got to spend time in the lab doing experiments, giving them a taste of molecular, cellular and whole-organism biological research.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead with Responsibility for Post 16 Study Area



Pathway CTM

On 14 June, Year 12 were introduced to Pathway CTM, an award-winning social enterprise that is transforming Employment Training, Support and Opportunities for Schools. They were given an insight into what they offer which included:

- ♦ Apprenticeships
- ♦ Taster Days
- ♦ Work Experience Opportunities
- ♦ 1:1 Careers Advice



Osborne Clarke Art Competition

Osborne Clarke (OC) hosted an art competition at Osborne Clarke's offices for our Year 9 pupils to take part in. The theme of the art competition was Ecosystems. The artwork could focus on one or more plant or animal species, their habitats, or humanity's reliance on biodiversity for our survival. Pupils could either take a global view, or explore the local biodiversity where they lived. Overall, we had 12 pupils enter the competition producing some amazing pieces.

OC created a 'commercial gallery experience' at their London office where they displayed all the pupils' artwork over a two-week period. Each artwork was labelled and everyone who attended the exhibition were given a sticker to place on their favourite work of art as if they were wanting to buy it. The artwork with the most stickers will win a £100 voucher to spend on art supplies! There will also be some smaller runner up prizes.

The winner is still to be announced, so stay tuned to our social media platforms for an announcement @skinnersacademy (Instagram & Twitter).

Osborne Clarke Work Experience

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students who successfully completed a week-long work experience placement at Osborne Clarke's London Office in June:

- Anastasia H
- Aya B
- Ketia S
- Nada B
- Nergis B
- Tayiba K

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead

Year 12 Work Experience

Well done to all Year 12 students who participated in work experience between 3-7 July 2023. We have had some fantastic feedback from employers. Students attended various placements across London and we even had one placement abroad!

We had a student assist Not3s the music artist, a student placed at the Houses of Parliament and another student's placement was based abroad at a doctor's surgery in Italy.

““

Esther was extremely attentive to the needs of the recording artist Not3s. She captured content from Not3s' daily endeavours. Esther assisted with the smallest things, like bringing him a bottle of water before going anywhere he had to be, to the more important tasks like making sure Not3s was on time to events, interviews & studio sessions.

““

Joe was a pleasure to have in the office. He completed tasks with enthusiasm and represented Lord Best and myself in an exemplary manner.

““

Waleed took initiative and built his connections on LinkedIn and networked with staff. He was not afraid to ask questions and explore new environments.

Check out our new **CAREERS PORTAL** for pupils, parents, staff, and external agencies.

The Careers Portal is your hub for information including:

Post 14 & 16 Pathways
Apprenticeships
Current Opportunities
Careers Interviews
University Guidance
and more...

CLICK HERE to access our Careers Portal.
It can also be accessed via our website's
Careers Provision page
(www.skinnersacademy.org.uk/careers-provision)

**CAREERS
PORTAL**



Skinners'
academy

Music



BAR 4 (LtoR) Jacob S, Llewellyn P, Tom H, Freddy P and Jasmine J (All Y10) Supported by Adam W (Y7)



Battle of the Bands - Restore the Music

On 11 July, Skinners' Academy hosted Restore the Music's annual Battle of the Bands! The annual 'battle' gives pupils from several schools a chance to perform and win grants for their school's music department. It's a happy and healthy way for young people to interact together, while giving them a sense of pride and responsibility for their school.

Skinners' Academy were represented by the band formerly known as 'The Band From Year 10', BAR 4 (pictured above) who performed their original composition 'Rusted Plains' and did incredibly well. They were joined on stage with bands from schools including Oasis Academy Shirley Park, Harris Academy Greenwich, Crystal Palace & Tottenham, and Eltham Hill school to name a few.

Bands Showcase

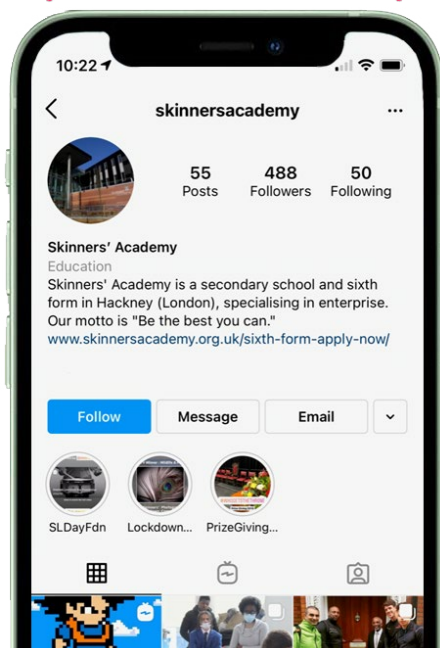
We were treated to a Skinners' Band Showcase on 14 July, highlighting the musical talents of our pupils from Year 7 - Year 11. Encompassing rock and pop genres, it was truly fantastic. The atmosphere was incredible, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the show.

We loved seeing our pupils demonstrating their exceptional musical abilities and sharing their passion for music with us.

Ms Martinez-Sempere, Curriculum Administrator for Music



Click here to see video's of our music performances and more on Instagram



Steel Harmony Festival

On 18 July, Skinners' Academy hosted our first every Steel Harmony Festival. Following our successful partnership with the National Youth Orchestra and their many visits to the Academy to perform alongside our pupils, it was about time we did the same, bringing young steel bands from several schools to collaborate together in one big festival.

A small number of schools took part in Steel Harmony 2023, bringing bands with pupils from Year 6 - Year 12. It was great to see all the pupils getting along so well and to hear the beautiful and unique sound of them playing the steel pans.



Spring & Summer Concerts

Towards the end of each term, staff and pupils from the Performing Arts Departments (Music and Drama) came together to create a showcase event to show parents, pupils, staff and the wider Skinners' Academy Community all the fantastic work they have been creating in their LAMDA and Instrumental Lessons.

Our Spring concert took place on 30 March. It started with the GCSE drama cohort performing a scene from Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, followed by monologues, scenes and musical pieces performed by various pupils. In addition to pupils taking LAMDA exams, the wind ensemble, pupil bands, choir and numerous soloists performed pieces that they have been working on this year, some of which will go toward their MTB graded exam at the end of the year.



The Summer concert took place on 12 July, featuring performances from the classical instruments like the violin, cello, brass, piano, and woodwind. The event was a success, leaving the audience in awe with remarkable piano and trumpet solos, woodwind duets, and captivating pieces by the wind band and strings ensemble.



It is truly fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate performance and delightful to have several pupils already come forward to express interest in performing again in next year's concerts. A huge thank you to the Drama and Music Department staff and all those involved in creating these truly fantastic events.



Mr McCabe, Teacher of Music

Thank You and Goodbye

We bid a bittersweet farewell to Gerry Hunt, our dedicated woodwind teacher, who has worked with us for over 10-years. Additionally, we say goodbye to our fantastic violin and cello teachers, Aanu Sodipe and Kate Shortt. Their departure leaves a void, but their musical legacy will forever resonate within our hearts.

English



Photo above: With the Magna Carta
Photo left: With 'The King's Library',
once owned by King George III

Exploring Black British Literature

On Thursday, Year 12 English Literature students visited the British Library. Their workshop 'Exploring Black British Literature' looked at significant texts throughout history critiquing racial inequality, as well as the challenges faced by contemporary black writers.

During the afternoon, students explored a 1957 play by Errol John called 'Moon on a Rainbow Shawl' which has been described as 'ground-breaking' and 'a breakthrough in Britain for black writing'. After the workshop, they were taken on a fascinating tour of the library.

Well done to all the students for their excellent hard work and engagement with the session. Thank you to Sandra Agard for providing the workshop, and the British Library for giving us access to their collections. Finally, a special thank you to Mr Hughes and Ms Venning for organising and leading this hugely successful experience for our young people.

Celebrating 15 Years of First Story

As part of First Story's 15-year Anniversary, Daniella K (Year 11) and Ms Hardy were invited to Clarence House for a celebratory reception with Queen Camilla. Since 2011, the Queen has been the patron of First Story which sends professional authors into schools to teach creative writing.

The Queen invited First Story charity founders and supporters to the reception where Daniella K impressed the guests with a reading of a poem she penned during writing sessions with First Story author Ashley Hickson-Lovence. Daniella was amazing!

You can read more about the event and watch a short video which includes Daniella reading her poem [HERE](#).



Science



STEM at Newham Sixth Form College

On 4 July, our Year 9 pupils embarked on an unforgettable STEM adventure at Newham Sixth Form College. 12 enthusiastic pupils were given the opportunity to explore various fields of science and technology through a series of engaging challenges. Divided into groups, they tackled three thrilling activities.

In the medical diagnostics challenge, our budding scientists delved into the world of healthcare, analysing real-life case studies and proposing innovative solutions. The robotics challenge allowed our pupils to unleash their creativity and problem-solving skills as they built and programmed their own robots. Additionally, the exploration of the Electronic Facial Identification Technique introduced our pupils to facial recognition technology and sparked discussions about its impact on society. Lastly, they participated in the electric vehicle challenge, constructing and racing their own electric vehicles while learning about renewable energy sources.

Overall, this STEM trip was an incredible opportunity for our Year 9 pupils to immerse themselves in the exciting realms of science and technology. They not only gained valuable knowledge and skills but also developed a sense of curiosity and passion for these fields. We are immensely proud of their enthusiasm and dedication, and we look forward to witnessing their future achievements in the STEM world

Mr Ahmed, 2iC Science



LifeArc Labs

On 3 July, a selection of Year 10 pupils visited the LifeArc Laboratories in Stevenage, to learn more about what scientists do in a 'drug discovery' industrial setting. They had the opportunity to speak to scientists about their research, to tour the labs and use some of the equipment, and to have a go at identifying a disease target and figure out the best way to develop a novel drug treatment.

Ms Siab, 2iC Science

Computing

Book Covers

KS4 Creative iMedia pupils explored their creative digital skills to design and develop a range of digital content based on given client briefs.

Pupils utilised their Photoshop skills to create book covers for a fictitious publishing company to help communicate and showcase an author's new book. A range of Photoshop tools and techniques have been applied to achieve impactful covers and some even used their digital art skills to create original digital drawings.



“ ”

It was fascinating and inspiring to see how our pupils use the digital skills that they learnt on the course to create such eye-catching and engaging digital works of art!

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science



Come to Visit London!

KS4 Creative iMedia pupils were tasked with designing and creating interactive multimedia products to persuade, promote and inform an audience to visit London. This gave Creative iMedia pupils a chance to explore a range of skills ranging from graphics creation and image editing to sound.

These highly interactive multimedia products help showcase a range of styles and techniques, combining the use of a range of software packages and techniques to create a working product.



Duke of Edinburgh (D of E)



Bronze Award - Year 10 Expedition

Congratulations to the 118 Year 10 pupils who passed their D of E Bronze expedition on 6 & 7 July 2023. This involved navigating and walking routes as a group through Epping Forest, cooking dinner on camp cookers, and sleeping overnight in a tent. Well done to all for their perseverance and teamwork! Pupils now need to complete their volunteering stage, before they can receive their Bronze Award.



Gold Award - Year 12 Expedition

Congratulations to the Year 12s listed below, who battled their way through the D of E Gold, five-day qualifying expedition to the Brecon Beacons Wales, despite wet conditions.

- ♦ Bilal K
- ♦ Taylor S
- ♦ Christivie B
- ♦ Neo M
- ♦ Cristopherd T
- ♦ Nada B
- ♦ Ketia S

Students found it tough at first but showed great resilience, teamwork and mental strength to complete the expedition - well done.

They now need to complete their residential section, as well as continuing with their physical, skills and volunteering sections. Once completed they will achieve the prestigious Gold award, and an invite to Buckingham Palace to collect their completion certificates.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE / HOY7



**04 & 05
SEP**

Staff PLD Day
Academy Closed to Pupils

06 SEP

Term Starts
Year 7 & Year 12 Only

07 SEP

Term Starts
All year groups

**11 SEP
to
15 SEP**

**Year 12
Mini Assessments**

13 SEP

**Year 11
Parents' Evening**

20 SEP

Year 6 Open Event 1
4.30pm - 6.30pm

26 SEP

**Year 13
Parents' Evening**

11 OCT

Year 6 Open Event 2
5.00pm - 7.00pm

12 OCT

Year 6 Open Event 3
9.00am - 9.45am

**23 OCT
to
01 NOV**

Half-Term

10 NOV

**Year 11 - Sixth
Form Taster Day**

22 NOV

**Year 12
Parents' Evening**

24 NOV

Occasional Day
Pupils dismissed at 1.00pm

05 DEC

**Sixth Form Open
Evening**
3.30pm - 7.00pm

**08 DEC
to
11 DEC**

Paris (France) Trip
Select pupils, Year 8 - 10

21 DEC

Term Ends
Pupils dismissed at 1.00pm

Keep up to date with news from the Academy here!

Our website: www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Instagram & Twitter: @skinnersacademy

EduLink One: Download the EduLink One (Overnetdata) app

Parents have been sent a username and password via email. Please note to access the Site Code (App only) use: skac