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April 2014
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Spring Term
Issue 10
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academy newsletter



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It's a great pleasure to introduce our second Academy newsletter of this academic year.

This term has been crammed with a wide variety of activities in which numerous pupils have been involved, from the Commonwealth Observance Day service at Westminster Abbey, to a visit from our local MP, Diane Abbott, to National Careers Week. These are, of course, in addition to an array of trips and activities arranged by subject departments. Nor should we forget the tremendous amount of academic work completed by pupils during the term.

The wide range of activities that the Academy continues to offer is a testament to our belief that life at the Academy is about much more than just preparing for exams (crucially

important though exams are) – it is about the development of the whole person. This publication is also proof of the continual enthusiasm and determination shown by the vast majority of our pupils, and of the enormous commitment shown by the staff to ensure that our pupils receive the best and widest education possible.

If you would like to contribute, potentially though help with work experience placements, fund raising, running clubs/activities, mentoring you are welcome to book a time in the new Principal's Surgery for parents / carers on Mondays, 2-4pm. I look forward to meeting many more parents and to seeing greater parental involvement.

Tim Clark,
Principal, Skinner's Academy





““

I was so excited and proud to be selected to take part in the Commonwealth Day Observance. It was an honour to hold Sierra Leone's flag and really excited that we got an opportunity to meet HM the Queen. I would like to take part again next year.

Mehmet Kivrakoglu, Year 10

Skinners' Students Fly the Flag for Royal Commonwealth Day

Fourteen pupils were selected to attend and participate in the Commonwealth Day Observance organised by the Royal Commonwealth Society. The pupils, who were given the role as flag bearers, were selected by Mosaic from those who have participated in their programmes.

The Observance is a special yearly event held at Westminster Abbey to celebrate the modern Commonwealth. It was attended by Her Majesty The Queen, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, The Prince of Wales, The Duchess of Cornwall, The Earl and The Countess of Wessex, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Commonwealth High Commissioners, government ministers, and over 2000 guests.

The Observance began with a flag procession, where our students, the flagbearers, carried a Commonwealth Country flag in front of all the guests. There was also a procession at the end of the Observance after which the flag bearers presented to HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh outside the Abbey.

This year the Observance launched the 2014 Commonwealth theme 'Team Commonwealth'. In addition to HM the Queen's speech other speakers at the Observance included Great Britain's Paralympian Baroness (Tanni) Grey-Thompson and Olympic gold medalist, Lord Sebastian Coe and international education campaigner, Malala Yousafzai.

Alexander Came - Events and Programmes Officer The Royal Commonwealth Society stated, "We are immensely proud of the great job that they all did, and it was a genuine pleasure to work with them. We have been told that it was the smoothest run Observance for a very long time and this was all down to everyone's hard work!"

Year 10 student Dogukan Han and also Skinners' Academy Mentee of the Year stated "I held the Barbados Flag with honour. The event was excellent and I am proud to have been selected to participate in such a prestigious event. I even met the High Commissioner for Barbados who gave me his business card for future events."

““

We were flag bearers and represented different countries. I represented St Lucia and held the flag with pride. We met a lot of high profile people such as HM The Queen, Laura Mvula and the Duke of Edinburgh. Overall it was a great experience and I would love to take part again.

Mark Daniel, Year 9

For more on these stories, visit the Skinners' Academy website - www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

You can also connect with the Academy via:

Twitter:
[@skinnersacademy](https://twitter.com/skinnersacademy)

...and Facebook:
www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney



And the Alter Ego 2014 Winner Is...

A Skinners' Academy pupil was crowned the winner of Hackney's biggest talent show in front of a packed out audience at the Hackney Empire on Friday, 7 February.

Spoken word artist Di-Andre Ebanks Silvera, Year 9, wowed the audience and judges at the Alter Ego finals with his performance, 'Dare You' – a powerful message about young people in modern society. Di-Andre said: "It hasn't fully sunk in yet, but it has left me lost for words because of the people I was up against, like Warren and the Young Brasscals, they were really good. Hopefully I get to do more shows like this in the future."

Past Alter Ego contestants include Jermaine Jackman who is currently competing in BBC's The Voice.

Di-Andre will receive a package of mentoring by industry professionals, rehearsal and studio time, a professional makeover and photo shoot session. Second place went to 18 year old dancer Warren Hugh Murray and rapper Kagan Page-Burgin, 17 and girl group, Young Brasscals, 14 year old Nadia Haloua, Rose Yemelyanova and Sanchez Mequina were joint third.

Eight acts performed in the contest, which was hosted by Kat B (MTV Base) DJ Louis Subsole with performances from X Factor's Misha B, Hackney born rapper, J Spades and Alter Ego 2013 winner Emily Numutaako, better known by her stage name, Emily Grace.

Misha B said: "The children are the future, even though I'm 21, there are more generations to come, that I need to make room for and giving back and talking to them about my experiences is only going to better them. I know a lot of them want to be singers, rappers, musicians, dancers, being in the entertainment industry I just feel I can help."

In the final, Di-Andre was up against seven other acts and the winners were selected through a 50/50 combination of text votes by the Alter Ego audience and nominations by the judging panel made up of Voice 2013 contestant Matt Henry, music producer, Bless Beats and MTV, BBC presenter, Jasmine Dotiwala and Hackney Empire's Susie McKenna.

The finalists were selected following an X Factor style contest earlier in the month. Around 40 performers aged between 13 and 21 took to the stage to deliver a variety of different entertainment including acting, singing, rapping, dance and comedy in the hope of making it through to the finals. The public were also able to view the contenders online and vote for their favourite.

This is a passion that Di-Andre has pursued on his own initiative – the Academy is incredibly proud of his determination to work on and share his craft... and congratulates him on his success in this competition.

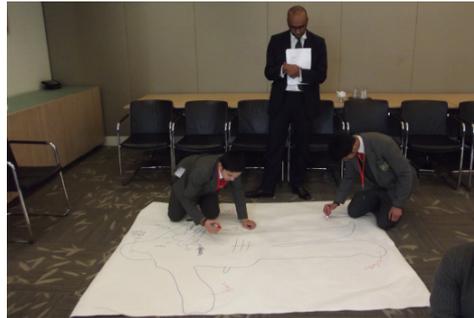
(Photograph by AGENDA)

Visit to Taylor Wessing Law Firm

On Thursday 13 March, a group of our Year 10 pupils visited Taylor Wessing International Law Firm in Central London. The pupils interviewed staff from the firm including a partner and an associate solicitor. They were also given workshops on CV writing.

They were involved in several debates with other schools and performed exceptionally, winning all of their arguments. Well done to Zaynab Daudo, Khalid Raufi, Denzel Asiedu-Bouh, Daniel Cockran, Esin Akdogan, Tabassum Nusibhya, Jaden Hope, Dahyim Karim, Aafreen Jaffer, and Sabah Hussein.

Mr Alexis, Head of Year 10



Trip to Taylor Wessing: Pupil Perspective

I can honestly say that the trip to the law firm (Taylor Wessing) was one of the best, if not the best trip, I have ever been on! During this single day I believe I developed more as a person than I ever have in my life and finally found out what I wanted to become in life. I had an amazing experience. I learned all about how law firms operate, what type of lawyers there are, how one becomes a lawyer and what being a lawyer is all about.

We got to spend a day in a very modern 11 storey building, see one of the best views in the whole of London and had a great lunch. We had the chance to talk to professional lawyers and trainees about their lives and what they had done to get to where they are now. Many professionals came and talked to us about what type of activities we should do to get recognised by top universities and organisations and how to structure and write CVs.

We engaged in lots of activities that helped us realise what our passions were and what we wanted to become in the future. During the afternoon we were given a talk about how to speak more confidently, successful put our cases forward and be more persuasive. Then we took part in debates and discussions between pupils and lawyers about many controversial issues that exist today and what should be done about them. These debates gave us the chance to put to use what we had learned and actually see our improvement through the day.

During the day I got to strengthen friendships with my current friends, learned to work successfully in a group and also spoke to and made many new friends from other schools. I also got to see another side of Mr Alexis, a teacher who I had previously thought was all work and no play. I couldn't have been more wrong.

I truly believe that throughout the day I matured and significantly developed as a person. It was a very enjoyable, informative and extremely beneficial trip. I would love to do it again!

Khalid Raufi, Year 10

When Google met Skinners'

Skinners' Academy was proud to host the 'Well Versed Project' by Parent Zone in conjunction with Google and Livity which was attended by Diane Abbott MP. The Academy warmly welcomed Google representatives Naomi Gummer and Oliana Faldami as well as Mira Jessani from Livity. The aim of the presentation was to launch the new project which aims to encourage pupils to submit a 15 second video explaining their 'top tips' for staying strong online. The project is all about empowering young people to create a peer to peer education resource which encourages them to share techniques and methods for dealing with some of the risks and challenges they encounter online.



“ ”

It was very interesting to learn how Google works, it was really interesting!

Tajai Brown, Year 8

“ ”

It showed young people how action is being taken and that Google cares about e-safety.

Aren Caton-Yener, Year 8

Introduction to Interview Skills

On Monday 17 March, the Year 10 Introduction to Interview Skills session started on a light-hearted note with interview clips from The Fresh Prince and Monty Python as fun interview examples – before progressing onto discussing the top 10 employability skills, what interviewers are looking for, how to recognise skills you already have and an introduction to some common interview questions. There will be further sessions on CV writing and interview skills later this year.

“ ”

Not knowing what to say and do in an interview and what to write on your CV had always been a worry for me. The introduction skills session gave us a good idea of what sort of things an employer is looking for and how to bring out your best qualities which makes you more employable and prepared for the real world.

Esin Akdogan, Year 10



ON TARGET

By the end of this INTRODUCTION TO INTERVIEW SKILLS session you will:

- Have a better understanding of what interviewers are looking for
- Recognise what skills / experiences YOU ALREADY HAVE which are likely to appeal to an interviewer
- Gain interview preparation tips
- Be introduced to some common interview questions
- Start practicing the interview process

THIS IS AN INTRODUCTION TODAY:

YOU WILL BE GOING INTO FURTHER DETAIL ABOUT THIS WITH MRS VISRAM SOON.

Business & Enterprise

Mosaic Mentoring Programme: Oxford University Trip

Six Year 10 pupils were selected to attend an inspirational trip to Oxford University Wadham College organised by their Mosaic, The Princes' Trust mentors. Mosaic operates all over the UK and internationally, it is an initiative of Business in the Community (BITC) and is part of the family of charities overseen by The Prince's Charities, the largest multi-cause charitable enterprise in the United Kingdom.

The pupils have been participating in the Mosaic mentoring programme this academic year and have successfully completed the programme, which was delivered by volunteers from the business and public sectors. By linking young people with inspirational role models, the mentors support and help boost student confidence, build their skills and improve their long-term employability.

Pupils took part in a team building maths challenge delivered by university students. The exercise was aimed at A-Level students but our Year 10's managed to solve the problem using their problem solving and mathematical skills swiftly.

The group was also given a tour of Wadham College and visited Oxford University museum. The students thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were inspired by information about accessing Oxford University and other higher education institutions.

Ms Kurtuldu, Teacher of Business Studies



Student of the Term

Congratulations to Ronnie O'Connor (Year 10), Brandon Hamilton (Year 10) and Ezgi Kahraman (Year 9) who will be receiving 'Student of the Term' reward letters for their effort and commitment to revision and high standard of homework.

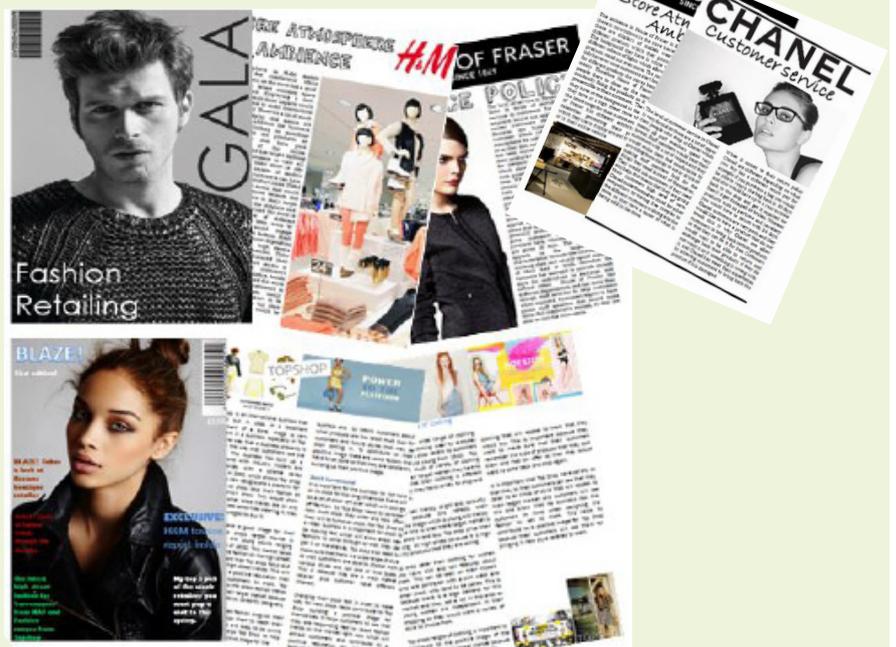
Mosaic Mentee of the Year

A group of Year 10 pupils successfully completed the Mosaic Mentoring programme and were recognised in a graduation ceremony at the Academy. The pupils were rewarded with certificates for having participated and achieved through the course of the development programme. Congratulations to Year 10 pupil Dogukan Han who was given an additional award and named mentee of the year 2013.

The Business of Fashion

The BTEC National students have completed a unit on fashion retailing and have been extremely creative, using publishing software to create some very professional looking fashion magazines with interesting articles analysing the market conditions for our most popular fashion retailers.

Ms Potter, Curriculum Leader for Business Studies



Drop Down Days

Enterprise Focused Activities

In the spring term, Year 7 & 8 pupils took part in two Enterprise Drop Down Days. They had the opportunity to use their enterprising skills in a range of creative activities one of which was the Balloon Chair Challenge.

The challenge was to design and make a chair for the Academy staffroom using only balloons and sellotape. The pupils worked in teams of five to make a chair which had to have a comfortable seat, include a back rest and at least 1 arm rest. Pupils had to draw on a number of skills including the **ability to work in a team** and **communicate with each other effectively**. They also had to use their **innovative and problem solving skills** in order to figure out how to use the balloons in the most effective way so they would not pop when pressure was put on them. The winning chair would have to survive being sat on for a minimum of 15 seconds without it falling apart and without any balloons popping (very few chairs survived this test).

Congratulations to Zilan, Nur, Gokcen, Felix & Peace for being one of the few teams that managed to design a chair which did not 'pop' when sat on.

Mr Barton & Miss Dalia



A Taste of the Future: Introduction to Job Families

On Monday 17 March, all Year 8 pupils participated in a series of activities designed to gently introduce the idea of planning for the future – through encouraging self-awareness such as likes, abilities, interests and more. The day consisted of in classroom and computer-based activities and aimed to:

- ♦ Introduce the concept of 'job families' – groupings of jobs which require similar skills and interests (for example building and construction; design, arts and crafts; engineering; science, mathematics and statistics and more)
- ♦ Encourage pupils to recognise what academic subjects they enjoy and emphasise what they should be considering when they make their GCSE subject choices
- ♦ Introduce the Jobs Explorer Database (accessible to all pupils via the Your Future section on the VLE)
- ♦ Highlight the careers support they have available to them throughout their time at Skinners'

Many Year 8s described the day as a positive experience and recognise that these conversations will continue as they choose their GCSEs and beyond.

Mrs Visram, Careers Development Co-ordinator

[Careers Resources](#)

[Employability Tips](#)

[Work Experience](#)

[Gallery](#)

[Steps After Skinners'](#)

[Motivation Corner](#)

[Careers Related News](#)

[CEIAG Curriculum](#)



“

This project was really useful as everyone knows how important education is and what you can do in the future simply by staying in school and learning more interesting facts.

Selen Sucu, Year 8

National Careers Week 2014



National Careers Week (#NCW2014) at Skinners' Academy

What career should I consider? What could my love of maths lead to? What job might I be good at? These are questions that we love to hear in the Academy because it becomes clear to us that students are starting to consider the bigger picture – even beyond academic achievement.

There was no shortage of this sort of buzz during this year's National Careers Week, which took place on 3 – 7 March. Although all our pupils have access to quality Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) throughout the year (both in school and independent) – we very much value the momentum of National Careers Week and participate in it annually.

This year featured the most events we have held yet during a single careers week. It included a range of career focused activities during the school day – which included assemblies, careers talks in lessons... as well as a SPOTLIGHT ON STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) CAREERS after school seminar for Year 9 and 10 students.

Highlights included: the fact that the events in the week reached an estimated 380 students; the participation of 21 professionals in their varying industries; and approx. 80 students and 8 parents (the latter of whom were invited an hour before the event) attended the optional after school session about STEM careers and the networking session was so popular that it briefly continued beyond the finish time.

“

I decided to take part in National Careers Week and visit Skinners' Academy as I feel it's important for industry to get involved with education and bridge that very important gap. I enjoyed it, and think that students should follow their personal vocational path (i.e. what they like to do). It, in time, will turn into a fulfilling career I'm sure.”

Javier Garcia, Founder & Creative Director, Miura



Subject-related careers talks

The aim of inviting guests to speak during lesson time was to emphasise how interest in, aptitude and passion for a subject can lead to certain careers – ultimately starting to answer the age old question... where can this subject take me in my career? 11 guests visited lessons including Maths, English, Geography, History, R.S., Drama, Music, Business, Design & Technology, Art & Design and more – all highlighting how those academic subjects (and their related transferable skills) closely relate to their careers.

““

It meant a lot to be able to talk to young people in my local area about my profession and to get them thinking about the subjects they like and where that might take them in the future... The pupils I met were engaged, articulate, confident and asked intelligent questions... and if I have inspired at least one of them, then it was an excellent use of my time!

Frances Stainer, Head of HR and Volunteering, Crisis

““

I had questions about design and possible routes into employment and Lulu answered these. It was good to be able to ask questions to someone actually working in the design industry.

Alish Dortgoz, Year 10

““

The students are incredibly lucky to have such a great careers department who offer them the chance to be able to learn about real world careers. The students were very enthusiastic and full of questions. I participated because if I can help to open just one student's eyes to the fantastic opportunities they have in front of them, then that's a priceless opportunity I can help to provide.”

Olivia Marsden, Recruiter, Thoughtworks

For more pupil and employer quotes, pictures from the week and a full list of our guests throughout National Careers Week 2014 - visit our website - www.skimmersacademy.org.uk.

Spotlight on STEM Careers Seminar

Held on Wednesday 5 March, this seminar represented a unique opportunity for pupils to gain early insight into careers in science, technology, engineering and maths - areas which current labour market information indicates will have a shortage of skills when our students are ready to enter the workforce. For example, the Royal Academy of Engineering projects that 830,000 STEM professionals will be required by 2020 – which is around the time when many of our Year 9 and 10 students who choose to go to university will be starting to look for work as soon as they are graduates!

The Spotlight on STEM careers event was an informative and enjoyable opportunity to start thinking about future opportunities (whether via apprenticeships, school leaver schemes or university) in these growing industries. The event took the form of a panel discussion in the theatre followed by a speed networking event where students spoke to our guests in more depth.



““

I really enjoyed the STEM Careers Seminar. It gave me a very good insight on what career I would like to do in the future. Every individual has inspired me, and only now after the Seminar I noticed how many careers there are out here for me.

Magdalena Maciejewska, Year 9

““

The event was highly inspirational, it made me think about my future a lot.

Rubel Rahman, Year 10

Computing

GCSE Computing: Year 9 Computing students take a look inside a computer

Year 9 GCSE computing students got hands-on with technology, pulling apart and reassembling real computers.

At the moment the pupils are learning about computer hardware and the fundamentals of computer systems. Mr Powell (their teacher) explains "Practical experience helps pupils to relate to the theoretical topics we study. It is really important that we start to see technology as something we can create and change rather than just something that we buy and use. That is what this course is all about." The group filmed and took photographs to document their investigation, some of which you can see on this page.

Later this year pupils will study computer networking and computer programming. The course will prepare them for the careers of tomorrow.

Mr Powell, Teacher of Computing & ICT



“

I enjoyed taking apart the computer because we got to see the different parts and elements that make a computer work.

Harry Delaney, Year 9

Computing Rocks! – Year 7 Specialism Day

During the Specialism Day Year 7 pupils had the opportunity to take part in a Computing Rocks! workshop which provided them with the opportunity to get hands-on experience in programming. Pupils were presented with the challenge to provide instructions (programming codes) online in order to move through mazes and complete a series of twenty challenges. This has given pupils an insight into the computing curriculum to be introduced next year at Key Stage 3. All pupils were presented with an ID card holder for Computing Rocks! containing information about the event and useful resource links.

Ms Rao, Curriculum Leader for ICT & Computing



“

Computing Rocks! was very fun. Computing does rock! Dontai Edwards, Year 7



“”

A very good experience
Zubaid Amadzarif, Year 7



“”
Very educational yet enjoyable.
Meher Kazmi, Year 7



“”

I found Computing Rocks! very interesting and easy to understand. Very fun!

Qwacey Ryan-Tuitt, Year 7

Science

Science in Pictures
It's been a busy spring term - filled with a variety of interactive science lessons which are best brought to life by the range of images here.
We're looking forward to continuing to bring science to life in the summer term.



Geography

Visit to Epping Forest

It has been a busy and exciting term in the Geography department. In February our Year 10 GCSE group went on a field trip to the Epping Forest Field Centre to investigate the changing downstream characteristics of Loughton Brook. Despite the rain, mud, and wellies, a fun and educational time was had by all and this trip will greatly help our Year 10's with their studies.



BTEC Travel & Tourism Qualification Launch

This term also saw the launch of the BTEC First Travel and Tourism qualification. Run by the Geography department, this exciting skills-based vocational course will cover the understanding of sales, marketing and customer service found within one of the fastest growing industries in the UK. Both tourist numbers and jobs are increasing across the UK and this course is ideal for those keen to take their first steps into the exciting world of the UK Travel and Tourism sector.



Careers in Geography

On Wednesday 5 March, as part of National Careers Week 2014, the Geography department welcomed Ann-Therese Farmer, who works for the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). She spoke to our Year 10 GCSE pupils about climate change and educated them about the wealth of careers available in the civil service, alternative energy and energy industries. Pupils and staff were interested in her predictions about the future, and she was unhesitant when she said the global warming was real, and the DECC's main focus is to reduce its impact.

Celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight

In March we marked Fairtrade fortnight 2014 with a series of assemblies and activities. Year 7s and 8s took part in a "Can You Taste Justice" tasting session, with Ms Syme running a Banana Challenge over two lunchtimes to highlight the plight of many poor farmers in less economically developed countries. Mr Lyons and a number of Year 8 shop assistants ran the Chocolate Pop-Up Shop. Over 50 Year 8 pupils applied to work in the shop and 25 were selected. The shop made over £160 (a staff event added a further £50) and the department will be making a donation to a charity working in Uganda to support primary education.



History



We Fought the Law

Several Year 9 pupils represented the Academy at the local heats of the magistrates mock trial competition. Run by the Citizenship Foundation, it aims to give pupils the opportunity to take on the different roles in a legal trial.

The pupils won one of the trials and lost the other one, but all learnt a lot about improving their communication and knowledge of the legal system.

The participating pupils were a credit to the Academy.

Mr Stoneham, Curriculum Leader for History

“

The mock trials competition was such a phenomenal day. We gained knowledge of what working in law is like; it improved our knowledge and understanding of the legal system, teamwork, public speaking, ability to develop an argument and analytical skills. It was exhilarating to act as the roles of a magistrate, legal advisor, prosecution and defence lawyer, hence motivating me to pursue a career in law.

Lisa Hoang, Year 9

Trip to the Tower of London

On the 11th and 14th of February, Year 7 students went to the Tower of London, which brought excitement, terror and sadness seen in the actions and emotions of everyone who went.

The trips were a success because not only did everybody arrive safely but they also got to see the majority (if not all) of the exhibitions in the Tower. When seeing the Crown Jewels everybody had to be sensible because if they misbehaved or did something that would affect the public, the Beefeaters might arrest them! The pupils were responsible and behaved sensibly which made Ms Murphy, Mr Stoneham and Mr Kenny proud.

When we went to the torture exhibition we saw the gruesome ways prisoners were killed or tortured in the past. Some of us were even a little bit disgusted but intrigued by descriptions of implements or means of torture. Even though we had to fill in answers in the booklets that did not put us off investigating further for ourselves.

When looking at the different armour we got to see what the Kings and Princes wore into battle, this included different swords and shields. We soon realised that some had only recently been discovered and were only brought to the Tower a couple of years ago! In addition to this, we also saw the spot where the Princes in the Tower were supposedly found!

For the whole day everyone had fun and got to experience the scenery and the information given.

Thank you to all of the staff who made this happen for us, especially Mr McNaught, Ms Murphy, Mr Stoneham and Mr Kenny.

Erin Opata, Year 7

(Please see the Academy website for larger images of pupils' work)



Religious Studies

Getting Philosophical... at Hertfordshire University

On Wednesday 29 January Ms Oleforo accompanied 11 Year 10 pupils on a trip to the University of Hertfordshire. The pupils had expressed an interest in Religious Studies and studying the subject through higher education. We were invited by the Head of Philosophy Department at Hertfordshire University to take part in philosophy lectures, debates and to experience university student life for a day.

The pupils loved the university lifestyle and discovering what subjects they could study in the future. They were informed about what would be expected of them as university students, the careers a degree in philosophy could lead to, and the impact on society and the government that the subject of philosophy has had.

The pupils had a real eye opener (according to them). They saw how independent the other students were and how advanced the learning was. It was also a culture shock from the ethnically diverse hustle and bustle of Hackney to the quiet suburbs of Hatfield. Overall the students loved it, and are considering their higher education options in greater detail.

Ms Oleforo,
Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies & Citizenship



Mathematics

Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Thursday 6 February, 77 pupils sat the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge. The Intermediate Challenge is aimed at pupils in Years 9 to Year 11. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3 and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. Around 500 of the highest scorers in each school year are invited to take part in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad papers: Cayley, Hamilton and Maclaurin for Year 9, 10 and 11 and equivalent. A further 5,500 pupils from across all three year groups are invited to sit either the grey or pink European Kangaroo papers. These are one-hour papers with 25 multiple choice questions, taken by pupils from over 30 countries worldwide.

This year Murat Apat, Safiya Caesar, Khalid Raufi, Michael Booth-Gilbey, Emeka Ejimadu, Malek Busari and Eren Kinali achieved a Bronze certificate. Mustafa Kulekci achieved a Silver certificate and best in school and was put forward for the grey Kangaroo paper, which he sat on the 20th March.

Huge congratulations to those who gained a certificate and good luck to Mustafa!

Ms Ottway, Teacher of Mathematics (second in department)



BBC News School Report 2014



““

The club helped pupils prepare for today's events, but also gives them valuable training in media, technology, discipline and working to tight deadlines.

I met Huw Edwards of the BBC and he said to get people involved, that kids who are not otherwise involved in journalism or English might be interested in the more technical aspect of putting together a news report.

The pupils involved this year have shown incredible dedication and have been attending the club every Wednesday to prepare for the day.

Mr Todd,
Teacher of English

““

Pupils who are shy should do it, as it increases their confidence.

Rihana Ssesaazi, Year 7

““

This is an opportunity for life, for my future.

Baran Komur, Year 8

BBC News School Report

On Thursday 27 March, Key Stage 3 pupils again took part in News Day for BBC News School Report, the annual event which gives 11-16 year-old pupils in the UK the chance to make their own news reports for a real audience. It is a collaborative project run by BBC News and BBC Learning and this year, the Year 7 & 8s that took part were regular members of an after school club run by Mr. Todd.

With certain features prepared in advance (such as the one on cycle safety), the day started with a lively early morning editorial meeting. Prompted by items in newspapers, the room was abuzz with international and local news, with pupils reporting on events as far afield as Uganda and Mongolia, and as close to home as the streets of Hackney and the corridors of Skinners' itself.

Split into groups, most participants took on several roles – including script writer, news presenter, weatherman, camera operator, sports presenter, and interviewer. With cue cards to hand and cameras rolling, the team's bulletin highlights included the Ugandan coffee trade, a report on cycling safety, and an interview with Dan Freedman, the author of the Jamie Johnson series.

With the two o'clock deadline drawing in, the students edited their remaining clips and revealed the finished product, complete with outtakes. Their BBC News bulletin is now available to watch on the News and Media section of the Academy's website - www.skinnersacademy.org.uk.

““

I hope the report raises awareness about cycling safety. My favourite part of the news day was choosing headlines and points of interest.

Sam Boyer, Year 7

Modern Foreign Languages

Sadler's Wells Theatre Trip

On Tuesday 11 March, a group of Year 7 and 8 pupils who are currently studying Spanish went to see the Gala Flamenca at Sadler's Wells Theatre, which showcased the diversity of flamenco.

The show was highly enjoyable and gave the pupils the opportunity to experience a typical Spanish style of dancing and to hear a variety of authentic Spanish music.

Ms Mckee, Teacher of MFL



“”

The trip was very good. It showed the traditional Spanish flamenco. I learnt the different music as well.

Charlie Pavlicic, Year 7

“”

The trip to Sadler's Wells was amazing as we had a really fun time. The music was amazing and it was so nice and brilliant to see Spanish dancing. We had the time of our life. If I was a critic I would rate it 5 stars. I would definitely go there again. I loved it – every moment.

Aasta Clark, Year 7

Careers in Business, Using Languages

On Tuesday 21 January, Year 10 Modern Foreign Languages pupils were treated to a talk about careers in business using languages.

Delivered by faculty and current students at the University of Hertfordshire - the talks highlighted the real benefits of continued study of language and the benefits an additional language can have on a career (whether based here in London or internationally). The talks also encouraged students to think about potential reasons to go to university.

Ms Smith, Teacher of MFL



English as an Additional Language

GCSE exams in Home Languages

This academic year, 35 of our Year 10 pupils speaking languages other than English, are taking GCSE exams in their home languages.

The speaking part of the exam will take place between 1st and 24th April.

Date	Speaking exam
1 April all day	Portuguese
1 April all day	Turkish
2 April all day	Turkish
3 April am	Russian
3 April all day	Turkish
24 April am	Arabic
24 April pm	Polish



The writing units of the GCSE exams will take place between 16 May and 18 June according to the timetable below.

Language	Reading	Writing	Listening
Turkish (OCR)	16 May pm	2 June am	21 May am
Portuguese (OCR)	16 May pm	2 June am	21 May am
Polish (AQA)	17 June pm	17 June pm	13 June pm
Russian (Edexcel)	11 June am	16 June pm	11 June am
Arabic (Edexcel)	16 June pm	18 June pm	16 June pm
Spanish (AQA)	14 May pm	between 22 April and 12 May	14 May pm

We are excited and proud of all the pupils taking this opportunity and we wish them every success in their examinations.

Ms Jargot, EAL/Language Support teacher & Ms Smith, MFL teacher

Design & Technology

Design Museum Trip

On Thursday 9 January, the Year 9 Textiles and Resistant Materials pupils went on an educational visit to the Design Museum to take part in a product analysis workshop and see the amazing exhibition of work by Paul Smith.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and the insight they had into real life design workshops.



Year 8 Clock Project

Have a look at the amazing clock project made by some of the year 8 pupils. The theme was sweets and chocolates Yummy!!!

Ms Greco-Addo
Curriculum Leader for Design & Technology



Nurture Provision

What is Nurture Provision?

The nurture programme is designed to support pupils in the transition phase to secondary. It builds on foundation skills by revising primary objectives; allowing the pupils to develop at their own pace. Currently, there are eight pupils following the programme, led by a teacher and two Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). The curriculum is made up of English, Maths and Humanities, allowing for a topic theme approach to link lessons together. For example, we have studied:

English	Maths	Humanities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Application of the correct use of punctuation. ♦ Extending sentences using connectives. ♦ Converting passages from the present to past tense. ♦ Recounts and Biographical Texts (Diaries) ♦ Phrase 3/4 Phonics ♦ Accelerated Reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Learning how to read and write 2/3 digit numbers. ♦ Different addition, subtraction and multiplication methods ♦ Recognising and plotting negative numbers on a number line ♦ Predicting and generating number sequences. ♦ Times Tables Rockstars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Important Historical Figures such as, Henry Ford, Anne Frank, Florence Nightingale. ♦ Identifying why certain species are endangered with a visit to London Zoo. ♦ In PSHE we learnt about why friendships change as we get older and how judgements of others can be inaccurate.

The pupils have the opportunity to attend other specialist lessons such as PE, Science, Art or D&T.

It has been a successful start to the Nurture programme. It has been a pleasure to watch the children progress academically as well as grow in self-confidence and become independent. Don't just take my word for it – here are comments from the people who are involved in Nurture and make it what it is!

Ms Cotgrave, Curriculum Leader for Nurture Provision

““

In Nurture we study English and Maths. I really enjoy my teacher Miss Cotgrave. She gives us lots of work and makes us do two bits of homework every week. The second teacher, Mrs Tafadar helps all the children to get better. She is a very nice teacher and she helps me when Miss Cotgrave helps the others. We are all a big family!

Mechack Lubaki, Year 7



““

The Nurture group has been running since September and I am in most of the lessons supporting pupils with their learning. The lessons are fun, enjoyable and catered specifically to meet the needs of individuals. I very much enjoy working with the pupils, as they all come with their own characters, personality and bring different perspectives into the lessons and that's what makes Nurture special!

Ms Haque, Learning Support Assistant

Learning Resources Centre (LRC)

Story Writing Competition

We ran a story writing competition for all KS3 to KS4 levels to celebrate National Short Story Week. There were many creative and extraordinary pieces submitted by pupils, but the following pupils excelled themselves.

Year 7 – Sam Boyer & Anisa Uddin

Year 8 – Emer Sheffield

Year 9 – Aishah Islam

Year 10 – Kelell Davison-Thomas

Sample from Sam Boyer's *The Mistake*:

"Snow! Snow! Everywhere there was snow! Or there would have been had the sun not melted it all millennia ago. No.59382 was patiently waiting for his friend No.57614, at the top of what was once known as Mt Everest- now Solar Farm 7- to test his invention. After years of translating old texts and following cryptic instructions, No.59382 had finally done it. He had created a time machine."

Scratch Night

There was a great turnout from all year levels at our Scratch Night, where pupils bring stories, poems, songs - anything they have created - to share with the group.

“ ”

Scratch Night inspired me to write more of my own stories. I'm looking forward to the next one.

Joshua Agbagidi, Year 10

World Book Week

To celebrate World Book Week the Academy hosted a range of exciting events, from author visits and competitions to dressing up as a book character, encouraging participation from all year levels and even members of staff.

Storyteller Nell Phoenix

Two classes from Years 9 & 10 were given the opportunity to have a session with professional storyteller, Nell Phoenix. As well as discussing her career, and her recent attendance at two international story telling festivals in India and Columbia, Nell entertained pupils with traditional tales from around the world.

Carnegie Reading Challenge

This year there are 72 titles nominated for the Carnegie Award, a yearly literary prize awarded to the best novel for teenagers. From now until the winner is announced in June, students have been challenged to read as many of the 72 titles (available in the library) as they can and then to comment on the library VLE as to whether they think that title should win. Well done to Tariq Raufi and Bhoomi Varjivan, who have already commented on two books.





LRC & English

Author Dan Freedman Visits!



Author Dan Freedman visited Skinners' Academy on Monday 10 March to talk to Year 7 and 8 pupils about his career, first as a football journalist and then writing football themed novels for teenagers. He held his audience captive with his experiences working with for the Football Association and revealing how he moved from that into writing the best-selling Jamie Johnson series.

The Skinners' Football Reading Club were able to interview Dan after his presentation, where they asked him many insightful questions. (See below)

Football Reading Club Interview with Dan Freedman

On Monday 10 March the Football Reading group met the celebrated author Dan Freedman. Dan Freedman worked as a football journalist for over ten years before becoming a full time author. During this time he had a distinguished career with the FA and set up the first in-house TV channel for the England Team. The Football Reading Group spent three weeks preparing for their exclusive interview with Dan, where they discussed the World Cup, Champions League and his personal inspirations. Here are a few thoughts from the group themselves:

Question: Which country do you think will win in the World Cup?

Answer: Argentina.

The reason for this is because he thinks because Brazil and Argentina are of similar quality. He said that the weather conditions are the same in both countries so there aren't any disadvantages or advantages. He said Brazil has a slight disadvantage because of the fact they are playing at home and all the pressure is going to be on them, and the fact that everyone's eyes are going to be on them may cause them to "choke".

Serhat Kinali, 8X2

Dan Freedman told us that he only read football books as a kid.

He's made a video of his book to put a picture in people's heads and give them an idea about the story. In the video there's this boy called Jamie Johnson and he wants to become a professional football player. He trains at the park everyday so that he can do well in the trial so that he can get into the first team. This video made me want to read the book.

Kelvin Berisha, 8X1

Before we met Dan Freedman I knew he was an author but that is all. But when I met him I found out he was a journalist. Also, I found out he met the whole England squad and has stayed in the England hotel. In addition, he went to the World Cup with England's squad to watch the matches. When I met him I asked him "who inspired you?", and he said "a lot of different people every day. It's never just one person that inspires you". Overall I think he is a good author.

Fuad Hussein, 8X4

Dan Freedman's books are very interesting because he started as a journalist and became a famous author. He gets ideas from professional footballers which he got from when touring with the England team. When he adds footballer's information it makes it more catchy and interesting. Dan Freedman started as author because he wanted to get a football book for his nephew and couldn't find one so he wrote one instead.

Ermajl Maliqi, 8X2



Visit the Skinners' Academy website to watch our BBC News School Report team interviewing Dan Freedman.

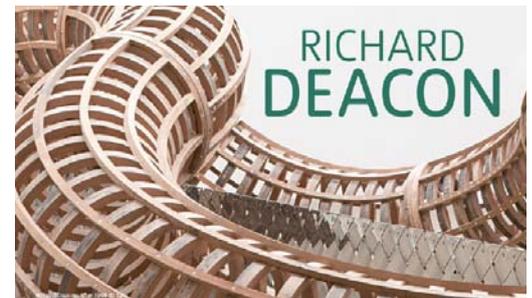
Art & Design

Meeting Richard Deacon

A group of Year 9 & 10 Art pupils met with the sculptor Richard Deacon. The artist was kind enough to agree to meet 6th formers from Hackney schools and Skinners' Academy was fortunate to include younger pupils. The meeting was held at The Urswick School and Richard Deacon spoke about his work, his current exhibition at Tate Britain and he also answered questions from the students and staff at the end.

To have the opportunity to meet a famous artist being studied by the pupils was something very special and the insights gained by the pupils will feed into their GCSE coursework.

Mr Devlin,
Curriculum Leader for Art



“”

To be able to ask an artist I've been studying some unique questions was really great and to engage in conversation about art with a famous artist has inspired me to research more'

Sabah Hussain, Year 10 Art student

Fourth Plinth Competition Entries

In Art G&T club the Year 8s have been busy creating sculptures to be entered for the up and coming 4th Plinth competition. Pupils have taken inspiration from Pop Artist Claes Oldenburg and have been working with a variety of media in order to achieve this.

Here is a sample of some of the sculptures the pupils have created.

Ms Ali, Art Teacher





Year 7 Sculpture ES Competition

Pupils in Year 7 have been using their creativity and ingenuity in making sculptures using recycled materials as part of their public sculpture project. The sculptures made at home as part of an extended study were exhibited in the art department and students and staff were asked to vote for their favourite using the VLE.

In first place with 37% of the vote the Dragon made by Amy Gonzales was the clear winner. Amy will receive an art department prize for her fantastic efforts. Close behind in second with 20% of the vote was the Dice made by Jommel Solis. Look out for the student final outcomes when they will turn their sculptures into public sculptures using Photoshop & their imaginations.



Community Corner

Get Involved

There are a range of interesting initiatives taking place in the local community and beyond - and here are some initiatives that you may want to explore.

Please note that these are not officially endorsed or tried and tested by Skinners' but they are schemes that we have come across in different ways and may be of interest to you and your family.

Futureversity (one of the initiatives here) currently has spaces for free courses during the Easter holiday, including Beginners Swimming; Bridal Mehndi; Chocolate Making; Fencing; Football; Horse Riding; Manga Drawing; Nail Art and more - so do have a look if wanting something to do this holiday.



Manor House PACT is a £1 million, 3 year project, shaping a sustainable future for the people of Manor House. The project is part of The Big Lottery Fund's Communities Living Sustainably programme which is helping to make climate change more visible and relevant to local communities across England.

Projects include 'Better Neighbourhoods', PACT Meals, PACT Walks and more.

www.manorhousepact.org.uk

Mick's barbers
Skinners' academy

£7

HAIRCUTS FOR ALL STUDENTS WHEN STUDENT ID IS PRESENTED

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 7PM

FRIDAY 9AM - 8PM

SATURDAY 8AM - 7AM

SUNDAY CLOSED

Located around the corner from Skinners' Academy, **Mick's barbers** is now open and is offering £7 haircuts for pupils who present their Academy ID.



Futureversity believes all young people have the potential to be extraordinary. It provides free courses and activities for 11-25 year olds to help them develop the skills and self-belief they need to make the most of their lives. It runs over 150 inspiring spring and summer courses in Tower Hamlets (and many more in other boroughs), in subjects as diverse as Investment Banking to Animation, giving 11-25 year olds something productive to do during their school holidays.

www.futureversity.org

Focus on the Skinners' Old Girls' Association (SSOGA)

The Skinners' School Old Girls' Association was formed not long after the Skinners' Company's School for Girls opened at Stamford Hill in 1897. Throughout the years SSOGA became a support network for its past and present students.

I can hear you thinking, - what has that got to do with us? We're a mixed school in a metropolitan neighbourhood of London – nothing like the atmosphere that existed in those days. Well, you would be surprised to hear that the idea was to give girls a better education at a time when they could expect little more than to be educated just enough to make 'good wives and mothers' in a working class area with a large ethnic mix. Of course, nowadays, our Association exists for all students, (so come on boys – join us when you leave school and venture out into the wide world – we promise to change the name!) We've definitely had honorary male members in the past; one or two younger brothers were evacuated with their older sisters during World War II and SSOGA has had a lot of support from our partners too.

Our Committee, introduced here, meets regularly to talk through and plan events, projects and schemes to increase our membership and raise money.



VALERIE GRIFFITHS
(nee Paine)

At Skinners' from 1948 – 54, Val has been Chairman of SSOGA for 23 years and will be retiring from the chairmanship this year. After working for two major oil companies and with two breaks when her son and daughter were born, she started a 31 year career in education administration. Val's time is now almost totally taken up with caring for her 103 year old father.



ANGELA WILSON
(nee Caplin)

Our Events Manager, was a Skinners' girl from 1957-64. She went to teacher training college and started her career in 1967. In common with many Skinners' girls Angela married a Hackney Downs boy. She had two short breaks when her two sons were born and has been teaching ever since.

She is currently the owner and Head Teacher of St. Martins School in Mill Hill.



SHARON NATHANSON
(nee Myers)

Our Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, attended Skinners' from 1958-65. After leaving school she worked for a publishing house and became a journalist and later was appointed editor of one of their publications.

Sharon married her childhood sweetheart and has two children and three grandchildren.



SANDRA CROOKE
(nee Adelman)

Attended Skinners' from 1955-1959, Sandra left to go to Pitman's Secretarial College.

She has been married for 50 years and has four children and four grandchildren. She is still working as a secretary three days a week.

Sandra says she loved the years spent at Skinners' and has very fond memories of her time there.



MAUREEN HURST (nee West).

Maureen was at Skinners' from 1957-62. She is married with three daughters and four grandchildren and currently looks after her grandchildren two days a week. Maureen's hobby is card making.



Here are some of the schemes we have been involved in:-

Funding. We provided half of the funding for Apphia Yuma, a Year 13 student, to enable her to take up an 11 week pre-university placement, working with underprivileged children in the favelas of Brazil.

Prizes. For Prize-Giving, SSOGA proudly donates prizes for outstanding effort and good work in Years 7, 8 and 9. We donated 12 prizes in 2013.

Projects. Our latest project for the Academy is to raise money for display cabinets showing artefacts from the Academy's background. Your previous Principal Ms Wilkins, asked for our help and a team of SSOGA members sorted and collated well over 1000 items, all of which are now properly catalogued and stored for future use.

For many years, locked away in cupboards and attics, there lurked a hidden treasure trove of items made by the pupils; school records going back to 1897, photographs, drama and concert programmes etc. These artefacts provide an interesting addition to the perpetual archives of the Academy, as well as a source of information for educational projects.

Membership of SSOGA spans many years (a few ladies are in their 90's.), and countries (Australia, Canada, USA, Israel and Europe). We keep in touch and find old friends and classmates through our newsletter entitled 'Our Chronicle'.

If you know of any past pupils - maybe your mothers or grandmothers are ex-Skinners' girls - ask them to get in touch with us. Our contact details are:-

- Mrs Sharon Nathanson: sharonnathanson@hotmail.co.uk
- Mrs Val Griffiths: pandvgriff@blueyonder.co.uk

Dates for your Diary

Some Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 23 April:
Parents meeting re. Football tour

Monday 28 April, 4-6pm:
Key Stage 4 Pathways / Options Evening

Wednesday 14 May:
Parents Association Meeting

Thursday 5 June:
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday 26 June:
Year 8 Parents' Evening

Thursday 3 July:
Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 9 July:
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Upcoming Events

Monday 30 June - Friday 4 July:
Year 10 Work Experience

Thursday 3 July:
Transition Day for Year 6 Pupils

Monday 7-Friday 11 July:
Skinners' Word Fest (Literary Festival)

Wednesday 10 July:
Sports Day

Please note:

Details may be subject to change. You will generally be notified of key events by letter and / or text.

If ever you have any questions, please call reception on 020 8800 7411.

Choices Tour: A Look at Gang Culture and Youth Violence

In mid-February, Year 8 and 9 pupils participated in the CHOICES programme, which looks at gang culture and youth violence and is designed to make young people think and question what may be happening around them.

The morning started with students engaging in the Operation Make Peace presented by the Metropolitan Police. The Police Presentation aims were to:

- ♦ Look at what happens to those who are victims of firearms offences
- ♦ Ask why people get involved with guns and gangs
- ♦ Look at how police will respond to those linked with guns
- ♦ Understand if it's possible to tell the difference between a real and imitation firearm
- ♦ Give information about the sentences for possession of guns and knives

The session also featured a theatre show and workshop, "Brothers" – and pupils were encouraged to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the characters thoughts and motives. Solid decision making is a key factor in success for our students and through opportunities like this to reflect about themselves and their community we hope that we are continuing to equip them with the tools needed to keep making positive choices.

Mrs Allbeury, Head of Student Services



Fix Up, Look Sharp

Our Year 10 pupils participated in a "GCSE Champion" workshop delivered by Fix Up Seminars on Monday 17 March. This programme was created to motivate students to step up the pace in the marathon that is GCSEs.

A group assembly, discussions, exercises and games were focused around motivation. This included looking at, What is success – what it means to be successful in Key Stage 4 and beyond; believing in yourself – developing the confidence to tackle challenges; getting motivated – learning how to self-motivate to achieve more ; goals and inspiration – setting goals towards a brighter future.

It also included elements of study skills such as time management – how to make better use of time; managing coursework – handling workload in a fun and creative way; exam skills – developing a toolkit for examination success; revision techniques – learning how to make revision fun; memory skills – applying memory techniques for learning techniques; kicking stress – managing the stress and pressures of KS4.

Students really engaged with the activities during the day and benefited from activities including "My letter to fear and laziness". We're proud of students wholeheartedly throwing themselves into the activities and especially commend Adam Akinlade who spoke to the owner of the company, Action Jackson Ogunyemi and secured a work experience placement with Fix Up Seminars.



“““

Thank you for your time. I have been motivated by this workshop.

Year 10 comment (from an evaluation form)

Academy in pictures



Keep up to date with news from the Academy all year round through our varying communication channels - including:

Our website: www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Twitter: @skinnersacademy

Facebook: www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney



Physical Education (P.E.)

Reward Trip to Wembley

On Friday 17 January, 28 Year 10 students who gained Distinctions for their Junior Football Leader (boys) or Sports Leaders UK award (girls), as part of their vocational PE course, were rewarded with a trip to Wembley Stadium.

The pupils began their tour under the crossbar from the 1966 world cup final, where Geoff Hurst's famous shot rebounded, as the third goal in a 4-2 win as England were crowned champions. This was followed by the press room and media area, where they had a chance to take photos sitting in Roy Hodgson's seat! They were then taken inside the huge changing rooms, shower and massage area to see where the England team prepare for their matches. Next up was the tunnel, where pupils formed 2 teams before walking out to see the famous Wembley pitch.

Finally, the visit finished with a chance to walk up to the royal box to lift the FA cup! An enjoyable day was had by all, well deserved for their hard work in core PE.

Mr Legge, P.E. Teacher



WEMBLEY STADIUM

Year 7 Indoor Athletics

The Year 7s have been competing in an indoor athletics competition now for a couple of months.

Congratulations to all athletes involved, including the girls team (Emily Hauca, Shiloe Hay, Briana Williams, Denia Hassan, Faith Fatai-Dere and Selin Ok; and the Year 7 boys team – (Hubert Kosciuk, Luka Kvirtia, Jesse Asiedu Buoh, Shaun Nana-Bonsu, Jacob Holden and Jayden Buffong-Vidal) – the latter of whom (i.e. the boys team) placed 3rd in the competition.

Ms Hobbs, Assistant VP, Curriculum Lead for P.E

