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March 2024
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Autumn Term
Issue 38
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academy newsletter



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As we bring this Spring Term to a close this newsletter looks back at all the in class and extra-curricular activities our pupils have been a part of over the past twelve weeks.

The ninth Academy Production took place in February, our adaptation of Jeremy Brock's stage version of Oliver Twist. Our young cast, for most this being their first time appearing on the Skinner's stage, delivered a great performance over two nights to audiences filled with staff, pupils, families and governors. The dedication of everyone involved really showed and I congratulate them all for making Oliver Twist a success.

We cannot mention success without mentioning our skilful U16 Boys Football team who have delivered the Academy's best ever performance at the U16's Inner London Cup. The team made it to the Semi-Finals of the tournament where their journey ended with a difficult penalty shoot-out. The

team's determination and togetherness throughout this tournament was inspiring, we hope they can progress even further next year.

There is so much more I can highlight this term, from the Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Gold students practice expedition in Wales, to the annual Science Fair but I will let you flick through this issue to read about all we have achieved this term for yourselves.

I will finish with a message to our Year 11 and Year 13 students to remain focused and resilient as you enter the exam season when we return for the Summer Term. Remember to reach out to your subject teachers and year team if you need support during this period. We wish you all the very best of luck with your exams.

With very best wishes for a restful spring.

Shereka James
Principal, Skinner's Academy



Academy Production

Oliver Twist 2024

Over two nights in February, our cast of talented pupils from Year 7 - Year 11 invited audiences to watch our adaptation of Jeremy Brock's splendidly theatrical stage version of Oliver Twist. Set in Victorian England, we follow Oliver (Mizpah M, 7J1), a young orphan, who escapes a workhouse and an abusive apprenticeship. He finds himself amongst a group of petty thieves and pickpockets, including the jovial Artful Dodger (Jimmy L, 8B2), heartwarming Nancy (Angelina P, 9A2), sinister Fagin (Yara U, 9H1) and murderous Bill Sikes (Stephen A, 11H2), and so begin Oliver's whirlwind adventures and his search to find the true love of a family.

Thank you to all parents/carers, staff and pupils who came to watch and support our Academy Production of Oliver Twist. Especially those who came to both nights! The cast and backstage/tech crew put on a great show and should be very proud of themselves.



“”

This is my first year at Skinners' so my first Academy Production. I enjoyed how well we all worked together as a team.

Ruqayya I, 7A1
(Played Doctor & Mrs Brittles)



“”

A joy to see performers of such talent enjoying themselves and putting on a fantastic show. Bravo!

Audience Member



“”

Very dynamic rendition. Actors were in character and enjoying themselves. Extremely enjoyable to watch

Audience Member



“”

Another triumph! So many fantastic performances! And wonderful to see so many new faces on stage, so many new stars. A massive well done to all the incredible cast and the amazing staff who supported them.

Audience Member

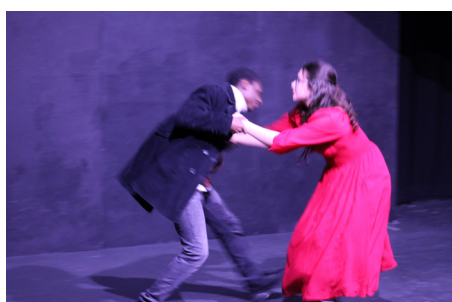


“”

Hard to pick my favourite scene but Nancy's (Angelina's) death is performed so well so I pick that. It was great to be a part of a cast/crew who worked hard to deliver something so special to audiences! I hope you all enjoyed the show!

Fiona S, 8A1 (Played Charley)





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A really fantastic performance. Dramatic, funny and also moving. The entire cast were fantastic but so was the sound, music, lighting and set design

Audience Member



History



Topical Talks

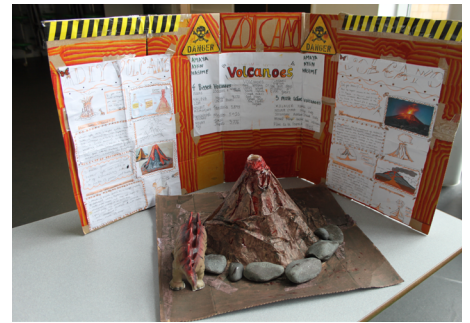
Year 9 and Year 10 pupils have been taking part in Topical Talk lunchtime club discussing questions about the world, society, and politics.

If you would like to join the conversation please speak to Mr Tobin.

Mr Tobin, Head of History & Politics



Science



Science Week

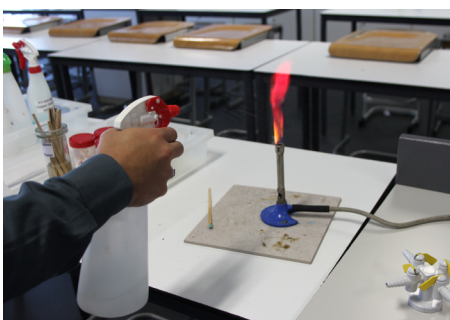
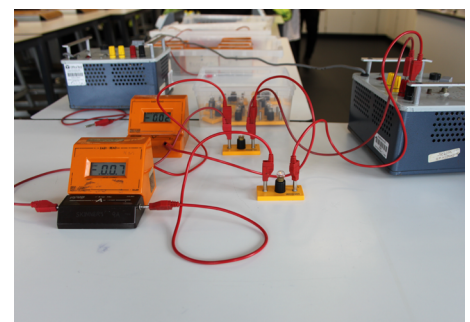
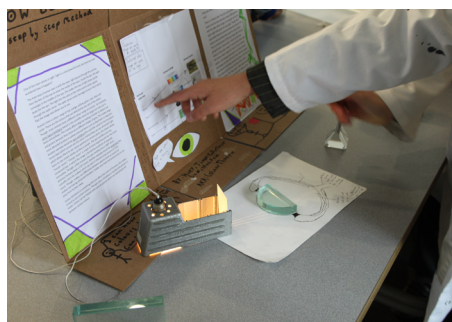
This year's Science Week went off with a bang!

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils worked hard to produce posters around this year's theme of 'Time'. These were displayed in the Science corridor.

Some lucky pupils took part in lunch-time science experiments, where they tested acids and alkalis, set up electrical circuits, and identified chemical compounds. The week culminated in a Skinners' Science Fair, where pupils presented their science projects to parents, teachers, and their peers. There were many experiments from volcanoes and lava lamps to elephant toothpaste and radioactivity.

All pupils who took part in the Science Fair worked hard to plan, make, and present their projects. The Science Fair was another reminder of how Skinners' Academy pupils are always striving to be the best they can be.

Ms Siab, Second in Charge of Science

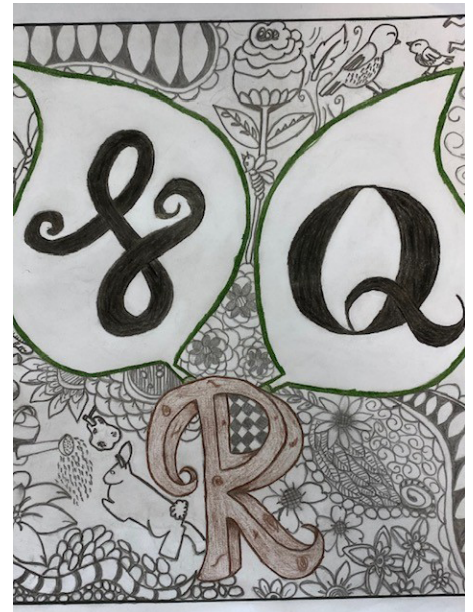


Art & Design

Royal Academy Young Artist of the Year Competition

The Young Artist Summer Show is an open submission exhibition for young people aged 4-19 studying art in the UK. All submitted artwork is judged by a panel of artists and art professionals with selected artwork displayed online and at the Royal Academy of Arts. Here are two of our amazing entries from our talented Year 7 pupils Ruqayya I, 7A2 and Farhan S, 7B1.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



Design & Technology



Springboard Future Chef Competition

In the Autumn newsletter we mentioned Alaana N, 9A2 who was selected to represent Skinners' Academy in the Regional Finals of Springboard Future Chef Competition after winning the local heats. Alaana N was coached by a professional chef as part of her prize for winning the local heat and spent weeks practicing her final dish in preparation.

Alaana N did so well at the regional finals, but unfortunately did not win this round. The judges were very impressed with her creativity and skill, and have encouraged her to apply again next year. Well done Alaana N!

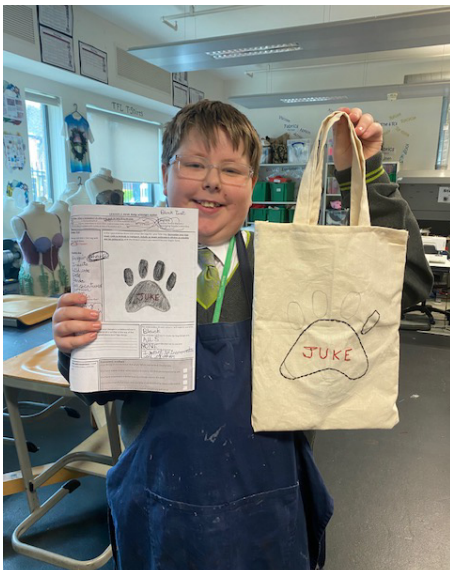
Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology

Food Pastry Competition

This term the Design & Technology department held their second cooking competition open to Year 7-11. Six pupils took part and had to make and present a dish that had homemade pastry as a main element.

All pupils did an excellent job and showed true dedication, staying in school until 5pm to complete their dishes.

All pupils will receive 10 positive points and a certificate of participation but an extra special congratulations go to Hannah K, 7B1 who was chosen as the winner by Mr Thompson.



Year 8 Hand Embroidered Tote Bags

This term Year 8 Textiles pupils have been learning all about hand embroidery techniques. Pupils have successfully learnt how to do the following hand embroidery stitches; Back, Running, Satin, Blanket, and Chain.

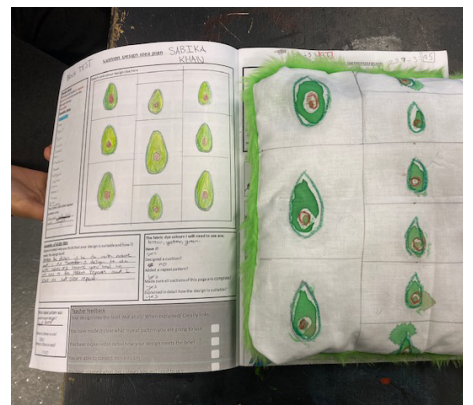
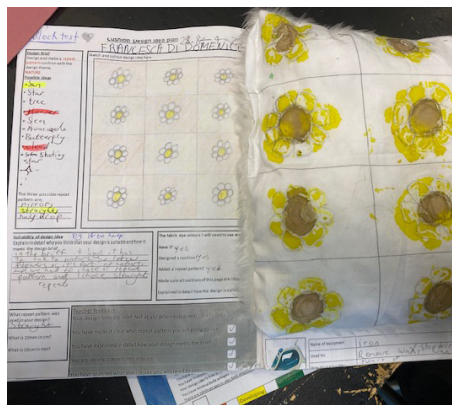
Once pupils had mastered their stitching skills, they then had to design a Tote bag using the theme 'Animal or Transport'. On their designs pupils had to try and incorporate as many stitches as possible to evidence that they had mastered each one. Pupils then had to begin manufacturing the bag. They have learnt how to manufacture straps from a piece of fabric, how to use a sewing machine, how to create a rolled hem and how to remove frayed edges.

All pupils have worked hard and supported one another to complete each stage of manufacture. Here are some examples of the bag designs including a very special one from Mason S, 8J2 who decided to make his tote bag for his mother to honour her dog that sadly passed away. He took great pride in creating this special gift.

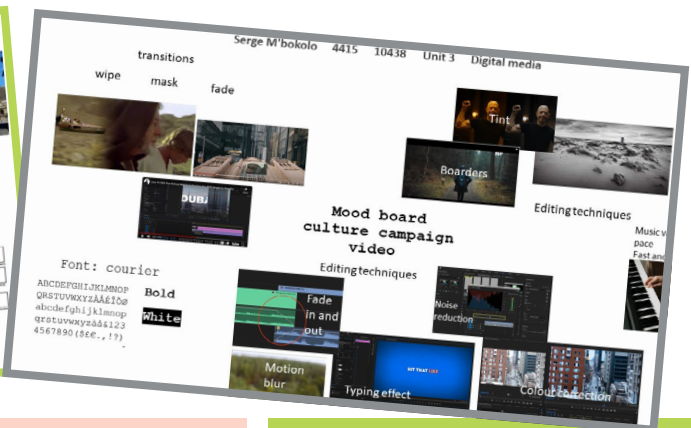
Year 7 Batik Cushion

Year 7 Textiles pupils have been working hard this term to create their very own cushions. They have been using a variety of textiles techniques such as Batik, fabric dying, hand embroidery, tacking and embellishment. Pupils learnt how Batik hot wax is used to create resists on fabric, allowing the designer to use a variety of colours. As part of the Textiles unit, pupils also learnt about three different repeat patterns and used that knowledge to design their own repeat pattern cushion inspired by the theme of Nature.

The pupils have done a great job, and the cushions are ready to take home in time for the Easter holiday.



Computer Science



KS5 Digital Media - Digital Products

In KS5 Digital Media, students developed and explored their creative digital skills to design and develop a range of digital content based on given client briefs. Students utilised their Premier Pro, Photoshop and sound editing skills to create an audio-visual product to promote the culture of local areas.

Designing and creating digital products to persuade, promote and inform an audience about the culture of London gives Digital Media pupils a chance to explore a range of skills ranging from graphics and video creation as well as sound, to create meaningful impacts by incorporating mise en scene elements.

It is always inspiring to see how our pupils use the digital skills that they learn on the course to create eye-catching and engaging digital content!

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science

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The practical and theory elements complement each other well as I can see that what I am learning can be used in my coursework. I really appreciate that this course gives me a real sense of what digital media is like and the type of things I will actually be doing when I go on to pursue a career in digital media.

Serge M'B, Year 12



KS3 Computing – Animated Stories

Year 8 pupils have showcased a range of editing skills to bring their story to life in the form of a short animation. Pupils had spent a series of lessons writing their own short stories, designing, and creating their animation products to promote their own stories in a creative way.

Mind-blowing short stories written by our Year 8 Computing pupils. This is a great opportunity for teachers in the department to see just how creative our pupils can be!

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Promoting Languages

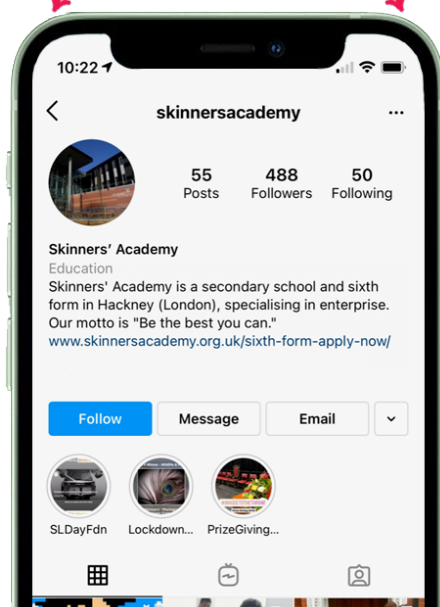
On 23 January, two Year 8 French and Spanish classes joined a number of Hackney schools in an online event highlighting the importance of languages after education. Pupils heard from three experienced members of the civil service, hailing from a variety of backgrounds and speaking a plethora of languages.

This event provided an opportunity to hear first-hand how languages can open doors to new cultures and career paths, providing crucial transferable skills that can be used both inside and outside of the workplace. The talks were followed by a Q&A with the speakers who explained how pursuing languages had led them to positive life changing opportunities. Speakers represented the British Council and European Council (speaking French, Spanish and working with South American countries), The Ministry for Justice (speaking French, Spanish and Punjabi) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (speaking French, Spanish, Korean).

Ms Torpos, Head of MFL



Click here to see more from Skinners' Academy on Instagram



Spanish GCSE

Revision Tips

Practice Regularly Consistent practice is key. Engage in daily Spanish language activities	Expand Vocabulary Diversify your vocabulary. Learn specific terms related to the exam topics	Grammar Mastery Understand and practice Spanish grammar rules
Listen Actively Develop your listening skills by regularly tuning in to Spanish podcasts, music, or movies.	Speak Aloud Practice speaking Spanish aloud to improve pronunciation and fluency	Use Flashcards Create flashcards for common phrases, verbs, and expressions.
Simulate Speaking Exams Mimic the exam environment by participating in mock speaking exams	Time Management Develop effective time management strategies	Review Past Papers Familiarize yourself with past exam papers
Cultural Awareness Gain insight into Spanish culture, customs, and traditions.	Feedback and Corrections Seek feedback on your written and spoken work.	Attend Interventions Attend interventions or conversational meet-ups

#modernele

Geography

Year 11 Geographers Complete their Urban Geography Fieldwork Investigation

On 1 March, Year 11 Geographers carried out some fieldwork in the local area. We wanted to try and find out if quality of life in Manor House was improving because of the Woodberry Down regeneration. Our secondary research was based on a newspaper's research, data from the 2021 Census, and statistics from the Metropolitan Police. We used this to formulate a hypothesis - that 'Quality of life in the Manor House area had not improved significantly since the Woodberry Down regeneration'.

We discovered just how difficult it is to find and approach members of the public in order to deliver a questionnaire to them! Our Year 11 pupils handled this superbly however, and together with their own observations and field sketches, they managed to gather enough data to come to a valid conclusion.

When we analysed the results, we were surprised to find that our hypothesis was disproved and we came to the conclusion that, of those questioned, life in the Manor House area had improved in some ways since the regeneration.

Mr Swinhoe, Acting Head of Geography

Duke of Edinburgh

Year 12 - Gold Award

Well done to the ten Year 12 students who completed their D of E Gold Practice Expedition to Wales this term. Students spent four days in the Brecon Beacons, learning about map reading, trekking and camping. They also completed two days walking in the Beacons despite the wet conditions. Students showed great resilience and team spirit. Group 2 showed excellent organisation skills, and Group 1 demonstrated good walking fitness.

Group 1: Luis P, Jermaine CV, Ivan G, Vladimir G and Enes A.

Group 2: Aleksandra J, Gabrielly F, Aisha A, Maya CS and Dilara D.

The assessed expedition will take place in July.

Students now need to look into what they will do for their residential section, as well as completing their skills, physical and volunteering sections.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY7



Physical Education (PE)

U16's Inner London Cup

Skinners' U16 boys Football team have had an outstanding but challenging journey in this year's Inner London Cup.

Round 3

Round 3 of the tournament saw Skinners' beat Mossbourne 2-1 in a tight local derby. Mossbourne went ahead early in the game, however Skinners' were playing the ball around nicely, and looking the better team. This was rewarded with a foul on Ioan A, and a penalty to Skinners'. Unfortunately, the penalty was missed but this didn't deter Skinners'. Some good work from Alex A led to a half volley for Ngoy N who buried it, to bring the scores level. Half time 1-1. In the second half, Skinners' were in control but struggling to create too many clear cut chances. Their persistence paid off with a stunning curling strike from Ngoy N into the far corner from outside the box, putting Skinners' 2-1 up. The defence was solid throughout and comfortably saw the game out, with a man of the match performance from Hermon D.

Round 4

Skinners' opponents for Round 4 were Prendergast Ladywell School (PL). Despite being without key players Kymani SD and Ioan A, the team raised their game when needed to complete another good victory. The game started evenly with a few chances for both teams, and then a good strike from PL to go 1-0 up. Skinners' responded with a first goal of the season from defender Stephen A from a corner. Skinners' grew into the game and were playing well when half time came. In the second half a strike from Ngoy N was saved, with the rebound put away by Keanu C to put Skinners 2-1 up. PL fought back and drew themselves level with another great strike from outside the box. However, Skinners' dug deep and pushed for a winner; this came with 10 minutes to go with an excellent finish into the corner from captain Ngoy N. Skinners' then soaked up 10 minutes of pressure to see out a well-deserved win, at times defending for their lives, as the home team were roared on by a very noisy home support. The game ended in victory for Skinners' beating PL 3-2. Man of the match Ngoy N.

Semi-Finals

The highly anticipated Semi-Final of the tournament is where Skinners' winning streak was unfortunately brought to an end. Skinners' travelled to Chiswick for the match against Fulham Boys. The game started evenly with some good skill on show by both sides. Fulham scored first with a cross and header into the far corner, however Skinners' quickly fought back with a free kick from Kymani SD going over the keeper and straight into the net. The game then ebbed and flowed, with both teams battling hard, showing quality, and cancelling each other out. Half time 1-1. In the second half, Skinners' managed to get in front from some good anticipation and finishing from Kymani SD. Skinners' were then in control of the game, until a goal against the run of play from Fulham leveled the game. Skinners' fought hard, with every single player working for the team (despite an injury, and a player being sin binned), through the rest of the game with a couple of excellent late saves from Jacob S.

The game went straight to penalties: Skinners' started well with Hussein P scoring first, however Fulham slotted home four excellent penalties, giving Jacob S trouble in goal. Skinners' unfortunately missed two, to eventually lose 4-1 on penalties.

A massive congratulations to all of the boys for showing excellent skill, determination and togetherness throughout this cup run. It is the furthest any Skinners' team has ever got in the tournament, and they have done the school and themselves proud!

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY7



Year 11 GCSE

Year 11 GCSE PE are preparing for their practical exam in the coming month. To help them with this they have Handball training sessions every Tuesday lunch time and Netball training sessions every Wednesday lunch time.

Ms Potter, AAP/Head of PE

Year 10/11 Basketball

Y10s/11s played an exciting end to end game with Stoke Newington. At the end of each quarter the game was tied making the 4th quarter an exciting one to watch. Unfortunately, at the start of the 4th Quarter we lost two of our main players, Abdirahman to an ankle injury, and Joseph O to a foul, the game ended 38-28 to Stoke Newington.

Well done to the team and even though we lost it was definitely the best team performance we have had so far this season.

Mr Williams,
Teacher of PE/AHOY 10

15 APR

Staff PLD Day
Academy Closed to Pupils

16 APR

Term Starts
All Pupils

**22 APR
to
26 APR**

**Year 10 Work
Experience Week**
External Placements

30 APR

**Parents' Information
Evening**
3.30pm - 7.00pm

06 MAY

May Bank Holiday
Academy Closed to Pupils

07 MAY

**Year 11
Public Exams Begin**

**27 MAY
to
31 MAY**

Half-Term

06 JUN

Sports Day

**24 JUN
to
05 JUL**

**Year 10 & 12
Mock Exams**

02 JUL

**Year 6
Transition Evening**
5.00pm - 6.00pm

03 JUL

**Year 9
Graduation**

04 JUL

**Year 6
Transition Day**
Academy Closed to Pupils

**08 JUL
to
12 JUL**

**Year 12 Work
Experience Week**
External Placements

**11 JUL
to
12 JUL**

**Year 10 DofE
Bronze Expedition**
Epping Forest

**15 JUL
to
19 JUL**

**Year 12 DofE
Gold Expedition**
Wales

19 JUL

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