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**July 2019**  
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Summer Term  
Issue 26  
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# academy newsletter



It is, once again, a great pleasure to introduce our termly newsletter which comes at the end of another very busy and highly successful academic year.

By the time you receive this, all GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations will have been completed. As always, the vast majority of pupils have shown total commitment in preparing for these life-changing exams, and I hope all receive the outcomes they deserve when the results are published in August. I wish all Year 13 students the very best of luck with the next stage of their life, be it at university or on an apprenticeship, and I look forward to welcoming many current Year 11 pupils into our sixth form in September, in which they will have rightly earned a place.

Life at the Academy and fulfilling the aim of, 'Be the best you can', however, remains about so much

more than merely success in public examinations, and this newsletter is yet again a tremendous testimony to the amazing breadth of activities that take place at the Academy – sport, music, drama, trips and numerous other activities. The return visit of the National Youth Orchestra was certainly a highlight of the term, as were the Academy's production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, the football tour to Holland and the netball tour to Shrewsbury. All of these activities are only possible because of the continued dedication and enthusiasm of our staff, and for that, I offer them all my heartfelt thanks.

I wish everyone a very happy, safe and relaxing summer, and we eagerly await the new academic year with confidence and excitement.

Tim Clark  
Principal, Skinner's Academy



## Our Literate Boys

Many people have heard a million times about the Literacy Gender Gap - that "Boys are doing far worse in literacy than girls", with most conservative estimates saying that there is a 10% difference between boys and girls. That gap drastically grows with BAME (black, Asian and minority ethnic) boys, worse still with those on Free School Meals.

It has been my core belief that these very real issues have quite a simple solution, but admittedly one which might be difficult to execute. This is that boys not only respond, but exceed all expectations when we demonstrate belief in them, positively reinforce the work they do, and give them the opportunity to prove themselves. After 11+ years as an English teacher, I founded the Our Literate Boys project. Run by 1st Verse Education, the project tackles the gender gap by helping young people enjoy literacy in all its forms.

The project started in November 2018 with pupils from Year 8 & 9. It is a twelve-session course designed to engage secondary school aged boys with everything literacy. It explores literacy through a variety of formats such as film, short stories, music, spoken word and artwork, after which they create their own series of texts based on the format they studied in that session. This culminates in an exhibition that they organise, develop and design in partnership with global businesses. The boys' first exhibition took place at media agency MediaCom, and was opened by Hackney's Deputy mayor Cllr Anntoinette Bramble.

Each session is designed with three objectives in mind:

- encourage and foster a love and appreciation of literacy
- explicitly link content to Ofqual's English language and literature GCSE Assessment Objectives
- develop a range of the most sought-after life and employability skills.

The end result? A cohort of confident, capable and skilled boys, equipped with a love of literacy, a deeper knowledge of the English GCSE, and the skills needed for life after school and within the job market. The plan is to roll out the course to other schools across the borough.

The most important lesson that I learnt from the young men in this project is that when education is stripped of any prejudice, preconceptions, and pressures of exam results, it will succeed across every metric that society has conditioned us to believe limit or privilege particular groups of people. They taught me to have a fresh outlook on literacy, and not to limit it to the accepted forms of books and pre-18th century poems. The young men taught me that we truly have a responsibility to develop the latent skills, abilities, and power that lives on the inside of every man, woman, boy, and girl.

Mr Ayeni, Head of Media Studies



The boys who took part in the project (left to right): Daniel Taiwo (Y9), Ahmed Guthmy (Y9), Ridwan Abdilla (Y9), Jaquan Byrue (Y8), Christivie Bwana (Y8)

““

**Taking part in this project has made me realise there is more to me and my identity, and that I can express another side of myself.**

Ahmed Guthmy, Year 9

““

**It is clear to see what a transformative experience it has been for the pupils, allowing them to explore their own identity and heritage in creative ways.**

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble,  
Deputy Mayor (Hackney)



““

**This project means a lot to me because it has taught me how to communicate better with people and how to accept constructive criticism.**

**I've learnt about different interpretations of black people, the stereotypes around black people and how to best deal with peoples assumptions.**

Christivie Bwana, Year 8



## You see by Ahmed Guthmy, Year 9 (part of the Our Literate Boys project)

Violence, drugs, guns, and more, we all switch to them when we're in need.  
The poor, and the rich alike might do it for fun, might do it for funds, or because they don't function up here.

### *\*Mask 1 on*

Personally, I like using a knife, or a gun – you see, I'm an all-rounder type  
Like the Joker I go day and night  
robbing people and leaving their skin tight  
I mean that's what you see right?  
You see, this mask feels just right; a glove it fits like  
And I wear it to fit right in, with other boys wearing masks just like this who don't seem to fit right in  
to a society built to keep us in – a box, or a hole, am I a fox in hole?  
You see, this toxic control,  
has you seeing me walking and bopping like I'm about to go robbing or stabbing  
You see, I live in a bad area, with little to do, little to see, and little to be  
But you don't see  
You don't see that, what you choose to see doesn't even exist  
Like an optical illusion, your mind is playing tricks

### *\*Mask 2 on*

You see, you can choose to see me like this  
A blank canvas, limitless, boundless, I insist that  
Your words are like flowers; they grow... but die when there's no light  
when people really care, they'll fix you up, show you who you are, shape who you can be  
You can see me with this mask on; like Thor,  
My future has the power of lightning, and potential for much more  
You see, I used to hate the quote stop talking and listen, until the day I stopped talking and listened  
I found there's more to what people say and do; they have an effect on us  
You can create in us a self-love, not the vain type, but to know our worth

What do you see, when you see me?

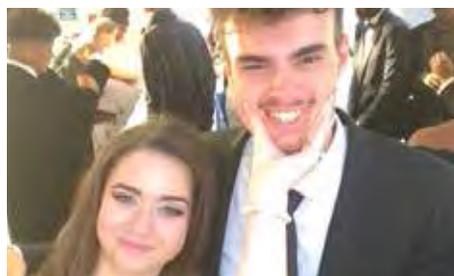
# Farewell Year 11

## Mr Alexis, Head of Year 11

It has been a real honour to have been a part of the lives of the young men and women from the 2019 cohort of Year 11 pupils.

As a teacher I have watched all of you prepare to embark on the next stage of your journey as pupils and as citizens in this society. I have been thinking about our time together and about the significance of our school, which you have helped to shape and build.

I wish you all the very best of luck. I hope that your hard work will pay off in August and that you all achieve your desired outcomes. A key point to remember, it is not where you start, but where you finish which is the important thing. I hope as an Academy and a year head we have prepared you for the next chapter because that is what school is really about, preparing you for your role(s) in life.





# Goodluck Year 13

## Ms Potter, Head of Sixth Form

The Academy would like to extend a fond farewell to our Year 13 class of 2019. Many students have spent seven years studying at the Academy and so our end of year party served as a fun but emotional goodbye.

Students and staff celebrated at Paesan on Exmouth Market. Mr Alexis on the decks, students voting for each other in the 'Sixth Form Awards' and a photo booth meant everyone had a great time celebrating two years of hard work in the sixth form.

We wish Year 13 the very best of luck for results day and hope you all make a smooth transition into your adult lives whether you choose to complete a university degree, apprenticeship, travel the world or move straight into the world of work.





# Enterprise

## Our Specialism/The Skinners' Promise

Our enterprise specialism is designed to provide pupils with the 'skills they need to succeed in life' and assist young people to become creative, independent thinkers who can solve problems by breaking them into smaller chunks or by thinking outside the box. It supports pupils with the ability to navigate the adult world, giving them the confidence they will need to deal with different aspects of life and work. Enterprise skills will help pupils to tackle a range of tasks they will be expected to complete in adult life with confidence, these can include:

- Tackling a job interview
- Planning for a house purchase
- Understanding how businesses operate
- Creating financial budgets...etc.

The Academy focuses on embedding the following 10 Enterprise Skills:

- Enthusiasm
- Negotiation
- Team Work
- Effective Communication
- Risk Taking
- Planning
- Resilience
- Innovation
- Solve Problems
- Evaluation

The Skinners' Promise is a new project that aims to bring focus to the Academy's 10 enterprise skills, and combine them with numeracy skills. To develop each of these traits, our pupils will complete two tasks; one from the enterprise skills set and one from the numeracy skills set. Currently two Year 7 advisory groups are working on the first section of the Skinners' Promise workbook, with the aim that the whole cohort will be taking part in the Skinners' Promise from September.

*Character and resilience are as crucial to young people's future success as academic qualifications. (Education Secretary Damian Hinds (7th February 2019))*

At Skinners' Academy, we are ahead of the government's initiative. Our Enterprise Specialism and the Skinners' Promise aim to support and prepare our young people to develop the skills needed to help them build their character and to take their place as responsible adults and active citizens in modern Britain.

We hope pupils will find the Skinners' Promise project an exciting opportunity to gain even more from school life, and also enable them to contribute to the life of the Academy and the community. We look forward to working with the lower school pupils and their parents/carers to turn this into an invaluable experience for everyone involved.

Ms Ozcelik, Head of Mathematics | Ms Kurtuldu, Head of Business Studies



“

Fundamentally education is about making sure the next generation have everything they need to realize their potential. That means offering them a broad and rich curriculum which gives them the knowledge and skills that will set them up for success in further study and the world of work.

HM Chief Inspector Amanda Spielman

# Focus on Wellbeing

## Skinners' Achieves Wellbeing Award for Schools

'Be the best you can' is the Academy's motto – and incorporated in that vision is our commitment to supporting pupils and staff in relation to their wellbeing.

As such, we are delighted to share that we recently achieved the Wellbeing Award for Schools – a whole-school award developed by Optimus Education in partnership with the National Children's Bureau (NCB), which focuses on ensuring effective practice and provision is in place that promotes the emotional wellbeing and mental health of both pupils and staff. The award has a focus on changing the long-term culture of a school, and embedding an ethos where mental health is regarded as the responsibility of all – and Skinners' Academy is the first school in Hackney to have achieved it.

To achieve this award schools are expected to demonstrate how they:

- Show their commitment to promoting mental health as part of school life
  - Improve the emotional wellbeing of their staff and pupils
  - Ensure mental health problems are identified early and appropriate support provided
  - Offer provision and interventions that match the needs of its pupils and staff
  - Engage the whole school community in the importance of mental health awareness
  - Capture the views of parents, pupils and staff on mental health issues
- ... which Skinners' Academy successfully achieved.

Excellent teaching is at the heart of Skinners' Academy; and our pastoral provision, which was considered as part of this process, is also something that we take a huge amount of pride in. The Academy has ensured that we have support professionals on staff beyond quality SEND, EAL and safeguarding teams. Somewhat unique to Skinners' we also have a school nurse, family support worker, academy counsellor, CAHMS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) representative as well as colleagues focused on pupil and parent engagement and careers guidance support.

Encouraging a sense of wellbeing and achieving this award was the mission of Ms Jaffer, Skinners' Academy's former senior vice principal and the work in this area is being continued by Mr Maloney, examinations officer and new chair of The Change Team – the Skinners' Academy wellbeing committee.

Speaking of the award, Mr Maloney said "The Academy sees achieving the Wellbeing Award as recognition of some very good work in this area but also as a reminder to our community that wellbeing is essential to our success and that as a team, we hope to always be able to support each other and intend to keep evolving in this area."

Tim Clark, Principal of Skinners' Academy noted, "As an Academy who employs more than 150 members of staff and teach over 1100 pupils – we know that both staff and pupils will be most likely achieve the goal stated by the Academy's motto 'be the best you can' when their wellbeing is acknowledged and supported. Educational institutions like many others have competing issues and pressures which can affect the school community and while I would not claim that the Academy is perfect when it comes to wellbeing, wellbeing is undoubtedly a priority and staff and pupils recognise that there are processes and initiatives in place to support them. In instances where support is considered lacking, staff and pupils know of my open door policy which encourages them to discuss issues with me – and some of our success which has been recognised by the award has been through initiatives created by members of the Academy community who saw a need. Long may that continue.



For the full article which includes some direct quotes from the Wellbeing Award for Schools verification report, visit <http://www.skinnersacademy.org.uk/skinners-academy-achieves-wellbeing-award-schools/>



# Careers



## Rothschild & Co Insight Evening

In June, a selection of Year 12 students went to an insight event at Rothschild & Co in the City, one of the world's largest independent financial advisory groups, which employs 3400 people in 40 countries across the world.

This event was targeted at students studying towards qualifications in Maths, Business Studies, Economics and / or Languages and Skinners' Academy were grateful to be invited courtesy of Channing School, an independent school with whom we are in a consortium.

Students appreciated presentations from both analysts in the business and early careers specialists within the HR team as they shone a light on the range of careers available within the firm and the potential pathways accessible to students.

There was then some time for networking which allowed students to connect with professionals from a range of departments through the business.

It was an excellent event and our Year 12s were grateful for the opportunity – and through this employer encounter have a much more solid understanding of possibilities in this organisation and industry.

Ms Visram, Head of Careers & Communications



## Apprentice 19

On 18 June, a small group of Year 12 students went to the Apprentice 19 event held at Guildhall in the City of London.

In its second year, this event was designed to help students recognise varying exciting pathways towards their career goals and is organised by The Stationers Company, a livery company with strong involvement with the Creative Industries. Apprentice 19 at the Guildhall was a central part of this year's London Careers Festival. Over 60 potential employers together with existing apprentices connected with students about apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Students had the opportunity to learn about digital apprenticeship opportunities at Pearson, apprenticeships from The Telegraph, a software engineering apprenticeship at the BBC or an apprenticeship in marketing and print solutions at Paragon Communications. They were able to connect with Google, Accenture, Aon, Bloomberg, Barclays, Capgemini, KPMG, Shepherds Bookbinders, The Army and many more.

In terms of steps beyond Skinners', it is no longer a case of apprenticeship OR university as higher apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships and more are all potentially excellent opportunities for your child and it's important that they understand what is available so it continues to be important for students to take advantage of opportunities like this.

Ms Visram, Head of Careers & Communications





““

**Buse has been great. She is always on time. She is very professional, is helpful and asks how she can help. She interacts well with the other adults and children.**

**Employer: Woodberry Down Community Primary School**

## Hello world of work: Year 10 & Year 12 work experience

It is a fact that young people are more likely to be successful in their post-school and post-university job hunt if they have done some good work experience. A recent research study from Highfliers notes “graduates who have had no previous work experience at all are unlikely to be successful during the selection process and have little or no chance of receiving a job offer for their organisations’ graduate programmes.”

Although it is no longer compulsory for schools to create opportunities for their students to participate in work experience, Skinners’ Academy continues to recognise how integral this is in relation to the career journey of our pupils and we offer one week in Year 10 and another in Year 12, during the summer term.

Year 10 work experience took place from Monday 29 April – Friday 3 May and pupils worked in organisations including Berkeley Homes, Boots opticians, The Theatre Centre, Med Chem Pharmacy, Hackney Council, Hotels.com, Coffey Architects, Homerton University Hospital, Impact Dance, Canonbury Vets, Turkish Cypriot Women’s Project, Urban MBA, Halifax, Barclays, The Body Shop, Woodberry Down Community School, Ambler Children’s Centre, London Marriott Regents Park and many more.

### Year 10 pupil quotes

*“I worked at Rapp, an agency which builds marketing experiences that matter. One of my main work experience targets was to learn about data technology and how it affects and improves lives. I gained confidence during my work experience and I also used how to use excel better and was introduced to Python, a programming language. Everyone was very supportive and helpful and it was a very positive experience for me.”* **Rose Pepperday, Year 10**

*“I worked at Ersan & Co Solicitors and my targets were to understand the day to day activities of a solicitor, to understand what is currently happening in the legal industry and to experience a working day. I think I successfully worked productively and established that I can be a fast learner. Working on my confidence level is something to work on in the future and overall I would consider this placement a success because they were very helpful and taught me many skills. I am very grateful to the team there.”* **Ali Baglam, Year 10**

At the time of printing, Year 12 work experience is taking place from Monday 8 July – Friday 12 July and is linked to future career ambitions and university subject choices. This year placements were at an exciting variety of organisations –where students experienced industries such as engineering, local government, healthcare, technology, marketing, law and more.

Well done to all pupils who secured placements, either through their own outreach and determination, via contacts they made at careers events at the Academy, through their family and / or friend network or through staff members. We are incredibly grateful to all the organisations who welcomed out pupils into their businesses for the week.

Ms Visram, Head of Careers & Communications

### Do you think you can be a source of work experience for a Year 10 or a Year 12 student in 2020?

It is easier than you think to offer meaningful work experience. Work experience changes lives and I’d be happy to have a conversation with you to explore the possibilities of you offering an opportunity to one of our pupils. Please email [workexperience@skinnersacademy.org.uk](mailto:workexperience@skinnersacademy.org.uk) and we can then discuss further.



“ ”

Amrit has been a star – a natural leader who picks up on things fast and has really fitted in well. Great work.

Employer: Creams

## UCL Women in Science: Talk for Year 8s

Towards the end of the spring term, we were happy to welcome three members of the UCL (University College London) Women in Science Student Society to Skinners' Academy.

Their talk was delivered to all girls in Year 8 and took place at a time when subject choices and future careers were on their mind as they were starting the process of exploring GCSE subject options. Through this one session, the Year 8 girls involved learned about a range of science (STEM) careers; found out a bit more about university via the presenters' experiences and powerfully shifted their beliefs about what was possible for them.

Nadia Uddin, one of the presenters on the day highlighted why they were motivated to connect with our school about the topic of women in science careers:

*“To this day, most STEM careers are dominated by men. However, this gap has been shrinking thanks to the brilliant programmes run by schools and companies encouraging girls to study and pursue a career in STEM.*

*I wanted to hold this outreach project to further contribute to this excellent initiative, not just because it would be fairer to have an equal balance of men and women in the workplace, but because scientific innovations need to be influenced by more people that would take the requirements of females into consideration. Furthermore, my colleagues and I wanted to emphasise that STEM is not necessarily just about becoming a doctor or an accountant, which is why we taught the Year 8 girls about the various other careers that can be pursued, such as coding and even art.*

*It was so much fun yet also an eye opening experience to give our interactive presentation to the Year 8 girls at Skinners' Academy. We found that they didn't know of more than one or two incredible female scientists before our presentation because their achievements are not taught on the National Curriculum.*

*Representation is everything and it is our responsibility to keep educating young girls on the amazing achievements women and girls have made and continue to make in order for them to be more open to the idea of studying STEM at sixth form and beyond.”*

This was an excellent, engaging event for the students and we are grateful to Nadia, Megan and Rosalind for an interactive, fun and informative session for the girls.

Ms Visram, Head of Careers & Communications



# National Youth Orchestra

## NYO – Play the School

On 29 April, The National Youth Orchestra (NYO) visited Skinners' Academy for the second time to work alongside our pupils and musicians from across Hackney, as part of their 'Play the School' programme.

The day began with a range of instrument specific side by side workshops where NYO musicians, Skinners' musicians and a handful of young musicians from other Hackney schools worked together to compose their own versions of Aaron Copland's 'Fanfare for the Common Man'. After the workshops, the whole orchestra came together in the sports hall to put their ideas together under the guidance of the NYO's conductor, Karin Hendrickson, before performing for their audience.

This year's 'Play the School' event was organised by NYO's Young Promoters, formed of Skinners' Academy pupils from Year 7-10 split into Junior and Senior Promoters. Read on to learn more about our Senior Promoters' experiences of the day.



## Yasmin Ali, Year 10 (Senior Promoter)

NYO Play the School was another incredible event. This year the event was fully run by NYO Young Promoters who spent weeks planning and organizing the event so the NYO musicians felt comfortable and the school day ran smoothly. As the NYO event took place during the first week of work experience, some Year 10 pupils (me included) spent their first day of placement at the Academy as Senior Promoters.

On the day we split ourselves into four teams so that the Junior promoters (made up of pupils from Year 7-9) would have at least one Senior Promoter with them, and stationed ourselves around the Academy to make sure everyone knew where they were going. We also spent our lunch with the NYO musicians giving us the opportunity to ask lots of questions about how it felt to play in such a large orchestra.

All the promoters showed great teamwork and resilience, and we all enjoyed ourselves. A great big thanks to all the Junior promoters who helped, you are all amazing and I hope to be working with you guys more next year.

## Nisa Akdag, Year 10 (Senior Promoter)

Sitting next to an NYO musician during the side by side workshop gave me the courage to push myself musically and try new things. The most difficult thing for me was being the only person in my section playing a separate part, although I did get used to it as my partner from the NYO continually helped me. They were all really helpful, especially if any of us got lost whilst reading the music.

As well as being a musician, this year I became one of NYO's Young Promoters. Being a Senior Promoter gave me the opportunity to help plan NYO's visit from start to finish, I really gained an insight into how much effort is needed to organise an event. My role also included presenting. At the start of the performance we began by introducing the conductor, Karin Hendrickson, and conducting a short interview with her for our audience. We then introduced each piece of music throughout the performance, all whilst playing alongside the orchestra. Being a Young Promoter helped me to become resilient and build my confidence to talk to new people.

The event ended with a rehearsal of Sibelius' 'Finlandia' which we then performed to our remaining audience members.

The thing that stood out to me throughout the day was that the NYO musicians are just like us. They're humans too. I think it came as a surprise to many people that they all liked and did things that we all do.

This was an experience of a lifetime.



## Chin Ho Chung, Year 10 (Senior Promoter)

As a Senior Promoter my role was to organise all the different schools taking part and delegate roles to the Junior Promoters. As well as being a Senior Promoter I was also a musician, so whilst carrying out my promoter role I also attended the side by side workshops and performed with the orchestra. The day was stressful for me because I wanted to make sure everything ran smoothly, but I still had fun.

Playing with the NYO was amazing. Even if you made a mistake the NYO remained seamless and didn't get distracted! During the performance my favourite piece was Ginastera, this is because the atmosphere was exciting and it was a very unique piece that the NYO made quite contemporary.



# Academy Production

## Return to the Forbidden Planet

Our fifth Academy production was an all singing all dancing performance of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet'. The show ran from 2 - 4 April with a talented group of pupils ranging from Year 7 - 13 who formed our cast, tech crew and on stage band.

Return to the Forbidden Planet is a Jukebox musical by playwright Bob Carlton based on Shakespeare's The Tempest and the 1956 science fiction film Forbidden Planet. It was billed as "Shakespeare's forgotten rock and roll masterpiece".

On a stormy night way back in the winter of 2009, mad scientist Doctor Prospero worked late in his laboratory, aided only by his wife, Gloria, as he developed the elusive formula with which he would change the world. The apparently faithful Gloria, however, duped him and sent him off into hyper-space in an old spacecraft. Unknown to Gloria, her infant daughter, Miranda, slumbered peacefully in the craft and was now catapulted light years into the future in her father's company.

15 years later, a routine survey flight under the command of the chisel-jawed Captain Tempest leaves earth's orbit with a new Science Officer aboard - a hard and bitter woman. As a shower of meteorites hits the ship, the Science Officer flees, and the craft is pulled inexorably towards the planet D'Illyria - The Forbidden Planet. The adventure begins ...



“”

I'm very proud of all the actors involved. You all did amazing guys!

Emily Blagrove, Year 11



“”

This is the first time I have been a part of the Academy production. The rehearsals were exhausting but well worth it once it came to the performance nights. I was both really nervous and excited to step on stage.

I hope everyone enjoyed the show.

Mateo Carmona, Year 8  
(Dr Prospero)





“”

This is the second time I have been in the Academy production. I like taking part because it is a good way to socialize and improve my team working skills.

Jemima Tunani, Year 8 (Juno - Scientist)



“”

Three nights, three absolutely fabulous performances. #GREATSHOW

Parent



“”

The costumes and the set were amazing.

Parent



“”

Out of this world! Amazing cast and crew. Loved the music. Bosun, Dr Prospero and the rest of the crew... well done!

Ms Dias, Teacher of Mathematics



“”

The audio clips all played on time and were very clear. The team were very calm and prepared. Loved it.

Parent



“”

Such a good show. So much laughter - Amazing. This was just as good as last year's performance so I can't wait to see what happens next year.

Omari Benson, Year 10



“”

Incredible music, amazing performances - all the little touches were just genius! Loved Ariel the robot, and the band's violin player.

Parent



“”

Being in the production has been a good way for me to make new friends from different year groups. All the cast, band and crew are like a big family.

Leyla Bennett, Year 7 (Hamlet - Sanitation Officer)



“”

Saskia was amazing and the band was sick too. Great work Rachel and Rachael.

Parent



## Staff vs Pupil Bake Off!

Due to the tremendous success of our first Staff vs Pupil bake-off last year, we decided to run the competition again to support this year's Academy Production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet (RFP)'. The Bake Off was a great opportunity to promote RFP and to generate some 'healthy' competition - all staff and pupils were encouraged to take part.

We received some fantastic entries and picking a winner was difficult. For staff, the winner was Ms Bidmead however, the overall winner was Year 10's Victor Avgin, meaning the pupils triumphed over staff for the second year in a row.

Victor's winning prize was 200 points for his House (Atwell) and a £20 Waterstones Voucher.

Everyone who entered also received 50 House Points each, resulting in each house gaining the following:

- ♦ Atwell - 400
- ♦ Buchanan - 300
- ♦ Hunt - 100
- ♦ Judd - 50

Thank you to all the pupils and staff who contributed.

Ms Ebejer, Finance Assistant



Victor Avgin (Year 10)



Ms Bidmead



Left to right : Ms Carroll, Ms Dalia, Lubaba Tafannum (Year 7), Ms Gillary, Ms Potter, Gabrielly Fantin (Year 7)

# A Look Back...

## Then & Now

The 'A Look Back...' section of the newsletter focuses on some of the Academy's past achievements, activities and moments which have been detailed in the pages of our previous issues.

To celebrate our second and most recent whole school photo, in this issue we will look back at the Academy's first whole school photo.

Our first whole school photo was taken five years ago before we had a sixth form. The picture was arranged to mark our first cohort of Year 7 pupils reaching Year 11 and sitting the Academy's first set of GCSE examinations.

Both photos were taken at the same spot within Finsbury Park's athletics track.



# Drama

## The Woman in Black

On 19 March, our Year 11 drama class went to the Fortune Theatre to watch 'The Woman in Black' which was celebrating 30 years in the West End.

Robin Herford's gripping production is a brilliantly successful study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the performance, there were a few laughs and more than a few scares! Hopefully they found enough to write about for their exam. Good luck Year 11!

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant





## LAMDA

LAMDA is a short course where pupils, like me, sit an exam for either acting or verse/prose. Lessons take place every week for 30 minutes, coached by Ms Quince (Head of Drama) or Ms Brooks (Professional LAMDA Teacher). Pupils on the course come from a range of year groups and are all studying at different grades. LAMDA exams will take place this July and we have all been preparing ourselves by ensuring we are rehearsing in our spare time.

Once we have completed our LAMDA course, we all will have gained a really good qualification whilst taking part in a fun and enjoyable experience.

Aasta Clark, Year 12

“”

**LAMDA has opened new doors for me and helped build my confidence.**

Jamie O'Connor, Year 13

## Drama Club

Drama Club is back! Once a week, Year 7 pupils have been working on a performance for young children. We took the children's story 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister and adapted it into a short performance for an audience of three to six years olds. Full of puppetry, good morals, and a little bit of underwater magic this is set to be a fantastic show.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

“”

**It was really helpful having experienced and professional people from a theatre helping us with our devising project.**

Beritan Unek, Year 10

## Old Vic New Voices

This term, the drama department concluded this year's involvement with the brilliant Old Vic New Voices Scheme. We saw two theatre productions at the Old Vic, interestingly both written by Arthur Miller.

The first was 'American Clock', set in an American society governed by race and class, we meet the Baum family as they navigate the aftermath of an unprecedented financial crisis. The world pulses with a soundtrack fusing 1920s swing and jazz with a fiercely contemporary sound, creating a backdrop that spans a vast horizon from choking high rises to rural heartlands. The performance was followed by a workshop where we looked at the context and history behind the play and discussed the Great Depression and how that kind of catastrophe would impact our lives if it happened in the present.

The second performance was 'All My Sons', set in America in 1947. 'Despite hard choices and even harder knocks, Joe and Kate Keller are a success story. They have built a home, raised two sons and established a thriving business. But nothing lasts forever and their contented lives, already shadowed by the loss of their eldest boy to war, are about to shatter.' Pupils later took part in a workshop where they came up with their own costume designs and created a set design, thinking about symbolism and practicality. They came up with some interesting ideas and were definitely thinking outside the box!

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

“”

**The set of All My Sons was amazing, it really helped us visualise life in the 1940s, I loved it.**

Buse Ganidagli, Year 10

## Hackney Empire Workshops

During the development of the Year 10s' devised pieces, we were fortunate enough to be visited by drama practitioners/directors from the Hackney Empire who delivered personalised workshops to help inspire the pupils' performances.

We ended up with three very different performances which stemmed from the same starting point, the pupils worked tirelessly on their pieces and performed them to an audience on 23 May.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

# Music



## Restore the Music Fundraising Gala

Performing at the Restore the Music fundraising gala restored my heart and my love for music. I was extremely excited to have the opportunity to take part as when would I get to perform alongside my friends in the most amazing Langham Hotel ever again. It was incredible. Actually it was phenomenal. This trip made me realise how important music really is and how it should be shared throughout the whole world. It was a pleasure to help restore the music.

Mercedes Xavier, Year 7

## The Steel Band Play Arsenal

This term, the Year 8/9 steel band won the opportunity to perform at Arsenal's Annual Gala Fundraiser held at the Emirates Stadium. We wanted to perform at the gala because the funds raised from the auction and generous contributions have previously been given to our music department at Skinners' Academy.

First we had to send the gala organisers a video of us playing so they could make a decision on if we could perform for them or not. We all asked Ms Adediran whenever we saw her if she got an email back and were so elated when we finally found out we got in! We were all really excited to be performing in front of so many people and we were all shocked to find out our dressing room was linked with Rudimental's especially as we were playing one of their songs.

Performing at Arsenal helped to build our confidence and become more responsible. We had to pack the pans, unload them, then pack them again, and we had to make sure we remembered everything and left nothing behind. We played for 45 minutes, the longest we had ever played, and we had to keep going even though we were tired! It was really nice to see the shock on people's faces when they found out we were only in Year 9. The performance was one we shall all hopefully remember for the rest of our lives.

Favour Adebisi, Year 9



## Instrumental Exams

This term, over 90 pupils are taking instrumental exams with either ABRSM or Rock School. The exams are happening as you read this in the last two weeks of term; pupils have been practising their pieces and going over their scales. Fingers crossed we show them what musical talent the pupils at Skinners' have and get some great results!

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

## Steinway & Sons

On 25 April, six of the Academy's piano pupils, including myself, had the opportunity to visit Steinway & Sons at Steinway Hall. Steinway & Sons is a prominent piano company, the Steinway Hall in London was opened in 1875 and became the first Steinway Hall in Europe. It has showrooms and practice rooms available for musicians of all ages.

At the Hall we watched as a grand piano was taken apart to learn how it functioned. We also took part in an informative masterclass where pupils who volunteered to play a piece would receive feedback. Just before our trip ended, we were free to try out the piano bank which has Hamburg Steinways and New York Steinways so every pianist's taste was suited.

Gaby Marin Londono, Year 9



“ ”

Our visit to Steinway Hall taught me a lot about how the inner workings of a piano.

Marcel Latwinski, Year 10

## Summer Concert

The Summer concert is an absolutely amazing yearly event and this year I'm organising the event, let's hope we can make it better than ever!

I've realised it takes a lot of hard work to organise an event like the Summer concert. However, it will be an amazing event and a great chance for Skinners' musicians to show us what they've been working on throughout the year. I hope a lot of people will be able to attend!

Chin Ho Chung, Year 10



## Music Café

Music Café is a termly informal concert to showcase all the pop, rock and blues songs in the Academy. The last Music Café was incredible with people toe-tapping to swaying to the beat and some people even dancing!

This term's Music Café is the first where pupils have had to audition for a performance slot. The event was planned by the Year 10 events team, with our marvellous marketing team (Cem Ozicer and Damla Ganidagli) working closely with the Academy's social media team. All the performers cannot wait to put on another incredible concert so come and join us on the 15 July 2019 for another extraordinary concert!

Yasmin Ali, Year 10

## Visiting the Royal Albert Hall: It went with a BANG!

Earlier this term, 20 Year 7 pupils attended the Classical Spectacular Concert at the Royal Albert Hall for a rewards trip paid for by The Skinners' Company.

Conducted by John Rigby, the concert features the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as well as other notable performers such as the Royal Choral Society, the British Imperial Military Band, Ilona Domnich, Alexander James Edwards and the Classical Spectacular Dancers.

The concert offers pupils the opportunity to hear a wide range of classical music and styles, from Tchaikovsky, Strauss, Elgar, Puccini, Handel and many others. The entertainment also features lasers, lights, fireworks, cannons and... well, read what our Year 7s thought of it below. It sounds like they weren't too bored...

Mr Palm, Senior Sixth Form Tutor

“

I enjoy the Music Café, the atmosphere and feel of it is just so powerful. The performers look like they are having so much fun.

Anne Irwin, Year 10

## Battle of the Bands

This year I am participating in Battle of the Bands, along with a few fellow pupils from other years. Battle of the Bands is a competition hosted by Restore the Music (RTM), the charity who help with funding for our instruments and free music lessons for Year 7, in which pupils perform songs showcasing the instruments RTM have supplied. The prize is a whopping £3,000 to go towards the music department. Last year's winners were Black Aftermath, a band from Skinners', who have since performed at Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and have the opportunity to work in a professional recording studio.

I am both honoured and excited to be participating in this year's competition and hope that we can get another win for the Academy with our song.

Saskia Gacek Simmons, Year 9

### Ela Demiralay, Year 7

The Royal Albert Hall was so amazing, my favourite part was the scenery. We were sat right at the top, and we were all freaking out because we all thought we were going to fall! I had mixed emotions, because there were many other things happening while the concert was going on. There were things like fireworks above our heads, cannons, and much more.

I really recommend going to The Royal Albert Hall. It was breathtaking! Thank you to Mr Palm, Ms Adediran, Ms Zioga, and Mr Ojo for coming with us.

### Yiyitcan Atim, Year 7

I think that the concert was fantastic. Everybody jumped when the cannons fired gunpowder but Mr Palm and I were ready for them. There were hunting rifles, lasers swinging left and right, sparklers sparkling and turning around.

Some music I had heard, some not. There were people stomping and clapping and joining in with the music. Female performers came out and danced with the audience and then men dressed in army uniforms came out with their instruments to play for us.

# Art & Design



## Excellent Standards of Art

Congratulations to the following Year 7 pupils for completing 100% of their homework to an exceptional standard.

### 7A1

Zareenah Boksh  
Natalia Heinrich  
Julia Koltunska  
Unaysah Teladia  
Sahide Vural  
Mercedes Xavier

### 7B1

Erisa Aliaj  
Caitlin Alford  
Leyla Bennett  
Paul Cabral Fernandes  
Lilli Freel  
Calum Graham  
Luis Palin  
Enes Yuksel

### 7B2

Dilara Gur  
Sally Homan  
Lia Kamil  
Eminnur Kuscü

### 7H1

Melek Kelimet  
Angel Kelly  
Daniella Koranteng  
Giulia Rajbhandari

### 7J1

Shadana Khader  
Zahirah Miah  
Harold Oliveira Nery

### 7J2

Sophie Bryne  
Aycan Demirci  
Gabrielly Fantin  
Erika Jaquez Reinoso  
Ken-Wei Lu  
Nicole Quieroz

## Year 11 Art Exam

This year 46 Year 11 pupils undertook the ten-hour art GCSE exam. Pupils worked tirelessly for 12 weeks to prepare for this ten-hour exam. The preparatory work included gallery visits, experimentation with different media and artist analysis. This all informed their final outcomes which they made on the day, making up 40% of their final grade.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



## Ionut Morar's Sculpture

Ionut Morar, Year 11 produced this sculpture while investigating the topic of connections. With support from the art department he took the concept from initial idea through to completing the project as a site specific public sculpture. This included designing, making maquettes, creating mock ups on Photoshop, putting forward location proposals, and health & safety checking. Overall Ionut found it a very rewarding experience in which his creative vision was taken to completion and constructed to a professional standard

Mr Hodierne, Teacher of Art & Design

## GCSE Art Exhibition

We are very proud of the range of work produced by our Year 11 pupils this year for both coursework and exam, and we hope that they will continue to produce art work in the future.



## Outstanding Commitment to Art

The art department would like to give a special mention to the following Year 11 pupils for all their hard work over the past two years.

- ♦ Samuele Amaddio
- ♦ Nisa Ansari
- ♦ Emily Blagrove
- ♦ Vanessa Faeldonea
- ♦ Ionut Morar
- ♦ Laila Osman
- ♦ Ceren Ozicer
- ♦ Bianca Rocha
- ♦ Ilay Saker

Each have won a certificate and small gift to recognise their efforts.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



# Design & Technology



“ ”

I now know where our food comes from and that growing our food locally helps the planet.

Ken-Wei Lu, Year 7

“ ”

I learnt that greenhouses are used to help baby plants grow stronger. When the crops are stronger, they are transplanted outdoors.

Blazej Gorczyca, Year 7

## Urban Farm Trip

Thanks to our work with the School Food Matters Project, a group of Year 7 pupils visited a growing community at Springfield Park to take part in a food growing workshop. Pupils experienced planting peas (Mange-Tout) and Marigold in the poly-tunnel and the greenhouse. They were allowed to pick some Rosemary and Lemon Verbena.

Overall, the trip was very educational as pupils learnt so much about food provenance and growing plants in an urban farm.

Mr Ojewunmi, Teacher of Design & Technology (Food Technology)

## We Received a Visit from a Professional Chef!

On 13 June we received a visit from professional chef, Ruth Quinlan as part of the School Food Matters Project. Ruth delivered a cooking masterclass on various recipes to Year 7 project members. Pupils were so delighted with the experience.

Mr Ojewunmi, Teacher of Design & Technology (Food Technology)



“ ”

The food was wonderful and it tasted sooo delicious! I will definitely make it at home.

Julia Koltunska, Year 7



“ ”

The School Food Matters project was really fun. The best dish was the crispy potatoes!

Melek Keliment & Lulea Barbosa, Year 7



“”

I enjoyed learning new things and planting things like carrots, salad, cress and radishes.

Benedict Kalombo, Year 7

## Horticulturist Visit

Selected food technology pupils received a masterclass about growing plants and food. They were taught how to make recyclable paper pots which they then filled with compost followed by seeds.

Pupils were given a wide variety of seeds to choose from, from peas to coriander. We took our newly potted seeds to the garden by the sports hall and planted them alongside a bunch of other potential ingredients including red potatoes. To prevent any wastage, we turned our empty compost bags inside-out and used them to plant beetroot and salads.

Lastly, pupils took turns to water our new plants. Overall, the workshop was a brilliant experience and we hope to do more things like this again.

Mr Ojewunmi, Teacher of Design & Technology (Food Technology)



## Designing Mazes Using CAD

Year 8 have been designing mazes using a CAD (computer aided design) application called Google SketchUp this term. In a relatively short space of time, they have really got to grips with this software and are starting to produce some really sophisticated designs. This maze above was designed by Pepe Saez Brown.

We would like to 3D print the best ones – watch this space!

Mr Nayar,  
Teacher of Design & Technology



## Year 8 Trip to Cadbury World

Our experience at Cadbury World was amazing. We had a chance to learn a range of facts about the company including how to start a food business, grow the business and develop it to become successful.

We started our adventure by watching a short video clip about the roots of the company. They then began to show us how their main product (chocolate) was made. We found out where Cadbury get some of their key ingredients from including that they get their cocoa from Ghana. How interesting!

We were given a lesson on tempering chocolate and got to make our own designs using tempered chocolate. We tasted some of our chocolate creations too, it was very delicious. The experience was great!

Throughout our visit we completed our DT trip booklets which worked really well. Pupils enjoyed the games and puzzles included in the booklet which kept them relaxed and engaged during the long journey to and from the factory. What was even better was that it further helped the pupils understand the educational purpose of the trip as well as the obviously fun aspects!

Mr Ojewunmi, Teacher of Design & Technology (Food Technology)

“”

Everybody loved going to Cadbury World. We learnt about chocolate and the origins of Cadbury.

Mya Joseph, Year 8

“”

The trip was so exciting, especially when we were given free chocolate! It was really tasty.

Mohamed Cherid, Year 8

## Science & Technology Challenge

The following pupils were selected to take part in a Science and Technology challenge day for showing enthusiasm and commitment to their learning within both subject areas; Anastasia Asaeva, William Tran Chu, Louis Perryman and Shemar Samuels (all Year 8), and Favour Adebisi, Nathaniel Dowding, Tyler Iteku, Antonia Ivanova, Olivia Janik, Nicholas Layhe and Mikolaj Majkowski (all Year 9).

All pupils were a credit to the Academy for their behaviour and effort in every challenge. Each will be receiving a certificate for successfully taking part.

A special well done to Antonia, Louis, Mikolaj and Nicholas who won their challenges against the pupils taking part from other schools and got trophies to take home.

Read Favour Adebisi's thoughts on the day below.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology | Ms Davis, Head of Science



## Favour Adebisi, Year 9

11 pupils from Year 8 & 9 who were doing well in their science and D&T lessons were given the opportunity to visit the University of East London and take part in a day of activities alongside pupils from other schools. Every pupil got to take part in three out of the four available activities. The day allowed pupils to see if they were interested in taking up a medicine or technology based course at the University.

All pupils were split into groups which allowed us to meet and work with pupils from the other schools who are also gifted or talented in D&T or science.

- In the robotics session we had to programme a robot using code to allow it to make its way around a mat while earning as many points as possible. This taught us about coding.
- In the vehicle session we built cars in our groups which we then raced at the end to see which went the fastest.
- The diagnostics session was my favourite. We looked at a range of patient case studies and looked at questions we would need to ask the patients about their symptoms. We had to test things like their urine & blood to see what we thought was wrong with them before reaching our final diagnosis.
- The final session was learning about how the police create E-fits. A person entered the room and stole a mobile phone. From memory we then needed to create an E-Fit on the computer. This taught us how easy it is to miss a lot of information when your mind is focussing on something else.

We were all given the opportunity to ask the volunteers any questions or concerns we had about university and future career pathways. Four of us from Skinners' won our activities and received individual trophies.



“”

I liked the V&A trip because it had lots of old, interesting things and they were all luxury!

Deniz Dogan, Year 9

“”

It was interesting to discover all the different material features in the V&A museum and the design history behind it.

Tyrese Rodne, Year 9

## Visting the V&A Museum

The Year 9 resistant materials group had the pleasure of visiting one of London's most iconic museums, the Victoria & Albert Museum. This was a great opportunity for pupils to discover how the influence of different materials and design techniques have informed product design in the past and present.

The V&A exhibits thousands of design artefacts from architecture and furniture to fashion design. This allowed pupils to enthusiastically engage with the environment and relate this back to their design & technology subject knowledge.

Ms Betiku, Teacher of Design & Technology

## Dual Speaker Project

This term, the Year 9 resistant materials group have been designing and making their very own portable speakers. The theme is set as the Memphis Movement which is well known for its late 80s style that embodies quirky geometric shapes with bold colours and retro furniture.

Pupils have been busy putting their visual creative skills to work but have been even more engaged with the technical aspect of this project where they have actually built their own electrical circuit! They have all shown great skill and focus this term from understanding the electrical components to constructing model prototypes out of recycled materials. The pupils all aim to make their final product by the end of the term and will be featured in the DT Summer Exhibition. A big well done to all so far!~

Ms Betiku, Teacher of Design & Technology

“”

I found this project challenging at first but it has become easier with time and effort. I am excited to make my final product!

Mikolaj Majkowski, Year 9



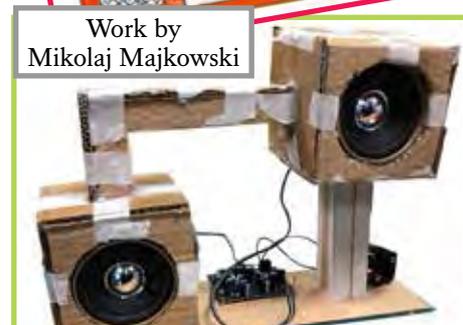
Exemplar by Ms Betiku



Work by Mustafa Goris



Work by Mikolaj Majkowski





““

I've enjoyed drawing out my waistcoat and relating my design to a theme.

My theme is Steampunk which is a style that mixes Victorian era fashion with industrial revolution elements.

Blessing Engunda, Year 9

## Designing Waistcoats

Year 9 textiles pupils have been designing waistcoats! They were allowed to choose from one of the following themes; steam punk, swinging sixties or punk rock.

All pupils have now completed their design ideas and are beginning to test their designs out using pattern paper before moving onto fabric. They have come up with creative and original designs which we are hoping to display at the DT Summer Exhibition.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology

## Hillsong Schools Project

In May we were lucky enough to have a visit from the team at Hillsong Schools Project. The schools project is passionate about bringing messages of hope and inspiration to as many young people as possible in schools across the UK.

Pupils took part in a series of quick fun activities and Devayne Ryan, Year 10, managed to win an envelope of cinema tickets for him and his friends after wowing with his dancing skills.

The group will be working closely with the Academy to run a series of assemblies and mini workshops as well as joining us in July for their summer tour where we will be joined by world-class speaker Reggie Dabbs.

If any pupil would like to know more about this or find out about being part of the mentoring programme, please come and speak to me in G45.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology



““

I really enjoyed my experience with the Hillsong Schools Project.

At first I was really nervous to get up and dance but everyone around me started cheering me on and encouraging me so I did! Through that I won 4 cinema tickets which I couldn't believe. I watched 'US' in the cinema with three of my friends- it was scary!

Through this project I learnt I can achieve even if I don't think so at first. I just need to try. The message of being the best we can be was really good.

Devayne Ryan, Year 10

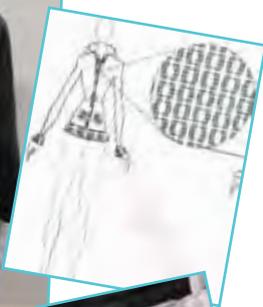


## Year 11 & 13 Gallery of Work

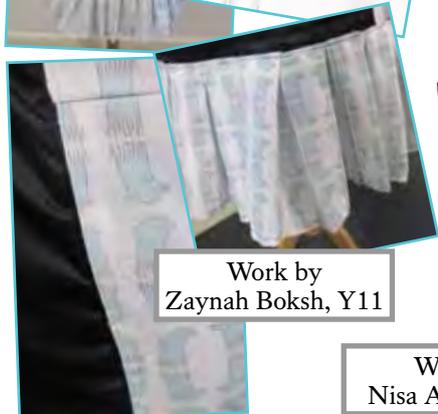
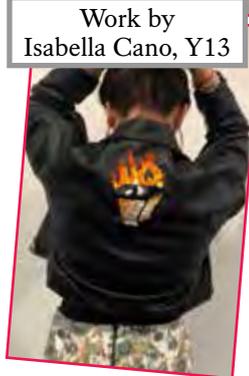
The GCSE and A level classes have worked really hard this year to create some excellent final pieces for their textiles course. We wish them all every success in their results. Here are some examples of the great work created by them.



Work by  
Isabella Cano, Y13



Work by  
Gokcen Sevim, Y13



Work by  
Zaynah Boksh, Y11



Work by  
Nisa Ansari, Y11



## Computing

### Woburn Safari Trip

Year 7 computing pupils visited Woburn Safari Park in May, bringing their research and learning about the issues surrounding endangered animals to life! This trip helped our young pupils gain more insight into the animal kingdom in order to create their interactive information kiosk (used to help educate others about endangered animals through the use of multimedia).

In the safari park, pupils had the opportunity to see the range of technology used to help monitor animals and visitors such as CCTV cameras, automated gates as well as using the interactive kiosk at the safari park Mammoth Play Ark. They had what can only be described as an amazing time playing on the slides in the Mammoth Play Ark, some were more adventurous than others on the tallest slide – even Mr Alexis and Mr Nayar tried it out.

This was a fun and exciting trip for all those that went especially as we had the opportunity to see, up-close-and-personal, some beautiful rhinos, tigers and lions to name but a few - but from a safe distance. Five cheeky monkeys even decided to jump on top of the coach (yes unfortunately for the coach driver one of the monkeys did decide to leave its mark on his windscreen), but thankfully we had the rangers on hand to ensure the monkey did not try and escape before we got out of the monkey zone. The road safari was made even more informative with the addition of a guided tour courtesy of Ms Rao.  
(Continued on page 30) . . .



... (Continued from page 29)

This trip supports and enriches pupils to understand the concept of creating an Interactive Information Kiosk and how to use it as a tool to raise awareness of endangered animals. Throughout the unit, pupils developed and used their computing skills to turn their ideas into a functional kiosk used to provide information in an interactive way. The Endangered Animals Information Kiosk unit enabled pupils to:

- ♦ Explore matters concerning extinction and how this affects the society and the world as a whole, making use of their enquiry skills and web searching skills.
- ♦ Use presentation software/multimedia tools to provide access to information through text, animation, sound and videos.
- ♦ Develop and implement a good navigation structure to allow for easy access to the information provided, making use of custom designed button with hyperlinks.
- ♦ Develop a good understanding and appreciation for the process of designing, which encourages pupils to use a range of enterprising skills, considering how and where such a product can be used to raise awareness.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing



“  
The Safari was really fun!  
I learnt different facts  
about all the really cute  
and cuddly animals there.  
Natalia Heinrich, Year 7



“  
It is great to learn new  
things in my computing  
lessons. Seeing the  
endangered animals has  
made me feel that the  
information kiosk I am  
making has a really big  
message to give out.  
Mercedes Xavier, Year 7



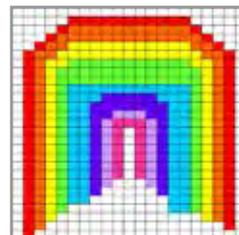
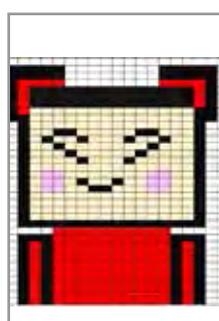
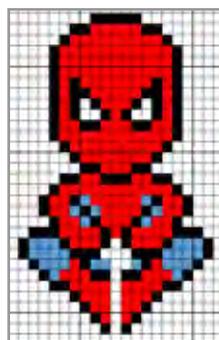


## Year 8 - Pixel Art

As part of the KS3 computing curriculum pupils explore the use of data to represent images. They learn the concept of using bits (1/0s) and how these can be mapped to create pixel based images. They discover how location and colour information is stored about every single pixel in the picture and that individual pixels can be changed. This helps them understand why bitmap images pixelate when they are enlarged which results in pixels being stretched and losing image quality.

Pupils are given the opportunity to explore and discuss the limitations of simple 1-bit binary representation of graphics and how this is not always suitable in all contexts. Pupils have used their understanding of pixels and location create their very own stunning pixel art using a grid in MS Excel.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing



## Computing Pupils do Programming

The programming unit of work enables our Year 8 pupils to make use of their computational skills by completing a range of challenges, with different complexity ranges, to help them write and test out small programs. Pupils are encouraged to think about the use of coding in everyday life such as apps used on smart phones and tablets, smart TVs and smart speakers. Pupils also learn about the various industries that rely on algorithms and programming to complete daily tasks e.g. financial sector, use of robotics in the medical industry, military and farming industry.

Pupils work towards achieving the following learning objectives throughout the unit:

- Understanding the importance of programming and how computer programs work.
- Recognising the need to use problem solving skills when programming, making use of literacy and numeracy skills.
- Understanding the need to follow guidance and use tools when programming.
- Developing programming skills to complete a series of challenges.
- Carrying out self-assessment to judge performance throughout the challenges using a testing and modification process.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing

“ ”

I didn't know that some pictures were made by pixels. I had a lot of fun making my manga pixel art!

William Tran, Year 8

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- Carrying out self-assessment to judge performance throughout the challenges using a testing and modification process.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing



“ ”

I'm really looking forward to programming and using JustBasic more and more in the lessons!

Berkan Gungor, Year 8



“

The Derren Brown Ghost Train was scary at times but the quality of the workshop and what we learnt was really good. It was so cool to see how we could make our own holographic projections just by using acetate.

Mark Olah, Year 9

## Derren Brown Ghost Train Workshop at Thorpe Park

As part of the computer science, creative iMedia and digital media curriculum, pupils learn and explore how digital images can be manipulated for effects, and investigate future technologies for theme parks and the entertainment industry as a whole. Derren Brown's Ghost Train at the Thorpe Park Resort provides a computing workshop for pupils in various key stages to help them understand:

- How digital images can be manipulated for effects such as creating tension and increasing adrenalin.
- Investigating future technologies in the use of theme parks used to entertain thriller seekers by bringing the experience to life in a virtual sense, monitor and keep visitors safe.

Pupils were able to gain industry level insight into the uses of digital media for marketing and promotions. Pupils also explored emerging technologies within the theme park sector, uses of VR technology to add to the overall effect to some of the rides, and were able to discuss matters with staff at the park. The workshop was a fantastic insight into the various uses of technology to create an interactive and immersive experience. Our pupils were able to utilise their smart phones during the workshop to explore VR videos and holographic projection, techniques which they were later able to see in the Derren Brown Ghost Train ride.

This was a great way for the department to build enterprising links in an educational and FUN way. It was great to see pupils show further appreciation for how technology plays a major role in thrilling and exciting visitors at Thorpe Park.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing

## DVD Cover Design Mock-up Challenge

As part of the Year 9 creative iMedia unit 'R082: Creating Digital Graphics' coursework preparation, pupils were set a challenge to plan and design a DVD cover for a fictitious movie about energy consumption around the world. Use of research around the topic was essential as this helped pupils to understand the issue and therefore consider how a message can be shared in a creative way.

Pupils were encouraged to think out of the box and explore innovative techniques used in Photoshop to achieve desired effects to help capture the attention of the target audience. Some pupils even made use of a graphics tablet to bring their drawings to life. This was a great opportunity for our pupils to make use of their enterprising skills in order to plan for and design a product that meets a client brief. The use of numeracy and literacy skills were required to ensure that pupils were able to design a cover according to the correct dimensions and that the text included in the cover designs was suitable for the intended audience.

Essential planning and reviewing processes were used throughout the challenge in order for pupils to ensure that they were meeting the design criteria. This has prepared our pupils well, providing a more confident approach to the actual coursework currently being completed in class.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing



“

The DVD cover challenge has really helped me to get ready for my actual coursework which is designing and making a book cover for a client.

Dequancia Merchant, Year 9

## Gaming via Python

Year 10 computer scientists were challenged, in groups, to create a program which was either; educational, entertaining or quiz-based. Teams were tasked to create a workable solution that allowed their peers to learn, have fun or just test themselves. They worked alongside their team members to plan and develop their solution using Python.

Pupils developed computer programs such as 'Generic Maths Quiz', 'Anime Game', and even 'Pirates of Skinners' Academy', and a range of programming skills were developed throughout. This has provided a good refresher in preparation for their NEA tasks.

“

Creating a game in Python helped me put my skills into use creating a new aspect to my learning. I can now link all my learning together.

Marcel Latwinski, Year 10



## EAL



## London Sightseeing

On 15 May, a group of 13 pupils supported by the EAL department went to discover some of the most iconic landmarks of the capital usually seen on postcards. Just like tourists, on a particularly sunny day, they strolled around Covent Garden, Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus, walked across Green Park before watching the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. Then they walked across St James's Park (where they had a picnic), crossed through The Household Cavalry (where they witnessed a demonstration of regiment discipline) before sitting down at the foot of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. The pupils were told about the history behind the different sites and had a taste of British Culture. Then, they had ice cream...

Many thanks to Ms Jargot for accompanying us on the trip.

Ms Wardi, EAL Teaching Assistant

## Polish Delegates are Back

At the beginning of May Skinners' Academy hosted 21 Erasmus Plus delegates from the Gorno region in south of Poland. The delegates were teachers and principals from eight different schools in the region, accompanied by the Mayor of Gorno.

Their five-day schedule was extremely busy and rich in a variety of training sessions and workshops including Art (pottery) and Music. They also had an opportunity to observe some lessons from across the curriculum and key stages. The group was impressed by our facilities, but most of all, they were enchanted by the Skinners' ethos, friendly atmosphere and the pupils' behaviour.

For some of the delegates it was their second visit to Skinners', which gave them a broader insight into our Academy and the system of education in the UK. They described Skinners' as 'clockwork' where everybody knows their responsibilities and their roles.

Ms Jargot, Head of EAL



“

My favourite part of our trip was taking a picture with Pikachu in Trafalgar Square.

Ebrar Aktas, Year 9

# Science



## Tonbridge Trip

Skinners' Academy had the pleasure to be invited to Tonbridge School for the three-day Mission Discovery Education Programme during the official opening of the Barton Science Centre in March 2019. Eight Year 12 students competed to devise an experiment which could benefit the human race and be tested on the International Space Station (ISS). We were incredibly honoured to have taken part in the programme and had the chance to listen to the NASA astronauts, Dr Michael Foale CBE and Dr Steven Swanson's various missions on the ISS and work closely with them on the programme.

This was an amazing experience for all involved. Students were able to work in teams with students from a range of different schools and present their ideas amongst postgraduate students and a leading team of scientists including Dr Julie Keeble, ISSET's Chief Scientist and Lecturer in Pharmacology at King's College London. Participants learnt about commanding the ISS, Life in Space, the History of the Space Race, Becoming an Astronaut and the Story of a Space Mission. Most importantly, students were able to put their scientific skills to the test, deliver persuasive presentations and to speak confidently in public.

Mr Ahmed, Teacher of Science & Ms Zor, Teacher of Science



# Mathematics

## UKMT Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school pupils.

UKMT were established in 1996 and last academic year over 650,000 pupils took part in their three individual challenges, the UK's biggest national maths competition. To recognise the highest performers in the challenge UKMT award the top-scoring 40% of participants bronze, silver and gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. This year's UKMT Junior Maths challenge kicked off for our pupils in April.

Well done to all the Year 7 & Year 8 pupils who took part and congratulations to the following pupils for coming top in the competition.

Ms Ozcelik, Head of Mathematics

Gold	
Y8	Louis Perryman
Silver	
Y8	Mya Joseph Vedika Sandeep Baris Sucu
Bronze	
Y7	Zareenah Boksh Maimuna Jama Angel Kelly
Y8	Ali Benrabah Kyren Facey Berkkan Gungor Maria Gusel Nikolay Tachev

# Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



“”

I really prefer to study Spanish and art together as it never gives you any time to get bored and I think I am learning a lot.

Emily Berisha, Year 7

“”

I'm really enjoying learning Spanish through art, it's something different and helps me learn new words.

Muadh Thomas, Year 7

“”

I really enjoy learning Spanish in general and it's even better now, we can learn it through art. It was exciting meeting the general director of Spain, he seemed kind and nice.

Nicole Queiroz, Year 7



## A visit from the Deputy General of Education in Spain

We were privileged to host the Deputy General of Education in Spain at Skinners' Academy to find out more about the MFL project, a bilingual project that teaches Art through Spanish. The project focuses on Year 7 and has been running since January.

Our Principal, Mr Clark, warmly welcomed the visitors and gave a clear explanation of the context of the school and its magnificent building. The Head of Languages, Ms Smith, who teaches CLIL lessons, introduced her work and six pupils talked about how much they enjoy this way of learning. The visit ended with the Director General discussing the pupils' work with them.

This was a wonderful experience for the Academy. We hope to continue our participation of our bilingual project in Spanish and hope to encourage other boroughs to participate in this project.

Ms Smith, Head of MFL



# Learning Resource Center (LRC)

## Summer Update

### Accessit Library Management System

With the able assistance of our IT team, our fabulous new library system, Accessit, is now up and running. Once the pupils are trained in June and July they'll be able to access a much wider range of resources which they can use to support their learning and homework. It includes the feature Onesearch, that enables simultaneous searching across many sites, including subscriptions such as The Day and JSTOR. The attractive interface will encourage reading to develop their interests and for fun!

### Dan Freedman

LRC staff were trained in Accessit by Linda Hayes, who is also the manager of Dan Freedman, the author of the Jamie Johnson football book and CBBC series. He's written his first YA book, Unstoppable, and Ms Lutterodt attended the launch at Waterstones flagship store, Piccadilly. The event had many speakers from education, publishing, youth and football industries who talked about sport, ambition and the challenges facing youth today, such as knife crime. Dan Freedman kindly signed a book for the Academy and has agreed to visit us next year, so preparations are underway for this exciting event.

### Word of the Day

Thank you to Mr Robbins, Assistant Vice Principal, for his dedicated Word of the Day contribution, which is displayed in the LRC, as it has also stimulated much debate and humour!



## Mental Health Awareness Display

In keeping with the Academy's commitment to staff and pupil wellbeing, a beautiful display was created by the library supervisor, Ms Taylor, on Mental Health Awareness.

A copy of Men's Health was available as it contains a ground breaking article with four teenagers from a south London school discussing mental health. The copy will remain in the LRC for reference as part of the wellbeing collection. Thanks go to Ms Leefe for bringing the article to the Change Team's attention.



## Carnegie

On 13 June, Year 7 pupils Charisma Achina, John-Matthew Frederick and Daniella Koranteng joined Year 8 pupils Favour Adebisi, Sabarina Ali, Ellie Lloyd, and Naturella M'Bokolo, and Year 9's Sherifat Olaide to take part in the Hackney Carnegie Competition at Haggerston School. The group prepared an incredibly powerful performance piece based on Jason Reynolds' award-winning free-verse novel Long Way Down, which came second place overall.

# Gifted & Talented (G&T)



## University Challenge vs Skinners' Kent Academy

In May, 25 more able Year 7 & Year 8 pupils took part in the second University Challenge quiz event against Skinners' Kent Academy. This involved a series of rounds created and presented by Year 10 pupils Suhayb Abdulahi, Yasmin Ali, Tate Palin, Aniss Satehi, Chi Leng Wong and Ruhay Yildiz.

The quiz was a very close and hard fought contest involving four teams from each school. This included various rounds in science, maths, engineering and technology, as well as picture and fastest first rounds. The final scores were tied between a Skinners' Academy team formed of Louis Perryman (Y8), Muhammad Mohoshin (Y7), Ismael Ali (Y7) and Lubaba Tafannum (Y7), and a Skinners' Kent Academy team, who finally pipped their rivals with a decider question to take overall victory. All enjoyed the opportunity to challenge themselves against another school and mix with likeminded individuals.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY8/Talented Coordinator/DofE Manager



## Medicine & Dentistry Workshop

On the 15 May five Year 9 pupils visited Queen Mary University for a day of medicine and dentistry workshops. They participated in a range of interactive sessions; they learnt how to use a stethoscope to listen to each other's breathing and used a peak flow meter to measure how quickly they could blow out air from their lungs. Pupils also learnt about venepuncture, and heart and lung disease.

A week later, ten Year 10 pupils also visited Queen Mary University. They were able to learn more about the different pathways into medicine and dentistry. Pupils took part in various workshops, depending on their interest to study medicine or dentistry. Cem Ozicer found the physiology lecture extremely interesting, especially learning more about haemoglobin protein. In this lecture pupils were able to measure their own heart rate and oxygen levels. Pupils said they found the day informative, and they can't wait until the next visit.

Ms Biggs, Teacher of Art & Design/Gifted Coordinator



# Physical Education (PE)

## Holland Football Tour

30 pupils had the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Holland to represent the Academy at our first ever international football tour at the end of May.

The trip was action packed from start to finish, involving two friendly matches against local club teams, a day of sightseeing in Amsterdam including an Ajax Stadium Tour and canal cruise, a trip to a waterpark, some time to relax on the beach, as well as glow in the dark minigolf and tenpin bowling. Keep reading to find out how our individual teams did.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY8/  
Talented Coordinator/DofE Manager  
| Mr Smith, Teacher of PE/AHOY7



## U13 Team Report

The under 13s got off to poor start losing their first game 11-0. It was the first time they had played together which made it difficult for the team to gel. The opposition were strong and experienced but Skinners' had a few opportunities that on another day may have been taken which could have changed the balance of the game. It was back to the drawing board for Mr Smith and Mr J.

The next game saw our team set up a lot more defensively. Five across the back completely changed the mentality of the team. Skinners' were organised, physical and determined. We got an early lead, an excellently converted one-on-one by central midfielder Nikita Zalovs was the response that Mr Smith and Mr J were looking for. Skinners' battled to hold the lead for 30 minutes. Unfortunately, the opposition responded with two goals within five minutes right before the stroke of half time. Skinners' continued to battle and missed some clear cut chances but no joy. The opposition pressed and managed to score five more goals. The score ended 7-1.



## U15 Team Report

The under 15s team managed by Mr Legge and Mr Alalade grew and developed massively during their two games. During game one they dominated the first half with excellent goals from Jordan Vibert and Louis Duggan-Morgan along with some quality passing from Deije Underwood, Javier Mothersille and Abdul Rehman. Despite a comeback in the second half, Skinners' held their nerve to complete the job with a well-earned 2-0 victory. Chris Costa was man of the match.

In the second game Skinners' were in for a tougher test but again started strong with a well taken goal from Jayden-Merchant Thompson putting us 1-0 up and Jamal Adam putting in an excellent performance in central defence. However, we tired later in the game going down 4-1 to a strong team.





## Condover Netball Tour

The Year 8 & Year 9 girls went to Condover Hall for a netball tour, involving schools from all over the country.

The Year 8 girls started off shaky and lost their first two matches. However, they demonstrated great character and turned their fortunes around to start picking up points with two draws and two wins in their next four matches.

The Year 9 girls got off to a brilliant start before they came up against tricky opposition, a club team called Beachwood. Overall, the girls showed a good account of themselves.

Ms Bell, Teacher of PE



## Hackney Rounders Tournament - Final

Congratulations to our Year 10 rounders who were crowned champions of the Hackney Rounders Tournament. They beat their opponents from Mossbourne Community Academy with 9 rounders to Mossbourne's 6. Boo, Joyce and Vanessa all scored one whole rounder each whilst Rachel and Zoe were fantastic in their backstop and bowler positions. Chi was excellent at first base, and Alinda, Aisha and Cynthia were consistently good with their batting. Well done girls.

Ms Bell, Teacher of PE

## Condover Hall

The PE BTEC pupils took part in a three-day outdoor activity residential at Condover Hall where they undertook a range of activities including team building, zip lining, abseiling and other outdoor adventurous activities.

Ms O'Neill, Head of PE & H&SC



## Lords Trip

The boys cricket team enjoyed a recent trip to Lords cricket ground - the home of cricket, to watch a county championship game between Middlesex and Sussex as part of Lord's School Engagement Day.

Pupils enjoyed a look around the ground, taking part in a fielding masterclass session, and seeing the women's cricket world cup trophy! Our team have several fixtures coming up against Petchey, SNS and City Academy so hopefully this trip has encouraged them to play their best.



## Duke of Edinburgh - Gold

As you read this, 24 Year 12 students are undertaking their five-day D of E Gold practice expedition to the Brecon Beacons, Wales. Students will be planning and following routes over the difficult terrain in small groups, whilst carrying their bags and tents. In the evenings they will camp and cook their own food on camp cookers.

The practice expedition is designed to allow students to understand what will be expected of them when they complete their official Gold expedition in the Summer of 2020.

As well as the official expedition, students have 18 months to complete their skills, physical and volunteering sections.

The gold award requires a good deal of commitment and hard work so good luck to all involved!

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY8/  
Talented Coordinator/DofE Manager

## Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze

140 Year 10 pupils have just completed their D of E Bronze expedition to Epping Forest. The four-day expedition involved working in small groups to read maps, follow routes, cook their own food and sleep in tents. The expedition is a challenging yet achievable experience and is the final step to achieving their D of E Bronze Award after having already undertaken their physical, skills and volunteering sections.

The photo above shows our pupils practising to put up their tents, photos of the actual expedition will be included in our Autumn newsletter in the new academic year.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY8/Talented Coordinator/DofE Manager

# Parents' Corner

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

**Our website:**

[www.skinnersacademy.org.uk](http://www.skinnersacademy.org.uk)

**Our app:**

Search iTunes/Google Play for Piota Deeper Engagement.  
(Once in the app - find Skinners' Academy)

**Twitter:**

@skinnersacademy; @skinners6thform

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney](http://www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney)

## Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 03 September**

Term Starts for...  
Year 7 & Year 12 (8.30am),  
Year 8 (11.30am), and Year 9 (12.00pm)

**Wednesday 04 September**

Term Starts for...  
Year 10, Year 11 & Year 13 (all 8.30am)

**Thursday 05 September**

Year 7 Instrumental Day

**Monday 21 - Tuesday 29 October**  
Half Term

**Monday 11 - Wednesday 20 November**  
Year 7 Wales Trips (3 Day Rotation)

**Monday 18 - Friday 29 November**  
Year 11 & Year 13 Mock Exams

**Thursday 19 December**  
Term Ends - 1.00pm