

**Principal: Shereka James**

**Specialism:** Enterprise  
**Admission number 2022:** 180  
**Age:** 11-19 (mixed gender)

**Skinner's Academy**

**Woodberry Grove, N4 1SY**  
t: 020 8800 7411 f: 020 8809 1382  
enquiries@skinner'sacademy.org.uk  
www.skinner'sacademy.org.uk  
Instagram & Twitter: @skinner'sacademy  
Facebook: skinner'sacademy

**Transport**

**Bus Routes**  
Woodberry Grove: 253 / 254 / 259 / 279  
Nearby: 29 / 141 / 341

**Nearest Stations**  
Finsbury Park then bus 253 / 254 / 259 / 279  
Harringay Green Lanes then bus 29 / 141 / 341  
Manor House then 5 minutes walk  
Stamford Hill then bus 253 / 254  
Seven Sisters then bus 259 / 279



**Skinner's**  
academy

prospectus  
2023/2024





## Message from the Principal

“Be the best you can”: This is what we live and breathe

We believe that every child who attends Skinners' Academy deserves the very best educational experience possible. We aim to provide that by working in collaborative partnership with our young people to foster life-long relationships that will support the development of the necessary knowledge, skills and experience that they need for a successful future.

We are particularly proud of our ethos and what we consider to be our greatest strengths:

- our inclusive approach based on equality and respect for all
- our commitment to excellence
- our belief that every individual is an expression of the whole

As an Academy we have high expectations; for personal growth and development as well as academic achievement. However, being the best you can, requires more focus on input than outcomes and that is why we work with our children to adopt a mindset that values hard work, commitment and self motivation. These are the very attitudes that we know will help them to flourish while at Skinners' Academy and beyond.

If you would like to know more about the Academy or are considering applying for a place, please come to one of our open events and don't hesitate to contact us if you would like further information or have any queries.

**Shereka James**  
Principal  
Skinners' Academy

## Our Sponsor - The Skinners' Company

The Skinners' Company, one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London, is the proud sponsor of Skinners' Academy.

The Skinners' Company has a long tradition of supporting education. Its educational involvement in Hackney started in 1890 and continues with Skinners' Academy, which opened in 2010 and is part of a family of seven schools supported by the company.

The Skinners' Company believe in traditional educational values delivered in a modern context; and are enthusiastic about the integral role the Academy plays in the evolving Woodberry Down community.



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Pupils are happy in Skinners' Academy, safe and ready to learn. Leaders and staff have high expectations for what pupils will achieve. Pupils study a broad curriculum and do well. Across the Academy, pupils take pride in their work

*Ofsted Report, 2022*

**Be Curious**  
we will ask the right questions, learn from others, and look for ways to work smarter

**Be Cooperative**  
we will work in partnership with others to achieve our goals

**Be Determined**  
we will see challenges as obstacles that we can overcome. We will not give up

**Be Kind**  
we will be generous with our time and resources, we will show empathy

**Be Respectful**  
We will uphold the values of equality and inclusion. We will not tolerate prejudice in any form

**Be Outstanding**  
exceptionally good; this is what we strive for 100% of the time



## Our Specialism - Enterprise

"Enterprise is about motivating young people to learn and excel in their education and to see the relevance of their studies. It is more than the creation of entrepreneurs, it is about a can-do and positive attitude and equipping people with the confidence to develop ambitious career and vocational interests. Enterprise therefore supports the development of a wide range of work and professional skills and capabilities, including resilience, risk taking, creativity and innovation, as well as a self-belief that starting a business is a viable career choice and one of the most exciting and challenging things a person will ever do."

Lord Young 2014

## Student Leadership

We value the views of our learners and encourage all pupils to share their views and opinions. Each Personal Development Group and year group will have council representatives to work with senior staff at the school to feedback on pupil experience and to participate in decision making.

In the longer term, pupils who are members of the pupil council can use their experiences to gather evidence for a pupil leadership accreditation.

## Celebrating Success

We reward success through merits, certificates and in assemblies. We also share pupils success in the termly newsletter, the Academy website, and our social media platforms.

The Governors annual prize-giving ceremony for the Academy takes place in November and celebrates pupil progress in individual subject areas, academic achievement, services to the Academy and sports.

## Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

We offer a well-respected careers programme designed to recognise and understand the 'employability skills' which enable our pupils to become attractive candidates for universities and employers.

As part of our commitment to CEIAG, every year we give Year 10s the chance to attend work experience - and have a full range of employability enhancing initiatives for pupils throughout their time with us.

## Breakfast Club

We run an informal breakfast club each morning. Between 7:45am and 8:15am pupils have a choice from cereal and toast, or a hot option available at no charge.

## Our School Day

The school day comprises of 50-minute to 1-hour long lessons which allow pupils to enjoy in depth teaching and learning, designed to meet the needs of the individual learner and their learning style.

In addition, exciting and varied after school extra-curricular activities encourage pupils to explore new areas of interest whilst curriculum catch up sessions are available for pupils to gain extra support.



## Curriculum

Skinners' Academy offers flexible and creative approaches to teaching and learning that will raise standards for all.

- Pupils complete Key Stage 3 within three years
- Pupils will spend two years at Key Stage 4
- At KS4, we offer a range of vocational and academic pathways, including the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), a qualification which recognises achievement in English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanities subject
- Our inclusion team offers support to pupils with identified needs such as SEN
- Our pupils have the opportunity to continue their education in our aspirational, high achieving Sixth Form which opened in September 2015. Visit our website for more information



## Academic Success at Skinners' Academy

Our most recent set of GCSE results, in August 2022, were the Academy's best to date.

Our Sixth Form students also received fantastic results and have progressed to a range in destinations in 2022.

|  |  |   |                                    |   |  |
|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 8%<br>Grade 9-8                                | 17%<br>Grade 9-7                                 | 72%<br>Grade 9-4                                | 15%<br>A*-A Grades                 | 75%<br>A*-C Grades  | 87%<br>Distinction or above<br>(BTec)          |
| 74%<br>Grade 9-4<br>in both<br>English & Maths | 91%<br>(Of pupils entered)<br>Achieved the EBacc | 93 STUDENTS<br>Continued into our<br>Sixth Form | 83%<br>Accepted into<br>University | 5 STUDENTS<br>Professional Training,<br>Employment,<br>Travelling | 2 STUDENTS<br>Undertaking an<br>Apprenticeship |





## Extra-curricular Activities

Participating in extracurricular activities has a positive effect on pupils, benefiting them both academically and socially. Young people who participate in extracurricular activities demonstrate higher levels of academic achievement, greater character development, greater social development, and a greater sense of the importance of community involvement.

The Academy organises events and educational visits, both here and abroad, in order to maximise the pupils' exposure to a variety of positive experiences, which will enrich them personally and develop their interpersonal skills.



### Year 7 Music for All

At Skinners' Academy, music is a fundamental aspect of a young person's education. In addition to curriculum music lessons, every Year 7 pupil will have the incredible experience of learning to play an instrument, sing, or use music technology to produce music, in a weekly 30-minute tuition session with a specialist instrumental teacher completely free of charge.



### Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze)

Beyond academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of 'soft skills' such as communication, resilience, leadership and teamwork, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills.

All pupils in Year 10 are encouraged to work towards the Bronze Award. Pupils who choose to continue their post-16 education in our Sixth Form are also given the opportunity to complete the DofE Gold Award.



### Sports Teams

Participating in a sport can help pupils to build on their self-confidence by learning to trust their own abilities, talents, and judgment.

Pupils at Skinners' Academy have the opportunity to join various sports teams including Basketball, Football, Netball and Athletics. Our sports teams compete at a wide range of events from local borough leagues to National leagues.



### Academy Production

The highly anticipated Academy Production takes place each year and allows pupils to showcase their talents, whether it be acting, singing, or playing an instrument. Previous performances have included Grease and an original musical adaptation of Shakespeare's 'A midsummer night's dream'.

Performances span three consecutive nights and tickets are available to all pupils, parents and staff.





“““

My child is safe and well cared for at Skinners' Academy which is important to me as a parent. I also appreciate how each pupil is set individual goals in order to raise their attainment.

Parent, 2022

## Pastoral Care/Wellbeing

We are proud to be the first secondary school in Hackney to achieve the Wellbeing Award for Schools.

(Award developed by Optimus Education and the National Children's Bureau)

Our pastoral team consists of year heads and Personal Development teachers together with the pupil support team which includes a family support officer, in-house nurse and counsellor.

All pupils are assigned to a Personal Development (PD) group that meets twice a day. Personal Development sessions deliver a programme to enable the monitoring of attendance, progress and wellbeing of pupils and refer those who require additional support and guidance to the mentoring team.

## Parent/Carer Partnership

Formal Parent/Carer Teacher Meetings are held at least once a year for each Year group. Additionally, parents/carers can request an appointment at other times with their child's Personal Development Teacher to discuss academic or personal concerns.

The Academy has a Parent Council, which further develops and supports the parent/carers partnership. Parents/Carers are encouraged to contribute to the Parent Council.

