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December 2014
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Autumn Term
Issue 12
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academy newsletter



A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of the new academic year. The autumn term is always the longest and most demanding term of the school year yet it seems to have flown past. In September we welcomed a new cohort of Year 7 pupils whilst our senior pupils moved into Year 11 and will take our first set of GCSE examinations in May. A great deal of work is being undertaken ready for the opening of our new, high performing and aspirational sixth form and most Year 11 pupils are working hard in order to try and gain a place. In addition to a tremendous amount of work being completed, including numerous controlled GCSE assessments, pupils have taken part in a whole range of activities including our first residential trip to Spain, geography fieldwork in Hastings, the business studies trip to UBS bank and our Careers

Awareness Fair. Other activities have also added to the ethos of the Academy such as our annual Prize-Giving ceremony, sports fixtures, a formal silence on Remembrance Day and a non-uniform day to raise money for Children in Need. This year we welcomed several new staff to the Academy who have settled into our community very quickly and are already making a major contribution to the life and work of the Academy. This newsletter provides plenty of evidence of another very busy, exciting and successful term in the life of Skinner's Academy, Hackney; please read and enjoy.

With best wishes to you all for a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Tim Clark, Principal
Skinner's Academy





Focus on the new Sixth Form

"Be the best you can"

Skinners' academy

Sixth Form Open Evening:
Thursday
22 January;
5.30pm - 7.30pm
Presentation:
6pm

Unique Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance Programme.

Class sizes allow for personalised teaching

Robust and dynamic UCAS application support

Professional environment which helps to build confidence and independence

"You will be in really good hands. I am thankful to have been taught by really passionate teachers who compensated for all the stress A-Levels (and BTEC study) bring."
Former 6th Form Student – currently studying at Queen Mary University of London

Skinners' Academy in Woodberry Down (N4) is launching its aspirational and high achieving Sixth Form Centre in September 2015 and if you are looking for an excellent all-round post-16 education – you're in the right place.

Find us at: Woodberry Grove, London, N4 1SY.

Update: Launch of new Sixth Form

One of our most exciting projects as an Academy is preparing for the launch of the new Sixth Form in 2015. Led by Ms Hobbs and Mr Clark and supported by a wider team including Ms Potter, this term has already seen:

- Round one of senior leadership team support for all Year 11 pupils with respect to looking ahead to their intentions for next year, involving each pupil having an interview about their current plans (i.e. one on one support)
- One successful, well-attended open evening on 11 November (with another to follow on Thursday 22 January at 5.30pm)
- Visits to local schools to promote the opportunity to join the new sixth form
- A "sixth form dress code" day where Year 11 prefects and council members attended the Academy in attire suitable for a sixth form student
- Progress in the plans for the building works for the new sixth form area (and an opportunity for Year 11 pupils to speak to the architects directly, during the Careers Awareness Fair)
- ...there's much more planned ahead of September so watch this space

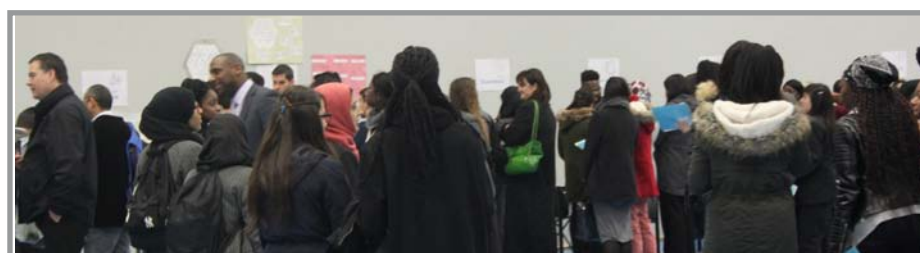
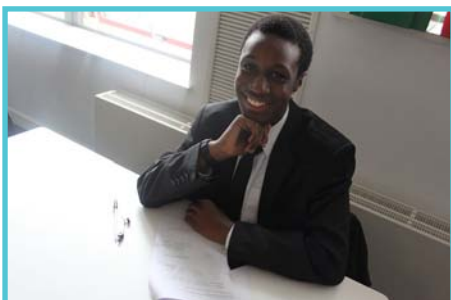
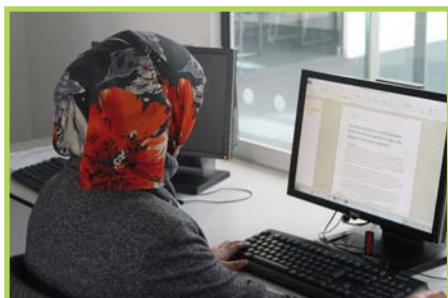
Visit the website for more information: <http://www.skinnersacademy.org.uk/sixthform/>



The deadline for applications to the sixth form is 16 February 2015.

Countdown to the launch of the sixth form

Images from some of those highlights mentioned are below and include the first sixth form open evening and the sixth form dress code day...



Subjects on offer in the sixth form include...

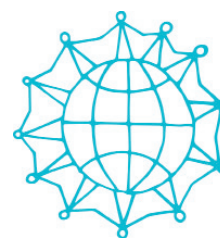
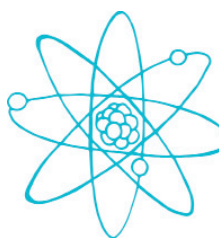
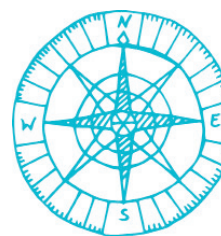
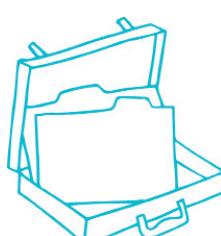
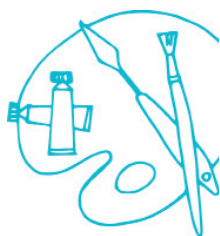
A Levels:

Art & Design
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Computing
Design Technology
Drama
Economics
English Literature
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
History
Mathematics
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education (P.E.)
Physics
Psychology
Religious Studies (R.S.)
Sociology
Spanish

... and there is the possibility to study a 'home language' such as Polish or Turkish if eligible.

BTECs

Business Studies
Health & Social Care
Creative iMedia
Travel & Tourism



Prize-Giving Winners 2013-2014



“ ”

Prize-Giving is a time for the whole Academy community, pupils, staff, parents and governors, to reflect on all that the Academy achieved last year.

Tim Clark, Principal

A highlights video of the event is available on the Skinners' Academy website.

**Please visit
www.skinnersacademy.org.uk**

Prize-Giving Celebrations

On 6 November, Skinners' Academy held its annual Prize-Giving ceremony – recognising some fantastic achievements from the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Principal, Tim Clark, looked back on the successful evening, noting that “Prize Giving is a time for the whole Academy community, pupils, staff, parents and governors, to reflect on all that the Academy achieved last year. It’s also a chance to reward those pupils who have worked particularly hard and those who have made a special contribution to the life of this vibrant Academy. Last, but definitely not least, it is also an opportunity to say, in public, a very big thank you to the staff, teaching and non-teaching, for everything they do to enable our pupils to be so successful. Sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone.”

The evening included performances from the school choir, a steel band, and a selection of pieces from some of our most talented musicians. Special thanks to Ms Adediran for the wonderful arrangement. All the prizes were awarded by the Master of The Skinners' Company, Mr John Hitchins.

As an Academy, we look forward to continued pupil success in the current Academic year and again, congratulate the prize winners on their deserved awards.



Subject Prizes Year 7	
English	Dontai Edwards
Mathematics	Samuel Boyer
Science	Sude Akdag
Art and Design	Erin Opata
Design and Technology	Michael Layhe
Drama	Briana Williams
French	Jommel Solis
Geography	Joshua Stevens
History	Sude Akdag
ICT / Computing	Peter Murphy
Music	Berkan Erecer
Physical Education	Wiktorja Kurzawa
Religious Studies	Aasta Clark
Spanish	Gabriela Alves

Subject Prizes Year 8	
English	Julia Piotrowska
Mathematics	Sude Yilmaz
Science	Miles Broomfield
Art and Design	Onay Koc
Design and Technology	Selver Toygun
Drama	Zacharias Dowding
French	Andrea Salinas
Geography	Ebru Kulekci
History	Joseph Merino Barros
ICT / Computing	Musa Serroukh
Music	Olivia Weston
Physical Education	Pavandeep Kaur
Religious Studies	Nicolas Goncalves
Spanish	Emer Sheffield

Year 7 Sports Person of the Year
Shiloe Hay Timmy-Junior Samuel-Alase

Year 8 Sports Person of the Year
Joy Onuba Kelvin Berisha

Year 7 SSOGA Prizes for overall academic achievement throughout the year
Charlie Pavlicic Sofia Bras Aydin

Year 8 SSOGA Prizes for overall academic achievement throughout the year
David Ferreira Umamiah Ashif

Year 7 SSOGA Prizes for Services to the life of the Academy
Deniz Koku Fathiat Fatai-Dere

Year 8 SSOGA Prizes for Services to the life of the Academy
Felix Brocklehurst Evangeline Appiah-Nuamah



Subject Prizes Year 9

English	Alanny Da Silva Almeida
Mathematics	Stephanie Castano Reyes
Core Science	Zahidah Khan
Biology	Jessica Dervishi
Chemistry	Elif Sucu
Physics	Mathew Daniel
Art and Design	Judith Appiah-Nuamah
Business Studies	Daisie Spiteri
Computing	Mateusz Pyziol
Drama	Armend Bajraktari
Economics	Samson Adeola
Food Technology	Yasemin Kelimet
French	Riyan Hadjimi
Geography	Sumaiyah Ahmed
Health and Social Care	Temilolu Ayan
History	Hanan Guthmy
ICT	Ezgi Kahraman
Music	Hallie Primus
Physical Education	Daniel Toro
Religious Studies	Daniel Nwanebu
Resistant Materials	Michal Lisz
Spanish	Anna Pietnicka
Textiles	Emma Ellison

Year 9 Sports Person of the Year

Oluwatobiloba Shokan
Eren Kinali

Year 9 SSOGA Prizes for overall academic achievement throughout the year

Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo
Derek Nguyen

Year 9 SSOGA Prizes for Services to the life of the Academy

Berfin Burunlu
Di-Andre Ebanks-Silvera



Subject Prizes Year 10

English	Sapphire Caesar
Mathematics	Eboni Kirton
Core Science	Sirin Gultekin
Biology	Rebecca Greaney
Chemistry	Khalid Raufi
Physics	Kelell Davison-Thomas
Art and Design	Cynye Wong
Business Studies	Aafreen Jaffer
Computing	Yuhao Dong
Creative iMedia	Rubel Rahman
Drama	Connacht Sheffield
Economics	Esin Akdogan
French	Nasra Bana
Health and Social Care	Naomie Kinduelo
History	Amel Mire
ICT	Tracy Tran
Music	Milo Seaman
Physical Education	Naseem Larosi
Religious Studies	Roxania Thomas-Rattray
Resistant Materials	Ashley Fowler
Spanish	Sabah Hussein
Textiles	Brandon Hamilton
Travel & Tourism	Karl Osei Kwateng

Year 10 Sports Person of the Year

Cynthia Kinduelo
Ronnie O'Connor

Year 10 SSOGA Prizes for overall academic achievement throughout the year

Khalid Raufi
Connacht Sheffield

Year 10 SSOGA Prizes for Services to the life of the Academy

Sye Vassell
Ilayda Tuncel





Key Stage 5 Awards Sir Michael Colman Awards

Best A2 results	Berna Aksu
BTEC Business (Level 3)	Joelma Goncalves
BTEC Health and Social Care (Level 3)	Sugra Julium

Key Stage 5 Awards

Sixth Form Achievement Awards	Mahalimatu Kamara Siddiqa Tandel Bahar Doldur
SSOGA award(s) for contribution to life of the Academy	Oluseun Olayinka Kapunga Shamboko Beauty Adeosun

Sixth Form Prize Winners

In addition to the prizes awarded to pupils from Key Stages 3 and 4, it was lovely to welcome back a handful of our recent Year 13s. They have now moved on to universities, including Loughborough, Coventry, and Brunel where they are reading a diverse and stimulating range of subjects, from Accounting & Finance to Media & Cultural Studies. We wish them all every success in their future endeavors.

These students are a great example of hard work and perseverance, and we look forward to our current pupils achieving great success in their upcoming GCSEs, as well as in the exciting, high-achieving Sixth Form when it re-launches in September 2015.



Careers Awareness Fair 2014

Careers Awareness Fair

The third Careers Awareness Fair held at Skinners' Academy was deemed a resounding success by pupils, parents, staff and exhibitors. Designed to be a positive source of motivation, information and choice for young people, the fair was primarily targeted at Year 11 (and select Year 10) pupils in a bid to inspire and inform them to embrace educational, careers and labour market information which is beneficial ahead of A Level subject and other post-16 choices.

The event featured 18 universities, sixth form colleges and training providers, including representatives from Wadham College, Oxford; Clare College, Cambridge; UCL; SOAS; University of Bristol, and University of Westminster – as well as 20 local, national and international businesses and organisations including BT, Inner Circles, M&G Investments, the Telegraph Media Group, The Natural History Museum, STEMNet, and many more.

The evening also included panel discussions, giving pupils the opportunity to learn how to improve their CV, establish why university is still worth the investment, and how to get into a variety of industries. The talks featured university ambassadors, professionals in industry, and Skinners' teachers. The event was kicked off with an illuminating presentation from Yasmin Ali, Young Women's Engineer of the Year and Operations Engineer at E.ON.

The aim of the 2014 Careers Awareness Fair was to positively contribute to tackling the youth unemployment challenge in the UK which remains a growing problem for UK employers, educators and our young people. Activities available aimed to help raise pupils' confidence when thinking about their next steps; create an environment where attendees can access high profile experts; increase pupil knowledge about careers areas in which they already have an interest; highlight reasons to be positive regarding higher education and career planning, and ultimately inspire them to be the best they can.

Mark Huntington from international study website A Star Future remarked that it was just as worthwhile for the businesses that attended "Having a presence at the fair had a positive impact for both our business and the attendees. The conversations we had with students were eye opening both for them and for us."

Dynamic careers initiatives are an essential part of the Academy's enterprise specialism, ensuring that we help pupils build the skills they need to succeed in everyday life. Feedback from this event indicates that interactive forums like this are appreciated. There was a positive buzz from all involved.

Mrs Visram, Careers Development Co-ordinator

“““

I got to ask the professionals questions directly, and got really good advice.

Safiya Caesar, Year 11

“““

Our annual Careers Awareness Fair at Skinners' Academy highlights our unwavering commitment to excellent careers, education, information advice and guidance (CEIAG) for our pupils - and is a valuable part of our careers programme. We're pleased to provide this not just to our pupils but to other Year 11s in our community and we are incredibly grateful to the individuals, businesses and education providers who are participating in this year's event.

Tim Clark, Principal

“““

The Careers Awareness Fair has given me a better understanding of the courses on offer at universities, as well as job opportunities available to me.

Julianna Kuczik, Year 11





“““

I think events like this are a great idea, particularly as there are so many jobs available in the workplace. Having had a bad experience of careers when I was at school I think this is a really positive event.

Zoe Hughes, Curator of Brachiopods and Cephalopods at the Natural History Museum

“““

The pupils seemed genuinely interested in the apprenticeships and [were] surprised when they found out we offer more than engineering. The engagement from the pupils was more than positive. The highlight for me was the amazing amount of engagement and intelligent questions I was receiving from the pupils.

Liam Tighe, Apprentice Field Engineer from BT Openreach



“““

The highlight was the enthusiasm and energy of pupils and the opportunity they had to interact with employers and universities at the same event.

Molly Rai, A representative from Brunel University

An unforgettable experience at the University of Cambridge

In September 2014, Mr Legge and Ms Hunt took 10 Year 10 pupils to Clare College at the University of Cambridge to participate in their Year 10 Residential programme. The pupils were treated to a day filled with workshops, quizzes, a tour of Clare College and Cambridge town and a visit to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. In the evening, pupils experienced what life as a student in a Cambridge college could be like, as they ate and slept in student accommodation for one night. It was a wonderful experience for pupils, giving them an insight into university life and enabling them to start making informed choices about their future.

Ms Hunt, Gifted Co-ordinator

“““

The trip to Cambridge University was a great experience that taught us all about student life at Clare College. We had the opportunity to sleep overnight and learn about how significant A Level choices are.

Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo, Year 10



“““

Cambridge is a beautiful, mesmerising institution that never ceases to surprise and it is a place for everyone!

Armend Bajraktari, Year 10

UBS Women in the City

In October, a group of our female Year 9 pupils were honoured to attend a UBS Women in the City careers event.

Co-ordinated, designed and delivered by Inspire! - the Education Business Partnership for Hackney, a programme was created which focused on female diversity and the importance of more women working in the City. 20 female pupils, half of whom were from Skinners' Academy Hackney took part in the Women in the City day - a day which aimed to introduce pupils to the City environment; build understanding of the variety of roles available; give pupils an insight into the achievements of women in the workplace; and raise their aspirations about their own ability to succeed in the City.

The day involved talks, an ice-breaker networking activity, a more formal speed networking event with UBS employees and some interactive activities, including a quiz based on facts and statistics about women and work. In the last session, the pupils divided into groups to create a presentation based on the information and sessions they had taken part in, which outlined what they had learnt and how they could help improve gender equality in the workplace. Pupils worked within their school groups with the view to delivering their presentations back at school, as ambassadors of the Women in the City programme. Volunteers then gave feedback and prizes were awarded for the best presentations. Overall it was a very successful visit. The pupils were very professional throughout the day and made an excellent impression on the organisations involved.

Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9

“““

The UBS Women in the City trip was an exciting experience that opened our eyes up to many career paths. We now understand more facts about inspirational women in the city and want to strive to become them. There may be many difficulties to being a woman in this industry but so many have ignored discrimination and become the best.

Molly Greaney & Emer Sheffield, Year 9





University Challenge at UCL

On Tuesday 25 November, 10 Year 9 pupils visited UCL for the Year 9 University Challenge. The trip consisted of participating in a university lecture where they learnt about the application process for applying to UK universities and the different subjects available to study at degree level. Next they participated in a workshop where they learnt about how the stock market works and participated in a trading game. They had a discussion about different career options and what subjects are best to pursue for different career options. Finally, they had a campus tour and produced an academic poster to present to the other schools and competed in a quiz, where one of the Skinners' teams came joint first!

Ms Hunt, Gifted Co-ordinator



“““

The trip was very educational. We learnt a lot about UCL, what they look for and we were also educated on the stock market. The day flowed well and tested our skills well. It was a great day!
Miles Broomfield, Year 9

Impact Zone

The Impact Zone - formed by Mr Arthur and Mr Dwaah in September - is an extra-curricular programme which takes place on Saturday mornings. It incorporates academic support in the shape of numeracy and literacy catch-up sessions, a young leaders' programme, sports coaching, and music and dance workshops.

The Impact Zone is designed to support pupils at risk of disengagement and exclusion by unlearning inappropriate behaviours and acquiring the values, insight and social skills that will equip them for constructive participation in school and in wider civil society. Multiple sessions of up to 90 minutes are held each week; exploring topics such as self-identity, preparing for success, motivation and inspiration, patterns of the past, the journey into adulthood, and communication and assertiveness.

In partnership with organisations including Arsenal Football Club, the Jason Roberts Foundation, and Islington Boxing Club, Impact Zone hopes to encourage participants to adopt and aspire to healthy ways of living and teaches them discipline, leadership and teamwork. The Arsenal Double Club mirrors a football match; spending 45 minutes each week helping pupils to improve their literacy skills, before a 45 minute football coaching session from one of Arsenal's coaches. Meanwhile, the Hip Hop School lessons provide pupils with the opportunity to explore techniques of creative expression, focusing on individual and community identity. This offers them the opportunity to develop personal confidence, build team work skills, and gain a positive learning experience.

The programme is running for six months, until Spring 2015. During this time, parents of Skinners' Academy pupils are encouraged to have active input in the programme, with review and reflection encouraged in meetings with staff members.

Award-worthy careers support

Congratulations to Gina Visram for being shortlisted as a finalist in the "Careers Educator of the Year" category at the the Career Development Institute's UK Career Development Awards held in Glasgow on Monday 17 November.

Skinners' Academy is proud of the quality careers education, information, advice and guidance service it provides for its pupils on the whole - through specific careers and enterprise events as well as initiatives linked to subjects within academic departments... and the Academy values this additional recognition from the CDI.



Modern Foreign Languages

Viva Valencia: Bringing Spanish to life

Skinners' Academy pupils have created a partnership with José Ballester Gonzalvo, our link school in Valencia, Spain. As part of the partnership, their pupils visited the Academy in April 2014 and our pupils reciprocated six months later...

Part 1: From Valencia to Hackney

In April 2014, Year 9 & 10 Spanish pupils celebrated a day with our Spanish partner school: José Ballester Gonzalvo. 30 Spanish students came to visit Skinners' Academy and they were each assigned British partners. The day started with an introduction and breakfast, where both sets of pupils practised their language skills, which continued in English Literature, business and creative art lessons. Pupils from both countries thoroughly enjoyed the day, while the experience gave our students at Skinners' a real chance to practise their Spanish with pupils from Spain. It definitely boosted their self-confidence and language skills and this was also true of the Spanish students.



“

I really enjoyed the students coming from Valencia. It was a great experience and gave me an insight on what it is like to talk to someone who lives in Spain!

Magdalena Maciejewska, Year 10

“

I loved the Spanish trip it allowed me to explore the Spanish culture and practise the language.

Dhara Damania, Year 10

Part 2: From Hackney to Valencia

In October 2014, 40 Year 10 and 11 Spanish GCSE pupils embarked on a trip to Valencia city to visit our linked school, which was a great opportunity for them to gain first-hand experience of using their Spanish linguistic skills and to fully emerge themselves in the Spanish culture. The pupils were treated to four days of activities in this sunny, vibrant and lively city.



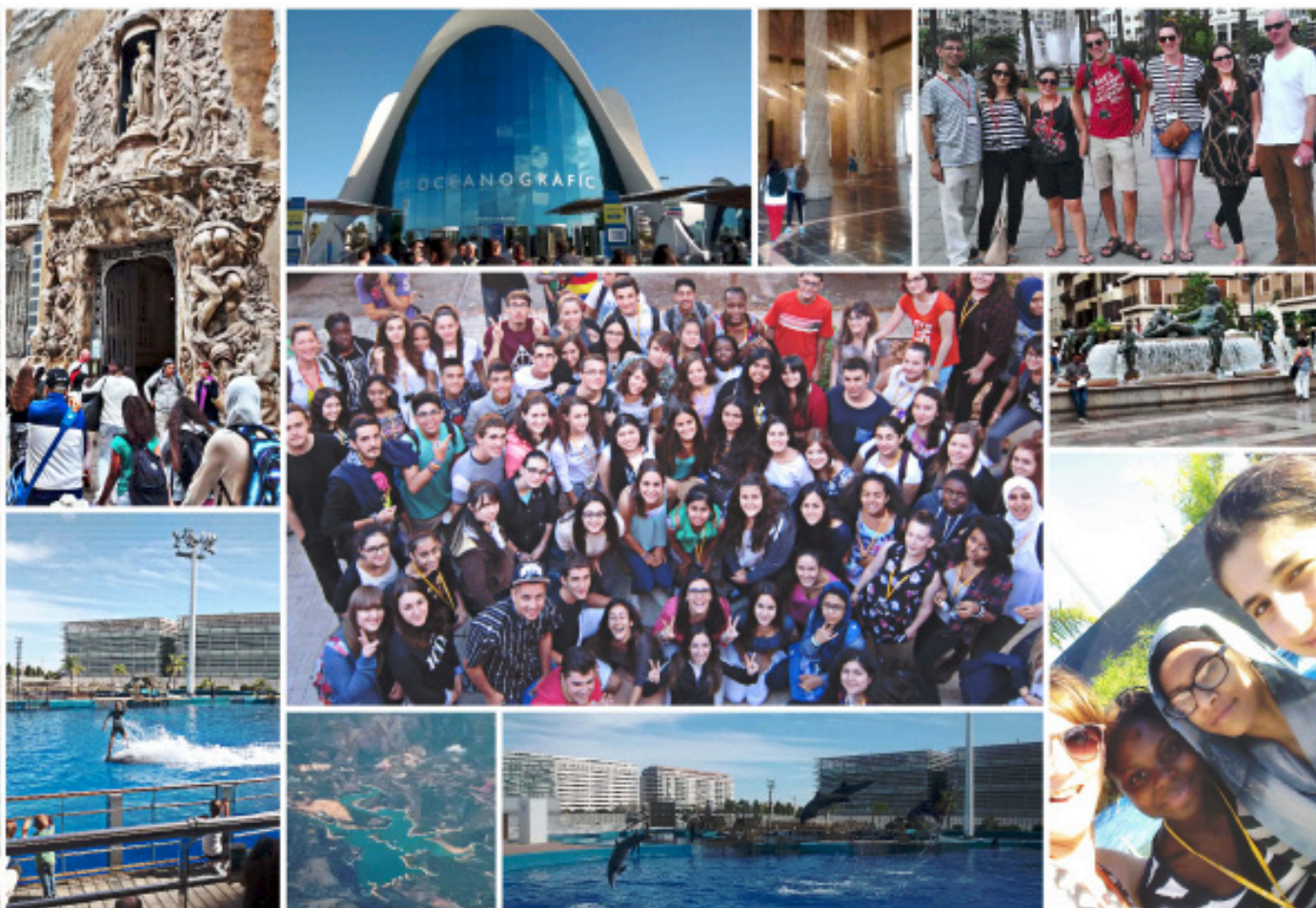
Day 1

- Tour to the old and historic part of the city which is packed with Gothic and Roman architecture.
- Meal at an authentic Spanish restaurant, including traditional Valencian paella, especially made for the 40 pupils. This delicious meal was followed by a traditional pudding: “Chocolate and Churros”.

“

The Spanish trip was one of the greatest experiences of my life; I had such a good time.

Baljeet Kaur, Year 11



Day 2

- ♦ Visit to the modern part of Valencia – including the Oceanographic, one of the biggest aquariums in Europe, where we managed to see a dolphin show, which was one of the highlights of the trip.
- ♦ Visit to the hemispheric planetarium where there is a large IMAX cinema. We watched a 4D film called ‘The Reef’.
- ♦ Trip to a local shopping centre nearby, where pupils had the opportunity to use their language skills in a real life shopping experience
- ♦ In the evening: We visited a dance academy where we had a 1½ hour dance lesson on the basic steps of salsa and bachata. All teachers and pupils joined in and had a lot of fun.

“

I loved every bit of the trip to Valencia. I got to meet new people and try different food and even a new type of dance. It was an opportunity that I would do all over again.

Karl Osei Kwateng, Year 11

Day 3

- ♦ Visit to link school “Jose Ballester Gonzalvo”, including a real Spanish class as well as a music class, an English class and a special magic show which the school set up in order to make our pupils feel welcome.
- ♦ A wonderful tapas buffet for all teachers and pupils. The Spanish and British pupils celebrated the success of two joining cultures. It was a fantastic day, and a wonderful experience in a Spanish school.
- ♦ Visit to the coast to experience one of Spain’s great luxuries; ‘a siesta’ along the beach.





“”

The dance lesson was the best... and improving my knowledge of Spanish was by far the most rewarding aspect for me. I just found the whole trip a lot of fun and I learnt lots.

Naeema Hanif, Year 10



Overall, the Spanish trip was a great success and a wonderful experience for the pupils, which brought Spanish culture and language to life ahead of their exams in the subject – hopefully enriching their educational lives.

I want to say a big thank you to our school governors, pupils, parents and teachers and especially Mr Clark for making this trip such a big success!

Miss Smith, Head of Spanish

Day 4

- ♦ Visit to 'La Lonja', a silk factory, a principal tourist attractions of the city. The pupils were astonished by the architecture of the building.
- ♦ Trip to "Central Market"; a public market which is considered one of the oldest working markets in Europe. It is filled with fresh fish, meat, vegetables and also souvenir shops and restaurants. Pupils had the opportunity to practice the language and fully immerse themselves in the food culture of Valencia.

“”

Spain was amazing, the architecture was phenomenal, the buildings are beautiful and archaic. The people were really kind and friendly, the food was delicious and I would love to visit again.

Catia Sousa Dimas, Year 10

“”

The trip to Valencia was amazing! All the Spanish I learnt in class I put to good use when talking to the locals where we were staying.

Tabassum Nusibhya, Year 11

Mathematics

Times Table Rockstars

Times Table Rockstars is running again this year as Year 7 pupils compete to answer their times tables in the fastest time possible. This year's competition was opened in style by Year 7 advisors and maths teachers. Times Table Rockstars hopes to make memorising all times tables up to 12 fun, which once learnt by heart makes other maths much easier. Pupils in Year 7 will have their work cut out to win it, especially to beat last year's winner, Selin Kilic, who managed to answer her times tables in an astoundingly quick 0.71 seconds per correct answer.

Make sure you are practising every day using www.ttrockstars.com to earn the right to call yourself a Times Tables Rock Legend!



Religious Studies/Citizenship

The importance of education... globally

Education is a factor that can uplift individuals and communities. To highlight the importance of education the Religious Studies/Citizenship department arranged a trip for a group of Year 9 pupils to Covent Garden to watch 'I am Kalam', a Hindi film directed by Nila Madhab Panda. The plot of the film revolves around Chhotu; a poor Rajasthani boy, who is inspired by the life of the former President of India, A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. The president had a strong desire to improve his own life and the lifestyle of his family members.

The purpose of the trip was to demonstrate to pupils that there is not a rigid destiny set forth for each individual. Circumstances can be changed by one's own hard work and determination to excel in life.

The film was followed by a short presentation from the charity Oxfam. Our pupils and those from seven other schools; ranging from primary schools to colleges, took part in a discussion about the importance of education in other countries. The discussion allowed the pupils to reflect on the film and their own academic experiences, highlighting their personal aspirations and goals.

Mr Arthur, RS Teacher/Head of Year 10



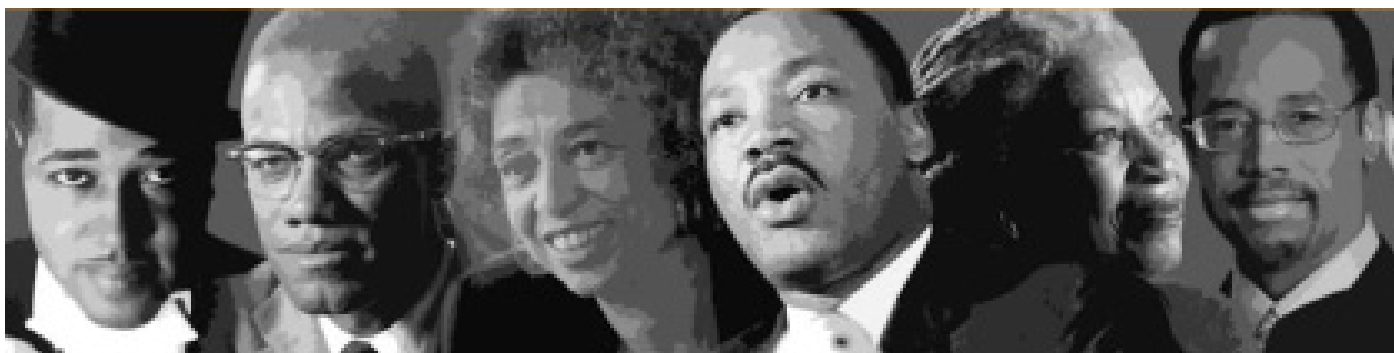
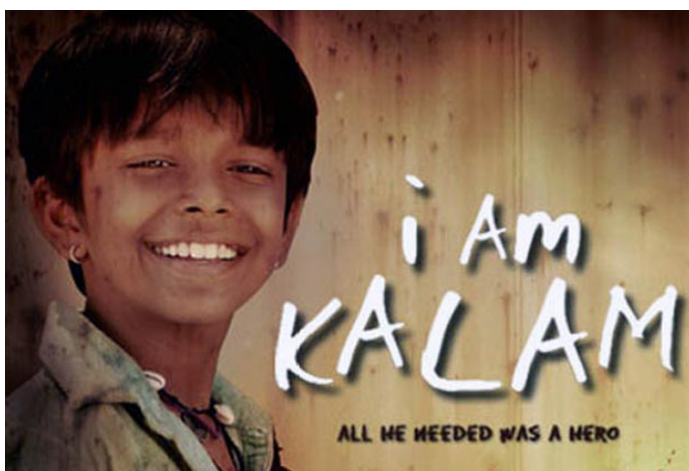
Celebrating our rich heritage: Black History Month

For Black History Month in October this year the RS/Citizenship department set up an exhibition to celebrate the rich cultural and racial backgrounds of our pupils.

The project ran for two weeks and for homework, pupils had to go home and ask any members of their family/family friends a set of questions from a devised questionnaire. The aim of the interview was to find out as much as they could about their lives, their background, where they come from, their experiences – whether they moved to England or have always lived here. They were also welcome to write down any stories they had to tell. The pupils then had to bring in family photos to show the person/people they had interviewed, including photos of themselves. The project, helped pupils to really think about who they are.

Not much of British history taught to pupils in the UK is seen to reflect the pupils that make up Skinners' Academy. We're trying to change that, at least in our Academy. We know there are many stories to tell, many family trees we be proud of, many faces and places we want to see – not as a separate history, but as part of our history.

Ms Udo Oleforo, Head of RS & Citizenship



English

Fabulous First Story

First Story is a charitable organisation that provides pupils with the opportunity to work with established professional writers. The First Story sessions are intended to be unlike regular lessons so that pupils have an environment where they are encouraged to write in different ways, free from the curriculum guidelines and motivated solely by their imagination. Pupils come away with a feeling of calm confidence as they explore new ways of merging skills and creativity.

James Dawson has taken on the role of First Story author this year and has brought laughter and challenges to the group. We have a small group of eight devoted pupils who are reaping the benefits of intimate workshops with a real experienced writer and critic.

James recently ran a workshop for Year 7 and 8 pupils, which was a huge success. Many pupils mentioned the session being fun, confidence-building and giving them a feeling of happiness as they read out and received feedback on their work. It was surprising as well to hear so many young people admit that they normally lacked the confidence to share their work or ideas, but that the First Story session felt like a safe place for them and gave them courage to do what they normally avoid.

We hope to run a trip to the V&A museum in January, where students will get the opportunity to work with more authors and meet young writers from other First Story schools.

First Story is off to an incredibly positive start and has been an inspiring project for myself, Miss Shepherd and Miss Uddin to have taken over this year. We are very excited for all the future stories, discussion and feedback sessions to come.

First Story sessions take place from 3-4.30pm every Wednesday in F41. Speak to Miss Uddin or Miss Shepherd in the English department for more details.

“”

I came away feeling inspired to actually write a book...

Rihana Ssesaazi, Year 8

“”

I really enjoyed hearing lots of short stories and was proud of my own work.

Charlie Pavlicic, Year 8

Charlie's Short Story

I suddenly awoke to find a shadow at the end of my bed. "Go back to sleep," it said as it fled my room.

It was 10:30pm. My phone came up with a message, "20% battery remaining." Feeling the exact same as my phone, my eyes drooped lower and lower until I fell asleep. Oh no, not this dream again!

It always tricked me, starting off perfectly as a nice evening walk through the forest. However, all soon changed. Silence surrounded me and it was so dark that I could only just about make out the winding dirt path. I had this dream more than enough times to know what would happen next. I stopped. Two bright eyes opened in front of me. Next, his mouth opened revealing a white, glistening smile. I suddenly awoke.

A shadowy figure stood at the end of my bed. "Go back to sleep." It whispered as it fled my room.



Business Studies

Trip to UBS Bank

On 8 October, Year 10 students were treated to an afternoon of workshops at the head office of UBS, one of the top investment banks in the heart of the City of London. Pupils worked with employees from the bank on a number of activities teaching them about potential careers in the city. The trip was hosted by UBS and the workshops facilitated by the Brokerage, an independent charity whose vision is that all young Londoners, regardless of background, will have the understanding, skills and confidence to make the most of the career opportunities in the City.

Ms Potter, Head of Business Studies



LRC/Business Studies

Enterprising Book Fair

The Learning Resource Centre and business studies department organised a book fair which took place from 1 to 5 December. It allowed Year 10 pupils to put their organisational and enterprise skills into action in order to deliver an amazing event for the benefit of the whole Academy community. The purpose of organising a book fair was to promote literacy and a love of reading books. It also allowed us to raise funds for resources for the library and offer students 50% off the price of books.

For the full story including more about the book fair poster competition, visit www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Ms Phillips, Librarian & Ms Potter, Head of Business Studies



“

It was amazing being at UBS. We had to create a presentation based on different city job adverts. I really enjoyed my group work when Souli, Chi-chi, Javaughn, Atlas, Mercy and I performed our advert. We used Mr. Arthur's famous motto: 'Hard work beats talent until talent works hard' and we worked hard to show our skills. We were rewarded with being named the best group presentation.

Owura Addai, Year 10



Tree Decorating Reward

Pupils from Ms Potter's Year 10 Work Skills class were rewarded for their hard work this term by being asked to decorate the Skinners' Academy Christmas tree.

Work Skills is a qualification which has been designed to support employability. Learners have the opportunity to follow a flexible course and achieve a nationally recognised Level 1 vocationally-related qualification.

Art & Design



Happening No. 1: Big Draw Event

This term the art department started a series of 'Happenings' which will continue throughout the year.

The first of these was our Big Draw event which saw all staff and pupils expressing themselves through drawing.

The Big Draw is a national campaign designed to get as many people drawing as possible. Here at Skinners' we encouraged everyone to participate for the day by providing large display boards to draw on and a box to enter any paper doodles or more refined examples of drawing that were created on the day. The event had everyone talking about drawing and there was a lovely buzz in the main foyer.

Mr Devlin, Head of Art

A 'Happening' is a performance, event or situation meant to be considered art, usually as performance art. They occur anywhere and are often multi-disciplinary, and involve the active participation of the audience.



Nurture Group Mural Project

This term the Year 7 and Year 8 nurture group have been working collaboratively on some artworks which will culminate in the pupils working together to create a mural for the school. We've been working with collage and painting on canvas based on the pupils' ideas about creating work for a learning environment. The ideas the pupils had have been really exciting and the quality of the work has been excellent. Keep your eyes out for the mural which will be created over the coming weeks!

Adam Bainbridge, PGCE student



Promoting our Pupils' Art Work

This year the art department is focusing on transforming the building with exciting new art work. This has taken time to do but we are beginning to see work having an impact. Large canvas paintings above S45 and coming soon to the Sculpture Roof in the foyer, some sculptures which would match the quality of work expected at A Level standard. One of which is the amazing paper origami sculpture (pictured below) by Cynye in Year 11.

Mr Devlin, Head of Art



Knitting Club

Thursday Lunchtimes in S56



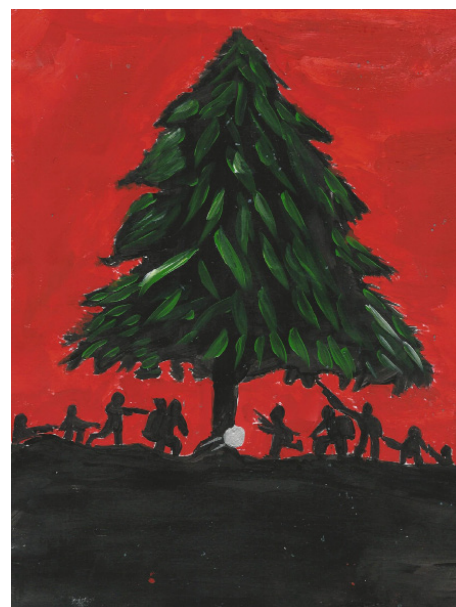
The Art department are introducing a knitting club over the winter period to beat those winter blues. So why not pop in for a cup of tea, pick up some sticks and knit the cold away.

Centenary Inspired Christmas Card Competition

This year the pupils were asked to create designs inspired by the poem Christmas Eve 1914 by the writer Mike Harding. A number of poignant designs were created and the eventual winning design captures many of the themes expressed. The idea is of a lone standing Christmas tree in no-man's land with the star as a glimmer of hope.

The idea [below] came from Molly Greaney's painting and the final design was created with some assistance from Mr Devlin in making a lino print final outcome.

Mr Devlin, Head of Art



Santander Savings Brief: I Am Creative

I Am Creative is an Ideas Foundation initiative, and aims to provide 13-19 year olds with an insight into the creative communications industries.

Our Year 9 GCSE Art pupils have had the opportunity to work on the latest live I Am Creative brief: To create an advertising campaign for Santander which would encourage 8-16 year olds to save for the future. Their prize would be £200 worth of High-street vouchers, a place on 'The Ladder'; an exclusive group that provides access to exclusive creative career opportunities; and a place on a day-long creative careers progression course.

In groups our pupils researched the bank and current trends in advertising. They developed initial ideas for their ad campaigns which they presented to I Am Creative and two mentors from creative agency WCRS. The feedback from the mentors was encouraging and the next stage of the competition is for our pupils to deliver their final ideas to a panel of I Am Creative mentors. Good luck!

Mr Barton, Teacher of Art / Business & Community Links Co-ordinator



Student Services & Art

In November 2014, Student Services teamed up with the Art department to get creative with the 'Time to Change', National 'Time to Talk' programme for schools.

Time to Change is a campaign led by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness funded by the Department of Health, Comic Relief and the Big Lottery Fund. It is England's biggest programme working to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination.

Happening No. 4: Time to Talk

Statistically, one in 10 young people will experience a mental health problem at any given time – that could be three students in every advisory group. Even so, three quarters of young people with mental health problems still fear the reactions of their friends.

'Time to Talk' offered resources and four short sessions:

1. **Make Time to learn about mental health** – looking at mental health problems, stigma and discrimination
2. **Make Time for me** – looking at how we all have mental health like we have physical health and ways to look after ourselves
3. **Make Time for your mates** – building confidence to be more open about mental health, reminding people you don't have to be an expert there are simple ways to be there for a friend
4. **Make Time to stand up to stigma** – giving pupils a voice to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination, letting them know how to get more involved in the future

The key message was that talking about our mental health should be as every day and ordinary as talking about our physical health. These four sessions are also being explored by Year 10s in PSHE.

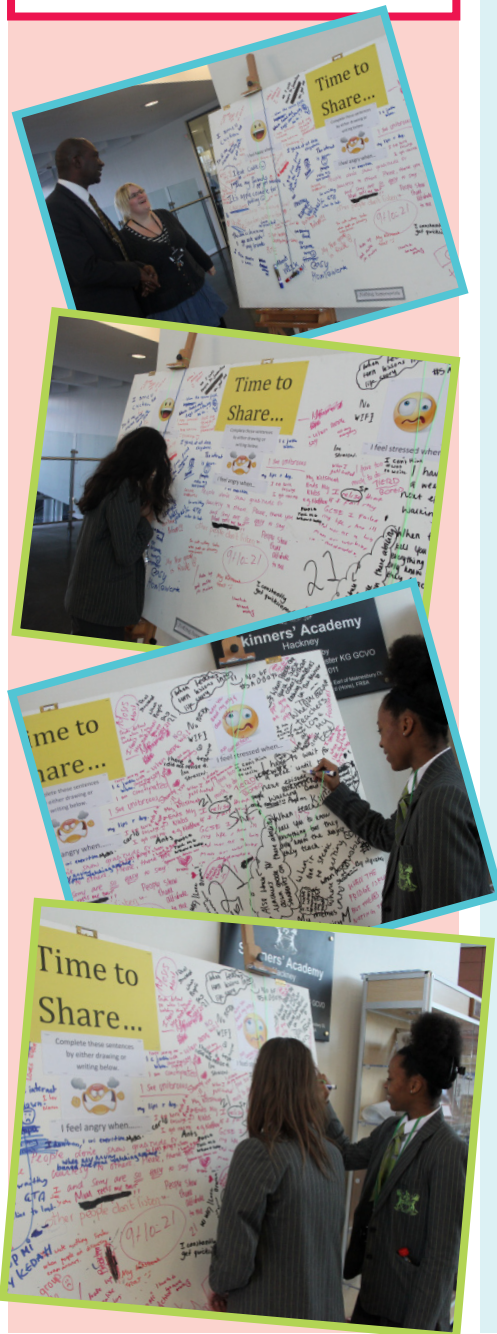
Using these resources to create a 'Happening' in reception, pupils and staff were encouraged to make:

- ♦ **Time to change** – information displayed about mental health and the campaign, along with images of celebrities and art by artists who have shared their experience of mental health issues
- ♦ **Time to share** – on a large white board where pupils and staff were prompted to write or draw responses to 'I feel happy when...', 'I feel stressed when...' and 'I feel angry when...'
- ♦ **Time to ask** – posting thoughts/comments/questions/suggestions and/or feelings about mental health and emotional wellbeing in a large box. Individual responses were offered if names were given.
- ♦ **Time to think** – a short quiz about mental health

The 'Time to share' board was nearly full by break time and gave an insight into what affects the mental and emotional wellbeing of the Academy community. For example, not feeling connected to others or when people expect too highly of you can leave people feeling stressed. A lot of what leaves people at the Academy feeling happy is food based! Some of the other thoughts were being with friends and watching TV programmes that you enjoy. People appearing rude by not showing gratitude or courtesy to others or displaying an 'attitude' are some of the things that leave individuals feeling angry.

There was a follow-up 'Happening' the next week with; the answers to the quiz, a display of art work inspired by the topic and an anonymous share of the thought provoking questions and comments from the 'Time to ask box', along with responses and posters about where to get more information and support. Hopefully the central message, 'we all have mental health, make time for a mate and don't discriminate', will continue to echo throughout the Academy.

Ms Windebank, Academy Counsellor





DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY SHOP

The Shop

This year the Design & Technology department has opened a D&T shop where products are made and sold by seven enthusiastic Year 8 pupils, Dontai Edwards, Kaaliyah Dixon, Zubaid Amadzarif, Aisha Busari, Laurence Hornby, Meher Kazmi and Yusra Shohid. Each Wednesday the pupils stay behind to complete research on up and coming events and what can be made and sold for it. This term the pupils have run a bake sale for Children in Need which was a great success and saw a lot of money raised for the charity. In addition, they took part in a community Christmas fair where they had their own cake stand and gave up their Friday evening and Saturday morning making and selling Christmas themed products such as mince pies, gingerbread and cakes.

For future events the pupils will begin to move away from food products and begin making gifts using wood, plastic and fabrics which we hope will sell out just as fast.

“““

DT shop helps me improve my DT skills on a regular basis and I absolutely love it!

Yusra Shohid, Year 8

“““

Since joining DT shop my mum now allows me to cook at home.

Zubaid Amadzarif, Year 8

“““

I love DT shop. Every Wednesday we meet to come up with new designs and then we get to make them. I enjoy running the shop and seeing how much money we will make. Thank you Ms Grecco-Addo for choosing me.

Aisha Busari, Year 8

“““

DT shop has helped me to improve my confidence.

Dontai Edwards, Year 8



Nurture Group

Autumn Highlights

Wow – what an interesting term for the Nurture groups! I'm delighted to say that after the successful establishment of the Nurture provision in the SEN curriculum last year; we have now expanded! Expanding the Nurture group allows for greater opportunities to work in collaboration with outside agencies such as speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, charities and SEN Teachers. In essence creating a diverse, enriching environment suitably targeted to pupils with specific learning needs.

This term, we welcome our new SEN Teacher, Ms. Tarnoczi who joins the Year 7 Nurture provision. Wing Lee our Speech and Language Therapist and Tania Jacobs our new SEN TA. Not to mention 14 new, enthusiastic Year 7 pupils enrolled on our programme. Our curriculum has been extended to offer French, LEGO Therapy; as part of the LEGO Education project, Swimming and collaborations with Skinners' Academy's very own Art department.

LEGO Therapy refers to a large number of treatment methods all applying the therapeutic benefits of play. Play therapy differs from regular play in that the teacher helps children to address and resolve their own problems. Play therapy builds on the natural way that children learn about themselves and their relationships in the world around them.

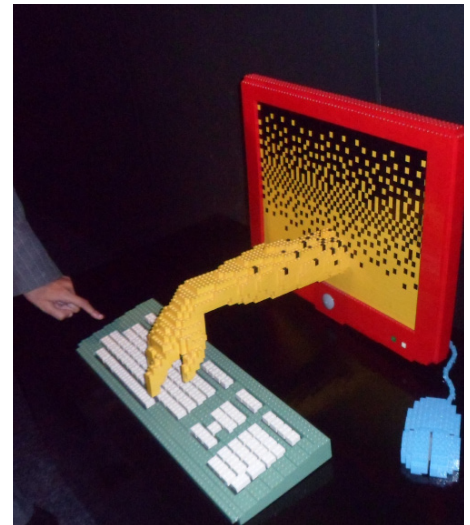
Through play therapy, children learn to communicate with others, express feelings, modify behaviour, develop problem-solving skills, and learn a variety of ways of relating to others.

Play provides a safe psychological distance from their problems and allows expression of thoughts and feelings appropriate to their development.

Ms Cotgrave, Assistant SENCO

Lego Trip

Our LEGO Therapy lessons were complimented with a visit to 'The Art of the Brick LEGO Exhibition' in October. The exhibition displayed sculptures made from thousands of LEGO pieces all created by the internationally acclaimed LEGO artist, Nathan Sawaya. Nathan's work was displayed to the highest standard and included sculptures of T-Rex and the Eiffel Tower. Please read Cameron's account of the fantastic trip.



Cameron's Account

On Thursday, 16th October both Nurture Groups went to visit the 'Art of the Brick LEGO exhibition' at Brick Lane. We learnt how to use LEGO as part of our LEGO Therapy lessons to encourage good communication skills.

We were fascinated by the sculptures all made from thousands of LEGO pieces! My favourite was the giant LEGO pencil; I thought it was really creative.

Soon we will build our own Lego scenes so we can act out our own LEGO stories for animations in Literacy.

Cameron Jean-Paul, Year 8





Dive in with Nurture - 'A Splashing Time'

Every Friday both the Year 7 and 8 Nurture groups have the opportunity to go swimming at the King's Hall Leisure Centre. To be able to swim is a vital life skill and we are very lucky to be in a position to offer this as part of the Nurture curriculum.

Some pupils have never been swimming before but have made rapid progress in a space of just four weeks. After each session one pupil is awarded the prize of 'star swimmer' and presented with a special swimming badge. The next stage of the sessions will take place in January where the pupils will be assessed on their life-saving skills.

Thank you to the staff at the King's Hall Leisure Centre for helping the Nurture teachers make this happen!

Ms Haque, Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)

“““

I really like swimming and I find the lessons very helpful for people that can swim and for people that can't swim.

Amanda Pereira, Year 7

“““

I enjoy swimming because I like splashing in the water. My favourite swim style is the back stroke.

Angel Brann-Nicol, Year 7

“““

I like swimming especially when we get to swim in the deep end. At the moment I am trying to improve my front crawl so I can swim faster.

Ionut Morar, Year 7

Ms T's first term with the nurture group...

When we are born, we are all set on a journey. What we have in our bags is what makes us different from each other. One of life's beauties is that we can expand the content of our bags with whatever we want and with whatever we dare.

I love the nurture group. All the nurture pupils have different skills. Some will become sportsmen, some will become designers and some will become business owners, but all will become excellent employees.

I am here to provide all my pupils with a wide range of opportunities to enrich the "contents" of their bags. I'll help them to achieve what they are dreaming of and if they do not have a dream yet, I'll show them how to build one.

It is an emotionally satisfying journey and I am truly grateful to be a part of it.

I thank all my pupils their parents/carers and all my colleagues who are helping me to make this happen. Special thanks to Ms Cotgrave and Ms Anglin who are guiding me through this journey.

Ms Tarnoczi, Teacher for nurture group pupils

Drama

The Old Vic, New Voices - Year 9/10 Workshop

The drama department is excited to announce its involvement with Old Vic New Voices this year! The programme is a renowned, high quality project for young people offered to only 40 schools. 30 Skinners' pupils from Year 9 and 10 have recently taken part in their first workshop led by industry professionals, and have been to see the Greek tragedy 'Electra' on the famous Old Vic Stage. The pupils will take part in a further six hours of workshops, three more theatre trips and one back stage tour. Tickets are usually difficult to obtain but being part of this project means that we will receive workshops and tickets for free throughout the year to expose pupils to a wide range of performance styles and genres. It is a great year to be involved; we have already enjoyed the theatres season of theatre-in-the-round and seen the talented actress Kristin Scott Thomas, perform in the challenging role of 'Electra'. It is Kevin Spacey's last year as Artistic Director and he will no doubt want to leave on a high note. More inspirational theatre experiences for Skinners' pupils to come!

Check the Academy website and twitter feed for more updates soon.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama



Back in the Barbican Box

Skinners' drama department is taking part in Barbican Box for the third year. Barbican Box is, literally, a portable box filled with the 'ingredients' for making and creating theatre that is then explored with a group of Skinners' pupils to create original drama. The same box is sent to all participating schools but the drama they produce is varied and experimental. Our box has arrived but we're not allowed to take a peek until the project starts in the new year. Pupils will get the opportunity to work with an artist mentor as part of the process and to perform their piece at the Barbican in July alongside the other schools.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama

““

My favourite part of the project so far was going to watch 'Electra' because it was different to what I thought it would be. I hope to gain more confidence in front of large audiences from this project.

Simren Kaur, Year 9

““

The workshop was an incredibly lively one for straight after school. The enthusiasm displayed by the two leaders of the session seemed to work on many of the attendees. The play itself was enjoyable.

Zack Dowding, Year 9

Theatre trips: Don't miss out

The drama department are committed to organising theatre visits for interested pupils of all ages this academic year. Pupils should keep checking the drama display board opposite the library for the upcoming visits to avoid missing out. There are limited tickets available!

'Grease' Update

Rehearsals are well underway, costumes are being collected and the set is being built. Get your tickets from December to see Skinners' first whole school production.

Music

Expanding Musical Horizons

A wintry weekend morning, on Sunday 30 November saw 15 pupils from Key Stage 3 and 4 travel to Walthamstow Assembly Hall to see a performance of Rossini's L'italiana in Algeri Overture and the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. All pupils who attended are currently studying music either at KS3 or as a GCSE subject but for many it was their first concert experience. The size of the double basses brought gasps and we chuckled at the some of the conductor's gestures. Pupils were amazed by the high standard of the performers' skills, especially the solo violinist who performed incredibly difficult parts all from memory.



“

I want to go to that orchestra every Monday until I can play that music.

Skinners' Academy Christmas Concert 2014

Wednesday 10th October
6:30pm



Christmas Concert

This year's Christmas concert took place on 10 December and featured an eclectic mix of seasonal and other music including Year 7 Choir, Skinners' Choir, Steel Bands, String Orchestra and other instrumental pieces, kicking off the festive season on a great note.



Sounds of Samba

On 15 October, a group of Year 7 pupils were involved in a fabulous performance demonstrating their musical. Pupils took part in singing, Samba and Steel Band performances. They also performed violin and cello pieces and Chipaka Henry gave a great piano solo performance.

English as an Additional Language

Trip to Central London

In September, the EAL department were joined by 18 pupils on a journey to Central London to visit some of the most culturally and historically significant landmarks.

The pupils were mesmerized by the sight of Big Ben in Westminster, along with the Houses of Parliament and the view across the Thames to the London Eye. The short walk to Buckingham Palace saw the pupils pass 10 Downing Street, with Horse Guards patrolling the entrance at St. James' Gate. They were eager to learn about the remarkable history of the monarchy and were fascinated by the splendour of Buckingham Palace and its surroundings. Pupils ate lunch in Trafalgar Square, whilst they also visited Leicester Square and Piccadilly Circus.

Ms Clarke and Ms Jargot
EAL Department



Year 9 pupils complete Legacy Careers Project

In spring 2014, Skinners' Academy was proud to have been confirmed as one of three London schools to take part in the "Copper Box" model of the Legacy Careers Project (LCP). The LCP initiative was started by the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC), who wish to promote the exciting Legacy Careers that will exist in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford, home of the London 2012 Olympics. LLDC wanted to connect directly with young talent who may benefit from these post-Olympic opportunities and formed a consortium to deliver an effective schools project, which includes Future Foundations, Brightside, iCeGS and icould.

The aim of the project is to inspire extraordinary careers, drawing on the spectrum of career opportunities that will be created in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, whether a producer for BT Sport or an Event Manager for the Stadium. The project, which took place over six months, was designed to provide participating pupils with information about the required skills/experience needed for these jobs. The six-month project included every pupil in what is now Year 9 and came to an end on 2 December with a night of presentations to celebrate the initiative. Congratulations to all pupils who took part, and especially to the group [pictured below] for placing second in the final presentations: Mehmet Gozubuyuk, Caitlin Lovick, Tajai Brown, Julia Piotrowska and Joshua Gardner. Joshua also won the "Ambassador of the Park" award; earning a free trip to the Arcelor Mittal Orbital for himself and the group.

Thank you to LLDC, Future Foundations and all the Skinners' staff who have supported this unique project, which has been so beneficial for this year group.

Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9 & Mr Williams, Assistant Head of Year 9



Tajai's Legacy Journey

I enjoyed Legacy Careers from the very beginning. We have done interviews, project planning, presentations and I enjoyed the 'haka' part of the experience. I also liked the final – it was my favourite part of my involvement. My team was amazing – we really worked well together – however on some occasions – as a team – we didn't work well together but we pulled through. Everyone who went with us to the finals was incredibly supportive. The whole project helped me to work well in a team and I've uncovered some of my inner self that I didn't know was there before I took part.

Thank you Legacy Careers... I appreciate all your help.

Tajai Brown, Year 9

Learnings through Legacy...

This project was an excellent source of careers information and advice for the pupils and comments below, following one of the Legacy Careers days held here at Skinners' highlight the effectiveness of the programme when it came to helping pupils develop and recognise the transferable employability skills they were building through their participation:

““

Today I learnt that you don't need to know what you want to be! You go through stages to get to where you want to be.

““

Today I learnt how most of our lives is spent and that we should start taking opportunities now. The best part was representing our ideas to help benefit our community.

““

Today I learnt how to communicate with a team.

““

Today I learnt that the right attitude leads to a skill which leads to a tool you can use in your life.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Hackney Borough Cross Country

Skinners' Academy took a team of 14 pupils, both girls and boys from years 7-9, to the borough cross country championships held at Hackney Marshes.

Some good performances were put in by all, with exceptional displays from Jean-Paul Vargas; finishing 4th in the Year 7 boys race and his twin sister Isabella finishing 6th in the Year 7 girls race. Jean has now been selected to represent Hackney at the London Youth Games. Skinners' competitors from other years all competed well finishing between 10-25th places. Well done to all who took part.



Prize-winning pupils

Congratulations to all pupils who actively took part in sport in the last academic year and especially to those pictured here (to the right) who won 'Sportsperson of the Year' awards at our recent Prize-Giving ceremony.

We're looking forward to another excellent year ahead.

Baskets of fun

On Monday 10 November, Skinners' Academy's Under 14s Boys Basketball team travelled to City Academy to participate in the Under 14s School Basketball tournament. This was a great experience for our pupils which gave them the opportunity to compete against a mixture of other schools.

Skinners' first game was against the very strong team from Urswick School. The Skinners' team showed really promising spells of play towards the latter stages of the game however we could not comeback from an overwhelming loss with the final score reading 0-14.

The loss against Urswick did not dent our team's confidence and they came back for their second game against City Academy with positive spirits.

The game against City began at a fierce pace with Ishmael dominating in key areas on the court. It was a thrilling encounter with Clive, Israel and Kevin all showing they could comfortably compete at the Under 14s level. In the dying seconds of the game we had the opportunity to take the lead but unfortunately just missed out and the game resulted in a draw of 2-2.

The boys narrowly missed out on progressing through to the next stage of the tournament however they should be incredibly proud with their efforts both as individuals and as a team.



Autumn Term Netball Results

The girls competing for Skinners' Academy netball teams across all year groups have turned in a number of remarkable displays this term. The highlights include the Year 9s who have won all three matches they have competed in, whilst the Year 8's beat Cardinal Pole 17-0 on their last outing.



Skinners' meets Spurs

At our visit to Tottenham Hotspurs I enjoyed all the training we took part in over the weeks. When the team coach Roz invited me to train with them I felt excited to see what we would be expected to do. We took part in a lot of activities like passing the ball, touches and taking shots at the goal. What I enjoy most about the training is when we get to play a football game at the end of the session. The people are really nice so it's really fun being there.

Isabella Carvajal-Vargas,
Year 7



Parents' Corner



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

Our website:

www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Twitter:

[@skinnersacademy](https://twitter.com/skinnersacademy)
[@skinners6thform](https://twitter.com/skinners6thform)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney

LinkedIn:

Search Skinners' Academy

Your Academy needs YOU: Apply to be a Parent Governor

The Skinners' Academy Governing Body is seeking a second Parent Governor and we encourage you to get in touch asap if this is something you would consider, before we embark on the shortlisting process. The strength of a governing body is diversity. Our governors bring different experiences, perspectives and approaches. No specific experience is necessary. These qualities are what we want in our governors:

- ♦ Desire to support the Academy's strategic vision
- ♦ Willingness to participate and contribute in discussion and an ability to work with others
- ♦ Ability to challenge and question

The role is voluntary and unpaid and for the right person, is a rewarding opportunity to shape the Academy, the community it serves, and improve young people's lives. Interested? No application form required. Speak to the Principal, Mr Clark, or express an interest by email to Duncan Piper, Chairman of the Governing Body's External Affairs Committee on duncan.piper@gmail.com.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 15 January

Year 7 & 8 Academic Mentoring day
Year 11 Parents' Evening

Friday 23 January:

Year 10 "own find" deadline for work experience

Thursday 5 February

Year 10 Parents Evening

Wednesday 11 - Friday 13 February

Academy production of Grease

Monday 16 February

Closing date for sixth form applications