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March 2023
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Spring Term
Issue 35
.....

academy newsletter



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We have had a really busy and purposeful Spring Term. In January, we had the pleasure of watching our Academy Production team bring us on board their voyage to Treasure Island - what an adventure. It was great to see our audience filled with staff, pupils, families and governors, all showing their support across the three performance nights.

From there, the success has continued to flow – in March our Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Gold students visited Wales to embark on their four-day practice expedition, we look forward to seeing them complete the assessed expedition in July. I also want to congratulate Team NO-FIL, for placing third at the People's Pavilion 2023 Design Competition - an excellent achievement!

Finally, we ended this term with the Spring 2023 LAMDA and Music Showcase such a success. I continue to

be blown away with the level of talent of the pupils and dedication of staff that make these events so special - what a lovely way to end the term.

As we head into the Summer Term, my thoughts are with our Year 11 and Year 13 students who will be sitting their final exams. They have demonstrated commitment to their studies and we encourage them to remain focused. This is the final stretch - please reach out to your subject teachers and year team leads if you need support during this period. We wish you all the very best of luck with your exams.

With very best wishes for a restful spring.

Shereka James
Principal, Skinner's Academy



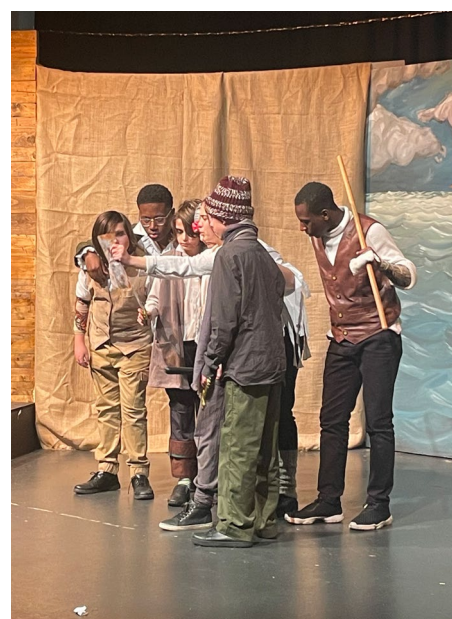
Academy Production

Treasure Island 2023

It's a dark and stormy night In January. Jim (Jasmine J, Y10) and our talented crew of pupils from Year 7 - Year 11 welcomed audiences on-deck of the ship Hispaniola, delivering three stunning performances of the famous 'Treasure Island'. Jim and her crew set sail on their dangerous voyage, eager to find a lost treasure. Little did they know, Long John Silver (Shai H, Y11), his trusted parrot Captain Flint (Bella B, Y7) and his band of pirates had managed to trick their way on board as fellow 'shipmates'. Once Silver and his pirates' real identities were exposed a murderous race ensued, who would find the treasure first? With a little help and a spectacular performance from Ben Gunn (Yara U, Y8) - Jim and her crew returned home victorious.

Well done to all the cast, band, backstage crew and staff who took part in Treasure Island. All three performances were dramatic and captivating, none of it could have happened without all your dedication.

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story of murder, money and mutiny, premiered at London's National Theatre in December 2014, in a thrilling adaptation by Bryony Lavery.



“

Getting to play another person and experience a whole other world has been great. I have really enjoyed being a part of Treasure Island, I hope the audience enjoyed the show.

Jimmy L, Year 7 (Lucky Mickey)



“

Treasure Island is the fourth Academy production I have been involved in, I'm basically a veteran. My favourite scene is when I die, it is very emotional.

Maya C, Year 11 (Red Ruth)





“”

I wanted to take part in this year's production because I really enjoyed being a part of last year's show. Spending time with the rest of the cast is such a highlight.

Evelyn-Daisy H, Year 9 (Grey)



“”

I have taken part in three Academy productions now, I really enjoy acting and performing in front of an audience! Being a part of the cast has really helped me to improve my acting skills and boosted my confidence.

Jasmine J, Year 10 (Jim)



“”

I love Pirates and I enjoy the theatre so when I saw the audition posters for Treasure Island I thought 'this would be amazing' so I had to sign up.

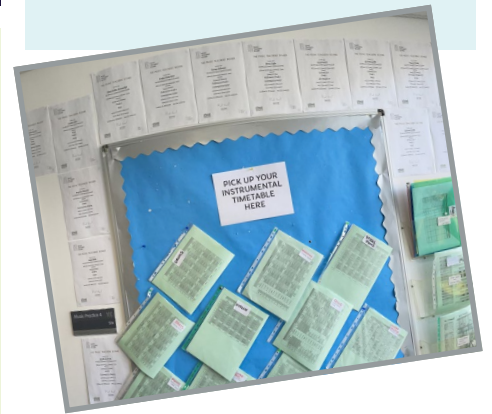
Bella B, Year 7 (Capt. Flint - Parrot)

Music



Graded Instrumental Exams

As we progress through the year, pupils in KS3 have begun preparations for their graded instrumental exams with their instrument teachers. In previous years, this has been a fantastic opportunity for pupils to gain the recognition they deserve for their hard work. A copy of the certificates of all the pupils who take an instrumental exam is displayed in the corridor as public recognition of this fantastic achievement. All pupils currently taking instrumental lessons are encouraged to enter for their instrumental grades and we look forward to updating the display with further certificates.



Digital Compositions

Year 9 and Year 11 have been working on their compositions, either toward their KS3 Curriculum Scheme of Learning, or their GCSE Coursework. The standard of compositions this year has been immensely high, and all pupils involved in this should be infinitely proud of themselves. These compositions are all stored centrally and sent to pupils in MP3 form after they have been submitted. All pupils involved in composition in any capacity, including extra-curricular, are encouraged to share an MP3 with their music teacher so this can be shared with the wider Skinners' Academy community at the next available opportunity.

Enterprise



People's Pavilion 2023

Congratulations to team NO-FIL, consisting of Aqeel M, Henry F, Samir K (all Year 10), and Bilal K (Year 12), for placing third at the People's Pavilion 2023 Design Competition.

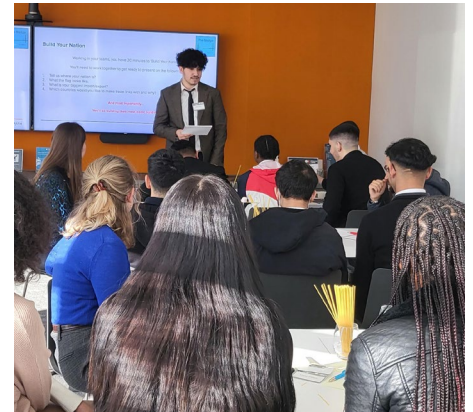
The design competition invites young people 14-18 years of age from across East London, to work collaboratively as part of a small team, and in partnership with professionals from the architectural, construction, and creative arts industries, to design their own temporary pavilion.

Team NO-FIL worked extremely hard, throughout all stages of the competition, constantly adapting their design to allow families and young people to experience a sense of safety and shield from the outside world whilst simultaneously allowing them to be connected to the local greenery. Well done team NO-FIL!





Careers



Osborne Clarke (OC) Apprenticeship Mock Assessment Workshop

On 7 February, Year 13 students visited Osborne Clarke's London Office where they took part in a mock assessment workshop. Students engaged in various challenges and tasks that they could face in the workplace. OC employees observed students and offered feedback, which students can reflect upon so they can make improvements when they experience assessment centres in the future.

Students also experienced a masterclass in law apprenticeship applications and had the opportunity to sign up to Osborne Clarke's newly advertised apprenticeships.

OC Mentoring

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students who have successfully been offered a place on this year's Osborne Clarke Mentoring Programme:

- ◆ Nergis B
- ◆ Aya B
- ◆ Nada B
- ◆ Tayiba K
- ◆ Ketia S



National Apprenticeship Week

On 8 February, Year 11 pupils took part in a panel discussion focusing on all things apprenticeships! Guest speakers included:

- ◆ Hackney's Apprenticeship Team
- ◆ Berkeley Homes Apprenticeship Team
- ◆ TfL Apprenticeship Team
- ◆ Capital City College
- ◆ Ask Apprenticeship Ambassador
- ◆ Notting Hill Genesis Apprenticeship Team

To celebrate the end of National Apprenticeship Week we hosted an evening Apprenticeship session on 10 February for parents to understand the progression route into Apprenticeships. Guest Speakers included:

- ◆ Notting Hill Genesis
- ◆ Capital City College
- ◆ Hackney Apprentice - Project Manager Role

CLICK HERE to access the
Skinners' Academy
Careers Portal

Osborne Clarke - Women in Law Panel

To mark International Women's Day, on 7 March, selected pupils from Year 7 – 10 joined Year 12 students at Osborne Clarke's Women in Law Panel. This was an exciting opportunity for female pupils to participate in a female empowered discussion. They had the chance to spend some time with lawyers from Osborne Clarke, gaining insight into their career and developing an understanding of the industry.

The session was very interactive and engaging, and a great opportunity to see the type of work you could do as a lawyer in your future career.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead



Osborne Clarke Year 10 Programme - Personal Branding

Osborne Clarke is an international legal practice, with offices situated around Europe, Asia and the USA. On 28 February, they delivered a workshop to Year 10 pupils exploring the concept of personal brand, what it means for pupils as they begin to develop their own brand, identifying their biggest strength and helping them see how this can be harnessed for success.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead

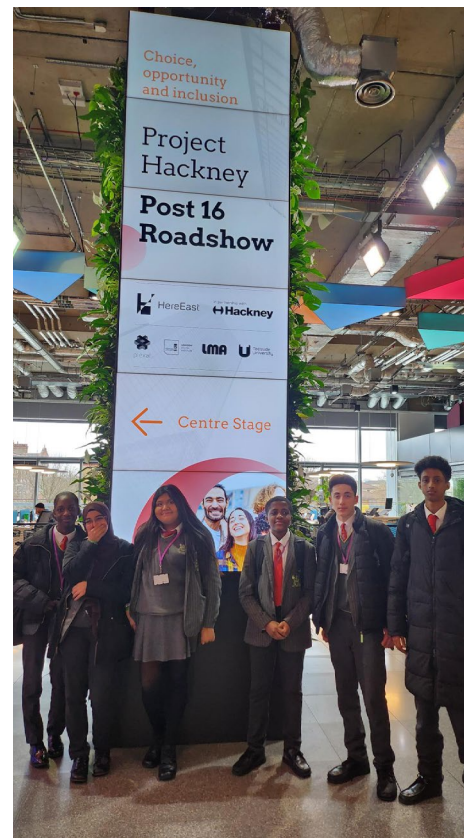


Project Hackney Careers Roadshow

On 7 March a small group of Year 10 pupils attended the launch of Project Hackney Careers Roadshow at Plexal, Here East, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Project Hackney is a new initiative designed to increase the number of pupils choosing to continue their 16-19 education within Hackney. They have created a more inclusive and comprehensive 16-19 offer and have established close links between the local authority, Hackney based schools, colleges, work-based learning providers, employers and other agencies.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead





UK University & Apprenticeship Careers Fair

On 3 March, Year 12 students had meaningful encounters with both University and Apprenticeship representatives at the UK University & Apprenticeship Careers Fair held at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The aim of the event was to inspire and motivate our students who are starting to make decisions about their Post 18 education and career choices. Students were able to attend seminars throughout the day which included:

- Russell Group University Seminars
- Student Finance – Loans, Scholarships and Bursary Information
- Careers and Employability
- UCAS Personal Statement and Application Advice
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- Life at University – Inspirational talk about the benefits of a university education

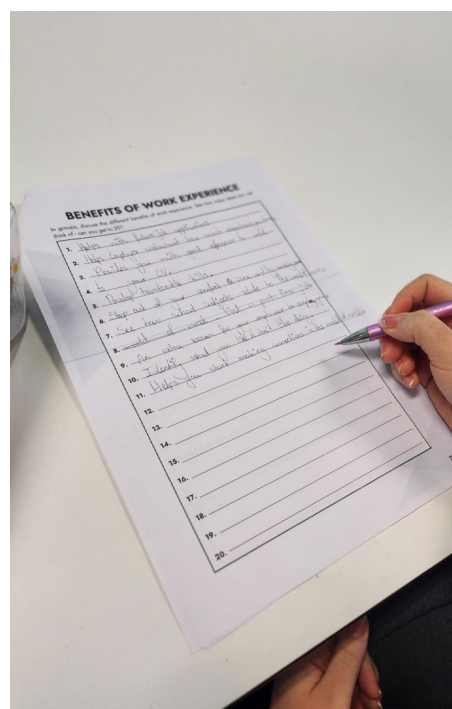


Year 10 Get - Work Experience Drop Down

On 8 March Inspire! delivered a drop-down day to our Year 10 pupils. The full day workshop focused on helping pupils to maximise the impact of their upcoming placements and build up their skills for the world of work.

Pupils took part in interactive group activities, facilitated by business volunteers in the classroom, and watched performances from Stand-Up Theatre. They learnt about the benefits of work experience, transferable skills, mock interviews, workplace scenarios and employer expectations.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead



Osborne Clarke - Financial Literacy

On 14 March, Osborne Clarke, an International legal practice, with offices situated around Europe, Asia and the USA; delivered a workshop to Year 10 pupils on Financial Literacy. They learnt about how to be financially responsible, to understand how budgeting and saving regularly can help with effective money management and the importance of prioritising bills.

Ms Jackson, Careers Lead



Year 12 Work Experience Placement Tool

We have partnered up with Unifrog and bought into the new Placement Tool for Year 12 Work Experience. The placements tool aims to help manage the admin behind the placements process, making it easy:

- ♦ For students to get the ball rolling, then reflect on the placement afterwards;
- ♦ For the employer to follow and confirm that they follow best practices in:
 - ◇ Safeguarding
 - ◇ Health and safety
 - ◇ Covid safety guidelines
 - ◇ Risk Assessment
 - ◇ Insurance
 - ◇ GDPR
- ♦ For the parent / guardian to stay informed of what's happening;
- ♦ For teachers to have an overview of the whole process, including knowing at any time the status of each student's placement.

Please watch the video [HERE](#) to get more of an understanding on how the placement tool works.

Science

Science Club

The science department has been running our science club which is full of exciting science experiments to generate curiosity. The aim of starting this club was to:

- ♦ Promote inquisitiveness among our pupils and develop their analytical ability.
- ♦ Trigger interest among pupils in science and to give them an informal space where they are able come and ask any questions they may have.
- ♦ To encourage, motivate and equip pupils with understanding of applications of science and its interface with society.

Each session focuses on activities which will engage young minds and give them the opportunity to ask questions. The sessions are generally teacher led and the students get a chance to experiment with fun hands-on activities with the teacher explaining the task and questioning pupils to build their understanding.

Ms Ali, Teacher of Science

““

The thing that I love most about science club is exploding things and doing crazy and cool experiments like the elephant's toothpaste

Tiliyah EC, Year 7

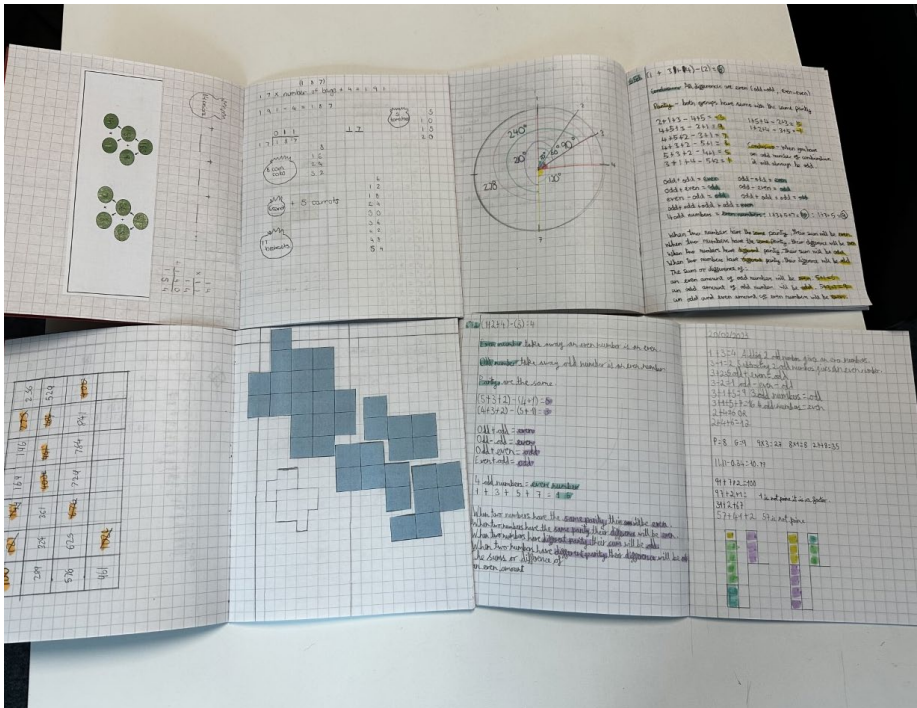
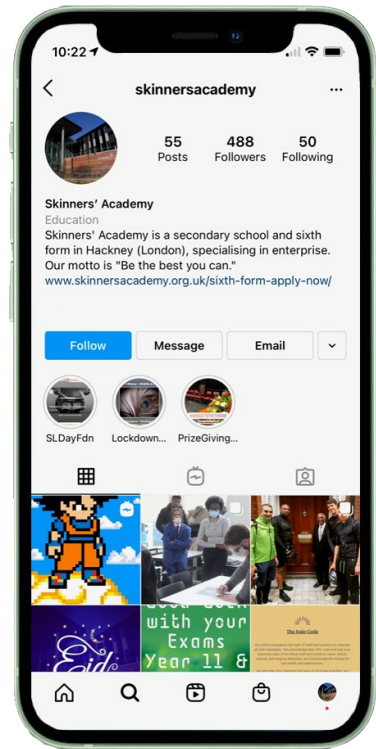
““

I enjoyed when we learnt to dissect a heart and could see all of the vessels and chambers.

Rayyan Y, Year 7

Mathematics

Click here to follow us on Instagram



MESME Maths Circles

A group of Year 7 pupils have been dedicating an hour each week to take part in MESME Maths Circles.

They have really enjoyed engaging with problem-solving in a relaxed environment, working together to improve their maths and thinking skills! Above is a sample of the beautiful work this group have produced:

Mr Lilley, Head of Mathematics

“ ”

Well done, you are mathematicians now!

Ms Swapna, Teacher of Mathematics

SEND

Lunch Club with SEND

SEND Lunch Club is a safe and stimulating space for our pupils to spend their lunch time and is designed to support pupils with their communication needs and to build interactions with others. SEND pupils are given lunch passes that facilitate them in grabbing early lunches and in making their way upstairs for lunch time. They can also bring along a buddy each if it helps them to feel more comfortable.

At the club, pupils get opportunities to meet and socialise with others across all different year groups. Additionally, there are a range of activities available such as Pictionary, Pass the Compliment, Wink Murder, 'Who Am I Describing?', Newspaper Reporter, etc. Pupils often utilise whiteboards and board pens to play Hangman with each other. Others receive support from staff members to complete homework and laptops can also be leased to pupils to use in the club.

SEND staff supervise these clubs that run every lunch time to ensure their smooth running. Our lunch clubs are divided into two rooms. One room is dedicated as the 'quiet room' that helps to meet the needs of students who are sensitive to loud environments.

Mr Williams, Teacher of SEND

Art & Design

Year 11 Museum Tour

Year 11 Art & Design pupils embarked on a museum tour, visiting the Natural History Museum, the V&A Museum and the Science Museum.

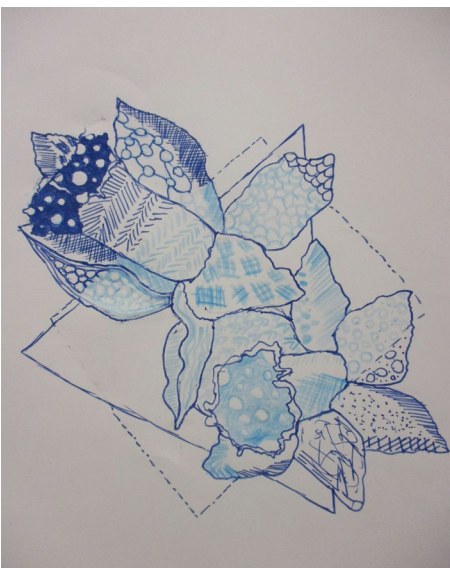
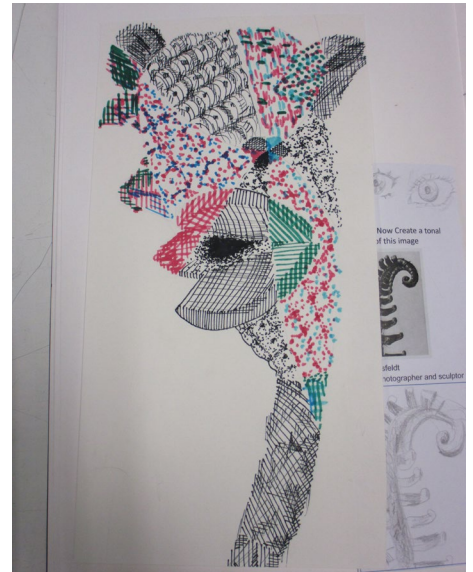
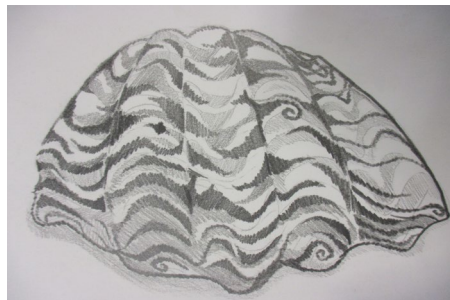
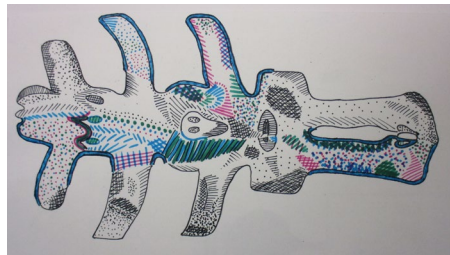
At Skinners' the art department take part in museum trips for both Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE classes. It is an essential component of the course, whereby pupils have the opportunity to look at, photograph and sketch pieces of art and artefacts which they can then draw influence and inspiration from for their own artwork.

Mr Hodierne, Teacher of Art & Design



Year 9 Mixed Media

Year 9 have been exploring a mixed media project this term based around natural form objects. Pupils have used colouring pencil, tonal pencil, fine liner and collage to create these artworks. Pupils have recalled their previous knowledge of tone, mark making and collage to create these pieces.



Easter Egg Competition

Thank you so much to all the pupils who submitted their wonderful entries for the Design an Easter Egg Competition. We had some amazing designs! Prizes have been awarded to:



Second - Julia A, 9B1

Joint First – Monia H, 7A1 & Tilyah EC, 7A1



Third - Megan A, 8B1

Eid Competition

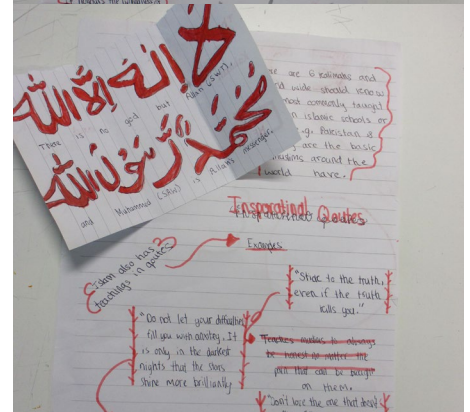
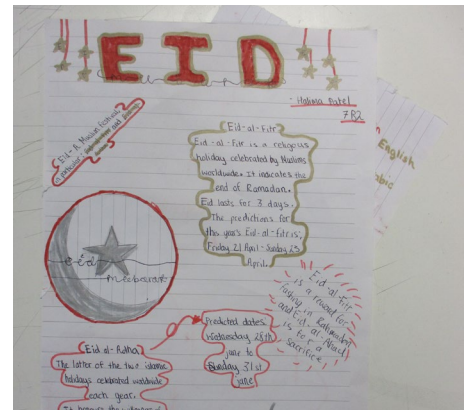
We received some amazing entries for our Design an Eid Decoration Competition. Thank you to all pupils that entered this year! Prizes were awarded to:



First - Nafisa M, 7A1



Second - Zeynep V, 8J1



Third - Halima P, 7B2

Computer Science

A Level Computer Science – Programming

A Level Computer Scientists develop and use their research and design skill to create a programming solution for their clients using computational thinking. As part of their A Level programme of study, students complete a substantial programming-based project (worth 20% of the overall qualification). This has provided our students with an opportunity to explore their project management, research and design skills in order to meet the needs of their client while considering UX (User Experience) and UI (User Interface) as the most important factors. Having real clients adds to the challenge of this project, requiring students to use effective communication skills throughout to share their thoughts, update their clients in terms of progress, and take on board demands of their clients and interpreting their needs.

This project has seen students investigate suitable software applications to develop their solutions, such as Unity, to provide a learning tool to develop knowledge of computer science and increase reaction times through play to support the training needs of a sports group.

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science



“ ”

This unit helps me to learn programming languages beyond my comfort zone, driving me to create a product that has an educational purpose. This will help me with my project management skills as an undergraduate using the computational skills that I have developed over time.

Akam A, Year 13

Year 7 – Computing Fundamentals

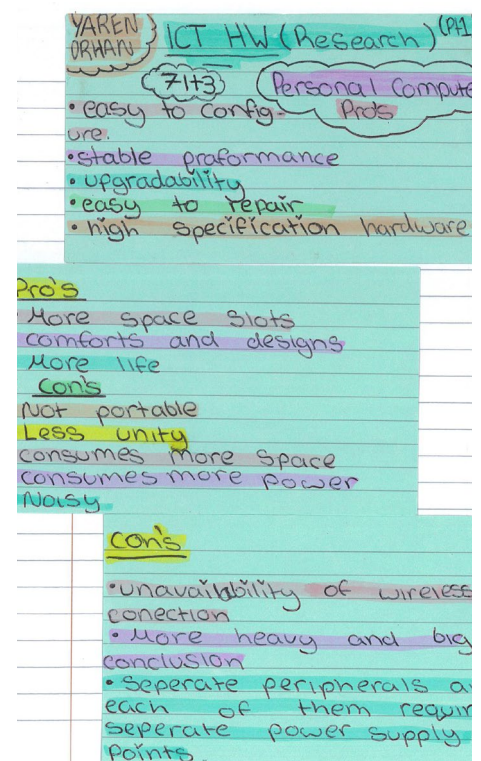
Learning about computing fundamentals has given Year 7 computing pupils the opportunity to develop their understanding of how computer systems work, looking at the stages of computer processing and CPU Fetch-Decode-Execute cycle. Exploring a range of Input and Output devices used around the Academy and at home has helped pupils to understand the uses of devices beyond the classroom.

This unit has encouraged pupils to think about the future of technology, designing their future tech for a specific purpose. Pupils have also considered the range of assistive technology that has been developed specifically for users with disabilities.

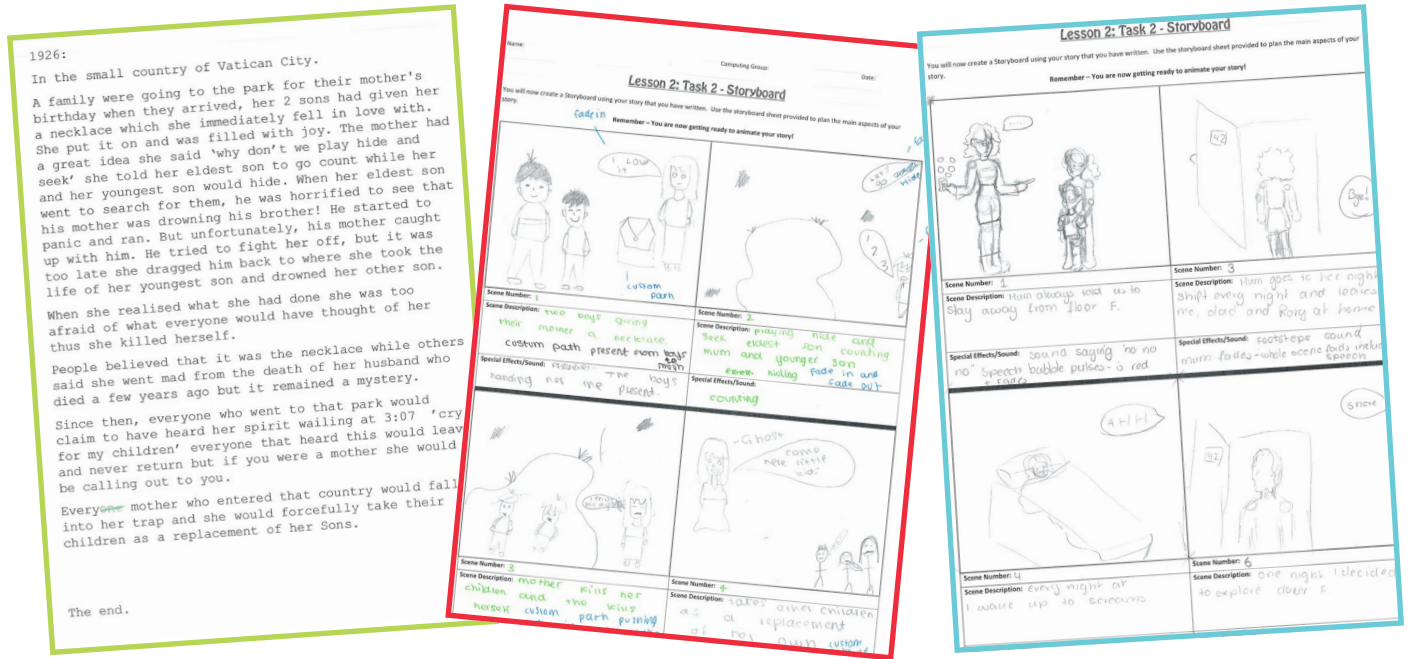
The Computing Fundamentals unit enabled pupils to develop knowledge and skills to:

- Explore a range of computer systems and computer models, analyse their effectiveness and future possibilities for computer models.
- Identify and explain various hardware devices that are used by computer systems and its uses.
- Identify and explain a range of software applications by category and its uses.
- Write algorithms and how this uses computational thinking & processing skills.
- Understand the principles of computational thinking to solve problems.

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science



TRIGGER WARNING - Some of the stories written by pupils below may contain potentially distressing material.



Year 8 Computing – Animated Story

Year 8 computing pupils have been working creatively to develop their storytelling and animation skills, combining literacy and computing skills to develop a multimedia product for a specific target audience and theme. Some of the stories written will give you the 'chills'!

The Animated Story unit enables pupils to develop knowledge and skills to:

- Plan and write a story using tools to generate ideas.
- Plan the structure and sequence of the animated story using a storyboard.
- Consider the purpose and requirements of the target audience to create a product that is fit for purpose.
- Use text, images and colours effectively.
- Apply custom animation features to animate their story.
- Assess the effectiveness of the product created using peer and self-review tools.

Ms Rao, Head of Computer Science

“”

This unit has helped me to develop creative writing skills and bring technology together.

Kay'Jhan A, Year 8

ZOOM IN BELOW to read Kay'Jhan's story, Full Moon.

Chapter 1: Transformation

Jah'kai is a 13-year-old boy and JD is Jah'kai's twin brother. Both boys have light skin, with brown eyes. They are average height, and they're never not wearing tracksuits. Both boys have twists, with royal blue tips – they are identical in every way and never do anything without each other.

Both of them always stay up past 11pm but they never look at the moon. Their great-great uncle's grandma had warned the older generations of their family about the forthcoming danger of taking risks with their safety following a horrific incident which occurred 200 years ago. She would never explain why, but the one thing she always said was: "Never look at the moon."

Both boys were a bit goofy, but while Jah'kai tended to know when to stop joking, JD always took things too far. One night, Jah'kai said to JD: "I dare you to look at the moon for 30 seconds."

JD hesitated.

He was thinking about his great-great uncle's grandma and whether what she said was true. Should he risk his own life for it or not?

The clock struck 11:00.

As soon as the church bell rang, JD looked up in the sky.

Then, he froze in time...

Chapter 2: Turning into a Creature

Almost as if he had also stared at the moon, Jah'kai stopped moving, dazed and confused. If anyone had seen them, they would think they were artifacts stolen from a museum. As always, they were identical, except this time, they were out of sync.

Out of nowhere, JD started to change. First, his hand started to grow green, hairy hair, his nails were growing – 8 inches long, razor sharp, and bright blue. Next, his royal blue twists began to change to green, while his feet grew until they broke through the toes of his new Louis Vuitton trainers.

He tried calling for Jah'kai's help but he was too petrified to move. Jah'kai stood there panicking, desperate to stop the transformation. As he scanned the area for anything that might help, he realised in that moment there was no saving his brother.

JD was no longer the person he knew before. JD was no longer a person at all.

He was a nasty, tall, green gremlin.

Chapter 3: Death

Fear took over Jah'kai. He was as scared as a lamb facing a lion. At that moment, he knew he would be devoured.

He pled for his life, desperate to see if his brother was still there.

Tragically, JD was there on the inside but on the outside, he was something unknown to man. JD wasn't in control of his new body; the gremlin started attacking his own brother. Jah'kai tried his best defensive tactical manoeuvres. He kept his former brother at bay for just 2 minutes, but one of the attacks he couldn't dodge.

JD stabbed his brother with his 8-inch, razor sharp nail, impaling him. Blood poured out of Jah'kai's mouth. JD put another claw in Jah'kai's rib, then he ripped his brother into pieces.

At that moment, the moon shifted behind a cloud, and JD began to return to his normal form. As the haze of his transformation began to clear, he looked down in horror as it dawned on him just what he had done...

Student Services



Year 9 Immunizations

Vaccination UK will be in the Academy on the following dates for Year 9 immunizations.

Tuesday 25 April

- Meningitis ACWY
- Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria

Tuesday 2 May

Catch up session for anyone missed on 25 April.

Ms Carroll, Academy Nurse

Does Your Child Suffer With Hay Fever?

Or do they suffer with some of the symptoms below?

If so now is the time to act to ensure they are not suffering and unable to concentrate on their learning. This is extremely important as we head towards the exam period for all our pupils but especially for those in Years 11 & 13, taking Public exams.

Seasonal allergic rhinitis, otherwise known as hay fever

This is when you get symptoms at certain times of year, such as spring /summertime, due to allergens.

Causes of Hay fever

- Seasonal rhinitis (hay fever) is caused by an allergy to pollen and spores.
- Pollen is the tiny, dust-like particles given off by some trees, grasses, weeds and flowers.
- Spores are given off by some plants as well as fungi and moulds.

Symptoms of hay fever

- Sneezing
- Itchy, blocked or runny nose
- Red, itchy or watery eyes
- Itchy throat, inner ear or mouth
- Headaches
- A loss of concentration and generally feeling unwell
- Disturbed sleep

Be Prepared

- Seek early intervention
- Pharmacies can advise on over the counter medication
- Take your medication regularly
- If symptoms do not improve speak to your GP

Top tips for hay fever

- Check the pollen forecast
- Hay fever nasal spray
 - ◊ Take two squirts in each nostril, twice a day
 - ◊ Don't sniff when you take it, remember to take it every day.
- Non-sedating antihistamine tablets (ones that don't make you sleepy) and take one every day (or according to the instructions in the pack).
- If you have very itchy eyes, then regular (four times a day) eye drops.

The combination of nasal spray, antihistamine tablets and eye drops really work for the vast majority of people, but if you're still having symptoms or not feeling well speak to your GP or Practice Nurse.

Ms Carroll, Academy Nurse

Duke of Edinburgh (D of E)



Gold Practice Expedition

A big well done to the twelve Year 12 students who recently completed their D of E Gold Practice Expedition to the Brecon Beacons in Wales. This practice expedition involved camping, cooking, navigating and trekking across the Brecon Beacon mountains for four days. Students had very tough conditions with some wet and cold weather, however they all rose to the challenge completing the expedition and learning a lot along the way.

Students are currently completing their physical, skills, volunteering and residential sections, with the final assessed expedition back to Wales in July.

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE / HOY7 / Talented Coordinator



Physical Education (PE)

Basketball

A huge congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 8 Basketball teams who have made it through to the Round 1 play-offs in the Junior NBA league.

The next round of games will take place after Easter as follows:

- Year 7 Boys v Redden Court School
- Year 7 Girls v City Academy
- Year 8 Boys v Ormiston Park Academy
- Year 8 Girls v Westminster

Hackney Borough Athletics

In May we see the return of the Hackney Borough Athletics competition. This competition sees all the schools in Hackney compete against each other across all the Athletics disciplines.

If you are interested in competing in the event, please speak to your PE teacher and let them know which discipline you would like to do.

Hackney Futsal League

After Easter our competitive fixtures in the Year 7 and Year 8 Girls Hackney Futsal League will begin.

If this is something you are interested in representing the school in, then please speak to Ms Antwi for more information and come along to training in the sports hall Thursday after school.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 17 APR | Staff PLD Day No pupils onsite | 18 APR | Term Starts For All Year Groups |
| 24 APR to 28 APR | Y10 Work Experience | 26 APR | Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.30pm |
| 01 MAY | Early May Bank Holiday No pupils onsite | 02 MAY | Year 11 Information Evening 5.30pm - 6.30pm |
| 03 MAY | Year 12 & 13 Information Evening 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 04 MAY | Year 10 Information Evening 5.00pm - 6.00pm |
| 08 MAY | Bank Holiday - King's Coronation No pupils onsite | 09 MAY | Year 9 Information Evening 5.00pm - 6.00pm |
| 10 MAY | Year 7 Information Evening 5.00pm - 6.00pm | 17 MAY | Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.30pm |
| 29 MAY to 02 JUN | Half-Term | 12 JUN to 23 JUN | Year 10 & Year 12 Assessments |
| 06 JUL | Year 6 Transition Day No pupils onsite | 21 JUL | Term Ends Pupils dismissed at 1.00pm |

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

Instagram & Twitter: @skinnersacademy

EduLink One: Download the EduLink One (Overnetdata) app.

Parents have been sent a username and password via email. Please note to access the Site Code (App only) use: skac