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December 2023
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Autumn Term
Issue 37
.....

academy newsletter

Merry
Christmas

FROM SKINNERS' ACADEMY



Snowglobe design by Ibrahim Abdul-Qayyum, Year 8
(Winner of the Art Department's annual Christmas Card Design Competition. Read more on page 14)

PGL

In November, Year 7 embarked on an adventurous journey to Surrey's Windmill PGL Centre. Pupils embraced challenges, scaled new heights, and built lasting memories. They conquered climbing walls, reached new heights on the high-swing, and overcame obstacles on Jacob's Ladder with pupils demonstrating resilience and teamwork throughout. This residential trip was not just a physical adventure; it was a journey of personal growth and camaraderie. We're proud of the Year 7s' achievements and the indomitable spirit they showcased throughout this enriching experience. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for accompanying and guiding our pupils on this adventure.

D Alexis





Pupil Council - A Message from our Head Students

As this year's Head Students, we also sit as members of Skinners' Academy's Pupils Council. Throughout our time at Skinners' we have come to realise the importance of pupils' voices. As we all embark on this academic journey, our focus is to embrace and celebrate our diversity. We want to be able to provide all pupils the opportunity to express any concerns they may have throughout their time at Skinners' and build a collaborative environment for everyone.

Acelya U & Mateo C, Year 13
(Head Students & Pupil Council)



Pupil Council

SUGGESTION BOX

LET'S COOPERATE TOGETHER
TO MAKE THE ACADEMY
BETTER



Suggestion Box located at the Academy's Reception.

Prize Giving 2022-2023

Prize Giving Celebrations

On 16 November, Skinners' Academy held our annual Prize Giving ceremony, celebrating the numerous achievements of our pupils during the 2022-2023 academic year. Prizes were presented by the Master of The Skinners' Company, Mr Timothy Haynes and were awarded to pupils for progress in subject areas, overall academic achievement and services to the Academy. This year's Skinners' Way prize was awarded to Jasmine Joseph, Year 11, for holding the Academy's core values in high regard and demonstrating them consistently and to the highest standard.

This year we saw the return of Alumni, Joyce Amisi, who left Skinners' in 2021 and is currently studying Social Work at Middlesex University. Joyce delivered a truly inspiring speech, sharing all the opportunities she was given during her time at Skinners' Academy, like being named captain of the Netball team and Steel Band, and how these opportunities have shaped her into the person she is today.

Finally, we can not talk about Prize Giving without mentioning our amazing musical performances throughout the night. Various pupils played piano solos to guests as they entered the event, we were treated to a solo violin piece by Clifford Panganiban, Year 10, a performance of 'Girl Put Your Records On' by our Choir who were supported by the Academy Band, and the evening was brought to an end by our ever entertaining Steel Band. What a talented group of pupils we have, thank you to our music department for arranging such beautiful pieces to share with us.

A special thanks goes to Restore the Music, a music education charity who has donated to us over the years and are largely responsible for the impressive equipment inventory we have at Skinners' Academy which allows our musicians to further develop their talents.



Subject Prizes Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 & 9)

English	Davy Macedo Costa	Year 8
Mathematics	Enzo Daullja	Year 8
Science	Eleanor Porter	Year 7
Art & Design	Diana Siqueira E Silva	Year 8
Computing	Phenicia Efekele	Year 7
Design & Technology	Thulani Lelitte	Year 7
Drama	Jimmy Livingstone	Year 7
French	Michael Opoku	Year 9
Geography	Monia Hemmami	Year 7
History	Olivia Avgin	Year 9
Music	Hayden McCullough	Year 8
Physical Education	Nofisat Afolabi	Year 8
Religious Studies	Tiayan Pandya	Year 8
Spanish	Evelyn-Daisy Hnat	Year 9
LAMDA	Amber Rufaro	Year 7

Prize for Overall Academic Achievement

Amelia Jedrzejczak	Year 7
John Chen	Year 8
Julia Kwarcinska	Year 9

Melanie Jackson Prize for Services to the Academy

Haitu Worku	Year 7
Megan Alsford	Year 8
Ichita Nakashima	Year 9





Subject Prizes Key Stage 4 (Year 10 & 11)		
English	Luqman Ibrahim	Year 10
Mathematics	Arif Rahman	Year 11
Science	Mollie Wilson	Year 10
Biology	Jasmine Joseph	Year 10
Chemistry	Tom Hare	Year 10
Physics	Jahanavee Sandeep	Year 10
Art & Design	Erika Jaquez Reinoso	Year 11
Business Studies	Gabriel Aguiar	Year 10
Computer Science	Tyson Huynh	Year 10
Creative iMedia	Afsana Khatun	Year 11
Drama	Andrew Monks	Year 10
Economics	Siham Abukar	Year 10
Food Technology	Selen Serindag	Year 10
Geography	Jasmine L Joseph	Year 10
Health & Social Care	Sojourner Lelitte	Year 10
History	Luis Palin	Year 11
Media Studies	Sophie Byrne	Year 11
Music	Stephen Adeola	Year 10
Physical Education	Nathan Barimah	Year 10
Psychology	Zeynep Asal	Year 11
Religious Studies	Yusra Ali	Year 10
Resistant Materials	Rio Leonti	Year 10
Sociology	Zareena Boksh	Year 11
Spanish	Holly Leeming	Year 10
Textiles	Ayse Gilgil	Year 10
LAMDA	Chiamaka Onwuli	Year 11

Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Imani Lawal	Year 10
Aleksandra Jachimowska	Year 11

Melanie Jackson Prize for Services to the Academy	
Henry Fitzgerald	Year 10
Ken-Wei Lu	Year 11



Subject Prizes Key Stage 5 (Year 12 & 13)		
English	Elisa Kose	Year 12
Mathematics	Cristopherd Toffoli Vargas	Year 12
Biology	Abdi Hussein	Year 12
Chemistry	Ibraheem Yahiaoui	Year 12
Physics	Shemar Samuels	Year 12
Art & Design	Willber Lima	Year 13
Business Studies	Yusuf Demirbas	Year 12
Computer Science	Aadil Karwa	Year 13
Digital Media	Sidar Alagoz	Year 13
Economics	Krystian Sokalski	Year 12
French	Layla Samba	Year 13
Government & Politics	Oliwia Fikiel	Year 13
Health & Social Care	Christivie Bwana	Year 12
History	Ellie Lloyd	Year 13
Media Studies	Esther Allen	Year 12
Physical Education	Sylvia Tawiah	Year 12
Psychology	Sebastian Chamorro	Year 12
Sociology	Dilan Gullu	Year 12
Spanish	Mateo Carmona	Year 12
LAMDA	Mateo Carmona	Year 12

Prize for Overall Academic Achievement	
Eman Zerrouki	Year 12
Nicholas Layhe	Year 13

Melanie Jackson Prize for Services to the Academy	
Berkkan Gungor	Year 12
Rimshah Akhtar	Year 13



Sixth Form

Skinners'
academy
sixth form

ARE YOU IN YEAR 11?
DO YOU WANT TO STAY ON AS A STUDENT IN SKINNERS' ACADEMY'S SIXTH FORM?

- Combined A-Level & Vocational pathways** offering a varied approach to learning
- Numerous Enrichment opportunities**
e.g. Debt, Gold & Coaching Programmes
- A respected Careers programme** providing advice, information, & guidance
- N4 Café** a private space for students to study whilst enjoying a wide selection of menu items

APPLY NOW!
CLICK HERE
DEADLINE : FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2024



Academy Production

Skinners' academy
presents...

Oliver Twist

PERFORMANCE NIGHTS

Show starts at 7.00pm on...

Tuesday 27 February
Wednesday 28 February

Adults : £4.00 | Pupils/Concessions : £3.00

Tickets are now available for purchase via ParentPay!

Please make sure you specify which performance night you would like to see in the payment notes.

Drama



Dr Semmelweis

Year 10 & 11 GCSE Drama pupils and some Year 12 A Level History students went to see Dr Semmelweis at the Harold Pinter Theatre in September. It was an educational and awe-inspiring experience for us all. We were even lucky enough to be able to hear from Actor and Playwright, Mark Rylance, and some of the other incredible performers in a Q&A session after the show.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama

““

I absolutely loved watching Dr Semmelweis. It was super hilarious while keeping it somewhat serious at the same time! My standout part was when Dr Semmelweis figured out that the equipment being used and their hands weren't clean enough which was the causing of some deaths. It was a great way to explain some of the history of medicine and how it evolved, it was beautiful to watch.

Andrew M, Year 11

OVSC Directing Workshop & Pygmalion Trip

The first trip as part of Skinners' Academy's involvement with Old Vic School Club (OVSC) was to see Pygmalion. Pupils from Year 8-11 had a workshop on directing, where they played with actioning and interpretation of the script. They then went to the Old Vic Theatre to see the show. Pupils represented themselves and the Academy beautifully throughout the evening and we all had a great time!



““

I liked how we got to be a director. What I learnt was that it is kind of hard to let the performers know what to do specifically and you have to be more descriptive.

Nana D, Year 8

““

I liked meeting new people and learning about how much power each person in a theatre production has.

Arthur J, Year 8



“ ”

Seeing Scrooge changing over time and realising how people actually cared about him.

Farida U, Year 9

“ ”

I enjoyed the show. The lighting design conveyed emotion and feeling of each scene really well. I noticed the lack of blackouts and thought how the director chose instead to change between scenes was very smart.

Laura S, Year 11

Merry & Bright

Thanks to our partnership with Old Vic Schools Club, a small group of pupils were invited to see A Christmas Carol with actor Christopher Eccleston playing Scrooge. Amazing show set at the Old Vic Theatre with incredible design realisations for costume, set, sound and lighting. In the days following the performance, pupils took part in a lighting design workshop where they were introduced to the importance of lighting for stage performances to draw audiences into a different world.



Hackney Shed Slam

This term we welcomed the return of the Hackney Shed Slam. In preparation for the event seven Year 9 & 10 pupils participated in a dedicated workshop. Two finalists from this group were selected to take part in the finals. Yara U and Angelina P, both Year 9, represented themselves and Drama at Skinners' brilliantly with their comic monologue performances that were showcased alongside performances from actors at other schools. We were excited to also take along our talented musicians. Two KS3 bands from Skinners' were the music entertainment for the whole event. A proud day for Skinners' Academy Performing Arts.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama

“ ”

It loved being a Hackney Shed finalist, the event was fun. I was clam at first but the nerves kicked in as soon as the judges came in. Meeting pupils from other schools was really good, I made lots of new friends.

Yara U, Year 9

“ ”

I played bass and sang at the Hackney Shed Slam. It was scary to perform in front of an audience but I'm glad for the experience.

Meghan A, Year 9

Music



Restore the Music Donation

During the summer term of last year, Skinners' Academy hosted the annual Battle of the Bands event, run by Restore the Music, a charity based in London. Our pupils had a wonderful time (as in previous years) participating in this event and it was wonderful to see young people from a variety of different schools in London come together to share their love of Music.

Also during summer term, the Music Department was awarded a grant to be used towards new equipment and instruments for our young people to use. This generous donation bought the department a class set of Midi Controllers for our GCSE Cohort to use on their compositions, as well as an electric drum set, double bass and silent practice kit to make practice rooms both more accessible and able to cater to a wider range of musicians within the Academy.

In addition to this, last year a small group of our piano players went to visit the Steinway & Sons shop in Westminster and tried out some of their acoustic grand pianos. Pupils spoke very highly of this experience and massively appreciated the chance to play on an acoustic piano from a manufacturer which, for well over a hundred years, has had a reputation for being the finest.

Over the years, Restore the Music have given our young people a range of memorable experiences and memories which they will cherish forever, this short article is to further recognize and celebrate their generosity. To be able to provide these experiences for our massively oversubscribed instrumental programme, and for our ever-growing GCSE cohort, would not have been possible without the continued support of charities such as Restore the Music. You can read more about Restore the Music and all the wonderful work they do for schools across London [HERE](#).

Mr McCabe, Head of Music

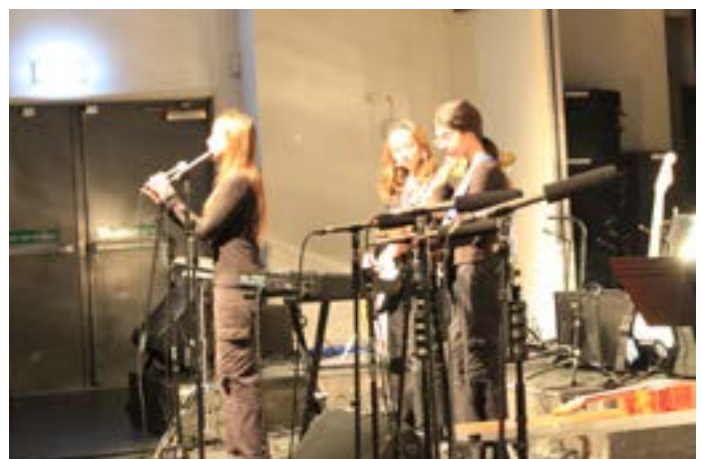


Winter Concert

On 19 December 2023, pupils from across the Academy came together to produce a Winter Concert showcasing all the wonderful work they had been creating both in their instrumental lessons and in the ensembles that take place after school. The concert, as in previous years, proved a fantastic opportunity for our young people to show off everything they have learned and provide a wonderful end to their Winter term instrumental tuition. It was delightful to see so many new faces joining the concert this year, both from our new Year 7 cohort, and from pupils who have been with us a number of years and have decided to contribute to the wider life of the Academy through music.

As well as our talented performers, the Music Department would like to extend a special thanks to the parents who attended this event. Your support of your child's musical experience at Skinners' Academy is appreciated more than words can express, both by your child and by the staff who have the pleasure of nurturing their talents. Additionally, we extend thanks to the pupils who came to support their peers at this fantastic event, which did not go unnoticed. To have our Academy community come together at the end of the Winter term to share the love of music was an absolute delight and we look forward to the Spring Concert in March.

If your child is interested in taking up instrumental lessons at Skinners' Academy, or partaking in one of the termly concerts, please contact the Music Department on music@skinnersacademy.org.uk or send an EduLink message to your child's Music Teacher.



SPRING CONCERT
March 2024
Acts TBC

Pupils interested in performing in the concert should approach their Music Teacher or Instrumental Tutor

Design & Technology



Design and Making Principles

Year 10 have been designing and preparing to make their LED desk lamps. Pupils have studied and practiced the correct use of hand and machine tools to ensure accuracy in order to create viable wood joints that that will be used to make the lamp enclosure.



Year 10 Textiles

This term Year 10 textiles pupils have been exploring a range of new textiles techniques as an introduction to the GCSE course. So far they have done hand embroidery in the style of Debbie Smyth, hijacking magazine covers in the style of Inge Jacobsen, making their own fabric from a watercolour in the style of Harriet Popham, and they are currently working on their screen printing pieces in the style of Andy Warhol or Banksy.

Above are some examples by Omer G and Natalia M.

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

This term the Design & Technology department ran a KS3 competition where pupils were asked to design and make a tree decoration using one or more of the following materials: Textiles, Food, Wood, Metal, Electronics or Plastic. We had so many fantastic entries, from chocolate cookies made into Christmas pudding decorations to LED light resin decorations. They all look great on our laser cut wooden tree.

Well done to every entrant who will receive a certificate of participation, five positives and a mini chocolate which they can collect from the D&T department.

A big well done to our winners of the competition who get a special prize.

First Place – Sarah H, Year 7 with the Knitted Christmas Jumper

Second Place – Leo GV, Year 7 with the Santa in a Chimney

Third Place – Monia H, Year 8 with the Felted Tree



Springboard Future Chef Competition

In October the Design & Technology department ran a Future Chef school heat competition open to Years 9-11. Ten pupils were selected to take part, they had to make and present a main meal in 60 minutes and with a budget of £5.

All ten pupils (Omer, Tala, Maya, Promesse, Sabrina, Brandon, Alaana, Sara, Nia and Abubaker) did an excellent job. The presentation of the dishes was so professional, and they tasted good enough to be served in a restaurant. Each pupil who participated received a certificate from Springboard and ten positives.

Unfortunately, there could only be two winners Alaana N, Year 9 and Maya P, Year 10. Both pupils went on to represent Skinners' at the Local heat of the competition which took place in November.

At the Local heat, which took place at Waltham Forest College's catering department, Alaana N and Maya P competed against pupils from five other schools. All Contestants were judged on their Creativity, Presentation, Workmanship Skills and Techniques, Composition, Taste and Flavour.

Alaana decided to make Kizhi Parotta, an Indian dish consisting of Chicken, Vegetables, Spices and Paratha wrapped and steamed in Banana leaves, and Maya decided to make Pad Thai, a traditional Thai dish with noodles, stir fried with a sweet-savoury-sour sauce.

Similar to their first heat in school, both pupils had to stick to a budget of £5 and cook their dish in 60 minutes. No teachers were allowed to be present in the room as pupils had to work fully independently. They were judged by professional chefs from companies such as Hilton Hotels, Nestle, Marriot and Foodittude.

Well done to Alaana who won the local heat and goes on to represent Skinners' Academy at the Regional Finals. Alaana will be coached by a professional chef as part of her prize. We wish her the best of luck in the next round.

Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology



“”

I have really enjoyed taking part in the Future Chef Competition. I made a traditional Indian dish with fresh ingredients and Spices. I am proud of how far I have come in this competition, and excited for the next round.

Alaana N, Year 9

Food Advocates

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are looking for five pupils from all over the world aged 10 to 17 who are enthusiastic about nutritious school food, and everything related. School food advocates will help FAO and WFP better understand what schoolchildren expect and think about their school meals, mealtime experiences and foods available in schools. They will share this knowledge with their partners to make sure they can build school food programmes that respond to young peoples' needs. This will also support the important work of the School Meals Coalition.

The advocates will call, in their own words, for children's rights to nutritious and more sustainable school meals, have their voice be heard during global events, record videos to share their experiences, and more. Pupils' voices and efforts will help echo the importance of school meals to young people and governments around the world.

If you would like to apply please [CLICK HERE](#).

The deadline for applications is 31 January, 2024.

Art & Design

Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all pupils who entered this year's Christmas Card Design Competition, there were some amazing entries from all year groups. The winning design this year was created by Ibrahim Q, Year 8 (design below, post box snowglobe, final card on the front cover.). The runners up were Nofisat A, Year 8; Kelly D, Year 7; Michelle B, Year 8; and John C, Year 9. Well done!

If you have not received your prize yet, please see Ms Memish.



Diwali Competition

In November, we held a Diwali Design Competition and had such amazing entries. Thank you to all pupils that entered. First place was awarded to Soni L, Year 7; joint Second was awarded to Bintou S and Naheed S, both Year 7; and Third place was awarded to Hasime G, Year 7.

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



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Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Disneyland Paris

Skinners' pupils visited Disneyland Paris in December and also had the opportunity to venture into France's capital city. Read on to find out what our young travellers thought about the visit as they can better convey what they really experienced

Ms Delos, Teacher of MFL



“

Paris was really fun and I thought the variety of stuff to do was exciting. Disneyland was my favourite part, we spent a long time there and got our own food and watched the fireworks, and we felt well supervised as we were in groups of four and able to easily contact any of our teachers. This was the best school trip I've been on.

Macey S, Year 8



“

I really enjoyed the trip, my favourite bit was Disneyland, we were given a lot of time to wander, explore and to go on rides, and had a great time with friends. I liked sightseeing around the city, especially the boat ride.

It was a non-restrictive trip, meaning we could explore what we wanted. The teachers were very nice, caring and helpful, they were very organised and responsible for the whole trip and did their part in making sure we had fun but also protected and kept us safe.

Safiyah H, Year 8

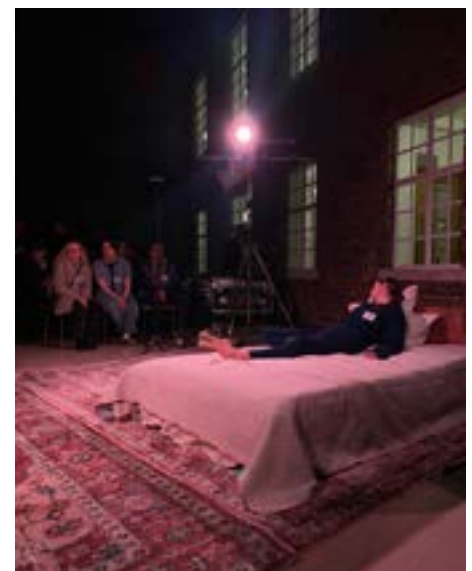
“

Paris was amazing! The staff were great even if I got told to stand by the wall loads of time. All of the sights were fabulous in their own way (especially Disneyland) it was soooooo fun! The food was brilliant. I literally dream of that one pain au chocolat we had! Overall just brilliant, I wish could go more trips like this.

Jimmy L, Year 8



English



1984 Theatre Trip

On 5 December English Literature & English Language students from Years 12 & 13 witnessed a dramatic theatre adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian novel '1984' at Hackney Town Hall. The immersive and interactive production guided audience members through their induction training as new recruits of an authoritarian government, taking them on a journey through different parts of the Town Hall building, which had been reimagined as The Party's sinister 'Ministry of Truth'.

Mr Hughes, Teacher of English

Geography

Geography Fieldwork

On 17 November, Year 11 GCSE Geography pupils travelled down to the Thames River at Chiswick to carry out fieldwork on the foreshore. They were working to complete a unit of work on rivers and were testing out the hypothesis that 'bedload size decreases and pebble roundness increases as the river moves further downstream'.

Pupils successfully carried out their fieldwork, although one group did get a practical demonstration of how fast the tide comes in when it travels 80mph upstream all the way from Southend! Some did get wet feet – apart from one lucky pupil who was able to remain dry thanks to the chivalrous actions of Mr Alexis!

Mr Swinhoe, Acting Head of Geography



SEND

Happy Space

In our commitment to providing an inclusive and nurturing environment for every pupil, we take pride in our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) department. This crucial facet of our educational community serves as a caring space that caters specifically to the needs of our most vulnerable pupils.

At the heart of our SEND department is a dedicated team of educators, SALT specialists, and support staff who work collaboratively to ensure that each child receives the personalised attention and care they deserve. Our mission is to raise standards and create an atmosphere where every pupil, regardless of their abilities or challenges, feels valued, supported, and motivated to thrive academically and personally.

The physical environment of the SEND department is intentionally designed to be a happy space. Bright colours, engaging learning materials, and comfortable seating contribute to a positive and uplifting atmosphere. We believe that a cheerful environment fosters a sense of well-being, encouraging pupils to approach learning with enthusiasm and confidence.

Moreover, our staff undergo continuous training to stay informed about the latest teaching methodologies and support strategies for pupils with diverse needs. This ensures that our pupils receive the best possible care and education tailored to their individual requirements.

We encourage open communication between parents, teachers, and pupils to create a collaborative partnership in the development of each child. Regular meetings and progress updates provide a platform for discussing goals, addressing concerns, and celebrating achievements.

Mr Williams, Teacher of SEND

Physical Education (PE)

Inner London Cup

Skinners' Academy Year 11 Football team had a great victory in the second round of the Inner London Cup in an exciting and nail-biting game against Haverstock School. Skinners' started brightly, playing the ball around nicely and creating some good chances, however some defensive errors and good counter attacks led to Haverstock scoring some well taken goals. The score was 4-2 to Haverstock at half time, but Skinners' knew they had it in them to turn the result around, but would need to play well. However, early in the second half Haverstock scored another break away goal. Suddenly Skinners' realised they needed to be more direct, and inspired by an incredible performance by Kymani SD they started to raise the intensity and get back into the game, with a follow up goal from Alex A. More Skinners' pressure forced a handball on the line, penalty and red card for a Haverstock defender. Nathan B scored the penalty to bring Skinners' back into the game with 4 goals to Haverstock's 5. The equaliser came from Kymani SD who soon followed it with the spectacular winner, a dipping shot from the edge of the box, led to great scenes for the Skinners' players! In the dying seconds Jacob S made an outstanding save to keep Haverstock out, resulting in a famous comeback victory for Skinners', winning 6-5!

Goals - Kymani SD (3), Nathan B (2), Alex A (1).

Mr Legge, Teacher of PE/HOY7



LRC

Behind Many Good Films there's Often a Great Book!

The School Library Association has produced a document [HERE](#) outlining many of the films that are on TV or streaming over the festive period that are based on books.

Ms Lutterodt, Academy Librarian

08 JAN	Staff PLD Day No pupils onsite	09 JAN	Term Starts For All Year Groups
10 JAN	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm (10am start for all on 11 Jan)	15 JAN to 26 JAN	Year 11 & 13 Mock Exams
15 JAN to 19 JAN	Year 7, 8 & 9 Block Tests	17 JAN	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm (10am start for all on 18 Jan)
22 JAN to 26 JAN	Year 10 & 12 Block Tests	23 JAN	Information Evening 5.00pm - 6.00pm
06 FEB	Year 8 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm (10am start for all on 07 Feb)	12 FEB to 16 FEB	Half-Term
26 FEB to 01 MAR	Year 10 & 12 Block Tests	04 MAR to 08 MAR	Year 7, 8, 9, 11 & 13 Block Tests
06 MAR	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm (10am start for all on 07 Mar)	11 MAR	Year 13 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm (10am start for all on 12 Mar)
18 MAR to 22 MAR	Year 11 & 13 Block Tests	28 MAR	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 & X (previously known as 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