

March 2013

Spring Term  
Issue 07

# academy newsletter



While we are very proud of our school, we are also firmly committed to consistently striving towards further improvement which is why Skinner's Academy commissioned Kirkland Rowell to carry out a parental survey. We wanted to know what you, as parents, feel we are doing right and where you feel there is room for development. In January at the Academic Mentoring Day, many of you took the time to fill in the survey we commissioned. Thank you. We have shared some of the results on the next page and will continue to keep you up to date with developments.

Although the end of March is feeling more like winter than spring, the end of this term has arrived nonetheless, and there have been some notable highlights.

We have started to work with enterprise initiative Mosaic Network, not only as part of the Enterprise Challenge that some of our Business and Economics students participated in, but as part of that partnership, we were honoured to host Holby City's Hari Dhillon who did a careers talk for some of our Year 9 students.

This term we have also launched a new website, participated in the BBC School News Report, performed musical gigs for varying audiences, hosted two careers seminars for students, continued our work with Freedom Charity and much more.

Enjoy finding out more here.  
Have a lovely Spring break.

Jenny Wilkins,  
Principal



*Jenny Wilkins*

# Our commitment to you...



Skinners'  
academy

Friendship

Respect

Determination

Inspiration

Courage

Equality

Excellence

## Annual Academic Mentoring Day

On Thursday 10 January 2013 the normal academy timetable was suspended to allow Academic Mentoring Day to take place.

On Academic Mentoring Day all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and Sixth Form were invited to attend a 15 minute appointment with their advisor. Highlighting Skinners' Academy's commitment to working in partnership with parents and carers, parents / carers were encouraged to accompany their child to their appointment to participate in the review of progress, attainment and appropriate targets.

Teachers and parents also discussed strategies to be implemented in order to help and support your child to reach their full potential. As part of the meeting, students reviewed and shared pieces of work of which they were most proud.

In addition to the meetings with advisors, parents and students were also encouraged to fill in a satisfaction questionnaire (results above) and visit the independent and in-school careers guidance professionals to discuss how we can support the ambitions of your children.

## Your Survey Responses

Please see below for some of the responses to the survey carried out on 10th January 2013 as part of 'Academic Mentoring Day', with parents of Years 7, 8, 9 and the 6th form (i.e. from all year groups) taking part:

In summary:

- ♦ Parents gave Skinners' Academy a very good overall performance score (76%)
- ♦ Of parents whose children were not in their first year at the school 39% said the school had improved over the last year
- ♦ Of the parents of new pupils, 22% said the school was better than they had expected it to be
- ♦ With regard to Academic subjects, parents are most happy with the delivery of Business Studies, Music and Health and Social Care
- ♦ With regard to Non-Academic areas, parents are most happy with the delivery of school facilities, careers advice and school security.

We are happy to be able to celebrate these successes but importantly, the results have also indicated where you feel there is room for improvement, areas that we will and are addressing and will continue to keep you posted about developments. Thank you for taking the time to feed back.

Ms Wilkins

# Introducing the new website

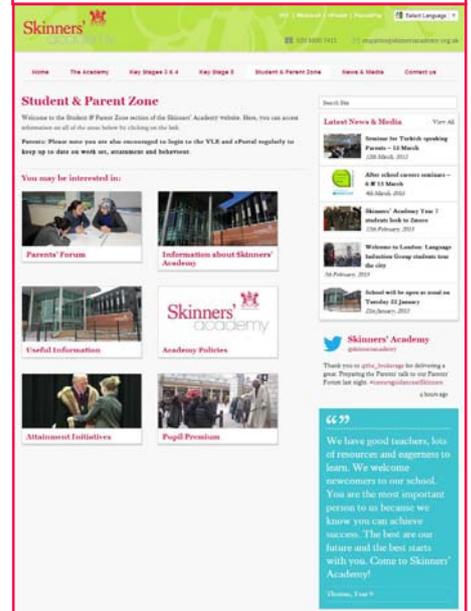
## Welcome to our new website

At the beginning of this term, we launched a new and improved Skidders' Academy website and hope you have had a chance to explore it.

In case you have not yet had a look, we've included a few screengrabs here with some of the highlights. You can continue to access the VLE, ePortal etc. but overall, this is a much more interactive site (even including our most recent tweet from the @skiddersacademy Twitter account)

This site is more reflective of how Skidders' Academy is developing and we encourage you to visit regularly for the latest news, videos and more from around the Academy.

In addition, there is a link to Ofsted's Parent View survey and a page where you can access some of the most recent letters to parents. We hope you find it useful.



**Access the VLE by clicking here**

**Click here for information about Key Stage 3&4**

**Click here for the latest News from Skidders' Academy (including videos and newsletters)**

**Follow Skidders' Academy on Twitter: @skiddersacademy**



Prince's Trust

## Year 7 Students Look to 2moro

On Monday 4th February, Skinners' Academy Year 7 students participated in The 2moro? Project – an initiative delivered by Immediate Theatre and the Prince's Trust.

The programme uses drama and sport to inspire young people, promoting the theme "Making Hackney Safer". Our Year 7s experienced their workshops and "Beyond the school gates" play which featured themes relating to anti-bullying and making positive choices.

Created and performed by Immediate Theatre's group of peer facilitators, the play explored issues around friendship, bullying and how young people can build their own resilience. Having watched it through once, Skinners' students were given the opportunity to watch it again, this time stopping the play and directly influencing what the outcome would be if a character did something differently. The students were thoroughly engaged and suitably challenged when it came to the highlighted issues.

The 12 peer facilitators who all ran the session have all had contact with the Criminal Justice System but through the training and employment on this programme, they are successfully turning their lives around and proving to be a real inspiration to the young people they meet.

Peer facilitator Jace, 21, said "this programme is designed to help young people learn how to diffuse the situation of peer pressure. I've been young, I know how it works and I know that young people respond better hearing from people who are closer to their age group." He went on to explain that "It's interesting working with young people and being a role model to them. Through drama which makes them come out of their comfort zone, we help them set goals and they learn about drama and life skills". He described the Skinners' students as "very enthusiastic", saying "some had questions and many had their own ideas about how to diffuse the situations shown in the play."

Jenny Wilkins, Principal of Skinners' Academy recognises the value of initiatives like this, saying "As teachers, we cannot communicate these messages as powerfully as these young people do. They bring a completely different angle to making students aware of peer pressure and the implications of not being able to stand up for yourself. We are pleased to be the Hackney Secondary school involved in this event which profiled the successes of the 2moro? project and fully support this initiative which not only provides a unique educational experience for our students, but also training young people (the peer facilitators) who themselves, didn't necessarily have the best time in education."

“

'Beyond the school gates' was a fun, interactive workshop with some amazing actors! It highlighted some of the key issues outside of school, the main one being peer pressure. It showed this by having one girl first talk her mate into letting her wear her birthday present, the new Arsenal kit. She then tried to tell her dad that her friend told her that she could have it, which she didn't. It then showed a range of scenarios all highlighting how even the silliest thing, like being told that it's 'cool', or saying that you'd 'done it', can make someone possibly get into trouble with other people, or their friends.

Zack Dowding, Year 7

## Freedom Charity teams up with Skinners' Academy

This term Skinners' Academy students have been working with Aneeta Prem Founder of Freedom Charity and the author of the book 'But it's Not Fair'.

Freedom Charity aims to empower young people to feel they have the tools and confidence to support each other and have practical ways in which they can help their best friend around the issues of family relationships which can lead to early and forced marriage and dishonour based violence.

Our students have been selected to become ambassadors for the charity in raising awareness of forced marriages. They have participated in a range of events with Freedom Charity including; appearing on Al Jazeera TV, BBC News Online, BBC Asian Network (radio) and attended the new Freedom Charity phone application launch held at the prestigious Lancaster House.

The Freedom Charity phone app highlights the signs of forced marriage and has a help button linking directly to the helpline. In an emergency, the smartphone GPS facility can be used to track the caller and alert the police in that area. This is a unique service that Freedom Charity believes will save lives. The free app has been part-funded by the government's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and is free to download.





# Business & Enterprise

## Mosaic Enterprise Challenge

20 business GCSE students were selected to participate in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge during the spring term, organised by Apax-Mosaic and supported by the Princes Trust.

Founded by HRH The Prince of Wales, Mosaic's mentoring programme creates enterprising opportunities for young people. The programme is delivered by volunteers and aims to lift the aspirations of young people and close the gap between aspirations and their attainment. By linking young people with inspirational role models in this way, the programme boosts young people's confidence; self-efficacy, i.e. the measure of one's own ability to complete tasks and reach goals; and long-term employability.

The Enterprise Challenge is an inter-school competition which encourages a spirit of entrepreneurship amongst young people. In addition to encouraging an understanding of business and enterprise, participants also develop a number of other transferable skills, such as:

- ♦ Confidence
- ♦ Self-efficacy
- ♦ Team work
- ♦ Meeting deadlines
- ♦ Explaining concepts in concise and precise ways
- ♦ Encourage lateral and creative thinking
- ♦ Promote flexibility and adaptability.



The business mentors Uzair Bawany and Brooke Greville (from Fairway Search Partners, an executive search firm specialising in financial services) motivated the students throughout the programme, especially stimulating them through the business online game. Both mentors were key role models that were respected by all participants who were inspired by their success.

## My experience of speaking at the House of Lords

On Monday 11th March, I went to the House of Lords to give a speech about the benefits of taking part in the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge, as part of the annual Commonwealth Day celebrations. We went in the morning and gradually we filled up the room and waited for the delegates to begin their speeches. Then we had important people like Vince Cable giving speeches on the important aspects of business. Then the mood shifted to our 'space of businesses' and it was our time to give our speech. Saira, who was representing Mosaic that day, talked about enriching education especially for business. She sweetly set the atmosphere for my speech.

When I got to the stand, I was VERY nervous. I thought I was going to get it wrong, but as soon as I got the first couple of sentences down, I felt massively confident because I pictured other confident speakers. The words then just started to flow out and I didn't really need the sheet. I explained about my experiences with the game. The audience seemed very into what I was saying and at the end I got a long round of applause and a standing ovation. After, I had a lot of conversations with the delegates and they seemed very interested in having me speak again. I didn't really need to find anybody as they came to me. The food was really posh and great and the building was amazing inside, seeing different rooms and stained windows. Overall the trip was amazing and I thank everyone who made this possible.

Yomade Aileru, Year 9



## Year 9 City Careers Open House

On 7th February, some Year 9 GCSE business students participated in the City Careers Open House (CCOH) programme organised by The Brokerage Citylink and the City of London Corporation. The Brokerage Citylink is an independent not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with City employers to create a pathway to the City for young residents of London's inner-city boroughs.

The City of London Corporation's City Careers Open House programme is designed to give our students an introduction and unique insight into the workings of the City, raising their aspirations and stimulating interest in some of the many City careers available. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to get a head start on understanding the world of work and the huge variety of opportunities available.

The students visited UBS Investment Bank situated in the City of London, a global firm providing financial services to private, corporate and institutional clients. Our students were given an insight into the jobs available within the City and how they can achieve and succeed in obtaining these jobs in the future. They were also given an opportunity to meet employees at UBS and interview them in how they developed their skills in the world of work. The students were then split into groups where they had to present a presentation on recruitment and selection at UBS.

Ms Kurtuldu



## Represent London 2020

Year 12 BTEC students have been participating in an enterprise programme 'Represent London 2020'. Represent London is an employability project that gives young people the opportunity to gain a wide range of employability skills.

The project aims to give 200 young people, a series of high quality training modules offered by participating London Legacy companies such as Citigroup, BBC and Allen & Overy. Our students have engaged in a range of modules that will help them to become ambassadors for East London and feel increasingly confident in their own abilities. The modules deliver a wide range of employability skills, enhancing self-belief and confidence levels.

The students have attended the following modules:

- 'CV and interview skills' module at Soci t  Generale
- 'Leadership Fundamentals' module at Accenture
- 'Thinking Beyond the Games' module at The London Legacy Development Corporation
- The 'Negotiation Skills' module at CMS Cameron McKenna

The final module will take place on Monday 22nd April at the FSA (Financial Services Authority) and will be based on 'Goals and Aspirations'. Well done to the students that have participated in such an inspirational programme that will enhance their skills required for the world of work.

Ms Kurtuldu

“

**I thought the UBS trip was great and helped us to understand and gain some skills required to secure a job in the City. We also learnt about recruitment and we had to design an advert for a secretary. We listed the skills, qualifications, and the benefits of applying for the job. Volunteers from UBS helped us, we then had to present it to the whole group and were judged on content and presentation skills. My team won the challenge which was exciting.**

Mehmet Kivrakoglu, Year 9



# Expressive Arts & Enterprise

## Meeting Holby City's Hari Dhillon

As part of the London Enterprise Challenge a group of students from Drama GCSE, the Show Business Enterprise group and the Enterprise Mentees were invited to speak to actor Hari Dhillon, who plays Dr Michael Spence from Holby City. This visit was made possible due to our links with the Mosaic Network, founded by HRH The Prince of Wales.

This was the students chance to find out what it is like to become and be an actor. Hari advised them that the routes into acting are now more open to anyone with a bit technological know-how and the determination to keep working. The traditional route of going to Drama School (expensive and still no guarantee of work especially for actors, stage managers and musical theatre students tend to have better employment rates) is becoming old in the light of Youtube and social media sites where you can write, film and post your creative ideas online.

He talked about being unemployed and how resilient you have to be. As Sade Carter Cox noted he must have found it hard going to auditions again and again and getting knocked back. He even left his home in the States to come to the UK for work. This was an interesting note. He said that the borders in acting are reducing in terms of where you work and the character you play. He plays a character called Michael Spence and the team at Holby City said that they would not change his character's name- even when Hari asked if the audience would understand having a character with that name played by an American Indian... with acting he said the barriers are coming down.

The students wanted to know about some of the technical points of acting e.g. learning lines and what it was like kissing someone who is not your girlfriend! (visit the Skinners' Academy website to see how he responded to this question)

Acting itself is not hard, according to Hari, but life can be - and you have to be prepared for change and be able to look for work and create the work. As young entrepreneurs the students have seen how keeping your minds open, taking risks, and working hard can pay off. As Mark Twain said "They didn't know it was impossible, so they did it."

Ms Patterson



**To find out more about Hari's response to some of the students' questions and for more of his inspirational advice, visit the Skinners' Academy website**



# Expressive Arts

## Metamorphosis Review

I went to see the play Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka on Saturday 9th February 2013 at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith. I felt the performance was fantastic because it made me think about families. I think the issues that they showed really well were how a mum and dad and sister got really stressed about one member of the family. It shows how one member of the family can be excluded and neglected if they don't do what they are expected to do.

Here's a summary of the story: Gregor Samsa lives with his parents and his sister Greta. He doesn't get up early to catch the 8 o'clock train because he doesn't like his work. This morning when he wakes up he finds himself turned into a giant bug. His parents knock on the door and wonder why he is so late. The rest of the play is all about how horrified his family is at what has happened to him. Throughout the play everything gets more and more chaotic until the end when Gregor dies having become weaker and weaker and the rest of the family goes peacefully to a garden with loads of colourful flowers and closes with Greta Samsa swinging on a swing. The play started in winter and ended in spring.

I felt the performance was great because of the set. The set was amazing, it was the house that the family lived in. There was an upstairs and a down stairs that the actors used to access Gregor's room. It was realistic because they had real drinks. Sometimes the set made the bed disappear. The most interesting thing was his bedroom was positioned so that it was actually on a wall and was an optical illusion that the audience was looking down on it. The set had holes in it so Gregor could hold on. Also the actors were great and stayed in character from beginning to end including Gregor who was very acrobatic and climbed all over the set and hung upside down from the ceiling.

All the actors expressed their feelings and made the audience feel like they were in their position. The actor playing Gregor made me believe in the transformation because at the beginning there was a shadow under the duvet that looked like an insect and then when Gregor came out his body moved like an insect. His voice became weaker throughout the play. The Samsa family also transformed during the play. There were simple symbols of the way that the family abandoned Gregor e.g. the actors showed that they didn't like to talk to Gregor with use of gestures such as putting their hands over their ears, they use space to show that the characters increasingly disliked Gregor by moving further away from him.

My favourite bits were towards the end when there was the part where they went out to the gardens, because it made me feel peaceful. I thought it would be scary when the actor was on the swing because it was about 10 meters high. Greta was on the swing at the end when spring began. I also enjoyed the part when Gregor fell through the ceiling, it broke suddenly and it gave me a shock. The death scene was sad, he dropped down tied up in a cloth and hung. It made me feel emotional. I particularly liked the lighting, which made you feel the emotion of the characters, when it was dark they felt dark (upset) and when it was light they felt light (happy).

Overall this was a brilliant production, I recommend everyone to see it.

**Star rating \*\*\*\*\***

Stanley O'Rourke, Year 7





# English

## Speak Out Challenge

Year 9 students excelled themselves in the Speak Out Challenge. After a workshop with professional speaker Charles Emeka, students presented their own speeches on subjects that mattered most to them. Topics included positivity, bullying, eating disorders and peer pressure among others. All speeches were presented to a very high standard. Congratulations to Connacht and Laolu in Year 9 who were highly commended. Other outstanding speeches were seen from Tabassum and Jaden.

Ms Marsh



## First Story

First Story is a charity that supports and inspires creativity, literacy and talent in UK schools. For the first time in a Hackney school, First Story has been running weekly workshops for Year 9 students led by the acclaimed writer Courttia Newland. These workshops ran until the end of spring term and students will soon be editing their work to produce an anthology. This anthology will be professionally produced in the summer term and we will host a book launch at which students will read their stories aloud to friends, families and teachers.

Students have already taken part in a number of competitions and events this term. This includes the First Story National Gallery event on 19 March (pictures and further information to follow in the next newsletter and the Arvon Foundation writing residential (see page 12). Students have also entered a 100 word short story competition and here are some of our entries, including a winning entry from Connacht Sheffield.

Ms Merton

## The unknown witness – Rebecca

Watching. I watched the whole thing. Sitting on the 'S' of Sainsbury's, I saw them. Chatting like you would, just a normal day. I saw the van. It was white. They stepped out, didn't look, too busy. The van just drove, the driver only a young man. His first day on the job he says. The screams bring me back to life. The girls only fifteen, too young for this. They never saw it coming. Sirens. Mothers. Friends. I saw it. I watched the whole thing. But they will never know.

## Untitled – Sabiha

I can't hold on for much longer; from head to toe, paralysed by fear. I slowly look down, to see how far down it is to my doom. I can't see the ground. It seems to go on forever. Feeling the force of gravity, too stubborn to give up. I really wish I had gone to the gym. I can't do this. Pleads for me to pull myself up is no longer heard by my ears. Their voices sound distorted and suddenly I hear a scream; a loud high-pitched scream. And before the pain hits me, darkness hits me first.

## The Hunt – Connacht

Twitch of whiskers. Eyes grow larger, searching for any sign of movement. The coast seems clear, but it's best to double check, one foot forward, timid, fragile and small. Head flicks in every direction, eyes sweeping the hallway in front of me. Nothing. Good. Another foot forward, a little hop as well this time. Waiting for a sound, any sound at all. Then the exhilaration of the run, the scamper and the dance to the hole. Another night completed, another night of survival. Another night which I'd escaped with the cheese and another night without being killed by the cat.

## BBC School News Report 2013

On Thursday 21st March, Year 8 students took part in another busy and exciting News Day for BBC School Report. After some preparation in lessons with video tutorials from Huw Edwards and top tips from the BBC team, students were ready for News day 2013. As always, the day started with newspapers and an editorial meeting where students decided what news they wanted to report on and split themselves up into world, national and local news teams.

Then the fun really started. Students researched their topics, wrote the scripts and rehearsed for broadcast. Students could be found all over the school with their press passes displayed, cameras in hand and cue cards at the ready. Particular highlights included an interview with Aneeta Prem of Freedom Charity and the weather team battling to keep their map up in a howling gale.

With the four o'clock deadline looming students rushed to film and edit their work before it was all pieced together to form the Skinners' Academy News Report. But with time to spare, students proudly watched the final edit and you can see their bulletin in the News and Media section of the Academy's website.

Ms Merton



““

I was intrigued to hear about telling the news, what it was really like behind the scenes and I found it really cool to take part in such an excellent experience. I learnt that news reporting is a very good career to take up!

Lisa Hoang, Year 8

““

I learnt how to research information and put it into a simple, informative script. I enjoyed having the freedom to choose the story, write the script, interview, report, anchor and record ourselves.

Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo , Year 8

““

I really enjoyed being the runner for the day because it meant that I got to work with all of the groups.

I can't wait until News Day 2014

Liam Martin, Year 8

““

I learnt it is not easy to decide on a news agenda since not everybody agrees with what another person thinks. I found it fun and enjoyed creating, finding and interacting with other people to create the news.

Morgan Charles , Year 8

““

I thought that the day was amazing! I certainly didn't know that journalists have to work this hard! There were minor mistakes in the bulletin, but it still was very good.

Ozan Serce, Year 8

Visit [www.skinnersacademy.org.uk](http://www.skinnersacademy.org.uk) to see the video

## Arvon Writing Workshop

In association with First Story, The Arvon Foundation offered five Skinners' Academy students the opportunity to attend a residential course at The Hurst in Shropshire at no cost to our students as the trip was funded by the Clore Literature Fund.

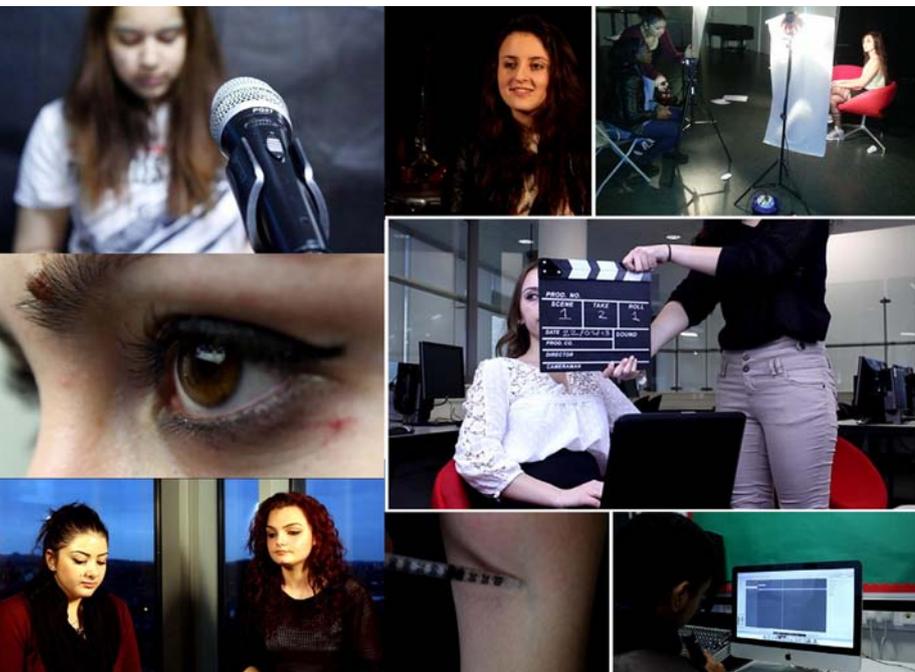
Jamike Dike, Sabah Hussein, Leon Mabilia, Elle Scott and Irem Yesildag spent the week focusing on writing, reading and listening to one another's work and receiving writing guidance from the course tutors - Salena Godden (a British poet, performer and writer whose stories and poetry have appeared in Dazed & Confused, Salzburg Review, Le Gun, Penguin's IC3 and more), and Nick Makoha (a poet and playwright). As is clear from the pictures, the students even had opportunities to go on supervised walks in the surrounding countryside.

We were delighted that Skinners' Academy students were invited by First Story to attend this special course and our students represented First Story's London schools. They were joined by representatives from schools in Nottingham and Oxford.

Ms Merton



## Media Studies



“

I thoroughly enjoyed the programme. It was fun, and the morning classes encouraged us to get out of our comfort zone, to write without the usual delicacies, explore then hidden talent we all held. I like how we met people from different parts of the country, people with different writing styles. I learnt a lot, as well as how to expand my vocabulary. The setting is also soothing, helping us wind down and focus on our writing. I would recommend the programme to many other students, as this was an opportunity I was glad not to miss.

Sabah Hussein, Year 9

## AS Media Studies Production Projects

AS Media Studies students came in during the half-term to complete the production part of their coursework.

They spent two full and hectic days using high quality equipment, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they gained a lot from the workshop.

Mr Ayeni

# Learning Resource Centre (LRC)



Third place



First place



Second place

## World Book Day

There was plenty of activity to celebrate World Book Day at the Academy this year; from teachers dressing up as their favourite book characters, to a staff photography competition 'Get Caught Reading' where staff were asked to photograph themselves reading in an unusual place. Year 7 students received a free book, whilst other students were given a voucher to redeem at bookstores. Students were asked to vote for their favourite book and entered a bookmark design competition as well as participating in a book quiz.

Year 9 students celebrated the event by participating in several outings. Students involved with the First Story initiative visited the National Gallery to participate in a workshop, whilst another group visited the British Library to see the Crime Fiction exhibition and learnt how to create their own crime writing.

Ms Phillips

## Accelerated Reader

The central literacy programme for Year 7 & 8 is Accelerated Reader. Parents can follow and encourage their child by going to the Accelerated Reader page under Curriculum on the VLE. Once there you can click on Student Reading Record (the login details are on the page) and see how many books your child has read and done quizzes for, what their current points are and how far along they are to achieving their reading goal for the year.

Want to be kept up to date on whether your child is engaging with the programme? You can click on **Email Setup** on the top right hand corner of the page to set up an email alert every time your child completes a quiz.

Ms Phillips



“”

**I enjoyed learning to write my own crime novel, hopefully in bookstores soon**

Wassim Choudhury, Year 9

# Humanities

## Geography in action

All Year 7 Geography students have been on a trip to the local shops (come rain or shine) to practice mapping skills, graphing skills and drawing conclusions from field research. Students in Year 7 interviewed local shoppers, have worked hard to create accurate graphs of the results.

All Year 8 students have been involved in a micro teaching project for 6 weeks, where they had to teach their class about a specific volcano topic, write a quiz and run an activity. Students have been very imaginative, using shields, ice cream cones, tomato ketchup and play-doh to make the activities really fun. The films will soon be accessible online.

Ms Syme



## Holocaust Memorial Commemoration Event

On 25 January, two of our sixth form students took part in the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration event in Hackney. Ana Dju and Yemi Aileru spoke to a room of officials, representatives of the Jewish community and members of the public, on the 2013 theme of 'Communities Together: Build a Bridge' at the event at Hackney Town Hall.

Mr Stoneham



# Notice Board

## Some dates for your diary

**w/c 29 April:** Yr. 7 exams

**1 May:** Parents' Forum meeting

**13 May:** Public (GCSE, AS Level, A-Level exams start)

**14 & 16 May:** Yr. 7 Parents' evenings\*

**21 May:** Yr. 8 KS4 Pathways Evening

**w/c 10 June:** Yr. 8 end of KS3 exams

**20 June:** End of public exams

**w/c 24 June:** Yr. 9 exams

**9 & 11 July:** Yr. 9 Parents' evenings\*

**mid-July TBC:** Parents' social event

\*You will be allocated a specific date

## LRC Opening Times

Monday-Wednesday 08.00 - 17.00

Thursday 08.00 - 16.00

Friday 08.00 - 15.00

## Keep up to date

Please note, in the event of any changes to dates listed, we will update the calendar / information on the website accordingly and will update you by text.

## Parental Involvement

Remember, you can contact parent governor Ronnie O'Connor on [ocoronroy@msn.com](mailto:ocoronroy@msn.com)

# ICT

## Animated Stories in Year 8 in ICT

Students have developed a good understanding and appreciation for the process of planning and designing an animated story. This has given them a good opportunity to reinforce their literacy skills and further develop their ability to write short stories. The range of stories written and the animations created has really showcased the level of creativity and imagination of our ICT pupils. Students in Year 8 have been given the opportunity to study a unit which helps them develop their storytelling skills and use ICT to turn their stories into animation following the processes of:

- Using planning tools to generate ideas for a story
- Planning the structure and sequence of the animated story using a storyboard
- Using text, images, and colours effectively
- Applying custom animation features to animate the story.



“

In ICT we made horror stories. I enjoyed this unit because I enjoy English as a subject and it was nice to create a short story by myself. The thing that I enjoyed the most was starting to create my story on the computer; my story was called 'All in one death dream'. I also thought it was a good unit to do because you use your imagination quite a lot

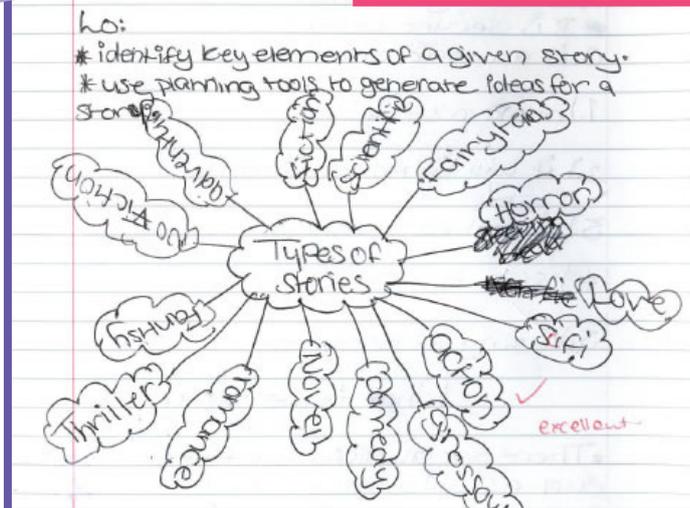
Saoirse Connolly-Muzyczka, Year 8



“

When I wrote my story it was interesting to write because I had to make it up myself. This links to World Book Day because I am writing a story with characters. My experience was fun, I got to create backgrounds that looked scary and also learned how to make different things with objects.”

Muhibur Rahman, Year 8





# Art



## Princes Drawing School

This term some of our Year 9 students have been taking part in the Prince's Drawing School workshops every Thursday after school. This has been an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their understanding of drawing and to work with experienced lecturers in a new environment. Here (to the left) are some of the student's drawings and we are excited to see them develop even further.

Mr Devlin



## THE PRINCE'S DRAWING SCHOOL

# “”

Working with a professional artist was lots of fun. We researched his work before he came to the school so we were able to ask lots of relevant questions in developing this research

Kamran Rzazada, Year 9

## Tom Hare Workshop

On Wednesday 13 March, the artist Tom Hare visited Skinners' Academy to run a sculpture workshop with our GCSE Art students. The work created is linked to the students' current curriculum project and the benefits of having a professional artist working with the students were very clear to see.

All the students created willow sculptures as individuals and as a team. Some of the work created will hopefully be placed outside for nature to carry on the work. Between now and next term the students will carry the work forward in creating a design for a 9ft sculpture to go outside the school building. Tom Hare will come back to the academy to help the students build this and we can't wait to see the final outcome.



## Fourth Plinth Competition 2013

This year our Year 7 students have been working really hard at lunch times in creating sculptures and designs to enter this year's competition.

Working in groups or as individuals the students have created ideas for a sculpture to go on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. Ideas have ranged from a WW1 plane crashing into the plinth to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of WW1, to a sculpture celebrating spiders.

Our entries can be seen on the fourth plinth website.

[www.london.gov.uk/fourthplinth/schoolsawards](http://www.london.gov.uk/fourthplinth/schoolsawards)



““

I've really enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to improve my drawing and to work with new people. My thoughts about drawing have been further challenged and I'm beginning to feel more confident about my work'

Esin Akdogan, Year 9

““

I really enjoyed the challenge of thinking about the space and the audience in designing my sculpture. WW1 is a subject I'm very interested in and I believe it's really important we remember those that died'

Stanley O'Rourke, Year 7

## Maths



On 31 January, two Year 9 students went back to visit their old primary school a few years after their move to Skinners' Academy. Laolu Salador and Ilayda Tuncel visited Sir Thomas Abney where they taught a Maths lesson to around 12 Year 6 students on mean, median, mode and range. This outreach is part of an ongoing partnership and we look forward to more opportunities for STA and Skinners' Academy to connect.

Ms Dews

““

The trip was great and seeing how enthusiastic the primary school students was interesting. The trip also helped us develop our basic maths skills such as working out the mode, median, mean and range. It was also nice to see our primary school again and it was weird to see how much things were different.

Ilayda Tuncel, Year 9



# Focus on Careers Guidance

## CEIAG at Skinners' Academy

In this economy, it is more crucial than ever that students develop confidence academically and beyond. The Academy is committed to ensuring that students have access to exceptional Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) above and beyond the statutory government requirements.

Learning 'employability skills' and becoming an attractive candidate for universities and employers is an important part of the Skinners' Academy journey for students of all ages (Years 7 to sixth form). As stated, making CEIAG accessible for all students exceeds provision required by law and is a reflection of our commitment to supporting the aspirations of our students. Throughout the year, students participate in a range of events – and on these pages we focus on just a selection of the activities this term.

If you have any questions about CEIAG at Skinners' Academy and / or would like to discuss the possibility of participating in one of our events (telling students about your industry), please contact [gvisram@skinnersacademy.org.uk](mailto:gvisram@skinnersacademy.org.uk)

Mrs Visram



## Spring Term Careers Seminars

Targeted at our sixth formers and Year 9 students, on 6 & 13 March, we held our first after school careers seminars. Over the course of the two seminars, students met professionals in industries including journalism, advertising, teaching, business coaching, copy writing, research, fashion, property development, law, accounting, management consulting, human resources as well as a 17-year old entrepreneur!

The seminars involved introductions from our guests, including information about their industry, their own journeys and top tips for students of varied ages, followed by a networking session where students were invited to have more in depth conversations with the professionals. 100% of all students who completed evaluation forms said they would recommend events like this to a friend and we hope to organise a similar event next year.

## Top Employability Skills:

- **Communication & Interpersonal Skills**
- **Time Management**
- **Planning & Organising**
- **Teamwork**
- **Professional Qualifications**

“““

The careers seminars were very useful. I've never had a clue about what I wanted to do but now I more or less have an idea of a good direction for me, thanks to experienced and interesting stories from the volunteers.”

Esin Akdogan, Year 9

## Creative Pioneers Apprenticeships Event

On Monday 11th of March, seven Sixth Form students were invited to take part in the 2013 Creative Pioneers Apprenticeships launch event held at the IPA, in London's Belgrave Square. Creative Pioneers Challenge is a nationwide search endorsed by UK Government to find the next generation of digital natives and creative entrepreneurs.

The event presented 20 apprentices from the Class 2012 and 30 leading creative businesses, offering 12 month Level 3 and Level 4 apprenticeships opportunities in Creative and Digital Media, Digital Marketing, Public Relations, Advertising and Marketing Communications leading to an industry recognised qualification and the opportunity for permanent employment; therefore representing potential next steps for students interested in the creative industries.



“ ”

I was unsure of what to do but the Creative Pioneers Apprenticeships Event has hugely helped me to come to a conclusion about what I want and gave me a better vision of my future. I met many influential people from different creative businesses who inspired me and boosted my confidence in my career choice. Now I know exactly who I want to be and what I have to do to become that person.

Nafisa Yarasheva, Sixth Form

## Raising Aspirations

Some of our sixth form students are involved with a programme entitled Raising Aspirations, organised by BSix. Year 12s across Hackney schools were invited to apply at the beginning of the academic year and one of our students who secured a place on the programme shares her experience here:

My name is Roma and I'm studying biology, chemistry and psychology. I would like to study a medicine-related subject at university and to enhance my university application I am currently on the Raising Aspirations programme. I am on the Biology stream and have gained a lot of experience in studying the subject at university level, and have enjoyed fun experiments such as testing DNA using professional lab materials with experts. As part of the programme, I have visited the University of York and will be there for 3 days in the summer as a preview of real university life, including lectures and an assignment. I feel like I have greatly benefitted from this programme and would encourage others to pursue similar opportunities.  
Roma Gajre, Year 12



## Helping your child reach their aspirations

### Educational charity, The Brokerage speaks to parents about supporting children into city careers

Often featuring in the Business & Enterprise pages of this newsletter, this term, educational charity The Brokerage, did a talk at our most recent Parents' Forum (19 March) entitled Preparing the Parents (sponsored by Rabobank).

The aim was to provide parents with information that will help them advise their children about careers and various routes into those professions with a focus on careers in the City and Canary Wharf (but with messages applicable to jobs in other places). An objective was to help parents understand the importance of good academic achievement from secondary school onwards; the importance of developing workplace (soft) skills and how to demonstrate them and find out more about the City in general terms. Parents were engaged in the discussions - an indication of a successful evening.

# Expressive Arts: Music

## Year 8 Band Showcase

Due to the high standard of work created by the Year 8s in their band skills project, the music department decided to hold a special night to showcase their work in front of parents and friends, on 12th March. A selection of five groups was chosen to perform and they did not disappoint. The students showed great musical ability and confidence when on stage. Special mentions to Jonah for his confident stage presence and Temi for conquering his nerves and winning the audience over. All students who took part should be very proud - it was a great evening!

Miss Murray



“ ”

It was fun because I got to show people what I could do on the drum kit!

Princeli Ekofo, Year 8



“ ”

This was a new experience for me – performing in front of so many people. But it was great!

Dilara Sert, Year 8



## Performance at Hackney Service Users Event

This was a chance for some of our GCSE students to connect with some elderly members of the community. Students performed material from their upcoming Motown show to a very enthusiastic audience at a local elderly care home. There were some great performances and it was lovely to see the audience singing along to the tunes they knew. Shaquele performed excellently on the drum kit and Tabassum, Baljeet and Shanice all sung beautifully. A particular highlight was the karaoke session which followed our performance!

Mr Slater





## GCSE Motown Concert

On Friday 1st March, the GCSE group performed in their second concert of the year. This time the theme was Motown, and students performed some original songs such as 'Heard it through the Grapevine' as well as songs that have been influenced by the genre such as Amy Winehouse 'Back to Black'. Once again the performances were to a very high standard. It was great to see how much the students had improved on their instruments in such a short space of time, especially Shanice Meade whose showed great versatility in her singing and fantastic stage presence. Well done all!

Miss Murray

“”

I enjoyed learning a different style of music and it was fun working with my group. GCSE shows are getting better and better...

Leandra Logie-Clyne,  
Year 9



## Steel Pans at Skinners' Hall

Back by popular demand, once again the steel pan groups entertained invited guests at Skinners' Hall on Bankside. This was a particularly special performance to celebrate the wedding of one of our governors, James Malmesbury. Guests were charmed by the students who represented the academy absolutely brilliantly. The bands performed a number of classic songs from their repertoire and a few new tunes as well. It is always a pleasure to hear music performed by such energetic and skillful musicians – well done everyone!

Mr Slater

# Modern Foreign Languages



“”

It was fun because I was using my creative skills to do exciting work

Rachun Ryan-Anderson, Year 9

## Strike a Pose

In the spring term, Year 9 Spanish students had the opportunity to create their own fashion magazine in Spanish. The aim was to imagine they were attending the famous 'Cibeles Madrid fashion week'.

Students wrote in Spanish about the events they attended, what there was to see in Madrid, what they thought of the hotel, and a description of what the models were wearing. They also included exclusive interviews from the models themselves.

Their enthusiasm and motivation helped them express their design creativity and they managed to use exceptional Spanish in their magazines.

At the end of the project, pupils did a mini-photo shoot where they were allowed to bring their own clothes and express their own fashion style in Spanish.

Ms Smith

“”

This project helped me with my writing and spelling. Describing my ideal hotel helped me with my pronouns and verbs. It was fantastic.

Denzel Asiedu-Bouh,  
Year 9

# Design & Technology

## London Underground T-Shirts

In last term's newsletter you read about the 'Inspire' educational visit which the Textiles GCSE group attended.

While at the London Transport Depot students had to sketch shapes and designs which they found interesting and inspiring to design and make a t-shirt which they thought could sell in the gift store.

The students only had two weeks to complete their t-shirt and all of them worked really hard and came up with some really creative and original designs.

Ms Grecco-Addo



“”

**This project was to create a t-shirt inspired by our trip to the Transport for London Museum Depot. The images that inspired my t-shirt design were bold writing of the different train stations, 'way out' signs, arrows and the TfL logo. The colour scheme was inspired by the TfL logo colours; red, blue and white. The techniques I used to make my t-shirt were batik and printing.**

Hope Davison, Year 9

## Resistant Materials

The KS3 Resistant Materials groups have been doing fantastic work this term designing and making key fobs and packaging. Students had to create designs which they thought reflected them as an individual before turning them into the real thing using acrylic.



## London Zoo Cushions

Last term the Year 7 Textiles group were busy designing and making Cushions for the London Zoo gift shop. Students had to research the different animals which you could find at the zoo and then come up with designs suitable for young children. The cushions are now complete and looking really good.



# English as a Second Language



## Welcome to London: Language Induction Group students tour the city

On Monday 4th February the students from the Skinners' Academy Language Induction Group went on a trip to Greenwich and Central London.

The Language Induction Group was created to introduce new students, who recently moved to the UK, to their new city. It has also enabled students to use their English skills in situations outside school. The group has been running since November, with the main aim being to boost English language skills of the students who have just started their education in England.

The trip to Greenwich and Central London involved a taste of London's underground transport system. The group travelled by tube and DLR to Greenwich, and admired the glass and steel beauty of modern Canary Wharf on the way there. In Greenwich they saw the Royal Observatory and Cutty Sark – a beautifully renovated 'tea ship' built in 1869.

In Central London, the students were given a whistle-stop tour of some of London's most renowned attractions.

The group visited Trafalgar Square, St James' Park and Covent Garden where they strolled around the old market, watched street entertainers and laughed at 'living statues'. The students were puzzled and intrigued by the performers and wanted to figure out how some of them appeared to be levitating defying gravity.

This trip was an important part of helping students new to the country to acclimatise to their new home and it was an unforgettable day for them.

Ms Jargot

## Seminar for Turkish Speaking Parents

This term, our series of seminars for Turkish speaking parents continued.

The talk on 12th February focused on the UK Education system generally and more specifically, some information about systems in the academy (including an update on the new advisory structure). In addition, there was discussion about the system of GCSEs and information about how to support your child later this year when they choose their options (for Year 8 parents).

Ms Jargot



**For more pictures  
and information on  
a selection of stories  
featured in this  
newsletter, visit the  
Skinners' Academy  
website:**

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

# Physical Education

## Year 8 Rugby Tournament

On a freezing cold 31st January, the Year 8s played in a Rugby tournament at Hampstead RFC organised by England RFU and including schools all across London. We had some great wins with excellent tries being scored by Eren and Richard to name a few. Throughout these games, the backs including Mark, Eren, Samson, Wale and Nazeem were to demonstrate that they were just as tough as our big lads, making some game-saving tackles to be proud of.



We went into the semi-final as 2nd place qualifiers in Group 1 – missing out on 1st place by just one try! In the end, Skinners' Academy finished 3rd overall but came out feeling that they had the quality, with a bit more commitment to training to win this tournament next year. Well done team, including player of the tournament Eren Kinali.

Mr Brierley

## National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition

10 students represented Skinners' Academy at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition (NJIRC) held at Lee Valley Athletics Centre. The event included specialist rowing academies, and schools with strong rowing pedigrees from all over the country. In the first 2 minute race, Christian battled well to finish 16th in his heat. This was followed by Paulina who finished 18th in the Year 7 girls race. Armend and Ozan both competed very well in their Year 8, 2 minute 30 race, with Armend finishing an outstanding 4th and 17th out of all the Year 8 boys. For the Year 8 girls, Venus and Eri put in good performances of the Year 9 girls, both Polina and Elle competed hard. Finally Dylan and Brando competed strongly in the Year 9 boys' races coming in 7th and 15th.

All students enjoyed the day, and a chance to see Olympic gold medallist Katherine Grainger, as well as trying rock climbing, BMX riding, table tennis and smoothie making!

Mr Legge

