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May 2021
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Summer Term 1
Issue 30
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academy newsletter



I am pleased that we have been able to recommence our termly newsletters. I am hopeful that this is a sign that things are slowly returning to what we would call normal.

We have had a really busy and purposeful year at the Academy, despite the pandemic we have remained committed to providing a full and broad educational experience for all of our pupils. It is undeniable that this time has been disruptive and tumultuous for all. But because of this, we have been forced to work in ways that we didn't think possible, develop innovative ways to still communicate effectively and still maintain the high standards we expect of ourselves. One of the things we have been reminded of this term is the importance of all of our stakeholders and building stronger relationships with them - 'alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'. This is why we are proud to have established our first ever student council and parent council (details on page 3). I am truly

excited about what these partnerships will bring over the coming months and years.

The main focus for the teaching body this term has been preparing Year 11 and Year 13 for their end of year exams. This year, formal public examinations have been cancelled for these year groups, and instead schools have been asked to produce Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in all subjects. Despite the numerous challenges that this process presents, teaching assistants, support staff, subject teachers, heads of department and senior leaders have worked tirelessly to prepare, mark and moderate examination papers. I know you will join me in expressing heartfelt thanks for their hard work and dedication.

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for this summer term: end of year exams for Year 10 and Year 12, celebrating 10 years as Skinner's Academy and summer school for our new Year 7 pupils.

With best wishes for the remainder of the summer term.

Shereka James
Principal, Skinner's Academy





Toilet Twinning

We as the Skinners' Voices are happy to announce that we have managed to raise £370 to help provide less fortunate people with functioning toilets and access to clean water in a school block in Uganda, a household latrine in Afghanistan, and a household latrine in Zambia through the toilet twinning project.

As you may be aware, 2.3 billion people don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. Of those, almost 1,000 children die every day from preventable diseases linked to dirty water and unsafe toilets and children worldwide miss a collective 443 million school days each year because of dirty water and poor sanitation, and girls often drop out of school altogether when they begin their periods.

Toilet Twinning is an organisation that helps fund a project in a poor community that will enable families and communities to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene. It provides the materials and knowledge to build toilets in communities so that these children have a bright future which isn't cut short from lack of sanitation.

We have received three certificates for our fundraising which have been placed next to Academy toilet blocks on each floor, and will serve as a reminder of the privilege we at Skinners' Academy have to be able to go to the toilet without fear or shame.

Yasmin A, Year 12

London to Southend

Congratulations to Mr Alexis, Mr Shah, Mr Smith and stow away, Jeral SP (Year 10), who on the 15 May embarked on a 47mile charity cycle ride from London (Kensington) to Southend. They battled through the elements, the steepest of hills and bike malfunctions to complete the very long and tiring journey.

The charity cycle was organised to raise funds and awareness to help the citizens of the Caribbean Island, St Vincent. Due to the eruptions from La Soufrière Volcano, 20,000 island residents have been displaced. All are experiencing food and water shortages due to supplies being damaged and/or contaminated. Homes have been destroyed, forcing citizens to shelter in cramped conditions during the ongoing Global Pandemic.

Before setting off, our fab four met H.E Mr Cenio E. Lewis, the High Commissioner for St Vincent & the Grenadines (pictured) who wished them luck on their journey! Their efforts have raised over £750 for St Vincent! Thank you to everyone who has donated and sent messages of support.

Also a very big thank you goes to Ms Clare who drove to Southend to pick up our cyclists and bring them home so they didn't have to cycle all the way back too!



Members of the Parent & Pupil Councils

Parent Council Members		Pupil Council Members	
Rosalind Roberts	Secretary/Treasurer	Olivia A & Haroon A	Year 7
Bingul Akaroglu	Chairperson	Jaz J & Llewellyn P	Year 8
Anita Goa	Vice Chairperson	Mercedes X & Dante MD	Year 9
Simon Joseph	KS3 parent representative	Jemima T & Saeed A	Year 10
Emerald Skerrett	KS4 parent representative		
Afiya Rufaro	KS5 parent representative		
Margot Leeming	Lead Volunteer		

Sixth Form

Sixth Form Taster Day

Year 11 pupils finished the year with a Sixth Form Taster Day.

We were excited to welcome back our Year 11s who were dressed smartly and professionally ready to try out their chosen subjects.

They were able to choose from a wide variety of level three courses. The lessons delivered by teachers gave pupils a taste of what it is like to study at an advanced level.

In A Level history, pupils learnt about the Berlin Wall whilst in Politics they covered the foundations of democracy.

In A Level maths, pupils got to develop their understanding of equations of circles whilst in further maths they looked in detail at complex numbers.

In A Level business, pupils learnt about why firms compete for higher market share, whilst in BTEC business the pupils covered aspects of criminal law related to business.

In BTEC Child Play Learning and Development, pupils learnt about the process of weaning babies and created meal plans for infants at different stages of the weaning process and with different dietary requirements.

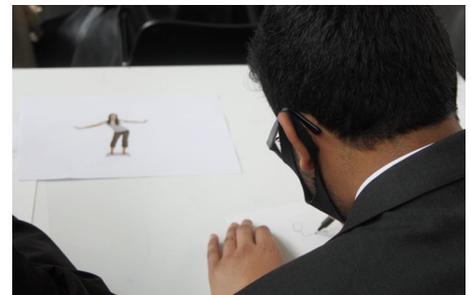
In A Level art, pupils developed their figure drawing skills using a variety of different media.

Feedback from the day was extremely positive with pupils enjoying the academic rigour of A Levels and level three BTECs and the higher level of thinking demanded by these courses. They commented on how much they enjoyed the insight into courses they haven't had the opportunity to study before.

Year 11s also used our state of the art sixth form facilities and got to speak to the sixth form team about their applications.

Our sixth formers benefit from high quality teaching from teachers who know them well and are dedicated to helping them achieve their academic goals. We look forward to welcoming back pupils when they enrol in Year 12 after results day.

Ms Potter, Head of Sixth Form / Assistant Principal / Teacher of Business



Drama

Old Vic Schools Club

This half term, pupils in the Year 10 GCSE Drama class saw their fourth virtual theatre performance of the academic year. We were treated to a fun-filled, colourful performance of Dr Suess's *The Lorax*, live streamed from the Old Vic theatre for their 'In Camera' series, on Earth Day.

The performance was accompanied by a free workshop, which dives into the environmental themes of the show and gives pupils the opportunity to create their own puppets and learn about the art of puppetry.



“”

I was fascinated by how the Lorax puppet was controlled by four people. The use of props was really cool too, especially the part where they talked to the old Once-ler through a tube.

Pepe SB, Year 10



LAMDA

This year, we have over 20 pupils taking part in online LAMDA lessons. In the evenings after school each week, these committed performers are learning scripted pieces, extracts from verse and prose, and preparing for their LAMDA exams.

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) is a well-recognised performing arts organisation. There are different examination courses (performing or communication) and different levels ranging from basic to advanced, with all levels working on developing a strong speaking voice and good memory.

“”

I love LAMDA because it helps me with my confidence. It also makes me want to be a better version of myself!

Mercedes X, Year 9

life is full of drama

SO WHY NOT JOIN THE CLUB?

SKINNERS' ACADEMY DRAMA CLUB

Every **WEDNESDAY** from 3 to 3:30pm on the playground.

Open to all Year 7s

See **MS QUINCE** for more info, or just come along!



““

I really enjoyed making puppets in my drama workshop because I got to learn a new skill.

Alycia B, Year 7

Year 7 Puppet Workshop

Year 7 pupils made their own puppets this half term, and learned how to make them come alive with a video workshop provided by The Old Vic. All they used was three pieces of paper constructed to make a puppet which they controlled with realistic breath and movement!



Click here to follow us on Instagram

Music



Instrumental Lessons

Over 100 pupils take instrumental lessons each week at Skinners'. Lessons are conducted over MS Teams from pupils' homes and we are so impressed with the hard work our young musicians have put in this year.

Instrumental lessons will be continuing next year, for more information please contact Ms Adediran.



THURSDAY | 15 JULY 2021 | 6:00PM
ONLINE ON YOUTUBE

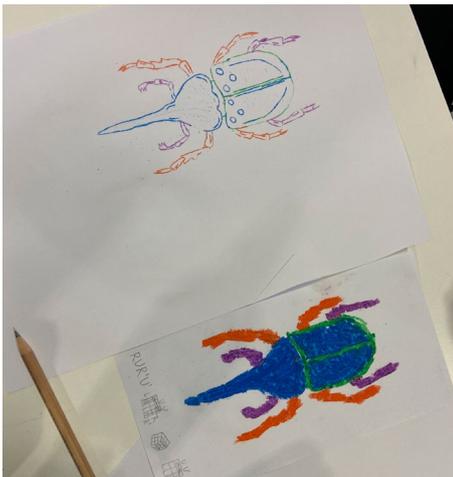
Art & Design

Art Club

Year 7 lunchtime art club has been running since 14 May. Pupils have created a stamp design celebrating their heroes throughout the pandemic. These designs will be entered into the Royal Mail Stamp Design Competition.

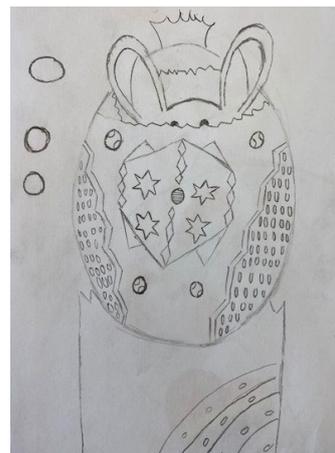
Pupils have also created some mono-printed bugs with oil pastels, Notan artwork (a Japanese paper art) as well as creating pop-up cards. Really brilliant work!

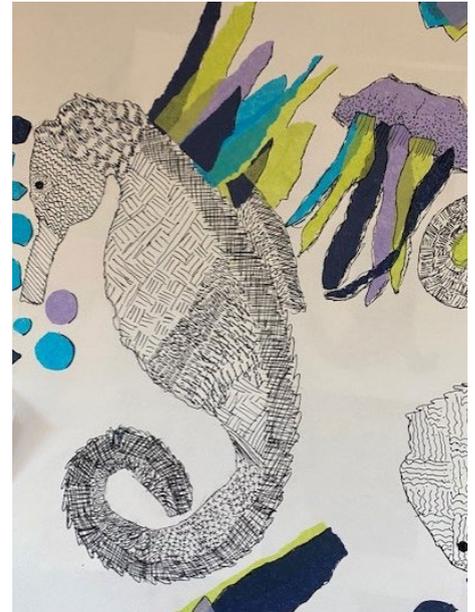
Ms Garvey-Hughes, PGCE Student & Ms Knowles, PGCE Student



Easter Egg Design Competition

Well done to all pupils who entered this year's 'Design an Easter egg' competition - we had lots of wonderful entries! If your design appears here please see Ms Memish for your prize.

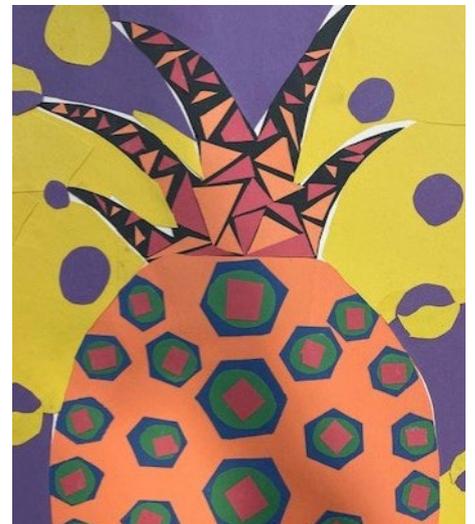
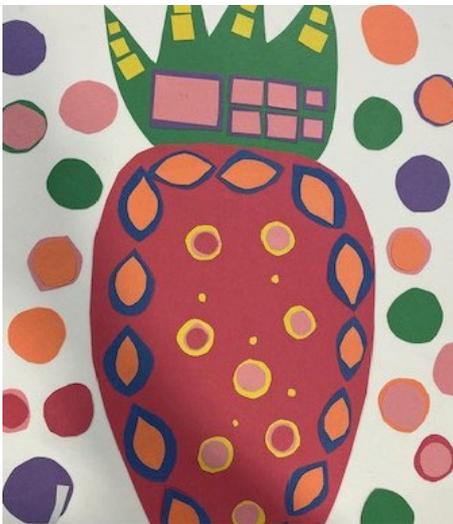




Year 7 Mark Making

Year 7 have been exploring the theme of 'Under the Sea' this term, they have been introduced to the techniques of mark making and using texture in their work. They have produced some wonderful mark making final pieces, great work Year 7!

Ms Memish, Head of Art & Design



Year 8 Collages

Year 8 have produced some amazing collages this term inspired by themes seen in the works of Yayoi Kusama and the collage techniques of Henri Matisse. Pupils were put to the test when asked to draw only using scissors! Well done Year 8

Design & Technology

Year 9 Textiles

The Year 9 textiles group have been designing and making their very own bolster cushions!

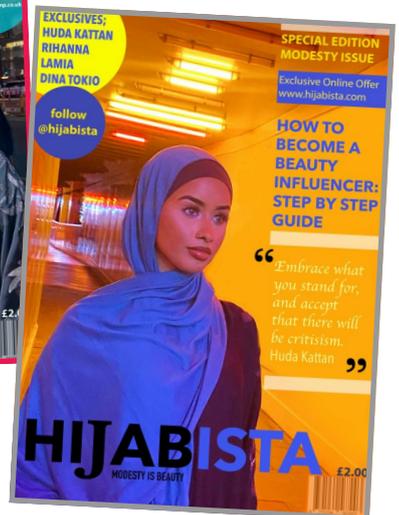
By learning and implementing various design skills such as hand embroidery, CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) the pupils have been able to create bespoke bolster cushions using industry standard techniques. The whole group did a really fantastic job at measuring, marking and using their creativity.

A special shout out to Mercedes X, whose work is exemplified for her dedication and enthusiasm to the project.

Ms Betiku, Teacher of Design & Technology



Media Studies



A Level Media Studies

A Level media studies students Pinar K and Sara M have produced a series of beautiful bold contemporary images for a current affairs magazine and website brief. Both chose to challenge stereotypical ideas of race, age and gender in their publications.

Pinar and Sara developed concepts, planned and styled amazing photoshoots that focused on issues that the GenZ generation champion; #BLM: Black Lives Matter, #Choosetochallenge: an Intersectional Feminism campaign and the rise of Islamic Female entrepreneurs via social media specifically celebrating modest fashion.

The work they have produced is doubly impressive as it has been created across the limitations of the Covid19 pandemic.

Ms Laurent, Head of Media Studies



Computing

Endangered Animals Interactive Kiosk

Year 7 computing pupils developed their planning and technical skills to create an interactive multimedia kiosk. Pupils learn to understand the concept of creating an Interactive Information Kiosk as well as using this as a tool to raise awareness of endangered animals. Throughout the unit pupils developed and used their computing skills to turn their ideas into a functional kiosk used to provide information in an interactive way. The Endangered Animals Information Kiosk unit enabled pupils to:

- Explore matters concerning extinction and how this affects society and the world as a whole, making use of their enquiry skills and web searching skills.
- Generate ideas and use planning tools to showcase and share their proposed solutions.
- Use presentation software and multimedia tools to provide access to information through the use of text, animation, sound and videos.
- Develop and implement a good navigation structure to allow for easy access to the information provided, making use of custom designed button with hyperlinks.
- Develop a good understanding and appreciation for the process of designing, which encourages pupils to use a range of enterprising skills, considering how and where such as product can be used to raise awareness.

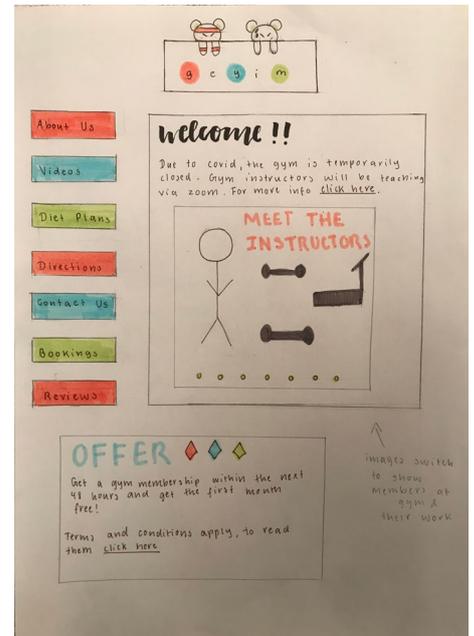
Pupils have also used their creative skills to design merchandising materials such as T-Shirt designs to help promote and raise awareness further – great enterprising approach!



Pixel Art

As part of the Year 8 Computing curriculum, pupils explore the use of data to represent images. They learn the concept of using bits (1/0s) and how these can be mapped to create Pixel based images. They discover how location and colour information is stored about every single pixel in the picture and that Individual pixels can be changed. This helps them understand why bitmap images pixelate when they are enlarged which results in pixels being stretched and loss in image quality. Pupils are given the opportunity to explore and discuss the limitations of simple 1-bit binary representation of graphics and how this is not always suitable in all contexts. Year 8 pupils have created a range of 'pixel-style' digital artwork to showcase their understanding of pixel images and enthusiasm for the topic.

Click here to watch Samir K's (Y8) scratch recreation of the Dragon Ball Z intro sequence on our Instagram



Carousel in Computer Science & Creative iMedia

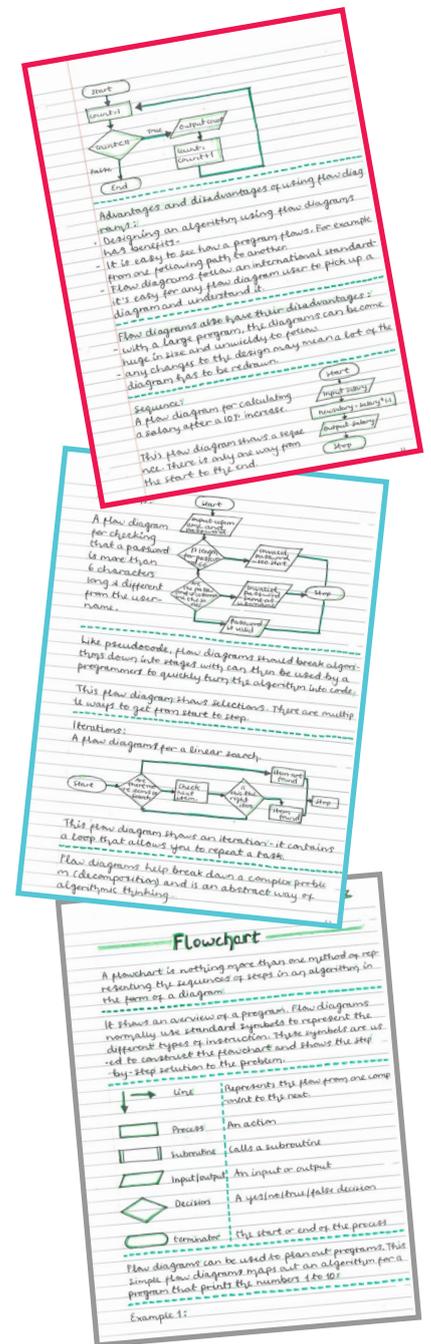
Our Year 9 Computer Science and Creative iMedia pupils have had the opportunity to learn some of the topics delivered in the GCSE counterparts of their subjects.

Computer Science pupils developed their knowledge and understanding of:

- The Architecture of the CPU; exploring the purpose and functions of the CPU as well as the Von Neumann Architecture which builds on their KS3 knowledge base.
- The CPU performance: considering how common characteristics of processor affects the CPU performance such as memory size and clock speed.
- Embedded systems: its characteristics and uses in everyday life.
- Computational thinking to solve complex problems which is an important skill that is encouraged and supported throughout KS3 to KS5.
- Developing and applying algorithmic in order to produce a range of algorithms in various forms such as flowcharts.

Creative iMedia developed on some of the knowledge and skills it takes to tackle units of work such as:

- Plan their own interactive multimedia media product based on a given client brief using pre-production skills.
- Create an interactive multimedia product using their design materials, sourced and original assets, navigation structure applied consistently throughout the product while carrying out interactive testing to ensure assets and other design elements work as intended.
- Carry out a review of the product created to check to see whether or not the brief has been met, strengths and areas for development.



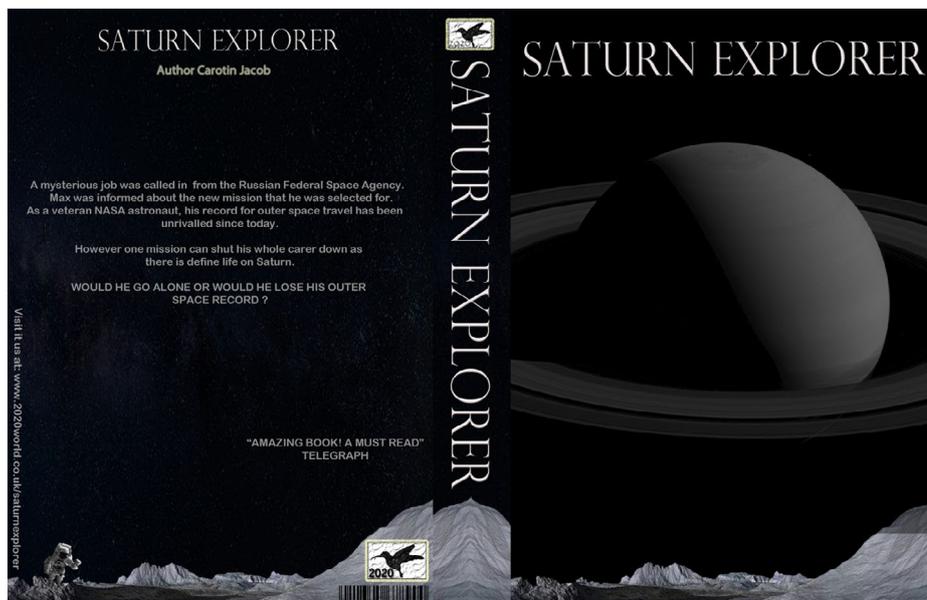
Year 10 Computer Science - Algorithmic Thinking!

The use of algorithmic thinking is an essential skill that forms part of the computational thinking concept, enabling our pupils to tackle complex problems using logic and structure with confidence.

During the process of developing algorithmic thinking skills, pupils are encouraged and taught to consider the reasons behind decisions made, these often relate to the problem/brief given to them as well as the users of the product.

Problem-solving skills are applied throughout their challenge to propose suitable solutions. With the use of explanations through annotations, pupils utilise their communications skills for their proposal to be read and interpreted by potential users.

Pupils can use a variety of algorithmic tools to help express their solutions in the form of flowcharts. To be able to use this tool effectively, computer scientists develop their knowledge base about flowcharts and other algorithmic tools through theory and application.



Creative iMedia Explores Photoshop Skills

Digital graphic skills development has been an important part of Unit R082: Creating digital graphics. Year 10 pupils have been encouraged to learn new graphics editing skills to help them understand the level of work, effort and creativity required to produce graphics used by many industries around various sectors such as film, sports, entertainment and more.

Pupils developed their understanding and appreciation for the design stage which helped them to plan and prepare for digitising their graphics taking into consideration; dimensions, colour and research skills to become more independent digital graphics learners. As part of their coursework pupils needed to consider how their choice of colour and theme helped to meet the client brief.

A Level Computer Science – Programming Project

As part of their A Level programme of study, computer science 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, design and programming skills in order to meet the needs of their client while considering UX (User Experience) and UI (User Interface).

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 increasing reaction times through play to support training needs of a sports group.



It is encouraging to see that our students are willing and able to consider complex programming problems and their ability to interpret their client brief.

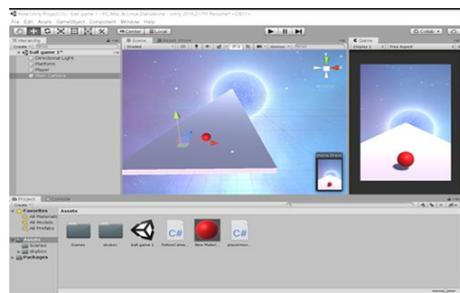
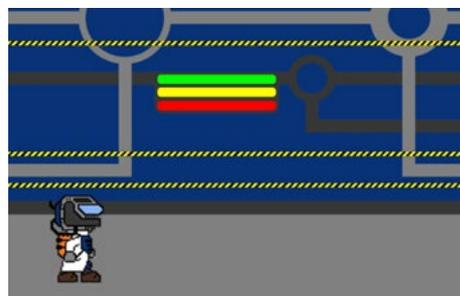
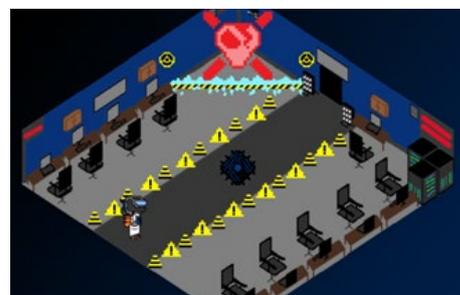
Ms Rao, Head of Computing



It is encouraging to see that pupils are willing to take risks and show a real sense of resilience when their use of graphics software skills does not work out as intended the first time round – learning from mistakes is best at times especially when learning a new program.

Often pupils were seen to use their online research skills to find ways in which they could use Adobe Photoshop to achieve particular effects, it was brilliant seeing individuals go around and help each other with the new skill that they had learnt from doing their own research - now that is teamwork.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing





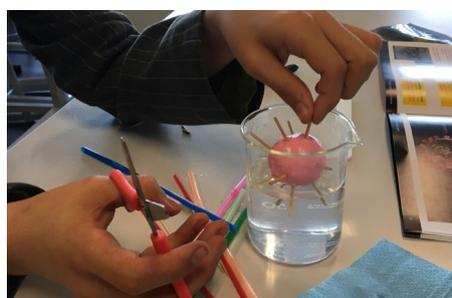
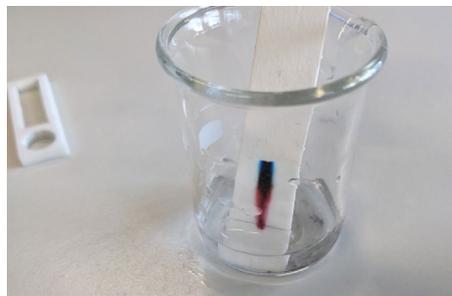
Digital Media Audio-Visual Production

Digital Media students created an audio-visual product to promote the culture of their chosen area. They took on board the brief using their pre-production skills (storyboarding, scripting, production schedules), production skills (role plays, props and video filming, photography) and post-production skills (editing their scene, applying effects, adding sound and testing the film).

It was great to see the students work so hard to produce a video that met their client brief. Some used their YouTube skills to document the process of their production and post-production journey expressing how and why meaning was created in their product to promote the cultural aspect of their chosen area.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing

Science



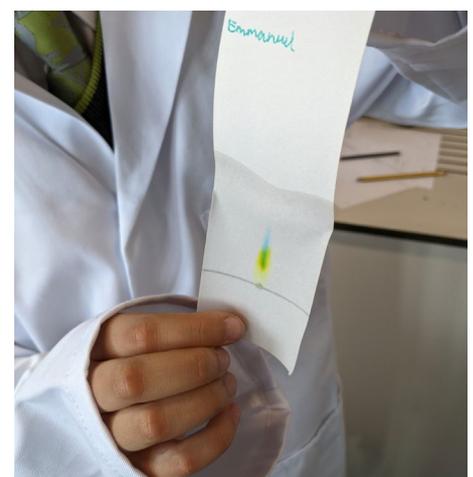
Science Club

This half term, Year 7 pupils have been taking part in Science Club after school. They have enjoyed making virus models and learning about how viruses use spike proteins to enter body cells. They have also used their scientific knowledge to trace back to the source of a mock infection during an infection simulation. This week, they designed their own lateral flow tests using paper chromatography and developed an understanding of antigens and antibodies.

Ms Siab, Teacher of Biology

Are you interested in Science?
Are you keen to try some experiments?
Are you in Year 7?
Then join SCIENCE CLUB!
Mondays | 3.15-4.15

Only 9 spaces left! (20 spaces in total)
Speak to Ms Siab or your science teacher if you would like to take part.



Geography



GCSE & A-Level Examinations

Congratulations to our GCSE and A level pupils who have got through their exams! They put in tremendous effort throughout a difficult year, and we wish them all the best in their futures.

For our GCSE pupils who will be staying on at Skinners', we are SO excited for a new year of A level geography - and one for which we hope to be able to get out and do some real fieldwork research soon. You can have a look at the topics available to study at A level on our Geography VLE page. Some of our favourites are: Global Governance, Carbon and Water, and Urban Environments. Thinking twice about climate change recently and want to find out more? These topics will give you a perfect foundation for understanding the key issues, scientific concepts, risks, and political decision making on national and international scales of climate change.

Urban Change

If you have walked around Woodberry Down recently you may have noticed a few changes in our local landscape; a new Travelodge, a Coop and what feels like some very rapidly growing new blocks of flats. It can be easy to feel 'far removed' from these new properties, but our lessons on urban change in KS3 Geography have shed some interesting light on how we all feel differently and sometimes strongly about these new developments 'in our backyards.' The built environment around us can have a huge impact on how we feel and relate to one another, and how at home we feel in a place. Being able to critically think about our surroundings and uncover how changes are made and influenced by local people and wider politics is a key skill for progressing to GCSE geography and onwards to written communication in essays or applying for jobs.

It's exciting when pupils can be stakeholders in their own curriculum and learning. Our Year 8s have brought us valuable insight by reflecting on their own experiences growing up around Woodberry Down and Hackney and relating these to thinking about what 'place' means to them in the city. Sometimes the most interesting fieldwork and field trips can be right in your own neighbourhood!

Ms Georgescu, Humanities Teaching Assistant

Geography in the News

Geography is all around us, in our environment, our landscapes, our surrounding communities, our politics, and our futures. Check out these recent headlines:

- On the politics of recycling- does recycling our household waste in the UK really save the planet? [Click here](#)
- On household energy needs in the UK and climate policy [Click here](#)
- A close up by drone of the March Icelandic volcanic eruption- Fagradalsfjall [Click here](#)



Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Authors
Aloud UK



Magazine Trials

We ran trials of Exact Editions magazines with access to six history titles; Ancient Egypt, BBC History Magazine, British Museum Magazine, British History Revealed, Military History Matters and Orientations: Asian Art

i-Newspaper (Digital Version)

Skinners' Academy has access to the digital version of the i-newspaper, including i-weekend until 22 August 2021. Simply follow the instructions below for your free reading!

Username: WLutterodt@skimmersacademy.org.uk

Subscription number: 1205083993

To view on PC or laptop:

1. Website Access [click here](#) - click on iNews
2. Log on using above details
3. Read the digital edition every day (including Saturdays)

To view on mobile or tablet

1. Download the digital edition from the Apple store or the Google store
2. When prompted log in using above details
3. Read the digital edition every day (including Saturdays)

Donations

Many thanks to the following members of staff for their donations to the LRC!

Ms Betsayda-Petrie - for her classic children's books and History of Britain audio books

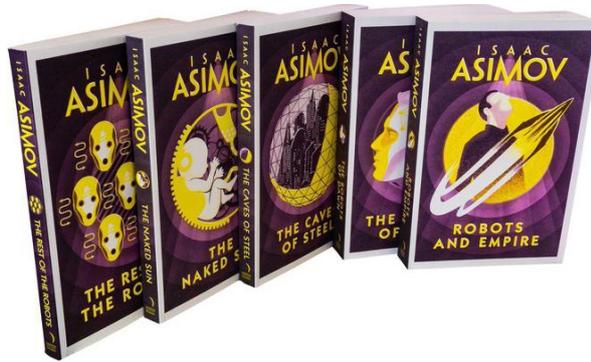
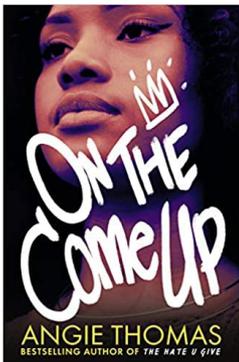
Ms Ozcelik - Many novels and the set of Turkish language encyclopaedia

Ms Hibbert Nicolov - for her brand-new Walliams books

World Book Day with Author, Alex Wheatle

Year 7 pupils were treated to a very special Authors Aloud event with the author Alex Wheatle, whose life was recently dramatized by film director Steve McQueen in the BBC One series 'Small Axe'.

Wheatle spoke of how he became an author and answered questions about his life and the creative process. His latest books Cane Warriors and The Humiliations of Welton Blake are available to borrow from the LRC along with all his other novels.



EDI Collection & More

The LRC is pleased to announce the launch of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) books! Do check for titles that the library holds on our catalogue here: [Skinners' Academy \(accessit.online\)](#)

The collection is constantly being updated with new titles and you can let us know of any titles you would like to be included. It is proving very popular, so any requests should be addressed to library@skimmersacademy.org.uk

We have also developed our science fiction titles, concentrating on Isaac Asimov's Robot series and Raymond Bradbury's wider works, which are all available to borrow.

Book Deliveries

LRC staff have been delivering book trolleys to pupils during advisory and we have many new titles for them to enjoy. This will continue whilst access to the LRC is limited, but we look forward to welcoming pupils back to our LRC to browse our collection in full when conditions allow it!

Physical Education (PE)



Comic Relief's Red Nose Day

In March Mr Smith & the PE Department organised events to help raise money for Comic Relief's Red Nose Day. Over 4.5 million children in the UK live in poverty, the equivalent to 9 pupils in a classroom of 30.

Throughout the week pupils were given the opportunity to take on the staff in various sports events. Pupils, parents and staff were also encouraged to take part in 'Run 5 Donate 5'. They ran/walked 5kilometres to show their support, then donated £5 to our dedicated Red Nose Day Just Giving page.

We still managed to raise a whopping £212 all without our usual Non School Uniform Day and Cake Sale. Thank you to everyone who took part, came down to support the events and donated.

Sports Clubs

Welcome back to PE and the return of our after-school sports clubs.

Each day of after-school clubs is catered to a different year group to prevent the crossing over of our bubble system. See the table below to find out what day your year group club is and the members of staff in charge. All our after-school clubs are free of charge and will offer a range of sporting activities throughout the year.

Tuesday - Y8	Wednesday - Y7	Thursday - Y9	Friday - Y10
Ms Antwi Mr Legge Mr Williams	Mr Howe Ms O'Neill Ms Bell	Ms Antwi Mr Smith Mr Williams	Ms Bell Mr Smith

DofE Bronze & Gold

Great news! The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze (Y10) & Gold (Y12) expeditions will be taking place this year.

There will be slight changes owing to Covid-19 restrictions, but we look forward to sharing the outcomes of both expeditions with you in the next newsletter.

31 MAY
to
04 JUN

Half Term

14 JUN
to
18 JUN

Year 12
Assessment Week

16 JUN

Year 10
Parents' Evening
4.00pm - 6.30pm

21 JUN
to
25 JUN

Year 7
Assessment Week

28 JUN
to
02 JUL

Year 8 & Year 10
Assessment Week

01 JUL

Year 6
Transition Day
Academy closed to pupils -
except for Y10 assessments

05 JUL
to
06 JUL

D of E Bronze (Y10)
Expedition

07 JUL

Year 7
Parents' Evening
4.00pm - 6.30pm

12 JUL
to
15 JUL

D of E Gold (Y12)
Practice Expedition

14 JUL

Year 8
Parents' Evening
4.00pm - 6.30pm

15 JUL

Summer Music
Concert
YouTube - 6.00pm

22 JUL

Term Ends
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