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March 2015
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Spring Term
Issue 13
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academy newsletter



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Welcome... As the end of term approaches this newsletter is a record of the phenomenal range of activities that have taken place at Skinner's Academy since Christmas. As always, the diverse range of activities on offer enables all pupils to expand their interests and discover more about themselves. The Academy's motto of, "Be the best you can", and our passionate belief that every pupil, regardless of ability or background, can achieve, is partly made possible by the enormous range of trips, visits, presentations and activities that are on offer.

As these pages show, there have been several highlights during the term, including the first ever Academy drama production (Grease) but, once again, it is the sheer number and diversity of activities that impresses. These activities are obviously a supplement to the

tremendous amount of work that is covered during lessons by all year groups.

In May, we see the start of our first set of GCSE examinations and I should like to wish all Year 11 pupils the very best of luck. The vast majority of pupils are working as hard as possible for these exams whilst staff are willingly running intervention and revision classes after school and during the holidays to support pupils. If Year 11 pupils take every opportunity they are given to improve their performance and revise thoroughly, we should be able to look forward to an excellent set of results and a large number of pupils joining the new sixth form in September. Good luck to you all.

Tim Clark
Principal
Skinner's Academy







Medal winning motivation: Year 9s meet Christine Ohuruogu

“When I look at my medals, I remember the work it took me to get one of those.” These are the words of British athlete and 400m specialist Christine Ohuruogu, winner of world, Olympic and Commonwealth medals – as she addressed a room of 180 13-14 year olds.

An East London local, Christine Ohuruogu delivered a special motivational assembly to Year 9 pupils at Skinners' Academy – sharing some special insights into the journey she went on to become the multi-medal winning champion she is today.

Some key messages shared are beneficial for all young people to remember as they progress along their journey towards their goals. These include:

- You need to put in the foundation of incredibly hard work: Christine talked about the fact that hard work starts years before a championship... the preparation is key.
- To achieve great things – it is essential to be disciplined to get on in life as without that discipline, the achievements would not have followed. She noted that the strongest and most focused are the ones that achieve in life.
- Resilience is important as knock backs are a part of life. Christine talked about going home in tears after a netball final – but noted that it's easier to cope with disappointments when you know where you're going and are truly determined to get there.

Christine made the point to pupils that “people sometimes are sold misinformation that things can come easy, however whatever your gold medal is in life, you have to work hard to achieve it. Be prepared to push yourself out of your comfort zone as life doesn't come to you – you have to go to it. I knew that whatever I was going to do in life it had to be good, because I worked too hard for anything else.”

The talk ended with Christine reminding the pupils that everyone has skills and talents in different areas and wishing them well in whatever they are trying to achieve.

Following a break out session with a few of the pupils, Christine said communicating with young people in schools is important to her because “It is important to reach our younger generation – help them realise that people care. They may take something away that will help them make a better decision about their lives and sport is one of the greatest ways you can achieve something.”

““

I wanted this talk for Year 9 pupils as they have now begun their journey towards gaining their GCSE qualifications and I wanted them to understand that it is a journey where there will be setbacks and obstacles however this doesn't mean that should give up it means they must try that little bit harder. To understand success takes hard work, determination and discipline particularly in terms of good time management. The Year 9s appeared to have enjoyed the talk and I feel that they understood the message that was being given.

Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9

““

We are thrilled that Christine took time out of her busy training schedule to connect with our Year 9 pupils because meeting local people who have achieved world-class success is a great motivator for our pupils. We encourage all pupils to “be the best you can” and the sort of insights Christine shared leaves our pupils in no doubt as to the fact that to achieve greatness, hard work is essential and we hope that's a message they'll remember for a long time to come.

Tim Clark, Principal



Wear It. Beat It: British Heart Foundation Fundraising

As part of the British Heart Foundation's "Wear it. Beat It" campaign, on 6 February, Year 7 pupils accessorised their academy uniform with something red, to raise money for this charity which pioneers research that's transformed the lives of people living with heart and circulatory conditions.

Taster sessions at Wadham College, Oxford University

On 27 February, Ms Moutafakir, Ms Hunt and 20 Year 9 pupils embarked on a visit to Wadham College to participate in academic taster sessions. On arrival to Oxford station, the group enjoyed a pleasant walk through Oxford town, passing various famous sites such as the Bodleian, on their way to Wadham College.

Upon arrival at Wadham College, pupils had an introductory talk about Higher education, in particular Oxbridge and different degree courses available. Pupils were then split into two groups for their academic taster session for either Literature or Politics, which involved a high level of pupil participation which pupils thoroughly enjoyed. After lunch pupils went on a tour of the college and participated in a question and answer session about life in an Oxford college. The final activity for the day was a museum visit to either the Natural History museum in Oxford or the History of Science museum, which involved a tour of the museum and an interactive element such as making a working model of an astrolabe and using this to work out the time of sunrise and sunset on different days of the year.

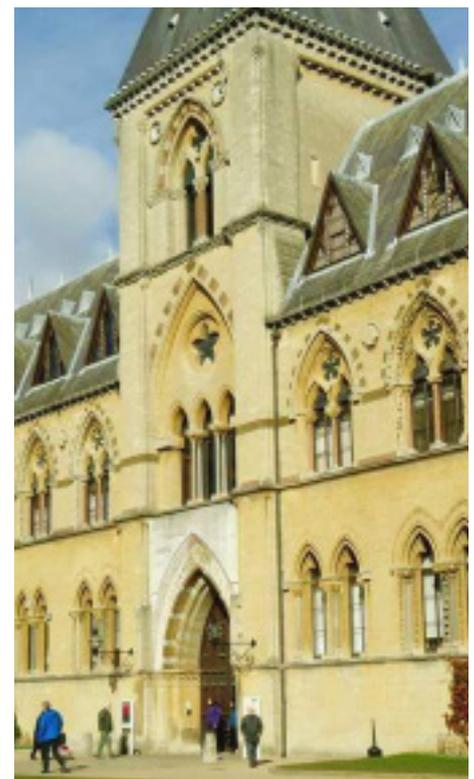
Overall the visit to Wadham College was stimulating and enjoyable for everyone and all pupils felt they learnt something new from the trip.

Ms Hunt, Gifted Co-ordinator & Teacher of MFL

“ ”

I found the trip and the tour of the university very interesting. Also the talks were good

Howard Misquita, Year 9

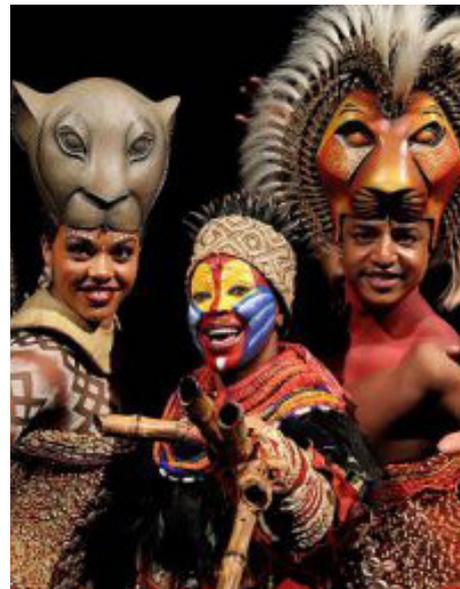


Impact Zone

Impact Zone is an extra-curricular programme which takes place on Saturday mornings. It is designed to support pupils at risk of disengagement and exclusion by unlearning inappropriate behaviours and acquiring the values, insight and social skills that will equip them for constructive partnership in school and in the wider society.

A group of Year 8 & Year 9 pupils who showed commitment with 100% attendance to the sessions and had the most improved behaviour were rewarded with a trip to see the theatre production of the Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre.

The Arsenal Doubles Club who also work with the Impact Zone, awarded two pupils with a free ticket to an Arsenal game. The pupils nominated were Joshua Stevens, Year 8 for making tremendous improvements in terms of his behaviour and attitude towards learning and Briana Williams, Year 8 for 100% attendance as well as a fantastic attitude to everything she does. Well done!



Learning through Cutfilms

Year 9 pupils were invited to participate in Cutfilms, an anti-tobacco and anti-smoking youth project. The project involves young people giving the community they live in and their peers their own views on smoking. It is their creativity and their imagination. It's an innovative film and media project working directly with young people to educate their peers on the dangers of smoking.

Cutfilms hold an annual short film competition for young people aged between 11 – 25 years old, working with young people to educate them about the dangers associated with smoking in a very creative way, resulting in creating their own film, which some Year 9s participated in and there are two pupil films, "Reflection" and "Dodge the bullet" available on the Cutfilms website.

Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9



““

I have been hugely impressed with the pupils involved! They have worked very well collectively and independently. They have shown enthusiasm, dedication and creativity. I can give them a task and know they are capable of creating something amazing!

Presenter, Cutfilms

If you would like to view some of the pupils video entries, you will find them on the Cutfilms website. We'll also link via the Skinners' Academy website - www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Foundation 66

Year 9s took part in a drugs and alcohol awareness PSHE session. It was an interactive session on the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Foundation 66 works to educate young people about the effects of drugs and alcohol and explore the issues around substance misuse. The interactive workshops use quizzes, group discussion and team activities to teach pupils about the risks of alcohol and drug use. They are an opportunity for pupils to share their opinions, beliefs and experiences with a view to building resilience and enabling healthy choices.

The feedback from the Year 9s was really positive.

95% said they knew more about drugs and alcohol after participating in the session and 92% agreed that the way the information was presented would help them remember it.

Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9

““

I really liked that we were volunteering our ideas, I enjoyed it.

Anonymous, Year 9

““

I learnt a lot from this workshop - it will positively affect me to make a better decision if I chose to drink alcohol once I'm of a legal age.

Anonymous, Year 9

Pupil Voice: Elections 2015

Will David Cameron do it again?

The next General Election in the UK is taking place on 7 May. To vote in a UK general election a person must be registered and: be 18 years of age or over on polling day, be a British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Republic of Ireland. If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, being registered also gives you a say in who represents you there. At any election in your area, one of the candidates will be selected to represent you whether you vote or not. If you're registered, you'll have the chance to have a say on who represents you by voting.

Although Skinners' Academy pupils are not old enough to vote, being aware about current government activities and how they affect you can be learned through subjects such as history and English. Knowledge about the government can help you understand why this country is the way it is and how you (or your parents if you are not old enough) can or have contributed towards this country and gain something from it.

So why are the elections important?

Your vote is your voice as a UK citizen. It's your opportunity to be heard, to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in important issues that affect your community. If your parents are not going to vote, it would be quite reasonable to goad them into thinking otherwise as they could potentially be the difference, between which party to choose.

I have recently led a survey that has questioned several people from each year group about who they think their parents are voting for and why. Only one in nine Year 7 pupils knew who their parents are voting as for Year 8s and 9s not a single person knew. It is understandable for the Year 7s not to know who their parents are voting for which is expected at their age but as I have already written it is vital to understand the importance of elections and why they are needed.

It is predicted that 2 million young people aged between 18-25 will not vote in the upcoming elections. 2 million people could be the difference between which party gets picked! I urge all students to coerce their parents into voting as it could make a difference between what your parents want for this country. And what they do not. Being able to vote gives you a say on who represents you in your local council, in the UK Parliament and in Europe.

Some people are quick to say when they disagree with politicians, but if you don't register and don't vote, you won't be able to have your say.

Anwer Siddig, Year 11 (Student Prefect)



Vote:

A formal indication of a choice between two or more candidates or courses of action, expressed typically through a ballot or a show of hands.



Percentage of votes for the 2015 election so far. (BBC Poll)

Name of political party	Percentage of votes
Conservatives	33.2%
UKIP	14.1%
Labour	33.2%
Liberal Democrats	7.6%

This shows anticipated votes according to a BBC Poll



National Careers Week 2015

Exploring Careers of the Future

Raising aspirations, education about employability skills, linking schools with businesses, teachers getting involved in careers education, creating greater awareness about careers choices and labour market information and more came together on 2 – 6 March 2015 when pupils from Skinners' Academy participated in National Careers Week, the biggest careers initiative in the UK, for the fourth year in a row.

With a line-up featuring 20 guests in industries ranging from professional services to knitwear design; digital media to law; reconstructive surgery to hospitality; entrepreneurs to engineers and more, over 400 pupils had the opportunity to directly connect with people in industry who could inform, inspire and give them current, industry specific information about careers.

The week consisted of:

- “Classroom to career” sessions – where guests spoke to pupils in their lessons – highlighting how aptitude and interest in a certain subject could lead to a career like theirs. Examples included a knitwear designer who spoke to Art & Design and textiles lessons and a tax manager and an engineer who spoke to pupils during their maths lessons.
- A “Spotlight on Careers of the Future” seminar, took place on Wednesday 4 March (4.30 – 6.30pm) – the event was inspired by the report of the same name published by the UK Commission for Employment and Skills in December 2014. This seminar included a moderated panel discussion and a speed networking session – this allowed the pupils not only to learn but to question and network too.
- Varying activities including “First Job Scavenger Hunt” where pupils were encouraged to find out what staff members did for their first ever paid jobs.

Evaluation forms from the pupils who attended the Spotlight on Careers of the Future event indicate that pupils found members of the panel motivational and the event in general helpful for their future. Through sharing unique insights into their industries and daily lives in their careers, pupils took away messages including “Don’t be a sheep.” “be open to new opportunities”, “don’t be afraid of failure” and the importance of hard work and persistence.

Skinners' Academy is committed to delivering quality, innovative careers support for all pupils and to working towards achieving the nationally renowned Investors in Careers Award.

Mrs Visram, Careers Development Co-ordinator



“““

Although all our pupils have access to quality Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) throughout the year (both in school and independent) – we very much value the momentum of National Careers Week and participate in it annually. Our enterprise specialism is all about helping pupils acquire the skills they need to achieve in everyday life and that means innovative CEIAG which authentically connects with our pupils is an integral part of our offer at Skinners' Academy.

Mr. Clark, Principal

“““

I've learned a lot of things I didn't know and the advice [from Mr Howe] to take every opportunity inspired me. You never know what is waiting.

Magdalena Maciejewska, Year 10

“““

One of the beneficial pieces of advice was not to stop something just because it's difficult.

Brandon Burgher, Year 10



““

I think the entire scheme is a wonderful concept; to open the eyes of younger people and show them that the wider world has much to offer. At their age I found being exposed to new and exciting opportunities extremely helpful in guiding my passion for life.

Sophie G James,
Owner of Apricot Wolf (Music,
Media & Creative Management)

““

I was hoping to give the students an understanding of the role of their subject outside of school life, and particularly in the role of a tax accountant. I wanted them to understand that there are many types of accountancy. I feel I was able to communicate some of this and the students seemed to understand and engage.

Sabina Mitchell,
Senior Tax Manager
at Associated British Foods



““

Very engaging, the feedback from pupils after the session was very positive. Excellent speaker and an excellent role model for the students to see.

Mr Greenwood, Head of Maths



““

Pupils seemed to be engaged, and were encouraged to see that engineering covers such a wide range of areas. It was good to be asked a wide range of questions from a good number of students.

James Griffith,
Structural Engineer at Arup



Enterprise

We are going to the Regionals!

On 23 February we received the news that Skinners' Academy had made it to the Regional Finals of the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge, 2015. Skinners' has been taking part in the Enterprise Challenge for three years and this is the first time we have had the opportunity to progress on to the next stage. This is a very exciting time for the pupils and staff involved as well as the mentors.

The challenge began on 7 January with a combination of 15 pupils from Year 9 & Year 10 forming five teams. For five weeks the teams met after school with their mentors to learn about what makes an Ethical Business, complete an ethical business case study and try to earn the most amount of money on the business simulation game selling items such as a laptop, a tyre and a diamond ring.

This year the mentors assigned to our pupils decided to introduce a few incentives to encourage the pupils to make the highest NET profit.

Brooke Greville is the CEO of Gate Ventures plc. Brooke has worked with Skinners' for three years as a mentor on the Enterprise Challenge. He has generously donated £300 as a prize fund to be split between the winning team from Year 9 & Year 10.

Asif Minhas is the Management Consultant within the Digital Innovation Department at Lloyds Banking Group. This is the first year that Asif has taken part in the Enterprise Challenge and Skinners' was his first assigned school as a mentor. He had arranged for individually engraved medals to be made for all the pupils who had participated fully with the after school sessions.

A reward assembly was arranged to celebrate the hard work the pupils had put in to the challenge. The pupils involved found out about their success with their peers present to celebrate their achievements with them. The assembly was attended by the entire cohort of Year 9 & Year 10 pupils, Advisors, SLT members and Mr Clark. Brooke and Asif also attended the assembly to hand out the participation medals and announce the winners from each year group.

For Year 9 the winning team were announced as ERAY with a Net Profit of £6.3 million on the Business Simulation game.

For Year 10 the winning team was Misfits with a Net profit of £6.4 million. This team was composed of brothers Mark Daniel and Matthew Daniel. Not only have Misfits won half of the prize money but they will also be merging with their former rivals The Avengers to compete at the Regional Finals on 27 March.

Mark Daniel, Matthew Daniel, Agnieszka Rudnik, Daisie Spiteri and Elif Sucu have now become the team iRoundUp (a more suitable business name than Misfits). Their challenge is to come up with a social enterprise business idea which they will present in a three minute pitch to a Dragons Den style panel of judges on the 27 March at RBS, Bishopsgate.

Good Luck to iRoundUp! Let's try to make it to the Grand Finals!

Ms Abubakr (Ms Dalia)
 Communications & Student Support Officer and
 Business & Community Links Administrator



Teams		
Year 9	Eagles	Simren Kaur
		Ebru Kulekci
		Julia Piotrowska
	ERAY	Molly Greaney
		Khalia Reid
		Emer Sheffield
		Sude Yilmaz
	Triple Entity	Miles Broomfield
		David Ferreira
Stanimir Zagorchev		
Year 10	Misfits	Mark Daniel
		Matthew Daniel
	Avengers	Agnieszka Rudnik
		Daisie Spiteri
		Elif Sucu

“ ”

The challenge was a fantastic experience. I have learnt some skills I need to become a successful entrepreneur. I also had great fun learning how to run an online business along with my team.

Agnieszka Rudnik, Year 10



Enhancing our specialism with Enabling Enterprise

This year various subjects have been invaded by class based activities designed by Enabling Enterprise. At Skinners' Academy our specialism is Enterprise and our goal is to help pupils acquire the skills needed to succeed in everyday life, and Enabling Enterprise (EE) is an organisation with a similar mission.

EE has designed a range of in-class activities which boost pupils enterprise skills. These include, creating a radio show about Capital Punishment in Religious Studies, Designing a poster gallery in Geography, Creating clothing out of Recycled items in Art and creating a conceptual idea for a new drug in Science. All the in-class activities were competition based with pupils working in teams to come up with the best idea. The reward for the winning teams was the chance to take part in a Challenge Day at the London Business School.

The pupils from Year 7 & Year 9 spent the day getting to know volunteer post-graduate students who currently study at the London Business School. One of the volunteers would eventually become the pupils client when it came to the next activity of the day, creating a business card.

In groups pupils were asked to design a unique business card for their client. They had 30 minutes to create 20 identical business cards for the student which would help him to stand out from the other students at the university. The groups then had to create and deliver a two minute pitch to sell their business card samples to the student. The groups were judged on three factors, the quality of their business cards, if there were 20 business cards and the unique way of delivering their pitch.

The pupils from the winning team were Demetri Anderson and Martyna Socha, Year 7 and Summayah Hoque, Arsheen Jaffer and Julia Piotrowska, Year 9.

Ms Abubakr (Ms Dalia), Communications & Student Support Officer & Business & Community Links Administrator



“ ”

I enjoyed LBS because we got the meet experienced business students who gave me an enhanced perspective on certain subjects.

Arsheen Jaffer, Year 9

“ ”

I was really impressed with the creativity and professionalism of all the teams. The winning team in particular produced a product which was of high quality and consistency. "Teamwork Makes the Dream Work": a company that I would be happy to buy from.

Student, London Business School

Enterprise moves Forward

A group of Year 9 pupils were chosen from their Computing class to visit the offices of Forward Internet Group on 24 February. The pupils had already shown themselves to be "tech savvy" by creating apps as part of their Enabling Enterprise in-class activity.

Forward Internet Group is one of the most successful and innovative internet companies around, and is a great example of the range of roles available in the technology world.

On arrival to the Forward headquarters pupils were set the challenge of coming up with an app that would make an improvement for the employees of Forward. This was an excellent way for the pupils to develop their problem solving skills, as well as demonstrate their creativity. The pupils were also able to find out more about working life at Forward from the fantastic volunteers supporting them through the day.

Three very different ideas were developed, from an app that increased motivation by highlighting the great work everyone was doing and choosing an employee of the month, to a pet sitting service for those who wanted to bring their animals to work. A very well done to all the teams who showed themselves to be truly creative thinkers.

Mr Powell, Teacher of Computing & ICT



If you would like to try an app that some of the pupils created please scan this code





Mosaic Mentees Visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

On 4 March a group of Year 10 pupils who had taken part in the Mosaic Mentoring Programme 2015 were given the opportunity to watch a performance of Othello at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on London's Southbank.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales founded the volunteer led Mosaic Mentoring Programme in 2007 with the aim of creating opportunities for young people.

The visit to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre was a welcome end to the successful mentoring sessions. Thankfully the weather was on our side on the day and we managed to enjoy a sunny production which kept the audience, all of whom were school pupils, engaged.

The play was set during World War I with the characters in military uniforms which suited the ideas and themes in the play of revenge and violence. The highlight was when some of the characters entered the stage via a zip line from above, closely missing many pupils' heads! The pupils are studying Macbeth in their GCSE English Literature classes, so it was great to see some of Shakespeare's work in person and in an authentic way for that era.

Ms Mitchell, Teacher of English



“ ”

The Mosaic mentoring was such an amazing and successful programme in which I developed my communication skills and realised the world is my oyster meaning there are so many opportunities available to me . The trip to Shakespeare's Globe was a really interesting and informative outing. The production of Othello was scrupulously authentic as it was full of pace and energy.

Hanan Guthmy, Year 10

Visit the website:
skinersacademy.org.uk
for more information on stories in this newsletter and to keep up to date on events in the Academy.





“ ”

Seeing the smiles and hearing the applause from the audience makes all the work worth it.

GREASE IS DEFINITELY THE WORD!

Patty xx
played by Briana Williams, Year 8

“ ”

You can tell the amount of hard work and effort that was put in. The performance was outstanding. Congrats!
Mr Maloney,
Learning Resources Officer



“ ”

What an amazing production! I am so proud off all those involved all the hard work really paid off. You're all Grease Legends!

Ms McKinstry, Geography Teacher



“ ”

What a tremendous job! Well done! Joshua as Eugene is my fave!
Ms Cotgrave, 2iC SENCO



“ ”

What a fantastic show!!! Better than any I have seen in the West End.
Ms. N' Dure, Parent

““

It's been a pleasure to be working in a school production. I've gained courage, friends and so much more. I'd never regret taking part in Grease, it's been a highlight of my life so far!

Malek Busari, Year 10



““

What I have enjoyed is the friendships we have built and how much time we have taken to create the production. I hope everyone enjoyed it!

Oluwatobiloba Shokan, Year 9



Drama

Theatre Trips

This term, pupils studying drama have enjoyed:

- Tree, a comedy about two people, one of whom spent the whole performance setting up a life size tree in the middle of the stage.
- War Horse with the captivating narrative and astonishing puppetry at the New London Theatre.
- Railway Children at the purpose built Kings Cross Theatre to accommodate a steam train on stage!
- Kevin Spacey in critically acclaimed 'Clarence Darrow' (in the last week of term)

We have more trips planned for next term so please do remind your son/daughter to keep an eye on the drama notice board for more theatre trip opportunities.

Ms Quince,
Head of Drama

Barbican Box Begins...

Year 10 GCSE pupils are about to start working with Complicite, a company based in London who use movement as a starting point for devising productions. Complicite have worked with the Barbican to assemble a box of stimulus materials and props that have been sent to selected schools across three London boroughs. The same box will be used as a starting point and each school will submit a final devised performance that has derived from the 'box' in a showcase at the Barbican Theatre in July!



Exams Ahead

Year 11 are about to embark on their Drama GCSE exam! We have a variety of scripted performances; 'Between Mouthfuls' by Alan Ayckbourn, 'Five Kinds of Silence' by Shelagh Stephenson, 'Shakers' by John Godber and GCSE Pearson text 'Arbeit Macht Frei'. Break-a-leg Drama GCSE 2015!

Creative iMedia



““

I think that when Ben Byford came into our lesson to talk to us about websites, it was very useful because it helped me improve my website and gave me more ideas.
Afzal Hussain, Year 9

““

I was inspired by Ben, a professional web designer who told me how to improve my own website.
Osbert Barnieh, Year 9

Creative iMedia does Careers Week!

During National Careers week our Year 9 Creative iMedia pupils spent some time with Ben Byford, Website Designer and Games Design at Eulergy. This was a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to gain a real insight into the web development industry and gain some valuable tips about their own website that they are currently creating as part of their GCSE.



Year 9 Creative iMedia

Pupils in Year 9 are studying a unit which helps them to understand the process of planning and designing an interactive website for a given client. They have been developing their research, planning and design skills which will lead to the production of an interactive multimedia website for an Eco Festival.

Creative iMedia enables pupils to develop their design skills, applications skills and literacy and numeracy skills. The unit is enabling pupils to:

- Understand the various stages of a project
- Identify and understand the importance of the Client's needs
- Develop literacy skills to communicate their proposals for the interactive website
- Explore and understand the need to produce planning and design documentation for media
- Use planning and development tools to create a product to meet the needs of the client.

Ms Rao, Head of ICT & Computing

““

I have learnt to use web software and can now embed live Google Maps on a website.
Musa Serroukh, Year 9

““

Creative iMedia has taken my skills to the next level because we have been creating a multimedia website.
Kevin Stirling, Year 9

Geography

Fairtrade Fortnight 2015: Fun and Facts

This half term the Geography department ran our second Fairtrade fortnight celebration. During the two weeks there were events and competitions designed to raise awareness of the Fairtrade cause.

During the first week:

- Cllr Patrick (Speaker for the borough of Hackney) spoke to Year 11 in their assembly about the aims of the fortnight and why Hackney as a borough feel that having Fairtrade status is so important.
- Year 8 pupils who wished to work in the chocolate pop-up shop were interviewed for the eight positions available.
- During PSHE school pupils were shown the short film 'Fairtrade matters' - produced by the Fairtrade foundation.

Events really got going in week two. On Tuesday and Thursday we held our ever popular chocolate pop-up shop. We sold out on both days and made over £100. The proceeds from this along with generous pupil and staff donations will be going to support the work of the Good Life orphanage in Kenya.

Also on Tuesday the 'Can you taste justice' food tasting competition was held. Those fortunate enough to have been given a ticket sampled bananas, dried fruits and chocolates - both Fairtrade and not. Four lucky pupils (and one member of staff) guessed all 6 correct and prizes will be on their way.

Finally we were privileged to welcome students from City University who held workshops with three Year 8 Geography classes. The pupils were taught the way in which very little of the money we spend on non-Fairtrade food goes to the hard working people around the world who produce it. We then launched our Fairtrade poster competition with Year 8. The posters were judged by City University pupils and staff and the winner was Briana Williams. Runners up were Leia Cheddesingh-Smith, Sofia Bras Aydin and Melsa Kose.

The Geography department would like to thank all of those pupils and staff who supported these events.

Mr Lyons, Teacher of Geography



Religious Studies

Ethical questions about Climate Change

In January, some of our Year 10 pupils visited the Science Museum in South Kensington to explore climate change issues. Whilst there, we used the interactive resources to determine what evidence exists that tells us global warming is a problem and what are the potential solutions. Pupils will use the information learnt from the museum visit to enhance their knowledge and to help them answer exam questions! Crucially we ask, if human activity is what causes the problem of climate change then what should we be doing about it? Do we have a moral or religious duty to resolve this problem? Could it be too late? Ms Williams, Teacher of Religious Studies (RS)



Mathematics



Maths Challenge

On 5 February, 120 pupils from Year 9, 10 & 11 were given the opportunity to participate in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The UKMT organises the biggest national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year olds around the UK. The Intermediate Challenge gives pupils the opportunity to compete against approximately 250,000 pupils in the UK. It is designed to challenge the pupils, test their problem solving skills and make them think.

Well done to Rose Pepperday, Year 9, who not only received a Gold certificate but also scored the highest in the entire school. She qualified for the follow-on Kangaroo round on 19 March and we are currently waiting for her results.

The next challenge will be the Junior Maths Challenge (Years 7 & 8) which will take place on 30 April.

Mr Greenwood, Head of Mathematics



Congratulations to the following pupils whose achievements were recognised.

Gold	Year 11
	Yu Hao Dong
	Year 9
	Rose Pepperday
Silver Certificates	Year 11
	Khalid Raufi Kelell Thomas
	Year 10
	Jessica Dervishi Mustafa Kulecki Elif Sucu
	Year 9
	Andreas Daullja Mikolaj Krus Shafiq Raufi Olivia Weston Stanimir Zagorchev
Bronze Certificates	Year 11
	Sabiha Alam Alish Dortgoz Amel Mire
	Year 10
	Malek Busari Matthew Daniel Eren Kinali Daniel Nwanebu Yvana Tuladhar Lorenzo
	Year 9
	Dylan Ball Alexander Brown-Llabres Murat Gol Quy Hoang Giorgi Pichkhaia Aren Caton Yener

Maths Feast: Further Maths Challenge

"Maths Feast" a further maths challenge was hosted at Skinners' Academy with many schools from Hackney taking part.

A group of Year 10 pupils, Jessica Dervishi, Eren Kinali, Mustafa Kuleci and Elif Sucu represented our school and were awarded for their team working skills.

Jessica Dervishi, Year 10

English



“

Poetry by heart is a poetry recitation competition which involves learning three poems from idolised literature figures. I competed in the finals of the East London contest and came third. Despite unfortunately not winning it was a phenomenal opportunity to be a part of. I am really humbled and grateful for the experience.

Di-Andre Ebanks-Silvera, Year 10

Top 3 in the Poetry by Heart Recital Competition

On 4 February Mr Ayeni and Ms Beecher-Sheppy took Year 10 pupil Di-Andre Ebanks-Silvera to participate in the Regional Final of the Poetry by Heart Competition. The competition was a challenging and exciting experience which allowed Di-Andre to meet and compete with pupils from schools in the East London area. The final was very challenging and had strong competitors from not only secondary schools, but also sixth forms, however after three rounds of recital Di-Andre placed third overall. We are very proud of Di-Andre's achievement and hope to do even better next year.

Ms Beecher-Sheppy, KS4 Coordinator for English

100 Home Event Essay Competition

Skinners' Academy is collaborating with Hackney Homes in hosting an essay/story writing competition. The competition will be open to all pupils in Year 9 and will give them the opportunity to write about the redevelopment of the Hackney area. To launch this project the English department hosted the celebrated writer Mr Cliff McNish on 11 February. He proved to be a very inspirational speaker and many of the pupils left his workshop with a strong desire to do well in the competition. Here is what one of our pupils had to say:

"I thought that the workshop was very useful. It gave me insight into what makes a good story which in turn gave me confidence in my own writing.

I feel that the competition was a nice challenge and fun to participate in. Before the workshop I'd had little experience in writing stories, even though I enjoyed creative tasks, so the workshop was very interesting. We were lucky enough to have a real author come to talk to us, his presence was both refreshing and educating, one of my friends even decided to make up his own story which was very entertaining.

The competition gave us the opportunity to develop our creative writing techniques. It also allowed us to express how we feel about our home in our own way which was very strange since most of us hadn't given it much thought. I really enjoyed both the workshop and the competition and can't wait to participate in something similar again soon."

Dalya El-Ghori, Year 9



Spelling Bee

On 13 February, Year 7 & 8 pupils participated in the grand final of the Skinners' Academy Spelling Bee. The finalists from each English class competed to see who would become the Spelling Bee champion in an exciting and nail-biting final. The overall champion was Abged Siddig, Year 7, with Guney Avgin, Year 8, coming in as a close second. Third and fourth places went to Summer Gayle, Year 7 and Caseymac Jamieson Year 8. Well done to all who participated and showed off their excellent spelling skills.

Ms Marsh, Head of English



Learning Resource Centre (LRC)

Skinners' Writing Competition

The winners of the annual Skinners' Academy Writing Competition were:

Abged Siddig, Year 7

Pedro Beda & Shemul Ahmed Hossain, Year 8

Samira Abuu, Year 9

Irem Yesildag, Year 11

The winning entries were chosen from hundreds of excellent submissions and have been entered by the school into a National Competition. Well done!

Ms Phillips, Librarian

Story Excerpt

The wind was feisty, able to easily rip the sails on the 'Great Anchor'. It was 6 months since we left home. The thought of being back on shore, drinking a hot cup of coffee, and resting near the fireplace made me cry every time. We were sailing through the Pastanavian Ocean in search of adventure, until suddenly the storm emerged, bringing in terror to the ocean.

Shemul Ahmed Hossain, Year 8

LRC & English

World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day the Academy hosted a range of exciting events, from author visits and competitions to dressing up as a book character, encouraging participation from all year levels and even members of staff.



Bookmark Design Competition

Pupils were asked to design a bookmark for World Book Day. The pupils who designed the top five bookmarks were given a prize and their bookmarks were printed and sold during the week in the LRC with the proceeds going to a reading charity. The pupils were...

Aleksandra Marchewska, Year 7

Sarah Osman, Year 7

Karolina Piatkewicz, Year 7

Guney Avgin, Year 8

Joshua Gardener, Year 9

Author Dave Cousins

To help us celebrate World Book Day author Dave Cousins visited Skinners' Academy on 5 March. All Year 7 pupils were given the chance to meet Dave and hear about his journey to becoming a writer during a presentation in the theatre. Many pupils took the opportunity to purchase one of his bestselling titles and have it signed. One lucky English class were also able to participate in a creative writing workshop, where they wrote stories describing the perfect bank robbery.



Storyteller Alim Kamara

Continuing the World Book Day celebrations a selected group of Year 7, 8 & 9 pupils had a fantastic time with songwriter and storyteller Alim Kamara on 6 March.

Alim ran two sessions during the day where he talked about the tradition of oral storytelling as well as performing many stories himself. Pupils participated in the sessions, explaining the meaning and lessons within the stories.



Literacy Inspired Dress-Up

To celebrate World Book Day, pupils in Year 7 and staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books. There was a whole host of Katniss Everdeens, several Horrid Henrys and a wide range of imaginative costumes from others. Staff really got into the swing of things with several characters from *The Great Gatsby*, a *Biggles* and *The Woman in Black*. The aim was to promote a love of books and reading by bringing famous book characters alive.

Ms Jones, Teacher of English



“ ”

I enjoyed listening to Alim he was really funny and extremely inspirational.

Omaarie Dawkins, Year 9

Blind Date With A Book

To keep the mystery of reading alive we've covered some of the lesser read novels in the library with brown paper during World Book Week.

Adventurous pupils are borrowing and reading books without being able to see the title and cover, with little more than a few key words to give them clues. It has encouraged pupils to borrow books they might not otherwise select for themselves. Every pupil that borrows one of the wrapped books went into a draw for a prize.



Art & Design



Project Objectives:

- Provide insight in to the design and advertng industry
- Deliver valuable work/practice based experience
- Engagement with a local challenge and awareness of the power of creativity to solve it

Open Up Your Art Room

Year 9 Art pupils have taken part in a project created by Hackney Council looking at the issue of loneliness and isolation in the elderly. As part of the project, 20 pupils were selected to take part in a one day workshop working with creative industry experts, and competing against 40 6th Form Art students from Hackney. The next stage of this project saw the pupils working in groups of 2-3, to create five minute video presentations of their project idea. The videos received great feedback. The judges felt that all of our pupils really approached the brief with a tremendous amount of energy, some of the best across all the entries.

From this we had one group shortlisted for the next round of activities. This included the group working at Google campus over half term, working with the design company UsTwo, who were extremely taken with the pupils work ethic. The workshop helped the pupils develop their idea further and the following week they had to present again to Hackney council.

Deja Goldwater-Watson, Tasfia Khatun and Gokcen Sevim not only did a fantastic pitch but their project 'Open Up Your School' has been selected as a winner. The girls will be joining the other teams in a final pitch to Hackney Council to see if their idea can be made a reality with the help of Hackney Council. Their work will also be profiled at key D&AD events coming up this spring and summer, plus on the D&AD website.

D&AD has a long heritage of nurturing creative talent. Through their New Blood programmes, educators network and on-line content. They have been supporting young people transitioning from education into design and advertising jobs for over 52 years.

Mr. Devlin, Head of Art & Design

“

My project was called 'Open Up Your School' which was based around isolated elderly people. It was a very nerve racking experience which tested our patience especially when it came to finding out the winner. There was a variety of emotions I was feeling but I mostly felt excitement. I guess I can say it was difficult because my group and I had to have a really good idea in order to win.

Overall I felt lucky to be honoured to be in the competition, even if I didn't win.

Tasfia Khatun, Year 9

Tate Britain Visit

As part of the Year 11 GCSE exam preparation we visited Tate Britain to gather first hand observations on different art work. The visit was very brief with the pupils focusing on a few pieces of work, based on their individual exam plan. The exam is in a few weeks and we look forward to exhibiting the work in the summer term.



Fourth Plinth Competition

It's that time again and we are in the process of creating final designs and sculptures for this year's competition. This year's entrées will be some of our strongest ever and the examples shown are just a sneak peek into the excellent standard being produced.



USE YOUR IMAGINATION

What would you put on the Fourth Plinth?

If you're aged 5-16, send us your work of art and you could win a top prize from Cass Art in our Fourth Plinth Schools Awards. Ask your teacher to enter your idea at london.gov.uk/imagination

Sculpture Roof

We are pleased to announce the opening of the sculpture roof by the main reception. The sculptures have been created by GCSE art pupils as part of their coursework. Look out for more art being displayed around the academy over the coming weeks.



Best KS3 Sketchbook Competition

This terms winners in the best sketchbook category are:

Mohammed Abubakar, Year 7
Angel Mbanje, Year 8

The quality of their work, attitude to creating and overall level of presentation is outstanding.



Grease Stage Set Production

The Art department proudly worked with Drama & Music in creating the stage set for the Grease production. The stage was a mammoth task and with help from a few pupils and Year 9 pupil Zack Dowding's mum, we managed to complete the set just in time. The main pupil contributions were by...

Year 9

Paulina Andrychowska
Onay Koc
Chloe Anang
Rohat Koz

Year 10

Judith Appiah-Nuamah
Aishah Islam
Anna Pietnicka



Design & Technology



““

During this project I enjoyed baking the cakes so much because it showed week after week our improvements in baking and has taught us how to work independently.

Makedah Henry-Spence, Year 9

““

I have become a much faster chef especially with the creaming method which used to take me a lot longer.

Raphael Joseph, Year 9

““

I loved making my cake designs come alive!

Iardena Andreican, Year 9

Easter Cake Design 'Egg'cellence

This term the Year 9 Food Technology pupils have been introduced to the art of food designing through novelty cakes.

Pupils were all given the same design theme of Easter and had to follow the design process used in the industry to come up with suitable designs. Pupils have worked really hard doing primary and secondary research to find out what their target audiences like and dislike, where to source the cheapest ingredients and what themes link to Easter.

Pupils have learnt how to make a range of different cakes, how to shape cakes and what cooking techniques create the best cake.

The results have been simply outstanding and I would like to say a BIG well done to the pupils.

Ms Greco, Head of Design & Technology

GCSE Textiles Talent

Year 11 pupils have been working really hard this term on their GCSE Textiles final pieces.

Each pupil was given the following theme; "A popular high street store has commissioned you to design and make an original textile product inspired by the colours, spirit, and pattern associated with one of the following cultures: African, Australian, Asian and South American."

The outcome from pupils has been astonishing and they have shown real creativity in their designs and worked very well considering they had minimum help from the classroom teacher.

The DT department would like to wish the Textiles pupils every success in their GCSE results.

Ms Greco, Head of Design & Technology



Conservation Project

Year 9 Resistant Materials pupils were asked to create a bird house to help feed, monitor and protect wild birds in Finsbury Park. Pupils had to find a spot within the park where the houses could be placed to support wildlife in the area. The specification was very clear on the sizes and the shape that the bird houses had to be.

Well done to Luke McConville, Howard Misquita, Onay Koc and Tanvir Mohammed Hossain for their excellent work this term.

Mr Williams, Teacher of Design & Technology and Assistant HOY



““

I found the project challenging but I am happy with my result. I can't wait for the next project.

Howard Misquita, Year 9

Modern Foreign Languages



““

It was very entertaining. I got a real insight into the modern culture of the Hispanic world.

Michael Odetola, Year 11

““

I thought that Tango Fire was really enjoyable and the dancing was really professional. I liked the music and the post-show dance lesson was the best.

Khalia Reid, Year 9

““

I really enjoyed the evening, it was entertaining and I also danced a lot in the post-show Tango lesson.

Daniella Cano, Year 11

Tango Fire

On 10 February, a group of Year 9, 10 & 11 pupils embarked on a trip to see the fabulous show 'Tango Fire'. Tango fire is choreographed by critically acclaimed Argentine choreographer and dancer German Cornejo. The show was filled with dance couples who have choreographed their own solos with German Cornejo refining the steps as is traditional in the world of Argentine Tango. Allowing the couples creative freedom creates a showcase of the five couple's individual styles, making Tango Fire Company of Buenos Aires unique in the world of Tango.

Pupils experienced the culture of Argentina and were exposed to a cast of exceptional dancers including World Tango Champions who displayed amazing skills and had great energy. Dancers were also accompanied by a Spanish Quartet made up of Argentina's finest young musicians and singers lead by Jesus Hidalgo.

It was a great experience for the pupils and they were even invited to a post-show Tango lesson, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Ms Smith, 2iC Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Nurture Group

Spring Highlights

Our Spring focus has been on enterprise. Enterprise in the curriculum for SEN pupils should be very practical and based on real-life scenarios. The skills taught must be transferable as we prepare them for KS4, KS5 and employment. Therefore, learning in a real life context was brought into the curriculum through project based learning and I am very pleased to share the successes with you here.

The first Enterprise project was the launch of French Café in January, enabling pupils to aim high and take a risk to run their own Café whilst showing off their language skills. For the second project Maths was taken outside of the Academy and with support from the local community shops; we could deliver practical assessments in a shop environment – you can't get more enterprising.

As a department we experimented with ways of formulating the enterprise skills taught daily through the use of stampers and charts. Looking ahead, we are hoping to encourage more local community partnerships to make enterprise learning come alive for our SEN pupils. Meanwhile, please read on for more details about our projects, initiatives and our work within Speech and Language.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the successful transition of our pupils into mainstream classes. One has been fully integrated into the KS3 curriculum, whilst three pupils are taking that nurturing step of following a part-time timetable. I am extremely proud of their achievements and thankful to my team members supporting me to make this happen. It highlights the concept of a personalised curriculum and that everybody learns in their own way – after all this is what nurturing is all about!

Ms Cotgrave, 2iC SENCO



Notre café français

With our enterprise specialism in mind, both Year 7 & Year 8 Nurture groups participated in a pilot project: the French Café.

During a short preparation period pupils excelled in working in teams by using effective communications skills and demonstrated great resilience and enthusiasm. Not only did they manage to learn how to initiate and lead basic conversations in French, but they memorized approximately 50 different words and short phrases in French and they used them in the correct context with near perfect pronunciation.

The French Café was open for business on 13 January; pupils invited their favourite members of staff to celebrate their success. The lucky invitees were greeted and served in French and with authentic French café music playing to set the theme; they could order a croissant and a good café-au-lait.

It has been an outstanding experience for all of us involved, with a tiny drop of a 'Paris Café Ambiance.'

Thank you to the Nurture team and fellow colleagues who supported the project.

““

Roll out to the rest of the Academy. Do it more often! It was truly excellent - well done and thank you.

Café customer

““

Invite even more people, I'm sure others would have loved to have seen the nurture group in action.

Café customer



'A Splashing Time': Swimming Success

Swimming lessons at King's Hall Leisure Centre continued this term for both Year 7 & Year 8 Nurture Groups. They followed the 'Better Start Swim Programme' sponsored by Better Kellogg's Swim Active. A few pupils from the group had never been swimming before, so to achieve what they did in 12 weeks is really outstanding! The Nurture team are proud to announce the following achievements:

Special thanks go to Marnie and her Swim Team, Ms. Haque and Ms. Tarnoczi for their brilliant support.

Ms Cotgrave, ZiC SENCO

Year 7	
Ionut Morar	200 metres and Stage 4
Cagla Incedal	50 metres and Stage 4
Mariangles Jimenez	50 metres and Stage 4
Amanda Pereira	50 metres and Stage 4
Ayanle Jamal	25 metres and Stage 3
Israel Onasanya	25 metres and Stage 3
Naomi Simona Stoiadinov	25 metres back kicking and Stage 3
Arun Singh	25 metres and Stage 3
Cameron Jean Paul	20 metres and Stage 3
David Santana Rodriguez	20 metres and Stage 3
Abu Bakar Chowdhury	15 metres and Stage 3
Destin Nlandu	15 metres and Stage 3
Prince Taiwo	10 metres and Stage 3
Year 8	
James Myers	50 metres and Stage 4
Abdul Halim Ibrahim	25 metres and Stage 3
Angel Brann Nicol	13 metres and Stage 3
Mechack Lubaki	10 metres and Stage 2
Garvey Howell	Kicking 5 metres and confidence

A view from mainstream maths

Since 2 February, three pupils have been in mainstream maths and initial thoughts are below...

“”

When I went to mainstream maths it made me feel proud, because I felt I was doing just as well as the others... Currently in mainstream maths we are learning about shapes and I am really brilliant at it!

Arun Smith, Year 7

“”

I feel very proud of myself, because I know that I've improved my Maths problem solving skills.

Amanda Pereira, Year 7

“”

Mainstream is different from Nurture because there are more people in the class than in the Nurture classes. In Nurture maths the teacher explains more and the learning is more life-based. It's very practical. Overall, I would like to improve my algebra equations, sequences and the other common topics. My final aim is to get back to mainstream classes on a full time table.

Ayanle Jamal, Year 7



Student Services



Backstory

In February, Only Connect, a creative crime prevention charity, performed their latest production "Backstory" to Year 9.

The production follows three young Londoners as they share with the audience their journeys into adulthood. The production is based on the real words spoken by young people that Only Connect has worked with.

Backstory looked at peer pressure, substance misuse, healthy and unhealthy relationships, mental health, joint enterprise, sexual exploitation and bullying. It explored choices and resilience. The cast also shared their own experiences of the choices they made as young Londoners and the paths this led them on. After the performance there was a workshop that explored the issues raised and gave pupils a chance to look at the choices, support and opportunities available to them.

Ms Windebank,
Academy Counsellor &
Ms Bowling, Head of Year 9

““

The Backstory performance was good because it helped educate us about things we don't learn about in normal lessons.

Shanae Crick, Year 9

Stop the Traffick

On 11 January it was Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The event started as a US initiative and is now supported by the United Nations. Skinners' marked the day by inviting a global organisation called "Stop the Traffik", which campaigns against human trafficking, to deliver workshops for our pupils.

Stop the Traffik ran workshops with all pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 to raise awareness of human trafficking, which is, devastatingly, the world's fastest growing crime. The workshops were informative and interactive. Pupils gained an understanding of the different forms of human trafficking and were able to engage with the experiences of survivors of this crime.

During the days following the workshops, pupils and staff were invited to create a paper hand cut-out, which they could note their thoughts from the workshops on and/or pledge their support for the fight against human trafficking. The paper hands were displayed in the foyer with information about trafficking and this became an area for further thought, questions and discussions.

Ms Windebank, Academy Counsellor

““

I enjoyed the Stop the Traffick workshop. I think it's good that people are making us aware of the dangers we can be put in. It was also very helpful because we now know how to help others in need.

Magdalena Maciejewska, Year 10

““

The workshop was very informative. I learnt a lot of things, including the fact that this could happen to anyone.

Tyreeka Williams, Year 10



Time to Talk: Focus on Mental Health

On 5 February, pupils and staff throughout the Academy took part in the national "Time to Talk Day".

Time to Change, the mental health anti-stigma programme, run by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, asked people across the UK to take five minutes to have a conversation about mental health.

At Skinners' we got involved by:

- All pupils watching a presentation about how to look after our mental health and support others this included short films about young people's experience of mental health issues
- Year 7 & 8 had a Time to Talk Day assembly where they were encouraged to talk about how they look after their mental health and what they could do to be a good friend to someone suffering from mental health
- There was an interactive display in the foyer with information about mental health, pupils could pledge that they would talk openly about mental health
- Mental health 'conversation starters' or 'chatterboxes' were also made as part of the display and in some Advisories

One in ten young people experience mental health problems and many of those face stigma and discrimination as a result. Remember:

- We all have mental health the same as we have physical health
- Our mental health is the way we think, feel and behave
- Having a mental health problem is hard enough but sometimes the isolation and stigma can make it even worse
- You don't need to be an expert to talk about mental health
- Talking about mental health doesn't need to be difficult

Thousands of individuals and organisations came together to show that it really is time to talk about mental health, breaking the taboo surrounding it.
Ms Windebank, Academy Counselor



“ ”

The Time to Talk Day taught many people that looking after your mental health is as important as it is with your physical health.
Cansu Onel, Year 9

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

GCSE in Community (home) Languages 2015

Over 60 pupils have been given the opportunity to earn an extra GCSE in their home language. The exams have four separate components which are speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Last year GCSE results for home languages were a great success with most of the pupils achieving an A or A*. We hope to repeat the success this year. We wish all the pupils the best of luck and will keep our fingers crossed for the results.

Ms Jargot, Teacher of EAL & Home Languages and Ms Smith, 2iC MFL

Language	Speaking	Listening	Reading	Writing	Pupils sitting exam
Turkish OCR	15 & 16 April	20 May	15 May	5 June	20
Portuguese OCR	15 April	20 May	15 May	5 June	12
Polish AQA	17 April	11 June	16 June	16 June	12
Bengali AQA	21 April	3 June	8 June	8 June	8
Arabic EDEXCEL	21 April	15 June	15 June	17 June	1
Spanish AQA	Controlled assessment	15 May	5 May	Controlled assessment	2
German AQA	Controlled assessment	3 June	3 June	Controlled assessment	1

Physical Education (P.E.)

Dance is a Gift

Recently we had a dance workshop led by the professional dance school: Trinity Laban for the Year 8 Gifted & Talented PE pupils. The workshop took place during PE lessons and was led by a professional dancer focusing on technique and creative elements. It was a fantastic opportunity for the girls to experience contemporary dance and what Trinity Laban as a dance school has to offer.

Ms Bouwers, Teacher of PE



Cross Country Championships London Youth Games

It was a wonderful day for our pupils at the cross country championships held at Avery Hill Park. This year was a great turnout with over 10 boroughs competing. The weather was on our side, the atmosphere was electric and our pupils were more than ready. Competing for the Hackney Borough were Year 7 pupils Isabella Vargas and Jean Paul Vargas who both ran extremely well. Isabella finished 45th overall out of 160 runners as well as finishing 4th for the borough. Well Done! Also representing Hackney were Year 8 pupils Timmy Junior Samuel-Alase and Jesse Asiedu Buoh, this race was also competitive and the boys should hold their heads up high as they finished 54th & 55th respectively out of 180 runners.

Mr Donovan,
PE Teaching Assistant

Girls Football: U16 West Ham Tournament

The Skinners' under 16 girls football team came second in their group and got through to the quarter finals of the West Ham tournament. Teams from all around London were taking part making it a fierce and close competition to make it into the semi-final rounds. The girls match ended in a penalty round where they were unfortunately knocked out at the quarter final stage. Well done to the team for making it through to the quarter finals.

Top Scorers:

- Holly Davidson, Year 9
- Chi-Chi Ikey, Year 10
- Shaquelle Lewis Frame, Year 11

Ms Bouwers, Teacher of PE



Rugby is coming to Skinners' Academy

Well done to the Year 7 boys who came 3rd in a full contact rugby tournament at Petchey Academy, winning three out of five games. They showed fantastic potential to develop rugby at Skinners' in the future. Watch this space! The team included Kevin, Zion, Kai, Erblin, Tyler, Telmo, Lloyd, Maruf, Darren and Zubair.

Top scorer: Kevin Samuel
Captain: Telmo Cangoma
Ms Bouwers, Teacher of PE



Duke of Edinburgh

Leading youth charity the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) gives all young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future. By taking part in the DofE, you will take part in a range of activities, all leading to the achievement of an Award that's recognised by universities and employers alike.

The Bronze Award programme has four sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. Pupils must complete a minimum of three months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, and take part in a two day (one night) expedition.

The Year 11 pupils on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award course have all done extremely well on their recent visits to Kent over two weekends (28 February - 1 March & 7 March - 8 March). There was some great teamwork, cohesion and determination from both groups and we are very proud of their commitment and dedication. There were some excellent moments from both weekends with the following pictures capturing these in great detail.
Mr Donovan, PE Teaching Assistant



““

It was tough but the qualification was worth it. We look forward to continuing on to the Silver and Gold Award in the sixth form!

Tyler Creary-John &
Naomie Kinduelo, Year 11



““

The DofE expedition encouraged me to work beyond my comfort zone, pushing me to do things I never thought I would do. I was put in a position where all the skills I had been taught previously had to come into use. I built a tent, used my map reading skills, used my first aid skills and cooking abilities. I relied on my team and they in turn relied on me making me realize the importance of teamwork.

It allowed us to be more independent, for example if we got lost we had to put our skills into use and use our initiative to find our path again.

If I did not take part in this expedition I feel that I wouldn't have gained the knowledge needed to actually help me in the future, besides that it was actually really fun. All the teachers were encouraging and supportive. I strongly encourage others to complete the DofE!

Tabassum Nusiba, Year 11

BBC News School Report

Every year, Skinners' Academy participates in BBC News School Report - the day when 11-16 year olds take over the news and gain valuable experience of how the media functions. This year, we were also invited to be interviewed live on the news. Visit the Academy's website for more information.

Ms Betsayda-Petrie,
KS3 Coordinator for English



Parents' Corner

For more information on the above and to keep up to date with news from the Academy all year round through our varying communication channels, including:

Our website:

www.skinnersacademy.org.uk

Twitter:

@skinnersacademy; @skinners6thform

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney

LinkedIn:

Search Skinners' Academy

Dates for your diary

Thursday 30 April

Year 8 GCSE Options Evening

Tuesday 5 - Friday 15 May

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 11 May - Friday 19 June

Year 11 GCSE Public Exams

Thursday 18 June

Sixth Form Induction Day

Friday 26 June

Year 11 Prom at Emirates Stadium

Tuesday 7 July

Summer Concert at 6:30pm

Friday 17 July

Last day of term