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March 2018
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Spring Term
Issue 22
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academy newsletter



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A very warm welcome to our Spring newsletter. I write this introduction as the snow is falling and the Beast from the East takes its icy grip on London and much of the rest of the country.

This term has been very short – the first half term, only five weeks' long and the second, only six weeks. That said, it has been packed with activities and trips. Two of the highlights so far have been the geography department's trip across Italy over the February holiday, and the amazing production of We Will Rock You on the 7th, 8th and 9th of February. The latter is the fourth major musical that we have staged at the Academy and the standard was as high as ever. The futuristic staging and the ever popular music of Queen made this a challenging and slightly unusual choice for a school production, but the finished product was engaging and impressive. My sincere thanks to everyone involved.

The term started in January with Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students receiving their mock GCSE and A Level results. As always, many pupils have clearly worked very hard and are on target to receive some outstanding results. Likewise, however, a number of pupils' mock examination grades fell a long way short of what they should be attaining and, as a result, were significantly below what they will need to gain access to the Academy's sixth form, college, university or apprenticeship. By the time this newsletter is circulated, there will only be three school weeks left before the start of the formal public exams. I hope everyone will work as hard as they possibly can in the time remaining to achieve their very best in these life-changing exams. Best of luck to you all.

Tim Clark
Principal, Skinner's Academy





Freedom Charity

On 7 March, Ms Kurtuldu, Ms Carroll and Ms Dalia attended the Freedom Charity's reception at the House of Lords to mark International Women's Day. The reception's aim was to raise awareness of the fight against forced marriage, dishonour abuse, and FGM.

The event featured powerful speeches from five inspirational women including Baroness Hayman, Aneeta Prem (Founder of Freedom Charity) and our very own Ms Kurtuldu.



““

The Freedom Charity's reception at the House of Lords, to mark International Women's Day, was a prestigious event. I am proud to be an ambassador for Freedom Charity, and praise the work they do to support those that are victims of FGM, dishonour abuse, and forced marriage.

Ms Kurtuldu, Head of Business

International Women's Day

A massive thank you goes to all the external visitors, the sixth formers and staff that helped support a successful Drop Down Day to mark International Women's Day. The Year 7s were involved in a range of different classroom and practical activities to celebrate women in different fields. Throughout the day, pupils reflected on these activities, linking the key values of the day and the Academy's core values and transferred these to their own goals in life.

Activities included:

- ♦ **Motivational workshop** – Overcoming barriers (Young Hackney and Recipe for Success.)
- ♦ **Women in music** – A poster race activity to learn all about successful women in music (Winners; Klaudia, Delal, Nisa, Melissa and Tayiba)
- ♦ **Women in sport** – Muay-Thai female fighters from Bloodline Gym showed pupils what they can do and delivered a quick training session for pupils encouraging them to be the best they can!
- ♦ **Women in sport** – Q & A session with Muay-Thai female fighters linking motivation and determination to school.
- ♦ **Women in careers** – Q & A session with the London Fire Brigade's first female commissioner.
- ♦ **London Fire Brigade** – Tour of fire engine and practical session.

Ms Bouwers, HOY 7/Teacher of Physical Education & Ms Hua, Teacher of Sociology & Psychology/AHOY7



““

We loved meeting the Bloodline Gym Boxers because we learned new skills. We also met the fire officers who let us use the fire hose.

Sahil Bhamji & Abdi Hussein, Year 7



““

We should celebrate International Women's Day every day.

Anaya Benson, Year 7



Impact Zone

We have had a wonderful term of activities during Saturday's Impact Zone with lessons including English, maths, basketball, football, music technology, cookery, martial arts and leadership. The pupils have worked super hard and have been a real credit to the Academy.

Year 9 & Year 10 pupils attended the Empowering Young Minds conference in the Borough of Brent. Our pupils were so impressive that Dawn Butler local MP for Brent, tweeted about them.

The conference focussed on young people empowering themselves and the importance of not letting labels set by others hold you back. This provided our pupils with the courage that they needed to present what they had learnt to parents during Impact Zone's Parent Learning Day.

Ms Bowling, Head of Pupil & Parental Engagement

Teens & Toddlers

A small group of Year 9 pupils have just completed the Teens and Toddlers programme.

Teens and Toddlers is an educational programme, which combines classroom instruction and work experience at nurseries and schools. Teens and Toddlers aims to instil in our young people practical skills they are able to take into the work place and use in their everyday lives.

Over four months the pupils worked closely in a 1:1 situation with nursery aged children; while doing this they also had to complete a work based portfolio.

After all their hard work, pupils were invited to a fun and dynamic graduation ceremony held in central London. Shifah Abdool Hamid (Year 9) spoke in front of the whole audience and sang the praises of the Teens and Toddlers programme. Well done Shifah for braving the stage and congratulations to the following pupils for completing the programme successfully:

- ♦ Shifah Abdool Hamid
- ♦ Buse Gungor
- ♦ Ezgi Kervanda
- ♦ Travis Osei-Bonsu
- ♦ Furkan Ozdas
- ♦ Momdou Seine
- ♦ Katie Spicer
- ♦ Devonte Tracey

Mr Ojo, Behaviour Mentor/AHOY 9

“”

I really enjoyed the parent learning day. It gave me the opportunity to see what my daughter experiences in Impact Zone. It was nice to see her working as part of a team whilst cooking, we definitely enjoyed the dish she made at home.

Parent

Debating

Every Thursday, Skinners' Academy have been running an after-school debating club attended by a wonderful group of pupils from Year 8 to Year 10.

So far, our young debaters have taken part in the English Speaking Union MACE debate and various public speaking competitions.

In the most recent public speaking competition, the Academy's debating team achieved second place.

Individual pupil success was achieved by Fathima Haniya Mohamed-Mustaffa, Year 10; who won Best Speaker, and Favour Adebisi, Year 8; who won Best Chairperson.

Ms Bowling, Head of Pupil & Parental Engagement



Academy Production

We Will We Will Rock You!

Our highly anticipated fourth Academy production was an all singing all dancing performance of the famous 'We Will Rock You'. The show ran from 7 - 9 February with a talented group of pupils ranging from Year 7 - 13 who formed our cast, tech crew and on stage band.

Featuring more than 20 hit Queen songs, We Will Rock You (School Edition) follows two revolutionaries as they try to save rock music in a post apocalyptic world.

Earth's name has changed to Planet Mall and is controlled by the Worldwide mega-corporation GlobalSoft, which is headed by the Killer Queen. Everywhere on the planet, people watch the same movies, listen to computer-generated music, wear the same clothes and hold the same thoughts and opinions. Musical instruments and composers are forbidden, and rock music is all but unknown.

Those who dare to stand against GlobalSoft's enforced conformity are kidnapped and 'brain stormed' into submission.

However, a small group of Bohemians joined by Galileo and his female companion Scaramouche, battle to restore the free exchange of thought, fashion, and (most of all) live music.



“

Wow! So Amazing.

Well done to everyone involved. I have seen all past Academy productions and this has by far been the best yet. I can't wait to see next year's show. Bravo.

Parent

“

I really enjoyed working with the band for this production. This has been the most enjoyable production I have been a part of at Skinners'.

Despite all the songs being quite complex, it helped me learn more about music and the dedication required for working in a band.

Lauren Phillips, Year 10 (Pianist)





“”

Being a part of the show has been an incredible experience, not only for me but for everyone who took part. I really had a good time and everything turned out EPIC! I want to take part in next year's show because I made new friends and had a great time.

Esmeralda Kulla, Year 9 (Scaramouche)



“”
Just incredible... the songs, set, performance and THE BAND!...Wow
Parent



“”
What a show!
Ms Bell, HOY8/Teacher of History



“”
I have loved working hard on this show. This has been my first appearance in a Academy production and it has been a fun and positive experience. I would love to take part again in next year's show.
Alina Caton Yener, Year 7 (Teen Queen/Jackson 5)



Academy Production pictures by Yasemin Kelimet, Year 13

“”

The kids are the CHAMPIONS OF ROCK!

Parent



“”

Amazing show! So proud of all of you.

Ms Hendricks, Teacher of History



“”

Being a part of this year's show has been absolutely brilliant. I am gaining experience in acting, singing and dancing, all whilst making new friends.

Javier Mothersille, Year 8 (Brit)

“”

I have played three characters in three different shows and each time has been an amazing experience. Lots of work has been done and lots of friendships have been made. I can't wait to find out what next year's show will be!

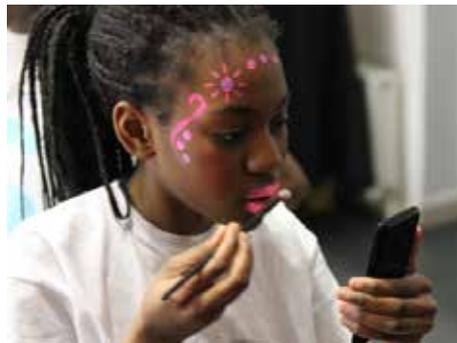
Emily Blagrove, Year 10 (Killer Queen)



“”

Rock on you crazy diamonds.

Parent



Staff vs Pupil Bake Off!

To support this year's Academy Production of 'We Will Rock You' (WWRY), staff and pupils were encouraged to take part in the first ever 'Staff vs Pupil Bake Off'! This was a great opportunity to promote WWRY and some healthy competition.

We received some fantastic entries and picking a winner was difficult. For staff, the joint winners were Mr Devlin and Ms Betsayda-Petrie, however, the overall winner was Year 7's Naomi Pindling, meaning the pupils triumphed over the staff.

Naomi's winning prize was 200 House Points and a £20 Waterstones Voucher.

Everyone who entered also received 50 House Points each, resulting in each house gaining the following:

- Judd - 500 points
- Atwell - 300 points
- Hunt - 200 points
- Buchanan - 100 points

A special well done goes to Victor & Guney Avgin (Year 9 & Year 11) and Rudi Disney (Year 8) for their fantastic attempts. Also, thank you to Year 8 pupils Christabel Adeyemi and Faaizah Fatai-Dere for their contributions.

Ms Ebejer, Finance Assistant



Naomi Pindling (Year 7)



Mr Devlin



Rudi Disney (Year 8)



Victor & Guney Avgin (Year 9 & Year 11)



Ms Betsayda-Petrie

Music

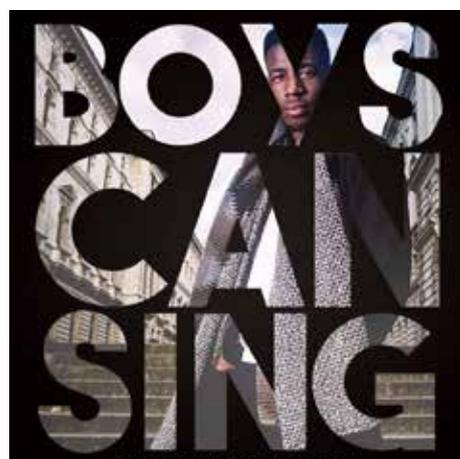


Boys' Choir

The Boys' Choir have been working with Charles MacDougall - a professional tenor, choral animateur, and vocal coach. Charles was a founding member of vocal ensemble VOCES8, singing with the group for over seven years and performing over 100 concerts internationally every year.

The choir were preparing for the 'Boys Can Sing' event, which took place on 21 March. The event involved a vocal workshop with amazing guests, and later led to a grand concert! This year over 120 boys across the Borough of Hackney took part. Pupils worked with professional singers including Mark De-Lisser and his male singers from the ACM choir, and singers from VOCES8!

Ms Adediran, Head of Music



“ ”

I like the collaboration between upper and lower-school in Boys' Choir. I really enjoy singing in harmony alongside a variety of voices.

Chin Ho Chung, Year 9



Collaborative Projects

The music department at the Academy is constantly involved with exciting projects, collaborating with other schools and professional musicians! Here are a few of the projects we have been involved in:

- Petchey Academy Spring Concert – Skinners' Academy pupils were invited to perform with Petchey's musicians on 15 March.
- The City Academy Brass Band Workshop - Over the next few months, pupils will be working with the City Academy Brass Band on pieces that they will perform together at the Hackney Gala in October.
- Hackney Borough Youth Orchestra – We will be rewarding some of our pupils with a trip to see the Hackney Borough Youth Orchestra perform at Bridge Academy.

Ms Adediran, Head of Music

“”

It was a great experience; it was my first time seeing an orchestra. I would like to see more from the London Sinfonietta!

Maria Pereira Dos Reis, Year 9

“”

I liked that before the concert there was a performance in the lobby where the musicians were playing a type of clarinet which I've never seen before.

Yasmin Ali, Year 9



London Sinfonietta's 50th Anniversary

The Academy's music department have built a strong relationship with the London Sinfonietta, having participated in a number of their events last year.

On 24 January, we were lucky enough to be invited to a celebratory concert of the London Sinfonietta's 50th anniversary of their first performance. The concert highlighted a range of musical pieces that have shaped the London Sinfonietta's identity.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

National Youth Orchestra

An exciting new project is happening between the music department at Skinners' Academy and the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) of Great Britain! In April, the NYO will be at the Academy for two days, during which NYO musicians will curate side-by-side workshops and music exchanges, culminating in a powerful large-scale symphonic performance.

Music Concerts

The end of term always involves a whole host of concerts, packed full with music that pupils have worked incredibly hard on.

The Spring Term concerts have already taken place but we are already excited to promote our Summer Term concert dates!

Please note these dates down, we look forward to seeing you supporting our young musicians at one of these events.

Summer Concert
(Formal event)

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Thursday 12 July, 2018 @ 6.30pm

.....

Free Entry (limited seating)
All performers will be allocated one parent/carer ticket in the first instance.

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Refreshments are available for purchase during the interval.

Music Café
(Informal, gig-style event)

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Friday 13 July, 2018 @ 5.00pm

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Free Entry
Performers will be allocated one parent/carer ticket in the first instance.

.....

Refreshments are available for purchase during the interval.

Drama



“”

Seeing 'A Christmas Carol' at the Old Vic truly exceeded my expectations!

David Musonera, Year 10

“”

You are never disappointed by going to see a show at the Old Vic.

Sharriah Guthrie, Year 10

Old Vic New Voices

Old Vic New Voices is a fantastic scheme that allows us to take 30 pupils from Skinners' to see four performances across the school year. We are thrilled to be involved with this scheme for the fourth year running.

We have already been to see 'Girl from the North Country' and 'A Christmas Carol'. The next show we are scheduled to see is 'Fanny & Alexander', adapted for the stage from Ingmar Bergman's rich, funny and humane masterpiece. In a battle of wills between freedom and repression, a story unfolds about the power of imagination and the endurance of a family's love for each other.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama

“”

It's interesting to see everyone's different ideas come together to make the final performance for the Barbican Box Project.

Marcel Latwinski, Year 9

“”

Getting to perform on the Barbican stage this early on in our drama GCSE is really exciting.

Beritan Unek, Year 9



Barbican Box Project

The drama department at the Academy feels very lucky to be involved with the 'Barbican Box' project for the eighth year! In this project, selected schools across London receive a box curated by Tamasha Theatre Company. They then have to devise a piece of original theatre from the objects in the box and perform it to an audience on the Barbican stage.

This year, we are taking Year 9 drama pupils to the Barbican on 14 March to perform a piece they have devised about a girl's mother going missing and her quest to solve the mystery.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama

LAMDA

Extra-curricular LAMDA lessons have been running successfully since the start of the year, with many pupils set to sit the well-recognised LAMDA exams in the summer. The performing arts talent at Skinners' Academy is excellent, and LAMDA lessons are a way to help pupils improve their acting and public speaking skills. Pupils have been receiving a 30-minute lesson each week from a LAMDA specialist where they learn and perform scripted monologues, duologues, or extracts from verse and prose.

Ms Quince, Head of Drama



“”

LAMDA helps improve my drama skills and it is fun at the same time.

Berfin Koz, Year 10

Tech Club

Following the success of the Gifted and Talented Masterclasses, the drama department have an exciting new tech club in the works!

In the masterclasses, focus has been on the tech and design side of theatre – lighting and sound especially.

This insight into what it is like behind-the-scenes on a theatre project is a great way to explore different roles in the industry.

“”

In Tech Club I learned how to use sound effects to enhance my work and how to edit them to make the scene more real for the audience and the actors.

Maria Benitez-Arboleda, Year 10

Things I Know To Be True

The Year 11 drama pupils had a very busy week in January. In that week, they managed to complete their GCSE performance exam in front of a visiting examiner and see a show at the theatre the next day.

We went to see 'Things I Know To Be True' at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, a new play by Frantic Assembly and State Theatre Company about four grown siblings struggling to define themselves beyond their parents' love and expectations. The Year 11 pupils will have to write about the show as part of their exam in the summer.

Ms Clare, Performing Arts Teaching Assistant

“”

The performance exam was nerve-wracking, but an enjoyable experience that I would do again!

Aasta Clark, Year 11



Geography

Ciao Italia!

During the February half-term, 17 pupils from Years 9-12 ventured on a tour across Italy from Rome to Sorrento.

In Rome, we took in historical tours of the Colosseum and Roman Forum to name but a few. We also visited Vatican City (the world's smallest city-state), which was a great way for pupils to experience the unique way that a religion governs a country.

In Sorrento, we travelled along the Amalfi coastal road where we learnt more about the geomorphology and management of the dramatic coastline. We also visited the ruins of Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius and the Vesuvian Observatory and looked at how earthquakes and volcanoes are monitored, which is relevant to the syllabus.

Ms McKinstry, Head of Geography



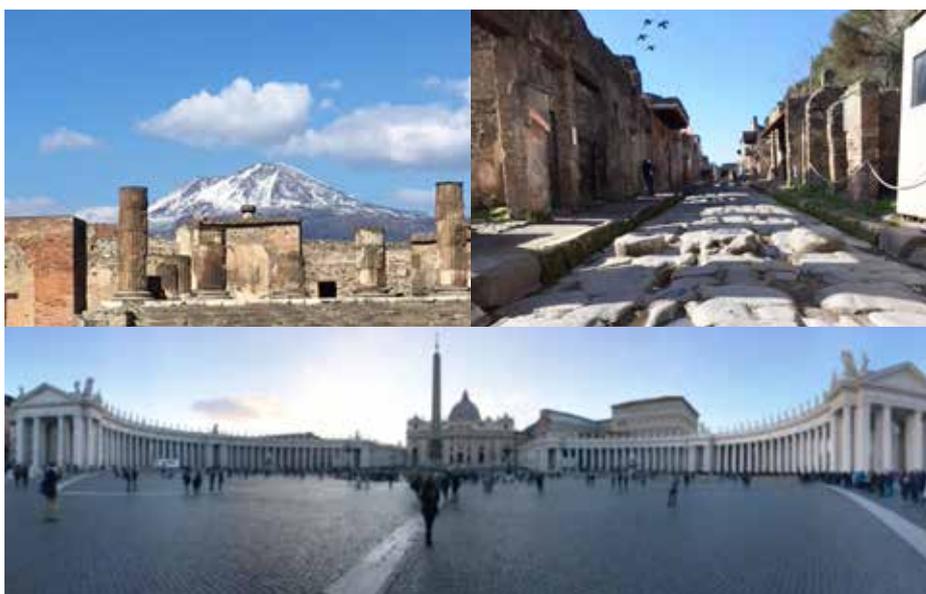
Day One

Our trip started early on Monday morning when we arrived in Rome and our coach transferred us to a beautiful hotel in the heart of the city.

After having some lunch our tour guide arrived to take us on a walking tour of the city. We travelled by foot to the historic centre and down towards the Trevi Fountain where we threw in some coins, an estimated 3,000 Euros are thrown into the fountain each day!

We then walked over to the Spanish steps which overlook the famous skyline of Rome, with the historic domes and church spires that dominate the city.

After our tour, we returned to the hotel where we were welcomed by a delicious Italian meal and relaxed so we were ready for the next day.



Day Two

We woke to have breakfast in the hotel before starting our journey through Rome's history. Our guide led us towards the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill. Most of Rome's history is still buried underground and it was amazing to see the pillars, arches and buildings which were home to the most rich and important Romans including Emperor Augustus, the founder of the Roman Empire.

We journeyed over to the iconic Colosseum to see where gladiators fought against each other with up to 80,000 spectators watching in the immense amphitheatre, built in only 8 years!

After lunch, we travelled over border control into the smallest state in the world and home to the Pope, Vatican City. Here we were able to visit the Sistine chapel to see the artwork of Michelangelo; this led into St Peter's Basilica, home to over 100 tombs of Cardinals and Popes.

Our final visit was to St Peter's Square, the landmark plaza in front of the Vatican before travelling back to our hotel for dinner.

“

Italy was such a fun and amazing experience, especially visiting the Vatican City, which was extraordinary. The people there made the trip even better, I hope to visit again.

Anaís Arias-Galan, Year 12



““

The Italy trip was a huge privilege for me, it was one of the best trips that I have ever been on! The history and the geography behind all the cities we visited was amazing. I would love to go again if I get the chance to.

Dilan Meter, Year 10

Day Three

We began our two-hour coach trip from Rome to Naples. We arrived into Naples under the shadow of a snow-topped Mount Vesuvius; we got a panoramic tour of the city before stopping off at the city's shopping centre for some retail therapy and lunch.

After lunch, we walked through the cobbled streets to visit the labyrinth of tunnels, caves and cavities of Naples underground water system, and the ancient Naples amphitheatre, which today's modern city has been built on top of.

In the afternoon, we travelled to our new hotel in the beautiful coastal town of Sorrento to have an evening meal and watch the Champion's League football before bed.

Day Four

Today the sun was shining and we were greeted by a beautiful view of Mount Vesuvius before travelling to the ancient city of Pompeii, which sits at the base of the volcano. Pompeii was destroyed by a volcanic eruption in 79AD, which covered the city in up to 20 feet of ash, keeping it frozen in time until its discovery over 1600 years later in 1748. Inside the city, we saw inside the homes of the residents, the gymnasium where the gladiators trained, the high street with shops, the main plaza with Vesuvius overlooking the temples of ancient Gods.

After lunch, we visited the ancient city of Herculaneum, a wealthier town than Pompeii, possessing a density of fine houses, ancient dry cleaners, bakery and even a public toilet.

In the afternoon, we returned to Sorrento where the village was celebrating the feast day of St Antoni and we enjoyed some free time for shopping.



Day Five

After an eventful four days and a delicious breakfast, our coach arrived to begin our travel to Naples airport.

We were able to have a final journey along the coast and into Naples where we reflected on our excellent memories of the ancient cities, delicious food and of course, the welcoming Italian people, before we caught our flight back home to London.

Fairtrade Week

In March the geography department and Year 8 pupils ran our annual Fairtrade chocolate pop up shop. Year 8 pupils had to complete an application and then have an interview before taking part (great practice for the future).

Every year we highlight Fairtrade by giving pupils the opportunity to buy and sell Fairtrade products. Products that carry the Fairtrade logo ensure that the producers get a fair wage. It also means that the raw materials were grown in a sustainable way and that the community they came from receive extra investment for projects such as wells, education and healthcare.

As in previous years, the shop was a huge success. G55 was packed and we sold out before the end of lunch. Thanks to all staff and pupils for their support. The proceeds will be going to the Goodlife orphanage in Kenya.

Mr Lyons, Teacher of Geography



Enterprise

““

Being a judge at the South East Regionals was truly amazing. I was able to watch young pupils aged 11-16 come up with great ideas for our future, and select the winning idea. I was able to see how the challenge works from another perspective compared to when I won in 2015. I will definitely continue working with Mosaic, and I highly recommend that others take part in the challenge next year.

Agnieszka Rudnik, Year 13



Judging the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge

On 19 March, Year 13's Agnieszka Rudnik took her seat as part of the prestigious panel of judges at the Mosaic Enterprise Challenge South East Regional Final in Slough.

Having been a member of 2015's national winning team 'iRoundUp', Agnieszka was invited to act as the first ever student judge of the competition. Her fellow judges (which also included iRoundUp's mentor and entrepreneur Brooke Greville), praised Agnieszka's input and even stated she picked up some things in the teams pitches that the other judges would not have questioned.

All five teams being judged performed well but there could only be one winner, Team Technowiz from Lynch Hill Enterprise Academy ended the day victorious.

Ms Dalia, Communications & Enterprise Coordinator

Sixth Form



Debating at Brunel

This term, a group of our sixth form students took part in a prestigious debating competition at Brunel University. They prepared speeches on topical, political-contentious issues such as 'The right to online privacy', 'Social media's responsibilities towards fake news', and 'The determining factors in the rise of prison violence'.

Year 12 students Mehmet Elmadag, Onay Koc, Michelle Nino, Giorgi Pichkhaia, Kacper Siemieniako and Stanimir Zagorchev, produced excellent debate speeches, argued with tact, fact and precision, and brought honour to the Academy.

Exploring the Deep

Year 13's Oliver Betteridge completed a scuba diving open water advanced course, which formed part of his Silver Duke of Edinburgh activity. The water dropped to sub-zero temperatures, his lips were numb and, at 30-meters deep, visibility was more murky than colourful.

Oliver's fearless, opportunity-seeking mentality makes him one of the most successful students we have ever had the pleasure to teach.

Ms Syme, Head of Sixth Form/Teacher of Geography

Hackney University Extension Programme

Year 12 students have embarked on the 'Hackney University Extension Programme' in Physics and Engineering subjects at UCL to enhance their understanding of STEM subjects at University level.

They took part in an enterprise challenge, which required them to invest in the stock market. They have also taken part in the 'Tenner Challenge', an enterprise activity where everyone starts a small business for charity. They have completed a term filled with EPQ activities, and have learnt how to research and note take, and quote/reference academic journal articles.

Year 13s Future

98% of this year's Year 13 cohort have applied for university and 96% hold one or more university offers. Students have worked tremendously hard with their applications and over half hold offers from a Russell Group university. We are incredibly proud of all of our students, all that is left now is a lot of hard work to and determination - we know they can do it!

Current offers include:

- ♦ Ameen Rahman: University College London - Biochemistry
- ♦ Berfin Kama: University of Sheffield - Economics
- ♦ Oliver Betteridge: University of Bristol - Physics with Astrophysics
- ♦ Tyreeka Williams: University of Exeter - Medical Sciences
- ♦ Kevin Heredia Arango: University of York - Accounting with Placement
- ♦ Ezgi Kahraman: Bournemouth University - Communication and Media
- ♦ Inan Sakar: Brunel University London - Civil Engineering
- ♦ Renee Laing: Kingston University - Psychology
- ♦ Victor Dos Santos: Lancaster University - Management & IT

Ms Ahmet, Teacher of Economics & Business/AHOY13



Media Success!

For three months, Natalia Kosmala, Year 13, and I have completed the BFI Film Academy course, which included making our own short film. During the course, we took part in masterclasses held by industry professionals, such as meeting the editor for Game Of Thrones, and visited production studios, all whilst planning for our own film which was to be shown on the big screen!

The course helped us gain a deeper understanding of the film industry, and how we could become a part of it. Hearing the stories from the professionals made me realise how they were once in the same position as me, making me feel more confident with what I want to do once I leave sixth form. I would highly recommend that anyone who is interested in film or media take part.

Yasemin Kelimet, Year 13

Careers

Achieving excellence through apprenticeships: An insight event for parents/carers

Parents/carers of our Year 10, Year 11 & sixth form pupils were all invited to find out more about one of the exciting options that young people have in terms of their career development... apprenticeships.

The 'Achieving excellence through apprenticeships' insight evening took place on Tuesday 13 March. This is the first time we have organised an event of this type specifically targeted at parents because in the landscape of increasing university fees alongside an increasing number of excellent apprenticeship opportunities – it is important that as part of our careers programme at Skinners', we encourage parents/carers to understand more about these opportunities to be able to efficiently support their child/ren.

Apprenticeships in the UK have been around for as long as we can remember, however in recent years, and bearing in mind the Government target of 3 million new apprentices by 2020, apprenticeships have evolved in a direction which means that they have become a viable progression opportunity for pupil with academic abilities ranging from average to exceptional (yes – including sixth formers on track to attend Russell Group universities).

Could an apprenticeship be a suitable progression route for your child/ren? Is it possible to do an apprenticeship and gain a university degree? Can your child go into a great career in digital marketing, business, accounting and finance, health care, web design, event management and more with an apprenticeship?

The answer to all of those questions is yes; if your child is interested in starting work and they are keen to learn some skills and gain qualifications, then an apprenticeship could be the right option for them. On an apprenticeship, they study for qualifications while working and they learn the skills they need for the job they are doing.

Our event, which featured a panel of eight professionals who champion apprenticeships as an option for young people, included:

- Alice Low - Youth Engagement and Partnerships Manager - Hackney Council
- Jonnie Critchley - Student Recruitment Manager for Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences - University of Exeter
- Mitesh Bhimjiyani - CEO - Success at School
- Natalie Taylor - Learning & Development Coach - Arch Apprentices
- Olivia Broom - Domestic Abuse Team | Supported Housing Division - Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
- Sandra Hutchinson - Diversity & Inclusion Lead - H.M. Revenue & Customs
- Sheelagh Mealing - Director of Vocational Learning Developments | School of Health and Social Care / Institute of Vocational Learning - London South Bank University
- Stav Aristokle Hill - Apprenticeship Programme Manager - Berkeley Homes

One of the key messages was that apprenticeships and university should not be seen as being in opposition with each other. They are both valuable progression options and can even sometimes happen in tandem (i.e. degree apprenticeships).

Thank you to all who attended and enthusiastically engaged with the guests on the panel, to whom we are also grateful. Feel like you missed out? If we hold a similar event in future do be sure to come along.

Ms Visram, Comms & Marketing Manager/Careers Development Coordinator



Mathematics

Hackney University Extension Programme

Four Year 10 pupils; Zubair Jauffurally, Berfin Koz, Kevin Rzazada and Abged Siddig, were accompanied by our maths PGCE teacher Jordana Dias to the Maths Feast competition on 21 February. The Maths Feast is an enjoyable and challenging team competition testing mathematical, team working and communication skills within different, engaging rounds. 70 events take place each year across the country attracting entries from over 750 schools. After a day filled with a range of mathematical activities the Academy's team placed 6th out of 18 teams.

Ms Dalkir, Mathematics KS3 Coordinator



English

Is Road Safety Stressed Enough?

School pupils/staff cross roads in unsafe ways to get to school quicker. Many young people put themselves at high risk of injury from vehicles. 70% of young people are killed from road accidents. Schools are trying to make crossings around their areas, safer and easier to cross.

Skinners' have a new rule stating that 'any pupil that does not cross the road from the traffic light will get a Saturday 'Principal's Detention'.

Mr Clark, Principal, has given his thoughts on this.

"I hope that this rule we have applied will reduce the number of accidents and increase the number of pupils crossing from the traffic lights safely".

Miss White, Assistant Head of Year 9, has also given her input.

She stated, "The rule has stopped some pupils from crossing dangerously however there are still some pupils who don't care enough to follow the rule".



'Seven Sister crossing used by Skinners' Academy pupils'

To get more insight into this ongoing problem we asked if there were any ways to make the roads near Skinners' Academy safer.

One suggestion by Miss White was to have a lollipop lady/man for pupils so that they can ensure pupils are crossing safely. Other suggestions included creating speed bumps to prevent accidents and turning the narrow road outside of both Woodberry Down Primary School and Skinners' Academy into a one-way system.

So what do you think? Do you agree with the Saturday detention rule? Do you want Skinners' Academy safe from road accidents?

Written by Year 9 Pupils Nisa Akdag, Jasira Islam and Uzma Ussenbai

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

On 13 March, 40 pupils from Year 7 to Year 10 went on the English Rewards Trip to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to watch 'Much Ado About Nothing' (sponsored by Deutsche Bank).

Written between 1598-1599, the play is about soldiers returning from war and the troubles in their new relationships. This version, directed by Michael Oakley, has a modern twist to it because social media plays a large part in the deception of the main characters, Hero and Claudio. In addition, the character of soldier and villain Don Juan was transformed into Donna Joan for this production, a nod to women in the military.

Ms Betsayda-Petrie, English KS3 Coordinator

““

The trip to the Globe was phenomenal; it was filled with interesting real life scenarios and amusing comedy. It made me think of how much equality acts have grown since Shakespeare's time.

Boo Nero, Year 9



Science

Hackney University Extension Programme

Skinners' Academy celebrated British Science week with an outstanding collection of experiments and displays presented by eager groups of pupils from Year 7 to Year 10. We saw everything from edible water bottles to film canister rockets, from VR drones to magnetic fluids, slime to volcanos and rust inhibitors.

Our sixth form science students were an integral part of the event. They helped pupils set up and demonstrated their advanced knowledge of the three sciences with a heart dissection, cathode ray tube and iodine clock.

Parents and staff were invited to oversee and judge the event. Every entrant should be proud of the quality of work they produced and their ability to share it with the audience of around 50 people. Winners will be announced during the Academy's end of term assembly with participation prizes and house points for all.

Mr Marson, Teacher of Science & Mr Betts, Science Technician



Science Fair pictures by Year 12's Samira Abuu & Asma Mohamed



Computing & ICT



“ ”

Embrace failure, it will help you be the best YOU can!

Nathaly Narvaez-Martinez, Year 8



Skidders' at #LikeAGirl Event

We won tickets to attend the exclusive Always and Tesco #LikeAGirl Academy, London event in March this year! Three lucky pupils in Year 8 had the chance to attend the event with Ms Rao, joining 48 other girls across the country.

The event included an introduction from #LikeAGirl Squad hosts Alesha Dixon; of Britain's Got Talent and Mis-Teeq fame, Jane Kenyon; entrepreneur, intuitive coach, inspirational speaker, author, commentator, campaigner, female champion and founder of Girls Out Loud, and Youtube star Hannah Witton, this was followed by Q&A sessions. Pupils had the chance to hear about the personal experiences of each squad member and inspirational advice about how to make success of failure.

Our girls then took part in two different workshops, which were designed to encourage girls' engagement and tackle themes of confidence and perseverance through failure. The mentoring workshop was a great opportunity for the pupils to meet role models; women from various industries ranging from Häagen Dazs' product developer to lawyers, they even took part in a 'speed-dating' style activity, which gave our girls the chance to ask the role models many questions about their journey in life and career. The second workshop had our girls thinking about resilience and risk taking, they were encouraged to think about their 'inner self' and how that inner self would help them get past any hurdles in life.

This event left our girls feeling inspired and ready to face challenges – failure can be turned into success.

“ ”

Brilliant! So inspiring to hear about the failures of the squad members and how they used this as a tool to become successful. Never be afraid to fail at anything – you can learn so much from this!

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



Cyber Discovery Challenge Film Shoot @ Skinners'

The Academy's computer scientists have been taking part in an extra-curricular cyber security programme launched by the government. 'Cyber Discovery' has proved to be a fun and interactive learning programme for our pupils from Year 9 to Year 12, providing them an opportunity to learn the skills needed to enter into the cyber security profession. Cyber Discovery is a four stage programme, which will test successful pupils at every stage in order for them to be able to progress on to the next stage.

On 16 March, the computing & ICT department welcomed James Lyne to speak to these pupils, whilst the 'Creative Nerds' film company filmed a documentary about our pupils' experience of using 'CyberDiscovery' and their successful progression to phase-two of the programme.

James is the Head of Research & Development and CyberStart Creator at SANS Institute. He is also the Global Research Advisor at Sophos, and Founder/Director of Helical Levity. During his visit, we also welcomed Sarah Leatherbarrow, PR Director at SANS Institute and Gemma Dore who were accompanied by their colleagues from SANS.

Finally, Alex Holmes (Deputy Director of Cyber Security), Matt Parsons (Head of Cyber Security Skills), and Sarah Lucas (Cyber Skills Education Policy); members from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), also joined us to hear about our experience of developing cyber security skills.

Media coverage has highlighted the need for manufacturers of WiFi-enabled domestic devices such as smart TVs, baby monitors and smart home utilities controllers to increase the level of protection on these devices to help safeguard these from unauthorised users. The Cyber Discovery programme recognises the need for people, in the not-too-distant future, to protect the UK from cyber-attacks to ensure that the digital and online world is a safe place to live and work in.

This programme looks to raise awareness amongst the younger generation, seeing them as the ones that will be cracking codes, creating new software applications and tools and finding security flaws that will help protect our digital and online world. Therefore, the programme looks to identify the next generation of security experts that can stay one-step ahead of the cyber criminals – could this be any of our pupils?

Pupils taking part have already completed the first stage; 'CyberStart Assess' which was designed for pupils of any capability. The pupils completed 14 fun interactive challenges that tested their aptitude and existing knowledge of computer security. Of the 47 pupils that took part, 44 pupils have successfully made it through to the next stage; 'CyberStart Game' which is an online platform featuring hundreds of hours of real-world cyber security challenges.

Dan Raywood from Infosecurity Magazine and Clare McDonald from Computer Weekly were impressed with the level of engagement amongst our pupils using the CyberDiscovery programme.

This was a real opportunity for our pupils to showcase their cyber security skills. Pupils were fantastic ambassadors during the day, representing the Academy extremely well, and they made the jobs of the film crew easy. The need for us to develop cyber security skills is vital! We owe it to our pupils, and future generations of pupils, to become cyber savvy and learn how to stay safe in the cyber world.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



““

CyberDiscovery is a wonderful experience, making learning about cyber security fun!

Tariq Bawazir, Year 9



““

This programme is really helping me improve my knowledge and understanding about keeping safe online.

Kieran Brooks, Year 9



““

CyberDiscovery is testing my cyber skills even the ones I didn't know I had.

Basheru Sundifu, Year 9



“”

There are many possibilities for using the internet but knowing how to stay safe in the virtual world is very important.

Zubaid Amadkarif, Year 11

Skinners' goes to... BETT 2018!

The Computing & ICT department visited the BETT 2018 show in ExCeL London, displaying the latest technologies in education. This was a great opportunity to see new ideas from various tech companies to aid teaching & learning across all age ranges from countries around the world.

We saw a range of STEM initiatives, robotics, virtual platforms and 3D technologies.

The highlight of the day was definitely seeing Mr Alexis getting a 3D image of himself created in just over one minute – wow, watching the process of the technology was great!



“”

Seeing innovative educational resources was inspiring. This opens up the opportunity to use a range of tools to make learning fun!

Mr Alexis, HOY 11/Teacher of Computing & ICT



Safer Internet Day 2018!

Skinners' Academy celebrated Safer Internet Day on 6 February, with the slogan 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'. The day highlighted the need for us all to consider what we do online and how we conduct ourselves by helping to inspire conversations about using technology responsibly, being respectful regardless of the type of technology we choose to communicate with, thinking critically about our own and others actions online, and using technology creatively to express ourselves.

Pupils in the BASE used this as a great opportunity to display their understanding of e-safety through the creation of their e-safety inspired stories with original graphics during their BASE ICT lessons.

Parents and carers can have access to a wealth of information and resources to support them in educating their children at home by using the following sources of information:

- ♦ **Supporting young people online:** www.childnet.com/resources/supporting-young-people-online
- ♦ **Information and Advice for foster carers/adoptive parents:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/fostering-adoption
- ♦ **Family agreement:** www.childnet.com/have-a-conversation
- ♦ **A parents' guide to technology:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/parent-tech
- ♦ **Internet parental controls:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/parental-controls
- ♦ **Safety tools on social networks and other online services:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/safety-tools
- ♦ **Online gaming:** www.childnet.com/online-gaming
- ♦ **Young people & social networking sites:** www.childnet.com/sns
- ♦ **Social network checklists:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/checklists
- ♦ **Where to report/get help:** www.saferinternet.org.uk/need-help
- ♦ **Child Exploitation & Online Protection (CEOP):** www.thinkuknow.co.uk, www.ceop.police.uk
- ♦ **Internet Watch Foundation:** www.iwf.org.uk
- ♦ **NSPCC in partnership with O2:** Call 0808 800 5000
- ♦ **Childline:** www.childline.org.uk, or Call 0800 1111
- ♦ **Young Minds:** www.youngminds.org.uk, or Call 0808 802 5544.

It is our duty as an Academy to educate and promote safe and responsible use of technology in all aspects of life.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



Skinner's explores... Dinosaurs in the Wild!

Dinosaurs in the Wild is a live-action adventure in which our pupils travelled back in time to witness living Dinosaurs and experience what life was really like 67 million years ago using immersive interactive technology and methods by Chronotex.

Pupils in creative iMedia, computer science, and digital media were able to explore the various uses of technology and creative initiatives to bring the whole experience to life. This was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to see the work of Milk, an award-winning company that specialises in creating innovative, state of the art digital visual effects.

Pupils also saw the work of Impossible Pictures; which specialise in high-impact drama and factual shows for prime-time television and have built a reputation for bringing CGI and high-end effects to programmes for major broadcasters worldwide. The actors at the experience helped fully immerse us in the whole experience throughout the tour.

The experience started with an introduction to, and history of 'Chronotex', followed by a travel back in time to the era of the Dinosaurs. The group travelled through a vast open area, passing various dinosaurs safely within the buggy carriers. On arrival to the main station, the group had the opportunity to see an autopsy take place on a recently deceased dinosaur.

We then visited one of the laboratories where we saw a large Alamosaurus heart, dinosaur poo (which some of the pupils took a keen liking to – not sure why!), and an unknown mammal species that was found by one of the scientists. During our time in the labs, pupils witnessed the arrival of new babies and even had the chance to meet and name one of the new arrivals.

Elevators were used to take us to the viewing tower high up in the facility, which gave the group a close-up look at the larger, scarier dinosaurs. Unfortunately, during our time in the viewing tower, we came under attack from the larger dinosaurs that tried to break through the viewing tower windows but fortunately, staff at Chronotex were able to execute their emergency evacuation procedures whilst seeing us all to safety...Phew!



“

I loved this trip!

The technology used throughout the exhibition really helped to make 'Dinosaurs in the Wild' a powerful experience.

The 4D effects were my favourite, it made everything look so realistic.

Basheru Sundifu, Year 9

“

Brilliant and at one point a little scary!

It was fantastic to see the use of technology to help us understand the world of dinosaurs.

Time travel capabilities made this all possible.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT

KidZania Trip!

In February, a large group of Year 7 computing pupils visited KidZania London in order to help enrich their KS3 Computing curriculum by exploring the uses of technology in different professions and industry sectors. This gave pupils the opportunity to learn and explore a range of different careers and enterprising initiatives and how technology plays a strong part in this.

During the trip pupils were able to:

- ♦ Have access to activities and workshops that helped them to explore the uses of technology in different professions ranging from medicine, law enforcement and chocolate factory works.
- ♦ Show their independence by being the 'adults' in the KidZania world, making informed decisions about job choices in order to earn wages.
- ♦ Engage in practical activities and workshops to develop some of their enterprising skills such as teamwork, communications and problem solving.
- ♦ Manage their own KidZania finances through 'cold hard cash' exchanges

It was amazing to see all our young pupils taking on job roles with such maturity and eagerness to earn as much money as possible. The range of activities and workshops from real companies really did bring the whole experience to life and highlighted the use of technology across all industries. This was a fantastic way to raise careers awareness to our younger pupils!

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



““

This trip was really fun, it made me feel like an adult, especially using the ATM machines.

Saba Yousofzai, Year 7



““

Year 7s creating their own sprites is the best part of the BYOB project as it allows pupils to really think about the narrative of the game.

Ms Roji, Computing & ICT Teaching Assistant

Block-based Programming with BYOB

This term Year 7 computing pupils were given the opportunity to learn about block-based programming to solve computational problems. Pupils have explored the use of BYOB (Build Your Own Blocks) to analyse existing computer games, considering the strengths and areas for further development, to gain a better understanding for the design and development of their own computer games.

As part of the unit of study, pupils have experienced enterprising skills ranging from enthusiasm to problem solving, to name but a few, to develop their ideas for their own products. The use of planning and the creative development of their own sprites has been inspirational, allowing pupils across all ability ranges to access the tools to bring their BYOB computer games to life.



““

It is fun... I'm really excited about making my Ninja fighting game.

Jarred Elero, Year 7



Algorithms & Programming

Year 8 computing pupils have made effective use of their numeracy and enterprising skills to develop an understanding of algorithms, enabling them to plan solutions to computational problems. The application of numeracy in computing saw pupils being able to represent and manipulate text, sound and images digitally in the form of binary digits.

Pupils got creative by creating some amazing, original and inspired pixel-style images to demonstrate their understanding for the use of binary bits and its effect on colour range in images. This has also enabled pupils to explore the use of 'JustBasic' to develop their understand and use of:

- ♦ Programming languages to solve computational problems
- ♦ A range of programming languages commonly used in industry
- ♦ Developing and executing text-based programming
- ♦ Data structures for lists, tables or arrays.



We do Programming & Theory!

GCSE computer scientists have explored their understanding of programming to develop their own text-based computer game using Python. Pupils have used problem-solving skills to develop their games solution, demonstrating more confidence in their own ability to program as weeks have gone on. The use of trial and error has provided a good platform for pupils to self assess and peer assess.

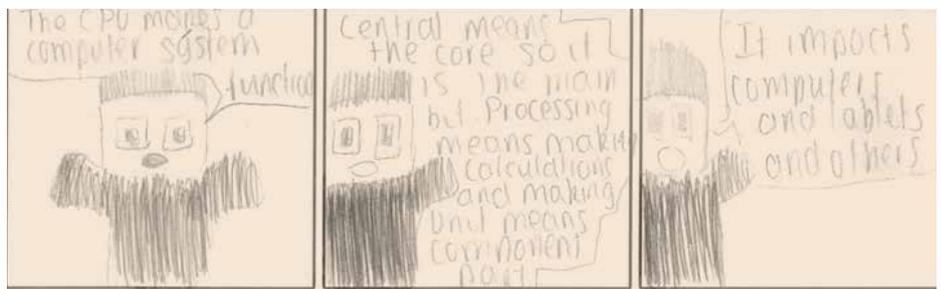
Pupils have also been exploring theoretical aspects of computer science by studying the purpose and functions of CPUs (Central Processing Units), demonstrating their understanding of the concept, and ICT skills, in the form of a CPU comic strip. Theory of computer science has also given them a chance to explore the concept and use of the 'Von Neumann Architecture' and how this has shaped the development of computer systems.

Multimedia Interactive Kiosks

Year 10 creative iMedia pupils have been using their project management skills to plan, design and develop a multimedia interactive kiosk as part of their R087 coursework. Making use of effective research skills to explore and analyse existing products has provided a good basis for designing their own products in order to meet the needs of the client brief.

As part of the unit of study, pupils are further exploring zorbing, quad biking, rock wall climbing, paintballing and skateboard parks in order to create a range of media to advertise and promote these activities within their kiosks. Their use of sound, video and image editing skills will be pushed and tested throughout this unit, as well as their ability to create some original animations.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



CPU is the Central Processing Unit of the computer. A computer's CPU handles all instructions it receives from hardware and software running on the computer.

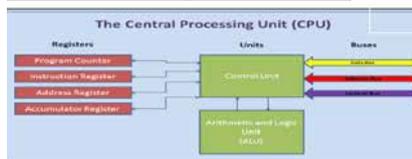
CPU story board



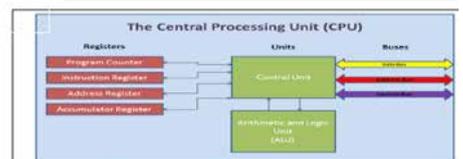
KEVIN LEITE



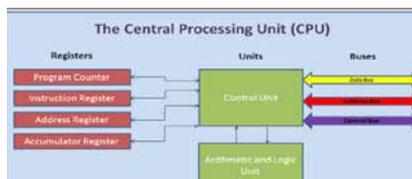
CPU/processor. The central processing unit (CPU), also called a processor, is located inside the computer case on the motherboard.



The control unit (CU) is a component of a computer's central processing unit (CPU) that directs the operation of the processor.



An arithmetic logic unit (ALU) is a digital circuit used to perform arithmetic and logic operations. It represents the fundamental building block of the central processing unit (CPU) of a computer.



A processor register (CPU register) is one of a small set of data holding places that are part of the computer processor. A register may hold an instruction, a storage address, or any kind of data (such as a bit sequence or individual characters). Internal buses. The internal bus, also known as internal data bus, memory bus, system bus or Front-Side-Bus, connects all the internal components of a computer, such as CPU and memory, to the motherboard.



Lights, Camera, Sound and Action!

As part of their Unit 3 studies, digital media students are in the process of exploring a range of skills and techniques used to create audio and audio-visual products to promote the culture of their chosen local area. Students used the Academy Library to discuss and explore their thoughts about various types of culture. This unit challenges the students to think 'outside of the box'; planning, designing and developing a media product to meet the client brief which is also fit for purpose.

Students have explored possible ideas to promote the culture of their chosen local area. Ideas range from a poem (audio product); which incorporates the use of sound tracks/effects, to a video shoot (audio-visual); which incorporates scenes from their local area, sound tracks, and sound/imaging/video effects. Part of their study requires students to use a range of idea generating tools, such as mind maps and mood boards, to help communicate their thoughts.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



““

It was great to see students utilise LRC resources to stimulate debate and support their studies.

Ms Lutterodt, Academy Librarian

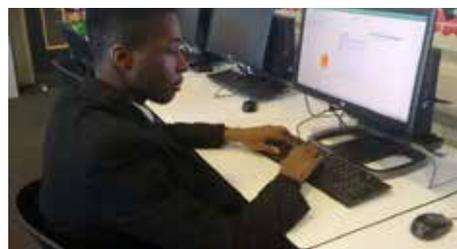
Project Project Project!

A-Level computer scientists are in the process of developing a solution for their clients using computational thinking. As part of their A-Level programme of study, students complete a programming-based project (worth 20% of the overall qualification). This has pushed our students to explore their project management and technical skills in order to plan, design, develop, document, test and evaluate their solution to meet the client brief.

Some students are creating an app-based solution for their client whilst others are creating a computer game-based solution. Having real clients has added 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 the demands of their clients and interpreting their needs.

This project has seen students investigate suitable software applications to develop their solutions such as 'Unity' and 'Visual Studio'.

Ms Rao, Head of Computing & ICT



““

I am developing a game to help EAL pupils improve their English and expand their general knowledge in a fun and entertaining way.

Silviu Badica, Year 12

““

Making my app has given me insight into how companies design and develop app-based products. This insight will help me prosper in my future development.

Rushawn Powell, Year 12

Design & Technology



“ ”

Visiting the London College of Fashion helped me to become more experienced with textiles equipment. I now want to focus on textiles as I may consider studying it in the future.

Francesca Taylor , Year 10

Bags for Life Project

In December, 20 Year 9 & 10 textiles pupils successfully took part in an intensive three-day design and make project at the London College of Fashion. The project focused on sustainability and entrepreneurship and explored issues of waste and excess in today's society. The project saw pupils using factory style machinery to up-cycle second hand clothing to create bags and other products that they will later sell to raise money for charity.

Pupils did a fantastic job at attending every day and settling into university style studying within the fashion industry. The pupils also got the opportunity to meet with Bethany Williams a sustainability fashion designer who has had great success with her work being sold in London, New York & Japan.

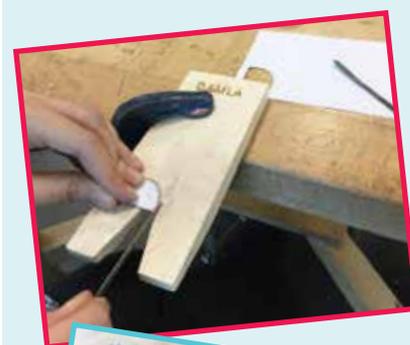
Ms Greco-Addo, Head of Design & Technology

Jewellery Club

The jewellery workshop (held every Wednesday after school) had an exciting term with pupils learning new techniques and putting their craft design skills to work. So far, they have been able to enamel metal as well as produce intricate finished accessories including key rings made out of copper!

A special well done to Year 9's Damla Ganidagli and Summer Lee for producing some amazing pieces!

Ms Stansfield, Design & Technology Technician



Textiles Club

Pupils have been exercising their creativity through a series of textile design workshops focusing on Batik art & African pattern design and how these techniques are used to tell a story. The workshop runs every Monday after school and all designs produced will be featured in the Academy's summer exhibition.

Well done to Ade Okeowo, Year 9, for the great work so far!

Ms Betiku, Design & Technology Teaching Assistant

Art & Design

Shequille Mandiangu, Year 13

"I have really enjoyed my time studying art & design, I have been surrounded by friendly people that care about and support me. It's not just one of the best departments, but also one of the most inspirational in terms of progression, learning and decisions making. I have practised a wide range of painting techniques and have developed my ideas and ways of working, while learning to see from an artistic point of view.

I am extremely thankful for the help of the art & design department as they have pushed me to develop and achieve all that I have today; it is with their help, encouragement and support with my applications that I have now been offered a place at Middlesex University to study art.

It is an honour for me to be taught by great teachers including Mr Devlin, Ms Ali, Ms Biggs and Ms McFarlane."



Dilara Sert, Year 13

"As a student that had studied art & design GCSE at Skinners', I knew there wasn't going to be anywhere better for me to continue my A-Level. The opportunities here are unlimited; due to our school being placed in North London, (and our teachers keeping up-to-date) we are very lucky to have easy access to the world's best exhibitions, art galleries and museums.

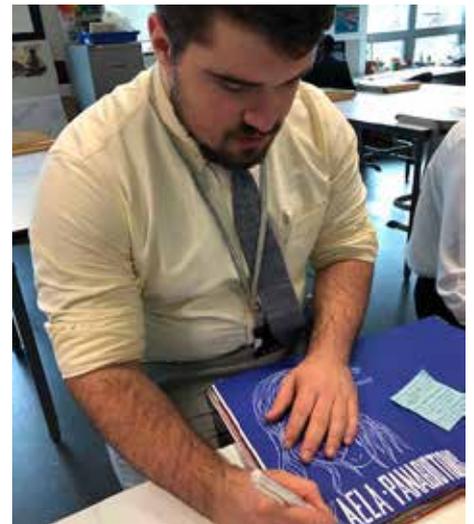
I have developed within myself, my artwork and confidence since I've started my A-Levels, I owe this to the staff support and the facilities that the art department had offered us. I've decided to develop my skills further by going on to study an Interior Design Degree at Middlesex University."

Armend Bajraktari, Year 13

"For a long time my creativity had been suppressed, but I was very lucky; Mr Devlin and Ms Ali helped me develop confidence in my artistic skills. As a result, I jumped five grades in my GCSEs from a D to an A*. This encouraged me to enter A-level art with an attitude to repeat the success of my GCSEs.

The art department have been involved in the process of my art, with all the teachers giving me some form of input throughout. This social approach to my work helped me bounce my ideas off of other people and has continually helped me; especially now that I've taken a new turn with my exam project, looking into political freedom and symbolism within history and politics.

I am currently applying to study architecture at either UCL, Oxford Brookes, UAL or Greenwich and I hope that I can be as successful as architects like Zaha Hadid, Rem Koolhaas or Antoni Gaudi."



Rhasea McCain, Year 13

"Studying art & design at Skinners' has given me the opportunity to express myself freely on a page, trying out different materials, whether that be string, clay or ink in order to bring my ideas to life. I have been able to build a strong portfolio, setting me on the right path to apply for university to study graphic design. The art department know the balance between allowing me to express my ideas and aiding me, this was pivotal in helping me flourish as an artist."

“”

The art exam trip to the British Museum was a great opportunity for me – especially as my GCSE project is based on fragments of ancient Greece. I was able to get lots of first hand observational drawings done.

Mechak Lubaki, Year 11



“”

I was really inspired by our visit to the British Museum. I took lots of great photographs, which I am currently using to develop my exam work.

Nawal Mohamed, Year 11

Skinners'_Gallery Instagram

The Skinners'_Gallery Instagram showcases the artistic talent of our pupils. Follow Skinners'_Gallery to keep up to date with us..

Modern Foreign Languages

La Casa de Bernarda Alba Theatre Trip

On 9 February, Spanish A-Level students went to see an exciting theatre production of 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba' (The House of Bernanda Alba) - a famous Spanish play written by Federico Garcia Lorca. The production was staged at the Cervantes Theatre and was directed by Jorge de Juan, the co-founder of the Spanish Theatre Company (London) and Artistic Director of the Cervantes Theatre.

The play explores themes of repression, passion, and conformity through the depiction of a matriarch's domination of her five daughters. The students watched with excitement as the intensity and tragedy of the play unfolded. They remarked afterwards on how dramatic the scenes were.

'La casa de Bernada Alba' was written in 1936 just before the start of the Spanish civil war. The play was first performed in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1945, but later banned in Spain during the Franco regime. This was partly because of its political implications and because the behaviour and language of the characters were regarded as shockingly immoral. A small Spanish theatre club was allowed to put on a single performance in 1950, but the regime tried to ensure that there would be no publicity.

Federico García Lorca (1898-1936) was a poet and dramatist, and one of the greatest Spanish writers of the 20th century. He was executed by nationalist troops at the age of 38 at the beginning of the Spanish civil war just two months after completing 'La Casa de Bernarda Alba'.

Ms Smith, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

“”

The composition of the space was really daring, it showcased the bright and powerful actors on stage.

I really thought it was a great play. It will definitely help my essay writing of the play.

Michelle Niño, Year 12



“”

I understood almost all of the Spanish. The actors were amazing and really helped the play come to life.

Armend Bajkajarai., Year 13



Gifted & Talented



Trip to Oxford

On 20 February, 23 Year 8 pupils braved the snow to visit Wadham College, Oxford University. This visit linked to a careers workshop with Into University and was a chance for our pupils to gain insight into the University lifestyle.

Pupils went to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, followed by a tour of the campus, before they had to come back to the Academy to beat the snow! Everyone enjoyed the visit and the opportunity to see one of the world's top universities.

Mr Legge, Teacher of Physical Education/Talented Coordinator

Skinners' Schools' University Challenge

On 26 January, six Year 7 and six Year 8 pupils from Skinners' Academy recently visited Skinners' Kent Academy (SKA) to compete in the first leg of the new 'Skinners' Schools' University Challenge'. They formed three quiz teams to compete against teams from SKA.

The questions were created by Year 10 Gifted & Talented pupils, and were focussed on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). The questions were challenging yet achievable for pupils, who worked well within their teams to find solutions. The answers were then explained, Countdown style.

Skinners' Academy competed very well and were announced as the overall winners with our pupil teams finishing second, third, and fourth, compared to the SKA teams finishing first, fifth and sixth. Pupils really enjoyed the event and loved the opportunity to challenge themselves against another school. They also enjoyed socialising with like-minded G&T pupils. Well done to all involved!

This was the first event as part of the 'Skinners' Schools' University Challenge', with a return leg planned for the summer term on our home ground at Skinners' Academy Hackney.

Mr Legge, Teacher of Physical Education/Talented Coordinator



Gifted & Talented Masterclass

The first Gifted & Talented (G&T) Masterclass of this academic year took place on 15 December for Year 9 & Year 10 pupils. These masterclasses are timetabled so each subject has time with their G&T pupils, and aim to stretch, challenge, and inspire pupils whilst working with likeminded G&T pupils.

Pupils fully enjoyed the masterclasses which ranged from completing the 'Arts Award Bronze' qualification in music, studying the conspiracy theories about the JFK assassination in history, learning about celebrity culture in Spanish, theatre design in drama, geo-therming in geography, and many more.

Mr Legge, Teacher of Physical Education/Talented Coordinator & Ms Hunt, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages/Gifted Coordinator

“

My masterclass was very interesting. I really enjoyed getting to work with people I hadn't ever worked with before.

Joyce Amisi, Year 9

“

I really enjoyed my masterclass as they are different to normal lessons and gives me a chance to learn about new topics in detail.

George O'Rourke, Year 10



Learning Resources Centre (LRC)

Spring Term Notices

The LRC welcomed Jo Reilly, our new Library Supervisor, who has already made positive contributions to school literacy in the LRC. Posters encouraging pupils to recommend books have generated interest, and popular series are listed above their author so that pupils can read them in the correct order! Publicity for the book swap in G55 is on display and we have a Book of the Week as suggested reading. There's nothing quite like seeing a student absorbed in a brand new, requested book as delivered by the LRC.

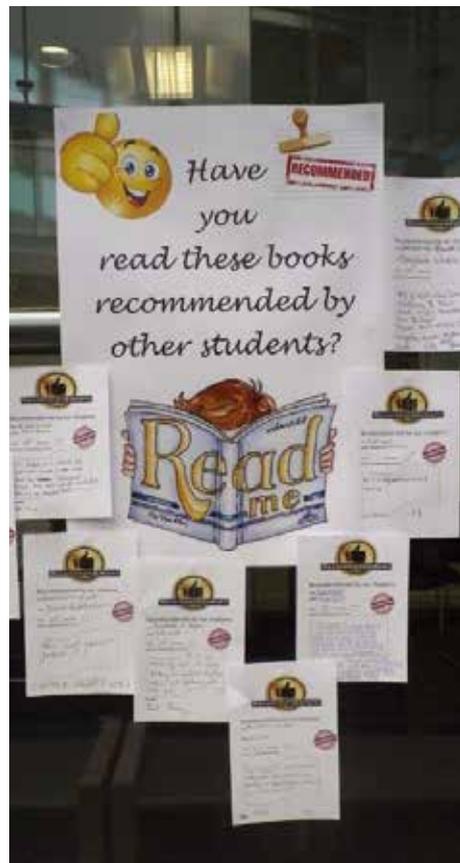
We now have a new sixth form book area in the main area alongside book displays for Martin Luther King Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, Mental Health Awareness Week and Safer Internet Day.

On World Book Day, all pupils were given a voucher, for free or discounted books, and invited to design a book cover or write a short story/poem based on their favourite book or cover.

We are pleased to have two pupils completing their Duke of Edinburgh volunteer experience with us and we will be keeping them busy for the next few weeks.

A Short Loan Collection of reference items is being developed behind the LRC main desk. It holds one copy of every study guide and core text book and is available for pupils and staff to borrow in preparation for the coming exams. We are looking forward to supporting pupils with their studies at this crucial time.

Ms Lutterodt, Academy Librarian



Student Services

City & Hackney Positive Mental Health & Wellbeing Art Competition

City & Hackney Alliance Transformation Project ran a competition looking for an original drawing or painting that represented positive mental health and wellbeing for young people in Hackney & City of London. The competition offered a prize for the winner and four runners up prizes.

Out of all the entries from across the Borough, Skinners' pupils scooped an amazing three prizes! The overall winner, who received £100 in vouchers and will see her artwork used by the City & Hackney Alliance Transformation Project, was our own Ezgi Kervanda, Year 9. Our runners up, who won £50 in vouchers to spend at the outlet of their choice, were Year 8 pupils Rojda Terbas, and a duo formed of Rimshah Akhtar & Hafsa Amla

Massive congratulations to these pupils from everyone at Skinners' Academy!

For more information about Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) or the Transformation Project go to www.cityandhackneycamhs.org.uk and/or www.cityandhackneyccg.nhs.uk/about-us/our-plans.htm

Ms Windebanks, Academy Counsellor





Time to Talk

The week of 29 January to 2 February saw pupils and staff again getting involved in raising awareness of mental health issues and thinking about how we can look after our mental health & emotional wellbeing. There was lots going on nationally to do with mental health in and around this week, which we incorporated into our wellbeing week at the Academy.

Thursday 1 February was 'Time to Talk Day' where the Time to Change Campaign (led by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness and funded by the Department of Health, Comic Relief and the Big Lottery Fund) encouraged thousands of people in schools and workplaces across the country to have conversations about mental health.

'Children's Mental Health Week' began on 5 February headed by Place2be, a national charity providing emotional support to children in schools. The main theme of the week was #beingourselves!

We got involved at the Academy with a whole week of workshop assemblies for pupils across all year groups. The workshops looked at the themes from Time to Talk Day & Children's Mental Health Week – how to talk about how we are feeling and our mental health, our self-esteem and strategies for supporting positive self-esteem for ourselves & each other. We also talked about mental health & stigma, ways to have positive mental health, and how/where to get further information and support.

There was a display in the foyer all week and on the Friday; we joined to build a #TreeofStrengths, where pupils and staff wrote their strengths on a leaf to create a tree. This activity led on from the workshops, where we had looked at how to reframe negatives thoughts and celebrate our unique strengths to help maintain positive self-esteem.

1 in 10 children and young people suffer from a diagnosable mental health problem such as depression, anxiety or an eating disorder. That is around three children in every classroom. Remember:

- We all have mental health the same as we have physical health
- Our mental health is the way we think, feel and behave
- You don't need to be an expert to talk about mental health or try to 'fix' someone's problems, just listen
- Talking about mental health doesn't need to be difficult and can make a big difference

Ms Windebank, Academy Counsellor

Helpful Contacts and Resources for Pupils & Parents/Carers

Childline

Tel: 0800 1111 (free number)
Website: www.childline.org.uk
Advice, information and you can talk to a counsellor over the phone or online

Samaritans

Tel: 116 123 (free number)
Email: jo@samaritans.org
Website: www.samaritans.org
Open 24hrs a day, 365 days a year to talk about anything that is troubling you

Young Minds Parents' Helpline

Tel: 0808 802 5544
Open Mon – Fri, 9.30am – 4pm, free for mobiles & landlines

Young Minds:

www.youngminds.org.uk

Time to Change:

www.time-to-change.org.uk

Young Hackney:

www.younghackney.org

Or see Ms Windebank in S20 or Ms Carroll, Academy Nurse



Physical Education



Gymnastics Showcase

Three local primary schools were welcomed to the Academy in February to watch our Year 7 pupils perform various routines combining dance and gymnastics. Our pupils worked on these routines both in and out of lessons.

It was a fantastic event and great to engage with local primary schools and give them an insight into what Skinners' Academy's PE department have to offer! The primary school kids did an applause vote to pick their favourite routine and the winners were 'CAO Crew - Mashello Silence'! Massive well done to all pupils involved.

Teams:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. The Gym Club - Roll Deep Good Times | 4. Swag - Swagga |
| 2. CAO Crew - Mashello Silence 'WINNERS' | 5. EDance - Hurtin' |
| 3. GBO Crew - Hurtin' | 6. Saba Crew - Finders Keepers |

Ms Bouwers, HOY 7/Teacher of Physical Education

Dance

In January, Skinners' Academy hosted a dance competition, which enabled Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 to participate. It allowed us to showcase a variety of dance styles including contemporary, street dance and many more unique genres. I took part in the KS4 contemporary dance, which I must admit I thoroughly enjoyed; the bonus was that the dance counted towards my GCSE grade.

The competition was a wonderful experience, vibrant with loud, familiar music and lightly shaded colours that framed the stage. There were familiar faces in the audience who inspired us to give it our all with their cheers of support. For a dancer that focuses on one style, I took a real interest in the new style I had to perform. It made me feel liberated and light. The dance itself contained a number of emotions that the dancers and anybody in the audience could relate too. It contained abstract feelings including anger, happiness and content.

When we were announced as the winners, I could see the corners of Ms O'Neill's mouth rising. It mattered to me that we had made her proud and most importantly ourselves proud. We are now through to the London finals.

Akua Oseitutu, Year 10



Table Tennis

This term has seen the start of a Year 7, 8 & 9 table tennis club every Thursday after school. The club has been very popular, with several pupils from the lower school showing good ability and determination. Marab-Sha Jami and Roam Reddy-White have been the standout performers from Year 7, in Year 8 Zakariya Rahman and Hussein Omer have shown promise, along with several others.

Our first fixture took place on 7 March against City Academy. Unfortunately City reigned victorious over our teams but we are determined to come back stronger for our next fixture.

Mr Legge, Teacher of Physical Education/Talented Coordinator

Basketball

Skinners' Academy's basketball team have had a slow start to the academic year, with none of our teams in a League. However, with the appointment of our new PE Teaching Assistant Mr Williams, each year group has now formed a team and will be entered into a league for the next academic year.

Since the appointment of Mr Williams, our Year 7 & Year 8s basketball team have played two friendlies with local schools. Unfortunately, these games ended in defeat, but this is the start of a new era and the Academy's basketball teams will do their best to become a household name in the basketball community.



Hackney & Islington Football League

The upper-school girls have had a great start to their season remaining unbeaten, not to mention showing off their new football kit in the Hackney and Islington League.

The Year 10 team are currently sitting second; pipped to the post (only by goal difference) by the 2016-2017 borough champions Stoke Newington.

Our top scorers so far are Year 10 pupils Summer Gayle (Year 10 Captain) and Simi Kaur who have each scored four goals this season, followed by Isabella Carvajal-Vargas and Sharriah Guthrie with one goal each. There have also been some amazing assists from Beritan Unek (Year 9 Captain) and Year 10 pupil Ovaanah Dawkins.

Ms Bouwers, HOY 7/Teacher of Physical Education

Handball

This term the PE department have focused on raising participation in handball across all year groups at Skinners' Academy. The upper school has been training during Thursday lunchtimes, which so far has seen high numbers from both year groups. The lower school has been training on a Wednesday evening in the sports hall.

Handball shares similarities with basketball. It is played at a very fast pace and it requires a lot of running. Every position is extremely demanding. The sport also shares similarities with football and rugby. Handball is a contact sport and can be very physical at times and like football, it has a goal at either end to score with a goalkeeper to defend the goals.

Skinners' Academy have played two handball fixtures so far this term both against Petchey Academy. The first game saw the lower school team draw 11-11. The game was an extremely close battle between the two sides. Daniel Taiwo's performance deserves a special mention as Daniel managed to score 10 goals, which helped secure the draw.

The second game featured the Skinners' upper-school pupils. The game ended 14-13 in our favour. An impressive performance from Kai Hollis Warner helped Skinners' dominate the majority of the game by scoring goals from a distance and using his strength to power through Petchey's defence. A solid effort from Jommel Solis in goal allowed Skinners' to consistently deny Petchey's attacks, that is until Sameer Adam convinced me that he is the David de Gea of handball and asked to be put in goal. Despite Sameer's efforts, he conceded six goals in the space of three minutes without making a single save. Better luck next time Sameer!

I would like to thank everyone that has attended handball club; you have all shown a relentless commitment to learn a tough sport and I hope you have all found it rewarding. Handball club will continue after the Easter holiday so if you fancy it come along!

Mr Smith, Teacher of Physical Education





Year 8 Football

Despite a turbulent start to the season, the Year 8 football team have developed over the past few weeks. This development was evident in the team's match against Petchey Academy. The match still resulted in a 3-2 loss for us; however, before Christmas the team lost every match they played by much greater margins 9-0, 10-0 and 9-2. The stand out performer since our return after Christmas has been Richly Muanda. We hope the team will improve even more over the next few weeks.

Mr Legge, Teacher of Physical Education/Talented Coordinator



Aspiring GCSE PE Pupils Visit Arsenal

A select bunch of Year 8 Pupils, aspiring to do GCSE PE, were given the privilege to go on tour of Arsenal's Emirates Stadium.

Combined with eye opening views and insights to the History of the football club, the pupils were able to sit down with an Arsenal Football Club representative and ask questions about the world of sport and how GCSE PE can pave a way towards a successful career in sport. We were also able to visit the office of Arsene Wenger and understand the preparation football clubs have to go through in order to host a football match.

Our Year 8s thoroughly enjoyed the visit to one of the largest football clubs in the world and we hope the majority of pupils if not all will move on to choose GCSE PE.

Mr Williams, PE Teaching Assistant



Australian Rugby

Australian rugby is a full-contact sport played by two teams of thirteen players on a rectangular field. Its rules progressively changed with the aim of producing a faster, more entertaining game for spectators, something our boys' team have really enjoyed learning about. In rugby league, points are scored by carrying the ball and touching it to the ground beyond the opposing team's goal line in a set amount of phases; this is called a try, and is the primary method of scoring.

Skinners' Academy's Year 7/8 Team are currently in a tri-ad development league with City Academy and Cardinal Pole. The team have proved to be massively reflective and have built on each performance by listening carefully to feedback. Their hard work payed off when they were victorious against Cardinal Pole by three tries to one.

Ms Bouwers, HOY 7/Teacher of Physical Education

Parents' Corner

Parental Engagement

This academic year Skinners' Academy launched our Parent Learning sessions, kicking-off with accredited courses in English and Maths. These take place every Tuesdays from 4.00-6.00pm and are well attended. The current cohort of parents recently sat their first exam and all passed, a big well done to them all. Remember it is free to enrol and you are welcome to join at any time.

We have also delivered a number of workshops aimed at helping our parents to become better informed about Academy life, these have included E-Safety, Mental Health, and SEN in the Academy.

We have been pushing the use of 'Show My Homework', which allows parents to become more involved with your child's homework and what they are learning in lessons.

Finally, this year we have launched two new methods of communication with parents. The Skinners' Academy App provides our parents with easy access to key pieces of information relating to the Academy. Our weekly Parent Bulletin; which I hope you have been finding informative as well as interesting, gives us the opportunity to highlight our pupils' achievements.

As always, I welcome any suggestions, please do get in touch if you have any ideas or would like to get involved in the Academy.

Ms Bowling, Head of Pupil & Parental Engagement

Parents' Information Event
The Academy's next parents' information event will be taking place on **Thursday 14 June**. More details will be available soon.

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

Twitter:

@skinnersacademy; @skinners6thform

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/skinnersacademyhackney

LinkedIn:

Search Skinners' Academy

SKINNERS' ACADEMY APP

FROM THE APP STORE (APPLE) OR GOOGLE PLAY (ANDROID)

There have been more than 400 downloads since the app launched in October. Please take one minute to download it and enjoy this extra way to keep up to date with what's happening at Skinners' Academy.



Dates for your diary

Monday 16 April

Staff Training Day

Tuesday 17 April

Term Starts for all pupils/students

Wednesday 25 April

Year 8 Options Evening

Monday 14 - Friday 18 May

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 14 May - Wednesday 27 June

Public Exam Period

Monday 28 May - Friday 1 June

Half-Term Break

Thursday 5 July

6/7 Transition Day

Friday 6 July

Year 11 Prom

Monday 9 - Friday 13 July

Year 12 Work Experience

Thursday 12 July

Summer Concert

Monday 16 - Thursday 19 July

Activities Week

Tuesday 17 July

Sports Day

Friday 20 July

Term Ends - 1.00pm