

February 2011

Spring Term
Issue 01



academy newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the Skinner's Academy Newsletter

After opening the Academy at the old site in Stamford Hill, September 2010, we finally moved to our wonderful new site in November last year. The difference in our learning environment has been amazing and all our staff and students now have the opportunity to work and achieve in this 21st century learning campus.

As you will read we have been very busy establishing the new school and our partnerships. I am particularly proud to report that we have been accredited by the Department for Education with the International School Award 2010-2013 in recognition of the global dimension of our work. Our sixth form have been visiting our Turkish partner school in Denizli.

Year 11 and the sixth form are working hard for their examinations including attending school during half term and Year 7 have risen to the challenges of becoming Skinners' Academy students.

However our success is dependent upon a strong partnership between our families and the Academy. Parents' continuing support is vital for the success of your child.

All of our departments have been establishing excellent practice which is included in the newsletter and our newly designed website which will be fully operational at the end of February.

We have hosted a number of events at the Academy both for parents and our community and many more will be forthcoming as the Academy becomes embedded in our new site.

The future is both exciting and challenging and I am confident that we are going to develop Skinners' Academy into an 'outstanding' school.

Best wishes,
Jenny Wilkins
Principal



Jenny Wilkins

Enterprise



City Careers Open House

A group of year 7 students were selected to participate in the City Careers Open House programme. Our year 7 students visited Rabobank a financial institution in the City of London. They were given an introduction to 'the City', a tour of Rabobank, and had the opportunity to work with volunteers from the company looking at different types of jobs and the skills and qualities needed.

The Brokerage Citylink works in partnership with City employers to create a pathway to the City for young residents of London's inner-city boroughs.

The Open House programme is designed to give students an introduction and insight into the workings of the City, raising aspirations and stimulating interest in some of the many City careers and the huge variation of opportunities available.

Our year 7 students were fantastic and we received positive feedback from the volunteers stating how articulate and well behaved our students are.

Well done to the group and keep up the good work.

Selda Kurtuldu
Business Community
Links Coordinator

International School Award

We are proud to announce that Skinners' Academy has been awarded the International School Award 2010 – 2013.

The International School Award is an accreditation scheme for curriculum-based international work in schools. The scheme provides recognition for schools working to instill a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people.

The ISA supports schools to develop the following:

- ◆ An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- ◆ A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- ◆ Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- ◆ Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- ◆ Year round international activity
- ◆ Involvement of partner schools and the wider community in the UK

Parent Pay

The new ParentPay system for school meals is going well. Parents do need to remember, however, that it can take up to 36 hours for payment to appear on a student's account. Parents of Year 7 students also need to bear in mind that as their children are on Family Service, the students don't swipe their cards, but their accounts are still charged by us. The cost of Family Service is £9.50 per week.



London Legacy Photography Awards

A group of 6th form students were given the opportunity to take part in the London Legacy 2020 Photography Project competition. The London Legacy 2020 Photography Project was created to give young people in East London an opportunity to celebrate and document their neighbourhood through newly developed, high-level, vocational skills.

Through workshops, developed and delivered by a professional photographer and filmmaker, students were able to

use photography to comment visually on the social and economic changes affecting their neighbourhoods.

One of the core aims is to provide a lasting legacy for East London, developing creative talent, to the highest standard, for local young people providing them with long-term skills for media-related employment or for other jobs where their skills can be transferred.

Six students were shortlisted out of the 100 candidates and attended the awards ceremony on the 1st December 2010. The event was held at one the leading City Law firms, CMS Cameron McKenna.

Akeena Smith
for winning the Nature Award category

Lana Miller
for winning the Place Award category

Pinar Yalcin
for winning the Portrait Award category



My BNK

To become a MyBnker we had to be trained. We spent a day with Sharon and Andrew from the MyBnk Company who taught us the basics of becoming a banker.

As a team we decided on where our location would be and how we would publicise MyBnk in our Academy. We created letters, posters, signs and other forms of publicity, and with the help of Sharon and Andrew we created our first accounts as MyBnkers.

The official opening of MyBnk took place in G11 with great success. We managed our fellow students' money and we now have over eighty accounts open. As MyBnkers it's our job not only to create accounts for our fellow students but also to help them manage their money.

This may not sound like an easy thing to do, but as a matter of fact we have had the perfect training and know what we have to do. We make sure the money we collect is safe and well looked after. We do not loan money, though we hope in the future to create loans that will help students with business ideas.

By Connacht Sheffield and Esin Akdogan (MyBnkers)

Congratulations goes to Sumea Abuu as top saver at Skinners' Academy My Bnk. A special mention must go to Connacht Sheffield, Esin Akdogan and Sabah Hussein for opening the most accounts.

Mr. Lewis





Young Enterprise Day: Your School, Your Business

**On Thursday 11th November
7 business volunteers from
Young Enterprise came
to Skinners' Academy to
deliver an exciting enterprise
workshop 'Your School,
Your Business'.**

The aim of the workshop was to allow students to explore our new Academy, understand how our Academy is like a business, and to develop enterprise skills. During the day students worked together to identify and unlock their enterprise potential.

The workshop was aimed at inspiring students to develop enterprising skills, attitudes and behaviours including:

- ♦ Confidence and a can-do attitude
- ♦ Communication and presentation skills
- ♦ Creative thinking and problem solving
- ♦ Teamwork and leadership
- ♦ Resilience, persistence and responding to change

Throughout the day students put together a personal development plan, learned about enterprise capabilities, took part in a problem solving activity and discussed bullying and how to respect one another. The year 7s' finished the day by presenting to the business volunteers and their year group.

Many thanks to the Young Enterprise business volunteers and to Skinners' Academy staff for their help and support.

**Selda Kurtulu
Business Community Links Coordinator**



“ ”

We had a great time learning about different camera shots and how to use the filming equipment. We had a task to create a film about anything.

Inez Miszczyk

Represent London

**A Group of 15 Sixth Form
students have been selected
this year to participate in a
new enterprise programme
'Represent London 2020'.**

Represent London is an employability project that gives young people the opportunity to gain a wide range of employability skills at participating London Legacy companies and to make the best use of all the opportunities that the Olympics will bring. Our students will engage in a range of increasingly difficult modules that provide an excellent opportunity to enhance their life skills and will help them to become ambassadors for East London.

'We had a great time at the BBC learning about different camera shots and how to use the filming equipment. We got the chance to make a short film about something that interested us. This gave us new information and basic knowledge about how to make a film. We were also given a brand new flip camera to use at school. We are going to make a film about our experience on the Represent London project.'

**Inez Miszczyk,
Year 12**

**Selda Kurtulu
Business Community Links Coordinator**

During Games time, our students will have the opportunity to put their new skills into practice as a volunteer guide either as an official 2012 volunteer or as a London Legacy volunteer.



Achievers International

Students currently taking part in enterprise enrichment have been selected to participate in a new enterprise programme 'Achievers International'

Achievers International is an online enterprise project for students, encouraging them to understand international trading. Students will have the opportunity to form a company and import and export goods with our partner schools in Malaysia, India, Zambia, Berlin and Georgia (USA).

Students will gain an insight into how businesses are formed and managed, and increase their awareness and understanding of other cultures and citizenship. It provides a practical learning context for teaching business studies and modern languages, and promotes the development of ICT skills.

Young Chamber Council

The Young Chamber Council represents the Academy and is committed to local issues within the community and the school to make both a better place.

The projects it has been working on this term include producing a survey on Family Service and feeding back their findings to ABM, our in-house caterers and a project with Transport for London looking at bus services in the borough of Hackney and how they can be improved.



Eu Comenius Turkish Project

Skinnners' Academy has been successful in securing funding through the EU Comenius for an international project partnering with Lutfi Ege Anadolu Ogretmen College in Denizli, Turkey.

Students will participate in a textiles and onyx project with Lutfi Ege College which will run for 2 years. Students will be researching and comparing the history of art, textiles and the onyx industry in Turkey and the UK. Following on from their visit 20 6th Form students from Skinners' Academy will be visiting the Lutfi Ege in February for 10 days.

aims of global citizenship. It will provide a practical learning context for teaching textiles, design and technology, art, business studies, modern languages , and promote the development of ICT skills.

As part of the project Mr Zafer Dumluipinar & Mr Mustafa Zeybek, teachers from Lutfi Ege College, visited us in December.

Students will participate in a textiles and onyx project with Lutfi Ege College which will run for 2 years. Students will be researching and comparing the history of art, textiles and the onyx industry in Turkey and the UK.

Building our international school partnership will increase student awareness and understanding of our cultures and enhance one of our key





Maths

World Number Day

On the 3rd December year 7 and 11 students took part in World Number Day. A variety of staff and students around the academy were photographed holding number cards. A quiz was then created with some of these answers as solutions. In advisory time groups were encouraged to work together to solve the quiz.

Congratulations goes to P2

Oktawia Kosek
Sugra Julium
Rai-Anna McKenzie-Browne
Gizem Sahin
Rebecca Greaney
Kerem Kavlak
Baljeet Kaur
Connacht Sheffield
Rhianna Bentley
Roxania Thomas-Rattray
Denzel Asiedu-Buoh
Firat Isti
Salim Abdulwasie

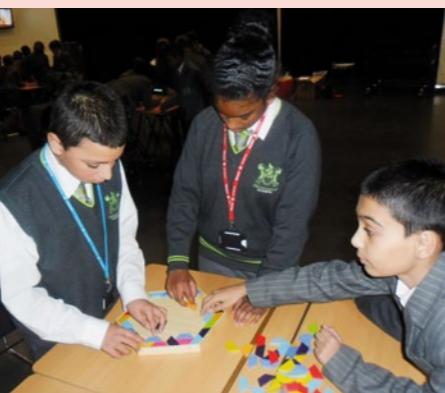


Puzzle Day

On Tuesday 16th November 2010 as part of the maths curriculum and to link with global enterprise week, all year 7 students participated in a 2 hour puzzle session to develop team work, thinking skills, communication and self-confidence as well as mathematical thinking.

Parents were also able to attend an evening session to witness first-hand what their children had been involved in.

Students learnt never to give up even when a task appears impossible. Students had a renewed enthusiasm for mathematics and many wanted to return for another session.



Mrs Khedoo The Academy Nurse

'Drop-In' Thursday lunchtimes, in the LRC.

.... worried, anxious, bullied, sad, problems, health questions, overweight, underweight, sleep problems, eating, exercise, etc.....

...why not drop in to the Drop-In? Your School Nurse is in school every Thursday lunchtime.

At the Drop-In you can pick up free leaflets on different health issues or talk to the school nurse or health advisor in confidence.



Design & Technology



Creative Enrichment!

Working with the Design Museum.

Year seven enrichment students are taking part in an exciting competition run by the Design Museum and partnered with Deutsche Bank. Students were given a brief via webcast by Jasper Conran, a modern and popular designer.

Students are working in teams and aiming to design a product to be sold in the Design Museum shop. The winning schools will get to present to the panel at the museum and the finalists will win £1000 to produce

their proto-types. Their designs will then be sold alongside other famous designers such as Allesi and the winners of Young Designer of the Year 2010.

The designer Susan O'Neil said;

"We were very impressed by your year 7 group and thought some of their ideas were brilliant - we are looking forward to seeing the final designs so keep us updated!".

The design & technology department are expecting great things from year seven this year! Good luck with the brief!

Ms Stern



Royal Academy Drawing Workshop

On Wednesday 12th January 2011, six year 7 and fifteen year 12 and 13 students took part in a Royal Academy School life drawing class.

The event was sponsored by Deutsche Bank and held in our specially designed theatre at the Skinners' Academy.

The Royal Academy Outreach Programme sets out to:

- ♦ Extend young people's understanding of the nature and processes of drawing
- ♦ Develop creativity in young people
- ♦ Unlock individual potential and foster self-confidence and belief
- ♦ Encourage powers of perception, self-awareness and mental flexibility

During the workshop our students embarked on a journey of discovery with the visiting artist and model. Whilst exploring creative approaches to image making, the students were encouraged to break free for a day, leaving previous ideas about drawing behind them.

The students' worked on the floor, were encouraged to take risks and explore different possibilities, achieving some exciting results.

Lennox Barton
**Curriculum Leader Art and
Design/ AST**

“ ”

I really enjoyed working with the Royal Academy of Art and am grateful for what I have learnt – it was really great fun!

Connacht Sheffield,
Year 7



Year 7 and 12/13 visit to the Autograph Gallery

The Paris Albums' 1900: W.E.B. Du Bois. and James Barnor Exhibition

On 4th October 2010 a group of Year 7 and sixth form students took part in an artist -led workshop around the themes of Identity and Personal digital archives.

The students chose three photographs and made notes whilst analysing the narrative content of each piece. They then participated in a discussion prompted by the images in the exhibition.

The issue of 'Cultural Identity and Human Rights' was explored with Maria Amidou and Barbee the artists in residence.



Jack Petchey Awards



Congratulations to Mark Burcham (Premises Manager), Ifeyinwa Egele, Beauty Adeosun and Bahar Doldur for their awards.

It was both a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to open the ceremony in Stoke Newington Town Hall. The awards are given to students who have worked exceptionally hard not only for themselves but also for the good of their school. The girls of the steel pans band were amongst good company to be able to demonstrate what talents they have.

They came in over half term to practice and worked in their own lunchtimes to get the pieces just right for the occasion. They started off the evening with a swing playing a range of Samba classics and a new arrangement of Lady GaGa. Well done to all our talented and committed players and also to their fantastic teacher, Alicia Brown.

Sarah Patterson
Head of Expressive Arts.

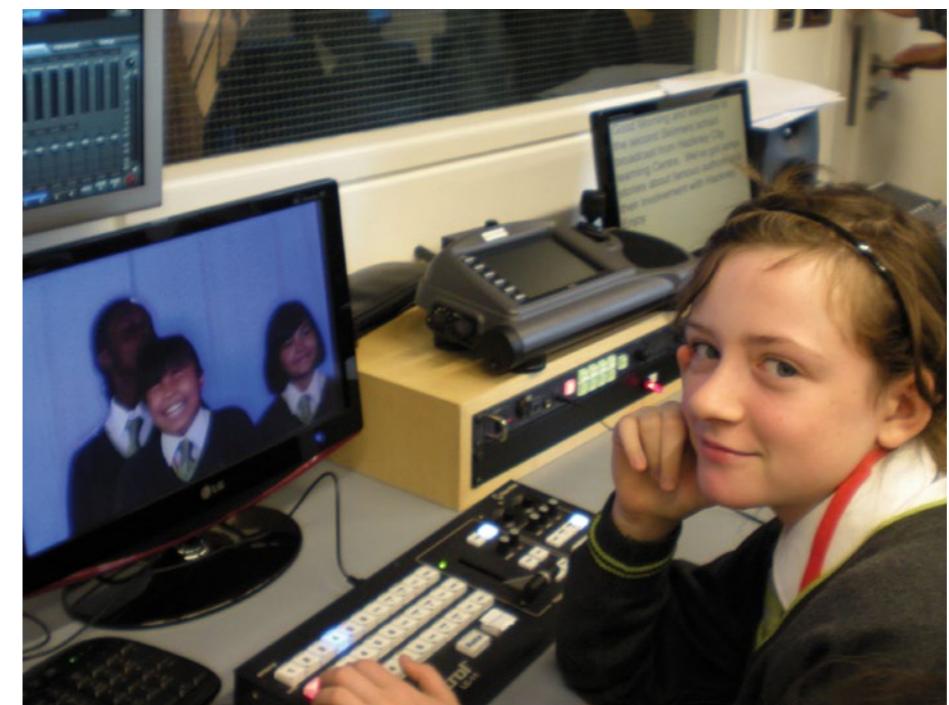


“ ”

The girls of the steel pans band were amongst good company to be able to demonstrate what talents they have.

Sarah Patterson

English



TV Studio visit

In October a group of Year 7s produced a TV broadcast at the Tomlinson Centre. Students were trained in using a professional television studio and had opportunity to use the equipment as well as performing in front of the cameras.

The broadcast was part of the Mapping World Stories project where students researched famous writers who had connections to Hackney.

Students produced poems, raps and news reports on Daniel Defoe, Anna Barbauld, Edgar Allan Poe and Isaac Watts.

“I loved it when I got to do the auto-cue because I felt like I was responsible for something very big.”

Morgan Forrester

“ ”

I think it was a phenomenal day. It would have been great if we could have spent more time in the studio.

Ilayda Tuncel

National Poetry Day – October 7th 2010

The theme of National Poetry Day was 'Home'. We celebrated National Poetry Day in English by writing poems about what 'Home' meant to us. There were some outstanding submissions from Year 7.

Home...

Is a place where you feel safe
When you're home, you're not alone
Family time is where you share
your emotions
and feelings with all the time to spare.
Home is where you were brought up,
Home is where you have time to share,
Home is your comfort zone.
When you're home
You know you are not
Alone.

Tatum De Freitas

Home Sweet Home

Home is a place of love and kindness
Where families put a roof over your head.
A place away from tension and drama
But your siblings annoy you instead.
Your temper will drop
And peace will come in.
Your father and mother will love
You forever
You'll run inside away from this weather
To keep safe and dry forever.
Home sweet home is what we'll say
Home is a place for us every day.

Hope Davison &
Reanna Jukes

Home

Home is made of many parts,
It will stay deep in our hearts.
There's tradition, culture, sounds
and sights,
And so many different lights.
There's my entire family,
Plus there's also you and me.
It might be crowded but that's fine,
Home is a place where it's just mine.
It doesn't matter where you go,
You'll never find somewhere better
than home.
It holds so many of our memories,
And it helps raise our families.

Thomas Heintz



Science



My life as an Academy scientist

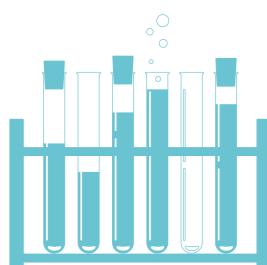
My life as an Academy scientist always starts when the lesson before finishes, knowing that my favourite subject is coming up. I always make a big entrance when opening the door to F19.

When the lesson starts I have my notebook out in case Dr Opoku-Ware says something that I can't write down in my science book.

Dr O makes the lessons interesting and I always learn so much by the end of Science - the only thing I can think is WOW! On Friday not only is there a double lesson, we also get to do a fun experiment.

Dr O always tries to make the lesson fun but also makes sure that we learn as much as possible. He always answers questions and is very helpful. So that's pretty much all of my jam-packed life as an Academy scientist.

Kelell Thomas



The Rowan Tree arrives at the Academy

On Friday 14th January the rowan tree, originally planted at the Skinners' Company's School for Girls in Stamford Hill was moved and planted in the Academy grounds. This was bought by the Skinners' Old Girls Association for the Girls' School.

The rowan tree was the original emblem of the School in 1890 when it was founded by the Skinners' Company.

The image below shows the rowan tree design on the old school badge from 1935.



Physical Education

Netball

Teams:

Yolanta Connolly
Shaquelle Lewis-Frame
Tabassum Nusiba
Rebecca Greaney
Connacht Sheffield
Tiffany Bankay
Destiny Jacobs
Naomie Kinduelo
Cynthia Kinduelo
Tracy Tran

Matches:

Beat Hackney Free Academy
10 points to Nil

Lost to Petchey Academy
3 points to 6

Junior Sport Leadership Award

This is an initiative run in the United Kingdom by the British Sports Trust. The award is a nationally recognised award that helps young people over the age of 14 develop their leadership skills.

Core values of the award are:

- ◆ Developing leadership – teaching people the ability to organise activities, to lead, motivate and communicate with groups.
- ◆ Developing skills for life – helping people reach their true potential.
- ◆ Providing a stepping stone to employment – offering a qualification to get started.
- ◆ Encouraging volunteering in communities – motivating others to organise safe sporting activities in their communities.
- ◆ Reducing youth crime – keeping young people engaged in positive activities.
- ◆ Supporting more active, healthier communities – by providing Sports leaders to organise a range of physical activity sessions.

Well done to all those involved!

Sport Leaders Award - Level 1

Mary Barreto
Klaudia Barys
Amina Cherid
Mariam Fofanah
Paulina Gawrylewski
Ockesisha Grant
Aaliyah Hudson
Rai-Anna McKenzie-Browne
Deborah Munganga
Beatrix Okord
Aminat Shode
Fatoumata Taal



Fencing session

The PE department hosted a fencing taster session in the sports hall open to Key Stage 2 students through to adults. This enrichment activity was designed to encourage students to try something new and expand upon their sporting experience.



Olympic site visit

Year 7 students who had made an exceptional start to their PE lessons were treated to a visit to the Olympic site in Stratford.

Well done to:

Lauryn Bennett	Tabassum Nusiba
Oreoluwa Shoyinka	Ishmeal Cyril
Salim Abdulwasie	Melisa Atim
Daniel Cockran	Remel Bennett
Giovanna Dias Da Costa	Tosin Ajibade
Laolu Salvador	Tolu Alaketu



Skinners' Academy Football News

By Laolu Salvador (Captain) and Rasheed Powell



Year 7 Boys Football

Skinners' Academy has a very good football team and has not lost a match since they started playing all their games. On their first game they drew 4-4 coming back from 3-0. That is really impressive. On their second game they won 4-3. They worked their socks off. On their last appearance that was a 5-aside tournament, Skinners' A and B came 1st and 2nd. Most recently we won an indoor 5 a-side competition against Mossbourne and Petchey Academy played in our sports hall.

Well done boys!

Cross Country Team Members

Girls' Team

Connacht Sheffield

Tanisha Sy-Moneith

Adewa Alaketo

Destiny Jacobs

Sherian Silcott

Cynyee Wong

Yolanta Connolly

Luanna Rodrigues

Tracy Tran

Giovanna Dias Da Costa

Jaden Hope

Baljeet Kaur

Boys' Team

Salim Abdulwasie

Laolu Salvador

Danilson Malungu

Yusuf Simsek

Ashley Fowler

Vaadet Raim

Usmaan Abde

Guilherme Da Silva

Remel Bennett

Rasheed Powell

Kelle Thomas

Dawda Kassama

5 a-side tournament at Skinners' Academy vs Mossbourne Academy

Skinners' Academy 0-0 Petchey Academy

Scorers:

Laolu Salvador 1

Tyrek Campbell 1

Tosin Ajibade 1

Petchey 0-2 Mossbourne

Skinners' Academy 3-1 Mossbourne

	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Points
Skimmers'	2	1	1	0	4
Mossbourne	2	1	0	1	3
Petchey	2	0	0	2	0



Skinners' Academy winning 5 a-side squad

From top left: Nikolas Terran-Vaca, Adam Akinlade, Ali Doldur, Foday Jaiteh, Tosin Ajibade, Laolu Salvador, Tyrek Campbell, Rasheed Powell.

5 a-side at Skinners' Academy

Game 1:

Skinners' A 6-0 Norlington B

Scorers:

Tyrek Campbell 3

Laolu Salvador 1

Tosin Ajibade 2

Game 3:

Skinners' A 5-0 Skinners' B

Scorers:

Laolu Salvador 2

Rasheed Powell 2

Tyrek Campbell 1

Game 2:

Skinners' B 2-0 Norlington A

Scorers:

Ashley Fowler 2

Game 4:

Norlington A 4-1 Norlington B

Game 5:

Skinners' B 6-1 Norlington B

Game 6:

Skinners' A 5-0 Norlington A

	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Goals For	Goals against	Points
Skinners A	3	3	0	0	16	0	9
Skinners B	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
Norlington A	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Norlington B	3	0	0	3	2	16	0

Friendly Game

Forest Gate 4-4 Skinners' Academy

Scorers:

Laolu Salvador 1

Adam Akinlade 1

Foday Jaiteh 1

Rasheed Powell 1

London Cup Match

Skinners' Academy 4-3 Deptford Green

Scorers:

Shaun Johnson 1

Adam Akinlade 1

Tyrek Campbell 1

Tosin Ajibade 1

Rowing

Year 7 students took part in a two day indoor rowing competition to give them a taster for the sport. They had to work as individuals and as teams to row as far as they could in the time provided. It was a really vibrant and fun event.



Health & Social Care



Breast Cancer Awareness

As part of our health education unit we ran a small scale health campaign. The results of a survey that we carried out revealed that many students in our sixth form were more interested in learning about breast cancer than any other health issue. Our main focus was to raise awareness.

We decided to focus our campaign on encouraging our sixth form students to check their breasts hence the slogan "Check your boobies".

We would like to thank our school nurse for supporting our campaign by raising awareness through lessons and a drop in session where she was available to answer any questions about breast cancer and also to support students in learning to check their breasts.

Having the opportunity to develop and run a small health campaign has been an invaluable experience. Working on the project was a challenge but we felt ultimately our campaign was effective.

This Year 13 breast cancer awareness campaign was produced by Melike Balci, Makbule Kalan, Ceylan Kalan and Farida Khatun.

Ceylan Kalan Yr 13

Learning Resource Centre



The Winning Review of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K Rowling

Yomade Aileru, Year 7

This book was about how Harry had to destroy these Horcruxes (parts of Voldemort's soul). His best friends are with him but he loses more important people. He runs into tough obstacles as his final meeting with Voldemort draws nearer.

My favourite character was Ron Weasley. He says funny things, he has stood by Harry and he is getting closer to Hermione. He has lived in Harry's shadow, but is helping him take down Voldemort.

I liked this book because it is full of drama, passion, courage and you cannot put it down and at last everything fits together.

You should read this book because it concludes the series and the Dark Lord, Voldemort is waiting. Harry Potter, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger are going on an adventure that is based on Dumbledore's instructions.

I give this book five stars. It's brilliant!

“ ”

I give this book five stars.
It's brilliant!

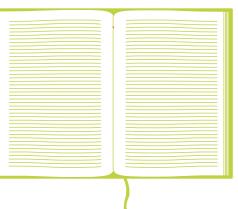
Yomade Aileru

The New LRC

The Learning Resource Centre has had a successful first term with all the students engaging in the resources that include DVDs, audio books and graphic novels.

Students and staff have welcomed the Eclipse library catalogue which allows them to search the collection from any computer in the Academy network. Its interactive capabilities allow students to read and write reviews, create reservations and track their loans.

The LRC has introduced the Homework Club running on Tuesday evenings and offering support and guidance to student study. We have a book club to encourage our students to engage in all forms of literature. The LRC is



now running a dynamic enrichment programme starting this term with a six week book-making workshop.

The Year 7s participated in a LRC induction session and entered a book review competition.

Congratulations goes to Yomade Aileru for his excellent review of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. He has won a £10 pound voucher for Waterstones bookstore. Well done, Yomade!

Well done also, to tutor group 7 P5, who managed to borrow more books than any other tutor group in the Academy.

Our year 7 Library Monitors

**India Chamberlain,
Elle Scott,
Larissa Dang,
Millie Hagland,
Esin Akdogan,
Leon Mabiala,
Luanna Rodrigues-Iannotta,
Ibrahim Patel,
Emine Huylu**

Humanities



Interviewing People from Hackney

24 members of Hackney's working population were invited into school to be interviewed about their contribution to Hackney.

There was a wide range of occupations including local councillors, the local chief fire officer, police officers, film makers, religious leaders and the corporate social responsibility manager of ASOS.

Year 7 students spent the week preparing how they would conduct the interviews. They then produced detailed reports as part of their assessed task for the first half term. A number of the interviewees commented on how little opportunity they got to come into schools to talk about their careers and how grateful they were for such a warm response from the Skinners' Academy Year 7s.

Rebecca Warren

The New Ning Initiative

The Humanities Ning is a new, online initiative that has been introduced by the Humanities department to blend the learning that takes place inside and outside of the classroom. The Ning is an online forum which has been used to facilitate deeper learning of the Year 7 pupils since September.

Each student has their own login and online user area which can be customised to their own style.

They can access their class group to continue discussions that have been inspired from topics studied in class. The Ning provides the pupils with a break down of lessons to ensure no one misses out.

This initiative increases pupils' participation in their learning as well as building on the Academy's business, enterprise and ICT specialism.

Trans-Atlantic Schools Alliance

Along with my colleague Ian Stoneham I went to New York at half term to continue our partnership with The Yong Women's Leadership School (TYWLS) in East Harlem as part of the Trans-Atlantic Schools Alliance.

The students face varying issues of poverty and socio-economic deprivation, but despite this they have an ethos and record of high achievement with an enviable 98% graduating to college. We witnessed some excellent lessons and came away armed with ideas that we have started putting into practise at Skinners'. We haven't got any pets into school yet but Ian and I did enjoy time with Kiwi and Mango the Lovebirds!

The focus this year was literacy and student voice and we were able to showcase our work on the NING and Eportal. We are really excited to host three teachers from the school in March and students will be involved in learning more about life in New York and working alongside their American friends.

Rebecca Warren





Academy In Focus



Sherian Silcott,
Year 7, G1

"I like the Academy because there is plenty of space. Everything is brand new. I also play basketball every lunchtime and I am getting really good."



Sadia Aden
Year 11, B5

"This Academy has really impressed me. It is nice to come everyday and use all the great facilities."



Phrosa Allbeury,
Head of Student Services

"It's been a delight to work in such a big impressive building with such an array of fantastic resources. I've been enjoying the challenge of working with both boys and girls."



Cynyee Wong
Year 7 G2

"When I came I was amazed how big the Academy was, and everything was new. I like the teachers and the classrooms and love the space that we have to learn and play in."



Rob Grice
Vice Principal

"It is fantastic to be working in such a wonderful 21st century learning environment. The experience of making this huge transition has been stimulating as well as challenging for everybody but now I feel we can really start to focus less on the new building and more on the exciting work we can do with our students."



Jahmai Scott,
Year 7 G5

"The teachers have been great and I've learnt a lot since starting. The building is amazing and I'm really enjoying my time here."



Amanda Alcantara
Year 7, G5

"When I came to school first I got lost, but now I know my way around and have made lots of new friends."



Saheera Ausluth
Year 12

"The Academy has been a new experience and a new atmosphere that has promoted learning at its best - it is certainly getting the best from me."



"Our Learning Resource Centre is friendly and approachable and encourages our students' interest in reading and collaborative learning."



Damian Alexis
Head of Page House

"It's been a great honour being Head of Page House and helping the students develop within our great new learning environment."



Aaliyah Hudson
Year 11

"I love the new technology and the building is amazing. It has definitely changed the way we are learning."



Firat Isti
Year 7, P2

"I feel happy and lucky everyday I come to the Academy - I love all the facilities it has, and I especially enjoy playing football outside."



Ana Dju
Year 12

"I have found the Academy very welcoming, with a great learning environment. I'd sum it up as; nice people, nice teachers and nice atmosphere."



Bethany Stern,
D&T Teacher

"I really enjoy the green space in the Academy which is very peaceful, with a great view. I am also very proud to be working for a more sustainable school."



Harvey Byram
Head of Sixth Form

"The Academy is proving a vibrant and friendly working environment. The state of the art facilities enable students to reach their full potential."



Ian Stoneham,
Humanities Teacher

"I've really enjoyed meeting all the new student and staff body, and absolutely love the building!"



Ayorinde Elegbe
Year 7, N3

"I have made many great friends already, and I really like the teachers. I have been enjoying lessons especially maths and science."



Peter Rafferty,
Business

"My experience at Skinners' has been great, I've really enjoyed meeting and getting to know all the new students and staff. We are lucky to be in such a new and innovative building."

End of term Rewards Assembly

**On the 16th December
the end of the first term
was marked by a rewards
assembly for all the year
7 & 11 students.**

Prizes were awarded for excellence, for improvement and for hard work in subjects including English, Maths, Humanities and Art.

There were awards given out by the four Heads of House, for 100% attendance, student of the term, and the highest achieving advisory groups. Prizes were also awarded for the Olympic Mascot competition and the Vertical House structure competition.

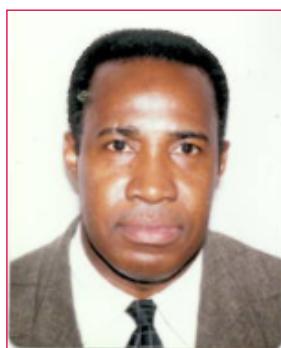
Ms Wilkins presented the awards to students who had made fantastic progress towards meeting their individual curriculum targets. Congratulations to all students who won prizes and certificates for their achievements in the Academy's first term.

The assembly finished with a staff pantomime of Snow White and the Seven (but one didn't show up, so Six) Dwarves!



Congratulations to Shivani Patel and Salim Abdulwasie

Welcome to Skinners' Academy, a new school for boys and girls aged 11-19, providing a world class education in a 21st century building. The Academy is supported by Skinners' Company, who are looking forward, with great enthusiasm, to their Academy becoming the heart and the hub of the Woodberry Down



Skinners' Academy Website

Please find out what we've been doing by viewing the new Skinners' Academy website coming soon in February 2011.

Newly elected Parent Governor – Ronnie O'Connor

Mr Ronnie O'Connor has been elected Parent Governor for the Skinners' Academy. He is a Pharmacy Technician and has provided healthcare to the community for the past ten years.

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“At Skinners’, I will take my wealth of experience and work tirelessly within the framework of the governing body towards the achievement of excellence in every area of school life. I will work toward adding value to each child who walks through the gates, with my emphasis being on harmony, goodwill, respect, brotherhood and appreciation of all.”