

HOLLYWOOD and West End actor Wendell Pierce jumped on the drums to join Haggerston School's jazz band during a visit.

The actor, who was starring in *Death of a Salesman*, took a break from rehearsals to drop into Haggerston School, to talk to students in December.

He was greeted by the school's jazz band before giving a talk on his life and work and answering questions from youngsters.

Later, the New Orleans native showed his musical prowess by stepping in on drums, jamming with our gobsmacked students.

He agreed to visit the school having met a group of drama students backstage after they watched him perform in *Death of a Salesman* at the Piccadilly Theatre, last November.

He said: "I was asked to come into the school but I said first the students have to come and see my play. I met a group of them backstage and I was blown away. I had to come and see the whole school."

The actor had to hold back tears after those same students said the meeting had inspired them to create their own drama piece.

He said: "I'm glad I didn't embarrass myself and shed a tear but I was truly moved by what these young people said.

He added: "Meeting these students was a more significant experience than winning any award or any plaudits as an actor.

"We made a personal connection that we will all take with us throughout the rest of our lives."

Drama student Akim said: "When we met him after *Death of a Salesman*, I was a bit star struck. You think, this guy is a massive Hollywood actor.

"But after just a few minutes you feel completely at ease with him because he is so down to earth and generous with his time.

Headteacher Ms Emmerson said: "It was truly inspiring to see him make such a heartfelt and genuine connection with our students.

"He was able to reach our students in a way rarely seen before by an outside visitor."

## Hollywood star proves a big hit

Visiting actor plays drums with students.



Wendell Pierce played the drums and spoke to students during his visit.

# Teams share bright ideas

BRIGHT students impressed professionals at one of the world's biggest financial companies with their ideas to battle climate change.

Year 9s showed off their green designs at the event in Imperial College's Makerspace hosted by JP Morgan in January.

Two teams from the school came up with ideas for recycling bins which use rainwater to wash plastic waste and a shoe that harnesses the energy created by walking.

The Haggerston teams were up against 16 schools and took home two awards, winning in the Student Choice and Teamwork and Leadership categories.

Year 9 Ayo said: "It really made us think about the environment and the kind of inventions which will be around in the future."

"The day was a lot of fun and improved my knowledge of environmental issues and made me think about careers in science and engineering."

The event was part of the JP Morgan Schools Challenge, which pairs students with coaches from across the company.



Students tackled this issue of climate change at the event hosted by JP Morgan.

The teams focused on tackling real-world issues around clean water and recycling and were exposed to the kind of skills, experience and networks they will need to compete for jobs in the future.

Year 9 Amara said: "Our mentors from JP

Morgan have come to the school and are available over email if we need advice.

"I'm grateful that we have been given the opportunity to talk to people who are at the top of their careers and we can find out what they did to get there."

## BRILLIANT BOOKS



STUDENTS and staff took part in literary activities to celebrate World Book Day including a bookmark design competition.

## CLAY CREATIONS



CREATIVE students made a 'Surreal Room' out of clay for an art enrichment project this term.



## Vegan food for thought

OUR Vegan Society sampled the delights of local cuisine on a special field trip to a restaurant in Shoreditch.

The group sat down to meat-free burgers, mac and cheese and hotdogs at the Unity Diner in February.

The diner was co-founded by animal activist Earthling Ed, who invited students along after giving a talk at the school a fortnight earlier.

Student Eliza said: "It was a great experience to taste some great vegan food and it helped us realise we don't need animal products in our food to make it taste nice."

One of the students even said that he wouldn't have known the difference between the vegan hotdog and a meat one.

Eliza added: "We are very lucky because we live in London where it is so easy to eat vegan."

## SUPERSTAR'S SURPRISE

HAGGERSTON students can claim to have scored in the same game as a World Cup winner after Brazilian football legend Kaka graced our MUGA sports turf pitch.

The 37-year-old (pictured centre) caused a stir when he turned out for Hackney Wick FC in a friendly six-a-side match in January.

The ex-professional smashed in a couple of goals but did not have it all his own way when he was nutmegged by an amateur player much to the delight of the crowd.

The defender skillfully took the ball away from Kaka by cheekily knocking it through his legs, leaving the 2007 Ballon d'Or winner laughing in disbelief.

See @HaggerstonSch on Twitter to watch the videos.



# Group so proud to support inclusivity

A GROUP of students flew the flag for acceptance and diversity with a series of events recently.

The Pride Youth Network (PYN) held an assembly and handed out rainbow badges as part of LGBT+ History Month in February.

The club spent several lunchtimes cutting and preparing rainbow ribbons to show their support. They handed out their creations and wore them on their uniforms all month.

Year 7 Jake T said: "We meet at lunchtimes to work on projects and socialise. Our assembly was a success.

"We tried to explain what LGBT+ History month is all about and why it's important. We just want people to know that whatever your race, sexuality, religion or gender you are welcome at the school and have just as many rights as anyone else."

Year 7 Jake A added: "The club is all about solidarity. It aims to stamp out any bullying and make sure everyone is accepted in the school."



Members of the school's Pride Youth Network have been very busy.

## LEADING THE WAY

OUR campaigning student leadership team have been hard at work this term ensuring they represent their peers.

Members made nominations for Jack Petchey Awards and invited others to join the Student Council. They have also written letters to inspirational people.

Meanwhile, the future leaders host weekly discussions on key issues that apply to the school and deserve the attention and action of student leadership.

## FAB FLAVOURS



YEAR 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students

have been investigating the working characteristics of milk, fat, flour and eggs to create a delicious range of tasty treats.

They have also been sitting together to eat the healthy savoury meals with student-made bread rolls and bean burgers. Year 8 have made falafel and pitta bread.



# Uniting during testing times

It is times like these we are able to see with a degree of clarity what is truly important.

As we face what is likely to be the greatest social challenge of our lifetime, it is important to remember that we will all come together to get through it.

It is very easy to view the current global crisis with impending doom but I feel it is important to focus on what connects rather than divides us.

This week, I have witnessed a fantastic effort from staff to go above and beyond and our students have been accepting, measured and mature with every new announcement.

For students who were due to sit exams in the summer, there will be a range of mixed emotions.

We have impressed upon them the importance of keeping a long term view on their education and

seeing the next few months as crucial preparation for university or sixth form study.

The next few days and weeks are bound to bring new announcements and further changes but please rest assured that we are fully prepared to ensure students are able to keep up with their learning.

We are incredibly fortunate that the DPR portal will allow parents and students to stay up-to-date with the curriculum and ahead of their key objectives.

For vulnerable children and those with parents who are keyworkers, we will continue to offer a place to learn.

We will keep communicating with all our families during this time and will be counting down the days until we can get back to normality and open the gates again to all our students.

Please stay safe. Happy Easter.

Headteacher  
Ciara Emmerson

## LANGUAGE LESSONS

Students enjoyed testing their Spanish language skills while on a trip to Valencia.

STUDENTS were immersed in the Spanish language while taking part in cultural activities on a trip to Valencia.

Staying with a local family during the half term trip, students were expected to converse only with the hosts in their native language.

They also spent time in class at a language school learning alongside their Spanish peers and took part in a range of activities including learning to cook paella and a walking tour quiz.

The trip was partly funded by teachers who took part in a range of fundraising activities to cover costs including running the Victoria Park half marathon.

Teacher Mr Johnson, who accompanied students on the trip, said: "There were so many cultural and social learning points for students.

"I hope that they agree that they will emerge from this experience not just better linguists, but also more world-aware young people."

## CHEF INSPIRES

YEAR 10 Food and Nutrition students were treated to a cooking masterclass from our kitchen's Head Chef Micheal.



## IT'S PLAY TIME

OUR GCSE and A-level drama students brought contemporary plays from page to stage for their coursework exam in January. It is worth 20% of their overall grade.



STUDENTS learned about the horrors of Nazi Germany from a Jewish survivor during an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

To honour the event, a group of eight Year 10 students took part in the Hackney Holocaust Memorial where they each read sections from the biography of Gino Bartali.

Bartali was a champion road cyclist who helped dozens of Jews facing persecution in Italy escape by using bicycle training as a cover for secret rescues.

The pupils also heard from a Holocaust survivor and observed a Jewish prayer for those who died during the Holocaust at the event held at Hackney Town Hall on January 27.

Year 10 Nancy said: "It was a really moving day. It was humbling to hear what people, some of whom were the same age as us, had to go through. It made us think about the horrors of war and how lucky we are to live now.

"We were very lucky to be able to hear from a person who survived the war because we will likely be the last generation to hear these stories first hand.

"I think it showed us the importance of standing up against racism, prejudice and hate."

Meanwhile, Year 13 students Shaquille and Hal visited the former concentration camp site of Bergen Belsen in Germany to commemorate the 75th anniversary of its liberation.

The students toured the site, including the mass graves, the Jewish and Polish memorials

# Learning from war's horrors



Students participated in a special event to honour Holocaust Memorial Day.

as well as the burial site of Anne Frank and her sister Margot.

Students also got to hear survivor testimonies and visited the museum adjacent to the site.

Student Hal said: "Visiting Bergen-Belsen and taking part in the memorial of the camp's liberation was both a privilege and a fascinating experience."



Students pictured outside Berlin's famous Brandenburg Gate.

## LANDMARK OCCASION

**HISTORY** students enjoyed a trip to Berlin to learn about the Second World War.

Our Year 10 and 11 pupils got the chance to explore the German capital and see some of the most famous landmarks in the world.

They visited museums, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag Building, home to the German parliament.

The group also took a tour of the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, where many Jewish people lost their lives during the horrors of the Holocaust.

Year 11 Ezra said: "It was moving to see the camp. When we were there it was freezing, even in our coats.

"We were told that prisoners had most of their clothes and shoes confiscated when they arrived so it really brought home how horrible it must have been to be trapped there."



# FARMYARD INSPIRATION

OUR Year 11 art textiles students got ahead of their GCSE coursework on a visit to Hackney City Farm.

They had the opportunity to conduct primary research during the trip, as well as the chance to take pictures of local street art on the journey.

Year 11 student Nayeema said: “For my exam I have been researching the work of Henry Moore.

“On the way to Hackney City Farm we had the opportunity to photograph some street art which reminded me of Henry Moore’s pen and ink drawings.

“This has introduced an interesting local link to my art textiles work.”

Another student said: “It was a good experience for me because my sub theme for the exam is ‘Animals’ and I managed to overcome my fear of chickens.”

## Curtain up on theatre workshop



DRAMA students recently took part in a special workshop focusing on Laura Wade’s play *Colder Than Here* with Rachel and Lotte from the Hackney Empire.



## GROUP GAINS VITAL SKILLS

STUDENTS learned crucial life skills including CPR during a series of workshops.

## MUSIC MAKERS STRIKE A CHORD



Year 11 students got top tips from teachers and professional musicians as they got to record their music in the school recording studio for their GCSE exam. Student Zelal is pictured with her teacher.

OUR sixth form students were among a select group to earn medals at a nationwide science competition.

Year 13 Reyhannisa and year 12 Azam both achieved a silver, putting them in the top 24 percent of students in the country.

Year 13 students Faithful, Tahmid, and Nicole, achieved bronze, as did year 12 Tanvir, putting them in the top 25 percent nationwide.

The Chemistry Olympiad has around 7,500 entries per year and is run by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The 90-minute challenge tests students critical thinking and problem-solving skills against real-world situations.

Silver medal winner Reyhannisa said: "I actually did this test last year and did not get a medal so I would have been happy with a bronze, silver is a massive plus.

"The questions were quite advanced and very interesting because it tested you against real life scenarios. It really helped me think more about the subject.

"I want to pursue science and this will look good on my application so I was extra pleased to so well."

# Chemistry is ideal for medal winners



Haggerston students did the school proud at the Chemistry Olympiad.



## LEARNING CULTURE

YEAR 9 students got the opportunity to visit the Barbican Centre to see an exhibition exploring cafe and cabaret culture through history before taking part in some live performance art. The trip was an introduction to the Barbican Box Music Project.



## PICTURES TELL A STORY

STUDENTS worked with Barbican artist Kitty Finer to create a series of images inspired by performance art and 'incidental' art.

They composed photographs exploring a space that they would like to create for themselves and their peers, looking at body language and focussing on how they would behave in that space.

The outcome was based on

a discussion around the lack of youth centres or activities for young people at the present.

Their work is part of a publication entitled 'This is Art' which is a collection of images produced by school children and published by the Barbican.

Students got to see their work at the Barbican as well as watching and listening to the theatre and music groups' response to the brief.

## Delicious dishes



YEAR 11 students cooked up two dishes as part of a healthy menu for a restaurant for their Hospitality and Catering coursework. Students worked independently investigating healthy balanced meals,



the nutritional needs of different user groups and a variety of cooking methods. They will be assessed on the preparation work and the final cooking and presentation.

STUDENTS will be able to stay ahead of their learning if schools shut thanks to an innovative online resource.

Unlike other online education resources, the Dynamic Progress Report is linked to the curriculum, allowing students to continue to learn like they would at school.

The key objective for every subject is available through the platform including link to self-learning and self-testing websites.

Students can then upload their work for teachers to give feedback, all in real time, with parents also able to log in to monitor their child's progress.

Similar to social networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook, teachers can make class announcements whilst there is also a resource to hold group learning chats.

Students should be logging on to the DPR at least once a day to check and submit homework they will be receiving.

Brian Lynch, Deputy Headteacher, said: "Obviously, it was not introduced with this in mind but it does have the benefit of being the ideal alternative to in-school learning.

"There are many school resource platforms out there but none, like the DPR, are actually linked to a school curriculum. This means students can follow a daily lesson plan as they would in school.

"It is so well integrated into the school curriculum that all learning can be accessed remotely, with the added advantage that parents can monitor the work."

For information on how to use the portal please search for collaborating at [axle-education.zendesk.com](https://axle-education.zendesk.com).

The username is their school email address. Students have their own password.

Online portal will help during health crisis.

# KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON STUDYING



## Reading matters



**DON'T** forget to read every day. The school recommends a minimum of 45 minutes at KS3. The library has provided a list of recommended online reading resources and recommended reading lists to allow you to have a wide selection of ebooks available to you. Search for online reading resources at [haggerston.hackney.sch.uk](https://haggerston.hackney.sch.uk)

## CAKES BOOST CAMPAIGN

Our Sixth Form students had an innovative way to raise money for their trip to the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. They held a bake sale! Well done to everyone who got involved!

