



## The lessons were full of high notes

OUR year 11 music students' performances have been hailed a great success after their work was recorded professionally, using the school's music studio (inset).

Student Wenxin (main picture) stood out for producing a fantastic performance, as well as demonstrating excellent character and resilience.



# Learning history with PRIDE

STAFF and students celebrated diversity and inclusion by marking LGBT + History Month, with events around the school.

There was a whole-school assembly, where students talked about the impact of historical Queer figures, and a writing project saw students write poems and stories about fictional Queer characters.

The events were supported by the Youth Pride Network group, which meets weekly to discuss LGBT+ issues and offers a safe space to youngsters.

Meanwhile, art club members created a display of placards to celebrate the month. Students drew inspiration from LGBT+ flags, to design and paint their own placards to champion diversity.

Year 11 student Sebastian said: "It is so important to pay tribute and respect to the historical figures from the LGBT+ community, because the modern generation needs to understand the sacrifices made for the world we live in today. I am proud of this school because it has put tolerance and inclusively and supporting the choices of students as a top priority.

Year 9 Sofia said: "LGBT+ History Month has



### Students produced placards for LGBT+ month

been a very informative time for me personally, because I have been educated about people from the past. It is important to remember the role they played. This is a wonderful school because it helps to promote equality for people of all backgrounds, so we feel safe here."



# 'Guiding students towards rewarding careers'

Head Teacher Mrs Emmerson (right) on what this term has offered.

This term, we have focused on tolerance, diversity and respect for others. These are basic principles, which guide our young people, and are critical to a thriving school.

In this wonderful, diverse corner of east London we welcome people from all cultural and religious backgrounds. It is our duty to

create an environment where young people feel safe to be themselves and explore the world around them.

We are so proud when our students take it upon themselves to lead these events, as was the case during LGBT+ History Month.

Another part of our job is to help students be ready for life beyond education, for when they step into the world of work. As we celebrated Careers Week, there were programmes,

workshops and visitors guiding students towards rewarding careers.

Our students can see there are many options out there, and that they should pick wisely; you spend a lot more time at work than at school.

As society begins to further open up, we are hoping students get to enjoy more of these enrichment opportunities.



# Daughter of survivor teaches horrors of war

STUDENTS heard from the daughter of a concentration camp survivor, as the school marked Holocaust Memorial Day.

Hephzibah Rudofsky detailed her mother and grandmother's experiences at Bergen-Belsen, during the Second World War, when giving a talk to students in January.

She brought a suitcase full of objects and belongings that belonged to her mother and grandmother, including the Stars of David that had been worn on their clothing.

She also discussed what it was like growing up with a camp survivor and the impact it has had on her own life.

Student Evelyn said: "It was a really shocking story she had to tell. The fact that her mother was only nine when she went to the camps, and the way she was treated, really was so sad. She talked about what it was like to grow up with someone who had been through such a horrible experience.

"Her mother was always afraid of dogs,

because they used them to round people up to get on the trains to the camps. It was those types of small details about her life that really brought home to us just how awful it had been."

Other events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day included year-group assemblies, classroom learning and other talks.



**Sonny in Year 9 looking at items that had been kept from the concentration camp. Inset, some of the objects belonging to Hephzibah Rudofsky**



# Taking a test of character

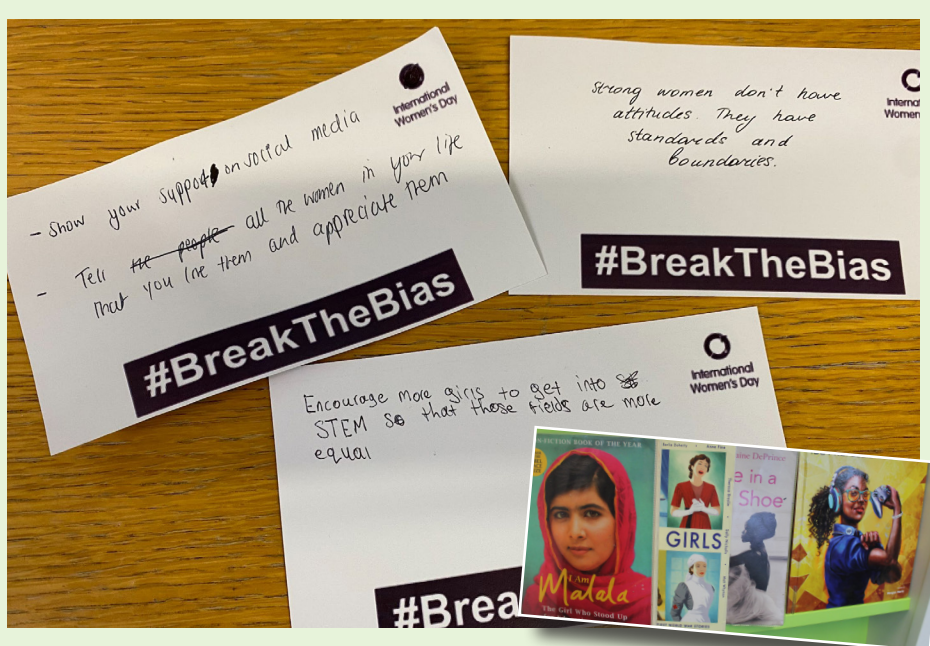
STUDENTS took part in workshops designed to build empathy, understanding and confidence on Character Day.

The Year 10s took part in informative sessions about the impact of drugs, how to cope with stress, body image and finance. The boys also had workshops looking at gender stereotypes, and covered topics focusing on relationships. There was also a session on periods for girls and they were all given a free pack of sanitary towels.

The sessions were run by visiting speakers and took place in January.

Year 10 Joel said: "I really enjoyed the session on the impact of drugs because the person running it made it really interesting and I could relate to what they were talking about.

Mika added: "I really enjoyed the workshop which was just for the boys. There was a lot of discussion around stereotypes and roles of men and women. It was really informative and think it helped that it was just boys in the sessions, so we could focus on what was being said."



**BREAK THE BIAS:** To mark International Women's Day, students shared how they will support and encourage equality. The library put together a wonderful collection of books about inspiring and unforgettable women (inset).



## Stage set for good grades

CREATIVE drama students have been performing work that explores issues in the wider world, including racism, social equality, and mental health.

The plays included Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Dyer and Williams' *Death of England* and Gill's *Mirror Teeth*.

Students demonstrated great commitment, resilience and teamwork in creating their performances, which are worth 20 per cent of their final grade.

The performances are worth 20% of the students' final grades



# Down to business for tour of campus in City

OUR next generation of entrepreneurs are on the pathway to success, after an inspirational trip to Bayes Business School.

The Year 12 business students took a tour of the campus and heard from former students who went on to become successful in business.

The business school, part of City, University of London, is working in partnership with the school to provide mentors to students.

Bayes is one of the top-ranking business schools in the UK and college lecturers took time to show how they inspire their students and raise aspirations.

Student Salma said: "Doing business as a degree can take you in many different directions and open many doors. It can also be fun. If you find your passion within it, it's not limited at all."

Student Sabino added: "I enjoyed the trip because I got a perspective of different peoples' experiences and how they felt about university."




Students watch a presentation at Bayes Business School

## Tweet of the term



Fiona McSorley FCCT  
@Fifimc60

Great to meet with the [#RSL](#)  [@HaggerstonSch](#) today to discuss progress with post 16. Lots of great work going on to support their students. [@PiXL\\_6](#)



## Thoughtful exhibition

A group of Year 12 and 13 art students went to Auto Italia, the artist-run gallery, for a workshop about the current exhibition by Sands Murray-Wassink.

It provoked conversations around identity, gender and mental health.

Students also enjoyed a tour of the exhibition.

# Development through the years with workshops

HAGGERSTON has partnered with Into University to provide a series of bespoke workshops for each of the school's year groups.

Year 7 students learnt skills required to make a successful transition into secondary school, and how to set personal development targets.

Meanwhile, Year 8 explored engaging learning and revision techniques, to improve confidence with lesson content.

Year 9 took part in a careers workshop, while Year 11 looked at how post-16 options impact future education and career opportunities.

**INFORMED CHOICES:** Sixth form students attended the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in March. The Year 12 cohort had the chance to chat with more than 50 exhibitors at the event, which was aimed at helping students to make informed choices about their future careers. Inspired by what they learnt at the fair, students have been completing extra work on their extended project qualification, to help them stand out to employers and universities.

Publications are provided to explore ideas for careers



## CJ's vying for a voluntary award

A HARD-WORKING Year 11 volunteer has been recognised for her tireless work with youth charity Young Hackney.

CJ (pictured) was inspired to support the charity having received support herself, and has now been nominated for a volunteer's award.

She will move one step closer to her dream job, as a social worker, by studying health and social care in the sixth form next year.



Students based bag designs on issues that were important and personal to them

## A place to carry important issues

OUR textile students have showcased their practical design skills by creating a range of eye-catching tote bags.

Drawing their inspiration from social issues, they researched a subject matter

personal to them, which, in turn, informed their designs.

Students expressed their thoughts through the medium of textile, which complemented their theoretical studies.





Bookmarks were made as part of the World Book Day celebrations, which also included a book swap (above)

## Marking a new chapter

STAFF and students took part in events to celebrate World Book Day.

There were also fun activities around school, which focused on this year's theme of 'You are a reader'.

Activities included games, such as a 'find a line challenge', which saw students find hidden quotes from their favourite books, around the school.

They also created stunning 3D bookmarks, using the paper folding technique origami, and designed colourful bookmarks.

Prizes were also on offer at a book-themed bingo event.



## Charity helps career choices

SIXTH form students gained valuable networking skills, while learning about apprenticeships, by attending a session organised by youth charity Open Palm.

Professionals from Charles Stanley, the London investment firm, spoke to students about the different career paths available.

Students were tasked with creating their own public career profiles online by using platforms such as LinkedIn.

Students were then asked to write a post on the site, tagging the charity in. Once this was

accomplished, they were entered into a draw to win the prize.

After the session, Open Palm encouraged the students to practise their skills, by holding a competition to win a tablet.

Year 12 Christopher (pictured) said: "I was able to complete all the tasks that were set and won the prize after being picked in the draw, which was great."

"I learnt that networking is a big part of life, which not only helps your communication skills, but your career as well."







## Students' art set for Barbican display

YEAR 9 students created a stunning large-scale artwork, which will be exhibited at renowned arts centre, The Barbican.

In January, the group visited the centre to take part in a workshop led by Sam Winston, the artist-in-residence. They learnt new techniques, as well

as exploring how art impacts the city environment. Their artwork will be displayed in the conservatory of the centre.



Students learned how to shape acrylic during the sessions

## Making a stand

YEAR 7 students took on a new challenge, as they designed, modelled and made their own phone stand.

The project involved learning about different types of plastic, and how to finish and shape acrylic.

The students also got creative and decorated their work.



# A mechanical masterclass

OUR girls have mastered complex new technical and computer skills, after building robots at an after-school club.

The Year 8, 9 and 10 students learnt about high-level programming, and built the circuit boards for their machines

The group increased their STEM learning, and

showcased excellent personal skills, including teamwork, project management and determination.

Each group created a fully functioning robot, which can detect obstructions, using ultrasonic sensors, and avoid them

The Robotics Club takes place every Thursday after school.





# Meet the literature-loving library team

THE new student librarians can't wait to put their knowledge to good use, by recommending books for their peers.

The literature-loving team of helpers submitted applications, before being interviewed for sought-after jobs, working alongside the school librarian.

Alongside filing, checking books in and out and stacking shelves, the team is tasked with helping their classmates find a suitable read.

Year 9 student Fione said: "If you love reading, which I do, then there is no better place to work than a library. It is such a thrill to be able to recommend a new book to someone."

Fellow year 9 student Alinda said: "I really enjoy spending my time with my friends there and talking about books and helping the other students. It is also really nice to give something back to the school."

## Reflecting needs

SEN students joined forces with their peers from other schools, and make their voices heard at a borough-wide event.

The open forum saw topics – including support in school, wider public perceptions, and how students can help themselves – discussed.

Year 10 Taylor said: "This event allows us to reflect on our needs, and work on how we can support ourselves. We can discuss how society should treat us and what we like or dislike about how we are supported in school. We are making an effort to get as many ideas listed as possible so Hackney Learning Trust can send them to all Hackney schools, and ensure that no pupil feels left out or awkward."



**QUIET TIME:** Year 9 students are developing a love of reading, by making fortnightly visits to the library during English lessons.

It provides a chance to share book recommendations with friends, browse for new reading material and spend time in the library reading their chosen books.

Additionally, Year 7 and 8 students have been invited to take part in small group reading sessions.

Volunteers from the City Year programme listen to students reading aloud and watch them develop a love for reading.

## Money talks at firm's meeting

STUDENTS have been getting an insight into a career in finance, thanks to talks from professionals at a top international firm.

Students listened to a talk from a representative from Aegon, who discussed the fluctuating nature of investment, and career paths.

The talk was in partnership with the school's social enterprise, Investment 2020, which helps young people from under-

represented communities get a foothold in finance careers.

Year 13 student Oluwadamilade said: "It was a really interesting talk because I had no idea about how finance worked, before the session."

"I did not know what impact things like Covid, and what is happening in politics, could have on investments. It certainly made it seem a very interesting career."



# Sign-ups for awards hit record high

A RECORD-BREAKING 98 students have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award this term.

They will have to put in 50 hours volunteering, take part in sport, and complete a camping expedition to receive the award.

The Year 10 students have been working hard, by taking part in activities, including photography, horse riding and supporting local charities to achieve Silver.

Mr James, Head of PE and Outdoor Education said: "I'm really proud of the way the students have approached their tasks, and look forward to starting the training for the summer expedition."

## Smells like team spirit

THE school's football and netball teams have showcased great sporting spirit and resilience, after several tough matches.

Goals from Dante, Orson, Alessandro and Humza capped a brilliant comeback win against local rivals Bridge, to ensure the school took all three points.

A special mention to 'man-of-the-match' Tate, whose calmness on the ball helped to create excellent chances – including an assist for the crucial third goal.

Our senior netball team has also been training and playing well, although they have come up against some very tough opposition in their last couple of matches.

All players involved continually gave everything for the team, with some notable performances from Eliza, Luna and Greta.

## Project seeks more smiles

YEAR 8 students are taking part in an innovative project aimed at improving the well-being and self-esteem of black boys.

The S.M.I.L.E.-ing Boys Project uses photography, poetry, film and podcasts to address mental health, while also challenging negative portrayals and stereotypes in the media.

Supported by the Mayor of London, and produced by artist Kay Rufai, the programme includes workshops responding to youth violence.

They are partly informed by philosophical teachings that seek to improve emotional literacy, as well as encourage positive system changes within the school institution.

The S.M.I.L.E. workshops take place every Monday.

## Making the perfect pancake



THIS year's Pancake Day received an upgrade, with food technology students creating delicious American-style recipes. As well as cooking, the Year 10

students took the opportunity to practice their presentation skills, by decorating the pancakes with fanned strawberries and a berry coulis.

# Speaking out for success

STUDENTS had big boots to fill this term, when they tried out for this year's Jack Petchey 'Speak Out Challenge'.

Haggerston School has a rich history of success in the Hackney-wide competition, with Hal taking home the top prize in 2017.

Hal's amusing story, about a visit to Trump Tower, was impeccably delivered and wowed the crowd and judges.

This term, students took part in a workshop, with a coach, to develop their

skills in creative expression and decide which two students will represent the school at the challenge. They will then have to deliver a self-penned, one-minute talk on a chosen subject matter, which will then be judged by a panel.

The Jack Petchey's 'Speak Out Challenge' is the world's biggest youth speaking event, with communication skills training delivered by Speakers Trust.

The winners will be announced next term.