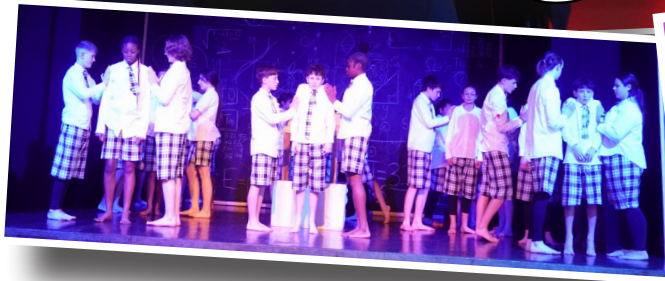


The school production of *The IT* was a community endeavour



Setting the scene



Co-Headteachers Mrs Moran and Mrs Turbet (inset on the school's production of *The IT*, and the power of the arts.

As a school, we believe that the performing arts play a pivotal role in the emotional, social and academic development of young people.

Beyond the confines of traditional academic subjects, engaging in performing arts such as drama, music and dance offers many benefits not immediately obvious.

The arts foster creativity, it helps young people explore their emotions, thoughts and ideas, and gain a better understanding of themselves. Nowhere is this better exemplified than in our recent school production of Vivienne Franzmann's *The IT*. This powerful production saw the entire school community come together in a remarkable display of unity and creativity.



As you will be aware from our weekly bulletins, this term we have had a live performance from a slam poetry champion, school fun on World Book Day, authors visits, trips to see Shakespeare and much more. In this edition of the Haggerston

Recorder, you will also see examples of other opportunities our students have had, including the Just Give project.

Of course, we also strive to give our students outstanding

learning opportunities in school within the classroom. This term has seen our revision and interventions ramp up as teachers give up their own time to support all of our students.

Have a great Easter. The hard work continues in the new term.

Police visit provides mutual understanding

STUDENTS got the chance to try on police uniform and handle equipment during a workshop with a Met Police taskforce.

The three police officers explained to students the roles of the taskforce, which includes dogs and mounted police.

Student Vida said: "It was interesting to handle some of the equipment. I got to hold the batons they use to knock down doors."

Student Oscar said: "The police were friendly and it was a nice workshop. It changed the perception young people have of the police."

Assistant Head of Year 7 Ms Annan said: "This session helped police discover the needs, aspirations and opinions of our young people in the Hackney area."

"Equally our students learned what it meant



Students got to try out police equipment during the visit from officers

to be a police officer upholding the law and the challenges police face.

"This was a mutual learning experience

for both sides that will help to create a safer and more cohesive environment all of our community."



PICTURE PERFECT: Year 9 students were inspired by photographic portraits at the National Portrait Gallery to create their own work. They took part in Identity Through Portraiture, a photography workshop, creating their own work in the Law Photography studio.





On an AI adventure

STUDENTS made the most of a trip to the French capital for an AI convention with a visit to Disneyland Paris.

The computing students networked with creators, designers and tech experts at the Imagine AI Paris conference. They heard from industry professionals' top enterprise AI leaders during the two-day conference Computing Live!

The also got the chance to meet Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse while enjoying the rides, and practised their French during sightseeing trips to the Eiffel Tower and while eating at restaurants.

Year 9 student Dylan said: "The conference was interesting. It was a chance to see what the world will look like in a few years' time.

"It felt like we were getting a look at how things will be in the future. The trip to Disneyland was also amazing."

Year 10 student Nancy said: "It was the most fun I have had. We went to the conference, which was interesting – particularly hearing from the top people in AI.

"Then there was the Eiffel Tower and Disneyland, and just being in Paris, which was magical."

Head of Computing Mr Seisay said: "We want to enrich students' learning by taking them outside the classroom and experience real life learning opportunities.

"By the end of the trip, students were talking about AI, programming and much more. It clearly had a positive impact."



Students took part in a debating competition and went to Disneyland during the trip

❑ Students learned about different countries' views on big social topics at a debating competition.

The group took on the role of the country Greece, researching its stance on reproductive and maternal rights. They then had to argue their nation's points at the Model UN debating contest.

Year 10 student Zack said: "It was an interesting exercise because it also involved us learning about the issue. I really enjoyed listening to the other students and learning what stance

other countries take on this issue. I really felt that it has helped me with my public-speaking skills, and social and communication skills in general."

Geography coordinator Ms Kaur said: "It was an incredible experience for many of our students as they passionately debated current affairs with other students.

"This trip was significantly useful as the students were able to improve many skills; communication, listening, public speaking, research and teamwork."



FINANCIAL TIMES: Sixth Form students learned about sustainability projects and talked to industry professionals at investment bank Lombard Odier.

Find the Line game is a World Book Week hit

Ms SAMY, LRC Manager, ran literary-themed quizzes and competitions as the school celebrated World Book Week.

There were several activities including a treasure hunt-style competition – Find the Line – and a cover designing contest.

There was also a guess the book emoji competition.

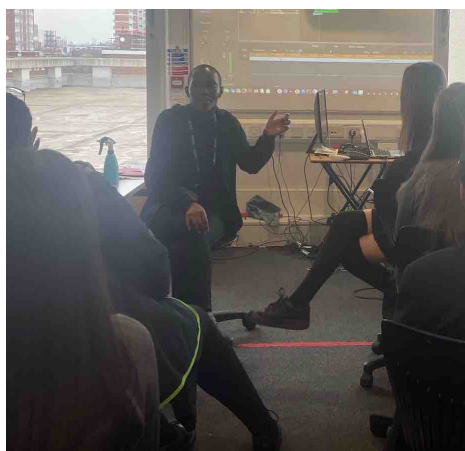
Year 8 student Olivia said: “I really enjoyed Find the Line. We had to search the school for clues to find a line from the book, and then guess the book and author.

Year 7 student Azariyah said: “Find your Line was fun because lots of the children got involved. There was a real buzz around the school about books. It was so fun.

Year 7 student Mabli said: “I love World Book Week. It really helps everyone focus on reading and helps people get into the world of books.”



Students took part in a host of quizzes and competitions during the week



RECORDING ARTISTS: Year 9 and Year 10 took part in weekly workshops from UD Music as part of the Record Label Project. They worked with songwriters and producers to create their own professionally recorded songs.



Author helps produce a thrilling read

STUDENTS got the chance to write their own thriller with the help of author Sue Wallman.

They learned about the writing and publishing process before taking part in a workshop.

Year 8 student Olivia said: “It was interesting to learn about the writing process and how books are published.

Year 8 student Oliwa said: “it was really inspiring to meet a real-life published author. Her insights into writing were great.”

Librarian Ms Samy said: “The students were really engaged with the session and really had a great time.”

Artistic immersion



OUR inclusion students entered an experiential immersive art world on a school trip.

The group got acquainted with the works of classic artists at the multi-sensory gallery Frameless. Featuring four galleries, it showcases the world's greatest works of art in ways never seen before.

Student Jonah said: "It was interesting and I enjoyed it an awful lot. There were so many artists for us to enjoy in a unique way.

"I really liked the bigger room, which has

lots of the artwork that I enjoy looking at. Overall, it was a fun trip".

Ms Barclay said: "The trip was a chance for students to engage with art in a different way and experience it interactively.

"The students were taken around by a tour guide who explained each piece of art to us. They were fantastic ambassadors for Haggerston School, and were polite and engaged throughout."



FUNDS FOR SUNSHINE KID: Year 7 student Dot used the money received for winning a Jack Petchey Award on a recital from an award-winning poet.

World Slam Poetry Champion Harry Baker performed his uplifting poems at the last assembly before half term.

His work touches on a variety of themes including mental health, bullying, stereotypes and German falafel spoons.

His first book of poems, *The Sunshine Kid*, was published in 2014 and he is about to release his second book, *'Unashamed'*, later this year.

Head of Year 7 Ms Siddiqui said: "Dot said she wanted the funds spent on something that would inspire and energise students. The students had a great time. They gave him a warm welcome during his performance."



Speaking up on big issues

Practising our poetry

OUR students tackled tough subjects when taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Year 10 students Leila and Henriette were selected to represent the school following a public-speaking workshop.

The pair delivered their self-penned speeches at the Hackney regional final this term.

Leila talked about peace while Henriette gave her speech on the privileges of being a woman.

Leila said: "It was a welcoming and friendly environment, which made it easy to

deliver our speeches.

"Even though we did not win it was a safe and inclusive space. I really enjoyed hearing the other speeches."

Henriette said: "I was proud of my speech, and it got a really good reception. I feel more confident with public speaking."

Year 11 student Taliyah came second last year and was asked to join the panel of judges.

She said: "It was interesting to see it from the other perspectives. You really take in the other speeches when you are judging rather than competing."

STUDENTS took part in a slam poetry workshop with artist Henry Baker.

The poet (*pictured above*) ran an assembly before hosting sessions with selected students interested in poetry. He gave them top tips on how to write and perform their own work while also taking questions.

Year 7 student Amra said: "It was a great experience because he helped us with our own poetry. I really enjoyed listening to his poems as well."

Year 7 student Dot said: "It was great to work with a real-life poet who has written and promoted his own work. He helped me with my poem."



Modern Bard

A MODERN production of *Romeo and Juliet* has proved a huge hit with students.

Performed at the Globe theatre, the play is a fast-paced, 90-minute version created especially for young people.

Set in 2024, this update of the much-loved drama explores hard-hitting themes relatable to modern audiences.

Year 9 student Maja said: "It was enjoyable because it was relatable to modern audience. It has really helped me to relate to the text a bit more and will help with studying it."

Year 9 student Teddy said: "It has really helped me understand what the original play is about because it used modern language and modern ideas. I really enjoyed it."



Students are making the case for their chosen charities

Giving to very good causes

STUDENTS researched charities as part of a project aimed at inspiring community engagement.

For the First Give project, youngsters researched their chosen charity before delivering a presentation to a panel of judges.

The best presentation won a £1,000 grant.

Year 8 student Kayden's group chose

Hackney food bank. He said: "I have really enjoyed researching the charities in the local area. There's so much going on in the community that you don't know about."

Year 8 student David said: "We chose charity Wickers, which helps to tackle knife crime by giving teenagers different things to do. It's great to help a charity that is helping our age group."

Story survey for wide readership

OUR reading ambassadors plan to conduct a survey to find out the most popular genre of books in the school.

They want to encourage students who don't usually use the library to be more engaged by stocking books they will be interested in.

Year 7 student Maya said: "The library is for everyone but it is used most frequently by a core of students. There are quite a few who don't use it at all."

"We feel if they are given the chance to read books they will enjoy, hopefully they will come more regularly."

Students' art at the South Pole

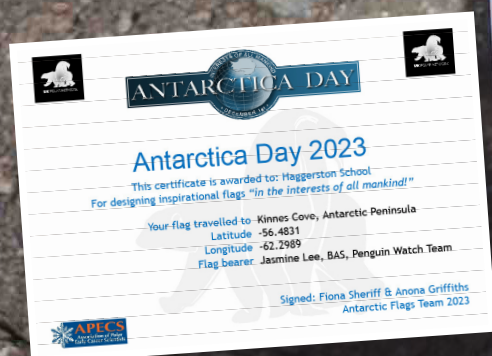
STUDENTS Billy and Elio had their artwork taken to the southernmost point of Earth after winning a geography competition.

The Year 7 students drew flags that were taken by explorers to Antarctica. They were chosen from 150 entries.

A picture taken by explorer Jasemine Lee shows the artwork at the site of the South Pole.

Elio said: "I was so pleased that my work as chosen. My picture has a penguin and the picture taken by the explorer has a penguin. That was great. "My parents didn't really believe me when I told them. I had to show them the picture of the explorer in Antarctica. They were really impressed.

Billy said: "It was a bit crazy that artwork that I had created went all the way to Antarctica."



Explorer Jasemine Lee took the pictures to the Antarctic



IN HARMONY: Bill Withers' song Lean On Me filled the assembly hall as vocal coach Clive Brown from Premises Studios delivered singing assemblies to students.



Falling in love with reading

FUTURE WORK: Students talked to a range of industry professionals about their education and career pathways during a careers event.

STUDENTS were encouraged to fall in love with books thanks to a Valentine's Day display in the library.

The library team collated the best love story novels to coincide with the most romantic day of the year.

Students were asked to fill in heart-shaped post-it notes on what they love about the library, also on display.

Year 8 student Coco said: "I really love the library because it is peaceful place to read the library staff are great at recommending books."

Librarian Ms Samy said: "The students have really engaged with the books perhaps they would not normally have picked up. It's just a bit of fun to hopefully get the students to read different types of books."



Encore!

More photos from the production of The IT