

## Danita's art catches the eye

**Student's work chosen for summer exhibition by judges at the Royal Academy of Arts...**

TALENTED student Danita will have her work showcased at The Royal Academy of Arts after winning a highly prestigious prize.

The gentrification of her neighbourhood was the inspiration for the work selected to be exhibited at the Young Artists' Summer Show in July and August.

Her work was also one of only two prize-winners chosen by The Royal Academy of Arts (ROA) president Rebecca Salter. Ms Salter, an artist and the first female president of ROA, said she was drawn to the meaning behind the piece.

The artistic showcase attracts entries from across the UK with over 21,000 pieces submitted this year.

Danita said: "I was inspired to create this artwork by what I see happening in my neighbourhood, the effects of gentrification on working-class people.

"They have lost jobs, and are now filled with uncertainty and worry, and now face having to restart their lives in another part of the country.

"When I found out my artwork was selected by the Royal Academy of Arts I was shocked and very proud."

Danita has won a £100 art voucher and £500 worth of art materials for the school.

Headteacher Ms Emmerson said: "I cannot overstate what a huge achievement it is for Danita to have her work selected for this exhibition.

"Thousands of budding artists across the country submit their work, yet very few are chosen for the exhibition.

"To be selected for a special commendation by the president of the Royal Academy of Arts is truly exceptional. We are so incredibly proud."



Danita's excellent artwork will be displayed at the Young Artists' Summer show over the next couple of months.

# So many great memories from this term



**Headteacher, Ciara Emmerson, reflects on another term of great achievement.**

I ALWAYS read our newsletters with great joy because of the diverse range of talents found across our school community.

We have artistic flair in abundance with painters, musicians, writers and singers, all being prepared to make their mark on the world.

This term we have celebrated the fine achievement of Danita, our alumni Year 13 student, whose artwork has drawn praise from The Royal Academy of Arts (ROA) President Rebecca Salter.

We also said goodbye to our Year 13 students as they move on to the next stage of their education. We are so proud of the work that they, and our Year 11 students, have put into preparing for their public examinations.

Finally, it has been such a pleasure to wave off so many trips this term, some of which have been postponed for over two years. It feels fantastic to be able to get back to what we do best and to see students' learning come to life in real world contexts.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you again in September.

## Games help language learning

YEAR 7 students are getting a boost in their languages study after staff introduced in class competitions.

In Spanish they play games and have contests in class which are reflected in the dynamic progress report assessments.

Student Winston said: "Spanish wasn't a subject I was excited about but after a few lessons I began to realise just how fun it was.

"The lessons were varied, giving us new learning experiences and even revision was presented engagingly. We play as a class, making learning more competitive and interesting.

"This has helped many of us in Year 7 to achieve incredible scores in our DPR assessments. Our teachers have provided homework and revision techniques to assist in memorising new vocabulary. Thank you to our teachers for an excellent year"

## Fundraising for Ukraine

STUDENTS volunteered to help with fundraising for those affected by war in Ukraine.

The school raised nearly £650 thanks to kind donations from staff and students. Students helped to collect the cash on the day.

Year 9 Edlira said: "I held the bucket outside school to collect the money. I volunteered because when I found out what was happening, I wanted to help."

Students enjoyed sampling seafood during a recent trip to Billingsgate Fish Market.



## Something fishy about market trip

Year 10 food preparation and nutrition students have been honing their culinary skills at the prestigious Seafood School at Billingsgate Fish Market.

They worked with a professional fishmonger, preparing and cooking three different types of fish during a trip to the world-famous market this term.

Student Ava said: "The best thing about this trip was learning from professionals about the different ways that seafood is prepared. I learnt a lot of new things."

Student Ibrahim added: "It was great fun learning how to cook squid, prawns and other seafood.

"The best thing about this trip to Billingsgate was eating the squid. It was my first time. I would recommend this trip to others."

## History trip is a real eye-opener

STUDENTS took their learning beyond the classroom on a European tour of World War I battlefields.

They travelled to France to visit the Somme battlefields and the Lochnagar crater – a landmark that symbolises the catastrophic loss of life in 1916.

At the Belgian city of Ypres, they walked in the footsteps of soldiers in the trenches while also taking in museums and mass graves.

Aside from the rich military history, it was a chance to experience Belgian culture with students, buying chocolate and souvenirs in the city.

Year 9 Gunay said: "It was a moving and engaging experience to see the raw history of the war.

"I would recommend people to come on this trip to learn more about history and for them to see the amazing sites."



# Slithery guest makes surprise campsite visit

STUDENTS got a bit of a fright when they encountered a snake on a recent camping trip.

The small field snake was among the many highlights of the three-day trip to the countryside as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.

They were tasked with setting up camp after navigating the rolling fields of East Sussex to complete their Silver Award.

The Year 10 students have been volunteering, doing a physical activity and learning a new skill.

Year 10 Raffie said: "Running into a snake gave us a bit of a fright but it did make the navigation more interesting. It was just a small harmless snake but not something you see every day."

"It was nice to be out of London and into the countryside. The weather was nice so it was a really enjoyable trip. Overall, it was my favourite part of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Student Jerome added: "I really enjoyed the walking part of the trip. You don't usually get the chance to walk in the countryside, so it was a really different experience.

"Seeing the snake was fun but there were loads more things to enjoy. Learning to put up a tent and being out in nature. I really enjoyed all elements of the Duke of Edinburgh award."

**Snake encounter was one highlight of intrepid group's trip to the countryside...**



Students enjoyed the great outdoors as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Badge.

## Talented music makers strike a chord

STUDENTS have formed music groups inspired by artist from across the musical spectrum this term.

New rock band Ayham, Frida, Arthur, Sophie, and Jimme, featuring guest rapper Cunay have been practicing covers of Gorillaz and Talking Heads.

Meanwhile, Alice, Chris, Clay, Fionē, Ella and Grace have been learning about improvisation while covering Herbie Hancock in the Junior jazz band.

Finally, Hazen, Ivo, Aaron, Tianna, Zakia, Leila, Mia, Anesi, and Estella have been learning to make Stranger Things inspired electronic music in their synth band. They have been learning about sound design and music technology in the process.

All of these bands will take part in the Summer Sharing event on July 15.



Our musicians played cover versions of popular bands.



## Show time

A GROUP of students saw the George Orwell novel *Animal Farm* brought to life using puppetry during a trip to Richmond Theatre.

The innovative production helped students develop a deeper understanding of the book's themes political symbolism.

Student Nancy said: "I really enjoyed studying the book and it was so nice to see the story come to life in a theatre setting."

Emmanuel added: "The music really matched with the tension and brought out the themes we had learnt about before going to see the play."

# Buzzing atmosphere is back at school

**Chair of Governors, Wendy Mason, welcomed a semblance of normality to the school after the disruption of the last couple of years.**

FINALLY, we are nearing completion of a 'normal' school year!

The disruption of the last few years has inevitably provided challenges which everyone has helped overcome.

We know that our students have worked hard to settle back into the school routine and to do their very best.



Special praise is due to our Year 11s and Year 13s who navigated their way through public examinations for the first time — well done!

As a governor, it has been a pleasure to visit the school again, to enjoy the buzzing atmosphere and to see our students regain their confidence.

It was a privilege to attend the School Performance in December — a deeply moving experience due to the stellar performances and excellent production.

The governing body continues to hear

about the ongoing improvement to our teaching and learning due to the efforts of our wonderful staff body.

We hope that this and the hard work put in by all our students, with the support of their families, will be evidenced in this summer's results.

For those moving onto new places, whether it be to continue their education or entering employment, we wish them the very best. We look forward to seeing those returning to school again in September and to welcoming our new Year 7s.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a lovely summer break.

## New club for readers

STUDENTS have created a book club to read, review and discuss books shortlisted for an award.

They have shadowed the judging process for the Yoto Carnegie Medal by assessing the novels selected. The chosen books include *Change to: 'Cane Warriors'*, *'October, October'* and *'Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town'*.

Student Dijarta said: "The club helps you try books that you wouldn't usually try. It encourages you to read outside of your favourite genres."

Sophie said: "October was really excellent. It tells a story of a girl who lives with her dad in the woods. It was one of my favourites ever books."

The Book Club takes place every Friday lunchtime in the Makerspace.

## Duo cover hot topics

Year 10 students Eliza and Lashley talked excellently at the Speak Out Challenge Hackney Regional Final.

Eliza was awarded third place for her self-penned talk about the hot topic of the right way to eat a scone.

Lashley's dramatic delivery of his talk of the insubstantial nature of money had the judges in stitches.

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

## Trial reduces food waste



STUDENTS have been learning about the importance of not wasting food thanks to a partnership with Tesco.

The store is donating products coming near to the end of their shelf life to families and students as part of the Waste Not food trial.

Year 8 students have been learning about the difference between 'best before' and 'use by' dates, while Year 9 students are finding out how to tell if food is edible to prevent spoilage.

Ms Burke said: "The trial ties in with our efforts to become as environmentally conscious as possible. It also compliments the cooking and nutrition subjects taught at school."

If you would like to be included in the trial, please send a confidential email to [Marlene.Burke@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk](mailto:Marlene.Burke@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk), our Sustainability and Re-engagement Coordinator.

## IN PICTURES

**Right: YEAR 10 textiles students will host a private showcase on what they have learnt about sustainable fashion. Students have created garments using recycled material to highlight wastage in the industry and promote sustainability.**

**Below right: YEAR 10 students were inspired by personal stories to create engaging drama pieces for their GCSE. They looked at issues such as beauty ideals, truth and personal safety. The students performed with skill.**



**Below: SIXTH form students have been examining xylem, phloem and sclerenchyma fibres as part of their biology practical.**





# Events address variety of social issues

NETFLIX LGBTQ+ drama Heartstopper was screened as the school marked International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

The Pride Group hosted a watch along of the first episode of the teen friendship and romance drama in the Makerspace.

Year 7 Ella said: "Days like this are important for people who identify as LGBTQ+ to feel like their rights are being upheld."

"The TV show Heartstopper was screened and lots of people came together to watch the programme."

"From a personal point of view being involved in the Pride group is a passion because I feel strongly about promoting equality."

The school also celebrated Pride Month by creating displays and reading biographies of well-known LGBTQ+ icons.

Meanwhile, students learnt about gender and identity, consent and diversity as part of the school's Character Day.

Year 7 and 9 students took their learning beyond the classroom by taking part in six workshops this term

Staff and specialist speakers ran sessions on topics as diverse as first aid, resilience and social enterprise.

Year 7 Nell said: "I really enjoyed the sessions on first aid because now if somebody needs my help I could potentially save their life."

"We also learnt about gender and identity and there were lots of things in there that I don't know before which was good."

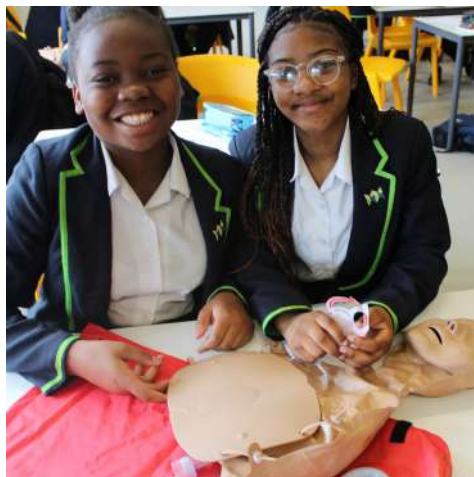
Fellow Year 7 Ruya said: "I enjoyed the session on gender and identity. The school is very open about this stuff in a very unique way. We are able to talk about what impacts us."

Year 9 Keilan said: "It was a really interesting day because instead of learning normal subjects we learnt life skills that we will need in later life."

Acceptance, tolerance and character all at the forefront of inclusive activities...



Students celebrated Pride Month by putting together beautiful displays and reading biographies of well-known LGBTQ+ icons. They also learnt vital skills such as first aid for Character Day.



## Book donations

THE library set up a recycling book swap to promote sustainability as the school marked Earth Day.

Student Sebastian said: "I believe that Earth Day is important because it allows people to be educated on matters such as sustainability."

"It allows for children to be taught about the factors of climate change and how us young people can protect the environment."

"I donated books so they can live another life other than the one I gave them. I did it in order to be sustainable."

## Mindful matters

STUDENTS took a break from the classroom to focus on their mental health with a range of activities.

To take their mind off the stresses of everyday life they took part in yoga, mindfulness, cooking and chess for Wellbeing Week.

Year 8 Aaron said: "We made marble cakes during cooking which was by far my favourite part of the week."

Kayden said: "I really enjoy all of the activities we were able to do during well-being week. It was great to get some space away from homework and stuff."



# Pair on the write track with awesome essays

**Academic duo gain great experience by taking part in tough writing competition...**

YEAR 12 students Jyotsna and Agnes took part in an essay writing contest modelled on a University of Oxford admission process.

The All-Souls admission process is known as the world's toughest with only two students per year admitted from it to the prestigious college.

They attended workshops on scholarships, developing their academic writing and editing skills before completing an essay.

Jyotsna applied learning from sociology to write an essay on the theme of meritocracy and intersectionality, while Agnes incorporated philosophical idea to write about connection.

Agnes said: 'It's easy to forget that we are a part of the universe, not just observers of it. We can still communicate with each other, deepening our connections with others and, therefore, the noumenon.

"Though the terrain of 'truth' is uncharted, so long as my chair remains solid, and you are listening to me, I am here, and playing a role in the creation of a reality I will never completely comprehend."

Jyotsna said: "We all want to believe in our own cause, and capitalism monetizes this fundamental need by offering only one route, making us reluctant accessories to our own demise — it is an illusion of choice, both options culminating in crisis."

Meanwhile, students got an insight about what it would be like to study at the world's top university during a taster day.

Year 9 students spent time touring the grounds, taking part in workshops and meeting current students at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Student Gunay said: "It made me think about university, not necessarily to go to Oxford, but about what I want to do for my future.

Year 9 Erin said: "It was inspiring. We met students who came from similar areas to us, so it made us think that if they can go to Oxford, then so can we."



Agnes and Jyotsna enjoyed the challenge of the writing competition.

## Angel earns top marks

BRIGHT student Angel has become one of only a handful in the country to complete the HegartyMaths quizzes with a 100 per cent record.

The Year 10 aced all 925 tests — coming in exactly one year ahead of her brother Harold who achieved the same feat in Year 11.

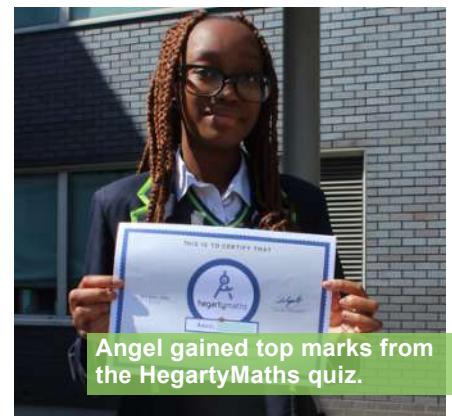
But her older sibling, now in our sixth form, was gracious in defeat, congratulating his younger sister on her remarkable achievement.

Angel said: "My brother Harold, I think, was the first student to get 100 percent on the tests when he was in Year 11. He was pleased for me and said congratulations on a job well done.

"I was not going out to try to beat his record because we are not competitive in that way but it was nice to be able to do it in Year 10. I spent a lot of time finishing the quizzes."

A spokesperson from HegartyMaths said: "We are pleased to say that Haggerston is one of the top-performing schools on HegartyMaths.

"Only a small number schools make the



Angel gained top marks from the HegartyMaths quiz.

Super Schools list each year and it can only happen when the students in a school are inspired to apply serious elbow grease on their maths homework.

"This award is also associated with some of the best maths departments in the country."



Damilola enjoyed her experience with JP Morgan.

## Tips for careers

STUDENTS raved about a careers mentoring session held at the offices of JP Morgan in the City of London.

They got career-ready with sessions on interview techniques whilst also developing skills such as teamwork, creativity, leadership and presentation.

They met JP Morgan mentors who discussed education and career pathways before doing a question and answer session.

Year 9 Damilola said: "I had an amazing experience. I gained a better understanding of the marketing and business industries and would recommend it. It was a five-star learning experience."



# Art used to challenge attitudes

YEAR 8 students used art to challenge stereotypes about young black boys in a project aimed at addressing mental health.

They took part in workshops promoting positive self-image and tackle rising youth violence in the community.

The programme has been proven to reduce violent behaviour, increase emotional literacy and support young black boys in a school environment.

## Ruby sparkles

TALENTED Year 11 student, Ruby, has won the annual Painters Stainers school prize for her creative artwork.

The Company – which forms parts of the City's historic trade guilds - awards an art prize to a pupil at a number of schools in London.

The winner of the prize is selected by their school, with the prize money used to buy art materials.

Ruby said: "I had the opportunity to display my work in an exhibition with other people across London and receive an award. I would like to thank both Ms Wakelin and Ms Peryer for helping me."

Our Year 8 students harnessed the positive power of art to help tackle youth violence in the community.

# Windrush Day provides taste of the Caribbean

HAGGERSTON School celebrated Windrush Day with a special lunch which reflected the rich Caribbean food culture brought to the UK after the Second World War.

The day is named after the ship HMT Empire Windrush which brought West Indian immigrants to the UK, helping rebuild the country which had been ravaged by two world wars.

Canteen staff Della and Kleart brought the ethos of a family Sunday lunch to a Wednesday when they prepared a special meal for students and staff to give them an authentic taste of the Caribbean.

Della said: "When the Italians migrated to the Americas full of dreams, they stored smoked cheese and Salami in between their clothes inside their luggage.

"The West Indians kept cooking their traditional dishes when they arrived here, importing spices, the sweetest bananas and coffee."

Kleart said: "The Sunday lunch of fried plantain and coleslaw, the seasoning of the jerk chicken and the rice and peas, reflects the modern day melting pot that is London."

The school library promoted their fine collection of books with a special selection recognising the contribution of the Windrush generation.

Catering staff serve up special lunch to mark important day in British history...



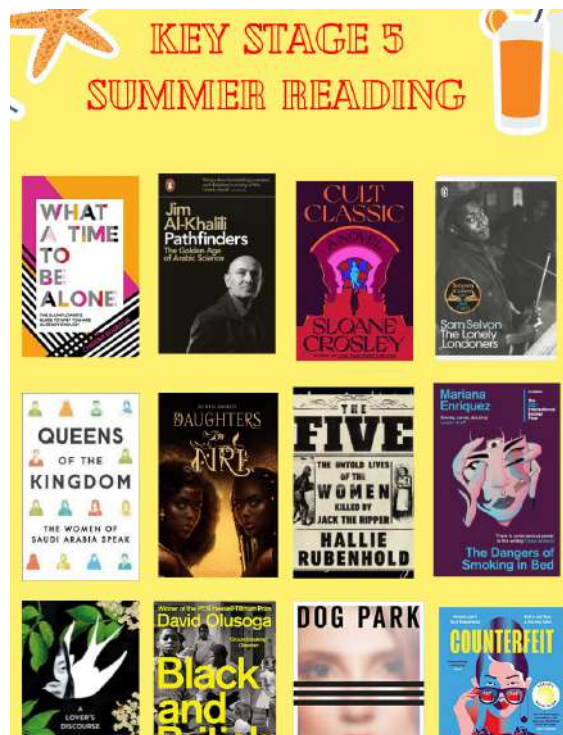
Students enjoyed learning all about the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush to the UK.





STUDENTS were encouraged to Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) during weekends, after school and holidays to improve literacy.

WE celebrated the work of Year 11 students with a graduation event. Families were in attendance. We will see many of them in sixth form soon.



OUR library has suggested a wide variety of books for students to enjoy reading over the summer.



YEAR 7 Florez won Hackney Council's Queen's Platinum Jubilee art competition with this eye-catching portrait of Her Majesty.



STAFF made smoothies powered by bikes.



OUR students have benefitted from working with Artists in Residence from the Royal Academy of Arts.



YEAR 10 geography students doing fieldwork in nearby Stratford to complement their study on regeneration.