

Haggerston Recorder

Summer 2023

Students enjoyed spending time in the great outdoors by camping in Devon as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



Happy campers!

Adventurous students enjoy camping expedition to Exmoor as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme...

AN incredible 140 students across all year groups signed up to take part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

This term six students undertook the gold award which included 12 months of volunteering and developing skills, as well as an expedition to Exmoor. They spent four gruelling days camping out in the Devon countryside.

This was the first time our youngsters had tried for the top award since the programme started at the school five years ago.

Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator Mr James said: "Since we started the Duke of Edinburgh it was always a dream to be able to deliver a full programme of awards from bronze right through to gold.

"It is a testament to our students and the staff who have supported them that we have finally been able to do that."

Meanwhile, our silver and bronze students learned their orienteering skills while out in Epping Forest and Ashdown Forest.

They also volunteered at a local primary school, took part in a litter pick and helped out at a youth and drama group.

Mr James added: "Every year I'm so impressed by the hard work and dedication our students show and this year is no exception.

"All students worked extremely well together and managed to successfully complete their routes with only a few getting lost along the way."



Every year I'm so impressed by the hard work and dedication our students show and this year is no exception...



**Duke of Edinburgh
Coordinator, Mr James**

A time for new chapters to be written



Headteacher, Ciara Emmerson, reflects on another busy term at the school.

I OFTEN have mixed emotions at this time of year

As we edge closer to the summer holidays and a well-deserved break it is time to say goodbye to our Year 13 students.

For many, it is the end of a seven-year journey which will see them emerge like butterflies from the cocoon into the real world. They joined us as fresh-faced, often quite shy Year 7s, still very much children; and leave us as young adults.

Many will be off to some of the best universities in the country, while others will take up apprenticeships and step into full-time employment.

The inevitable passing of time means, as teachers, we must face saying goodbye at this time of year.

As the headteacher of this school, I am confident that our staff have helped to equip them with the tools to take their next step. We wish them well.

Elsewhere, you will read how proud we are to have our students taking part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

To get to this stage takes a huge amount of commitment from both students and teachers. They deserve great credit for their persistence.

Finally, I couldn't end the year without mentioning the incredibly talented Kim who will be joining the world's most prestigious drama company.

She will take her place at the Royal Academy of Drama (RADA), whose alumni reads like a Who's Who of acting. We are so proud.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support over the last academic year. Have a great summer.

Inspirational trip to gallery

YEAR 9 students went to see the first major survey of work by internationally acclaimed British artist Mike Nelson at the Hayward Gallery.

They also took part in a day of workshops organised by the gallery creating sculptures inspired by his atmospheric installations at the exhibition.

Head of Visual Arts Ms Peryer said: "The experience of viewing art outside the classroom setting will have a profound impact on the students.

"It is a chance to get inspired by the works of a world-famous artist and learn new skills and techniques which students can input into their own art."

Meanwhile, Year 11, 12 and 13 students put on their own fine art exhibition showcasing the work they have produced over the previous two years.

Pioneers show is a huge hit

THE pioneering art of jazz singer Nina Simone and poems of Adrienne Rich are the inspiration for a show by the Black Ballet company.

Our students visited Theatre Royal Stratford East to watch the show Pioneers which pays tribute to the two artists.

The double-bill has been hailed by critics and certainly won some new fans among Haggerston students after their visit this term.

Year 7 Elkie said: "It was just incredible. The music, the poetry, the ballet, all combined for an amazing show. Everyone loved it."

Stage is set for awesome Akim

Young actor performs in West End for the teachers who supported his journey...



Akim invited teachers to see him perform in This House in the West End.

A FORMER student who was inspired by a theatre visit while at Haggerston is performing in his own West End play.

Budding actor Akim is in his third year studying for a degree at the world-famous Bristol Old Vic, having left Haggerston in 2020.

This term he invited his old teachers from the drama department along to watch him perform in his own show called This House.

Akim was among a group of students who met US actor Wendell Pierce backstage while starring in Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman.

The American star visited the school later that year, giving a talk and getting behind the drum kit to jam with the student jazz band.

Speaking after winning a place at Bristol in 2020, Akim said: "I met Wendell backstage and he then came to the school to give a talk.

"I want to be a stage actor as it's where you learn: different audiences each night and nowhere to hide as it's live."

He added: "Much of my success has been down to the school's drama department. It was them who took me to meet Wendell in Death of a Salesman. None of this would have been possible without the teachers at Haggerston spurring me on every day."

Student Jass, who left Haggerston for Bristol Old Vic last year and is in his first year, also attended.

THE school has been given cash to spend on books after our librarian won an award for helping to promote Mental Health Awareness week.

Ms Samy used the online Access It portal to create a resource showcasing the books on wellbeing available in the library.

As one of the first to use the resource, she was awarded a £50 Amazon voucher which will be spent on new books for students.

She said: "There are so many books in the library. I just wanted to give our students the chance to see them all in one place. I knew they would be interested in reading them and the Access It portal is the best place to put them.

"When I submitted the resource, I did not think I would win anything so was I surprised."

Meanwhile, our reading ambassadors have been selected to promote reading in Hackney.

They discussed raising awareness at a meeting with their peers across the borough held at Homerton library this term.

Niya, Sadhbh, Evelyn and Oliwia have created displays, written reviews and recommended books to their peers. They are conducting a survey to find out which genre is most loved by the school reading community.

Librarian Ms Samy said: "Our reading ambassadors are students who love books and want to help raise the profile of reading in the school, across the borough."

Author recommendations:

Niya | Cressida Cowell

Sadhbh | Sylvia Plath

Evelyn | Kassia St. Clair

Oliwia | John Steinbeck.

Librarian wins prize for portal

Project scoops cash prize for improving access to books for our students...



Librarian, Ms Samy, won a prize for helping students access more books.

Students take time-out for mindfulness



STUDENTS took a break from their classwork and homework to focus on their mental health during Wellbeing Week.

They dropped regular lessons and put after-school worries aside to take part in activities

such as yoga, mindfulness, cooking and chess.

Students were also taught stress-reducing techniques and encouraged to focus on activities which helped them relax.

Year 10 Viggo said: "I had a go at yoga

which I had tried before but not properly. I did it with my friends and had a really good time.

"I have my exams next year so hopefully what I have learned during wellbeing week I will be able to put into practice when revising."

Teacher is recognised for promoting equality

OUR teacher Mr Rowe has been shortlisted for an award in recognition of promoting equality at the school.

The Student Leadership and Equality Teacher has been nominated for LGBT+ Teacher of the Year by charity Just Like Us.

He was nominated by staff and students after he helped to set up our Pride Network Group which regularly has up to 50 students attending.

A report by Just Like Us has found that having positive messages about equality leads to better mental wellbeing among students.

Mr Rowe said: "This is a huge honour for me, not least because I was nominated by the students and staff at this school."

"My intention for the Pride group was to provide an inclusive place for our young people and to raise awareness in and around the school."

The Haggerston Pride group has also been chosen to front a promotional campaign for Just Like Us in recognition of the group's work to promote equality.

Mr Rowe added: "I am so proud our school has been chosen to promote Just Like Us. Our student's enthusiasm and passion to make real change in the school is infectious."

"They support each other and encourage their peers to be their authentic selves. This is why they have been chosen to promote the charity."

Mr Rowe is nominated for award by staff and students for his work on inclusivity...



Dancers tap into their emotions

STUDENTS are learning the emotion in motion thanks to a dance programme aimed at improving wellbeing.

They have been learning about different types of dance whilst also being taught to open up about their feelings.

The Dance Story programme sees our students work with professionals in sessions both inside and outside of school.

As part of the work, the students joined others from schools locally to put on a dance performance which they showcased in front of their peers and families.

Year 7 Azaliah said: "I really enjoy dancing anyway but the thing I like most is that we get to express how we are feeling through dance."

Year 8 Quiana said: "There is a safe place for us because we can also talk about our feelings and have a good time with our friends."

Year 8 Maya said: "If frustration builds up over the day it helps me to get rid of that in a good way. It makes me feel calmer."

Year 8 Ta'Leah said: "If I feel stressed, I know I can let it all out at the dance class. I also loved doing the performance. It was great fun."

Serving up a treat

OUR Year 10 students got hands-on experience preparing a range of fish, including prawns, squid, coley and muscles.

They made a delicious Goan Curry as part of a trip to the world-famous Billingsgate Market. They also learnt about the market's history.

Meanwhile, Year 9 and 10 students continued our partnership with Shoreditch Community Trust in the Young Chef's programme.

They have been working in an industrial kitchen with professional chefs to create a range of tasty dishes.



Kim's off to RADA

WE are hugely proud to announce that Kim has secured a place to study acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). This is one of the most competitive and highly-esteemed drama schools in the world. We would like to wish Kim huge congratulations!

Our students had a great time in Ypres in Belgium recently. They learnt about World War I and saw the battlefield sites.



Battlefields trip proves to be a real eye-opener

Students walk in the footsteps of soldiers on trip to the Somme and Ypres...

OUR youngsters learned about the horrors of war during a history trip to the European battlefields of World War I.

They spent time in the trenches, learned about the catastrophic loss of life at the Somme and visited the famous Lochnagar Crater.

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

The students also got the chance to practice their language skills, sample delicious local cuisine and pick up souvenirs during a shopping trip.

Year 9 Theo said: "When you read about this stuff in books or when the teacher tells you in class it sometimes does not feel real.

"It is hard to believe that this did actually happen.

"When you are there, in the trenches it makes it so much more real and because of that, so much more engaging to find out about."



Martino shows a Kendo attitude

YEAR 7 student Martino won the bronze medal at a martial arts competition held in Belgium.

The youngster has been practicing Kendo, a Japanese martial art using a bamboo sword known as a Shinai, for five years.

He won six bouts on his way to the semis earning a bronze medal for coming third in a particularly tough contest.

He said: "I really love Kendo; I have been doing it since I was very young.

"My mum is Japanese so it is something I have in the family.

"I was a bit disappointed to not win because I thought I was good enough but it was not to be. There is always next time."



Gaining new digital skills

STUDENTS learned how to keep a digital diary as part of an art project run in partnership with the Royal College of Art.

They took part in two workshops run by artists from the charity Store, where students learned to take, upload and reference a photo for a digital diary. Head of Visual Arts Ms Peryer said: "The skills they learned during the workshop are the types of skills they will need out in the real world."

"Digital literacy, and learning beyond the curriculum and classroom environment are modern world tools crucial for their development."

Taliyah's captivating talk earns rousing applause

STUDENT Taliyah left the stage to rapturous applause at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge after her impassioned talk on the dangers of being excluded from school.

The Year 10 student narrowly missed out on a prize at the public speaking competition for Hackney Schools, coming in a highly respectable second.

Her talk was on the pupil-to-prison pipeline with those being sent to a pupil referral unit significantly more likely to end up in jail.

The self-penned and delivered one-minute talk won praise from the panel of judges, and only just missed out on first place.

Taliyah said: "This is a subject that I am very passionate about and I think that came through. When you care about something it shows."

"I was a bit nervous when I went out on stage but I used those nerves to really give it my best shot. I was surprised to do so well."

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

Year 10 student speaks passionately to come second at Jack Petchey event...



Taliyah spoke with passion at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

Art success

HAGGERSTON students took first and second place at the Hackney Speaker's King's Coronation Art Competition.

Year 9 Elelya and Year 7 Oliwia will have the opportunity to have their work exhibited at Hackney Town Hall.

Elelya made a coin with the King's head on. She said: "You would not call me someone who loves the royal family but I did enjoy taking part in the project."

Oliwia made a collage of the King's head. She said: "The Coronation was a good chance to showcase my art work. I really enjoyed taking part."

Athletes scoop medals at borough-wide event

OUR sporty students are celebrating phenomenal success on the track after bagging a huge haul of medals at the borough athletics championships.

Haggerston won a highly impressive 3 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze, emerging with medals competing against schools in the borough.

Year 7 Favour was the winner in the highly competitive 200m while Year 8 Arthur won the 1500m. Theo triumphed in the 800m.

All three went on to compete in the London Schools final with Favour winning his race. He will now compete in the national final.

Year 8 Arthur said: "It was really nice to win. I run with Victoria Park Harriers so I know what it means to compete. There was one other guy in the race who was fast so I wanted to beat him."

"It is a real honour to represent my school and do well and I was really pleased to come away with the gold medal."

Year 8 Theo said: "It was a really fun race with lots of competition so to win was a great feeling. It was a good feeling to win gold."



Students show what they can do on track and field with impressive performances...



Our athletes proudly show their medals. Inset: Arthur won the 1500m event.



Pro inspires footballers

Our girls football team got the chance to train with Chelsea footballer Erin Cuthbert. They sported a brand-new kit as they took on rivals at Hoxton 5-a-side powerleague. PE teacher Mr James said: "It was an amazing experience to meet a professional footballer. It will inspire them for the future."

Kayak fun

STUDENTS have the opportunity to learn another sport this term thanks to our partnership with a local boat club.

Haggerston School has teamed up with Laburnum Boat Club to offer youngsters the chance to learn Kayaking.

Head of PE said: "This has been extremely popular and a great chance for our students, many of whom have never been on the water before."





OUR Year 7 students pictured outside the historic Tower of London on a geography and history trip.



STUDENTS had the opportunity to quiz the boss of the British Heart Foundation Dr Charmaine Griffiths during an online meeting.

IN PICTURES



STUDENTS Iris, Ibrahim, Shilah, Effie, Ava and Yazmin have learning new skills during coaching sessions with Advantage Tennis.



OUR students have been inspired to create their own art work following lectures from the Royal Drawing School.



OUR students took part in a dance performance with a guest appearance from Skadeuces School for Arts. They worked with professional choreographer Shakeil Jones.



OUR eco councillors have been making vegetable trugs using equipment donated by the Children's Flower Society in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation.