

Crowd pleasers!

OUR students left the stage with applause ringing in their ears after a stunning performance at the school production.

They explore the themes of Journey via the medium of dance, drama, music, song, film and an art exhibition.

There was a jazz band, a string quartet, two choirs, solos and duets as well as choreographed dance routine.

Ms Powell, head of creative arts, said: "The audience was full of praise for our students' confidence, creativity and skill but also their professionalism throughout the performance.

"All students shared their beautiful work but also committed to an intense rehearsal schedule, learning a lot about teamwork, commitment and resilience."

Over 200 students from across years 7, 8, 9 and 10 took part.



A way with words

Student's last-minute poetry submission selected for young writers' anthology...

BUDDING poet Alinda has spoken of her joy after her work was published in a young writer's anthology.

The Year 10 student's self-penned poem, *Reflections of the Past and Future*, was selected from among 6,000 entries.

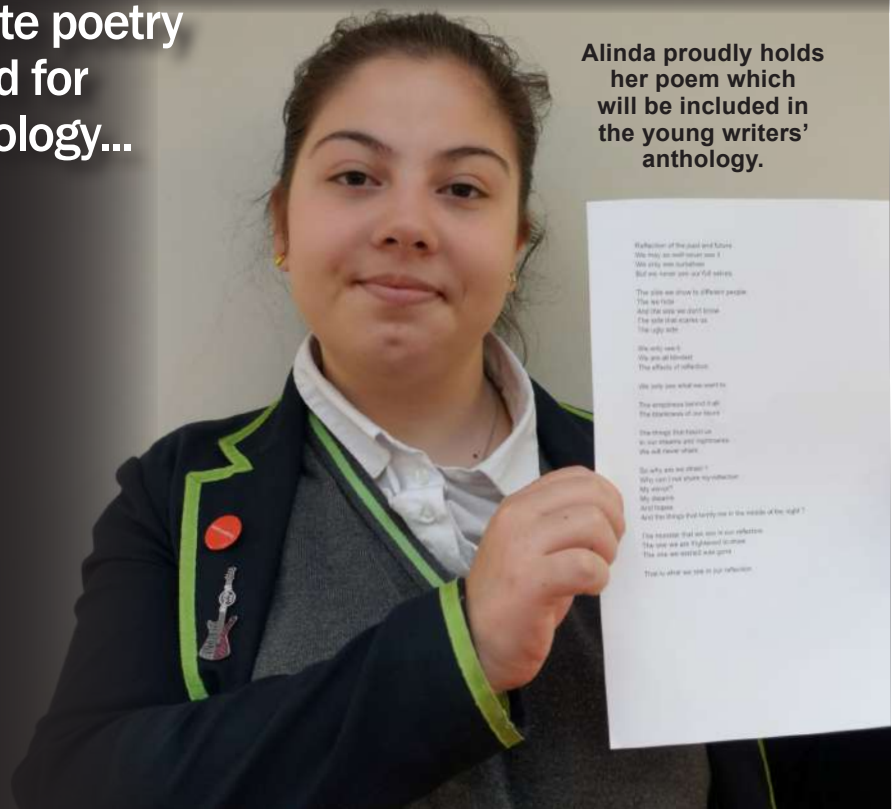
Alinda is elusive on the meaning of the poem but says it is about the hidden inner self. She said: "It means whatever people want it to be. I deliberately kept it like that so people could put their own interpretations of the poem."

"It was a huge shock that it was included because it only took 10 minutes to write and was submitted on the last day.

"It is beyond words how happy I am that my poem has been included in the young writer's anthology. I love reading and I love poetry and to know I have my own work in print is incredible."

The creative writing competition is open to youngsters from across the UK with submissions of no more than 1,000 words.

Alinda proudly holds her poem which will be included in the young writers' anthology.



Reflections of the past and future
We have, we will never see it
We only see ourselves
But we never see our full selves
The pain we show to different people
The we have
And the pain we don't know
The pain that starts up
The right side
We only see it
We are all limited
The effects of reflection
We only see what we want to
The emptiness behind it all
The emptiness of our heart
The things that happen
In our dreams and imagination
We all have secrets
So why are we afraid?
Why can't we share our reflection
My own?
My dreams
And hopes
And the things that hardly see in the middle of the night?
The thoughts that are in our reflection
The pain we all have
The pain we need not have
That is what we see in our reflection

Creativity and character at school's core



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

As I read through this newsletter, I am pleased to note that we remain close to our core objective which is to foster creativity and character in our students.

As a school we have created a broad, academic curriculum which places a strong emphasis on arts education.

Expression remains at the heart of our mission with our artists, writers, poets, singers, musicians and designers given the chance to flourish and unleash their potential.

At our school musical production, over 200 students showcased their talents to an audience of their peers, family and friends.

This term our students have been taking their learning beyond the classroom and broadening their horizons on visits to the theatre and art galleries.

Special mention must go to budding poet Alinda who has had her work published in the young writer's anthology.

This term we have celebrated the diversity in our school and community joining Hackney Council in an extended celebration of Black History.

Our students have explored the great outdoors during their Duke of Edinburgh, learned about Shakespeare from an Oxford Don and got the chance to quiz a famous rapper.

Finally, I thank you our families and community for your continued support and wish you all a very restful break. Merry Christmas.

Peter's design on shortlist

FORMER student Peter is the only GCSE student in London to have been shortlisted for a prestigious design award.

Before leaving in September, he took part in a school competition run by City of London livery company, The Furniture Makers' Company. Every other London entry for the Furnishing Industry's charity design prize was from an A Level or degree student.

He was invited to a glitzy ceremony at the Furniture Makers Hall in Shoreditch.



Getting crafty



Year 7 creative crafts enrichment class have been busy weaving willow baskets.

Students earn Petchey prizes

Group earns accolade for showcasing qualities in extra-curricular activities...



Students proudly hold the Petchey Awards.

STUDENTS have been recognised for their extracurricular efforts with a Jack Petchey award.

They were handed the prize for showcasing qualities such as hard work, perseverance and helping others.

Each student was given a certificate and £300 to spend on a school department at an awards ceremony.

Alinda was given her prize for her work as a librarian. She said: "It was a really nice sur-

prise because I really love the work I do as a librarian so it didn't feel like anything I should be recognised for.

Fellow Year 10 Sadhbh was awarded the Jack Petchey for helping her peers in the Model UN group. She said: "It was a really nice surprise and a good affirmation of the work that I have been doing."

Students who received rewards were Dyani, Florez, Eliza, Gunay, Mia, Alinda, Sadhbh and Chau.

Focus on black history figures is all year round

HAGGERSTON School is proud to celebrate Black culture and history all year round.

That is why the school has followed the lead of Hackney Council by introducing Black History season which runs from October 1 until the middle of December.

Students have been learning, sharing and celebrating our African and Afro-Caribbean heritage and culture at the school and globally.

The focus this year has been on black heroes with students tasked with creating a poster featuring a chosen figure.

There was a display in the atrium, a writing competition and assemblies on black historical figures as part of the celebrations.

Black History Month was also explored in different subjects across school including Humanities, Creative Arts, English, History, Drama, Music, Art and Drama.

The library signposted celebrated black writer's while each school department explored black history in their respective subjects.

Year 7 Coco said: "The school think that one month to celebrate black culture in a place like Hackney is not enough and I agree."

"We need to go into a bit more depth on black history and that is what the school and Hackney have done, which is really good."

Year 7 Wren said: "It is very important that we talk and celebrate each other's culture so that we grew closer as a community."

"It is easier to be friends with someone when you know a little bit more about their culture and can relate to them more."

Highlighting mental health

THE school marked World Mental Health Day by celebrating black public figures speaking out on mental health.

Students cited celebrities such as singers Bob Marley and Stormzy as role models who took an active role in raising awareness.

Alinda said: "Celebrities that young people

Events place African and Afro-Caribbean heritage and culture under the spotlight...

Staff painted portraits of inspirational black people. From left to right: Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho, Trinidadian social activist and journalist Claudia Jones and American artist Faith Ringgold.



BLACK HISTORY SEASON IN THE LRC



Year 7 Tyrell said: "We have to learn the lessons of history so we don't repeat them in the future. Learning history of Black people will help."

Tough topic

STUDENTS learned about the horrors of slavery as part of Black History season.

They were taught about the individual stories of people separated from families and sold at auction in history class this term.

They also learned at the brave rebellion of slaves who fought back against their European oppressors despite being unarmed.

They were also taught about the Europeans who risked their own lives to help slaves.

Amos said: "There is still a lot of people of our age who don't know a lot about slavery and the slave trade so keeping those memories alive is important so what happens to those people is not forgotten."

Elif said: "Learning about the brave slaves who didn't have weapons but fought back was really interesting. I was so inspired by that bravery."

Charpeigh said: "There were also lots of Europeans who risked their own lives to help slaves. That perspective was also interesting to learn about."

Awesome ambassadors



Mrs Emmerson (left) with the Headteacher's Ambassadors.

THIS year's Headteacher's Ambassadors have vowed to uphold the values of the school.

The Year 11 students were selected by Mrs Emmerson to represent the school at events.

This term they were tasked with showing prospective students and their families around at open evening.

Students were chosen for the role by staff. It is the most senior responsibility for a Year 11 student. They can be recognised by the gold trim on their blazers.

Year 11 Taylor said: "It is a huge honour to be selected among this group. You are the ones that have to be good role models for other students and to be the face of the school to visitors.

Mrs Emmerson said: "These students have been very carefully selected to represent the school and support their peers. They should be very proud."

Students taken on tremendous trips following lockdown...

OUR staff said a huge thank you to our students for showing resilience and perseverance during lockdown with rewards trips.

Year 9 students went to London Zoo and the Natural History Museum while Year 11 to the Tate Modern.

Year 7 students stayed in school to take part in a day of sporting activities aimed at teaching them communication skills.

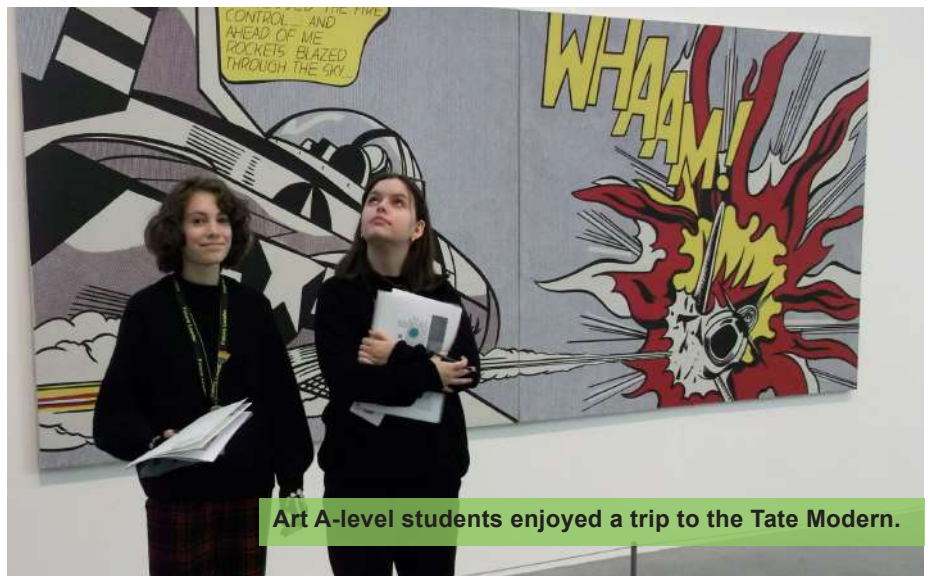
Year 8 went to the Horniman Museum and Gardens while Year 10 were at the Royal Observatory, National Maritime Museum

Year 7 Yazmin said: "It was a really fun day full of lots of activities which helped us become better at communicating with each other.

Year 9 Clement went to the Natural History Museum said: "It was nice to get a bit of freedom, much more than on a normal school day. It was fun. I enjoyed seeing the giant whale skeleton.

Year 9 Tugce went to London Zoo. She said: "It was crazy to see all the exotic animals in London. It was also nice that the school wanted to show us how much they appreciated what we had done during the pandemic."

Rewarded for perseverance



Art A-level students enjoyed a trip to the Tate Modern.

Charitable volunteers



Students help various charities with a shoebox appeal.

OUR sixth form Voluntary Charity Enrichment group have selected a wide range of charities to support this term.

In the first half of the term, they held a bake sale to support Macmillan Cancer Trust raising £304. The second half of the term they focussed their efforts on helping underprivileged children by collecting toys for children in foster care.

They collected 27 shoeboxes which had a range of different toys for children to enjoy this Christmas.

They also collected food for the local community to support people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, which was donated to local charity Rise 365.

Year 13 student Mitzh said: "We wanted to give something back to the community. The school are really good at teaching us about privilege and gratitude and so it was fitting that we want to help people who don't have as much as us."

They also collect winter clothes such as hats, coats and scarves which were donated to the Salvation Army.

Students write letter to MP highlighting cause

Diane Abbot responds with Tweet to her many thousands of followers...

YEAR 8 students wrote a letter to Hackney MP Diane Abbott to raise awareness about a community group as part of a charity project.

The youngsters signposted the work of Hackney-based Rise 365 which support young people with a focus on empowering young black girls.

In response, the MP tweeted to her 407K followers: "I received a lovely letter from year 8 students at Haggerston School and in support of the local charity Rise 365.

"The work they do is important. Their commitment is great and they deserve all the support they can get."

Year 8 Maja said: "We wrote to our MP because we respect and want to support the work of Rise 365. It would be good for Diane Abbott to show support to this organisation because they do great work in our community."

The First Give project sees Year 8 students go head-to-head in Dragon's Den-style contest to win £1,000 for a charity.

Student, Madison, added: "I have enjoyed the First Give project because it gives us the chance to focus on the charities we want to help."

Tutor, Miss Gavins, said: "I am proud of our students for working towards something that will help their community."



Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Diane Abbott.



Diane Abbott MP
@HackneyAbbott

TOP TWEET

I received a lovely letter from Year 8 pupils at Haggerston school and in support of the local charity Rise 365. It does important work, their commitment is great and it deserves all the support it can get.



Cool creation

THE work of artist Tristain Eaton was the inspiration for a collaborative piece of art in the graffiti-style made for the school musical production.

Their three scrolls are based on the different stations of Haggerston Journey to celebrate the diverse range of events and activities across the school.

IN BRIEF

OLDER students are giving back to the school community by running boxing classes for their younger peers.

The Year 7s have been learning ring craft from sixth form students John and Suleyman and Year 10 student Savanna.

Year 7 Adam said: "For me, boxing gives people a new focus such as continued good playground behaviour and other reasons."

"I find it good as an opportunity to socialise, exercise and release stress and anxiety."

Year 7 Doriano added: "Boxing is really good to help us to take out our anger in a healthy way and that helps us to relax when we are in class."

STAFF praised a student's self-penned one-man play. Year 11 Bailey performed *When This is Over* to staff. Ms Yiminyi said: "Bailey wrote the play and his performance was absolutely amazing. It was good to see his confidence grow during this period."

YEAR 7 students have been belting out classics from Bill Withers, Curtis Mayfield and Simon and Garfunkel in singing assemblies. They practiced the songs together before performing in front of the year group as part of a bid to become a Singing School.

BRIGHT students have earned their placed among the top mathematicians in the country after scoring excellent marks in a nationwide competition. Year 13 Oscar was awarded gold in the prestigious Senior UKMT challenge, marking him out as among the country's best performers. The test was sat in school under normal exam conditions. An estimated 300,000 students from across UK are said to take part in the challenge.

STUDENTS have been working on a mapping project in partnership with Shoreditch Town Hall (right). They took part in workshops learning technical skills and how to use software as part of The More Light More Power Project. The Year 10 students' artwork was projected onto Shoreditch Church and Shoreditch Town Hall.

STUDENTS saw world champion tango dancer Germán Cornejo during a performance of Spanish theatre.

STUDENTS created and displayed their virtual artwork as part of a unique project run at the school. Year 10 and 12 students got the chance to use virtual reality equipment for the Auto Italia project.



Akala's question time



AWARD-winning writer, rapper, activist and poet Akala took questions from our students during a virtual talk.

The artist discussed his new novel, which students are studying, and the link between Hip Hop and Shakespeare.

The talk ended with Akala performing an original rap that incorporated the names of Shakespeare's plays.

Mr Matthews said: "Thank you again to Akala for giving up his time to share his inspiring words, creativity and knowledge with our students."

Course proves tasty



Our students learned a lot from attending the junior chef's course.

YEAR 9 students had a taste of life working in a kitchen when they were given the opportunity to attend a junior chef's course at Shoreditch Trust.

They worked with professionals in a commercial kitchen producing meals that

they took into the restaurant and ate together.

Ms Haynes, said: "All students were very engaged and worked maturely developing their cooking skills."

"The chefs were very impressed with them and enjoyed working with them. Well done to them all."

Tech boost for creatives



BUDDING artists at Haggerston will benefit from state-of-the-art equipment after the school borough some new MacBook's.

It means the students will have the ability to appreciate different forms of art and design in and out of school.

Ms Peryer said: "We combine traditional art methods and materials with digital editing. Enabling our students to have experience in using digital media is a key for their future success in creative and other industries."

Author makes inspiring young readers his goal

POPULAR children's author Matt Oldfield paid a special visit to the school to inspire students.

The writer behind the Ultimate Football Heroes book series delivered an inspiring assembly on the importance of reading for pleasure.

He also shared top tips in creative writing workshops which explored narrative techniques but also how to deal with rejection, build resilience and a growth mindset.

He also took the time to chat to students and sign autographs in the library.

Year 8 Lionel said: "I really liked that Matt signed my book. Also, his assembly was amazing, talking about how he started writing books."

Year 7 Henry said: "I really liked meeting the author which made me want to read more. I would like different authors visiting Haggerston."

Ms Samy, librarian and LRC manager, added: "The pupils participated in the assembly with great enthusiasm.

"The question-and-answer session at the end of the assembly was informative and interesting, where Matt answered the students', queries related to football and writing.

"Matt was really impressed by the student's engagement, enthusiasm and fantastic behaviour and he really enjoyed his visit."

English Teacher, Ms Leigh, said: "Matt was an engaging speaker who provided students with an accessible and achievable task."

Football writer spreads the word about the importance of reading to students...



Author Matt Oldfield gave our students an inspiring talk about how he got into writing.

Students give scheme the thumbs-up



A RECORD number of students have been taking part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

They have been working on silver and bronze awards by volunteering, learning new skills and taking part in expeditions.

They unleashed their inner Bear Grylls on walking expeditions in Epping Forest and Ashdown Forest in July and September. They learned survival, navigation, team work and cooking skills on the walks through the forest along their planned routes.

Head of PE, Mr James, said: "Throughout both expeditions, students relied on their training to navigate through the forest along their pre-planned walking routes.

"Although all groups made it safely through, a number of groups had their skills put to the test after taking wrong turns or misreading the maps before making it back to camp."



OUR Pride Group has been meeting every week since the beginning of term to discuss equality within our school and to empower all of the students.



OXFORD University lecturer, Dr Anna Beer, visited the school to talk about Shakespeare's Hamlet.

IN PICTURES



NON-FICTION November prompted students to try different types of books from the library.



OUR Eco Council students are supporting families in reducing plastic waste by filling up old empty bottles with fresh soaps and products that can be used in their homes.



STUDENTS were rewarded for progress in drama with a rewards trip to an at Regent's Park Open Air theatre (above). The Year 9s watched Inua Ellams's interpretation of Antigone.



STUDENTS were rewarded for the effort with a trip to watch tennis stars Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic, Matteo Berrettini and Roger Federer at the Laver Cup.



Year 8 drama students learned acting techniques at a workshop with company Frantic Assembly.