



# THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

**SUMMER TERM 2024 EDITION** 

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DESIGN MUSEUM TAKEOVER ● SPORTS DAY ● DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD ● CHARITY

YOUNG ENTERPRISE ● DEPARTMENTAL NEWS ● AND MORE!

# **NELCOME**

# A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



An academic year is always a busy one, but once again, what a year it has been! I am always taken aback by the number of opportunities and experiences staff find and organise for our students. It really does make Hammersmith Academy stand out.

The general election has obviously been a big talking point and here at the Academy we encourage students to engage in political discourse and play their part in the democratic process. We held a Question Time style event for Sixth Form students where they put questions directly to our constituency's parliamentary candidates.

For our younger students, they had special assemblies during election week and ended with a mock election on polling day. By engaging in the process, students are part of the national conversation and well prepared for their first vote.

We are delighted to have been chosen as the venue from which Hammersmith & Fulham launched their new green investment initiative that benefits the local community. Our solar project is seen as a leading example of what can be achieved with investment and vision.

This year we have been very ambitious with our trips; one to Spain and one to Germany. Year 9 students immersed themselves in Spanish language and culture, whilst the creative Sixth Formers took in Berlin's art and industry. Both fantastic opportunities to experience life beyond our shores.

Our Session 3 extracurricular activities continue to grow in number. This term we have added bouldering and fencing to our long list of options.

Students have been great ambassadors throughout the summer term. Our young gardening team were invited by the RHS to exhibit at the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival and the Junior Leadership Team have been pioneers in safer and sustainable travel, presenting to TfL at the London Transport Museum.

Sixth Form students have been broadening their horizons this term. Students have been exploring career and university options and Year 12 students have been successful in Young Enterprise, a student entrepreneurship programme.

Alumni have featured heavily this term. Some have returned to share their career experiences with current Year 7 and returned to film a personal introspective documentary. In a term packed with positive outcomes, the optimism and success of our alumni is definitely the cherry on the cake for us all.

Enjoy the very many reports in this edition of the newsletter.

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

# QUESTION TIME SCHOOL EVENT



Hammersmith Academy hosted a special West London Schools Question Time event on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April bringing together prospective parliamentary candidates from the newly formed Hammersmith & Chiswick constituency for an engaging and challenging discussion with local students.

The event featured candidates Andrew Dinsmore (Conservative Party), Naranee Ruthra-Rajan (Green Party), Andy Slaughter MP (Labour Party), Eraj Rostaqi (Liberal Democrat Party), and Anthony Goodwin (Reform Party).

Students from Hammersmith
Academy, as well as invited students
from St Paul's Girls' School and
Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School
submitted questions on key issues
they felt most affect their lives and
future prospects. The diverse range
of topics covered included NHS
funding, the Gaza conflict, changes to
the constituency boundary, smoking
bans for young people, immigration,
and the importance of young people
exercising their right to vote.

The aim of the event was to encourage young people to engage in politics and vote at both national and local level, as young people are disproportionately underrepresented in voting. Additionally, the event sought to encourage political discourse among young people, providing them with an open platform to explore various viewpoints and gain a better understanding in the run up to the election.

"We were delighted to host such a successful event," said Mr Kynaston, "It is essential for young people to be informed and involved in the discourse and political process. This event offered them a chance to directly engage with local leaders and discuss the issues that matter most to them."

The experience concluded with all party members encouraging the young audience to be active participants in the democratic process and take their futures into their own hands, including getting directly involved in local community politics.

HAMMERSMITH
ACADEMY HOSTS A
SCHOOLS QUESTION
TIME STYLE EVENT
AHEAD OF THE
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ACADEMY NEWS

# LBHF LAUNCHES **NEW INITIATIVE**



**HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL** LAUNCHES NEW **GREEN INITIATIVE AT** THE ACADEMY.

The launch of H&F Green Investment may a significant step forward in the borough's commitment to sustainability. Investment marks step forward in commitment to

In May, Councillor Rowan Ree visited the Academy for an exciting announcement. Joined by students and Headteacher Mr Kynaston, Councillor Ree went up on the Academy's roof to officially launch a groundbreaking green investment scheme for Hammersmith and Fulham.

H&F Green Investment, allows residents to directly fund impactful, bill-busting projects. The scheme offers a low-risk opportunity with a fixed 4.6%-a-year interest rate, inviting investors to help fund the installation of solar panels and heat pumps for local community buildings.

The planned retrofit works are part of a broader series of decarbonisation projects aimed at making local community buildings more energyefficient and environmentally friendly, as well as making financial savings.

Hammersmith Academy was chosen as the launch venue for the initiative as the Academy's ambitious solar project is seen as a leading example of what green investment can achieve, as well as a symbol

of commitment to sustainability and serves as a practical example of how green initiatives can be integrated into everyday life.

"We have seen an immediate impact and expect the energy generated to rise significantly over summer" said Mr Kynaston. "Of course, this equates to a substantial financial saving."

Since going live in September last year, the scheme has also helped prevent an estimated 18 tonnes of carbon emissions - equivalent to planting 1,100 trees planted.

The launch of H&F Green Investment marks a significant step forward in the borough's commitment to sustainability. By empowering residents to invest in green technologies, the initiative not only addresses immediate energy needs but also paves the way for a more sustainable and energy-efficient future.

The green investment scheme promises to be a model for other communities aiming to balance economic and environmental priorities.

#### RHS FLOWER SHOW

STUDENTS ATTRACT THE BUGS AT RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE GARDEN FESTIVAL.



Hammersmith Academy's gardening team were selected to showcase their wildlife-friendly bug barrel at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival on Monday, 1st July 2024.

Students entered the RHS Bug Barrels Challenge by designing a barrel to attract insects and encourage biodiversity. Over the course of two months students collaborated with Hammersmith Community Gardens Association to design, build, and plant their unique barrel garden. It included insect homes, nectar rich plants and a little water feature.

The RHS was impressed with the Academy's entry and selected their barrel to be part of a display to educate visitors at the show on the importance of developing and sustaining healthy ecosystems in our gardens and outdoor spaces in order to protect the UK's biodiversity.

This was the first time students had visited the show and they explored the festival's stunning gardens and exhibitors. They met several

celebrities, including renowned gardener and TV presenter Arit Anderson, who praised their barrel design.

Mr Kynaston, said of their achievements, "It's been incredibly rewarding to see our students engage so passionately with this project. Their bug barrel is not only beautiful but also serves an important ecological purpose. The recognition they received at the RHS

Hampton Court Garden Festival is well-deserved."

The students' participation at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival is a continuation of the Academy's commitment to gardening and sustainability. Students have previously been crowned RHS School Gardening Team of the Year, Cultivation Street's School Garden Award and Global Action Plan's Sustainability School of the Year.



# SCIENCE

### **SPACEMAN VISITS**

ROBIN MOBBS FROM THE NATIONAL SPACE ACADEMY DELIVERED AN INTERGALACTIC WORKSHOP. WE CAUGHT UP WITH YEAR 7 STUDENTS, MEENA & XINCHEN



This term, Year 7 students enjoyed a stellar experience with a visit from Robin Mobbs, Lead Educator at the National Space Academy. The day was filled with fascinating talks, engaging activities, and the chance to try on real space suits!

The day began with a lesson on the history of space exploration and astronomy, captivating students with stories of space travel and the vast cosmos. This session set the stage for hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and understanding of space science.

Meena, Year 7, shared her excitement: "I had so much fun learning about space and the many things that orbit around us. My favourite part was making rockets out of paper, which was a really interesting experiment. It was brilliant watching the rockets fly. I also thought that looking at pieces of the Moon and Mars was awesome; it felt like I was touching the Moon!" The rocket-making activity was a highlight for many. Xinchen, also in Year 7, found the experience

enriching. "I really enjoyed the day because it was informative and fun. The rocket experiment boosted my teamwork and thinking skills," Xinchen said.

The sessions went into a lot of detail including studying the power of rocket insulators. Students learned how these protect astronauts from intense heat during re-entry. "This programme taught me how powerful the insulators for rockets are," Xinchen noted. "They burn through the atmosphere, but the inside stays cool and doesn't sizzle the people inside!"

The day inspired the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers. Robin Mobbs' visit left a lasting impression, sparking interest in future careers in space exploration. The Year 7 students left with a newfound appreciation for space and the engineering feats of space travel. Overall, the National Space Academy visit was a tremendous success, providing students with a unique and unforgettable educational experience.

They burn through the atmosphere, but the inside stays cool and doesn't sizzle the people inside.

#### WINNING FORMULA

YEAR 13 STUDENTS SHINE IN THIS YEAR'S UK CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD. HEAD OF SCIENCE, MR BRIDLE REPORTS.



This year's top Year 13 chemistry students took part in the Chemistry Olympiad, a prestigious competition designed to challenge and inspire the next generation of chemists. It offers students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios, enhancing their problemsolving and critical thinking skills.

The UK Chemistry Olympiad is the leading chemistry competition for secondary students across the UK. It aims to stimulate intellectual curiosity and encourage students to engage deeply with the subject. The competition is divided into multiple rounds, starting with a written test that features complex chemistry problems set in real-world contexts. High-scoring students from Round 1 may progress to further stages, including a residential training camp and practical assessments, with the ultimate goal of representing the UK at the International Chemistry Olympiad.

Participation in the Olympiad not only bolsters a student's academic

credentials but also enhances university applications and career prospects. It provides invaluable experience in handling challenging questions and offers a glimpse into the exciting field of chemistry.

In total seven students from Hammersmith Academy were awarded certificates. The grade boundaries for the Round 1 paper were set as follows:

Bronze Award: 10-17 marks

Silver Award: 18-29 marks

· Gold Award: 30+ marks

The awards they have received are a reflection of their ability to tackle demanding problems and think creatively. This experience will undoubtedly benefit them in their future academic and professional endeavors.

We look forward to seeing even more students participate in the future and continue the tradition of excellence in chemistry at our academy.

#### Congratulations to our Year 13 Chemistry students:

- Winnie (Silver)
- Abdulkareem (Bronze)
- Aisha (Bronze)
- Artin (Bronze)
- Fartun (Bronze)
- Mahamad (Bronze)
- Martin (Bronze)

# **OVERSEAS TRIPS**

# **iHOLA! SPAIN**

YEAR 10 STUDENT, BARA REPORTS ON AN EXCITING TRIP TO SPAIN TO PRACTISE THE LANGUAGE AND TAKE IN THE LOCAL CULTURE.



In May students enjoyed an unforgettable week long trip to Spain, visiting Málaga and Granada. Organised by the MFL department, this journey offered a unique chance to explore Spanish culture, improve language skills, and create lasting memories.

Students visited famous landmarks, including Málaga's historic city centre and beautiful beaches. They savoured traditional Spanish dishes such as tapas and paella. In Granada, the highlight was the Alhambra tour, showcasing Spain's rich history and stunning Islamic architecture.

Bara in Year 10, shared her thoughts: "It was a great way to explore Spanish culture and learn something new outside the school's usual curriculum. During the four-day trip, we had a packed programme, exploring the cities of Málaga and Granada, trying typical Spanish food and engaging with the locals. I particularly enjoyed the beach in Málaga, all the delicious food, and the tour of the Alhambra in Granada.

The Alhambra was particularly interesting as I learned a lot about Spanish history, especially how the architectural style proves that Spain was once an Islamic kingdom, something I normally would not have had the opportunity to learn. This trip has allowed me to make many memories with my friends, and I would recommend a trip like this to anyone who has the opportunity to go."

The trip was educational and a chance for students to bond with peers and teachers. Exploring Spanish culture and practising their language skills with native speakers enriched their understanding beyond the classroom.

The visit to the Alhambra stood out, offering a deep dive into Spain's historical and cultural heritage and connection to Spain's Islamic past, a topic that captivated many students.

The trip was a great success and the memories made during this journey will last a lifetime, leaving them eager for future adventures. ■



# **OVERSEAS TRIPS**

## **BEAUTY OF BERLIN**

SIXTH FORM ART, PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS VISITED BERLIN FOR A STEM TOUR. TOUR LEADER & HEAD OF TECHNICAL ARTS, MS FERRELL FILLS US IN.



This June, we ran our first ever Technical Arts trip to Berlin.

Year 12 students studying Art, Photography and Design & Technology: Product Design were invited on the 3-day trip to enrich and widen their subject knowledge, to add to their portfolios and to build their cultural capital. I think its fair to say, it was a resounding success in all areas.

Students explored the city's rich culture and historic sites and encountered some breathtaking views - luckily all without a drop of rain and near perfect weather.

Art and photography students found themselves immersed in significant works of art in C/O Museum & the Museum of Photography – completing sketches to enhance their portfolios. A favourite amongst our artists and photographers was the interaction with the weird and wonderful modern art exhibitions in the Berlinische Galerie. Who knew mushrooms were a construction material!

Design and Technology students engaged with the philosophy and iconic designs during their visit to the Bauhaus museum. Many found elements of the style that resonated with them personally. They were also treated to a tour of the BMW Motorcycle factory. I believe experiencing the assembly line and speed testing of motorbikes was a particular highlight for most.

Design & Technology student, Tianna said "My highlight was visiting the Bauhaus Archive as I researched it before the trip so it was nice to be knowledgeable about the place I was going to see. I feel like the experience helped to enrich my coursework as a result of seeing it in person.

Overall, the trip has helped me to be more open minded when trying new things. It was a new country, which can bring feelings of apprehension but I felt very comfortable on the trip and the positive experience makes me feel more willing to try new things in the future."

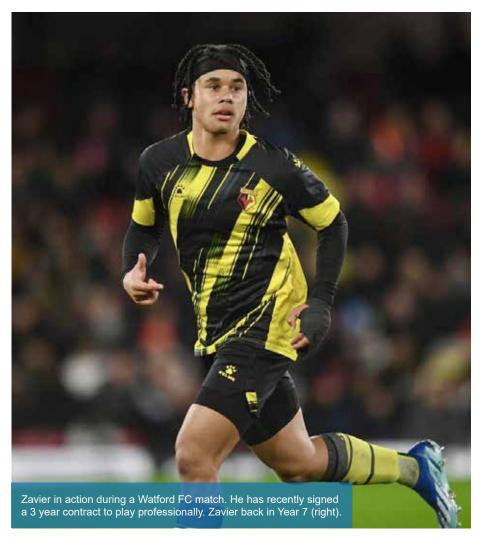
Some locations were particularly special for our students, such as artwork of the Berlin Wall's East Side Gallery, the poignant Memorial of the Murdered Jews of Europe and climbed up the dome on Germany's historic Parliament 'Reichstag' building, just before sunset.

Ms Harrowes said, "I really loved travelling with our Sixth Form students as they visibly grew in confidence. I got the sense that they loved being welcomed by a European city and the realisation that they could really enjoy making themselves understood, ordering food, exploring different areas and embracing a whole range of art forms and culture that were entirely different from their normal tastes."

Students were fully immersed in all aspects of the experience, and made the most of every opportunity.

Thank you to Ms Samuels and Ms Harrowes for the diligent organisation and the expertise that made it all possible.

## MEET THE ALUMNI



OUR ALUMNI GO ON TO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AND FUTURES. IN THIS FEATURE WE CATCH UP WITH FOOTBALLER, ZAVIER MASSIAH-EDWARDS (HA 2018-2023).



**HA**: How is the football career going?

ZM: It's Pre-Season and I'm with the 1st Team, which is really hard but I'm learning every day and hoping I do well enough to stay with them for the season for what is actually the second year of my scholarship/U18 season.

**HA**: What does a typical day at work look like?

ZM: In at 8.30 for breakfast. Gym Activation at 10, followed by AM training session at 10.30 until Lunch at 12.30. We'll then do a PM training session where you work on your individual and positional specifics.

The day before a game we'll have a team meeting and the day after a game, we'll have a recovery session - Ice Bath / Massage / Stretching / Match Analysis etc.

On Monday and Wednesday afternoons if there's no U21 fixture I'll do education. I'm doing two BTECs in both PE and Business Marketing. **HA**: Greatest achievement so far?

ZM: Making my 1st Team debut last season still as an U17/1st Year Scholar and being offered my first Professional Contract in December. I have recently signed a 3 year deal which takes me to the end of the 2026/27 season. I've been playing Academy football since I was 5 years old, so to finally make it as a professional is a dream come true and a reward for 12 years of hard work and dedication.

**HA**: What skills did you develop at HA that you have taken with you?

**ZM**: Resilience to keep going even when you're tired or something isn't working like you want it to.

**HA**: What do you look back fondly on during your time at HA?

ZM: Sports day and school football, especially getting to the final and winning trophy playing West London Free School! ■

l've been playing Academy football since I was 5 Years old, so to finally make it as a professional is a dream come true...

"

### **MY LIFE STORY**

FORMER STUDENT, ERNIE DIX, RETURNED TO FILM A DOCUMENTARY ON HIS LIFE'S JOURNEY FOR HIS FINAL COLLEGE PROJECT.

Hammersmith Academy alum, Ernie recently returned to film a special segment for his final college project. Tasked with creating a documentary on the significant figures in his life, Ernie chose to highlight Mr Fitchett, his Head of Year during Year 11 whose guidance and support left a mark on Ernie.

Ernie meticulously planned the filming process and was accompanied by two fellow alumni, Amir and Ciaran who assisted with the shoot.

Ernie enjoyed revisiting the Academy and memories with Mr Fitchett.
We look forward to seeing the documentary.



### YEAR 7 CAREERS

In June, we invited five former students to our annual Year 7 Careers Conference to share their insights into their early careers. Emir Bela, an Architecture Apprentice at Building Design Partnership, stressed the importance of choosing subjects aligned with personal interests, noting how his love for Maths and Design led to his current role. He encouraged students to stay focused on their goals and to work hard, as it pays off in the end.

Anis Uddin, a Physician Associate in the NHS, shared both challenging and rewarding experiences from his job. Despite the difficulty of witnessing a patient pass away early in his career, he finds immense satisfaction in helping patients recover and regain their health.

Nadeem Choudhury, an HR Services & Payroll Coordinator, advised students to pick GCSEs they are passionate about rather than those perceived to lead to high-paying jobs. He emphasized the value of being inquisitive and starting exam preparation early.



Ashley Ntumba, a Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer, spoke about her journey from studying Fashion Marketing to pursuing a career in sports, driven by her passion for helping others. She highlighted the importance of transferable skills and enjoying one's work.

Ayat Saeed, an Ad Review Specialist at Snap Inc, underscored the benefits of work experience and networking. Her fluency in Arabic and strong LinkedIn profile led her to a role at Snapchat. She advised students to seize opportunities, conduct thorough research, and build positive relationships in the workplace.

These engaging stories inspired our Year 7 students, providing them with valuable insights into various career paths. We extend our gratitude to Emir, Anis, Nadeem, Ashley, and Ayat for their time and for inspiring our students.

ALUMNI

# **ACADEMY NEWS**

# **MOCK ELECTION**

Democracy is one of our key British values and the Academy held a mock election on the day of the General Election to celebrate the democratic process.

It was an opportunity for students to engage in the democratic process by learning about different political parties and view points, as well as becoming familiar with the terminology associated with elections such as manifestos and first-past-the-post.

Students were engaged throughout their assemblies by sharing their opinions while respecting those of others – the essence of democracy. They took the process very seriously, conducting themselves with professionalism and maturity and demonstrating the ability to engage in complex discussions.

After a busy morning of voting on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, Sixth Form students began the vote count, carefully recording each of the votes. The following morning, results were



announced by Mr Kynaston, with Labour winning the vote share, in keeping with the national mood. Green issues were of particular interest to our young voters as the Green Party scored the second largest share.

Thank you to all the students and to the staff who helped facilitate the assemblies. It was a memorable mock election. ■

#### **Mock Election Results**

■ Conservative: 1.8%

Green: 31.3%

Labour: 51.9%

Liberal Democrats: 4.6%

Reform: 4.3%

Spoilt Ballots: 5.9%

## D OF E AWARD



Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students enjoyed toasted marshmallows after a day's hike.

In June Year 10 students embarked on their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award final expedition at Bentley Copse. The adventure began early Friday morning, with students being dropped off at the Academy. From there, they travelled by train to Dorking station, on the outskirts of Guildford, marking the starting point of their hiking journey.

The students hiked to and around Bentley Copse, navigating public rights of way. As this was their final expedition, they were not accompanied by staff during the hike but were organised into groups of at least six students each. This setup ensured that they could practice their navigation and teamwork skills independently whilst still being remotely supervised. Staff members stayed in contact through

pre-arranged checkpoints to ensure the students' safety and progress.

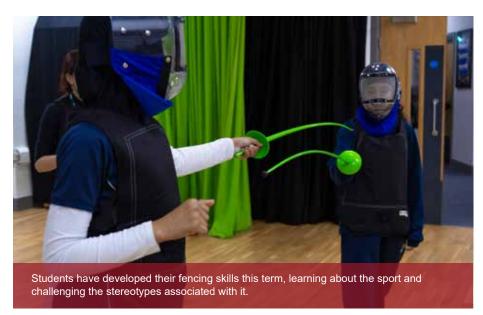
During the hike, students were not allowed to use their mobile phones and had to rely on their planning, map reading and navigation skills on which they were to be evaluated.

The expedition concluded successfully on Saturday, with the students returning by train to Shepherd's Bush Station in the evening.

The experience was an essential part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, providing them with valuable skills and memorable moments. We look forward to students receiving their certificates in the autumn.

A massive well done to all those who took part, not just for the expedition but also in the work leading up to it.

#### **EN-GARDE!**



This term, a group of Year 9 and 10 girls have had the opportunity to take part in a weekly Fencing and Creative Project club. The opportunity is available through a collaboration between British Fencing and Maslaha which aims to facilitate spaces at a grassroot level for girls to challenge stereotypes and narratives

relating to gender, racial, religious identities through both physical and creative methods.

Over a number of weeks, the girls engage in a range of discussions and creative exercises such as collaging, drawing, photography and poetry to reflect on their identities, the ways they are represented, and the limited narratives of their experiences that are usually given in society. Participants also have the opportunity to gain leadership qualifications accredited by British Fencing and start their own community or school-based fencing clubs.

Fencing has traditionally been considered an elite, male-dominated sport and our girls wasted no time donning the equipment and getting started

Ms Carrena, who has overseen the club has been delighted with the girls' participation, "It has been brilliant to see the girls develop each week and gaining more confidence with every session. We hope that by taking part in these they see that they can be involved in anything and they shouldn't limit themselves.

# **BOULDERING CLUB**

This summer, the Academy launched its first Bouldering Club.

Students have the opportunity to test their climbing skills at the local Ravens Wall centre. The club ran for six sessions with students ranging from novice to expert.

The aim of the club is to introduce the sport to beginners and for those more advanced to improve each week.

It was amazing to see everyone progress with increasingly harder climbs and to see everyone encouraging each other and celebrating each other's successes when they managed to get to the top of the wall.

Alyssa in Year 8 started off as a

beginner in climbing and she said, "I have honestly loved bouldering so much, it has been so fun and my confidence has grown. I get to socialise with other years and classes and I've made new friends with the same passion. Not only that but I loved how bouldering has pushed me to try hard and taught me not to give up. The hardest wall I completed was the black wall. It required a lot of upper body strength and you even had to do a run up. I failed a good few times but nothing felt as good as finally completing the wall! I was so proud of myself and couldn't stop smiling and felt an overwhelming happy feeling. I won't forget this day, I was with friends, having fun and trying my hardest. I love bouldering!" ■



**ACADEMY NEWS** 

## **ROAD SAFETY DAY**

MET CYCLE POLICE RETURN FOR YEAR 7 EXCHANGING PLACES ROAD SAFETY DAY AND JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM PUT ON AWARENESS **OBSTACLE COURSE.** 



On Monday 13th May, our Year 7 students participated in an informative Road Safety Day event, organised in collaboration with the MET cycle police and O'Donovan Waste Management. This event was part two of a road safety initiative that began in the autumn term.

The MET cycle police provided insights into the dangers associated with heavy goods vehicles, focusing on blind spots and strategies to stay safe around large vehicles.

A new addition to this event was the involvement of TfL Pioneers, members of our Junior Leadership Team. They designed an obstacle course to highlight the dangers of mobile phone distractions. Studen navigated the course twice, once without a phone and once with. Time penalties were deducted for incomplete tasks, emphasising the risks of distracted walking. All members of our Junior Leadership Team. They designed an obstacle course to highlight the dangers of mobile phone distractions. Students the risks of distracted walking. All participants had a slower time with deductions when using a mobile phone device!

This demonstration helped students understand the importance of staying visible and alert when travelling and especially around roads and vehicles.

The interactive nature of the event kept students engaged and attentive and by the end of the event, Year 7 students had a better understanding of the road safety risks and what

precautions to take.

Thank you to the MET cycle police, our TfL Pioneers, and O'Donovan Waste Management who provided the heavy good vehicle, for making the Road Safety Day a brilliant experience.



### **HEAR MY SONG**



This term the Royal College of Music (RCM) hosted an exciting songwriting workshop at the Academy, combining the expertise of RCM students and professional musicians with the creativity of Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Held over two separate days, the workshop aimed to foster a love for music and develop students' creative skills.

The workshop began with an introduction to songwriting basics, covering song structure, melody, lyrics, and genre influences. Professional musicians and RCM students shared tips on how to think creatively and where to draw inspiration from.

Students looked to different styles and genres, from classical to contemporary, to establish a melody and beat before turning to writing lyrics. They were encouraged to look to personal experiences to write about.

Each group worked on creating an original composition, demonstrating impressive teamwork. Some crafted

melodies, others wrote lyrics, and instrumentalists provided accompaniment. RCM mentors offered valuable guidance, helping refine the students' ideas.

The collaborative environment encouraged idea-sharing and skill-blending, resulting in rich compositions.

The workshop culminated in a final performance, where each group showcased their compositions to their peers.

It was wonderful see the students grow in confidence as they worked on their music, seeing a song come together.

A big thank you to the musicians from the Royal College of Music who ran the workshop and inspired our young musicians to challenge themselves in the process.

EXCITING
SONGWRITING
WORKSHOP RUN BY
ROYAL COLLEGE
OF MUSIC INSPIRES
YOUNG MUSICIANS.

Students explored different styles and genres, from classical to contemporary, discovering new interests.

# **COUNT ON US**

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY HOSTS A ROUND OF MAYOR OF LONDON'S COUNT ON US CHALLENGE.



Students were put to the test with puzzles and challenges that required problemsolving and teamwork.

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, the Academy hosted the Count on Us Maths Challenge, gathering schools from across London to showcase mathematical prowess. Organised by the Mayor's Fund for London, the event aimed to foster numeracy skills among students.

Participating schools included Bentley Wood, Hammersmith, Northolt, Barnhill, Heston Community School, Orleans Park, Teddington, Hampstead School, Oasis Academy South Bank, Holy Cross, Preston Manor, and Kensington Aldridge.

Students were put to the test with puzzles and challenges that required problem-solving and teamwork.

Congratulations to all participants, and we look forward to future rounds of the competition in the new academic year. ■

# **KEEPER FOR A DAY**



Students studying animal care had the opportunity to see zoo keepers in action and ask them questions relating to their course.

A select group of students have been studying animal care and this trip to London Zoo has greatly enhanced their understanding of animal adaptations and offered valuable insights into working with animals.

During the visit a special workshop with zoo staff opened their eyes to what their jobs entail and the daily responsibilities required to look after the animals. The students were highly engaged, asking questions and showing a keen interest throughout the visit.

After the workshop, students got to explore all the animals and exhibits, including up close to black and white colobus monkeys!

**ACADEMY NEWS** 

### A YEAR IN ART

HEAD OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY, MS SAMUELS RECALLS A VERY BUSY YEAR FILLED WITH ART.



It has been a dynamic year for the Art Department. There have been enriching trips to London's renowned art galleries such as Tate Modern, Hayward Gallery, and the National Portrait Gallery. Additionally, our students had the opportunity to attend the Royal College of Art Open Day, absorbing various art styles and gaining valuable inspiration.

This year marked the launch

of our Photography A-Level, complemented by the impressive mid-year exhibition, *Perspective*. Highlighting the outstanding work of our Year 12 students, this exhibition explored themes of perspective, light, manipulation, and communication, inspiring younger peers with their innovative projects.

The HA Big Draw earlier in the year was a thrilling competition where

students across different Houses competed in a three-hour drawing event, displaying their artistic skills under the guidance of our Year 12 Art students.

In late June, our highly anticipated artist exhibition, *Resonance*, was a resounding success. Showcasing the exceptional artwork of our talented Year 11 and Year 13 students, the event drew over 100 members of our community, including students, parents, and staff. It was a moment of pride as our students confidently presented their work, sharing their creative journey with others and reinforcing their growth in the HA Art Department.

Congratulations to all the students who have been part of our exhibitions and creating incredible artwork.

Their creativity continues to inspire us, and we look forward to further nurturing their artistic growth with upcoming trips and exciting opportunities planned for next year.

Stay tuned for even more exciting art news at Hammersmith Academy in September!



# DESIGN MUSEUM TAKEOVER

THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS EVEN BIGGER, TAKING PLACE OVER BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, WITH SPECIALLY CURATED WORKSHOPS FOR HA FAMILIES.



On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, we organised a special event for our Hammersmith Academy community to experience the Design Museum in an entirely new way. Our aim was to make museums and galleries feel more welcoming and less intimidating, ensuring everyone can fully appreciate our city's rich cultural offerings.

This year's event was even more expansive, spanning the entire weekend and packed with engaging activities. The day began with guided tours of two key collections at the museum. Following the tours, students got stuck into a variety of creative workshops held in a private room at the museum. Coinciding with the London Festival of Architecture, these workshops centred on the theme of London. Students crafted

their own manifestos, envisioning the changes they wished to see in the city, built their ideal city using LEGO, and sketched their favourite buildings in London. These workshops were a tremendous success, captivating participants of all ages.

We were delighted to see families from Year 7 to Year 12 attending, along with our dedicated Hammersmith Academy staff. A special thank you goes to our student helpers and photographers who gave up their weekend to support the event: Maisie (10J), Millie (10A), Simleen (12M), Lily (12K), Raye (12K), Jackson (12J), and Rayhan (12A).

The Hammersmith Academy Design Museum Takeover was a weekend brimming with creativity, exploration, and community spirit. By providing free access to captivating exhibitions and interactive workshops, we aimed to make art and culture accessible and enjoyable for everyone. We are deeply grateful to all who attended and helped make the event a success.

A huge thank you to the Design Museum for working with us to put on this event for our families.

If you missed it, don't worry! We plan to organise more events like this, not only with the Design Museum but also with other galleries. Look out for upcoming announcements if you're interested in joining us for future adventures. We look forward to having you with us! ■

### RACE FOR LIFE

THE ACADEMY'S ANNUAL BIG CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK BROUGHT THE SUNSHINE AND GENEROSITY.



On Thursday 18th July, Hammersmith Academy hosted Drop Down Day alongside the annual Race for Life, marking a memorable end to the academic year.

Drop Down Day focused on the HA values through engaging sessions in particular resilience, reflectiveness, and resourcefulness. Students participated in escape rooms, team-building exercises like desert island survival scenarios, and more, gaining valuable critical thinking and teamwork skills.

The highlight of Drop Down Day was a motivational talk on resilience by Ace Ruele, a motion capture actor known for his roles in Hollywood films and video games such as *The Legend Of Tarzan* and *Ant Man and the Wasp*. He inspired Year 9 and Year 10 students with his work and confidence tips.

In the afternoon, the Academy shifted gears to host the Race for Life, a summer charitable extravaganza in support of Cancer Research UK.

All students raced around the track, along with Year 6 Brackenbury Primary School students, followed by the elite runners. Following the race, the Academy officially opened the fair with raffles, inflatables, tombolas, bubble tea, face painting, book stalls, and an array of family-friendly games.

A special highlight of this year's Race for Life was the debut of a studentled stall by Rielle (7L), showcasing her own business, Belles Glosses, selling lip glosses and lip balms.

he community spirit came alive as families joined in the festivities, contributing to a fantastic atmosphere and raising funds for the charity.

We extend our thanks to all parents who generously donated to the tombola and local businesses who provided prizes for the raffle. Altogether we raised a £1090 for Cancer Research UK. A brilliant way to end the academic year! ■



#### **Raffle Donations**

A big thank you to all the local businesses who supported our fundraising in the way of donations for the raffle.

- Bocconi Voucher for £50
- October 26 Voucher for £30
- Café Bonego Breakfast for two
- Chicken Kitchen Meal for two
- Charlie's Hair & BeautyShampoo
- Tesco Goldhawk Road 38 bars of Tony's Chocolate & 2 boxes of Celebrations.

Total Raised £1090!

CHARITY

## **SPORTS DAY**



In the penultimate week of the summer term the entire Academy marched to Linford Christie Stadium for Sports Day.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement and competitive spirit, as the track events got underway.

One of the standout performances came from the Year 10 Girls' category, where Ameerah (Year 10) achieved an extraordinary feat by taking gold in the 100m, 200m, and 800m events. Her incredible speed and endurance set a high standard.

There was also fierce competition in the tug of war and relays and

the whole competition came to an intense nail-biting finish. Johnson House emerged victorious, narrowly defeating Lovelace House by a mere 23 points!

The day concluded with a thrilling Staff Relay, where the Attenborough Team retained their 4x100m relay title for the second consecutive year.

Congratulations to all participants, and a special thanks to everyone who contributed to making this Sports Day a spectacular event. ■

HEAD OF PE, MR WOOD REPORTS FROM A VERY COMPETITIVE SPORTS DAY.



1st Johnson House
1357 points

2nd Lovelace House
1334 points

3rd Khan House
1340 points

4th McQueen House
1313 points

5th Attenborough House
1300 points

#### YOUNG ENTERPRISE

YEAR 12 STUDENTS LAUNCH SUCCESSFUL INDEPENDENT COMPANY. PATRYK (YEAR 12), MANAGING DIRECTOR OF EXOQUEST TELLS US MORE.



#### **Young Enterprise Highlights**

- Initiative Start: September 2023
- Key Events: Successful movie night fundraiser, Christmas card sales
- Final Products: Keychains, sustainable tote bags
- Showcase: West London showcase on 29th April 2024
- Best Director Award

In September 2023, a group of Year 12 students, primarily Economics A-Level students, seized the chance to establish an independent student company through the Young Enterprise Charity. This initiative allowed us to apply our economics knowledge and gain practical experience to bolster our personal statements and CVs. Other members joined out of a passion for entrepreneurship or to develop soft skills.

Initially, managing a diverse group of 21 students was challenging. However, we developed an interconnected company structure that catered to everyone's abilities, forming departments like Marketing, Sustainability, Finance, and Digital & Technology. Over time, everyone embraced their roles, unified by a common vision of creating high-quality, low-cost daily products.

With support from Mr Troen, from St Paul's School and Ms Adolphus, the Head of Sixth Form, we organised a successful movie night fundraiser before Christmas. We also designed and sold Christmas cards at school events and to the community.

Despite initial product ideas like a shopping bag handle, we adapted to financial and situational changes, ultimately producing keychains and sustainable tote bags. Our collective effort in production and sales led to significant profits.

On 29th April, we showcased our products and journey at the West London showcase, competing against other schools. Although we didn't progress further, we were proud of our achievements. I received the Best Director Award, reflecting my dedication to organising and motivating the team.

Participating in this scheme was a rewarding experience that fostered new and stronger relationships and revealed creativity and communication skills. Future participants should be prepared for a long-term commitment, managing responsibilities largely independently.

This initiative is highly recommended for students seeking practical business experience and personal growth. ■



SPOTLIGHT: SIXTH FORM

### **CAREERS**



#### Year 10 Work Experience

We have just wrapped up a successful week of work experience for Year 10. All 141 students gained insight into the working world in a wide range of sectors including engineering, marketing, education, and media. We hope that every student has developed an understanding of the importance of transferable skills, the confidence to use them, and knowledge of employment opportunities in the local area and beyond. Many of our placements were offered as a result of our commitment to building long-lasting business partnerships within the community. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our local employers for hosting and supporting students on their career journey.

#### **Future Planning Week**

Our final major events of the year allowed Year 12 to spend some time thinking about their next steps during Future Planning Week and Wider Experience Week. Future Planning Week events included personal statement workshops and a parents' UCAS and Apprenticeship insight evening, with keynote speaker

Professor Bob Eaglestone from Royal Holloway. He introduced the application process and explained why university should remain an important career launchpad for young people, despite financial pressures and alternative routes. To wrap up the week, 95% of the Year 12 cohort travelled to the UCAS Fair. Students spoke to multiple universities and apprenticeship providers, preparing them to make important decisions about their futures. A few hours later, laden with tote bags and university prospectuses, the coach buzzed with excited conversations about the places and careers students were considering for the first time. We look forward to supporting them in September as they apply to universities and/or apprenticeships.

A month later, Wider Experience Week rounded off the year for Year 12 with a menu of opportunities designed to stretch and challenge their view of the world and give them plenty to write about in applications next year. Work experience placements were offered in publishing, fashion, computer science and construction, and students also found their own openings for the week. Meanwhile

THE SUMMER TERM
HAS BEEN FULL
STEAM AHEAD
FOR THE CAREERS
DEPARTMENT
DELIVERING
EXCELLENT CAREERS
PROVISION.

If you're having careers conversations over the summer holidays at home, we recommend using Unifrog.

AREERS

academic departments made the most of the chance to enrich the curriculum, including an English Literature workshop at the University of Cambridge, project work for Economics and Business students at Credera consulting (see full report below), a blast of automotive engineering at Goodwood Festival of Speed and sociological themes examined with a workshop and performance at the Bush Theatre. Our mathematicians developed their public speaking skills presenting on aspects of the subject in daily life, and attended an Advanced Mathematics Support Programme panel event, with a range of guests, including a Nuclear Engineering Officer on Royal Navy submarines. It was non-stop, but an incredibly rewarding experience for all.

#### Credera

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July Year 12 Business and Economics students visited Credera, a global consulting firm focused on strategy, transformation, artificial intelligence, data, and technology.

The workshop throughout the day focused on business consultancy and essential employability skills in the sector.

During the trip, students had the opportunity to meet Credera's CEO and Managing Director, and see the business in operation to get

firsthand experience of the working environment.

The main part of their visit was a presentation challenge whichlooked at the routes to increasing diversity in Credera and the benefits of it to an organisation.

Students worked in teams to create their presentations and they did fantastically well to present in a professional setting. It was impressive to witness their confidence in speaking and presenting.

The students also had the opportunity to network with Credera's talented team and enjoyed a speech by a representative from Cancer Research UK. Students who had started the day with little understanding of the field finished full of eenthusiasm for the opportunities offered by a career int he consulting sector.

#### Unifrog

If you're having careers conversations over the summer holidays at home, we recommend using Unifrog. We've paid for a subscription for every HA student to this award-winning online career platform. As a parent/carer, you can also use Unifrog to learn more about universities and degree subjects, apprenticeships and traineeships, jobs and career areas, and much

more. You can log in and use the free sign-up code **HMRSparents**.

We're always striving to ensure that parents and students can make the most of our careers programme and fully prepare for the world of work and further education. If you have any suggestions or ideas that you feel could be helpful for yourself and your child, please feel free to get in touch with Sophie Harrowes, Head of Careers and Cultural Connections.

#### **Next Academic Year**

Looking forward to the next academic year, we'll kick off with Year 11 one-on-one career interviews. Each student will spend half an hour discussing their next steps with an external careers advisor, seamlessly transitioning into our annual Next Steps parent and student event and Colleges and Apprenticeships Fair in October. Next year is also our biennial STEAM Fair, hosting a variety of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths employers. This event allows parents and students to learn more about jobs of the future, talk to a range of employers, and expand their understanding of the steps needed for a successful career.



## **HOUSE CHAMPIONS**



It has been an action-packed year for the Academy's House Competition, a spirited contest that has brought excitement and camaraderie to students and staff alike. This year, the five Houses-McQueen, Attenborough, Lovelace, Johnson, and Khan—have battled it out across a variety of events, showcasing their talents and teamwork.

The highly anticipated HA Bake Off was a highlight, showcasing impressive culinary talents. The Sixth Form Trivia challenged students' knowledge and quick thinking, while the Music Competition brought out the musical flair in students.

Each department organised a competition this year to ensure there was something for everyone to take part in. Whether a student is interested in sports, cooking, art or a game of strategy, there was no excuse not to take part in!

A big round of applause is in order for McQueen House, who emerged victorious, securing first place with their outstanding performances. Attenborough House followed closely just 15 points being in second place, showing great determination. Lovelace House came in third,

Johnson House in fourth, and Khan House in fifth.

Looking ahead, we anticipate another year filled with fun, friendly competition, and school spirit. Keep an eye out for some new additions. The success of this year's events sets a high bar, but we are confident that with the same level of enthusiasm and participation, the upcoming year will be just as exciting, if not more.

Finally, well done to all the students for taking part and getting into the competitive spirit. We can't wait to see what the next year holds.

**McQueen House** 1st 188 points **Attenborough House** 2<sup>nd</sup> 173 points **Lovelace House** 3rd

164 points **Johnson House** 

129 points

**Khan House** 5<sup>th</sup> 92 points

**⊿**th

MS JACKSON, WHOLE **SCHOOL HOUSE** COORDINATOR. **UPDATES US ON** THIS YEAR'S HOUSE COMPETITION.

Whether a student is interested in sports, cooking, art or a game of strategy, there was no excuse not to take part in!

# **CULTURE DAY**



Students dressed in traditional cultural wear to celebrate our diverse community and to bring awareness to their heritage

On June 21st, Hammersmith Academy hosted its annual Cultural Dress Day for the lower school, a vibrant celebration dedicated to honouring the rich diversity within our school community. This special occasion encouraged students to proudly display their cultural heritage through traditional attire.

Cultural Dress Day provided an opportunity for students to express and showcase the beauty of their individual cultures. From Salwar Kameez to Iro and Bubas, the variety

of traditional clothing reflected the colourful tapestry of cultures at our Academy.

Beyond celebrating diversity, the event aimed to spark conversations about the different cultures that enrich our Academy community. Students enthusiastically shared the stories behind their traditional outfits, offering insights into their cultural backgrounds and creating a deeper appreciation for each other's heritage.

In addition to wearing their cultural attire, students engaged in tutor time sessions where they shared their outfits and presented what their cultural dress means to them. This provided deeper insights into the significance of their attire and further enhanced understanding among peers

The Academy's diversity shone brightly across the day, with representations from across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas, demonstrating our community's global richness. Building on the success of our Sixth Form cultural dress day earlier in the term. Cultural Dress Day welcomed students who opted for alternative cultural expressions.

Cultural Dress Day served as a powerful reminder that embracing our differences creates an inclusive and harmonious environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Throughout the day, students expanded their understanding of different cultures, enriching the knowledge of the HA community as a whole. ■

## PRIDE CELEBRATION



Hammersmith Academy celebrated Pride Month in June, highlighting diversity and inclusion. Staff swapped grey lanyards for rainbow ones, and canteen decorations followed suit. Departments displayed posters of influential LGBTQ+ figures. A safe space was created for students to discuss, with staff wearing Rainbow Ribbons available for support. The English Department held an LGBTQ+ themed House Competition. Weekly PSHE lessons covered "Language," "Context," "Protest," and "Celebration," culminating in live and video assemblies. A Bake Sale raised £275 for the "Outside Project" charity, and everyone wore colourful attire on the last day, ending the month on a high note.

# SPORTS

## **SPORTS ROUND-UP**

THIS TERM HAS BEEN A TYPICALLY BUSY ONE FOR THE SPORTS DEPARTMENT. HERE IS A ROUND-UP OF ALL THE SPORTING NEWS.



#### **QPR Finals**

In an exciting day of competition at the QPR Finals, four teams from Hammersmith Academy gave their all but fell just short of victory.

The Sixth Form Team faced a tough challenge against QPR College, managing to hold their own but ultimately losing 3-1. Despite a strong defensive effort and a well-earned goal, a 20-yard free-kick from Renato Kalaj, HA couldn't overcome QPR's relentless pressure and would concede two goals on the break in quick succession.

The Year 11 Team also put in a commendable performance but couldn't find the back of the net in their match against Holland Park, resulting in a 2-0 defeat. Upon reflection, HA will look back at this game as one where they missed countless opportunities to play the final pass to someone in a better position to score. However, with Micah McLeod standing in at the last minute in goal and being reduced to 10 men through an injury to Kerem Kaya, their spirited play and determination was evident

throughout, but Holland Park's disciplined defence made the difference.

The Year 10 Team went head-to-head with WLFS in a tightly contested match. Both teams showed impressive skills and tactics, but WLFS managed to edge out a win, leaving the Year 10s with a narrow 1-0 loss. Sean McCarthy looked to have scored a late equaliser with a fierce driven effort from the edge of the box, only to be denied by a fantastic save by the WLFS GK.

In a fiercely competitive game, the Year 9/10 Girls Team battled against All Saints. Despite their best efforts and strong teamwork, they lost 1-0 in a match that showcased their tenacity and skill.

While the results didn't go in favour of our teams, it is a fantastic achievement to have four teams in the finals for the first time since 2017. On the day each player represented themselves and the academy well, demonstrating remarkable effort and sportsmanship. Well done on a fantastic season in the QPR League and we all look forward to

seeing what can happen in the 24-25 season!

#### London Youth Games (Rowing)

On Sunday 9th June HA Year 9s, Rayan and Leonard represented the Hammersmith and Fulham Borough at the London Youth Games at Indoor Rowing! They put in a great performance and showed great determination to complete the 4 minute test against students from across London. Rayan dug in to complete 924 metres and Leonard pushed through to complete an impressive 987 metres! Both hope to be back next year.

#### **LSAA Athletics**

Luke in Year 11 showcased his exceptional talent once again this year at the LSAA Athletics Competition in the 100m sprint. Dominating the H&F Borough Qualifying round, Luke clocked an impressive unofficial time of 10.7 seconds, securing first place.

His performance propelled him to the London Schools Finals, where he continued to shine by finishing fourth against the best athletes within all of the London boroughs. Despite earning



the opportunity to compete at the prestigious English Schools Finals, Luke made the strategic decision to decline. Citing a busy exam period, he chose to focus on refining his 100m sprint throughout the summer.

Luke's dedication to balancing academics and athletics is commendable, and his commitment to improvement promises an exciting future in track and field.

#### **Rowing Stars**

We have seen a fantastic engagement / levels of success in Rowing this year. In particular, for Georgia (Year 12), who has competed in various events / regattas this academic year. Most notably, she competed in the Schools Head of the River and Junior Sculling Regatta. In the latter competition, Georgia had a great race on Friday and came an encouraging 8th out of 30 odd crews from across the country. Following her regatta success, she headed to the Netherlands for a training camp for a week before racing at a regatta in Belgium.

In addition to this, Odhrán (Year 12) has also participated in numerous events and regattas this year, including the Schools Head of the River, The Youth Boat Race and The Balls Cup, where Odhrán had the privilege of competing at the prestigious Eton College venue of Dorney Lake, where the 2012 Olympics were held. Odhrán raced four times on the course, going through the heats and qualifying for

the finals in both the coxless quad and in the J17 singles race. Odhrán has recently been in Ireland for National Team Trials. Both Georgia and Odhrán have had an outstanding year in Rowing, and we look forward to seeing their continued success in the coming years!

Follow Sports on Instagram

@ @hasport1

#### Sportswoman of the Term

Hannah has had a fantastic year once again at HA. Since arriving, Hannah has continually demonstrated a clear passion for sport, flourishing across the numerous sports covered within her PE Lessons this year.

Furthermore, Hannah has maximised the extra-curricular opportunities available to her, regularly attending Basketball and Football Session 3's as well as participating for a football club outside of school. Consequently, Hannah has been a standout performer across many sporting events this year, representing HA in the H&F Indoor Athletics, QPR League and Jr. NBA. Her efforts and levels of skill have not gone unnoticed in the local community, with Hannah invited to represent QPR's Academy too!

It has been a pleasure to see Hannah represent HA in so many events this academic year, and I look forward to seeing this continue in the future.

#### **Sportsman of the Term**

Khyan has continued to excel in Year 9. Within his PE Lessons, his clear passion for PE means that he is a role model to his peers within Year 9, and he has continually performed well in both theory and practical GCSE PE assessments this year.

Further to this, Khyan has also represented the school in a variety of sporting competitions. Most notably, he has been everpresent in the Year 9 Football Team, with his performances leading to him being called up to the Year 10 Football Team.

Khyan played a key part in helping to earn the Year 9 Team their first win of the season in April this year, providing the assist for his teammate to score the winner against St Thomas More.



#### Hammersmith Academy

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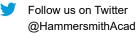
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