



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2025 EDITION

IN THIS EDITION:

FORMULA 1 CAREERS ● BAFTA WINNER ● WELLCOME COLLECTION

MATILDA MUSICAL ● SPANISH CULTURE ● LEGO LEAGUE ● SPELLING BEE ● CHARITY NEWS

OUTWARD BOUND ● DEPARTMENTAL NEWS ● AND MORE!

NELCOME

A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



One thing that separates Hammersmith Academy from other schools and colleges is the shear depth in opportunities that are available to students from Year 7, right through to Year 13.

In this edition of The Academist you will see just how broad an offering this is. Whether it's putting on a spectacular performance of this year's musical, Matilda Jr., exploring STEM careers in Formula 1, self-discovery on Outward Bound in the Lake District, absorbing Spanish culture through food or experiencing the working day on a trading floor, every student has the opportunity to build on their cultural capital.

This term we marked key events, both national and international. As always, thinking of others is a key part of HA citizenship. Students and staff fundraised over £350 for Comic Relief, Red Nose Day.

World Book Day returned in March and the Library and English Department put together a brilliant programme of activities and events for all. Highlights included audio books recorded by staff and a book signing by our very own published student authors!

International Women's Day saw staff remembering the women who made a real difference in their lives during a week long series of assemblies.

National Apprenticeship and Careers week saw a host of young professionals, including alumni visit the Academy to deliver a week of assemblies to all students. It's never too early to think about what professions there are out there and which routes to consider.

This edition is also a celebration of the outstanding individual achievement amongst our student cohort. Young actor, Milosh starred in a Bafta winning film about the war in Ukraine. An incredible recognition.

The House Spelling Bee saw the Academy's top spellers compete to be crowned best speller. It's great to see students putting themselves forward and pushing the limits of their abilities.

Students don't just stop succeeding when they finish their academic journey at HA, they continue to go from strength to strength. Our alumni feature in this edition is Noor Saeed who is training to become a criminal barrister. A real inspiration for our students, showing what goals can be achieved when someone is fully committed to realising their ambitions.

Enjoy reading all the achievements and highlights from this term. ■

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

ACADEMY NEWS

MATILDA! THE MUSICAL



February saw our students' spectacular production of Matilda Jr. brought to life in the Theatre. The story follows an exceptional five-year-old girl with an extraordinary mind but a challenging home and school life. Armed with her wit, her curiosity, and her vivid imagination, she learns to harness her telekinetic powers to change her future and reclaim her life, and cause a bit of mischief in the process!

Matilda Jr. is based on the Royal Shakespeare Company's smash-hit adaptation by Dennis Kelly and Tim Minchin, seen by over 12 million people worldwide.

There was much excitement amongst students when it was announced that Matilda Jr. would be this year's musical. Students from across the year groups began auditioning back in September in large numbers. Unlike previous musicals, Matilda Jr. required a larger cast and from a wider range of ages. In fact this performance features the largest cast of any musical performed at the

Academy to date! Students from as young as Year 7 were put through their paces with acting, singing, and dancing front and centre of the show.

After the casting was announced, rehearsals began in earnest with students and staff rehearsing before and after school and at weekends. It was great to see a supportive community build between the cast and crew, which sustains even now that the show's run has ended.

"Being around the younger years has been such a highlight. They're always so kind and full of energy; I love how they always say hello when they see me in the corridors... I am glad I can play alongside them," said Jessica in Year 13, who played Miss Honey.

After months of rehearsal, the show commenced with an exclusive matinee for local primary schools, which Ms Cantwell, Director and Music, described as a "roaring success," with over 250 primary school children and their teachers from five schools in the audience. The cast returned to the stage

THE ROALD DAHL
CLASSIC WAS THIS
YEAR'S MUSICAL
HIGHLIGHT.
DIRECTOR, MS
CANTWELL TELLS US
MORE.

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later that day for the opening night performance, and the show was a sensational success, closing after three days with a sold-out performance.

Among the many unforgettable moments, two iconic scenes stood out, leaving audiences in awe. In one memorable scene, Bruce, played by a talented student, was forced to eat an entire chocolate cake by the dreaded Miss Trunchbull. The audience watched in anticipation as Bruce's determination and willpower shone through, making the moment both hilarious and inspiring. The energy in the theatre was electric as Bruce took on the challenge with surprising gusto!

Another show stopping scene came when Matilda, using her incredible telekinetic powers, stood up to the terrifying Miss Trunchbull in a thrilling display of bravery. With a wave of her hand, Matilda's powers sent Trunchbull reeling, sending chills down the audience's spine as the villainous headmistress was finally put in her place. The entire cast's dedication and timing in these powerful scenes made for truly iconic moments in the production.

Congratulations to all the cast and crew for delivering such a highquality performance, to all the staff who made this production possible and a big thank you to all the parents who supported rehearsals. ■





ACADEMY NEWS

BAFTA WINNER!



YEAR 10 STUDENT,
MILOSH STARS IN
BAFTA WINNING
FILM, ROCK, PAPER,
SCISSORS. THE
ACADEMIST CAUGHT
UP WITH HIM TO FIND
OUT MORE.

I'm proud of myself, but as a Ukrainian, it was scary; I felt as though I was really there. We are proud to announce a Hammersmith Academy student first. Year 10 student, Milosh, starred in *Rock, Paper, Scissors* which has won Best British Short Film at the BAFTAs!

Based on a true story, Rock, Paper, Scissors follows Ivan and his father in their management of a makeshift underground hospital on the Ukrainian front line. However, when they are discovered by a platoon of Russian soldiers, they must find a way to protect both their patients and themselves.

The film explores the often-forgotten civilian perspective of the Russia/ Ukraine War, with an authenticity that can't help but to inspire empathy in the viewer, and a deeper understanding that numbers and statistics represent real people.

Milosh, plays young patient Andryi, who is being cared for in the hospital

after being injured in the war. He said of his experience, "I have an agent, Esta Charkham, and she told me about a casting call as I matched the description of the character.

We filmed the first half in London, which was calm, but then we started filming in Wales and the weather really felt like winter. It was hard to film in, but it helped me to get into character.

It was crazy to win... and important. The film is based on a true story, so it was very important for Ukraine so people could remember and support Ukraine. I'm proud of myself, but as a Ukrainian, it was scary; I felt as though I was really there.

Now, I'm focusing on music, I write music and play guitar, bass, drums, and piano. I can't really tell what's next for me in terms of acting; all I know is that one day I'm going to win an Oscar!"

"

F1 MOTORSPORT UK

YEAR 10 STUDENTS SPENT A DAY AT WILLIAMS RACING F1 EXPERIENCE CENTRE FOR A STEM AND CAREERS DAY.



Our ongoing partnership with Motorsport UK continues to open exciting doors for our students, and our recent visit to the Williams Racing F1 Experience Centre was no exception. This trip, part of Motorsport UK's outreach programme, was designed to introduce young people to the world of motor racing and highlight the vast range of STEM career opportunities within the motorsport industry.

A group of students from Years 10, 12, and 13 set off bright and early for Oxfordshire for a day of hands-on learning, eye-opening experiences, and an inside look at one of the most successful teams in Formula 1 history.

One of the highlights of the visit was a guided tour of the Williams F1 Museum, where students explored the legendary cars that have secured 114 race victories and 16 World Championships over nearly five decades. The museum was a treasure trove of motorsport history, featuring race suits, helmets, and other memorabilia worn by some of the sport's most iconic drivers.

For many, this was the most memorable part of the trip. As Asya shared, "The tour was the best part of the trip. Our guide even let me sit in Ayrton Senna's car and spoke about the lack of women historically involved in e-racing. It was inspiring to hear how the industry is changing to become more inclusive."

Students also had the chance to step into the shoes of engineers. In small groups, they worked on a challenging and engaging engineering task to determine the best material for an F1 car's nose cone. By testing impact resistance and analysing crash data, they saw first-hand how STEM skills are essential in designing and improving race cars. This activity also connected to the growing field of e-racing, where cutting-edge engineering and technology are revolutionising motorsport.

This trip was about more than the thrill of Formula 1—it was an opportunity to break down barriers and ignite interest in future careers across motorsport, from engineering and aerodynamics to data analysis and race strategy. We hope it sparked new ambitions and excitement among our students.

Our guide even let me sit in Ayrton Senna's car.

RED NOSE DAY

THIS TERM'S CHARITY FOCUS WAS COMIC RELIEF, A CHARITY THAT TACKLES POVERTY, INEQUALITY, AND SOCIAL INJUSTICE.



Red Nose Day 2025 was a fantastic success, with students getting involved in a variety of fun activities to help raise money for a great cause. Thanks to everyone's generosity and enthusiasm, we managed to raise an amazing £356.73! One of the highlights was the "Guess the Weight of the Jar of Sweets" competition, which had lots of students taking part. A huge congratulations to Asser (7K), who

had the closest answer and took home the sweet-filled prize! We also had a chocolate hamper raffle, which proved to be very popular. Well, done to Adem (7A) for winning the hamper through his lucky raffle ticket! It was brilliant to see so many students getting involved, having fun, and supporting such an important cause. A massive thank you to everyone who donated and took part—your contributions have made a real difference!





CHARIT

TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

OUTWARD BOUND

YEAR 9 STUDENTS TRAVELLED TO THE LAKE DISTRICT FOR A WEEK OF CHALLENGING TEAMBUILDING ACTIVITIES IN A STUNNING ENVIRONMENT.



In March, Year 9 students embarked on an unforgettable residential trip with Outward Bound in the Lake District.

Over the course of five days in January, students were challenged to push their boundaries through activities such as hiking, gorge walking, abseiling, and canoeing. The experience was not only physically demanding but also an incredible opportunity for students to develop resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills in a breathtaking natural environment.

Many students stepped outside their comfort zones, built stronger peer relationships, and discovered new levels of self-confidence. The trip also provided a valuable platform for personal reflection and growth, reinforcing the school's ethos of perseverance and ambition.

Staff were proud to see how well the group represented Hammersmith

Academy, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and respect. We look forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future, continuing to build students' character beyond the classroom.

Charlie said of his experience, "The Outward Bound Residential was a really fun experience. It was a great chance to connect with people that you don't usually speak to and work together as a team to keep each other safe. The most memorable experience on the trip was when we went waterfall climbing. We all had to help each other climb through the waterfall one by one to get the top where we were able to take pictures and enjoy the beautiful view, before helping each other down again."





LAKE DISTRICT

OMAR (YEAR 8) REPORTS ON AN EXCITING WEEK OF SELF DISCOVERY WITH 11 OTHER STUDENTS.

Twelve students, along with Mr Barlow and Ms Carrena, set off on a five-day Outward Bound adventure in the Lake District. We left early to beat London's rush hour and the sevenhour journey took us from city streets to breathtaking countryside.

On arrival, we faced a traditional 'jog and dip'—a freezing plunge into Ullswater Lake! This set the tone for a week of challenges and growth.

Day two involved gorge walking, scrambling up waterfalls, and navigating a blindfolded Nightline obstacle course which tested our teamwork and communication skills.

Wednesday brought rock scrambling and climbing, with helmets and ropes aiding our ascent. The stunning views made the tough climb worthwhile.

Thursday's mountain hike offered encounters with wildlife and sweeping lake views. A lost boot in a muddy bog provided some laughter. That evening, we enjoyed fireside hot chocolate and marshmallows while



reflecting on resilience, leadership, and confidence.

Friday wrapped up with team games before heading home. With cosy dorms, tasty food (especially the flapjacks!), and supportive instructors, the experience was unforgettable.

For anyone considering it—whether in the Lake District or Wales—it's highly recommended. As one student put it, "I hadn't done anything like this before, and I absolutely loved it!"

GOLDEN TICKETS!

Five Hammersmith Academy students have been awarded Golden Tickets by Outward Bound. The Golden Ticket provides them with the opportunity to choose and attend a Summer Adventure in 2025, with guaranteed funding of 80% towards the total cost. Winners were selected based on teacher and instructor feedback, as well as demonstrating potential and dedication during their Outward Bound trip to the Lake District in January.

This is a fantastic opportunity for them to discover more of their potential over the summer on an expedition of their choice in the UK. We look forward to hearing how they get on. ■



EVENTS

WORLD BOOK DAY: STUDENT AUTHORS

LIBRARIAN, MS HARNEY TAKES US THROUGH THE LITERARY FESTIVITIES THAT MARKED WORLD BOOK DAY 2025.



This World Book Day the library played host to a special author talk and book signing event, featuring two of the Academy's very own students! Rahkarah and Naylah unveiled their debut novel, *Live and Learn*. The book, sponsored by the Mark Evison Foundation, captivated the reader with its gripping storyline and hard-hitting themes.

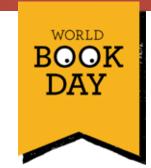
During the talk, both Rahkarah and Naylah shared their thoughts on the creative process, detailing the inspiration behind the narrative and the development of its characters and stories. They also talked about the challenges of working together as authors and their plans to possibly write more novels in the future.

Throughout the day, we had many book related activities for students to engage with. Audio books had been recorded by several teachers, and students were able to listen to these recordings during Tutor Time. The most popular audio book was 1984 read by none other than Mr Kynaston.

Many of our students and staff took the chance to dress as their most loved characters such as Percy Jackson, Harry Potter and even Alvin and the Chipmunks!

Staff got involved dressing up as characters from Animal Farm, Red Riding Hood, The Big Bad Wolf, and The Axe-wielding Huntsman. A photo booth was set up in the Library so students could have a memento from the day with props and extra costumes available. This was a popular activity for the whole school, with everyone from Year 7 to Sixth Form taking part.

It was fantastic to see everyone's imagination come to life and all the ways in which literature has power to inspire us. ■



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CELEBRATING CULTURE

SIXTH FORM STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE CULTURE FROM ACROSS EUROPE, THE AMERICAS, AFRICA, AND ASIA.

Our Sixth Form recently came alive with color and culture as students and staff took part in Culture Day, a special event celebrating the diverse backgrounds that make up our school community.

Students proudly dressed in traditional attire representing their heritage, showcasing nationalities from Europe, North and South America, Africa, and Asia. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to engage in meaningful conversations, learning more about different traditions, histories, and customs.

Staff also joined in the celebration, making the event even more inclusive. The day became a great talking point, sparking curiosity and encouraging students to ask questions about different cultures,



fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for each other's backgrounds.

Culture Day was not only a chance to showcase diversity but also to

strengthen our community spirit. It reminded us all of the importance of embracing and respecting different cultures—a value that makes our school so special!

IFTAR NIGHT

To mark the holy month of Ramadan, Sixth Form students organised boys and girls Iftar meals at the Academy.

Organisers wanted to bring the staff and students together by inviting all members of the community, regardless of faith to come together to share food, take part in fun quizzes and invite staff and students to learn more about what their religious beliefs mean to them.

A sense of competition set in between the boys and girls as to who would have the best decorated event and who had the best food!

Well done to the student organisers for putting on the events ■



APPRENTICESHIP WEEK



Apprenticeships are becoming an increasingly popular option for our students, offering a hands-on way to build skills while earning a reputable qualification. This year, we've seen more interest than ever, with 18 Year 13 students applying for apprenticeships in areas such as Law, Cyber Security, Engineering, and Marketing. Many are realising that apprenticeships offer the same challenges and rewards as university, but with the added benefit of workplace experience.

At Hammersmith Academy, we want to make sure all students know about the different routes available to them. From 3rd–14th February, we celebrated an especially extended National Apprenticeship Week by inviting inspiring guest speakers to share their experiences. Each year group had the chance to meet an apprentice, hear about their job, and learn how they got there.

Our Sixth Form students heard from Raju Ahmed, Social Value Assistant at Higgins, and Elamaran Aravinthan, a Global Banking Apprentice at BNP Paribas. Elamaran also founded *Project GOOD*, which helps young people find university programmes, internships, and work experience across different industries.

Year 11 students met HA alumnus Naeem Malek, who is now a Civil **Engineering Degree Apprentice at** Graham Construction. Year 10 heard from another of our successful alumni Samia Hoque, Technology Delivery Associate at Accenture, while Year 9 met impressive Motorsport UK apprentices Jake Gold, who works in Finance, and Heather Blackwell, a Metrology Apprentice at Cosworth. Year 8 students were introduced to Vanessa Ampiah-Roberts, a PR & Communications Apprentice at local employers BBVS/HS2, and Year 7 got to hear from our very own Ms Ahluwalia, an HA intern who was previously an apprentice at the National Youth Theatre.

We were also thrilled to welcome experts from HDI Global, a leader in specialist insurance globally, and BlackRock, the world's largest asset management company. They shared advice on applying for their top apprenticeships and gave students valuable tips on standing out in applications.

The launch of a new apprenticeship support programme with our long-term partner the Construction Youth Trust was another reason for celebration. Designed to help Year 13 students applying for apprenticeships

in the built environment, the programme has given students the confidence and skills they need to succeed in competitive interviews.

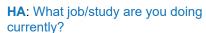
In March, we kept the momentum going by celebrating National Careers Week (3rd—7th March). We sent out a special news briefing to students and parents with information about apprenticeships, job market trends, and career planning. We also reminded students how to use Unifrog, a great tool for exploring career options, developing skills and finding work experience.

A huge thank you to all our guest speakers and volunteers who gave up their time to share their experiences. Their support helps our students see the wide range of opportunities available and feel more confident about their future. As apprenticeships continue to grow in popularity, we're proud to help students explore all the exciting options ahead of them.

- NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP - WEEK 2025

MEET THE ALUMNI





NS: I am currently studying for the Bar at BPP University, training to become a criminal barrister. My journey began at SOAS University, where I earned a Bachelor of Law. I am passionate about community. I volunteer at Citizens Advice Hammersmith and Fulham, advising clients on housing, benefits, and employment issues. I also volunteer with Vocalise, a student-led programme teaching debating to prisoners.

HA: What does a typical day at work/ study entail?

NS: My week is a whirlwind of university, hands-on advocacy training, and real-world legal exposure. At university, I dive into Civil and Criminal Litigation, where I'm constantly refining my knowledge and skills. But it doesn't stop there - advocacy is at the heart of my training, and I'm always in the thick of it, whether that's practising examination-in-chief or cross-examination in class or competing in mooting competitions at Lincoln's Inn. As a candidate at Bridging the Bar Academy, I gain invaluable insights

and mentoring from top barristers while networking with chambers. Beyond the classroom, I make it a point to sit in Crown Courts and the Old Bailey, observing high-profile cases, which fuels my passion and gives me a firsthand look at the realities of courtroom action.

HA: What do you enjoy most about it?

NS: I thrive under pressure, and the Bar is the perfect place for that. It's full of challenges that push me to grow. There's always something new, whether it's staying on top of recent case law or soaking in the experience of watching barristers in action.

HA: Greatest achievement so far?

NS: One of my proudest achievements is the three-week expedition to the Amazon Rainforest in Peru with the British Exploring Society - an experience made possible by HA. I am incredibly grateful for the support I received, not just in securing this opportunity but also in the excitement of fundraising for it. The expedition pushed me beyond my comfort zone, teaching me resilience, adaptability, and teamwork in a truly breathtaking environment.



THE ACADEMIST INTERVIEWS, NOOR SAEED (HA 2013-2019) AS SHE CONTINUES HER LAW CAREER.

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

NS: The constant support from teachers and Career Coordinators made a huge difference. There were always opportunities to get involved, and the encouragement I received pushed me to aim higher. I was the captain of the rugby team, participated in an outward-bound programme, and was selected to visit Auschwitz for a history project. I was also awarded £500 for being the most improved student from school to Sixth Form. HA always found ways to make students feel included and supported.

HA: What advice would you give to current HA students?

NS: Take advantage of every extracurricular opportunity the HA provides. These experiences shape you in ways you may not realise at the time. I still talk about my Peruvian expedition in pupillage interviews, years later. Your teachers have a wealth of experience and are there to help you, so don't be afraid to ask for support. Stay connected with HA even after you leave. It is more than just a school; it is a second home that has helped shape you.

PANISH

A TASTE OF SPAIN



This term our A-Level Spanish students had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Spanish culture during a visit to local Spanish restaurant, Tapelia in Ealing.

This outing allowed students to practice their speaking skills in a real-world setting while enjoying traditional Spanish dishes such as tortilla, churros (sweet fritters), and albóndigas (Spanish meatballs). It was a fantastic chance for them to expand their vocabulary, enhance their language fluency, and

experience the flavours of Spain firsthand.

Year 13 students, Lily and Azzurra said of the experience, "We went to a restaurant and the food was absolutely delicious.

During the meal we discussed lots of topics in Spanish and it was a nice way to bond with our classmates. The 'churros' and 'croquetas' were our favourite plates!"

We are looking forward to bringing more Spanish cultural experiences to our students.

HEAD OF MFL, MS
DE LA TORRE TOOK
SIXTH FORM SPANISH
STUDENTS ON A
FLAVOURFUL TRIP.

DEBATIENDO

The Spanish Department is incredibly proud of Year 12 students Sean and Leyla, who recently participated in a prestigious Spanish debating competition in London.

Representing Hammersmith
Academy as the only state school,
Leyla and Sean truly made us
proud! They debated on a range of
topics, including artificial intelligence,
tourism, and the monarchy – all
in Spanish! It was a fantastic
experience, and it was inspiring
to see the students collaborate as
a team while honing their public
speaking skills.



HOUSE COMPETITION: SPELLING BEE

MS JACKSON, HOUSE CO-ORDINATOR FILLS US IN ON THE HOUSE COMPETITION THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE THIS TERM.



This term has been a really busy one for the House Competition, with lots of exciting events bringing everyone together.

One of the highlights was the Spelling Bee House Competition, which was a huge success. Students from Years 7 to 10 took part, and it was great to see so many putting their literacy skills to the test and getting involved and giving it their best shot. The competition was tough, with some really tricky words to spell, but everyone showed amazing effort and determination.

A massive congratulations to Naya (8L), who was crowned the overall Spelling Bee Winner for 2025! She did an incredible job under pressure and really deserved the win. A big well done to everyone who took part—you should all be really proud of yourselves.

Looking ahead to next term, there's so much to look forward to in the House Competition. We have some departmental competitions coming up, with Drama, English, and Media all getting involved. These events will be a great chance for students to showcase their talents and earn valuable points for their houses. As we wrap up this term, the final House Points standings are in:

- Lovelace 3069 points
- Khan 3019 points
- Johnson 2960 points
- McQueen 2939 points
- Attenborough 2922 points

Well done to Lovelace for finishing in first place this term, and a huge congratulations to everyone for earning points through competitions, effort, and participation. Next term is shaping up to be even bigger and better—let's see who can climb the leaderboard!

1 st	Lovelace House 3069 points
2 nd	Khan House 3019 points
3 rd	Johnson House 2960 points
4 th	McQueen House 2939 points
5 th	Attenborough House 2922 points

JUNIOR LEADERS

MS HUNTLEY, JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM COORDINATOR UPDATES US ON A BUSY TERM FOR THE ACADEMY'S JLT TEAMS.



Community

This term the JLT Community group visited Elgin Resource Centre.
This was a part of our partnership with *Timegivers*, an organisation that connects student vonlunteers with the local community. Students enjoyed chatting to residents and learning about their lives and helping decorate Shamrocks for St Patrick's Day. The residents are excited for students to come back and visit again soon!

Community and Global Citizens

Through our partnership with Timegivers all 22 of our Year 7 and 8 students participated in a workshop run by *Timegivers* and the *Starlight Foundation*. Students learnt about *Starlight Foundation* and how they help sick children to overcome fears around hospitals through play specialists. They also learnt about how they provide games and materials to keep students engaged and happy while undergoing treatments.

As a part of this workshop students were able to make bunting to

decorate Chelsea and Westminster hospital. Students made encouraging bunting with bright messages which will be hung around the hospital. This will be used to brighten up the hospital wards. Students also made some games including word searches, crosswords and drawings which will be made into a booklet that will be given to sick children.

Global Citizens Food Bank

This term, the JLT Global Citizens group focused on making a meaningful contribution to the local Hammersmith & Fulham Food Bank by encouraging students to donate essential items. The goal was for students to collect as many donations as possible, within their tutor group. The competition featured a Bingo activity, where students were tasked with gathering specific items to complete their cards. The JLT team visited each tutor group to collect the donations, and next week, all items will be delivered to the food bank. Once the donations arrive at the warehouse, they will be weighed, and an update will be provided, which will be shared with pupils. This initiative not only supported those

in need but also fostered a sense of community and responsibility, with students coming together to make a real impact.

Global Citizens IWD

To mark International Women's Day, the Global Citizens group led the creation of an engaging activity for tutor time. Students researched inspirational women from history, current events, or their own lives, and then shared their findings with their peers. This activity sparked meaningful discussions about who these women were, why they were chosen, and the impact they've had on society. The aim was not only to celebrate women's achievements but also to encourage open conversations within tutor groups. These discussions helped students reflect on the diverse ways women have influenced and shaped the world. It raised awareness, promoted critical thinking about gender equality, and empowered students to engage with these important topics.

A WELLCOME VISIT



As part of their science curriculum, a select group of Year 10 students from had the opportunity to visit the Wellcome Collection for a specially curated exhibition focused on HIV/ AIDS, its history, and its impact on the LGBTQIA+ and minority communities. This unique experience aimed to deepen students' understanding of public health and the ongoing challenges related to sexual health.

The Wellcome Collection, a leading organisation in promoting access to health education, showcased the historical and modern-day aspects of HIV/AIDS, highlighting the evolution of public health campaigns and the stigma surrounding sexual health. The exhibition provided a comprehensive exploration of HIV transmission, testing, and treatment, with an emphasis on breaking taboos surrounding intimate health issues.

Led by a public health specialist, the visit encouraged active engagement and learning, allowing students to ask questions directly with health experts and professionals.

The group also participated in a hands-on workshop, where they were tasked with designing their own

public safety campaign, putting their newfound knowledge into practice to get their message across.

Year 10 student, Manvi, shared her thoughts on the trip: "During our trip, we explored fascinating scientific discoveries that shed light on the complexities of human sexuality. We visited an interactive exhibit that showcased the evolutionary factors influencing sexual behaviours across different people. The workshop we attended emphasised the importance of communication in sexual health, which was both enlightening and thought-provoking. Overall, our trip was a unique blend of education and exploration, offering insights into the intersection of science and sexual behaviours."

The Wellcome Collection's exhibition really showed the importance of education in promoting safe practices, reducing stigma, and encouraging open conversations about sexual health.

YEAR 10 STUDENT,
MANVI EXPLAINS
WHAT SHE LEARNT
ON A TRIP TO
THE WELLCOME
COLLECTION.

The workshop we attended emphasised the importance of communication in sexual health.

TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

LEGO LEAGUE



FIRST® LEGO® League is a global science and technology competition that brings together student teams to explore and solve real-world issues while developing essential skills for their future careers.

In this challenge, students collaborate to investigate a given topic and design, build, and programme an autonomous LEGO® robot to complete a series of missions.

This season's "Submerged" theme tasked teams with tackling underwater challenges, focusing on deep-sea exploration. The tournament, held at Bechtel Group in Chiswick, featured robot games and presentations, where teams showcased their robots

and projects to a panel of engineering professionals.

Although the team didn't retain their 2024 title in the robot game, their design, proposal, and presentation of mini 'bots'—a solution for visualising and collecting deep-sea artefacts—impressed the judges. The judges praised the team for their outstanding scientific knowledge and application, so much so they were awarded the Judges' Award.

We are very proud of the Hammersmith Academy team, and we wish the regional winners, Ada Lovelace C of E School all the best at the National Finals! ■

STEM COORDINATOR
AND HEAD OF
FACULTY, MS FERRELL
REPORTS FROM
THE LEGO LEAGUE
COMPETITION.





THE ARTS

ALL THINGS ART!

HEAD OF ART & PHOTOGRAPHY, MS SAMUELS TAKES A LOOK BACK AT THE MANY ARTISTIC EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS THIS TERM AND WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE SUMMER.



It's been a fantastic term in the Art Department, packed with exciting opportunities for students to develop their creativity, explore new ideas, and take inspiration from the world around them. From competitions and gallery visits to guest talks and creative programmes, here's a look at what we've been up to!

HA Big Draw

One of the highlights of the term was the HA Big Draw, a thrilling two-hour still-life drawing competition where students competed for their House. Judged by our talented Year 12 Art students, the competition showcased an exceptionally high standard of work, making it almost impossible to choose a winner. As Year 12 judge Frida put it, "The standard is just too high—it's truly impossible to pick just one! Even choosing ten winners would be a challenge!"

After much deliberation, the judges couldn't settle on just one winner—so congratulations to Emilia and Alissia in Year 8, who were both awarded the top prize! A huge well done to all students who took part, pushing their creative boundaries and producing outstanding artwork.

Year 9 Tate Modern Trip

On Monday 17th March, 45 of our Year 9 students had an inspiring visit to the Tate Modern. For many, it was their first time at the gallery, and they were amazed by both the scale of the building and variety of artwork on display.

Students explored thought-provoking installations, including Meschac Gaba's Art and Religion Room, which blends African and Western cultural influences to challenge traditional museum displays, and Nalini Malani's *In Search of Vanished Blood*, a powerful multimedia installation inspired by Greek and Hindu mythologies, exploring themes of violence and oppression.

Throughout the trip, students engaged in a range of activities, from sketching and creative challenges to an art-themed treasure hunt. They returned to school inspired, having represented the Academy brilliantly.

Design Museum Talk

We were delighted to welcome the Design Museum to launch the Ardagh Young Creatives programme with our Year 9 and 10 students. This exciting programme introduces young people to design processes and methods through hands-on workshops, mentorship, and collaboration. There's a real buzz around the programme, and we look forward to seeing what our students create!

UAL Talk

We also welcomed representatives from the University of the Arts London (UAL) to speak with Year 12 Art and Photography students. They introduced the diverse university courses available at UAL and launched their Spring and Summer School 2025 programme. The talk left students feeling inspired about their next steps, opening their eyes to the many creative pathways ahead.

Looking Ahead...

It's been a brilliant term, but there's more to come next term! We're looking forward to our end-of-year exhibitions, a weekend at the Design Museum, more gallery trips, and even more exciting opportunities for our students to explore, create, and showcase their talent. Watch this space!

TRADING DAY

YEAR 12 STUDENT, LEYLA TELLS US ABOUT A FUN AND INFORMATIVE LEARNING EVENT AT ST PAUL'S SCHOOL.



The Economics Trading Day at St. Paul's School was an engaging, interactive activity where groups formed from different schools, allowing us to mingle and collaborate. I found this experience especially beneficial, as it gave us the chance to connect with students from various schools, discuss our academic progress, and learn about each other's hopes and aspirations.

From my perspective, the most rewarding part of the day was the opportunity to network and combining hard work and teamwork to win the activity. The activity itself was structured around bankers, miners, and manufacturers, with the goal of having the most cash at the end of all the rounds through giving out loans and buying or selling a 'rare' metal. I'm proud to say that my team won the bankers group!

Following the activity, we had a very insightful Q&A session with two Year 13 students who shared their experiences of last year and the steps they took to advance academically. One student emphasised the importance of finding work experience, whether paid or unpaid. Another suggested entering essay competitions and starting personal statements during the summer to avoid the rush.

The day concluded with a lecture from an economist and the chance to ask him questions about the UK's economy. Hearing his professional opinion on current economic issues was fascinating as well as insightful.

Overall, it was a wonderful experience. I was able to socialise with students from other schools, gain confidence in planning my next steps, and deepen my understanding of economics and its real-world applications.



The Livery Entrepreneurs Challenge is a new enterprise competition for Livery schools, in collaboration between The Company of

Entrepreneurs and The Worshipful Company of Haberdashers.

Two HA Year 12 students were invited to the event and were

their independent learning skills and had direct contact with entrepreneurs and businesspeople, making the experience incredibly valuable.

& COMPUTER SCIENCE

WCIT SPONSORS



DR CURTIS AND MR RUSSEA GIVE US AN OVERVIEW OF TWO WCIT VISITS THIS TERM.



WCIT Sixth Form Dinner

This term Sixth Formers attended the prestigious annual WCIT Sixth Form Dinner. This event sees students present on the latest issues in technology to industry professionals and members of the Worshipful Company of Technologists, one of the Academy's sponsors.

The topic of discussion was
"The Potential Benefits of Al in
Cybersecurity Measures in Protecting
Personal Data." Our students
confidently explored how Al-driven
security solutions can strengthen
personal data protection through
real-time threat detection, anomaly
detection, and automated response
mechanisms.

This led to discssions with IT professionals into current cybersecurity challenges and the role of AI in mitigating risks posed by evolving cyber threats.

Over dinner, students had time to network with industry experts and learn about emerging cybersecurity technology and developments. The experience broadened their understanding and also gave them some career inspiration and a practical outlook on STEM professions.

The dinner was a great way to prepare students for life beyond the Academy with ideas for potential STEM and IT careers. This is especially so in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape.

We hope it inspired them to explore the opportunities presented to them.

Year 8 – A Glimpse into the IT Industry

A select group of Year 8 students visited the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists Hall in the City of London for an inspiring day exploring careers in the IT industry. The visit offered students the chance to learn about the ever-evolving tech sector and meet professionals from a range of digital backgrounds.

After a series of talks and activities, students enjoyed a formal lunch and networking session alongside WCIT members. During the meal, Adelice (Year 8), confidently stood up to thank the Master of the WCIT on behalf of her peers. Her speech was warmly received, and the President expressed how impressed he was by her confidence.

It was a wonderful experience for all involved, and we're incredibly proud of how our students represented the school throughout the day. ■

SUSTAINABILITY

THE ACADEMIST CAUGHT UP WITH MS BAKER TO HEAR ABOUT ALL THE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES THAT HAVE TAKE PLACE THIS TERM TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY A GREENER PLACE.



The student sustainability team has been working hard on several exciting projects aimed at making our school more environmentally friendly. One of the key initiatives has been the litter-picking competitions between Year 7 and Year 8. Over the term, Year 7 students have collected winning tutor group, 7 Attenborough

between Year 7 and Year 8. Over the term, Year 7 students have collected an impressive 16.3kg of litter, contributing significantly to keeping our school grounds clean. Our winning tutor group, 7 Attenborough managed to collect 6kg of litter!

The Year 8 competition has just begun, and we look forward to seein how much they can collect to further reduce waste, encourage good habit and educate on the harms of litter. It addition to this, new food bins have been placed in the canteen to help reduce food waste going to landfill. These bins will ensure that leftover food can be composted or recycled, making a big difference in our waste management system. Not only does this help reduce our environmental footprint, but it also promotes a more begun, and we look forward to seeing how much they can collect to further reduce waste, encourage good habits and educate on the harms of litter. In food can be composted or recycled, making a big difference in our waste management system. Not only does this help reduce our environmental footprint, but it also promotes a more sustainable approach to how we manage food waste.

New stickers have been placed on bins around the Academy to clearly mark which bins are for recycling and which are for general waste. This small but important change will help everyone to easily identify where to dispose of different types of waste, encouraging better recycling practices. Furthermore, the sustainability team has been working with tutor groups to conduct sessions

on the importance of recycling. These sessions have focused on educating students about what can and cannot go into the recycling bins, as well as the environmental benefits of recycling properly. We hope to create lifelong habits that will benefit both the school and the wider community. Together, these initiatives are making our school a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable place to be!



SESSION 3



SESSION 3
COORDINATORS,
MS DODD AND MS
HENDRA, UPDATE
US ON ALL THE
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES NEWS
THIS TERM.

Session 3 Round-Up

It's been another exciting term of extracurricular activities at HA, with students showcasing their talents, determination, and creativity across a wide range of clubs and events. From show-stopping performances to nailbiting sporting comebacks, here are some of the highlights from Session 3 this term.

Debate Club

Over in the English corridor, students in Ms Dodd's Debate Club have been tackling challenging and thought-provoking topics. This term, they held a formal debate on the motion: "This House believes Yondr pouches should be compulsory in all schools." A contentious subject indeed, sparking lively discussion!

Creative Spaces & Clubs

The Open Studio sessions, led by Ms Barkham and Ms Huntley, have continued to be a fantastic space for students to refine and showcase their artistic talents. Over in Board Games Club, Mr Montero has been overseeing some fiercely competitive Uno battles, with students eagerly strategising, bonding, and having fun. A brilliant way to unwind after school!

What's Coming Next?

With summer term approaching we're excited to introduce new clubs and opportunities to the Session 3 timetable.

Sports: As winter sports transition to summer, students will be able to take part in cricket. Meanwhile, Mr Russea, known for leading Chess Club, will be launching Climbing Club which will visit a local climbing wall each week, with a small subsidised fee—more details coming soon.

English Department: With the debating season coming to a close, we'll be launching a new Book Club. Open to students of all ages, this will be a student-led club, with the group deciding on books to read and discuss.

Cooking Club: Following feedback from our Session 3 student questionnaires, we're excited to announce the outdoor kitchen will open for a new Cooking Club!

If you're already loving your Session 3 activities—don't worry. Many of HA's most popular clubs will be continuing into the summer term. Keep an eye out in school and on the Session 3 website for updates to the timetable.

Watch this space—there's even more to come! ■

MUSIC MUSEUM



Year 9 music students with Ms Cantwell outside the Royal Albert Hall, opposite the Royal College of Music in South Kensington.

In March, the Music Department led a rewards trip for Year 9 students to Royal College of Music's Museum in South Kensington.

This special Music Rewards Trip was awarded to students who have

demonstrated outstanding dedication to the Music Department throughout the year.

During the visit, students embarked on a guided tour of the Royal College of Music's Museum of Instruments, where they explored a carefully curated selection of 56 fascinating instruments from the RCM's designated collection of 14,000 items. They learned about the earliest stringed keyboard instrument, examined the most recognized portraits of composer Joseph Haydn and famous castrato singer Farinelli, and discovered the evolution of instrumental music across centuries.

This trip was not only an educational experience but also an inspiring one. Walking through the halls of one of the world's most renowned music institutions, our students gained a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship, history, and significance of the instruments they play today.

A huge well done to all the students who earned their place on this trip through their commitment and passion for music. We hope this experience will continue to inspire them on their musical journey!

RCM SHOWCASE

Year 7 students were given a musical experience by talented students from the Royal College of Music (RCM). The event provided a unique opportunity for students to witness exceptional live performances while learning about the benefits of playing a musical instrument and the wider music industry.

During the visit, the RCM musicians performed on the violin and piano and showcased their vocal talents, treating our students to a diverse selection of pieces—from the delicate sounds of Debussy to the energy of jazz and modern pop hits. Not only did the performances captivate the audience, but they also sparked curiosity about the technicalities of each instrument, famous composers, and career opportunities in music.

Year 7 students found the experience engaging and inspiring. Khalid shared, "I found the whole experience extremely fun, and it taught me a lot



about different types of instruments, the Royal College of Music, and possible music careers. The musicians were very talented and overall, it was a great experience!"

Zeliha was particularly moved by the violin performance, saying, "I found it

inspiring and it encouraged me to play the violin again."

A huge thank you to the Royal College of Music for bringing this incredible opportunity to our students. We hope to welcome RCM musicians back again in the future for more inspiring performances!

MUSIC

SPRING CONCERT

The Spring Music Concert took place on Wednesday 2nd April in the theatre. We had fantastic soloists perform from Year 7 up to Year 12. They performed entertaining pieces, from Mozart to 'The Muppets' theme tune to 'La La Land'. There were exciting performances from Year 9 band, Rock band and the choir sang pop and musical theatre songs. It was a lovely evening showcasing musical talent and it was wonderful to see all students supporting each other. Thank to you all parents for their continued support and we look forward to welcoming you to our Summer Music Concert.



WOMEN'S DAY



Teachers marked International Women's Day with assemblies on their influential female figures. (I-r) Ms Appadoo, Ms Samuels, Ms Harney, Ms Jackson, Ms Brooke and Ms Sangathakumaran.

International Women's Day (IWD) is always a time for celebration, and this year, it was a week filled with meaningful events, discussions, and reflections. From assemblies to student-led activities, the school came together to honour the achievements of women and acknowledge the work that still needs to be done.

Throughout the week, a group of staff led assemblies, each sharing stories of an inspirational woman in their lives. From relatives and close friends to historical figures and trailblazers in their subject areas, these talks showcased the diverse impact of women—whether they

changed the world or simply changed one person's world. Students also had the chance to share their own inspirational women, creating a space for reflection, appreciation, and admiration.

The JLT played a key role in the week's activities, creating a tutor time session where students shared stories of influential women in their own lives. Meanwhile, Ms Nair produced a short film, 'Equality in Action – Voices from Our School', in which male staff members reflected on what feminism means to them and why gender equality matters to everyone.

As part of IWD, a group of teachers took a closer look at curriculum representation, highlighting key female figures across different subject areas. Representation in education is powerful—seeing diverse and influential women in different fields inspires young people, challenges stereotypes, and shapes aspirations. By continuing to reflect on and enhance representation, we ensure that all students feel seen and empowered in their learning. In the library, Ms Harney created fantastic displays to celebrate women's achievements and encourage further reading and discussion.

While IWD is a time of celebration, it is also a time for reflection. This year, the theme was 'Unfinished Work', acknowledging that while progress has been made, true equality is still a work in progress. Laws may promise equality, but in everyday life, women and girls still face inequality, harassment, unfair treatment, and barriers that men often don't see or experience. Recognising this is essential, as it reminds us that the fight for gender equality is not over.

IWD 2025 at HA was a huge success, sparking insightful discussions, powerful reflections, and a renewed commitment to equality. Watch this space—our work doesn't stop here!

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.



Year 10 Boys Football

A solid 5-4 win for the Year 10 boys over Phoenix Academy! After being 3-1 down at halftime, the boys showed true resilience and refused to give up—an admirable effort. With a brilliant second half, they outclassed their opponents. Andre's hat trick, a stunning screamer from Malakhi, and a goal from Mohamed A sealed the victory, though it could've been even more. Shoutouts to Jacque, who was an absolute rock at the back, Khyan,

the midfield maestro, and Lucas, who made a real impact when he came on. Notable mentions to Endrit, Ahmed, Wassim and Musab who were nonstop grafting till the end. All the boys were incredible, and they truly deserve to celebrate!

Year 9 & 10 Girls Football

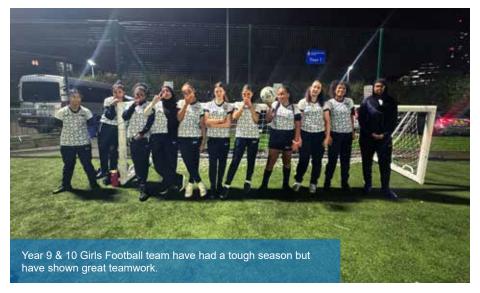
This season has been a challenging one for our Year 9 & 10 girls' teams, but despite the tough competition, they have shown incredible resilience

and commitment throughout. No matter the result, the girls have given their all in every game, demonstrating great teamwork and determination. A huge thank you to all the players for their dedication and positive attitude, even when faced with challenges.

A special mention to our Year 9 team: Hannah, Bess, Ruby, Haneen, Annalise, Alyssa, Milan and Rahma, who have worked hard this season, showing super effort and teamwork. And to our Year 10 players: Asia, Souraya, Mariam, and Amina, who have led by example with their commitment and fighting spirit.

Year 7 & 8 Girls Football

The Year 7 and 8 girls' football team had a tough start to the season, with losses to BDA, KAA, and St Thomas More. However, the girls quickly found their rhythm and started to come together as a team. They kept their tradition alive by beating Phoenix Academy, with impressive goals from Nagwa (Year 7), Maryam (Year 8), and Lily (Year 8). The match against WLFS was a real turning point. Despite being 2-0 down at halftime, the team fought



back in the second half, with Lily scoring early on and Efrata scoring a stunning long-range goal that hit the bottom left post and went in, ending the game in a 2-2 draw.

The final match of the season against Chelsea Academy showed the girls' determination at its best. Playing with just 7 players against Chelsea full team of 9, the team earned a well-deserved 1-1 draw.

It was a season full of grit, hard work, and resilience, as the girls' growth and determination were evident in every match, setting them up for even greater success in the future and showing just how far they've come as a team.

Well done to the whole team: Year 7s - Nagwa, Hibba, Sophia, Ruby, Mylee.

Year 8s - Maryam, Lily, Lyubica, Efrata, Rielle, Ayat, Seada, Nour.

Sixth Form Boys Football

It has been an outstanding season for the U18s, with their unbeaten record still intact! Following comprehensive victories over Burlington Danes Academy (BDA), West London Free School (WLFS) and Holland Park, HA played against Fulham Boys, who also had an unbeaten record going into the game.

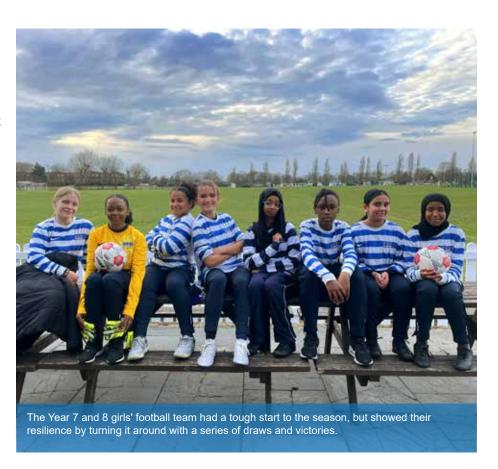
HA started the better of the two sides, spurning two great chances through Suhaib and Omar, who were both denied by some outstanding goalkeeping from the FBS keeper, who an excellent game.

Going into the second half 0-0, substitute Walaa got onto the end of an Abdelbasset cross to head the ball into the corner to give HA a deserved 1-0 lead. However, just ten minutes later, HA conceded a free-kick, and from around 35-yards, it nestled into the top corner to tie the game.

Abdelbasset continued to grow into the game, and whipped in another wicked cross, only for Musab to direct his effort into the grateful arms of the FBS goalkeeper. Given this result, it now seems likely that HA will face FBS in the QPR League finals, where one of the unbeaten records will go!

Follow Sports on Instagram

@ @hasport1



Sportswoman of the Term

Matylda has been named Sportswoman of the Term in recognition of her achievements and dedication to volleyball. Representing Richmond Volleyball Club in both the U15 and U16 Surrey League, Matylda has consistently demonstrated exceptional skill, teamwork, and determination on the court. Her talent has not gone unnoticed, earning her a place on the London squad, where she continues to train and compete at an elite level, refining her technique and deepening her understanding of the game.

Matylda's passion for sport extends well beyond club competitions. At school, she has excelled in KS3 PE, where her leadership, enthusiasm, and athletic ability have made a lasting impression on staff and peers alike. She sets a high standard and serves as a role model for her fellow students.

Sportsman of the Term

Dior has been awarded Sportsman of the Term in recognition of his dedication, talent, and outstanding performances in football. Dior has been an ever-present member of the Year 7/8 football team, playing a vital role in both squads throughout the season. His natural ability, sharp game sense, and relentless work ethic have made him a kev player, consistently delivering exceptional performances and scoring crucial goals that have helped lead the team to success.

However, it's not just his athletic skill that sets him apart. Off the pitch, he has shown personal growth, becoming a role model for his peers through his maturity, discipline, and positive attitude. His sportsmanship and teamwork reflect the values we strive to instil in all our students.

SPORTS

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