

HAMMERSMITH

Academy



THE ACADEMIST

HAMMERSMITH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

SPRING TERM 2026 EDITION

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A WORD FROM OUR HEADTEACHER



This term has once again highlighted what makes Hammersmith Academy such a dynamic and involving place to learn. We are constantly seeking new opportunities and experiences that enrich our students' education and prepare them for success beyond the classroom. At the heart of this is our commitment to ensuring that students are not only academically strong, but fully equipped to succeed in the real world.

Alongside the many established opportunities that continue to shape the Academy experience, such as **Outward Bound** residentials, House competitions, and charity fundraising, this term's programmes have built further on this foundation. Initiatives such as **Young Enterprise** and our **Alumni Careers Breakfasts** are already having a significant impact, giving students direct insight into the world of work and helping them to develop confidence and ambition.

We have also strengthened our **partnerships with St Paul's School and St Paul's Girls' School**, continuing to build on existing collaborations. Events such as the **Economics Trading Day** and **Game Jam** have brought students together to tackle real challenges and apply their knowledge in engaging environments.

At the same time, our focus on academic excellence remains as strong as ever. We are proud to have received national recognition through **SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards**, reflecting the dedication of our staff, the commitment of our students, and the strength of our community.

Beyond the classroom, students have continued to engage deeply with their subjects, from bringing Shakespeare to life through performance to exploring language and culture through our growing Spanish programme.

It has also been particularly rewarding to see the continued success of our alumni, who remain an important source of inspiration for current students.

As ever, this has been a busy and productive term, and I would like to thank our staff, students, families, and partners for their continued support.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter and the opportunity it provides to celebrate the many achievements and experiences of our students this term. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Kynaston', written in a cursive style.

Mr Kynaston, Headteacher

GO WILDCATS!



The cast brings energy and precision to the stage during a lively performance from High School Musical Jr.

February saw the Academy come alive with energy and excitement as this year's school production, High School Musical Jr, took to the stage. Running over three nights in February, the show was a resounding success and a true celebration of student talent.

Set in the halls of East High, the story follows Troy Bolton and Gabriella Montez as they navigate friendships, expectations, and school life while daring to step outside their comfort zones. When the pair audition for the school musical, they challenge the established "status quo," encouraging others to break free from labels and discover their own talents.

The journey began back in September, when auditions created an immediate buzz across the Academy. With over 50 students involved across cast and crew, the production brought together talent from all year groups. Rehearsals took place twice a week, alongside additional sessions after school and at weekends, culminating in a fully realised production with costumes, lighting, and sound.

Audiences enjoyed lively performances, memorable songs, and impressive choreography

as students brought the story to life. Highlights included Start of Something New, Get'cha Head in the Game, Bop to the Top, Stick to the Status Quo, Breaking Free, and the finale We're All in This Together. Standout performances came from Adrianna as Troy Bolton, Milan as Gabriella Montez, Nicole as Sharpay Evans, Ilia as Ryan Evans, Rielle as Taylor McKessie, Samaa as Ms Darbus, Marko as Coach Bolton, and Charley Habel as Chad Danforth, alongside a strong supporting cast.

In addition to the evening performances, the Academy hosted two primary school matinees, welcoming over 500 pupils from nine local schools. These performances offered a valuable opportunity to share the production with younger audiences and celebrate the arts within the wider community.

The atmosphere across all performances was electric, with strong support from families, staff, and the local community. It was clear how much the cast had gained from the experience, both on and off the stage.

This production was made possible through the dedication of staff and the wider school community,

OUR FLAGSHIP DRAMA AND MUSICAL SHOWCASE BROUGHT THE ACADEMY TOGETHER FOR THREE UNFORGETTABLE NIGHTS OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR.

“Audiences were treated to lively performances, memorable songs, and impressive choreography.”



Adrianna (Year 8) as Troy Bolton with Milan (Year 10) as Gabriella Montez share a key moment on stage as the story of East High unfolds.



from rehearsals and set design to technical production. A special thank you goes to the families of our cast for their continued support throughout the rehearsal period and giving up their weekends to make it happen.

Finally, congratulations to Ms Williams, Ms Nair, and Ms Cantwell, along with the cast and crew, for bringing such an ambitious and joyful production to life. ■



Coach Bolton, played by Marko (Year 10) with the basketball team who are the central character, Troy Bolton's friends.

ADVENTURES ABOUND

FROM LAKES TO MOUNTAINS, STUDENTS ACROSS YEAR 8 AND YEAR 9 TOOK ON OUTDOOR CHALLENGES THAT BUILT RESILIENCE, TEAMWORK, AND CONFIDENCE.



Year 9 students trekked across the Lake District on their overnight expedition and putting their resilience to the test.

Year 9 Outward Bound, Lake District

In January, our Year 9 students took part in a residential at the Outward Bound Trust centre in Howtown, set on the shores of Ullswater in the Lake District. From the outset, they brought great energy and positivity, which carried through the week.

They took part in activities including gorge scrambling, rowing on Ullswater, mountain hikes, lake plunges, and team building challenges, showing determination, teamwork, and a willingness to push beyond their comfort zones.

A highlight was the overnight expedition, where students navigated the fells, carried their equipment, and worked together to overcome outdoor challenges. Despite demanding conditions, they showed resilience and supported one another throughout.

The spirit of the trip was excellent, with students fully embracing the

experience and building strong friendships. They were outstanding ambassadors for the Academy and should be proud of all they achieved.

A special thank you to Mr Young for organising the trip, as well as Mr Brewer and Ms Willmott for their support.



Students take on the challenge of gorge scrambling, working their way directly up a mountain stream while navigating rocks, water, and steep terrain as a team.

Year 8 Outward Bound, Wales

Three weeks later, our Year 8 students took part in a residential visit to Outward Bound Wales, enjoying activities designed to build confidence, teamwork, and resilience. Supported by instructor Paul Simmons, they were encouraged to challenge themselves throughout.

Activities included rock climbing, gorge scrambling, canoeing, and night time team challenges, all requiring collaboration, communication, and support.

A particular highlight was the climb up Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) in challenging conditions. Reaching the summit was a memorable achievement, made even more special by hearing local stories along the way.

Students demonstrated the Academy's 7R values, particularly resilience, responsibility, and respect. The experience helped build confidence, strengthen friendships, and develop skills that will stay with them beyond the classroom. ■

¡VIVA EL ESPAÑOL!

FROM UNIVERSITY LECTURES TO IMMERSIVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES, STUDENTS HAVE BEEN DEEPENING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF SPANISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE THIS TERM.



Dr Laura Lonsdale with Hammersmith Academy students following her lecture on La casa de Bernarda Alba.

Oxford University Professor Visits HA Students

Hammersmith Academy students recently attended a talk on *La Casa de Bernarda Alba* by Federico García Lorca, delivered by Dr Laura Lonsdale, Associate Professor of Modern Spanish Literature at the University of Oxford.

Year 13 student, Leyla shares her experience, "I found the experience really valuable for my A Level studies, as it encouraged me to reflect more deeply on Lorca's intentions and the context of the play.

One idea I found particularly interesting was the significance of the play's title. Dr Lonsdale explored how the word *casa* (house) creates a confined social setting, allowing Lorca to focus closely on relationships between the characters. She explained how this differs from some of his earlier work, as he began to explore more realistic and social themes, possibly influenced by the tensions leading up to the Spanish Civil War.

I also found her explanation of Lorca's language especially helpful, showing how seemingly simple dialogue can carry deeper meaning, alongside his use of Andalusian linguistic features and poetic style. Overall, the talk gave me new ideas to consider when analysing the play."

University Lecture: Language and Identity

On Thursday 26th February, prospective and current A-Level Spanish students attended an interesting talk by Dr Manuel Lagares from the University of Nottingham about the origins of Spanish and the politics of language.

Dr Lagares explained how Spanish developed from Latin, the language spoken across the Roman Empire. As the empire expanded and later declined, regional varieties of Latin gradually evolved into the Romance languages, including Spanish. We also discussed the difference between a language and a dialect, and how this distinction is often

shaped by political and cultural factors.

The talk also explored the wide range of dialects spoken across Spain and Latin America, as well as the impact of colonisation on language. It was a fascinating opportunity to see how language, history, and culture are closely connected.

Café Roleplay

During the Café Roleplay, students took on the roles of customers and waiters, practising their Spanish speaking skills through immersive conversations.

One student, acting as a waitress, engaged entirely in Spanish with her "customers", bringing the scenario to life. Conversations were modelled on the board and then acted out as students responded to orders and served snacks.

The activity was both engaging and enjoyable, offering a practical way to build confidence in speaking Spanish. ¡Qué divertido! ■

NATIONAL AWARD

Hammersmith Academy is proud to have received national recognition through two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards, placing us among the highest-performing secondary schools in the country.

The Academy has been recognised as being in the top 20% of non-selective schools for student attainment, as well as for its strong performance for pupil premium students. These awards are based on national data from SSAT, the Department for Education, and Ofsted, providing a clear and robust

measure of school performance.

This achievement reflects the quality of teaching across the Academy, the expertise and commitment of our staff, and the ambition shown by our students. It also highlights the importance of the strong partnership between the school and our families.

We are incredibly proud of this recognition and of the positive impact our community continues to have on the lives of young people. ■



WORLD BOOK DAY

MS HARNEY, LIBRARIAN, SHARES HOW STUDENTS AND STAFF EMBRACED THE SPIRIT OF READING AND STORYTELLING DURING A VIBRANT AND JOYFUL WORLD BOOK DAY.



Ms Laaouiti, Head of Year 7, and Ms Okoli, Year 7 PSO, bring a touch of drama as Cruella and her Dalmatian nemesis, joined by Year 7 students in character. Can you spot who everyone is dressed as?

The Academy came together to celebrate World Book Day in a vibrant and joyful way, with students and staff embracing the spirit of reading and storytelling. Year 7 students led the celebrations by dressing as their favourite characters, from *The Lord of the Rings* to anime favourites and even *Jurassic Park*, bringing books to life across the school.

The Library was at the heart of the celebrations, where a photobooth gave students the chance to capture the day with props and costumes. From Year 7 to Sixth Form, the whole school community took part in activities throughout the day.

Tutor Time was filled with book themed activities, including audiobooks recorded by teachers and lively discussions about favourite

reads. It was a warm and memorable celebration, highlighting the joy of reading and the strong sense of community within the Academy. ■

HIGH FLYERS



A320 Captain Bradley Timmins explains the flight simulator setup to students ahead of their hands on experience.

**MS HARROWES,
HEAD OF CAREERS
AND CULTURAL
CONNECTIONS,
REFLECTS ON
AN ENGAGING
TALK EXPLORING
APPRENTICESHIPS
AND CAREERS AT
BRITISH AIRWAYS.**

Sixth Form students recently took part in an Insight Programme talk focused on apprenticeships and the wide range of career opportunities available at British Airways.

A panel of industry professionals delivered short talks, offering a look into their roles and career journeys. Speakers included representatives from pilot recruitment, cabin crew, engineering, and business, giving students a broad understanding of the many pathways within the aviation industry.

Each speaker outlined a typical day in their role, routes into their career, and opportunities through apprenticeships. Students responded

with thoughtful and enthusiastic questions throughout.

The session also included an interactive element, with the Hospitality Suite transformed into an aircraft setting. Students took part in an in flight safety demonstration and tried a flight simulator, coached by A320 Captain Bradley Timmins, with prizes awarded for the best landing.

The event was organised with the support of Aisha Hakoum from the Day One charity, with special thanks to Shanna Linton, Pilot Recruitment Executive in Flight Operations at British Airways, who led the planning and delivery of the session. ■



British Airways professionals representing pilot recruitment, cabin crew, engineering, and business, sharing insight into their roles and career journeys.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

WCIT LUNCH



Year 8 students outside the The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists Hall in the City of London.

Year 8 students visited the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) in the City of London for a networking lunch with the Master and members of the livery company.

During the visit, students spoke with professionals from across the technology sector, hearing about their career journeys and the different routes into IT. Conversations were lively, with students asking thoughtful questions and gaining a clearer sense of the breadth of roles within the industry.

Beyond the insight into technology, the experience emphasised the value of communication and networking as key skills for future success. ■

GAME JAM

YEAR 10 AND 11 STUDENTS SPENT THE DAY AT ST PAUL'S GIRLS' GAME JAM, DESIGNING SCI-FI THEMED GAMES WITH SUPPORT FROM INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS.

On Saturday 21st March, students worked in teams to design and build original sci-fi games, incorporating mystery tasks before presenting their projects.

The Year 10 team created a game focused on repairing a spaceship by collecting fragments, while the Year 11 team developed a 3D platformer centred on rescuing a Hatsune Miku plush toy. From coding to gameplay, students took full ownership of their ideas, demonstrating creativity and technical skill.

Support from industry professionals, including developers from Unity, added further insight into real-world game development.

The day concluded with a fantastic achievement, as the Year 11 team was awarded Best Coding, a result met with great pride at the Academy. ■



Students showed off their coding skills with support from professionals in the world of game development.

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

MR AHMED, HEAD OF BUSINESS STUDIES AND ECONOMICS, ON HOW YOUNG ENTERPRISE ENABLES STUDENTS TO BUILD AND RUN THEIR OWN BUSINESS.



Young Enterprise members, (r-l) Abdul, Dawid and Ahmed with their Best Team Journey Award at the Company of the Year Finals.

Introducing Elev8

A group of 15 Year 12 students have successfully launched their own student company, *Elev8*, gaining first hand experience of what it takes to run a business.

Since forming earlier this year, the team has been actively involved in a range of business activities. They have organised football tournaments, sold seasonal products, and most recently traded at Portobello Road Market. Following a strong response from customers, the team is now looking to make market trading a regular part of their business.

Students have also raised start up capital through selling shares, giving them practical experience of investment and financial management. Reflecting on the journey so far, Managing Director Dawid (Year 12) said: "I am really enjoying the challenge of setting up, running and managing a business in Year 12. We have secured funding,

sold shares, and are continuing to grow."

Through *Elev8*, students are developing a strong understanding of how businesses operate, while building independence and initiative as they prepare for future opportunities.

Company of the Year Success

Following a successful start to their business journey, the *Elev8* team recently attended the Company of the Year Finals at Macfarlanes in Chancery Lane.

In a highly competitive event, students presented their business and demonstrated the progress they have made. The team were not only named finalists, but also received the Best Team Journey Award, recognising their development and commitment throughout the programme.

Throughout the process, students demonstrated professionalism,

resilience, and strong teamwork, representing the Academy with confidence. Congratulations go to Dawid, Nameeha, Ahmed B, Abdulrahman, and Nawal for their contributions to this achievement.

This success marks an important milestone in the *Elev8* journey and reflects the effort and ambition shown by the entire team. ■

“ I am really enjoying the challenge of setting up, running and managing a business in Year 12. ”

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ECONOMICS TRADING DAY

MR BLOCK, ECONOMICS TEACHER, RECALLS AN EXCITING TRADING DAY WHERE STUDENTS APPLIED ECONOMIC THINKING, AND EXPERIENCED THE REALITIES OF FINANCIAL MARKETS.



In the heat of the action, a student takes on the role of trader during the fast paced Economics Trading Day, with participants from a range of schools coming together for the event.

Hammersmith Academy, in partnership with St Paul's School, recently hosted an exclusive Economics Trading Day, offering students a truly immersive insight into the world of finance and markets.

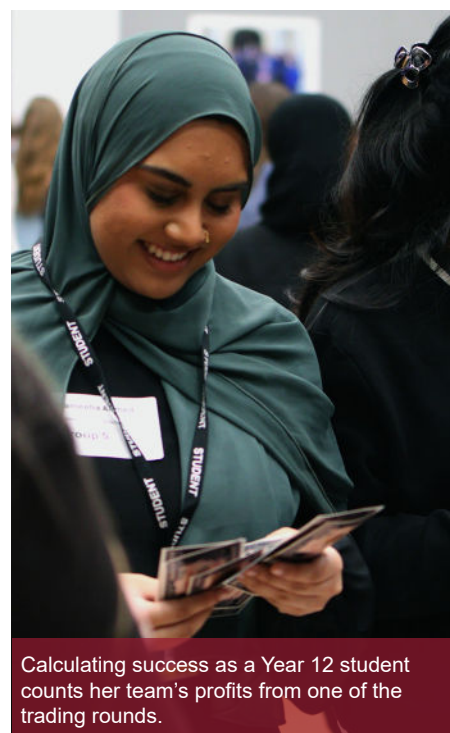
We were delighted to welcome 150 Year 12 students from across the West London Partnership (WLP), representing seven local schools from both the state and independent sectors. Working in 18 teams, students took part in a fast paced trading simulation, applying their economic knowledge to real world scenarios and making decisions under pressure.

Throughout the day, students were supported by Hammersmith Academy economists and Young Enterprise students, who led and mentored their peers. This collaborative environment encouraged confident

communication, teamwork, and strategic thinking.

The event concluded with a series of inspiring talks. Former students shared their experiences of studying economics at university, followed by a keynote lecture from Keith Wade, former Chief Economist at Schroders, who provided valuable insight into global economic trends and careers in the field.

By combining academic theory with practical application, the Trading Day gave students a meaningful insight into the realities of economic decision making. Events like this are central to Hammersmith Academy's real world success approach, ensuring students leave with not only strong academic outcomes, but the skills, confidence, and experience to thrive beyond school. ■



Calculating success as a Year 12 student counts her team's profits from one of the trading rounds.

SHAKESPEARE COMES TO LIFE

SHAKESPEARE LEAPT OFF THE PAGE AS STUDENTS STEPPED INTO THE ACTION THROUGH LIVE THEATRE AT THE GLOBE AND HIGH ENERGY WORKSHOPS.



Front row at the Globe as our Year 11 students excitedly await the actors to take to the stage for a modern interpretation of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

Globe Theatre

As part of their studies, Year 11 students visited the Globe Theatre to watch a modern production of *Romeo and Juliet*, offering a fresh take on Shakespeare's classic play.

For many, the experience was eye opening. Yusumere (Year 11) reflected: "I don't usually consider myself a fan of theatre, but visiting the Globe completely changed my perspective. The building itself was incredible, and the production had me in stitches."

A key feature was the interactive staging, with actors moving through the audience and engaging directly with students. "The actors moved around and spoke to the audience, which could have been awkward, but was really well executed," she explained.

The modern interpretation made the play more accessible and humorous. "I also really enjoyed how they had modernised *Romeo and Juliet*," Yusumere added.

The visit gave students a valuable opportunity to experience

Shakespeare live, with many leaving with a new perspective on theatre.

Intermission Youth Theatre

We were pleased to welcome Intermission Youth Theatre to deliver a Shakespeare workshop for our KS4 students. The London based company works with young people from underrepresented backgrounds, developing performance skills and pathways into the creative industries.

Their alumni include Tosin Cole (*Doctor Who*, *Supacell*), alongside many others working across theatre, film, and television.

Led by Nana Antwi-Nyanin, Stephanie Grant, and actor Duayne Boa, the workshop took a practical, performance focused approach. Students engaged with Shakespeare's language while building confidence through collaboration.

Students were then invited to a five day programme over the February half term, culminating in a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*. Following its success, Hammersmith and Fulham funded an additional week for Ash'Shai, Sarai, Ruby, and Sarah.

Ash'Shai, who played Romeo, has since been selected for the Youngers Programme, a 13 week course. He said: "I'm really excited for the final May showcase... I've especially enjoyed working with Nana."

We are proud to work with such an inspiring organisation and look forward to seeing how our students continue to develop. ■



Hammersmith Academy students met the Mayor of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Councillor Sharon Holder during their February half-term programme.

MEET THE ALUMNI



Ayat works at Snap Inc., where she is actively involved in initiatives supporting voices from the MENA region.



HA: What is your current profession?

AS: I work at Snap Inc. (yes... Snapchat!) as a Senior Ad Review Specialist focusing on the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region. I help big brands and advertisers grow on Snapchat while making sure everything stays safe, culturally relevant, and high-performing.

HA: What does a typical day at work entail?

AS: No two days are the same, which I love. A typical day might involve reviewing and optimising ad campaigns, working with sales teams on strategy, spotting performance issues and fixing them quickly, and building dashboards, I'm a data girl now! I also spend time on calls with teams across the Middle East, so there's always something new happening.

HA: What do you enjoy about it?

AS: The impact. I love seeing something I worked on directly improve results - whether that's helping a brand grow or shaping how millions of people experience content online.

Also being the "MENA expert" in the room. I enjoy that.

HA: What was your biggest break?

AS: Getting into Snap. That moment changed everything, it opened doors globally and allowed me to work at scale with major clients and markets.

HA: Greatest achievement so far?

AS: Beyond work - leading SnapHabibi globally and helping represent MENA voices at a company like Snap.

And professionally - influencing strategy across major advertiser portfolios and seeing real revenue impact from my work.

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

AS: The Academy gave me the confidence to speak up, which didn't happen overnight. It came from the mentorship of a teacher who truly believed in me and pushed me to see my potential, something I carry with me today. I also developed strong communication skills, especially through Media Studies, and the ability to think critically and question things, skills I use every day. ■

THE ACADEMIST INTERVIEWS
AYAT SAEED (HA 2013-2015), SENIOR AD REVIEW SPECIALIST AT SNAP INC.

ALUMNI CAREER BREAKFASTS

MS FREDERICK, ALUMNI COORDINATOR, HIGHLIGHTS HOW THE NEW CAREERS BREAKFAST SERIES IS CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH ALUMNI AND OPENING UP FUTURE PATHWAYS.



Alumni professionals gather with Headteacher Mr Kynaston at the second Careers Breakfast, sharing insight and experience with Sixth Form students.

Following the successful launch of our Alumni Programme last year, beginning with the summer reunion, we have been delighted by the response from former students. Building on this, we introduced a series of Alumni Careers Breakfasts, designed to give back through shared experience and insight.

It has been a pleasure to welcome alumni back to Hammersmith Academy for the first two events. The series began in January with a focus on careers in technology, followed by a second session exploring public service, people, and communications.

Across both events, Sixth Form students had the opportunity to network, ask questions, and speak openly with former students who were once in their position. The

careers represented were wide ranging, with alumni at different stages of their professional journeys. The sessions also allowed students to develop their networking skills in a supportive environment.

These conversations proved particularly valuable. Students heard about varied routes into careers, from university to degree apprenticeships, and gained reassurance that there is no single path to success. Speaking to alumni who once sat in the same classrooms helped make future ambitions feel more tangible.

We are grateful to the alumni who gave their time to support these events. It was fantastic to welcome them back and to see them inspiring the next generation.

These breakfasts continue to strengthen connections between past

and present students, helping Sixth Formers build confidence as they consider their next steps. ■

Sign Up

We invite all former students to stay connected with our alumni network. Reconnect with peers, grow your network, and support current students by sharing your experience. Scan the QR code to get involved.



SPOTLIGHT ON APPRENTICESHIPS

MS HARROWES, HEAD OF CAREERS AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS, REFLECTS ON A PROGRAMME OF EVENTS HELPING STUDENTS EXPLORE PATHWAYS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.



L'Oréal Groupe, who are headquartered in Hammersmith & Fulham were a keynote speaker at the Inspire Event.

National Apprenticeship Week

At Hammersmith Academy, National Apprenticeship Week extended across several weeks in February, ensuring all year groups could take part around exams and other commitments.

Students attended assemblies featuring apprentices, alumni, and industry professionals, gaining insight into a wide range of career pathways. Highlights included contributions from former students Naeem and Dylan, local experts from Hammersmith & Fulham, and a panel of Year 13 students sharing their own apprenticeship journeys. These sessions helped make future options feel more relatable and achievable.

Students also took part in interactive experiences, including speed networking for Year 12, organised

by Construction Youth Trust, and a Sixth Form insight session with British Airways, which included a Q&A and flight simulator activity.

Apprenticeship Inspire Event

The Academy also hosted the Apprenticeship Inspire event, delivered in partnership with the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The event brought together over 100 students from local schools, including West London Free School and William Morris Sixth Form, alongside Hammersmith Academy students. A range of employers, from corporate organisations to independent businesses, represented sectors including law, finance, architecture, and the fire service.

Students heard from keynote speakers and spoke directly with

employers, gaining insight into apprenticeship routes and career opportunities across the borough. Following its success, the event is set to return in 2027, working together with our colleagues from the Upstream Pathway Bond.

Looking Ahead

A further development has been the introduction of support from Day One, with a careers specialist working alongside the Academy to provide guidance and one to one support for Sixth Form students considering apprenticeships.

Together, these initiatives have ensured that students across the Academy are well informed about their options, building confidence and awareness as they plan their next steps. ■

FUNDRAISING FOR CHANGE

STUDENTS ACROSS THE ACADEMY HAVE COME TOGETHER THIS TERM TO SUPPORT IMPORTANT CAUSES, RAISING FUNDS FOR THE JAMAICA RED CROSS AND COMIC RELIEF.



Jamaica Hurricane Relief Bake Sale

The Junior Leadership Team organised and hosted a themed bake sale to raise funds for those affected by Hurricane Melissa, which impacted parts of Jamaica late last year. The event was planned, promoted, and delivered entirely by students, demonstrating strong leadership and organisation.

With the support of students and staff across the Academy, the bake sale raised an impressive £275.60, which has been donated to the Jamaica Red Cross to support relief efforts.

We are incredibly proud of the JLT for their initiative and commitment, and extend special thanks to Ms Williams and the Year 10 students for driving the event forward.

Comic Relief Fundraising Week

The Academy also came together to support Comic Relief through a range of student led fundraising activities.

Throughout the week, students and staff purchased Comic Relief merchandise, including the iconic red badges, helping to raise both awareness and funds for the charity's work supporting vulnerable communities in the UK and around the world.

A highlight of the week was the Staff vs Students netball event, which saw fantastic participation and strong support from across the school.

To round off the week, the Junior Leadership Team organised a bake sale, providing a fitting end to a successful week of fundraising.

In total, the Academy raised an impressive £569.68 for Comic Relief.

We would like to thank all students and staff who took part, supported, and contributed to these events.

Together, these fundraising efforts reflect the generosity and initiative of students across the Academy, who have supported both local and global causes through their hard work and collaboration. In total, an impressive £845.28 was raised for the Jamaica Red Cross and Comic Relief, highlighting the positive impact of student led action. ■

Total Raised
£845.28!

MATHS IN ACTION!



Illia (Year 10) leads the practise session with visiting students during the Count On Us Maths Challenge practise day.

This term has seen students across the Academy engage in a range of exciting mathematical challenges, demonstrating both skill and enthusiasm.

Students in Years 9 to 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, tackling a series of demanding problems designed to test their reasoning and problem solving. The Academy achieved an excellent set of results, with

15 Bronze, 19 Silver and 9 Gold certificates, representing 65% of all participants.

Congratulations to Kacper (Year 11), who achieved the highest score in the school, alongside Mohammad (Year 9) and Pau (Year 10), who were top performers in their year groups. Several students have now progressed to the next stage of the competition, reflecting both individual dedication and the strength of our

mathematical community.

Alongside this, the Academy was proud to host the Count On Us Maths Challenge practice day on Tuesday 24th March, welcoming students from other schools for a collaborative and competitive event.

Our students played a leading role throughout the day, guiding visiting teams through a series of activities including The Game of Hedgehog and Data Chart Statistics. The challenge, part of a pan London initiative delivered by the Mayor's Fund for London in partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation, focuses on building confidence and problem solving through engaging mathematical tasks.

Following a successful practice day, we look forward to hosting the regional heats on Thursday 30th April, continuing to provide opportunities for students to develop their skills and compete at a high level. ■

EXPLORING SCIENCE

SASHA (YEAR 12) REFLECTS ON VISITING THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND MEDICINE.

We began with a guided tour of the laboratories, where we had the opportunity to see advanced equipment, some worth millions of pounds, and observe live melanoma cells under a microscope. This gave us a fascinating insight into the work taking place in cancer research.

We then met current ICR students, who shared their individual journeys into the field and explained the different pathways available. We also took part in a range of interactive activities and hands on experiments, which helped us engage more deeply with the subject.

The day ended with a question and answer session, where we were able to ask further questions about studying and working in this area. Overall, it was a really interesting and enjoyable visit, and the only downside was how quickly the time went by.

The trip helped us to better understand both the academic and practical sides of cancer research, and gave us a clearer idea of possible future pathways in science. ■



VOICES OF REMEMBRANCE

YEAR 10 STUDENTS JOINED THE HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM COMMUNITY TO REFLECT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THE IMPACT OF GENOCIDE.



Year 10 student Kateryna on stage as she represents the Academy, reading a powerful poem at the Holocaust Memorial Day event.

In January, a group of Year 10 students attended the LBHF Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration Event at the Polish Community Centre in Hammersmith, joining the local community to reflect on the importance of remembrance and the impact of genocide.

Students heard powerful talks and performances exploring personal and historical experiences. Kateryna (Year 10) represented the Academy by reading a poem by Edith Umugiraneza, whose mother survived the Rwandan genocide. She reflected: "The event... really opened my eyes to the horror of genocide, both past and present. The speakers were captivating — I didn't want it to end." Her classmate Pau also read a piece by Michael Rosen, exploring the lasting impact of the Holocaust.

Students also watched *Good*, a play examining moral choices in Nazi Germany. Anir (Year 10) commented: "It showed how easily people can do bad things, even things they know are wrong and how your environment can alter your choices." He highlighted how the main character's gradual transformation reflected the dangers of complicity.

For all involved, the experience was both moving and thought-provoking. As Kateryna said, "I walked away with a deeper appreciation of the power of remembrance... one I will carry with me." ■

“ I walked away with a deeper appreciation of the power of remembrance... one I will carry with me. ”

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LONG SERVICE

THIS TERM WE CELEBRATE AND CONGRATULATE FOUR LONG SERVING MEMBERS OF STAFF.



Mr Kynaston (Headteacher, centre) is pictured with colleagues celebrating their Long Service Awards: Mr Sommerville, Ms Noori, Ms Mahmoodi and Mr Bhutto.

We are proud to recognise and celebrate four members of staff who have recently received Long Service Awards for their dedication and commitment to Hammersmith Academy:

- Mr Sommerville, Kitchen Manager – 15 years of service
- Ms Noori, Catering Staff – 15 years of service
- Ms Mahmoodi, Meal Supervisor – 15 years of service

- Mr Bhutto, Security Officer – 10 years of service

Their continued service reflects not only their professionalism and expertise, but also the important role they play in the daily life of the Academy and the success of our students.

We thank them for their many years of service and for the positive contribution they continue to make to our community. ■

COMMUNITY IFTAR



Sixth Form students wanted to organise a boys and girls Iftar event for both students and staff as a cultural and community experience.

This term, Sixth Form students organised two student led Iftar evenings to celebrate culture and bring the community together.

The girls' event took place on Wednesday 4th March, followed by the boys' on Wednesday 11th March, welcoming students of all backgrounds. Everyone contributed a dish, creating a shared meal and a strong sense of community.

A friendly sense of competition added to the atmosphere, with both groups aiming to host the most memorable evening.

The events were a clear example of student initiative, celebrating inclusivity and the diversity of the Academy. ■

WINTER CONCERT

AN EVENING OF MUSIC, PERFORMANCE, AND CELEBRATION BROUGHT THE TERM TO A MEMORABLE CLOSE.



Lola (Year 10) performs *Tongues and Teeth* by The Crane Wives during a standout solo moment.

The Academy's Winter Music Concert brought together a wide range of performances, showcasing both individual talent and ensemble work. Highlights included Aidan (Year 10) performing Schubert's *Waltz in B Minor* and Amna (Year 9) with *Chopin's Prelude in E minor*, alongside contemporary pieces such as Aldrei (Year 10) performing *Someone You Loved* by Lewis Capaldi and Alex (Year 10) performing *Always with Me* from *Spirited Away* by Youmi Kimura.

Vocal performances added further variety, with Tegan (Year 8) performing *I'd Do Anything* from *Oliver!* by Lionel Bart and Lola (Year 10) delivering *Tongues and Teeth* by The Crane Wives. A standout performance came from Holly and Hind (Year 11), whose duet of *Beaches* by Beabadoobee, a Hammersmith Academy alumna, was warmly received by the audience.

Group performances brought energy

and scale, with the Choir and Keyboard Club performing *Firework* by Katy Perry, *When You Believe* from *The Prince of Egypt* by Stephen Schwartz, and *Shake It Off* by Taylor Swift. The concert concluded with performances from the GCSE Band, bringing the evening to a lively close.

The event provided a fitting send off for our Year 11 and Year 13

performers, highlighting their dedication and the strength of musical talent across the Academy.

Up Next

Following such a successful event, we now look ahead to the Summer Concert on Wednesday 13th May, which promises to be another fantastic evening of music. ■



Jeremy (Year 10) on stage during the Winter Concert, showcasing his musical talent.

HOUSE COMPETITION



Spelling Bee finalists celebrate their success after being awarded certificates, bringing pride and valuable points to their houses in a closely contested competition.

As we approach the final term of the year, the House Competition is more exciting than ever, with students across all year groups contributing to a close race for the top spot. This half-term has seen fantastic participation, some standout achievements, and one particularly-tense showdown in our annual House Spelling Bee.

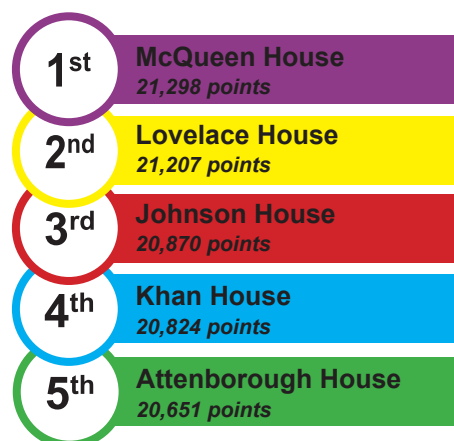
A huge congratulations to Illia (Year 10), who secured first place in the Spelling Bee after a brilliantly-composed performance in the final rounds. Close behind was Spencer (Year 7), whose calm accuracy and impressive vocabulary earned him a well-deserved second place. Both students brought great pride to their houses and set a fantastic example for their peers.

Meanwhile, the achievement points competition is heating up. 7 Khan have reached a remarkable 6,000 achievement points, reflecting

their consistent effort, focus, and teamwork throughout the year. Even more impressively, 7 Johnson currently holds the highest total not just in Year 7, but in the entire school, with an extraordinary 6,409 points. Their dedication continues to drive Johnson House forward as strong contenders in the overall standings.

With fewer than 500 points separating first and fifth place, the competition is wide open and congratulations to every house for smashing through the 20,000 positives mark! Every event, every point, and every contribution will matter. There's everything still to play for—so keep getting involved, supporting your house, and showing what teamwork can achieve! ■

THE HOUSE COMPETITION INTENSIFIES, WITH A CLOSELY CONTESTED LEADERBOARD ACROSS ALL YEAR GROUPS, AS MR CARR EXPLAINS.



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 team at their fixture against West London Free School at King's House.

Year 7 & Year 10 Boys Football

Both the Year 7 and Year 10 football teams have enjoyed a positive term, with clear progress across both squads.

Year 10 secured a well earned victory against Phoenix Academy, reflecting growing confidence and cohesion on the pitch. With more fixtures ahead, they will look to build on this momentum.

Year 7 have shown strong determination against tough opposition, improving with each match. Admir (Year 7) stood out in the fixture against Fulham Boys School, showing excellent leadership and scoring a memorable free kick.

Both teams are building strong foundations, with plenty of promise for the rest of the season.

Year 8 Football

In March, the Year 8 team secured an impressive 4–1 victory over St Thomas More at King's House. Despite going down to 10 men, they showed resilience and control throughout.

Their organisation and work rate were key, with players supporting one another across the pitch. A strong team performance was supported by standout contributions from Adrian and Loay (Year 7), and Dior and Ismael (Year 8).

Sixth Form Football

The Sixth Form team played out an exciting 4–4 draw against Holland Park at King's House in a match full of attacking play.

A last minute equaliser secured a deserved result, with the team showing determination and composure to the final whistle.

Girls' Football

As the season approaches its end, the Year 9-10 Team have been relentless in their performances. Week after week, they have shown energy, determination, and a strong sense of unity, competing with pride and commitment in every match. What a joy to watch!

Our Year 7-8 Team have also hit an excellent run of form, securing back-to-back victories against both

Ark Burlington Danes and All Saints Catholic College. Confidence is high, passes are clicking, and goals are flowing. It has been an impressive turnaround, with momentum building at just the right time.

Looking Ahead

It has been fantastic to see the range of sporting talent across the school this year, with a number of students competing at a high level outside of school in their chosen sports. Their dedication and commitment are a real credit to both themselves and the wider school community.

With so much momentum building, there is a real sense of excitement as we look ahead to next term and the opportunities it will bring, including the much-anticipated World Cup. ■

Follow Sports on Instagram

 @hasport1



The Year 8 Boys Football Team playing their match against Phoenix Academy.

Sportswoman of the Term

Asia (Year 11) has been recognised as Sportswoman of the Term, reflecting her commitment and consistently high performance in and out of school.

A dedicated athlete, she approaches every opportunity with focus and resilience. Her success in GCSE PE highlights both her strong practical ability and engagement with the theoretical aspects of the course.

Beyond the Academy, Asia has achieved success in trampolining, reaching regional finals, and plays football for Kensington Dragons in the Capital Girls League.

She regularly challenges herself, including competing alongside boys, and consistently rises to the occasion. Her perseverance and positive approach make her a deserving recipient of this award. ■



Sportsman of the Term

Loay (Year 7) has made an immediate impression since joining the Academy, quickly establishing himself as a key figure in football.

As goalkeeper for both the Year 7/8 and Year 10 teams, he plays with composure, confidence, and maturity beyond his years. His performances consistently stand out, reflecting both his natural ability and strong understanding of the game. In PE lessons, he maintains a high standard, supported by his commitment to football in and outside of school.

A natural leader, Loay demonstrates excellent sportsmanship and fully embodies the Academy's values, particularly respect. His captain's mentality and positive attitude make him a strong role model for his peers. ■



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