



🌱 WES flourishing in spring time 🌱

This was the one of the busiest terms of the year for some time and what follows in this newsletter are details of just some of the very many events the boys have been involved in.

The long awaited call from Ofsted came through on 1st March. The inspectors stayed 2 days and the school was immensely pleased to be judged as a “good” school. The full report was published at the very end of the term and can be found on the school and Ofsted websites. Our thanks to the whole school community who helped us achieve, what we believe to be a very accurate assessment of the school.

British Museum dance trip

Mr Pratt, Head of Performing Arts Faculty writes:

“In January a group of 24 boys in year 9 (aged 13/14) visited an exhibition called South Africa: the art of a nation at the British Museum. They listened to a talk by Chris Spring, one of the curators, and they were told to analyse the way he spoke like an expert in his field. They looked at the representation of ritual, gesture, protest and text, then they explored the use of shape, form, texture and outline and talked about how these could be used these as stimulus for some physical images and movement. They also watched some film clips from the theatre group in Cape Town.

They then added some text to their images, which linked to their personal life stories. We divided these up into groups of stories, and each group had a heading. The headings included separation, journey, new beginnings. Then the theatre group in South Africa created some original work using music and movement based on these same headings. They filmed them and sent them to us. After watching them, the students edited their text and created some collages, using images from the British Museum and some from an image bank from South Africa. The title was “Transitions” which was borrowed from one of the exhibits in the British Museum by the artist Willie Bester. Finally, the students practised reading their text and presented them to an audience. They were encouraged to speak with confidence because they needed to speak like experts, just as Chris Spring did when he spoke to them at the outset of the project”.

Student Council

This term the governors were thrilled to have a report presented to them at the start of the governors’ meeting on (date) from the School council regarding *A Curriculum for Life*, a topic which was voted on by the entire student body in September’s Make your Mark Youth Parliament vote and had already been presented to the teaching staff. It was agreed by the council that this could be their priority for this year.

Volcanoes

Our volcanologists: aka the Humanities department, after a couple of false starts, finally erupted all the volcanoes modelled by some talented year 7s. Unfortunately no-one took any photos!



Spelling Bee

Lunchtime on Friday 24th March saw the LRC changed into a Spelling Bee.

All the boys involved keenly stood to spell out in front of the other teams some rather difficult words.

Final scores:

Keats House - 1st, Burgh - 2nd, Willow - 3rd, Lauderdale - 4th, Fenton - 5th.

Well done to Keats and all those who took part.





Charity fundraising

Last term the British Legion appeal – poppy day – raised £147.77. The Christmas jumper day raised £225.00 for Save the Children.

This term we have had two non-uniform days. One was to raise money to buy a defibrillator for Gospel Oak primary school. Just over £400 was raised. Further fundraising will be needed to make it up to at least £1000.

Year 8 now have a Charity Committee and they asked for another non-uniform day on the last day of term to raise money for Water Aid, Unicef, NSPCC and Shelter. They raised £436.30 to be shared equally among the charities.

Livery Schools Link Careers Showcase Trip to the Guildhall, City of London

with Mr Wharton, Head of Science, ICT and DT Faculty. One of the students wrote:

“The Year 9 careers trip that I attended was a very eye opening experience. The various range of jobs and professions available took me quite aback. During my time there I had a chance to speak to about 5 people. An architect, builders’ merchant, baker, butcher and finally a carpenter.

Each of them had a range of things to tell me, one of many things I took away from the day was a very ‘interesting’ fact. Builders’ merchants supply most companies with, well, supplies! Well I mean it’s not as interesting as you probably thought it was, but I thought it was quite cool.

Now, the pick a favourite stall would be easy. The architecture stall. The GCSEs and A levels required are many, too many more than my brain can remember, but to remember from the exact words the stall leader said ‘the course is a long and hard one but in the end the skills you take away practically cover you for any mid to high level job’. This is why I chose this as my favourite stall, and my new preferred profession. You see upon entering the convention I really didn’t have an idea of what I wanted to do in life but the architecture stall blew me away with its ‘grind’* aspect.”

*grind – slang work, usually meaning to do something hard but with a high reward.

Year 7 Oracy Day

Ms Strike, Head of English Faculty wrote to staff:

“Thank you so much for delivering all the sessions today with enthusiasm and commitment! I’ve just been into every tutor group to listen and film some 60 second speeches and I am so impressed by some of our year 7s who can speak confidently off by heart and who have clearly worked really hard today and in the oracy lessons. It is also really great to hear the students and teachers using the language of oracy so effectively. The range of topics and issues spoken about is also impressive.

I’m hoping to edit a video together of the day to be shown to year 7s and teachers soon”.



LSE visit

Jeremy in Year 8 at an information evening for Promoting Potential programme at the LSE with Mr Glover. This was followed by a full programme at the LSE over a few powerful days with the aim of raising aspirations and to inspire him (and maybe some of his peers in Year 8) to start thinking about their future options and opportunities.



Deep Learning Days and special events

The first of the deep learning days this term included sessions on positive psychology and reflection in Year 7, In Year 8 mental health, relationships, grief, positive psychology and reflection. Year 9: drugs and safety drugline, risks and safer choices, mental health and reflection. Year 10: drugs, Samaritans and reflection. Year 11: Drugs, healthy relationships/keeping ourselves safe, speakers from the Terence Higgins Trust, outside chance and reflection.

For the second deep learning day, Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 had sessions on a wide variety of subjects that included a Stonewall speaker, music, lgbt and film, lgbt and sport, art, assertiveness and reflection plus quizzes.

Other year group events in the term:

Year 11 – Widening participation at LSE (Feb)

Year 9 – student voice work with governor Daniel Monk

Year 9 – Careers talks in February with Inspire! – visitors from fashion (Ben Thapa, fashion freelancer, engineering (arup), publishing (Hachette), animation (Feed me Light), science (Francis Crick), consulting/economics.

Year 8 - a special Conflict Resolution Day with outside speakers working with the boys in groups.

Year 7 - Each tutor group made the annual visit to Highgate Chapel for workshops on “Easter” led by Mr Iberi, RE teacher.

Year 7 – collaborative writing club with girls from Parliament Hill School as part of a literary festival.

Year 7 - Camden Debating Competition. Mr Altmann took a group of Year 7 boys for three debating sessions at Camden School for Girls, led by sixth formers at the school following by a debating competition at Camden

Year 12 - visit to Royal Academy of Arts for their English/Drama course (American specialish A level paper – study of how the idea of a fall postlapsarian state has been represented in cultural forms) to see the exhibition *America after the Fall*.

Sports & Activities Faculty Notice:

New summer term schedule of Clubs and activities produced – starting 2nd May. Students should look for notice on PE noticeboard.