



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It was a delight in the final days of the term to host our annual Awards Evening and to attend the Winter Concert. Both events provided an uplifting and celebratory mood to the end of the term. It was a particular pleasure to watch our Year 7 choir perform festive songs at the Winter Concert. It hard to believe that they were the same students who joined the Academy in September, understandably nervous about being at 'big school', but now feel like fully integrated members of the Academy community.

As you will read in the pages of this newsletter, this has been a busy and productive term, with many exciting activities undertaken by our students. Highlights included Charity Week, where our students made a generous donation of their time to various community activities.

We have had many trips, visits, workshops and activities this term. On many occasions, we have had exceptionally positive feedback from the organisers or hosts, who have commented on our students' exemplary conduct and willingness to throw themselves whole-heartedly into these new activities

and experiences. It makes me very proud of the young people we have in this school.

I would also like to take the opportunity to praise our Year 11 and Year 13 students. They went through a gruelling two-week mock examination period, but showed a great deal of focus, determination and aspiration and achieved results that bode well for their final GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations in the Summer.

The holiday season is now upon us, so on behalf of all the staff here at the Academy, I would like to wish our students and their families and restful and enjoyable holiday and we look forward to returning and welcoming your child back to school in 2024!

Ms Jacob

Executive Principal





IN THIS EDITION...

Charities Week	2-3
Awards Evening	4-5
ThinkForward	6-7
Performing Arts	8-9
CCF	10-11
Halloween Disco	12
Sports	13-15
Open Evening	16-17
Year 7 Awards	18-19
Art Showcase	20-21
Reading Jamboree	22-23
Remembrance Day	24
Winter Concert	25
Head of House Hello	26-28

to eat our meals in the Clock Tower as a reward.

It was an amazing experience and all ambassadors would like to give a big thank you to Miss Wilding for organising it and the members of Caledonian Park for hosting us.

Safia A - Year 7



CHARITIES WEEK

As part of 'Charities Week', our Student Ambassadors from Year 7 volunteered to help clean up Caledonian Park. We first entered the park and one of the wardens kindly told us our tasks for that day. We were divided into groups of 5 and the first activity was to clean up the park, where we found loads of plastic. After that, the ambassadors cleaned up the playground and luckily we did because it wasn't the cleanest!

When we were finished, we swept up the dead leaves that were on the ground and put them to the side to make the park look neater. We then went straight to where the lavender was (it smelt so strong and beautiful) and cut off the dead stalks. For our last activity, we planted dandelions; the seeds were enormous and looked exactly like garlic. We dug loads of holes, placed the seeds, added a tiny bit of water before covering the whole back with dirt. After all that hard work and effort, it was finally time for lunch. We were super lucky and got

CHARITIES WEEK

CITY YEAR

In the spirit of Charity Week, City Year embarked on a mission to both support and organise initiatives that would make a meaningful impact. Miss Dev and Mr Frost supported a heartwarming trip with Year 8 students to a Bridgeside Lodge Care Home, aiming to combat loneliness among elderly residents. The students gathered with residents in the communal area and engaged in uplifting activities, such as reading to the residents and engaging in conversations. Meanwhile, Miss B assisted a trip of Year 7s to Caledonian Park for a volunteering effort. The students enthusiastically engaged in multiple eco-friendly activities that included gardening activities, litter-picking and planting flowers. Their participation had a positive impact, enhancing the environment and instilling a sense of community.

Building on the spirit of community service, all City Year volunteers brought 20 students to the same care home as part of their Social Action Project, strengthening the bond with the care home.

The project's goal was to address loneliness, particularly expressive during the festive season. Student Ambassadors played a key role in this initiative, participating in activities like singing Christmas carols, crafting holiday cards, and interacting with residents to bring the festive spirit alive. The success of these events has left us eagerly anticipating more opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of those we touch.

Ms Z. Walker

Impact Officer – City Year Team





AWARDS EVENING



AND THE **WINNERS** ARE...



Precious V
Head of Year Award



Holger L
Head of Year Award



Mariola O
Head of Year Award



Sonny F
Head of Year Award



Aland A
Community Contribution Award



Joshua O
Saddlers' Student Award



Fahmidha Ali
Principal's Award



Ijeoma O
Fletchers' Sporting Spirit Award



THINK FORWARD



YEAR 10 VISIT TO THE KENNEDY WILSON SITE IN NINE ELMS

Year 10 students were invited to a Kennedy Wilson site in Nine Elms, the largest regeneration project in Europe, to learn from experts in the field. This trip was an opportunity to meet and hear from a range of professionals working for the large property investment firm, engaging with project managers, the finance team, executive assistants, acquisitions specialists and the construction team on site to explore where their future ambitions may lie. Alongside meeting the staff, students explored the new site and played 'project manager' as they planned what the regeneration of the area could, and according to them should, look like.



YEAR 9 AMBASSADORS

The Year 9 Ambassadors have started their social action project. The final stage will take place in the summer term but there is a lot to do before then! Such as; surveying their fellow students to find a topic to focus on, researching the chosen topic, creating posters, practising communication



techniques and learning about other young activists to be inspired by. Later this term, they will be taking part in a digital event across the London ThinkForward schools where they will show their posters, explain their initial ideas, listen to the other schools, and engage with a few other activities.



THINK FORWARD

YEAR 11

The Year 11 students have been visited by the ThinkForward Business Partnerships Manager who has led sessions on 'Revision Techniques' and 'Future Opportunities' as they gear up for exams and post-16 applications. They also have had a few lunch club sessions, these are a great opportunity for the group to come together, share lunch, have fun, and talk about the challenges being in Year 11 brings.

LONDON ZOO INSIGHT DAY

London Zoo hosted the Year 9 ThinkForward Cohort for the day. In addition to exploring the zoo to see the animals there were workshops exploring the various roles and career opportunities within the zoo and wider organisation. These insight days offer a chance to push doors and ask questions of professionals to help guide the students' thinking of their future prospects and career direction.

Mr D. Pokorny
ThinkForward Coach





PERFORMING ARTS

BUGSY MALONE



For the first time since 2019 the Performing Arts department has put on a whole school musical! Students from across all year groups came together to put on two stellar performances as actors, dancers, singers, designers and backstage crew. Months of dedicated rehearsal really paid off despite many moments of frustration and stress. Students demonstrated resilience, commitment and outstanding teamwork to pull the show together and performed to the amazing audiences who came to support.

We were blown away by the support the COLAI community and the number of people who came to see the show. Seeing so many students supporting the cast on stage was a delight to s

Ms A. Kiley-Smith
Curriculum Leader - Performing Arts

"I'm so impressed, I would never have been brave enough to do that. I feel really proud." - **Year 12 Student**

"It was loads of fun, the vibes were great and it was nice to see everyone getting involved." - **Year 12 Student**

"An outstanding two-night stretch of talent, laughs, excellent music, love and most of all joy! Well done to all the team - directors, stage managers, performers, musicians, backstage team. You are all fabulous!" - **Parent**

"Opening night 10/10 what a glorious performance. All the kids were shining bright. Loved the interaction on stage - it showed real passion and heart. What a musical! Well done to everyone involved." - **Parent**

"This has been one of the best things to school has done! It brought us so close together and made everyone involved so much more confident. It was great fun to dress up in the costumes and it really helped up to bring the characters to life. Having all the set, lighting and sound equipment really made the atrium feel like a professional theatre. I love being involved with the performing arts department, they really make you feel important and push you to be the best you can be. I can't wait for the next show!"

Keriah Bruins - Knuckles, year 9

"I was really nervous to start Buggy and it took a while to get into the role but I really feel like the experience of doing the show has helped improve my confidence and this will help me in my upcoming performance exam. It was really fun to rehearse with the cast and once we got into costume and it all started to feel real we all wanted it to go really well. We really came together as a cast and are so proud of ourselves. Thank you for coming to watch!"

George Hobden – Dandy Dan, year 11





CCF

DEPUTY LIEUTENANT'S AWARD GOES TO COLAI CADET



The CCF is delighted to announce that our former cadet Regimental Sergeant Major, Kelvin Mustafa, was awarded a DL certificate from Islington's Representative Deputy Lieutenant. The Deputy Lieutenant is the King's representative in the Borough of Islington and the certificates are awarded to the young people who volunteer their time freely to participate in extra-curricular activities, and who work with other young people in the Borough.

Kelvin's award represents his tireless commitment to the cadets and to bettering his peers. The award was presented in conjunction with the Mayor of Islington and Kelvin was delighted that his family was available to attend the event to celebrate his achievement. Kelvin, having also achieved excellent A-Level grades at the Academy, has gone on to study Journalism at City, University of London. The contingent is proud to have had such an upstanding cadet within its ranks and we salute Kelvin's achievement.

FIRST AID TRAINING SAVES CADET FAMILY MEMBER'S LIFE

As part of the Cadet Basic Training Syllabus, all cadets complete a basic First Aid training course. This covers what to do in an emergency from initial response to specific responses to injury, to CPR. All cadets are expected to have a basic understanding of how to deal with a casualty and it is one of the most satisfying parts of Basic Training. While we hope the cadets will never have to use their training in this way, it is reassuring to know that they can be competent in a casualty situation.



During half term, a current Year 11 cadet, Leon Acord, used his training to save his little brother's life. When his brother was choking on Lego, Leon calmly went up behind him and started abdominal

CCF

thrusts, having realised his little brother's life was at risk from choking. He did this without panic or alarm, relying on his basic training to tell him what to do in this situation. We are delighted to report that he cleared the blockage, and his little brother was able to breathe freely again. After a subsequent assessment from a doctor, he was deemed to be in good health. The family got in touch to express their pride in their son but also to attribute his CCF First Aid training to saving the life of his family member.

NATIONAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Every year, St Paul's Cathedral holds the National Service of Remembrance with The Commemoration of the Fallen. This special service, televised for the whole country to see, is a part of the National Day of Remembrance and it specifically remembers those who have lived and died in defence of justice and freedom in the service of humankind.

Every year a cadet from the COLAI (HAC) CCF is chosen to give a reading at this service. It is an honour to be chosen and a great responsibility. This year, Cadet Derin Ciba, also the winner of our Yager Award for the best cadet from Haine Troop, delivered a reading to over three thousand guests. Cadet Derin Ciba's reading was positively commented on by all those in attendance, with his clarity and enunciation particularly noted. Cadet Derin Ciba is pictured here with his family who were also in attendance.

Mr A. Hesketh

Curriculum Leader for English and Contingent
Commander of the CCF





HALLOWEEN DISCO

In October, the Academy holds its annual Charities week. This offers the students a wonderful chance to consider how we can best serve those less fortunate within our community, and those suffering more widely.

The Year 10 leadership team, after a consultation with staff, decided they wished to host a 'welcome to COLAI' disco for the Year 7s that had joined the Academy in September. The event aimed to bring together the Year 7 students to celebrate their first half term and to raise money for a charity that the students had selected.

The event was lovely. It was a perfect way to round off the half term, and I was immensely proud of the students that organised the event and staffed the evening, alongside myself and a number of teachers. It was also a great chance for Year 10 students to form bonds with younger students, and there has been a continuation of that spirit of looking after each other throughout the term.

Mr T. Nutch
Head of Year 10



SPORTS

**Year 7 Girls' Football Team at
Camden and Islington Cup
Tournament (Market Road)
– 11/10/2023**



**Year 8 and 9 Boys' Basketball Team
vs. Arts and Media
School Islington (away)
– 02/11/2023**





SPORTS

ARSENAL TRIP

As part of the Chances Programme with Arsenal Football Club students attended a session at the Arsenal Community Hub by the Emirates Stadium. The first part of the day was a classroom session where they did a couple of fun icebreaker activities. They then reflected on how they had developed their interpersonal skills, like teamwork and communication. It was a really supportive group discussion where students helped one another by identifying strengths and areas in which they had developed over the course of the programme. At the end of the session, they were presented with certificates before they went down to the changing rooms to get prepared for their pitch session.

The coaches started out with some 'invasion' games that got students warmed up. They then played a 5-a-side game of football. The coaches introduced students to new formations and supported with tactics which made the game really exciting. After the game students had lunch before heading out on a tour of the Emirates Stadium. The stadium is beautiful and there are so many interesting little aspects to the facilities the players use. My favourite part was sitting on Mikel Arteta's seat on the touchline and imitating his celebration. It was a great experience, and students were lucky enough to return a few weeks later as we were invited back for the Arsenal community Christmas party. The coaches and teachers had kept it secret that the players were due to turn up, so it was incredible to see Saka, Saliba, Smith-Rowe and some of the other Arsenal players walk onto the pitch and get involved in the students' game.

Mr T. Noutch
Head of Year 10



**Year 7 Netball Team vs.
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
School (away)
– 05/12/2023**

SPORTS

STUDENT ENGLAND DEBUT

My name is Owen, and this year I had the opportunity to play for the England football team. It all started when I left school at break for my dentist appointment, where on my way, I got the “call-up” email. Excited and overjoyed, I returned to school, telling Mr Segal and Mr Smith. Fast forward to a week later, I was at the airport with the rest of the England team, consisting of a variety of players from teams such as City, Arsenal, Wolves, Chelsea, Tottenham and others.

The first game was against Japan, where we won 2-1. I didn't play that game but proceeded onto the next. Gameday 2 and I was nervous. Having been told by my coach back at Arsenal that this game against France was one of the biggest, I knew I had to train my hardest. I was confident and managed to save the second penalty; we won the shoot-out 4-2.

The next day we had school in the morning, then went out into Paris and to see the Eiffel Tower. It was a really cold day, but the chocolate waffles the staff got us did the job!

Matchday 3 and it was the finals against Switzerland, on a cold and windy day, making it almost impossible to take the goal kicks. After scores back and forth, we had 20 minutes to go...

We were on the backfoot as the wind was against us and Switzerland had momentum. Forced to adapt as a team, we drew 2-2. At the last penalty shoutout, I wasn't stressed at all. As a matter of fact, I wanted the game to go to penalties. I saved the first and the third. Switzerland's number 11 missed the last penalty which crowned us Val De

won was Jude Bellingham's group. It was a fantastic 9 days with England, hopefully many more to come.

Owen Asemota, Year 11





OPEN EVENING







YEAR 7 AWARDS



Rayaan A-N
Highest Attainment



Tilly D
Highest Progress



YEAR 7 AWARDS



Sanae R D
Highest Achievement Point Earner



Ryan E
Outstanding Tutee



Milka T
Outstanding Tutee



Nai B
Outstanding Tutee



Taner S
Outstanding Tutee



Roman H
Outstanding Tutee



Holly A-B
Outstanding Tutee



Jake R
Academy Spirit Award



Leah D-M
Reader of the Term



Mataya M-B
Sportsperson of the Term



Samil M
Resilience and Tenacity



Sarah O
Outstanding Student of the Term

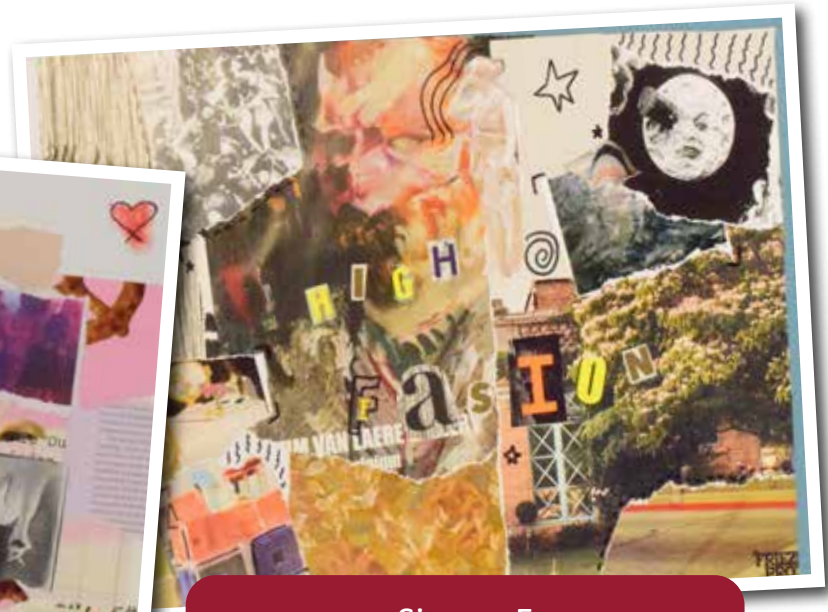


ART, TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN AUTUMN TERM SHOWCASE

KEYSTAGE



Shahria M



Sienna F



Arya S

KEYSTAGE 4



Elina G



Juliana C-Z



Riley S-S



Kiki H



READING JAMBOREE



On October the 13th we hosted our very first Reading Jamboree at COLAI as a part of Charity Week. The Atrium was transformed into a celebration of literature with Year 7 students paired with students from Year 11 and the Sixth Form to read “*Journey Back to Freedom*” by Catherine Johnson, a book about Olaudah Equiano’s true story of when he was sold into slavery and his fight for freedom. The students really enjoyed paired reading with their peers, and were rewarded with

bookmarks, stationary and a copy of the book to take home.

To follow up from the enjoyment of the first Jamboree, we hosted a second one on 8th December, coinciding with the visit of Catherine Johnson, the author of ‘*Journey Back to Freedom*’, ‘*Race to the Frozen North*’ and many others.

Throughout the day, she hosted workshops in the library, speaking to our Year 10 students about careers in writing, and sharing with some of our Year 7 and 8 students her inspirations for writing historical fiction. In the afternoon we were lucky to have her join us in the Atrium for our second Reading Jamboree where she sat and read with some of our students and *Nathaniel M*, *Sienna H* and *Jake R* received a signed copy of her new book ‘*Race to the Frozen North*’ It was a fantastic day and we look forward to celebrating more authors and their books in 2024.

Miss F. McKnight
LRC Manager



READING JAMBOREE





EVENTS

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Assemblies were held to mark Remembrance Day on 11th November. This provided an opportunity for students to reflect upon the sacrifices made by those who have died in conflict, and to consider the continuing effects of war on people's lives today.

The Academy's Head Student Team of Dean and Shada spoke movingly about the role played by Medics Sans Frontieres in alleviating hardship in warzones, focusing on the conflict in Yemen. Lilya and Mariama also spoke, highlighting the local impact that war has had, and continues to have, on Islington, while Kawtar Haj Ouafi read an extract from a speech by Barack Obama, outlining his vision for world peace.

The assembly was also punctuated by fantastic musical performances from Emma and Derin in Year 10, while Jahmai, Alissa and Tanzim read a poem about the effects of war. The assembly finished with "The Last Post," and a chance for students to reflect on the ways that war has affected and continues to affect our World and community today.

Mr M. Segal

Curriculum Leader for Humanities





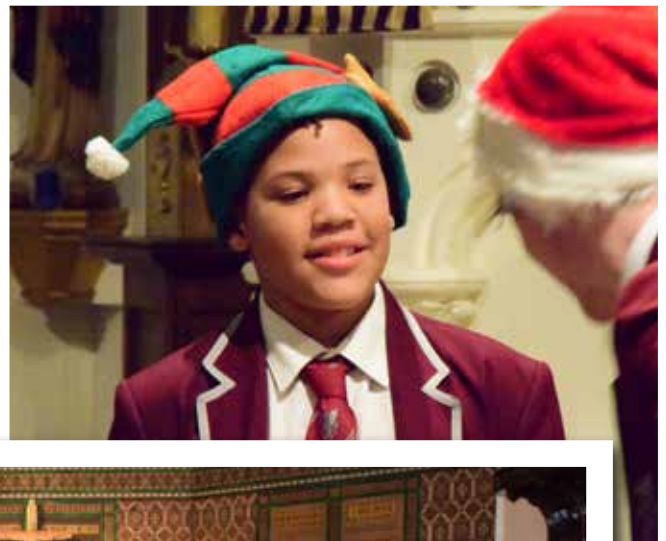
WINTER CONCERT

Monday 19 December saw the annual Winter Concert at St James' Church. Choirs and solo performers took to the floor and displayed excellent musical and dramatical wonders. There was everything from Dickens to Einaudi and Kavalevsky to Santa Claus with a giant mixed bag in between.

It was also the inaugural performance of the KS3 and KS4 choirs and a continued success for the staff choir. A huge vote of thanks to all who attended and all who helped make it happen.

Mr M. Smith

Teacher of Music





HEADS OF YEAR

YEAR 7

“Dream, believe, achieve”



Our first term is now over, and the students have made a fantastic start at secondary school. It has been a pleasure to witness them all grow in confidence and resilience. New friendships have been formed and they all seem to be feeling at home in our COLAI community.

My Student Ambassadors have been a real highlight this term; their support and enthusiasm during Charity Week was exceptional, representing the Academy with such pride when we supported Caledonian Park rangers and the local community. It was at this point when I knew I had a fantastic team to work with this year. I look forward to more opportunities that will be presented to us next term and I know they will excel in whatever they are tasked with.

We have had some real success academically too, with some students demonstrating excellent knowledge and understanding in their assessments and improvements in many students' reading ages. The Year 7 reading programme has gone from strength to strength, and I'm delighted with students' progress in this area.

I look forward to working with them again next term, I know it will be just as successful and rewarding. I want to thank all the parents and carers for their support this year. I know it has been a challenge learning new systems and policies. However, it is crucial we continue to work together to enable us to get the best outcomes for you child.

Have a lovely restful break.

Miss Wilding

YEAR 8

“Together everyone achieves more”



What a great first term it has been, with the year group no longer being the newest and youngest in the school, but instead able to lead by example as fully integrated members of the COLAI community. Summer feels like a lifetime ago, but our Year 8 students returned with a real rigour to impress and make

good choices. It has been a busy term for Year 8, with the first assessments taking place within the first half term and Parents' Evening taking place during the second. It was great to see so much support behind our young people during this evening to help them progress in their studies and develop as citizens of the Academy and wider society. Many students have demonstrated a clear improvement from their assessments in Year 7 already, so I have high hopes for the remainder of the year.

I have loved working with our Student Ambassadors again this term, and it has been great to welcome so many students back as one and equally integrate other students in the year group as a part of this team. In addition, I have had some help leading some very important assemblies from both Ambassadors and other students in the year group, keen to show off their presentation skills, for example in our anti-bullying assembly where some very important messages were heard.

I wish you all a safe and restful break and look forward to continuing to work together in the New Year.

Miss E. Maloney

HEADS OF YEAR

YEAR 9

“Pulled together, draped in success”



And with that, the first term of Year 9 is completed, and what a first term of the year it has been. I am so proud to be their Head of Year. I may be biased but, when you have a year group that has gained over 20,000 achievement points in just 16 weeks of school, I think the numbers speak for themselves! Furthermore,

the year group has been involved in sports activities, European Championships, visits to Bafta, Deloitte, the theatre and food bank, seizing opportunities and giving back to our community.

I have loved seeing the year group come into the new academic year with such focus and determination in their studies. The year group know the importance of this year and after Christmas we will be beginning the options process for GCSEs. Whilst this break should be about resting so they return with more energy than ever, it would be a lovely time for parents and carers to have a chat with their children about what subjects excite them, what careers they can see themselves doing and what they want from life.

As always, I want to thank some very important people without whom I'd be lost. Firstly, our wonderful PSM Rasina, whose resilience, compassion and dedication to our students is nothing short of wonderful. I'd like to also thank the tutor team for their kindness to the year group, being present every day and being an extra source of support within the school. Finally, I'd like to thank the parents and carers of our students; I appreciate your support in holding the highest of expectations of our young people and supporting the school with their drive for excellence amongst all.

Ms Dear

YEAR 10

“Stay sharp and hit the mark”



Christmas and a New Year are upon us. With it, the chance to reflect on all that students have achieved this academic year. September saw the start of the GCSEs for the students in the year group. Many of the students have adjusted to the more demanding requirements of more rigorous academic study and greater expectations around homework with a real maturity.

The first assessment point took place in October and showed significant progress across the many option subjects and core subjects. In November, students undertook their first mock examination in the hall. The outcomes were generally very pleasing and are a testament to the hard work students had put in during half term and in the weeks leading up to the mock when students attended early morning intervention.

There have also been some wonderful excursions that students have had the opportunity to participate in. Year 10 drama students went to see the 'Dear England' play as preparation for their coursework. A group of students that are part of the Chances Programme had the opportunity to visit the Emirates stadium and got the chance to meet Arsenal players and even have a little kickabout with them at their Christmas party.

The Year 10s have made a positive start to Key Stage 4. They are a credit to the school and are always so willing to support their peers and represent the Academy and its values.

Mr Noutch



HEADS OF YEAR

YEAR 11



Year 11 students have started the academic year positively and have already completed their first set of mock examinations where we have seen some excellent progress.

They have attended numerous academic

intervention classes after school, during weekends, and holiday periods. Further challenges await the year group as they approach the final set of mocks before the start of the GCSE examinations in the summer. With this hard work comes excitement as the window for sixth form applications opens.

They can start to get an idea as to what next, which should provide a good level of motivation to improve. I hope the year group take some time over the holiday period to relax and recharge so they can start the New Year fresh and ready to go.

Mr Smith

SIXTH FORM



Congratulations to our Year 12s on completing their first term in our Sixth Form. We have had a busy term with students completing assessments in their chosen courses. We have also interviewed and appointed a new student leadership team who have

already started working with younger year groups. The whole student leadership team, along with other students in our sixth form have been reading mentors with year 7 students. They have acted as excellent role models in encouraging younger students to read more.

Our year 13 students have also had a busy term with some students attending a trip to the Bloomberg offices to explore careers in finance. They have also been working on their personal statements for their university applications with staff from Deloitte.

We have a busy January with planned trips to Investment 2020 to explore careers in investment management, Linklaters to participate in workshops on careers in law and a careers festival with The Saddlers' Company.

I wish all sixth form students a restful and enjoyable winter break.



Return to School

Students will be returning to school on **Tuesday 9th January**.

We will have a staggered start to the day with welcome assemblies for all year groups.

Please see below for details of start times for all year groups:

Year Group	Arrival Time	Start Time
Year 7	8.30	8.40
Year 8	8.30	8.40
Year 9	9.20	9.30
Year 10	9.20	9.30
Year 11	10.10	10.20
Sixth Form	9.20	9.30

All year groups will be in normal lessons by or before period 3, so must ensure that they bring their books and equipment for the lessons they have on that day.