

CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON

WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As you will see in the pages of this newsletter, it has been a busy, productive and enjoyable term at COLAI and there is much more to come next term!

There have been some fantastic highlights this term. I took particular pride in seeing a number of our student leaders organise and deliver a sports festival for a number of local primary schools. They showed great organisational skills and our visitors clearly enjoyed the day.

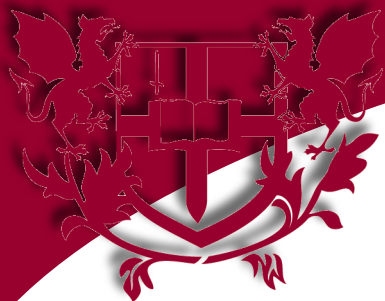
It has also been great to see our Year 7 students make further strides in adapting to secondary school. They have been flourishing in their academic work and are also keen participants in a range of extra-curricular activities. In particular, our Year 7 girls are demonstrating a real sporting prowess and excellent teamworking skills, and I have enjoyed hearing of their many triumphs in the Borough netball and football competitions. I was also pleased to hear that they enjoyed their trip to the Globe Theatre to see *The Tempest*, even though it was bitterly cold on the day and the Globe is open to the elements.

I would like to offer particular praise to our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts who have shown incredible resilience and commitment to their studies in the run up to their final examinations next term. Also, I would like to thank the many members of staff who are giving up their time after school, at weekends and during the holidays to run intervention sessions, ensuring that our students are well-supported to achieve success in their GCSEs, BTECs and A Levels. Our Year 10 students are also due to sit their RE GCSE this summer and have achieved some very impressive results in their mock examinations, which bodes well for their final exams next term.

We all deserve a well-earned rest over the holidays, but I know that I am already looking forward to more excitement next term, with our school production of *Bugsy Malone* and Activities Week yet to come. In the meantime, I would like to wish our students and their families a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Ms Jacob
Executive Principal





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clubs such as Art Club, Games Club, and Homework Club have been facilitated by City Year volunteers. In addition, the team have provided support on numerous trips this term, such as a visit to the Emirates Stadium to learn about inclusivity and women in sport for International Women's Day, supporting a Year 9 music trip to Pirate Recording Studio for a 'Careers in Music' Workshop and a Year 7 trip for the City Schools project in Central London.



City Year

The City Year Team has continued to support students in and out of lessons by facilitating clubs, supporting lunch and break duties, and helping with the reading interventions for Year 7. This term, a range of

Throughout the term, the team have completed exciting projects within the local community; for example, for the team's social action project, they carried out litter picking in St Mary's Church Gardens. Additionally, the team has supported initiatives around the school, such as assisting our librarian, Fay, for World Book Day with a 'Who's Behind the Book' game and customising the display board.

The City Year Team have made fantastic progress with students through reading interventions, classroom support, and extra support in mentoring, which is starting to reflect in the students' academic performance, behaviour, and social-emotional wellbeing.

Ms Z. Walker

Impact Officer – City Year



FOOD EXAMS

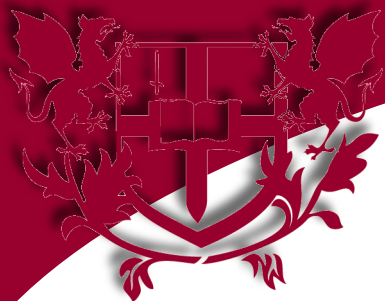
The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition students really wowed with the dishes that they made for their final GCSE practical exam. The students were asked to plan and make foods that could be sold in a local café.

Over two days they showed off their skills by proving doughs, making pastries, baking cakes and presenting a fantastic array of cuisines. All the students should feel very proud of what they achieved!

Ms L. Pinn

Curriculum Leader of Art and Design





YEAR 7 AWARDS

It was a pleasure to welcome our Year 7 cohort and many parents and carers to our second Year 7 Achievement Assembly of the year on Friday 24th March. This was a great opportunity for the Year 7 students to reflect on their first two terms here at COLAI and acknowledge how they have been demonstrating our school values of respect, integrity and responsibility. All of the students in our cohort were recognised for their achievements, both academically and pastorally, with each student receiving a medal. We also had some further individual and group successes to celebrate including our Year 7 girls netball team and Form 7.2 who had the top attendance and top achievement points for the term.

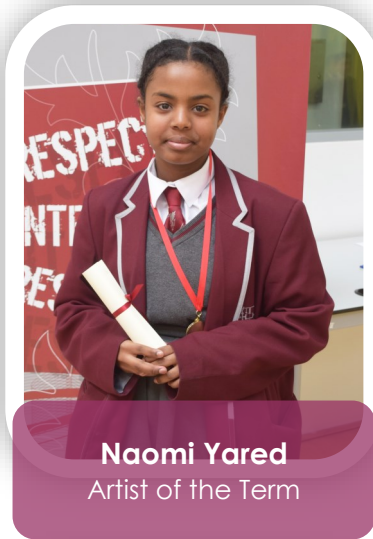
As students have now sat two assessments in each of their subjects, we were also able to celebrate those who have made the most progress and those who performed exceptionally highly on these. Our individual award winners have been highlighted within this article and I am so proud that we could have this fantastic morning to celebrate these students for their great achievements so far this year.

Thank you also to Alusine and Precious who spoke so eloquently about their time at COLAI so far and passed on some helpful tips and advice for their peers. I am really looking forward to seeing our Year 7 students continue to develop and progress in their time with us

Miss E. Maloney
Head of Year 7



AWARDS WINNERS



Naomi Yared
Artist of the Term



Henon Asmerom
Highest Attainment
in Year 7



Shantell Correa Sandoval
Outstanding Student
of the Term



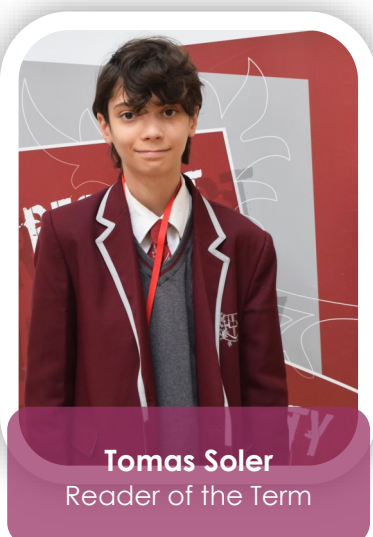
Mert Polat
Sportsperson
of the Term



Alusine Fane Bakayoko
Highest Achievement
Point Earner in Year 7



Ava Rose Stewart
Sportsperson
of the Term



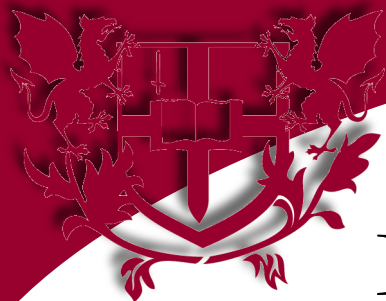
Tomas Soler
Reader of the Term



Aidan Andrews
Community
Contribution Award



Kamber Lafci
Highest Progress
In Year 7



EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On Wednesday 8th March, the English Department had a wonderful time honouring International Women's Day. Alongside the whole-school celebration in tutor time, students in English spent the day exploring their current schemes through the lenses of equality and equity.

At Key Stage Three, we looked at women's poetry and exploring canonical texts, such as 'The Crucible', from a feminist perspective. At Key Stage Four, students made enquiries about Shakespeare's presentation of women in his eponymous tragedy, 'Macbeth'.

It was an informative and enlightening day, where many questions were both asked and answered, and allowed students to open their eyes to the ongoing opportunities in our fight for an equal, just society – not simply in the world, but here at COLA-I too.

Ms A. Dear

Head of Year 8 and Teacher of English

L.O. To explore Persian women's poetry. DATE

Answer the following questions using full sentences in your books:

- How does the speaker feel in this poem? Justify your answer.
- What does the juxtaposition between 'absent' and 'present' suggest about the speaker and their love?
- In this poem there is a semantic field of the body. What does this suggest about the narrator's feelings?
- Repetition of a word at the end of successive phrases is called epistrophe. What does the epistrophe of 'you' imply about the speaker's thoughts?

Challenge: This is a love poem, but is there anything else it could be about?

Super challenge: How is the poem's tone subverted at the end?



آیا ای غایب حاضر کنایی
Oh the absent and present one where are you
به پیش من نه آخر کنایی
If you are not with me then where are you
نور چشم روشنایی از تو دارد
My eyes are illuminated by you
نور بزم آشنایی از تو دارد
My heart is acquainted by you
خاطر چشم و دل را میسران کن

L.O. To respond to 'The Crucible' through a feminist perspective. DATE

Patriarchal societies are generally ruled by binary oppositions (e.g. male vs female), upon which a hierarchy of better/less than can be formed. Our culture is patriarchal, hierarchical and androcentric.


"...the scapegoating of women as witches was possible and became effective only because ... [of an existing] powerful framework of denigrating beliefs relating to women" (Anderson and Gordon, 174)

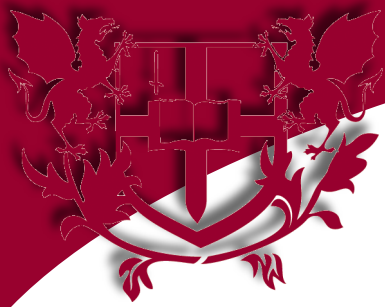
"The persecution of women and girls for the fictitious charge of witchcraft is itself a prime illustration of the oppression of women in this patriarchal society" (Morrison)

L.O. To explore women in 'Macbeth'. DATE

Today's big question:

Is Shakespeare a protofeminist, or is 'Macbeth' a warning against women who resist the patriarchy?





EVENTS

TRIP TO THE SADDLER'S SHOWCASE

On the 7th of February, a group of Year 10 Design and Technology students were invited to the historic Saddler's Hall in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral in the heart of the City of London for the 2023 Saddlery Showcase.

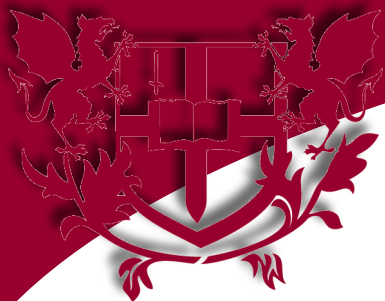
Tucked in a narrow lane, in the home of the Worshipful Company of Saddlers, the students were able to observe and analyse examples of handmade leatherwork, from horse saddles to high fashion.

Within the main hall, the students could try a series of leatherworking activities to put their skill to the test, including stamping and book binding led by their host, Master Saddle Maker and the BBC's The Repair Shop expert, Suzie Fletcher. The event culminated with a visit and audience with Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

Mr J. Luton Nicholas

Teacher of Art and Technology





SCIENCE

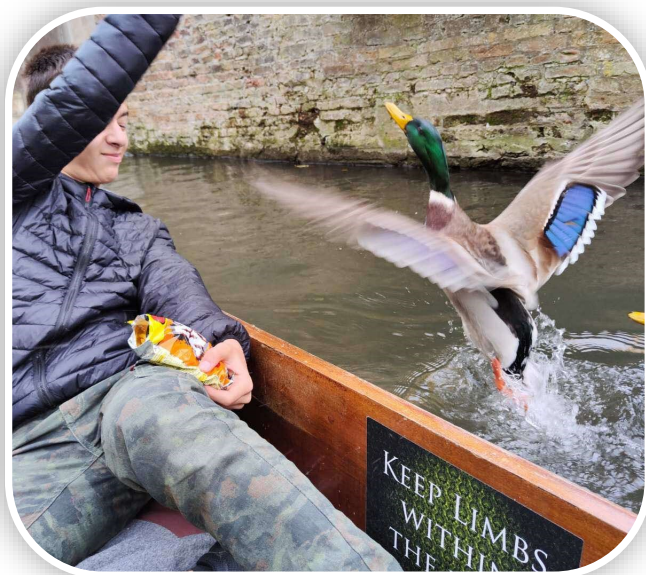
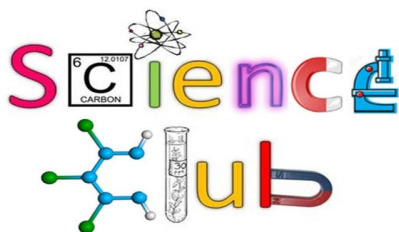
SCIENCE CLUB

Science Club started the term well with highlights being make your own pan pipes, paper bridge engineering and the ever-popular slime making.

We also celebrated British Science Week with the third edition of our wildlife photo contest, a spectacular flash bang display, more slime, the chemistry of fireworks and a pondwater safari.

We also sent Science Week schoolwide by asking other departments to explore various links with science with many great displays, the most colourful one being the 5-metre wide, colour-coded periodic table in the library!

Mr T. Moore
Science Technician

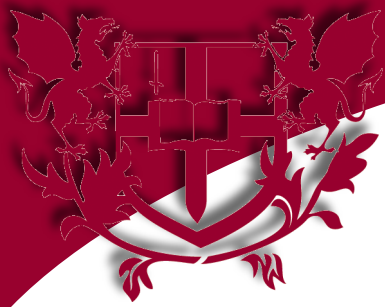


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



During British Science Week, students created a giant periodic table in the library. There were competitions throughout the week to make the longest word using symbols from the periodic table and a quiz about the history of the periodic table.

Ms K. Bell
Curriculum Leader of Science



LIBRARY

WORLD BOOK DAY

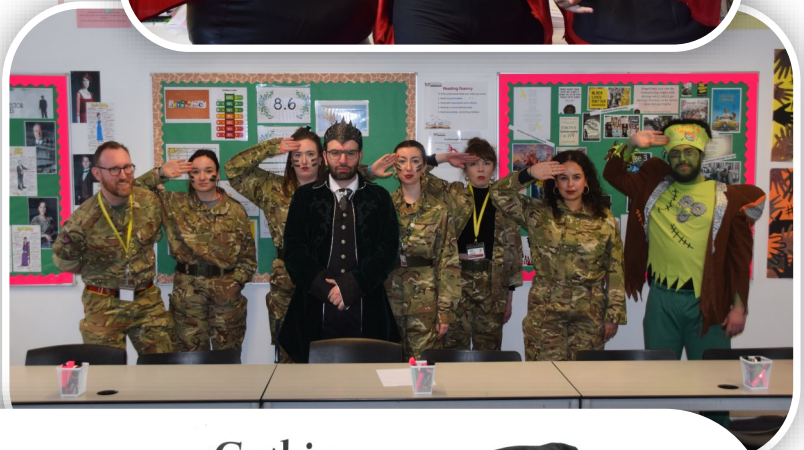
On the 3rd of March we celebrated World Book Day with a whole festival of activities throughout the day. All around the school each department represented a different genre of books. The Maths Department were “all loved up” with romance fiction, the Science Department were ready to scare the school with their love of horror fiction and Mr Abrahams’ award-winning zombie costume, the English corridor was transformed into a fearful dystopian land for all those who had English lessons that day, and the reception area became a CSI crime scene as they shared their love for crime fiction.

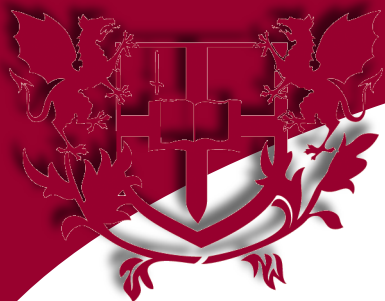
Fancy dress was great fun, with the Performing Arts Department winning a prize for best displays and costumes overall, whilst Aidan A. in Year 7 won the student fancy dress competition with his fabulous interpretation of Miss Trunchbull, closely followed by Lauren E. in Year 11 who came to school as a banana!

There were many books and gifts to be won in the library for the various competitions that we hosted and a lot of enthusiasm by students, sharing their favourite books with their teachers all around the school, creating a fabulous book buzz!

Reading is Power!

Miss F. McKnight
LRC Manager





THINKFORWARD

C. HOARES PRIVATE BANK INSIGHT DAY



The UK's oldest privately-owned bank hosted a group of ThinkForward students during the half-term break. This was an exciting opportunity to learn about the bank, hear from a range of staff and join in with interactive activities set by different departments.

Students explored the various roles required to make the bank a continued success, such as project management, IT and building a banking app, marketing and, of course, hearing from experts on banking itself. They also got to hear

from one of the senior leaders who openly shared his professional journey, quite a remarkable story that the students expressed being inspired by.



**Think
Forward**

Coaching
Connecting
Inspiring
Young People

ARDIAN BUSINESS MENTORING INSIGHT DAY

The summer term for Year 10 students will include six business mentoring sessions with professionals from Ardian. Early in March they had the opportunity to visit the offices, meet the mentors and get to know more about the business and how the sessions will support their professional development.

Next term they will cover topics such as CV writing, mock interviews and general personal development. I look forward to updating you with how the formal sessions go next term.

ARDIAN



YEAR 9 AMBASSADORS DRAGON'S DEN PITCH

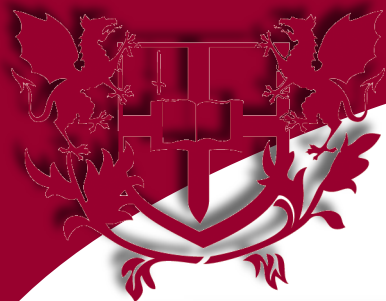
The Year 9 Ambassadors continued working on their social action project focusing on the impact of racism in schools. This will be delivered next term, but before then they needed to present their ideas at the Dragon's Den event. This is where four of the London ThinkForward schools each pitched their idea to a room of roughly 40 people, challenging their skills in communication, drive, resilience, organisation and confidence.

COLAI were judged to have made the most compelling case, walking away with the coveted trophy! In addition, Arthur received an individual award for his contribution.

Mr D. Pokorny

Progression Coach – ThinkForward





SPORTS



YEAR 7 FIRST TEAM

Our Year 7 first team: *Ava, Ana, Saorise, Amy, Oshen, Isla, Leona and Vanessa* were crowned the winners of the Year 7 Islington Secondary Schools' Sports Association Netball Tournament. They played 5 games against Highbury Fields, City of London Academy Highbury Grove, SMMA and EGA and won every one with flying colours, only conceding 2 goals throughout the duration of the tournament!

Group stage results:

COLAI 14-0	St Mary Magdalene Academy
COLAI 21-0	Highbury Grove
COLAI 17-1	Highbury Fields
COLAI 17-1	EGA
COLAI 23-0	Highbury Grove

YEAR 8 FIRST TEAM

Our Year 8 first team: *Elsa, Rae, Morgan, Tianha, Ijeoma, Mariola and Dillian* placed second in the Year 8 and 9 Islington Secondary Schools' Sports Association Netball Tournament. They played 9 games against Highbury Fields, City of London Academy Highbury Grove, City of London Highgate Hill, SMMA and EGA. The girls won 7 games, drew one and lost one.



Here is a very proud Netball Coach, Ms Mustafa who took her Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 netball teams to go watch a Netball Super League Fixture, London Pulse vs. Surrey Storm. The girls had a wonderful time and even got their shirts signed by London Pulse team!



TRAMPOLINING

Well done to Nasia, Loui, Mya, Ella, Orsini and Alicia who competed in a trampolining competition against EGA and Beacon High School.



The level of competition was so high from all students across all schools and COLAI left with 3 medals! Congratulations to *Mya* who came 2nd place and *Ella* who came 3rd in the female division! Another congratulations to *Loui* who came 3rd in the male division!

Well done to *Nasia, Loui, Mya, Ella, Orsini* and *Alicia* who competed in a trampolining competition against EGA and Beacon High School.

Well done to *Keriah* who placed second in the Year 8 Trampolining Competition against EGA and Beacon High, shortly followed with Sharon in fourth place and *Lexie* in fifth.

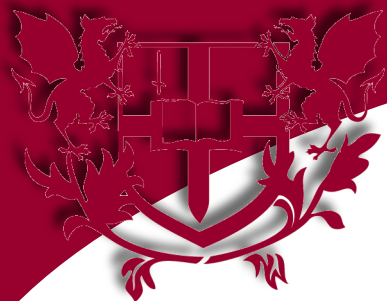
Well done to *Orsini, Miya B, Mya L, Ella* and *Jordie* who trialled for London Youth Games Borough Trampolining team.

A huge congratulations to *Mya L* and *Ella* who made the team and are now competing regionally!



Ms H. Mustafa

Second in Charge in the PE Department



ART & DESIGN SPRING TERM SHOWCASE



KEY STAGE 3



Patricia Irimia—Year 8



Riley Sim Sherwood—Year 9

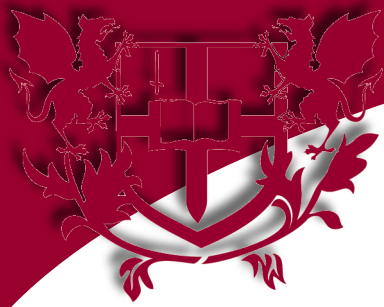


Aida Balic Tahiri—Year 9

KEY STAGE 4



Jack Tricks - Year 11



PERFORMING ARTS

THE BARBICAN CENTRE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE WORKSHOP



Students from years 8 and 9 went to the Barbican Centre to take part in a workshop about the Trans-Atlantic slave trade with poet and theatre-maker Esme Allman. Students explored ideas and themes and working in groups were inspired by objects and words around the topic. Together, they wrote a collective poem from their ideas.

Earthy

Herbal

Powerful fresh and clean, blinding and shiny

It tasted a bit like sand. Off-putting

It tastes trans-continental.

Crispy

A rich sound

Superiority

Expensive goods

Engraved

Valuable

Malleable

Travels between continents

Light and airy touch

Bitter taste of alcohol

Fluffy and soft

Sugar is sweet and nice.

It makes me feel at home.

Samuel A, in Year 8, was so inspired he wrote his own poem based on the workshop.

Gold

*Gold, the Gold glistened and blinded me,
blinded me as I drank my tea.*

*Tea, the scent of tea reminisces family reminiscences home.
home, sweet home.*

*The Burning hot sensation of tea reminds me of back
home.*

*as it burns my skin it engraves my culture and also my
place in society*

*Tea represents superiority in society for people who have
access to it.*

For the rich, the wealthy, the strong

But the weak, the poor, the slaves.

*The wave-like sound of tea reminds me of the oceans and
continents we surpassed to get here.*

*The tea relates to my own story as it travelled over the
pacific*

*The Atlantic the Indian just as I travelled, I see tea as an
oxymoron*

*A burning hot sensation but a sweet drink reminding me
of home, sweet home.*

OLD VIC SCHOOL'S CLUB – SYLVIA

A group of Year 9 and 10 drama students have been taking part in a year-long project with the Old Vic Theatre focusing on the design roles that add to a production.

This term's workshop focused on costume design and, after exploring the themes of the play, students designed their own costume for the characters Sylvia Pankhurst and Emmeline Pankhurst, the play's protagonists.

We then went to see the play, *Sylvia*, at the Old Vic, sitting in prime seats and watching the true life story of Sylvia Pankhurst, daughter of the

more well-known Emmeline, who fought for women's right to vote. Sylvia widened that idea to fight for everyone's right to vote, a decision that caused a huge rift between her and her mother.

The students were exceptional in both the workshop and the trip to theatre and we are looking forward to our final workshop and trip to see Groundhog Day next term.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - & JULIET

To celebrate International Women's Day, a group of powerful girls went to see & Juliet at the Shaftsbury Theatre.

The show tells the story about what might have happened if Juliet had not killed herself at the end of Romeo and Juliet and, instead went on to make her own decisions without the influence of a man or her family.



The play was a bright, vibrant and energetic look into the story, filled with music from the early 2000s that, unlike most shows, we were encouraged to sing along with.

It was a great way to celebrate women and the power we hold once we make our own choices and forge our hard-won paths.

YEAR 11 DRAMA PERFORMANCE EXAM

This term, the Year 11 Drama GCSE students performed their final performance pieces to a visiting examiner, bringing to a close months of hard work and commitment.

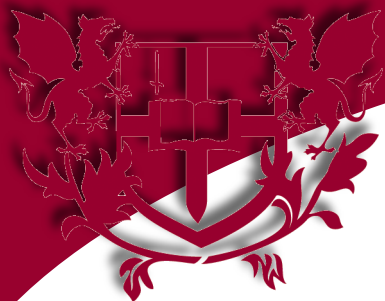


The Drama Department were so proud of their performances and hope they are too. Miss Dear came to support and said 'it was a privilege to see the performance talents of these students and the pieces were moving, emotive and thought provoking'.

Well done year 11!!

Ms A. Kiley Smith

Curriculum Leader - Performing Arts



CCF NEWS

As ever, this term has been very busy for the Combined Cadet Force with several activities attended by over 100 cadets from both COLAI and from our cadet partnership with COLA Highbury Grove. We start off by covering an event at the end of last term.



DECEMBER CAMP

This camp was the culmination of training for the new Year 9 cadets and their first residential cadet camp. If you remember back to the beginning of December of 2022, it was just as the weather had taken a turn and it became a lot colder. This meant that the camp was glazed with a lovely frost. Despite the frost, it was mild and did not rain, we kept active and suitably warm. We started by doing a round-robin of activities. First was Military Knowledge. We learnt about our sponsor regiment, the Honourable Artillery Company, as well as cadet badges of rank. Next, we refreshed our map and compass skills, learning how to walk on a compass bearing as well as using the length of our strides to measure distance (pacing). After a nice warm lunch in the cookhouse, we moved onto Air Rifle skill-at-

arms, learning how to safely fire the rifle.

Then was the Obstacle course, as a section we travelled over obstacles including a 30ft A-Frame scramble net and an 8-foot wall! After dinner, we put our fresh navigation skills to test, as the evening activity was walking a route, at night, using only our paces and compass bearings. We did this in our sections. Navigating across the dark countryside with friends in the moonlight so bright it cast a shadow, was fun. On Sunday we were able to fire the air rifle and were tested on our skills towards the Cadet Basic Proficiency Certificate. We then returned home, exhausted!



The Year 10 cadets (Pollard Troop) completed the assessment for their advanced subject of Engineering. Following training throughout the term, this was a chance to demonstrate our knowledge. On Friday night we made a small model of the project, to use as a reference for the build on Saturday. We made A-frame structures



Combined Cadet Force

utilising knots and lashings. Attached pulleys to the a-frames and tensioned the structure to create an aerial walkway. All cadets went over the obstacle, as a confidence check!

In the evening we even found time to watch the England vs France world cup football match. All cadets passed their Engineering assessment and earned a new badge to wear on their uniforms.

JANUARY TRAINING DAYS

We trained at the HAC for the weekend. Haine Troop did skill at arms, learning to safely use the Cadet GP rifle. This will allow them to use the rifle and fire blank on Easter Camp.

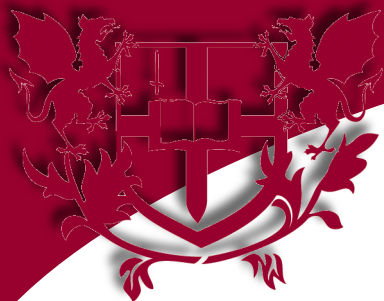
Pollard Troop did the Advanced subject of Royal Artillery, learning how to fire the 105mm light gun in a ceremonial role. This also meant the cadets completed their Cadet Advanced Proficiency Certificate.

We are looking forward to our Easter Camp during the holidays!

Mr M. Goatcher

School Staff Instructor - CCF





TRIPS & EVENTS

YEAR 10 RE GCSE REWARD TRIP

On the 28th February, Mr Woracker and Ms Boboto took a group of Year 10 students on a reward trip to the Grant Museum of Zoology in central London. The students that attended had either made the most progress in their RE assessments or were the top attainers in RE from the whole of Year 10.

On the trip, students were able to get up close to specimens, bones and preserved body parts from the animal kingdom. Students were able to see jars of brains, moles and other weird and wonderful creatures.

The trip to the Grant Museum helped students to make links between the real world and the RE unit on religion, life and science.

The trip finished with a visit to the Now building which holds Europe's largest digital exhibition. The exhibition was called 'Heaven's Gate' and our students were drawn into the immersive experience of the exhibition by Marco Brambilla. This exhibition made links to many of the units studied on the course.

Well done to the students who did so well in their assessments. We are so proud of their hard work and attitude to learning.

Mr B Woracker
Head of RE

ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM YEAR 10 TRIP

Recently, a group of Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the Zoological Museum in London, and it was an incredibly enriching experience for all involved. Students were

selected based on their outstanding progress and attainment during the Year 10 mocks – in advance of their full GCSE this year.

Upon arriving at the museum, we were greeted by an impressive collection of specimens from a vast array of species. From the largest mammals to the tiniest insects, there was something for everyone to learn about and appreciate. The museum's staff were knowledgeable and friendly, and they were more than happy to answer any questions that we had.

One of the highlights of the trip was the museum's exhibition on extinct species. It was fascinating to learn about animals that no longer exist and to see actual fossils and skeletons of these creatures up close. We were all amazed by the sheer size of some of the animals, like the giant sloth and the woolly mammoth. The museum also had a section on the evolution of species, which helped us understand how different animals have adapted over time to their environments.

Another exciting feature of the museum was the interactive exhibits. We were able to participate in hands-on activities that taught us about the anatomy of different animals and how they functioned. For instance, we were able to examine various animal skulls and learn about how they had evolved over time. We also learned about the various adaptations that animals have made in order to survive in their environments, such as the long necks of giraffes and the webbed feet of ducks.

Overall, the trip to the Zoological Museum in London was an incredibly rewarding experience. It was an opportunity for us to learn about the diversity of life on our planet and to appreciate the amazing adaptations that different species have made in order to survive.

Mr I. Botterill
Curriculum Leader – Global Environment

YEAR 7 GLOBE THEATRE TRIP



The English department were delighted to be able to take thirty Year 7 students to the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of The Tempest at the Globe Theatre in Southwark.

We study The Tempest in Year 7 so it was a joy to be able to reward a group of students with the chance to see the production in real life. With amazing production values, special effects and a version particularly suited to secondary students, the play was a delight from start to finish.

The students attending were a credit to the Academy and all enjoyed seeing the play live.

Mr A. Hesketh
Head of English

CHESS TOURNAMENT

On the 8th March, 15 COLAI students represented our school at the City Schools' Chess Tournament at the Guildhall. Considering the group had only been set up in February by Derin C., Edgar M. and Koray V., we faced some tough competition but came 6th overall!

Our students spent the morning receiving

tutoring from chess coaches, learning all the tricks of the trade, and then after lunchtime took part in a tournament against the other schools. In total, 6 games were played and the concentration was so intense you could hear a pin drop in the hall!

Our students showed great commitment and fabulous sporting etiquette at the event and are now busy training for our next tournament. Martin G., Aiyana C., Arber K. and Derin C. came joint first for our school with a four-way tie of 14 out of 18 points.

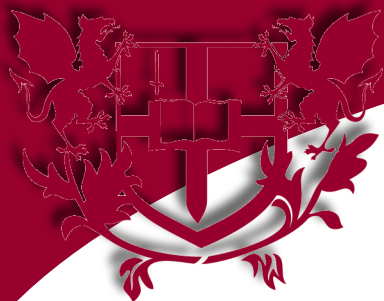


The students representing our chess club were:

Riley M
Edgar M
Mathew B
Martin G
Inan D
Adriano B
Freddy F
Derin C

Samuel A
Ekin T
Jaiden A
Anjum A
Koray V
Aiyana C
Arber K

Ms F. McKnight
LRC Manager



HEADS OF YEAR!

YEAR 7

“Pulled together, draped in success”



As we now approach the Easter holiday, it is a great opportunity for our Year 7 students to reflect on their first two terms here at COLAI. I am really proud of the start to secondary school that the year group have made. They are integrating themselves as very respectful and responsible members of the COLAI community. A number of our students put themselves forward to represent our school as a student ambassador. During this last term, they have been engaged in some training as well as helping to lead assemblies for the year group.

Our Year 7 students have now had two assessments, and the progress that has been seen since their very first assessment in the Autumn Term is one to be admired. I am pleased to see how well our students have adapted to the demands of a secondary school curriculum.

Our Year 7 students have also been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities during this last term. It has been fantastic to see so many different students get involved in these, and to see that they have come out victorious during most of the fixtures, especially our girls netball and football teams.

We now look ahead to our final term of the year at COLAI, which will bring the students first opportunity to take part in Activities Week. I look forward to being able to share this time with our Year 7 students and celebrate more of their achievements. I hope that everyone has a peaceful break, and that our students return well-rested and ready to finish their first year at COLAI on a positive note.

Ms E. Maloney
Head of Year 7

YEAR 8

“Stay sharp and hit the mark”



And with that, another term is done - time is really flying by. It is wonderful that spring is on the way and it is lovely to take a chance to reflect on this term and to look forward to the summer term where we be on our way to becoming Year 9! This spring term has seen Year 8 students complete their second assessment point where we have seen some fantastic progress made by students; it was so pleasing to see so many of them diligently work through these and putting in the extra work to showcase their abilities.

The Year 8 sports team have gone from strength to strength, in particularly the girls' netball team who came second in the Borough tournament. The PE department regularly informs me that they are really impressed with Year 8 students' participation and engagement across all sporting disciplines, which is encouraging for the summer term sports day. It has also been wonderful to see so many of the year group being cast in the Academy musical - Ms Kiley Smith and Mr Porter have commented on their professionalism and dedication to rehearsals. I can't wait for the show next term!

As a Head of Year, it is always wonderful to spend time with the year group, seeing them engage with each other in a positive way, including all members of our community (thank you to the boys who play basketball taking part with Richard Cloudesley students) and getting it right.

I always want to say thank you to the tutors and Rasina for their relentless hard work in support of the students, I'd be lost without you all. I wish all students and their families a restful holiday and can't wait for the summer term to share all the year group successes, watch this space!

Ms A. Dear
Head of Year 8

YEAR 9

“Dream, believe, achieve”



Spring has arrived and with it a chance to reflect on another exciting term for Year 9. Year 9 students undertook assessments in January which demonstrated the progress they have made since the first assessment point of the academic year. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the parents evening in February where we discussed student attainment and the selection of options for next year.

I have been immensely proud of how seriously students have taken the GCSE options process. Year 9 students have further assessments after the spring holiday that are pivotal as they move ever closer to starting their GCSEs. I encourage students to spend some time preparing using the revision resources provided by staff.

Beyond the classroom, there have been some wonderful projects that Year 9 students have engaged in. The student ambassadors have run a number of excellent sports festivals for primary school students and continue to represent the Academy superbly. A number of female students took part in a project through the Schroeders' financial firm that was aimed at encouraging women into careers in finance.

I was also incredibly proud of the students that applied and were successful in receiving a place on the City University taster week which takes place after Easter. It was an incredibly competitive field with over 500 applicants for 30 places but 7 COLAI students excelled themselves with their applications.

It has been a great pleasure to witness all of the successes and achievements of Year 9 students throughout the first two terms and I am excited about all of the enriching experiences still to be had this year.

Mr T. Nutch
Head of Year 9

YEAR 10

“Together everyone achieves more”

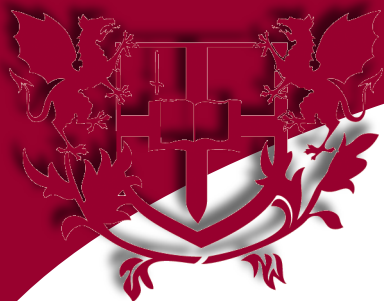


I would like to start by saying congratulations to Year 10 students for making it through two difficult terms as the expectations and pressures surrounding GCSEs have really set in. They have been amazing through the RE mock exams and their behaviour in those exams has been impeccable. They are showing us as a staff body their true value as a cohort; we are very impressed with how they have matured over the year as we look forward to working with them for the remainder of the year and ensuring they are ready for Year 11.

I have been really impressed with their contribution to whole school events. Several Year 10 students have supported at parents' evenings, leading primary school sports events and have represented COLAI in many of the sports teams on offer. We have had some notable stand out achievements in trampolining, boxing, and football. Congratulations to all students involved.

The students have made so much progress as a year group; improvements in attendance being a notable one. This is still a target for summer term, remember, if you are not in school you are not learning! Keep up the good work Year 10, you are really excelling. I look forward to supporting you to navigate your way through your final term as Year 10 students.

Ms K. Wilding
Head of Year 10



HEADS OF YEAR!

YEAR 11

“Dream, believe, achieve”



Year 11 students have worked incredibly hard over the academic year to prepare themselves for their GCSE examinations. They have attended numerous revision booster classes after school, during weekends, and holiday periods.

There are many exciting opportunities they are participating in such as academic residential trips, study skills workshops, careers trips and visits. A highlight being a very successful trip to the Worshipful company of Saddlers where the students had a chance to get some careers advice from industry leaders.

It is vitally important now that every year 11 student continues to prepare and put the effort into their studies for the final push.

Keep up the hard work!

Mr A. Smith

Year 11 Strategic Leader

SIXTH FORM

“Together everyone achieves more”



Mid- January was greatly cheered by the passing UCAS deadline for Year 13. With all our students having applied to university or apprenticeships, it was a joy to share in the excitement with students when their offers came in - a real testament to all their hard work. For Year 13, we finish this Spring Term with a sense of premonition as, after the break, we enter the term of “lasts”- last lessons, last revision sessions and fourteen years of education culminating in formal exams.

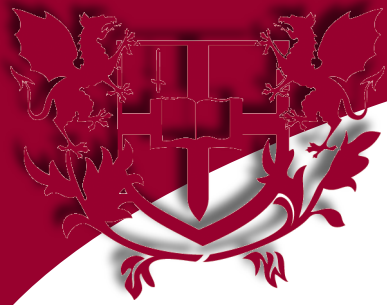
Year 12 have also been thinking about their next steps and we have begun the UCAS journey and the sheer scale of what was available to them post-18 was made abundantly clear when we visited the University Fair Exhibition earlier this month at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. Many students have begun to immerse themselves in possibilities outside the UK, with one of our students being offered a place on the prestigious and highly competitive Fullbright Commission - dedicated support with applying to study in the US.

Also, with an eye on the future, a number of our Year 12 students were fortunate enough to attend Saddlers’ Hall earlier this term to meet a number of professionals who had achieved considerable success in their careers. Students were able to hold one to one conversations and greatly benefitted from the pearls of wisdom and advice offered.

I wish all our Sixth Form students and families a restful break and look forward to continuing the good work in the Summer term.

Ms S. Vale

Head of Sixth Form



2023 Term Dates

Summer Term

Monday 17 April 2023 - Friday 21 July 2023

Half term: Monday 29 May - Friday 2 June 2023