

# insight

Newsletter • Issue 12 • December 2010



## Dear Reader,

*Our Insight magazine is a fantastic testament to our students. Every term, submissions are made describing all the wonderful events that have happened. There are never enough pages to fit everything in and Ms Bergin has a difficult time choosing the best. I am very proud of our students' achievements in Sport and in their Enterprising activities, which more recently, include raising money for charities; local and international.*

We must also be extremely proud of our Year 11, last year, who achieved the best results ever for Harris South Norwood. 100% gained 5+ A\*-C results, 61% of these with A\*-C grades in English and Mathematics. These results are well above the National averages and place the Academy in the top 1% nationally for student progress. Congratulations to all the boys and their families for these spectacular results.

Our Post 16 students are now applying to some of the best universities and are working hard to gain the high grades now needed for admission. The competition for good university places has become fierce in recent years and the pressure is on to compete with the best students in the country. The Harris Federation has a Sixth Form provision that is judged outstanding, because our students are well taught and supported to become the best.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you during the year. I wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council met this term and have agreed their Foci for this year. These will be: Improving use of the VLE, working with the student commission to develop deeper learning, creating better ways to communicate with parents, working on how to get the best out of homework and studying at home. They would also like to launch a series of social events for parents and carers. Any ideas would be welcome.

*Carolyn English, Principal*

## Faculty Cup – Competition is High!

Congratulations to the World and Citizenship faculty who won the faculty cup at the end of the Summer term! The pressure is now on again and we all have another faculty to compete with; as the Academy has now expanded in to five faculties.

Logical Arts have made a fantastic new start as 'purple tie' to the Academy, so let the battle begin! Who will win the Faculty cup this Christmas?! Which faculty will be walking proud?! Has your tutor group earned enough faculty points to make a difference? Is the attendance and punctuality good in your faculty?! Try and make a difference! Win that cup! All will be revealed during Celebration Assemblies on 21 December 2010. Make it a Christmas to remember!



# Pioneering Business Students are on the **Cookie Trail!**



**Stemming from a fantastic Enterprise Day, it was in April 2010 that a group of keen Post 16 students volunteered for a task which they had probably never imagined would envelop them so much!**

They volunteered to try and raise money to build a new classroom for a secondary school in Tanzania. The target sum is high but they have worked hard to develop their enterprise skills, build their team and devise ways to achieve their goal. To develop publicity,

they began by selling drinks and snacks at Academy events, all under the project title "Cookies and Cakes for Classrooms"! They have been prominent faces at key events such as the Harris Federation Sports Day keeping the eager spectators satisfied along

with staff and visitors at many parents' evenings. An impressive one thousand two hundred pounds was raised in those four rudimentary months.

Playing a key role in the development of this solid team have been Natalia Mensah, our Head Girl, Jordan Johnson and Richmond Dido who have all dedicated an amazing amount of their time and energy to the project. The team of LTT students have shown all the attributes of keen entrepreneurs, showing initiative, drive, dedication and impressive trouble-shooting skills. The enthusiasm of these students has developed the growth of the business and progression of the team, recruiting extra volunteers for larger events.

The LTT Group aims to compliment all of the main events this Academy year. Those held to-date have been the Year 10 Celebrations Assembly, the Year 11 Raising Achievement Evening and the tremendous Year 6 Open Evening. Proposed upcoming events will include a FIFA competition where staff and students can demonstrate their skills, a Funky Feet Day, indigenous Christmas cards and a day for the lower Academy students to experience a real taste of Business and Enterprise – to live and breathe what their futures may hold!

Our dedicated Post 16 students not only aim to raise money but they intend to open the eyes of all our students; to help them gain an understanding of what poverty is. They intend to highlight that, by giving a little, we can play a part in fighting poverty; we can help develop sustainability in other countries. The next challenge is to bring on board all the new Post 16 students across the Federation for the Enterprise Day here at South Norwood for students from all 6 sites.

Please visit: [www.livingstonetanzaniatrust.com](http://www.livingstonetanzaniatrust.com) for further details, amazing scenery and stories of impressive feats of living with nature. The link between Harris Academy South Norwood and the Kwaraa Secondary School have been further strengthened by the visit of two HASN teachers to the town of Waangwaray. We can all look forward to stories and photographs in a later edition!

This is a not-for-profit business where students have real goals with real outcomes and the chance to make a difference. We are very proud of them, so keep an eye out for the LTT representatives at upcoming events!

*M. McGann*



## Welcome to the **Library**

***Hello and welcome to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC)/Library! We would like to say a huge welcome to the Year 7s and their parents.***



In case you don't already know the library is situated on the first floor in room M127. Although it may look small there is more to it than meets the eye.

A quick reminder about opening times and passes: the LRC is open from 8.00am every morning, during break and lunch times and after school (homework club). Passes are

required for break and lunch times and can be obtained on a daily basis after school from Mrs Brewin in the LRC – remember they are free!

In this article we will be focusing on the Accelerated Reading (AR) scheme. At the start of the Academy year students take a STAR test to determine their reading level. Students are then encouraged to borrow and read a book at their personalised level and once they have completely read the book they are able to take a short computer based quiz about the story. The results are shown clearly at the end, as well as their accumulative progress. We have sticker charts to record progress and prizes: the ultimate prize won to date is an ipod! There is an amazing variety of over 10,500 books: from "Horrid Henry", to "A Series of Unfortunate Events" and Jacqueline Wilson to choose from.

The students in the Academy are very enthusiastic about AR – these are some quotes I have gathered from year 7 & 8 students:

- It helps people develop their English skills**
- It's good to get prizes!**
- I used to be rubbish at reading but now I'm really good**
- I feel proud when I get a high percentage**
- You understand the books better**

Our statistics to date generated from the AR scheme show that some students can raise their reading age by three years over one academic year – with regular reading and quiz taking!

So – KEEP READING!

*Meghan Takwani (7-8 NLE) – LRC Monitor*

## The Science Department Launch their New Brand **"Love Science"**

***The science department launched the "Love Science" brand at the beginning of the term.***

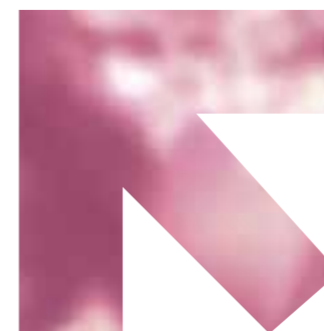
This has resulted in a successful weekly turn out for the science club, students naming some new chicks and enjoying holding the chicks during lessons. Also year 7 and 8 had the pleasure of being taught by the Head Boy, Harry Clark Post 16, student whilst they observed and took part in heart and kidney dissections.

Students have designing many logos to support the launch and the winning logo will be announced in the next issue. So watch this space.

Harry quotes after facilitating science club – "Science has always been a driving force in my life and it is great to share my passion of the subject with others."

Quotes from members of the club: "I really enjoy science club it is buckets of fun. We do stuff like making rockets, watching can crush, dissection of hearts and kidneys and much more". By Rahat Chowdhury, Year 7.

*Shahleeni Gardner*



# Improving Punctuality

You will know that attendance was judged to be 'Outstanding' in our January 2010 OFSTED inspection. We are keen to ensure that every student attends the Academy every day and on time. There have been pockets of poor punctuality lately with too many students arriving late for the start of the Academy day. We need all parents to support us in ensuring that every student arrives at the Academy for the warning bell of 8.25am, ready for admission at 8.30am.

Our team of tutors, need to see their tutees every morning to ensure messages are relayed, uniforms are checked and that students are ready for learning. Therefore please do work with us to ensure that your son/daughter arrives at the Academy for 8.25am. Our punctuality target for this year is 98%!

## HASN Student Commission: **Scaling-Up!**

**Student Commissioners at HASN are always busy making positive contributions to the Academy life!**



Commission Projects. They spoke eloquently and delivered a presentation which also showed how the Commission at HASN is growing; we are planning to work even more closely with staff to launch the first ever Student Commission Working Group which will give the opportunity to staff and students to work in partnership and co-plan a Faculty Friday, with a view to co-delivering it! A big thank you should also go to the following Commissioners for interviewing teachers and preparing an inspiring video which was shown to the whole Federation at the end of the INSET day: Gabriel Benamaisia, Leah Henry, Jason Kyereme and Ffion Brizelden.

As we are scaling-up our projects, we need even more students to become Leaders of Learning and work in collaboration with staff to ensure Teaching and Learning at HASN is beyond outstanding! The recruitment process started in Assemblies delivered by Ms Hickey and students had to formally apply for the post of a Commissioner by completing an application form. Shortlisted applicants were then interviewed by Ms Hickey and Ms Papachristodoulou, supported by current Student Commissioners Araba Quashie, Mohamed Ali Khan, Sajawal Tahir-Khan. The job of choosing new Student Commissioners was not easy! All applicants submitted well-written applications and spoke with confidence about learning and we are sorry that we couldn't appoint all students! There were some students in particular whose impressive applications were matched with an equally striking performance during their interview.

**Congratulations to the following students who were appointed as Commissioners:**

Josephine Wilkinson 7/8BWA, Joseph Marmon-Halm 7/8BWA, Shane Landymore 7/8ZHE, Jon-Paul Innes 7/8FJO, Corey Gayle 7/8ZHE, Ollie Springate 7/8NLE, Vanessa Sefa 7/8STA, Katie Vale 7/8SDH, Anya Brown 7/8RFI, Stanley Nwenwu 7/8DWI, Obed Sandow 9LEA, Jarred Tyson-Gooden 9DWH, Kenya Barnett 9DHI, Ciara McNamee 9ASG, Anisah Wedderburn 9SGR, Nadja Howton 10PCH, Leonie Thomas 10WLA, and Jason Kyreme 10HRA.

**Student Commission Departmental champions are:**

Creative Voice, Mr Hickey (English), WCS, Maddie Van Nierkirk (Humanities), Zara Hernandez (MFL), Active Science, Anna Gomberg (Science), JO Mullard (PE), Business and Enterprise, Mr Hogg (IT), Ms Wratten (IT), Logical Arts, Mr Joseph (Maths), Ms Heathcote (Drama), Mr Ares (Art) and Ms Pavlyk (Music).

The new Commissioners will undergo rigorous training, by existing Commissioners and staff, and will become an invaluable addition to the Commission team at HASN.

**Maria Papachristodoulou,**  
Assistant Principal

# Tanzania Trip

**The visit was based in Kawaara Secondary School Babati Tanzania. The aim of the visit was to develop an initial link between teachers and to plan joint projects that would benefit both the staff and students in both schools.**

The first visit to the school included formal introductions, meeting staff and students. We also looked around the school premises and gained a further insight to the challenges faced by the school and an idea of the issues that may impede the development of the planned projects. We were very impressed at the organisation and how the staff and students are motivated to overcome many of the problems that face them.

On Saturday school was officially closed but the teachers gave up their time to accompany us to see the Cave paintings at Kondola and then to visit Lake Babati. This was the first opportunity that many of them had had to visit such an important historical site. We were also made aware of the Government's intentions to conserve the local habitat with many restrictions placed on local communities to prevent further destruction of the natural environment. From this the teachers have decided to plan study visits for the students and we are planning to use the visit and resources to deliver a SoW to our KS4 students linking the history and science behind the paintings, which we will share with the teachers at Kawaara school. We also got to see the Hippo's on the Lake!!

At work on Monday we went to visit classes in school. All the lessons are very formal due to lack of resources. Where possible, simple practical experiments are carried out, for example: ecological surveys, use of pulleys at the local water wells. However due to lack of textbooks for students find it difficult to work independently and rely on the teacher giving them all the information they need. Prep time at the school is taken seriously and all students were focussed in small discussion groups concentrating on topics taught during the day. All students were discussing in English as this is the language in which examinations are taken. Most students speak a native language, then Swahili as a second language, however after primary school all students also take lessons in English.

We spent several days in school, both observing lessons and teaching. I had to teach First Aid and used my kit to demonstrate my bandaging skills on one of the students! We definitely had fun in the lesson...



We also met with the teachers to plan projects that we will deliver across both schools, we definitely have more in common than not... The students there really impressed us with their football skills, drama skills (they wrote and performed a play about corruption in Tanzania), dancing skills and their ability to have fun!

Mr Singh and I were very impressed and we felt very sad to leave. As we said to the students and teachers, we felt we arrived as visitors and left as friends. We are really excited to be planning the next steps in our partnership. Thank you also to the Post 16 students who are trying to raise £6000 to build a classroom at the school and any donations would be most welcome... also if there are any parents out there who can think of some fundraising ideas we would love to hear from you.

*Ms Kattenhorn*

## Health and Social Care Students Take their Hearts in their Hands...

**The year 12 BTEC level 3 students really put hearts in their hands when finding out about different body organs.**

Quotes from the students: "It has been great to actually feel and dissect the organs to help understand their functions." Students are being encouraged to identify different body organs, understand their functions in detail and link this to health and social care environments where the information will benefit their roles.

*Shahleeni Gardner*





## South Norwood Student Voice and Religion

**As the Academy came to a close just before the Summer holidays students at South Norwood took part in a 'Live Multi-faith discussion, chaired by Bishop Paul Hendricks.**

The discussion for the radio programme was entitled 'Your God, My God, Our God'. Students from a variety of faiths took part in the programme along with Ms Gray, Ms English and Ms Coates.

The day was hosted by Gerry Coates the creator of the "Heart gives unto Heart" internet radio station on which the show was aired.

The students showed a real sense of maturity, discussing and sharing their viewpoints on their religion.

They demonstrated fantastic discussion technique and a real sense of understanding and acceptance of the differences between different faiths.

Here are some quotes from the students:

*"It was really interesting discussing different situations with different religions. A very good opportunity for students to meet and discuss the major queries which young people have!"*

(Vinyak Alagh 12SPF)

*"I learnt a lot about other religions, and really enjoyed making the radio show."*  
(Phoebe Holder 8RMA)

*"The radio programme was good, I really enjoyed giving my views on beliefs and questions on faith. The questions were good because they made us think."*  
(Joel Kyereme 7THT)

*"It was a good opportunity to share different aspects of our religions and helped to bring us closer to people with different religions."*  
(Kiran Raja 12SPF)

Questions covered in the show included; 'If tonight you were telling god about your day, do you think it's okay to tell God something funny that happened?' and "Do Prayers and Hymns need updating to reflect modern life?"

**Chantelle Coates, Assistant Principal Business and Enterprise**

## Jamie Oliver Comes to HASN



**Well not quite... but on Faculty Friday on**

**the 1st October our Year 7 students were set the challenge of designing a new healthy snack.**

Their brief was then to create a marketing pitch that would persuade the Academy and Sodexo to stock it in the canteen. The day incorporated a plethora of Enterprise-oriented tasks from researching the market (students designed questionnaires to identify what kinds of snack their fellow students would like to buy), to designing the product itself and the marketing (what kind of promotions and advertising they would utilise) that would help sell the product.

Enterprise skills assessed were Presentation, Research and Teamwork skills. The students took on the challenge with real gusto and demonstrated some outstanding creativity, research, teamwork and presentation skills.

Here are some quotes from the students:

*"My group won the most innovative product because everyone joined in and gave their ideas. We all got a certificate for most innovative product but I got two! I got the second one for the student with the best Business Attitude in the class! It was fun!"* – Zeyahuraman Rabani 7/8FJO.

*"I enjoyed working with my friends on designing the healthy food pack. I learnt a lot of about business and the 4Ps of marketing. Our product did not win but we all had a good time working together as a team."* – Mosopefoluwa Karunwi 7/8FJO

Ideas ranged from strawberry flavoured snack bars, cereal bars that, like spinach to Popeye, make students strong, chocolate covered fruit and meal-flavoured pills (reminiscent of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory).

Who needs Jamie?

**Mr Somerville**

## Residential Weekend 2

**To set the scene: A coach load of 16 year old, learning focused students, ready to depart for a weekend away... This was going to be interesting.**

To any outsider looking in there must have been one question that kept running through their mind; there must be a very good reason to unleash 40 year 11 boys on the world. And in fact there was! The weekend of Friday 15th November was Harris Academy South Norwood's annual Maths and English learning weekend.

I know what you're thinking; this sounds like a perfect weekend. Regardless of the name you could sense the excitement in the air as we departed early on Friday morning. I decided to sit near the back of the coach to try and get to know some of the year 11's I hadn't taught before... well it seemed like a good idea at the time anyway; there is only so many times someone can ask 'are we there yet?' before I had to resort myself to zoning out all noise by putting earphones into to a volume than can only be described as hazardous to health. All the while sitting in between the year 11's that were competing in what looked like a race to see who could eat the most junk food first.

I would be happy to tell you the exact location, name and type of accommodation that we would be spending the next three days at, but truth be told I knew about as much at our location as Mrs Kattenhorn knows about football... i.e not much at all! But ignoring my ignorance I can honestly say that I was pleasantly surprised with our venue.

Upon arrival the boys were sorted out into rooms, rooms ranging from 6 to 12 bunk beds. After the expected argument on who claimed top and bottom bunk we all grouped together and read out the itinerary for the weekend. We split the lads into two groups, in each of these groups they were split into a further 3 groups. So depending on having a Maths or English session they would either be taught by the English teachers: Ms Hickey, Mr Hickey, Ms Mellor, Ms Bergin or the Maths teachers:

Ms Ogden, Ms Lomas, Mr James with special guests Ms Kattenhorn and Ms English.

The first thing that was drawn to my attention was how detailed and planned this event was, all the sessions were clearly timetabled, breaks were included between sessions, breakfast lunch and dinner was all provided by helpful staff.

The sessions came thick and fast and soon enough all of the lads were getting closer and closer to their target grade. The commitment of everyone was very impressive, every single person showed compassion towards the subject and respect to all the teachers that had given up their free time to help them.

In between and after sessions we had scheduled breaks and activities including a mini football 5 a side tournament a swimming pool filled with balls and inflatables (apparently teachers make excellent targets) but the thing where all the lads banded together, completely focused on and were so enthusiastic was... watching X factor on Saturday night... they can deny it as much as they want, we know the truth!

All in all it proved an incredibly successful trip; every single student had learnt something useful, got to know their teachers a little better and overall got one step closer to getting their grade and succeeding for the future.

A massive thank you to all.

**Mr James**

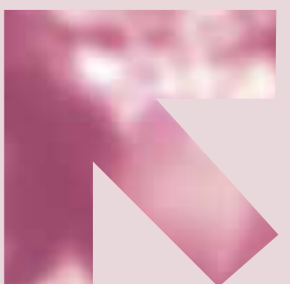
## Surrey County Cricket Come to Coach Our Kids!

**In October, two top coaches from Surrey county cricket came to run a taster session during year 7 PE for 30 boys and girls with the hope of spotting and nourishing some talent.**

They brought along the Surrey Cricket mascot and TV cameras and the students had a really enjoyable learning experience. Surrey Cricket is now running a taster session for any students in the Sports Hall every Friday until 26th November from 7.30 – 8.25am.

The session in October was filmed and a brilliant video of our students in action can now be seen by logging onto the Surrey CC website and typing in 'Croydon Roadshow'.

**J Koffman**



# Harris Academy South Norwood Official Basketball Club Launch

***I am pleased to be able to inform you that due to the success of a pilot scheme last year we are formally launching the Harris Academy Basketball club on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010.***

The team was division 2 champions in its first season and aim to build upon that this year with the support from Harris Academy and local partnerships. The club will be attached to the Medway basketball league and our mission is to Develop Community Cohesion Through Basketball.

We would like to "provide young people with the opportunity to learn and play the game of basketball in a recreational setting which focuses on fun, skill development, self discipline and social interaction."

The club will be open to the local community, which has been particularly important to the Academy, to ensure that we can provide a positive impact and be involved in the lives of the local people of the area.

We have sparked the imagination of various sponsors such as Safer Neighborhood Team, Sports Action Zone, Trident, Crystal Palace Football club, Hoopz and Reach and Teach to name but a few, who are excited to support this project and will provide added resources to improve and add value to the education and development of young people through basketball.

The launch will take place on Thursday 25th November 2010 from 5.30pm to 9.30pm at the Academy and we expect a large amount of media coverage such as the Croydon Advertiser and 'Croydon TV' who will be launching a new online television channel in December 2010.

The host for the evening will be Jason Long and our very own dance group Base Element

will be performing their newest and most exciting routine.

Exciting events include:

- Harris Juniors Basketball skills exhibition**
- Harris Juniors vs Safer Neighborhood Team**
- Hoopz/Reach and Teach promotion**
- 6th Form Dance & Base Element**
- Feature event: 8pm tip off**
- Metropolitan Division 1 league match**
- Met police V Lewisham Trident**

*Tony Grant*

## Girls Full Contact Rugby at Harris

***The girls in year 7 and 8 have been learning to play full contact rugby in PE this term.***

The Academy has some very talented tacklers! They took part in their first competition in October. The year 7 girls came second overall and the year 8 girls came joint first place having to score 6 tries in the final game to tie the competition, which they did!

Watch this space for results of further competitions. Beckenham RFU are also coming in to run a taster session on 17th November, all girls are welcome.

*J Koffman*



## Year 10 London Academy Netball Cup Champions 2010

***On 4<sup>th</sup> November the Year 10 netball squad played in their 4th London Academies Netball Cup.***



They played a round robin tournament of 7 games and won 6 and drew one. This meant that the amazing team of Captain Sharday, Aylana, Ami, Reanne, Latisha, Leonie, Cuba, Stefanie, Jessica and Ronelle won the tournament overall in spectacular fashion. They won a small trophy and a big one for the school. Well done girls!

*J Koffman*

 **Harris Academy  
South Norwood**

Harris Academy South Norwood  
2 Cumberlow Avenue, London SE25 6AE

Tel: 020 8405 5070, Fax: 020 8405 5100  
Email: [info@harrissouthnorwood.org.uk](mailto:info@harrissouthnorwood.org.uk)  
[www.harrissouthnorwood.org.uk](http://www.harrissouthnorwood.org.uk)