

insight

Newsletter • Issue 13 • Spring 2011



Welcome

Dear all, Welcome to another edition of INSIGHT magazine. As you can see there has been another term of exciting projects related to learning.

Our Student Learning Commission have been working very closely with their teachers and have been pressing for more “active engagement” opportunities in lessons. We have found that a focus on this has improved the capacity for students to learn and retain the knowledge they need for examination success. We are very fortunate to have such forward thinking teachers and students aspiring for all students to achieve highly. As examinations approach, our Year 11 are progressing well and we have high hopes for their success and that that will achieve their aspirational targets. Our Year 9 options evening was extremely positive and this year group also show great promise in their progress grades so far.

We have hosted many visitors over the last term, partly due to our success in becoming the leadership and innovation hub for London, which involves many colleagues

for other school and Academies visiting, but also due to the work of the Student Commission, who never fail to amaze visitors with their deep understanding of how we can further improve teaching and learning. They are looking forward to working with the Parent Council next term.

Following the great success of our Musical “Grease” last year, some of our talented performers have started preparations for “Bugsy Malone” in the summer, which will be very exciting, certainly something to look forward to.



Faculty Cup!



Well congratulations to our very own Logical Arts Faculty (purple tie) who victoriously won the faculty cup at the end of term last year! Very well done to you all!

However, it was very difficult to celebrate Harris Academy's Celebrations Assembly in the usual style last year; as we were very unlucky with heavy snowfall during the last few days of term.

However, there is no forecast of heavy snow this time. Spring is here and Harris Academy's Celebrations assembly will be in full swing! Will Logical Arts win again? Was it just beginners luck? Which Assistant Principal will proudly tie their colourful ribbon to the winning cup? Can you predict which Faculty will win? Competition is high! Come along and join us at Celebrations Assembly: Friday 8 April 2011. Only then can we reveal the results!

World Book Day

at Harris Academy South Norwood!

So – we were all in this together and oh what fun we had! So the challenge went out: Staff had to dress up as literary characters found in books from the 18th and 19th century; and what a fabulous response we had!

Mr Darcy was a treat to behold; Elizabeth Bennett, Scarlett O'Hara, Amy from Little Women, Gulliver, the Phantom of the Opera, Fagin, Oliver to name but a few. Over forty teachers dressed up to the nines and the students were simply thrilled and confused by so many of their teachers dressed up in the most creative, eccentric, bold outfits of the season. We were hardly on 'trend' as far as fashion experts would say. However, the staff here at Harris Academy sold the idea to the students that we love books; we love literature and we love the idea of learning about books. Books books books!!!

Some of the exciting events that took place during World Book Day were: Students wrote about their favourite books or what a particular book meant to them. Some students realised that even if they had said 'I don't like reading' that actually books have given them a lasting personal memory at some point in their lives. 'Where the Wild Things Are' proved to be a book beloved by nearly all of us. Staff also took the time to share their favourite books or texts that they believe changed the world during their life time. Books such as 'Beloved' written by Toni Morrison were shared amongst students and

students genuinely showed real engagement and enthusiasm with the text.

The English Department obviously held a competition for students to vote for their favourite World Book Day character. The two teachers who won the students' vote as the best characters were Ms. Mckeown as an 18th century zombie and Mr. Parry as Gulliver. I am now hatching my cunning plan as to how I will win next year...

Ms Mellor



Crime and Punishment



The Academy were very privileged to be invited to the annual Youth Crime and Punishment conference run by the New Bridge charity in South London.

The aim of the Youth Conference is to educate young people and make them think critically about the causes of crime and the way society responds. Seven of our students were lucky enough to be involved in this project and they even got the chance to meet and discuss elements of crime and prison reform with convicted criminals on special release for the event. The conference helped them to create links between the offender and the community. Our students were bubbling with ideas when considering ways to rehabilitate repeat offenders; they even won an opportunity to work with a senior police officer on one of their ideas!

but free. Experienced speakers from throughout the criminal justice system helped to dispel the myths about prison, crime and criminals. Students were provided with evidence that will inspire further study and even career choices in the sector.

Mr Parmar

Before attending the conference, the law students in our academy believed that prisons were like holiday camps

Liane Lang Photography Session

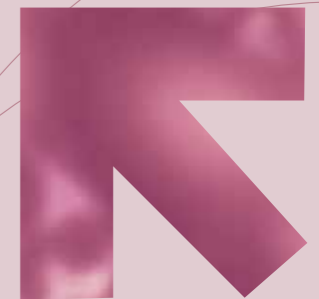
One very cold Monday morning before the snow hit us, we wrapped up for an artistic day.

We were told that we were meeting an award-winning artist named Liane Lang. She has many pieces in leading art galleries including the Saatchi Gallery. We met up with her and on the way to our setting she explained we

were her blank canvases to her new South Norwood Underpass Project. She was going to be photographing certain perspectives and poses to represent South Norwood's community.

We took photographs all up the high street and all the way up to Holy Innocence church. We then walked over to Tennyson Park to portray the true side to teenagers. The photographs she took will mean different things to each individual and they will have double meanings, and this would leave a lot to the person's imagination. With occasional stops at coffee shops we took the many pictures that would be used in the project. We are now waiting for the opening of the mural on the 30th March 2011. Although we thought we were going to be designing and be more 'hands on' it was a great experience to be a part of!

*Kenya Bilesamni-Paul 10EMI
Images courtesy Liane Lang and Croydon Art Services*



History Enrichment



The drumming rhythms were exciting and engaging!



The dance moves were really difficult and energetic!



Example of a mask project made for Year 9 carnival day celebrating Black History Month

The History Department have been really busy recently. There have been several high profile events. These momentous occasions include Black History Month, Holocaust Memorial Day, and Remembrance Day; as well as a visit from the Historical Association!

Black History Month

Year 9 were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from African dancers as well as learning how to use drums effectively and making masks for our carnival day to celebrate Black History month.

Holocaust

Students from year 9 were also involved in an assembly commemorating the story of Jewish people escaping Nazi persecution and travelling to Croydon only to face the threat of deportation. Students were then encouraged to visit the website and light the virtual candle in support of the Holocaust Memorial Day. "The untold stories video was quite emotional and we had a lovely discussion about courage and persecution." said Ms Hargreaves about her tutor group.

Remembrance Day

The entire academy held a 2 minute silence to honour armistice day at 11am on the 11th November 2011. Pupils also completed a poetry competition which was won by Shane Landymore 7-8 ZHE (see page 6).

History Enrichment club

The History enrichment club had the honour of being interviewed. Mel Jones from the Historical Association came along to watch History lessons and see all the fun and exciting things that HASN students have been making and working on. Ciara Moore and Ben Shepherd 7/8ASO were interviewed for a podcast on History in academies which will appear online soon.

The History club

The History club have been busy with projects such as making Celtic hot cakes, designing Native American Indian masks and making a model of a Neolithic burial chamber and village! There are more activities planned for this term for year 7 and 8 History enrichment; so come along to M206 on Wednesdays period 7. See you there!

Mrs Buxton

Faculty Fridays: A Student Commission make-over!

In September 2010 we were assigned the role of Student Commissioner. We were excited to get on board with making lessons more enjoyable for both students and teachers. Our first assignment was working with Miss Gomberg, trying to make a Science Faculty Friday even more exciting. Firstly, we reviewed the recent Science Faculty Friday. We tried to incorporate our own ideas without changing the whole lesson. In collaboration with Miss Gomberg, we re-designed activities in order to help students maintain focus throughout the day and build on their teamwork skills. It was amazing to see how much our fellow students enjoyed the day! They were engaged, confident to share ideas and ask questions. Following this, we presented our findings to the Active Science Faculty,

explaining how we planned the lessons, what went well and what we need to develop. The teachers were interested in hearing our views and they said they look forward to us planning more lessons! We look forward to future assignments to work closely with our teachers and classmates to make learning even better.

By Anisah Wedderburn and Kenya Barnett

Back in December 2010, four Commissioners (Joel Kyereme, Daniel Woon, Sajawal Tahir-Khan and Shane Landymore) came together and started to plan an English faculty Friday with Mr Hickey. What an exciting opportunity! In our first meeting we talked about the general ideal of the day. This is when we decided as a group that we should

link Drama and English in the day. Our next meeting was when we started looking at the structure of the day and deciding on the type of activities. The aim of the day was to create newspaper bulletins on 'killing' a celebrity of the students' choice. Then they would act out their newspapers. Needless to say, ideas were very interesting and innovative! Justin Bieber isn't very popular! The day was really successful as students were very engaged and improved their teamwork and presenting skills. We really enjoyed getting feedback from the other students and we plan to meet with the English department to discuss lots of ideas for Faculty Fridays.

By Sajawal Tahir-Khan and Daniel Woon

Science Week

Friday 11th March – Friday 14th March 2011

"LOVE SCIENCE". We're Back... Yes the Science Department team is back this year with yet another exciting and amazing week filled with fantastic events, trips, visits and a science fair which will boggle the mind! So what do we have in store?

Jonathan's Jungle.

Jonathans returns to Harris South Norwood on Friday the 11th March to kick start an eventful week with an exciting range of tropical species.

The "BIG BANG" event run by STEM NET.

12 students will be attending the Big Bang event on the 10th of March to enjoy various hands on activities and enjoy watching Brainiacs science practicals live on stage.

Jim Canon will be visiting the Academy! We are all going to explore 'Plastinated pieces' which were invented by Gunther Von Hagens and known to millions through the Bodyworlds exhibitions, Plastination is a technique used to preserve animal and human body parts. Instead of looking at a heart, a kidney or a lung in a glass-case, Plastinated specimens can be handled, examined and

studied in great detail. The Royal Veterinary College uses such specimens to teach its undergraduates and we are now giving Harris Academy students the chance to get up close and personal with these plastinated pieces in a set of interactive activities. The session will encourage students to look in depth at how organisms are put together and the ethical implications of using animals in science.

The science fair – Wednesday March 16th 2011 5–7pm.

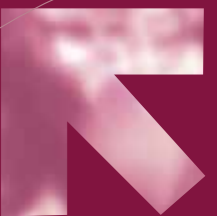
Emm and Jenefer join us from Royal Holloway University of London with exciting activities including students making chocolate rock cakes to help understand rock formation and making ice cream and linking it to the particle model. Also Jim Canon tells us what he will be sharing: "On my stall I will have a Haptic Simulator. Haptics (meaning touch) allows you to feel a 3D virtual environment on the computer.

These are important skills in the healthcare profession as students can practice making a correct incision and how much pressure to use when handling animals."

Other events on the night will include: Making slime, using microscopes to identify pond life, finding out how we can make ice catch on fire, being a forensic investigator to find clues in a murder case, dissections, measuring your BMI and blood pressure and much much more...

A night not to miss!

Ms Gardner



The winning 'Love Science' Logo was...



Congratulations to Kennedy Mogere from Year 11 who won the "Love Science" logo competition last term.

Kennedy said he was pleased and looks forward to seeing his logo being used in Love science forthcoming event.

Well done to Kennedy!

Ms Gardner

Science Club... The Future

Last term many students enjoyed science club activities including making sky divers and amazing plants. Students also enjoyed blowing up balloons using menthols and coke.

Science club have teamed up with idiscover which will allow students to take part in exciting 6 week projects and really put their knowledge and creativity to the test. Project to launch this term is "Mars Mission."

Next term's project will be Crime Lab, which will really allow students to understand how forensics works.

Ms Gardner



Buy, Buy, Sell, Sell!

Ever wondered what a real "trading floor" looks like? You hear that Stock Brokers in the city make a mint, but how do they really do it?



We've all seen the movies of brokers with 8 TV screens at their desk and people shouting across the office, "Buy, buy, Buy" or "Sell, Sell, Sell". Many students have often asked me how these stock brokers really make their money selling shares. So when Harris Academy, Merton contacted us about taking part in their Cross Federation Stock Market Challenge, I jumped at the chance to take 12 of my most enterprising students to find out what it really involves.

On the day students arrived nervous but excited and not really sure of what to expect of the day. Students were split into inter-federation teams and had to mix with students they had never met before.

"We were provided with the brief to buy and sell shares on a 'live' trading floor just like Brokers do on trading floors and on-line all over the world every day". We had £15,000 to invest in a choice of 9 companies across 5 days – each day was 20minutes long."

Students had to buy when the price was low and sell when the price was high. How did they know when the prices would be high or low?

"We used news papers given to us for each day to make decisions on whether to buy or sell and sometimes we sold too early we should have waited as the shares became worth more." – Bilal Hagos

"They gave us news flashes throughout the day to help us to make decisions and we kept an eye on the share prices on the big screen at the front of the room." – Annesha Mitchell

The winning team managed to turn their £15, 000 into a whopping £470, 000. Harris South Norwood were pleased to have students in all top 3 teams. The students came away from the challenge feeling enlightened with the buzz of success. One student even asked:

"Is it really possible for Stock Brokers to lose their money in the space of minutes." – Jaiden Ramgeet

Students also learned how to work together as a team, solve problems under pressure, analyse information and communicate effectively.

"I really enjoyed the day and learned what an impact the news can have on companies and share prices." – Brandon Graham

Altogether, a successful day. Thank you to all those who took part to represent Harris South Norwood. Congratulations to the following students for being in the top 3 teams: Brandon Graham, Ben Haskell and Grant Sandiford.

Miss Morley, Head of Specialism

Remembrance Day Poem

*As we gather around and pray
For all those men who lost their say
For those who died in that terrible way
For those who passed before the 11th day.*

*We remember those two dreadful wars
During the time there were no laws
When bodies passed through death's door
For those who died for all our cause.*

*As we gather around and pray
For those who died in that terrible way
For all those men who lost their say
For those who passed before the 11th day.*

*They gave their lives for us to be free
So we can eat our food and drink our tea
They battled on land, in air and sea
We are truly grateful, yes the world and me.*

*As we gather around and pray
For those who died in that terrible way
For all those men who lost their say
For those who passed before the 11th day.*

Created By Shane Landymore (8ZHE)

From Playground to an International Platform!



Since the start the Academic year, girls across Years 7 and 8 have been trying their hands at tag rugby.

With the help of professional coaches the girls had fun learning core skills and the fundamentals of the much loved game of Rugby. Based upon the phenomenal standard set by all the girls involved, a number were given the opportunity to compete in tournaments and festivals within Surrey. The year 7 girls were extremely successful and won their first ever tournament.

The girls' enthusiasm has continued to shine throughout the rest of their sporting success in netball and basketball. Their committed coach, Paul Wilson, provided the students with an opportunity they could not refuse. They were entered into a draw which would give them a chance to play in another tournament. After being successfully selected for the tournament, it was left to Ms Mullard and Ms Davess-Humphries to decide on the eight students who would represent the Academy. Along with a lot of support from Paul Wilson the following students were chosen for this very special day: Hannah Alvarez, Amber Campbell, Kerrie- Ann Dowie, Josephine Wilkinson, Tyra Wilson, Charday Tamakloe, Anita Toci Thaci, Anya Brown.

What the girls were unaware of was the extra bonus that the tournament would bring. Students would have the opportunity to play at none other than Twickenham Stadium on the same day that England played France in the 6 Nations tournament. This meant that after their matches the students would be able to meet with the players as well as have prime seats to watch one of the most talked about sporting events on television this year! The students were also fortunate enough to have their names and pictures featured in the match day programme!

The Big Day!

Nerves were setting in on the way to the tournament, whilst excitement bubbled over on the travel to Twickenham. The crowds were gathering around the stadium and the students began to recall which England players they might see on the day.

The students were instructed to meet at the Golden lion where they were taken in the same entrance as the players and entered their own changing room for the day. The girls ran through their jobs for the day and had their first opportunity to walk out onto the pitch.

The students played against other year 7 and 8 teams from Brompton Academy (Kent), Helenswood Girls Secondary School (Sussex) and Ursuline High School for Girls (Surrey). Their names appeared on the big screens along with close ups of some fantastic performances in the matches. After two hard fought games, the students were taken for a lap of the pitch; the fans cheered and applauded the girls on an outstanding performance on the pitch.

Now the time had come for the girls to prepare for the big moment. The girls had to line up in the order they would walk out on to the pitch. The students then took to their positions to form a Guard of Honour as the international stars of England and France took to the field for the national anthems in front of a stadium packed full with over 84,000 fans! The girls observed 1 minutes silence in remembrance for the lives lost in the earthquake in New Zealand. What an amazing day and a memory that will last forever.

Miss D-H

Rugby League Champions

Once again I am delighted with the way the Year 8 boys at our academy performed at the annual Rugby League tournament this year.

We were also very honoured to be part of the new 3G pitch unveiling at Lanfranc School in Mitchum during the year 8 tournament.

The year 8 boys played top notch rugby and managed to up the score in the final against our old rivals St Josephs; who won this tournament last year. It was a very hard fought match which resulted in a tie with 3 tries each per team. The decision was then made to play extra time with

golden tries to decide who will be the champions this year. We took possession of the ball on our own try line and scored the winning try!

A huge congratulations to our Year 8 boys on winning this year! Thanks to the staff at Storm for all their hard work and commitment to teach lessons during academy hours.

G van Niekerk



Basketball News

A new chapter has begun for Academy Basketball at Harris Academy South Norwood!

For the first time ever, we entered the amazing South London Basketball National Championships.

The academy was represented by Years 9 and 10 girls as well as Years 9, 10 and 11 boys' teams.

Year 9

- The Year 9 girls successfully came second in their pool and qualified for the South London County Finals, which they lost to Teddington.
- The Year 9 boys came fourth in their pool.
- Year 10 girls won their pool and advanced to the County Finals; which they won by beating Holy Cross and are now advancing into the Regional pools.

Year 10

- The Year 10 boys narrowly lost to St.Mary's by 2 points in the semi finals.

Year 11

- The Year 11 boys successfully won their pool and went to the County Finals against Lanfranc which they lost but they still qualified for the regional pools as runners up.

We would like to wish the Year 10 girls and Year 11 boys the best of luck to both teams in the next Regional pool playoffs.

All teams played brilliantly given this was their first year playing this higher level of Basketball. So now we know what to expect for next year, I am sure we will be even stronger.

Well done, to all of the players. You demonstrated commitment, team work and represented our Academy with excellent behaviour and attitude, even in defeat.

We are still active in the Croydon School Basketball Leagues so keep an eye out for the home games and do come and support us.

- Year 7 girls: currently second in the league
- Year 7 boys: currently top of the league
- Year 8 girls: currently top of the league
- Year 8 boys: currently top of the league
- Year 9 girls: currently second in the league
- Year 9 boys: third in the league
- Year 10 girls: currently top of the league
- Year 10 boys: currently second in the league
- Year boys: currently top of the league

Coach Wright

Attendance and Punctuality

Last term our attendance figures continued to improve.

We reached 95.43% for our attendance with just over 98% punctuality. Year 7 lead the way with average of 97% attendance, closely followed by Year 8 with 96.5%.

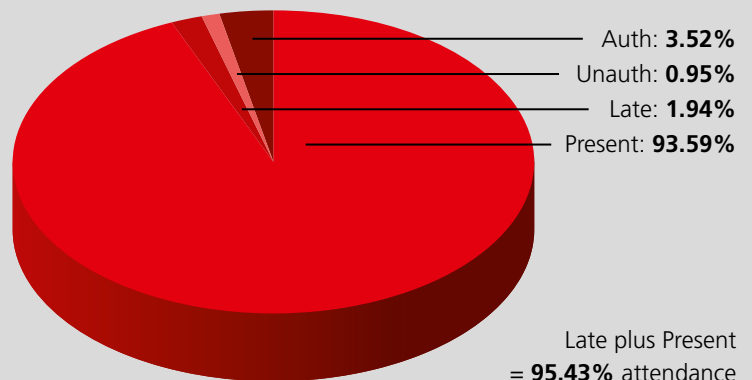
All our staff including form tutors across all year groups and Mrs Robinson as well as Mrs Slater, have worked hard to keep on improving punctuality. Punctuality was an area we were focusing on in the Autumn Term and this is improving rapidly. Our target attendance is 96% for the academic year and 98% for punctuality. We need parents and carers to support us in ensuring that students are present and on time to the Academy. There are still some students who arrive late (all of whom are on punctuality report) but parents and carers play a key role in making this happen too.

In the Spring Term during a Year 10 assembly I shared some statistics with students on the link between student results and attendance. Did you know that if a student misses just half a day in the Academy week - there is a drop of one whole GCSE grade in their achievement? Therefore, a grade A would become a grade B, a grade B would become a grade C... This means that every lesson and every minute counts! Also, students must be in lessons to learn. Students who do not gain a good set of 5 A*- C grades, including English and mathematics earn on average £3.64 per hour. We therefore MUST have every student with the maximum possible attendance and punctuality.

Your support is very much needed in making this happen!

Mr Hainey

Academy Average



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