



■ ■ ■ ■ Specialist Visual Arts Academy

Autumn 2012
Issue 1

FROM THE HEADTEACHER

New Beginnings!

Welcome to our new Newsletter which is crammed with news of school activities that have taken place since the summer. We will now be producing a Newsletter every term to keep you in touch with news of the fantastic things that happen at Heston Community School on a daily basis.

I am writing this as the Autumn Term comes to an end and with it 2012, an action-packed year for both school and country. A year that has seen the School celebrate its 80th Anniversary and gain Academy status, events which I talk more about on page 3.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements of some very special people – our students, your children.

Phil Ward
Headteacher



CULTURAL FUSION SHOW



Dance, drama and drums featured strongly in the student-organised Cultural Fusion Show that was enjoyed by families, friends, students and staff on 21st and 22nd November 2012. Singers, musicians, comedians and a fashion show from around the world also entertained the enthusiastic and appreciative audience.

Headteacher, Phil Ward, said: "Year on year Heston Community School's Cultural Fusion Show goes from strength to strength, enabling students to showcase their talents to a large audience. It is evenings like this which show what leadership in schools is all about – making a difference to students' lives through the opportunities you provide and then seeing students grasp those opportunities and pay back your efforts seven times over. That's what makes me want to get up in the morning and come to work and it's why students come to Heston.

I'd like to thank the students and staff for their commitment and a superb show. The depth of talent we have created in the arts here is truly remarkable! I am immensely proud!" ■



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SPORT

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

Three Heston Community School students helped London to second place in the U13 Girls' Basketball Regional Development Tournament held at Lilleshall, in October 2012.



Kimran Sangha, Ayun Hussein and Bethany Mann from Years 8 and 9, were selected in the 12-strong squad to represent London. The girls helped London reach the final where they were narrowly beaten by the North-West. The tournament, which is used in the selection process for the England U15 Development squad, produced some excellent basketball.

Mr Stefan McGarrell, the girls' coach, said: "I am really proud of the girls, they have worked very hard to reach the level they are at and I hope they will continue their progress. This experience will be invaluable." ■

MUSIC AND DRAMA SHOWCASE

Students from Year 7 to the Sixth Form took part in a concert which featured singing, playing of instruments and acting, including a sneak preview of a future zombie-themed school production.

Ms Clair Jones, organiser of the event, said: "It was a perfect way to showcase the talent of our students. It was also a great opportunity for some of the students who have never performed in public before to gain confidence in the intimate setting of the Drama Studio. Teaching staff also got involved, acting and performing in bands alongside the students. It was lovely to have students, parents and staff come along and be supportive audience members." ■



EXAMINATION RESULTS 2012



August 2012 already seems a long time ago but congratulations must go to last year's Year 11 students who achieved so magnificently in their GCSEs in the Summer. Thanks to their hard work and efforts the School gained its second best ever results with 79% achieving five or more GCSE passes at higher grades A* to C and 60% achieving five or more A* to C including English and Maths.

Most pleasing of all was that every student achieved and was able to access the full range of Post-16 opportunities with record numbers going on to study 'A' levels and equivalent courses. It is worth remembering that this is at a

school where we do not do 'quick fixes' to boost our pass rate. The success enjoyed by our students is earned through hard work and the quality of learning they experience in lessons. These results are also against the background of the GCSE English grades fiasco which rumbles on in the High Court where a final judgment is expected in January 2013.

Post-16 students also deserve congratulations with 46% of A2 grades awarded being the top grades of A*, A and B. As a consequence the overwhelming majority of students were able to go on to courses of their choice at their chosen university. ■

HESTON'S GOT TALENT

Heston has got talent and it certainly showed as Heston's Got Talent performers entertained an enthusiastic audience with an exciting and captivating mix of music, song and dance.

The most difficult act of the night was the one handed to the judges, teachers Mr Pringle, Mr O'Keeffe and Mr McGarrell. However, their choice for first, second and third places met with the approval of the audience based on the reception the prizewinners received.

The winners were Indhi, Nisha and Komal for their performance of Price Tag. Jibril's Street Dancing earned him second place and third place went to Gurdeep for his Dhol Drumming Medley which saw the audience on their feet and joining Gurdeep on stage.

Miss Martindale, Music Teacher and organiser of the show, said: "I was very impressed with all the performers, particularly those who were performing in front of an audience for the first time. The standard of the acts and the student hosts was excellent – Simon Cowell needs to visit Heston!" ■



HEADTEACHER'S REPORT



The Autumn Term was a particularly busy one not least because after more than 12 months of wrangling with the Local Authority's solicitors over which land and buildings belonged to the School and which did not, Heston Community School finally became an Academy on 1st November 2012 and Heston Community Academy Trust was formed. The School's name will not change as Governors felt that they wanted the School to remain the School of choice for its tight-knit community. So it is that as we move into a new era of the School's history we will continue to instil a passion for learning in our community and continue with our mission to change lives while preserving the traditional values of discipline, courtesy, good manners and mutual respect.

During the Autumn Term the School also celebrated its 80th Birthday with former students and staff invited to return to the School in December to have a look around, see the new excellent facilities that we have on offer and to reminisce on times gone by. We welcomed students and staff from every decade from 1960 onwards, among them a former member of Heston's morris dancing group. A great day was had by all, including existing students who through their lessons on that day learnt something of school life in the 1930s.

Birthday celebrations will be ongoing and as part of these, through our link with the University of the Arts London, we are commissioning a creative work of art

which must include oak (the material used to celebrate 80th birthdays) in its design to commemorate this special year. The commission will be awarded via competition and we hope to leave the work of art created as a legacy for future generations. It is also hoped that this project will engage students, staff and members of the community during the creation of the work and we hope to unveil it in September 2013.

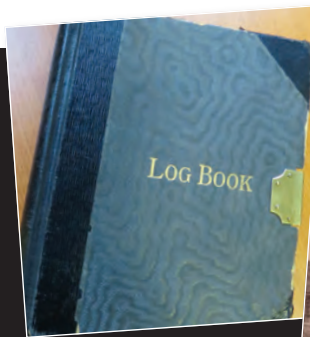
As you will see from the Newsletter, the School has been a hive of activity and achieved many successes this term from our sell-out Open Evening and Open Day visits to sporting events, public speaking activities, educational visits, our Visual Arts Super Learning Day, international activities, the best ever Cultural Fusion Show (another sell-out), Heston's Got Talent and much, much more.

As we move into 2013 we enter more interesting times with further changes being made to national education policy and the school examination system. We have a strong team of staff and governors keeping abreast of developments as they happen and we will do all that we can to keep all our parents/carers informed of any changes that will affect the School.

In the meantime, we can be confident that Heston Community School as an Academy will continue to go from strength to strength and is certain to have a highly successful future.

I would like to end this message by wishing all our parents/carers and friends, who do so much to support the School, a very happy and successful 2013.

Phil Ward
Headteacher



ART SUPER LEARNING DAY

Art Super Learning Day saw some superb creativity and teamwork from teams made up of students from different Year Groups. The challenge set by the Art Team was to create a paper 'figure' based on the theme of Cultural Fusion; the figure could be a shape, form, creature or costume.

Sixth Form students excelled in their leadership roles, facilitating the work done by the mixed age groups and guiding their younger colleagues. Many teachers also threw themselves into the spirit of resourcefulness and really helped to motivate their students

during the day.

The winners, in a very closely fought competition, were Ms Emma Davies' group, pictured inset right with their superbly engineered paper figure.

Ms Helen Wyglendacz, Curriculum Leader for the Visual Arts, said: "Heston's students showed tremendous creative flair in building exciting, beautiful, well thought out and sometimes just plain quirky paper sculptures based on the human form. It is amazing that 50 groups who were given identical materials came up with 50 very unique ideas!" ■



SABAH CHOUDRY: HESTON'S HEAD GIRL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

In March I was elected as the London Borough of Hounslow's Member of Youth Parliament. As an MYP, I represent the 65,000 young people of Hounslow. The past year has been amazing. I've made new friends from up and down the country, met influential politicians and been on fantastic trips. So what is it I do as an MYP? It's my job to represent the voices of Hounslow's young people at a local, regional and national level. As your MYP, it is my duty to take issues raised by young people to Members of Parliament, local Councillors and other relevant bodies; to be an advocate for the young people of Hounslow where needed; to be open to questions, comments and criticisms; to attend youth council meetings regularly and give feedback about regional and national projects; to raise awareness of the UKYP and the Hounslow Youth Council and, most importantly, I will try to make a difference for our borough. It's a lot of hard work, but I love it. At the moment I'm working to forge bonds between the school councils in the borough

with the Hounslow Youth Council – this is because there are not enough active student councils in the borough. In addition, I had the invaluable opportunity to debate in the House of Commons with MYPs from across the country – live on the BBC Parliament channel. It was a privilege to be able to debate in the Commons, as the green benches have only historically been sat on by MPs. Sadly, I did not get the opportunity to speak but that doesn't matter because the excitement in the Chamber makes it an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life. My motivation for the past year is that as pioneering students, we must remember that youth are the solution, not the problem. Unfortunately, my one year term is soon coming to a close. With UKYP elections coming up and if you have an interest in making genuine change, I urge you to stand as a candidate! ■



JACK PETCHEY AWARD WINNERS



Jack Petchey Awards of £200 were given to three students who were selected by fellow students after being nominated for these prestigious awards.

The winners were Inderpal Gupta Year 8 for attitude and effort, Mahanoor Shams Year 9 for being resilient and supporting others and Japneet Sandhu Year 10 for her work on eco and garden projects. Inderpal treated his friends to a ten-pin bowling evening with his prize money and Mahanoor and Japneet took their friends to the Winter Wonderland event in Hyde Park.

Summer Term winners Zoe Chopra and Ravinder Kibbe decided to spend their prize money this term and took 18 friends to see 'Stomp' at the Ambassador Theatre London.

Mr Jonathan Ryan, organiser of the awards, said: "Jack Petchey Awards are a great opportunity for all students because every student has the opportunity to win. It's not about *being* the best, it's about *trying* your best, which we can all do! The Autumn Term was a very close competition, with over fifty nominees from all years across the School. This fifty was narrowed down by our senior students and the final three were chosen because of their variety of activities and the number of peer nominations." ■

SHEHLA SPEAKS OUT

Congratulations to Shehla Khan (pictured below) who took second place in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Final which was held at Hounslow Manor School.

I was a bit nervous on stage but when I started to speak the nerves disappeared and I spoke from my heart

Year 10 student Shehla represented Heston Community School after being nominated by her fellow students for the speech she delivered in a public speaking workshop. The workshop was part of the Jack Petchey Challenge which resulted in Shehla competing against the best public speakers from 12 schools throughout the Region.

Brentford and Isleworth MP, Mary Macleod and prize-winners from other schools, presented the trophies.

Shehla was complimented on a passionate speech about being an independent Afghan woman.

Shehla said: "I was a bit nervous on stage but when I started to speak the nerves disappeared and I spoke from my heart. The experience was a wonderful opportunity to boost my confidence even more." ■





Mr Andhee with Assistant Learning Co-ordinator Ms Sunita Jassal, a former student at Heston

HELPING HESTON'S NEW STUDENTS

Starting at a new school is very exciting and can be a little scary, although at Heston, Year 7 students have nothing to worry about. The task of the Year 7 Team is to allow students to settle in and make sure they are happy and have no problems so that they can make the most of the many opportunities that will come their way over the next five years while they are here. At Heston we find the time to listen to our students, provide support, mentoring and guidance with regards to student welfare and progression. Whilst students are

still at primary school, we work with their schools to help them make a smooth transition to Heston. We also organise workshops to cover social skills, self-esteem and positive behaviour. Another popular programme is our Summer School held during the summer holidays. This helps to make students more confident about starting at Heston, it also develops supportive links between Year 6 and current Year 7 students and helps identify students for monitoring.

Ritesh Andhee
Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator

WHAT OUR YEAR 7 STUDENTS THOUGHT OF THEIR FIRST TERM

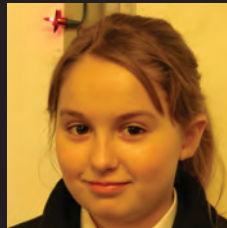
"Fun, adventurous, and inspiring – a crazy term – I loved it – awesome!"

Khimran Norwood Green Junior



"I was very worried before I came here – but so many friendly people helped me out and the teachers are lovely"

Hollie Alexandra Junior



"All the teachers are helpful and kind. Also, the School provides fun things to do like Heston's Got Talent and the Cultural Fusion Show"

Asvina Alexandra Junior



"I really enjoy school. I find it fun and educational. It makes me feel safe and happy"

Jai Norwood Green Junior



"I like how all the students are friendly – Heston School has made a brilliant first impression!"

Lara Springwell Junior



"A rollercoaster of emotions but knowing I have teachers and friends right beside me helped me settle in comfortably"

Sara Norwood Green Junior



"I like that the field is big enough so we can all play"

Aimon Springwell Junior



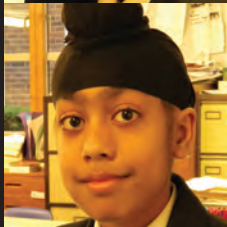
"I like the canteen because it has different varieties of food. I also like the classrooms and the teachers because they are really nice and fair"

Tasleen Berkeley Primary



"I like going to different classes for different subjects with different teachers"

Ilmeet Heston Primary



"I like most teachers, the extracurricular clubs and sports facilities. I love the school so far"

Samraj Springwell Junior



SAARBRÜCKEN COMENIUS TRIP TO GERMANY

In November 2012, ten students from Heston Community School visited our partner school in Saarbrücken, Germany, the first international visit as part of our EU Comenius funded project, 'Waste Not Want Not'.

This visit enabled students to discover how issues such as recycling and waste are dealt with in Germany by visiting a local recycling plant and a sustainable farm where nothing at all was wasted. They also visited Strasbourg and the European Parliament before putting together an exhibition of their photos, working alongside students from the other four schools involved; our partners from Germany, Spain, Turkey and Hungary.

International Schools Co-ordinator Miss Prior, who is organising the project at Heston said: "It was great to see all the students working together, spending a week in a bilingual French-German school really made the students think about their own foreign language skills and the need to develop these in the future."

Next term the students will be looking at how we deal with recycling here in Heston and comparing it to our partner schools before heading off to Hungary in early 2013. ■



HARRY POTTER

Media students from Years 11-13 were given a fantastic opportunity to experience the Harry Potter Studio Tour.

The Warner Bros. Studio Tour showcased the extraordinary British artistry, technology and talent that went into making the most successful film series of all time. The tour which lasted three hours extended the students' understanding of film production and special effects.

Students had the chance to go behind-the-scenes and see many of the things the camera never shows, as well as the sets, costumes, props and animatronics. ■



SHAKESPEARE TRIP

The English Team took 45 Year 8 students to the 'Shakespeare: Staging the World' Exhibition at the British Museum in Holborn. The students were given a fantastic opportunity to explore some sources from the Shakespearean era, through a guided tour by members of the team. The educational visit provided a fantastic insight for the students into the context behind some of the plays they are currently studying in English.

The exhibition featured media performances by modern day actors that brought to life the theatre experience for the students. This visit has encouraged Heston students to comment on the exhibition in their own creative writing and reading based activities in lessons. ■



FUNDRAISING AND HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

The Autumn Term has seen students and staff support a variety of charities. Some of the highlights are detailed below:

Mufti Day saw school uniform abandoned and an impressive £1,100 raised for Children in Need and this contribution helped this year's BBC appeal raise a record £26.8 million.



The Learning Resource Centre raised a further £160 for Children in Need by selling 'homemade' bookmarks and old stock that would otherwise have been discarded.

Cancer Research received over £50 as a result of students in 7 White washing staff cars. The students braved some of the coldest weather of the year to clean and polish cars at break and after school.



Cake sales for Macmillan Cancer Trust and a range of sponsored events for Shooting Star CHASE have also taken place.

More practical help for the homeless has seen clothes and food collected at school. During the last week of term Year 12 and 13 students delivered all the kind food donations from students and staff to The Upper Room, a West London charity which is dedicated to supporting people who are socially disadvantaged, vulnerable and homeless. ■



GOVERNORS' CORNER



Dear Parents/Carers,

Last year, the School was judged as 'Good' by Ofsted under the new framework. However, we see this as a starting point in our journey to be a truly outstanding school for the local community which is seen as a natural first choice for parents. The school community (staff, students and the governors) are all working together to reach that goal, but we would very much like to improve our engagement with both parents and the local community. Since parents/carers play such an important role in a child's education, I would like to focus on this theme and have one simple request:

Do you have any ideas or have you seen examples of outstanding practices at other schools that you would like to see at our school? If so, please make your ideas known via email to gb@hestoncs.hounslow.sch.uk. These ideas will be collated and shared with you and will also help form strategic decisions for the direction of the School, so please do contribute and make your voice heard.

Do you have any ideas or have you seen examples of outstanding practices at other schools that you would like to see at our school?

Whilst reading this, you may also be asking yourself, what is a governor and their role in the School. With the launch of the new school website we will be sharing more information with you. In addition, you will also have the opportunity to meet governors at the upcoming Parents' Evenings.

I look forward to receiving your feedback and wish you all a successful and rewarding year.

Kuldip Sidhu
Chair of Governors

HOUSE SPORT RESULTS

OVERALL RESULT

1ST	Blue
2ND	Orange
3RD	Green
4TH	Red

Year Group Results

Boys' Football

YEAR 7:	1ST	Blue
	2ND	Green
	3RD	White
	4TH	Purple
YEAR 8:	1ST	Green
	2ND	Blue
	3RD	Red
	4TH	White
YEAR 9:	1ST	Orange
	2ND	Green
	3RD	Red
	4TH	Yellow

Girls' Basketball

YEAR 7:	1ST	Blue
	2ND	Orange
	3RD	Red
	4TH	White
YEAR 8:	1ST	Orange
	2ND	Purple
	3RD	Red
YEAR 9:	1ST	Blue
	2ND	Orange
	3RD	Red

Blue House were the overall winners

in the Football and Basketball interhouse competitions. Boys' Football and Girls' Basketball group matches for Years 7, 8 and 9 were played during PE lessons followed by semi-finals and finals after school.

Mr Menchini, organiser of the competitions, said: "The level of participation and sportsmanship throughout the competition was excellent. Many matches were hard-fought but always fair and the support for the teams from both students and teachers created a great atmosphere. Congratulations to everyone who took part - particularly to the winners."



ENGLISH CONFERENCE



English AS students were given an exciting opportunity to take part in an inter-school conference to develop English Language and Literature skills this September.

Ms Hosseini, a member of the Heston English Team, led a workshop on close reading skills and developing debate and persuasive language at the Hounslow Schools' English Conference which was held at Gumley School. Ms Hosseini led the afternoon workshop and a University Professor of English also presented a lecture on global literature.

Heston students joined students from Lampton, Gumley and Isleworth and Syon Schools. The students found it very beneficial to be able to meet and share with other English students from across Hounslow. ■

ETON COLLEGE

Heston's links with Eton College have resulted in students benefiting from a variety of specialist days and Saturday School at Eton.

Year 10 students have enjoyed science activities and Year 11 students (pictured right) took part in an A and A* Mathematics Day to study high level Mathematics designed to extend the most able in Mathematics. ■



$$y^2 = 2 - \frac{(x^a - y^b)(3z + a^2 + b^2)}{a^2 + b^2}$$