



Specialist Visual Arts Academy

Spring 2016
Issue 11

HESTON IN TOP 100 NATIONALLY & GOOD NEWS FROM OFSTED

Headteacher Phil Ward was delighted to receive two letters in February and March that brought excellent news for the School.

The first letter was from Nick Gibb the Minister of State for Schools – here it is:



Mr Ward said: "This is an outstanding achievement and we are very pleased to be one of the Top 100 schools nationally for our value-added score. This

performance can be credited to the talented young people who worked hard and benefited from the generous support provided by our teaching and support staff. Well done everyone!"

The second letter which arrived in March was a summary of the **Ofsted Inspection** that took place at the start of February. The headline result was "This School continues to be good."

The Ofsted Inspection team that visited the School met with Mr Ward, other senior leaders, middle leaders and teachers new to the school as well as Governors and students.

Here are some of the comments the Inspection team made:

Pupils enjoy coming to school, work hard and have excellent relationships with their teachers. Consequently, many pupils make good progress across a range of subjects and a large proportion continue their education in the large sixth form.

A large number of parents who responded to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, believe that their children are well looked after and feel safe.

School leaders and the governing body have ensured that safeguarding procedures are extremely well managed across the school.

Leaders have focused on improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment throughout the school ... As a result ... the progress pupils have made has steadily improved across a range of subjects and many now make very good progress.

The full report is available to view on Ofsted's website, there is a link to this on the school's website. ■



> P3

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



> P5

£1,000 TO GOSH



> P6

THE SIXTH FORM



> P8

BASKETBALL SILVER & BRONZE



HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

There is lots of great news in this latest edition of Heston Community School News. My article this Term, is one which focuses on the future.

As it always has, the future success of this country

depends on its ability to create wealth.

As a country, we have to reposition ourselves in a world which is increasingly economically inter-dependent. What we have done well historically is to create new ideas. If ever there was a need to re-create this culture of innovation, it is now. Developed countries have limited opportunities to compete on price. They must compete by adding value, by offering new, high quality products and by learning and responding more quickly to the market than their competitors.

The key to our future success therefore, lies in our ability to develop these skills in our children. At Heston Community School, our approach to education is to develop a love of life-long learning, social responsibility and teamwork. We know that training for specific jobs is not enough. Our young people may have to change careers many times in their working lives. They must be adaptable and able to learn new things quickly and efficiently. They will also need to take responsibility for their own learning and performance. Employers know that cooperation matters because many of their staff work in small, self-managing teams where good relationships are paramount. They must be people-people who empathise easily with others. They will also need to be motivated self-starters with excellent communication skills. All these qualities are

available in abundance through the opportunities we offer not only through our curriculum but also through our extra-curriculum programme.

Our students will have to cope with the accelerating rate of change in technology. They must be confident users of information technology with excellent literacy and numeracy skills. Of course, in the future, students will have to invent the new products and services that will keep us competitive. They will need to be lateral thinking risk-takers with the ability to come up with the solution that nobody else has considered. Again, such experiences are not always nurtured alone but in well managed groups in which young people are encouraged to work cooperatively and together.

Beyond the workplace, our students will have to develop relationships and raise families in an increasingly changeable and uncertain world. They must be emotionally literate and able to cope with the pressures life will put upon them. Our pastoral system supports such emotional development and gives our students an opportunity to cope under pressure.

Sadly, some will also have to cope with periods of economic inactivity and possibly long retirement. They will need to have the creative interests and abilities to enrich their lives outside the world of work. Hence, we lay great store by our excellent co-curricular provision. Extra-curricular activities are worth fighting for in schools and are included in activities that educationalists refer to as, the 'hidden curriculum'. In other words, we develop 'the whole child'.

Phil Ward
Headteacher

HESTON'S GOT TALENT



"This was an evening that celebrated the vast amount of talent we have at Heston" was how Music teacher, Ms Fern Clark summed up this year's *Heston's Got Talent*. The winners were Drama Club who performed *Hard Knock Life*, second place went to the Year 7 Dance Group who performed to *Thousand Years* and Taran and Ajeet clinched third place for their energetic Dhol drumming. ■





THE ENGLISH TEAM ON WORLD BOOK DAY



English is a varied and fascinating core subject covering a plethora of topics equipping students with valuable life skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) that are transferable and applicable to everyday life.

The English department are extremely passionate about the subject and dedicated to students reaching their potential at every level. To this end, several interventions for exams and coursework run throughout the academic year during lunch, after school and on allocated Super Learning Days to ensure Year 11, 12 and 13 students are sufficiently prepared for GCSE, AS and 'A' Level.

The department also offers students the opportunities of extra-curricular activities through trips, clubs and national competitions.

This year the team are working with the charitable organisation **Football Beyond Borders**, with a group of Year 11 boys. This project involves an hour session each week developing our analytical skills in preparation for the English Literature GCSE; the class session is then followed by a football training session with FA trained coaches, working on developing team work, focus and resilience.

World Book Day: Award winning author Jeff Norton (*MetaWars*, *Memoirs of a Neurotic Zombie*) visited Heston Community School to celebrate World Book Day. Throughout the day students were shocked to see the department being taken over by Voldemort, Macbeth, Alice, Frankenstein's monster and many other literary characters as teachers became their favourite characters for the day.

Speak Out Challenge: 56 students from Year 10 were selected by their English teachers to attend the Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge! Workshop. As part of this workshop students participated in speaking games and challenges in order to develop and refine their public speaking, a key life skill.

The School's bustling Learning Resource Centre advertised for Year 9 students to become **Student Librarians** in order to cope with the literary-hungry crowds at lunch and break. A team effort by the English department and LRC Manager Ms Hurley saw the recruitment of eight eager students starting their posts in the Spring Term.

The Poetry Trials: To celebrate National Poetry Day, students across the school were invited to submit poems for "The Poetry Trials", a national competition run by Young Writers. An incredible 28 of our students were selected for publication in an anthology as a result.

Poetry Workshop: In December, our fifteen Year 7 'A Team' students welcomed primary students from Westbrook and Heston Primary Schools for a joint poetry workshop. All the students involved had been completing a project on the theme of First World War poetry. The 'A Team' were fantastic at supporting and leading the Year 5 and 6 students, showing excellent attitudes to learning.

Spooky Story Winners: In the lead up to Halloween, Year 7 and 8 students were invited to enter their own Spooky Story into a competition. All of the entries proved to be very imaginative, creative and thoroughly entertaining. The only difficult part was having to sift through these entries and select a final 13! ■



ANNE FRANK'S HOUSE, A CANAL TOUR & KAMP VUGHT WERE PART OF YEAR 13'S AMSTERDAM TRIP



SUPER LEARNING DAY – YEAR 8 ARE IN THE GYM DOING TEAM BUILDING TASKS



JUSTIN URQUHART STEWART OF 7 INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT TALKS CAREERS AND INVESTMENTS



DEMONSTRATION DAY DURING SCIENCE WEEK SAW EXPERIMENTS AND EXPLOSIONS



HESTON'S CHOIR PERFORMED ZADOK RULES WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AT ETON COLLEGE



THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF TAKE 2 – CAKE SALE FOR PRINCESS ALICE HOSPICE



YEAR 8 PRODUCED SOME IMPRESSIVE ERUPTING VOLCANOES IN GEOGRAPHY LESSONS



'A' LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY, GRAPHICS AND FINE ART WERE FEATURED IN AN EXHIBITION IN THE HOGARTH GALLERY



WELL DONE TO YEAR 13'S ADAM AND KUMAIL ON THEIR SUCCESS IN THE NATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD



POET AND WRITER AGNIESZKA STUJINSKA RAN A CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR YEAR 7



THE SCHOOL COUNCIL, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH YEAR, MEET TO PROVIDE A "STUDENT VOICE"

£1,000 FOR GOSH

Great Ormond Street Hospital will receive £1,000 thanks to First Give and a superb presentation from 10 White. Two other charities will receive £250 each as runners up – Rape Crisis represented by 10 Purple and Southall Black Sisters represented by 10 Blue.

The final of the First Give competition was held on Wednesday 16th March in the School Hall and seven teams were presenting for their chosen charities. The competition saw all students in Year 10 select a charity then research that charity to produce a presentation to “pitch” for the prize money available from First Give.

Louis Bedwell from First Give introduced the presenters who used a variety of methods to put across the case for their charity. One of the most difficult jobs on the night belonged to the judges who had to choose the winners from the persuasive and creative presentations made.

Miss Sunita Jassal, Year 10 Learning Co-ordinator and a judge on the night said: “Year 10 have been working on the First Give Project over the past few weeks. It makes me so proud to see these students put so much effort into researching a charity special to them, and delivering fantastic presentations. **Well done to all participants – what a brilliant evening!**” ■



WORLD BOOK DAY

Award winning author Jeff Norton visited Heston Community School to celebrate World Book Day.

Jeff ran workshops with Year 8 students where he explained that he had been a reluctant reader as a boy which led to his passion for creating stories that will turn reluctant readers into lifelong ones. He talked about his award-winning *MetaWars* series for young adult readers and his new book *Memoirs of a Neurotic Zombie*.

Year 8 were exposed to Jeff's *Zombie* book in English lessons prior to his visit and were ready with lots to say during the question and answer session. Yassin cheekily asked what Jeff's next book was about and whether he could feature in it. Jeff made Yassin's day by talking about *Star Crest*, a book he is currently writing, and went on to say Yassin was a perfect name for one of the characters!

Throughout the day students were shocked to see

Voldemort, The Mad Hatter, Lady Macbeth, Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, Alice, Harry Potter, Hermione and many other literary characters roaming the corridors and even taking lessons as teachers became their favourite characters for the day.

Ms Sharan Birk, English teacher and Mary Poppins for the day, who organised Jeff's visit with Learning Resource Centre Manager Ms Veronica Hurley said: “It was a real privilege to have an engaging author like Jeff visit the school and really get the students thinking about the power of reading and its ability to transport readers to another world.” ■



SIXTH FORM LIFE AT HESTON



In our last newsletter we asked Year 7 students about their first term at Heston. In this issue we have asked our Year 12 and 13 students what they think of life in the Sixth Form at Heston. For some of these students they will be in their seventh year at Heston but the Sixth Form is different in many ways from the first five years at the School ... and of course for a number of students they are new to the School having chosen to move to Heston Community School to join the Sixth Form.

We asked what Sixth Form students particularly liked about Heston's Sixth Form - here are some of their comments:

- "The way teachers go out of their way to help me in their free time - especially in the holidays"
- "Freedom - being able to have free periods to work in and being able to leave the school premises. I feel that I'm trusted by the School"
- "You are treated as an adult"
- "The pizza reward parties"
- "Teachers - as they encourage the students to perform to the best of their abilities"
- "The sense of individuality"
- "The relaxed and friendly atmosphere when talking to teachers and the facilities provided in both the classrooms and the Sixth form Common Room"
- "Having a supportive form tutor"
- "Everything!"

We also asked If Heston Sixth Form was an animal what would it be and why?

- Wolf - due to our community spirit
- Tiger - only strives for the best and pushes students to work hard
- Cheetah because it goes too fast
- Meerkat - always looking out for opportunities so the students can benefit

Two comments that were made sum up the culture we are looking to create in the Sixth Form ... and we were delighted to see students sharing these views:

- "Heston Community School gives students the opportunity to reflect upon themselves and improve themselves for the best"
- "Heston Sixth Form encourages you to strive to the best of your abilities" ■



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



Day 1

SIXTH FORM GEOGRAPHERS IN DEVON



Day 5

- Day 1
Settling in and finding some food
- Day 2
Plymouth was "any port in a storm"
- Day 3
Sea views and work on coastal erosion and how to stop it
- Day 4
Tourism on the English Riviera - sun (at last) and ice creams!
- Day 5
Presentations on the week, packing, back to Heston and a big thank-you to Miss Davies and Mr Butler ■

MORE

**HCS NEWS
IN PICTURES**



YEAR 8 WERE REWARDED FOR THEIR GOOD WORK WITH A VISITING PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA



SUPER LEARNING DAY – YEAR 7 VISIT HAMPTON COURT AND LEARN ABOUT THE TUDORS AND HENRY VIII



SCIENCE CLUB CARRIED OUT FLAME TESTS, PHOTOSYNTHESIS EXPERIMENTS AND CREATED ELECTRICAL CIRCUITS



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS HAD A HISTORY OF ART EVENING SESSION PRESENTED BY THE BIGGER PICTURE



DEVELOPING CREATIVITY AND SKILLS WAS THE TITLE OF THE YEAR 9 ART EXHIBITION IN THE HOGARTH GALLERY



YEAR 10 STUDENTS DELIVERED PASSIONATE SPEECHES IN THE JACK PETCHEY "SPEAK OUT" CHALLENGE!



SIXTH FORM STUDENTS ATTEND THE LAUNCH OF THE ECONOMIST'S POLICY LEAGUE PROGRAMME



CONGRATULATIONS TO YEAR 7 ECO-FRIENDLY BOOKMARK DESIGN COMPETITION WINNERS



PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS VISITED JMW TURNER'S HOUSE AND CAPTURED SOME ATMOSPHERIC IMAGES



TELESCOPES WERE SET UP DURING SCIENCE WEEK TO VIEW THE MOON AND THE SUN



OUTDOOR CHALLENGES WERE PART OF NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE FOR 56 STUDENTS

BASKETBALL GIRLS IN LONDON YOUTH GAMES FINALS



In the last newsletter we congratulated the U14 and U16 Girls' Basketball teams on being crowned Borough Champions.

During Spring Term both teams, representing the Borough, progressed to the London Youth Games Finals with impressive wins. The U14 team beat Hayes School 54-19 and the U16 team clinched their place in the finals with an 83-12 win against Harris Academy (Battersea).

Both teams travelled to the finals at the Score Sports Centre in Leyton on Tuesday 15th March.

Confidence was high for the young U14 squad, captained by Sanna Hassan (Year 8), after a convincing qualifying campaign. However, our preparations were significantly hampered on the morning of the tournament when the team were delayed and arrived after the scheduled start time and had to play immediately after stepping off the mini bus. Although we put up a fight, the lack of a

warm up against a strong Clacton Girls Academy was a huge factor and we were defeated. This meant we were then playing in the 3rd and 4th place Play-Off match. The girls regrouped and after a good warm up beat Barking Abbey Academy to claim third place.

Inspired by captain Bethany Mann, the U16 team defeated St Angela's Ursuline School in the semi-final to book a place in the final against current English Schools Champions, Greig City Academy.

We started very well looking particularly lively in the opening quarter. However, with the emotion of the occasion – the last game for the school for Elvira Lajqi, Bethany Mann and Kimran Sangha – and our opponent's athleticism and skill set we were unable to win the game but finished the season as very creditable runners-up.

The girls enjoyed their experience and we would like to thank Bethany, Elvira and Kimran for their service and dedication to the team over the years. ■



SPORT FOR ALL



Jerrell Hooker (pictured left) is the new Sports Centre Manager and he outlines below just what is available at Heston for the local community.

Heston Community Sports Centre has consistently been a mainstay of the Hounslow community and now boasts some of the best facilities available within the Borough. Adults have access to the multi activity Sports Hall and indoor changing facilities with activities such as badminton, basketball, football, table tennis, karate, capoeira, netball, volleyball, dodgeball and special needs activities on offer.

Heston Community Sports Centre also has a combination of outstanding multi use outdoor facilities. The centre has an excellent 5- or 7-a-side 3G floodlit football pitch. Other outdoor facilities available are 3 floodlit multi use game areas/pitches. These can be used for football, tennis or netball. We also have 11-a-side grass football and rugby pitches available.

The goal is to get the community involved and active. The best way to get involved is to call us on 020 8572 7068 or email us at sports@hestoncs.org or drop in and hire a court and put your friends to the challenge. ■

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