

■ ■ ■ ■ Specialist Visual Arts Academy

Spring 2015  
Issue 8

## GETTING CREATIVE WITH THE BBC



BBC's Get Creative campaign – designed to encourage everyone to be more creative.

Heston students from all year groups worked with teachers and artists to explore the importance of creativity and art in the future of education. This workshop involved groups of students working with a variety of visiting artists including, Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman (pictured bottom left, encouraging her group's presentation).

The groups then presented their work to a panel of education and arts leaders. The students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop, which was filmed by the BBC and our visitors were impressed, this is what some of them said:

Kate Malone said: "I was invigorated by the pupils and the event also brought home the value of creativity like a shot in the arm! Congratulations to Heston for creating such a fertile place for the kids."

Martin Heaney said: "It was so refreshing to hear such strong advocacy for the arts and to work with young people who were so confident, articulate and passionate about creative education."

Heston Community School helped to launch the

Laura Fuller from A New Direction said: "Totally awesome day ... a room full of creativity and great ideas from students"

Headteacher Phil Ward thanked all the visitors and students for an excellent day and some thought-provoking final presentations and brought the workshop to a close saying:

"From what we have heard today it is clear that the young people want education now and in the future to be creative and fun. Creativity is a crucial skill that young people are going to need to solve the pressing problems of the world of which one day they will be the elders. At Heston we talk about the power of creativity and the arts to change lives. Heston is a creative school. It is special.

We often talk about the fact that we live in a fast developing, technological world but where would this technology be without creativity and what use would it be without people who can be creative in using it.

Therefore, any policy or manifesto for creativity in education needs to be about everybody and not just the few. You can be creative in Maths, Science, Music, Dance, Teaching, Science, Engineering and Cuisine to name just a few. A big part of being creative is looking for new ways of doing things within whatever activity in which we are involved." ■



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## HEADTEACHER'S REPORT

I am writing my termly message as I await the arrival of a BBC film crew for the second time this term. It seems that it is not just me and other members of our

community who think Heston is a fantastic place to be.

We have indeed had a tremendous and exciting term. Earlier this term, students at the School worked with Writer and Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman, Actor Lucy Ellison, Dancer (and winner of So You Think You Can Dance) Matt Flint, Ceramicist Kate Malone and facilitators from Nimblefish. They explored questions about what the future might look like and the value that arts and culture has to society. They then presented their ideas to a panel of experts, including Laura Gander Howe (Arts Council), Paul Reeve (Into Film), Ben Payne (Director - Ministry of Stories), Sally Bacon (Clare Duffield Foundation), Steve Moffit (A New Direction), Sam Cairns (Co-Director of the Cultural Learning Alliance) and me.

Our young people talked a great deal about the way that technology is increasingly shaping their lives. They spoke about the opportunities for connectedness that this offers them, and the incredible design and creative potential that technology can support

but also about their fears that technology isolates individuals and inhibits social interaction, group discussion, friendship and collaboration.

They felt that, even in a school like Heston which prioritises and champions the arts, the wider education system was pushing them to prioritise other subjects, and that their parents were often hearing negative messages about the arts from government and the media. They wanted their grades to be based on their performance over a whole year and not on the assessment of a final examination, they wanted more media education - to help them navigate both social media and the national news and international issues - they wanted more debate and discussion, more arts subjects (and for these subjects to be valued), time for invention and innovation and to be encouraged to explore.

You can find out much more about the BBC's Get Creative campaign and the Cultural Learning Alliance on their website, [www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk](http://www.culturallearningalliance.org.uk) as well as on our own website where you can also listen to one of our Sixth Form students, Sombol Tayer, talking through issues with Robert Elms on BBC Radio London. The interview is well worth a listen and Sombol did us proud!

Best wishes.  
*Phil Ward*  
Headteacher

## PARENT AND STUDENT SURVEYS "OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE"

Parent and student surveys are carried out each year here are some of the top line results for this year:

### PARENTS

- My child is happy at Heston **98%**
- My child feels safe at Heston **98%**
- My child makes good progress at Heston **95%**

### STUDENTS

- I am making progress at School **97%**
- I feel safe at School **97%**
- I enjoy School **96%**

Percentages above are for parents/students agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statements.



We are exceptionally pleased with the overwhelmingly positive nature of both surveys. The feedback is greatly appreciated. It was particularly pleasing to see an increase in parents strongly agreeing with the Ofsted performance statements included in the questionnaire.

As one parent said: "Great achievement! Keep up the high standards."

We intend to do just that, we are not complacent and will work to better these results next year. ■

# HESTON'S GOT TALENT VS THE VOICES



## Dancers

Taran Singh Gill (7P) and Jasleen Guru (7P) for their Bhangra dance



## Instrumentalists

Taran Singh Gill (7P), Ajeet Matharu (7P) and Anup Bhullar (12B) for their Dhol drumming



## Singers

Indhi Gupta (10Y) accompanied on guitar by Arjan Jandu (13F) singing *Thinking out Loud*



This year's Heston's Got Talent developed into Heston's Got Talent vs The Voices with Sixth Form judges taking the roles of Tom Jones, Rita Ora, Ricky Wilson and Will.i.am from BBC's *The Voice* by sitting in revolving judges chairs and commenting on the performances.

One thing that remained unchanged was the depth of talent that was on display and parents and friends were thoroughly entertained by singers, dancers and musicians. The event was very professionally hosted by Avani and Inder (pictured above left) who not only introduced the acts but also interviewed the judges.

The judges' job was difficult but they were helped out by another innovation on the night when another element of television talent shows was used ... the "viewers" vote. This meant the audience had a vote on keypads circulated to them after all the acts had performed.

*The overall result saw three category winners receive their prizes and the winning acts are pictured left.*



Well done to all the performers and organisers who produced a great show ... watch out Simon Cowell! ■

## CAREER ACADEMY

A group of Heston Sixth Form students who were successful in gaining a place on the newly formed Career Academy met their mentors at a session in the LRC.

The students who were interviewed for places in this innovative scheme got to know more about all the mentors as well as the other students involved in an "icebreaker" game. The game sees a giant ball thrown around the room and the catcher has to answer one of the questions on the ball e.g. What is your favourite sport/food/animal? Who makes you laugh? Describe one of your hobbies.

After this introduction the students met with their mentors for individual discussions. Future meetings will take place at the mentors' work place and Master Classes will be run at school. Paid internships and work experience will also be offered as part of the scheme.

Here are the thoughts of two of the students involved:

*"The evening was a great start in getting to meet our mentors and discussing the next stage. It was interesting to find out about what they do and how they can help us achieve more in the future."* Roshni

*"I learnt the basics of what I was to face in the near future including how to greet someone well (formally). I also learnt the main concepts of how our meetings will go and what business I'm working with. I hope to build my confidence further and I'm also excited to gain a greater knowledge about the business I will go into (Axiall)."* Shanthosh ■



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING LOCAL BUSINESSES, OUR CAREER ACADEMY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT:**

Axa Insurance, Axiall, Barclays PLC, British Airways, Coca Cola, General Electric, Loft & Cavity Wall Insulations and Ofgem



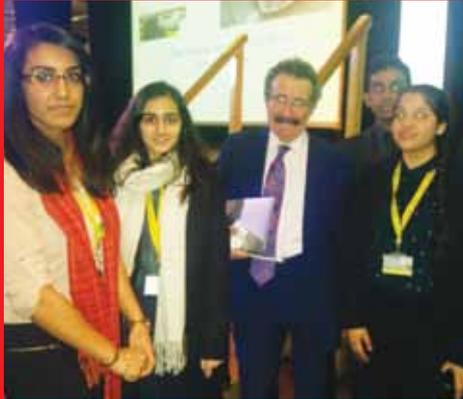
THE NEXUS 7 GROUP'S VISIT TO LONDON INCLUDED THE TATE MODERN AND ST PAUL'S



YEAR 7 STUDENTS WORK WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AT A MATHS WORKSHOP



YEAR 11 & 12 STUDENTS EXPLORE KING'S COLLEGE MUSEUM ON THEIR SCIENCE DAY



YEAR 12 STUDENTS MEET AND HEAR LORD WINSTON PRESENT AT A BIOLOGY CONFERENCE



DEPUTY HEAD GIRL AMAN SINGH IS A "GREAT SUCCESS" IN HER LEAD ROLE IN *MATCHGIRLS*



DROP IN SESSIONS ARE NOW A REGULAR FRIDAY MORNING EVENT FOR BOTH OUR & LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS



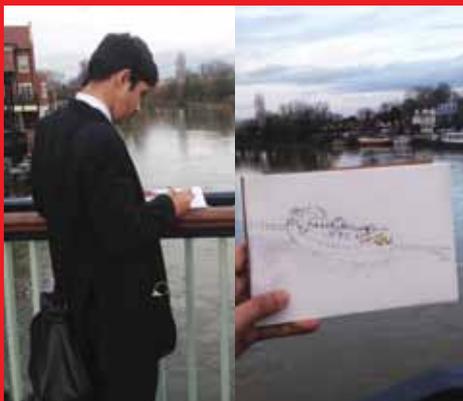
SUPER LEARNING DAY – YEAR 9 SPONSORED "WALK FOR LIFE" IN OSTERLEY PARK



*MISUNDERSTOOD* RAPPED & DANCED AN ENTERTAINING E-SAFETY & CYBER BULLYING PRESENTATION



FRIDGE MAGNETS REMINDING STUDENTS ... PEN, HOMEWORK, BOOKS, SLEEP & BREAKFAST



TALES OF THE RIVER CLUB VISITED WINDSOR TO FIND INSPIRATION AFTER STUDYING "RIVER" POETS



A LEVEL SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS TAKE PART IN A WORKSHOP ON EXTREMISM AT ETON COLLEGE



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

**Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award winners were presented with their certificates by Headteacher Phil Ward who congratulated the students on their achievements and encouraged them to continue to do higher awards in the scheme. He also presented them with Headteacher's Awards in recognition of their dedication and commitment to the DofE programme.**

Ms Lena Dua, DofE Co-ordinator, also congratulated the students and said: "I am very proud of all of them, they have worked hard to get their awards and that will be recognised by universities and employers in the future. Not only is it great fun to be involved in the DofE programme but it is also a great "qualification" to have on your UCAS personal statement and CV."

Ayan's report on her DofE experience (right) gives a flavour of what students do to achieve their award.

**Well done to all the award recipients!**



"My name is Ayan Abdillahi and I am writing about the Duke of Edinburgh scheme that I was fortunate enough to experience for a year and a half ... There were so many different skills that I learnt and so many things that I wasn't able to do before and I am proud of what I accomplished. I also think that it was an amazing experience and if you are to be offered to do it that you should seize the opportunity as it is life changing.

My favourite part of my DofE experience was the expedition. It was over one night and two days and was one of the best experiences I have ever had. Our second and examined expedition was at Box Hill and there were many skills needed that we were able to put in place after what we had learnt from our after school sessions and our practice expedition. On the practice expedition it was rainy and harder to walk without sinking into the mud but on the examined expedition it was sunny and much easier to walk which everyone was pleased about. There were many things to see such as animals and farmland as well as amazingly built houses which we all viewed during our expedition. Our aim in the expedition as a group was to see if the locals were friendly and would speak to us. Shockingly every single one did and we were pleased. Our tents were fiddly but once you make it right you can finally relax after a long days walk and move on to cooking your food before going to sleep. The second day was far shorter and the quicker we did the expedition the quicker you could go home! We all managed to do our second walk on time and were delighted to go home. I enjoyed it a lot and would be happy to do it again.

There were also other parts that made up my award which were voluntary, physical and skills. The voluntary section helped me to be more outgoing to my community and helping children doing their homework made me feel that I was giving something back and appreciating what I have been given as well as the Duke of Edinburgh award. I enjoyed doing this and it gave me more skills in helping children and will help me in the future.

In conclusion the Duke of Edinburgh scheme involves some wonderful things: from doing an expedition to jogging in a park; I think that words can't show how much I enjoyed it. I would highly recommend anyone who is interested to take the opportunity and seize it as it is life changing and beneficial." ■



# FIRST GIVE FINAL ... £1,500 FOR CHARITIES



The First Give Final saw the best teams from each Year 10 Tutor Group making presentations about their chosen charities to win £1,500 in grant money for their charity. The evening saw students make presentations on behalf of: RSPCA, Neighbourly Care, The Children's Society, Food Bank, Standing Together against Domestic Violence, REACT and ECO.

First Give is a charity who work in partnership with secondary schools to help young people to give their time, tenacity and talents to improve their local communities. The programme they run sees teams of students choose a charity to investigate and work with before they make their presentations.

Louisa Searle, First Give's Programme Manager was the host at the final and was impressed by our Year 10 students: "It was truly moving to see Year 10 students take on board the messages of community, charity and social action that First Give seeks to promote. The students' hard work and passion was clear to see and I was so impressed with their presentations for their charities. Thank you to all the Year 10 students and teachers who ran the programme with such integrity."

The judging panel marked each presentation and the students' responses to questions based on their delivery, creativity and knowledge of their chosen charity. They had a difficult job as the students were both passionate and persuasive in support of their charities. Their final choices are detailed in the box:

## Overall winner (£1,000 grant money)

The Children's Society based at Whitton represented by 10 Orange - Navjot, Hibaq, Harjeet, Eankarjit and Jenna pictured left to right with Judges Michael Wilkinson and Sean Bennett and their proud Tutor Ms Natalie D'Lima.



## Runner up (£250 grant money)

Standing Together against Domestic Violence represented by 10 Red - Anisha and Moskaan pictured left to right with Katie Stickland from Standing Together who said: "I thought they did an amazing job, you could see the effort they have put into it. It's been a really enjoyable experience and I'm very glad to have been able to see their presentation and look forward to working with them in the future."

## Runner up (£250 grant money)

REACT represented by 10 White - Janeesh, Chelsea, Jatin and Aneesa pictured left to right with Louisa from First Give.



As Head Boy Kumail said to all the students who presented for their charities: "Well done ... you all did an excellent job for your charities and the presentations were superb." ■

# MORE

## HCS NEWS IN PICTURES



**HESTON'S TOP SINGERS REHEARSED WITH ISSP SCHOOLS FOR AN A CAPPELLA POP PERFORMANCE**



**POET ANTHONY ANAXAGOROU WITH TOP ENGLISH STUDENTS DEVELOPING WRITING & PERFORMING SKILLS**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO AMAN GHATAURA FOR HIS COMMENDATION IN THE BRITISH NATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD**



**YEAR 9 PRINCE'S TRUST STUDENTS PROVED TO HAVE EXCELLENT SELLING SKILLS IN THE MY BNK PROJECT**



**CLOUDY SKIES MEANT WE DIDN'T SEE THE ECLIPSE THOUGH STUDENTS MONITORED WIND SPEED & LIGHT LEVELS**



**SUPER LEARNING DAY – YEAR 7 WITH THE CAMELS AT LONDON ZOO**



**DR PINEDA-TORRA FROM UCL'S DIVISION OF MEDICINE ENCOURAGED YEAR 10-13 GIRLS TO STUDY SCIENCE**



**YEAR 7-9 STUDENTS WON A DEBATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE**



**HEADTEACHER PHIL WARD PRESENTED ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TO YEAR 7 STUDENTS – WELL DONE TO THEM!**



**SIXTH FORM STUDENTS SURVIVED THE DEVON WEATHER ON THEIR GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP BASED AT SLAPTON LEY**



**YEAR 10 STUDENTS WIN MINI DEBATES AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, ENJOY A TOUR & MEET CURRENT STUDENTS**



## BASKETBALL GIRLS

All of Heston's Girls' Basketball teams are doing very well with the U13 and U15 teams winning

through to the last eight in the country and recent games for the U14s and U16s have shown that there is real strength in depth on the basketball front.

Our U14 team qualified for the London Schools' Finals with a resounding 48:16 win over Hayes School (Bromley). Faith Mannion (Year 9) led the way with a commanding performance and newly-appointed U13 girls' captain, Gurpavan Johal (Year 8) and U14 captain, Lara Hassan top scorers with 14 points apiece. However, the performance of the evening was from the youngest member of the squad, 11 year old, Alexandra Enea, who mesmerised the opposition with her trickery and range of passing.

At the London Finals they beat Clapton Girls Academy 43:37 only to lose to Greig City Academy (the top girls' basketball school in the country) in the final.

Greig City Academy (GCA) also halted the progress of our U16 team. Our young squad (a mixture of Year 7 to 11 students), gave GCA's team of Year 11 students an excellent game. Bethany Mann (Year 10 - pictured right), whose excellent skills have been recognised with her selection in the England U15 Girls' Development Squad, played exceptionally well with an outstanding display of speed, guile and trickery. However, GCA demonstrated why they haven't been beaten by anyone for four years!

Raynes Park High School suffered a 50:1 defeat at the hands of our U13 team securing a place for Heston

in the last 16 in the country. They then beat Chobham Academy 45:20 to progress to the last eight. This is particularly impressive for a team made up primarily of Year 7 girls who are well coached by Year 10 students Isha Purba and Bethany Mann.

A much closer game saw our U15 team beat Platanos College, away in South London 49-54 to progress to the last 16 nationally. This was followed by a 50:34 win against Palmers Catholic School to reach the last eight nationally.

Both U13 and U15 teams now face games during the Summer Term against the country's leading basketball school Greig City Academy and they are seeking revenge for both the U14 and U16 teams.

Mr Stefan McGarrell, the girls' coach said: "I am really proud of all our teams' performances. To get so far in the strongest region for basketball (London) and to be in the top eight nationally is a credit to the skill and hard work of the girls. Many of our teams are made up of younger girls than the opponents we have faced which bodes well for the future and we look forward to seeing them develop together in strong teams challenging for more honours in the future." ■



Heston's U15 squad



England call-up for Bethany Mann

## LIVING FOR SPORTS LAUNCHED BY BOXER HANNAH BEHARRY

A group of Year 10 students have been selected to participate in the Sky Sports Living for Sports project where they will be mentored by Boxing champion and Olympian Hannah Beharry. Hannah has been invited in to develop students' confidence in English and to develop their leadership skills.

Hannah visited the School to encourage students to create a project where they will be supporting a partner school in a sports related programme. Students were extremely excited about working with Hannah and are looking forward to developing their teamwork and leadership skills through the programme. Hannah will be visiting the School again in the future. ■

