

# HAMPSTEAD BUZZ

## Highlights and Achievements - SpringTerm 2020



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### HEAD'S MESSAGE

*Jacques Szemalikowski*

This issue of Hampstead Buzz goes out in totally unprecedented times. Like all schools in the UK, Hampstead School is currently closed.

However, out of adversity comes amazing resilience. I am extremely impressed by how everyone connected to Hampstead School has responded to this worrying and challenging situation. At school itself, we are proud to be delivering a service in support of our vital key workers. The dedicated work from my colleagues is something to behold and I am grateful to all of them; teachers, teaching assistants; site staff; technicians and office staff. In turn, as a community we are, of course, all grateful to so many key workers who are looking after us all. We are also mindful of the challenges faced by so many families at this time and we will play our part and help make things just a little easier.

I am struck by how efficiently we have moved our school on-line, continuing to provide ongoing learning for our students. Using a variety of excellent online "learning platforms", we have maintained our daily routines for our students, and ensured that in an educational experience that nobody has had before, they are not disadvantaged. However, if I am honest, the daily rhythm of school life, its interactions, tribulations, vibrancy and excitement is being sorely missed. Key is the need to strike the correct balance between giving students the much-needed structure and routine and being sensitive to the emergency in which we find ourselves.

I would like to wish everybody good health and happiness in these extremely challenging times.

### ENGLISH & MEDIA ACTIVITIES

*Grace Dennehy*

A Level Literature trip to National Portrait Gallery and Pre-Raphaelite Sisterhood exhibition



- Students were lucky enough to attend a private lecture on art in Tudor Britain and see the only last portrait of Shakespeare. They also viewed some masterpiece artworks by a group of women often overlooked in history in favour of men. Students explored the artwork, cultural world and feminist struggle for poets and artists like Christina Rossetti to support their Pre1900 Literary study.

Year 12 Language & Literature trip to British Museum and Troy: Myth and Reality exhibition

- Students asked to make connections between the texts they are studying and wider world and this exhibition provided it. To support their study of the poet Carol Ann Duffy who includes references and narrative devices from myth in her work students explored dramatic ancient sculptures and exquisite vase paintings to powerful contemporary works depicting the heroes and heartbroken, women and wanderers who are said to have played a part in the Trojan War and why have they inspired so many retellings.

Year 13 Media Studies video workshops at The Roundhouse

- Students developed their coursework through an exciting opportunity to work with industry professionals. In the last of a series of workshops Y13 students have attended this year, our students finalised the edits of their music video production work with the support of professional video editors. The quality of the final products was fantastic.

Year 11 English Literature Theatre Performance of Macbeth

- To support students revision of the play Fred Theatre performed a 90 minute dramatic retelling of the Scottish play. Students were involved in the performance through audience participation and a fantastic Q&A session after the performance. Fred Theatre also performed a retelling of A Christmas Carol to Y10 in the Autumn Term.

### UK POLAR NETWORK SCIENTIST VISIT

*Kate Stockings*

To further their study of Antarctica and polar regions, Year 7 students were the recipients of a presentation by Holly Jenkins of the UK Polar Network about her research into climate change and how it is affecting a tiny organism called copepods. Whilst these tiny organisms may seem insignificant, they support the entire food web of oceans and so are hugely important.

We hope that all of our students were inspired by the presentation and might even consider a career in research.

## UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH VISIT

*Molly Dewhurst*

This March, a group of keen creative writing students from Years 7 to 12 visited the University of Greenwich to take part in a workshop organised by First Story. Their visit included the inspiring and spectacular Painted Hall and the River Thames, as well as the beautiful grounds and buildings of the University. They had the opportunity to work with professional writers to turn that inspiration into poetry.

Staff were very impressed with the fantastic writing produced and students were amazed by the exciting prospect of studying at such a spectacular university.

Favourite quotes from the day include: "I wonder how big their library is?" and "Imagine studying here!"

## FIRST GIVE

*Ambra Acari*

Congratulations to Finley and Betina from 12.6 who won £1000 from First Give for their chosen Charity: Mayhew Animal Charity.

## UK MATHS TRUST CHALLENGE

*Robert Nurick*



Congratulations to Fatima, Olsa, Sally and Jasmin who represented Hampstead School at the UK Maths Trust Challenge regional competition held at Preston Manor School on 3 March 2020.

Students faced stiff competition from teams across London which included independent and state schools. Hampstead School's young mathematicians were brilliant and we are extremely proud of them.

## NEWLY APPOINTED CO-OPTED GOVERNOR

Congratulations to Dr Omid Alavijeh who was unanimously appointed by the Governing Body on 11 February 2020 as Co-opted Governor.

Members of the Governing Bodies have written short biographies which are on the school's website: [www.hampsteadschool.org.uk](http://www.hampsteadschool.org.uk)

## SCIENCE WEEK – 9 to 13 March 2020

*Laura McDaniel*

Hampstead School welcomed Science Week this year by celebrating 'Diversity on our Planet.'

Key Stage 3 students investigated diversity within their classroom, looked at and compared finger prints and checked their taste buds to see whether they were 'Supertasters.' It was wonderful to see so many students learning about Biodiversity on our planet, completing research on our rainforests and debating the destruction of land.

On 11 March the 'Ugly Animal Roadshow' visited and Year 7 and 9 students were the audience for a stand-up comedy by Simon Watt who celebrated and explored the incredible biology of the animal kingdom.

The school's Science team were thrilled to see students so enthused and curious.

A special mention must also go to all of the students who took part in the Science Week Assemblies, who are a credit to Hampstead School.

## 'The Squashed Tomato Challenge'

February's STEAM Competition involved students using Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths skills to design and build a transport mechanism. The design required students to carry tomatoes from the top of a mountain, across a river and safely to the population of a small town in Nepal.

It was delightful to see students from Years 7 to 10 working together to demonstrate their leadership, effective communication and problem solving skills.

Congratulations to the four Year 9 students who won tickets to Thorpe Park.

Every month Hampstead School holds a STEAM Competition that is open to all students and we look forward to continuing these in the future.

## GEOGRAPHY IN ACTION LECTURE

*Kate Stockings*



On 6 November, 2019 Year 12 geography students attended a lecture day to extend their knowledge beyond the specification and enjoy the opportunity of being taught by experts in their field. Our students attended lectures on superpower relations, the risks of living with volcanoes and the ancient carbon cycle. They thoroughly enjoyed the day.

## CAMDEN ANNUAL DANCE GAMES

Monica Ande



On 5 February 2020, Hampstead School Dance students competed in the Annual Camden Dance Games Qualifier hosted at Hampstead School. They competed with neighbouring schools, Acland Burghley and South Hampstead in both the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 categories.

The Key Stage 4 dance troupe was placed second for their piece entitled 'Evolution of Dance' accompanied by a music mix from the 1920s to 2000s. The dancers performed challenging dynamic lifts with fast choreography which they created with support from their dance teachers.

The Key Stage 3 dance troupe was placed first with their modern-day dance piece of 'Annie' using props from the original movie such as brooms and a chair. The dance troupe remained in character throughout their piece to secure a place in the Finals on 4 March 2020 at the London Copper Box, home of the Lions Basketball Team. Here they delivered a strong choreographic piece where their timing and expressive skills were executed with energy and precision.

Well done to Elyse who played 'Annie' and Semera, Savanna, Kadija, Grace, Bethany and Tanayah.

## BRICK LANE VISIT

Kate Stockings

Year 12 Geographers spent a day exploring the Brick Lane area of East London - considering how migration has changed this area. They used a varied range of fieldwork techniques to collect their evidence and found that there was a huge amount of evidence of the influence of the Bangladeshi community in the area.



Following the visit and inspired by it, some time was spent on researching the area on their return to the classroom.

## CAMDEN YOUTH MP ELECTIONS

Alex Morgan

The Camden Youth MP elections were scheduled to be held in the last two weeks of March and given the current situation, will now be rescheduled.



Hampstead School's candidate is Andrea GA in Year 11 who ran a superb campaign, getting out onto the streets of Camden and speaking with her electorate.

Hampstead School has traditionally been successful with students getting into the Youth Parliament – this year's contenders include the take-no prisoners confidence of Saba and the soaring oratory of Athian. Fingers crossed for another success for Hampstead School.

## CAMBRIDGE UNION TRIP

Alex Morgan

On the 12 March 2020, Hampstead School's Debating Society travelled from London Liverpool Street Station to Cambridge and the world-famous debating society, the Cambridge Union which was formed in 1815 and is the oldest debating union.

Hampstead School's young debaters attended a workshop on British Parliamentary debating prior to debating from the Union's podium. Students had the opportunity to walk around the city as well as its colleges before they attended the Union's live evening debate on the motion – *This House believes there is still a point to the Cambridge Union*, which, although at first was thought to be self-indulgent, was followed by a rousing tug of war on the merits of free and open speech in the era of fake news and social media. Lis B and Hugh D, in Year 10, put forward their views during the one-minute floor speeches. They brazenly confronted the opinions put forth by a retired Colonel in the British Army and a sitting member of the House of Lords.

Onwards and upwards for Hampstead School's Debating Society.

### TERM DATES—ACADEMIC YEAR 2020—2021

Autumn term: \*2 September 2020—18 December 2020

Half term: 26 October 2020—30 October 2020

Spring term: 4 January 2021—31 March 2021

Half term: 15 February—19 February 2021

#### Easter/Spring holiday:

Thursday 1 April to Friday 16 April 2021

(Including Good Friday—2 April & Easter Monday 5 April)

Summer: 19 April 2021—23 July 2021

Half term: 31 May 2021—4 June 2021

#### Spring Bank Holidays:

Monday 3 May 2021

Monday 31 May 2021

August Bank Holiday: Monday 30 August 2021

#### INSET DAYS [School closed to students]

\*Wednesday 2 September 2020

+ 4 others to be decided

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*Indra Mitra-Duggan*

The theme for this year's International Women's Day was **#EachforEqual**. Hampstead School celebrated with a week of thought provoking assemblies exploring the idea that, individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day. We can actively choose to challenge stereotypes, fight bias, broaden perceptions and improve situations. Collectively, each one of us can help create a gender equal world. These ideas were explored further in lessons throughout the week and, on 6 March, our City Year volunteer mentors ran an exciting event with a variety of different activities during the lunch break to celebrate International Women's Day.

#### LONDON LINEN COMPANY HR DIRECTOR

*Michele Bennett*



In early March, Ms Joy Amory, at the invitation of the New Business Technologies Faculty gave an inspiring presentation to Year 13 students. She focused on Human Resources issues, giving practical examples from her own experience to support students in their coursework unit and provided real life examples from a practitioner working in industry. The students had the opportunity to ask a range of questions and were clearly

fascinated by her work and the wide ranging areas it incorporated.

### DIARY DATES SUMMER TERM—2020

*[The following Dates are Subject to the school's re-opening as a result of the National Emergency]*

6—17 April—Easter Break

20 Apr—INSET DAY [School closed to students]

28 Apr—Governors Quality Assurance Committee @ 1700

6 May—Governors Site & Finance Committee @ 1700

11 May—Governing Body Meeting @ 1700

11 May—Yrs 9 & 10 SEND Careers Evening for Parents

25 May to 29 May—HALF TERM BREAK

4 Jun—Governors Curriculum & Assessment Committee @ 1700

17 Jun—Governors Personnel Committee @ 1700

18 Jun—International Festival—1700 to 1900

26 Jun—INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS)

26 Jun—Year 11 Leavers Assembly & Prom

26 Jun—Sixth Form Graduation

29 Jun - Governors Site & Finance Committee @ 1700

30 Jun—New Year 7 Parents Evening @ 1800

1 Jul—New Year 7 Induction Day

1 Jul—Whole School Production

2 Jul—Whole School Production

7 Jul—Governing Body Meeting @ 1700

17 Jul—Sports Day

21 Jul—Last Day of Term (Students dismissed at 1230)

### TERM DATES—ACADEMIC YEAR 2019—2020

Autumn term: \*2 September 2019—19 December 2019

3 September 2019—Year 7 start at 0830

Year 12 start at 0945

4 September 2019—All students return at 0830

Half term: 21 October to 25 October 2019

Spring term: 6 January 2020—3 April 2020

Half term: 17 February—21 February 2020

Summer term: 20 April—21 July 2020

Half term: 25 May—20 May 2020

Bank Holidays: Monday 4 May 2020

Monday 25 May 2020

#### INSET DAYS [School closed to students]

\*Monday 2 September 2019

Monday 2 December 2019

Monday 6 January 2020

Monday 20 April 2020

Friday 26 June 2020

#### GeoBUS

*Kate Stockings*

On 3 December 2019, as a reward for excellent commitment in geography, some of our talented Year 9 geographers took part in a volcanoes workshop hosted by an Earth Scientist from GeoBus, an outreach project from UCL. The workshop aimed to compare and contrast shield and composite volcanoes – an important part of our Year 9 curriculum and a core concept for GCSE geography. All of the students got involved as putty, vitamin C tablets and party poppers made an appearance in multiple experiments to understand the difficulties Earth Scientists face when predicting volcanoes.

#### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

##### Article 18 (parental responsibilities)

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child.

