

16.09.17

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I type this, the first full and busy week of term is ending; all our pupils have met their new teachers and are getting to know their new timetable and the different rhythm of the new school day. They have clearly taken on board the main message from welcome assemblies reminding them that we come to school for one chief purpose: to learn, and every lesson and every day counts to that end.

Dropping in on as many as possible of each day's 120 lessons, my senior colleagues and I have seen that HNS pupils are rightly intent on learning: fully engaged, listening intently, answering questions and doing lots of thinking.

Along with many other schools that have adopted the increasingly popular two-week autumn half-term break, we now expect HNS pupils to maintain similar exemplary levels of effort, attendance (with less late-winter illness) and commitment to their academic work, right through what is the longest and most important term of the school year.

Your child also has a school letter for you to read over the weekend, which outlines the important expectations and routines that will ensure, with your support, that they make the most of every school day.

Mr. Antony Faccinello
(Headteacher)



Important Dates for your Diary

**Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening:
Wednesday 20th September
from 6.00pm until 7.15pm**

Half-term break: Monday 23rd October - Friday 3rd November

Parents Association: The Parents Association is a great way to get involved and support the School. We meet every couple of months to help organise events and look at ways to help build our school community. It's a great way to get involved, meet other parents, and help make Hackney New School the best it can be. If interested in joining, please contact us via parentsassociation@hackneynewschool.org

Year 7 Parents' Welcome Evening

Hackney New School will host a welcome evening for parents/carers of our new **Year 7** cohort of pupils. The evening will take place on **Wednesday 20th September, 2017 from 6.00pm until 7.15pm (approximately)** and will be held in the Main Hall (Ground Floor, Canal Building). We would like to invite every parent/carer of Year 7 pupils and we advise parents to enter the School via Reception (on Kingsland Road), where staff will direct you to the Main Hall. This will be a valuable and informative opportunity for parents to find out how we work and function as a school. It will also be extremely useful in helping parents understand our routines and ethos. We place great emphasis on our **four Core Values of Academic Excellence, Intellectual Curiosity, Responsibility towards Others and Self-Belief**. Additionally, parents will be able to familiarise themselves with our systems and the Arbor Portal for key aspects of communication between School and home.

Furthermore, parents, carers and pupils will have the opportunity to meet the **Senior Leadership Team** who will deliver a presentation. The **Year 7 Tutor Team, Pastoral Manager and Head of Key Stage 3** will also be present at the meeting.

We look forward to seeing a large turnout to this very important evening and we will do our level best to answer any questions or queries that you may have.

Mr. Brian McGowan (Assistant Headteacher) i/c Reporting to and Communications with Parents)

HNS Culture and Attendance

KS3 Students of the Week

Congratulations to **Kasheef McLennon in Year 7, Azel Denli in Year 8 and Nazar Donmez in Year 9** for receiving student of the week from Ms Notowitz (Head of Key Stage 3). These students have made an excellent start to the term, and have been fantastic role models for the rest of their year groups. Watch this space every week to see who the Key Stage 3 stars are.

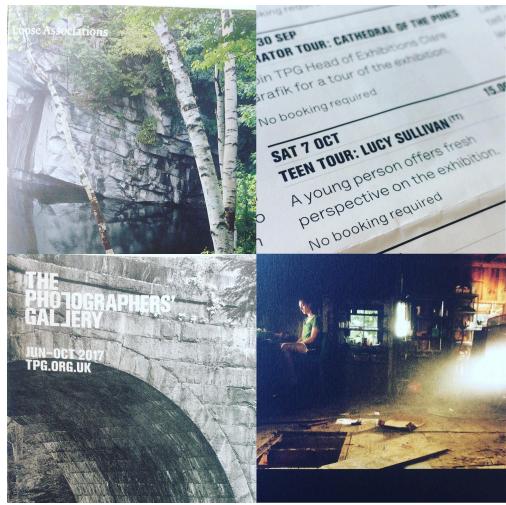
The **Library** opened this week and was immediately swamped by our notorious eager readers. New **Year 7** students are applying to be new librarians and some have made an excellent impression on our two librarians, Fiona and Jo.

Here are the wonderful 9JS absorbing their current reads.



Art & Design

Lucy Sullivan (11CW) has secured herself a place at The Photographer's Gallery on Oxford Street, as a tour guide for the current exhibition by Gregory Crewdson. She will be giving tours of the exhibition giving her insight into the context and curation of the exhibition. Well done, Lucy!



During the Summer holidays some of our very talented Year 10 students took part in an Architecture Summer Scholarship programme. Places on this course are very competitive and we were thrilled that our HNS Art students were selected. The design firm, STORE Architecture, running the event commented on the maturity, enthusiasm and effort of our HNS students. They constructed large-scale sculptures that were positioned in Gillett Square. It is quite a feat to create a public art installation at this age. Congratulations to Clem Birch Carter, Sid English and George Manners for their participation.



We are also proud to announce that HNS Art students were well represented at The Prince's Trust Drawing school exhibition. Congratulations to Max Vallance who sold his large scale drawing very early on in the evening. Former HNS student Eve Allais also sold her watercolour drawing. Long may these artistic careers continue!



Sold Artwork by Max Vallance (10YD)

History

We have made an excellent start to the year in History at HNS. **Year 7** have started the academic year learning about Roman London (Londinium), and will be moving onto looking at how London transformed between the Roman, Saxon and Norman periods. Year 7 will spend the whole of this Half Term studying the **'History of London.'**

Year 8 have been examining and learning about African Culture before Transatlantic Slavery, focusing this week on African art and different Kings and Queens. Some of the speeches on African Kings and Queens have been truly excellent. **Year 9** are starting to look at the long and short-term causes of the First World War. They will spend the rest of this half term looking at the First World War, with a detailed focus on life in the trenches.

Year 10 have made an excellent start to their GCSE History course, studying **'Elizabethan England 1568-1603'** with the AQA examination board. We would like to advise parents/carers (and students) to ensure that their sons/daughters are reading their textbooks regularly in order to fully understand all of the historical context of lessons. **Year 11** have started to study the Viking invasions of England and the role of Alfred the Great in the development of English identity as part of the unit that they will be studying in depth this half term: **'Britain: Migration, Empire and the People from 790 A.D. to the Present.'**

Science

Year 7 and 8 have made an exciting start to the academic year in Science. Both year groups have completed an introduction to the lab skills course so that they are fully prepared for their upcoming investigations. Students practised using bunsen burners safely and learned how to measure volumes and temperature changes precisely. In their final lesson this week, the students combined all these skills to produce copper sulphate crystals.



Stella, Kayne and Seth (7 NVB) investigate temperature changes in chemical reactions.

Year 9 have made an excellent start to the AQA Science GCSE courses and are currently studying the Atomic Model. Students are expected to be able to describe the structure of atoms as well as have an understanding of how the atomic theory has changed over time.

Both Years 10 and 11 are continuing with the AQA Chemistry GCSE course. **Year 10** are using moles and relative molecular mass to calculate the amounts of chemicals needed for reactions and **Year 11** are investigating factors affecting the rates of reactions. We recommend that parents/carers encourage their sons/daughters to use the online resources provided by the Science Department to ensure they have fully understood the lesson content.

English News

As the school continues to grow so does our department and we are very fortunate to have two new teachers working with us this year: Ms Roberts and Ms Disney.

Currently in **Year 7** classrooms, students are revising and developing their analytical skills through the study of Poetry from Other Cultures, while **Year 8** are analysing descriptions of London, which will enable them to go on to write their own.

This year we aim to start teaching the key analytical skills that **Year 9s** will need for KS4 through the study of the novel *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Students will learn about the Great Depression as well as understand themes of racial segregation, sexism and ageism.

Year 10 have just embarked on their GCSE programme and have started with the study of *Animal Farm*. **Year 11** are continuing with *A Christmas Carol* and their sterling efforts in lessons have not gone unnoticed.

University of Cambridge - Clare College - Year 10 Overnight Residential Course

We are extremely pleased to announce that five **Year 10** students have been selected for the much-coveted overnight residential course at one of the oldest colleges at one of the oldest universities in the United Kingdom and indeed the world. The students will be accompanied to Clare College, University of Cambridge, by two members of staff, **Ms. Begum** and **Ms. Antoine**. The HNS party will be travelling to Cambridge by train on **Tuesday 26th September, returning in the late afternoon of Wednesday 27th September**.

Students will engage in a variety of lectures and seminars delivered by Cambridge University academic staff in a range of subjects and will have individual student mentors who are current undergraduates at Clare College. They will also receive extensive advice on applying to Cambridge and other elite universities in the future.

The following students have been selected to attend and we are certain that they will not only enjoy their experience but gain an incredible amount from it: **Maia Tran, Lee-Anne Sackey, Chardonnay Claridge-Leslie, Dylan Bedoya and Khalib Roberts-Christie**.



Hackney New Sixth Form (HNSF) September 2018

We are proud to announce the launch of our brand new sixth form, Hackney New Sixth Form (HNSF) which will open in **September 2018**. We aim to be an academic sixth form and we will offer an A level curriculum based on the study of 15 highly popular and academically challenging subjects which will help pave the way for our students to access the most competitive, top universities in the United Kingdom (the Russell Group of the UK's 24 leading universities for research, teaching and size) and beyond.

The provision at Hackney New Sixth Form will also include opportunities for mentoring, volunteering, sports enrichment and access to first-rate Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for entry into Higher Education, post-18 employment, apprenticeships and the increasingly popular degree apprenticeships programmes which have changed the employment and educational landscape for young people in the United Kingdom over the last four years.

Additionally, HNSF will seek to create links and a support network with some leading independent schools in London to support our sixth form students with further opportunities for in-depth study of their chosen subjects, access to the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification, which is very much admired by leading universities and employers) and preparation for Oxbridge and Medicine undergraduate courses. Mr. McGowan is currently liaising with a number of these institutions to help set up formal partnerships.

It is, indeed, a very exciting period for Year 11 at HNS and other potential external candidates for our Sixth Form. We will hold formal assemblies and information evenings for **Year 11** and their parents/carers and we have worked closely with other external partners and the Hackney Learning Trust.

We encourage **Year 11** students and their parents to visit the Hackney New Sixth Form (HNSF) website (via our main website) to get further details of our A level curriculum, Careers and Higher Education guidance and what we believe in, as well as the subjects on offer with general and individual subject-entry criteria in terms of the GCSE results needed to apply here. We do expect all applicants (including our own, homegrown **Year 11** cohort) to formally apply to HNSF with an official application form which can be downloaded and saved from the Hackney New Sixth Form website.

Lastly, there are two very important dates for the diaries of both **Year 11** parents and students.

On **Thursday 23rd November, 2017 from 5pm until 8pm**, we will host an official **Hackney New Sixth Form Open Evening**. All **Year 11** students will be expected to attend (with at least one parent/carer) as well as potential external candidates.

Additionally, there will be a **Hackney New Sixth Form Saturday Open Morning on Saturday 2nd December, 2017 from 9.30am until 1.00pm**.

Again, we would encourage all **Year 11** students and their parents to attend what should be two very important, informative and enjoyable events.

We will also be publishing (in this Newsletter) a **weekly Sixth Form, Higher Education and Careers section**, to keep parents and pupils fully informed and updated about the changing world of post-16 education. This section will, additionally, focus on the aspirations and goals of individual **Year 11** students.

Mr. Brian McGowan (Director of Sixth Form/Assistant Headteacher)

