

success in the making

The Learning Trust – celebrating education services in Hackney

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Summer 2011



INSPECTION BODY FULL OF PRAISE FOR HACKNEY SCHOOLS

Hackney schools and children's centres have been praised highly by schools' watchdog Ofsted during their latest round of inspections.

London Fields Primary School was classed 'Outstanding', just four years after it was put into special measures. The school is one of three in the Best Start Federation run by Executive Head Greg Wallace, who is currently advising the government on teaching standards. It is the second school in the federation to gain the top grade – Woodberry Down Primary School was rated Outstanding in 2008.

Mapledene Children's Centre was also judged Outstanding in all of the 17 indicators that the inspectors looked at. In a glowing report, they praised the high standards of education and the safe and caring environment, and described the leadership as 'inspirational'.

Horizon school was praised by inspectors for 'turning itself around' and rated 'Good' with some Outstanding areas. The school, which caters for pupils with special educational needs, has radically changed in a short space of time. Inspectors noted that pupils make excellent progress.

Princess May Primary School is another school clearly on the road to improvement, receiving a Good rating for leadership and management. "Past success and a strong impetus from all leaders underpin the school's good capacity to improve further" said inspectors.

Inspectors found some exceptional teaching in Key Stages 1 and 2 at St Scholastica's Roman Catholic Primary School, rating the school Good with the capacity to improve further. Some areas, such as the outcomes for students and safeguarding procedures were found to be Outstanding.

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Inspectors found Colvestone Primary a "very harmonious school" and good achievement amongst all groups of pupils earning it a Good rating. Inspectors praised the Headteacher and her staff for "having very positive effects on school development."

And finally, City Academy has already impressed inspectors who undertook an interim assessment and judged it to be making Outstanding progress, just 18 months after it opened.

"I would like to congratulate all the school staff, pupils and parents. It's fantastic to see the distance that some of these schools have travelled and that's down to their persistence and dedication."

Steve Belk, Acting Chief Executive, The Learning Trust.

Breaking News

Ann Tayler Childrens' Centre has also just been rated Outstanding!



QUESTION TIME: SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Here Tim Diggins, Chair of Governors at Horizon School, tells us more about his role. Horizon recently received a glowing Ofsted report (see cover story) which praised the vast improvements that have taken place there.

Governing bodies play an important role in education. They make decisions on the school budget, ensure the national curriculum is met, set targets, monitor achievement and ensure standards are improving.

Governors act as a link between the school and the community it serves. Governors are often parents, school staff and people from the community who have an interest in education and a contribution to make.

Together with the Headteacher, the governing body decides the aims and objectives for the school. Governors need to be proactive with the ability to influence, make difficult decisions, ask complex questions and be responsible for their actions.

What motivated you to become a governor?

"I wanted to help out in my local community. My daughter's school's governing body was oversubscribed for parent governors, so I got in touch with the Trust to see if there was a need for community governors. It turned out there was!"

What does your role as governor entail?

"I think the most important thing we do as governors is to ask "stupid questions". We aren't governors because we're experts in education or in how to run a school. The experts are in the school and they need to be

able to explain what they are doing and why, in terms that we as non-experts should be able to follow."

"Mostly this ends up just being an educational experience for yourself (and the other governors too proud to ask the stupid question); however, this will sometimes give an occasion to reconsider the matter."

What do you enjoy about being a governor?

"I enjoy most the sense of renewed connection with my area. I also feel

"I'm doing something for children and families who can't speak out for themselves. I do also like the more nuts-and-bolts work of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our activities as a governing body."

"I feel immense pride in the school especially as things improve and we get recognition for the excellent work being done, but I know that my own contribution as a governor has been necessarily very limited, compared to the Headteacher, teachers and staff putting their all into it. Still, even having a small role gives me a warm glow."

What's next for Horizon?

"Ofsted made it clear that becoming an officially-recognised Outstanding school is within our grasp and that will give a focus to our development plans. We want the school to deepen our specialism in Communication and Interaction Needs. We'd like to offer back some of our insights and practices and become a recognised centre of excellence."

"We're very excited about the purpose-designed new school building which will be built and opened over the next year or so."

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PUPILS BATTLE IT OUT IN CHINESE SPEAKING COMPETITION

Students from Our Lady's Convent High School put their language skills to the test in March as they reached the final of a national Mandarin Chinese speaking competition organised by the British Council.

Six girls from the school, which is a specialist language college, took part in the group performance part of the event called 'Beijing welcomes you', whilst one girl, Buki Osofisan, took part in the individual challenge.

As part of the competition, the girls performed a short play that involved singing in Mandarin Chinese and dancing in traditional dress.

Our Lady's was one of the first secondary schools in Hackney to offer Chinese and was recently described by the school inspection body Ofsted as offering an Outstanding languages curriculum.

"I chose to study Mandarin because it has such a long history and interesting culture. It will also help me to travel in the future. Taking part in this competition has given me a greater understanding of the Chinese culture." Nerissa Opong, aged 16.

Nerissa also studies French, Japanese and Latin as part of the school's many language-themed after-school clubs.

"I was interested in this project because I believe students can enhance their learning by being outside of the classroom and applying their language skills when there is a real purpose. Plus, it is a good opportunity for students to combine performing, public speech, music skills and language together." Lily Chen, Teacher.

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CLAPTON GIRLS' LOOKS AHEAD TO EXCITING FUTURE

The Headteacher of Clapton Girls' Technology College has been named an outstanding head and been asked to share her knowledge and experience with other heads across the country.

Cheryl Day, who has been head of Clapton Girls' for 14 years, has been selected to become a National Leader of Education (NLE) – an accolade reserved for outstanding heads or principals. As part of the role, Ms Day and her staff will support other schools in challenging circumstances to help raise standards. The school has also been awarded the status of National Support School.



Clapton Girls' Technology College has gone from strength to strength under Ms Day's leadership and was awarded the highest rating – Outstanding – by school inspection body Ofsted in 2008. This year the school recorded its best ever GCSE results, with 60 per



cent of all students gaining five A*- C grades including English and maths.

Commenting on both accolades, Ms Day said:

"This is marvellous news for Clapton Girls'. It recognises the school's truly excellent contribution to educating the girls and young women of Hackney."

The news comes as Clapton Girls' prepares to convert to an Academy, after a consultation which found overwhelming support amongst the school community for the proposal. The school hopes to complete the process by September.

"We are delighted that the response from the school community has given us a clear indication of their preferred future for the school."

"We are keen to reaffirm that Clapton Girls' Technology College will maintain its current ethos and remain a successful, girls-only, inclusive, community school. The governors look forward to continuing to work together with all members of Clapton's educational and wider community as the school moves forward into the next phase of its exciting future." Camilla Allwood, Chair of Governors.

ENJOY A TASTE OF THE WORLD!

Sixth-formers at Haggerston School have taken a cook book business to market, netting a tidy profit and getting tips from a *The Apprentice* finalist in the process!

The group of year 12 students started their business, *Growth Elite*, as part of a project organised by Young Enterprise. Their first venture is a cook book entitled *Taste the World* which contains recipes from the group's cultural backgrounds, including *Hot Sizzling Pakoras* from India and *Flaming Jerk Chicken* from Jamaica.

The business hopefuls set up stall in Spitalfields Market on a chilly February morning and competed against other schools to sell the most



units. The finalist of TV's *The Apprentice*, Chris Bates, was on hand to advise the young entrepreneurs on their selling techniques. The sixth formers made a sterling effort, managing to sell 21 books and have

since sold 25 books in school and another 10 at Greenwich Market.

Finance Director, Monica Da Silva, said "Business is slow but steady. We've already made a profit and we hope to sell out very soon!"

"It's been a lot of hard work with lots of ups and downs, but I think all the effort has paid off" Rumi, Managing Director.

Tanzia (Secretary Director) "We've come together as a group and discovered each other's strengths and weaknesses. We encouraged one another to aim higher."

Growth Elite were entered into the Borough finals on the 5 April 2011 at the University of East London and took second place.

If you would like to buy a book, which is priced £5.00 and includes cuisine from Portugal, India, Turkey, Ghana, Spain, Jamaica and Thailand, email sixthform@haggerston.hackney.sch.uk



A TASTE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

A residential outdoor education centre visited by pupils in Hackney has been nationally recognised for the quality of its work.

Kench Hill, owned by the London Borough of Hackney and based in Kent, has provided residential outdoor education and field trips to pupils for over 30 years. Set in a beautiful rural location, the centre offers activities such as orienteering, bread-making, gardening, shelter-building and country rambles, that support the curriculum and foster co-operation, team work and independence.

After a rigorous assessment, the Centre was awarded the Quality Badge which was developed for the

government by the Learning Outside the Classroom Council.

"Many of our visitors get their first ever inspirational contact with nature in the country or at the seaside. We know that a trip to Kench Hill can be unforgettable, a lifetime of happy memories. It is very important for us to be awarded the Quality Badge as this is national recognition that we offer a high-quality service with effective risk management." Sandi Bain, Head of Centre

The Centre is keen to hear from some of its first visitors and invites people to share their memories on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/KenchHillCentre.

DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY

Ninety pupils from schools in the south of Hackney, put on their dancing shoes as part of their yearly show.

Pupils from Burbage, De Beauvoir, Randal Cremer, Sebright, St John the Baptist, Queensbridge, Our Lady and St Joseph primary schools, and Haggerston School performed a selection of dances to represent different periods in time, including the Charleston, Lindy Hop, Street Dance and MC Hammer.



There was also a special performance of *Riverdance* by Chris Carswell, a Burbage Primary School teacher, which delighted the crowd.

Over 300 parents and supporters attended the event, which was funded by The Big Lottery Awards for All grant.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR



Pupils from Parkwood Primary put their best foot forward last term to explore the Hackney Marshes and the River Lea.

Everyone from the school, both pupils and teachers, took part in the walk, which started at the Lea Bridge Road and followed the River Lea to Tottenham Hale. Even the younger children got involved, with the nursery and reception classes walking around Finsbury Park.

Every term the school puts on two whole school events. Headteacher Pat Cardis said: "We like to provide an opportunity for children of all ages to mix together and find that older children act as helpers for the younger ones."

She added: "Despite living in inner-London, we are actually surrounded by fantastic open spaces, and in Hackney we have the beautiful River Lea and the marshes. Not only were children able to discover this countryside, they were also learning about the local area and its history."

"The walk was very interesting. It reminded me a bit of being in Bangladesh. We saw barges with cats living on them, I didn't know they could do that." Aysha, Year 6 pupil.

Fellow pupil Bushra said: "It was a fun and interesting experience. We saw many things such as weeping willows, nice scenery and barges and had good exercise. A tiring day, but fun."

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Photography © Natural History Museum

SENSATIONAL BUTTERFLIES

Lucky pupils from Nightingale Primary School were the first to visit an exciting new exhibition on butterflies at the Natural History Museum.

Sensational Butterflies focuses on the surprising life butterflies lead and how these amazing insects sense their surroundings. The butterfly house is filled with hundreds of live tropical butterflies, from spectacular swallowtails to beautiful blue morphos. There are a number of interactive activities for children, including a crawl-through chrysalis.



"The butterflies were sitting on my hands and they felt really tickly. I had to put orange juice on my nose to make the butterfly stay there and it was exciting. I love butterflies!"

Sabina Olchowick, 5 years old, Nightingale pupil.

"I liked the butterfly house and I love the crawl through chrysalis. The butterflies were lots of different colours and there were lots of different types. It wasn't scary to have butterflies on my hand, it was fun." Hannah Gomaa, 6 years old.



Sensational Butterflies

12 April – 11 September 2011
10.00–17.50 (last admission 17.30)
Natural History Museum, London.



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HACKNEY SCHOOLS AT THE HEART OF LONDON 2012

With less than 500 days to go until the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, the excitement is building and Hackney schools are really getting into the spirit of the Games.

Here at The Learning Trust we are working hard with The London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and other partners to bring the excitement of 2012 to our pupils and to inspire them to take up sport and physical activity, have fun and be fit and healthy.

We have developed a number of curriculum resources for teachers to incorporate the Olympics and Paralympics into the school day. We will also be holding the ever successful Hackney Schools Sports Championships again this October, giving pupils of all abilities the chance to try out Paralympic sports.

In these pages you will find a selection of activities that have taken place in Hackney schools over the past few months as we get set for 2012!



Schools  at the Heart

CITY ACADEMY PLAYWRIGHT HITS RADIO 4 AIRWAVES

A radio play written by City Academy student Tom Willingham has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 as part of an Olympics-inspired project.

Secondary schools across the five Olympic host boroughs were invited to submit plays based on the theme of London 2012 for the *Drama in the Mix* project, which aims to showcase the creative talents of students in the Olympic boroughs.

Tom's script, *Try and Try Again*, featured Olympic mascots, Wenlock and Mandeville, pitting their wits against the evil Dr Spoilsport, who had kidnapped one of them to stop them from getting to the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.

Tom performed the play with fellow students Kyarna Morris-Diedrick, Tarik Clavier and Kevin Illunga at the *Drama in the Mix* festival.



"I am happy that I made the effort to enter the competition and write the script. Performing it was nerve wracking, but I really enjoyed it and the actors who performed it with me were great. I feel proud that I live in one of the five Olympic boroughs and can take advantage of these opportunities." Tom said.

CALLING ALL YEAR 5 PUPILS...

Are you in Year 5? Do you love sport? Are you excited about the Olympics? If so, read on!

We are looking for two young people (a boy and a girl) from every primary school in Hackney to become 2012 Primary Advocates – this means that you will represent your school, The Learning Trust and Hackney Council at 2012 related events and take part in other projects.

We want children who can tell others at school about the Olympics and Paralympics and explain all the exciting things going on in Hackney in the run-up to the Games.

This is a great opportunity to learn new skills and play your part in London 2012!

If you are interested, please speak to your teacher and fill in an application form. If you are successful you will be invited to a short interview. Good luck!

SEB COE VISITS HACKNEY SCHOOL



Seb Coe, Chair of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) visited Mossbourne Community Academy to see for himself how young people in one of the host boroughs are inspired by the Games.

As part of his visit, Seb witnessed the Met-Track 'Schools and Communities Involvement Programme' (SCIP) in action. SCIP offers coaching in athletics or general fitness as a healthy alternative in life for young people who might not otherwise get the opportunity. Mossbourne Community Academy has been running the programme, led by current UK number one long jumper JJ Jegede, since Autumn 2010.

Seb also presented the Academy with the Get Set Network plaque, to formally recognise it as a member of the Get Set Network, London 2012's education programme.

"I'm thrilled to have seen for myself how inspired students are by the London 2012 Games. Our vision has always been to use the power of the Games to inspire change and this school is making this a reality. Meeting some of the students today has shown me how they are making the most of the London 2012 Games, coming to London in just over 500 days time." Seb said.



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SPORTING PAIR SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE OLYMPICS

Two sporty pupils from Haggerston School are among a number of young Olympic Ambassadors in Hackney.

Grace Kavanagh, 15 from Tower Hamlets, and Issy Law, also 15, from Stoke Newington, became Olympic Ambassadors last year. Their role requires them to attend events and outdoor festivals to promote both the Games and simple ways to get involved in sport and fitness.

Issy, who plays tennis regularly at Clissold Park, explains:

"It's all about bringing the Olympics to young people in Hackney. Being on our doorstep, the Games are a great opportunity for everyone to get involved in sport and there are easy and simple ways to do this, whatever your ability."

The couple have been running Personal Bests sessions at events where people are spurred on to run their fastest and compete against others. They also promote accessible sports such as Boccia and Wheelchair Basketball.

Grace, a long-distance runner herself, said:

"We want to show people that introducing sport and exercise into your daily life needn't be difficult – there are so many great parks in Hackney too, it's easy and fun to get out there and get fit."

In 2012, both Grace and Issy will be working as volunteers during the games.

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OLYMPIC FEVER AT GAINSBOROUGH

Gainsborough School was the first to pioneer Hackney's innovative Personal Bests athletics training programme.

Personal Bests is aimed at children aged 9-11. All children record a baseline performance in six sports and each school then sends the 12 children who have shown most improvement to the borough-wide finals. Forty-two primary schools are now involved in the initiative this year.

Hackney's Gainsborough School children took a break from fitness training to form the figure "500" to mark 500 days until the start of the Olympic Games, and tickets for



Olympic events going on sale. The playground at Gainsborough School overlooks the International Press and Broadcast Centres and is the closest to the Olympic Park.



CREATIVE PUPIL CROWNED HACKNEY POET LAUREATE

Words did not fail one Hackney pupil, who penned the winning verse in this year's Hackney Poet Laureate competition.

Cardinal Pole Catholic School's Aswad Martin, 14, wrote *The Track Is My Second Home*, described by judges as 'fantastic and inspiring'.

"I was very surprised when I was told I had won and didn't realise the competition was for all of Hackney. I am happy that I won. The content is something I feel really passionate about and I am glad to be able to express this." Aswad said.

The competition, organised by The Learning Trust in association with Linklaters, has been running for four years and has generated a diverse range of poetry from students in the borough.

The Track Is My Second Home by A. Martin

It's where I train
To keep track of my track career
Keeping intact to know when to attack

Smashing records set by successful sprinters
Striving and struggling for success
For when I succeed
Feeling the flush of defeat flares me up
Like a fight in the family. The track is a foundation
Fumbling, tumbling till it falls flat on its face

Like a private position in my room
It pleasures me with peace
Still,
Pulverized and punching me, softly
Pin point with precision
Even peace proves to be painful!
My home is humble, hectic
Like Hell and Heaven hitting me
Hurling me hard into heavy rock.
It's amazing how accurately similar my house and athletics are.

An aspiring athlete
Ascending in ability
Living in two homes.

HACKNEY FREE STUDENT WINS ART AWARD

A piece of artwork by Hackney Free and Parochial School student Joel Davids, 14, has been selected as the best entry from the Borough of Hackney in the Fourth Plinth Schools Award.

The awards were open to primary and secondary schools in London and students were asked to design an artwork inspired by contemporary art commissions, past and present, for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square.

"I was so pleased to hear that I'd won the award for Hackney, especially when I saw how good the other entries were" Joel said.

Joel's artwork *Gender* was chosen by judge and artist Yinka Shonibare, whose artwork *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle* is currently on display on the Fourth Plinth.

"Joel has produced a piece of artwork that deliberately moves away from the male dominated, often war-based statues of Trafalgar Square, and promotes a thoroughly positive message of peace and equality. I am sure this is why Yinka Shonibare, one of the world's greatest living artists, selected his artwork as the winning entry. Boris Johnson is very lucky to have Joel's work in his office. We are all very proud of him." Patrick Sanders, Head of Art at Hackney Free.

Joel's work will be displayed in an exhibition at City Hall until the end of April.





GOLD AWARD FOR BUSY MEGAN

Revising for three A-levels, securing a place at Cambridge and completing a prestigious national award are all in a day's work for one Mossbourne high-achiever.

Megan Goldman Roberts, a final year student at Mossbourne Community Academy, is currently completing the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

As part of the award, she has set up a running club, which has 15 regular participants and mentors other pupils.

This Easter, she will head to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico to fulfil the residential element of the award. Megan will be volunteering at Casa de los Angeles, a charity which provides support for street children and working mothers, who sell goods at the local market.

"I've studied Spanish for six years and wanted to go to somewhere where I could develop those skills. South America has a hugely rich culture that I am enthusiastic to learn more about, having been given an introduction to it at Mossbourne."

"The act of helping those less fortunate than myself, is something that brings with it great humility and understanding of different cultures, which I believe everyone can benefit from." Megan said.

Busy Megan is also preparing for an expedition to the Black Mountains in South Wales. After completing her A-Levels this summer in Maths, Chemistry and Biology she will be studying Natural Sciences at Cambridge.

SCHOOL SECURES PLACE IN NATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION

Pupils from Stoke Newington School have fought off stiff competition from across the country to win a coveted place in a challenge organised by the Design Council.

The *Keeping Connected Design Challenge*, which aims to get different generations working together to create innovative solutions to social challenges, will see pupils design a service to help older people become better connected.

Twenty-four students will take part in the challenge and, if their solution is a success, they will scoop a £5000 prize and see their design developed by a real company.

The school is working closely on the project with St Anne's Care Home for the Elderly in Manor Road, to learn more about their needs.

Head of Design and Technology Chimene Peddie said:

"The chance to be involved in a project that could make a real difference to other people's lives is very exciting for us and we are very proud to be part of it."



"We see the school as being at the heart of our local community and this project helps to reinforce that. If we are lucky, our solution could be put into practice, which would be wonderful for everyone involved and also for those who might benefit from the service in the future." She added.

The Challenge was developed by the Design Council in association with the government's Technology Strategy Board, in response to people living longer and more active lives.

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EXAM TIPS

For down-to-earth, hands-on revision help, read these top ten tips from exams board Edexcel.

They have spoken to students who have been through what you're going through now:

- 01.** Create a revision timetable with sensible work slots and breaks and then show it to your parents to get their agreement. Keep to this! Then when your parent finds you 'not working', provided you are following your agreed timetable, no-one is going to hassle you.
- 02.** Know where your exams are and when they start, how long they are, what equipment you are allowed (e.g. calculators) or not (mobiles, notes, etc).
- 03.** Make sure you have one weekend day when you don't do revision or think about exams - you'll come back refreshed.
- 04.** Tell your family about your revision time - and ask them for help if you need it - it may help make them feel useful!
- 05.** Keep bullet points on crib cards highlighting main subject themes. Use these for quick revision and read during 'dead' times like waiting for a bus.
- 06.** Some people revise well by listening, so you could try 'talking' your revision and recording it onto your iPod.
- 07.** Ensure you eat and sleep properly. Now is not the time to diet or stay up all night. Have an early night before each exam.
- 08.** Prepare items needed for the exam the evening before. Make sure you have the correct equipment needed for your exam (calculators, rulers, etc).
- 09.** Look after yourself during the exam period (a good routine and healthy eating!). Cut down on your weekend/evening job.
- 10.** On the morning of the exam, have a good breakfast, stay calm and allow plenty of time to get to the exam. Remember that you can only do your best and even if you don't do as well as you'd hoped, your parents still love you just as much!



SKINNERS' ACADEMY OPENS

Skinnners' Academy, in the Woodberry Down regeneration area of Hackney, was declared open on 12 April 2011 by HRH the Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO at an opening ceremony attended by dignitaries, students, parents and members of the local community.

Built on the principle of open-plan learning space, the light and spacious Academy is sponsored by the Skinnners' Company, one of the great twelve livery companies with a history spanning back 700 years.



TEXTILES, TURKEY AND TRADE

Skinners' Academy has been successful in securing funding, through the EU Comenius and British Council, for an international project partnering with Lutfi Ege Anadolu Öğretmen College in Denizli, Turkey.

The students have started participating in a 2-year textile and onyx project – involving researching and comparing the history of art,

textiles and the onyx industry in Turkey and the UK – as well as the import and export of Fairtrade goods.

As part of the project, 20 sixth form students from Skinners' Academy visited its partner school in Turkey in February 2011. Fairtrade cotton and textile products are prevalent in Denizli, and touring areas such as Buldan and Pamukkale, resulted in increased knowledge of textiles, weaving and onyx producers.

Ensuring Hackney was well represented, Skinners' Academy students made presentations about their school, the local area and the English education system to the Ministry of Education in Denizli.

"We learnt so much about the history of Denizli... The community relies on the cotton and textile industry in order to survive. It was good to see how strong the community was in Buldan and how they support one another in terms of Fairtrade and textiles." Ozlem Oz, Year 12 student.

Satone Johnson (Year 12) learnt "that to the Turkish people their culture is very important... I have also learnt a lot about Atatürk and how he made a very big impression on their lives and families... and realised the importance of family and how they stick together and help each other. It made me realise how much my Mum has done for me and I am very grateful for this experience."

This international school project will continue in Hackney as the partner school and the Mayors of Kizilcaboluk and Buldan are keen to export Fairtrade scarves and ties to sell here.

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FORMER CARDINAL POLE STUDENT TELLS OF UNI LIFE

Victor Bamigboye, a former Cardinal Pole student, is currently in his final year of a politics degree at the University of Surrey.

Here he tells us how a bursary from The Learning Trust helped him to survive university life and his ambitions for the future.

"It was when I got to the sixth form at Cardinal Pole that I really began to feel motivated to get to university and I was so pleased when I got into Surrey, a top 20 university. I've enjoyed studying so much that I'm now considering continuing to a Masters degree!"

"University has been a real learning curve and I've loved every minute. Before I went I was really Hackney-centric, but I've changed the way I think about things and broadened my horizons. I've even changed the way I talk and hold myself!"



"I would have probably dropped out of university without the bursary from The Learning Trust – I already have a part-time job working in the students' union to give me extra income but without the bursary I would have had to up my hours even further and my studies would have suffered as a result."

"I'd encourage other Hackney students to apply to university. I'm interested in why people pick the universities they do and I'm basing my dissertation on this. I'd encourage students to aim high, don't disregard universities that you think are out of your reach. Examine, revise early and revise hard!"

HACKNEY SCHOOL BOASTS BRITISH CHAMPION



A spur of the moment decision to try out a new sport has seen a Hackney girl enter the British Championships and claim victory.

Kim Pham, from Cardinal Pole Catholic School, has become the British Under-18 Champion in

weightlifting – just two years after taking up the sport.

“My friends and I were looking for something to do one evening so we went along to a weight-lifting introductory session. Two years later and two out of the three of us are still doing it.” Kim said.

Petite Kim – she is just 4ft 11 – wowed the coach on that first session aged 15 and was encouraged to pursue it further. She has always had an interest in weights.

“My older brothers were into dumbbells when I was younger and I always tried, and failed, to pick them up!”

Last year, Kim was crowned British Schools Champion. Most recently she was one of the youngest competitors in the British University and College Championships where she came second. Competing in the 2016 Olympics remains a strong possibility.

Kim’s busy schedule includes training and working out three days a week, part-time waitressing and studying for A Levels in Maths, ICT, Business & Economics and Philosophy & Ethics. On juggling all these priorities, Kim said: “I have to do a lot of negotiating to get things done!”

Cardinal Pole is the only secondary school in Hackney to offer a weight-lifting club. Pupils train under the guidance of George Manners and represented Hackney in the London Youth Games where they came first.

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CRICKETING SUCCESS

Stoke Newington School’s Years 7 and 8 girls’ cricket team are celebrating after an extremely successful term.

They won the borough championships and followed this up with victory at the Inner-County Championships at Lords. After winning the Inner-County Finals the girls were invited to compete in the County Finals also at Lords Cricket Ground. Unfortunately the girls were narrowly defeated in the final against Godolphin School. The girls were only two wickets away from representing Middlesex against all the other counties in England.

The Years 9 and 10 girls’ cricket team have also done well this term winning the Borough Championships and playing very well in the County Finals. The girls made it to the final stages of the tournament.

“Congratulations to all the girls that contributed to a very successful indoor cricket season. All the girls’ achievements this term have been absolutely fantastic and we hope to continue the good work next year!”
Ian Bruce, PE Teacher.

BRITISH CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to Hackney Community College’s Men’s Basketball team and coach Andrea Norton!

In a close and exciting final against Loreto College Manchester, Hackney Community College won the British Colleges Sport cup. Again! Final score: 92 – 81!

Hackney Community College’s sports academies – most notably basketball – have notched up a string of successes over recent years. Academies for both men and women give students the opportunity to train hard and compete in high profile competitions. Many go on to play professionally, in the UK or abroad. Academy members can study any course at the college and only stay in the team if they are up to date with their main coursework – a great motivation for success on and off the court!

“Having to set off at 6am on the long journey to Douglas Ellis Stadium Birmingham suddenly seemed worthwhile when you were coming back with a minibus full of medals.” Karen Nixon, HCC Academies Administrator.

VICTORY FOR NETBALL SQUAD



The City Academy has won its first silverware since it opened 18 months ago, thanks to the Girls year 7 Netball Team.

The girls brought home the trophy after competing against 16 other teams in the South of England Academies Cup. They have only been playing together as a team for six months and for some of the students this is their first year playing netball.

“I am very proud of the girls. Even though they have only been a team for six months they have proved that with teamwork and determination you can achieve anything.” Ms McClennon, PE teacher and the girls’ netball coach.