



SARACENS
HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

Spring Term : January to April 2021

A message from the Principal

My last newsletter entry started with 'what a unique term this has been' - little did I know that we were about to have another lockdown and an even more 'unique' term. On reflection, it was a difficult time, but a positive time. Thanks to the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, The Priory Foundation, and the Department for Education, we were able to loan out well over 200 chromebooks, which enabled us to deliver the live online lessons that were a vast improvement on last summer's Google Classroom arrangement.

We had over 40 children in school most days, which was certainly a unique experience for them. The table tennis tables were constantly left up, and many children played daily and quickly became very good. A number of the staff learnt how to lead covid testing as we became a testing centre for staff and pupils, and then we had to quickly adapt and prepare to return to school a little quicker than anticipated.

For pupils and families there were significant challenges to learning at home, particularly to the routine of the day, but with your help, we quickly went from 75% attendance in live lessons to 96%+ for most periods. Consequently, pupils made much more academic progress than during the summer. Our early assessments have suggested that on average, the children made almost as much progress from the live online lessons as we would expect from face-to-face lessons.

Coming back into school has been wonderful. The pupils returned looking smart and had the correct equipment. Thank you for your support with that - we know that some children have

grown a lot and there have been challenges with shopping. The vast majority of children have been keen and eager to learn, and have engaged well with staff in identifying and closing any gaps in knowledge that opened during the break. We know that during the first lockdown reading ages stalled, and I would ask that you continue to support your children with their reading over the coming weeks and months.

We had more good news this term when Mrs Anwar's baby daughter arrived a few weeks early. After Easter we will welcome Mr Moraes, who is our new Computer Science teacher, who will cover for Mrs Anwar's absence and then remain with us as the team expands when she returns next year.

Also in the summer term we will welcome Miss Clark, who is our new PE teacher, and at half-term we will be joined by Mr Tester, our new Subject Lead for Science, who will take over from Ms Latif.

We have again been fortunate to attract some exceptional members of the teaching staff for next September and we will begin our recruitment process for non-teaching staff after Easter. We are keen to recruit from the local community, so please do look out for the adverts and pass them on to people you know who might be interested.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to seeing pupils again on Monday 19 April.

Dr Stevens



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website: www.saracenshigh.org



Discipline

Hard Work

Honesty

Humility

Update on the new building:.....

December 2020



February 2021



March 2021



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ACADEMIC YEAR 2020 / 2021

Summer Term 2020 / 2021

Monday 19 April	-	Start of Summer term
Monday 3 May	-	Bank Holiday
Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June	-	Summer half term holiday
Monday 7 June	-	Second half summer term begins
Friday 25 June	-	INSET day (staff training (No pupils))
Wednesday 21 July	-	Last day of Summer term & school year

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 / 2022

Autumn Term 2021 / 2022

Monday 7 September	-	Start of new school year
Friday 22 October	-	INSET day (staff packing up) No pupils
Monday 25 October to Tuesday 2 November	-	Autumn half term holiday (extended to accommodate move to new building)
Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 November	-	INSET day (staff unpacking) No pupils
Monday 8 November	-	Second half of Autumn term begins in new building
Tuesday 21 December	-	Last day of Autumn term

Spring Term 2021 / 2022

Monday 3 January	-	Bank holiday
Tuesday 4 January	-	INSET day (staff training) No pupils
Monday 14 to Friday 18 February	-	Spring half term holiday
Friday 1 April	-	Last day of spring term
Friday 14 and Monday 18 April	-	Bank holidays
Tuesday 19 April	-	First day of summer term

Academic Calendar: 2021/2022

Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21
Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa Su 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Apr-22
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May-22	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug-22
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Term time Holiday Bank holiday INSET-staff training day Year 7 only

Discipline

Hard Work

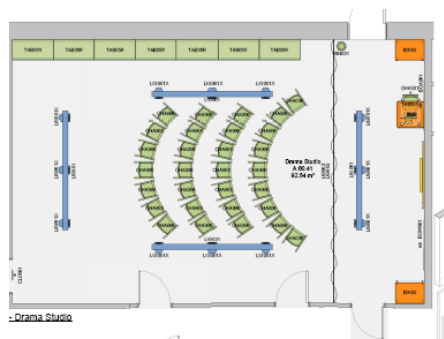
Honesty

Humility

Enrichment clubs – Summer term 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Years 7, 8 & 9					
Lunch time	Table Tennis (Hall 2)	Attenborough Club (Hum 1)	Table Tennis (Hall 2)		
Year 7					
After school	Home Learning club		Home Learning club	Home Learning club	Home Learning club
	Gardening club	Staff meeting No clubs	The Scholars club	LGBT+ Allies	
	Basketball (Playground 3)		Trampoline (Hall 2)		
Year 8					
	Home Learning club		Home Learning club	Home Learning club	Home Learning club
	Art club Theme: Photoshop	Staff meeting No clubs	Games club	STEM club	Conversation club (games, films, competitions all in Spanish)
	Trampoline (Hall 2)			Basketball (Playground 3)	
Year 9					
	Home Learning club		Home Learning club	Home Learning club	Home Learning club
	Cooking Club	Staff meeting No clubs	Entrepreneurs Club	Textiles and machine sewing club	Rugby (girls - back field)
	Maths Club		Debate Club	Trampoline (Hall 2)	
				LGBT+ Allies	

Enrichment clubs must be signed up to as a register will be taken. Afterschool clubs run for one hour. All clubs are free and run by our staff. Although enrichment clubs are not compulsory it is expected that pupils will register for and attend at least one club each week.



Plans for the new building are coming together.



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COVID-19 Lateral Flow home testing

If your child has been using the Covid19 Lateral Flow test kits, please make sure they continue to test at home on Mondays and Thursdays during the Easter holidays.

Please see the link below for how to do the home testing, the guidance is available in several languages: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help>

Please report your child's test results on NHS test and trace: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Please also report your child's results to the school directly: <https://forms.gle/B37MgUZtPM7Rm6nV7>

If you need to report a positive case, please email principal@saracenshigh.org as soon as possible, self-isolate and book a PCR test to check the result of the lateral flow test.

Free School Meal Vouchers

For pupils who receive free school meals, vouchers are being issued for the Easter break. If you have any problems with the vouchers, please contact Mrs Edwards for assistance: tbm@saracensmat.org

*Mrs Edwards
Trust Business Manager*



Drama

In Year 7 pupils have been developing their understanding of the Shakespearean play Romeo and Juliet. They have focussed on key plot moments as well as important themes such as tragedy and arranged marriage. Pupils have also had the opportunity to develop their oracy skills through performing a soliloquy, which is a lot harder than it sounds! Pupils not only had to think about their vocal skills but also how they move around the stage and use their physical skills. It was hard work which many did incredibly well in.

In Year 8 pupils have been developing their understanding of how to create a piece of theatre from scratch. Pupils used the theme of the Seven Deadly Sins taken from Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales to devise an imaginative non-naturalistic piece of theatre. Non-naturalism was a difficult concept for many to understand at first but they soon got into it creating rather thought provoking, abstract pieces based on Gluttony.

In Year 9 pupils have been working hard to learn their lines and blocking for play 'Crusaders' by Frances Poet for the National Theatre Connections project. This has been a particularly challenging time for the GCSE Drama pupils as many of our rehearsals took place on Zoom during the lockdown. Pupils have worked incredibly hard to learn the blocking, the sub context of the lines and the tone of voice required. The play is coming together really well and will be performed in school before the Easter holidays. The recording of Crusaders will then be streamed to their parents and friends during the Arts Depot Connections Festival after the Easter holidays.

*Ms Nicoll
Subject Lead*

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School Uniform

Uniform can be ordered online and will be delivered to your home from <https://www.uniform4kids.com/collections/saracens-high-school>
Please note that they are now stocking a longer length skirt.

A reminder on correct school uniform can be found on our website here:
<https://www.saracenshigh.org/Parents/School-Uniform/>

Details about the correct school shoes can be found on our website here:
https://www.saracenshigh.org/docs/Transition_Information/Saracens_High_School_-_Shoes.pdf

Feeling Anxious?

Barnet have kindly created some useful resources here <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/backtoschool>. They include videos and podcasts for families and young people. Also, Kooth (<https://www.kooth.com/>) is an excellent resource.

Free Easter holiday and food activities available in Barnet

The school holidays are a time for children and young people to relax and have fun and we believe that every family across Barnet deserves a healthy and fulfilling holiday.

We've teamed up with the Young Barnet Foundation to bring you Barnet's Active, Creative and Engaging holidays (BACE), recently named by Barnet's young people and highlights exactly what our holiday programme is all about!

It's free for children aged 5-16 years over Easter. BACE holidays is available to families in Barnet that are receiving Free Schools Meals. To register your interest visit: <https://barnetyouth.uk/BACEHolidays>

Need a food parcel?

If you cannot afford to buy food we can provide an emergency food parcel. You will need a food voucher - please call Citizens Advice on **0808 208 2138** (free phone) or contact your normal support service and ask for an e-voucher code. If you need a delivery, please call NHS Responders on 0808 1963646 and ask for a volunteer to help with collection and delivery of your parcel.



The poster for the Burnt Oak Community Food Bank features a yellow background with a sunburst pattern. At the top, there are three logos: a red heart with 'Lola' inside, the 'Jesus House' logo, and the 'St. Alphage Parish Church of Burnt Oak' logo. The main text reads 'BURNT OAK COMMUNITY FOOD BANK' in large, bold, black letters, followed by 'HELPING AND CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED' and 'SERVING EVERY FRIDAY' in smaller black letters. Below this is an illustration of various food items like tins, bags, and boxes. The bottom section has a dark purple background with white text stating: 'We accept anyone without access to food', 'No Referral System - Just turn up', 'We do not accept food donations at the food bank', and 'We follow safe distancing and other Covid-19 measures'. It also lists the location: 'St. Alphage Church Hall, At the Junction of Playfield Road and Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware, HA8 0DF'. The text 'EVERY FRIDAY 2 - 4 PM' is in yellow. At the bottom, it says 'FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 07713 490105' and 'Email:- burnt oak food bank@gmail.com'.

**BURNT OAK COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**
HELPING AND CARING FOR THOSE IN NEED
SERVING EVERY FRIDAY

We accept anyone without access to food
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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 07713 490105
Email:- burnt oak food bank@gmail.com

Ms Green
Vice Principal

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Geography

In the spring term, Year 7 have been studying Blue Planet and Africa. Year 8 have been learning about the issues around population and migration, and river processes and flooding. Pupils have had the opportunity to take part in challenge tasks and as a result we have had pupils submit entries to achieve a Green Blue Peter Badge. Below is Caris's (8Tr) entry and a photo of her badge.



Help save the world.

"Help save the world"
Is what everyone says.
Save the trees, the corals and the pearls,
Save the animals, the humans and the bays.

Help save the world,
Is what most believe they're doing.
But do you recycle, does your trash burn?
Is the pollution fading, are our icebergs cooling?

Help save the world,
Is an overused phrase.
A bright future is what we all yearn,
But many don't do, they simply say.

Help save the world,
Make that your goal
Make other's determination stir,
'Cause in the end, oxygen cannot be sold.

Help save the world,
For you, for them, for us
Make your voices heard,
Reduce pollution we must.

Help save the world,
Or do you want to have no future?
To guarantee nature is preserved,

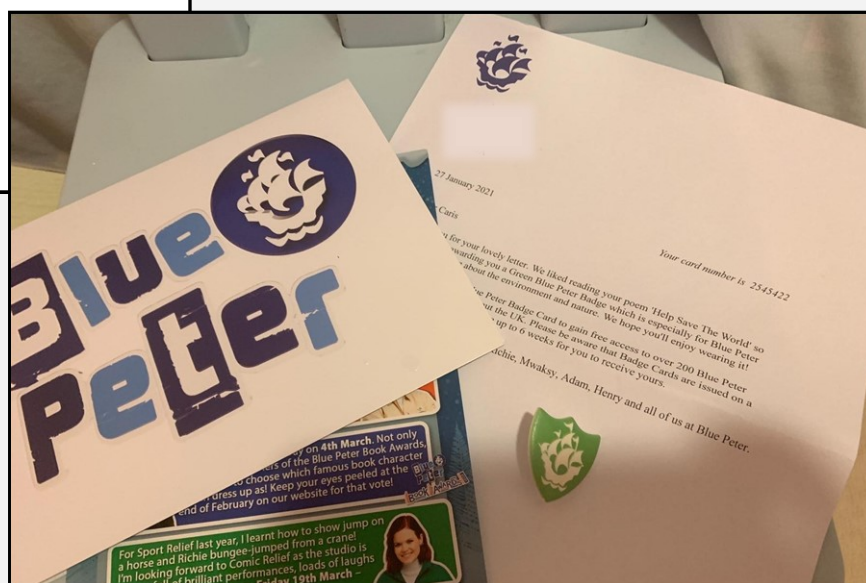
Is up to us to nurture.

Help save the world,
And make it clear,
To prove we've learnt,
And to maintain air.

Reduce, reuse, recycle.
Plant a tree,
Keep a clean water cycle,
It's not that hard, do you see?

Don't waste paper,
Use more clean energy,
Be a supporter, not a hater,
To ensure life for centuries.

So one last time, help save the world,
Don't let more deaths be in vain,
Let the Earth continue to twirl,
And don't leave lungs in pain.



Miss Morphitis
Subject Lead/Assistant Principal



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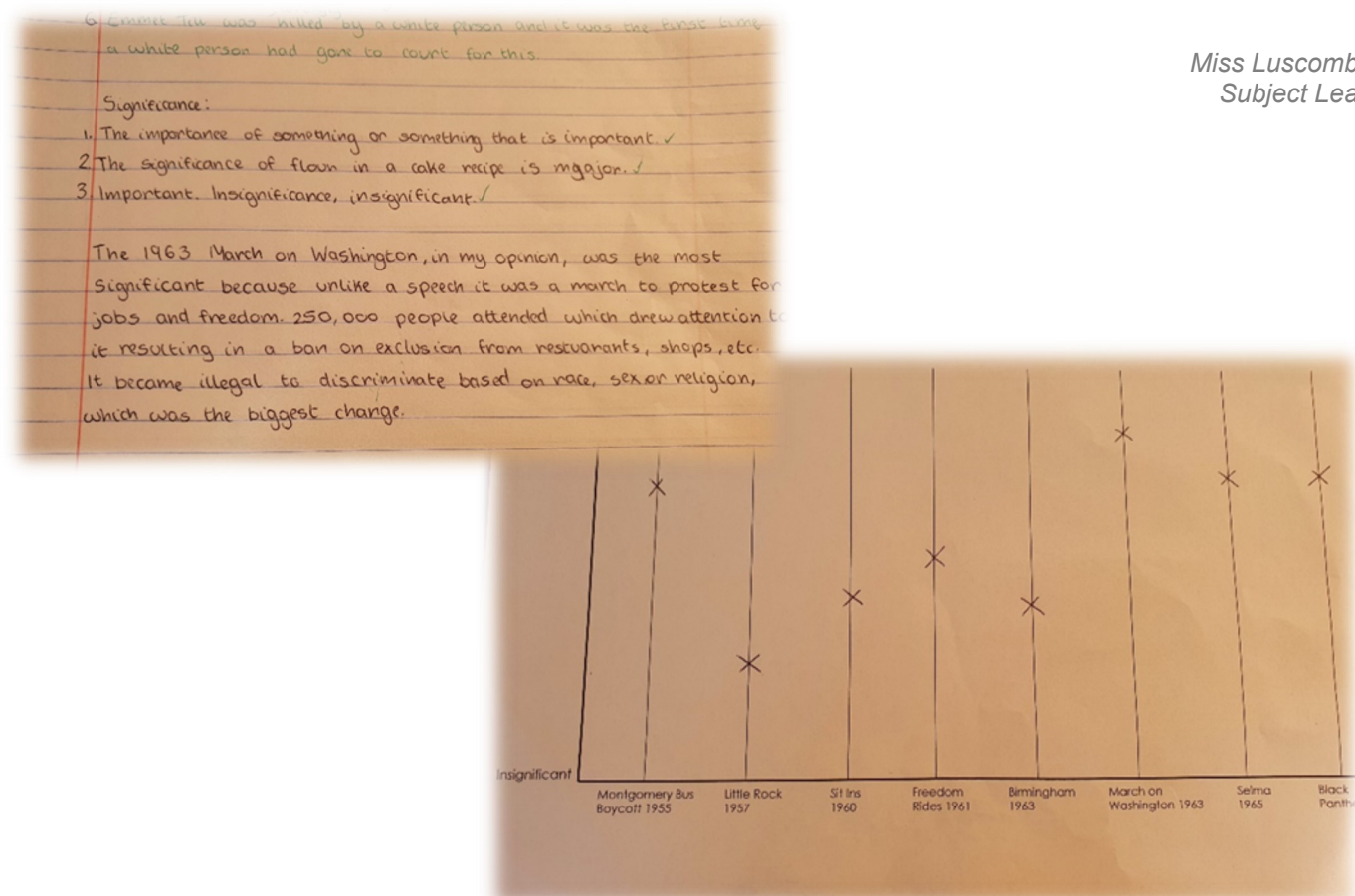
website: www.saracenshigh.org



History

This half term in History, Year 8 have been learning about the Civil Rights Movement to assess the significance of individuals and events that aided the progress of civil rights in the USA. Pupils have been learning about individuals such as Emmett Till and events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott. They have used living graphs to plot the significance of these events, using the work of historian Christine Counsell to guide them. It has been a challenging topic, and one which has resonated with Year 8, as they have made links to more recent protests and campaigns for equality in the process.

Miss Luscombe
Subject Lead



Library

As part of World Book Day celebrations, this year we are running an *Inter-House Word Count Competition* to celebrate all the wonderful reading that pupils have been engaged in over this term. We are collecting the names of all the books read by pupils and adding up the total number of words to find out the winning house that has read the most this term. Additionally, we also distributed the free **£1 World Book Day book tokens** to all pupils, which they can exchange for a free book at any bookstore. Pupils have been informed about all the amazing titles available for World Book Day this year, and they are very excited to redeem their £1 tokens and get reading! We also launched our new Saracens Virtual Library in February which lets our pupils borrow hundreds of eBooks for free and this has been very popular with pupils, especially over lockdown. Furthermore, we are also planning to host an author visit in the summer term which will be an enriching opportunity for our pupils to interact with a famous author and learn valuable lessons about reading and creative writing.



Miss Pathiyath
Librarian

Pastoral Year Lead headlines

Following further disruption to their learning, pupils have returned positively back in school. They are again displaying our values of discipline, hard work, honesty and humility as they reengage with their peers, school staff and our expectations showing how they can be ready, respectful and safe. Let's make the summer term the best it can be and continue to develop our culture and surpass all expectations.

Pupils have been working diligently to complete the Edge award by demonstrating the LORIC (leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication) skills which will in turn help them with all aspects of their future. Some pupils are progressing well through the Edge Apprentice award and some have progressed on to the Pioneer award. Year 9 pupils have started their Graduate Award.

This is incredibly important as Year 8 pupils get closer to making their GCSE option choices. All of the pupils have had GCSE taster lessons in the three subjects we do not teach at KS3 (Sociology, Psychology and Health and Social Care), so pupils will all have a better understanding of these subjects. We have also been encouraging pupils to talk to their teacher about their GCSE option choices, please continue these conversations at home during the holidays.

We are very excited to see in the summer term the return to extracurricular activities with our enrichment clubs for the pupils to engage in and take one step further to normality (timetable on page 4).

Attendance		
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
96.1%	95.4%	96.2%

Attendance has been good, there is still room for improvement to get to our target of 97%

Achievement		
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
111,548	119,228	111,548



Family lunch has been running smoothly, again the vast majority of pupils have really excelled at taking responsibility and assisting with an efficient service of lunch, and everyone leaves happy and well fed!

*Mr Mitman, Mrs Freeman-Holmes and Mr Rudd
Year Leads*

Food preparation and Nutrition

The new groups in Year 7 and 8 had to start their food lessons online, but lots of them managed to cook at home and send in their amazing pictures. They made pasta salad, macaroni cheese, chicken wraps, smoothies and braised rice.

Since we've returned to school, Year 7 and 8 have been making up for lost time making Pizzas, Bakewell tarts and savoury scones.

Year 9 have continued to learn about nutrition and diet with a focus on fruit and vegetables, and dairy products. They have also been cooking at home and have made Spaghetti and meatballs, Spanish omelette, Carrot cakes and Dauphinoise potatoes. They have returned to school really eager to learn new skills, so we have focussed on yeast cookery, making cheese and herb rolls and Cinnamon buns and are now exploring pastry buns and are now exploring pastry making.



*Mrs Cenci
Subject Lead*

Mental Health Week

During lockdown it was really tough to be at home, not seeing friends or teachers and understanding the work that we had to do. What really helped me were the documents provided by Miss Osborne during Children's Mental Health Week. This helped me to focus in lessons as I had a space to express my feelings. This has taught me that even if I am sad that we should always be encouraged to speak to someone about our feelings. We have used the resources attached, and I believe all pupils would benefit from it.

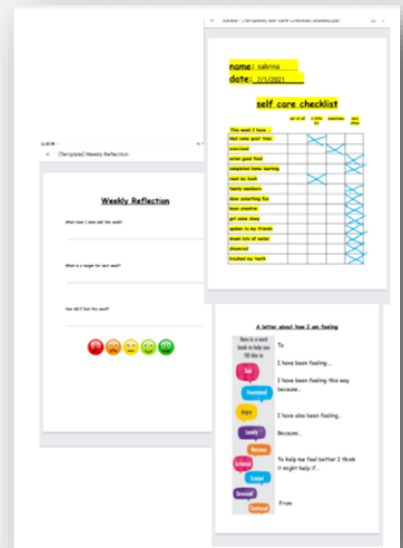
Sabrina - 7Trenchard



During the Children's Mental Health Week we had to design a piece of artwork. This is a drawing I'm really really proud of. It is a drawing that I did myself about body positivity that is linked to mental health.

Underneath the drawing I have written 'Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes'. This is a positive message to show that no matter how you look, you should always love yourself and know that you are beautiful.

Ana-Maria — 8 Alphonsi



*Miss Alexa
SEND CO*

Futures Programme - Exploring careers

At Saracens High School we understand that supporting our pupils in making well-informed choices about subjects and career paths can lead them to have a more optimistic outlook on life. It can also help them develop a sense of purpose and a greater level of contribution to their families and society.

Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to invite visitors onsite. However, that hasn't stopped us from providing opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge about different industries and jobs. Our latest event took place on Tuesday 23 March when all our Year 8 pupils were able to connect remotely with five professionals from different industries to explore learn more about their jobs.

We were fortunate to have the Chief Financial Officer at the National Trust for Scotland, a marine biologist from the Zoological Society of London, the School's finance service manager at Islington Council and a project manager and a Social value coordinator from Bowmer and Kirkland, one of the largest construction and development groups in the UK. The speakers were inspirational! They were generous with their time and answered the questions posed by the pupils with honesty and humility emphasising, at every opportunity, how discipline and hard work pay off when working towards your goals. We are glad that we have started the 'Futures' conversation with our pupils and we hope to resume our face to face professional encounters very soon.

Sabrina Bryan
School Finance Service Manager – Islington Council
CEO – Noir Coaching Consulting

Follow your heart...

ZSL
LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE

To inspire, inform and empower people to stop wild animals going extinct

Creating sustainable relationships between wildlife and people – because people thrive when wildlife thrives.

Ensuring the health of wildlife, improving the health of people and the environment.

Bringing the most threatened species back from the brink of extinction.

+BOWMER KIRKLAND
CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

Mrs Bonilla
Subject Lead/Assistant Principal

Physical Education

Remote learning was a challenge for all us, but the Year 8 pupils particularly embraced this challenge in PE. The weekly challenge set by the PE department really balanced some of our learners. Mr Giles' 3 point balance of a headstand was superseded by some superb examples of pupil work. Well done to Phoebe, Christian, Mason for created and posting their own 3 point balances.



We are hoping now back at school that even more Physical Education challenges (many can be seen on our challenge board in hall 3) will be set and met by all our pupils.

*Mr Giles
Subject Lead*



Jack Petchey Achievement Award Winners Spring term 2021

January



Latrell

February



Rozi

March



Ghazlene



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