

Stratford

School Academy

In this issue...

Ian Hislop visits Grosvenor Road to deliver an empowering message

Journalist, satirist, writer, broadcaster, Editor of the magazine *Private Eye* and Team Captain on the BBC show *Have I Got News for You*, visited Grosvenor Road to speak students on the importance finding something you enjoy.

Stratford School Academy, students crowned Debate Mate Cup 2023 Champions

Year 10 students took part in one of the largest debating competition finals in the UK and took home the trophy!

Staff and students raise £1217.81 for Place2Be ahead of the London Landmarks Half Marathon

This term, the significant impact of Place2Be has encouraged our students and staff to come together to raise money for the charity.

Stratford School Academy

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Mr Hewitt discusses this academic term's highlights



It has been a busy, positive and productive term here at SSA. This week we had the fantastic news that we have won the nationally prestigious *Debate Mate* competition. This is a huge achievement for the students who took part and a credit to the support and guidance they have received from Ms Ikar, Head of Citizenship. The school's excellent exam results have been formally recognised by the *Specialist Schools and Academy Trust* (SSAT) who have invited us to join their national network of 'Leading Edge' schools. Our drama students are getting ready to perform at *artsdepot* an award winning arts centre in North London and National Theatre partner as part of NT Connections Festival 2023. Our new library has provided a lovely venue for author visits from Yusra Imran and Jude Yawson and we also had the pleasure of hosting a talk and Q&A session from Ian Hislop of *Private Eye* and *Have I Got News for You* fame. These are just some of the highlights and you can see from this newsletter and how many fabulous opportunities we are offering our students.

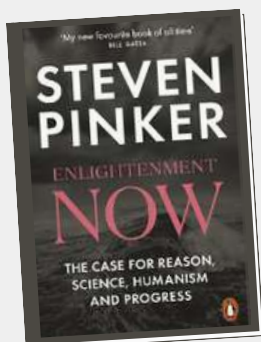
Meanwhile Year 11 students are working hard in preparation for their upcoming exams and are currently scoring marks which put them in a similar position as last year's record-breaking students were at this time. We also have some exciting plans in place to enhance the school estate by expanding the canteen facilities at Grosvenor Road and also enhance our SEND provision. Another area we are working to improve is our 'Education Beyond the Classroom'. We are planning more trips, clubs and after school activities, please look out for updates about this and we are currently putting in plans for a bespoke offer for each year group along with suggestions for reading, activities, etc. that you can do as a family to support your children's academic and wider development.

All of this makes me not only very proud of the educational experience that we offer here at SSA, but also hugely optimistic about our how we can improve even further. We will update you with plans for the School Development Plan for next year in our next newsletter and keep you posted about other developments. Please do encourage your children to take full advantage not only of the excellent teaching we offer but also the many other opportunities to develop their wider skills and character.

Best wishes,

Craig Hewitt
Headteacher

This term I've been reading...



Enlightenment Now by Steven Pinker

As I'm sure you know our school motto is 'Dare to be Wise' and is often seen as the slogan of the Enlightenment, the 17th and 18th century movement centred on humanism and the pursuit of knowledge by reason. Pinker, one of our most famous public intellectuals, explores its legacy in this book and marshalls a huge amount of evidence to support his argument that the Enlightenment has led to numerous improvements in the world. He points to huge progress in life expectancy, safety, peace, human rights, equal rights and knowledge as evidence of the powerful impact of progressive thinking. It is a powerful defence of the ideas and ideals that have shaped modernity; a highly persuasive and timely read and moreover one which is highly optimistic at a time when many thinkers are not.

[Find your copy.](#)



Ian Hislop visits Grosvenor Road to deliver an empowering message: 'Get involved, find something you enjoy and do it'

On Friday 20th January, Ian Hislop - Journalist, satirist, writer, broadcaster, Editor of the magazine *Private Eye* and Team Captain on the BBC show *Have I Got News for You*, visited Grosvenor Road to speak to Year 10 & Year 11 students.

Interviewed by Year 10 student Yusra M and Year 11 student Zaid A, Ian Hislop shared stories from his inspirational career journey as well as insight into current affairs and politics.

During the event, students learned of Hislop's early life including his experiences as a teenager at *Ardingly College* in West Sussex. On his time at school, Ian said: 'When I was at school, it was quite cool to do nothing - but knowing what I know now, I don't think there's anything less cool. The turning point for me at school (and to this day is still probably some of the best advice I've ever received) was when my English teacher turned to me and said "If you continue to do nothing with yourself, you will spend the rest of your life doing nothing".' Hislop shared that from that point onwards, he made it his mission to participate in extra-curricular activities.

During his school years, Ian noted that by joining the school's student magazine, and creating a film club with his friends, he was soon able to find and develop a true passion for writing and other creative pursuits. When asked what advice he'd give to students at Stratford School Academy, Ian said -

'If I'd have to give advice, I would say go out, get - some good friends and join some clubs. Get involved, find something you enjoy and do it. Do not stand on the sidelines just to be cool, being cool is boring'.

Hislop went on to share that from the the mere age of 26, he went on to become Editor of *Private Eye*, a British fortnightly satirical and current affairs news magazine. He accredited this feat to his experience running the student magazine at his school and the confidence he had gained in managing a publication and 'interviewing people that he thought were marvellous'.

During his time at *Private Eye*, Hislop shared how *Private Eye*'s satire (i.e. use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticize people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues), soon saw him gain a reputation as the most sued man in English legal history.

Towards the end of the event, Yusra and Zaid's questions prompted Hislop to share more insights into the challenges of political journalism, the changing landscape of journalism in the digital age as well as Hislop's opinions on British government and issues affecting young people.

Thanks to Ian Hislop, *Speakers for Schools* and Mr M Leach, Head of History - our young people engaged in a talk which covered several issues that were important to them and gained fantastic advice that we hope will stand the test of time.

Want to learn more about *Private Eye*? Take a look at some of the stories available here...



BREAKING NEWS



All rise! - Stratford School Academy students compete in local heats at Stratford Magistrates Court

On Saturday 18th March, students in Year 8 and Year 9 had the opportunity to compete in the local heats at Stratford Magistrates Court, as part of the Young Citizen's Mock Trial Competition.

Ran by Ms Javid, Head of RE, the students prepared for the competition by attending a law club every Thursday since September, where they had the opportunity to analyse the case of King vs. Rowe – a case specially written by legal experts. The case involved a person being charged with being in possession of an offensive weapon in a public place.

Before taking on the challenge, students auditioned for the roles of an Usher, Legal Advisor, Lawyer, Witness and Magistrate and worked hard to prepare their cases and learn their statements. Throughout the competition, students gained understanding as to how the law touches every aspect of their lives as well as fantastic insight into how the legal justice system works, whilst also improving those essential life skills – such as critical thinking and public speaking.

What's more, on the day of the local heats, our students performed to a very high standard which prompted the Magistrates to commend Stratford School Academy students on their professionalism, confidence, and ability to ask questions on the spot.

The Young Citizen's Mock Trial Competition is the largest and longest-running of its kind, involving -

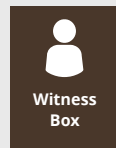


hundreds of schools and thousands of students each year. For Stratford School Academy students this was their first experience of the law and thanks to the competition, students were able to develop their knowledge and understanding in a fun and engaging experience that will stay with them for life!

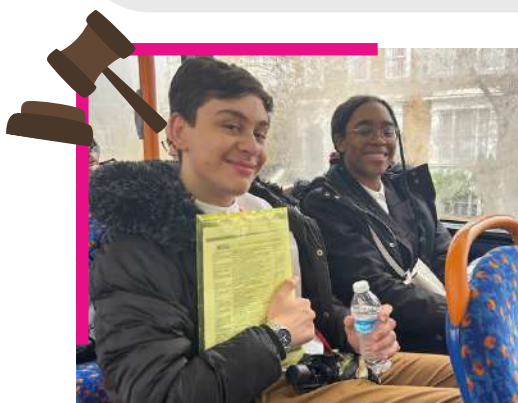
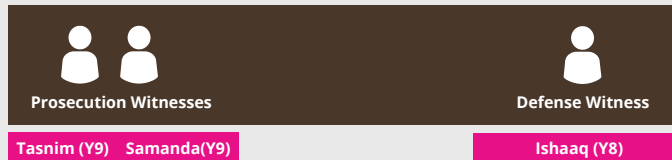
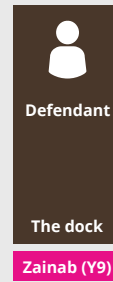
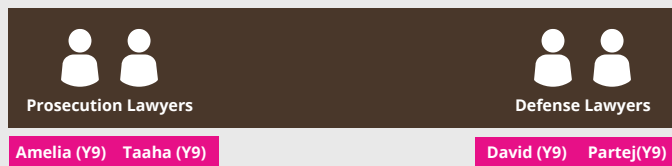
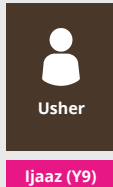
If you're interested in taking part in the Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition next academic year, please look out for updates from Ms Javid, Head of RE.



**Mock Trial
Competition Team**
Academic Year
2022/2023



Raja (Y8) Sulayman (Y9) Alecia (Y9)



Stratford School Academy, students crowned Debate Mate Cup 2023 champions

This week, Year 10 students from Stratford School Academy, took part in one of the largest debating competition finals in the UK.

Held at Convene; a world-class conference and events venue in the City of London. Stratford School Academy students battled for the Debate Mate Cup 2023 trophy against Plashet, Langdon, Barking Abbey and Ark Greenwich Free School.

The motions debated definitely kept students on their toes:

- *This house believes that strikes are the most effective way to create change*
- *This house would ban non-emergency cosmetic surgery*
- *This house believes everyone should go to university*

After hours of debating, it was announced that Stratford Team A came 4th place and Stratford Team B came 1st place, making it to the final round of debating against their opponents, Ark Greenwich Free School students who came 2nd place.

Stratford School Academy Year 10 finalists: Sukaynah, Safa, Sania and Anis were given just 30 minutes to prepare for their final debate of the day on the topic: *This house believes that every successful social movement has a clearly identifiable leader.*

After a passionate and rigorous 40 minutes of debating, it was clear who the Debate Mate Cup Final 2023 winners were going to be.



Stratford School Academy's powerful speeches about social movements and the importance of having a clearly identifiable leader wowed judges and left the audience listening attentively with goose bumps.

Ms Ikar, Head of Citizenship said: 'The confidence, charisma and bravado students brought to the debate was truly amazing. One thing the judges praised SSA students on was their ability to also link the motion to current issues'.

On their progress, Ms Ikar added: 'These students have been committed to their personal development and have utilised every opportunity Debate Mate has given to them. It has been wonderful to see the incredible progress and development the students have gone through since being introduced to Debate Mate – all students have a lot to be proud of!'

Stratford School Academy has participated in many rounds of the Debate Mate competition and is one of 49 teams nationally. Of the schools, the SSA team has placed 4th nationally ahead of the Urban Debate League Final.

BREAKING NEWS

In the Summer Term, the Urban Debate League Final will see the top 16 National teams compete in the Urban Debate League Finals to battle it out to be crowned UDL National Champions 2023.

Over the weeks leading up to the Debate Mate Cup, which is completely separate from the Urban Debate League, and a clean slate for students to compete, the students at Stratford School Academy had been participating in Debate Mate clubs each Thursday since September 2022. During the club, students enhanced their leadership, teamwork and critical thinking skills as well as their confidence and public speaking. The club has proved to be incredibly popular within the school.

Mr Hewitt, Headteacher said: "This week we had the fantastic news that we have won the prestigious Debate Mate Cup competition. This is a huge achievement for the students who took part and a credit to the support and guidance they have received from Ms Ikar, Head of Citizenship and the Debate Mate mentors."

'Our aim is to invest in our student's futures and to support them in developing the wider skills and talents, character, sense of belonging and civic duty needed to prepare them for the world and the workplace. The incredible success of our students makes me not only very proud of the educational experience that we offer here at SSA, but also hugely optimistic about our how we can continue to improve our students' academic and wider development even further'.

Want to join Debate Mate?

Contact Ms Ikar Head of Citizenship, for more details: a.ikar@stratfordschoolacademy.org



Author and journalist, Yousra Imran launches 'Author Talks' at Stratford School Academy

On Wednesday 11th January, author, freelance journalist and copywriter, Yousra Imran, visited our Upton Lane Library to launch 'Author Talks' at Stratford School Academy and to share insights into her semi-autobiographical YA novel 'Hijab and Red Lipstick'.

During the event, Yousra spoke movingly about the importance of finding your own voice and shared her experiences of growing up under the guardianship system in Qatar. Her talk culminated in a Q&A which allowed students to ask lots of questions about her novel and her experience as a professional writer and journalist.

Towards the end of the event, Yousra said: 'You have asked so many thoughtful and insightful questions - this is my first secondary school visit, as until now, I have been visiting lots of colleges. You have asked many questions that college students haven't yet asked me - thank you for being a fantastic audience'.

As well as leaving our students with inspiring food for thought, Yousra Imran was also kind enough to sign a copy of 'Hijab and Red Lipstick' for an exciting giveaway. Shortly after the event, our proactive Student Leaders and Library Ambassadors ran the giveaway which saw lucky Year 8 student, Anushga V win the signed copy, including a haul of library goodies such as a pin-badge, bookmarks and treats. Many thanks to Yousra and the 30 students and staff who took part in this event. We look forward to hosting more author events in the next academic term.



Stormzy's co-author Jude Yawson: 'This is about offering a different perspective'

To kick off World Book Week celebrations, our second 'Author Talks' event saw staff and students welcome author and writer, Jude Yawson, to the Upton Lane Library to share insights into his early life and career.

During the event, Jude spoke about his extraordinary journey of growth from being expelled at the early age of 13 and sent to a pupil referral unit - to finding solace in philosophy forums, comics, graphic novels and writing; and later going on to study Philosophy at Roehampton University. In 2018, Stormzy approached Jude about collaborating on 'Rise Up the #Merky Story So Far' - an oral history of the collective: 14 voices, ranging from the #Merky brand manager to Stormzy's publicist, tour manager and the head of editorial at Spotify.

Jude's talk culminated in a Q&A which allowed students to ask lots of questions about the challenges he faced as a teenager, his struggles with racism, identity and opportunity, his work with Stormzy and the collective, his experiences as a professional writer; as well as his favoured writing techniques and tips for students who are currently trying to finish their own essays and creative works.

Towards the end of the event, Jude's poignant messages on the importance of work ethic, representation and perspective resonated with students. Many thanks to Jude and the students who took part in this event. We look forward to hosting more author events in the next academic term.



Drop Down Day 1

On Thursday 9th February, students across year groups participated in our second Drop Down Day of the academic year!

Drop down days are where the regular timetable is suspended to allow students to access activities that they are required to be taught, to encounter topics they wouldn't otherwise get the opportunity to do and to enhance their cultural capital.

Year 7:

Students explored healthy living, and covered a range of different topics that lead to overall health, including: nutrition, mental wellbeing, online safety, physical wellbeing and dental health.

Year 8:

External providers from *Tigerlily* First Aid Training came into school to teach students the knowledge and skills of basic first aid. By learning these skills, students are now able to offer help and potentially make a huge difference in situations where support is needed.

Year 9:

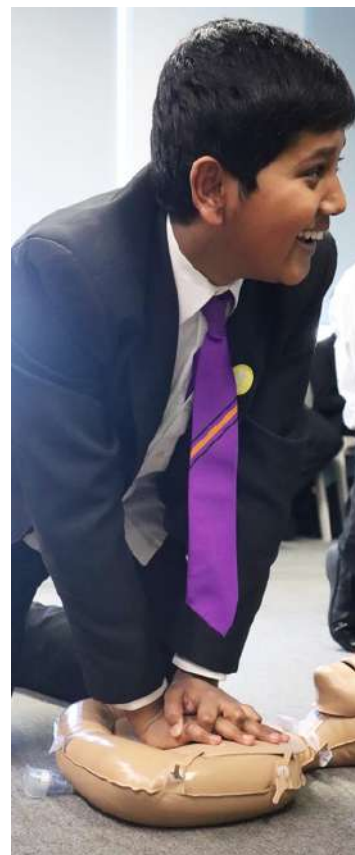
Students took on the Enterprise Challenge which developed their creative skills alongside knowledge from a variety of backgrounds to make a pitch to their class. Students developed important transferrable skills such as teamwork, co-operation, communication, public speaking, and problem solving.

Year 10:

Jobs in the modern world require employees to use computers and certain software packages. During the day, Year 10 students honed their skills in Microsoft Office, the most used software, to assist students in meeting expectations and thriving in the workplace.

Year 11:

With the GCSE examinations fast approaching, Year 11 students spent the day revising. Students enhanced their chances of understanding and retaining key knowledge to help them secure the grades that they are aiming to achieve.





COME JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE SCHOOL


Volunteer and contribute your skills for the benefit of your child and the school community.


Help to create and organise fundraisers and events • volunteer at events • attend PTA meetings • encourage partnerships with local businesses in the community


HOW TO JOIN

If you would like to find out more about becoming a PTA volunteer, please contact Ms Link, Assistant Headteacher by email: e.link@stratfordschoolacademy.org

 www.stratfordschoolacademy.com

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WHY JOIN THE

COME JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE SCHOOL

CHILDREN BENEFIT

Research shows that children perform better when parents are engaged in education both at home and at school. Parental involvement boosts student achievement.

By joining the PTA, your child will see first hand the importance you place on education.

SSA BENEFITS

The PTA strives to create a positive and caring atmosphere in the school.

The PTA addresses issues that are important to parents and the wider school community. The PTA organises fundraising events to support various aspects of education and student wellbeing.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

PTA involvement helps you stay connected with the school and allows you to gain a broader perspective of how you can play a supportive role. You also make connections with other parents, business partners and agencies that share a common goal of student achievement.

ITS GOOD FOR YOU

Volunteering with your PTA allows you to contribute your skills and knowledge for the benefit of not only your child but for your school community.

The PTA can help you gain expertise as a leadership volunteer, build your CV and make friends for life.

Future First: Alumni Careers Carousel brings former and current students together during National Careers Week

During National Careers Week (6th - 11th March), our second alumni event saw eight former students return to Stratford School Academy to participate in a Careers Carousel workshop with Year 9 students.

The aim of the workshop was to show students what 'people like them' can go on to achieve and to encourage them to consider their own future pathways. On the day, former students sat with groups of Year 9 students to take part in a Q&A about their pathway and to share their experiences and advice since leaving SSA. As the alumni rotated round each group, we watched as former and current students undoubtedly connected in their experiences of growing up in Newham, their personal values and goals.

Towards the end of the event, alumni finished the workshop by providing our students with final words of wisdom including: 'There is some amazing talent in this room! Be brave, don't always make the easy decision. Your pathway isn't a straight line, so don't limit yourself!'

A huge thank you to our alumni: Asim Bawa, Jayu Patel, Gideon Atobamrere, Aamir Akram, Alkesh R Vyas, Shahid Choudhury, Tyrone Messiah and Alieu Bah Sowe for giving up their usual working day to return to us in the hopes of inspiring our students.



Enjoy yourself, but work hard and don't be afraid to be different

- Shahid Choudhury, Class of 2016





Future First

CALLING ALL FORMER STUDENTS... If you're a former student of Stratford School Academy, we want to hear from you!

Your experiences since leaving could help to motivate and inspire our current students to feel more confident in making decisions about their future. We'd love you to join our alumni network and stay connected with the school.

We've partnered with the national education charity Future First, who specialise in helping schools like ours to stay connected with their former students.

You can choose how and when you help – perhaps you can act as a career and education role model, provide work experience, become a mentor in person or online, or help with donations, fundraising or even apply to become a governor.

You can give a talk or lecture about the career path you've taken, the roles you've ended up in and how your time at SSA influenced these, you could offer to mentor students, give students interview practice etc.

It doesn't matter when you left us, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help.

In order to sign up, just follow this link and fill in the online form – we promise it will only take a couple of minutes.

www.futurefirsthub.org.uk/register/stratfordschool



**Future
First**

"I went to SSA and now I am in the midst of a career change. I used to work as a Creative for an advertising agency. Now I will start my teacher training, which aligns with my values and principles, so you can imagine my excitement!"

Imran – Trainee Teacher

**I went to
Stratford School Academy**

BREAKING NEWS

Special guest poet Asia Khatun joins the judging panel at this year's KS3 Poetry Slam!

On Wednesday 22nd March, KS3 students from Grosvenor Road and Upton Lane gathered in huge numbers for the annual KS3 Poetry Slam. A format pioneered in the 1980s in Chicago, Poetry Slams were designed to try and move away from stuffy academic recitals, and inject passion, energy, and an element of competition into live poetry performances.

Having watched some examples of slam poetry for inspiration in their English lessons, students brought passion and energy to their readings in front of a live audience made up of friends, family and staff. With most students performing poems they themselves had written, their feelings shone through. Cheered on by the crowd, we heard heartfelt poems on a range of topics that matter to our students including: colonialism, culture, police brutality and politics etc.

This year we were also delighted to welcome special guest poet, Asia Khatun, who gave readings of her own poems and joined staff on the judging panel. Students had been studying Asia's poem: *'Those Amongst Us Void of Compassion'* and discussing the current discriminatory rhetoric around refugees in their lessons, and were therefore delighted to meet her in real life!

The judging panel were faced with the incredibly difficult task of selecting the three best performers from both school buildings, but after much deliberation awarded prizes to:

GR



1

Musa Zarif and Rayan Islam



2

Sean Palmer and Dylan Patel



3

Mohanul Mahraz

UL



1

Rubena Turauskaite



2

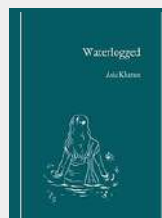
Nustrat-Hiaara Nasirudeen



3

Julian Jasinska

Congratulations to our winners and to everyone who took part. The atmosphere was electric, and we can't wait to do it again next year!



Want to check out more poetry from Asia Khatun?

'Waterlogged' is available to purchase on [Amazon](#).

Year 10 girls celebrate International Women's Day with Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz and Newham Arts & Heritage

On Thursday 8th March, fifteen Year 10 girls joined Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz and local women leaders at Stratford Town Hall to mark International Women's Day.

In the run up to the annual celebration, Year 10 girls participated in not one but two fantastic creative workshops organised by *Newham Arts and Heritage*. Thanks to the team, students first met with Trisha from *Rosetta Arts* who delivered and kickstarted a 'black-out poetry' art project. The project encouraged the girls to acknowledge the women in their lives who make them think bigger, who nurture and protect them, who influence and respect them. After finalising their art pieces, the girls were overjoyed to hear that Ms Donohoe, Art Teacher and *Rosetta Arts* would put their pieces on display at Stratford Town Hall for members of the public to view throughout the event.

What's more, *Newham Arts and Heritage* also organised a school visit and poetry workshop from award-winning Spoken Word Artist, Poet and Author, Sami Rhymes. Sami Rhymes supported our girls in developing their understanding of spoken word poetry, the importance of using poetic imagery, confidence in facial expressions and gesture, as well as creating a sensory experience for the audience by effectively using rhyme, volume, pace and pause. The workshop culminated in students writing and performing their own spoken word pieces as well as a private performance from Sami Rhymes herself.

On International Women's Day, the Year 10 girls continued their focus on female empowerment as they joined Mayor Rokhsana and local women leaders including Authors, Lawyers and Councillors at Stratford Town Hall, for a morning of inspirational talks and workshops focused on identifying inequality, promoting equality and female empowerment.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to Lily Dettmer, Arts, Heritage and Events Coordinator at *Newham Arts and Heritage*, *Rosetta Arts* and Sami Rhymes for not only putting on a fantastic event, but for also engaging our girls throughout the academic term.



Holocaust Memorial Day: Students demonstrate solidarity in combating antisemitism, racism and hatred

On Friday 27th January, students from Stratford School Academy attended Newham Council's Holocaust Memorial Day event to remember those who suffered and died in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Holocaust Memorial Day is the international day to remember the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, alongside millions of other people murdered under Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

During the memorial, students heard from Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz, Michael Bibring, son of the late Harry Bibring BEM and Young Ambassadors from the Holocaust Educational Trust, who spoke eloquently and in relation to the theme of 'Ordinary People'. The theme highlighted the ordinary people who were persecuted, let it happen and perpetrated it. The theme also prompted guests present to consider how ordinary people can perhaps play a bigger role than we might imagine in challenging prejudice today.

After hearing from the speakers, Stratford School Academy students went on to demonstrate their own solidarity in combating antisemitism, racism and hatred by contributing poems they had written on the theme of 'Ordinary People', with support from Ms Troup, English Teacher.

Towards the end of the event, students joined local -

councillors, residents and schools for a candle lighting ceremony in remembrance.

A huge well done to Year 9 students Amelia M and Sean P, Year 8 students Kassia L and Zainab H and Year 7 students Farabi H and Nustrat N for writing and sharing their poems to mark the day. We could not be prouder.



Watch SSA students share their poems during Holocaust Memorial Day (from 1:37:49)...



Stratford School Academy staff and students raise £1217.81 for Place2Be ahead of the London Landmarks Half Marathon

On Monday 27th April 2023, staff from Stratford School Academy will be taking on the huge challenge of running the London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) to raise vital funds for children's mental health charity, Place2Be.

Place2Be provides child counselling and mental health support in schools, including primary, secondary, high and all-through schools across England, Scotland and Wales.

In June 2021, Stratford School Academy partnered with Place2Be to provide students with access to a dedicated Place2Be mental health professional, who has become integral to the school team. Our Place2Be School Counsellor Arefa Attan, works closely with students, families and staff to improve emotional wellbeing and provide mental health support for the whole school. Students use Place2Be for lots of different reasons. The most common ones are anxiety, struggling to focus, low self-esteem, mood swings and worries at home. In particular, the Place2Talk service has proved popular amongst the young people of Newham as it provides them with the opportunity to talk to their Place2Be counsellor about any problems or worries they are experiencing.

Stratford School Academy teachers and support staff decided to take on the London Landmarks Half Marathon this year, to give their thanks and support back to Place2Be, who they believe has made a difference to the lives of their students.



Assistant Headteacher, Paul Kean said: 'Place2Be provide an invaluable service to the young people of Stratford School Academy. If running 13 miles is going to allow the work to continue, it is definitely something I'm going to do!'

English Teacher, Simone Peters said: 'This has been a challenge both physically and mentally, there have been times where my motivation has taken a dip, but when I remember all the young people who have been supported through Place2Be and their motivation to keep going every day, I find it in myself to carry on and persevere.'

So far, staff members have collectively raised an incredible £1000.00, which is still rising! However, it wasn't just staff who wanted to get involved in giving back to the charity... Stratford School Academy's proactive Student Leadership Team, also pledged to support Place2Be and their teachers by raising money in the run up to the LLHM. To raise money, student leaders organised not one but three fundraisers in the Spring Term which proved popular amongst the wider student body.

'Girls Movie Night' saw student leaders sell tickets to watch the most-voted for rom-com, as well as nail-

BREAKING NEWS

painting sessions using the Place2Be colours of orange and yellow, and of course the selling of popcorn, snacks and slushies.

'Boys and Girls Movie Night' brought the whole school together to watch the latest Marvel movie and to once again purchase sweet treats and beverages with all funds raised donated to the charity.

Their third and final fundraiser, a 'FIFA '23 Tournament' - which saw members of staff bring in their own PlayStation's for the event, encouraged all students to enter a 2 vs 2 competition in a bid to be crowned 'FIFA '23 Champions of SSA'. In total, the Student Leadership managed to raise an impressive £217.81 to add to the fundraising efforts of Stratford School Academy staff.

Head Girl (GR) Simran Parmar said: 'Place2Be is a charity that is focused on improving the mental health of young people, and we couldn't be more thankful for them - often times mental health issues are stigmatised in our society, so their help has been invaluable to all students. The extensive support of our team in school is much appreciated so it is gone without saying that we would do our very best to raise money for them, and I think we've done a great job in doing so!'

Place2Be continues to improve the emotional wellbeing of the whole school. We are pleased to see that this term, the significant impact of Place2Be has encouraged our students and staff to come together to raise money for the charity so that they can continue to support schools and young people across the UK in understanding the world of mental health.



View the Student Leadership Team's Movie Night Fundraisers in action...



BREAKING NEWS

Year 11 students spend a weekend at Oxford University ahead of GCSE Examinations this summer

A weekend residential at *University of Oxford* saw Stratford School Academy students return to Newham with a spring in their step ahead of their GCSE examinations.

Year 11 students, Shihab Rahman and Sama Al-Saidi enjoyed a weekend residential trip at the University of Oxford thanks to our on-going partnership with Universify Education.

Universify is an annual programme which sees participants take part in a year-long programme starting with a summer residential at the end of Year 10, followed by monthly coaching, before returning in the spring of Year 11 for a revision weekend.

The programme provides students with invaluable university life experience. By taking part in two residentials, one in the summer and one in the spring, participants gain a taste of what living and studying at university is like.

Like an undergraduate student, participants have seminar-style classes delivered by subject experts, learning about university life from current undergraduate students, and having the chance to explore university and the university city for themselves.

As well as providing students with fantastic insight into university life; the programme pairs students with a Universify coach, who is a current or recent university student. The students meet with their coach virtually on a monthly basis, as well as catching up face-to-face at the residentials. These sessions provide students with excellent support in setting goals and working towards achieving academic ambitions.

This term, Sama and Shihab returned to Oxford to attend a GCSE revision weekend, where they received intensive revision classes in their choice of subject, including: maths, English and sciences. The students also gained support in how to look after their mental health and wellbeing during examination periods, as well as how to prepare for their upcoming GCSEs this summer, so they can achieve the best possible grades.

Sharing insight into the spring residential experience, Year 11 student and Head Girl (UL) Sama Al-Saidi said: 'We had to pick a subject to receive revision sessions in out of 1. bio/chem 2. physics 3. maths and 4. English. I personally chose maths, as it's a subject I need some more support in. Shihab on the other hand chose physics. It was really good! Shihab and I loved being on the Jesus College campus - it was really beautiful and the expert tutors in the revision sessions really pushed and challenged us'.

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Breakfast	
	AM Morning Registration + Game	
	Revision Class	Revision Class
	Break	
	Revision Class	Revision Class
	Break	
	Revision Class	Revision Class
		Lunch
Arrivals		Year 12 Programmes
Course Welcome	Revision Class	End of Course Talk
Taster Class	Coaching/Free Time	
Break		Goodbyes and Departures
Taster Class		
Stress Management Workshop	Sports/Museum	
Dinner		
Coaching/Free Time	Coaching/Free Time	
Games Night	Dragons Den	
	Lights out	



Are you interested in participating in the Universify Education Programme?



Contact Mr Bracken, Education Beyond the Lead for more details:

d.bracken@startfordschoolacademy.org



Student Leadership Team members meet Cllr Joshua Garfield to discuss priorities for young people living in Newham

On Thursday 23rd February, the Student Leadership Team met Councillor Joshua Garfield, Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, to learn more about how Newham Council spends public money and why, and to give their thoughts and opinions as to what the council's priorities for young people should be.



During the meeting, Cllr Garfield highlighted that London Borough of Newham spends £1.4bn every year and is responsible for everything from waste and highways to council housing, adult social care and youth services. Having learned more about the budget setting process and how the council spends public money, our students then engaged in a consultation which allowed them to share their lived experience and insights into what young people in their borough need to thrive.

Ms Sharma appoints Anti-Bullying Ambassadors at Grosvenor Road and Upton Lane

This term, Ms Sharma, Head of Crick appointed Anti-Bullying Ambassadors across Stratford School Academy.

Stratford School Academy's journey on *The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme* starts with Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training, delivered by an anti-bullying expert. The programme equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour and create a safer, kinder school community.

Through a series of engaging group activities and discussions, our students will kick-start a whole-school anti-bullying campaign in the next academic term. Watch this space!



Year 10 students' debut performance of National Theatre's *Is My Microphone On?* prompts standing ovation and flowers from the audience

This academic year, Year 10 drama students are participating in the National Theatre Connections Festival 2023. As part of the festival, students have performed *Is My Microphone On?* by Jordan Tannahill in the Upton Lane Assembly Hall and will now go on to perform at artdepot, a National Theatre partner theatre in North London.

National Theatre Connections is an annual, nationwide youth theatre festival. Every year, Connections commissions new plays for young people to perform. The programme brings together some of the UK's most exciting writers with the theatre-makers of tomorrow, provides young people with excellent insight into professional theatre performance as well as the opportunity to perform their play at an official National Theatre venue.

Students have been rehearsing every week to ensure that they are ready for their upcoming performance on a professional stage in North London. On Tuesday 28th February, their practice was put to the ultimate test as their peers, families, staff and a NT Connections mentor director assembled in the Upton Lane Assembly Hall to watch the students' debut performance.

Is My Microphone On? by Jordan Tannahill prompts the audience to ask themselves: How do we move forward from here? Young people know that time is running out, and will no longer be able to avoid the consequences of climate change. They speak to the adults in the audience, holding them to account, questioning the choices they have made and the choices that have not been made, and the -



decisions that children will be forced to make. What kind of future do they stand to inherit?

During the performance, the students performed with clarity, audibility, story-telling, conviction, and energy in both cast and pace which prompted a standing ovation and flowers from the audience. A huge well done to all of the students whose unfaltering dedication and commitment to the festival has seen them truly grow and excel as performers.

The students will now work on the feedback they receive from the NT Connections mentor director to develop their production for transfer at leading Partner Theatre, artsdepot.

If you missed the performance, do not fret! You can still purchase tickets to watch their second performance:

National Theatre
CONNECTIONS 2023

arts depot

**NT Connections Festival 2023:
Stratford School Academy**

Date: Friday 28th April 2023
Location: artsdepot, 5 Nether St,
London N12 0GA
Time: 8.30pm – 9.30pm
Tickets: £6.00

Book your tickets via artsdepot:
<https://bit.ly/428IRZk>

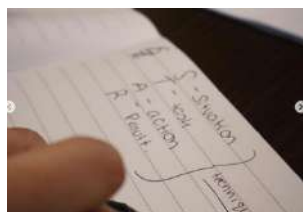


Year 9 students take part in Inspire EBP's *Women in Aviation Programme*

During National Careers Week, Year 9 girls visited London City Airport to take part in Inspire EBP's *Women in Aviation Programme*.

The programme is aimed at raising awareness of careers in the sector, developing key employability skills, raising awareness of STEM careers; and engaging students in developments taking place in their local area.

The first stage of the programme saw the girls visit City Aviation House at London City Airport where they toured the airport, engaged in two career talks from HR and Ground Crew, completed job description activities and began planning their 'Women in Aviation Programme' project! The final stage of the project will see the girls deliver their airport sustainability concept to London City Airport judges, who will choose the winning group.



World Book Day becomes World Book Week thanks to our school libraries

During the week of World Book Day (Monday 27th February - Friday 3rd March), Mr Samuels, Learning Resource Centre Manager and Ms Clark Library Assistant, arranged a host of World Book Day activities for all students to enjoy each day!

Students participated in a Book Swap and World Book Day Fair, an 'Author Talks' event from Stormzy's Co-Author Jude Yawson, Open Mic Night, as well as the launch of SSA's very own Book Club. Just like World Book Day, we are on a mission to promote reading for pleasure, and want to ensure that SSA students have access to books from a wide range of genres and enjoy being in the library.

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see our students, develop a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. For book recommendations over the Easter break, please click [here](#).





Students 'Connect with Careers' thanks to the Met Police and Docklands Light Railway

During National Careers Week, we hosted two exciting 'Connect with Careers' talks from the *Met Police* and *Docklands Light Railway*.

The *Met Police* careers talk saw Stratford School Academy alumnus Police Constable Gohil and School-Based Police Constable Garcia lead the event in the Upton Lane Library. It was fantastic see our former student come back to school to inspire students to apply for careers with the Met. The *Docklands Light Railway* careers talk saw TfL Docklands Light Railway staff visit the Grosvenor Road Library to talk to students about the variety of roles available at the DLR, employment pathways and staff benefits.

The two 'Connect with Careers' talks were a huge hit with students and we aim to host more events like these in the next academic term.

Virtual and In-Person Parent Coffee Morning's provide 1-to-1 support and advice for families

This term, Ms Link, Assistant Headteacher, Heads of Department and Teachers have enjoyed presenting virtual and in-person Parent Coffee Morning's focused on the a variety of subject areas. Parent Coffee Morning's provide parents/carers with excellent 1-to-1 help and advice in supporting their child's education and wellbeing at home.

The coffee mornings are hosted in-person or virtually depending on the availability of our staff and parents/carers are notified of a coffee morning in advance via ParentMail email. This term, we have hosted coffee morning's on a range of topics including: Meet the Librarian and Supporting your Child in Meeting Reading Expectations, Supporting your Child in Preparing for their English GCSE and many more!

If you missed a coffee morning, you can find an archive of resources via our school website: [Parent Coffee Mornings](#)





Year 5 primary school students enjoy their first experience of secondary education

This term we welcomed a host of Year 5 students from Monega Primary School and Selwyn Primary School to Stratford School Academy, Grosvenor Road and Upton Lane.

Our fantastic visitors enjoyed a jam packed morning of secondary school life including: meeting Mr Kean, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Transition, touring the school building, taking a look at our students in action, attending taster lessons in Science and PE and even series of workshops focused on debating, led by our Debate Mate Cup 2023 Champions.

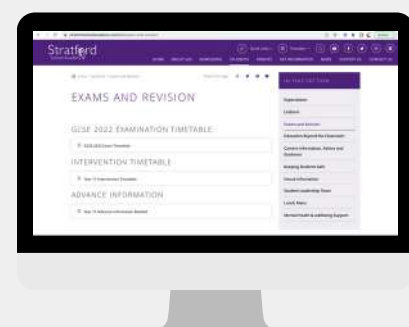
The aim of our Year 5 taster days is to reduce the anxiety of students moving on to secondary by offering them school experiences earlier, and well before the big conversations at the beginning of Year 6.

Year 11 Update: 'With only a few weeks left until the first GCSE exam, it is a really important time to encourage your child to keep up the hard work'

Year 11 students have been working hard and have shown some great improvements since the last mock exams. With only a few weeks left until the first GCSE exam, it is a really important time to encourage your child to keep up the hard work for the final push. We have been emphasising with Year 11 students that although there is only short amount of time left before that first GCSE, there is still time to make a difference and improve further.

Useful information and guidance on how you can best support your child in their GCSEs and what students should be completing over the easter break and in the lead up to the exams can be viewed via our most recent letter to parents. If you have misplaced your copy, a digital version of the letter can be accessed, [here](#).

The letter includes important revision tips, resources including advance information, the GCSE exam schedule, intervention sessions over Easter, support with exam stress as well as a reminder regarding Post-16 applications.



Winter Music Concert



Back in December, the Winter Music Concert was postponed due to snow, but thanks to Mr Pitigala and our music students, the concert took place in the Spring Term to ensure students were able to share their talents with peers, family and staff alike.

The magical musical affair finally gave our students time to shine, back on the stage in front of a live audience. After spending many hours in rehearsal, the students delivered fantastic performances, including:

Piano					Vocals				
• Renaldas – 'Tribute to Miles'					• Tyra – 'Kill Bill'				
• Daniela – 'I'm Still Standing'					• Marley – 'You're My Best Friend'				
• Darius – 'Claire De Lune by Claude Debussy'					• Amelia – 'Parudeesa'				
• Theo – 'No.2 by Shostakovich'					• Abbie – 'Zombie'				
• Mohanul – 'The Imperial March by John Williams'					• Nickoy and Reece – 'SAD!'				
• Ben – 'Hungarian Rhapsody'					• Stephen and Habib – 'Wellerman'				
• Aumkar – 'Theme from Kung Fu Panda'					• Thini – 'Creep'				
• David – 'Doja Cat Mash-Up'					• Kassia – 'Dancing in the Moonlight'				
					Band				
					• Alex, Marley, Tyra, Delia, David – 'Redbone'				
Drums									
• Daniel – 'Smoke on the Water'									

Well done to everyone on their performances. We congratulate Mr Pitigala and Mr Jarvis for inspiring the students and giving them this opportunity to perform.

Explore Unifrog during the Easter break

Over the Easter break, students in all year groups should set aside time to explore career resources on Unifrog. Unifrog provides secondary school students with careers information in one comprehensive, user-friendly platform.

Year 7: All Year 7s have been given access to UniFrog. To log in Year 7 simply need to visit Unifrog, enter their school email address and set their own password.

Years 8 -11: All students must be able to access Unifrog. If any students have forgotten their password, simply head to Unifrog, click reset password and enter your school email address. You will then receive an email via your school email address which will prompt you to create a new password.

All years: Once logged in, explore some of the fantastic features that will help you to think about possible future careers. Tasks such as the Personality Quiz and Interests Quiz will help you to think about which pathways may be of interest and suitable for you. Via the site, you can also find lots of information about job specifications, requirements and salaries.



What kind of frog are you?

Use the Easter break to find out! Simply log in to your Unifrog account and have a go at the Interests, Personality and Work Environment quizzes.



Attend a webinar

Unifrog regularly host webinars to help students gain insight into education and career pathways.

Students can access all of Unifrog's upcoming and past webinars by logging into their account.





Get inspired this Easter. Explore your local borough or visit exciting locations in London with your family and friends!



Newham: London - Spring 23 Activities Programme

Spring has sprung, Easter is nearly upon us, and Newham Council have produced an extensive programme of events and activities to keep our young people entertained and safe. The brochure contains information about all the free activities on offer, the dates, the venues and any eligibility criteria.

Click on the image to access the Spring 23 Activities Programme.



46 things to do on Easter weekend 2023 in London

From London Easter weekend egg hunts and family attractions, to spectacular Good Friday performances or a traditional Easter Sunday lunch, find Easter activities in London.

Click on the image to view Visit London's top 46 things to do.

EASTER @ STRATFORD YOUTH ZONE

Week 1 : 4th - 6th April 2023



hello
SPRING

Thursday

Creative Hangout & Table
Tennis Session
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Challenge your
friends to table tennis
tournament

Tuesday

Creative Hangout & Sports
Session
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Challenge your
friends to badminton,
skipping and circuits

Friday

**Bank holiday
centre closed**

Wednesday

Creative Hangout &
Journaling/ Self care
Session
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Creative journaling & self
care



Sign Up Today

**SYZ Easter
Sign Up!**
Sign up via
this QR code



Connect with us

@stratfordyouthzone1bn



**YOU
TH**
EMPOWERMENT

Address:
Stratford Youth Zone,
Theatre Square, London, E15 1BX

**For More Info contact
Stratford Youth Zone's
Youth Workers:**

Cat Phillips - 07811593435 -
Cat.Phillips@newham.gov.uk

Leon McLeod - 07811 593 208 -
Leon.McLeod@newham.gov.uk

EASTER @ STRATFORD YOUTH ZONE

Week 2 : 11th - 14th April 2023



Thursday

Creative Hangout & Pizza
Party
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Learn how to make healthy
tasty pizzas

Tuesday

Creative Hangout & Easter
Treasure Hunt
Time: 12pm - 2pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Food Pantry Meeting
Time: 2pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 25yrs old

Friday

Trip to Fairplay House
Time: 8am - 5pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

Challenge yourself at this
fun outdoor adventure
centre. We will be meeting
at Stratford Train station at
8am sharp.

Wednesday

Gaming Tournament @ Trinity
Community Centre
Time: 12pm - 4pm
Age 11 - 19yrs old

We will be meeting outside
Stratford Youth Zone at
11.30am and travelling
together to Trinity
community centre.

GOOD
VIBES

Sign Up Today

**SYZ Easter
Sign Up!**
Sign up via
this QR code



Connect with us

@stratfordyouthzone1bn



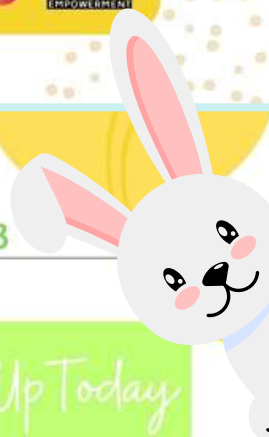
**YOU
TH**
EMPOWERMENT

Address:
Stratford Youth Zone,
Theatre Square, London, E15 1BX

**For More Info contact
Stratford Youth Zone's
Youth Workers:**

Cat Phillips - 07811593435 -
Cat.Phillips@newham.gov.uk

Leon McLeod - 07811 593 208 -
Leon.McLeod@newham.gov.uk





FREE
EVENTS

WHAT'S ON AT NEWHAM LIBRARIES

April-May 2023

Drum Roll Please! Steel pans workshop

Beckton Globe Library, 3rd May, 4.30-6.30pm

Time to celebrate with these amazing Drum Roll Please workshops and performance. No experience necessary, just come along and give it a go.

Make a Crown Sewing Workshop

Plaistow Library, 4th May, 4.00-8.00pm

Come along and learn to make a fabric crown to wear to the coronation. Children with an accompanying adult welcome. You will be using a sewing machine; full guidance will be given. No experience necessary, beginners welcome. Booking essential please contact Plaistow Library at 0203 373 0859

The King is in his Counting House - Circus skills workshop

North Woolwich Library, 6th May, 12.00-4.00

Come along and learn to juggle like a court jester and watch the fire breathing dragons who guard the royal palace. Circus skills workshop with Splatt Circus.

The Man Who Would Be King - African drumming

East Ham Library, 6th May, 2.00-3.00pm

Iroko share a traditional African tale about a king's coronation.