



AMSI Scholars



Welcome to the first newsletter of the year at Arts and Media School Islington (AMSI). I am extremely pleased that we will now be sharing AMSI news with all our stakeholders to highlight the excellent opportunities that abound within our diverse and creative community.

This will be published on a half-termly basis as there is so much that we want to celebrate and showcase from our curriculum through the

participation and interaction with students, staff and external agencies.

I hope that you will find the content informative and will be able to see our Cornerstones reflected through the efforts of all at Team AMSI.

Enjoy the read #AMSI News



Susan Service
Headteacher

'No Hands Up!'

Last term AMSI introduced a 'no hands up' policy into all our lessons, asking teachers not to ask for volunteers to answer questions. This is a different way of doing things and has taken some getting used to for staff and students alike - so why do it?

At AMSI we ask students to be 'ready to learn' and no hands up policy can help students to do that. Sometimes in schools, classrooms come to be dominated by the most able - or most confident students, which can cause others to lose focus or even feel that they are not as involved in the lesson as others. If a 'no hands' approach is used, students need to stay alert and focused throughout the lesson ready to answer the teacher's questions. Moreover, a no hands school can help encourage students to contribute to lessons even if they are a little shy!



'No Hands Up' posters are now in all classrooms.



Our PSHE department joined with the Extended School to take a group of Year 8 students to Elthorne Park to visit the Phillip Noel Baker Peace Garden.

As part of their study of the nuclear debate, the students took a look around the park with its various symbols of

peace and particularly the plaque to commemorate the people who lost their lives in Hiroshima and Nagasaki to understand the horrors of nuclear weapons.

Humanities



Mr Wallen



Ms Mirza



Mr King



Mr Hogarth

Chinese Club

Students in Year 7 have been provided with an opportunity to learn basic Mandarin. This club has run for 6 weeks and covered areas such as characters, tones and structuring sentences in order to hold simple conversations.

The Classics Club

Students in Year 8 have begun their studies of the Classics. This focuses on classical civilisations and the Latin language. Each week students will learn about a different aspect of Greek culture and develop a greater understanding of the Latin language. Students have been enthusiastic about learning beyond the normal curriculum.

Latin Club

Students in Year 9 have now finished their year long introduction to the Classics. Students have now progressed to focusing exclusively on learning Latin, with a view towards further future studies beyond KS3. The club has been very well attended and students are passionate about their learning.

Religious Studies Club

Students in Year 10 have been working hard outside of their normal commitments in order to learn more about religion and ethics. These students meet with staff twice a week and participate in guided discussions on religious matters and investigate religious perspectives on a number of issues.

Year 7 Most Able Learner Profiles

We now have individual learner profiles up and running for the students nominated to be part of our 3rd Scholar-cohort. These profiles allow staff easy access to key information about each student in the form and will facilitate better meeting the individual needs of each student.

Science



Ms Linque



Ms Taqvi



Mr Mani



Mr Duffy



Ms Shah



Ms Ali

In Science we have been busy supporting trainee teachers this past term and have had a total of 4 pass through our doors. Mr Mani, Mrs Taqvi and Mrs Linque have been working to develop our successful trainees. Science Club has been running with Miss Shah and Miss Ali and many of our Year 7 and 8 students have enjoyed carrying out some fun experiments.

Mr Duffy has been working really hard with our Year 11's and dedicating his early mornings to extra revision and support for all students. This term we have some exciting activities to look forward to in the run up to **Science week which will be 6-15 March.** We will be having a STEM visit from the Royal Air Force with a great interactive presentation for our Year 7s in February.

In March, during Science Week, we will also be sending our Science Club students to present their ideas to primary school students in the borough of Islington. We will also be sending them to the Salters Festival of Chemistry in April where students will be competing with other schools.

**Mrs Linque
Head of Science**

'Action Tutoring' for our Year 11s



Every Wednesday after school 20 of our year 11 students are receiving tutoring from volunteers.

Students have covered a range of topics to help them with their upcoming exams. Students have been praised for their hard work, dedication and interactions with tutors. Keep up the good work, it will pay off!



Meet the Teacher

With Student Voice



Agnesa Y10 S.V.

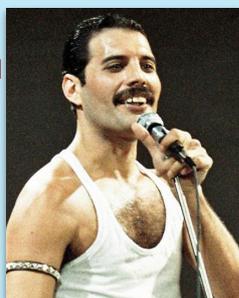
- What are you looking forward to at the moment?
Explaining to pupils about LGBT history. (February is LGBT history month)
- How long have you been teaching at AMSI for?
Since September 2019, so 5 months.
- What was the best thing that happened to you in 2019?
I went to Rome and it was amazing!
- What's the most important thing we should know about you?
That I am a huge Arsenal fan.
- What subject did you get your degree in?
Law



Ms Shukla: English



- What are you currently reading or enjoying watching?
An EBook called 'Blood & Fire' that was given to me by a student.
- Which AMSI Cornerstone do think is most important and why?
REFLECTION – it is so important to sometimes take a step back and think about things!
- Where did you grow up and go to secondary school?
In a small village in Northamptonshire.
- Who would play you in a biopic movie about your life?
Nobody as I'm not interesting enough to base a movie on!
- Why did you choose teaching as a profession?
I love telling stories and introducing new things to people.
- Who is your favourite musician/band/performer of all time?
Freddie Mercury from Queen.
- What single luxury item would you take with you to a desert island?
Lots of salt and vinegar crisps – are these a luxury?
- What is your favourite type of cuisine if you had to pick one?
Italian
- How would you describe yourself in one word?
Red – my fave colour!



- Tell us a joke?
A little girl was walking past a grave and the gravestone speaks saying 'Here lies an honest woman and a lawyer' and the girl asks 'How can two people be buried in one grave?'
- If you could give your 16-year-old self, one piece of advice, what would it be?
Be honest!
- If you could have dinner with one famous person (alive or dead), who would it be and why?
Arsene Wenger
- What would your chosen 'superpower' be?
To be able to teleport!
- If you had to be a different nationality, which one would it be?
I am British but my whole family are Indian so the answer would have to be Indian.
- What is the worst job you have ever had?
I once worked in Next and had to be there at 5.00 am each day – I hated it.
- What is your biggest fear?
Bees and wasps – urrghh!
- Which word do you think you most overuse?
'Excellent!'
- A lazy beach holiday in Barbados or trekking in the Andes?
After teaching for a while most definitely on that beach in Barbados please!



Thank you to Ms Shukla – that was 'Excellent'!

Bookbuzz

For the second year running, AMSI has offered all of our Year 7 and 8 students the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 Bookbuzz titles.

They are all carefully selected by a panel of experts at BookTrust (the UK's largest children's reading

charity) to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

We are also very excited that our students have been asked to take part in two research workshops which BookTrust are running in order to help them to make sure that this year's Bookbuzz

choices are just as exciting and appealing to students as last year's.

The three most popular titles were: "Who Killed Darius Drake?" by Rodman Philbrick, "Still Water" by Chris Priestley and "The Crossover" by Kwame Alexander.

Find out more about these titles:

Still Water

By Chris Priestley

Genre: horror, ghost story, mystery, historical

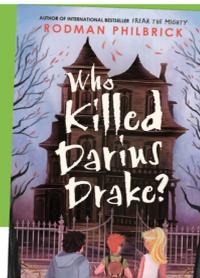
Key themes: the supernatural, ghosts, bullying, World War II evacuees

Perfect for: those who want a page-turning story that sends shivers down the spine – and may come back to haunt you. Super readable and with a dyslexia-friendly font. 112 pages



Who Killed Darius Drake?

By Rodman Philbrick



Genre: mystery, crime

Key themes: being different, treasure hunt, secrets, friendships, family, local legends, detectives

Perfect for: those looking for a pacy, page-turning mystery with dark family secrets and long-lost treasure. 224 pages

The Crossover

By Kwame Alexander

Genre: real-life, verse novel

Key themes: family and siblings, basketball, relationships, coming-of-age, grief (death of a parent)

Perfect for: basketball fans or otherwise, with its powerful storytelling approach and coming-of-age themes, a brilliant book for readers and non-readers alike. 240 pages



PE September

Year 8 Football Team

Congratulations to our Year 8 football team as they made it to the semi-finals before losing 2-1 in a close game.

All students performed exceptionally well and it was great to see parents/carers supporting the team.

Very well done to Gevan, Jeremy, Angelo, Roq, Light, Ciaran, Sebastian, Malachi, Abdirahman & Tyler (Year 7)

PE October

Year 7 Football Team

On the 2nd October, our Year 7 football team went one better and got to the FINAL of the Camden & Islington 6-a-side tournament where they lost 3-0 to Acland Burghley.

The highlight of the tournament was winning a penalty shoot out in the semi-final!

Congratulations to Tyler, Arthur, Nabil, Luis, Damario, Sachin, Adam, Kareem & Salim.

PE November

Key Stage 3 Boys Badminton Team

We are delighted to announce that Kamarie, Muntik, Abdur-Rahman and Rayan were Crowned Champions when they won the KS3 Islington Badminton competition that AMSI hosted on 5th November!

Well done to Mr Errington and the PE department and to the fantastic KS3 badminton team!





In Art Year 7 pupils have recently been working on 'pattern work'. We have been looking at Islamic pattern art, and the symbolic meanings behind them.

The pupils have creatively added their own twist to these using a variety of techniques and materials; wax resist, colour blending, oil pastels, paint and 'scraffito'!

Our Year 9's have been working on 'Pop Art' food packaging, creating original hybrids. Below are some wonderful examples of their exciting 'work in progress'.

We also have a very talented artist (Abdullah) who has created some vivid urban cartoons with specialist pens.



From the 28th October to the 2nd of November, KS3 students studied the Dia de Los Muertos festival, observed across Latin America to remember and celebrate the life of loved ones who have passed away.

The MFL department created a two-part lesson plan to cover what the festival is and the relevance of its celebration during this week. Students from Year 8 collaborated with two artists in residence to create various artworks and a video project with the theme in mind with great success. 8E developed a script around a story created in class; for which they created props (such as the masks shown in the pictures) and the set in our theatre. As the resident artists

filmed, 8E rehearsed each section in groups, thoroughly enjoying the process with the help of some traditional Hispanic Skittles! 8B then created the props for the table, working sugar paste into skulls decorated in the shape of 'El esqueleto' or skeleton; the well known symbol for the Day of the Dead. Finally, 8D also worked on their own story involving a shark who went to Wakanda and, after relaying the story of his holiday in the past tense, created an altar to his memory which included the traditional 'papel picado' and sugar skull decorations. **All students were thoroughly engaged with the lessons and enjoyed being actively involved in the process - very well done all!**



Meet the Teacher

With Student Voice



Cameron Y7 S.V.

- What are you looking forward to at the moment?
The Year 11s getting good GCSEs
- How long have you been teaching at AMSI for?
9 months
- What was the best thing that happened to you in 2019?
Teaching at this school!!!
- What's the most important thing we should know about you?
My heart is in the right place.
- What subject did you get your degree in?
Biochemistry



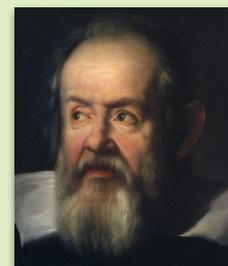
Mr Duffy: Science



- What are you currently reading or enjoying watching?
'Prisoners Of Geography' and watching 'The Expanse' on Amazon Prime
- Which AMSI Cornerstone do think is most important and why?
RESPECT – unless you respect yourself and others it would be difficult to follow the other three Cornerstones
- Where did you grow up and go to secondary school?
I grew up and went to school in Dublin in Ireland.
- Who would play you in a biopic movie about your life?
Matt Damon, of course.
- Why did you choose teaching as a profession?
I find Science amazing and love explaining it to other people.
- Who is your favourite musician/band/performer of all time?
Radiohead or The Stone Roses
- What single luxury item would you take with you to a desert island?
My portable Bose speaker.
- What is your favourite type of cuisine if you had to pick one?
Thai food esp Thai curry – no, scrub that – potatoes!
- How would you describe yourself in one word?
Funny
- Funny 'haha' or 'funny odd'?
The former.

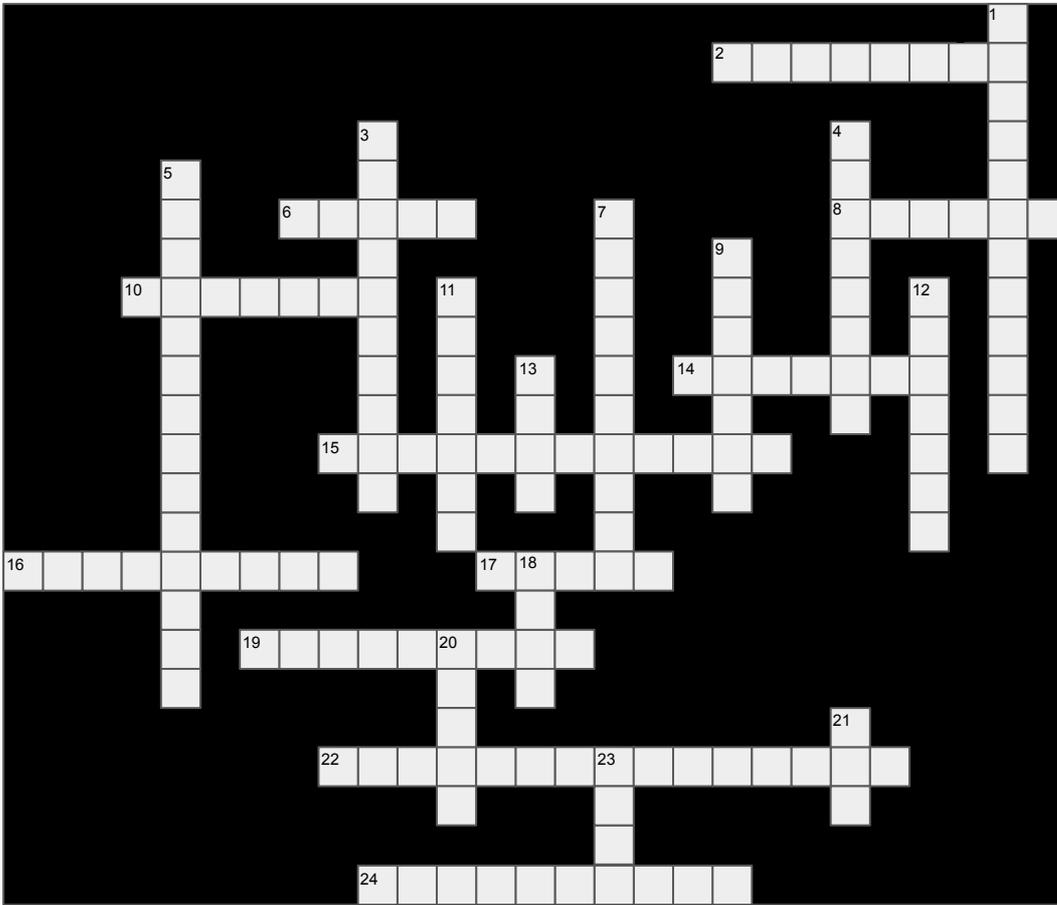


- Tell us a joke?
I made a Chemistry joke but there was no reaction.
- If you could give your 16-year-old self, one piece of advice, what would it be?
Friends come and go but results follow you around forever!
- If you could have dinner with one famous person (alive or dead), who would it be and why?
Galileo – he discovered so many fundamental things about Science, it would be good to talk to him.
- What would your chosen 'superpower' be?
The ability of flight
- If you had to be a different nationality, which one would it be?
Jamaican
- What is the worst job you have ever had?
I worked in the Christmas shop in Primark.
- What is your biggest fear?
Heights
- Which word do you think you most overuse?
'Basically'
- A lazy beach holiday in Barbados or trekking in the Andes?
Lazy beach in Barbados definitely!



Thank you to Mr Duffy that's 'basically' it!

#AMSI NEWS Prize Crossword



Across

2. Keji and Azana have both had success in this challenge over the last two years
6. A recent AMSI teacher you may have just got to know via Student Voice
8. Term-time with a bounce!
10. The most important thing we all do at AMSI if a problem arises between us!
14. Every AMSI pupil aspires to be one of these
15. The fundamental values of AMSI
16. If you are at AMSI this is your geographical location
17. Transitioning well and Ms McHale's pride and joy!
19. 08.50hrs - 15.20hrs
22. Read #AMSI NEWS to the end and you'll find a reference to these activities
24. A world famous gallery recently visited by pupils with MFL

Simply read #AMSI NEWS cover to cover where you will find most of the solutions to the clues and then complete the grid.

Email r.robinson@amsi.school giving the first letter of each answer to enter the draw to win a £20 Amazon gift voucher.

Down

1. Every Class Rep is active in this group
3. You will need a shiny surface to discover this Cornerstone
4. The action of fitting component parts together that takes place every morning at school
5. All are welcome to this forthcoming event on 10th Feb
7. A collection of articles forming a report such as this
9. The head of the classroom
11. Linque, Taqvi ,Ali, Mani, Shah, Duffy
12. School leader
13. Split this in half for our next holiday
18. A formal test to see what I know and understand
20. All AMSI pupils know they must be 'READY' to do this
21. A fantastic recent Year 10 Dance performance
23. AMSI scholars will drop everything to do this

News from Year 7:

The Year 7's that had over 1000 achievement points by the Christmas holidays have all been rewarded with a celebratory breakfast hosted by Miss McHale! They were treated to cheese bagels, chocolate croissants and juice in registration and congratulated for their achievements. The 3 highest achievers in the year group were Almer 7A, Mohamed 7C and Sebastian 7A.



AMSI BREAKFAST CLUB

We are pleased to announce the return of Breakfast Club at school which is now providing a great facility for many of our pupils.

The Pupil Support team officially took over in September 2019. We have on average 20 students every morning and hope to extend the offer of breakfast to as many pupils as possible beyond KS3 in the future and further widen the choice on the menu to include porridge and fresh fruits. Breakfast Club is much more than just toast and cereal - pupils develop positive friendships, improved attendance and behaviour through this provision. They can play chess and other board games before learning some self-sufficiency by making their own breakfast and washing up after themselves!



You decide

Make sure you vote
in the Islington
Youth Council
election on
**Monday 3
February 2020**

Find out more about the
candidates at izzy-info.com



YOUTH
COUNCIL



E: youthcouncil@islington.gov.uk
T: 020 7527 2552
IslingtonYC
VoteYC2020



ISLINGTON

AMSI wishes our 4 dynamic and confident candidates in the Islington Youth Council election the very best of luck. There have been some great speeches made by these pupils in assemblies and their manifesto pledges were thoughtful and wide-ranging.



Porshia Y9



Ilwad Y9



Mariam Y11



Keli Y11

Upcoming Events

"Speak Out" Challenge!

Islington Regional Final
Feb 6 @ 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Year 8 Parents Evening

@AMSI
Feb 10 @ 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Spring Half Term Holiday

Feb 17 – Feb 21 all-day

Eco Trip @ Wembley SSE

Arena
Mar 4 all-day

Friendship Morning for new Year 7 students

Mar 11 @ 9:00 am – 11:00
am

Year 8 Red Nose Day Charity Walk

Mar 12 @ 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Year 9 Parents' Options Information Evening @AMSI

Mar 12 @ 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Geography Field Trip – Year 11 @ Epping Forest

Mar 13 @ 8:45 am

Year 9 Red Nose Day Charity Walk

Mar 13 @ 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Geography Field Trip – Year 11 @ Islington & Mayfair

Mar 18 @ 8:45 am

Arts & Media School Islington

proudly presents



The Untold Story of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf

Well done to all performers in the Dance department's incredible performance of 'Bad'!

Following on from the great response this performance received, we will be putting on a special performance for local primary schools on 28th February.

AMSI Extra Curricular Activities

Extended School

Make sure your child is getting the most out of school by attending some of the **FREE clubs** and activities at lunchtime and after school.

Please follow us on Twitter [@AMSI_school](https://twitter.com/AMSI_school)
Any feedback or suggestions for the next edition can be given using #AMSINEWS