



Arts & Media School
ISLINGTON

Head's Half-Termly Update

Spring Term 2 - April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The clocks sprung forward on the 27th March to signal the start of British Summer Time giving us additional daylight in the evening to enjoy. This reminds me of the enjoyment that we experienced this half term seeing our young people engage with the school curriculum in a positive and scholarly way. It gave me great pleasure to award the first student that superseded the scholarly reading target set in the World Book Day AMSI Reading Challenge, within a week of it starting. Melek in 8E read, at that point, the sum total of 19 books across 14 different genres. She was awarded a scholarly certificate and AMSI scholar badge. The latter is not a reward that is given without significant achievement so well done! There have been a further 117 submissions to the Head of English who is very pleased with everyone's efforts.

The school is currently developing a brief to support revamping the school website and I would welcome feedback from the parent body at AMSI on this key platform of communication to our stakeholders. If you can, please take the time to give constructive feedback through the Google form that you can access [here](#).

AMSI Easter Radio Show 2022



Another edition of this series of radio shows that chimes with the time of year. It is worth listening to see our students participating in a creative way. [AMSI Easter Radio Show](#)

Student Voice

Student Leaders have presented to the Senior Leadership on the pertinent issues close to the hearts of our students. They received feedback immediately where it was appropriate and for other items, such as, funding for additional activities at break times and lunchtimes, this will be reviewed and students will learn of the progress in this matter next term. School council students have also had a second opportunity to provide feedback on the achievement and behaviour policy and have expressed an interest in developing a well-being policy for students; this will be discussed further with our ITIPs link (Islington trauma Informed Practice).

Personal Development

There have been a few assemblies delivered in school which have close links to British Values. These are: Prevent: Far Right Extremism, delivered by an external agency called EXIT UK to Year 11 and 10. Students at KS3 had a similar assembly delivered by Heads of Years. We have also had the St. Giles Trust deliver assemblies on County Lines/Gangs to Year 10 and Jessica Plummer, the mother of a knife crime victim also presented an assembly on her own experience of losing her son to our Year 9. Students were respectful, polite and inquisitive, asking intelligent questions and representing the school well.



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Teaching and Learning - Year 11 focus

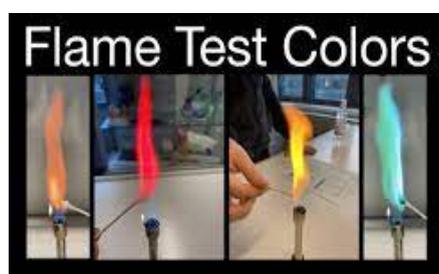
We have been really impressed with the positive attitude of Year 11 during their recent Mock examinations in Maths, English and Science. Over the next two weeks, it is very important for Year 11 to spend quality time preparing for their Summer examinations as well as have some well-deserved rest and downtime. Work done during the Easter holidays will go into their long-term memory which will help them to remember information and techniques when under stress. We will be offering specific [revision sessions](#) in the first week of Easter; the timetable is on the [website](#).

A good strategy for revision is to start revision in the mornings so they are used to engaging their brain first thing; they will have exams that start at 9 am. Ideally, students should be spending 2-3 hours every day as a minimum and should be working across all of their subjects.

When they return to school after the Easter Break, it would be beneficial for them to attend KS4 Prep which opens each morning at 8.30 am until registration; students should not arrive after 8.50 am if they wish to attend the sessions as late arrivals disrupt the sessions. These sessions are well attended and students are supported by teachers where necessary. Whilst it is difficult to juggle homework and practice papers being given by all teachers, it is important to set up blocks of 30-60 minutes of revision to maintain information that you may have covered a long time ago; a revision planner will really help with revision as well as their general organisation. This should be updated each week to reflect current deadlines and needs.

Science Week Year 7 - 9

British Science Week was a National ten day celebration of science that took place between 11th - 20th March 2022. After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, we finally had the exciting chance to deliver science week to our KS3; it was a fun packed week of lessons which included, elephant toothpaste demo, the wonderful colours of metals and the methane bubble.



Students in year 8 made parachutes using black bin liners, string, a plastic cup and sellotape. They had to place a raw egg in their cup and launch the parachute, the aim was to keep the egg intact on impact to the ground, this was both fun and exciting as well as teaching the fundamentals of forces to the students. Students concluded with research based presentations to their peers about careers they would choose; careers considered ranged from an acoustic engineer to a palaeontologist.



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Food Technology

All Year 7 and 9 students have really enjoyed rolling up their sleeves, putting on chefs' whites and creating some fantastic dishes to take home! Each form group had a full day off their regular timetable and were based in the kitchen, preparing and cooking a range of recipes. On the menu we had sizzling stir-fry, breakfast muffins, quiche, mushroom risotto, koftas and delicious vegetable soup among many other dishes. All our students enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to cook together with some expert guidance from our Food Tech lead Ms Zwane displaying great respect for all 'kitchen rules'. Nutrition theory, cutting techniques, food hygiene and health and safety more broadly were all explored throughout each session. We all look forward to the next instalment of these practical lessons which has been timetabled for the latter part of the Summer Term.



Behaviour and Attitudes

Another very successful term at AMSI! March saw our 2nd 'Caught Doing The Right Thing' fortnight. Over 10,000 tickets were given out over the course of the 2 weeks. The prize draws were made for the winners during the end of term reward assemblies, and the winners in each year group were as follows.

Year 7 - Ibrahim 7E • **Year 8** - Evie 8B • **Year 9** - Ilaph 9E • **Year 10** - Canuud 10B • **Year 11** - Muaz 11A

These lucky students won an Amazon Echo!

Over the Easter period, we ask you to replenish any uniform items that have been mis-placed. If you are unable to do so, please send your child into school with a note on April 19th. Students that attend school without full uniform and without a note will be sent home to change. A grant is available for school uniforms from Islington council, the application to which can be found below

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/~media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/childrenandfamilieservices/information/forms/20202021/20201126schooluniformgrantapplicationform.pdf>



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Blended Learning

Following on from our trial in 3 rooms, new interactive panels for all teaching rooms will be installed over the Easter break. These panels will provide opportunities for interactive teaching as we use technology to enhance the learning in lessons. The IT suites will also be upgraded to new more powerful computers at Easter. This would enable the department to start using the more high level software e.g. Python and Adobe on the desktops. The Media suite computers have also been purchased as a class suite and will be installed over the summer holiday.

Reminders

- School returns on Tuesday 19th April 2022.
- Students must return to school in full [school uniform](#) which includes their blazers to show scholarly dress.
- KS4 (Year 10 and 11) Prep between 08.30am until registration every morning.

Key Dates Ahead

- Year 11 Exam Timeline
 - Monday 25th April - 13 May - Modern Foreign Language Oral exams
 - Monday 16th May - First written exam
 - Tuesday 28th June - Last written exam
- 26th April - AMSI Art Exhibition, 3.30am - 6.00pm at St Saviour's Church Hall, Hanley Road
- 27th May 2022 - End of Summer Term 1

Kind regards

Susan Service
Head teacher