



Arts & Media School
ISLINGTON

Head's Half Termly Update

Spring Term 2 - March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's that time of year again when Spring is just waiting to burst through and the weather is not quite sure as to whether it should be warm and springlike or cold and wintery. However, despite this inconsistency, we all know with certainty that the Easter break is upon us to provide well earned rest for staff and students following a busy half-term.

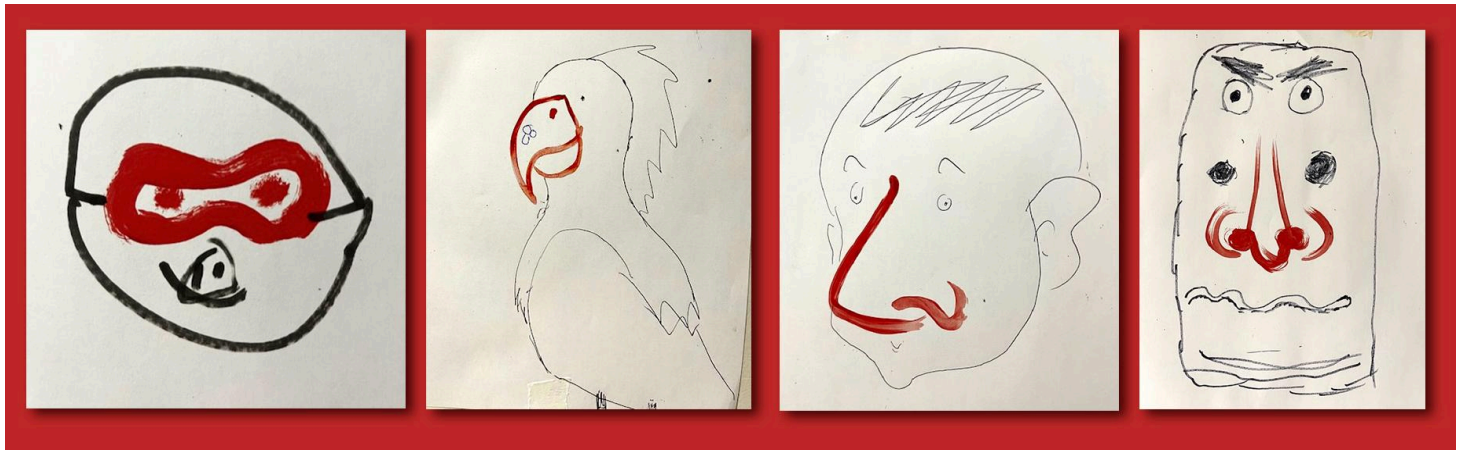
Year 9 Football Success

On 20th March our Year 9 boys played their quarter-final match v Maria Fidelis school and they won 3-0 with goals from our star players, as highlighted in the picture. This means that AMSI is now into the semi-finals! It was also reported to me that the team were very well-behaved both to and at the venue. They displayed great teamwork and positivity throughout the game, upholding our cornerstone of **respect** throughout. We also received positive feedback from staff in the nearby Sainsburys as the boys conducted themselves well by being polite and well behaved as they bought water to ensure that they were fully hydrated for the game ahead. Well done, my athletic scholars!



Comic Relief

To encourage the whole school to get involved in drawing, we held a 'Big Red Nose Doodle' event toward the end of March bringing attention to Comic Relief. Borrowing the brilliant resources shared online by the Art Pedagogy team, our technicians re-created a range of different marks used by children across the world to symbolise the human nose, leaving the rest of the face free for anyone in the school community to finish. It was great to see so many of our students participating in playful and humorous ways as seen in the examples below.



Library

This term continued with Reading Road Map, with the competition also opened to Year 7. Our Year 7s along with Year 8 continue to storm ahead with the roadmap with many of them nearing the final prize: a trip to the Emirates Stadium! In June/July, we will be taking a group of winning students up to the Emirates Stadium for the annual 'Islington Reading Road Map' where students will meet the authors and have a tour of the stadium.

We also launched our annual Young Mystery Writers project this half term. This is a creative writing project that spans over a term where students create their own mystery short stories. Alongside with workshops, we took a group of Year 8s and Year 9s out to see a performance of *The Mousetrap* (that was very well received by the students!) and straight after the Easter Holidays we have a mystery writer, Jo Clarke, visiting us to run a writing workshop. A few of our students will also get the opportunity to be published in an anthology at the end of the project.

This March also saw the library celebrating World Book Day. We ran a competition for students and staff called Caught Reading, where participants would take selfies of themselves reading in different places. There were big prizes up for grabs including a pizza party. Every student also received a £1 Book Token to exchange for a £1 book or get £1 off any other book. We worked with Pickled Pepper Books (bookshop in Crouch End) who were able to supply us with a box of £1 World Book Day Books meaning students were able to exchange their tokens straight away. We also took a group of Y7 students to visit Pickled Pepper Books as a reward for being the highest Sparx Reader users - each student had a book bought for them by the library as part of this reward.

Towards the end of the term a visit from BookTrust who came in to interview us about our school's use of BookBuzz. We run BookBuzz at the start of each academic year where every student in Year 7 and Year 8 gets a free book. It was a real honour to have a chat about this fantastic initiative and the great benefits it brings to our school. The BookTrust also interviewed a group of Year 7s who were able to contribute their voice and did a fantastic job at being ambassadors for our school.

Year 11 Updates

In March, Year 11 completed their final mock exams for the Core subjects. The path to success relies on both classroom learning and independent study. It was inspiring to witness students collaborating to revise and support each other during this potentially stressful period. We are optimistic that they will carry this spirit into their Summer GCSE exams.

To further bolster the revision process, which should now be well underway, we will be offering revision sessions during the first week of the Easter holidays for Year 11. Please find the schedule below. If sessions are unavailable for a particular subject or class, teachers will provide materials for independent study, accessible through Google Classroom or physical resources.



Easter Revision Session Timetable



	9:30 - 11:15	11:30 - 1:15
Monday 1st April	Bank Holiday - School Closed	Bank Holiday - School Closed
Tuesday 2nd April	Maths - Higher Tier Ms Laporte & Ms Stubbs	Maths - Foundation Tier Mr Chowdhury, Ms Kichou & Ms Ado
Wednesday 3rd April	Option A - Art, Dance, PE BTEC	Option A - Art, Dance, PE BTEC
Thursday 4th April	Option B - Art, Drama, PE BTEC	Option B - Art, Drama, PE BTEC
Friday 5th April	Science - Higher and Foundation	Science- Higher and Foundation

- **No School Uniform Required:** Students are not required to wear school uniform during the revision sessions. They should dress comfortably and appropriately for the sessions.
- **Bring Light Refreshments:** Students can bring light refreshments as needed to keep themselves energised and focused during the sessions.
- **Timely Arrival:** To support the smooth running of the sessions and ensure maximum benefit for everyone, students must arrive on time. Students will not be admitted after 9:30 am for Session 1 or 11:30 am for Session 2.
- **Direct Attendance:** Upon arrival, students must proceed directly to their designated revision session(s). This will help minimise disruptions and maximise the time available for learning.
- **Prompt Departure:** Once the revision session is over, students must leave the site promptly.

- **Exemplary Behaviour:** The expectation is that all students behave in an exemplary manner during the revision sessions.

Additionally, here are some useful links for parents and carers to support their child with revision: [Helping your child to revise](#) and [5 Ways to kickstart revision](#)

Student Voice



The School Council have been busy presenting their AMSI cornerstones assemblies to their respective Year groups whilst the School Leaders have also presented to the Year 11 cohort as there are no official representatives for this year group due to the pressures implicit within this examination year. The students were received warmly by their peers and did a brilliant job of conveying what the cornerstones mean to them and to each Year group; for many this was the first time that they had been given the opportunity to present and speak publicly to such a large audience demonstrating their own version of the AMSI cornerstone of Confidence!

AMSI Arts Council are Creative Ambassadors who are leaders within the school and can make tangible changes for their peers within the creative aspects of the school. AMSI Arts Council leaders have the opportunity to develop their leadership and public speaking skills as well as representing the school in a wider context. The Creative Ambassadors have just been selected and will begin work next term.

Careers report - Spring Term 2024 - ANa

Leadership in Focus - Year 9

Into University runs various programmes in partnership with local schools, aiming to inspire and support young people in realising their full potential. Your child has been selected because they have shown potential at school and the teachers feel that they will enjoy and benefit from the programme.

30 Year 9 students took part in a Leadership in Focus programme based onsite at Into University in January 2024. The three-day Leadership programme was an excellent opportunity for students to develop transferable skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork and confidence. They took part in a range of different team building and self-reflecting activities and the scheme will be a chance for them to think about how they can achieve their goals.

Presenting Yourself Day & Work Experience – Year 10

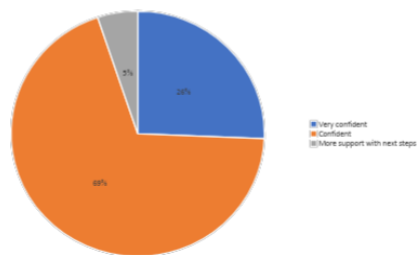
Employers want young people to be resilient so that they can know how to navigate their way through the ever - changing World of Work.



Students were asked to 'Dress for Success' on this day, emphasising the importance of being professional and creating success and confidence.

- Interview guests
- CV Assessment
- Cover letters and applications
- Employability skills – Top 10
- Interviews – The STAR technique
- Mock interviews
- Evaluation

With the support from your coaches how do you feel now about being prepared for work experience?



Work Experience

25th – 28th March 2024

All Year 10 students will be on placement for this week and had the opportunity to find their Own Placement or secure one via the school. This is a great opportunity that we value for all Year 10 to support them to learn about themselves in a new environment and think about life beyond AMSI and preparing for the World of Work.

Achievement and Uniform

As the term draws to a close, we hold end of term rewards assemblies to celebrate the brilliant achievement of our young people. Each subject area gives awards for 'rising stars' and 'shining stars' for students that have shown great improvement and consistent excellence across the term. Awards are also given for those students that achieve Bronze, Silver and Gold CS (cornerstones) points awards.

In addition to this, we hold the draw for the popular 'Caught Doing The Right Thing' initiative, where the prizes are a voucher or a smart speaker for each year group.

We would ask that during the break you take the opportunity to replace any school uniform items that your child may be missing. If students return to school in April with incorrect uniforms and without a note they will be sent home to change, and expected to return to school. If you have any issues, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

As always, we continue to share the student bulletin directly with the students via the school email system and on the school website. Bulletins can be found here:

[Weekly Student Bulletins](#)

Reminders:

- 15th April - School re-opens for the first half of the Summer term.
- The school door opens at 8.30am every morning. Be on time!
- Students are required to bring their chromebooks fully charged to school every day.

Key Dates:

21st April 2024	Danish students visiting the school inclusive of a trip to the Lyceum theatre
1st-2nd May 2024	Year 8 HPV vaccines
6th May 2024	Bank Holiday - school closed
8th May 2024 onwards	Year 11 Breakfast provision in place to support the exam season
9th May 2024	GCSE written exams begin (prior to this Dance, Art and Drama pieces will be undertaken for final assessment)
24th May 2024	End of Summer 1 Term



Have a safe and enjoyable Easter break till Monday 15th April 2024 when school reopens at the usual time.



Kind regards

Susan Service
Head teacher