

# CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON

WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Volume 1, Issue 1: Introducing the Academy.  
October 2008

## School's Secretary, Ed Balls MP, visits the Academy

### Events for your diary:

- **Staff INSET Day (No students on site)**  
- Monday 3rd November 2008 &  
Tuesday 4th November 2008
- **Year 7 Progress Evening - Wednesday**  
12th November
- **Next Step to Success Evening - Thursday**  
13th November 2008 for Year 11
- **Wednesday 19th November— Personal Action Planning Event for all Academy**
- **Year 10 Parents Evening - Wednesday**  
10th December 2008

Education Secretary, Ed Balls MP, told students that they are being given the “best chance to do well” when he visited CoLA-I this September. Ed Balls was given a tour of the Academy, then was able to take part in a Year 7 assembly, where bright, young students were invited to ask questions and make suggestions as to what they would like to see at the Academy.

Ed Balls then proceeded to the newly refurbished ‘Hub’, our Business and Enterprise centre of the Academy. He observed an Enterprise lesson being given by Vice Principal, Lucy Callender. This allowed Ed Balls to witness a CoLA-I lesson in full swing. Business and Enterprise is the Academy’s specialism and Ed Balls was able to view how the

students are embracing this. It was here Mr Balls learned, much to his pleasure, that discipline has been a lot tighter since the opening of the Academy in September.

Student Sophie Dobbins, Year 10, informed him that “it is much stricter than it was last year and I think that is a good thing. It makes us more mature and will help with our exams”. Ed Balls was then led to view the construction works taking place behind the Tower

building. At the end of the visit Mr Balls commented on how important it is for the Academy to have sponsors such as City University London and the Corporation of London as they will be able to offer our students so much more than previously. Ed Balls ended his visit by saying that he “is confident that the next two, three or five years will see results shooting up”.



Ed Balls speaks at a Year 7 assembly

### Message from the Principal

Welcome to the October edition of the City of London Academy - Islington Newsletter. The Academy launched

successfully in September and we have had both an exciting and busy few weeks. Students and staff have really embraced the changes and it was very pleasing to see that our parents have already begun to work in partnership with us around particular key issues. Our first Learning Conference event this month, saw the highest turn out of parents/carers ever and it was wonderful to see so many students being supported.

In our first term we have had a real focus on uniform, standards of behaviour and attendance. Students have described the environment as a calm and purposeful environment where they are able to learn. This is what the Academy is about. Students have already been offered a multitude of additional opportunities and we are able to share these with you in this newsletter. Please note that we will continue to enforce high standards to ensure all students are given the maximum opportunity to succeed.

We welcome your commitment and your support. Best wishes, Ann Palmer

# MATHS & FINANCIAL LITERACY LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Events happening in the learning

### Community

Mathematics exams taking place at the Academy.

- GCSE Non Calculator exam on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008.
- GCSE Calculator exam on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008
- Year 7 progress evening 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008



Rock climbing gives students a fantastic sense of achievement



Trust building - students lead each other blind-folded



Students work together to build Den - Great Teamwork

**Kingswood was a great success everyone had a fantastic time doing lots of activities such as Den building, Climbing, Problem solving and Night-line.**

**As a Learning Community, our team building and communication skills are much better and as you can see we had a lot of fun! We all look forward to the next one.....**

## Arsenal Double Club

A fantastic opportunity for Year 7 students!

12 Year 7 students have been chosen to participate in this exciting literacy project taught entirely through football. Aimed at those who achieved around a Level 3 in their KS2 English exam, students have 2 lessons of football-based literacy and 2 lessons of

football training.

Highlights of the programme include certificates and prizes for students completing the course, a guided tour of the *Emirates Stadium* and free tickets for students working hard and improving their literacy levels.

In the first week,

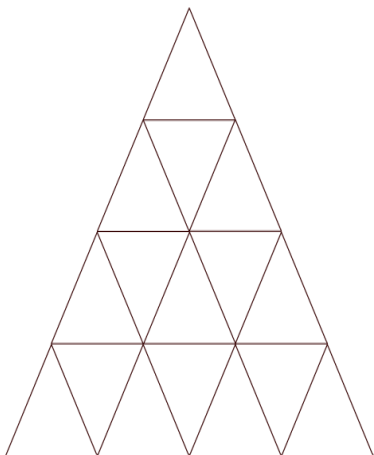


George Dunkley won 'performance of the week' and as a reward, received 2 tickets for the Arsenal vs. Everton match on Saturday.

*Well done George!*

### Maths puzzle

How many triangles can you find?



### Message from the Student Achievement Leader - Ben Youard

Congratulations to all year 7 students for the excellent start that they have made at City of London Academy - Islington.

Their attendance is the best in the Academy and staff and students are working very hard to make it even better.

Year 7s look very smart in their uniform and I'm sure that all parents agree that it is a priority that students wear full uniform at all times. We have a parents event taking place on 12th November. Why not come and say hello!

# COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGES LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Some French visitors are in town... *Bonjour!*

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 50 students from Collège Marie Curie in France came to visit the Academy.

They were met by Year 9 and 10 students who have been writing letters to pen-pals over the past year. This was a return visit after 14 Year 10 students visited Paris in March.

In the morning, the French students attended lessons,

played language games with their English pen-pals, and were offered a free lunch by Mathilda and the kitchen staff.

The French students were also taken on a tour of Islington, but one of the highlights of the day was a crunch basketball match between English and French students at lunchtime. I'm proud to reveal that the COLA -I students won!

The existing partnership between the Academy and Collège Marie Curie plays an important role in the development of internationalism.



**Year 10 students visit the Louvre**

*Good luck to the Ms Ringshaw's and Mr Freeman's Year 11 English classes who are doing their GCSE's in early November.*

### Message from the Student Achievement Leader - Emily Hanna

Welcome back Year 10! All have made a most encouraging start at City of London Academy and I am confident that this year will be exciting and productive for our new GCSE students.

Attendance is a very important issue this year, as it is a well-known fact that good attendance equals good achievement. There will be a prize giving assembly during October, where one lucky student will receive an iPod.

The Year 10s look very smart in their uniform and I'm sure that all parents agree that it is a priority that students wear full uniform at all times.

There will be many exciting opportunities for Year 10s to improve their communication and leadership skills this year, and congratulations to all those who took part in the Franklin Covey learning day. There is much more to come...

## Year 11 animated screening of Persepolis.

Year 11 Media Studies students were invited to attend a free screening of the animated film 'Persepolis' at the Dalston Rio. This was part of the National Schools Film Week.

The animated film was one of their two examination topics and the opportunity to see this brand new animation about a young girl's

coming of age in Iran during the Islamic revolution was a very good opportunity.

The students really enjoyed the film and agreed that it was greatly inspiring and thanked Mr Lewis for organising this event.



### Upcoming events in the Learning Community

- The Young Shakespeare Company is visiting the Academy on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

**AND MORE!**

# GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Peace Assembly comes to CoLA-I

On Monday 22nd September CoLA-I had members of the Islington Faith forum come to visit to talk about peace and respect of others.

We were given a very interesting presentation around Jelly Babies. What has Jelly Babies got to do with peace? Well, Jelly babies were first launched back in 1918 to celebrate the end of World War I and back then they were called Peace Babies. Lots of

people liked them and they became very popular. **Peace Babies** marked a new beginning, when we think of a baby we think of new life, a new start. And people were looking forward to a new life without war.

And in fact, next time you see a Jelly baby, have a close look, they are all different colours, flavours and different shapes; peace it-

self is when different people are able to work together, live together, have fun together and help each other in harmony. Peace is when we all get along.

We then had the Dove launch out in the front of the school, in which 12 white Peace Doves were released. This was a lovely experience for all.



Year 7 students help to release doves in the playground

## Message from the Student Achievement Leader - Ms Quacoe

Congratulations to those who already gained GCSEs in the summer term and to parents and students in Year 11 for the excellent turnout for the Learning Conference Day on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. 75% of parents turned up to speak with tutors about how their child was achieving at the City Academy. Attendance, coursework deadlines, after Academy catch-up classes as well as how parents can help their child with preparation for exams, were just some of the issues discussed.

This is an important year, Year 11. Let's really go for it!!

## Extra curricular events in the Community

This is a very important year for Year 11 - they only have 8 months left until the majority of their exams start. To support Year 11 in this crucial time, the Global Environment staff will be available after school on the following days each week for coursework and revision support:

Mondays: Geography with

Mr Govender in 210.

Thursdays: History with Ms Quacoe in 209,

Thursdays: Health and Social Care with Ms Irving in 213 and RE with Ms Kolthoff-Callan in 212.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November will be the first PAP day for all year groups. Throughout

the year there will be three PAP days to support students in their Personal, Social and Health Education as well as Business and Enterprise the Academy's specialism. On these days students will be involved in a number of workshops delivered by Academy staff and external agencies e.g. Professionals from the city, the police and the NHS. Further details will be published the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> November.

## Year 11 Parent's Event

There will be a Year 11 Parent's Event on the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Letters and invitations will be sent to parents over the half term and it is essential, please, that all parents will be able to attend. The 'Next step to success evening' will be informative and motivational for both parents and students. We look forward to meeting and welcoming you all.

## Upcoming events for your diary:

- 5<sup>th</sup> November - student trip to Dalston Rio Cinema to watch the Rosa Parks Story (Black History Month).
- 13<sup>th</sup> November - Evening event for year 11 students and parents.
- 19<sup>th</sup> November - PAP day for PSHE and Business & Enterprise.
- TBC - Year 10 Geography field work trip to King's Cross.



# PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Introducing the Performing and Creative Arts Learning Community

Welcome to the Performing and Creative Arts page! We would like to officially welcome the new staff who have joined our learning community.

We have:

Mrs Brooker: Assistant Vice Principal

Mr Agyei: Student Achievement Leader/Teacher of PE

Ms Wells: Innovator/Teacher of drama.

Mr Clark: Innovator/teacher of PE

Ms Outteridge: Teacher of Art

Ms Turpin: Teacher of Art

Ms Norton: Teacher of Art

Mr Nwokeji: PE instructor

Ms Blount: Learning Mentor

Mr Turner: Teacher of Music

Mr Lloyd: Teacher of Drama

Ms Fitzelle: Teacher of P.E.

Ms Miah: Admin assistant to the Learning Community

**Students enjoy a keyboard lesson**



*"We all believe in ourselves. We believe that we can succeed in our exams" - Asaf*

### My Time so far in the Performing and Creative Arts Community - Asaf Gungoren, 11N

*Our music lesson is probably the best lesson in the whole Academy. It is fun, energetic, and educational. The teachers are the best; they are funny at the appropriate times and serious, when needed. They are top class teachers. We have learnt a lot since starting the lessons in September. Now, we all believe in ourselves, we all believe that we can succeed in our exams and carry on with our careers.*

*Gungoren, 11N*



Picture drawn by Mustafa Akkaya - Year 10

### Message from the Student Achievement Leader - Martin Agyei

The Academy and our Learning Community takes Academy attendance very seriously and considers it a vital and integral part of learning and attainment and is directly linked to students achievement and progress.

The general attendance rate for Year 8 has not been very impressive and we have not been able to meet our attendance target of 93%. Having said that, we do have some students who have been getting increasingly better and they will be acknowledged in our achievement assemblies, so well done to you!!

I would encourage you, the parent/carer to work in partnership with the Learning Community against persistent absences.

To encourage Year 8 students to achieve their attendance target, we have put in place numerous reward systems to celebrate success and I encourage all students to grasp these opportunities.

I hope to soon see Year 8 leading the way in meeting the Academy's attendance target.

### Christmas Concert Extravaganza

It is fast approaching that time of year, where sleigh bells ring and children sing and CoLA-I students put on a winter production! As this will be the first winter production, we will be setting the standard for subsequent years hereafter.

If your child wants to audition or any parents would like to get involved, then please contact Ms Wells at the Academy.



# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY LEARNING COMMUNITY

## KS3 Technology Student of the month

Farahana Alam 8D -

Outstanding effort and design work.

## KS4 Technology Student of the Month

Ronnie Douglas 10I - Excellent practical skills and safety in the workshop.

## Key Stage 4 Revision Clubs have begun!

We are pleased to announce that - Mr Brand in room 502, Wednesday KS4 science revision clubs are in Lunchtimes

place and there are already 40 students attending.

- Mr Beritsis in room 505, Friday Lunchtimes.

These clubs prove to be highly effective when it comes to students taking exams and gaining the best results they can.

All students that have been involved so far have shown a great deal of enthusiasm and motivation towards achieving the very best grades they can and they

The teachers running the clubs are to be commended.

include:

A special appreciation goes to all parents

- Mr Beritsis in room 505, Monday Lunchtimes

who have been supportive of their child attending these vital sessions.

## 'European Day of Languages' meets the Science and Technology Learning Community

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Ms Turpin's Design Technology lessons crossed Learning Communities to meet Modern Foreign Languages.

Students identified characters recognised from European countries including Leprechauns from Ireland, Tintin from Belgium, Pinocchio from Italy, baguette bakers from France, Spanish matadors and flamenco dancers, Russian ballerinas and Scottish bagpipe musicians...amongst others.



Using famous characters from different European countries, students designed and made 'Marionettes' they were able to use in performance stories told using different European languages.

Students used problem-solving skills to construct marionettes with strings,

fasteners and dowel in order to make characters limbs move while attempting to converse in different cultural languages.

## Science trip - Evolution at the Natural History Museum



On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 40 students from years 9 and 10 were lucky enough to spend an afternoon in the Natural History Museum. Whilst we were there we took part in an interactive session in the Investigate lab where we had the opportunity to explore samples of meteorites and touch dead crocodiles and snake skins. We also had a wonder around the gallery and saw the massive diplodocus fossils, the mega sloth and giant sequoias. All the students who went on the trip agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable and educational experience.

### Message from the Student Achievement Leader - Jayne Welburn

I'd really like to thank Year 9 for a wonderful start to life at the Academy. Adjusting to new things is always strange and yet you have welcomed your new tutors, made a home of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, massively improved your uniforms and made me happy to be continuing with you as my year group.

Our next thing to look at improving is our attendance. We've talked about this before, your attendance needs to be 'green' for you to achieve your best. Those of you who have to moved to 'orange' are averaging a day off per week. Think of all the missed lessons and opportunities to learn.

Hope you all have a great half-term.

Year 9 students enjoying visit to Natural History Museum

# Franklin Covey Event - Creating Future Leaders

The COLA | Students as Future Leaders Programme was launched on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. 50 students in year 10 and 9 were invited to participate in a highly successful all-day workshop on The Franklin Covey 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers. It was an entertaining and thought-provoking day, in which students had the opportunities to develop skills to help them to gain greater control of their lives,

to increase their self-confidence and self-esteem and to define their values and what matters most to them.

The 7 habits include:

**Be proactive** - take responsibility for your life

**Begin with the end in mind** - define your mission and goals in

life

**Put first things first** - prioritise and do the most important things first

**Think win-win** - have an 'everyone can win' attitude

**Seek first to understand, then to be understood** - listen to people sincerely and communicate clearly

**Synergise** - work together to achieve more

**Sharpen the saw** - renew yourself regularly



Students present to the rest of the group

## My day at City University - Ali Al-Sakban, 10Y

I really enjoyed the day at City University where we learnt about the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teenagers. The workshop was delivered by two men, Lonnie Moore and Gary Mcguey who were both educators from the United States and Canada. They made the sessions enjoyable and educational. We spent most of the day working in groups of 5-6. We had to do some writing, but mainly practical work like

acting and presenting things to the whole group.

The habit I most enjoyed was Habit 6: Synergize, working together to achieve more. I liked it because we had to work together to plan and perform a presentation, but I also believe working together will certainly make me achieve my targets and I can help others to achieve theirs. At the end of the day, we were asked to make a 21 - day

commitment which was to:

- Be proactive in what we do
- Complete our personal mission statement
- Do a weekly plan for the next 3 weekends
- Write our 5-year letter to ourselves

I am trying to be proactive in everything I do and am working on my 5-year letter to myself.

*“Proactive and reactive, it helped me to think before*

*I react to certain things” – Ceren*

*Dogan 9N*

## Student Response to Event

Students were asked the following questions and be honest with their answers:

**Would recommend the workshop to other students because:**

It can improve your skills and help you to succeed, it was also fun and intellectual - Fae Coleman 10Y

The people and the workshop inspires you - Huseyin Kocadag - 10Y

**One aspect of the**

**workshop most enjoyed:**

When we had to act because we spent time together as a group – Sergen Cetinkaya 10I

The video of the boy with autism because it shows you can do anything – Maia -Rosa Lusardi 10N

**What do you wish to help us to improve our programmes at CoLAI:**

Use the methods used today and make it interesting - Katie Southey 10L

Do more programmes for students and get us involved - Brooke Gray-Mcintyre 10N

**One aspect which would have improved the enjoyment of the event:**

I think it was the best experience ever – Charlie Gibbons 10N



Students support each other



CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY  
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## ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Great News!

Through the hard work of all staff, parents and students our attendance has risen by 5%! Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to achieve this.

There has also been a dramatic drop in the number of students arriving late for school, particularly those arriving after 9.00am.

There will be prize draws in each Year Group throughout the week for those who have achieved 100% attendance so far this term - one student from each year group will win an Ipod.

### ***"Where Students Succeed"***

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WE ARE ONLINE:

[WWW.CITYACADEMYISLINGTON](http://WWW.CITYACADEMYISLINGTON)

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## PRIMARY TRANSFER TOURS

We were delighted by the overwhelming number of prospective parents and students who arrived to take a tour of our Academy on the mornings of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. After numerous requests, we arranged an additional tour on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

Judging by the sheer volume of prospective parents who came along to the tours, I know we are going to be a first choice Academy for many parents and will be oversubscribed for places for September 2009.

I'd particularly like to thank all the Year 8 students who helped out and were "tour guides" for the visiting parents and students. They were excellent ambassadors and the parents were very impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm for 'their' Academy.

So a big thank you to:

Cyd Boffa

Conor Deegan

Toby Page

Rafaela Ribeiro

Bradely Jude

Kennedy Rough

Soner Menekse

Jade Flynn

Jamie Duffy

Chloe Few

Harvey Clare

Sophie Madden

Alf Carroll

Joshua White

Walid Khan

Eliona Shpellza

Leopold Sene

John Phan

Leon Kuzmanoski

Alexandra Smith

Claire Webb

Sibel Kul

Chase Willoughby

Ediz Memhet

Kennice Amorsingh

Abbie Jackson



The "word" about our Academy is spreading far and wide and we are still getting requests from prospective parents and students about our facilities.