



Message from Kevin McKellar

We are pleased to announce that our data on the sixth form is looking really good. Our Year 13 students started when I started and they will always hold a very special place in my heart. They are now all young, emergent adults and it is an absolute privilege to work with them.

We have a special extended assembly planned for them and I will be reminding them of all of the triumphs and disasters and the incredible journey they have all been on together. They are such a close Year group. And they have worked on many exciting projects around the school. Hendon school will be a strange place without them because they have been so actively involved on the daily life of the school. They have also been very good role models for our current Year 12 students.

It is much harder to be a young person these days. Educational goalposts are forever changing and I worry that the Government never bother to ask our young people what they think.

Regardless of the current political situation our Year 13 students have remained resilient and their tenacity is admirable.

Hendon School Trip USA - February 2013

During the February half term 24 students and 3 teachers set off to Washington! After a seven hour flight we settled into our hotel just round the corner from the FBI building and then we went for an early evening walk to 'The White House', it was a lot smaller than we expected and we saw one of Obama's helicopters fly off!!

The following day our amazing tour guide, Mr Prebble, who is 82 years old, took us on a walking tour of the city. Despite him being 82 years old, he can walk and walk and walk...phew! We walked along Pennsylvania Avenue, past the FBI building to the infamous U.S Capitol building where we got a tour of the inside and saw many remarkable statues of historical people of America. The Capitol Hill building is where all the congressmen decide all the main issues concerning America, similar to the Houses of Parliament in the UK. The next day was our last day in Washington and our tour with Mr Prebble continued, beginning with a metro ride to Arlington cemetery. The metro in Washington is incredibly clean and spacious. At Arlington we saw the changing of guards and the resting place of JFK and some others members of his family where an eternal flame is lit for them. After that we walked to the Lincoln Memorial where we saw the iconic statue of Abraham Lincoln and the step where Martin Luther King gave his 'I have a dream' speech. We then went to the Holocaust Museum which was a very sombre experience and time for reflection. On the way back to the hotel we saw the very tall (and pointy!) Washington Monument which unbelievably was damaged in an earthquake last year and was still being repaired so we could not go up it due to this.



On the way back to the hotel, we stopped off at a merry-go-round where most of us decided to have a go (including the teachers). This was fun and many photographs were taken as evidence. We left for New York on Monday but there was a complication with our coach when another school accidentally took our bus! However, it ended up being better for us as we got dropped off on the doorsteps of our hotel in New York. After a four hour coach journey across different states we finally arrived at our hotel in New York! We had dinner at an American diner nearby and then we went for a night walk by the famous Central Park.



The next day we woke up bright and early and took the subway to the 9/11 memorial ground. It was very emotional to see all the names of the people who had lost their lives in the terrorist attack and the names of those killed were written around the two waterfalls. Then we went on a ferry around Staten Island to see the well-known Statue of Liberty, even though we were unable to get on the actual island we were able to get pretty close to the statue on the ferry.

The following day, we walked from Brooklyn to Manhattan via the Brooklyn Bridge and travelled to Grand Central Station where many films and TV programmes are filmed. That evening we went to the Empire State Building, the stunning views of the city from the observation deck at the

top of the building is not something that will be easily forgotten. The next day was the final day of the trip, we made the most of the day by going to the Rockefeller Centre and Times Square where we spent 2 hours shopping! We had to then try and put everything into our suitcases in time for the coach to begin our journey home.

We are definitely going to miss the wonderful America (maybe not the early mornings!) but we are glad to be back home.

Zoe Wu (11.9) and Bindiya Hirani (11.6)

Sports Leadership Achievements

Well done to the Year 9 girl Sports Leaders, who were congratulated by the Barnet Partnership for School Sport (BPSS) for their assistance at the 'Barnet Bar No-One' disability event, which took place on Thursday 28th February. They were team leaders, which meant they had to escort teams of pupils around to the different sports that were on offer that day and help them to understand and carry out the tasks. Our girls were congratulated on their positive and friendly attitude towards the pupils they were helping and the girls themselves said they had a very enjoyable day. Congratulations go to: Sybil Aboagye-Atta, Ketia Makasi, Tafadzwa Mukura, Mayu Nakamoto, Ng'wono Opondo-Mbai and Lucy-May Jordan.

Hayley McNamara, our 'Platinum' Sports Leader, has been successful in her application to volunteer at the London Youth Games, and will be a team leader. She will have to attend two training days in order to carry out her role, and she is the only pupil from Barnet who has qualified for this position. She has also been working with the London Borough of Barnet this year in developing Sports Leaders across secondary schools. Well done Hayley! ☺

Other Sports Leadership events that we have/will be assisting in:

- Shane Hopkins, Milan Ivokovic and James Cousins (all in the 6th form) - officiated at the Borough Key Stage 3 Badminton tournament
- Daniel Quirke (6th form) - has been running Table Tennis sessions for Key Stage 3 pupils on Monday after school and Tuesday lunchtime
- Henry Lee, Edwin Zeeman, Semih Yilmaz, Kosi Okoli, Reece McNamara, Gabriel Infante (all Year 10) - have assisted in the Tag Rugby tournaments this year, and have been asked to officiate the Year 4 tournament on the 14th March at Cophall, with the final taking place on the Saracen's new playing surface. They will be the first Sports Leaders to officiate on this top quality pitch. They were specifically chosen for the work they have done over the last year, and this year, and their excellent volunteering at last year's London Youth Games.
- Rakeem Simpson, Raekwame Simpson, Tareeq Mustapha and Omar Ismail (all Year 9) - assisted in the Borough Year 5 Football festival at Barnet Football club and, again, were congratulated for their officiating skills and their ability to deal with quite a bit of pressure from the parents!!! Well done boys :)
- Hayley McNamara (6th form), Morgan Barnes, Tali Vaisbart and Lydia Chutpinyacoub - assisted in the Year 4 Borough Netball tournament after attending the 'beginners Netball officiating course' and utilising their skills during their own training sessions.
- Edwin Zeeman and Morgan Barnes (Year 10) - selected as 'Adidstars' and will be representing Barnet as sports Leaders, assisting in the development of primary school sport and sports leadership.

Without the help of these young leaders, the Borough would not be able to offer all the primary school sporting competitions that they do, as they rely on our pupils to officiate and to team lead during these events. Our Sports Leaders are well known for being the best Sports Leaders from all the secondary schools in the borough. They are all superstars!!!!!!

Miss D Sheehan (Head of Physical Education Faculty)

Basketball

The following Year 9 girls won a Basketball tournament on Monday 11th March and will play in the final against QEG's to decide who are the borough champions:

Sybil Aboagye-Atta, Tafadzwa Mukura, Jess Lewis, Ketia Makasi, Lucy May Jordan, Des'ree Joaquim, Mona Elghzal Maymoonah Sanoko, Imani Francis, Sara Fordyce, Ruth Osoba and Ng'wono Opondo-Mbai.

Also, congratulations to our four Sports Leaders, Dymtro Dyriv, Xavier Gyamfi in Year 11 and Edwin Zeeman and Henry Lee in Year 10, who are training for their Level 1 Award in Refereeing and Table officiating as approved by the EBBA (English Basketball association). They officiated the whole tournament and were praised by the BPSS (Barnet Partnership for School Sport) for their excellent conduct. They will also be officiating the final between us and Queen Elizabeth Girl's School.



Rowing

The following pupils represented the school on Tuesday 12th March in the borough Rowing competition, and received a medal for coming 1st, 2nd or 3rd:

1st place - Leanne Scantlebury-Lewis 7.4, Alex Calape 9.7

2nd place - Stephanie Groapa 8.1, Sharif Sanaa 9.5

3rd place - Priya Patel 7.3, Marcia Soares 8.4, Edi Monteiro 9.7

Tag Rugby

On Thursday 14th March six of our Year 10 Sports Leaders got the opportunity to officiate on the new Saracens pitch at Allianz Park. They have been involved in officiating primary school Rugby festivals for the last two years, and were invited to attend Allianz Park due to their excellent conduct last year with officiating school events, and also officiating at the London Youth Games. The BPSS (Barnet Partnership for School Sport) have commented on their performance and have said they are excellent role models, and that Hendon School produces the best Sports Leaders in the borough. The boys have been a real asset to the school and have given lots of their time back to the community in officiating numerous events. Well done Edwin Zeeman, Henry Lee, Gabriel Infante, Semih Yilmaz, Reece McNamara and Kosi Okoli.



A Level History Conference

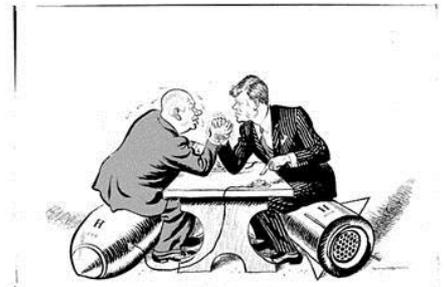
On Thursday 28 February, several of my AS Level History students and one of my Year 11 GCSE History students attended an A-Level History Conference on The Cold War and Superpower Relations in North London. Below, two of my students have written about their experience.

Ms J. Begum (Head of History/Politics)

We were incredibly fortunate to have had the honour of historian Martin McCauley; his vast amount of knowledge about the Cold War was inspiring. The lecture enriched us with new knowledge, complementary to our course, which can be utilised in our essays.

The talk was extremely beneficial in regard to exam technique and tips coming from Dr. Robin Bunce, an established A-Level and GCSE writer. Moreover, a new found confidence was established as there was constant reiteration of the importance of making individual judgements within our essays, encouraging autonomy and flair.

Overall, it was a very beneficial day as it personally helped me with preparing for university lectures and selecting relevant information that can develop our understanding of such profound and significant topics. The amount of students within the hall also motivated and inspired me to work harder, as it became evident that there are so many intelligent people around and competition is so high - conferences like these can really push you when you need it most!



Amir Baig (12.5)

The trip was an incredible learning experience for me. Even though it was a conference for A-Level History (I am studying GCSE History) I absorbed so much extra knowledge about the Cold War and how it affected the world. The lecturers were experts in the Cold War, including Martin McCauley who wrote best-selling books on historical figures like Joseph Stalin. The experts gave us their extensive knowledge on the Cold War with personal experiences with the leaders of the Great Powers of the time. The enthusiastic atmosphere for history also made the conference a fun and enjoyable trip, with every student and teacher engaged in the discussions.

Later on in the day there was an amusing performance from the drama company 'Scratch', who re-enacted the relationships between President Reagan and Premier Gorbachev. Their slapstick comedy combined with the witty and intellectual meaning made the trip even more enjoyable.

Tulsi Behl (11.7)

KS3 Review and KS3 Homework

Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last term a lot of work has been put into looking at what we teach across Years 7 and 8 in particular with the idea of finding meaningful opportunities to develop literacy, numeracy and independent learning skills. This is on-going and will take some time to complete as there is a lot of work to be reviewed and developed. However, these changes will be fully implemented by the academic year 2014/2015. All subjects in Years 7 and 8 are developing homework projects. Some will be ready to use after Easter. These will last up to 5 weeks and be aimed at developing independent learning skills and enriching student learning. The end product will be either in written form or as a presentation will take the place of other homeworks in that subject. Please look out for these coming home.

By the beginning of the next academic year we will be able to present you all with a timetable of homework project tasks for the year. Other homeworks in years 7 and 8 in particular will be focussing more on pre-tutoring tasks. That is tasks that prepare students for their next lesson rather than work on what they have covered.

If you have any queries regarding these issues please contact me at school.

Tom Mann - (Assistant Headteacher) Tel: 02082029004 ext 253 email: mannt@hendonschool.co.uk

Science News

Big Bang Science Fair London 2013

On the 15th of March the Science leaders had a wonderful opportunity to go to the Big Bang Science Fair, which is the Biggest Science Fair in the UK at ExCel London. It was a great opportunity for young people of all ages with hundreds of interactive exhibits. It was a very inspiring fair with many experts in their field such as BAE systems and Professors from the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland. Tanya Wickramage said: "It was a great opportunity to talk to people who are at the top of their profession and it links in a lot with the physics A-level that I am currently doing."



We attended a great talk called 'Gastronauts Live' which was by Stefan Gates. It taught us a lot about the food we eat and how to make food more appetising. He also showed us a wide variety of extraordinary foods that you would never even think about eating. Some of the students even managed to attend Brainiacs Live which was mainly about various chemical reactions and explosions. Half the students watched a 360-degree film on marine plankton; the influence of current climate change on their distribution and abundance and its impact on marine food chains and the ecology of our entire planet.



In the afternoon the students participated in many activities on the giant show floor which was divided into 8 zones. In the Body talk zone they tested their reaction speed, what happens when they laugh, which parts of their body are hotter with thermal imaging cameras and whether they had genes to taste chemicals. In the energise zone they cycled to see how many appliances in the home they could power and how much energy they could create by dancing. In the engineering zone they made tubes out of newspaper that could make chairs that they could sit on and built structures that could withstand earthquakes and operated robots students had made. Noah Sekington said: "the fair was a lot of fun and a great opportunity". Ronan Goodwin said: "I found it very interesting and I learnt a lot about the uses of Science."



Tanya Wickramage (12.6) & Kush Patel (12.6)

Robotics Lecture (Where are the Robots?)

On the Tuesday 12th March, nine Hendon students had the privilege of attending a Robotics Lecture entitled; 'Where are the robots?' It was a great and inspiring experience for every individual with interest in science. The Lecture was given by Professor Paul Newman, BP Professor of Information Engineering at the University of Oxford and an EPSRC Leadership Fellow, who shared his story of success and what inspired him. He also gave his views on how schools can inspire students to pursue their education in the field of robotics. He explained the misconceptions of robotics through the influence of media and problems the engineers would have to face which on its own was surprisingly inspiring to hear.

A great aspect of the evening was allowing the audience to ask questions and discuss the subject on a deeper level. Questions asked and topic discussed were very interesting such that it reached a point where Professor Paul Newman himself said was intrigued by. One of the important questions that was discussed and was brought up by the student audience was "Is the binary system limiting the potential of Robotic engineering since it's using ONLY 1 and 0 to modulate programs?" Overall the lecture provided many eye opening ideas, which made the experience enjoyable, exciting and beneficial.

Havana Barnes (12.4) & Arian Jahanfar (12.6)

Diary Dates

- ❖ Monday 15 April - Friday 19 April
- ❖ Wednesday 17 April (9-10 am)
- ❖ Friday 26th April
- ❖ Thursday 2nd May
- ❖ Friday 3rd May
- ❖ Monday 6th May
- ❖ Friday 10th May
- ❖ Wednesday 15th May (9-10 am)
- ❖ Wednesday 22nd May
- ❖ Friday 24th May
- ❖ Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

- Deaf Awareness Week
- Parents' Coffee Morning
- Non Uniform Day
- Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Staff Development Day
- May Day Bank Holiday
- Year 11 & 12 study leave begins
- Parents' Coffee Morning
- Non Uniform Day
- Year 13 Study leave begins
- Half Term Holiday

Do you want to go to a big university? Do you know how best to increase your chances of getting into the best universities in the world? Last month, myself and some of my peers went off on a trip to an Oxbridge and Russell Group Student Conference in Westminster and we found it very rewarding as we walked in open-minded and left enlightened with all the knowledge we had acquired throughout the day. Every mountain can be scaled, and the mountain of getting accepted at these Oxbridge (Cambridge and Oxford) and Russell Group Universities (representing 24 leading UK universities with the best research facilities and excellent teaching) is no different. With this article I hope to provide you with the tools to scale this mountain, much like me and my peers were handed these tools at the conference.



First of all, who is in the best position to offer you advice on how to get into Russell Group universities? The Russell Group universities themselves! They published a list of skills they wanted to see in students, who applied to them. The list included:

1. **Evidence of being an independent learner** - go off and visit lectures and conferences and university open days. Find yourself work experience. Develop a thirst for knowledge and research things you want to know. They want to see what YOU'VE done to help YOURSELF.
2. **Evidence of an ability to do research** - if you see something relevant to what you want to study on the news, research it further. If you learn about something in class but want to go into more detail, research it further. Knowledge is power so know how to use the resources you have to undertake independent research on your chosen topic.
3. **Evidence of an ability to write a clear and coherent essay** - come to a judgement supported by evidence and a point of view. Ask yourself: Can I argue convincingly? Do I have evidence to back me up?
4. **Evidence of an ability to think critically and solve problems** - it looks great to have a musical instrument in your back pocket. Any leading role would be fantastic here. Be a sports leader, music leader, year leader etc. like me. Be captain of the football team, join chess club.
5. **Evidence of an ability to contribute ideas to a discussion or debate** - Model United Nations is an amazing opportunity to showcase your debating ability, for instance. The school has a debating club so I urge you to join that too.

Of course you don't have to stress yourself out juggling debate teams, football teams, chess club, music leader and so on, but even trying just a few of the points above is sure to help you a great deal in your pursuit of the best universities in the UK.

Towards the end of year 12 (and the summer before year 13) you will be predominantly investing your efforts on your personal statement. This is basically you writing about 'you' for the benefit of every university you apply to. This is (for example) Oxford's first impression of you, so make it something special. One very important tip we were given at the conference about personal statements was 'show rather than tell'. It's no crime to go into detail on the skills you acquired from taking a first aid course, but those reading your personal statement will be able to deduce that from reading that you took a first aid course. If they don't, then they're in the wrong business. Additionally, know your personal statement like the back of your hand, because if you get an interview, they are bound to ask you about it.

The interview is, in my opinion, the most fun and terrifying stop on the journey. This is where the university meets you and it's your golden opportunity to let them know exactly why you are the prime candidate for their university. In the interview, you are likely to be asked a question relevant to the topic you wish to study that requires some external knowledge as well. For example, if you wanted to study physics you could be asked: "what is dark matter?" They also like to ask questions with no right or wrong answer, just to see your thinking process. Questions such as "is maths invented or discovered?" Finally, what I found most useful about the interview (from the conference) was that they really want to see some passion behind the subject you are taking. If nothing else, show some enthusiasm.

Those of us who went on the trip learnt a lot, but what we found most useful was the following few tips. Firstly: don't think you only need to start thinking about university in year 12. The universities also look at your GCSE grades so aim for A*s and A's in both A-Levels and GCSEs. Secondly: do voluntary work, and work experience. This looks great on your CV and it could be the deciding factor on your personal statement, separating you from so many other candidates. This tells the university that you have the passion and drive to go to university and go far in your chosen field. Thirdly: in terms of revision, it has been proven that revising in short intervals of time is a lot more effective than revising for long hours and hours with no breaks. Try revising for 30-40 minutes, then take a short break, and then do another 30-40 minutes. Also, what I find works well for me, is working out. If you're feeling stressed out and finding it hard to really benefit from your revision, take a short break to get your blood pumping a bit. Working out doesn't do any harm. Lastly: be an all-rounder and knock their socks off. Sometimes it's not enough to just be a brilliant academic. What will increase your chances a great deal is if you show that you're not just a one-trick pony. Go out and try something new.

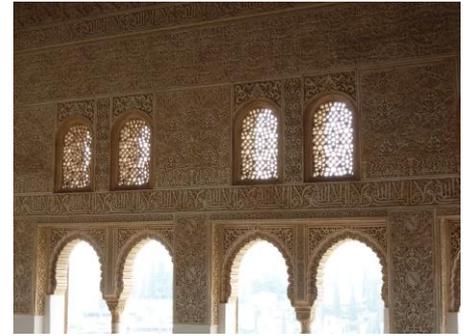
Thank you all for reading; I hope this helped you just as much as the conference helped me and my peers. I wish you the best in your studies and I hope you get into the university you desire and study the subject you desire. Now go and expand your comfort zone!

Elsadiq Ahmed-Salim (11.1)

Our Trip to Spain



On Thursday 14th February we took 25 pupils from years 9, 10 and 11 to Andalucía, Spain. For many of the students it was their first experience abroad, without their parents and to Spain. Our pupils showed such enthusiasm throughout our stay and really enjoyed the challenge of using their Spanish in real situations.



They were incredible ambassadors for Hendon school. I would like to thank all the pupils that came with us to Spain, thank you for making it such a fun experience.

Miss Ingham

¡Olé! - Jennifer Dos Santos



I spent a brilliant time learning about the Spanish culture, the climate, being surrounded by the language and by friendly people. I also created new friendships with everyone around me, it was a very vibrant atmosphere, such an amazing experience.

Our Spanish school experience - Ece Osman

After our 'getting to know each other' activities we had a Science class all taught in Spanish which was really great! The teacher was very good at drawing diagrams and creating a practical for the class to do. We were able to dissect a pig's heart which I found so interesting. He was very good at explaining the science behind it and even though it was very difficult to understand the words he was using (due to them being high level) we still understood the message he was trying to put across due to the diagrams he created.



After our challenging science lesson we had an English lesson which made us feel more in our comfort zone. We were able to teach the class some English and answer any questions they had and also ask them questions about their education and themselves.

We were really upset when we had to leave, I didn't want to leave at all! I met some really amazing people and I hope to stay in touch with them. I really enjoyed this experience because I was able to see a different way of life.



Our Trip to Spain - Halima Akinlade

Spain is an incredible country with a diverse culture, climate and nature. From flamenco dancing to bull fighting, there was a great deal for us to see and experience. During our stay we were lucky enough to visit the city of Seville where, in fact, the first ever Bullfight in Spain was held. Visiting the arena was remarkable; sitting on the stands with the view of the oval shaped building.



Our group was also lucky enough to visit Granada. I enjoyed exploring the open streets, attempting to converse with shopkeepers with my formal Spanish and meandering in and out of small market stands where you could literally smell the leather from the handmade bags.

Our last venture to the cultural side of Spain was our flamenco lesson. It was not just the girls who were eager to take part; the boys in fact were more of the front liners in this activity! I think everyone had lots of fun learning how to dance the flamenco. Even the teachers were excited; I can say for a fact that Miss Ingham is in love with Spanish pop music!! At the end of the night we all were and searched for the flamenco song

to add to all our playlists.

As a whole, the trip was fantastic, the only downside was that it was too short!! Miss Ingham certainly did a great job in jam-packing as many activities as she could to enable us to experience as much of Spain possible during the shortest school vacation!! I think all the teachers who organised and ran this trip deserve a huge thank you, so on behalf of all the students who went on this trip; I thank Mr Ashley-Smith, Miss Taccuso and Miss Ingham - thank you for an unforgettable trip!

