

"I'm a Teacher... Get Me Out of Here!" - A Hilarious and Hair-Raising Event!

Our recent "I'm a Teacher... Get Me Out of Here!" event was an unforgettable spectacle, filled with laughter, bravery, and a whole lot of squirming! Ten of our fearless teachers took on a series of gut-wrenching eating challenges, testing their nerves and stomachs in ways they never imagined.



With bugs supplied by Creepy Critters, our contestants faced a menu like no other, featuring crunchy locusts, wriggling sago worms, silkworm pupae, and even giant water bugs the size of your hand! Adding to the challenge, some teachers also took on extreme spice challenges, pushing their taste buds to the limit.



Leading the charge were team captains Miss Downing and Mr. Roman, who guided their teams through a series of head-to-head battles and time races, all in a bid to be crowned "King of the Jungle." The competition was fierce, with both teams showing determination and (somewhat reluctant) bravery. After eight gruelling rounds, Miss Downing's team emerged victorious, claiming the title and ultimate bragging rights!



But it wasn't just the teachers who faced the ultimate test—Round 8 introduced a surprise student challenge! Six brave volunteers were randomly selected to join the teachers on stage and take on their own bug-eating challenge. Each student had to eat a bug-filled lollipop in front of a crowd of 250+ students and staff. With cheers (and a few gasps) from the audience, our student contestants showed incredible courage and determination, proving they were just as daring as their teachers!



The atmosphere was electric as students cheered on their favourite teachers and peers, watching in awe (and mild horror!) as they powered through each round. Some tackled the challenge head-on, while others needed a little more encouragement—but all showed incredible bravery and a great sense of humour.

A massive thank you to all the teachers, students, and staff who took part, as well as Creepy Critters for supplying the spine-tingling snacks. It was an epic event that won't be forgotten anytime soon, and we can't wait to see who's brave enough to take on the challenge next year!



Would you dare to try it? 🐛🦋🐛

Ms Downing - Head of PE

School Culture Day: A Celebration of Diversity and Unity

Our annual School Culture Day was an **outstanding success**, bringing together students and staff to celebrate the rich diversity within our school. The event was filled with **vibrant outfits**, **engaging cultural stalls**, and **exciting performances**, making it a truly memorable experience for all.



Students and staff arrived in a **stunning array of traditional and cultural attire**, showcasing the beauty and uniqueness of different backgrounds. The **informative stalls**, led by passionate student volunteers, provided valuable insights into various cultures through **interactive displays**, **traditional artefacts**, **fascinating discussions** and even tasty treats to try.



A highlight of the day was the **free henna station**, where talented **staff and student volunteers** created beautiful henna designs, adding a creative and personal touch to the celebrations.

The student event concluded with an **outstanding fashion show**, where students took to the stage with confidence, proudly representing their heritage through breath-taking outfits and performances. The energy, enthusiasm, and appreciation from the audience truly reflected the spirit of inclusivity and unity that our school values.



A huge thank you to **all the students, staff, and volunteers** who contributed to making this event so special. We look forward to an even bigger and better Culture Day next year!

Ms Downing - Head of PE



Year 10 students visit Royal Holloway, University of London

On Wednesday 23rd January, 40 of our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Royal Holloway, University of London, for an insightful introduction to higher education. Accompanied by Miss Raghwani, Mr. Ramjhon, and Mr. Tobias, the students spent the day learning about university courses, career opportunities, and student life at one of the UK's most prestigious institutions.

The visit began with an engaging presentation that introduced students to the vast range of degree courses available across the country. University representatives explained the different academic disciplines, from traditional subjects like law and medicine to more specialized fields such as data science, film studies, and international relations. The session also highlighted the varied career paths that graduates can pursue, emphasizing how a degree can open doors to industries ranging from finance and business to technology, media, and the arts.



After the presentation, students were taken on a guided tour of the beautiful Royal Holloway campus, which offered them a real sense of university life. The tour included a visit to the historic Founder's Building, known for its grand architecture and impressive dining hall. Students also explored the chapel, a peaceful space often used for concerts and ceremonies, and the university library, which houses thousands of books, study



spaces, and digital resources for students.

A highlight of the tour was a walk through the scenic woodland area surrounding the campus, where students saw the blend of nature and academia that makes Royal Holloway unique. They also had the chance to visit the student accommodation, giving them an idea of what it's like to live independently while studying.



For many students, this trip was an eye-opening experience, helping them envision their futures beyond secondary school. By gaining a deeper understanding of university education and career possibilities, the visit left them motivated and excited about the opportunities ahead.

Miss Raghwani, who helped organise the trip, shared her thoughts on the day: "It was fantastic to see the students so engaged and curious about university life. Trips like these help them think about their future and inspire them to aim high." With newfound knowledge and enthusiasm, Year 10 students returned from Royal Holloway with a clearer vision of their academic goals and aspirations, making this an invaluable experience for their future decision-making.

Mr E Ramjhon - Teacher of Geography

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

On Wednesday 29th January, 40 of our top mathematicians in Year 9, 10 and 11 participated in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge in the canteen. The students were selected by their maths teachers based on their aptitude in maths lessons so far this year. The students answered 25 multiple choice questions which were designed to stimulate problem solving skills and to be very challenging for even our elite mathematicians.

The results will be published in the next couple of weeks and prizes will be awarded to the Best in Year, Best in School as well as Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for those who reach those thresholds. Good luck to all our participants!

Mr Roman - Head of Maths



Hendon School Library - January Recap!

January was an exciting and inspiring month at Hendon School Library, filled with author visits, book clubs, cultural celebrations, and thought-provoking displays. Here's a look back at our main events:

✦ Author Visit: Tia Fisher



We had the pleasure of welcoming **Tia Fisher**, author of *Crossing The Line* and winner of the **2024 Yoto Carnegie Shadders' Choice Award**.

As Tia Fisher's novel powerfully explores the dangers of county lines exploitation, she spoke to **Year 8 students** not only about her exciting writing and publishing journey, but also about the importance of **staying safe and aware of risks** that young people may face. She provided valuable resources on recognising warning signs, looking out for others and knowing where to turn for help and support.

Later, Tia ran a **narrative verse workshop** with **Year 9 and 10 students**, inspiring them to experiment with and create their own **calligrams** - which were then put up on display. Her visit left students feeling inspired, engaged, and empowered!

🌍 Culture Day - Celebrating Diversity

Our whole school came alive on Culture Day with **traditional clothing, homemade dishes, and cultural pride** as students shared their heritage and experiences. In the library, we aimed to foster a fun and educative environment: we put on **music, held arts and crafts workshops** and created



displays and resources on the importance of diversity and inclusion. We also set up an **interactive question box**, where students and staff shared what their culture means to them, their favourite traditions, and their thoughts on inclusion & diversity – all of which we proudly displayed on our **Culture Wall**.

💖 Special thanks

We want to highlight the amazing work our **Library Ambassadors** bring to the library every day. We are very grateful that their hard work contributes to keeping the space tidy and full of life!

Looking forward to creating new exciting events and displays throughout the **Spring Term!**

The library team: Mrs Indran, Mr Lonergan & Miss Ledeme

Year 11 Business and Enterprise Students Enjoy a Sweet Learning Experience at Cadbury World!

On Wednesday 29th January 2025, our Year 11 GCSE Business and Level 2 Enterprise & Marketing students embarked on an exciting educational trip to Cadbury World in Birmingham, where they had the opportunity to see real-world business concepts in action.

The day began with an engaging educational talk, where students learned about the history of Cadbury, its innovative marketing strategies, and how the company operates on a global scale. This session provided valuable insights into key topics covered in their business studies curriculum, helping them make strong connections between theory and practice.



Following the talk, students enjoyed a self-guided tour of the factory, witnessing the chocolate-making process from bean to bar. They explored interactive exhibits on branding, ethical sourcing, and supply chain management, all

while getting a behind-the-scenes look at how one of the UK's most iconic companies maintains its success.



A highlight of the tour was the Cadbury World 4D Chocolate Adventure, where students experienced a thrilling cinematic journey, bringing the world of Cadbury to life through motion seats, stunning visuals, and immersive storytelling. This interactive experience added an extra layer of fun to the day, making it both educational and entertaining.



Of course, no trip to Cadbury World would be complete without a little indulgence! Each student received a goody bag of Cadbury chocolate, making for a truly 'sweet' end to the visit.

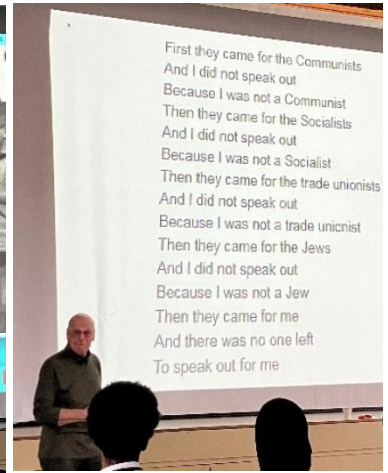
The trip was a fantastic learning experience that not only enhanced students' understanding of business principles but also made learning fun, engaging, and memorable. A big thank you to all the staff who helped organise and supervise the trip - we look forward to more enriching experiences in the future!

Mr Ammar - Head of Business and Economics

Hendon Students on CNN

As part of Holocaust Memorial Day, we were privileged to be joined by Jackie Young a Holocaust Survivor who shared his journey with us. The talk was filmed by CNN and shown on Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK and the USA. The students were interviewed and expressed their opinions about why it is so important to learn from the past and that they must use their voices for good.

Ms Doona - Assistant Headteacher



Diary Dates

❖ Friday 14 th February	House Day (Students to wear House Colours)
❖ Monday 17 th - Friday 21 st February	Half Term holiday
❖ Monday 24 th February	Academic Review Day
❖ Tuesday 25 th February - Monday 3 rd March	Year 11 Mock Exams
❖ Wednesday 26 th February	Year 8 Trip to Wembley Stadium
❖ Monday 3 rd March - Friday 7 th March	National Careers Weeks
❖ Wednesday 5 th March	Year 7 Bertha Earth Nature Walk
❖ Wednesday 5 th March	Year 8 Anti-Bullying Workshop
❖ Thursday 6 th March	Year 8-10 Imperial War Museum Trip
❖ Monday 10 th March	International Women's Day Football Tournament
❖ Tuesday 11 th March	Year 9 Solutions not Sides talk
❖ Wednesday 12 th March	Year 8 - 10 Cultural Diversity Speaker Trust
❖ Wednesday 12 th March	Community Iftar
❖ Thursday 13 th March	Barnet Dance Festival
❖ Thursday 20 th March	Year 10 Student Progress Evening
❖ Thursday 20 th March	Year 13 RE Conference
❖ Monday 24 th March	Year 10 Smart Futures Day
❖ Thursday 27 th March	Music Showcase Night
❖ Tuesday 1 st April - Friday 4 th April	Year 11 Speaking Exams
❖ Thursday 3 rd April	Year 7 Student Progress Evening
❖ Friday 4 th April	Last Day of Spring Term

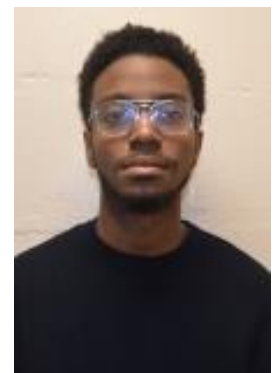
Hendon Student wins a National Award

Wesley (12.1) has been awarded one of only two Above and Beyond awards this year for his work as part of the wellbeing team.

The judges wrote "Wesley's outstanding dedication to supporting his peers' well-being is clear to see and makes him a fitting winner. His ability to relate to those younger is profound, demonstrated most notably in the Year 11 child he supported who went on to engage academically and complete their GCSEs. As Wesley continues with his education and in whatever he goes on to do when he leaves school, we encourage him to continue his kindness and commitment to others and to remain authentic in all that he does."

Wesley has been awarded £400 to spend on wellbeing resources and has been invited to become a Beyond Youth Board member. Well done Wesley we are immensely proud of you.

Ms Doona - Assistant Headteacher



Children's Mental Health Week

The wellbeing team have busy running a number of events to celebrate the week, including assemblies, mentoring sessions and the return of the popular wellbeing café serving over 300 hot chocolates in return for completing a brief survey. Members of the team attended the Barnet Students Question Time, to ask for more mental health support in the borough. Others recorded a video lesson for Secretary of State Bridget Philipson, asking her keep the manifesto pledge of a paid School based counsellor in every school in England.

For parents we ran a Wellbeing coffee morning, sharing the range of support we offer at school and with local partner organisations, including FUSE, who are able to support students in and out of school. Please see their information below.

FUSE youth project

Scan the code to sign up



Learn more about FUSE through our social media



We work with Children and young people from the ages of 8 years old

The F.U.S.E Youth Project aims to promote wellbeing and teach young people useful life skills through a range of activities such as cooking, creative arts, group discussions around youth centred topics and team sports. We also make it a priority to bring young people on exciting offsite trips to encourage them to explore and get to know the world outside of their estate.

Our youth clubs are a fun, safe and healthy environment for young people to meet new people, try new and exciting activities and become one step closer to reaching their full potential.

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Ms Doona - Assistant Headteacher

SMART Futures Day

This term we have held a number of drop-down events for students in Year 7 and Year 10.

All Year 7 students have taken part in first aid training, including CPR and how to deal with severe bleeding. First aid is an essential skill for everyone to learn, the students were excellent and really engaged.



If you want to learn first aid at home we would recommend the following site
<https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/learn-first-aid>

All Year 10 students have been taking part in a range of Careers and personal finance related sessions. Students have met with a range of different employers and colleges. By the 3rd careers day in July all students who wish to, will have been able to attend a University trip, these trips have included Royal Holloway, North Eastern and Hertfordshire Universities. Later this year, Year 8's will take part in an Enterprise day and Year 9's healthy lifestyles.

Ms Doona - Assistant Headteacher

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Congratulations to Nihal (10.6) on the outstanding speech she delivered on 14th January at the Barnet Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. We are so proud of the dedication she has shown and the progress she has made in her public speaking. What an incredible achievement to be awarded 2nd place of over 20 schools in Barnet!

Ms Downing - Head of PE



Careers in Music Recording

Alumni Ghadir Mustafa visits Y11 Photography class to talk about entrepreneurship in the music industry

On 5th February 2025, Ghadir Mustafa, former Hendon School student, spoke about XL Recordings, a British independent record label, where she works as an A&R (artists and repertoire) representative. This means she is responsible for finding promising new artists for a record label or music publisher to sign.



BXKS 'Wagashi' by Lauzza



She is currently also representing the rapper BXKS, who is signed with Play Piem, another music label. The students were watching BXKS' 'Wagashi' music video, which was inspired by Japanese culture and they analysed the visuals with regard to cinematography, photography and computer generated effects.

<https://www.promonews.tv/videos/2024/12/02/bxks-wagashi-lauzza/89242>

working with RECESS, who were founded in 2016, and are now one of the most prominent Black party programmers in London's nightlife scene. In 2020 when lockdown hit they started NO SIGNAL, a Black radio station, which Ghadir has been involved with too. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p099df1x/the-rise-of-no-signal-black-radio-here-to-stay>

Ms Schmid - Head of Photography



Year 12 Work Experience

All Year 12 students will be completing a one week work experience placement 7th - 11th July inclusive. Students are expected to source their own placements.

If you are able to offer a placement please contact careers@hendonschool.co.uk

Thank you for supporting our students.

Ms Doona - Assistant Headteacher

Hendon School Hosts Barnet Key Stage 4 & 5 Volleyball Festival

Hendon School was proud to host the annual Barnet Key Stage 4 & 5 Volleyball Festival, an exciting event organised by Barnet Partnership for Sport. With the expert support of Stuart Fullerton, head coach at Willesden Volleyball and our very own school volleyball coach, the tournament was a fantastic showcase of skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.



Hendon entered five teams into the competition, facing off against strong squads from Totteridge Academy, Mill Hill, and Friern Barnet. The atmosphere was electric, with every team bringing their best game to the court.

A standout performance came from Hendon's Team 4, made up of Year 8 boys who played exceptionally well throughout the tournament. They dominated the group stage, winning all their matches, and earned a place in the final against Totteridge Academy. Despite facing opponents 3-4 years older, our students rose to the challenge, delivering an incredible performance in a thrilling final. After some outstanding rallies and determined play, the boys secured silver medals, an impressive achievement against such tough competition.



A huge well done to all players for their effort, resilience, and sportsmanship! Hendon School continues to be a hub for volleyball excellence, and we look forward to more success in future tournaments.

Year 8 Girls' Football Team Secures 3rd Place in Barnet League!

Hendon School's Year 8 Girls' Football Team has had a fantastic season, finishing 3rd in the Barnet League! Their dedication, commitment to training, and passion for the game have been evident throughout, with every player showing a desire to improve and a can-do attitude.

More than just competitors, this team has built a strong bond, playing with enthusiasm, teamwork and most importantly, having fun every step of the way. Their hard work and determination has truly paid off. As a well-earned reward, the team will be heading to Wembley Stadium on the 26th February, to watch the England Lionesses take on Spain!

A huge congratulations to the team on their success—we can't wait to see what they achieve next!



Celebrating International Womens Day



This year, we're marking International Women's Day in style—with an exciting girls' football tournament on Monday 10th March! All 200 girls from Years 7, 8 and 9 will take to the pitch at Mill Hill Powerleague, competing in teams for the prestigious annual trophy.

We're thrilled to have Barnet Panthers Football Club sponsoring the event, supporting and empowering the next generation of female footballers. It is important for us to hold event days such as this and break down the barriers for girls accessing football and sport. As a result of the day all girls will be offered a free community football training session with Barnet Panthers and some will be given scout cards to attend competitive team training.

On top of a fun filled day with medals and trophies we will be holding a free raffle for all girls that attend the event. We are currently seeking support from local businesses to donate prizes. If any parents have contacts within their work places that could support with this please get in contact with Miss Downing: downingk@hendonschool.co.uk

Get ready for a day of skill, teamwork, and celebration as we champion women in sport!?

Ms Downing - Head of PE



The AS Photography/Art classes visited the Saatchi Gallery to investigate portraiture in the As We Rise:- Photography from the Black Atlantic exhibition

<https://www.saatchigallery.com/exhibition/as-we-rise-photography-from-the-black-atlantic> and Anastasia Samoylova's experimental images which record climate change in its surreal beauty and destruction
<https://www.saatchigallery.com/exhibition/anastasia-samoylova-adaptation>



A big thank you to Ms Latif for accompanying us in such an enthusiastic manner. The students were fantastic, so inquisitive and ready to take part in discussions and activities. They also experienced the Graffiti tunnel, Waterloo train station to practise street photography there and around Southbank.

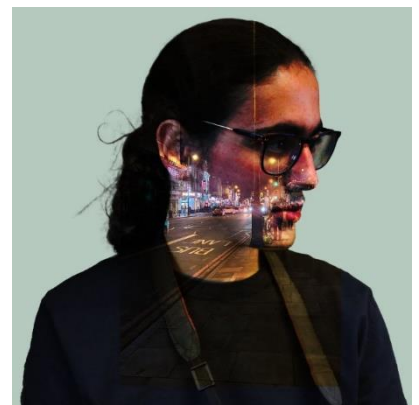
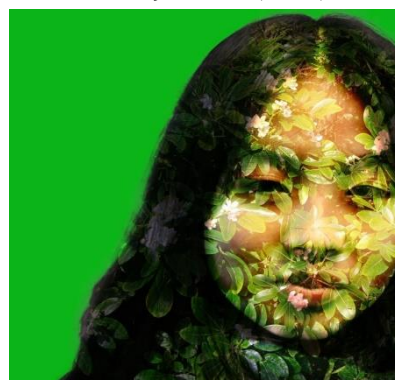
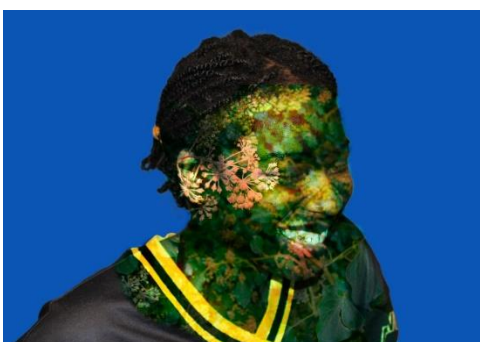
Our students had the opportunity to take part in a workshop with Rebecca Louis Law to help her arrange dried flowers for her monumental installation which is currently on show at the Saatchi Gallery
<https://www.saatchigallery.com/exhibition/flowers-flora-in-contemporary-art-amp-culture>



Ms Schmid - Head of Photography

Year 12 AS Photography Photoshop street portraits

The Year 12 AS Photography class have created impressive Photoshop images in response a street portraiture theme and they will be on display in the 6th form quiet study area of the school library soon. Well done to all students in the class! These images were created by Adam (12.4).

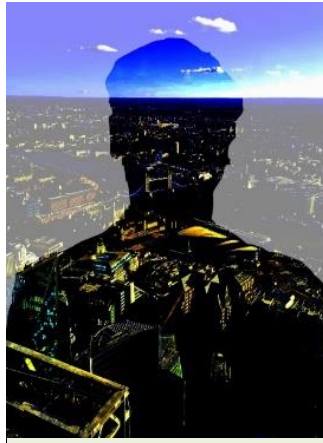


Ms Schmid - Head of Photography

Y11 Photography Class - London Eyes Unit 1 work in progress



Parvathy Santhosh Kumar



Alphonsa Roy

Well done to these Y11 Photography students whose Photoshop images were chosen by their peers as the best in response to the London Eyes theme. The theme encourages students to consider their own emerging identities in relation to society and the environment of London and its neighbourhoods.

They were also entered to the Young Artist's Royal Academy Summer show. <https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>

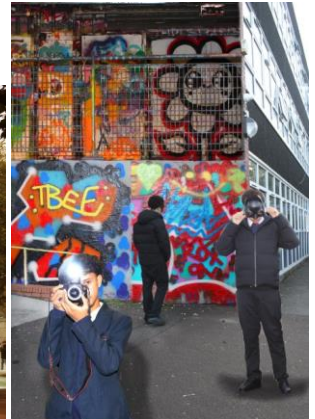
Ms Schmid - Head of Photography



Shuraiya Chowdhury



Yasmine Menaceur



Kai Wynter

Year 9 Art Clayheads

Year 9 art classes studied the theme 'Empathy or Horror' based on the artist Otto Dix' own experiences of WW1 soldiers in the trenches. Students created their own soldier clay heads to communicate empathy through facial contortions, injuries and a surreal combination of human and skull-like features. They were able to learn about kiln firing and glazing as part of the chemical processes used to create their final ceramic work. The sculptures are intended to serve as a reminder of the horrors of war.



Ms Schmid - Head of Photography

Year 7 Art Fruit Monsters

7.2 and 7.3 have created fantastic fruit monsters in response to Italian artist Guiseppe Arcimboldo's 16th century paintings. Students demonstrated teamworking and construction skills in order to assemble fruit and vegetables into 3D figures. They will be able to draw and paint these in forthcoming art lessons learning about proportion, 3D tone and colour mixing.



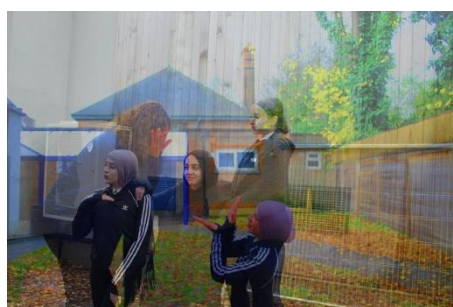
Ms Schmid - Head of Photography

Year 10 GCSE Photography Emotion Portraits

Year 10 Photography students have learned about portraiture and how to photograph and pose for each other while using body language to express a variety of emotions. The photoshoots required organisational skills, teamwork and time management in addition to coming up with a range of exciting location ideas.



Students then were introduced to Adobe Photoshop to experiment with colour tone edits and overlays to produce visual outcomes that emphasised the emotion theme. The class has made excellent progress and impressed with their creative ideas and skilful use of Photoshop tools.



Ms Schmid - Head of Photography