



Headteacher Mr Deria presented the January and February Jack Petchey awards to Nabiullah (left) and fellow student Anton

## Nabiullah's fast journey

A STUDENT who learnt English from scratch after arriving at The Excelsior Academy has been awarded the Jack Petchey Prize for January.

Nabiullah was praised by his teachers for overcoming challenges and always striving for excellence.

The prize recognises students for effort and positive contributions over academic ability.

Nabiullah said: "It means a lot, I feel very happy about it."

"I came from Afghanistan in Year 7. I'm from Jalalabad and I spoke Pashto. I learnt English in three years and my teacher, Miss Siemienieska, helped me a lot. GCSEs are hard but I'm doing okay."

"I was shocked when I came here. Afghanistan is very behind and this country is very ahead."

Technology is a good example, for instance."

Miss Bailey said: "He is a good lad and has come a long way since joining the school, overcoming challenges and learning English as an additional language from scratch."

"Nabiullah is a kind and thoughtful student, who continues to strive for excellence and has a mindset of wanting to succeed in all he does."

"He is a supportive and loyal friend."

February's winner was Anton, who received several nominations.

Miss Bailey added: "Anton loves languages, especially Mandarin, and is a real asset to the class, helping others and displaying real skill. He always gives 100 per cent in every lesson and is a wonderful role model."

## Human rights prove an inspiring subject

YEAR 8 and 9 students have spent six weeks learning about human rights in weekly tutorials led by law students from University College London.

The sessions, which take place every Monday, look at a range of issues on the subject, from UK to international human rights.

The workshops have been a source of huge inspiration for students interested in law and politics.

Year 9 Asya said: "What was most interesting to

me and most exciting was that we got to explore hypothetical positions of power."

"You were stranded on an island and given only ten laws to create. That really made us think why each law is so important. When we were forced to pick just ten, it became all the more important."

"Every law and politics workshop we do is specifically catered to the people that are interested in the subject."

# Hotel deal's the perfect partnership

THE Excelsior Academy is pleased to announce it has partnered with a luxury hotel to offer hospitality opportunities to our students.

Those interested in a career in hospitality will have the chance to attend a range of events with 1 Hotel Mayfair via the Hospitality Connect Scheme.

Events will take place at school and 1 Hotel and aims to broaden students' horizons and raise

aspirations. Head of Sixth Form and Careers Lead, Miss Mederick said: "1 Hotel are a luxury hotel brand, with rooms costing nearly £3,000 a night, hosting celebrity guests, including the likes of musician Ed Sheeran.

"1 Hotel will support our careers provision by providing students with an insight to careers in hospitality through school trips, insight events and speed mentoring."



## Club's climate experts

YEAR 10 students have graduated with flying colours from a programme exploring Climate Change.

The Brilliant Club's Scholars Programme saw students spend three months working alongside a PHD student from Cambridge University. After completing a 2,000-word essay,

students graduated, achieving 1st class and 2:1 grades.

Gift, who was on the programme, said: "I was looking at different protocols, which countries used to tackle climate issues.

"Thanks to the programme, I have gained a lot of knowledge from what

is going in the climate and now I have gained a lot of insight about how to tackle the problems we face.

"Our PHD tutor, Rhys Lewis from Queen Mary University, was really helpful.

"He gave us a lot of advice with the research we had to do."



## Five successful women provide real inspiration

INSPIRING women left students in awe at the school's annual International Women's Day Assembly.

Girls in Years 10 and 12 heard from a panel of five women working in industries including finance, law, beauty and construction.

Keichardae said she was particularly inspired by one panel member who pursued her dreams and has now become hugely successful.

She said: "We listened to five women, who all

had different jobs. There was a lady called Lola – at first she did engineering and changed to be an aesthetician.

"She was very inspiring. To be able to change like that shows you don't have to stay in the same job, if you know in your heart that you really want to explore other careers."

The school would like to offer a massive thank-you to Travers Smith, ASME Collective, Pollen Street, AXA and Lambert Smith Hampton.



**Beeb career tips**

A panel of professionals from the BBC discussed their careers with students.



## Kitchen creatives

Students are learning important life skills while cooking up a storm learning to create new dishes. The emphasis is on learning new skills to ignite a love for cooking and sharing food and making good memories.

## Theatre show sparked ideas

YEAR 10 GCSE drama students were inspired by a trip to the theatre.

The group watched 'Lost Atoms' by Anna Jordan at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith – a play that explores how love shapes our lives.

The Frantic Assembly production left students buzzing with ideas for their exam pieces.

Drama student Amari said: "It was really interesting. There were lots of props that were used to describe their life. I liked the girl in the story because she was bald. She wasn't scared to speak her mind and her truth and she wasn't scared to say no, that wasn't for her."

The knowledge gained from the trip can be transferred into the students' Live Theatre review, as part of their component 3 written exam.

Giving advice to fellow drama students, Hornel said: "Don't be afraid to speak up and say your ideas. Ask your questions, revise, do your work but also have fun."

Amari added: "Be yourself. Don't be afraid to be yourself. Show yourself through your acting, through your words."

# Students' tips on career options available

YEAR 8 got inspired in a careers workshop after choosing their GCSE options.

They learnt how different areas of the curriculum could develop various transferable skills.

They were also given tips on how to plan their careers.

Student Robera said: "I want to work in computer science.

I want to be a game developer, front end, back end, and the careers workshop teaches you what you need to learn.

"They gave me the ideas to look at doing clubs – computer clubs which they run in

school, and summer projects, and expand on it while you're at school. I'm doing GCSE computer science, triple science, and DT."

Options Evening also took place in February. Students had the opportunity to get feedback from their teachers and learn the next steps in the options process.



# Live politics proves real eye-opener

STUDENT Council members got a taste of politics in the real world after a visit to City Hall.

The Year 7 to 10 students were welcomed by Mayor of London, Sir Sadiq Khan, before sitting in on a London Assembly meeting.

Year 10 Nadirah, who has dreams of becoming Mayor of London herself, said the experience opened her eyes to dynamic ideas.

She said: "I found it interesting in the way they communicated with each other – some were very blunt with Sadiq!"

"We also had a workshop afterwards, where they explained

the history of London. I learnt the difference between the Mayor of London and the Prime Minister.

"I learnt that the Mayor of London's role is different – he doesn't look after schools, which I thought he would, he looks after Transport for London."

Tyler, from Year 10, said the atmosphere was "tense" during the meeting.

He added: "They [Assembly members] were quite blunt. They were very clear with their criticism towards Sadiq Khan and his policies. That was very interesting to see."



## Talking their way to the final

YEAR 10 students took part in a workshop with the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge.

The event saw 60 students write and perform speeches. Six brilliant TEA students won, claiming their place in the regional final.

Winner Jamelia used her two-minute speech to focus on youth issues.

She said: "My speech was in youth challenges and opportunities, and

employment issues in the youth. We don't know what the wider issues facing our generation will be in the future.

"The workshop was about growing our confidence and at the end of the session we were able to give our speeches.

"The biggest takeaway is that, sometimes you have to be able to be resilient, even if you don't want to do it, it will benefit you in the future."

# Debating with one of world's top economists

YEAR 12 were given rare access to one of the world's leading economists at a special talk.

Janet Henry (right), Global Chief Economist at HSBC, discussed her career journey before inviting students to debate current economic issues.

Umar said: "I asked how her team responded to the first set of Trump tariffs and she says those caught experts off-guard. The

biggest thing that I learnt, in the global sense, is that people can still get surprised how things can happen.

"She also talked about AI and she was very cautious.

"She understood it was an incredible opportunity, but how you look at it, the numbers aren't quite there yet. It is a very precarious situation.

"I loved the talk."



# Exploring conservation issues

YEAR 7 are taking part in an eco-club focusing on reducing food waste.

The students are meeting monthly to discuss different ideas around protecting the UK's natural environment.

The programme, in partnership with Action for Conservation, helps empower young people to engage with the environment and discover careers in

conservation. Michael said: "I enjoyed the different items that can be re-used and recycled, and learning about the items that cannot be recycled.

"I like the different systems, different eco systems, how nature is presented, and different biomes, like the Arctic, the rainforest, and the Sahara."

Alyssa added: "I have learnt certain materials are okay to be put into the ground to help decay."



Year 12 students are ready to embark on a 12-month mentoring programme, which includes a month's paid internship as part of the Career Ready programme.

# A taste of working life adds to CVs

YEAR 10 students spent a week doing work experience with employers in the local community.

The opportunity has allowed them to gain valuable skills for their CVs.

Beyza worked at Princess May Primary, her old school. She said: "The reason I wanted to go to a primary school is because I want to be a teacher.

"I helped Year 5 with every topic. I like helping children.

"Excelsior helped me pick the primary school and they organised it."

Ibrahim secured work experience at Co-Op as a shelf stacker.

He said: "I wanted to see what is like working at a shop.

"I liked it a lot. I enjoyed finding the barcodes and going out back to get the right items.

"The staff were nice and it was a good experience seeing what real work is like."

# Paris the target as students gear up for stadium finale



YEAR 9 have been hard at work over the last nine months developing an environmentally friendly product for a national competition.

JP Morgan Schools Challenge asked students to present a modern-day solution to water and food waste – with the top school winning a trip to Paris.

Kayden helped design a special tap, which filters and changes the flavour of water using a system of interchangeable buttons. He

explained: “It is called Flow Taps, which filters and changes the flavour of water, which is better for the environment. I was the graphics designer and I created the logo.

“There are pods at the back that you click and it changes the flavour. There are still and sparkling, mango, apple and grape.

“We are going to present it to the judges at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium (left) and they will choose the best product.”

# Business expertise comes to the fore

YEAR 12 put their business minds to the test during an enterprising day at Spitalfields Market.

They were tasked with selling custom cushion covers as part of the Young Enterprise Company Programme.

Adnan said: “We sold hand-stitched embroidery covers. We got there around 9.30am and set up our stalls – it was very hectic.

“Our target audience was mostly older women and we had a group of five people selling.

“We sold out – we only bought six, we underestimated how popular they would be.”

Reflecting on the event, Adnan said: “I took leadership skills from it, I learnt to speak to everyone, hear and take everyone’s side.”

Aliza said: “We had our product ready, a wooden keychain and inside it has an NFC tag – people can put websites on it. We had about 15 of them.

“We made them in the DT room. We use the laser machine to engrave and cut the wood. The actual keychain parts we ordered from Amazon.

“I think it is good to have the skills to know how to run a company.”



# Trials of building robots

STUDENTS have taken part in a regional competition that saw them building robots and competing against other schools.

Four Year 12 students were asked to create three machines that fired balls into a collection system.

But the journey to the regional heats – where they came second – was not without its obstacles.

Quincy, who was part of the team, said: “We entered the competition with three robots.

“On the day, two of them stopped working. It was working fine the day before, but not on the

day! We still managed to do the competition by ramming the balls into the collection system. There were ten teams, but we managed to get second.”

William, who led the team at the competition, said: “There was an inspection to make sure the robots were safe to use.

“The judges looked at the build processes, then the competition itself. Two robots were put in a team against another and they had to score as many points as possible. We lost in the finals 2-1.”

## Summit delights

STUDENTS had the opportunity this term to earn two Summit prizes – a film afternoon and a fun prize quiz.

Prizes are awarded to those who earn TEA£300 or more per half-term – which is earned through their attendance and hard work.

Megan, from Year 8, earned more than TEA£400 on her payslip this term.

She said: “I’ve won it both times, it feels good.

“If you’re on time every week, it builds up on your points and it updates on a Friday.

“If we get over £400, you get to go out of lesson, and have a celebration. last term we watched Rango and played bingo, which was really fun. I especially like the prizes, including the chocolate!”

## Tasty reward for working hard

HARD-WORKING students were invited to celebrate their achievements at our termly Headmaster’s Celebration Breakfast.

They were nominated by their heads of learning for being our “always” students, and for going above and beyond every day.

They were duly rewarded with a full English breakfast and time to socialise with other winners, before being awarded a certificate presented to them by Mr Deria.

Moses said: “I was invited because of my excellent work during term.

“I enjoy maths and the teacher is really pleased with my work. English is also going well for me, I’m very good at it.

“I felt like a rewarded man, I felt like I deserved it, I feel very happy.”





# Cheering on Gunners to historic win

STUDENTS and parents were part of football history as they watched Arsenal Women crowned champions of the first-ever FIFA Women's Champions Cup.

Arsenal beat Brazilian side Sport Club Corinthians Paulista 3-2 after extra time in a thrilling final in front of an electric home crowd at the Emirates Stadium.

For our students, it was more than just a football match, it was an opportunity to witness elite women's sport at the highest level.

The atmosphere inside the stadium was unforgettable and the celebrations at the final whistle will be a memory that lasts a lifetime.

Nafisat said: "The atmosphere was amazing.

"Arsenal means a lot to me, I have been supporting them for a long time – I love Beth Mead.

"I really enjoy football. It is really important, it means a lot to me, I have been playing it for a long time. Seeing England's

Lionesses win makes me feel women's football is becoming much better. More people are putting effort into the game."

A huge thank-you to the parents who supported the trip and helped make this special experience possible.

"What an incredible way to inspire the next generation of footballers.

## Teaming up is fun

YEAR 7s have been taking part in a special football programme in partnership with Arsenal FC.

Strong Young Gunners, which takes place every Thursday, focuses on improving technical ability, decision-making and match play.

It has also given students vital life skills, such as improved communication,

confidence, self-control and teamwork.

Student and Arsenal fan Diamond said: "I'm left amazed that we get to be involved with Arsenal, my club.

"We do drills – it was a lot of fun. The coaches have been very supportive and they help us upgrade our skills.

"I have become a much better player while on the course."



Our Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award students took time to fine-tune their tent skills before their practice expedition in April.