



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE WEST LONDON REGION THIS HALF TERM?



On 30th September Park Academy West London welcomed students and their parents to the academy to celebrate the many achievements of students over the last academic year. Parents and staff beamed with pride and it was a great way to start the year and remind ourselves of the determination and resilience shown by the students during the course of the pandemic. On the evening our Sixth Form charity committee started their fundraising year with a successful refreshment stand. The students and staff baked goods to be sold and they sold very quickly on the evening.

On Friday 8th October our Year 13 students took part in a "Living away from home" day. The event was planned to help students gain an appreciation of what they need to consider when they leave home to attend university. Students took part in a carousel of activities including a cooking workshop where they prepared a pasta bake. Brunel university ran a workshop on renting and tenancy agreements and another workshop was focused on budgeting and how they could manage their finances at university. Students were amazed at how much everything costs and started to understand why their parents were strict when it came to money!

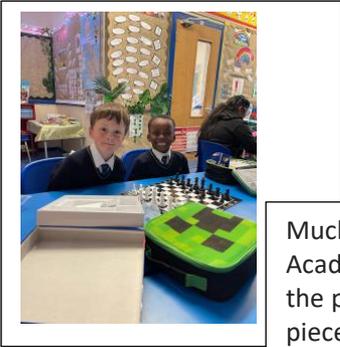


The return to life with more normality has been excellent at SSWL with students getting the opportunities to engage in activities that would not have been possible through the Covid restrictions. To establish a belonging and sense of achievement we were delighted to welcome back the Starchaser rocket company so that year 10 and 12 could work as teams to build their own solid fuel rockets and launch and test them on the school field. Fun and excitement as well as curiosity and creativity are at the forefront of the extra curricular clubs we have been able to run this term including CAD CAM, Flight simulator and Board games to name three of the 12 we run each week.



It has been an amazing start for the children at Oak Hill Academy! There have been many fun and exciting activities for the children to take part in and increase their engagement within physical activity. We all took part in the National Fitness Day where we completed different exercises throughout the school day and the children earned certificates to take home. The children and staff had lots of fun and learned some new exercises along the way! We have also been running The Golden Mile twice a week and the children have their own trackers to keep a record of their score and to see their own progression. We also took part in our first inter-school competition of the year- both children and staff absolutely loved it! Year 5 and 6 girls were taken to Southville School to compete in an all-girls football festival. They played against six other schools, having fun whilst working on their social and physical skills. The feedback from the children has been positive and some have now joined a football club outside of school from the amazing experience. We look forward to even more incredible sporting activities and competitions throughout the year!





Much fun and excitement happened in the summer when Oriel Academy installed a giant-sized tarmac chess board in the playground (complete with large, free-standing chess pieces!); this has subsequently spawned an increasing love for the game, as this year's Chess Club has seen a record number of members join! These would-be Chess Masters meet weekly on a Wednesday after school to pit their skills against each other and develop their knowledge of the game under the expert tutelage of Miss Armour! As we approach Christmas, plans are afoot for a *staff v pupils* extravaganza- you can smell the fear in the staffroom already!



What does it take to make a change? What is needed to become the next Malala or Greta? The Year 7 students of Rivers Academy have been exploring this in our most recent unit of transdisciplinary curriculum, 'Demos Kratos'. Where we investigate the history of democracy and explore how we can have a positive impact on our local community.

For many, there is a fear surrounding the topic of politics. It may be seen as incomprehensible or inaccessible to many, including our West London students. However, our sixth formers jumped at the chance to recreate a House of Commons debate which had the Year 7s hooked and determined to make their persuasive pitches to Feltham and Heston MP, Seema Malhotra.

There is no doubt that the pandemic has had a significant impact on all school-aged children which has made the need for the development of life skills even more important. Face-to-face communication and collaboration have been barriers that many struggled with, particularly during the planning stages. However, after trials, tantrums and tears, students were able to have, as one student put it, "a very exciting and scary" meeting and Q&A session with Ms Malhotra MP; something they enjoyed so much that it ran into their break time.

Our students were inspired by the chance to meet Ms Malhotra MP, so much so that they overcame their fear of presenting in a post-pandemic world. As one student puts it, "I learnt how to be confident and say my speech in front of Ms Seema Malhotra. I was super confident just because I knew you believed in me." and that is what Rivers and the Aspirations' transdisciplinary curriculum aims to achieve for all.

