



Links Academy Hatfield

Summer Term Newsletter 2023



Ben Rice—Head of School

It is with great pride that I write this piece for the newsletter at the end of my first year as Head of School at Links Academy Hatfield. I couldn't be prouder of the team we have built this year who have worked tirelessly to support the young people here at Links Academy. I am sure you will join me in wishing all staff a restful and restorative break.

As for the young people at the school they never fail to surprise and exceed expectations. This year has seen so many wonderful moments from the schools first competitive football match in years to the way the Year 11's conducted themselves so maturely in their examinations this summer. We have made a strong connection with Reach Every Generation who delivered a powerful workshop on their experiences of gangs and criminality for our young people. Gavin and Georgie were so impressed by our students that they invited our school to their centre in Essex. The biggest highlight for me this year has been the drop down days/sessions, the young people have played everything from cricket to monopoly against staff and have shown a whole new level of connection enabling them to regulate themselves significantly better when they return to their learning.

Next academic year we will continue to build and develop our education provision. A brand new indoor gym will be in place for September, the young people can work out their frustrations under the watchful eye of Mr Lewis-Moran. Media and Music will be added as an option to Key Stage 4 and we will also be expanding the PHSME curriculum for all students. In the past few weeks we have held our first Parent Day events with Mr Williams who presented our plans for the school. We hope to expand this connection with families next academic year by making all parents/carers feel a much bigger part of what we do at Links Academy. There will be two new classrooms on site from October half term enabling us to work with smaller groups away from the main body of the school. We are hoping to add a therapy dog to our staff list, details still being finalised, so watch this space...

I am very excited for what next year will bring and look forward to the continued development of our school. Thank you for all your support throughout the year and wish you all a restful, calm and positive summer break.

School Calendar

Term Ends Results Day

Thursday 24th August
10.00—12.00 pm

Autumn Term INSET Days

Monday 4th September
Tuesday 5th September

Student Parent Review Day

Wednesday
6th September
Form Tutors/Pastoral
Leaders will arrange a
convenient time to meet
with parents and students.

Term Starts

Thursday 7th September
Half term
Monday 23rd October
to
Friday 27th October

We say goodbye to:-

Mr D Wood—Site Manager
Ms Berto—Teacher
Mrs L Opsblum—Teacher

Parents Day

We have introduced a Parents Day. This event aims to bring us together as a community, offering an opportunity to discuss our plans and strategies for the next academic year.

The Parents Day event will be divided into three time slots to accommodate your schedule. During each time slot, our SLT and some teaching staff will be available to meet with you individually or in small groups, allowing for personalised conversations and ensuring that all your questions and concerns are addressed. We strongly encourage you to attend the time slot that is most convenient for you.

We will be focusing on two important areas: our behaviour strategy and curriculum strategy for the upcoming academic year. Our dedicated team has been working diligently to develop innovative approaches that will enhance the overall educational experience for our students. We value your input and would greatly appreciate your thoughts and suggestions regarding these strategies.

Additionally, Parents' Day will serve as a platform to showcase some of the remarkable work our students have produced throughout this academic year. From creative projects to academic achievements, you will have the opportunity to witness first-hand the progress and growth your child has made.

We are genuinely excited to welcome you to Parents' Day and look forward to strengthening our partnership for the betterment of our students. Your presence and participation will make a significant difference, reinforcing the importance of teamwork between home and school.

Should you have any immediate questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our school office. We are always available to assist you.

Thank you for your continued support.



Examination Results Day



Thursday 24th August

The school office will be open from 10.00am until 12.00pm for you to collect your child's results. Please note that we are not allowed give results over the telephone, if you are unable to collect the results in person we will post them to you on that day.

We would like to wish the Year 11's good luck for the future years.

This year marks the end of my first full year with Links Academy. Having started at the school in June 2022 I have spent my time getting to know the students and building positive relationships and I can honestly say I have loved it. I have been kept busy working across the Trust at the Hixberry school, Hatfield school, at Cedars Primary Support Base and at Woollam Crescent, our pupil support base. From the moment I started I have been so impressed with the support and the opportunities the students have to succeed at school and it has been fantastic to see great moments where students have taken those opportunities and enjoyed learning new skills and gaining knowledge.

The main purpose of my role is to be a positive representative of the Police for the students and to demonstrate that our goal is to help our communities and keep people safe. As a constant presence around the Trust. I hope that I have been able to act as a positive role model and, for some, be someone that they feel they can talk to if they are experiencing any problems. It has been a pleasure to spend time with the students, get know them and join in with lessons, activities and trips.

Over the summer holidays I will be returning to my duties as a PCSO in Welwyn Garden City and then I'll join back up with everyone at Links for the start of the new school year, which I am very much looking forward to. In the meantime, I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer break. Stay safe.



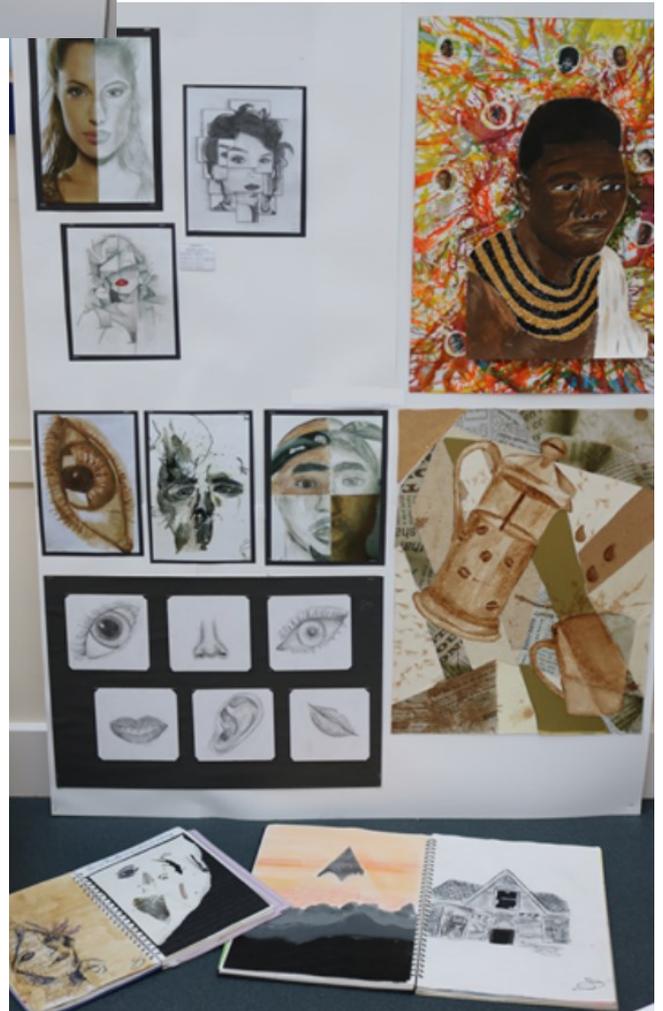
PCSO 6052 Richard BUNN
Links Academy Schools PCSO

Work email: richard.bunn@herts.police.uk

GCSE ART

Well done to the Year 11 Art & Design cohort who successfully completed their GCSE course. The eight students explored 2D and 3D techniques to produce art pieces for Unit 1: Personal Portfolio based on the project themes of Identity and Fragments. This year Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment was reinstated and students responded to the topic 'Lock' to create a variety of exciting and original results. Students experimented with using a wide range of materials and processes to create some excellent sketchbook work, sculptural pieces and stunning final outcomes. The work was presented as a beautiful exhibition which showcased their efforts.





KS3 and Year 10 ART



This term in Art the KS3 students have been looking at the topic of 'Colour & Shape'. Students have been developing their knowledge of colour theory by mixing and applying colours, tints and shades. They have been looking at a range of Abstract artists and have created their own Abstract art.

To finish the term, students have been drawing their own dragon's eyes, focusing on colour and blending. They have produced some fantastic outcomes.



Year 10 students have continued on their GCSE Art projects of 'Food & Drink' and 'Identity'.

They have been exploring a range of different media and techniques whilst experimenting with different artists' styles. Students have been creating 2 layer stencils and spray painting them and others have been using clay to create their own 3D sculptures in the style of Claes Oldenburg.

We have had some lovely results this half term.

Construction



In construction, students have been developing their craft techniques using wood. They have looked at the qualities of the materials and selected the correct tools and equipment to make their product. Different finishes have been chosen with students using paint, varnish and some choosing a 'shabby chic' look using natural stains such as tea or coffee. Many students have used the laser printer to personalise their work.



Trip to IKEA



Some of our students went to Ikea to research products that are commercially available for their 'Room Redesign' project.

Obviously, there was lots to see and we got a great deal of inspiration.

Some of the products had to be tested to see if they could withstand the rigours of everyday use.



THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY

KS3 Geography

Students have been learning about how the UK is going to change due to the impact of global warming – while the southern part will continue to get warmer and warmer, some plants and animals species may become extinct. Also, the southern part of the UK could become more like Mediterranean countries such as Italy and Spain with more roadside cafes and restaurants as the warmer climate will accommodate this more laid back lifestyle.



Y10 Travel and Tourism

Recently, in Travel & Tourism, students have been learning about how to plan a holiday by being given a set budget to spend on a mode of transport – for this, they have had to research which is the most convenient and cheaper: train, flight or car, and then onto booking accommodation using sites such as Booking.Com and Laterooms considering whether to book full or half board, or just B&B, or self catering, and then assessing whether to go out on some excursions bearing in mind their set budget, and after all this to justify their choices.



Year 10 History

Crime and Punishment Through Time

'Trial by Ordeal'

For serious crimes, a suspect could be tried by the Church to see if they were guilty or innocent through undertaking an ordeal. If the suspect didn't pass their trial, it was seen as God's punishment as the priest had called upon God to give his judgement, and God was viewed to come to the aid of the innocent.

Ordeal by water: the suspect's feet and hands were bound together and they were then thrown into water. If they floated they were pronounced guilty of the crimes they'd been accused of, if they sank they were innocent.



Public Services

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

This term, we have been looking at how to live in a healthy way in terms of our mental, physical and mental wellbeing.

Here are a few tips for everyone:

Self-Care & Mental Health

for Kids

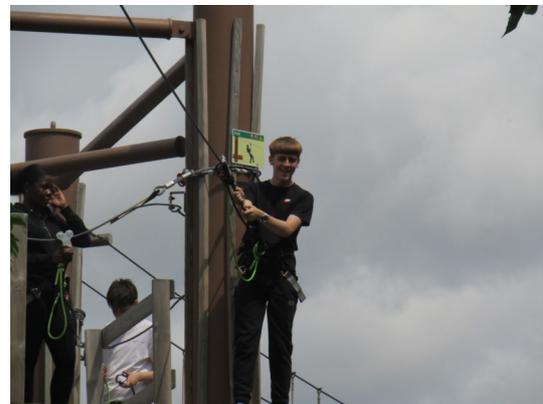
- Share your own feelings to **encourage** self-awareness.
- Find social groups that help them feel like they **belong**.
- Set aside time for **low-stress** or solo activities.
- Practice **self-care** for yourself to set the standard.
- Focus on articulating **feelings**.
"I am angry."
"I am sad."
- Encourage **journaling** and diaries.
- Encourage your child to focus on the **moment**.
- Establish a **self-care** routine.
- Recognize **toxic stress** events.
- Cultivate interests and **hobbies**.

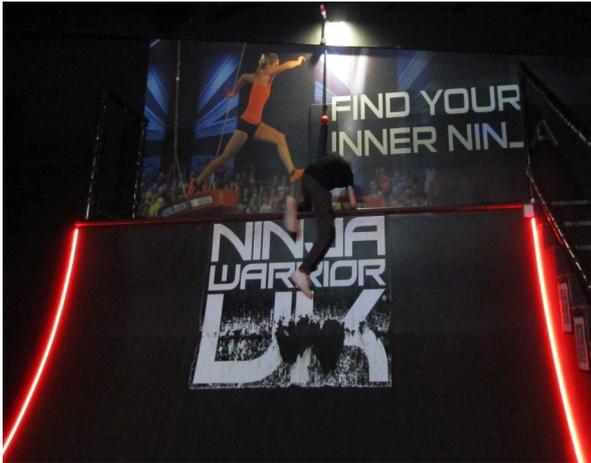
Go Ape

The reward visit this half term was to Go Ape at Alexandra Palace. 5 students challenged their physical and mental ability to complete two of the of the tree top courses which incorporated high ropes, zip wires and balance tests.

The students pushed their nerves to the maximum and were forced to step out their comfort zone when they were confronted by the Plummet; a 46ft high sheer drop. With lots of wobbly knees and a few screams this was a true test of resilience as some students (and staff) confronted their fear of heights.

Set at the iconic Alexandra Palace with stunning panoramic views of London a fantastic day was had by all





Ninja Warrior

Five students pushed their fitness and strength to the limits during the end of half term reward visit to Ninja Warrior based in Watford. Inspired by the TV show, Ninja Warrior combined fitness and fun as students tried to master their Inner-ninja as they tackled a course of adrenalin-fuelled obstacles and inflatables.



The epic indoor centre included the skills of climbing, balance, jumping and swinging, as well as scaling the famous Warped Wall, which all five brave participants achieved... unfortunately the same can't be said for the staff!

One awesome Year 8 student challenged the instructor to a race and ascended the vertical wall as if he was Spiderman. All five students demonstrated impeccable behaviour and it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip.



Year 11's Leavers Ceremony



The year 11 BBQ was a chance for us to say goodbye to our 2023 cohort. On a beautiful day, we were able to celebrate our students successes.

We also had great fun with our 'what are you most likely to become' awards. It was nice to see parents turn up to the event and enjoy some of the food that was on offer. It was good to see both our students and staff spending quality time together and reminiscing over times spent in the school.

From everyone at Links Academy we would like to wish the best of luck to all our year 11 in their future endeavours.



Services for Young People (SfYP) is here to support young people

[Services for Young People](#) (SfYP) provides free youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and wider support for young people aged 11-19 across Hertfordshire. This includes helping young people with any challenges that they may be facing, including careers guidance, managing money, independent living, substance misuse, relationships and sexual health and emotional wellbeing.

How we can help: Careers Advice & Guidance

Are you worried about making plans for the future? SfYP are skilled in supporting young people to their next destination with the help of our friendly and qualified Personal Advisers. Links Academy has their very own SfYP Personal Adviser, Kath Weston, who can support you with exploring your options, completing applications, writing CVs, finding work experience and much more. Kath can be found in school every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

How we can help: youth work projects

SfYP also delivers a wide range of free [youth work projects](#). As well as learning new skills, these projects enable you to boost your emotional wellbeing, meet new people and challenge yourself to take part in new opportunities. Projects include plenty of different activities, such as recording music in our music studios, sports, drama, quizzes and art. We also have specific emotional wellbeing projects where you can learn CBT techniques to help manage anxiety, as well as projects to develop your confidence and look after your mental health. All of our projects are delivered in our Young People's Centres in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.

Access Point Projects

Our [Access Point Projects](#) provide information, advice, guidance and support for 13-19 year olds. You can access support for finding work, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities, as well as accessing our youth work projects and young people's relationships and sexual health services.

How to get in touch?

To [find out more](#) or [sign up](#) you can visit our website (www.servicesforyoungpeople.org), or you can **email:** sfyp@hertfordshire.gov.uk, **call:** 0300 123 7538 or **text:** 07860 022943. You can also keep in touch over Instagram and Twitter (@HCCSfYP).



**Services for
Young People**

