



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES • WIDER HORIZONS • SUCCESSFUL FUTURES

Links Academy Hatfield

Spring Term Newsletter 2023



We are now at the end of the second term and summer is fast approaching, evenings are getting lighter and the daffodils are blooming. And what that means for our learners is that it is almost exam time. I hope that the Year 11's get all the success their hard work deserves and as hard as it is to say goodbye to them, wish them all the luck in whatever they choose to do next.

As you can see in the photo below and in the write up later in the newsletter, we played our first competitive football fixture for quite a while. I won't spoil the surprise of what happened but instead focus on the Links team and how it feels this year more than ever that the teamwork here at the school is a real positive. It is a pleasure to work in a school where students and staff work to support and be successful together.



Head of School
Mr B Rice

We welcome

Ms C Faux—Social and Emotional Lead
Mr Lewis-Morin—Teacher of Sport

School Calendar

Term Ends

31st March 2023

Summer Term

INSET Day

Monday 17th April

Student Parent Review Day

Tuesday 18th April

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

Term Starts

Wednesday 19th April

Half term

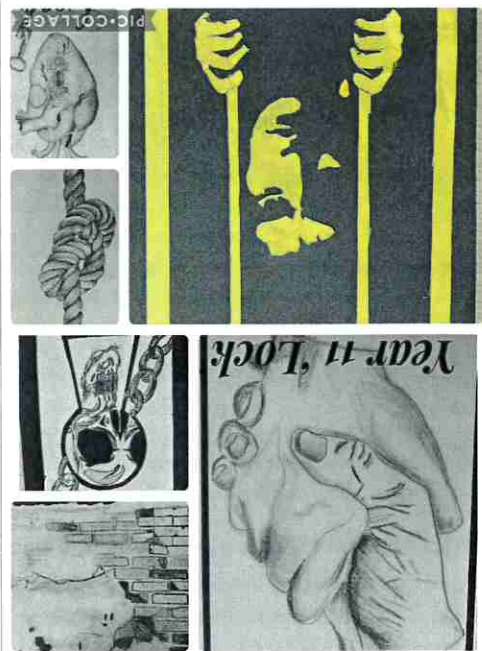
Monday 29th May
to
Friday 2nd June



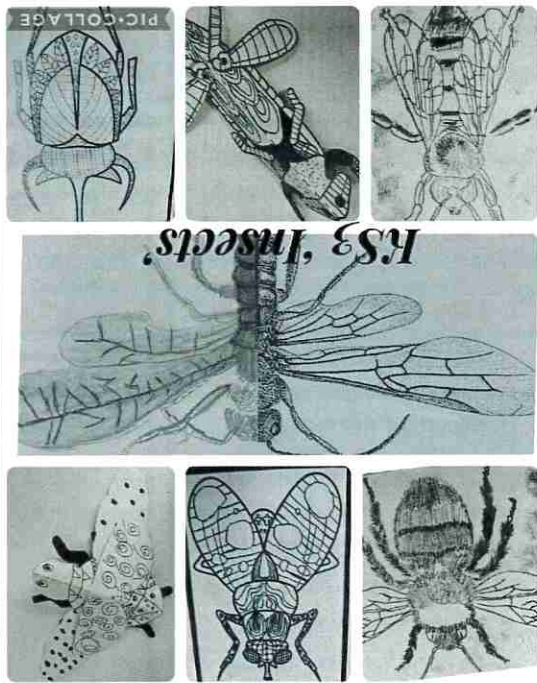
Year 11 students have been working extremely hard on their new Externally Set Assignment project with the theme of 'Lock'. Students have been identifying key ideas within the theme.

Students have produced eye catching title pages and have begun exploring a range of media to develop their ideas and artistic studies.

Good luck to our year 11 students—keep up the hard work!



Year 10 have been working on their themes of 'Identity' or 'Food & Drink'. They have been experimenting using a range of media and techniques. Most recently, students have been working on a range of printing techniques including mono printing, press of printing and lino printing. Students have worked hard this term and have produced some lovely outcomes towards their GCSE grades.



KS3 have been working on an insect project this half term. They have been exploring the formal elements of art including: line, shape, pattern, texture and form. We have been looking at the artist Rosalind Monks who uses Zentangle patterns in her work. The students have been creating their own Rosalind Monks inspired insects. Students have also been creating their own 3D insects with some lovely outcomes.



Social Development

At Links, we love to promote the social and personal development of our young people. Whilst the school environment is about learning, not all learning has to be academic. For many of our students, the chance to play the staff in various sports or challenge each other to a fiercely fought game of Monopoly (or Ludo) is a welcome treat whereby play is actually teaching the young people valuable life skills. With that in mind, Friday afternoon has become an integral part of developing our young people socially and emotionally.

Friday, period 5, has recently witnessed some exciting and enjoyable opportunities for staff and students to come together as a whole school in friendly competition through sporting events such as cricket (staff v students), badminton (staff student pairs) and football. The events have been a chance for everyone to exercise, enjoy being together and for the staff to support the young people in being resilient (when they lost), respectful (when they won) and responsible (including everyone and playing fairly and safely). It has been amazing to see how many of the young people have shown real sporting skill or a willingness to 'have a go' and team up with others too.

There have also been chances to play games together in the hall - there have been some super competitive (and very loud) games of Monopoly as staff and students have strategised, agonised and argued their way to a win. Rematches are definitely being requested! The friendly, fun atmosphere is a wonderful way to end the day and everyone seems content to join in - either through play, spectating or advising others. We have seen students play Chess, Ludo and card games too. And one student played two different games at once!

Friday afternoons have been a perfect way to end a hard week this half term. Thank you to all of the staff and students for readily embracing a different kind of learning which is no less valuable than the classroom. The oneness of the school has really been felt in these moments. Keep up the competitive participation!



History, Geography, Religious Studies, Public Services and Travel and Tourism

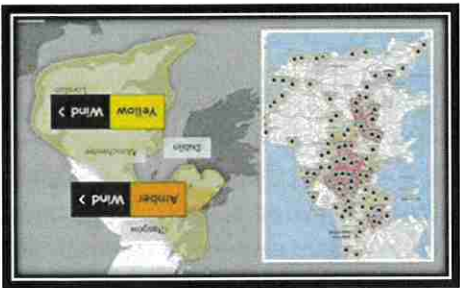
In Geography, students have been learning about the damaging effects of global warming and how this is impacting on how millions of people all over the world are living, and in History, students have been learning about the Industrial Revolution which began with polluting the earth.



In Religious Studies, students have been learning about Christian beliefs and how to be with others: if we want others to be kind to us, we have to be kind to them.



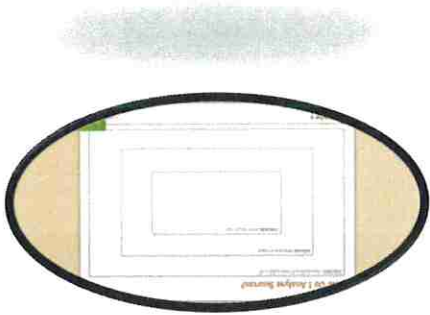
In Public Services, students have been learning about the latest UK government initiative concerning a 'danger to life' text alert in national security.



In Travel and Tourism, students have been learning about the UK travel tourism industry, and lately about sustainability which is all about offering tourist services and facilities while at the same time protecting our environment and local communities.



In History, some students in Year 11 have been preparing for their mock exams which entails practising how to answer exam questions.



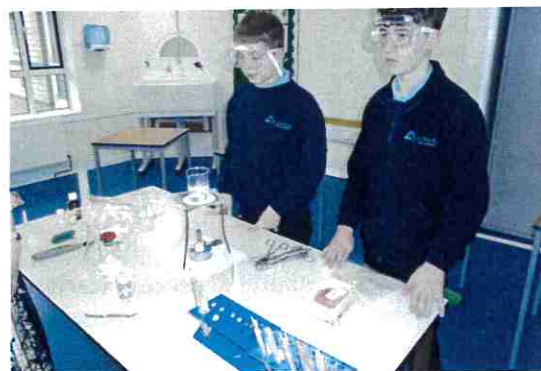
Science Week

The school celebrated British Science Week by giving students the opportunity to enter a poster competition based on this year's theme: "connections". Each lunch time videos played celebrating science week. Students could see videos on the rainforest, the ocean and space along with exciting experiments. They were given the opportunity to participate in poster making. We encouraged students to think about the climate and how humans are connected to the elements.

On the 22nd March 2023 the students enjoyed a practical day with our guest scientist and biologist Ms R Hooper who works at Parmters school. The KS3 students had the opportunity to participate in three chemistry experiments: making elephant toothpaste, turning pennies from silver into gold and experiencing the vivid colours when various metals reacted with flames. They were fascinated with the bright colours and how metals reacted.



KS4 were able to see and touch a brain and dissect an eye and lamb's heart. The students actively participated and could see how their diagrams of the heart, eye and brain came to life. Along with the practicals, were detailed explanations of how each organ or each metal works and reacts with the body.



Students found the day fun and engaging. At the end of the session we took the hearts and organs to the outside field and watched the kites come down and have a feast. It was lovely to see nature at work and how our day of learning made the birds so happy. It was nice to end the day seeing how connected nature is and listening to the birds communicate with each other.

Design and Technology



Caiden and Kacie have begun a gardening project and this term during a Design and Technology lesson they both worked extremely hard as a team to cut, measure and build a flower/plant bed. They worked safely and seemed to really enjoy the assembly stage of the project. They still have a few stages to complete but this is going well and we can't wait to see plants and flowers growing around the school.

Design and Technology



Sammy has been working on his resin Lego table for some time and has had challenges along the way. He has now made great progress and will finish the table within the next month. Sammy continues to show good craft skills and is a star student in Design and Technology. I have no doubts about his future in the construction industry.

Apex Music Project

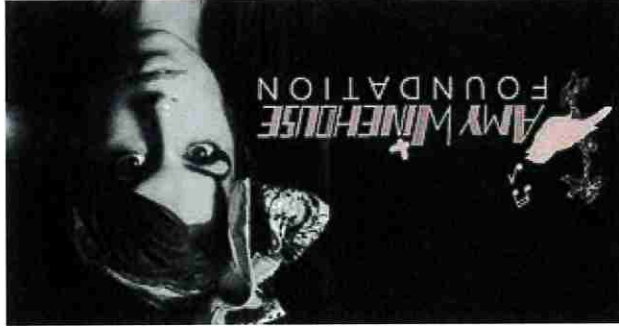
In March, we welcomed Apex Project who are delivering a music production course to a selection of students over the next six weeks.

Using Logic Pro or FL studios, this course is designed to teach novices how to put together a song using basic techniques such as loops and midi. It will also look the essential building blocks of any song such as the drums patterns, melodies, vocal recording and arrangement, the use of basic equipment and the use of effects and plug ins. The course will also touch upon song structure and the fundamental techniques and concepts used within the mixing process and audio editing.

At the end of this course, students will produce an original piece of music displaying all of the techniques and skills learnt throughout the duration of the course.



Amy Winehouse Foundation



In February, we also had a visit from Joe from the Amy Winehouse Foundation who came to deliver a session around his lived experiences of alcohol and drug addiction and his struggles with mental health. He spoke openly about the difficulties he had endured, his battle to get clean and also the impact his addiction had on his family, specifically on his dad. Several students stayed behind after the session to talk with Joe, clearly having been impacted by his talk.



On 7th February we were delighted to host a visit from Gavin and Georgie from Reach Every Generation - a not for profit project based in Essex helping divert children and young people away from gangs and criminality. Gavin and Georgie ran two sessions, one for KS3 and one for KS4. During these intimate sessions, Gavin and Georgie talked about their lived experiences of life in gangs when they were younger. Gavin particularly pulled no punches, speaking of the trauma and violence he experienced, and Georgie talking about the DV she was subject to. The students were reticent at first, asking who these people were but they were completely engaged in the sessions and listened intently and respectfully, asking questions about their experiences. Gavin and Georgie were so taken with our students that they invited us to bring the whole cohort to The Base, their centre in Essex on 26th April so we have arranged a day trip. There they will be able to use their gym and music studio.



Gravity Trampoline Park

From the strictly academic benefits of school trips to the advantages of school trips for personal development, the school trips are an essential part of the school experience for students. They are a terrific way to get the students out of the classroom and into an environment where they can learn more about themselves.

At the same time, the shared experiences, and the opportunity to have fun together can only improve the student teacher relationship as well as behaviour and engagement back in the classroom. To reward some of our KS3 students we organised a School trip to the Gravity Trampoline Park in Stevenage.

The weather was ideal on that January morning when after collecting our packed lunches and First Aid bag we set off in the school bus for Stevenage.

We had to book in advance to use facilities as they had other groups on, but we were lucky as the centre was not terribly busy at the time we arrived. That left us with lots of space to use and the opportunity to really "let off steam" and have fun.

After checking in and collecting our non-slip socks, we had to watch a short safety video before running off to a vast trampoline space.

It was truly inspirational to see our students interacting with each other, with their teachers, or members of public in a non-school environment. They were really enjoying themselves (with the members of staff figuring out their physical limitations).

Despite some daring leaps and jumps performed by Zak, Caiden or Aysa the session passed without an injury. It is a credit to our students who although supported by the teaching staff, took the responsibility for themselves, and behaved responsibly and in a way that they and everyone around them was safe.

Know the song 'Shake My Sillies Out'? Jumping provides such a great workout that according to studies by NASA, just 10 minutes on the trampoline is more effective than a 30-minute run. That was obvious on our way back. After burning all that energy - the calming effect took firmly over and even McDonalds (dangerously close to our parked school bus) did not ignite any unwanted excitement.

Our students were simply great and behaved in a way that fills us with pride and belief, that each of them is growing into a confident and responsible young adult.

The trip was a success thanks to a dedicated staff, but mainly thanks to our great KS3 students.



Power League



Power League - Students Vs Staff

As part of their sports qualification, a group of students were taken to Power League to enjoy the beautiful game just before half term in February. Mr Williams carefully planned the event so that the students could enjoy a good game of football, practice their skills, work as a team and, probably most importantly, beat the staff!

The sun shone down bright and crisp as the teams went onto the pitch, there was much laughter and light hearted banter. However, that soon gave way to friendly but fierce competition in a battle of will and skill. The students were keen to show off the tricks and agility that many of them have been developing in sport at school and, for some, in their clubs and sports outside of school. The staff, equally as keen to show the younger players a thing or two about football, were resilient and determined. The match lasted about two hours with a well-earned half time break.

As well as getting some beautiful action shots for their coursework, it was a genuine pleasure to see the young people bond and show genuine teamwork. Everyone who played had something to contribute towards the game and there were some surprisingly impressive displays of skill that some students have clearly been keeping very well hidden. The mood of the morning was positive and friendly and it was a real pleasure to spend quality time with the young people in Years 10 and 11. Many thanks go to Mr Williams for organising this opportunity and thanks also to the accompanying staff.

What was the final score? In the end it was a game of two amazing halves whereby enormous fun was had by all. It really seems that taking part, not winning was the purpose.

Mrs Rana

Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning



**FALCONER
SCHOOL
BUSHEY**

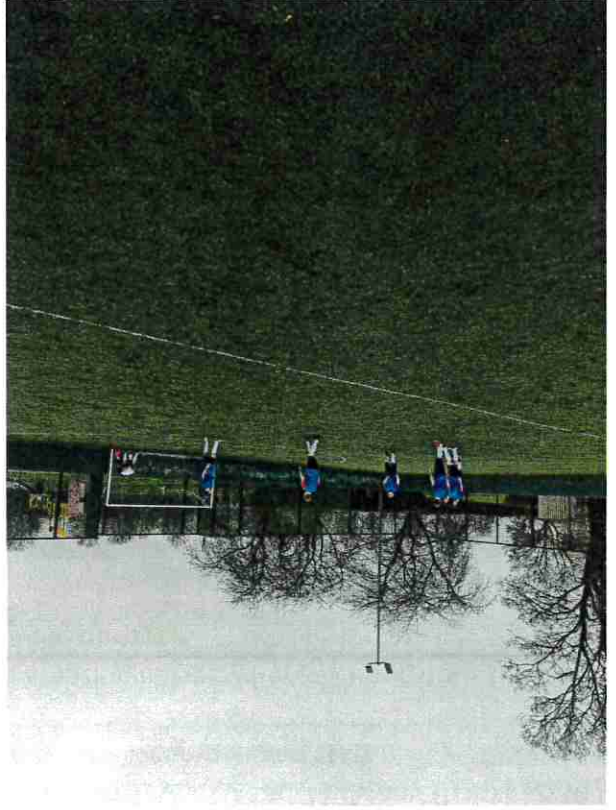


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**LINKS
ACADEMY**
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



On the 29th March, the school took part in their first ever football match against another school. Our year 10s and 11s combined to create our football team. We played against Falconers Secondary school in Watford and were successful. After a tough game we were able to win 8-7. Hopefully, this is the start of a real opportunity to play against other schools more regularly.



Summer Examination Timetable

DATE	QUALIFICATION	SUBJECT	TITLE	AM/PM	DURATION
16/5/2023	AQA GCSE	Biology	Paper 1	AM	1h 45
16/5/2023	BTEC	Hospitality	Hospitality	PM	1h 30
18/5/2023	EDEXCEL GCSE	History	Paper 1	AM	1h 15
18/5/2023	EDEXCEL GCSE	Business	Paper 1	PM	1h 30
19/5/2023	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 1	AM	1h 30
23/5/2023	AQA GCSE	Re	Short Course	PM	1h 45
5/6/2023	AQA GCSE	English Language	Paper 1	AM	1h 45
7/6/2023	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 2	AM	1h 30
7/6/2023	EDEXCEL GCSE	History	Paper 2	PM	1h 45
9/6/2023	AQA GCSE	Biology	Paper 2	PM	1h 45
12/6/2023	AQA GCSE	English Language	Paper 2	AM	1hr 45
12/6/2023	EDEXCEL GCSE	Business	Paper 2	PM	1h 45
14/6/2023	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 3	AM	1h 30
15/6/2022	EDEXCEL GCSE	History	Paper 3	AM	1hr 20

ART EXAM – 10.05.2023—12.05.2023

Individual student timetables will be sent out.

Students must arrive on time and hand in their mobile phones, coats and personal belongings. We will provide all the necessary equipment for the exam so the only responsibility that your child has is to be at school ON TIME. Students will be permitted to return home once their exam has finished.

Please contact our Examinations Officer Mrs Miller with any concerns.

Good Luck Year 11

Attendance



Please report your child's absence.

If your child is absent or has a medical appointment, please call
01707346170 or email: admin@hatfield@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk

Absence for Illness

Contact the school on the first day of sickness before 9:00am

Absence for Medical/Dental appointments

Contact the school as soon as you receive your appointment.
Please inform us of the dates and times

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 Wednesday 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**

Please remember to stay safe

The staff at
Links Academy Hatfield
would like to wish you all a
Happy Easter

