

13 December, 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert on Wednesday 11th December was an extremely enjoyable evening. There were eighteen different performances with a wide range of music tastes catered for. Sitting beside the piano I was mesmerised by the skills of the many pianists that performed on the evening. I would like to congratulate all of the students who performed and Mr Warak and Ms Hunt for supporting the students.

Attendance

With the end of term in sight, it is crucial that the students keep attending up to the end of term, and do not miss days unless absolutely necessary. I have asked all teachers to keep lessons focussed up to the end of term. Mr Kidd is currently running his end of term raffle for students with outstanding attendance over the final two weeks, as we often see student attendance drop at this point of term. Prizes available to students over the next week include amazon vouchers, chocolate, and passes to skip the lunch queue. If there is anything we can do to support your child attending school if you are struggling to get them out of the house in the morning, please let us know.

Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition

The annual Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge was held on December 4th at Vyners School and it was once again a spectacular event which showcased the talents of a number of Hillingdon students. This year, the quality of the speeches were exceptionally high, as students captivated the audience with their views on a range of topics including Racism, Bullying and Honouring the Past. Our very own Jeishal Vijayarajah of Year 10 gave a sterling performance, delivering a speech entitled “More Than Just Words” in which he highlighted the negative effects of verbal bullying. Jeishal’s message of the harmful impact of hurtful words was fully made clear with a visual demonstration where he used a crumpled sheet of paper to represent the damage that can occur as a result of verbal abuse. At the end of the evening, Jeishal received several commendations from members of the audience who expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed his performance and appreciated the message he shared. We are very proud of Jeishal for being brave and bold in publicly sharing his views on an issue that impacts many people throughout their life’s journey. Thanks to the Jack Petchey Foundation for their continued dedication in ensuring that students have a voice and given the opportunity to share their views. As Jeishal highlighted through his speech, human communication is important, but it needs to be done correctly and the Jack Petchey Foundation definitely equips students to do this.

Prize Giving Evening Thursday 19th December 2024

I have spent the last hour signing over 100 certificates in advance of next week's Prize Giving Evening. We are lucky to have Baroness Blower presenting the awards. It is one of the most enjoyable evenings of the year celebrating the outstanding achievements of so many of our students and also seeing many students returning to school from university to collect awards.

Amnesty Visit to Parliament

On Wednesday 4th December a number of Year 12 Haydon students were invited to the Houses of Parliament, as part of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Human Rights reception, hosted by Amnesty International. The students got the chance to listen to speeches from the chair of the APPG Fabian Hamilton, Sarah Champion, Chair of the International Development Select Committee and Anoosheh Ashoori, a British-Iranian businessman formerly detained in Evin jail in Iran.

Afterwards the students had the opportunity to speak with a range of MPs and Peers from various different political parties. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students to ask questions on a range of topics and potentially think about future careers in Parliament and/or in human rights. There were also a number of stalls where students learnt about the current campaigns that Amnesty International UK are running. For example focusing on Gaza, racial justice and Hong Kong. I would like to thank Mr Tear for organising the trip



Borough Table Tennis

On Wednesday 4th 16 students participated in the Borough Table Tennis Tournament. The Haydon students performed very well, four students received a medal. Rafe in year 7 achieved a bronze medal for KS3, Denys achieved a Silver for KS3, Alex in year 10 achieved a Silver for KS4 and Daniel in Year 9 achieved a gold medal in KS4 winning the whole tournament.

Borough Basketball Tournament

So far we have had three Basketball tournaments for year 9, 11 and 8. The year 8 Boys won the Borough tournament, the year 9 students came second in their tournament, and the year 11 team played well but unfortunately did not place top 3.

Cross country

On the 26th of June we had the Borough cross country competition for the Boys and girls. All of the students participated well, for the Boys William Palmer came 1st out of 70 students which is fantastic and he has progressed to the Middlesex round. Amelia Hunter and Chloe Pottle also achieved a medal for the girls and have made it to the Middlesex competition.

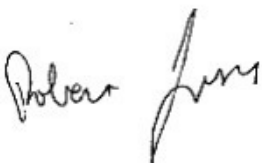
Middlesex Cup Football

The year 10 Boys won their first match against JFS 4-1 and progressed to the second round of the Middlesex cup.

Christmas Donations

I'd like to thank everyone who has been able to help support our two fantastic causes this Christmas. We have managed to raise a total of £606 for Hillingdon Hospital Children's ward and £1000 for Save the Children Christmas Jumper day. Next week a group of staff and students will be delivering donations to the Hospital just in time for the Children to enjoy this Christmas.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Jones
Headteacher

