

ACS PARENTS NEWS

2018-2019 Review - Issue #33

Dates for your Diary

ALL	Thursday 15 August A Level Results
ALL	Thursday 22 August GCSE Results
8 9 10 11 13	Wednesday 4 September - Y8, 9, 10, 11, 13 Academic Review Day
7 12	Wednesday 4 September - Y7,Y12 Induction Day
ALL	Thursday 5 September - All students 8:30 Start for all students
ALL	Thursday 12 September Presentation evening

Library Newsletters

Click on the images below to see this month's editions of our ER and SA Library Newsletters, packed with interesting information about books and library events.

SA Library Newsletter

ER Library Newsletter



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our very special end of year edition of Parents News.

A truly amazing breadth of events have taken place this year, including the first ever visit of a member of the Royal Family to Alperton Community School. The article about the visit of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge can be found on page 6.

It is really important that our students continue to learn over the summer break. Please take a few minutes to look at the summer activities powerpoint on our website and check Show My Homework for subject specific work.

In order to make the best possible start to the year, we need ALL of our parents to attend a special academic day on Wednesday 4th September, as we will be sharing important information about procedures for the 2019-2020 academic year. A personal invitation letter will be sent to you over the summer break.

In the meantime, I hope you have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you and your children refreshed and re-energized in September.

4Rs

READY - "The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes."
(Benjamin Disraeli, 1804-1881)

RESPECTFUL - It's always been a mystery to me how people can respect themselves when they humiliate others."
(Mahatma Gandhi, 1869-1948)

RESPONSIBLE - Accept responsibility for your actions, be accountable for your results, take ownership of your mistakes
(Anonymous)

RESILIENT - "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again"
(Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013)

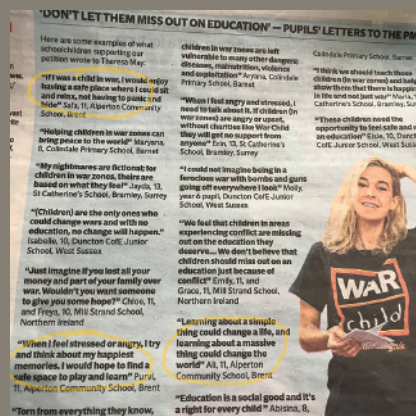
Talented art student presents her work to HRH Prince Charles

At the beginning of September our art student Prakruti Pindolia had the great honour to present her work to HRH Prince Charles at Royal Albert Hall. Prakruti graduated from GCSE with the best possible results, including Art and Design, and is now studying Arts & Design at A Level and also Further Maths and Economics.



Alperton students support children affected by war

In November, letters from Alperton students reached Downing Street supporting a petition with 12,000 pleas to help children affected by war. The petition – part of the Learn To Live campaign, led by Evening Standard and War Child Charity – aimed to persuade governments to do more to help children affected by war, who struggle to get a full-time education. Evening Standard published examples of what students wrote in their letters to the Prime Minister and three of our students were quoted in the article.



Celebrating excellent GCSE and A Level results at our annual Presentation evening

On Thursday 13 September, Alperton celebrated another successful year of excellent GCSE and A Level results. Our students have made outstanding progress, with results well above the national average. Many of our A Level students progress further to study at prestigious Russell Group universities, such as Oxford, Cambridge,

Imperial University College London (UCL), Warwick, the London School of Economics (LSE) and Kings College. The results for the most able students were exceptional in the new GCSEs with a quarter of students achieving the top grades (9-7) in English and maths. At A level our students have been awarded 81 A*

and A grades, with almost 50% of the examinations being awarded A*, A or B grades. As a result more than 40% of the A level cohort has been accepted onto top degree courses at prestigious Russell Group universities. Congratulations to all of our students for their excellent achievements.

Excellent results in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

At the end of November our year 12 and 13 students participated in the prestigious UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and their results were outstanding. Our senior mathematicians achieved 1 Gold, 3 Silver and 7 Bronze medals. Congratulations to all our students for their excellent results and a big thank you to our Maths Department for preparing the students.

Alperton commemorates 100 years since the end of World War One

In November, our school commemorated 100 years since the end of World War One and our students had the opportunity to take part in a series of events to commemorate this historic date. Our History Department led special assemblies to all year groups and on Friday 12

November we were honoured to be joined by Major Gogna from the British Army and the Historian Ms Kiran Sahota who spoke to our students in Year 7, 8 and 9 about the contributions made by Commonwealth soldiers in the First World War. To honour and remember

those who lost their lives in the war, our students created the most amazing Poppy Wall in our school, with hundreds of poppies hanging down in our Canteen Hall. A special thank you to Ms Cathcart and the entire History Department for coordinating this project.





Many thanks to Mrs Zafirakou for inviting Lewis Hamilton to our school and creating such an amazing opportunity for our students. Lewis was a great inspiration to them and an excellent example of hard work and commitment.

F1 World Champion Lewis Hamilton visits Alperton Community School

On Thursday 15 November, we had the rare opportunity to welcome to our school the five-time F1 world champion Lewis Hamilton. Our students were honoured and thrilled to meet Lewis in person and to be able to ask him questions. Lewis assisted to some of our lessons, played basketball with our Year 8's and took part in an engaging question and answer session with our Year 11, 12 and 13 students. Our Headteacher Gerard McKenna commented: "It was very refreshing to meet a world-famous role model who was compassionate, genuine, thoughtful and humble, in spite of his enormous fame and wealth."

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Alperton at the UN Junior GEL Summit 2018 Geneva, Switzerland

In November, Alperton staff and students participated to the UN Junior GEL Summit 2018, held at the UN Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. The event was organised by the Wildhearts charity in collaboration with the prestigious International

School of Geneva. At the summit, the students heard from a variety of speakers, such as Alessandra Vellucci – Director of the United Nations Information Service, Princess Zahra Aga Khan, Elizabeth Nyamayaro – Senior advisor to Under Nations and numerous

CEOs from large companies. The students had the opportunity to also collaborate with their peers from London and abroad, deciding on some of the actions that they will be working on their return to school.



Coaching sessions with university students

In October, twenty of our Year 10 students took part in the transformational Coach Bright Programme to raise progress and attainment in core subjects. The programme consisted of a launch visit to Kings College and seven one-to-one coaching sessions conducted by university students. At the end of the workshops there was a Graduation visit to St Mary's University to celebrate the completion of the programme.

Best Boxer of the Night Award in the London Mayor's Cup

On Friday 16 November, Desharn, one of our year 10 students, participated in the prestigious annual London Mayor's Cup Boxing competition and won not only his match but also the Best Boxer of the Night award. The London Mayor's Cup is a top class boxing competition for amateurs welcoming all talented boxers in London. Desharn is a very talented and hard-working student and we are really proud of his achievements. He's won 17 matches so far and he has a real passion for boxing.



Student Voice plant the first garden at our Ealing Road school

Student Voice representatives did a fantastic job planting the first garden at our new school on Ealing Road. They planted a variety of different seeds, plants and flowers which completely transformed the surroundings.

The students really enjoyed the experience and had a great opportunity to work in a team and build on their gardening skills. Well done everyone and looking forward to the results in the Spring.



Senior Parliamentary Researcher visits our Year 12 Politics

On Friday 7 December, Senior Parliamentary Researcher Blerina Hashani visited Alperton Community School to speak with our Year 12 Politics students about Brexit, life in Parliament and our students' aspirations and goals. This was a great opportunity for the them to ask questions about the current political climate, which was particularly useful for their A level course.

Memorable musical performances at Alperton Winter Concert



On Wednesday 12 December Alperton Community School hosted a fantastic Winter Concert. The students prepared some amazing musical performances and our guests who came to support the students had a great time watching our talented performers.

Many thanks to everyone who came to support the production and congratulation to all the students and staff who worked extremely hard to put together such a fantastic evening.



Student Voice fundraising for local charity to support the homeless during Christmas

Before Christmas our Student Voice and House representatives worked together to support the homeless and those in need. They donated food items to Sufra Charity, a local food bank supporting the homeless. This was second charity event Student Voice organised this academic year. Last year Alperton attended Sufra's awards evening and won the award for the best support from a secondary school. Well done to everyone involved!

Alperton takes part in the London's biggest tree planting event

At the end of November, our 6th form students took part in the London's biggest event of mass tree-planting, sponsored by the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan. The scheme had a workforce of 15,000 volunteers who worked towards planting a combined 80,000 trees across the capital to help London become the world's first 'national park city'. Our students and other volunteers from Veolia planted fifty trees at One Tree Hill Park. Alperton Community School is grateful to Wembley Central and Alperton Residents' Association for organising the event and for dedicating trees to the school. Also many thanks to Brent Council and Veolia for all their support with this amazing project.



Alperton organises Peter Pan production to raise money for Great Ormond Street

In December our Drama Department showcased an amazing rendition of J.M Barrie's Peter Pan in order to raise money for the charity Great Ormond Street Hospital. Our students worked tremendously hard for this production and we were very proud to see so many excellent performances. Our Headteacher Gerard McKenna was

also very impressed with the production: "I would like to thank Ms Stifani and Ms Blackey for developing the quality of acting at Alperton Community School – it has moved on immeasurably over the last few years. I was also very impressed by the staging, the costumes and the technical support. Well done to everyone involved."



Alperton staff take part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



On Friday 14 December, our school took part in the "Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day" to help raise money for children. On the day our staff wore their most wonderful woolies and donated £2 to the Save the Children Charity.



Photo: Highlights with Ms Zafirakou after being awarded the Global Teacher Prize 2018

Our art and textiles teacher Ms Zafirakou appointed MBE in the New Year Honours

Our art and textiles teacher Andria Zafirakou was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours 2019 for her services to education and young people in Brent. Ms Zafirakou said it was a "wonderful surprise" to

receive the honour and that she is delighted that she is delighted that see that the teaching profession is finally being recognised and celebrated. Ms Zafirakou became the first UK winner of the Varkey Foundation Global

Teacher Prize in 2018. After receiving the award, Andria used the funds to set up a charity, Artists in Residence, that promotes creative subjects in state schools throughout London.

Second place in the Regional Finals of the Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge

At the end of January two of our Year 10 students, Nabihah Shaikh and Muzaina Shah, took part in the Brent Regional Final of the prestigious Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge. Both students did incredibly well and Nabihah won the second place in the competition. Well done to both of our girls!

Alperton student invited to speak at the Bett Education Show 2019



On Thursday 24 January, our A Level student Prakruti Pindolia was invited to talk at the Bett Education Show 2019 about her experience studying creative arts. The talk was organised by Adobe UK and was hosted by Mala Sharma, Vice President of Adobe Creative Cloud. The other two guests present were Sir Anthony Seldon, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Buckingham and Jacqui O'Hanlon, Director of Education at

the Royal Shakespeare Company. Prakruti is studying Art & Design and also Further Maths and Economics at A Level and she spoke about the important role arts has had on her education and how it has helped her develop valuable transferable skills such as problem solving that she can further use in any profession or life situation.



ACS joins the Eco Schools programme, a large educational programme involving over 50 000 schools from 67 countries. The programme, led by an Eco committee formed of staff, students and governors, aims to raise awareness of environmental issues and to encourage students and the community to adopt an eco-friendly attitude on a daily basis. Updates about our goals and activities will be published regularly on our website.

Our Year 8 students learn new skills with the National Youth Circus

In January, our Year 8 students enjoyed a series of exciting workshops with the National Youth Circus. The workshops were organised by Mousetrap Theatre Projects and were both fun and engaging, getting the students to work together in groups and try out their abilities at juggling, tightrope walking and other exciting activities. After the workshops they went on a trip to Royal Albert Hall to watch 'Totem' by Cirque du Soleil - a great opportunity for the students to watch live the perfect execution of the skills they have learned in the workshops.



Our sixth form students take part in the "Safe Drive Stay Alive" workshop

On Thursday 10 January, the whole of Year 12 attended an event at The Harrow Arts Centre called 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive'. The Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign reaches out to new and pre-drivers in an emotive and hard-hitting way in order to help influence behaviour and attitudes while driving on the road. Students found the session to be a very moving experience whilst also gaining a valuable insight into the real life dangers of driving.

Author Nikesh Sukla visits Alperton Community School

On Friday 8 February 100 students attended an inspiring talk given by author Nikesh Shukla. He spoke about what motivated him to write his first novel for teenagers, *Run, Riot* - a thriller set in real time, which tells the story of a close-knit group of friends who discover corruption has infiltrated the tower block where they live.



HRH The Duchess of Cambridge visits Alperton Community School

On Tuesday 5 February we had the privilege to welcome to our school HRH the Duchess of Cambridge. During her visit, the Duchess joined a round table discussion with our senior teachers about students' readiness and teacher welfare. The Duchess then took part in our Random Acts of Kindness club, an extracurricular club that aims to enhance the general wellbeing of our staff and students.

Before departing, the Duchess dropped in to an art and textiles class to see how the school uses art to enhance children's confidence and wellbeing. Her Royal Highness was very impressed with our A Level student Shaquille and seeing the drawings he does in his spare time, aside from his A Level portfolio, the Duchess said: "This is what you can do if you don't use social media. Honestly, it's really, really incredible."



Another successful year for our sixth form students in the Micro-Tyco

This year's Micro-Tyco competition has been another very successful competition. Throughout the month the students participated in many entrepreneurial activities in order to raise money for the fantastic charity Wildhearts.

The non-uniform day was a testament to how deeply this support of charitable causes is embedded within our school community. Our Ealing Road campus was transformed into an array of colour with children dressed in their own clothes many choosing to wear their cultural outfits too.

Special thanks to Mrs Lazare and the Year teams, PM and form tutors for supporting the event. We were able to end the competition with a fabulous celebration of what Alperton Community School stands for - an inclusive learning community where everyone will go to extreme lengths to enable our students to shine!

Alperton hosts three successful Most Able Fairs for our Most Able students



At the end of February we hosted three successful Most Able Fairs. A large number of staff, multi agencies and sixth form students collaborated to make the KS3 and KS4 Most Able Fairs a very productive experience for our Most Able students and their parents. It was great to see such a good turnout with parents coming in with their children to demonstrate a commitment to

raising standards. The feedback we received from parents was very positive. They were impressed with our staff and teachers who were very proactive and helpful in giving guidance to students on how to raise progress and attainment.

Our Most Able students are a key group in our school and we aim to provide them with the stimulus and challenge that will stretch them to their maximum potential. These evenings have inspired our parent community and motivated our students to strive even harder. Many thanks to all staff for their tremendous efforts in organising and supporting these events.

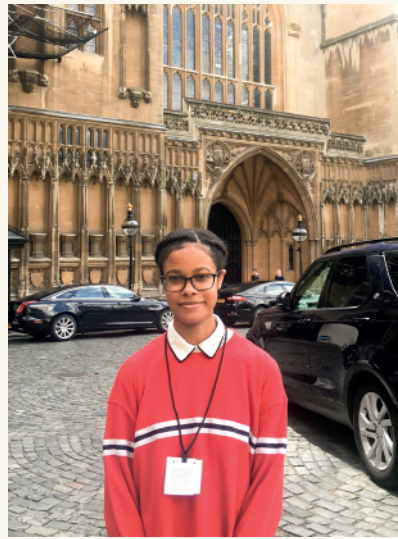
Year 7 students take part in the exciting Race for the Line challenge

On Tuesday 2 April, our year 7 students were able to finally see their foam rocket cars in action during the Race for the Line competition. The challenge was part of a project run across the country to increase young people's interest in STEM subjects, by getting them to work in teams to design, build and race their foam rocket cars. The race track was built in our MUGA where students and staff gathered to watch the exciting race. We were pleased that all the cars met the safety instructions and arrived at the finishing line intact. Many thanks to all staff involved in delivering the workshops and organising the racing event.



Alperton student undergoing work experience at the House of Parliament

In April, our year 12 student, Antonia, spent two days at the House of Parliament undergoing work experience. Some of the things she did were: attending Parliamentary Questions, going through the Order Paper, drafting questions to ask at PQ and helped updating an MP's social media account. Many thanks to Blerina Hashani who supported Antonia throughout the process.



Alperton students visit The Official Nelson Mandela Exhibition

On Tuesday 23 April, one hundred and twenty Alperton students had the privilege of visiting The Official Nelson Mandela Exhibition currently taking place at Leake Street Gallery, London. The exhibition gave the students an insight into the personal life of the world's most iconic freedom fighter and political leader. Through the numerous galleries and artefacts on display, the students were taken back in time to the

rural childhood home of Nelson Mandela, and follow him through the years of struggles against apartheid regime and the global celebration of his release after 27 years in prison. The students found the exhibition truly inspirational and educational and were deeply impressed by some of the items on display: "The artefacts were so lifelike that it felt like I was standing next to Nelson Mandela himself."



Special presentations delivered by students from Jesus College, Cambridge University

In March, our Year 11 and Year 12 Most Able students attended two informative and inspirational presentations, delivered by students from Jesus College, University of Cambridge. They learned about life at university, prospects for future employment and the advantages of studying for a degree at Cambridge University.



Sustainable fashion art workshops with artist and stylist Cinta Miller

On Friday 26 April, our year 10 textiles students participated in a series of workshops with the make-up artist and stylist Cinta Miller. The workshops encouraged sustainable fashion and the students were taught how to create garments from recycled materials. Some of the students will be attending London Fashion Week next year so this project was a great source of inspiration for them.





Year 9 students qualify for the Pangea Maths UK competition finals

In May, nine of our Year 9 students, attended the Pangea Maths UK competition finals held at Middlesex University. Pangea is a reputed competition organised in 21 European countries, and is a fun and challenging competition for the primary and secondary students. Our students made it into the top 20 Year 9 students to qualify for the finals, following a highly challenging round 1 of the competition. Congratulations to Dev Shah who was awarded a silver award and to all other participants that qualified for the finals!

Cultural exchange with students from the Collège de l'Étang de l'Or, France

At the beginning of May, Alperton GCSE French students participated in a cultural exchange this week with students and teachers from the Collège de l'Étang de l'Or in Montpellier, France. After touring the school, the French students joined a Year 10 class and participated in multilingual conversations to compare and contrast life in the UK and France. The visit was also a great chance for our French colleagues to observe teaching and learning at Alperton. They were particularly struck by our student-centred approach and positive use of display. Thank you to Ms Manderson for organizing the link and to Mr Delizioglou for leading the activities in the lesson.

World Environment Day 2019

On 5 June Alperton Community School celebrated the World Environment Day. Our Eco Committee created a special presentation that was shown in assemblies to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Shakespeare workshops with director Michael Attenborough CBE

In June we had the privilege of welcoming to our school the director Michael Attenborough CBE, who came to work with our students on a series of workshops based on Shakespeare's life and work. During the workshops Michael shared many insights and personal stories with the students about his production of Macbeth in Australia and about his experience of working with a number of notable actors on this production. He and the students also did a reading of Macbeth and Michael helped them better understand the play and its meanings. Many thanks once again to Artists in Residence for organising another special event for our school.



Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra performing for our Year 8 students

In May, five musicians from the 50+ piece orchestra of Canada's National Arts Centre visited our school and performed for our Year 8 students. The event was organised by the Artists in Residence charity with the aim to inform students about the opportunities of being a professional musician. They visited Alperton as part of their ongoing tour of Europe and during their stay in London they also played at London's Cadogan Hall. The students loved the performance and asked the musicians lots of questions about what it is like to have a career in music.



Our new school building awarded the Best Educational Building Award 2019

Afternoon tea at the House of Commons with Lucy Powell and Barry Gardiner

On Wednesday 5th June, our Maths teacher Ms Balasingam was invited to a TES awards reception at The Houses of Commons for an afternoon tea with MPs to celebrate her success of being nominated for the TES New Teacher of the Year award 2019. Recalling this wonderful

and unique experience, Ms Balasingam said: *"It was a privilege to meet many inspirational and creative teachers across the country and to share our school's attributes. I was also very enchanted to be greeted by Barry Gardiner, North Brent MPs, and Lucy Powell MP at the Terrace*

pavilion. It is the third consecutive year that Alperton Community School has been nominated for a TES award. Last year we were nominated in the 'Secondary School of the Year' category and in 2017 we won the 'Maths Team of the Year' award.



Professor and author Fernando Reimers visits Alperton Community School

In June we had the great opportunity of welcoming to our school Fernando Reimers, author and Professor of International Education at Harvard University, who visited Alperton to talk to our students about his latest book "Filomena's teachers". The book is part of the series "The Adventures of Filomena" and it was inspired by our art and textiles teacher Andria Zafirakou. During his visit, Fernando shared with the students many personal stories and was happy to answer questions from our students about the book and about his writing career. At the end of the day, our students offered Fernando a small piece of artwork as a thank you for visiting our school.

Alperton hosts the Brent Anti-Bullying Council meeting at our Ealing Road Library



On Tuesday 25 June Alperton hosted the Brent Anti-Bullying Council meeting at our Ealing Road Library. Twenty-five guests came along to the meeting to discuss and share with the rest of the council their most successful methods to tackle bullying in the borough. This year's goal of the Brent Student Anti-Bullying Council is to inform schools, children, parents and carers about the collective

responsibility we all have to stop bullying - change starts with us! The meeting was very successful and we hope to host the event again next year since the feedback from the participants was very positive.

ACS students take part in the Race for Life 2019 event to support Cancer Research UK

Congratulations to our Race for Life Team 2019 for running 5km to raise funds for Cancer Research UK. The students and staff enjoyed a wonderful morning at Hampstead Heath where the event took place. We had some strong runners in the field with Miss Williams leading the way. Cancer Research UK's Race for Life is a series of events raising money for research into all 200 types of cancer. Well done to our girls for their fantastic efforts.



Amazing trip to Valencia learning about the Spanish language & culture

The MFL department is very pleased to have conducted another successful trip to Valencia this year. Twenty-seven Alperton students from Year 7 to Year 10 have had the unique opportunity to travel abroad and enjoy 5 memorable days learning about the Spanish language and culture. During the trip, the students took part in a number of adventurous activities including kayaking, swimming, tree climbing, and a fun splashing competition.



Sports Day 2019

Sports Day was a fantastic success this year. Many thanks to everyone involved in organising the event. Students and staff had an amazing time participating in a great deal of activities. Great sportsmanship and great fun!



Art Exhibition and Performance Show 2019



On 12 July we hosted our annual art exhibition displaying a selection of brilliant art, textiles, and photography works created by our students and also a music and dance performance show. It was an amazing evening showcasing the great talent we have in our school. Congratulations to all students involved and many thanks to Mr Alemndar for organising such a great event.

Authors Annabel Pitcher and Ashley Hickson-Lovence visit Alperton



Alperton was lucky enough to have two authors visiting in July, Ashley Hickson-Lovence and Annabel Pitcher. Ashley spoke to Year 12 English students about his journey from Hackney council estate to published author of the novel 'The 392'. Students got an insight into the publishing process as Ashley took them through the importance of finding the right agent and publisher, as well as fellow

authors to support your work. Author Annabel Pitcher spoke to Year 8 students about her book 'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece', which they have been reading in form time this year. In a fascinating presentation, Annabel explained how 9/11 and the fallibility of childhood memories had inspired her to write the novel. She answered questions from students about the writing process and the importance of tackling difficult topics such as racism and grief. After her talk, Annabel ran a dynamic creative writing workshop for selected students in which they were challenged to write a horror story with a twist.

ACS students at the Cricket World Cup match

On Friday 5th July, fourteen excited Y7 & 8 students made their way to Lord's Cricket Ground to be a part of the Cricket World Cup match between Pakistan and Bangladesh. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students, as they were not only going to watch the game, but they had also been invited to stand with the players on the field during the national anthems. It was exciting to see them standing smart in the new kit they were given and smiling as the cameras scanned across their faces. Most likely they didn't realise that millions of people were watching them across the globe on TV! At half time the students had a second chance to be in the limelight as they were taken to the field to play some games in front of the crowd. Overall it was a fantastic day and one which I'm sure the students will never forget.



Alperton students at the opening of the Microsoft flagship store

In July our students went to the opening of the Microsoft flagship store. Our staff and students enjoyed the unique opportunities available at the store and were very proud to be one of the first schools to have the experience of the executive business suites.



Students pack 5,000 school packs to be shipped to Malawi

On Friday 5 July Alperton Community School took part in the Love to Learn charity event organised by WildHearts. Alperton students, staff and pupils from our local primary schools packed 5,000 school starter packs full with educational resources that will be shipped to Malawi. The educational resources will be used to help children in Malawi get off to the best possible start in their education.

