



ACS NEWSLETTER

Christmas edition 2023

Message from the Headteacher



Season's Greetings

*From the Governors,
Headteacher and Staff at
Alperton Community
School,
We wish you a very
peaceful and restful
Christmas and
New Year.*



Dear Parents and Carers,

While this has been a particularly long and tiring Autumn term, there are many things for us to celebrate at Alperton Community School. In this edition of the ACS Newsletter, you will be able to read about the many tremendous enrichment opportunities which have taken place during this term.

But before you get to read about all the trips, open evenings and theatre performances, I am delighted to share the recent information we have received from the Department for Education about how our 2023 examination results compare to other schools.

At **GCSE**, our Progress 8 (P8) score was +0.81 which means that **every student in Year 11 achieved almost one grade higher than expected in every examination** when compared to expected results from their Key Stage 2 scores. This is quite exceptional and puts us in the **top 250 secondary schools** in the country (out of 7000 schools). Student progress in English, maths, sciences, humanities and the open elements (option subjects) were all significantly above national averages and put us in the **highest 4% to 12% of all schools**. We also know that our results in Physics, ICT, Psychology and Sociology are some of the highest in the country.

Our **Key Stage 5** results are equally, if not more impressive. At A Level the progress score puts us in the **top 1% of schools**. One in three students achieved **A*-A (top 2% nationally)**, almost two thirds achieved **A*-B (top 2% nationally)**, with many subjects achieving significantly higher outcomes than expected. The average grade for students taking applied qualifications was **the highest possible at Distinction Star (Dis*)**. The percentage of students achieving A*-B which were significantly higher than national averages were Textiles, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Maths, Physics, Psychology and Sociology.

Of course, our students would not have been able to achieve these wonderful results without your tremendous support as parents, as well as the amazing input from our teachers, so thank you for all your commitment and dedication to your children and our school.

And finally, after 16 highly enjoyable years at Alperton Community School, I have made the decision that this will be my final year as Headteacher and I will retire at the end of the summer term 2024. The recruitment for a new Headteacher will begin in the Spring Term with a new Headteacher appointed for the autumn term in September 2024.

I hope that you all have a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year.

Successful Open Evening event for our prospective Year 5 and Year 6 students

At the end of September we hosted a successful Open day event for our prospective Year 5 and Year 6 students at our Ealing Road School. Our student ambassadors did a fantastic job in meeting and greeting the guests, conducting tours and showing them around the school to explore our extensive learning facilities.

The guests were invited to hear a talk from our Headteacher Gerard McKenna and also to try out various lessons and workshops and to speak with our pupils and staff to find out more about the school, the excellent achievements of our students and the application process.

The feedback we received from our guests was fantastic. They were impressed with how helpful and knowledgeable our staff were and how well the school is organised. They were also pleased to find out that we offer such a wide range of clubs and extra-curricular activities. Overall they said they found the experience extremely useful and informative.



ALPERTON SCHOOL LETTINGS

All our facilities can
now be booked
ONLINE!



Should you wish to check our
availability and make a booking,
please visit our:

SCHOLE HIRE WEBSITE

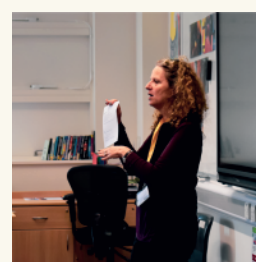
For more information you can also contact our
School Office.

Excellent presentation of the 'Your Life You Choose' program

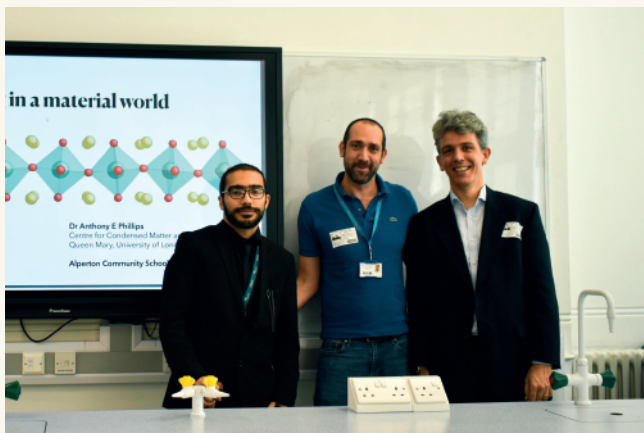
Thank you to the *Your Life You Choose* organisers for another excellent presentation of the YLYC program. In September, Our Year 8 students took part in a carousel of workshops with police officers, magistrates, paramedics and inclusion officers, learning about the importance of making informed decisions and the consequences that follow when taking a wrong turn in life.

The programme is a multi-agency presentation run by magistrates in North West London to raise awareness about crime among young people and teaches them how to keep away from it.

The students showed interest to find out more from the presenters and were very engaged during the workshops.



QMUL lecturers deliver two masterclass workshops to our Year 11 students



At the beginning of October we welcomed to our school two world leading lecturers, Dr Phillips(Physics) and Dr Chianello(Chemistry), from Queen Mary University of London to deliver masterclass workshops in physics and chemistry to 50 of our triple science Year 11 students.

The workshops addressed high quality research that stretched and challenged our students. The topics covered ranged from condensed matter physics to the importance of energy in heating our food. The lectures also included a career talk, giving students the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about what they could do with a physics or chemistry degree.

Feedback post-work was overwhelmingly positive. 80% of respondents said they enjoyed both workshops; 93.8% of students said they saw physics differently, beyond equations and abstract concepts; 87.6% said they will spend more time revising physics after attending the masterclass; while for chemistry, 85.7% said they saw chemistry differently beyond reactions and abstract concepts and 71.4% said they will spend more time revising chemistry after attending the masterclass. *Dr Mahmoud (Physics and Chemistry teacher)*

Art, Textiles and Photography Exhibition at the Grand Union Community Hub

Thank you to everyone who attended the opening of the student art exhibition at our local Community Hub on Friday 17 November. The exhibition looks brilliant and is a real testament to the creativity of our art, textiles and photography students, as well as the versatility and richness of our curriculum. Below are some photographs from the exhibition opening.

The show will run until January 2024 so you can pop in anytime between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri during the holidays.



Inspirational Science Trip to Queen Mary University



On Wednesday 18 October, 26 of our A Level Physics and Chemistry students, accompanied by Dr Mahmoud and Ms Saini, travelled to Queen Mary University of London for a day packed with exciting workshops and activities.

The event was organised by Dr Mahmoud over the summer holiday and it included workshops by Dr Chianello (Chemistry and Physics) and Dr Hunt (Physics) delivered specifically for our students.

The university visit lasted for over 5 hours and included a spectroscopy workshop, a tour of the Physics Research Laboratory, a tour of the Chemistry Research Laboratory and also a tour of the Computational Laboratory, where our teacher Dr Mahmoud completed his Masters and PhD degree.

The first 90 minutes were dedicated to the masterclass talk on spectroscopy, which included a Mentimeter interactive activity where students used their electronic devices to vote. This was followed by a 30-minute tour of the Physics facility. Students were able to observe images generated by the observatory at QMUL. They also took a tour of the Physics Research Lab where the undergraduate, masters and PhD students work. They were also able to get a breakdown of what practical work means for physics students in their first year.

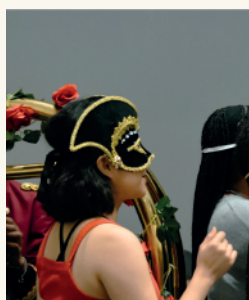
This was followed by a 30-minute tour of the Chemistry facility. The students visited the Research Laboratory including the Infrared and Nuclear magnetic resonance machine. Then they took a 10 minute tour of the Computational Lab where Dr Mahmoud delivered a very inspirational talk. After lunch, they took a short walk on the canal side and a tour of the university.

The feedback received from the students was fantastic. They were really inspired by the trip and found the experience informative, motivational and exciting, and over 80% of the students said they are more likely to study a STEM degree in the future. Many thanks to Dr Mahmoud for organising the event and creating this unique experience for our students.

LAMDA Drama School delivers riveting performance of 'Romeo and Juliet'

On Tuesday 17 October LAMDA Drama School visited our school and put on a riveting performance of *Romeo and Juliet* for our Year 9 English students. The performance was a huge success! Students and teachers alike were spell-bound by the amazing stagecraft and acting of the cast and crew, and were grateful for this enriching experience that helped them appreciate Shakespeare's mastery.

Students had already been formally taught a unit on *Romeo and Juliet* and this performance was a wonderful way to continue developing their personal and propositional knowledge of the text in its original English. Many thanks to Ms Rahman for organising the event and creating this wonderful opportunity for our students.



Alperton Community School Careers Fair

On Tuesday, 28th November, a Careers Fair for the KS4 and KS5 students took place in the main hall at Stanley Avenue. There were almost 20 companies attending, including Ernst and Young, The Army, Telford Homes, Asian Media and Capgemini, and there were a wide range of different professions represented such as ICT, engineering, artists, acting, construction and hospitality. Over the course of the day, over 600 students had the opportunity to speak to different companies about the skills, qualifications and experience they would need to be successful in these particular careers.

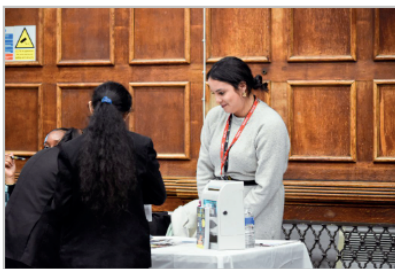
Students were provided with a booklet that had various different competitions and tasks to complete during their time at the fair, such as bingo and decoding a secret message. These could only be completed by interacting with the professionals. It was really inspiring to see the students conduct themselves in such a mature and professional manner when speaking with the guests and how engaged they were with completing the booklets. The main purpose of the careers fair was to provide students with valuable insights into various career options, industries and educational pathways. This event is designed to help students make informed decisions about their future education and career choices.

The visitors were really impressed with how polite, well-behaved and knowledgeable our students were and how high the level of student engagement was. Please see below some of the comments received:

'It was absolutely delightful to have a table at Alperton Community School Careers Fair. I can honestly say the students at the school, I had the pleasure in speaking with, were all very respectful towards us. I have been at careers fairs at other schools and your students far exceed the students at the other schools. They are polite and genuinely interested in getting answers about career paths that are open to them. They also have good things to say about yourself and other teachers, very encouraging for us that not only are they interested in what we have to say but that they take notice of it.'

'The setup and arrangement of bringing different student groups in, providing them with questions to ask employers and clear objectives set out by the school to get students engaging was excellent.'

'I liked the fact that some students chose who they wanted to speak to in order to gain a greater insight into specific careers.'



Brent Health Newsletter and Vaccination Catch up Clinic

- Please click [HERE](#) for a letter from NHS for parents for any child that missed their Nasal Flu vaccination in school.
- Please click [HERE](#) for the winter edition of the Brent Health Newsletter for information and advice on how to stay healthy this holiday season.

Student Artwork

Please see below an absolutely beautiful painting created by our Y12 art student, Farris. The artwork details are:

Hypnos 2023
Oil, charcoal, varnish on cardboard
60cm x 60cm



Climate Change Art Competition

Congratulations to all students who took part in the Brent Climate Artwork Competition. Below you can see some of the wonderful and inspirational artworks they submitted for the competition.



What happens when science and food tech meet?

On Thursday 14 December, our science teacher Dr Mahmoud, organised a cross-curricular enrichment activity involving a bread-making session with 25 Year 8 students, in line with the science curriculum for Year 8, where students have to learn about yeast and how it is used in food production. Dr Mahmoud wanted to make the project practical and arranged an enrichment activity with Ms Merghani, for students to get to use yeast to make their own bread. The project combined a *minds-on* approach, learning the theory in science, with the *hands-on* experience of seeing how yeast is used in bread making.

It was a lovely session and students got really engaged while making various bread shapes and learning how science is linked to the everyday activities they come across. Many thanks to Dr Mahmoud and Ms Merghani for organising this unique activity for our students.



KS3 students take part in engaging Flamenco dance and music workshops

On Friday, 8th December our KS3 students took part in a fun and engaging Flamenco workshop. They learned about *flamenco* as an art form based on the various folkloric music traditions of Southern Spain, developed within the gitano subculture of the region of Andalusia. Students had a wonderful time during the workshops, and clapped and sang Christmas carols in Spanish.

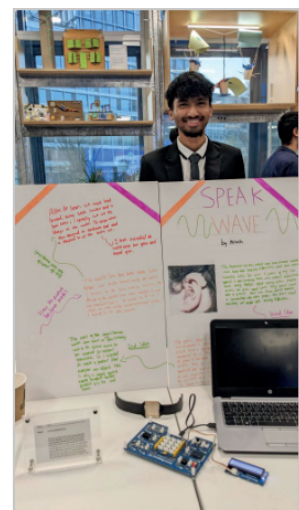
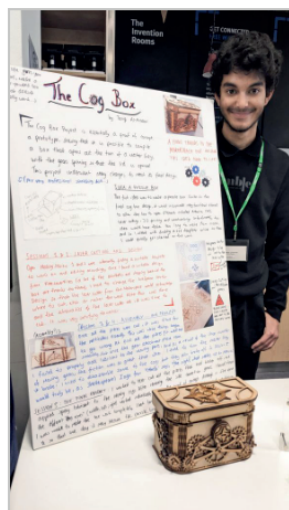
Students will always remember this day as an original and creative way to learn Spanish. Many thanks to Ms Lopez for organising this opportunity for our students and to the MFL department and Ms Ryan for their support.



ACS students take part in the outreach programme 'The Maker Challenge'

The *Maker Challenge* is one of the Imperial College London's innovative outreach programmes, empowering local young people to solve real-world problems through design and engineering.

Over 13 weeks, the participant students have mastered design and making skills, such as 3D printing, laser cutting, CAD, woodworking, electronics, and Arduino and brought their very own invention to life in the vibrant workshop of Imperial College London. Supported by Imperial experts and with access to world-class facilities, our students took part in the challenge to create prototypes of their inventions and presented their ideas to a panel of judges and family members on Saturday 9th December. Congratulations to all students who took part in this wonderful project.



Students perform brilliantly at the Alperton Winter Music Concert

On Wednesday 13 December Alperton Community School hosted a fantastic Winter Concert, our students having prepared some amazing musical performances from both contemporary and classical repertoire. Thank you to the staff and parents who came along to show their support and a special thank you to Ms Ernestine and Ms Fretwell for all their work in preparing the students. Below you can see some photos from the event:



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Rotary Shoebox Appeal. Students have packed over 40 shoe boxes with items that will be donated to those in need. These contributions will make a significant difference in someone's life. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful cause.



Collection of Exam certificates 2023


Summer 2023 Exam Certificates can now be collected from Stanley Avenue reception, from 4th of December 2023 onwards for a period of up to 6 months. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

Family Wellbeing

Alperton Community School is here to support its students, their families and the wider community during these very difficult times. If you are struggling with financial hardship, please check the [Family Wellbeing](#) section on our website for more information about the support and services available.

NEED EXTRA HELP WITH FINANCES?

Please click on this link to find out what support is available



Barnardo's and Brent Out of Hours Family Support Helpline

Our helpline and webchat service will provide families in Brent with access to a Barnardo's family support worker during evenings and weekends. This service is part of Brent's Family Wellbeing Centres. Our experienced and friendly team will offer information, advice and support and can help you with:

- Yours and your child's family support and wellbeing needs during evenings and weekends.
- Registering with a Family Wellbeing Centre.
- Accessing other services in Brent, including support with the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Who can access this service?
Our service is free to access for any family living in Brent.

Translators are also available on request.

Please note that this is not a crisis service – if you or someone you are with is in immediate danger call 999.

How can I access the service?
The service will be available by scanning the QR code.

Or by telephone on 0800 158 2358
You can also schedule a video call by contacting: brentfamilysupport@barnardos.org.uk

Opening Hours
Saturday and Sunday: 10am – 5pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6pm – 10pm

Brent Believe in children Barnardo's

Urgent Mental Health Support

Young people and parents can get urgent support from NHS mental health advisors. Check out the poster below for more info:



URGENT MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT 24/7

Worried about your mental health?

Need someone to talk to? Can't get urgent support and don't know where to go? Need help with school, work, exams, or home, or with your feelings?

Every mental health problem has a solution. You can get help. You can get better. You can get on with your life.

AREA	EMERGENCY CONTACT	SUPPORT SERVICES
North West London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
North Central London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
North East London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
South West London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
South East London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
City of London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890
Greater London	020 882 8890	020 882 8890

Winter 2023 HAF Programme



Winter 2023 Brent HAF programmes will take place between **22nd December 2023 and 5th January 2024**, with eligible children able to access 4 days of HAF funded activities between these dates. The current list of available programmes is available [HERE](#). The list is regularly updated, so please continue to check back if there are currently no suitable activities listed.

Safeguarding information and advice for parents and carers

The magic of Christmas - the anticipation of the big day ... gifts, presents and everything that goes with the celebration of Christmas - sweets and chocolates, Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, but it is also the time when safeguarding incidents increase. This can range from domestic violence, online exploitation, scams, poverty-related issues and mental health concerns.

Coping at Christmas ... help and advice from Childline

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Whatever's happening at Christmas, you don't have to cope alone

- Dadting with family problems
- Missing someone who's died or can't be there
- Feeling lonely or isolated
- Spending Christmas in care or away from home
- Facing problems
- Coping

childline
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Christmas can be an exciting time when people get together to celebrate. But it can also be difficult. If you're feeling lonely, worried or stressed, we're here for you. You can find out more about what help is available by clicking [HERE](#).

School is closed but there is lots of help available ...

	Brent Family Front Door 020 8937 4300
	Ealing Children's Services 020 8825 8000
	Childline 0800 1111
	Kooth www.kooth.com
	Metropolitan police 999

Supporting you with the cost of living

Tackling tough times together




SCAN ME

Live in Ealing?

Ealing has a similar offer to Brent. You can access the Ealing Cost of Living Help & Advice page [HERE](#). Ealing also has a link to the Community Support Directory for residents to find local support [HERE](#).