

## Message from the Headteacher



Photo: Mr Gerard McKenna BSc(Hons) NPQH

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Sadly, this will be my last contribution to Parents News as Headteacher of Alperton Community School. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Alperton community for the last 16 years – it has been a pleasure and privilege to work with a tremendous staff and wonderful community. It has been a joy to oversee the building of a new school on the Ealing Road, substantially upgrade the Stanley Avenue site and see the school grow from 8 forms to 12 forms. We are now an oversubscribed school with a long waiting list. We are truly a community school

with almost all children who attend living within walking distance of the school gates.

Because of your support and the hard work of your children, we have gone from strength to strength with student examination results - our progress scores are amongst the highest in the country. I am pleased to say that we continue our upward trajectory with both GCSE and A Level results. The 2024 results are some of the best the school has ever achieved - please take some time to read about our results in the article on page 8.

As always, this edition is packed full of the tremendous student opportunities and successes over the last term. I also have some exciting news about our new caterers, Aramark, who will start working with us in September. We anticipate an even more tasty and nutritious lunchtime menu to entice all our students into the canteen. Please see page 9 for an introduction and please keep an eye on the website for offers and updates to the menu.

With the new term looming there are some very important dates for your diary:

**Wednesday 4 September – Year 7 and Year 12 ONLY (08:30am start)**

**Thursday 5 September – ALL students return to school (08:30am start)**

Please make sure you are familiar with the half term dates and the dates of the Christmas break. It is extremely important for all students to be in school every day. Every minute of education makes a difference. There is a huge body of research which shows that the more days your child is absent from school, the worse their examination results are likely to be.

Finally, I would like to welcome Christopher Dixon to the school as the new Headteacher. Mr. Dixon will be taking over in the autumn term. I am sure Mr. Dixon will lead the school to even greater successes and achievements in the future.

# Alumni day with Manish Patel, Jay Varsani, Pritam Varsani and Dipen Bhudia



On Thursday, 23rd May 2024, Alpert Community School was delighted to welcome back four ACS former students: Manish Patel, Jay Varsani, Pritam Varsani and Dipen Bhudia, who all left Alpert back in the mid 1990s.

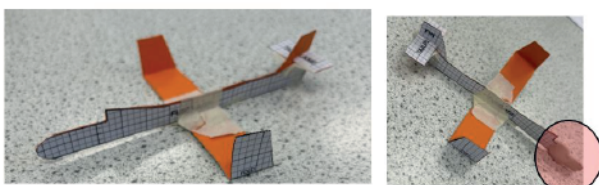
Manish Patel is an Executive Surveyor at an Independent Global Consultancy called Gardiner & Theobald, Jay Varsani is a Pharmacist & Entrepreneur, Pritam Varsani is a Portfolio & Investment Manager with

Bluebay.com and Dipen Bhudia is self-employed, working in the building and construction industry. On their arrival at Ealing Road, they were met by two Year 8 students, Kyshani and Ryan, along with Mr Rayleigh and Mr Cripps who gave them a full tour of the new building. The students asked them many questions about their current roles and what advice they would give to their younger selves.

The alumni, along with Kiyasha Amaidas, another colleague from Gardiner and Theobald, each gave short presentations to seventy year 9 students in our Ealing Road library. They spoke about their educational backgrounds, how they each got into their careers, what a typical day is like, what the pros and cons of their jobs are and what advice they would give to our students who are thinking about getting into their respective industries.

It was yet another wonderful day welcoming back more amazing former students who were really inspiring and very complimentary about our school and our students.

## Students build gliders to learn about the centre of mass and torque



White-tac added to nose of plane

Utilising the idea of 'classroom physics' from the June 2023 edition of the Institute of Physics magazine, which focused on the topics of balance and stability, our Y10 triple science students engaged in a STEM activity (Balanced flight), where they learned how to make gliders using items such as paper, glue and cardboard. Once

completed, students took their gliders out for a test run in the lovely sunny weather of May.

Above are two images of our students' work. In the first image, no white-tac was used, and when launched into the air, the glider did not have a stable flight. In the second image, white-tac was added to the nose of the plane, which caused the centre of mass to move forward, giving the plane more stability. Engaging in this activity, students learned about the real-world application of centre of mass and torque and why they are important in the design of planes.

## Year 7 Shakespeare drama workshop with LAMDA specialists



At the beginning of June, the English Department arranged for LAMDA specialists to come into school and deliver a range of workshops to a group of our Y7 students. At the time, KS3 students were exploring Shakespeare's villains and Shakespeare's plays in performance, and these workshops offered the students a unique chance to get to the heart of one of Shakespeare's most notorious villains, Claudius!

The students were invited to consider critically how Claudius's actions make him such a complex character, and to bring the play to life through a number of drama-based activities. It was a great experience for all. One of the LAMDA facilitators expressed surprise and delight at how confidently students grappled with the concept of tragic villains, heroes and victims. Students were also very grateful for a stimulating and educative experience. Many thanks to Ms Rahman for organising this engaging workshop for our students.

## Y10 students take part in unique workshop with the National Space Academy



On Wednesday 5th of June, 65 of our Year 10 triple science students took part in a unique workshop run by the UK Space Academy. Many thanks to our science teacher Dr Mahmood for his tremendous efforts to secure our school a place for this highly sought event.

The workshop was run by Mr Mobbs, who explored with the students fascinating topics related to space, including careers available in the sector, besides being an astronaut (e.g. space lawyer amongst many others).

The students also had the opportunity to see samples from the moon, learn about various space missions, and inspect a real astronaut suit, which was worn by one of our students.

Towards the end of the workshop, the students were taught how to make space rockets and then launched them outside to conclude the day.

Everyone really enjoyed the event and we are very thankful to Mr Mobbs and the National Space Academy for delivering such an interesting and engaging workshop for our students.



# Inspiring workshop with celebrated author Janice Hallett



On Monday 1st July 2024, celebrated author, Janice Hallett, delivered two brilliant workshops for our Year 9 students at our Ealing Road library. Janice Hallett is a local author on the world stage for her many novels, and was particularly excited about coming to visit us because we share the namesake of this wonderful town, Alperton.

Known for her gripping mystery novels and unique storytelling style, Janice captivated the audience as she shared the inspiration behind her most recent book: "The Mysterious Case of the Alperton Angels". During the workshops, Hallett and a spirited group of Y9 students engaged with the novel, exploring some of the very sensitive and important aspects of the text that have made it such a memorable and moving story. Well done to our students for being so thoughtful, respectful and engaged throughout. Students especially valued Janice's insight into the world of professional writing and they were inspired by the way she has put Alperton on the world stage.

It was especially important for students to learn about the career of a writer, and the amazing success that can be achieved through the arts. A huge thank you to Mr Rayleigh, our Careers Leader, for making this experience possible, and to Janice for joining us.

# Artwork created by ACS student wins the Stephen Lawrence Day competition



Among the many workshops, competitions and live events our English department have hosted this year, they have also organised a creative competition in the honour of Stephen Lawrence, and fortunately, the artwork displayed on the right, created by our talented student Sumera, was the winning entry in the competition.

We are very proud of all students who took part in the competition and appreciate all their hard work.

Below you can also find a letter of recognition from the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation, which is a testament to all the tremendous dedication and commitment of all our staff and students.

[Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation Thank You Letter](#)



# Y10 visit the UCL campus for the final conference of the ORBYTS programme



On Wednesday 3 July, our science teachers Dr Mahmoud and Ms Khalil accompanied a group of our Year 10 students to the UCL main campus in Euston to take part in the final conference of the UCL's ORBYTS educational programme.

Since January, the students attended the "UCL Quantum Club", an extracurricular club organised and led by Dr Mahmood, as part of the ORBYTS programme, which

allowed students to work with academics and get involved in a real research project. During the workshops, the students were joined by Dr Robert Banks from the UCL, who introduced them to quantum computing and worked with them on finding possible solutions to the intriguing "max-cut" problem.

The trip to the UCL campus allowed students to share their work with other schools and discuss their research.

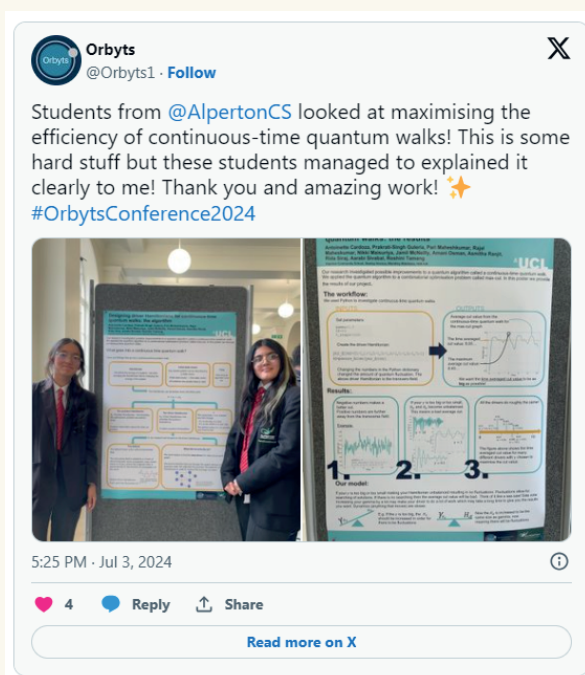
The day started with a tour of the campus, followed by presentations delivered by all participant schools. The students also prepared posters summarising their work, which were displayed in the main hall, akin to how PhD students and academics share their work with the global research community.

Our students were divided into two groups: one group stood next to their posters and answered questions about their work, whilst the other group walked around and inspected the rest of the posters created by other schools and asked questions about their projects. The groups then swapped around.

After lunch, students took part in a keynote talk delivered by Dr Dunn, which helped them gain a better understanding of what academic research entails. A second keynote session was delivered by Dr Jones, who took part in the same programme of study at the UCL in 2015. She talked to the students about her educational journey and how she embarked onto studying Biochemistry, followed by a PhD in neuroscience. Dr Jones is now moving to the Max Planck Institute in Germany for a postdoctoral position.

At the end of the talks, students took part in a QA session. They asked Dr Jones how the ORBYTS program supported her PhD study and they were also curious to find out what inspired Dr Dunn to research T-helper cells.

Please see the attached tweet from the ORBYTS organisers praising our students for their brilliant presentation!



# ACS Student awarded Certificate of Merit in the Southampton Maths Challenge



Our students in Years 7-10 were given the opportunity to submit their solutions for this year's Southampton Maths Challenge, which consists of a set of interesting and challenging mathematical problems that students are expected to work on at home.

This year, our student Vrishab scored high enough to be invited to the awards ceremony at Southampton University, where he was awarded a Certificate of Merit. A huge well done to Vrishab for his hard work and resilience!

Here's what Vrishab said:

"I was thrilled to be told that I had been invited to Southampton University awards ceremony after taking part in the Maths Challenge. We had a tour of the University and met other qualifying students,

followed by dinner. I also received my Certificate from a Maths Lecturer, and also sat through a Maths Lecture. Overall, a lovely evening and a great learning experience."

The ACS Maths department are looking forward to receiving more entries in the next academic year.

**ALPERTON**

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**LETTINGS**

**All our facilities can  
now be booked  
ONLINE!**



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

**SCHOOLE HIRE WEBSITE**

For more information you can also contact our School Office.

## Students enjoy a fun and engaging Activities Week



Thank you to all the staff for delivering one of the best Activities Week we've had so far. The week provided students with so many amazing events and opportunities, such as trips, character days, workshops, challenges and two competitive sports days. Students showed a lot of enthusiasm during the week and it was nice to see how engaged they were while learning new skills.

At the same time, the sixth form enjoyed an excellent week of activities preparing our Year 12s for their first steps beyond Alperton. A special thank you to Ms Ernestine, Ms Hazley and Ms Zaraat for their incredible planning and organisation.



# ACS students take part in inspiring Creative Arts and Culture Day event

A huge thank you to the Music, Drama, Art, Media and Textiles teams for all of their hard work in organising and delivering such an amazing Creative Arts and Culture Day event this year. We were inspired by the talent displayed at the Arts and Media exhibition, moved by the musical and dramatic performances and dazzled by the fashion show. There were over 180 students and staff who attended the event and they all had an incredible time!

The students thoroughly enjoyed being entertained by the wealth of creative arts on offer at the fair. For the majority of students who performed from across the school, this was their first time in front of a live audience and they all did extremely well. The Creative Arts Fair presented an opportunity for the school community to come together and helped students develop their confidence.

The Culture Day added another element of excitement to the day. Students were encouraged to come to school wearing their traditional garments to celebrate and learn more about each other's culture and heritage. An element of this was then showcased in the cultural section of the fashion show.

Thank you to all staff who helped with the logistics and smooth running of the event behind the scenes and a special thank you to Ms Greaves for the overall organisation and ensuring that the event was such a success.





# Congratulations to our GCSE and A Level students for their excellent results



Alperton Community School has once again produced another excellent set of GCSE and A Level results. While national results have fallen to 2019 levels, the results achieved by the students at Alperton Community School have continued to improve year on year.

At A level, almost 56% of examinations were awarded the top A\*- B grades and over 75% of students achieved Distinction\* or Distinction grades on our Level 3 applied programmes. With 96 A\* and A grades and 27 Distinction\* (star) grades, our students should be very proud of their

achievements. As a result, many of our students have been accepted at prestigious Russell Group universities including Cambridge, Imperial, Warwick, Bristol, King's College, Queen Mary, Nottingham, London School of Economics, University of Glasgow and UCL to read a wide range of subjects, including Medicine, Pharmacy, Law, Computing, Sociology, Psychology, Business, English, Fine Art, Astrophysics and Engineering. The range of subjects exemplifies not only the broad range of our curriculum, but the wide range of student interests at Alperton Community School.

Special congratulations go to Praveen Nadesanathan and Ali Ullah who achieved A\*A\*A\*, Ritesh Makvana who achieved A\*A\*AA, Swati Chandrakant and Nital Lalji who achieved Dist\* Dist\*Dist\*. We were also especially pleased to hear that 13 of our students were accepted into top-level apprenticeships with employers such as KPMG, Deloitte, IBM, PWC, Amazon, Accenture, Shell, Mazars and Bank of England.

At GCSE, the results for the most able students were exceptional with almost one third of all entries in English and maths achieving grades 7 to 9. Of the 180 grade 9s achieved this year, 24 grade 9s were in maths, 24 in Physics, 19 in Chemistry, 16 in English Literature, 13 in Biology and 12 in Computing. In total, Alperton Community School students achieved 773 grades at 9-7 and more than 1500 grades 5 and above.

The progress students have made since their KS2 primary results is excellent, particularly given the school time lost during COVID. 40% of students achieved above their expected grade in English and 45% above their expected grade in maths. The school expects the overall progress score (P8) to be similar to last year, suggesting that on average every student achieved almost one grade higher than expected in every examination.

Our special congratulations to Neev Patel and Najiha Shaikh for achieving grade 9s in all their GCSE examinations. Nora Binani was also very happy with nine grade 9s in English language, maths, biology, chemistry, physics, further maths, history, psychology and Spanish and one grade 8 in English literature. The students all commented on how happy they were with their results and many took the opportunity to thank the teachers for all their support over the years.

Gerard McKenna, Headteacher, said, "We are very proud of the excellent achievement and progress made by all of our students. We work closely together as a community of staff, students and parents to support every one of our students to meet their aspirational goals. Our students inspire us to continually improve and we have established and maintained an excellent track record of success. It is a real pleasure to work with such talented and committed staff who have created a vibrant and stimulating learning environment for our students. Our oversubscribed school includes world class facilities at our brand new lower school site and we have developed our upper school site to fully support the needs of our Year 11 and Sixth form students."

# A New Catering Experience

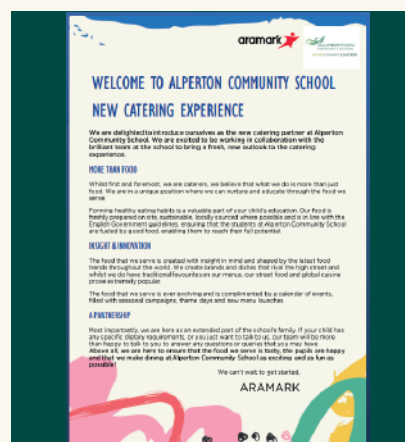
We are pleased to inform you that from September our school will be welcoming new caterers, **Aramark**, to provide our students with **high-quality, nutritious meals**. We have carefully selected this new provider to ensure that our students enjoy a variety of healthy and delicious food options, prepared to the highest standards.

With the introduction of our new caterers, there will also be a new menu, offering a wider range of balanced meals tailored to our students' tastes and dietary needs. We believe this new menu will greatly enhance the dining experience for our students.

As part of this transition, there will be a slight adjustment in the price of the Meal Deal. From September 2024, the **meal deal price will increase from £2.50 to £2.70**. This change reflects the enhanced quality of the meals and the rising costs associated with delivering fresh, nutritious food. The **Free School Meal allowance** for students entitled to a free school meal **will also increase to £2.70 per day**.

Please see below a letter from Aramark, which provides more details about their approach, as well as a copy of the **new menu** that will be available from September.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
<b>MAIN ONE</b> (Heat free option)	Sagefish Bolognaise (Halal) Lentils with Garlic Bread	Chicken Curry & White Rice	Roast Chicken, Stuffing with Beans or Potatoes & Carrots with Gravy	Chilli (Halal Lentils) & White Rice	Battered Potatoes, Chips & Garden Fries	<b>MEAL DEAL</b>  <small>available daily</small> Main One or Main Two with a cookie or jelly <b>£2.70</b>
<b>MAIN TWO</b> (Heat free option)	Vegetable Chilli & Brown Rice	Mac & Cheese with Garlic Bread	Butternut Squash & Feta Cheese Taco with Side Salad	Quorn Sausages, Mashpot Potatoes, Garden Peas & Gravy	Vegetable Bait & Rice	
<b>PRANZO ITALIANO</b>	Wholemeal Pasta with Tomato or Cheese Sauce	Wholemeal Pasta with Tomato or Cheese Sauce	Wholemeal Pasta with Tomato or Cheese Sauce	Wholemeal Pasta with Tomato or Cheese Sauce	Wholemeal Pasta with Tomato or Cheese Sauce	
<b>DEEPLY ITALIANO</b>	Sweet & Sour Chicken or Vegetables & Egg Fried Rice	Teriyaki Chicken or Vegetables & Egg Fried Rice	Thai Green Chicken or Vegetables with Egg Fried Rice	Chicken or Vegetable Katsu with Egg Fried Rice	Korean BBQ Chilli Chicken or Vegetables with Egg Fried Rice	
<b>SOCIAL FEAST</b>	Joe De Frango Lentils & Herb or Pork-Pork Chicken Pizza Pocket with Peri-Peri Sauce	Lentils Flatbread (Halal) or Falafel & Tabouleh/Mezze	Peri Peri Chicken Flatbread or Onion Lentils & Herb Chicken Wrap	Chicken Flatbread or Falafel & Tabouleh/Mezze		
<b>ON THE GO</b>	Fruit Banana Bread & Custard	Apple Crumble & Custard	Daily Fruit Cough	Banana Scon Muffin	Rhubarb Crumble & Custard	
<b>AVAILABLE DAILY:</b> Soup, Bread, Baked Potatoes, Vegetables & Salad						<b>ALLERGIES</b> Please speak to a member of our team if you have an allergy & need to know what's in our food so we can advise you on your available choices.



## ACS OPEN EVENING 2024 WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 4pm - 7.30pm



### Excellent GCSE & A Level Results

- At GCSE, almost one third of all entries in English and maths achieved the top grades (9-7).
- Our students achieved 180 of the highest possible grades (Grade 9).
- At A Level, almost 56% of the examinations were awarded A\*, A or B grades and over 75% of students achieved Distinction\* or Distinction grades on our Level 3 vocational programmes.
- Many of our A level students have been accepted onto top degree courses at prestigious Russell Group universities.



For more information, please visit our website:

[www.alperton.brent.sch.uk](http://www.alperton.brent.sch.uk)

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# Term Dates

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## Autumn Term 2024

### **Monday 02 September 2024:**

Staff Training Day (No students in school)

### **Tuesday 03 September 2024:**

Staff Training Day (No students in school)

### **Wednesday 04 September 2024:**

Y7 & Y12 students ONLY (08:30am start)

### **Thursday 05 September 2024:**

ALL Year Groups - Normal lessons (08:30am start)

### **Half Term**

Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October 2024

### **Monday 18 November 2024:**

Staff Training Day (No students in school)

### **Monday 29 November 2024:**

Academy Day (No students in school)

### **Christmas Holiday:**

Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 03 January 2025

### **Bank holidays:**

Wednesday 25 December 2024, Thursday 26 December 2024 &  
Wednesday 01 January 2025



# Happy Retirement



*After 16 years of outstanding leadership at Alperton, our Headteacher Mr McKenna will be retiring at the end of this academic year. We'd like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for all the incredible work he has done for the school community.*

*On behalf of everyone at ACS, we wish him a Wonderful and Happy Retirement!*

*We'd also like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Headteacher Mr Christopher Dixon who will be joining our school community from 1 September.*