



CURRICULUM NEWS

2023 Autumn Term 2 - Secondary East

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



As we bid farewell to a busy term, I am thrilled to share a few of the remarkable highlights from our wide range of activities.

The school production of *The Snowman* showcased outstanding performances by Primary and Secondary West pupils, creating a truly memorable experience. Similarly, Secondary East captivated audiences with their impressive presentation of *The Little Match Girl* in the performing arts showcase.

Among my highlights is the TGS Young Enterprise Team, they demonstrated dedication and hard work. Their biscuits especially were a resounding success, and sold out during all the performances.

The dedication of our pupils shone brightly on Pupils Progress Day, where we celebrated their exceptional strides across various curriculum areas. Witnessing their progress left me genuinely moved. It is inspiring to see our pupils consistently meet and exceed expectations. Thanks to parents and carers for your ongoing support in improving attendance. Our school's average has now reached an impressive 92%, positively influencing progress throughout the school.

Wishing you all a peaceful and healthy holiday. Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



As we come to the end of a very busy Autumn Term, it is such a pleasure to reflect on all of the hard work that has gone on across the school. We have set up a Curriculum Development Team, which allows us to develop and monitor all curriculum subjects and ensure that we are providing the best possible education for all of our pupils. This has been hugely successful. Our focus this term has been PSHE, Maths and Humanities, and we aim to cover different subjects going forward into Spring Term. Reading continues to be a priority at The Grove, with Phonics, Guided Reading and Reading for Meaning happening across the school consistently. I would like to take this time to remind parents how beneficial reading at home can be for pupils. Any time you can set aside for reading over the holidays would help your child develop their vocabulary and understanding, as well as prepare them for more learning next term.

Have a wonderful break!

Best Wishes,

Molly Stopps
Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
8th January	INSET Day - No pupils
9th January	Pupils back to school
15th January	Martin Luther King Day
16th January	Coffee Morning at Downhills Park Cafe. 10.45-12
21st January	World Religion Day
24th January	Family Workshop
25th January	Grove Governors
27th January	Holocaust Memorial Day
31st January	Family Workshop
6th February	Family Workshop
12th - 17th February	Half Term
14th February	Ash Wednesday
12th - 16th February	Half Term
9th February	Pupils back to school
26th February	Women's History Month
4th March	World Book Day
22nd March	Pupil Progress Day - School is closed to Pupils
28th March	End of Term



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

Wow what a term! I would like to say thank you to all of the families who have been in touch this term and to those that have welcomed me into their homes.

This half term I saw some wonderful celebrations for Anti-Bullying week and the Winter show practice and performances. I have been fortunate enough to teach Marylebone Relationship and Sex Education and have been astounded by their maturity as we covered topics including forced marriage, abuse, types of relationships, sex and contraception. I have also had the opportunity to teach District where we had a focus on Online Safety, again some excellent work and recognition for safety aspects online.

Ready for the new year we have a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 16th January 2023 at 10.45am-12.00. We will have this one at Downhills Park Cafe.

Just a reminder for the Facebook Group: This is a group for parents / carers with pupils at The Grove. It has been created to enable our families to share local information about events, share ideas, arrange meet ups or to even give away old uniforms. I am the admin for the group. It is called The Grove Families Group - if you search for it the image is The Grove logo.

Last but not least pupils who have access to Thrive, PBS and Trauma Informed direct support will be reviewed and parents contacted in the new year. Referrals can be made by staff and families for these services, therefore I will send information home in January detailing what each service can provide / support with.

Wishing you all a wonderful break.

Best wishes, Nadine Huseyin
Designated Safeguarding & Mental Health Lead

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi everyone,

It has been a long but incredibly successful Autumn Term, with so many success stories evident across the departments.

It was an absolute pleasure to see the Christmas Shows this year, and everyone involved should be so proud of what they achieved. All of the hard work from pupils and staff members really did pay off and it was great to see so many happy faces in the audience.

We have had 3 very successful Family Workshops this term. Our 'Careers and Next Steps' session was incredibly well attended and our families really benefited from hearing from a range of different providers and ex-pupils. The session run by our SaLT Team was also very well received and it is great that we are able to offer workshops from such skilled professionals. We look forward to seeing more of you at the sessions we will be running in the new year.

I hope that you all manage to have a restful break and I look forward to working alongside more of you in 2024!

Best wishes,

Louis Maunder

Senior Leader for Pastoral and Behaviour

It has been a fantastic term for careers and enrichment activities across the school. We are so proud of our Young Enterprise team who have raised over £200 through their hard work and creativity. They have raised money for their business and will be having a stall at Spitalfields in March! We will keep everyone posted on their achievements.

We have lots of exciting opportunities coming up next term such as a trip to the RSC to see a play at the Barbican, immersive art exhibitions and hopefully another visit from the Fire Brigade.

It is an exciting time for Careers and Enrichment at The Grove and you can find out more information on the website in our "Sixth Form and Careers" section.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions around careers or options for post 16 and beyond:

bronja.elton@thegroveschool.co.uk or on 020 3876 6555

Bronja Elton - Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead

SECONDARY EAST NEWS

ASSISTANT HEAD: MR MCKAY-WOOD

We have made it through what seems like the longest term on record. A massive well done to all the pupils on their resilience this term. We have had pupils across the department start new ventures offsite such as Blackhorse Workshop as well as continuing their enrichment offer with Lea Valley and trips in the local community. A massive well done to all those involved in the East show, whether on stage, back stage or part of the fantastic Enterprise group. Another massive well done to pupils in Docklands who undertook their initial practice GCSE mock exams as we gear up for a busy spring term. Pupils have made excellent progress as demonstrated by teachers on our pupil progress day and we look forward to another busy term ahead after a well earned rest.

Computing

Wow, what a fantastic term it has been for computing! This term's focus is on Programming. I have seen some fantastic efforts from across the department, from pupils looking at Python to creating their own virtual barman. Others have been using our microbits, mini-computers, to code a virtual dice or compasses, and others coding their microbits to play rock paper scissors. Well done all, some impressive coding this term!

Hammersmith, Metropolitan and District.

For Computing this term, pupils in these classes have been learning coding and programming skills.

District pupils have thoroughly enjoyed using the microbits (programmable mini-computers). We have used the microbits for a range of projects, including programming them to create; a step counter, a compass, images, a magic 8 ball and even games to play rock, paper, scissors! We also used the microbits to create circuits and code music. Pupils enjoyed the fact you can use a variety of programming languages including: block code, python and java script.

Metropolitan have been looking at text based programming. They have used Kano Art Me. This program allows the user to use text based programming to create images. Pupils have shown excellent understanding of vectors and shapes and have created some excellent images using code. Throughout this topic they also have learned the history of some early computer games. They especially enjoyed learning about the game Tetris and then coding an image that looks like Tetris blocks.

Hammersmith have been continuing their understanding of text based programming by looking at Python. They have learned how to use inputs, variables, arithmetic operations, randomness, selection, and iteration. This included how to problem-shoot and deal with common syntax errors. Throughout the term they have created programs that ask users what age they are, what their favourite films are and created different outcomes depending on the variables that they have set. Pupils did extremely well and should be really proud of their programming skills. If they wanted to extend their ability in Python they should look at the home learning activities.

Docklands and Marylebone

Pupils have continued to work towards their qualification in IT user skills. This is a great course as it is 100% coursework, with a wide range of topics that staff and pupils can select from, this means that we can create a bespoke curriculum for pupils.

Docklands

Pupils have performed exceptionally well, with the majority successfully achieving the basic Level 2 qualification. Just a few more units and pupils will achieve either a high level 2 qualification or a double award qualification. Well done Docklands class, keep up the good work.

Marylebone

Pupils did really well this term. Marylebone pupils have been working on their coursework. They have been taking the role of an IT helpdesk this term, responding to emails asking them for support with a range of ICT issues. They have developed key ICT skills, including

collaborative working and problem solving. Well done Marylebone Class!

English

District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith

This half term District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith class have been reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. We began by exploring the context of Victorian London and how it compares to their own experiences of London today. This allowed pupils to make links to both their humanities lessons in the past and their own experiences. A significant focus of this half term was encouraging pupils to develop their ideas using mind maps to plan and including words like 'because' to help them fully explain their points. This has been successful, and is an area that we will continue to focus on going forward.

This half term we have also had a significant focus on creativity, and encouraging pupils to engage with Dickens' text in a range of different ways, from writing christmas cards in character as Scrooge to designing their own scary creatures to demonstrate understanding of the supernatural. All pupils were able to engage with the text well, and it was lovely to see many of them genuinely enjoying the story. Going forward, we will continue to focus on extending ideas and using short plans to structure writing. Overall, I have been really impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm in all three classes. Well done!

Docklands

It has been a busy half term for Docklands, with a focus on developing exam skills. We began by exploring a range of different short texts, as working with unseen

material is an important part of the GCSE assessment. Although the format of English GCSE exam is always the same, the source texts are always unknown, so the more practice that pupils can get with different texts the more confidently they will be able to approach their eventual exams. We will continue to explore a range of texts next term.

The main focus of this half term has been preparing for, and completing, a mock exam. As part of this, pupils learned what format each question takes in Paper 1, and what they need to do to answer them. The class has strong core skills in English, and at this point the priority is demystifying the exam papers so that pupils can approach them with confidence. Pupils have made a lot of progress in this area, and now have a much clearer understanding of the exams and - crucially - timings. I was genuinely impressed by the maturity with which the pupils approached their English mock exam - they can all be really proud of what they have achieved so far!

Docklands pupils have also begun to explore speeches and public speaking as part of their Spoken Language assessment. This has been going well, and I look forward to seeing their final pieces. Following the Spoken Language we will shift our focus to Paper 2 of the exam, which requires them to compare texts and use creative language in addition to the skills they have demonstrated in their mock exams.

Marylebone

This half term Marylebone have been developing their core English skills by exploring the topic of natural disasters. As

part of this, pupils were asked to give their opinions and describe their reactions to a range of news stories. Over time the pupils began using the format of newspaper articles to structure their ideas, which has allowed them to go into more detail.

It has been lovely to see pupils show their creative side by writing eye-catching headlines, and going into detail using the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why) when writing articles. Pupils have also engaged with questions about the difference between 'fact' and 'opinion' when dealing with the type of real world texts that they will use throughout their lives. By looking at a wide range of real world examples they have been able to further develop the reading and comprehension skills that they were working on last half term when reading *Looking for JJ*. All pupils have made good progress and I have been really impressed by their hard work and dedication. Well done Marylebone!

Maths

This half term District class has successfully simplified fractions and explored fractions greater than one using pictorial representations. Pupils have impressed Miss Jess by successfully finding the lowest common multiple to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. Well done for all your hard work this half-term District Class!

This half term pupils across the rest of Secondary East have all been extending their algebra skills.

Pupils in Metropolitan class have been using function machines to solve one and two-step equations. Metropolitan class

have also successfully used pictorial representations to expand and multiply out a single bracket. Well done Metropolitan Class!

Pupils in Hammersmith have excelled at solving complex equations this half-term. Pupils have successfully: solved equations with unknowns on both sides; solved equations involving fractions; and expanded brackets. Well done everyone!

This half term, Marylebone class have developed their independence skills. Pupils have successfully solved equations; written inequalities with algebra, and represented inequalities on a number line. Pupils working towards their GCSE in mathematics this year have also impressed Miss Jess by solving equalities. Amazing work Marylebone!

This half term, Docklands class has been exploring binomials. Pupils have successfully: expanded quadratic expressions; solved quadratic equations using factorisation; completing the square and using the quadratic formula. Pupils have also taken part in Mock Examinations and have completed two practice GCSE papers. Docklands have had a fantastic Autumn term. Well done!

Looking Ahead

Next half term pupils in Secondary East will be exploring a range of different topics. District class will start their unit on algebra. While Metropolitan, Hammersmith and Marylebone classes will explore geometry and measure. Pupils will take a closer look at perimeter, area and volume.

After the break, Docklands class will finish their algebra unit by exploring rearranging formulae. Pupils will then move onto

investigating gradients, lines and non-linear graphs.

Have a fantastic break, you all deserve it! Best wishes, Miss Jess :)

Art

What a wonderful creative term we have had. Some excellent painting and printing work and all pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this term's topics.

District

Pupils have been continuing their underwater theme and looking at this topic from a variety of mediums; they have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know and use Geli-printing, which is a brand new method of printing. Additionally, they have used pastels to look at blending, shading, shadows and silhouettes. They have looked at the work of Samantha French and Winslow Homer. They then used this to create their own watercolor paintings inspired by the theme "underwater". Some great art this term, well done!

Hammersmith and Metropolitan

These classes have been working on a project inspired by the work of Yinka Shonibare. They have looked closely at his work "Alien Nation". Pupils have explored the ideas of what they view an alien to be, what does it feel like, what could one look like?

They have been creating their interpretations of Yinka's work out of paper mache. There have been some thoroughly thought provoking and fun ideas.

KS 4 Art

Pupils are continuing to work towards their portfolio by looking at the theme of isolation. Pupils have looked at the work of Luke Dixon, Michelangelo and Edward

Hopper, creating a range of responses using paint and pencils.

Geography

GCSE Geography

GCSE Geography pupils have worked hard this term sitting their first mock exam. It was great to see how honest and reflective pupils were throughout this process. Pupils then began their study into Urban Issues. This has pupils considering the ideas of urbanisation and megacities before beginning case studies of places at varying levels of development. Pupils worked hard to create brilliant pre-learning by researching information about Rio de Janeiro that included population statistics and industry and income figures.

Next term, pupils will continue their study of Paper 2 topics and work towards undertaking their second fieldwork study of a local urban area.

History

KS3 History

This term KS3 classes have been exploring World War I. They started by discovering the basic historical facts of when, where and how World War I began. They then took a look at why people joined the war. This involved them comparing the ideas of recruitment and conscription. All the pupils spent time looking at recruitment posters from World War I to understand techniques used to convince men to join. Some pupils created their own versions of recruitment posters and applied their new knowledge. Throughout the unit pupils also looked at the role of women in the war efforts and discovered what conditions were like on the front line.

Pupils created fantastic acrostic posters to describe the conditions in the trenches.

Next term pupils in KS3 will return to their Geography studies and focus on India and the Geography concept of development.

GCSE History

GCSE History pupils have worked incredibly hard this term continuing their study of the Vikings. Pupils are starting to explore the exam style questions to understand how to better prepare their writing for their upcoming GCSE exams. In their study of the Vikings, pupils have explored the Viking role of raiders and settlers in different parts of the world. GCSE History pupils will continue this study of the Vikings by studying their journey to the northwest Atlantic and also the role of Kings throughout the brief history we are exploring. Pupils will then work towards completing their School History Project focused on the Tower of London and their final component to their GCSE History course, Life in Nazi Germany.

RE

KS3/KS4 RE

This term District, Metropolitan, Hammersmith and Marylebone classes have been learning about festivals and celebrations. This has allowed pupils to learn about new and different festivals that occur around this time of year. Pupils discovered the religious connection to Halloween and how this compares to the festival of Day of the Dead. Classes decorated fantastic sugar skull cookies. Pupils revisited Diwali which we first spoke about last academic year and many were able to remember the importance of this festival of light. Finally, some classes began to learn about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah that is held in December. This

had pupils comparing it to other December festivities and starting to understand the story of Hanukkah.

Science

District, Hammersmith and Metropolitan KS3 classes

This half term started with learning about the digestive system as an introduction to the cellular respiration topic.

Pupils learnt how the digestive system breaks down food into nutrients, in particular glucose which is one of the fundamental reactants for cellular respiration.

They learnt how the oxygen reaches every single cell thanks to the circulatory system. They became familiar with the main parts of it. They also learnt the difference between veins, arteries and capillaries.

Pupils studied another organ system which is the respiratory system, they learnt how and where the gas exchange takes place, and how circulatory and respiratory systems are interconnected.

Then we talked about the dangers of smoking, the difference between medicinal drugs and recreational drugs and their terrible effects on the human body.

In the Spring term we will focus on Chemistry, learning about atoms, compounds, solutions and the rock cycle.

Marylebone, Entry level Science

During this half term Marylebone class has studied the reactions of metals with acid and water. This is part of the investigation that allowed them to make a list of metals according to their reactivity, they created their own 'reactivity series'. To conclude

the last chemistry topic, they used the reactivity series to predict in which way metals are extracted from the Earth rocks or from compounds using electricity.

The second part of the half term focused on the electromagnetic waves spectrum. Pupils learned how to label the different parts of a wave and how to recognise transverse and longitudinal waves.

They investigated the spectrum, learning all seven parts of the electromagnetic spectrum.

Different wavelengths have different uses and applications ranging from radio waves to X and gamma rays.

After the winter break, pupils will learn how unstable atoms emit alpha, beta and gamma radiation to become more stable. Then we will start to revise the whole course in preparation for the end of year assessments which will be completed in class for their Entry Level qualification.

Docklands, GCSE combined Science

This half term Docklands class have studied how to calculate the atomic and formula masses. This is necessary to work out the percentage mass of an element in a compound or to find out the empirical formula.

They have done a practical experiment to find out if the theory of the empirical formula was supported by the experiment: they placed an amount of magnesium into a crucible over a Bunsen burner. The mass of the final product helped them to calculate the empirical formula which was roughly what they were expecting.

Then we learnt how to make solutions at different concentrations and how to calculate the amount of solute in a given volume of solution at a specific concentration.

During the next half term pupils are going to learn the theory and the practical way of speeding up the rate of reaction. They also completed their first practice mock exams which is helping to start getting them ready for a busy summer series.

HOME LEARNING

English

The best way that pupils can continue to develop their **English** skills over the holidays is **independent reading** - ideally reading for pleasure. This can mean reading a book that they enjoy, but it can also be part of real world activities such as using a recipe or playing a game.

Pupils can also brush up on their core **English** skills here:

[Spelling](#)

[Punctuation](#)

[Grammar](#)

Maths

Visit <https://ttrockstars.com/> to brush up on your **times tables**.

All pupils have been given their login details. These can be found in the Home Diaries.

Try [Hit the Button](#) to practise your **number bonds, division facts and square numbers**.

For explanations, questions and mini-quizzes on **Fractions greater than one** go to [BBC Bitesize](#).

Docklands class should have a look at [Corbett Maths](#), where they can find videos and questions to revise algebra topics at home.

Computing

Metropolitan

Why not brush up on some of your coding skills?

[Art kano me](#)

District

Have you loved using the microbits? Keep practising using their virtual microbit. Choose from 100s of self led projects here.

[Microbit code it.](#)

Hammersmith

Push your Python skills with this self lead course to create your own version of the "flappy bird" game in Python.

[Python course](#)

Docklands

Why not have some fun coding? Have a go at Java script

[Mini task](#)

Art

Why not learn more about our key artist from last term, Winslow Homer. Have a look at this overview of the current exhibition at the National gallery.

Either write up your thoughts or create some work inspired by him.

[Winslow Homer](#)

Upload it to the Secondary East Google Classroom page. The code to join is (vrfu6c4).

Have a great break, and don't forget to try and be creative. Draw some leaves, draw a Christmas card, make your own wrapping paper. [\(see here for some ideas!\)](#)

Whatever creative fun you have, I look forward to hearing or seeing about it next term.

Stay creative! Ms Steventon



PE News with Mr Proctor

Secondary East pupils have explored handball and tag rugby this half term. Pupils have learnt how to dribble, pass and score in handball. This has been a new sport added to the PE curriculum this year which pupils have thoroughly enjoyed and engaged with.

Pupils have also enjoyed exploring tag rugby, learning how to hold the ball, pass and how to score a rugby try. Pupils have also worked on their teamwork, communication and sportsmanship skills.

Many Key Stage 4 pupils have started their Sports Leaders Award which is delivered by Rugby Works every Thursday and pupils are supporting and leading primary pupils extremely well during PE lessons and break times.

Also, many pupils from Secondary East have been attending weekly sessions at Lee Valley Athletics Centre every Friday taking part in athletics sessions being coached by a former world champion sprinter! These sessions are a highlight of the week for many pupils and they show great engagement and commitment during these sessions.



Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymska

In Performing Arts, pupils have been working hard to prepare their

performances for the Christmas Show, 'The Little Match Girl'. In the show, on the icy streets of London a little match girl is trying to sell enough matches to afford a warm place to sleep for the night.

Over the course of the night she experiences kindness and cruelty before finally being reunited with her beloved Granny Dora.

Pupils took on different roles and responsibilities with some making props and set pieces, some playing music and some as actors. In addition, the Enterprise Team worked hard to host a stall selling Christmas treats. The finished performance on Wednesday 13th December was a joy to see and a testament to the incredible progress that they have all made.

KS4 Music

Pupils have completed their first unit on Group Composition, which will enable them to gain accredited music qualifications from AQA. For this they learnt about the key musical elements of Pulse and Rhythm before using a variety of instruments to create a group composition. The finished result was very successful and they have really shown how they can collaborate successfully as a creative group.

