



CURRICULUM NEWS

2024 Spring Term 1 - Secondary East

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



It is hard to imagine that we are already wrapping up the first half of the Spring term.

As part of our ongoing commitment to our school vision, 'To make a difference and change lives for the better', I am pleased to share that all faculty and subject leads have been working hard to further develop and refine The Grove curriculum.

All our CPD has been carefully tailored to enhance all staff subject knowledge and their implementation of the curriculum. During my visits to classrooms across the school, it has been wonderful to see pupils so actively engaged in their learning.

Additionally, we devoted our INSET Day to further developing our knowledge of ADHD, in partnership with the ADHD Foundation. This is part of our ongoing effort to earn the ADHD Friendly School Award.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership working to help us to make the learning experiences for your children the best they can be. Have a good half term!

Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum



I can't believe we are already at the end of our first Spring half term! It has been a short but busy half term, with lots going on

regarding the curriculum and teaching and learning. We have continued to monitor the development of our curriculum to ensure that it is meaningful, personalised and challenging for all of our pupils. We have begun deep dives into different subjects which has given us the opportunity to get into different classes across the school. It has been lovely to see such inspiring teaching and to see pupils so engaged in their learning.

There are many parent workshops taking place next term focusing on different areas of the curriculum and how we can support our pupils, please do look out for more information as the term progresses.

Have a restful break and I look forward to welcoming the pupils back for Spring 2.

Best Wishes,
Molly Stopps Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
February	LGBTQ+ History Month
12th - 16th February	Half Term
19th February	INSET - No Pupils
20th February	Pupils back to school
7th March	World Book Day
19th March	Mother's Day
15th March	Red Nose Day
21st March	World Down Syndrome Day
22nd March	World Water Day
23th - 24th March	Purim
25th March	Holi
22nd March	Pupil Progress Day - School is closed to Pupils
28th March	End of Term
15th April	INSET - No Pupils
16th April	Pupils back to school



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

What a short term this is! I am sorry I have not been able to squeeze a coffee morning in but I shall get that organised for our return after the February break.

Tuesday 6th February was **Safer Internet Day**, this takes place in February of each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people. Have a look on <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> which has some great resources.

The UK Safer Internet Centre has some great information, you can find it via this link <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

Some of you may be interested in mental health support, there are a few great websites here:

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

<https://www.mind.org.uk/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

As always, thank you for your support. Looking forward to the next half term!

Best wishes, Nadine Huseyin
Designated Safeguarding & Senior Mental Health Lead
nadine.huseyin@thegroveschool.co.uk

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi Everyone,

It has been an incredibly short half-term, yet it still feels like we have managed to pack a huge amount in across the whole school.

We have had some incredibly well attended family workshops this half-term, with sessions focused around anxiety, function of behaviour and behaviour strategies. It has been amazing to see some new faces at these workshops and for me to meet some new people.

Family workshops for the remainder of the year will have more of a curriculum focus and will be led by some of our wonderful class teachers and subject leads. Topics will include sensory stories, phonics, OT strategies and many more. Please keep an eye out for information on how to sign up.

Best wishes,

Louis Maunder

Senior Leader for Pastoral and Behaviour

Career News

It's been busy on the Careers and Enrichment front this half term. We've had pupils from Secondary West going on trips to the British Museum, Key Stage Four pupils involved in Scope, (a 121's career advice service for young people aged 15 and above) there have been two theatre trips, one to The witches at the National and one to the RSC and Barbican Theatre to see My Neighbour Totoro. Both trips were a great success and it was lovely to hear a pupil say that seeing My

Neighbour Totoro was 'the best day of their life'. Some of our primary department families are taking part in workshops to create music with their children. The Sixth Form still continue with their regular work experience at Kentish Town City Farm and Five Guys! **THANK YOU** so much to all the staff who supported these activities. It means so much to our pupils.

These are some of the careers and enrichment activities that are coming up next term:

- Art trips of secondary West classes to 'Frameless'
- Employability visits for key stage 4 to the Rugby Works Offices
- On site drama workshops with 'Monkey Moves'
- 'Becoming a chef' trip to Pizza Express
- The Gaming Bus! TBC

CAREERS WEEK 4th March - 8th March with our CAREERS FAIR on Thursday 7th March.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions around careers or options for post 16 and beyond and if any parents know of any local businesses or companies that would be willing to take our pupils for work experience opportunities please let us know. You can contact me via the office email.

office [@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thegroveschool.co.uk) or on 020 3876 6555

Bronja Elton - Director of Sixth Form/Careers Lead

SECONDARY EAST NEWS

ASSISTANT HEAD: MR MCKAY-WOOD

This half term has flown by! Pupils have hardly had time to settle back after Christmas and it is half term already. However, even in a short half term pupils have been able to actively engage in a wide range of enrichment activities and trips. We had a wonderful theatre trip to see *My Neighbour Totoro*, continued to access offsite activities like Blackhorse workshop and Lea Valley as well as a new chess club at school with external tuition. We saw really good progress across the Autumn term and this has been sustained so far through the Spring term and it is always good to see the learning take place across the secondary east curriculum. We hope you have a restful break and come back ready to learn in Spring 2.

Computing

Another fantastic term for Computing; KS3 and KS4 have been looking at different topics. I have seen some fantastic work and great engagement. Well done all.

District class have been learning about how computers work, focusing on networks - how computers communicate with each other and exchange information. They have done this through a variety of fun physical and written activities.

Metropolitan and Hammersmith classes have been looking at a unit titled, "my digital world." They have been learning how the internet works, how to search efficiently using a search engine and what is considered breaking copyright law.

In **Docklands and Marylebone** classes, pupils have continued to work towards their qualification in IT user skills. They have learned about emails and how to use emails professionally in the workplace.

English

District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith

This half term District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith class have been exploring non-fiction texts, with a focus on contemporary reporting on world events. They have explored how texts have different genres, audiences and purposes, and are able to identify these in individual texts. In contrast to the last half-term, where we focused on a single novel, over the past few weeks we have been reading widely, looking at a wide range of different text types, from newspaper articles to print advertisements.

Pupils have had the opportunity to develop their comprehension skills through creative means, such as creating their own headlines to show understanding. However, a key focus has been on exploring the difference between implicit and explicit information, which has led to some excellent progress when commenting on writers' choices. Additionally, pupils have been developing their punctuation and grammar, with a specific focus on using a range of sentence types effectively.

After the break we will continue to develop these core skills, but our focus will shift from non-fiction to fiction and our topic will be 'fantasy worlds'. Pupils will explore a selection of extracts from stories that take place in fantasy settings. They will use this as a starting point to investigate how writers create imagery through language techniques, before using what they have learned to create their own creative stories. I am looking forward to seeing more of their excellent work!

Docklands

We began this half term by focusing on the GCSE Spoken Language assessment, where pupils are required to deliver a presentation on a topic of their choosing, and then answer questions from teachers and their peers. I was genuinely impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm of the class when preparing for this, and seeing them speak with such confidence (and expert knowledge) was fantastic. Well done Docklands!

Since completing the Spoken Language assessment, we have shifted our focus to Paper 2 of the exam. The most significant difference between Paper 2 and the one

that they sat for their mock exam is that it requires pupils to read two texts rather than one. Because of this, we have been looking at a range of different texts to increase confidence when working with unseen texts. The class have very good core English skills and - as the mock demonstrated - they are able to show this in an exam situation. Once we return from the break we will have a second mock exam where they will sit Paper 2. At this point the class will have sat a complete paper for English, and will be in an excellent position to work on their personal targets.

As part of our preparation for Paper 2 the class has also been practising their creative writing skills, using a range of strategies to encourage them to spotlight the wealth of knowledge that they already possess. They have produced some excellent work and - as with the Spoken Language assessment - it has been great to see the pupils take charge of their learning and feel confident to express their own ideas. Great work Docklands!

Marylebone

This half term Marylebone have been developing their English skills by looking at a range of non-fiction texts. The theme has been 'Your Opinion' and throughout the half-term our focus has been on presenting ideas in a convincing and confident way. We have looked in detail at letter and speech writing with a clear purpose, and it has been great to see the progress that the pupils have made. I have been genuinely impressed with the way that they have been able to express themselves so well, and a massive highlight was when the class worked together to write a persuasive letter to the head teacher. They made some excellent

points and used emotive language and statistics effectively, which was great to see.

The class has also been developing their sentence structure and punctuation skills through kinaesthetic activities. This has been really successful, and it has been fantastic to see the development that has happened, both in terms of core English skills, but also pupil confidence. Punctuation can be an intimidating aspect of English, but the class have shown high levels of dedication and have always been enthusiastic. Going forward we will continue to develop these skills, but with an increased focus on answering exam style questions.

All the pupils have made good progress, and I am really impressed by how hard they've been working. Well done Marylebone!

Maths

Secondary East Mathematics

This half term District class has been extending their algebraic techniques. Pupils impressed Miss Jess by successfully expanding and factorising into a single bracket. Pupils also substituted values into multi-step expressions. Amazing work District!

This half term, Metropolitan, Hammersmith and Marylebone classes have been exploring geometry and measure topics.

Metropolitan class enjoyed taking their learning outside to find the perimeter of large polygons in the playground using tape measures and trundle wheels. Pupils also used their knowledge of perimeter to find missing lengths of rectilinear shapes.

Well done for all your hard work this half-term.

Hammersmith class excelled at finding the area of different 2D shapes this half-term. Pupils successfully calculated the area of triangles, parallelograms, circles and trapezia. They used their problem solving skills to extend their learning by exploring compound shapes made up of multiple shapes.

Marylebone class have worked hard this half-term investigating shapes. Pupils have impressed Miss Jess exploring a range of topics such as perimeter, area and circumference.

This half term Docklands class has been exploring graphs. Pupils have successfully: plotted straight line and quadratic graphs; accurately used the equation $y=mx+c$ to find the gradient and y-intercept of a line; and determined whether coordinates lie on different straight lines. Docklands have had a brilliant start to the year. Well done!

Looking Ahead

Next half term pupils in District class will take a closer look at angle facts and regular polygons. Metropolitan and Hammersmith Classes will explore the exciting world of statistics in March. After the break, Docklands class will finish their unit on graphs and begin a unit on constructions and loci.

Have a fantastic February half-term, you all deserve it! Best wishes, Miss Jess :)

Art

What a wonderful creative term we have had. Some excellent painting, crafting and needlework this term.

Hammersmith and Metropolitan classes have been continuing their paper mache 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? There have been some fantastic Aliens produced!

District

Pupils have been learning about pixel art this term, from its origins in 8-bit graphics to its more modern uses. They have created their own images using a variety of media, including: graph paper, computers, and hama beads. This culminated in using needle work skills to cross stitch their designs. Some really creative work was produced this term and some wonderful life skills learned. Well done!

Docklands & Marylebone

Pupils are completing work for their portfolio. This term, our inspiration has been colour exploration. We have played with paint and salad spinners, created our own colour wheels and explored how artists use colour to convey feelings.

Geography

This term pupils in District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith have learned about India. This had pupils researching the continent of Asia and creating presentations to share information about different Asian countries with their classmates. Pupils created reference maps of India by analysing both physical and political maps. Finally, some pupils worked towards understanding the idea of development in different areas of the

world. This involved them recognising the difference between factors in developed and developing areas.

GCSE Geography

GCSE Geography pupils have continued to work hard towards completing their studies of Urban Issues for Paper 2 of their GCSE course. This has involved them learning about Rio de Janeiro and also an UK urban study of London. This will tie directly into their Human Geography fieldwork trip that will be taking place next term where they will study a site of regeneration in the UK. Next term pupils will carry on with their study of the changing economic world and undertake their pre-release studies in preparation for their summer examination.

History

GCSE History pupils this term completed their studies of the Vikings. Pupils work hard understanding how the Vikings travelled West and across the Atlantic. They also analysed the significance and legacy of several Viking kings. Pupils also undertook their Local Site study of the Tower of London. Next term, pupils will take part in a trip to the Tower of London to better understand history in the local community. Pupils will then undertake their final area of study in their GCSE course, Living under Nazi rule.

RE

This term pupils in Secondary East have focused their studies on Peace. They have learned to define peace, compared the meaning of peace between different major religions, analysed symbols of peace and carried out peaceful practices.

Pupils have learned about the idea of inner peace and the impact mindfulness can have. Some pupils even created peace mood boards to showcase what peace means to them. Finally, pupils helped to create peace treaties for their classrooms to promote carrying out acts of peace around the school community.

Science

KS3 – District, Hammersmith and Metropolitan

Familiarity with the Periodic Table: This is an essential aspect of chemistry education, and it's great that pupils are learning the symbols of common elements and where to find metals and non-metals. This foundational knowledge sets the stage for understanding chemical properties and trends.

Naming Compounds: Learning how to name compounds made of two or more elements is an important skill in chemistry. This involves understanding chemical formulas and nomenclature rules, which are fundamental for communication in the field.

Lab Testing of Solubility: Conducting experiments in the lab to test the solubility of compounds in water is a practical and hands-on approach to understanding chemical properties and behaviour. It's an effective way for pupils to apply their knowledge and observe real-world phenomena.

Focus on Atoms: Exploring atoms, including determining the number of subatomic particles using the periodic table and learning how to draw atoms, is crucial for understanding atomic structure and the behaviour of elements. This topic is foundational in chemistry education.

Drawing Electronic Configurations:

Learning how to draw the electronic configurations of the first 20 elements is an important aspect of understanding the arrangement of electrons in atoms, which in turn influences chemical reactivity and bonding.

Overall, the curriculum is covering key concepts and providing hands-on learning opportunities. It engages pupils in both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, which is essential for a holistic understanding of chemistry.

Entry Level Science – Marylebone class

Marylebone class is wrapping up their science curriculum with a focus on environmental awareness and exam revision. Here's a breakdown of the activities:

Environmental Awareness: The class learned about the importance of recycling waste material to reduce environmental impact. This is a crucial lesson in today's world, as understanding the importance of sustainability and environmental conservation is vital for future generations.

Exam Revision: With only a couple of lessons left, the class dedicated time to revising what they've learned over the past months. They used past exam papers as a revision tool, going through each question in detail. This method of revision allows pupils to reinforce their understanding of key concepts and familiarise themselves with the format of exam questions.

Overall, combining environmental education with exam revision provides a well-rounded learning experience for the pupils, emphasising both academic

knowledge and real-world applications of science.

KS4 – Docklands

The curriculum for Docklands class covered a diverse range of topics in chemistry, with a focus on practical experiments and real-world applications. Here's a summary:

Rate of Reaction: The class began by studying the rate of reaction, exploring the effects of temperature, surface area, and concentration on reaction rates through practical experiments conducted in the lab. This hands-on approach allows pupils to observe and understand the factors influencing chemical reactions.

Hydrocarbons: Following their study of reaction rates, the class shifted their focus to hydrocarbons. They learned how to draw hydrocarbon molecules, explored their properties, and discussed their various uses. This topic introduces pupils to organic chemistry and the importance of hydrocarbons in everyday life.

Lab Experience at Heartlands: The class had the opportunity to conduct experiments in a larger lab at Heartlands, which provided a valuable and enjoyable learning experience. Practical experimentation in a professional laboratory setting enhances pupils' understanding and engagement with scientific concepts.

Remaining Curriculum Coverage: It's mentioned that there are a few remaining topics to cover in chemistry, along with paragraphs of lessons in biology and physics. The goal is to complete the curriculum by Easter, allowing time for revision sessions before any assessments or exams.

Overall, the curriculum for Docklands class is comprehensive, with a balance of theoretical learning and practical experimentation. The inclusion of real-world applications and hands-on experiences enhances student learning and engagement in science.

HOME LEARNING

English

As mentioned last term, a fantastic way for pupils to continue honing their **English** skills during the half term break is through **independent reading**. Opting for books they find genuinely enjoyable or integrating language practice into real-world activities, like experimenting with recipes or playing games, can make the learning process engaging and effective.

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

[Spelling](#)

[Punctuation](#)

[Grammar](#)

Maths

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

All pupils should have been given their login details.

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

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

Computing

District

Have you enjoyed learning about networks? Why not revise this subject?

[Revision](#)

Try and find out the history of networks with this [coding challenge](#).

Metropolitan and Hammersmith

Why not brush up on your understanding of internet safety by having a go at

[Interland?](#)

Docklands + Marylebone

Revise with BBC Bitesize.

[Email revision](#)

Art

Why not look at Bitsize and think how you can get inspired by other artists.

[Revise.](#)

Have a great half term, and don't forget to try and be creative.

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

Stay creative!

Ms Steventon

PE News with Mr Proctor

Secondary East pupils have explored handball, football and table tennis 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 and Sports Leaders from Secondary East have enjoyed creating and leading handball games. Pupils have also enjoyed developing their table tennis skills through partner and small group activities.

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 Wednesday taking part in athletics and fitness sessions whilst 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 Dydymka

District, Metropolitan & Hammersmith

In music pupils have been exploring soundscapes which are when sounds and music combine to create a sound picture of a particular place. For this, they have been learning how to identify different types of sounds before experimenting with recreating them to compose their own class soundscape of a busy city street.

In drama, pupils have been working on developing their vocal techniques, learning about pace, dynamics, pitch and tone. They have then utilised these skills in performing a short script.

KS4 Music

Pupils are taking part in the African Drumming workshops led by Mr Ben, which will enable them to gain an accredited music qualification from AQA. For this they need to learn specialist techniques to play the different drums and percussion instruments as well as how to play together as part of a large group.

Performing Arts Enrichment

Instrumental Lessons Haringey Music Service have been continuing to offer one to one piano lessons to some of our pupils. It is incredible to see how much progress they have been making in these lessons and how their confidence has grown. In addition, violin lessons are available provided by Miss Emily. As with piano, lessons take place during the school day but please note that pupils will need to provide their own instrument as these are not available in school. If you would think your child might want to begin violin lessons please contact Miss Emily to discuss further.

Drama Club

I am thrilled to announce that pupils are now welcome to join our school's drama club, meeting every Tuesday at lunchtime in the Activity Studio.



Gallery

Pixel artworks by District class.

