



CURRICULUM NEWS

2024 Spring Term 1 - Secondary East

*Inspire Excellence
Challenge Potential
Empower Learning*

Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



The Spring term seems to have whizzed away and we are soon heading into summer. Thank you to all the parents and carers who participated in the teacher consultation meetings last week.

During Pupil Progress Day I was privileged to witness the amazing progress pupils made this term across different areas of the curriculum and their personal development. Once again, the vast majority of our pupils across the school are making excellent progress.

In the second half of Spring, our school hosted the Growing the Top event, welcoming five practitioners from outstanding schools. This opportunity allowed us to present our curriculum, which received high praise from our visitors. They also observed several classes and were very impressed with the quality of education, indicating an interest in sending their teachers to gain insights from our teaching approaches.

Overall, we were extremely proud of everyone and the Growing the Top visit was a celebration of all the successes around the school. A great way to finish the term! Wishing you a good half term from the team at The Grove

Best wishes, Helen Georgiades, Deputy Headteacher

Teaching, Learning, Curriculum

As we come to the end of Spring term, it is such a pleasure to take some time to reflect on what a productive term we have had. World Book Day was a huge success! I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the amazing costumes and was blown away by everyone's efforts towards their 'World Book Day Class Door'. It is always so lovely to see pupils and staff engaging in conversation about books and taking time out of their usual timetable to dedicate towards their favourite stories.

We have had many visitors this half term who have had the opportunity to get into classes to see how the curriculum is being delivered. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and they have all been really impressed with seeing pupils so engaged in learning across the school!

There have been lots of really interesting parent workshops this half term. I would like to say thank you to anyone who has attended, I hope they have been beneficial and helped towards supporting pupils at home.

Have a lovely Spring break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for Summer term.

Best Wishes, Molly Stopps, Senior Faculty Lead

Dates for your diary

Date	Event
28th March	End of Term
10th April	Eid ul-Fitr Begins
15th April	INSET - No Pupils
16th April	Pupils back to school
22nd April	Stephen Lawrence Day
23rd April	St George's Day
2nd May	Grove Governor Meeting
6th May	Bank Holiday - No Pupils
7th May	Pupils back to school
8th May	VE Day
15th - 21st May	Mental Health Awareness
17th May	International day against HBT Phobia
27th - 31st May	Half Term
3rd June	INSET - No Pupils
4th June	Pupils back to school



Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

As always I begin with a huge thank you to all the families that have been in touch, attended annual reviews, meetings and pupil progress day.

As we head into the Summer term I would love to see you all for a catch up **Wednesday 15th 9.30-11am** this will be our last one of the year. I hope you can join me!

Many of you might not know that we have a 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.

I have been fortunate enough to be in the position to teach a group of pupils about anti-bullying which has led them to complete a course and become Anti-Bullying ambassadors. We will be doing more of this next term and expanding our anti-bullying ambassador group.

Next half term sees our usual Mental Health awareness celebrations. I will also be running a drop in for families who want to know more about how to support their children with their mental health and wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to point you all in the direction of our Online Safety page <https://thegroveschool.co.uk/online-safety/> this is on our website and contains some useful information.

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

Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

Hi everyone,

It has been another short half-term that has been packed full of wonderful achievements and moments.

We had a very productive staff Inset Day at the beginning of the term in which staff revisited behaviour expectations and considered why we use certain strategies for our pupils. We developed a whole school list of 'behaviour non-negotiables' that are being designed into a poster to display across the school. These will guide staff to ensure we are meeting the needs of all pupils and factoring in autistic differences when we support behaviour.

Family workshops have been continuing this half-term, with more of a curriculum focus. I would like to thank everyone who attended! We really love seeing you all in school for the workshops. Please sign up for the remaining sessions and if you ever have any ideas for workshops you would like then email me.

The playground charters have now been printed and installed in the playground. They look great and can now be used to support play and interaction in the playground. As we move towards summer we will be introducing new games and activities to make sure playtimes are fun and engaging.

Career News

Another very busy half term, the highlight of which was Careers week and the Careers fair. Across that week pupils had access to a number of different activities including the ones below:

- 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!

I think a stand out activity was definitely the 'gaming bus' for our pupils aged 8 and above. It was great to see them racing each other on virtual racing tracks and entering virtual worlds with VR headsets. We will definitely be bringing it back next year!

Thank you to those of you that supported us with the Careers fair and came round to look at the stands and talk with our exhibitors. Your feedback was lovely and I hope that it gave everyone something to think about for the future and how many wonderful opportunities there can be for your children.

As always you can contact me below with any questions on next steps, careers or enrichment opportunities.

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

Yet again this short half term has flown by! Pupils in Secondary East have had the chance to attend a range of fantastic enrichment opportunities including attending the careers fair, an extremely successful outing for our Enterprise group to sell their wares in Spitalfields Market as well as the continued sports trip taking place on a weekly basis and our STEM Sessions at Blackhorse Road. Across the department we have continued to see excellent progress being made in all subjects with pupils starting to gear up for their formal examinations in the summer term. In the summer term we get to the business end of KS4 with qualifications and assessments being completed and sent off for moderation. We will also start to have conversations with pupils in Year 9 about their choices next academic year. We hope you have a restful break and come back ready for the final push to the summer holidays

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.

Metropolitan and District classes have been learning about spreadsheets. They have been taught how to collect and format data in a spreadsheet. They have learned how to create formulas and how useful they are when adding up large sets of data. They have also learned about functions which they have used to create fun quizzes.

Hammersmith have been looking at how data is represented in computers. They have learned about binary numbers and how to add them and convert them into denary numbers. They have also used ASCII tables to understand how a computer translates each keyboard click into language it can comprehend. Lastly they have learned how pixels are used to represent colour and how sound waves are reproduced.

In **Docklands and Marylebone** classes, pupils have continued to work towards their qualification in IT user skills. They have been learning about digital images, with a focus on how to use digital hardware, and identifying the differences between photographs and other types of online images. Pupils have used a range of softwares to edit and change images in different ways. They have looked at why images are changed and how to recognise real and 'fake' images. They have had the opportunity to use **Photopea** to create their own hybrid animals. I especially enjoyed the creation of the dog-man, and lion-gorilla.

English

District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith

This half term District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith class have been exploring fantasy writing. Our primary text has been J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which we have used to explore descriptive language, character and setting. Towards the end of the half term, pupils were given the opportunity to write an extended piece of creative writing, with their own characters and fantasy setting. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils engage well with this project, and take pride in their own work. Several pupils asked for additional time to go into more detail and complete their stories.

The highlight of the half term was seeing everyone's interests and personalities reflected in their writing. Because our theme was 'Fantasy Worlds' pupils had a lot of freedom and there were a *wide* variety of different settings. There were tales about knights, pirates, talking animals, aliens, robots, soldiers, monsters, heroes and horrors. Along the way all pupils have developed their use of descriptive language and practised extended writing. In addition to their English skills, pupils have been able to develop their self-expression.

After the break we will be shifting our focus to *Macbeth*. Because we have been thinking about fantasy worlds recently, the witches and supernatural elements of Shakespeare's play will be familiar, and should help pupils access a potentially tricky text. Well done everyone for your fantastic creative work this half term!

Docklands

We began this half term by preparing for, and sitting, the second round of mock exams. Because Paper 2 requires pupils to read *two* sources rather than one we have been practising reading a range of different texts. Dealing with unseen texts can be a significant stumbling block for many pupils, but through routine and repetition we have worked to make the process familiar and unthreatening.

At this point we have completed *both* papers for the GCSE, so the pupils have a much clearer understanding of what to expect in May. It was really good to see such high levels of dedication in the lead up to the mocks. Docklands class continues to take a mature and dedicated approach to their studies, and it has been impressive to see this sustained over time. Pupils have explored the structure of the exam papers and were able to follow suggested timings during the mocks. Following this they have been able to reflect on their experiences and suggest changes for next time, such as answering questions in a different order. This shows good levels of engagement and independence.

Going forward we will continue to focus on developing key English and exam skills. Pupils will begin next term by reviewing their progress, and their current targets following the mocks. Great work so far, Docklands - keep it up!

Marylebone

This half term Marylebone have been focusing on completing pieces of work that will count towards their Entry Level qualifications, and developing their core English skills. A particular highlight was

their work on Speaking and Listening. It was fantastic to see the class interacting well and supporting each other. All members of the class developed both their spoken language skills and their confidence, which was great to see.

Pupils have had the opportunity to put their learning over the previous months into practise this half term, through a range of reading and writing activities. A highlight of the last half term was when the class worked together to write a professional letter to our headteacher, Ms Santi. Building on that, this half term, pupils worked independently to write their own formal letters. Because they had practised this before, they were able to approach the task with confidence. Marylebone pupils also completed a creative writing task and a reading comprehension task, targeted to their current working level.

It has been great to see so many pupils that want to make good progress, by working towards new qualifications, or by consolidating and developing their core English skills. Great work this half term, Marylebone!

Maths

District

Pupils improved their geometry skills by calculating the missing angles in different types of triangles and quadrilaterals. pupils also explored adjacent angles on straight lines and angles around a point. Some pupils extended this knowledge of angles even further, working hard to identify and recall different angle facts such as vertically opposite angles and

interior angles in polygons. Amazing work District!

Pupils across Secondary East in Metropolitan, Hammersmith and Marylebone classes have been investigating statistics this term.

Hammersmith

Hammersmith class have been exploring scatter graphs and types of correlation. pupils also successfully calculated and chose suitable averages to describe sets of data. Well done Hammersmith!

Marylebone

Marylebone pupils have been plotting accurate line graphs and bar charts. pupils impressed Miss Jess by interpreting sets of data and practising exam-style questions. Well done for all your hard work this half-term Marylebone!

Docklands

This half term Docklands class completed their unit exploring different shapes of graphs and have taken a closer look at reciprocal and exponential graphs. Docklands class excelled at finding the nth term of linear and quadratic sequences. Pupils have also started to practise GCSE exam questions in the build up to the exam season. Brilliant work everyone!

Looking Ahead

Next half term pupils in District class will be exploring time and money in Mathematics.

Hammersmith, Metropolitan and Marylebone will also extend their number knowledge by calculating with negative numbers and percentages.

After the break, Docklands and Marylebone classes will be revising and

reviewing various GCSE topics as they prepare for their Summer examinations. Have a wonderful Easter break everyone, you all deserve it! Best wishes, Miss Jess :)

Art

What a wonderful creative term we have had. Some excellent drawing and collage work.

District

Pupils have been learning about collage this term. They have used collage to create tone scapes and colour wheels. They have also learned about types of shapes in Art and movement. They have used this understanding to create some geometric animals and some portraits with movement. Next term pupils will be furthering their understanding of collage to study the work of Matisse and American artist Michael Albert, who has very kindly sent us a large selection of signed prints of his work.

Hammersmith and Metropolitan class

have been working on their illustrated recipes. They each selected a recipe that was either a family tradition or something they really like to eat. Pupils have learned various skills to create and lay out their recipes to achieve the best design. pupils have studied how food is represented in art and asked questions about why artists used the imagery they have. They have learned classical composition techniques such as the golden spiral and crescent shape. They have studied the artwork of lettering artist Jed Chisholm and used his ideas as inspiration. We all are very excited to see how all the recipes will look when they are finished next term.

Docklands and Marylebone

Pupils are completing work for their portfolio. They have learned how light, shade and tone are used to create definition. They have looked at the work of MC Escher and have learned how to use perspective to draw landscapes.

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 London and regeneration that took place in Stratford. pupils underwent their human geography fieldwork and began some work on the pre-release items for their upcoming summer examination. pupils have worked incredibly hard also completing their mock exam this term! Next term we'll look at the final units of study and begin preparation for the summer examinations.

History

This term pupils in District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith have worked through a unit called 'Meanwhile, Elsewhere'. This has had pupils consider other historical events that took place during more well known European history in the 20th century. This combined many of their Geography skills as this unit took them all around the world. Many classes discovered women's suffrage in New Zealand happened in the 1800's and that King Tutakhuman's tomb was only discovered and opened in 1923. Classes also analysed how cartoons and media changed over time when studying the first Mickey Mouse cartoon that was released in 1928. Pupils worked towards making

their own cartoon storyboards to reflect what cartoons were like in the 1920's.

GCSE History pupils this term completed the majority of their 'History Around Us' site study of the Tower of London. Pupils also began their final unit, Living Under Nazi Rule. Pupils have shown great prior knowledge in their discussions about Nazi Germany. This term, pupils also sat their mock exam which they should be very proud of! Next term, pupils will take part in a trip to the Tower of London to better understand history in the local community, continue with the content in the final topic of learning and work towards preparing for the summer examinations.

RE

This term pupils in Secondary East have focused their studies on Justice and Freedom. They have learned to define freedom, understand what different religious stories teach about freedom and what human rights are. Pupils have discovered how understanding of justice and freedoms can vary and also what different symbols of freedom might be. Marylebone class began a unit discovering alternative religions. This involved learning about Ancient Religions and the difference between parody and satire when discovering the ways of Pastafarianism! Next term, Marylebone will continue their study of alternative religions!

Science

During this recent half term, the Key Stage 3 (KS3) classes studied the intriguing realm of Earth's science.

We started with an exploration of the **Earth's structure including tectonic plates** and the secrets hidden beneath our very feet.

We then directed our focus towards the awe-inspiring phenomena of **volcanoes** and their profound impact on the Earth's surface.

As the journey progressed, we stepped into the **rock cycle**, a fundamental process that transforms Earth's landscape. From this we looked at the classification and the characteristics of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks, drawing to a point, the exploration of Earth's geological heritage.

Entry Level Science – Marylebone class

Marylebone class has now covered the entire Entry Level curriculum so we have started to revise some of the content we learnt last year in anticipation of the upcoming exam papers.

The class looked at **DNA structure**, the fascinating world of **mutations** and genetic diversity leading to **variation**, and the evolution of our species and **natural selection**.

The class engaged in a study of **communicable and non-communicable diseases**, exploring the mechanisms of pathogens and disease.

Docklands class, KS4

Dockland class embarked on a comprehensive journey through various scientific topics, including climate

dynamics and the consequences of the **greenhouse effect**.

They then studied **photosynthesis**, delved into **plant physiology** understanding how water, minerals and nutrients are transported from the roots to the leaves.

Within the human biology units we covered the **menstrual** cycle and the **circulatory system**. For the former, they studied the effect of hormones and how contraceptive methods work. For the latter, they learnt about the different parts of the heart, the double circulation, the arteries, veins and capillaries that altogether form the circulatory system.

As the term progressed, the class investigated **electricity and circuits**, delving into the fundamental principles of electrical engineering and circuit design. With hands-on experimentation and theoretical analysis, they learnt about electric currents, voltage, resistance, and circuit components, gaining practical skills and conceptual understanding that would serve as a foundation for future explorations in the realm of physics and engineering.

HOME LEARNING

Visit <https://ttrockstars.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**.

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

Docklands class should have a look at [MyMaths](#), using your individual logins. You can find questions to revise over the break at home.

Computing

District, Metropolitan, Docklands, Marylebone

Why not create a google sheet working out how much you spend on your weekly shopping?

Take your last shopping receipt and put it into a spreadsheet.

Or you can revise spreadsheets using [bitesize](#).

Hammersmith,

[Why not revise some binary ideas.](#)

Have a great Easter, don't eat too much chocolate!

Ms Steventon

English

Following World Book Day, a fantastic way for pupils to continue honing their **English** skills during the 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](#)

Art

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

[revise](#).

Have a great Easter, and don't forget to try and be creative, why not paint an egg or make an Easter bonnet?!

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 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 exploring tennis and developing their hand eye coordination.

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 chords on their choice of either Ukulele or Keyboard. For this, they have been learning how to play the chords of C, F and G both as *Block* (notes all pressed down together) or *Broken* chords (notes played one at a time in a repeating pattern). We have then used our skills with chords to play the 12 Bar Blues together.

In Drama, pupils have been working on creating a Radio Drama based on a ghost story about a haunted house. pupils have taken on different roles as actors, foleys (sound effects) or directors to create and perform this with their class.

KS4 Music

Pupils have continued taking part together in the African Drumming workshops with the drumming teacher, which will enable them to gain an accredited music qualification from AQA. For this they have learnt 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 continued 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

Secondary East pupils can now be part of the school drama club which meets every Tuesday lunchtime in the Activity Studio.

Drama Workshops with *Fourth Monkey*

Pupils in Hammersmith, District, Metropolitan, Piccadilly, Northern and Circle took part in some Drama workshops with Fourth Monkey. It was fantastic to see how positively and enthusiastically they responded to the activities led by the facilitators and how well they worked with their peers. A great day in Performing Arts!

