



# CURRICULUM NEWS

2025 Spring Term 1 - Secondary East

*Inspire Excellence  
Challenge Potential  
Empower Learning*

## Deputy Headteacher's Welcome



As we approach the end of this half term, I am pleased to share some key developments and achievements at The Grove.

Our faculty and subject leads have been working hard to refine our curriculum, ensuring it continues to meet the diverse needs of our pupils.

We recently welcomed our School Improvement Partner, who visited lessons across all departments and highlighted the high quality of our teaching. Her feedback that "Teachers know their pupils very well" and that "Teachers' planning is designed to address pupils' needs and interests" reflects our staff's commitment to delivering high-quality learning.

This term has also included valuable educational visits, with pupils visiting the Aquarium Sea Life Centre, London Zoo, and the Science Museum, among others—each providing enriching real-world learning experiences. A particular highlight was the Prime VR workshop, which introduced cutting-edge technology into our classrooms. Pupils explored virtual worlds, immersing themselves in history, science, and geography in new and exciting ways.

These experiences continue to enhance our curriculum, making learning engaging, dynamic, and relevant.

Have a good half term! Helen Georgiades

## Teaching, Learning, Curriculum

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I've got some exciting updates to share about what's been happening at The Grove.

Miss Amy has been working hard supporting staff and parents' knowledge on SCERTS. She's been busy delivering training to our staff during our INSET day and has run two online workshops for parents. It's great to see everyone getting involved and learning more about this important approach.

Mr Acquah has been hard at work too. He's been teaming up with our senior leadership to carry out Maths Quality Assurance across the school. It's all part of our ongoing efforts to make sure we're providing the best possible education for our pupils.

I'm thrilled to report that phonics in our Primary department is making a positive impact on our pupils' learning. Our pupils have settled well into their phonics groupings and are making progress, which is wonderful to see.

Lastly, I want to highlight our faculty leads. They've been working hard to develop their subject areas, fine-tuning curriculums and schemes of work. They have been sourcing and ordering the best resources to support teaching and learning across the school.

I hope you all have a great half term break.  
Lee Mills

## Dates for your diary

Date	Event
17th - 21st February	Half Term
24th February	INSET - No Pupils
25th February	Pupils back to school
25th February	LGBTQ+ Month
25th February	Women's History Month
3rd - 7th March	Careers Week
4th March	Shrove Tuesday
5th March	Ash Wednesday
6th March	World Book Day
13-14th March	Purim
14th March	Holi
20th March	Grove Governor Meeting
21st March	Red Nose Day
21st March	World Down Syndrome Day
7th April	End of Term
22nd April	Stephen Lawrence Day
22nd April	INSET - No Pupils
23rd April	Pupils back to school



## Safeguarding Lead News - Miss Huseyin

As we finish this half term off with Children's Mental Health Week and Internet Safety Day, I really want to urge all of our families to monitor their child / young person's internet use.

Children and young people are spending more and more time online. And whilst it provides more opportunities for creativity and connection, it also brings more risk too.

Please have open conversations, check their internet use and create an open space for questions.

Being reachable all the time, anywhere, can put young people at risk of bullying, grooming or heightened peer pressure. We know that spending too much time on social media can impact a young person's stress levels and sleep.

There are some great resources that can help you understand the risks of the online world, and the practical steps you can take to keep young people safe:

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

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

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

Best wishes  
Miss Huseyin

---

## Pastoral and Behaviour - Mr Louis Maunder

This term has honestly whizzed by and I can't believe it is newsletter time again!

It has been lovely to share some of our SCERTS practice with parents this term as part of our ongoing Family Workshops. I hope it has given you an insight into some of the research based practices that we use in school and how we use it to support the pupils. Looking to the future, we are hoping to include more research based projects into our family workshop schedule.

This half-term staff across the school have been continuing to work on our new PSP documents, which are giving staff a clearer idea of how to support each individual pupil. Copies of these will now be coming home with Annual Review paperwork so you can also see how we support your child.

Enjoy your half-term break!

Best wishes,

Louis Maunder

Senior Leader for Wellbeing and Behaviour

---

## Career News

As we look forward to spring, we continue to see pupils taking part in exciting opportunities and experiences. It's been a whirlwind of activities, with our young adults venturing out into the world of work and exploration.

Our Sixth Form pupils recently enjoyed an engaging work experience visit to Lush in St Paul's where they created their own face masks and learnt about the different roles with the company. Jubilee class embraced the great outdoors at Kentish Town City Farm. Not to be outdone, our

KS4 pupils have been making their mark in the local community, gaining valuable experience at the ['All Good Bookshop'](#).

The 'Learn to Work programme' at Southbank University, in collaboration with SCULPT, has been a fantastic opportunity for our Sixth Form pupils to develop essential skills for their future careers. Meanwhile, Northern class dove into an underwater adventure at the Aquarium, expanding their horizons and knowledge.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled about the upcoming 'Prime VR' experience, where our pupils will have the chance to explore the world through cutting-edge virtual reality technology. Bakerloo and Northern classes are also in for a treat with their upcoming visit to 'Frameless', an interactive art exhibition in central London that promises to ignite their creativity and imagination. We're also excited about Waterloo and Circle classes' upcoming trip to the Postal Museum on 20th March, which is sure to be a fascinating journey through communication history.

As we gear up for Careers Week from 3rd-7th March, we're reminded of the importance of preparing our pupils for their future paths. More details to follow about Career's week.

It's truly inspiring to see our pupils engaging so enthusiastically with the world around them, and we look forward to many more adventures to come.

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

[bronja.elton@thegroveschool.co.uk](mailto: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

This half-term has passed in the blink of an eye! It feels like pupils have only just returned from the Christmas break, yet we've already reached the halfway point. Despite the short term, they have fully engaged in a diverse range of enrichment activities, trips alongside their core curriculum offer. Highlights included a fantastic visit to the Natural History Museum, an immersive AI experience, and continued participation in offsite programs such as Blackhorse Workshop and local area trips. At school, pupils have also enjoyed chess club with external coaching and music lessons in a range of instruments.

The progress made during the Autumn term has been sustained, and it's been wonderful to see learning flourish across the curriculum. We hope you have a restful break and return refreshed for Spring 2, when some of our KS4 pupils will be completing their entry-level qualifications

---

## 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.

**Hammersmith and District** class has been diving into the world of digital images, discovering the fascinating differences between photographs and other types of online images. Pupils have explored a range of software tools to edit and transform images in various ways, gaining valuable insights into why images are altered and how to distinguish between real and 'fake' images.

One of the highlights of this project has been using BeFunky to unleash their creativity and design their own hybrid animals. The imaginative creations have been nothing short of impressive, with standout hybrids like the "French Bullfrog," "Mario the Frog," "Pigeon-lotl," and "Alexpuss." The enthusiasm and originality shown by our pupils have been truly inspiring, and we are excited to see how they continue to develop their digital artistry skills.

We are incredibly proud of our KS3 pupils for their hard work and inventive spirit. Keep up the fantastic work. 🖼️🐸🐱

**Metropolitan** class has been diving into the exciting world of 3D modeling using computers. Pupils have expanded their knowledge and understanding by exploring how 3D modeling is applied in real-world contexts, such as architecture, design, and computer games. This hands-on approach has provided them with valuable insights into the practical

uses of 3D technology and its impact on various industries.

Using Tinkercad software, pupils have designed an impressive array of items, including mazes, houses, and keyrings. They had the opportunity to bring their digital creations to life by trying out some of their designs on our 3D printer. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by our pupils in these projects are truly commendable, and we are incredibly proud of their progress.

We look forward to seeing how our young designers continue to innovate and grow in their 3D modeling skills. Well done to all the pupils for their hard work and outstanding creativity! 🏠🔑💻

## English

### District and Metropolitan

This half term, District and Metropolitan classes have been using the theme of **Crime and Consequences** to explore different perspectives in writing, and the impact of different types of texts. We began by focusing on writing skills, with pupils working towards creating their own newspaper reports, each with a clear perspective. They then used this knowledge as a foundation to develop their reading skills, by comparing different points of view in a range of texts. Finally, pupils built up their speaking and listening skills by exploring and expressing their own opinions, and taking part in structured debates.

It has been lovely to see pupils so engaged with the topic, especially as this high engagement so often led to them expressing their own opinions, and being willing to 'put themselves out there' when

sharing ideas. I have also been impressed with the clarity of structure in writing across classes, where our focus on newspaper articles has provided a strong foundation for pupils to build on, even when switching to creative writing tasks. Well done to everyone on a productive and enjoyable half term!

This half term we have been focusing on **reading for pleasure** across the school with our 'Drop Everything And Read' program (DEAR). It has been a huge success, and is now a firmly established part of the school routine. After lunch, every pupil spends 15 minutes reading, either as a class or with a book of their choice. Please feel free to talk with your child about what they have been reading this half term!

### Marylebone

After exploring *Animal Farm* last half term, Marylebone have been using the theme **All in the Mind** to develop their language analysis skills. We began by looking at the difference between implicit and explicit meaning. We then explored differences of tone in a range of texts, and the effect of writers' choices on the reader, with a focus on gothic literature such as H.G Wells' *The Red Room* and Edgar Allen Poe's *The Masque of the Red Death*.

I have been genuinely impressed with both the level of analysis in writing, and the level of control (and, often, originality) when crafting tone. Pupils have been able to create sinister, foreboding environments in their writing, and then completely switch and write with a comic tone. A major factor that has allowed pupils to make progress is their ongoing 'Personal English Project,' where - once a

week - they are able to take control of their focus in English and work towards their targets in their own way. Well done everyone for making excellent progress this half term!

## Maths

### KS3

This half term, *Hammersmith, District, and Metropolitan* pupils have been working hard on Place Value and Ordering, and we have seen fantastic progress in their understanding. From recognising the value of each digit in a number to confidently comparing and ordering numbers, they have shown real determination and enthusiasm in their learning.

When we return after the break, we will be diving into Fraction, Decimal, and Percentage Equivalence. This is an important topic that helps pupils see the connections between different ways of representing numbers. We will be using fun, hands-on activities and real-life examples to help make this topic clear and engaging.

We encourage you to support your child at home by discussing simple everyday examples, such as talking about discounts in shops (percentages), cutting food into equal parts (fractions), or looking at decimal prices. Little moments like these can help build confidence and reinforce learning in a relaxed and practical way.

### KS4

This half term, *Docklands* have tackled Multiplied and Dividing Fractions, showing fantastic improvement in both understanding and resilience. Fractions can be a tricky topic, but their

perseverance and positive attitude have really shone through.

After developing fractions, we shifted our focus to revision for their entry-level qualifications. This has been a valuable opportunity for pupils to consolidate their learning, build confidence, and practise key skills in preparation for their upcoming assessments.

When we return after the break, we will continue with revision and exam preparation, ensuring that every pupil feels as ready as possible to achieve success in their qualification. This is a crucial step in their maths journey, and we are committed to supporting them every step of the way.

You can help at home by encouraging your child to talk about what they have learned and practise simple maths problems together. Even small moments of revision, such as discussing real-life maths (like sharing food equally or working out change in a shop), can make a big difference.

This half term, *Marylebone* pupils have been working hard on Three Dimensional Shapes, and Constructions and Congruency. They have done a fantastic job of staying focused and consistent in their learning, showing great attention to detail when working with shapes and understanding how they fit together. Their commitment to this topic has been brilliant, and we are really proud of their progress!

When we return after the break, we will continue exploring this topic further, helping pupils deepen their understanding and apply their knowledge in different ways. Following this, we will be shifting

our focus to securing qualifications that will support their next steps.

At home, you can support your child by encouraging discussions about real-world examples of 3D shapes and constructions, such as buildings, packaging, or even everyday objects around the house. Seeing how maths connects to daily life can help reinforce their learning and boost confidence

## Art

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

**Metropolitan classes** have been buzzing with creativity as they continue their paper mache projects inspired by the remarkable work of Yinka Shonibare, particularly his piece "Alien Nation." Pupils have immersed themselves in exploring the concept of aliens, delving into questions about what an alien might feel like, look like, and how they would perceive one. This imaginative journey has led to the creation of some truly fantastic and unique alien sculptures! Through this project, pupils have not only honed their technical skills in paper mache but also expanded their creative thinking and artistic expression.

The variety of aliens produced reflects the diverse interpretations and imaginative visions of our pupils. From otherworldly creatures with intricate patterns to beings that seem to come from the depths of space, each piece tells a unique story. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and dedication our pupils have shown in bringing their alien concepts to life. We can't wait to see how our young artists continue to push the boundaries of their creativity. Well done to all the pupils for

their hard work and outstanding artwork!



**District and Hammersmith classes** have made great progress in their Art classes this term! Their dedication and enthusiasm for improving their drawing skills have truly shone through in their recent work. Pupils have been diligently learning about key concepts such as one-point perspective, scale, tone, and shading. It is truly impressive to witness how they have applied these techniques to create visually stunning artwork. The effort they have put into mastering these skills is evident in the intricate details and realistic representations found in their drawings.

Our young artists have not only shown great technical improvement but also a deepening understanding of how to bring their creative visions to life. The use of one-point perspective has added a new dimension to their work, allowing them to create depth and realism. They have skillfully manipulated scale and proportion to convey the relationships between different elements in their compositions. Moreover, their use of tone and shading has brought a lifelike quality to their drawings, making them stand out as true works of art. We are incredibly proud of the progress our KS3 pupils have made and look forward to seeing their continued growth and creativity in the future. Keep up the fantastic work! 🎨🖌️

## Geography

Pupils in Entry Level Geography worked hard this term completing their volcano models and erupting these for many pupils in the department. Their focus on detail and the way they were able to explain their models and the features of

the models showed a great grasp on this natural feature. Pupils worked hard to reflect on this project and were able to annotate diagrams of their hard work! Pupils have then started their unit on Tropical Rainforests. This will include a look at the structure of rainforests, the biodiversity of the biome and the concern of deforestation.

## History

Entry Level History pupils have continued to work hard on their study of Crime and Punishment, working into the study of Industrial England. They have investigated crime, punishments and law enforcement up to the 19th Century. Pupils took on a large exploration into the Bloody Code. This involved understanding how attitudes towards crimes changed and how this was reflected in law enforcement. Pupils are nearly finished with their crime and punishment study. Next half term they will work on the final unit of Modern England and then move onto their personal projects. Thank you to all the pupils for their hard work this term!

## RE

This term pupils have been working hard discovering what morals and values are. This has included understanding what is important to them and considering what might be important to many people. They worked on sharing their ideas and listening to their classmates. They then worked towards learning about values for Hindus. This mainly included the concept of Karma. Pupils were able to describe what Karma means to Hindus and brainstorm examples that would bring positive and negative karma. Pupils will continue this study next term, considering

what values different religions have like Humanism, Christianity and Judaism.

## KS3 Humanities

This term Key Stage 3 pupils in District, Hammersmith and Metropolitan class have started their History study of Invasion of 1066. Pupils have started by understanding the skill of chronology and putting dates and events in time order. They then analysed what life was like in Anglo Saxon England before 1066. This included considering jobs, housing and towns. Finally, pupils have started to understand the crisis of 1066 and how there was a fight for the English crown after Edward the Confessor's death. Pupils will continue with this unit study after the half term break. Further exploring what life was like in England after the Battles for the throne!

## Science

### Docklands Entry-Level Science

During this half-term, pupils have been exploring the concept of the atom.

They began by studying atomic structure, learning how to draw and label atoms, as well as understanding their placement in the Periodic Table.

Next, they started to learn about bonding, discovering how atoms combine to form the matter around us. They first started with ionic bonding, as seen in table salt, followed by covalent bonding in oxygen and water, and finally, metallic bonding in metals. Pupils also examined the different structures of carbon, including diamond, graphite, and graphene. Following this,



they investigated the physical properties of these substances.

### **Metropolitan class, KS3**

This half-term began with an introduction to chemical compounds, laying the foundation for understanding how different elements combine to form new substances.

Pupils then explored the reactivity series of metals, conducting experiments to observe how various metals react with acids and water. Through these investigations, they were able to rank metals based on their reactivity, creating their own reactivity series. This hands-on approach helped them develop a deeper understanding of why some metals react more vigorously than others.

In addition to studying reactivity, pupils also learned how to name chemical compounds and balance chemical equations, essential skills for interpreting and writing chemical reactions accurately.

As the half-term progresses, pupils will apply their knowledge of the reactivity series to predict how different metals are extracted from Earth's rocks. They will explore methods such as reduction with carbon for less reactive metals and electrolysis for extracting highly reactive metals from their compounds. By the end of the term, they will have gained insight into the real-world applications of chemistry, particularly in the extraction and processing of essential metals.

### **District and Hammersmith classes, KS3**

This half-term, District and Hammersmith classes have been exploring fundamental

concepts in chemistry, focusing on the states of matter and the particle model. Pupils examined how solids, liquids, and gases behave at a particle level and how changes in temperature affect these states. They investigated changes of state, such as melting, freezing, evaporation, and condensation, deepening their understanding of how matter transforms under different conditions.

In addition, pupils learned about various separation techniques used to purify substances. Through hands-on practicals, they experimented with methods like filtration, crystallization, and evaporation to separate mixtures and recover dissolved solids. These experiments not only reinforced theoretical knowledge but also helped pupils develop essential laboratory skills.

By applying the particle model to real-life scenarios, pupils gained insight into the importance of these processes in industries such as water purification and everyday life. Their practical work provided valuable experience in scientific investigation, preparing them for more advanced chemistry topics in the future.

### **Marylebone class GCSE**

This half-term, Marylebone class has been diving into the fascinating world of atomic structure and chemical bonding.

They began by exploring the Periodic Table, learning how elements are organised based on their properties and atomic structure. This led to an in-depth study of the atom, where pupils examined its structure, including protons, neutrons, and electrons, and how these subatomic particles influence an element's behaviour. They also traced the history of

atomic models, from Dalton's solid sphere model to Thomson's plum pudding model, and finally to Rutherford's nuclear model and Bohr's electron shells.

Building on this foundation, pupils explored ions and how atoms gain or lose electrons to form charged particles. This understanding was crucial for their study of bonding, where they differentiated between ionic bonding, which occurs in compounds like sodium chloride, and covalent bonding, found in molecules such as water and oxygen.

They also investigated giant covalent structures, including diamond, graphite, and graphene, analysing their unique properties such as hardness, electrical conductivity, and strength. Through these lessons, pupils gained insight into how atomic structure influences the physical and chemical properties of substances, reinforcing their understanding with discussions and problem-solving exercises.

By the end of the term, Marylebone pupils will have developed a strong foundation in atomic theory and bonding, preparing them for more advanced chemistry topics in the future.

## HOME LEARNING

### **Maths**

We're excited to see all of our pupils continue to excel in these upcoming topics, and we appreciate all the support from parents and carers in helping them succeed.

All pupils can visit <https://trockstars.com> to brush up on times tables.

(All pupils should have been given their login details.)

Please visit BBC Bitesize and use the below resources to your advantage.

### **KS3**

*Hammersmith, District, and Metropolitan*

Fraction, Decimal, and Percentage Equivalence

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsxhfg8/articles/z4ymtv4#znncg7h>

Encourage your child to solve real-life problems, like calculating shopping bills or working out change, to reinforce these skills.

### **KS4**

*Docklands*

Multiplying and Dividing Fractions

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsxhfg8>

*Marylebone*

Constructions and Congruence

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zdr9wmn/articles/zqw4wsg>

### **Computing**

#### **Metropolitan**

Why not brush up on some of your coding skills?

[Code space invaders](#)

#### **District, Hammersmith,**

[Code your own 3D solar system](#)

#### **Marylebone and Docklands**

[Why not try some coding? Code Mario to get the coins!](#)

***Fantastic half-term, everyone! Have a great break, and remember to stay safe online***

Ms Steventon

### **Art**

Research and artist

[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!*

### **English**

During the break, the best way that pupils can continue to develop their **English** skills is by continuing their **independent reading**. 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](#)



---

## **PE News with Mr Proctor**

Secondary East This half-term, pupils have explored football and table tennis. They have learned how to dribble, pass to a partner, and score in football. Pupils have practiced these skills with a partner and then pupils have had the opportunity to play competitive football matches against their peers which pupils have thoroughly enjoyed.

Pupils always enjoy playing table tennis and have been working on their serve, perfecting their backhand shots as well as developing their forehand shots. Pupils enjoy rallying with a partner as well as starting to take part in competitive matches with each other.

Many Secondary East pupils enjoy supporting primary lessons throughout the week and are amazing role models to our younger pupils.

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 think your child might want to begin violin lessons please contact Miss Emily to discuss further.

---

## Performing Arts News with Ms Dydymka

### **District, Metropolitan & Hammersmith**

In music, pupils have been exploring group composition using a variety of different classroom instruments. This will culminate in a finished and recorded class composition where they will demonstrate all they have learnt over the unit.

In drama, pupils have been exploring puppetry. Hammersmith and District have worked on developing large paper people puppets, working in small groups to move them and create short scenarios. Metropolitan have been working on paper head puppets, creating individual puppets and devising a story for these to perform as a class.

### **KS4 Music**

Pupils are continuing to work on developing their skills on their focus instrument and deepening their musical understanding.

## **Performing Arts Enrichment**

### **Instrumental Lessons**

Haringey Music Service have been continuing to offer one to one piano, guitar and drum kit 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

### **Haringey Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall**

Some of our pupils are preparing to perform at the Royal Albert Hall as part of Haringey Schools Music Festival on the 18th March. The choir is rehearsing six songs to perform as part of the massed choir and our Djembe drummers will be performing a specially written piece on the stage to open the show. It promises to be an incredible evening of music and fun!

