

## Cultural Evening and Cultural Concert

Ms C Williams

This year we celebrated our third Cultural Evening on Wednesday 23 November bringing together all we learned during this year's Black History Month. Students practised incredibly hard and we were very impressed with our Year 11 students, in particular, who contributed so much during the planning of the production and the final performance. Students were effervescent in their willingness to put aside shyness and any feelings of self consciousness and put on an outstanding performance for the concert and the evening.

### A special thanks to all the participants for all their hard work.



Tariq Sorhaindo, Sherwin Holder, Bianca Rawlingson, Charlotte Yeo, Grace Mustafa, Natalia Toro, Jordan Chrisostomou, Santana McKenzie, Adhy Makanda, Alice Struthers, Eunice Yao, Britnee McEwan, Shannon Heskay Harper, Sainabou Ann, Jada Freeman, Bailey Cox, Kamesha Durand, Candice Nel-

son Bent, Nicole Hutchinson, Nasteha Mohamed, Idele Imade, Dean Muya Muwadzi, George Popa, Jerome Carter, Alex Kozlov, Daniel West, Alexandra Walker, Natisha

Robinson, Leyla Hassan, Aisha Nur, Diamond Ogunbadejo, Busola Fakoya, Jayden Atkins, Yovani Cunningham, Ty Brooks, Terayah Latty, Kudzai Magure, Chanese Smith –Mattis, James Johnson Chinyere Grant Saskia Chrisostomou, Ilyasu Garnvwa, Chad Green, Shana Smith Mattis, Shanika Clarke, Sharon Calado, Janete Nogueira, Zeynab Said, Mahya Salim, Sakina Kapasi, Julicia Meade, Chloe Lloyd, Jenny Baalbaki, Sharihan Hassan.

## Celebration of the Periodic Table

Ms D Srikanthan

Students from Year 11 and 12 visited the newly built Chemistry Centre for a 'Celebration of the Periodic Table' with Gordon Woods. The students heard an enthusiastic lecture about Mendeleev, and were also introduced to 'visual elements'. The event allowed the students to observe different versions of the periodic table giving them insight into why the accuracy of this research is important to avoid inconsistent predictions in the future.

## Design Technology

Ms J Jafar & Ms A Gallagher

**Class of the month.** Students have worked hard and focused throughout lessons. Students have developed work to a high level and continue to work hard and progress in every lesson. A big well done to the following: Danny Baalbaki, Taimoor Ghafoor, Ahsan Khademi, Kacper Maros, Dhalham Mohamed-Ajaz, RashaanMuir, Dean Muya Mawadzi, Steven Obrega, Allan Otter, Fatima Said, Jamie Sims, Reece Taylor, Shannon Titus, Jonas Urbonas, Soban Zafar.

Also Bethany Davies Year 9 who made a fantastic pizza of shop bought quality, complete with pockets of stuffed crust on the edge. Well done!

## Message from the Principal

Ms E Skae

Dear parents / carers

This is my favourite time of year. We are celebrating the end of a long but successful term, with many of our students and staff having much to be proud of. There is lots going on at the Academy right up until the last day, where the finale of the term will be our annual Christmas pantos.

Last week, many of you came to our Christmas Concert – and I have to say it was the best one we have ever had. As a result of lots of you asking for more events like this, I have managed to persuade Mr Axford, our brilliant new Head of Music, to plan a concert every term!

During that evening, I was approached by some of you asking if we have any need for Academy uniform that your children have grown out of. I was very touched by these thoughts, and yes – if you have uniform that is in good condition, please do bring it to reception where we will ensure it is given a good home.

Recent good news that has really made us proud is that a recent government report states that we are above the National Average in terms of the percentage of students who left last year with 5 or more GCSEs at grades C or above (Academy 82% and national 79%). Another huge success is that we are in the top 15% of schools in terms of the progress that students make while at the Academy. We are proud that we push our students to achieve more than they thought possible, and we do this by setting very challenging targets and having high expectations of all students to do their best to meet those targets. To continue to do this for your child, we need your support in driving home the importance of aiming high and trying your best.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you on 4 January 2012.

Best wishes

Emma Skae, Principal



Emma Skae—Principal

## Healthy Schools Award

Ms R Ward

We are all very pleased to have been awarded the Healthy Schools Award in recognition of our work towards students' health and well being, safety and understanding of personal and social aspects of learning. We were praised for our excellent PSHRE programme, the wonderful work of our nurses and the additional care and support all our staff offer our students.

The kitchen staff were praised for the choice and healthy considerations of their menus, the Healthy Schools team were impressed further by the extra curricular physical activities which go on, including more unusual activities like belly dancing and gardening. The award will be on display in reception soon.



## BTec Performing Arts Students

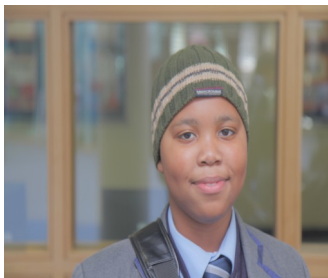
Ms R Ward

Year 13 performed a Theatre in Education piece to Year 10 students—the piece was around sex education and ensuring that everyone takes good care of themselves. This was part of their Unit 10 project and they all showed excellent commitment to the work and to their performance.



## Woolly Hat Day

Ms E Hastings-Hassan



On 18 November, students and teachers enjoyed wearing their hats in school to raise money for St Mungo's Woolly Hat day. In total we collected £122 to help the homeless charity. This term, money was also raised by Bawan Aziz in 7D who took part in an impressive 24 hours sponsored silence for Children in Need and raised £54, and the Christmas Concert which raised £240 for Haven House. We are also looking forward to Christmas Accessory day on December 14 to raise money for the Stephen Lawrence Foundation.

## Year 12 BTec

Mr S Gill



This week saw a fantastic production of the short play 'The Séance' by Anthony Neilson, performed by the Year 12 BTec Performing Arts students: Aaliyah Blake Patrick, Aaron Wilson, Serayah Austrie, Shakira Austrie, Jonathan Wilson, Sam Collins and Dilani Douglas. This was their first production as a company and was hailed a great success by those who attended. Well done students!!

## Waltham Forest Big 6

Ms E Skae

Waltham Forest Council is bringing you six amazing events to celebrate the Olympic year and our status as a host borough! They are putting on these free events for Waltham Forest residents to say thank you for supporting the Games, and to create some memories of the Olympic year that will last a lifetime.

They have organised a magical Winter Wonderland, dazzling fireworks show, a pop concert featuring big name acts, a live music concert with classical sounds and a modern twist, a 2012 sports based festival and a brilliant weekend of outdoor cinema. For more information on the Waltham Forest Big 6 events please visit: [www.walthamforestbig6.co.uk](http://www.walthamforestbig6.co.uk)



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# news

## December 2011

Issue No 70 [www.walthamstow-academy.org](http://www.walthamstow-academy.org) [www.twitter.com/WalthamstowAcad](http://www.twitter.com/WalthamstowAcad)

## Inside this Issue

**Christmas Concert**

**Waltham Forest Big 6**

**Cultural Evening**

**Healthy Schools Award**

**Class of the month**

**BTec Performance**

**Woolly Hat Day**

**Year 12 Performance**

**Science visit**

## Diary Dates

**Last day of Term**  
Friday 16 December 2011  
12.15pm

**INSET Day**  
Tuesday 3 January 2012  
Academy closed to  
students

**Academy Returns**  
Wednesday 4 January  
2012  
8.30am (all students)

## Christmas Concert

Mr P Axford

This year's Christmas concert was held to raise money for the Make a Wish Foundation. The organisation was chosen by our student charity representatives, and grants magical wishes to children fighting life threatening illnesses. The concert was very well attended, and we managed to raise £240 for this excellent cause.

Guests who attended were wowed by amazing performances from our talented students from year 7 through to year 13. The concert programme was made up of a wide variety of musical genres. A Christmas theme ran alongside a contemporary repertoire chosen by the performers themselves. The show was stolen by many Year 11 performances. These students in particular gave us their best, which for many of them was the last opportunity to shine before the pressure of exams dominates their school life.

The new Walthamstow Academy Steel Band impressed the audience with their debut performance at the concert. Watch this space for news of future performances from what promises to be a spectacular addition to the wider Academy life.

The music Department would like to thank all of our brilliant performers.

Finally, a big thank you to those who supported this event.

