

Little Ilford Schools News & Events
Summer 2025 - Issue 39



Magazine **INLINE**

**COURAGE
COMMITMENT
COMPASSION**

In this edition: Art, Jack Petchey Award, Sports Day, Debate Mate
and much more...

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of another academic year at Little Ilford School, I want to reflect on the incredible journey we have shared. This year has been marked by remarkable courage, commitment and compassion. I am immensely proud of our students, staff, and parents/carers for their unwavering dedication and support.

Academic Excellence and Innovative Learning

Our students have consistently demonstrated outstanding academic performance throughout the year. Their commitment to learning, combined with our talented staff's exceptional guidance and instruction, has yielded notable accomplishments across all subjects and year groups. It is a joy to witness their progress and eagerness to learn.

A significant highlight this year has been our successful implementation of the AI-powered learning platform, **CENTURY**. We are particularly proud to share that Little Ilford School has become **one of the highest users of CENTURY globally**, a testament to our students' dedication and our staff's enthusiastic embrace of this innovative tool. This initiative has been instrumental in encouraging independent learning and boosting engagement, particularly with homework and revision. CENTURY's intuitive layout, diagnostic tools, and flexible grouping options have allowed us to tailor learning to individual student needs, reinforce key knowledge and prepare them for examinations with confidence. We've also begun to leverage CENTURY's robust data analysis capabilities further to refine our teaching strategies and schemes of learning, ensuring a truly data-driven approach to pedagogy. Please see an article regarding this news: [CENTURY](#)

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff who have gone the extra mile by providing additional revision, intervention, masterclasses, and those who have enthusiastically adopted this new technology.

Attendance Matters

We recognise that consistent attendance is closely tied to student success. Our aim remains to encourage every student to strive for 100% attendance and support our efforts to improve in this area, ensuring every child benefits from the whole educational experience we offer.

Community Engagement

The strength of our school community lies in the active involvement of parents, students, and staff. Your participation in school events, Parent-Teacher meetings, Friends of Little Ilford School (FLIS) meetings, and other initiatives has significantly contributed to creating a positive and inclusive environment. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental in our students' success, and I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (Secondary and SEND)

During the upcoming six-week break, Newham Council is again collaborating with various organisations and schools to offer free places at Holiday Clubs. Activities range from sports, drama, cooking, music, arts & crafts, and dance to fun day trips and more! Each club also provides a healthy meal each day. Parents and other family members can also participate in food and nutrition activities. The summer programme and booking details are available here: [Summer Fun in Newham 2025](#)

Household Support Fund

The Department for Work and Pensions has confirmed the continuation of the Household Support Fund until March 2026, allowing the Council to offer summer holiday vouchers to all FSM-eligible children (from Reception to Year 11). The school will send these vouchers via text and/or email using Wonde this week.

Supporting Online Safety

Please see the link below (and on our school website) to a Kooth webinar for parents covering young people's use of the internet, social media, and smartphones, exploring how parents and carers can support them to stay safe. The webinar is 30 minutes long. There are two possible dates; if you can't attend either, Kooth will send you the information presented.

Helping young people stay safe on smartphones and online: [\[Access Kooth Webinar Here\]](#)

End of Year Report:

The end-of-term report, which reports on your child's progress, will be available on Go4Schools on the last day of term, Friday, 18th July. Please use the link below to access all the information regarding this.

[Parent Guide to Go4Schools](#)

New Academic Year

The new school year will commence for current students on **Wednesday, 3rd September 2025**: Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 students should arrive via the Browning Road gate. Gates open at 7:45 am, with breakfast club available. The school gates will close promptly at 8:20 am.

Our new Year 7 students will receive a separate letter detailing their schedule for their first day on **Tuesday, 2nd September 2025**. They will use the Rectory Road entrance for the first two weeks.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our students for their hard work, to our staff for their unwavering dedication, and to our parents and carers for their continued support. Together, we have achieved great things, and I am confident that we will continue to impact our students' lives positively.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Warm regards,

Andrew Finn
Headteacher

SERPENTINE GALLERY



Art students visiting the Serpentine Gallery and gaining insight into work of artists.

Our Year 10 Art students recently visited the Serpentine Gallery to explore works by Giuseppe Penone and Arpita Singh, both of whom approach the theme of identity in unique ways. The visit included a guided tour and Q&A, helping students connect the exhibition to their coursework.



Students were especially inspired by Arpita Singh, an 87-year-old Indian artist whose first UK solo show reflects her cultural heritage and addresses political themes with a subtle, playful style. Her journey of resilience and creativity deeply impressed them.

Exploring eco-pedagogy through paper-making and traditional Chinese drawing and painting techniques



UCL Institute of Education's MA Art Education, Culture and Practice students recently led engaging after-school workshops for our

ECO-PEDAGOGY AND CHINESE ART

Year 7s. One session explored eco-pedagogy and sustainability through paper-making, while the other introduced traditional Chinese drawing and painting techniques.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to explore new artistic and cultural practices that complemented their art and design studies. Their enthusiasm and engagement deeply impressed the UCL guests.

ART EXHIBITION 2025

On the 19th June, our doors opened to an outstanding exhibition of Art from our GCSE students who will be graduating this year.



ART EXHIBITION 2025



HEALTHY EATING AND WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK: 9TH-13TH JUNE 2025

At Little Ilford School, we are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of our students. From 9th to 13th June, we proudly held our annual Healthy Eating and Walk or Bike to School Week, filled with activities that encouraged students to make positive lifestyle choices. This time round the TFL Pioneers organised and facilitated all of the events, which tied in perfectly with their current Eat healthy, Travel healthy, and Save the planet project. Healthy Eating in the Dining Hall Throughout the week, our dining team offered a special Healthy Options Menu featuring delicious and nutritious choices such as:

- Wholemeal rice, pasta, flatbreads, low fat chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes
- Fresh fruit and a variety of salads
- Natural yoghurts and reduced sugar drinks

These meals were designed to promote balanced eating and raise awareness of healthy food options.

Step Count Challenge

Students were encouraged to increase their physical activity by taking part in our Step Count Challenge, using their phone apps to track their progress on their walk to school. The students with the highest step counts were rewarded with

We are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of our students.

praise points and Amazon vouchers. Winners: Maryam 8.2, Sabrina 7.7

Golden Lock Bike Competition

A “golden lock” was placed on a randomly selected bike, with the winning cyclist receiving a health-themed prize from TFL, who strongly support promoting cycling as a fun, eco-friendly way to travel to school. Winners: Agasthiya 7.12, Samir 7.11

Road Safety Obstacle Course with TFL Pioneers

A major highlight of the week was the Road Safety Obstacle Course, facilitated by the TFL Pioneers. This practical session taught students essential road safety skills and highlighted how important it is to ensure we are not distracted by our phones and other gadgets whilst using the roads. Well done to all who participated and supported our Healthy Schools Week, we look forward to building on this success in future wellbeing initiatives.

JACK PETCHEY JANUARY-JUNE WINNERS



The winners nominated by
Pastoral Teams, Senior
Leadership and Student Council.

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award champions the incredible accomplishments of young people across London and Essex. This isn't just about grades; it's about recognizing the diverse ways students excel – from overcoming personal challenges to making significant contributions in their school or local community, and achieving meaningful personal milestones.

At Little Ilford School, with its vibrant community of around 1800 students, a select group of six truly exceptional individuals were recently honored with this prestigious award. Each recipient receives £300 to invest in something that will benefit themselves, their fellow students, and the school as a whole. These deserving winners have consistently demonstrated remarkable courage, commitment, and compassion throughout their time at Little Ilford School.

Being a Jack Petchey Award recipient is a significant lifetime

achievement, as it can only be won once. The Jack Petchey Foundation's mission is to empower young people and inspire them to continue striving for excellence. We at Little Ilford School are immensely proud to be a part of this foundation, as it powerfully highlights the incredible capabilities of our students.

The winners for January to June are:

Mohammed - Year 7
Saniyah - Year 7
Estefania - Year 8
Rayyan - Year 9
Maryam - Year 10
Ariana - Year 10

These students have worked incredibly hard and are an inspiration to all at Little Ilford School.

JACK PETCHEY STUBBERS ADVENTURE CENTRE

Two Year 10 girls merged their grant together - encouraging more girls to get active.

In a fantastic display of collaboration and community spirit, two of our Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners decided to merge their grant money to fund an unforgettable trip to Stubbers Adventure Centre. Their goal? To provide a group of their friends with an exciting day of outdoor activities, including, Laser Tag, Team Challenge, Rock Climbing and Kayaking.

What started as a fun outing quickly evolved into a powerful session, allowing young girls to experience and learn about diverse sports they might not typically encounter in school or through extracurricular

activities. This initiative was born from the two award winners' deep passion for sports, active living, and overall well-being. They were driven by a desire to empower more girls at Little Ilford School, boosting their confidence to participate and try new things.

At Little Ilford School, we constantly champion inclusivity and strive to offer our students new and enriching experiences. The Stubbers adventure perfectly embodied this ethos. By pooling their awards, these students transformed their achievement into a remarkable well-being and physical health activity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Their thoughtful choice created not just a day of fun, but a lasting memory of empowerment and discovery.



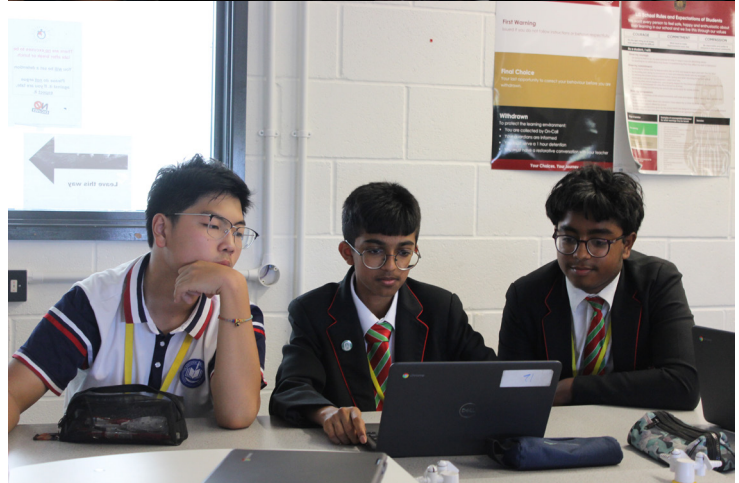
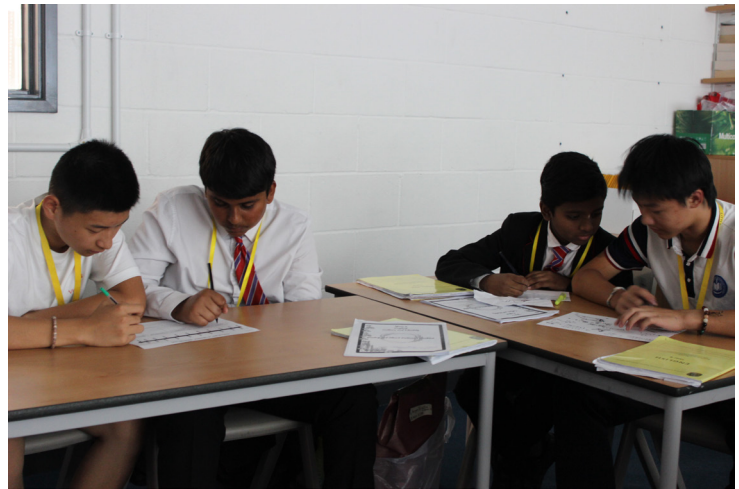
CHINESE STUDENT VISIT TO LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

Message from Ayesha and Sharon in Year 9 about our Chinese student visit

We recently had the privilege of once again hosting a wonderful group of students from Shenzhen Arcadia Grammar School in China. It is always a truly delightful and enriching experience to welcome them to our school. During their visit, these students have the invaluable opportunity to not only immerse themselves in British culture but also to directly experience a British school environment and engage with our curriculum.

“Our experience with our Chinese buddies was truly amazing. They also joined the Year 7 End of Year party. It was really fun for us and our buddies. It was a memorable experience for them in our school. They also enjoyed the lessons and they also communicated with other people. The Chinese buddies learned a few English words.

We really loved this experience being ambassadors for the Chinese students.”



TFL PIONEERS PROJECT 2025

Congratulations to all the Year 7 TFL Pioneers who have worked tirelessly to promote active, responsible and safer travel within our school community. All students will be accredited with a SSAT (Schools, Students and Teachers) Leadership award from Transport for Life for their hard work and commitment to raising awareness and promoting change.

The work that the Pioneers have undertaken this academic year has been brilliant, it has also helped to place Little Ilford School in a strong position to apply for Gold Level Travel for Life status in July. On Tuesday 24th June the Pioneers

Working tirelessly to promote active, responsible and safer travel within our school community.

attended the Transport Museum where they were recognised for their efforts. Our students delivered a presentation detailing their achievements so far and their hopes for the future. Kelsey, Marake and Raheem have been outstanding demonstrating great confidence and commitment throughout.



Helping to build confidence and fluency in reading and language.

This year, our Year 10 Peer Readers have demonstrated exceptional dedication, committing their time each week to support their Year 7 'reading buddies' in the library. Their consistent efforts have been instrumental in helping the younger students build both reading confidence and fluency. It's truly a pleasure to witness and hear the progress being made during these sessions.

YEAR 10 PEER READERS



SPORTS DAY 2025

A day full of fun, excitement
and an amazing atmosphere
for Sports Day 2025

This year's Sports Day truly was a fantastic success, with the hot, sunny weather providing absolutely perfect conditions for our budding athletes to shine. From track to field events, students gave their absolute all, showcasing incredible determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day. A huge congratulations goes out to the winning forms and countries for their outstanding performances: 7.2 (USA), 8.1 (Kenya), 9.4 (Australia), and 10.4 (Australia).



Students visiting the V&A
Musuem to guide them through
their NEA next year

Our Year 10 Design & Technology students recently embarked on an inspiring trip to the V&A Museum in South Kensington. They spent the day immersed in the museum's vast collections, diligently exploring and analyzing artifacts spanning diverse eras and countries. This rich experience provided invaluable inspiration, directly influencing their design process for the upcoming GCSE NEA (Non-Exam Assessment)

YEAR 10 D&T STUDENTS - V&A MUSEUM



MANOR PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS BOOK AWARD CEREMONY 2025

Hosting the annual Manor Park Book Award at LIS

On Friday, June 27th, Little Ilford School had the pleasure of hosting all the book club members from our feeder primary schools for our annual celebration of literature. This special event culminates in our highly anticipated book award for the best author. This year, students delved into six diverse titles and genres, including a non-fiction book for the first time.

Author, Nathanael Lessore and the winner of this year award was present to talk to the audience about the importance of reading and he also honed in on the importance of comprehension and writing. **“The more you read, the better writer you become”**

He also answered many questions from the students who were delighted to hear him talk. Lead readers from each participating school were awarded a plaque and all students were given a goodie bag each for their commitment to reading and for participating in the programme.



Author Nathanael Lessore addressing his audience



Mr Lessore with his award

YEAR 7 READING LIST

SUMMER 2025

<p>Factopia by Kate Hale</p> <p>Non-fiction</p>		<p>Wonder by R J Palacio</p> <p>Disability Friendship</p>	
<p>Can You See Me? by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott</p> <p>Diaries and journals Autistic spectrum conditions Disability</p>		<p>Skellig by David Almond</p> <p>Classics Coming-of-age Fantasy</p>	
<p>Star Cat by James Turner</p> <p>Adventure Comic books Funny Science fiction</p>		<p>The Island at the End of Everything by Kiran Millwood Hargrave</p> <p>Around the world Historical</p>	
<p>Cogheart by Peter Bunzl</p> <p>Adventure Fantasy Historical Science fiction</p>		<p>Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah</p> <p>Historical</p>	

Visit your local public library to borrow these books

YEAR 8 READING LIST


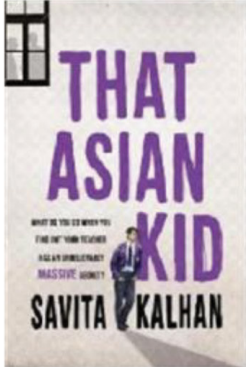
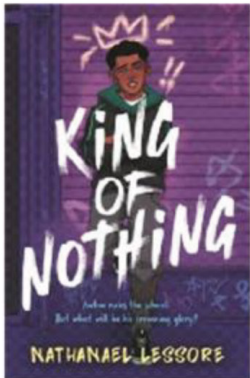
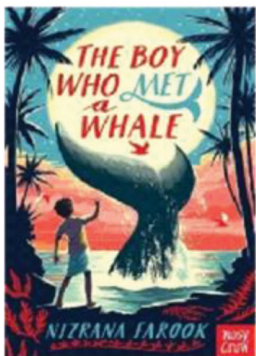
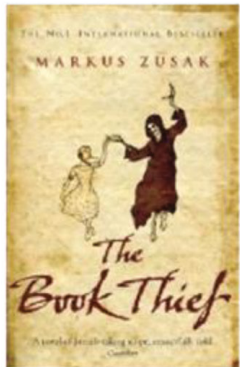

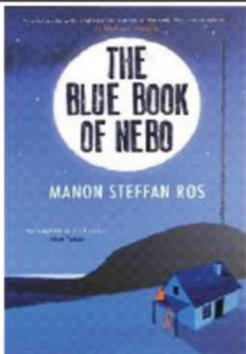
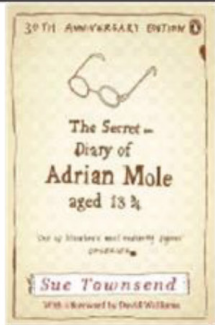
SUMMER 2025

<p>Steady for This by Nathanael Lessore</p> <p>Funny</p>		<p>Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah</p> <p>Historical</p>	
<p>Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick</p> <p>Horror Science fiction</p>		<p>Little Women by Louisa May Alcott</p> <p>Classics</p>	
<p>The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett</p> <p>Adventure Classics Disability</p>		<p>Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz</p> <p>Adventure Classics Thriller</p>	
<p>Matilda by Roald Dahl</p> <p>Adventure Classics Fantasy Funny</p>		<p>Booked by Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Poetry and Rhyme</p>	

Visit your local public library to borrow these books

YEAR 9 READING LIST


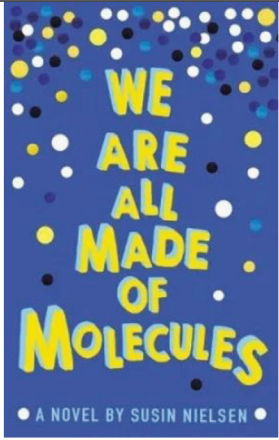
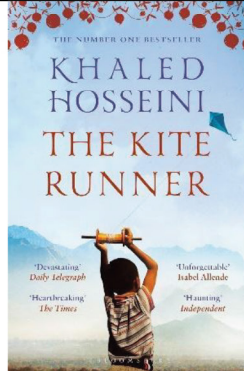
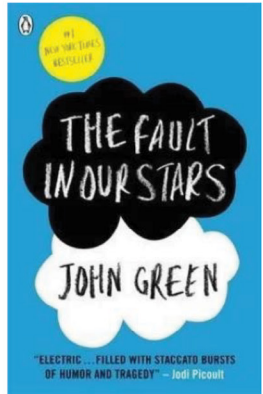
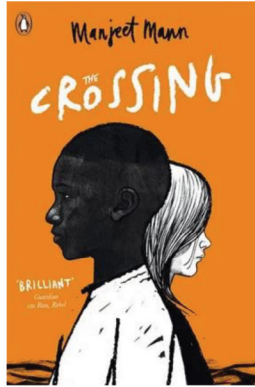
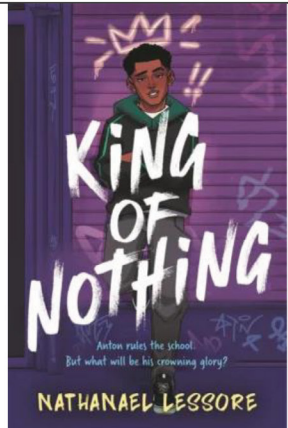
SUMMER 2025

<p>Steady for This by Nathanael Lessoré</p> <p>Funny</p>		<p>That Asian Kid by Savita Kalhan</p> <p>Chapter books Funny</p>	
<p>King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessoré</p> <p>Coming-of-age Funny</p>		<p>The Boy Who Met A Whale by Nizrana Farook</p> <p>Adventure Thriller</p>	
<p>The Book Thief by Markus Zusak</p> <p>Classics Historical</p>		<p>The Crossover by Kwame Alexander</p> <p>Coming-of-age Poetry and Rhyme</p>	
<p>The Blue Book of Nebo by Manon Steffan Ros</p> <p>Coming-of-age Dystopia</p>		<p>The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend</p> <p>Classics Coming-of-age Diaries and journals Funny</p>	

Visit your local public library to borrow these books

YEAR 10 READING LIST

SUMMER 2025

Great Expectation by Charles Dickens		We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen	
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini		The Fault in Our Stars by John Green	
The Crossing by Manjeet Mann		King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore	

Free Educational Games/Activities and Virtual Museum tours

You can also visit some of these places with your parents/carers in person. (*Tate Modern, Natural History Museum and Tower of London*)

- [Tate Kids](#) - Games, quizzes & crafts to do at home
- [Natural History Museum](#) - activities & crafts to do around the home
- [Mercedes Benz](#) - Virtual Tour of Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart, Germany
- [The Great Fire of London](#) - Stories & games about the great fire of London
- [Science Museum](#) - Games, Apps & activities to do at home
- [Geography Games](#)
- [Jigsaw Planet](#) - jigsaws

DEBATE MATE DELOITTE ENERGY PRIZE

Written by Amos in Year 10

I was one of five fortunate students selected to participate in a full-day trip to Central London, co-organised by Deloitte and Debate Mate.

To cut a long story short, we devised and filmed a script for the Deloitte Energy Competition at the 2025 Debate Mate Cup Competition at UCL. The video focused on how the UK would be powered if all its oil and gas reserves vanished overnight. We didn't feel as prepared as we'd hoped and, consequently, all thought we'd performed terribly. When we found out we had won the video competition and were invited to spend a day in London, my heart skipped a beat!

At Deloitte's HQ, a balloon debate on different types of energy was held. My team, comprising Vanessa, Bobby, and myself, was allocated to represent fusion energy. We began with a carousel activity where we had the chance to speak with specialists in Nuclear, Fusion, Hydrogen, and Renewable Energy. We then posed numerous questions to the Fusion Energy specialist to prepare for our debate. I was the first speaker, discussing the importance of using nuclear fusion. Our team unexpectedly won (everyone else thought we'd won, but we didn't!), thanks to my amazing demonstration, the factual information and balanced arguments we presented, and the confidence my team and I exuded.

In addition, I hosted a podcast after lunch in the Green Room, which I found extremely fun. I usually enjoy being the focus, and I truly enjoyed presenting. It was also amusing because Vanessa told me I was breathing very loudly (probably from excitement) and had to tell me to calm down. I found this to be one of the best parts of the day.

Another highlight was overcoming my fear of heights on the London Eye. My friends were holding on for dear life while I thoroughly enjoyed the ride. It was an hour-long experience, offering views that the naked eye doesn't normally see.

After the ride, we walked to Parliament, where we were met by staff working for MPs and trade unionists. We had a quick but comprehensive tour of the estate, including the historic Westminster Hall (where Kings and Queens are often laid in state before their funerals), the old House of Commons room, a corridor adorned with portraits of past prime ministers, and one of the committee rooms. We couldn't access the viewing galleries for the House of Commons or House of Lords as they were in session, debating new legislation, but we still had a great time!

I was absolutely "Deloitted" to be invited to and attend the trip. I want to give special mentions to everyone who made this trip possible, including Miss Smyth and Mr. Faisal, and also to my teammates from school and colleagues from the Nuclear Fusion team.



FINDING OUR VOICE: LIFE IN THE DEBATE CLUB

Written by Danuseya in Year 10

Debate Mate is a fantastic UK-based educational program designed to help young people build confidence, improve communication skills, and develop critical thinking through structured debating. It particularly focuses on empowering students, especially those in underrepresented communities, by giving them the tools to speak up, challenge ideas, and become leaders—all through the art of debate.

When I first joined Debate Mate, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Standing up and speaking in front of other young people was incredibly intimidating. It was one of my biggest challenges, as someone who worried about saying the wrong thing, forgetting my lines, or needing to think on the spot when given very little time to prepare arguments on unfamiliar topics. However, through the weekly sessions, the support of dedicated mentors, and plenty of practice, Debate Mate slowly but surely pushed me out of my comfort zone. It taught me to think critically, actively listen to others, and express my ideas confidently. Our mentors were there every step of the way, guiding us and providing individual feedback during sessions where we debated against other members, allowing for constant improvement.

One of the most exciting aspects of being involved with Debate Mate is the opportunity to go on trips. For instance, our team had the chance to attend the Debate Mate Cup, a thrilling competition organised by the program that brings schools from across the UK together to debate.

At first, our team felt incredibly nervous; this was one of our biggest challenges yet. Despite the nerves, we confidently showcased our debating skills, utilizing our

critical thinking when preparing arguments and meticulously structuring our points. This helped us win several rounds in the competition. Overall, the competition was awesome! We made new friends and gained valuable insights into our strengths and areas for improvement, thanks to the judges' constructive feedback. The entire experience was incredibly useful, as I learned what it truly feels like to speak in front of many people, to formulate arguments on the spot within tight time limits, and to understand the immense power of teamwork and thorough preparation.

I would absolutely recommend Debate Mate to anyone considering it. You'll learn so much, not just about debating, but about using your voice to express your opinions on various topics and actively understanding different viewpoints. Finally, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Ms. Smyth, Mr. Faisal, and Ms. Hakim, who took time out of their busy schedules to run the sessions, take and support us on trips, and for consistently believing in us and our ability to debate.



HUMAN PERFORMANCE UNIT - UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

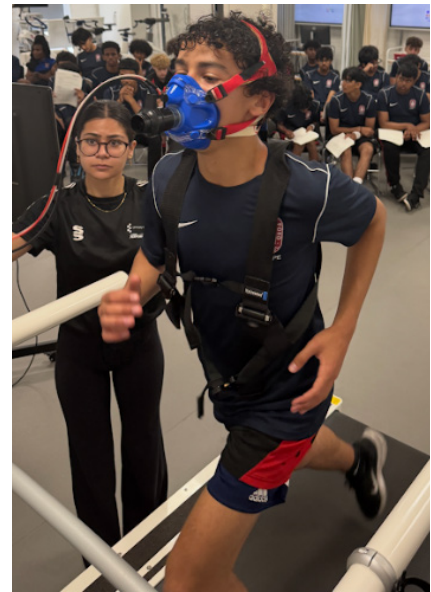
Our GCSE PE students recently had an incredibly insightful trip to the University of Essex, specifically visiting their renowned Human Performance Unit. This experience allowed students to step out of the classroom and engage directly with the practical applications of sports science in a high-performance setting.

During their time at the unit, students participated in a range of advanced fitness tests, gaining firsthand experience with the sophisticated equipment and methodologies used to assess athletic capabilities. They also learned about the complex science underpinning elite athletic performance, directly linking to their GCSE PE curriculum. This deepened their understanding of key topics such as the various components of fitness, effective methods of training, and the crucial role of sports science in performance enhancement.

A standout moment of the day was when Anas (Year 10) completed a VO2 max test, achieving an impressive score of 63 ml/kg/min. This is an exceptionally outstanding result for a 15-year-old, truly showcasing his remarkable cardiovascular fitness. This practical insight allowed all students to see the real-life applications of their

GCSE P.E visiting the University of Essex - providing them with practical experience.

classroom learning, inspiring them to reflect critically on their own fitness levels and training approaches. The visit was both educational and highly motivating, offering a valuable glimpse into the rigorous demands and scientific intricacies of high-level sport.





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