20th Oct 2023

Dear all,

We have all had a very busy and wonderful Autumn half term. We are delighted with how hard all the students have worked. Year 2-4 students supported the new year 1 students in all aspects of college life and have been great role-models.

The students have taken part in a range of college-based and offsite work experiences and events. We promote student voice and most areas of the programme are based on student interests. They choose which offsite work placements and trips they want to attend. Here are some of the highlights below:

**Events:** MHFA 2 two-day events and one Team Teach Event.Students hosted and provided excellent service. We had some very nice comments from delegates regarding the high-quality lunches and service from the students. Well done to our catering team.

**Jack Petchey Awards ceremony:** Our Award winners Moses and Sam attended and received their Awards at a lovely ceremony in Southwark. Well done to them.

**Charity:** Students learned about the following charities and raised money for worthy causes. Thank you for your generous donations.

* Genes for jeans day total: £40
* Hello Yellow Mental Health Awareness Day- Students attended a Kooth online workshop learning about the support available to them.
* Wear it Pink! Students made a pink risotto and pink cupcakes which were sold in the café. We will let you know how much they raised.

Students had the opportunity to take in the following events:

* Women’s football – Superstar Sport delivered an excellent skills session
* Team London Young Ambassadors 4-week sessions: Students have decided to help make toiletry bags to give to a local charity shop that supports people who are homeless.
* Oval Table Cricket Young Leaders sessions: Students learned how to play and deliver table cricket sessions with a coach from the Oval.
* Job fair Westfield and White City: Students explored various jobs/ careers and enjoyed picking up some free leaflets and free goodies!
* Workshops- Branch out at The Garden Museum Lambeth. There was a workshop on learning how to fermentation and another on making Bath salts.
* Chocolate Museum Workshop: A group of students spent the day learning how to make chocolate ganache and truffles. They made a range of high-quality chocolates to sell in the café. We will advertise this after the half term so you can place your orders.
* Enterprise – Students have started to design and print onto ceramic cups. There will be some real treats in stock for our Christmas Fair.
* LGBTQ Month: Students learned about black history and people who inspire us. A large group of students visited an art exhibition ‘Portraits of Peckham’ where they got to speak to the artist and show their work to them. Some students attended an African beading workshop learning how to make jewellery from paper. At the end of October students and staff will share food their cultures and learn how to make a range of meals.
* Off-site work experiences: Students continue to work very hard in the range of work places. We are very pleased to say that one student has gained paid employment from one of these work placements.

**Phone safety**

Please remind students to be extra vigilant when walking home as there have been reports of phone snatching on the roads nearby.

**Coffee Mornings:** Every Tuesday from 10:30-12:30 one of our parents Sandra hosts a coffee morning here in the cafe. she will sometimes have guest speakers so please do pop in when you can.

The Top Tips for Mental Health booklet has lots of practical ideas. You can find it here:

[**https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/mhf-our-best-ever-mental-health-tips-backed-by-research-online.pdf**](https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-11/mhf-our-best-ever-mental-health-tips-backed-by-research-online.pdf)

Some activities such as the Angels SEND Club available over the half term:

[**https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/leisure/half-term-holiday-playschemes-october-2023**](https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/leisure/half-term-holiday-playschemes-october-2023)

**Half Term Monday 23rd - Mon 30th Oct. Students return on Tuesday 31st October.** We then break up on Wednesday 20th December. We hope all students have a well earned rest and we look forward to seeing then on the 31st.

Yours sincerely,

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Catriona Guyler-Kone

Acting Principal