



# NUNTIATOR

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## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MR T. OULTON

PIMLICO ACADEMY  
NEWSLETTER

A TERMLY PUBLICATION FOR  
PARENTS AND CARERS OF STUDENTS  
AT PIMLICO ACADEMY

This past term spans a period of time which begins with the darkest days of early January and it draws to a close when the days are getting noticeably longer. It's not yet light when I head out to walk the dog at 5am but it's getting there by the time I get to the station at 6.30am.

The changes are a demonstration of how the cycle of the year moves on inexorably. The February half term holidays mark the mid-way point in the academic year. It has come round quickly and it, too, is a reminder that time passes quickly. We need to make the most of the opportunities that come our way. That is one of the things we teach our students: to seize the moment and live in the present, and to prepare well for the future too. For Year 11 and Year 13 students, this time of year is a watershed moment: they need now to focus all their attention and effort on getting the GCSE and A Level grades that will open doors to them in the years and their careers ahead.

As always, this term has been a busy one and the articles and images in this edition showcase some of the highlights. What is more remarkable however are the achievements that do not appear here – the small, significant, numerous successes of our students and staff each day, the unnoticed triumphs which make our academy community what it is.

Among other events, this term we marked Holocaust Memorial Day, a day to recall both the horrors of one of the darkest moments in human history and to celebrate the light of love and hope of those who survived to teach the world the truth and show us a better way. We are also in the midst of celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month and the achievements of those, who in years past, fought for the freedom and recognition people of those communities enjoy today. For many, their experience of being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer was a dark and difficult one. This month we resolve to build on the legacy of those who have gone before us in making the world a more inclusive and kind place for all.



# VISIT TO OXFORD

**LISA SCHAPPERT, COORDINATOR  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

Two groups of Year 10 students from Pimlico Academy got the opportunity to visit the Brasenose College and Magdalen College in the University of Oxford this term, joining a group of other students drawn from schools in Westminster. The aim of the visits was to demystify the Oxford application process and for students to learn about the courses that are on offer and the teaching and learning styles at Oxford. Students had talks from staff about the application process and the courses on offer. Students also gained an insight into student life at Oxford by meeting current Oxford students and having a tour of both colleges by current Oxford students. The conduct of our students was exemplary with a teacher from another school saying to a colleague: "Which school are those students from? They are so polite!"

Oxford and Cambridge is not for every student but we encourage those with the highest grades to think carefully and seriously about giving it a go. These visits help them to have a better insight into what those universities are like.

\* Ms Schappert works principally with Years 12 and 13 but parents and carers of students in other year groups, and students themselves, are very welcome to contact her to discuss their higher education plans and aspirations.  
Email [l.schappert@pimlico.futureacademies.org](mailto:l.schappert@pimlico.futureacademies.org)

# AND TO CAMBRIDGE...

**MS. SALLOO, MR STUCHFIELD  
& MR BENNETT**

In the final week of term, twelve of Pimlico's most academically able English students were fortunate enough to travel to the University of Cambridge. Greeted by a biting February wind, students braced themselves for a tour of Downing College to begin the day, which certainly piqued the interest of the aspiring lawyers and doctors.

After a hearty lunch, they were then treated to a guided tour of Christ's College by Dr Edward Allen, who is currently a research fellow there. With his interest in detective fiction, students were able to impress with their comprehensive knowledge of Agatha Christie, who has recently been added to the Year 9 syllabus.

Before returning home, our very own Mr Stuchfield provided a whistle-stop tour of his former college, Jesus. His comprehensive knowledge of the towers, pavilion and chapel was a boon for our students and even a few curious undergraduates wandering past. Suffice to say, all of our students told me they would be applying when they had the chance.





# LEARN 2 EARN - YEAR 8 WORKSHOP

## MS. ESSAYE, HEAD OF CAREERS

On Monday, 31st January Year 8 took part in a 'Learn 2 Earn' workshop run by Young Enterprise and funded by the Westminster Foundation.

This fitted in really well with their PHSE unit this term: Employment and Money, where they have been looking at labour market information and entrepreneurship.

The workshop helped students to explore their dreams for the future; what success would look like to them and how to set goals. They looked at budgeting and the cost of living, and learned about being self-employed and different pathways and entry points into employment. They also touched on skills that employers value, and the earning potential of different careers. There was a lot to cover in one double lesson, so it was an action-packed session, but student and teacher feedback was great.

Students said : "I didn't realise how expensive it is to be an adult and how responsible you have to be."

"I learnt a lot, so thank you so much for today. It was really good to learn about how to get to where I want to get to, and salaries and different jobs. You don't have these kinds of conversation at home so it will definitely help me."

While teachers commented:

"Learning like this is so important. Young people need to understand that if you work hard and do well in your studies you have a range of different opportunities available to you and that can lead to a much better lifestyle and potential."

'This is so important, young people don't always know the differences in salaries, the variety of jobs out there, how to budget for their lifestyles. This work helps to prepare them for the future.'

'The session addresses a lot of misconceptions about salaries and helps to supplement what we do in PHSE. You can see they are learning a lot today.'



# YEAR 11 GCSE CITIZENSHIP ACTION PROJECTS

## MRS OWEN, HEAD OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Year 11 GCSE Citizenship groups have started their Citizenship Action campaigns this term and are working proactively to research and examine issues such as discrimination in their communities, police power and young people in the justice system and the impact of homelessness in Westminster.

These campaigns are giving students an opportunity to have an active voice within their local communities and help them raise awareness of issues they are passionate about. Campaign methods students have used so far include: writing to their local MP and conducting both primary and secondary research. After half term, students will be placed in their teams and will plan and create resources to educate Year 7 about their chosen topic.

This is a fantastic way to develop their advocacy skills and raise awareness about issues they want to see changed in their local area. The enthusiasm and maturity of the GCSE Citizenship students at Pimlico Academy is a testament to the school and the wider community. Mr Tuffoc and I are looking forward to supporting them across the next half term as they work towards their final action.

# ANCIENT GREEK CLUB

## MR ADELANI, TEACHER OF CLASSICS

Ancient Greek Club was in full swing this term, following the adventures of Basil the Frog and his two friends Megamus and Micromus as they try to decode a mystery letter written in Ancient Greek.

Having mastered the alphabet with its unfamiliar characters, students have now started to tackle sentences embedded in stories about life in Ancient Athens, and the wider Greek world. Looking at the Ancient Greek language has unlocked linguistic secrets about the etymology of certain words not only in English, but in Latin too.

Students have been reading Ancient Greek myths such as Jason and the Golden Fleece, and slightly more obscure ones like Pegasus and Bellerophon, rounding out their knowledge of the Greek world even further.

Next term, we are looking forward to tackling even more Ancient Greek, starting off the with stories of Medusa and Arachne. All students are welcome to join us next term on Thursdays from 3.10pm in G36.

# CLASSICS BOOK OF THE TERM

## MISS PATRICK, HEAD OF CLASSICS

This term, students from across the school have been reading and enjoying the wonderful reimagining of the sorceress Circe in Madeline Miller's novel of the same name. Miss Evans and I have been thrilled to see the high demand to borrow our copies of the book!

Our book for next term is another novel from Madeline Miller: The Song of Achilles. This novel retells the story of Achilles, the archetypal warrior hero known as the best of all the Greeks. His story is told from the point of view of his best friend and lover, Patroclus.

While it stays true to the original myth and the story of the Trojan War as told in Homer's Iliad, at its core, The Song of Achilles is a truly heart-breaking story of love and loss. It is an appropriate choice for a term that begins as LGBTQ+ History Month draws to a close, demanding as it does that we question our notions of masculinity and what it takes to be a hero. Achilles in this novel perfectly represents the fact that one's sexuality needn't inhibit success in traditionally 'masculine' pursuits. In fact it is this and Achilles' vulnerability in his emotions that drives him – in tragic circumstances – to fulfil his destiny as the best, but also most dangerous, of all the Greek warriors.

Students wishing to borrow The Song of Achilles or Circe can come to the Classics office (G18) to request a copy. They might also find themselves persuaded into reading them by the student and teacher reviews that are posted on the noticeboard on our corridor!

# HEADS OF HOUSE

## MR COLLINS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL(CO-CURRICULUM)

### AND THE NEW HEADS OF HOUSE

We are excited to announce the new appointments for Head of House at Pimlico Academy. These appointments will ensure that the House culture and spirit is embedded more widely across the school.

I am delighted to announce that the:

- Head of Apollo is Ms Bullock
- Head of Athena is Mr Jackson
- Head of Hera is Ms Chester
- Head of Zeus is Ms O'Keeffe

Our new Heads of House have been developing a wide range of new competitions designed for all our students to take part in. There will be a variety of events, such as music, sport, academic, artistic and more so that all pupils will have the opportunity to take part. Each term students will be able to win many Pimlico Points for both themselves and their houses. There is also an important philanthropic element to the house system and we look forward to our pupils working more closely with local charities to raise funds and awareness.

The first inter-House competition was the table tennis competition which saw students from Years 7, 8 and 9 competing against each other during the break times. There was a great atmosphere of competition and sportsmanship. Well done to everyone who took part and cheered on their peers. Congratulations to Syed, Maxwell, Jahvan, Abbas, Mahdi, Aaron and Taju who all made it to the final for their houses.

Over half term students are encouraged to take part in our photography competition, the theme of which is 'CHANGE'. We look forward to announcing the winners after the holiday.

# A RESIDENT POET

## MR BENNETT, TEACHER OF ENGLISH

At the start of the year, a number of Pimlico students entered the prestigious Young Writers annual poetry competition. They knew the competition would be stiff, with over 20,000 students across the country submitting their work. But they were not deterred, and the determination of one student, Ruth in Year 7, has earned her a place in the anthology (forthcoming). Her poem, 'I AM ME', is a brilliant piece of verse, alive with rich and varied imagery, and fully deserves the recognition it is receiving. Well done, Ruth!

'I AM ME'  
I am me  
I am extraordinary  
I am like a bird flying high in the sky  
My eyes sparkle like on the darkest nights  
My voice sings like a songbird in its nest  
My hair is as black as the night  
My skin shines like a goddess on the River Nile  
I AM ME

## YEAR 9 ART

Year 9 students have been exploring new terrain in art this term, working to create sculptures that are hybrids of human and animal. For many of them it was their first time using clay, and it was great to see them get to grips with this challenging new material.





# NEWS FROM PE

## MR HUMPHREYS, HEAD OF PE

JR NBA Basketball league

Term 3 has seen the beginning of this years' Year 7 and 8 JR NBA basketball leagues. Every year England Basketball teams up with the NBA to provide 30 schools the opportunity to represent their favourite teams and players in the JR NBA. This is the 8th season that Pimlico Academy has been a part of this illustrious competition.

This years' draft has seen Pimlico Academy drawn as the Minnesota Timberwolves (year 7) and the Chicago Bulls (year 8). Each team plays in a series of mini tournament games, with the best two teams advancing to the playoff rounds. So far our Year 7 team, the Timberwolves, have played two games, beating the Sacramento Kings (Westminster Academy) and losing to a strong Atlanta Hawks (Ark Globe) team at Pimlico Academy in late January.

The Year 8 team, Chicago Bulls, also won their opening game against the Cleveland Cavaliers (Capital City) but lost their second game against Milwaukee Bucks (UCL Academy) on 25th January.

On 8th February, the Bulls travelled to Queens Park Community School for their 3rd and 4th games against Indiana Pacers and the Detroit Pistons. It was our first away game since the relaxation of the Covid restrictions. It was a brilliant experience for the team to travel to the venue and see a different part of the City of London.

In both games, the Bulls struggled to get their offence going and at times it was hard to score points. The physical nature of the Pistons meant we were punished for turning the ball over too much, conceding points on the break too often. The Pacers were not as physical but technically strong finishers and we struggled to compete with their scoring capabilities. In all, we ran out with two losses but the group played hard and gained a huge amount of experience. Games 5 and 6 are scheduled for early in March.

## INAUGURAL INTER-TRUST BASKETBALL COMPETITION

On Thursday 10th February Pimlico Academy hosted the first ever Inter-Trust competition between Future Academies' London secondary schools: Trinity Academy, Phoenix Academy and us. All three schools competed in the inaugural basketball competition representing the Trust and their respective Schools.

Students in Years 7 and 8 got the opportunity to compete for the title of Inter-Trust Basketball Champions. It was a great opportunity for these students to showcase their talent, dedication and hard work as the best 12 players from each school got the privilege in competing in this special event.

Results will be published on the Academy website very soon.

