Head of Sixth Form’s Welcome

We have had another busy week in the Sixth Form. On Tuesday we welcomed local councillors to take part in a debate as part of our Speakers’ Programme. We also hosted our Sixth Form Open Evening and we were delighted to see over 80% of our internal Year 11 students attend. Furthermore it was a pleasure to meet the prospective external students from schools such as Seven Kings, Walthamstow School for Girls and Stratford School. Applications are now open and close on Friday 26th of January.

As we draw closer to the end of this half term the Year 12 team will be conducting one to one mentoring sessions with students, giving them a chance to reflect on their strengths and areas for development within each subject. We hope this regular opportunity will support students in becoming reflective, life long learners.

With best wishes,
Sugra Alibhai
Vice Principal and Head of Sixth Form

INA’s Halema wins Redbridge Young Citizen Award

INA Sixth Form student Halema Anjum has been announced as the September winner of the Young Citizen Award. Halema was nominated by the Principal, Ms Macfarlane, due to the exceptional progress she has made at Isaac Newton Academy.

Halema came to INA in 2012 with below average grades. Over the last five years she has consistently performed and made noticeable progress each term, leading to outstanding GCSE results received in the summer. Halema received the highest possible grades in her GCSE exams and was announced the highest achieving student in the whole of the Ark Schools Network. Not only did she receive three 9’s (one of only 2,000 students in the whole country to do so), but she also got straight A*’s in her other subjects.

Not only has Halema got exceptional academic attainment, but she has maintained a breadth of input and passion across all school activities. She is passionate about music and has played her trumpet at many famous music venues, including Ronnie Scott’s and the Barbican. Even though she decided not to study GCSE Music, she has continued to collaborate with the school’s music department and participate in whole school events and enrichments, consistently mentoring and coaching the younger INA musicians.

Rachel Macfarlane said “Halema is a fantastically generous, humble and well-aligned student. She is a wonderful role model to the younger students here at INA and she will go on to do fantastic things.”

The Young Citizen Award scheme, run by the Recorder, aims to recognise the positive activities young people of Redbridge are undertaking. The scheme aims to celebrate their achievements and inspire others to do good work. The monthly winners will be nominated for the Young Citizen of the Year Award, and the winner will be crowned at next year’s Mayor’s Community Awards.

Thank You to Jay!

“Just a quick note to convey some feedback to the lovely young adult called Jay who is currently in 6th form. Out of all the students that were there in the common room, Jay pro-actively approached me and my husband to make conversation and ask questions about who our son/daughter was and what she or he was planning to do and he did this with no nervousness etc. He gave us an update on what he was doing currently in 6th form and offered some advice as well. I know that approaching and talking to strangers can be a daunting thing, but Jay took this in his stride and was excellent with his communication skills. I also observed him in approaching other parents too.
Please pass on our thanks to Jay.”
Daya Patel (Esha Patel’s mum)
I remember finding it really hard to choose my A-Levels. Perhaps it was because home wasn’t such a happy place while I was growing up, but school was somewhere where I felt safe and loved and like my hard-work had paid off, and if I could have taken all of my subjects forward to A-Level I would have, in a shot.

In the end though, it being the first year that the AS was introduced, I narrowed my list down to four: English, Maths, Biology, and Art, all of which I took through to A2. Taking four full A-Levels was certainly a challenge, but I like challenges, because I like proving to other people and myself that I can do the things that I take on.

Apart from regretting that I didn’t take a language – my German teacher never spoke to me again! – I’m genuinely proud of my four choices. I loved the sense they gave of me being well-rounded, and I loved the fact that they meant I could keep my options open later on.

I think I picked the four I did though for two reasons: one, because I was thinking I might like to do Psychology at some point in the future; but two, because I really loved those lessons during my GCSEs. And I think the reason that I loved them, as sickly as it seems, was down to the teachers that I had then, and the fact that they were people, I believe, who truly believed in me.

As for what came next? Well, I think I found out fairly quickly that it was English or Art for me. Like my friends, I applied for an Art Foundation course whilst applying at the same time for an English degree, but again, my aim was just to keep my options open. The thing was that, having always been quite academic, I had set my heart on Cambridge, and they didn’t do Fine Art. And, since I didn’t think that I was quite as good at art as I was when it came to English, it was that that sealed the deal.

That said, it took me two attempts to get there, which was tough. I found myself rejected first-time round by both Warwick and Cambridge where I’d had interviews, and this came as a blow – it felt as though on paper I was fine, but in person... Not so much. It took real courage for me to withdraw and then try again. I remember so vividly visiting more colleges, trying to find the perfect fit, and when I found it, well, there really was that click between me and my tutors, with whom I’ve kept in contact ever since.

Although at first I did feel guilty, I will always be grateful for the opportunities that a place like Cambridge can afford. I saw three tutors once a week for three years of my life in tiny classes, and met the most amazing and inspiring people on the course, with whom I put on plays and partied long into the night.

So I suppose that my main pieces of advice to you would be as follows: keep your options open, aim high, and don’t take no for an answer. But be kind to yourselves and to others along the way.
On Tuesday 10th October, Isaac Newton Academy hosted a Question Time-style debate, where local councillors and figures from the community were invited to discuss the issues facing Ilford to celebrate Local Democracy Week. The Sixth Form learners put together a wide-ranging array of questions, covering both local and national issues and then were called up to ask them one by one. Topics covered included tougher penalties for those found guilty of acid attacks and what can be done to improve the proportion of women represented in politics. If anyone would like to get more involved in local politics, Raina Gee, the Redbridge Youth Council leader, runs a Youth Council session in Ilford Town Hall on Monday evenings. All INA Sixth Form students are welcome to attend.

“Every year we visit schools in the community and today we had some interesting questions from the Isaac Newton students. It was great to see them showing interest in local policing matters and particularly about acid attacks and issues they see as current threats in the community.”
Carolyn McCree, Local Police Officer

“It is always enjoyable and interesting to find out what issues are concerning today’s young people. I think the students were surprised that we didn’t all disagree with each other as is often assumed. So often, politicians are cast as being against each other and actually the reality is that most of us are trying to achieve the same thing. We typically spend most of our time talking to adults and so it is a real reality check when we get to sit in front of young people. Being based in South Woodford, Ilford is a different area of the borough for me and it is interesting to see which issues are the same across the borough compared to some issues which are more localised.”
Councillor Gwyneth Deakins, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Roding Ward.

“I really enjoyed today! I visit a variety of local schools every year and I am always really impressed by the depth of the questions asked by students. When you speak with adults it is typically very different issues that they want to discuss whereas the INA students asked questions more about society which is really impressive because they are thinking further afield and looking at the bigger picture.”
Councillor Kam Rai, Cabinet Member for Finance and Support Services, Goodmayes

“I was delighted to be here today at Isaac Newton Academy. I was really impressed by the students’ engagement and the quality of their questions. I was particularly impressed with the quality of their knowledge; they are aware of issues that affect them, and affect the broader community and they are showing great responsibility to all of those outside the school as well as themselves. I was really impressed and I wish them all well in the future.”
Paul Canal, Leader of the Conservative Group, Bridge Ward

“For me, the aim is to get young people passionate about politics and the biggest impact is seeing the councillors and being able to approach them and ask questions directly. The Redbridge Youth Council operates every Monday and is open to all INA students. We currently have a Year 10 student involved but we would love to get more students on board!”
Raina Gee, Redbridge Youth Council leader
Notices:

The hot drinks machine is available all day in the Sixth Form common room.

Pastries are on sale in the dining room for breakfast (8:00am-8:20am).

Freshly baked goods and snacks available at break and lunch time.

Skills London is the UK’s biggest jobs and careers event for 15-24 year olds and their families taking place on 24-25 November at ExCeL London. The event attracts over 30,000 visitors and 200 exhibitors including top employers, colleges, training providers and advisers. This two day event provides visitors with the opportunity to discover careers through interactive, inspirational activities and demonstrations, and helps young people visually bridge the gap between what they enjoy doing and what they could potentially do as a career.

Click here to read more.

Social Mobility Foundation’s Aspiring Professionals Programme (APP)

The APP supports high achieving Year 12 students from low income backgrounds across the UK access competitive universities and careers. We offer support through our four pillars:

1. Mentoring by a professional via email
2. Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
3. University application support and guidance
4. Internships with top employers

Students must apply by 9am Monday 4th December 2017 by completing our online application form.

Read more about the APP City programme here.
Year 12 Undergraduate Shadowing Scheme
Applications open Monday 18 September 2017 and can be submitted at any time until Friday 16th February. The shadowing scheme is ONLY for students who meet one of the four criteria: currently live or have previously lived in local authority care, have a disability, are estranged from their families, OR are the primary carer in their household.
Click here for details.

As well as the above opportunity, Queen Mary University of London is offering a number of free activities for 16-18 year olds, including coding, Health sciences and Law. Click here for more details.

Kings college London offer a range of free evening lectures and on campus programmes for 6th form students to attend, independently. For more information about these events, please click here.

EY Women in Tech - Evolving the future
Inspiring the next generation to consider a career in tech

Wednesday 18 October, 10am to 4pm
Free entry

Find out about the excitement and possibilities a career in tech can offer and hear the inspirational stories of some of the industry’s leading women.

Featuring talks, interactive panel sessions and demos, the day’s events will focus on the evolution of technology and ask how roles and careers in the sector will evolve.

To book as a small school group or to send sixth form students as individuals visit:


This free event is for all secondary and sixth form students aged 15-18.
Film Club

Open to all Year 12 students who have an interest in film and want to learn more about it.

Running every Friday for an hour after school from 4:10 till 5:10pm in T05.

The film for the weeks beginning 02/10 and 09/10 will be:

**CHILDREN OF MEN**
A classic dystopian film, set in a world in which women have somehow become infertile…

Feel free to bring your own refreshments!

Book Club

Open to all Year 12 students who enjoy reading and discussing what they’ve read.

Book Club will run on the first Wednesday of every half-term for an hour after school from 4:10 till 5:10pm in SFCR.

The book for Wednesday 1st November will be:

**THE POWER BY NAOMI ALDERMAN**
A dystopian novel featuring a group of women who use electricity to control and dominate men…

Feel free to bring your own refreshments!