



# Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich

Issue 15 July 2010



## World Cup composer sings our praises

One of Britain's leading songwriters was guest of honour at our academy in May when he judged the academy's music composition competition.

Russ Ballard, whose anthem *Hope* was chosen by Nelson Mandela to be performed at the opening ceremony of the 2010 World Cup, spent nearly two hours in our music suite listening to compositions by different groups of students.

Mr Ballard's hit songs include *God Gave Rock and Roll to You*, *Since You've Been Gone* and a host of other songs for artists including Roger Daltry, Hot Chocolate and Elkie Brookes.

### Excited

Mr Ballard listened to 13 songs composed and performed by students in years 8 and 11 before carefully judging the compositions on their lyrics, melody and performance.

Top prize went to Mary Awolesi for her song *Miss You*, which she performed

***'I was very excited by the musicianship and maturity of lyric writing,' said Mr Ballard. 'Quite honestly, I wasn't prepared to be so moved. I'm sure many of these young students will be able to follow a career in music, if they so wish.'***

impeccably. Mr Ballard commented: 'It was so good it was commercial; Whitney [Houston] could sing your song.'

Mr Ballard also commented in particular on a Year 8 piece featuring African drumming and acapella singing which he praised for its 'interesting idea' and its willingness to 'break the rules'.

### Gospel choir

Mr Ballard then heard our Gospel Choir and was so impressed that he has asked them to record his World Cup anthem, *Hope*.

Co-written with fellow British songwriter Chris Winter, *Hope* is the title track of the debut album of South African opera star, Siphiso Ntshebe, 34, who tragically died of meningitis shortly before the World Cup.

The choir will record the track at Mr Ballard's own recording studio in Hertfordshire and also perform the anthem at Lord Harris' garden party this summer.

Russ Ballard, World Cup songwriter



Our **mission** is to embrace the **opportunities** and **challenges** of learning, and enjoy **academic, social** and **personal success**.



Our young chemists on their way to winning a prize at the Salter's Festival of Chemistry.

## Prize chemists

**Four Harris students won first prize in a university chemistry competition in June, beating off competition from 15 other London schools.**

Teams from each school had to analyse samples of vitamin C by mixing it with other chemicals. 'We were judged on safety, teamwork, the quality of our results and our presentation,' said Vy Nguyen of Year 7.

The winning students were Vy Nguyen and Fatama Kamara of Year 7 and Kumba Bockarie and Danielle Harris of Year 8. The competition was part of the Salter's Festival of Chemistry and took place at South Bank University. Their prize was £100 of chemistry equipment for the school.

## Change one thing for health

**Students were invited to change one thing to make their lives healthier during healthy living week in May.**

Every student was asked to choose one thing to change, such as walking to school, going to bed earlier, eating breakfast every day or swapping crisps for fruit.



Students could complete a self-assessment health check to pinpoint how healthy their lifestyles were, before deciding what they were going to change.

Healthy living week included a host of other activities including:

- Don't Stress Day, with a Chill Out Zone where students could learn relaxation therapies
- a 'Who Wants to be a Health Millionaire' interactive quiz
- and a human fruit machine where blindfolded students could win a piece of fruit.

## Young philanthropists win £3,000

**Students in Year 9 have won £3,000 for the Westminster House Youth Club in Nunhead.**

The prize comes after students completed an 'active citizenship' programme to raise awareness among young people of the value of philanthropy.

Students at the academy researched local charities which were supporting causes they cared about. They then had to make a presentation to judges.

The winning students were Euginie McDonald, Phyllis Egharevba, Diana Kaate, Behefta Sharifi and Khadija McGee. Their chosen charity was the Westminster House Youth Club, which many Harris students use outside of academy hours.

The competition was part of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, a national programme that has so far reached over 10,000 young people and given £180,000 to local charities.



Our young philanthropists present a cheque for £3,000 to Westminster House Youth Club.

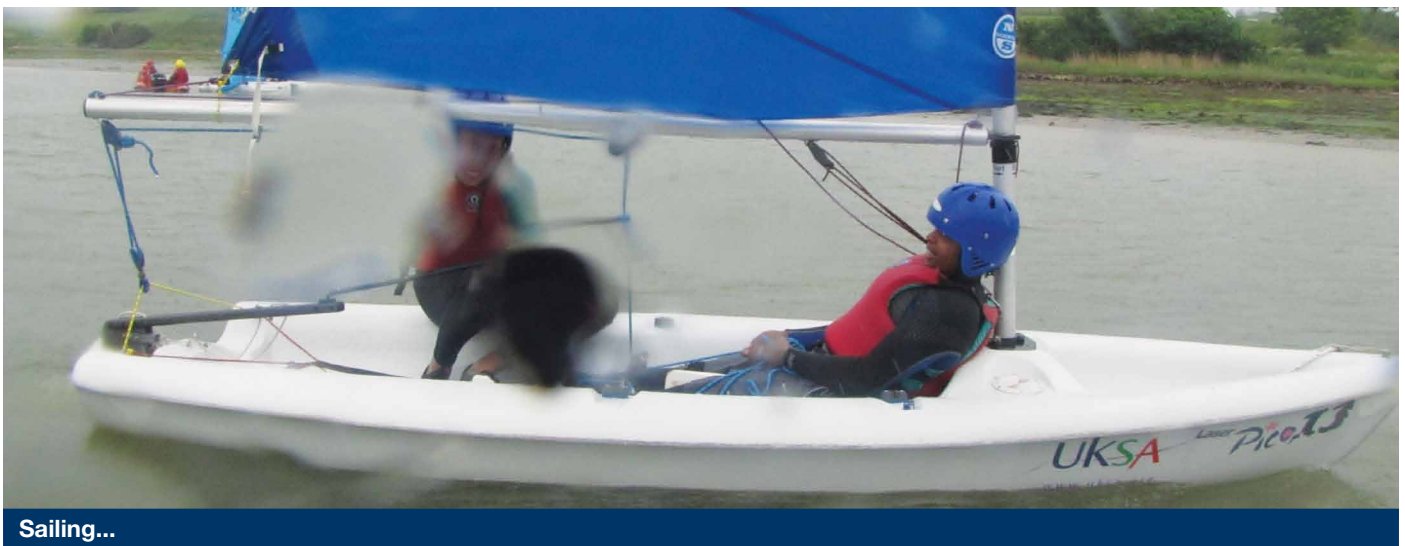
# On the waterfront

Outdoor adventure was the theme for an activities weekend in June for students on the BTEC National Sport and Exercise Science Course. Students enjoyed three days of intensive instruction in windsurfing, canoeing and sailing – which will contribute to the 'outdoor adventurous activities' unit of their course.

'Visiting the Isle of Wight was an educational but also an adventurous experience that would enhance anyone's knowledge of water sports but also bring a fun-filled atmosphere along with it,' wrote Bianca Playle of Year 12. The trip was sponsored by Lord Harris of Peckham.



Windsurfing...



Sailing...



Soaking!

## Run a mile

**Local primary school students were invited to run a mile for Sports Relief during a special event organised by our Level 2 Certificate in Enterprise Capabilities students.**

Our students set up the course and also created a series of stalls which the primary students could visit during their run – including a BMX course, musical statues, dressing-up stall and an obstacle course.

Our students learned how to run a sports event, while primary students were encouraged to keep fit and donate money to charity too. All our students gained their level 2 qualification, which is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE.



Retiring this summer (from left to right): Mrs Polglaze, Mrs Haswell and Mr Mills.

## Thank you for your service

This year we bid farewell to several members of staff who are retiring after long and dedicated service to our school. We wish them all the very best for the future and a special thanks for all the time and skill they have given to our students over so many years.

'I'll miss the kids but especially the school journeys,' said Mr Mills, who has led four skiing trips for the school plus many other outings.

'We'll miss the people we have worked with for many years,' says Mrs Haswell. 'We've been part of a fantastic team that has been together for a long time.'

The full list of people retiring is:

- Ms Elliott, Opening Minds teacher
- Mrs Haswell, SENCO
- Ms Hughes, Vice Principal
- Mr Mills, Head of Technology
- Mrs Polglaze, Special Needs teacher
- Mrs Willman, Drama teacher

We also bid farewell to the following teachers who are leaving at the end of this term. We thank them for their service to our students and look forward to announcing their replacements in the next newsletter: Ms Dalgleish, Ms Doolan, Ms Bromley, Miss Wallis, Ms Kehn-Alafun, Ms Onifade, Ms Boreland, Ms Stylianou, Mrs Louw, Ms Walters, Ms Harley, Mrs Woods.

## Make an Olympics souvenir

**What would be your ideal (and profitable!) Olympic souvenir for 2012? That was the challenge we gave to Year 9 students as part of an enterprise event organised with PricewaterhouseCoopers.**

The aim of the event was to help students develop their enterprise skills, working closely with real business people from PricewaterhouseCoopers, who volunteered their time for the day.

Students were asked to create a healthy food hall stall, such as a noodle bar, smoothie bar or sandwich bar, plus an Olympic souvenir to sell, such as a bag, cap or key ring. The winning team was Chinaza Onyechi, Nishalae Reeves, Ayomide Owoyemi-Peters and Khadijah McGhee.

They went on to the final of the event, competing against other Harris Federation schools, where they were just pipped to the post for top spot.



Students discuss their Olympic souvenir ideas.



# £500 for Haiti

**Sixth form students from Harris East Dulwich Post 16 have raised over £550 for the Haiti Disaster Emergency Fund.**

'We were appalled by the TV footage of the earthquake and decided to take action by planning fun events to raise as much money as quickly as possible,' said Head Girl Aileen Coffey-Colgan.

Students completed a range of activities including a cake sale, pay-to-view students versus teachers basketball game (where the students won 44-41!), selling home-made ribbons in Haiti colours (£1 each), and a bucket collection among staff and students.

Personal tutor Mr. Hickman said: 'I am very proud of the students' achievement. They have demonstrated real generosity, compassion and creativity.'

**The Haiti earthquake in January killed an estimated 230,000 people and left one million homeless.**



**LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY**

## University in our sights

**Undergraduates from South Bank University are visiting our school for an hour every Friday to talk to our gifted and talented students about life in higher education.**

They talk about different courses, how to apply and what it's really like to be an undergraduate. 'It is a great experience and has made me more motivated to go to university,' says Diane Kaate of Year 9.

'I try to help young people consider the opportunities offered by higher education,' says civil engineering student Mandy, an undergraduate at South Bank University who comes to our school every week. 'I do it because it's my way of giving back to the local community.'

**Enterprise winners. Jessica May and Noura Abdi, Year 9, pictured at investment management company, Octopus Investments, which they visited as part of a City enterprise trip recently. They interviewed staff at Octopus about jobs in the City and also visited the Olympic Park in Stratford and the Bank of England, to see London's financial heart in action. Jessica and Noura were selected for the trip by staff at PricewaterhouseCoopers, because of the students' aptitude for enterprise and their 'can-do' approach to learning at the academy.**

## King's College experience



Every Year 12 student spent a day at King's College University in April. They shadowed a King's student for a day as they went to lectures, the library and saw their accommodation too. The idea was to give our students a real taste of student life from the perspective of undergraduates studying subjects as diverse as languages, law and psychology.



flickr - Nigel Parne

# Post-16 opportunities

Our Post-16 provision is now officially part of the Harris Federation Post-16 – made up of six academies and one sixth form. It means our students can now take advantage of more courses, including a mini-bus service to help them access lessons at other academies.

'The arrangement starts in September and means we can share experience and resources across the Federation,' says Chris Everitt, Vice Principal responsible for post-16 students.



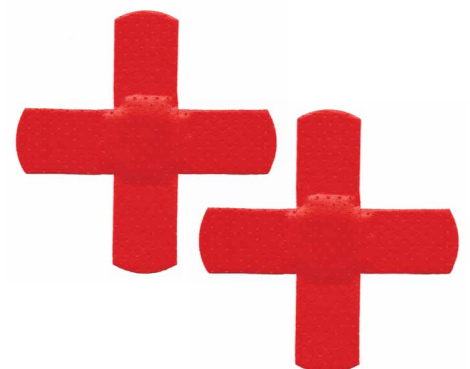
## Reality bites with pregnancy video

A video made by students is being used to teach sex and relationship education at the academy. Created, scripted and filmed entirely by students, Reality Bites was made by the academy's peer educators and brings home the consequences of teenage pregnancy.



## Teachers have talent

Teachers put on a talent show for students as part of our fundraising efforts for Sports Relief this year. Highlights included a *Hairspray* dance, a cheerleading performance and mass singing of *We are the World* by all our staff! Our sports council organised other activities too, including selling the official Sports Relief socks and a bouncy castle. In total we raised a fantastic £556 in one day.



**'Pleased to meet you, Mr Freud.'** Freud, Pavlov and Maslow were among the famous psychologists who came to the Year 12 psychology cocktail party recently. To be admitted to the event students had to dress in character and learn about their psychologist's key theories. They then introduced themselves to their illustrious colleagues, explained their theories to each other and worked out what they had in common. Jung was not invited as he famously disagrees with Freud and they might have quarrelled over the apple juice.

# Half term Japanese?

Eight gifted and talented students took part in some interesting courses over the most recent half term, including first aid, advanced music, summer sports and Japanese. Eugenie MacDoland, for example, completed a first aid course at Notre Dame School. She said: 'Everybody learnt how to deal with the conscious casualty, the unconscious casualty, serious bleeding, choking, suspected heart attack and cardiac arrest. The course was very interesting and I would recommend it to anyone.'



**Four months ago...**

**February 2010**

## New buildings – latest news

These pictures show how work on our new teaching block has progressed over the past four months. The new block, which will be home to English, Maths, DT, Business Studies and a new Study Centre, is due to open in January 2011.

Work has also started on the major refurbishment of New House. When the work is complete in September we'll have a brand new media suite including a permanent home for our radio station and a host of Apple computers. The building will also include language classrooms and a base for our inclusion department.



**Now...**

**June 2010**

# Seven in London Basketball team



**Our under 16 basketball team.**

**An astonishing seven students from the academy have been chosen for the London under-17 basketball team.**

They are Nana Manu-Adjei, Ramatu Jalloh, Bola Adeosun, Chisara Agor (the basketball sports captain), Shanice Sewell, Natalia Lewis and Natasha Lewis. Nana, Ramatu and Bola have also been selected for the London under-15 team.

The under-15 girls were invited to Sheffield in June to compete in a tournament against other English regional teams and national teams from Scotland, Ireland, Wales and France. They came a creditable 3rd place. Ramatu Jalloh was even in the starting five, which is quite an achievement!

We are now firmly known within London as a very good basketball school. Our own under-15 team reached the final of the London league this year losing to Gregg City Academy, a north London school who eventually went on to win the nationals. Ramatu Jalloh scored 34 points in the final 62-48 final score. The under 16s lost their semi final in the same competition, also to Gregg City Academy.

This success is recognition of the hard work that Sterling Muschette has made developing basketball at the academy, and of course to the girls' own skill and commitment too.

## Netball high flyers

Following a fantastic unbeaten season, our Year 7 netball team took part in a weekend netball tournament in Swindon recently, coming 5th overall and playing exceptionally well.

Enya Lopez also received the accolade of 'most valuable player' for the whole tournament.

'They showed great determination, sportsmanship and were a credit to the academy,' says teacher Tammie Mullen. 'It was a great end to a fantastic season.'



**The high-flying Year 7 netball team.**



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