

FOCUS

CoLA NEWSLETTER

2017 • NUMBER 6



Celebrating
the heroes of
Tower Bridge

Magnificent seven
head Stateside

New dawn
edges closer

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Welcome

Welcome to Focus, our new twice-termly newsletter that we hope will reflect the many and varied achievements of City of London Academy students and staff.

The summer term completed another exceptional year at CoLA, and the last few weeks have seen the academy abuzz with many exciting events, culminating in prizegiving and a fantastic talent show. There were many other highlights, from a visit by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to address Year 7, to our Year 12 welcome day and a typically competitive sports day.

It was also time to say goodbye to several popular individuals, and I would like to particularly thank and pass on our best wishes to two esteemed colleagues who are leaving CoLA at the end of this term. Marcus Huntley, Head of School, has been promoted to Principal at Compass School here in Southwark and William Harris, Assistant Principal, is retiring having taught for more than 25 years in London, 12 of which were here at CoLA.

We wish both of them the very best for the future and thank them for their exceptional public service to our CoLA community.



This year we have formed a partnership with Compass School and are looking forward to working on a range of educational projects to benefit both communities. Compass School have expressed an interest in becoming, in the near future, a City of London Family School and we look forward to developing a long and lasting school partnership between us.

It has been a fantastic year for our community this year and on behalf of the governors, staff and students, I would like to wish you a relaxing summer break and we look forward to welcoming our students back to CoLA on Tuesday 5th September.

Mr Richard Bannister,
Executive Principal

Top of the class

City of London Academy (Southwark) is celebrating this month after being ranked among the best academies in the country.

New Government figures revealed The City of London Academies Trust is the top-performing Multi Academy Trust in the UK.

The tables compare the performance of 47 MATs on their 2015-16 performance on the new Progress 8 measure for Key Stage Four.

A total of 11 MATs are rated as significantly above average, with the City of London Corporation, which

has three secondary schools, on +0.63 against the national average score of 0.

CoLA headteacher Richard Bannister said: "We are delighted the City of London Academies Trust has been named the highest-attaining and number one Multi-Academy Trust in England.

"We are so proud of our students, staff, community and our sponsor, The City of London, who set up the academy 14 years ago.

"Their belief and investment in our Southwark Community has come to fruition and our school is now recognised as being one of the leading schools in London." Mr Bannister paid tribute to the quality of teaching and exceptional attitude of CoLA students which continues to foster success.

"It has been so rewarding seeing the incremental year-on-year improvements in our students' results and seeing them go on to access exceptional progression routes into university and apprenticeships," he said.

"Our success is built upon delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning, a relentless focus on high aspirations for our students, social inclusion, quality relationships and exemplary behaviour for learning.

"This, coupled to an exceptional teaching and support staff team and professional governance at all levels has been at the heart of our success and our family of schools' success."



Kenechi and Damilola lay out their vision for CoLA

Congratulations to Kenechi Finewood and Damilola Adedeji, who were voted in by their peers as Head Boy and Head Girl for 2017-18.

Kenechi and Damilola will represent the student voice across the academy next year, with both revealing their excitement at the challenges ahead.

Kenechi, who is 17 and studies Business, IT and Sports, said: "My aim is to make sure we all stay connected. Students have to feel they can speak to the student council and also the school.

"I want to narrow the gap between the students and teachers. I will be a figurehead with the students; their point-of-contact for any situation. I also represent the school to parents and guests."

Damilola, also 17, is studying English Literature, Government and Politics, History and Sociology. She said: "As Head Girl, I'm hoping to really bring the sense of family and unity back into CoLA as well as getting students more involved in how their school is run through student voice.

"Many students come to me and tell me their ideas

and issues they're having, and most of them are quite reasonable so I just want to make those ideas a reality."

We wish Kenechi and Damilola every success during their terms as Head Boy and Girl.



Celebrating the heroes of Tower Bridge

CoLA pupils took part in a fascinating project to celebrate the hundreds of men and women who worked on London's famous Tower Bridge.

Students joined the London Sculpture Workshop to launch Walk of Fame, an initiative that recognises all those who have helped build, maintain and operate the bridge over the years.

The group created decorative bronze plaques as part of their Art GCSE, taking inspiration from the bridge and its intricate details to create their designs.



With guidance from artists and crafts-people from London Sculpture Workshop, they constructed wooden moulds and manufactured the plaques.

Year 13 student Sara said: "My class and I started the Tower Bridge project in the autumn term of 2016. The project involved creating a disc based on Tower Bridge and the people who worked there.

"We were shown old photos of people who worked on the bridge so we could get an insight into their lives and for us to get to know about them. This gave us inspiration for the design of our discs. We were also shown pictures of Tower Bridge itself to help our design.

"We traced our finished design and colour coded it to represent the different layers of the final piece. We then used coloured card for the pieces of the design that would help us to draw in balsa wood. The balsa wood was used to create the roundel.

"When we finished creating our design onto balsa wood it was then taken to the foundry in Woolwich. I was able to watch my disc being made with my class. The people in the foundry used bronze to cast the roundel."

Tears and cheers as Y11 depart

Our Year 11s said goodbye in style as they departed CoLA for fresh challenges, with plenty of shirt-signing, cheers and just a few tears at their final assembly.

This group of Year 11s have been a credit to the academy and everyone at CoLA wishes them the best in their further studies and their future careers.

Kellie Brown, Head of Year 11, said: "The Year 11 students have completed their exams and they have worked so hard. The talent in this year group has been

a delight to watch and the teachers are looking forward to excellent results.

"The Year 11s have had to say goodbye to teachers, support staff and to each other and we have had tears, photographs and emotional accounts about their time spent at CoLA.

"Mrs Brown, Ms Feaver, Ms Pateman and Mr Ali would like to wish our young people the best of luck and we know that we have worked with some of the best young people in London."

Governors' Corner

It has been another eventful and very inspirational year, and I would like to take this chance to inform you on the participation and involvement of the School Governors at the academy.

I am the Parent Governor and supporting me is Fiona Lake who joined the Governing body earlier this year. Our Chair is Andrew McMurtrie, who has worked relentlessly with the rest of the Governing body and the Senior Management of the school, including staff and students, to ensure our ethos and values at CoLA are consistently and constantly met and enhanced.

As you may know, the Governors are responsible for the smooth running of CoLA. We meet several times a term to discuss the business of the school from the curriculum to finance including the timetable of the school day.

We carry out these roles and responsibilities voluntarily to ensure that our Academy is working effectively at every level for the well-being, education and support of our students, staff and whole school community.

We are all privileged and passionate to be part of such a great team of caring and inclusive people. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to the team of inspirational teachers and learning support staff who work ceaselessly to encourage and support our students to believe in themselves, resulting in excellent outcomes.

I will also like to give a big thank you to our Senior Leadership Team, and other support staff at CoLA who work behind the scenes.

This year the new Year 7 playground has been a great success for students in their transition from Primary

Into the trenches

A particularly poignant memory for Year 9 was the trip to the Guildhall Art Gallery for a private viewing of an exhibition as part of 'Echoes across the century – World War One imagined'.

The exhibition, called Playing Cards, gave our pupils an insight into life in the trenches. Playing Cards is simply



to Secondary School; it gives our youngest students a chance to settle into CoLA life.

You will be aware in Key stage 4 that the GCSEs have changed and we now have a system of numbered levels rather than the old alphabet system. The whole school staff and pupils have been working hard to ensure our coming results are the best they can be. There has been a great deal of work led by Dr Jeffery Quaye to achieve a seamless change from the old to the new marking system.

Our Basketball Academy goes from strength to strength and we would like to congratulate all our teams, both staff and players, as well as a big shout out to our female team who are now the national champions.

We are excited about the opening our new purpose-built Sixth Form building on Rotherhithe New Road in September. This year has been very busy and successful, and as Governors we look forward to working with the school to make all our students and whole school community year-on-year more successful.

Thank you

Bolatito Bello, Parent Governor

a metaphor, demonstrating how the lives of those embroiled in conflict were thrown up in the air like a pack of cards. It was a thoroughly enjoyable, if sobering, experience.

There was plenty more to enjoy this term; Nick Cross took the Year 9 Economics students to the Bank of England.

There was a drama trip to the Young Vic Theatre to watch *Life of Galileo* and a chance to enjoy a RADA performance of a Shakespeare play and post-show discussion.

Other highlights saw the Year 9 students involved in the National Theatre Connections performance and performed at the Lyric Theatre.

Our boys had two very successful workshops run by the Great Men Initiative regarding gender equality and homophobia, while the girls had workshops on gender equality and self-esteem.

An inspiring day with the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor's visit is always an eagerly-awaited day for Year 7 and this year was no different as Dr Andrew Parmley toured the academy and delivered an assembly.

Dr Parmley began by explaining to Year 7 the importance of the City of London in ensuring good trade links with the rest of the world.

He discussed his role with the students, who were inspired by a job that gave an opportunity to travel the world. He then invited questions and was given a testing



time from our students, who proved they had listened and wanted to find out more.

The Lord Mayor then met with class 7G who were previously selected as the class with the best behaviour and attendance record. Students from 7G were able to try on the Lord Mayor's hat and see up close his diamond studded chain and sword.

Welcoming Year 6

Sixteen Year 7 students embraced the chance to show the new cohort of Year 6 students around the academy on Taster Day.

Our students collected and escorted the Year 6 students to lessons, lunch and break, and were also on hand to answer questions.

During the Transition Evening Kuan Yu La Nguyen and Luke Giantsos delivered a speech to students and parents about their first year here at the City of London Academy.

The overwhelming positive feedback from the year six students about the support they received during Taster day from the Year 7 students was amazing.

Broadening horizons

Six Year 10 girls experienced a taste of working life when they visited and shadowed members of the women's committee of the property and investment company British Land.

Each girl paired up with a member of the women's committee to witness a working day in a corporate London office and examine the work that takes place in a property investment company. Some of the girls were able to sit in on meetings and volunteer their opinions on future projects.



Elsewhere, our geographers spent a day in east London on a fieldwork investigation.

The group were exploring how the Olympic Park has regenerated Stratford and the surrounding area. Students carried out a number of different methods throughout the day to see how much the area, which has undergone drastic regeneration in the last few years, has changed.

Congratulations to Michael Asaolu and Emily Villamangua, who were elected as prefects.

Students have been applying for prefect roles through the summer term, campaigning with a personal manifesto for staff and peers to choose who would be the best fit.

Prefects are expected to plan the end-of-year prom and develop a bespoke programme of PSHEE for peers and lower year students.

Taking centre stage

Year 8 threw themselves into the summer spirit this term, culminating in a wonderful Sports Day where every member of the year did themselves proud.

In scorching weather – ice creams at 50p went down a treat – Year 8 entered into the spirit and showed their support for the four teams: Wembley, Wimbledon, Oval and Twickenham.

Everyone contributed in activities ranging from basketball, netball, athletics and the high jump to standing jump, shot-put, badminton and table tennis.

Year 8 performed brilliantly, congratulations to all.

The other highlight of the term was the talent show, which was organised by all year groups to raise money for the victims of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Plenty of Year 8 students were on show, with Ellen and Beth's solo singing a particular highlight and Tasmia's wonderful violin performance.

There were also superb band performances from 8C and 8G, and the drama club impressed with their play, a memorable performance of The Fairy Godmother Agency.

Congratulations to everyone!



Callum speaks out for 'Generation Z'

Callum Bryson delivered a rousing speech on journalism standards in front of more than 750 media innovators at the prestigious Global Editors Network summit in Vienna.

Callum, who studies Physics, Maths, Psychology and Chemistry at CoLA, was invited to the event to represent the so-called 'Generation Z' and shared his views on post-truth and virtual reality.

Journalists from all over the world had travelled to the event, with speakers including the editor of the Washington Post and the editor of BuzzFeed.

Callum, 16, had spent the preceding week on work experience at The Day, a daily news service for schools, colleges and homes. He discussed how the media can engage youngsters, and how the rise of click-bait was compromising journalistic values.

Callum said: "We live in a world where sections of the media feel that in order to appeal to a younger audience it must resort to clickbait, particularly in headlines.

"I wanted to make the point that young people do engage with news media and don't need their news simplified. News can be made easy to understand without being dumbed down. If we see a headline that is obviously clickbait, we will just ignore it.

"It was a great experience just to hear so many different opinions from so many big news outlets including the Guardian, Washington Post and BuzzFeed."

Rebecca Hemming, who organised the trip for Callum, said: "Opportunities like this come along once in a lifetime and all credit to Callum for rising to the occasion – and becoming an expert on Post truth and Virtual Reality!"



Turning to the future

Year 13 students turned their thoughts to university and life beyond City of London Academy at an inspirational Progression Day in June.

More than 50 external guests attended the event as students began the day with a welcome assembly and then moved on to workshops, taster sessions and networking.

Students attended a study skills workshop with Goldsmiths University, finance workshops with MyBnk, and received goal-setting and interview technique advice from Making the Leap.

There was also advice on applications to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities and a speed-networking session with representatives from industries including law, construction, professional services and retail, as well as the chance to talk to CoLA alumni.

The day ended with a range of university taster sessions, including Chemistry from Imperial College, Economics from Royal Holloway, Law and Finance from Westminster and Engineering from an industry expert.



Welcoming new faces

We were excited to welcome a new group of Year 12s - both internal and external students - to CoLA for our Welcome Day in July.

This has always been a really successful event and enables students to get to know the key members of staff they will be working with over the coming years and get a much clearer idea of the ethos of hard work and enthusiasm that we feel truly represents the City of London Academy.



We partnered up with Bright Futures to spend the morning running a series of team-building activities that all had a focus on the academic transition between GCSE and A Level, as well as enabling students to get to know some of the new faces in their year group.

We were really impressed with how friendly, polite and engaged the students were. And were entertained as always by the parade of hand-made hats and their models at the end of the activities.

Students then went around the main site to get to know the layout, collect their summer tasks and to speak to some of their potential teachers.

It was a pleasure to get to know the new Year 12s and we wish them the best of luck over the summer. We hope to see as many as possible on our Enrolment Days and joining us in our new Sixth Form in September.



An emotional farewell

After two years in Sixth Form – and, for some, seven years at CoLA – our Year 13 students said goodbye on Leavers Day.

We sent them off in style, with video presentations, fun awards and reminiscences of their time at CoLA (including more than a few embarrassing photographs...)

New dawn edges closer

Our new Sixth Form building is coming along smoothly and is on track to open this summer. We will be running staff tours on INSET day on September 4.

The purpose-built centre will have a transformational effect on our Sixth Form, with students learning in a university environment with flexible learning spaces.



The student leadership team also gave excellent personal farewell speeches.

Students went on to have a barbecue and enjoy some summer sunshine.

In the weeks since, they have been working and revising hard for their A Level exams - we wish them the best of luck in all of their examinations, and look forward to celebrating every success with them again at Results Day in August.



This inspiring environment will prepare our students for the world of higher education and employment. Teaching spaces will be shared spaces, similar to a lecture class in college.

Storage will be available for new specification A Level coursework folders and textbooks only.



Leaders of tomorrow

Three CoLA girls spent four days on the Lord Mayor's Student Leadership Scheme.

Michelle Villamagua, Tashemia Glen and Veronica Gonzalez attended the scheme, which is designed to reflect the Lord Mayor's theme for the year - to educate, support and inspire.

The girls discovered how to learn from role models, how to build powerful networks of influence and use these networks to become leaders of the future.

Highlights included a speech from Dame Fiona Woolf DBE and a visit to the Old Bailey.

The scheme, at Mansion House, was enabled by the Transcontinental School Innovation Alliance and drew participants from India and across the UK.

Year 13 receive record number of university offers

More than 100 Year 13s applied to UK universities this year – 91 per cent of the year group - with a further three students making successful applications to US universities.

Students are still receiving final offers and picking their firm and insurance choices ahead of results day, but there have been an unusual number of unconditional offers from universities this year.

Of the 103 who applied, 22 students have received unconditional offers, with two even receiving two unconditional offers each (!) – this high number was unheard of in previous years.

Three students applied for Oxbridge, with one being invited to interviews at Cambridge.

Students also applied to a range of other Russell Group universities, including Warwick, Birmingham, Durham, Cardiff, Imperial, King's College, Manchester, UCL and Queen Mary, London.

Other universities have remained popular with the Year 13s. As students can make up to five applications each, it is possible to see what the most popular choices have been:

- Greenwich – 31 applications
- Brunel – 27 applications
- Hertfordshire – 21 applications
- De Montfort – 17 applications
- Queen Mary, London – 16 applications

One student also successfully sat admissions tests for Aberystwyth University, receiving a scholarship and a well-deserved unconditional offer.

Students have once again applied for a wide range of courses, with Economics and Accounting showing continued popularity, alongside such diverse courses as Biomedical Science, Zoology, Maths, Radiography, Midwifery, Computer Science, English Literature, Culinary Arts, Physics, Social Work, Psychology and Criminology, Law, Korean, Sports Science and Fashion Marketing.

Magnificent seven head Stateside

Seven City of London Academy students began the experience of a lifetime this summer as they flew to the USA to begin their sports scholarships.

The girls joined prestigious universities the length and breadth of the US, with Emerald Ekpiteta joining Niagra University in Buffalo, New York, Ire Ozzy-Momodu starting life at Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Cheyenne Scott joining Florida Tech and Toyosi Abiola joining Iona College, New York.

Ladun Akako departed for Barry University in Florida, Ibilola Oyediji headed for Palm Beach Atlantic University and Kaleah Edwards moved to Wagner College, New York.

All seven girls were members of the team that won the WEABL final in March when they defeated Charnwood

College 40-31 at the Leicester Arena.

Three boys also headed Stateside, with Thai Sewai and Jonathan Komogum heading for prep school Taylormade Academy as they seek to earn scholarships next year.

Solomon Iluyomade joins Laramie Community College.

Meanwhile, our Year 8 girls defeated Southbank International School 23-14 – their first ever win courtesy of a brilliant all-round performance that tied the series at 1-1.

The Year 10 girls also triumphed against the same school, winning 32-26 with Semira Nas, Shalima Reid, Temi Omoyinmi and Tega Akpodiete all outstanding as the girls clinched the season series 2-0.



London calling

A busy summer term of sport saw CoLA pupils competing at the London Youth Games and taking on the staff as part of National Sports Week.

Eight Year 10 girls represented CoLA at the LYG handball tournament at the Copper Box Arena in Stratford, playing against 14 other schools to be crowned the best in the borough.

With the competition fierce, our girls fell narrowly short despite an admirable display.

The Year 10 girls triumphed in a thrilling football match against women's staff as part of National Sports Week, triumphing 7-6. There was also a tennis tournament, won by Ms Preston, and a dance performance.

The academy also hosted the annual Ilderton Primary School Sports Day on June 23, with around 600 pupils taking part in activities including sprinting, hurdles, relays, speed bounce and long jump.



Action and adventure

From the thrills of Wimbledon to the streets of Paris, City of London Academy students enjoyed another action-packed summer term of trips and visits.

Mr Hallam took a group of well-deserving Year 7 students to the Spanish restaurant La Tasca, where they had the chance to improve their Spanish speaking and gain a greater awareness and understanding of Spanish culture – all while enjoying some delicious Spanish cuisine!

A group of 80 Year 7 students visited Science Museum and Natural History Museum to deepen their learning on climate change and plate tectonics. They spent the day engaging with interactive activities and challenges to show off what they had learnt as well as pick up new information to take them into year 8.

Students from Years 7-9 had a wonderful time at the Wimbledon Championships and revelled in the amazing atmosphere of the world's most famous sporting championship.

A group of star students from Years 7-10 participated in the Debate Mate Series alongside Ms Hill Tout, attending the Cup Final at the University of East London. This was a great chance for the students to develop their confidence and public speaking skills.

Year 8 students took a step back in time when they visited Boulogne. The group of 35 visited a German WW2 bunker, pillboxes, sentries and armaments before a drive through the countryside where they saw craters in the landscape.

Sixty-six Year 8 students embarked on a reward trip to survey the redevelopment of London Docklands.

The entire Year 12 cohort were invited to take part in a trip to the UCAS South London Higher Education Exhibition at the University of Greenwich, where they gathered information about higher education, apprenticeships, volunteer and gap-year programs and other career opportunities.

Recently, Ms Costello took a group of Year 10 Students on an overnight trip to Paris. The group had an incredible time exploring the city, visiting the sights, enjoying the cuisine and immersing themselves in the French culture.

We look forward to continuing to provide students at City of London Academy with opportunities to explore their interests and develop their learning practically.



Faiza Issa, who teaches Citizenship, Society, Ethics and Beliefs, won the award for Southwark Secondary School teacher of the year

Congratulations on your award!

Thank you! It's slightly awkward actually – I'm really not sure why I was nominated! All the staff at CoLA do a wonderful job so it feels almost wrong to pick someone out. I am very proud though!

Tell us more about your role

I teach Citizenship at Key Stage 4, so Years 9, 10 and 11. Additionally, I teach Society, Ethics and Beliefs to Years 7 and 8.

Why are those subjects important?

Citizenship encourages students to think about their community; it broadens their horizons. We explore the concept of democracy and law, and how that affects young people. We teach the importance of voting, and we teach about religion. We ask other questions – should animals have rights, for example – and look at all the wider societal issues that affect young people today.

How does that benefit CoLA students?

It prepares them for the real world. Many of our students want to go on to become lawyers, doctors and politicians. At GCSE, for example, they learn how to run a campaign. With more and more young people engaging in politics these are really relevant skills.

How long have you been here?

Four years – yes, it has flown by!

What is the best part of your job?

Just being able to teach my passion. I took politics at University and now I get to teach it. And young people are so interesting, they always want to learn. You really feel you are shaping their lives.

And what's the biggest challenge?

Not losing enthusiasm in difficult times. These are hard days to be a Londoner – terrorism, divided politics; we are all living in challenging times, particularly for young people.

Your best moment at CoLA?

There are too many! Just seeing students celebrating success – and by success, I mean little, everyday successes. I had a pupil come up to me the other day and say he wants to be an MP. It shows that what you are teaching them really sinks in. I also have some amazing colleagues who make each and every day a pleasure.

Finally, can you sum up CoLA in one word?

Community!



Celebrating success



There were plenty of memorable moments at CoLA's annual prizegiving ceremony.

Toyosi Abiola, one of seven CoLA girls to earn a NCAA Athletic Scholarship this year, won the award for Sport Excellence in Basketball.

Finn Wharton won the Billingsgate Ward Club Trophy for best essay, poem or factual writing on the theme of the City of London.

Prizes were awarded to students from every year group as the ceremony celebrated the many outstanding achievements in the past year.

Tasmina Hussain produced a wonderful violin solo, while speeches by deputy head boy Joseph Kuranga and deputy head girl Shenice Osisioma were described as the best ever at the school.



Dr Elizabeth Sidwell CBE, an educational strategist and consultant and former Schools Commissioner for England was keynote speaker, and Mayor of Southwark, Councillor Charlie Smith, also attended.

Head of school Marcus Huntley said: "It's fantastic to take time out to acknowledge the broad range of outstanding achievement amongst our community. They are truly the best of what CoLA has to offer and we are very proud of them.

"I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and our pupils' families for the support they have given to the students over the past year".

CoLA stars raise the roof!

The CoLA community gathered for a packed evening of drama, dance and music at our talent show on Thursday, July 13.

The evening was a great success, with money raised going to the victims and families of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

We were treated to an original production of The Fairy Godmother Agency by the drama club, followed by an eclectic mix of music and dance.

Several students performed solo songs, with Beth Choudhury, Niamh Shields, Ellen Grealish, Omoyemi Makinde and Mary Swadi all performing wonderfully.



We also had Kai and Sita in Year 10 performing two fantastic duets.

Tasmia Hossain played Matthias on her violin and Nikita Allueva performed Chopin on the piano. Lewis Adams performed a breathtaking display of breakdancing and Makiah Bovell wowed the audience with a daring display of gymnastics.

CoLA's dance club performed two numbers from the performance they had worked on to raise money for The British Red Cross, which energised the entire hall.

To finish the show, our Sixth Form students performed a medley of contemporary songs and music. The entire night was full of energy and the crowd made every performer feel like a rock star.

Well done to all and thank you to Miss Holdich and everyone involved in creating such a wonderful evening.





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