



LONDON ACADEMY
OF EXCELLENCE
TOTTENHAM

NEWSLETTER

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Latest News

LAE Tottenham named Sunday Times 'State Sixth Form College of the Year'

LAE Tottenham has been named The Sunday Times Sixth Form of the year by Parent Power, The Sunday Times Schools Guide, published in The Sunday Times on November 29 2020. Parent Power is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools. The rankings in the secondary school league tables are determined by the percentage of examination entries gaining A* to B grades at A-level.

Alastair McCall, editor of Parent Power, said: "The first year of A-level results from this new sixth form college have earned it our Sixth Form College of the Year award. Modelled on the template of its sister school in Stratford, which won the same award five years ago, LAE Tottenham has arrived in style. The children have scored heavily in their A-levels both last year and again this year, with more than two-thirds of the students progressing to Russell Group universities and 11 gaining places at Oxford or Cambridge this summer, unprecedented numbers for the area. The dynamic partnerships with Spurs and Highgate School in the independent sector promise even greater things in the years ahead."

Daniel Levy, Chairman, Tottenham Hotspur, said: "We are extremely proud that LAE Tottenham has been recognised as The Sunday Times Sixth Form College of the Year. "Since opening its doors in 2017, the school has achieved exactly what it set out to do – provide Tottenham's brightest students with the platform to further their educational aspirations, regardless of socio-economic background. "The two sets of A-Level results, coupled with this prestigious award, once again highlights the talent that exists amongst young people in Tottenham.

"A huge amount of credit must go to the amazing staff at LAE Tottenham and its parent school, Highgate, for providing such incredible support to the students."

Jan Balon, Headteacher, LAE Tottenham, said: "We are exceptionally proud of what is being achieved by our students here in Tottenham. They are proving that, given the right support, they will flourish and I'm excited about the future impact they will have in the local area and beyond."

Adam Pettitt, Head, Highgate School, which has been named Independent School of the Decade in the same awards, added: "Congratulations, LAE Tottenham! What a way to live up to your name. We are so proud of all that you have achieved for the young people of Tottenham in such a short time. You richly deserve this wonderful accolade."



Huge congratulations also to Highgate School which has been named The Sunday Times London Independent School of the Decade by Parent Power.



Speakers and Events

LAET Hardship Fund

Mr Balon and Mr Pettitt (Head at Highgate School and Deputy Chair of Governors at LAET) successfully completed their marathon from Highgate to Tottenham Hotspur stadium on Sunday 15th November to raise money for the LAET Hardship fund. Over 30 members of staff and students completed remote challenges, including other marathons and 60km bike rides! We are grateful for these efforts, which collectively have raised, over £75k from over 465 donors. Mr Balon emphasized the impact of this fundraising initiative saying: "Thanks to those who have supported the LAET fundraiser, our most disadvantaged families will now receive support for food, rent and utility bills, and will now be able to keep their children focused on their studies here at LAET."



Inter-Faith Discussion

On Thursday 3rd December, the day of our wonderfully vibrant Cultural Celebration, Year 13 students enjoyed an Inter-faith discussion during their personal development time, with local representatives from both Muslim and Jewish communities joining us for a lively debate. Daniel Greenberg, a barrister and officer in the House of Commons, and Moulana Muhammad Dalvi, a Faith Education Lead from Walthamstow, dialled in to talk to our students about hot topics around freedom of speech, Inter-faith marriage and discrimination against vulnerable people (questions students had shared with the speakers prior to the session). Both speakers expressed the importance of mutual respect and recognition, the importance of education around faith and an honest reflection that sometimes religion is a little slow to catch up with societal change. Thank you to the form representatives from each tutor group who responded to the speakers' presentations and thought-provoking ideas around state intervention in religion as well as tolerance of LGBTQ and Inter-faith marriage. Both speakers stressed the importance of mutual respect, communication and tolerance. We look forward to future events with an even greater range of voices.

Cultural Celebration Day

On Thursday 3rd December, Year 12 students arranged a day of cultural celebration to highlight the diverse community of LAE Tottenham. The day aimed to encourage students to appreciate their differences and gave an opportunity to learn about each other's traditions. Alvira from 'Oxford' tutor group who was part of the team of students who ensured the smooth running of the day said:

"Cultural Day was a success! LAE Tottenham students turned a rainy winter day into a vibrant celebration of the various cultures of Year 12 and Year 13.

Students were encouraged to dress in clothing which represented their culture. Attire ranged from sarees to sombreros and even the colours of their country's flag. On this special occasion, the canteen prepared various special dishes including Caribbean pumpkin soup, South-Asian biryani, Pakistani samosas and Turkish doner kebabs.

Staff and students enjoyed a carefully-prepared playlist of multicultural music to accompany the delicious menu. In a video prepared by students in Year 12, groups of students highlighted different aspects of their culture. The video was shown in tutor time along with some short culture themed games.

In the midst of a daunting global pandemic, it was just the type of celebratory occasion the school needed to lift the spirits of both students and staff alike, rewarding us for the efforts we've been making thus far, as well as inspiring us to continue, despite unfortunate circumstances. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from staff and students alike.

Pictures were taken, outfits were complimented, and most importantly, lots of fun was had!"



LAET Poetry Competition

The winners of the LAET poetry competition on the theme of 'home' were announced by novelist and Professor of Creative writing Ben Markovits. He selected 'Searching for My Mother' by Y13 student Bela, from 'Open' tutor group as the winner, with 'Arriving Home' by Y12 student Samira, from 'Robinson' tutor group in second place and 'Letters Under my Pillow' by Y12 student Chantay, from 'Robinson' tutor group in third place. Each poem interpreted the theme with originality and style: Bela's poignant description of absence was striking for its detail, control and emotional impact; Samira's evocative focus on home life was uplifting and humorous, whilst Chantay's powerful voicing of displacement was ambitious and effective. "There is clearly a lot of talent at play here," said Ben. "Not just in the winning poems, but across all the entries that I saw. I was very impressed by the standard." Each of the winning poems was also published in Harrow School's Harrovian magazine.

Second Place

Arriving Home

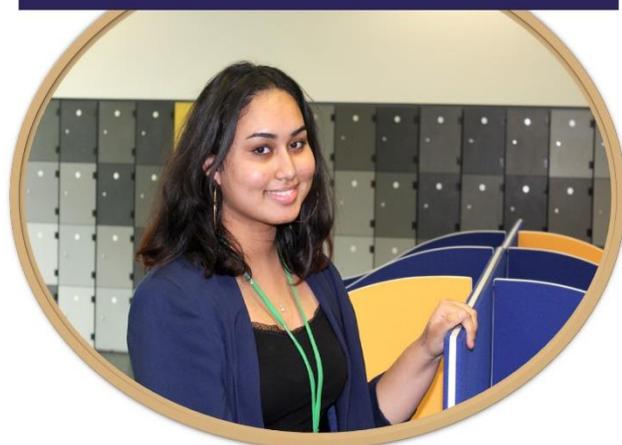
Your hand clasps the cold metal of your front door
 Fumbling for your keys in the winter cold
 Clicking, it opens, then clicking, it shuts.
 Eager to be home.
 You slip your shoes off quickly and place them neatly
 Beside the Converse, light up trainers, heels and dress shoes
 Surrounded by a familiar warmth of burning essence
 and roasting dinner...

Third Place

Letters Under my Pillow

I can't paint a pretty picture of home in black and white
 Once you strip it down to its most basic parts you find you've lost all parts of
 Your culture
 You mould it into a more desirable product that can blend more seamlessly
 God forbid it stand out too much,
 Appear too colourful
 You see everything in my life's been between black and white
 Is that why I scarred my scalp straight for your approval?
 Or practiced my poise and polished my pronunciation for you?...

LAET Poetry Competition Winner



First Place

Searching for My Mother

i look for her in the kitchen
 in the crevasses of the
 cupboards
 the stacks of spices on the
 shelves
 she left her touch on the pots
 and pans
 but i forgot i washed them
 the other day
 i look for her in the
 bathroom
 in the disarray of makeup
 kajal, concealer, the
 chalkiest pink blush
 the stacks of bhindis on the
 mirror surface...

Twitter Highlights

You Retweeted



Highgate School @highgate1565 · Dec 4
 The generosity of Highgate's community meant we could raise over £75,000 for hardship at @LaeTottenham This is a tremendous effort that will support more than 90 families. To all those who donated or shared, thank you! The showcased quote is from a Y12 LAET pupil 🙌

"LAE Tottenham is not only a sixth form which is responsible for great academic success, it represents great values and helps every student to become better individuals. During my time here, I have met great teachers who have helped me to fully understand what is being taught in the classroom."

1 reply 2 retweets 3 likes

You Retweeted



Chief Superintendent Karen Findlay @KarenFindlayMPS · Dec 2
 Great job by Insp Steve Wilson & officers from @MetTaskforce NW TSG spending quality time with students from the @LaeTottenham talking all things public order policing & improving an understanding of the TSG role in keeping London safe. Show of strength to lift the enforcer boom!



1 reply 3 retweets 75 likes

You Retweeted



The Sunday Times @thesundaytimes · Nov 29
 Congratulations @LaeTottenham. 🏆 See which other secondary schools topped our rankings here: [thetimes.co.uk/article/best-u-...](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/best-u-...) #parentpower

Tottenham Hotspur @SpursOfficial · Nov 27
 🏆 @LaeTottenham has been named @TheSundayTimes Sixth Form College of the Year! 🙌
 #THFC #COYS

1 reply 2 retweets 6 likes

You Retweeted



Suzanne Brown @SParker616 · Nov 27
 Fantastic news @LaeTottenham
 Very well deserved. You've done an excellent job of keeping your students on track at this difficult time. I'm so pleased my son chose to go there.

LAE Tottenham named Sunday Times Sixth Form Coll...
 We are delighted to announce that the London Academy of Excellence (LAE) Tottenham has been ...
[tottenhamhotspur.com](https://www.tottenhamhotspur.com)

1 reply 1 retweet 2 likes

Looking Ahead

Date	Year Group	Details
Friday 11 December	All students	End of term
Monday 04 January	All students	Staff Inset day
Tuesday 05 January	All students	Start of term
Thursday 14 January 6-7pm	Year 12 parents and carers	Optional parental workshop: Understanding the changing workplace and professional pathways
Saturday 16 January 9am-12:30pm	Prospective students	STEM Immersion day (virtual)
Monday 18 January 6-7pm	Year 12 parents and carers	Optional parental workshop: Understanding teenage mental health
Saturday 30 January 9am-12:30pm	Prospective students	Arts & Humanities Immersion day (virtual)