



Welcome to our new termly newsletter, designed to give parents and carers a flavour of life at LAE Tottenham. For the first edition, we've focused on the Arts and Humanities, with a few examples on the wide-ranging enrichment programme on offer for our students in these areas.

As always, the first term of the year has been a busy one; with Year 11 applications closing, university offers flooding in and curriculum planning for 2023-24 in full swing. We are delighted to see that LAET's reach continues to grow, with over 2500 applications to study in 2023. Amongst this, our commitment to Tottenham students remains, with priority given to applicants from our local, feeder schools as well as those on Free School Meals.

In this newsletter, you will also see sections on Music and Drama and I am delighted that we will be offering these as A Level courses in September. At a time when many schools are unfortunately narrowing their curriculum, I am grateful to our sponsors and donors, whose support will broaden the offer at LAET.

Mr Balon, Headteacher

*Congratulations to Izzi Phillips, Y12, who has recently been named Captain of the Under 17's England Netball Squad. We are delighted to hear that Izzi will be representing England at the 2023 Europe Netball Championships, taking place in Northern Ireland. In Izzi's own words:*

"I've been playing netball since I was ten. I fell into it accidentally and never imagined I'd be playing for England nearly seven years later! In 2022, two days after I was first named captain, I broke my leg and was out for the rest of the season. That was probably the biggest setback I've faced. (continued on page 2)



# Latest News

(continued from page 1) Typically, I train four to five times a week and have matches most Saturdays and Sundays. However, in preparation for the trial in January I was fitting in extra training anywhere I could, including gym sessions between school and training in the evenings. During the trials I was really nervous and just didn't think I would get in, let alone become captain, as it was only five months since returning from injury. I struggled a lot with the idea of not being good enough and contemplating whether I would be able to get back to the level I was at before getting injured. But now I will be in Antrim, Northern Ireland to captain the England U17's squad at the Europe Netball Championships 2023, where I will receive my first junior cap for my country!"

Izzi Phillips, Y12

## Twitter Highlights





# Academic Life: Humanities

## Politics



Y12 Politics student Aayah Abubakar was one of the recent speakers at the prestigious Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution on the question of whether King Charles III should be the last British monarch. Aayah seconded the motion that called for the end of monarchy. The organisers reported having a packed hall and an enthusiastic audience. They said "everyone praised the speakers and seconders and said it was one of our best debates yet". Aayah's side of the debate convincingly won the vote when the audience was asked at the end.

Mr Gilbert

## Philosophy

*Amidst the demands of their A Level studies, our students still find the time to take part in numerous academic enrichment activities, such as the University of Cambridge's Gonville & Caius Essay Competition, for which a few students made some very impressive entries and Silas & Yagmur, Y13 were invited to a lunch at Gonville & Caius College. Winner Yagmur said:*

"The essay competition had theological and philosophical approaches to subjectivity around the existence of God.

As a response to psychological factors such as Freud and Feuerbach's theories on the infantile stages of a person's life creating a void for wish fulfilment, I reflected on subjectivity to balance the argument. I opposed this with unexplainable religious experiences happening throughout time.

I am grateful for my philosophy teacher, Ms Voute, for recommending the opportunity and supporting me with my entry."

Yagmur Aydemir, Y13

# Academic Life: Humanities

## French & History

*We are pleased to have our trips programme return to normal again, see below for a snapshot of what happened when French and History visited France!*

### **Paris (November 10 2022 - November 13 2022)**

#### Day 1

After much anticipation we arrived at LAET very early (5:30am) to meet our coach driver and off we went! The real fun began when the History and French students explored Montmartre. We climbed up many stairs but were rewarded with the most beautiful view looking down onto the city of Paris. As we admired the view, adjacent to us were the famous love locks that contained special messages. To our surprise we also saw a wall full of "I love you" messages in multiple languages. It definitely added more love to the city of love.

#### Day 2

After spending time around the Eiffel Tower in the day, we took a French revolution tour but on a boat! We boarded the boat at the Tour Eiffel stop and saw the Invalides, Musée D'Orsay, Saint-Germain-Des-Près, Notre Dame and Jardin des Plantes - getting off at Hôtel de Ville. From there we took a lovely walk to our main activity that day - the Louvre. Fortunately, we had the honour to go inside and had a treasure hunt in groups. We saw the Mona Lisa and learned more about the artists and their works of art.

#### Day 3

Palace of Versailles!

We visited the enormous, stunning palace that Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette lived in - it is closer to Paris than you think. Using voice guides along the way we saw history with our own eyes such as: the Hall of Mirrors. Afterwards, we had lunch in the huge, beautiful gardens of the Palace and got to explore. We then continued our tour of the French Revolution - Bastille, Notre Dame, and certain philosophers' homes.

#### Day 4

The French students met local students, played boules with them, spent the day together and learned about life as a student in Paris. Meanwhile, the History students continued exploring Paris.

LJ Mark, Y12





# Co-Curricular Highlights

## Music

Music at LAET continues to grow and in the past two terms nearly 100 students have taken part in music-making in instrumental lessons, group performances and taster sessions. The launch of instrumental lessons last summer has seen numbers rise significantly and we now have more than 30 students learning violin or piano, with more waiting to begin saxophone and flute from this term. We had our first ever performance showcase from the piano students on December 12 2022 led by our brilliant piano teacher, Ms Bako.

Rap and production clubs are going strong with singing workshops and gospel choir performances a highlight for the Elderly Residents' home outreach event before Christmas. There are plans to start an instrumental group moving forward for new students learning instruments.

We've also had a great time joining forces in LAET/Highgate ventures this year. Rehearsals have culminated in performances including a showcase concert at the Roundhouse Studio Theatre last April, a trip to the LSO digital Tech Group for music production and recording, a performance on the Wireless Stage at Finsbury Park in July, and a rap cypher session with renowned artist Capo Lee.

Two LAET students (Baaba Y13 and Chris, Alumnus) were selected to perform a duet together at the National Festival of Music for Youth in Birmingham, and subsequently at the Royal Albert Hall.

Exciting music opportunities coming up include a joint concert at iconic jazz venue, Pizza Express Dean Street, Soho in March, and the very special showcase of LAET musicians at Kings Place in April. Music is thriving, and the future looks bright to give students every opportunity moving forward with the school offering A Level from September 2023. Thank you to the team from Haringey Music Service and colleagues at both schools.

Mr Hanson



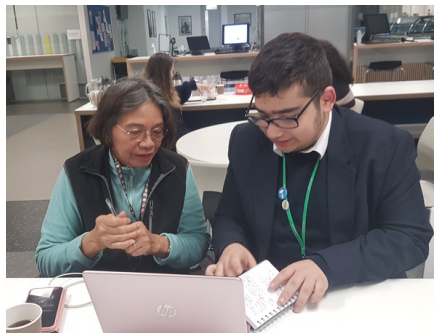
# Co-Curricular Highlights

## Volunteering

This half term has been full of volunteer work! Students have been helping to pack food at Tottenham Foodbank, teaching elderly people to use computers and devices through the Generation Exchange and redesigning a library at Lordship Lane Primary School. Students are now sending in applications to volunteer at three local care homes.

We strongly believe that volunteering is an important part of the LAET experience and are delighted to see so many students involved.

Ms Holmes- Hartley



## Performing Arts

In October 2022, with the help of the local dance company Wemove, LAET Dance was given the opportunity to put on a show at Tottenham's renowned Bernie Grant Art Centre. LAET Dance is a student led society that hosted 200 people for their third show entitled: The Black Experience Part 2.

The show consisted of an array of dance genres and incorporated contextualised dance that had been developed over the course of a few weeks.

The show provided a space for a display of creativity and discussion surrounding 'The Black Experience' and poetry from some students at LAET. The show proved to be a huge success, with requests for more shows in the future.



Awurabena Akonnor, Y13



# Careers Highlights

## Natixis

*On January 23 2023, 35 Y13 students visited the Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking offices for an insight day in conjunction with Natixis Investment Managers. Students spent the day gaining an insight into the various (and sometimes unexpected) career journeys that can lead to a job within the financial industry.*

*Natixis are ranked among the world's largest asset management firms, with more than \$1.2 trillion assets under management. They are an employer partner of LAET and each year exclusively offer students a scholarship that pays for up to four years of university, paid summer internships and mentoring by employees at Natixis.*

*"We started off the day with breakfast before being given a talk and a Q&A session about what asset management is and the key departments in Natixis. After lunchtime and a walk around their terrace with a view over the Thames, we were given further information about Natixis as a company and we received an overview on both the Natixis Investment Manager Scholarship Programme and the Natixis Corporate and Investment Banking Apprenticeship. Personally, I really enjoyed the day because I was able to network with people in different roles in the company and get a deeper understanding of asset management. It also gave everyone an idea of the various career paths we could take going forward."*

Janet Hamu Kayiwa, Y13

## Future Lawyers Programme

This term has seen the launch of our exciting Future Lawyers Programme. The programme provides students with a wealth of knowledge about the Law industry, including mentorship, university and apprenticeship application support, as well as work experience and more!

The programme was launched with an 'Insight to Law Event' hosted at LAET, organised in collaboration with our employer partner Three Raymond Buildings. Over 40 Y12 students participated in an informative session where they heard from a number of Law professionals.

The event included:

- A fiery debate
- A panel talk; giving students insight into the legal sector, including life as a lawyer, pathways to becoming a lawyer, and what it's like working within the law sector as a person of colour.
- Networking; students got to speak to lawyers in smaller groups to learn about their journeys and get a deeper insight into their work.

Mr Onyido

# Careers Highlights

## Dojo

On November 16 2022, 40 LAET Y12 students participated in a full day coding workshop hosted by Dojo, one of Europe's fastest-growing FinTech companies. During the day students learnt about careers within the industry, various coding languages, and worked on tasks to develop their employability skills.

On the same day Dojo afforded one of our Y13 students the opportunity to shadow a member of their senior team, whilst developing insight into the nature of working at Dojo.

Well done to all the students who managed to make a positive impression at Dojo and thank you to Dojo for hosting us! There are numerous opportunities available for students to take part in real workplace experiences. Students are welcome to visit the careers team located in the Chrysalis East office and can also book a 1:1 meeting with a member of the team.

Mr Onyido



## Debate

On January 28 2023, a group of 30 Y12 students participated in the inaugural Three Raymond Buildings/LAET Debate competition in Central London. After attending after school debate sessions for two months, students were given the chance to showcase their skills and talents in the competition in front of barristers from Three Raymond Buildings.

After four teams won in the initial rounds, the judges looked at the performances of individual speakers before deciding on the finalists. The final motion, "This house believes that the royal family should be abolished," was contested between the proposition (Aayah Abubakar, Emmanouil Katakalos and Andrea Kabugo), and the opposition (Aimee Foster, Levent Dogan and Hannah Milling). After a lively debate featuring many strong points and following fifteen minutes of deliberation by the barristers, the proposition were narrowly awarded the victory and received a custom trophy and prizes.

The final prize of the evening was for best speaker which was a close contest between Aimee and Aayah, but was awarded to Aayah for her speech in the final.

Special thanks to Ms Akinroyeje, Mr Onyido and Mr Unadike from the Chrysalis East team for assisting on the day and to everyone from Three Raymond Buildings that helped in organising this event.

Mr Brade





# Safeguarding & Wellbeing

## Meet the Team

Safeguarding and the wellbeing of students is at the heart of our work at LAET and we are proud of the pastoral support offered to students.

Please see below for details of the safeguarding team which is shared regularly with students and displayed around the school. We can be reached by emailing: [safeguarding@laetottenham.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@laetottenham.ac.uk).

**Ms Brown**  
DSL



**Ms Lord**  
SEN



**Mr Spraggs**  
Mental Health



**Ms Valavanis**  
Attendance and  
welfare



Students can speak to a member of the pastoral team including their Head of Year, Deputy Head of Year or form tutor if they have a pastoral concern. All students receive regular 1:1s with their form tutor and a number of our students receive support from our team of trained counsellors. All staff receive regular safeguarding training and updates in order to uphold a culture of vigilance and support in the school. Our full safeguarding policy is available on the school website.

Students' personal development sessions address our priorities for student wellbeing. This term sessions have included on online safety, managing wellbeing and anti-sexism (including an anonymous survey to gauge experiences in the school and identify further priorities).

Ms Brown

## Student Services Officer

Hi, I'm Miss Wright, the Student Services Officer at LAET.

I am part of the finance team and the main person who handles students' bursary applications and requests, as well as LAET's school shop. I support students who may require financial support either through bursaries or the opportunity fund.

You can find any information on the schools financial support page: <https://www.laetottenham.org.uk/financialsupport>.



Ms Wright



*The Place for Academic Rigour*

[www.LAETottenham.ac.uk](http://www.LAETottenham.ac.uk)

# Safeguarding & Wellbeing

## Online Safety

The internet is a great educational resource for young people but it is important that parents and carers work together with schools to mitigate the risk that young people face online.

In school, we take steps to monitor and control access to the information students can access online via their school devices. The [internetmatters.org](https://internetmatters.org) site offers guidance on parental controls across a range of devices and broadband providers.

On January 23 2023, parents were invited to an online safety workshop which addressed some important steps to keep young people safe online.

We would advise parents and carers to speak to young people about:

- Communication risks
- Viewing risks
- Sharing risks

The guidance below provides a good starting point for conversations about online safety:

**Have a conversation**  
  
It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

**Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.**  
What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

**Ask them about how they stay safe online.**  
What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

**Ask them if they know where to go for help.**  
Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

**Think about how you each use the internet.**  
What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

The following sites offer parents and carers further guidance on online safety:

UK Safer Internet Centre (Especially for cyberbullying and helpline) [www.saferinternet.org.uk](https://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

InternetMatters (14+, Sexting, Cyberbullying) [www.internetmatters.org](https://www.internetmatters.org)

Thinkuknow [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

#Asktheawkward (ThinkUKnow guide to conversations)

NSPCC (helpline for parents and resources) [www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

Ms Brown



# Life at LAE Tottenham

Coming up

Follow LAET

## Spring 2 Key Dates

24.02.2023 - Y12 University & Y13 Careers Drop Down Day  
02.03.2023 - Y12 Highgate Careers & Higher Education Fair  
09.03.2023 - Y12 Futures Evening  
09.03.2023 - Y12 Psychology Conference  
23.03.2023 - Green Careers Conference  
30.03.2023 - Haringey Oxford Trip  
31.03.2023 - Break up for Easter



[twitter.com/LaeTottenham](https://twitter.com/LaeTottenham)



The Place for Academic Rigour

[www.LAETottenham.ac.uk](http://www.LAETottenham.ac.uk)