



	Learning How To Fly
	Ian Hislop Visits Ashmole Academy
	Editor of i Newspaper Visits Ashmole
	Year 7 Music Concert

	Sticking my neck out for turtles!
	Juniper Hall Trip
	Barnet Athletics Championships
	Selling Cookies for Charity



# @shmole

Autumn 2014

Volume 3, Issue 9

## Message from the Head



Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Students

In these short wintry days with Christmas approaching, the summer seems so far away. However, we must in our first @shmole of 2014/15 congratulate the students on their examination successes.

Nationally exam results fell at GCSE and A level. With all the changes that are occurring with examinations, and with exams becoming more difficult, this so called volatility in results will continue for some years to come.

At Ashmole, our commitment is to provide stability to our students and the community. I am therefore very pleased to report that Ashmole students

continued to do extremely well both at A level and at GCSE. At GCSE, for example, the 5 or more A\* to C pass rate fell nationally by 7% yet Ashmole's results went up to 79%, maintaining the success of our students amongst the top league of comprehensive schools in the country, as well as locally. Well done to every student and a big thanks to every teacher and parent/carer for their help in making that happen.

The Autumn Term is as busy as ever. The school marked the anniversary of the start of World War I with a week of curricular activities. More about that in the next edition of the newsletter.

Our new Sixth Form Centre is now in full use by the Sixth Formers who seem to enjoy the full benefits of the centre. Any parents/carers who are at the school on a Saturday with a letting, will have seen that the Starbucks café is now open between 9 am and 3 pm on that day.

Finally, the school has submitted a new bid to secure a primary free school. We now eagerly wait to hear the results of this, probably in March next year.

Season's Greetings to everyone

**Derrick Brown**  
Head Teacher

## Prize Giving Evening



*Dr Dan O'Hara congratulating Alice Hunter – 13M1, the winner of the Grayling Prize*

ON Thursday 13th November, Dr Dan O'Hara, who is the Senior Lecturer for the English BA, from New College of the Humanities was the guest of honour at our annual Prize Giving Evening.

He presented awards to all our prize winners including sports colours and special awards. Afterwards, he spoke to the audience of over 200 students and 400 parents about his own experiences at school.

# Learning how to Fly – Chasing the Dream



**A**T only 16 years old, I have already flown solo and I am halfway through my Private Pilot License. I'm on my way to becoming an airline pilot. Here is my story so far.

I have always had a passion

for flying and aviation from a very young age. I remember daydreaming in class, gazing into the skies at the condensation trails from aircraft flying over and wondering how they can fly. For you, flying probably means crowds, queues and delays, but for

me it's different. For me, it means exploring the world every day, having the best job in the world, being in the best office in the world, with the best views in the world from 35,000ft.

After years of being on the ground, looking up skywards, I decided with my parents that I would be starting flying lessons. During my two month long summer holiday in Greece, I learned how to fly. During this time I flew 20 flights registering 23 hours in my logbook in a Cessna 172. I then completed my FIRST solo flight.

It was a very dusty and windy evening and I didn't think I would actually get to fly solo and I would have to wait until next summer. However, to my surprise my instructor said to me "Now it's your turn to do it alone!" – I was ready for it. I wasn't scared. I had learned all the checklists, emergency procedures off by heart.

So I went and did it alone. I flew 2 traffic patterns by myself and returned to land just before sunset with a perfect smooth landing. Touchdown: the first chapter into becoming an airline pilot complete and a step closer to my dream...

Next summer I aim to have completed my PPL, and after Year 13, start the rest of the flying licenses required: I still have a long way to go! I know how I'll get there and I'm sure I can make my dream a reality with personal motivation and support from my very supportive family who are proud of me.

**Alexandros Zabetas 12J1**

*See my video (Cessna 172 PPL Flight Training in Greece) on YouTube*

*Visit my YouTube channel to follow my progress: youtube.com/aeroalexGR*

# Khush Patel Golfing Achievement



**Y**EAR 12 student Khush Patel closed with a level-par round of 71 to win the Faldo Series England South Championship earlier this year in June. He recently participated in the Faldo Series Grand Final hosted by Sir Nick Faldo at The Greenbrier, West Virginia, USA in October.

**Q: How did you get into golf?**

**A:** For my dad's birthday my mum bought him a few golf lessons at

Whitewebbs GC. I went along with him to one of the sessions (he wasn't very good). My dad asked if the club offered junior lessons. They did... These lessons took place at the weekend in small groups. From there I built up my golfing skills and that's how I got into the game...

**Q: Did you meet anyone famous during the competition?**

**A:** The competition was created by Sir Nick Faldo. He was there at the final for the whole 5 days, he watched us prepare and play and offered short clinics on how to play certain shots etc... During the second practice day I was on the range practicing. He came over and gave a one to one session for about 30 minutes or so. It was quite nerve racking at first because I didn't want to hit bad shots in front of him... But I managed to avoid that. However he was quite

informative and talked to me a lot about what is required to become a professional golfer.

**Q: How did you feel winning the regional final?**

**A:** It was a bit of a surprise to be honest. The final was during my GCSEs, two days before my chemistry exam, so there was a lot of pressure. I had to play each round then rush straight home to get revision done. In the last round I was in contention so I felt more confident to win amongst the top players. When I came off the course I didn't know that I actually won until I saw the leader board. I rang my mum straight away. She thought I was joking and even checked on the internet for the live scores. She was over the moon.

**Q: What have you gained from this experience?**

**A:** I've got a feel for what it's like to play in a highly competitive international field and learnt how to be more independent. Also as I played so badly in the first round, I had to learn how to snap out of a bad situation and press the restart button. This helped in the end as I played fairly well in the second round and finished with two decent rounds in the last two days.

**Q: Who is your golfing idol?**

**A:** At the moment it has to be Rory McIlroy... For the fact he has won 2/4 majors this year. Also the way he composes himself on and off the course. My idol uses to be Tiger, but I have lost some respect for him since he did what he did... I still look up to him as he has a certain charisma when on the scene.

**Interviewed by Sophia Karydis, 12J**

## Ian Hislop Visits Ashmole Academy



Mr Brown with Ian Hislop

ON Friday 11th July, Ashmole Academy played host to the well-known editor of satirical magazine 'Private Eye', Ian Hislop. Mr Hislop, also famous for his participation in satirical quiz show, 'Have I Got News for You' along with historical documentary and film work, was interviewed by Assistant Head Teacher, Rob Hague. In front of an audience of Year 12 students and staff he answered questions on his work at 'Private Eye' and on TV and gave

his views on such topics as politics, religion and education.

The occasion proved both enjoyable and inspiring for students and staff alike. Student Anthony Constantinou said 'I loved it! The whole event left me feeling that it is possible to achieve anything in your career if you work hard and enjoy it'. Current Head Girl, Lily Gandhi, said 'He was great, funny, original, a breath of fresh air!'.

Mrs Lawrence

## Successful Applicants

AFTER a year of hard work and nail-biting interviews we are delighted to be sending 3 students off to study medicine and dentistry. Shannon Rafique, former Head Girl, achieved A\*A\*A which sees her off to study Medicine at Kings College London. Nicola Lewis had to participate in a series of tough mini interviews which are now part of the interview process which many universities adopt,

successfully gaining a place to study medicine at Birmingham University, with a clean sweep of A\*s. Brandon Blanche impressed his interviewers at Bristol University and achieving all As at A Level is now starting off on his path to become a dentist. We wish all the students the best in their studies and look forward to hearing from them about their first term!

Miss Moll

## Philosophy Club



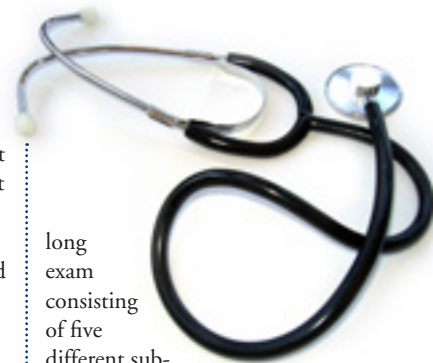
ONE of the most enjoyable aspects of Philosophy Club is the sheer range of topics that are covered. We can go from discussing the importance of feminism in our society, to debating about the ethical issues surrounding the death penalty, to questioning whether, as humans, we really do have free will. Philosophy Club allows us to discuss topics that we

are interested in and that we may not have the time to learn more about in our other subjects. With growing numbers attending each week, there is never a shortage of unique ideas, enabling us to view important issues from different perspectives.

Sabrina Matica-Hickey  
13M1

## MedSoc

THIS year as part of MedSoc, in preparation for my university application, I have been taking part in weekly debates regarding current topics in the news and learning about the NHS system. As a member of Year 13, we have started to organise these debates, picking topics circulating in the news. Over the last few months we have been busy finessing our personal statements and gaining further work experience to get a full insight into our chosen area of study – whether medicine, dentistry or veterinary science. My work experience placements not only helped me to better understand medicine as a career but I also hope I will get an opportunity to discuss it during the interview stage. In summer many of us sat the UKCAT examination; a two hour



long exam consisting of five different sub-sections, with the aim of testing your timing skills and intelligence. This is one of two exams required by universities who offer these courses, whilst the other BMAT exam was sat by students in mid-November. Throughout this time we have supported not only each other and are grateful for the advice and help provided by our teachers.

Sophia Panayi  
13S1

## Editor of i Newspaper Visits Ashmole Academy

ON Tuesday 14th October Oliver Duff, Editor of the i Newspaper, Britain's fastest growing daily title visited Ashmole Academy to speak to students in Years 12 & 13.

Oliver is currently the youngest national newspaper editor in the country. He was interviewed by Rob Hague, Assistant Head Teacher and answered questions on his career, interests and ambitions. This was followed by questions from students including one from Year 12 student Sanika Raichura who wanted to know "How often do the skills learnt in lessons come in handy in real life?" Aaron Rahman, also from Year 12, asked "Should 16-year-olds be allowed to vote?"

Oliver was clearly impressed



and wrote in his newspaper the following day about his visit to "the excellent Ashmole Academy" and commented that "If the students I met are in charge in 20 years I think we'll be alright."

**Mrs Lawrence**

## The Vision Senior Conference at Imperial College London

ON Sunday 21st September 2014, myself and four Year 13 students went to Imperial College London to attend the Vision Senior Conference. This was a one day conference for aspirational students applying to study medicine and it was run by medical students from Imperial College School of Medicine.

The day included inspirational lectures, tutorials on medical ethics, entrance exams, personal statements as well as mock interviews with feedback. The lectures gave us a flavour of what a career in medicine is like—from your time at medical school, through the junior doctor years, to life as a hospital consultant or a GP. One of the lectures was presented by Professor Lord Robert Winston who discussed many different paths you can take after qualifying as a doctor. The tutorials consisted of ethical scenarios in interviews and exam

technique for the BMAT and UKCAT entrance examinations. There were also a number of organisations and other medical schools such as UEA, St George's University, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry and they hosted stands during lunch. This was an excellent opportunity for us to ask any questions we may have about medical admissions, training or the medical profession.

Overall, I really enjoyed the conference and feel that it has prepared me for all aspects of the medical school admissions process. I would 100% recommend anyone who is interested and motivated to study medicine to attend this conference when they are in Year 13 - it is a once in a lifetime opportunity given and I say take it!

**Parisah Hussain  
13M1**

## Potential Candidates Visit Oxbridge for Advice on Applications

ON Thursday 9th October and Monday 13th October, fourteen potential Oxbridge candidates were given the opportunity to visit both universities to gain invaluable advice on their applications. This included advice on admissions tests, interviews and college tours along with opportunities to chat with the admissions teams and current students about applying to and studying at these famous

institutions.

Accompanying Ashmole staff were also given the opportunity to meet with Dr Andrew Bell, Admissions Tutor at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge in order to discuss the admissions process with him and gain some important guidance on supporting our Oxbridge candidates in their applications.

**Mrs Lawrence**



## Year 7 Music Concert



ON Thursday 23rd October I performed in an amazing music concert at Ashmole Academy. The theme was 'No.1 hits' and there were great songs that all the parents knew.

The show was opened by the Ashmole Barbershop Octet and I loved watching them from on stage. The first form to perform was 7N1 who opened with a strong performance of 'Wimba Way'. Following this was a lovely performance by 7N2 singing 'Waterloo'. 7S1 continued with an emotional, eye watering solo by Isabelle Mettle, followed by one of my favourite songs, 'Sail Away'. 7J2 put on an astonishing performance of the Queen song, 'Under Pressure'.

The interval then followed where we got biscuits, one of my favourite parts!

The 2nd half of the concert started with Ashmole Advanced Strings playing an impressive arrangement of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Although I was backstage for this part of the concert, I could hear the performances from 7S2 (Tragedy), 7M1 (Bring it All Back), 7M2 (Just the Way you Are) and 7S1 (Fireflies). My form loved hearing the performances. At the end, we all went on stage for the finale where we sang 'Dancing in the Streets'. I think the audience loved it!

**Alexander Paphitis**  
7J2

## Sticking my neck out for turtles!



KEFALONIA, a Greek island, is where I volunteered this summer with Wildlife Sense, helping protect endangered Loggerhead Turtles.

Duties, like 'beach surveys', started at 5.30am: we looked for a nesting mother or hatchling tracks before tourists arrived, and made sure protected nests hadn't been vandalised. On 'harbour patrol' in Argostoli, the capital, we monitored the behaviour of adult turtles and checked for any fishing hooks stuck in their bodies. This was scientific research which our project leaders collected and we then analysed the data.

Other duties included 'excavations', digging up a nest which had gone over its 70 day hatching time. 'Boxing' was exciting too: it meant spending the night on a beach in pairs ensuring that the hatchlings

went towards the sea by waking up every hour to check they weren't disorientated. Hatchlings are attracted to the strongest light (the natural light is the moon reflecting on the sea) but as nests are often on tourist beaches, light pollution from beach bars is frequent. If we did see hatchlings, we dug a 12 metre long trench for them to crawl to the sea. This crawl imprints the exact location of the beach on their brain so they know where to return to nest. It also allows them to stretch their flippers as they've been in an egg for 45 days!

Free time was spent exploring the island, swimming in hidden coves, recovering at camp from tiring shifts, and spending time with like-minded volunteers who mostly studied Zoology, like I hope to do next year. It was a fantastic experience, even if challenging at times: cycling hilly terrain for hours to shifts in temperatures over 40 degrees.

Only one in a thousand hatchlings survives and the most magical for me was helping them to sea.

**Audrey Bourdais-Paull**  
13S1

## Safe Drive, Stay Alive

ON Friday 24th October, Year 13 students attended a road safety event in Edmonton aimed at young people who may be new drivers or about to learn. It was run in partnership with local authorities, London Ambulance NHS Trust, London Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Police and Transport for London.

Ms Moon

*I thought the **Safe Drive, Stay Alive** event was deep and hard hitting. I thought hearing the collision survivor speak was particularly emotional, talking about how his fiancé and friends left him. Seeing how the event affected some of my peers was quite moving also. I think the event was very effective and also educational.*

*An invaluable experience I'll remember for the rest of my life. A real eye opener for the responsibility we have as drivers and prospective drivers to take care when driving and the lives we play with every time we step into the car. The whole event was a real eye opener to the dangers of the road and how we, as future drivers, will be able to reduce these dangers as much as possible.*

*I found **Safe Drive, Stay Alive** very moving, particularly the part where the father of a young girl who had died in a road accident came out and told his story. I think that the event touched and challenged everyone that attended.*

*Even though we had heard some of the information before in school, the fact that we were given first hand accounts by a Police Officer, Paramedic and Fireman had a tremendous impact on us all. We were also talked to by a man whose child was killed by a driver who lost control and a man who was paralysed as a result of his speeding. These accounts were particularly emotional and the effect was evident straight away when we got back on the coach and everyone put their seat belts on.*

# Art

WE are very pleased to announce that the Art Department Auction raised £873 for the Ashmole Academy Development Fund. A big thank you to all those parents and friends who purchased the works of art.

Two paintings by former A-level Arts student, Mohadesh Moein Shirazi have been selected for the final of Upstart Art competition. The Upstart competition was launched this year to give sixth formers in Greater London a

chance to show their work beyond the classroom. A panel of almost 40 expert judges, from across the art world, selected the finalists, whose work will be exhibited at The Strand Gallery from 23rd November until 6th December. Winners of the competition will be announced in December, as well as the Judges' winner, there will be a 'People's Choice', chosen by an online public vote and an Auction winner - the artwork that raises the most in auction. We would appreciate your support in voting for Mohadesh by following the link <https://up-start.co.uk/entries/school/ashmole-academy>.

Ms Campbell



## Juniper Hall Trip



OUR three day visit to the scenic wooded valley in Surrey was not only educationally essential, but also refreshingly rural, encroached within the chalk North Downs. We had the opportunity to learn how to use a large variety of meteorological tools and were even shown a weather station on the Juniper Hall grounds that reports to the UK Met Office, to collect data for our

own weather diaries. Not all of our time was spent in the 18th-century country house, we collected data in the nearby centre of Guildford and went to a rebranded pig farm that is now Denbies Vineyard, also treated ourselves to a visit to the local bowling alley on the last evening! Overall, it was a highly informative trip.

Zangi Chingole  
12M2

## Year 12 Geography Stratford Trip



ON Thursday 2nd October, 46 year 12 geography students went on a fieldtrip to Stratford, East London. We did this as part of our Unit 2 work on investigating the need, strategies and successes of Rebranding. Before venturing out in Stratford, we designed and created detailed questionnaires, perception analysis and environmental quality surveys to conduct on the day for our fieldwork.

When we arrived in Stratford we had a walking tour of the Olympic Site seeing the Olympic Stadium, Velodrome, Aquatic Centre and the park as it is now. A representative from Newham Council gave us a talk about the legacy of the park and the Olympics and the impact it is

having on the community around the area. To collect our field data we visited four sites which included: Site one - the Olympic Park, Site two - Carpenters Estate, Site three - Meridian Square and Site four - The Broadway. In each site we drew field sketches, took photos and completed the surveys/questionnaires to gather evidence of rebranding and why it is needed in this urban place.

The trip was incredibly helpful in allowing us to see and experience the result of the rebranding of Stratford first hand, which then consequentially gave us the opportunity to judge the success of the rebranding.

Alicia James-South  
12S1

## Barnet Athletics Championships

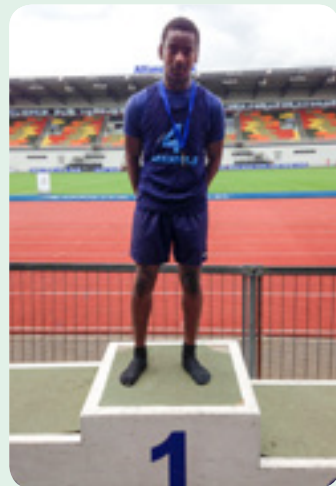
THE school athletics team competed in the annual Barnet Athletics Championship in July. With many students in the team not only competing but placing in events last year, the expectations for medals were high. Steven Madgin performed excellently in the Year 7 boys 800 metres winning the gold medal and becoming Barnet Schools Champion. The same accolade went to both Micah Cox and Daniel Coker-Ojo who won the Javelin and Long Jump respectively. Ruhkia Johnston also took third place in her debut performance in the 100 metres.



**Year 8 Boys 100 m Champion Alex Truscott warming up on the official London 2012 warm up track.**



**Steven Madgin winning the 800 m gold medal.**



**Micah Cox collecting the Javelin gold medal.**



**Daniel Coker-Ojo collecting his 200 m gold medal.**



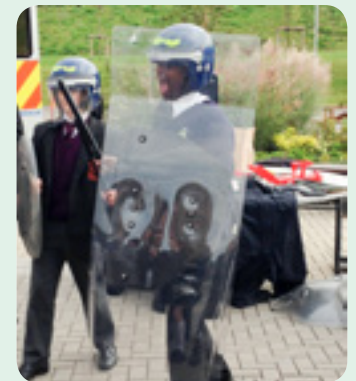
**Ruhkia Johnston collecting her bronze medal in 100 m.**

## Rugby Community Day

THE current Year 9 Barnet schools Rugby champions were invited to attend the Saracens Community Open Day. The owner of the Rugby Saracens, Nigel Wray, has the largest sporting memorabilia collection in the world. Mr Wray allowed the team to receive a guided tour of the stadium where the team had the esteemed privilege of walking over the official London 2012 warm up track, holding a number of Olympic torches, seeing the signed Rugby ball that Johnny Wilkinson kicked to win the 2003 World Cup and even saw the first original team sheet put together by Alex Ferguson in his first match in charge of Manchester United against Oxford United. After the tour, the team were then allowed to watch a live training session of the men's 1st team. The police were

also there supporting the team and allowing students to get a real insight into what it is like to be a police man patrolling the streets of London.

**Miss Murphy**



**Ifeanyi Okechukwu Learning to be a member of London's riot police.**



**Year 9 Rugby Team in the media area at Allianz Park.**



**The Year 9 Rugby Team watching the Saracens Rugby Team train.**

## Senior Netball Success!

CONGRATULATIONS to the Senior Netball Team for regaining the Barnet Senior Netball Cup! The girls were victorious in a very close final against Mill Hill Public School and won the match by 1 goal. 20 netball teams from the borough attended the annual competition held at St James' Catholic High School so it really was a fantastic achievement. The stand out performance came from Captain Jenny Orriss and the team look forward to further success in the league this year following on from their unbeaten start.

**Miss Murphy**



## Jack Petchey Award Ceremony



A SPECIAL Jack Petchey Award Ceremony was held in North Finchley on 2nd July to celebrate the achievements of Barnet prize winners over the year. This included 7 of the 9 Ashmole winners, who proudly attended with their parents.

Jack Petchey Award winners are nominated by their peers, winning £200 for a variety of achievements.

Prize money is spent on extra resources and equipment to help all students at Ashmole.

Any student or teacher at the school may be nominated, and then the School Council will select those they consider most worthy for awards.

L. Thurley

## Selling Cookies for Charity

At the recent Secondary Transfer Evening a small group of Year 9 and Year 10 GCSE Catering students worked very hard making 700 cookies in 2 1/2 hours and sold them to the prospective parents, making £330 for Pancreatic Cancer U.K.



Ananya Churchill 10S2, Katie Burbridge 10J2, Emily Wilson 10J2, Amy Nugent 9S2, Selin Somez 9S2, Mikaella Mousicos 10N2 and Terence Dobson 9J2

## School Direct

Ashmole Academy, in partnership with Copthall School run a very successful School Direct Teacher Training Scheme. We offer both School Direct Salaried and School Direct Tuition Fee places. Our HE partner is the Institute of Education, University of London.

For 2015/16 we will be offering places in the following subject areas:

Mathematics, English, Religious Education, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

If you are a parent who is interested in becoming a teacher or have family/friends who are interested in teacher training, please contact Ms Foye, HR Manager, at kfo@ashmoleacademy.org or telephone 020 8361 2703 x2206 for an informal discussion.

Scan the code with your smartphone to take you straight to the school website.



## Dates For Your Diary

Autumn Term finishes on Friday 19th December at 1.00 pm

Spring Term starts on Monday 5th January at 8.40 am

Week 2

### Spring 2014

First Half Term	Monday 5th January – Friday 13th February
Half Term	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Second Half Term	Monday 23rd February – Friday 27th March
Staff Training Day	Monday 23rd February

### Summer 2014

First Half Term	Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May
May Day	Monday 4th May
Half Term	Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
Second Half Term	Monday 1st June – Monday 20th July (Last day for students – Thursday 16th July)
Staff Training Days	Friday 3rd July (Provisional) Friday 17th July, Monday 20th July

### Other Dates For Your Diary

22nd January	Year 7 Parents Evening
5th February	Year 11 Parents Evening
12th February	Year 8 Parents Evening
5th March	Year 9 Parents Evening
12th March	Year 12 Parents Evening
26th March	Year 10 Parents Evening
21st April	Year 8 Options Information Evening
23rd April	Year 8 Options Guidance Interviews



**ASHMOLE  
ACADEMY**

Cecil Road, Southgate, London N14 5RJ  
Tel: 020 8361 2703 Fax: 020 8368 0315  
E-mail: office@ashmoleacademy.org  
Website: www.ashmoleacademy.org



Science



music colleges



Healthy Schools  
BARNET

Cultural Diversity  
Quality Standard



WINNER 2006/2007

