



# CASS NEWS

SIR JOHN CASS & RED COAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Editor: Nadiyah Akoo

SPRING TERM 2018

## Head Teacher's Message

Mr Paul Woods



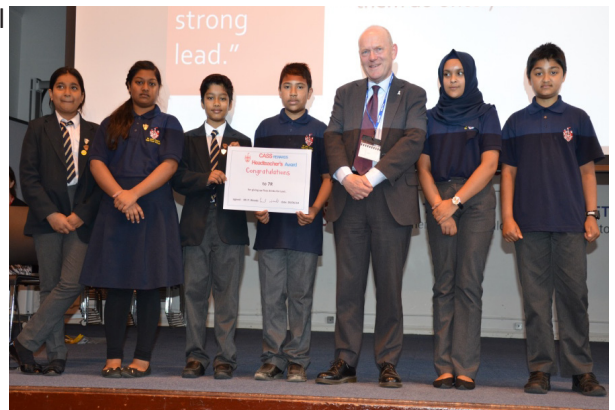
Welcome to the last edition of Cass News for the Academic Year 2017-18. This term has been one of the busiest periods of the school year, with a lot of importance placed on those in Years 11 and 13 who have completed their GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations. I would like to wish these students a hearty congratulations and the very best with their exam

results and in their futures. A reminder that A Level examination results are available to pick up from the school from 8.00am on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018, and GCSE examination results are available to pick up from 8.00am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019. Students are also reminded to use the Sixth Form entrance.

This term we also welcomed an important visit from Mayor John Biggs and Councillor Danny Hassel, the cabinet member for children's services. It was a huge honour to welcome back Mayor Biggs a fellow Cassian who worked at the school in the early 1980s!

A special mention must be given to the music department, who this term have been especially busy. Music teachers have worked closely with our extremely talented music students who have participated in a number of public events. Clips of these fantastic performances can be found on our social media channels (twitter and facebook @SJCRschool).

I hope that you all have a well-deserved and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you back in school 2018.



### ALSO IN THIS EDITION:

YA BOOK AWARDS

TRIP TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY

SIXTH FORM UNIFORM

TRIP TO LONDON ZOO

SPANISH TRIP TO BFI

ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE

SCIENCE TASTER DAY

SCIENCE AND TECH CHALLENGE

VOYAGE PROGRAMME

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY

PRIMARY LANGUAGE FESTIVAL

GIRLS CRICKET

INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING UPDATE

SIXTH FORM CHARITY

CATERING UPDATE



Sir John Cass's Foundation & Red Coat Church of England Secondary School and Sixth Form College  
Stepney Way, London • E1 0RH • [www.sjcr.net](http://www.sjcr.net)

# YA Book Awards

By Ms Lording, Head of Media

Fifteen pupils from Year 10 and Year 12 took part in the YA Book Prize judging process this term. We were one of three schools nationally to participate in this prestigious award. Pupils were challenged to read and review a selection of fiction including Philip Pullman, Patrick Ness, Sarah Crossan and Sally Nicholls.

Reviews snippets:

**“I felt the lead character was really unique – it’s clearly trying to break stereotypes around women and encourage them to identify as strong and brave.” Fahim on S. T. A. G. S**

**“A gripping story with thriller aspects. I like how the motif of fire and the event of the fire is juxtaposed with the theme of control, recall and lies. Hill’s use of imagery is very vivid, the location clear and distinct.” Jolina on After The Fire**

**“Anyone with an interest in historical fiction about the women’s suffrage movement in Britain and the contributions of women from all walks of life during the Great War will take an interest in TABGCD.” Saqif on Things A Bright Girl Can Do**

**“I love the plot! It’s really interesting and actually certain parts of it are very relatable. I feel almost connected to Mo, the main character, because of the way the book is written.” Mahzabin on Straight Outta Crongton**

We were delighted to be able to send two students, Nashita Ahmed and Nathan Yohanes, to represent the school at the final panel meeting. They went to The Bookseller offices in central London to cast our vote for the winner. They judged the books alongside industry professionals such as poet Akala and book vlogger @ LucyTheReader. They had to keep the winner a secret until the big reveal at the Hay Festival.

Follow @sjcrmedia and #ya10 for updates.

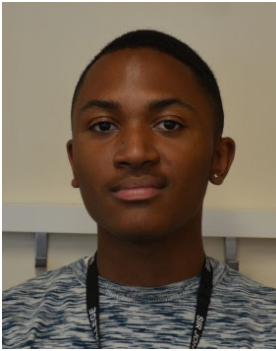
## The YA Book Prize shortlist:

- The One Memory of Flora Banks by Emily Barr
- S.T.A.G.S by M A Bennett
- It Only Happens in the Movies by Holly Bourne
- Moonrise by Sarah Crossan
- After the Fire by Will Hill
- Indigo Donut by Patrice Lawrence
- Release by Patrick Ness
- Things A Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls
- La Belle Sauvage by Philip Pullman
- Straight Outta Crongton by Alex Wheatle



# Trip to Oxford University

By Tyreece, Year 12



I am currently deciding whether I want to apply to Cambridge University or Oxford University, as you can not apply to both, so it was a great experience to visit Oxford last week. There were over ninety students on the school trip. I managed to visit five different colleges which was interesting; the students were not as smart as I expected and actually seemed really normal! I liked the city, because it was a lot calmer than London- it would be a great place to study because there are fewer distractions. We also learnt that both KFC and McDonalds both exist in Oxford as well, and they taste almost as good.

## SIR JOHN CASS SIXTH FORM IS SMARTENING UP

with a new smart dress code

(from Sept. 2018)



# Trip to London Zoo

By Ms H Begum, LSA

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2018, our Year 8 science class went on a trip to the London Zoo. We saw various different animals from scaly reptiles to stealthy tigers. The highlight of the trip was seeing the giraffes up-close and watching them being fed. We thought that the animals would be caged up however this was not the case; it was nice seeing the animals being out in the open, moving around freely. A bonus was when we were able to pet and feed a few animals, including the cutest little baby goats.

Student Brodie Bunker 8E said, 'I think the best part of the trip was going to Tiger Territory. It was really cool to see the tigers wake up from sleep; their yawns were huge! We did some work around the Siberian tiger, so it was nice to learn about Sumatran tigers and how they both are different.'



# Year 9 Spanish Trip

By Haleema, 9C

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, thirty Spanish students were invited to go Southbank and visit the BFI Imax (British film Institute). By the end of the day we had increased our Spanish vocabulary and made new friends but also watched an awesome film. La película de aventura se llama "Zipi y Zape y el club de la canica" y jera muy divertida!

At the Imax we had an activity sheet that we worked from while watching 3 mini films. We began with a short film about a boy with a very imaginative mind. During the activity we learnt how to talk about different camera shots in Spanish and then our brainiac Ishtiaq answered the question out loud in front of nearly five hundred students on the microphone! For the next one our very own Hollywood actors Fayza Omar, Miraj and Ishtiaq did a brilliant task of acting out a silent scene from the film. I think we all agreed they were the best out of all the other schools! By the end of the day lots of us had given answers to a room full of students and teachers.

We sat near the back of the impressive Imax venue and in front of us were two rows of pupils from another school and instantly we hit it off. Before the activity even started we began finding out each other's names. These pupils were very friendly and halfway through the movie they were kind enough to share sweets with us. At around 12pm we were led out along the Southbank to have lunch in the Royal Festival Hall where we all sat together and enjoyed a break. We then walked back to our seats but not before we modelled in front of the London eye.

We would like to thank Miss Nahser, Miss White and Miss Choudhury. We all had a wonderful time - ¡muchas gracias!



# SJCR Students help choose this year's best science book for kids

By Ms Charman, School Librarian



Explore the dinosaurs that roamed lost prehistoric lands and measure yourself against their life-size bones, teeth and claws; head off with NASA's Mars rover Curiosity on a journey from the laboratory to the Red Planet; and discover 50 fearless female scientists who changed the world.

These are just some of the creative and inspiring science topics children from Sir John Cass Red Coat School's Science Group in Stepney will be getting to grips with when they help decide the winner of the prestigious Royal Society Young People's Book Prize 2018. The Prize celebrates the best books that communicate science to young people in an accessible, creative way.

The SJCR Science Group joins over 300 other schools, clubs and youth groups specially selected from across the UK to choose the winner of the 2018 prize.

The shortlist of six books was picked by a panel of adult judges led by 2018 Chair, Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS, an Ecosystem Ecologist from Oxford University. He was joined by Dr Martin How, a Royal Society research fellow at University of Bristol; Alison Price, Head of Science at St Faiths school in Cambridge, Nicola Davies, author and previously shortlisted for the Prize and Jo Marchant, science writer and former Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize shortlisted author.

The six books were unveiled earlier this month, so now it is the turn of young readers from across the country to get judging and choose the winner, to be announced in November 2018.

Ms Charman, Librarian at SJCR School said: "The Science Group were judges for the first time last and really enjoyed using criteria to judge what was the best science information book from the shortlist. They were also particularly pleased that the other groups around the country agreed with their judgement and the book they chose won the Royal Society's Young Peoples' Book Award 2017."

**Chair of the 2018 judges, Professor Yadvinder Malhi FRS, added:** "The process of shortlisting the books was fascinating. It was wonderful to see the range of new children's science books coming out, and I enlisted the help of a neighbour and about ten children, marshalled by my twelve-year old daughter, in whittling down my personal list of favourites. The books that really stood out for me were those that tried something different, that engaged the reader in a different way or presented the science on a topic that is rarely engaged with in children's science books."

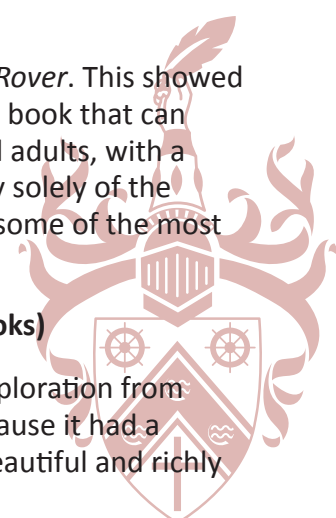
The expert judging panel's shortlisted books are:

## ***Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* by Markus Motum (Publisher Walker Studio)**

Judge Nicola Davies said: "For me, the stand out title was *Curiosity: The story of a Mars Rover*. This showed an originality of approach in its narrative perspective, its illustration and design. This is a book that can work across age groups, accessible to younger children but providing older children, and adults, with a satisfying level of information. All too often picture books are thought to be the territory solely of the under 8's, but this isn't the case. They are a unique art form that can be used to deliver some of the most complex and sophisticated information - as *Curiosity* shows."

## ***Exploring Space* by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Stephen Biesty (Publisher Walker Books)**

Chair of the judges Yadvinder Malhi said: "This beautiful book tells the story of space exploration from the earliest observers of the night sky to the near future. It stood out from the pack because it had a well-written and engaging narrative that really went into some depth, combined with beautiful and richly annotated illustrations."



“This could appeal across the age range: a seven-year old could engage with the rich illustrations, whereas a fourteen-year old could gain a lot from the deeper narrative. In a publishing space where many books are filled with short attention-grabbing factoids, it was pleasing to see this book present a deeper and richer storyline, and to do it well.”

***Lonely Planet Kids’ Dinosaur Atlas* by Anne Rooney, illustrated by James Gilleard (Publisher Lonely Planet Kids)**

Chair of the judges Yadvinder Malhi said: “Dinosaur books are always a favourite, and there are many out there on the bookshelves. Many are beautifully illustrated but tend to just end up being a catalogue of dinosaur species. This wonderfully illustrated and laid-out book is refreshingly different. For one thing, being an atlas, it covers the geography of which dinosaurs were found where, and where particular discoveries were made, and has great life-size illustrations. The artwork is fresh and engaging, and overall the reader comes away with a much fuller understanding of the dinosaur world, and how we have come to find out about this world.”

***Optical Illusions* by Gianni A. Sarcone and Marie-Jo Waeber (Publisher QED Publishing)**

Judge Dr Martin How said: “This book really grabbed my attention. I loved how the authors uses a range of illusions to trick our vision, then illuminates what’s going on in our eyes and brain using bite-sized scientific explanations. Kids of all ages will find this entertaining and educational, and I think it has the potential to persuade young minds to take a real interest in the fields of biology and medicine.”

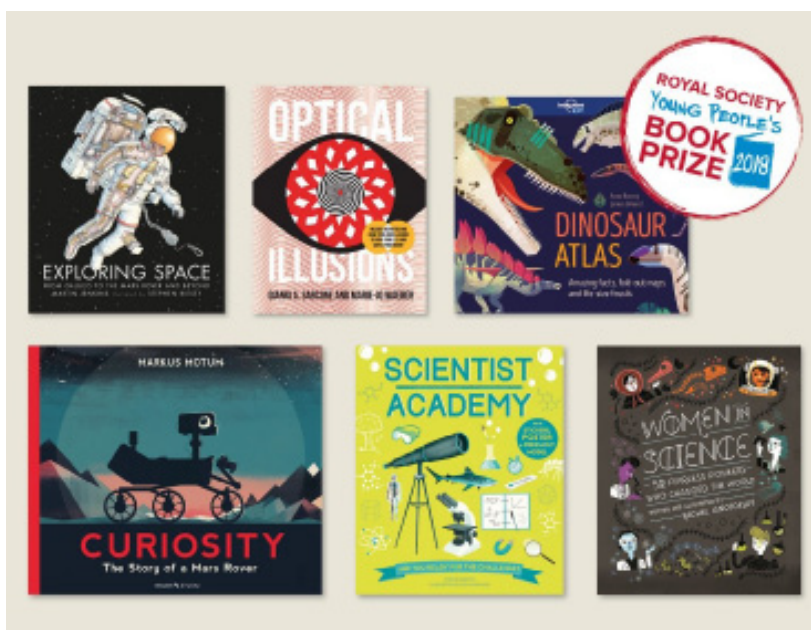
***Scientist Academy* by Steve Martin, illustrated by Essi Kimpimäki (Publisher Ivy Kids)**

Judge Jo Marchant said: “This book is packed with projects, puzzles and experiments related to the different jobs that scientists do, from archaeologist to zoologist. Whereas some books treat science as a collection of facts, with *Scientist Academy* it’s a real-life adventure. My kids couldn’t wait to get started.”

***Women in Science* by Rachel Ignotofsky (Publisher Hachette Children’s Group)**

Judge Alison Price said: “Rachel Ignotofsky celebrates the accomplishments of fifty women scientists, some well-known and others who were equally great, but who did not get the recognition they deserved. With two pages devoted to each woman from across all eras and scientific disciplines, this is a treasury of fascinating information, beautifully illustrated and each woman’s accomplishments summarised in an informative poster format.

“A book which will inspire future generations of women scientists, the secret to success remains the same, ‘creativity, persistence and a love of discovery were the greatest tools these women had.’”



# Science Taster Lesson with Smithy Street Primary School

By Ms F Akhter, Science Teacher

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, sixty students from Smithy Street Primary school attended Sir John Cass Red Coat School to take part in a variety of different fun science experiments and to gain an experience working in a science lab. Students completed a range of different Science experiments.

- Daphnia practical (to observe the heartbeat using microscopes) and heart dissection
- Red cabbage indicator class practical and elephant toothpaste experiment
- Kiwi fruit DNA extraction and making a strong magnet
- Making bouncing balls class practical and using a Van de Graff generator

All the students had a great time and this was evident from the feedback given from the teachers and students from Smithy primary school.

Quotes from Smithy Primary School

*'This is the best day of my life!' – Year 6 Student*

*'I really enjoyed the dissecting group because we were able to see a heart similar to ours and we got to see the inside of a sheep's heart. I found out that a heart is not soft at all. It was really hard so it could pump blood around the body' – Year 6 Student*

*'Thank you so much for letting us come and spend time in your science labs. It was magical to see the children's reactions as they got to try some practical science. All the children thoroughly enjoyed their time at Sir John Cass and Red Coat and learnt something new. All of the teachers and staff were very accommodating and the morning was extremely well organised. We hope to visit again next year' – Year 6 Teacher*

We look forward to working with more primary schools part of the Stepney Partnership. And I want to say a big thank you to the Science department for all their support and hard work to help host this event.





# Science and Technology Challenge at UEL

By Ms F Akhter, Science Teacher

Twelve Year 9 students attended the Science and Technology Challenge trip on Tuesday 5th June 2018 which was held in the University of East London, Docklands campus. Students worked in small groups competing with one another to take part in a range of activities, such as the robotics challenge. Each team was provided with the latest Lego Mindstorm EV3 robot, which they had to programme in order to navigate around a course. In the EFIT challenge, having witnessed a simulated crime, each team used the latest EFIT 6 facial recognition software to create a computer image of the thief. For The Vehicle Challenge, each team designed and constructed a simple battery powered vehicle from kit pieces, considering power transmission, speed and torque, and finally The Medical Diagnostics Challenge, where each team undertook the role of a doctor, diagnosing conditions suffered by simulated patients. They tested 'urine' samples, evaluated brain function, examined X-rays and brain scans.

The students were fantastic and won two challenges. I want to say a big well done to the following pupils for taking part.

Ridwan, 9S

Aymanul, 9A

Tamanna, 9E

Yasmin, 9S

Nabil, 9S

Bianca, 9C

Naeemah, 9R

Tawfique, 9D

Anisha, 9D

Fahmida, 9D

Amin, 9R

Mahsin, 9D



# Voyage Programme

## By Year 10 Students

**Sixteen Year 10 students were invited to the Young Leaders for Safer Cities. Some of the students who attended wrote a little account of their visit.**

Voyage stands for the Voice of Youth and Genuine Empowerment. The course is to help young leaders to create a safer city. During my time here I have learnt to become more confident in my speaking skills as well as my leadership skills.

The course started off as a residential to allow us to get to know our peers and eliminate any doubts or fears within ourselves. Not only did I get to know myself better, but I also got to know the people around me better. The residential was for three days and was a memorable experience.

There were four units within the course. I learnt many things such as leadership, power, race and political literacy. This concluded unit one. Unit two was violence and crime, including stop and search. Unit three and unit four were presentation skills.

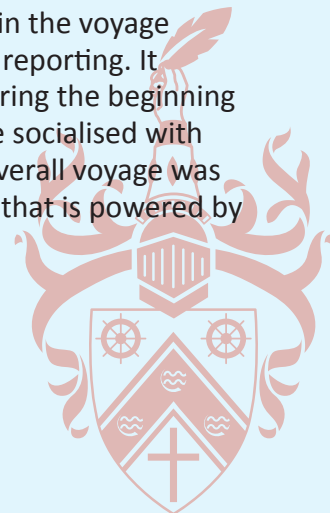
I would like to thank the voyage team for this enjoyable experience. I was able to experience new cultures through food and have gained a BTEC which will help me in life. Thank you.

### By Asif Uddin, 10S

Voyage has helped me to become more confident as well as increase my leadership qualities, for example teamwork, which I have learnt and developed during the residential to Kent, which was a great experience. I have met many new friends from different areas of London and have taken part in all activities. I consider this residential to be where I made the most memorable moments of my Voyage experience. Voyage stands for 'Voice of Youth and Genuine Empowerment'. The staff did a great job of allowing us to enjoy ourselves whilst staying on task. I have learnt about a variety of subjects such as political literacy, stop and search and presentation skills. The food was a new and amazing experience as I wasn't used to food from other cultures. I would recommend this programmes to others because it was an overall enjoyable experience and provides extra-curricular activities, with an additional BTEC GCSE grade that I can proudly say I have earned.

### By Muntaha Bakar, 10C

Voyage was a wonderful experience which opened our eyes to issues we did not know were occurring in our community. The voyage programme allowed us to see issues in another way, not just through the eyes of the media which is the view that we are usually exposed to. The voyage programme tackled issues such as knife crime, domestic violence, gang violence and many more topics. The tutors in the voyage programme were extremely supportive and helped us to understand the topics and bias reporting. It allowed us to know are our facts from our opinions. The residential that we went on during the beginning of our programme really allowed us to make friends with people that we would not have socialised with usually. The food that they provided for us was both tasty and from different cultures. Overall voyage was a programme that is determined to power the youth and allow us to oversee the façade that is powered by the media.



# Newcastle University - Taster Sessions

## By Year 10 Students

The University Survival Guide initiative took place from 25<sup>th</sup> March – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Four hundred students from all over the country attended this event, this included sixteen students from SJCR School.

We arrived at Newcastle station and were greeted by many representatives from Newcastle University who took us to the university by bus. Once we arrived at the reception, they let us put our bags away and we were registered in and got our room keys and key cards. We were later introduced to the groups that we would be working with for our group activities. In each group there were two representatives. My reps were Nav and Sophie. Our reps took us to eat in a Mexican restaurant where we all took pictures. It was my first time eating Mexican food. We were then taken to the cinema and we got to choose if we wanted to watch Oceans 8 or Jurassic World. I decided to watch Oceans 8 and as we were going in, each person was given a bag of popcorn and a drink for free!

On the second day we woke up at around 6.30am to have breakfast at 7.00am. There was a halal breakfast option for Muslims. We then had our first subject taster in chemical engineering where we were taught how to do distillation. We had an opportunity to see what it was like to study that subject in university. Later on in the day we all had a beach themed party, which for me was the best part of the stay. We partied for four hours whilst the best songs were played - everyone had the times of their lives! There was also face painting and magicians. It was amazing to see what he could do, and how he could change anything just by tapping it.

On the last day of the stay everyone was devastated to leave all of the new people that they had met. It was really upsetting to say bye to everyone, especially the people that had been in my group for the last few days. We finished off with another taster session in Business and were told about the qualifications that were needed to enrol on the course.

## By Niyaz, 10R

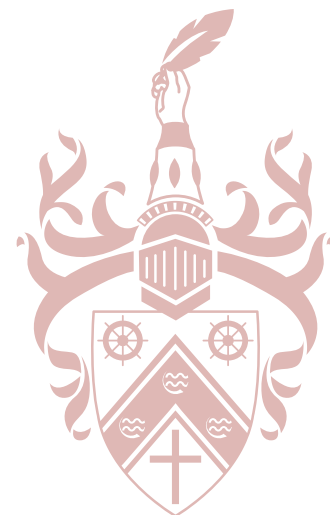
In Newcastle we completed numerous activities and academic taster sessions. Overall the experience was enlightening and I learnt a lot about university life at Newcastle.

We all got our own accommodation, a room each, which was small, but sufficient. Our taster sessions were randomly picked for us, and our group was given a taster session in neuroscience as part of studying a bio-medical science degree. We learnt about senses and the science behind them. The second session was in business. We played business bonanza and had to deliberate decisions that people in business would usually need to make. I personally enjoyed the biomedical science session the most as it was very interesting and informative. We also had a lot of fun, a party was held in the student union, and we all danced, spoke to one another and ate food.

There were students who attended this event from all over the county, so not only was it an experience to meet people from the north and south, but it was interesting to meet students who went to different schools and to hear from students of different perspectives.

Overall the experience was very enjoyable.

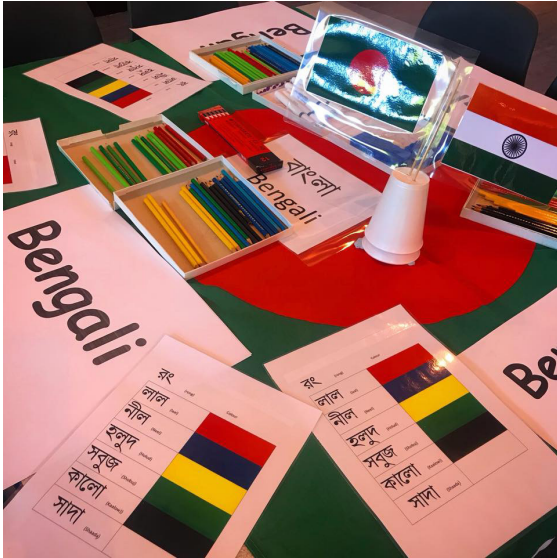
## By Jolina, 10R



# Primay Language Festival

By Tanvir Islam, 9A

Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July saw us welcome fifty Year 5 students from local primary schools to our annual Primary Languages Festival. Students were involved in six taster sessions of Bengali, Mandarin, French, Italian, German and Spanish across a broad range of topics. The day ended with a fantastic finale with all participants showing off the flamenco dancing skills they had learnt in their Spanish session. Well done to everyone who took part!

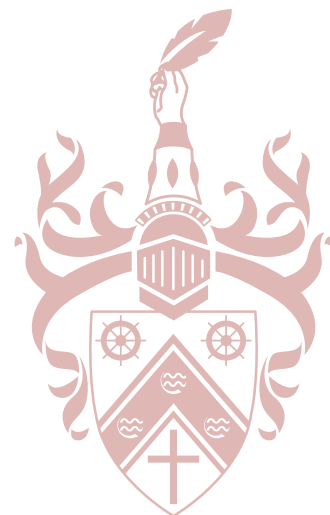


## Girls Cricket

By Ms Thompson, PE Teacher

On June the 27<sup>th</sup>, the under 13's and under 15's attended the Girls Outdoor Cricket Borough Competition. Both the teams got off to a brilliant start with both beating Langdon. The under 13's then went on to play Morpeth - again they won with a difference of 40 runs. The under 15's played Bow in their second game and managed a good win also. This meant that both teams made it through to the semi-finals, where the under 13's were set to play Swanlea and the under 15's set to play Central Foundation. Unfortunately for the under 15's this was their last game as Central managed a strong win - they also went on to win the tournament. The under 13 game against Swanlea was a tense one and one that involved a lot of shouting, however they somehow managed to pull it out of the bag and won! This meant that the under 13's would go on to play Central in the final! They had a lot of support for this game and the concentration levels from the first two games returned (thankfully!!!) The girls managed to win by 70 runs which meant they won the competition for the under 13's.

Well done to the under 13's: Cheila Djalo, Jacqueline Fenner, Ateeqa Alom, Inva Xira, Zaynah Alom, Ayesha Zaman, Fareah Chowdhury, Lily Mya, Hannah Abdi, Abigail Haddow.



# Initial Teacher Education Update

By Ms Barnes, Senior School Professional Teacher

It has been another busy teacher education year at SJCR with thirteen School Direct trainees successfully completing their training at Sir John Cass and Red Coat School, working with another member of the Cass family, the University of East London. All have gained jobs in the East London area, with four of them joining Sir John Cass Red Coat School as full time members of staff.

We must be unique in having a really family affair at the school, with three members of the same family who trained and began their teaching careers at Sir John Cass Red Coat; the Deen family! Saeed Deen teaches maths and is our Muslim Chaplain. Khalida Deen is Assistant Professional Tutor and Second in Charge in computing. Aaliya Deen their daughter (former students) trained this year in physics and is one of those continuing her careers at SJCR.

“As a former student of SJCR secondary school (with both parents teaching at SJCR) I have a unique perspective on the school and its practices. It has really become a second home to me which provided a positive and nurturing experience, enabling me to flourish not just academically but personally.

I’ve since completed my degree in biomedical engineering and am an active advocate for females in STEM - involved in various organisations and initiatives to promote equal opportunities in a traditionally male dominated field.

I credit the school and its teachers with preparing me for the challenges I faced upon leaving and it is fitting that I should return to SJCR in the hope of offering the same support to students that I myself benefited so greatly from. I aim to inspire students, especially young women, to pursue careers in STEM subjects and hope to be as exceptional a role model as my teachers were for me.

Having almost completed my teacher training I look forward to staying on as an NQT and working with my incredibly dedicated Science department, wonderful colleagues and remarkable professional tutor (the one and only Jane Barnes)! Engineering is as much about people and problem solving as it is about science, therefore, I’m also eager to further my own professional development by founding sustainable initiatives that serve to motivate and engage the students as well as contribute towards the continued success of the school.

Do contact Jane Barnes, Senior School Professional Teacher ([jane.barnes@sjcr.net](mailto:jane.barnes@sjcr.net)) if you or anyone you know might be interested in a career in teaching.



# Dates to Remember

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

## Autumn Term:

Monday 3rd September – INSET day  
 Tuesday 4th September – Registration Day  
 Half term 22nd – 26th October 2018  
 Last day of term 21st December 2018

## Spring Term:

Monday 7th January 2019 INSET day  
 Pupils return Tuesday 8th January  
 Half term 18th -22nd February 2019  
 Last day of term 5th April 2019

## Summer Term:

First day – Tuesday 23rd April 2019  
 Bank Holiday – Monday 6th May 2019  
 Half term 27th – 31st May  
 Estimated date of Eid –al-Fitr 3rd/4th June  
 Last day of school year Friday 19th July 2019

# Charity Work

By Abdul Hanif, Sixth Form

This year I am taking on the challenge to complete many challenges as I can to raise funds for different causes to help people in need. On Saturday 23rd of June, I took on the Al Noor Annual Dragon Boat race with Islamic Relief, Between myself and all in my team, we raised over £7000 for the people of Gaza.

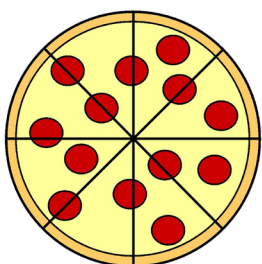
On Saturday 30th June I complete a skydive to raise money for the victims of the war in Syria. Our team raised over £14,000, and the money raised will go towards food and medical packs that will be distributed in Syria.

On the 25th July to the 31st July I will be taking part in the Bosnia Challenge with Islamic Relief. The money raised will help orphans and widows in need, providing them with sustainable equipment and training to rebuild livelihood, families and communities. So far I have raised £530, and am aiming to achieve over £750 before I take part in this challenge.



# Catering Update

By Mr Avramidis, School Business Manager



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chartwells catering contract will not go ahead. We will now start the tendering process for a new catering supplier. We hope to have this in place by October 2018 half term.

