



Awards Evening - see page 2

L-R: Mrs McCabe – Raising Standards Leader, Angela Smith- Morgan from Leukaemia UK, Lennox Odogo – Past student, Mrs Bryan – Assistant Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Advent Charity Appeal

As we commence the season of Advent, we have launched our Annual Charity Appeal; once again our emphasis is on community, both local and internationally. We have decided this year to support a range of charities and these include:

- Sr Ann's Education Project in Kenya
- Anerley Across:
a charity which takes disabled people to Lourdes on an annual pilgrimage (www.anerleyacross.org.uk)
- Help Jacob Hear:
www.youcaring.com/jacobryan-873441
- King's College Hospital: Critical Care Unit
- Leukaemia UK
- St George's Hospital: Children's Ward
- Thamesmead Food Bank
- The Christmas Tree Project
- The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton
- Weybourne Care Home

During the appeal, we held a number of events including the Lap for Life (see article on page 3), the Christmas Fayre and a Talent Concert.



Awards Evening

We have celebrated our successes in many other ways this half term and we have held our annual awards evening for the **Class of 2017**.

It was good to see all those who left last summer, most of whom are now well established on their post-16 courses. As always, our former students dressed up for the occasion and it was lovely to see so many confident young men and women.

It was also a pleasure to meet their parents and carers, many of whom have had a long association with our school.



Christmas

As we approach Christmas, we remember that we are celebrating Christ coming among us; the small baby in the manger was the all-powerful God coming to us in the most humble and powerless way imaginable. I would like to wish all members of our school community a very happy and peaceful holiday.



Best wishes
Patrick Winston

St Paul's Academy 'Lap for Life' in aid of Leukaemia UK



Wednesday 29th November saw the community of St Paul's Academy kick start our annual Advent Charity Appeal by coming together to take part in our very first 'Lap for Life' in aid of **Leukaemia UK**.

Over 500 staff and students across years 7 to 11 joined forces across the academy to walk, jog or run in support of the lifesaving work undertaken by Leukaemia UK. Our Sports Leaders and vInspired Student volunteers teamed up to help make this event happen and raise as much money for Leukaemia UK as they could. In the weeks leading up to the event students have raised money through the use of sponsorship sheets as well as holding their very own cake sales which has helped to raise in excess of £200.

The day of our 'Lap for Life' acted as a shining example of the true spirit and ethos of the community of St Paul's Academy. Teaming up side by side, beginning in the sports hall, staff and students enjoyed taking part in an energetic warm-up before engaging in either a walking or running route around the school campus. The smiles, laughter and enjoyment clearly evident from all participants as they made their way around the route ensured a fantastic atmosphere was created during our inaugural 'Lap for Life' event.





Citizens UK - London Citizens' Housing Assembly

A group of SPA Citizens UK Students: **Ben Watts, Rhys Thorpe, Callum Simmonds and Tyler Smith** attended the London Citizens Housing Assembly at The Oasis Centre in Kennington SE London on Wednesday 15th November.

The main focus of the evening was the housing crisis in London. Social Integration, Social Mobility, Community Engagement, Rogue landlords and the private rented sector.

There were more than 300 members in attendance including the deputy Mayor of London (James Murray). There was an award ceremony to give thanks and appreciation to all individual members that have engaged in the challenge.

Tyler followed in Dylan Wiggan's footsteps and took the baton in excellent fashion. He went on to share his experiences surrounding the housing problems in Abbey Wood. Mr Murray was questioned about his and Sadiq Khan's (the Mayor of London) plans for the future regarding the housing crisis in London.

In response to these questions, Mr Murray agreed a further meeting with groups of Citizens UK members, partners, and ministers to discuss future strategies and solutions to the housing problem.

All four students were very pleased to have accomplished their mission.

This warm, caring atmosphere and feeling of togetherness is a thread that has echoed throughout the hallways of St Paul's Academy in the weeks leading up to 'Lap for Life' 2017. Pupils listened intently to assemblies which informed them of the fantastic and lifesaving work of Leukaemia UK. Pupils have gained a greater understanding of the life changing effects an illness such as Leukaemia has on patients and their loved ones as well as how their fundraising can truly help so many people in need. Such an enhanced sense of awareness and understanding of the reasons behind their fundraising and the cause they are supporting has helped students to fully engage with our Advent Charity Appeal this year, showing great empathy and selflessness as they endeavour to raise as much money as possible in aid of Leukaemia UK.

Students are continuing to collect in their final sponsorship money. It is hoped that an incredible amount of money will be raised in support of Leukaemia UK. In organising and delivering the event, Miss Duffy would like to thank staff, students and the wider community of St Paul's Academy for their incredible support of our 'Lap for Life' event and entire Advent Charity Appeal. We look forward to informing our community of the total amount raised in the coming weeks.



Languages Live Show trip

In October, a group of Y11 students had the opportunity to attend the Languages Live Show, which took place in the Business Design Centre, Islington.

The students selected were students who are interested in studying languages post GCSE. During the Languages Live Show, they visited different stands where advice on different language related career pathways was given. Also, they were able to discuss the possibility of further language courses offered at Sixth Form and university level.

Students were able to attend taster sessions in different languages, interacting with native speakers. They also got to learn more about new cultures! The trip was a fantastic opportunity for our students to collect many useful resources to support their learning in school.

Here is some student feedback:

"This trip was very productive in that we got a lot of free resources to aid us in our Spanish studies. We also conversed with a lot of native speakers which put our learning into contexts. We spoke in Spanish throughout the day which consolidated my vocabulary and knowledge of tenses."

Laschar

"I found the Languages Show extremely enlightening as I was able to discover different cultures and languages from all around the world within one place."

Callista

"I personally really enjoyed the trip, mostly because of the different stalls showcasing different cultures. Also, the fact that resources were handed out to us was extremely helpful in terms of learning new things about languages."

Sarah



Princes Trust

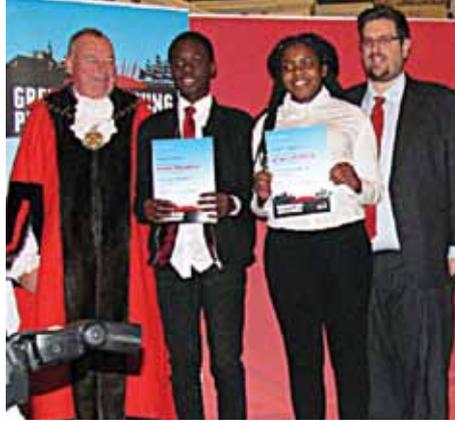
Education in the UK is currently undergoing significant change on many fronts. Government agendas are seeking to make the curriculum more academically demanding by removing course work from many subjects and disregarding others. St Paul's Academy has long believed in the benefits of Vocational Education and the development of the softer skills needed for life which are often under-developed in the National Curriculum/EBACC subjects. With this in mind this academic year, St Paul's has begun to deliver the Princes Trust Achieve Program in conjunction with Charlton Athletic Community Trust. 40 pupils from Year 7 through to Year 11 have been participating in the program since September.

The central focus of the Achieve program is the development of essential social and communication skills which are required in the world of work. Year 11s are currently completing units in employability and CV preparation while Year 7, 8 and 9 are completing a variety of units in enterprise, communication and IT.

The Achieve Program is delivered in a very non-traditional way. Assessments are continual and do not favour those who write more, but those who engage in the program, demonstrate progress and work effectively with others. Although only in the programme's early stages of development, it has had a positive effect on our pupils.

The importance of Vocational Education has long been stressed by Senior Leadership at SPA. Such an initiative highlights the total inclusivity of SPA in providing high quality, individualised learning for all pupils and is something we as a school are very proud of. We look forward to seeing this project further develop throughout the academic year and beyond.





Greenwich Young People's Council

Imagine a community where everyone's ideas and dreams are considered. Where young people's opinions and thoughts are acknowledged. This is what the Greenwich Young People's Council (GYPC) aims to achieve in the Greenwich Borough.. The signing up for GYPC was first mentioned in assemblies by Richard Mayne in late September and about thirty students in Year 10 and 11 showed an interest in this initiative. Following this, a Young People's Councillor visited St Paul's to speak to students about the initiative and then the campaigning process started.

The thirty students soon became five: **Asanda Jezile, Sophie O'Rourke, Chidubem Obosi, Charity Osarenkhoe** and **Phillip Ojobaro**.

After a hectic but productive week of securing nominations, students attended a Candidate Training Day. Four of the five nominees qualified and they had the opportunity to develop their campaigning and speaking skills with councillors as their group leaders. They then presented their campaign ideas to students at Year group assemblies.

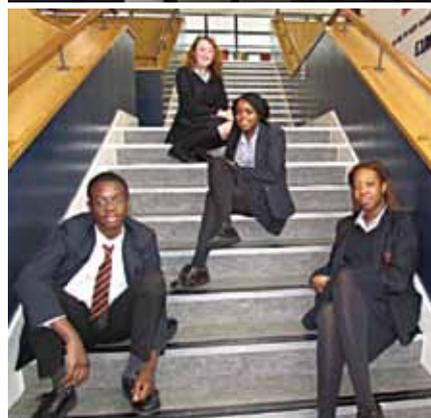
The Ballot Day took place on Thursday 16th November and it was officially opened by the Head of School, Miss Malone. Students created posters and placed them around the campus to raise awareness about their manifestos which included:

- Helping to fight against bullying
- More volunteering opportunities for young people
- Making young people's voices heard
- Making roads safe for young people
- Young people being able to vote in elections

Nominees had the task of convincing others to vote for them (34.1% of the students at St Paul's Academy participated in the voting process) and they used the opportunity to interact

with students across the school which helped to develop their confidence. The Learning Mentors also assisted and coached them on the day and throughout the entire campaign. Voting commenced, ballot papers were collated and placed in a perfectly sealed ballot box.

Finally, on Wednesday 29th November at the Woolwich Town Hall, the winners were announced. Year 10 students Charity Osarenkhoe and Phillip Ojobaro were successful and they were presented with certificates by the Mayor of Greenwich, Peter Brooks and the Councillor of Greenwich. They will now serve as Greenwich Young People Councillors until 2019. Even though Chidubem and Sophie were not elected, they are winners in their own right and there's still a future in GYPC for both students. Congratulations to Charity and Phillip for the hard work and effort put into this campaign and we wish them all the best in their new role!



Panathlon Jack Petchey Outstanding Young Sports Leader of the Year 2017

This year's Panathlon Jack Petchey Outstanding Young Leader Award went to SPA past pupil **Lora Umelue** (Class of 2017). Lora, now 17, is described by Miss Duffy, our Sports Leader and vInspired Volunteer Co-Ordinator at St Paul's as "our driving force". Lora was selected as the recipient of this award out of 2,000 young leaders across London. This is a truly magnificent achievement and well deserved recognition for all of her dedication to volunteering. During Lora's time at St Paul's Academy, she was a health and well-being ambassador and sports leader, helping to deliver physical activity sessions to her peers during our weekly health and well-being club.

Lora also demonstrated a tireless drive and support for every enterprise initiative at SPA, often being the person behind the very concept and idea of the numerous fundraising events she was involved in. These included our 2017 Rowathon in aid of the mental health charity Mind, as well as our very first Race for Life event in aid of Cancer Research UK involving 400 pupils which raised £3,000 and saw Lora train pupils and organise fundraising activities. Lora helped deliver the SportInspired Community Games Festival for the last two years, which saw over 200 children with special educational needs across numerous local primary schools take part each year.

Everyone at St Paul's Academy would like to extend their congratulations to Lora on winning this prestigious accolade and wish her every success in all of her future endeavours. Well done Lora on continuing to make us proud!



English trip - Globe Theatre and Tate Modern

"My daughter, oh my ducats, oh my daughter! Ran off with a Christian! Oh my Christian ducats!"

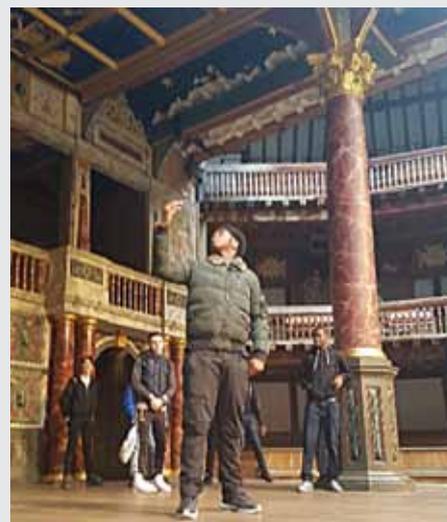
William Shakespeare fans and GCSE students alike will know these famous lines. **Al Pacino** received great praise for his portrayal of Shylock in the 2004 film adaptation, the villain at the heart of *The Merchant of Venice* and the character tormented by his daughter's decision to steal his jewels and his 'ducats'.

Fast forward a handful of centuries and there is a new Shylock on stage at the Globe Theatre.

Enter **Michael Abiola-Leigh**. The lines were delivered with such conviction that the critically acclaimed **Mark Rylance** (the title role in Steven Spielberg's *The BFG*) stopped to watch from the floor.

Rumours have it that **Rylance** offered **Abiola-Leigh** a contract offer on the spot, but was turned down due to Post-16 commitments. It had been a day in the spotlight for **Abiola-Leigh**, who only an hour before had teamed up with a street performer on the Thames Southbank in a rendition of Ed Sheeran's *Shape of You*.

Curtains had been raised the moment **Mr Curtis** and **Ms Winstanley's** Year 11 English class met in Woolwich; Callum Sweeney playing the tragic hero, battling the long trip from Canon Street to The Globe via the Millennium Bridge. The interval came and it was time for the toughest to leave their strong exteriors in the dressing room and play on the swings in the Tate Modern. Lights shone on the motley crew during a *Merchant of Venice* acting class within The Globe and the curtains only fell when one student handed his reply slip in the following day. The show must go on however. We hope for some more memorable performances when the exams roll around in June. END



Autumn Art Update

Year 9 are currently working on a Nature Theme in Art, they have produced some excellent work in a variety of media. Most recently we have been looking at the work of **Andy Goldsworthy**.



Andy Goldsworthy is a naturalist which means that all of his art is derived from or related to nature. Goldsworthy is

inspired by all aspects of the natural world, including snowflakes, twigs, icicles and reeds. He was inspired by early land art which is found all over the British Isles.



Students' feedback:

On the 16th October the Year 9 Art group went up to Bostall Woods to create Ephemeral Art works inspired by an Artist called Andy Goldsworthy. We have been studying this artist's work in lessons. We created some exciting work with leaves, sticks, stones and feathers. The art work we created is designed not to last and not to damage the environment where it is made. Ephemeral means fleeting or momentary. I made art work with chestnut cases, in a circle with chestnut casings and logs in the shape of a cross. It was really good fun finding the resources that we needed to make our art work and also nice to know that it would not last for ever. **Victor**

After lunch in the woods, we slipped on our gloves and went hunting for

YEAR 11 UKMT Challenge

In November, the following four Year 11 students: Emily, Shannia, Ieshua and Destiny took part in the Senior UK Maths Trust Challenge at King's Maths School. Whilst we didn't quite win, the students showed excellent team work, logic skills and real courage against teams formed entirely of 6th Form students.

Congratulations to our students on all the effort they put in (they were doing Maths for 4 hours!) and for being fantastic ambassadors of the school.



Barclays IT Girls Allowed

On Friday 10th November, ten of our Year 9 girls had the opportunity to visit the Barclays Headquarters in Canary Wharf for the IT Girls Allowed event. We joined 12 other schools and participated in a jam packed day of activities from code breaking to programming robots! Our day started with an introduction from a Barclays employee who started at the company as an apprentice after she completed her GCSEs at 16. She now works in the department that handles online banking, fraud prevention and cyber security. Our girls learned about other careers within the company and were impressed to hear that Barclays are committed to encouraging more female employees to join their company especially in the male dominated technology department.



The first task, "Design the Future Challenge", was geared at designs that would affect our life in the future. Our girls quickly decided that they would like to incorporate technology within a wheelchair to help users in their everyday life. They worked very well collaboratively to decide on its unique name, features and benefits for the users.

On the second challenge, the girls learnt about Cryptography (code breaking) and they worked as a team to decrypt messages. It was down to the wire when St Paul's girls and the opposing team both scored 14 points so there was a tie break. Thanks to Chelsea's knowledge of Star Wars and Yoda's famous quote: "Do or do not, there is no try", we were successful in clinching the prize for the second challenge!

After a spot of lunch, our girls participated in the Robot challenge where they had to program the robots to do a variety of tasks from moving forward, reversing and also coding the robots to use sensors to guide their path. Even though this might have been the trickiest of the three challenges, in true St Paul's Academy fashion, our girls were relentless in ensuring that they could program the robots to complete the challenge set.

Overall, it was a fun-filled day where students learnt about job opportunities, team working skills, coding, cryptography and most of all the value of working hard and never giving up! Well done girls!!



natural resources that we would use to make our art. I started small and then gradually made my work bigger, my piece was made from twigs and leaves and I even added the occasional feather. We had a great time in the woods creating Ephemeral art work. I couldn't wait to get home and tell my parents about my day and relax. **Joshua**



Greenwich XLP Arts Showcase 2017

Four talented acts from St Paul's Academy were chosen to take part in the XLP Arts Greenwich Showcase, which took place at Greenwich Dance Academy on Saturday the 2nd of December at 7pm.

The following students took part wowing judges and audience alike.

Sarayah McFarlane (Year 9) - Dancing.

Teresa Udegbe Palys (Year 9) - Voice and guitar.

Eloisa Leggett and Jonathan Orayinka (Year 10- Duet - Voice and Guitar)

Emmanuel Iriobemeudu and Jonathan Jones (Year 10 - Drums and Piano/bass guitar)

The students were outstanding ambassadors for St Paul's Academy, highlighting their talent through performance but also providing brilliant support to other acts performing in the showcase.

I am happy to announce that one of our acts; **Emmanuel and Jonathan** have made it through to the South London XLP finals, which will take place in the New Year.

Well done everybody!



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TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2018

Spring Term

Monday, 8th January

Wednesday, 28th March

Spring Half Term

Monday, 12th February

Friday, 16th February

Summer Term

Monday, 16th April

Friday, 20th July

Summer Half Term

Monday, 28th May

Friday, 1st June

Autumn Term

Tuesday, 4th September
(Year 7 only return)

Wednesday, 5th September
(Year 8 – 11 return)

Friday, 21st December

Autumn Half Term

Monday, 22nd October

Friday, 26th October

