



# Fourth scholarship won to top sixth-form

YEAR 11's Adam Patel has become the fourth pupil from the school to win a scholarship to a top independent sixth-form in less than a year.

Adam will cross London to take up a place at the prestigious Latymer School, Hugh Grant's alma mater, in Hammersmith.

The 15-year-old is set to arrive at Latymer on a £32,000 scholarship in September, entering in the sixth form to study A-levels in maths, further maths and physics.

Adam follows in the footsteps of former pupils Ishak Ayiris, Irfan Badshah and Alexis Marinoiu, who won scholarships to Eton, Winchester and City of London, respectively, earlier this year.

**This school has very high ambitions for the pupils**

Adam said: "It is only because I go to this school, where they have very high ambitions for the pupils, that this is even possible. If I went to another school in Newham or anywhere there is no way I would have this opportunity."

"I am so grateful to them because this is going to completely change my life. It was only because they recognised the potential in me that this is happening."

He added: "When I saw Ishak win a place at Eton, that is when I started to understand that this might be possible for me. But it was the belief the school, and in particular Mr Elliott, showed that really made it possible."

The school starts preparing the youngsters for interviews and exams at the beginning of Year 10, to give them the best chance to impress the top sixth-forms.

The school has expanded the programme this year to include 20 pupils and has established links with top independent schools including Eton and Winchester.



**American dream: Year 11 pupil Adam Patel hopes to study maths at MIT**

Headteacher Simon Elliott said: "I went to school where very bright pupils, who could and should have gone on to Oxford and Cambridge, were not given the opportunities their talent deserved."

"That is why when I came to this school I made it my first goal to make sure the very bright students had the opportunity that the majority from an inner city background don't have. Parents want to know that a school is going to realise the full potential of their children. That is what we do here. It is our job."

Former Forest Gate Community School pu-

pil Ishak, who hit the headlines earlier this year after winning a £76,000 scholarship to Eton, said: "I am so pleased for Adam. What the school have done for me, him and the other boys is fantastic."

Old Latymerians include late comic Mel Smith and Labour MP Keith Vaz.

Adam hopes to study maths at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in America after his two years at Latymer.

He said: "MIT was not even on my radar two years ago. Now it feels like a realistic dream. That shows how far I have come."



Pass masters: Youngsters proudly show off their certificates after attending a six-week university-style teaching programme

# Ace of clubs offers a taste of university

YOUNGSTERS at The Brilliant Club at Forest Gate Community School attended an awards ceremony after passing a six-week university-style teaching programme.

The Year 9s studied Joseph Campbell's *Monomyth* for an English literature course, while the Year 7s studied the Ebola virus for biology.

Both groups were tutored by former pupils now studying for PhDs.

Headteacher Simon Elliott said: "We are hugely ambitious for our pupils. It is very important for the school that our exceptionally gifted pupils are challenged and fulfilled by their work.

"The Brilliant Club, along with our scholarship programme, ensures that the young

people that attend Forest Gate are given the same opportunities as those who have been privately educated."

Graduate Harvey Saunders, 12, from Plaistow, got a First in the course, the highest mark.

## CHALLENGED

He said: "The Brilliant Club is fantastic. It may happen that in some classes I don't feel challenged enough. But at the Brilliant Club I know I am being pushed and I am being very well tutored."

Year 9's Zarvesha Rasool, 13, of Forest Gate, also got a First.

She said: "Since doing this course my confidence in my own ability has really gone

up. The school run a scholarship programme that helps you win a place at the top sixth-form schools.

"I am going to apply for that and then I am going to try to get in to Oxford or Cambridge, hopefully."

The Year 7s were tutored by former pupil Amina Yonis, who took time out from studying for her PHD in biology at University College London to help to inspire the youngsters to follow in her footsteps.

She said: "I am so pleased for all the pupils that have graduated from this programme. I know it is the school's aim to get more and more pupils into top universities.

"This is the perfect preparation for applying for the top Red Brick universities."

## Lauded for work at famous church

PUPILS have been singled out for praise after spending a week doing work experience at a world famous church.

Issy William and Tasnia Islam completed an "extremely successful" work experience week with St Martin-in-the-Fields.

The pair spent time in the cafe, shop

and box office, working directly with customers and doing sales.

The church's assistant retail manager Mel said: "I would just like to say that it's been a pleasure to have them working with us.

"I didn't have a lot of time to spend

with them personally, due to Sarah being away, but I asked for feedback from the team and they were very positive about their abilities and their progress throughout their work experience placements.

"I wish them all the best with their studies, and their future careers."

# The past comes alive

Our Year 10 history pupils visited Berlin last year. Below, four students recount their experiences in the historic German city.

## **D**ay One: The Story of Berlin Museum and nuclear bunker. By Maya Ochieng, 10

"Berlin was the best school trip I'd ever been on and I enjoyed every second of it.

We arrived at Schönefeld airport at around 9am and headed towards our hotel. There, we saw something quite incredible – a pizza vending machine! This intrigued us for a while – until we tried the pizza!

After lunch, we headed for the Story of Berlin Museum, where we learned about Germany's capital city through the ages, and how events such as the Berlin Wall impacted the growth of society and the economy. The museum is very interactive and had lots of weird and fascinating facts about Berlin's history.

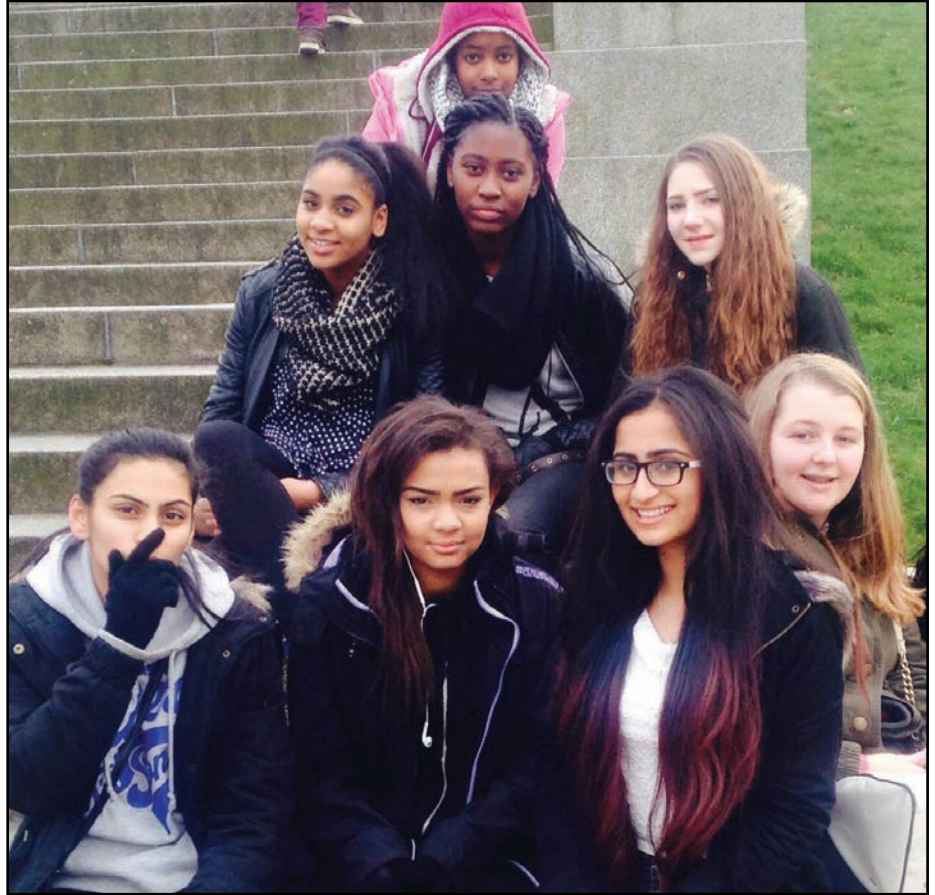
Next was a visit to a nuclear bunker. It was a bunker where Berlin's civilians would have had to stay if the Soviet Union had decided to launch nuclear missiles. We learnt about how small, cramped and claustrophobic life would have been if a nuclear war broke out."

## **D**ay Two: Soviet War Memorial, Berlin Wall and Check Point Charlie Museum. By Aiesha Wilson

"The park was beautiful and full of statues in tribute to the Soviet Union's Red Army, which fought the Nazis in the Second World War. At the end of the monument was a huge hill with a statue of a Russian soldier standing on a broken swastika, the Nazi symbol.

Inside the memorial was a mosaic commemorating the Soviet Union's victory over the Nazis. The park and memorial is a very impressive monument to the sacrifices that the Soviet Union made in World War Two. It is also a symbol of Soviet power in the heart of Germany's capital city.

Next up was East Side Gallery, where you could see remnants of the Berlin Wall – which separated the communist east from the



**Sightseeing:** Pupils visited some of the German capital's many historic places

capitalist west between 1961 and 1989. The paintings were colourful and eye-catching and they conveyed different messages and ideas from the artists who had painted them.

We went to lunch and then to Check Point Charlie Museum, which shows a history of the division of the city during the Cold War."

## **D**ay Three: Sachsenhausen concentration camp. By Chanel Ekwa and Nihal Jakub

"This Nazi concentration camp on the outskirts of Berlin is a place that made you feel

very emotional. It felt like we were treading the same ground as the Nazis, allowing us to empathise with the victims of their terrible crimes.

It was weird because the weather was grey and cold and seemed to match the black and white photo.

The most striking part was Station Z, where the prisoners were taken to be shot or gassed to death in the gas chamber.

At the centre of the camp is a memorial, like a chimney with the triangles that the prisoners wore on their striped uniforms."

OUR commitment to healthy eating has seen the school selected for the prestigious National School Food Champions Programme.

Home economics teacher Mr Shapland will be our School Food Champion. Here is his recipe for Delicious Doner Kebab:

- 2 tablespoons (30ml) extra-virgin olive oil
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

## Competing to be food champion

- Medium onion, halved lengthwise, sliced 1/4
- 600g lean minced lamb
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 orange
- 1 cucumber, halved lengthwise and thinly sliced

- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 bunch fresh mint, coarsely chopped
- 4 pitas, halved and very lightly toasted
- 100ml plain Greek yoghurt

Cooking instructions on Facebook page.

**BRAINY** Year 10 pupils are celebrating after coming a respectable fifth in a nationwide maths competition.

Nisha Ahmed, Abu Chowdhury, Momitha Choudhury and Sufian Uddin also won the final round of Maths Feast.

The national competition combines mathematical, communication and teamwork skills and offers students another way to express and develop their enjoyment of mathematics. Some of the rounds contained degree level questions.

Further maths leader Jon Datta said: "I am delighted to say that they performed brilliantly, it was a real pleasure to see such great teamwork and mathematics, and we should be very proud of them.

"They managed to come joint-fifth place out of 17 schools overall (without any prior preparation) and won the final round by a distance, achieving full marks."

## They've got it figured out



Source of pride: Pupils celebrate their performance in a national maths competition

# Results have set high bar

### By Headteacher Simon Elliott

AS we head into the final term, I'm pleased to announce that it has been another year of academic high standards at Forest Gate Community School.

Our last GCSE exam results were our best ever. This year's pupils, aided by our dedicated teaching staff, are working extremely hard to ensure that we will once again be celebrating record-breaking success.

We continue to push our more able students. The Brilliant Club in the lower school, where children are taught in university-style seminars and complete a dissertation, along with our dedicated scholarship programme, where pupils have been accepted to the top colleges in the country, including Eton and Winchester, ensure that our very bright students have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Elsewhere, our on-site gym is really busy at this time of year, with students getting themselves fit at lunchtime and with adults getting ready for the summer in the evening. All profits from the gym are used to finance extra books in school for our students.

At the time of writing, we have a number of important events planned to celebrate World Book Day. We are also planning a sci-

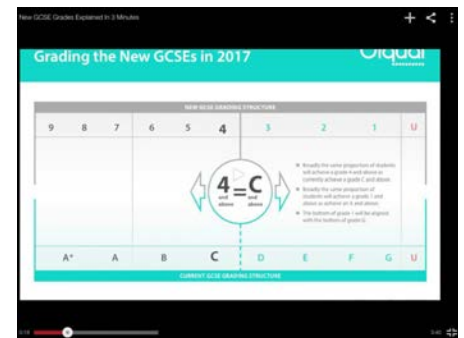


Plans: Headteacher Simon Elliott

ence fair to coincide with the solar eclipse. In the arts, we now offer free music lessons to children in all year groups to help our young people develop their artistic talents alongside their academic ability.

Despite our continuing success, now is not the time to rest on our laurels. As headteacher, it is my job to ensure that we continue to see academic standards improve, with year-on-year improvement.

Have a great Easter.



**VIRAL HIT:** A YouTube video (pictured above) by Deputy Head Mr Zaman explaining the new GCSE grading system has gone viral.

The three-minute clip, which explains the grading system, had more than 1,000 hits on the school's Facebook page at the time of going to press.

**RECOGNITION:** Deputy Head Ms Whelan spoke at a conference on honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Ms Whelan was chosen in recognition of the work the school has done in tackling FGM, which was featured in the *Evening Standard*.

She said: "It was great to be recognised for the work we are doing in these areas to safeguard children."

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