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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of another really successful Autumn Term, I am writing to thank you once again for your continued support, and to keep you informed of the most recent developments; we have achieved our best ever results in last year's public examinations at KS5 where we have an ALPS grade of 2 placing us in the top 10% of schools nationally, and very good results at KS4 placing us securely 'above average' when compared to all schools nationally and locally, which is a testament to the hard work of our students and teachers. Due to their excellent results, the highest number of our sixth form students ever have gone

on to top universities thanks to the exceptionally hard work of the sixth form team. We are very proud of the progress made by our students, and their achievements both inside and outside the classroom. Our sixth form continues to be the largest in North London with almost 650 students, and more than 1000 students applying to join us in Year 12. We continue to offer the widest variety of post 16 courses in the local area, with the vast majority of our students choosing to remain with us. I am delighted to inform you that we have an exceptionally high number of students applying to join us in Year 7, and continue to be one of the most popular schools in the Local Authority.

We remain committed to our extra-curricular provision, especially in the Arts and sport, and I am very grateful to our staff for giving their time, and to you for supporting the students in attending extra clubs and classes. The travel opportunities provided by our staff are second to none. We are now working towards the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Gold award which we hope to achieve over the next year or so. Please continue to encourage your children to take part in residential trips, it often creates not just wonderful memories, but better social understanding, friendship groups and a greater engagement with the school leading to better progress.

The work of our Inclusion Faculty, led by Mrs Owen, continues to be recognised nationally, leading to us being invited to support a number of local schools in developing their SEND provision. We are currently working with the DfE and Local Authority to further develop provision for students with SEND in mainstream settings.

I am very proud of the behaviour of our students in school, on trips and on the way to and from school. The number of lessons disrupted by poor behaviour has decreased, thanks to the work of our staff and your continued support. Please continue to reinforce the very high standards I know you have at home; working together we have a far greater impact.

On a personal note, my wife and I would like to thank you all for your kindness and support; our daughter, Meghan is now 7 years old and in Year 2, and we have a new addition to our family, a Great Dane puppy called Moose who is 14 weeks old, and has met many of our students. We are hoping to train her as a Therapy Dog to work with our students. We are once again preparing to meet our family in the snow for Christmas, and are aware of how lucky we are to have such a wonderful family.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas, and please take the opportunity to give to charities which support the homeless, children and those less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year.

Jim Owen
Headteacher



winchmore_secondary_school



@thisiswinchmore

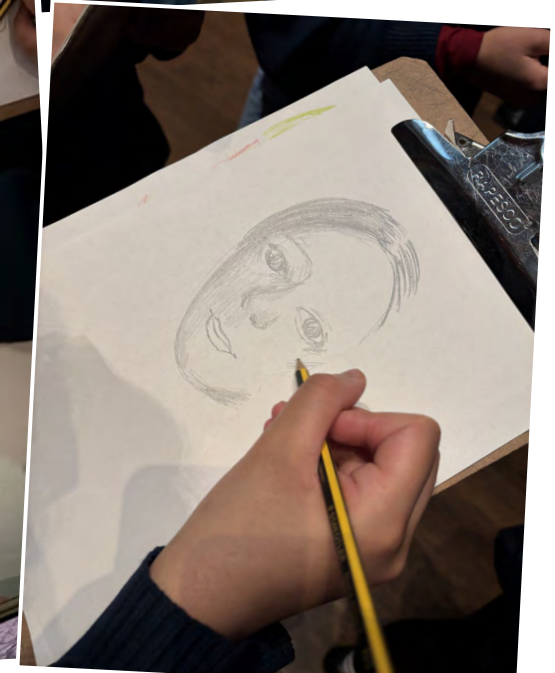
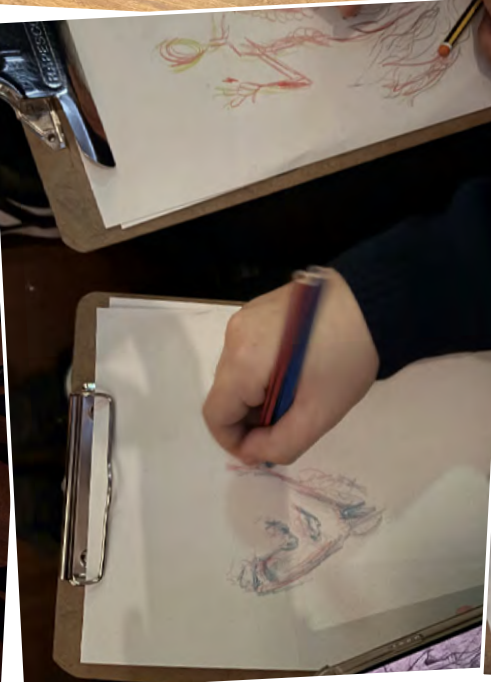
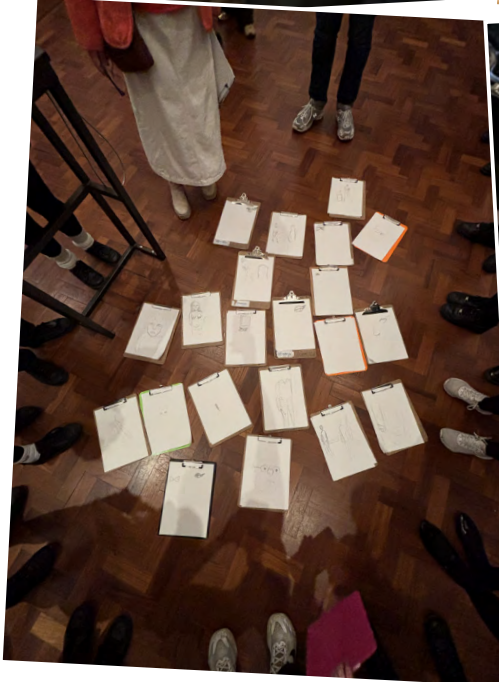


@winchmoreschool

12.12.25

Year 10 and 11 trip to the National Portrait Gallery

Year 10 and Year 11 Art students visit the National Portrait Gallery to explore the idea and representation of identity. The students took part in a workshop where we investigated modern and contemporary responses to art. We also formed a dialogue with selected paintings through digital and analogue drawing and layering. Their behaviour and attitude was excellent and they represented the school brilliantly.



Year 7 Rewards Trip to the Chickenshed Theatre

On Wednesday 10th December, 60 Year 7 students visited the Chickenshed Theatre to watch the local production of 'Red'. We travelled from London on a mystical adventure to a far away winter forest and snowy mountains, where we encountered strange things along the way. A jittery woodsman, stuck up socialites, mountain spirits and a village living in fear of a legendary wolf who's been terrorising them for years. We watched in amazement as Red and her siblings uncovered the truth behind the legend of the 'Lost Amulets of Time'. Every scene reminded us that even in our darkest moments, there is always light to be found.

We were very fortunate to see some of our Winchmore Alumni performing on stage in main parts. Congratulations to Jimmy Adamou who plays Saliba.

The show was a magical twist on the tale of Little Red Riding Hood, funny and inclusive of everyone. Such a fantastic performance and everyone enjoyed their popcorn in the interval. The students represented Winchmore School wonderfully and were great role models. Thank you to all the staff who supported the trip: Mr Atu, Mrs Berndes, Miss L Mohamad, Mr Lockyer-Merchant and Miss Welch. The students and staff all thoroughly enjoyed the show and cannot wait for the next one!!

Congratulations to our fellow Winchmore students both past and present, who are currently performing in the chickenshed show. You are all outstanding performers: Solomon Wynter 7U, Scarlett Sutton 9B, Lale Salahi 11L, Lexi Hobbs Martin 11G and Joseph Malhotra 11G.

Miss De Souza - Head of Year 7



Year 8 Rewards Trip to Cluequest

40 excited students and 5 members of staff headed to Caledonian Road on Monday 8th December for a thrilling Rewards Trip to clueQuest, one of London's most popular escape-room experiences. The visit offered a unique blend of problem-solving, teamwork, and high-pressure fun as students attempted to unravel mysteries and break free from cleverly designed rooms.

Upon arrival, the group was briefed on their mission: work together to solve riddles, uncover clues, and unlock coded puzzles in order to escape before time ran out. Spread across several themed rooms, each team faced a series of brain-teasing challenges that tested their logic, communication, and creativity. From deciphering hidden messages to cracking numeric locks, the students embraced every puzzle with enthusiasm and determination.

Staff praised the students for their collaborative spirit, noting how quickly they adapted to the fast-paced environment. Laughter, whispers of strategy, and triumphant cheers filled the rooms as groups edged closer to escape. Several teams managed to break out with minutes to spare, earning proud celebrations and photos with the clueQuest mascots.

The students' behaviour throughout the day was equally commendable. Travelling to and from the venue on public transport, they were courteous, calm, and respectful—so much so that commuters took the time to compliment their conduct. Their maturity and politeness reflected positively on the school and underscored why they were selected for the Rewards Trip.

"It was fantastic to see the students supporting one another and enjoying the challenge," said one staff member. "They really earned this trip, and their behaviour made the day even more of a success."

The experience at clueQuest offered not only excitement but also the chance for students to develop valuable skills—teamwork, resilience, and critical thinking—all wrapped in a memorable adventure they won't soon forget. Not forgetting the teachers who accompanied them, who also had a memorable experience.



Year 9 Rewards Trip to see The Lion King

On Wednesday, 3rd December, a group of Year 9 students went on a special rewards trip to London to see the spectacular West End production of Disney's The Lion King!

This outing was a reward for students who have demonstrated excellent conduct and commitment throughout the term. The musical was visually stunning with incredible puppetry and vibrant costumes. We were lucky enough to be sitting in the stalls so were able to see the immersive opening with the animal parade!

Congratulations once again to all the Year 9 students who earned their place on this memorable reward trip.



CAREERS & LIBRARY SERVICES

Career of the Week!

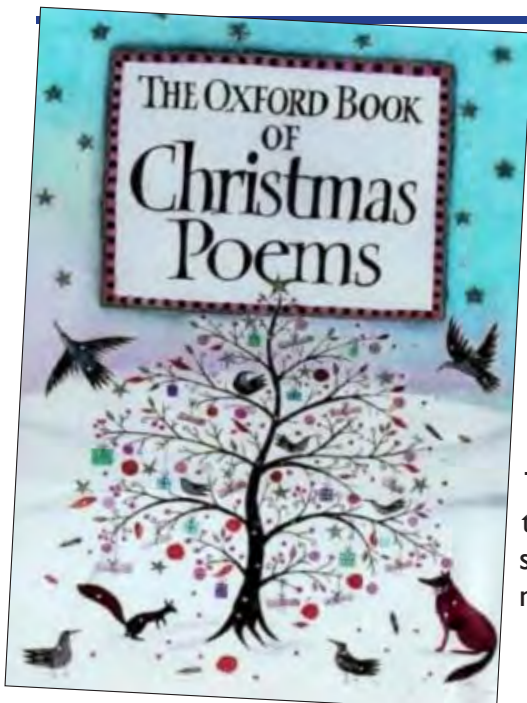
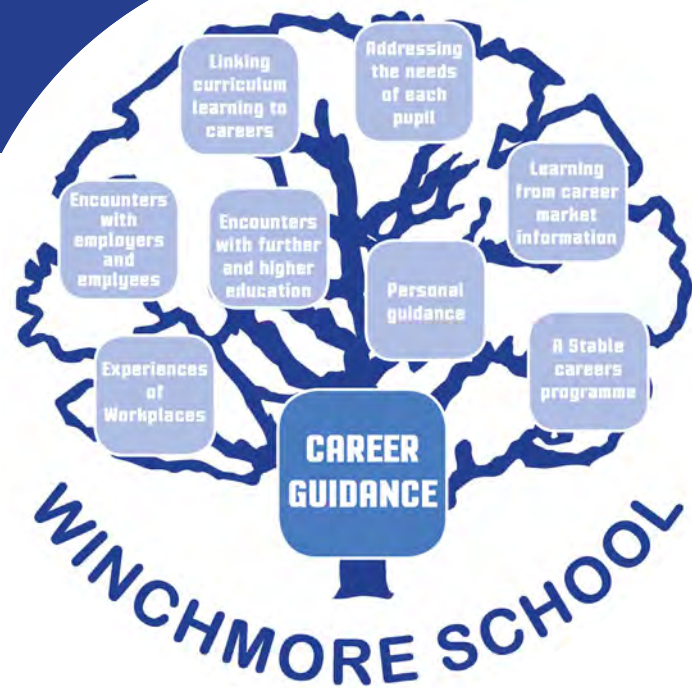
REINDEER HANDLER

Job Description: Handlers are responsible for the daily care, feeding, and welfare of reindeer at festive displays in garden centres, shopping malls, or outdoor events during the Christmas season. This involves cleaning enclosures, preparing feed, monitoring their health, and safely escorting the animals to public viewing areas. You'll also interact with the public, answering questions and educating visitors about reindeer.

Salary: Pay is typically seasonal and can range from **£11 to £15 per hour** in the UK, depending on the employer and location.

Qualifications: While no formal degrees are strictly required, qualifications like an **NVQ in Animal Care** or a **Level 3 Diploma in Animal Management** are highly beneficial. You must have a strong interest in and respect for animal welfare.

Routes into the Career: The best route is gaining practical experience through volunteering or working with livestock, horses, or in a zoo/farm setting. Many seasonal positions offer on-the-job training, but a clean driving licence (often for transporting the animals) and excellent public-facing skills are essential.



Available in the Library...

The Oxford Book of Christmas Poems

This is an anthology of over 120 poems - a wide-ranging collection of old and new, favourites and lesser-known ones.

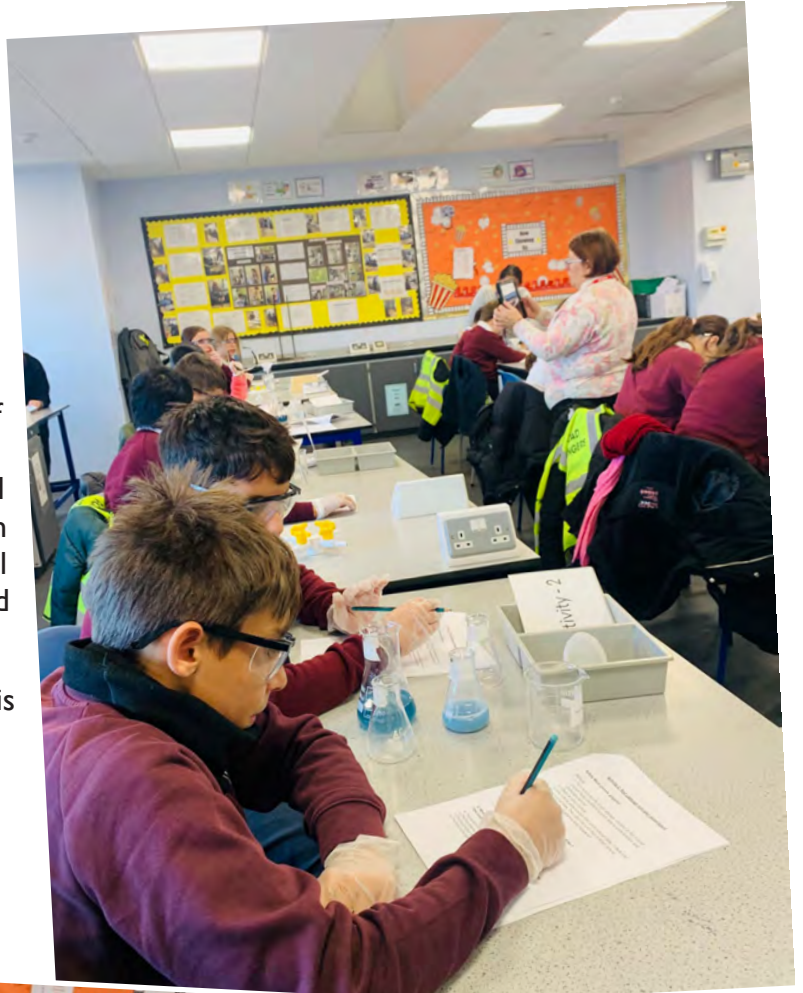
The collection is organized into four sections starting in winter, moving through Advent, and arriving at the Nativity and the heart of the Christmas season. Finally, with the arrival of the Wise Men, comes the promise of a new year.

Science Workshop

On Friday 21st November 2025, 30 year 6 children from Firs Farm Primary School joined us at Winchmore school for a science workshop for the first time. The children were involved in different experiments including; using red cabbage indicator to test for acids and alkalis using household items. They also got to see the methane bubbles demonstration which they really enjoyed. The children were amazing, they knew so much about science and were so well behaved and so excited to be taking part. Thank you to all the science staff involved; Senior Science Technician Mr Amit Nagrani for preparing all the resources, Antonia, John and Miss Cetin. A special thank you to all the children involved and the staff from Firs Farm Primary School and we are very happy to be working with you and your school.

Video of the Primary school Science workshop is available to view on our Science youtube channel:
<https://youtube.com/shorts/pZi5Lz1Ftss?si=LdsILdCZAxAARhW0r>

Thank you
Dr Ktori - Head of Science Faculty



Celebrating Our Creative writing Competition Winners!

Last academic year, a whole school competition was launched and invited students to reflect on the theme of Identity through creative writing. The competition was open to all year groups, Year 8 students also explored the theme as part of their English curriculum. The aim was to celebrate the diverse voices, backgrounds, and experiences that make up our school community and to encourage students to express what identity means to them in their own unique way. After receiving an incredible range of entries, our judge had the difficult task of narrowing them down. Following much deliberation, three talented students were selected as our winners:

First Place (£100 Amazon Voucher + Judge's Book-The Watkins book of African Folklore+ Feature on Watkin's publishing Website)

Leaving London by Aaron Andrews (Year 9)

The sun rises slowly, above the lush, green rainforest as birds announce its arrival,
 A close-knit community, perfect for survival.
 A ripe, juicy mango and the sweet scent of pepper pot for a treat,
 Music playing in the background to take your mind off the heat.

A seaside view on one side and a tropical paradise on the other,
 A cool, refreshing lemonade, another and another!
 A rushing waterfall crashing from above,
 The sunlight reflecting off the ocean, as beautiful as a dove.

I blink, and it's gone, replaced with another landscape,
 A place of fear, confusion and rage, making my mind beg to escape.
 Ravaged buildings, their skeletons showing, I
 A cold breeze runs down my neck even though the wind isn't blowing.

The scene changes again to show another side of the coin,
 Other kids playing games I can't wait to join.
 Hot, Middle-Eastern breeze runs through my hair
 People laughing and having fun with happiness filling the air.

A voice calls my name and I look up ahead
 You have seen who you are" it says, "It's time to wake up in your bed"
 "I don't want to go" I call "I can play without harm"
 "Then embrace the past and welcome the future with open arms"



Judge's feedback: I love the dreamlike quality of this poem. Aaron evokes a sense of place and belonging without needing to name specific places or peoples. He leaves the poem's arms wide open, welcoming to any and all. The dark imagery of the third stanza reveals his appreciation for the duality of existence. The final line is a call to bravery. It gave the impression of a young person facing the myriad possibilities of life: what has come and gone, what is here, what might yet to be, heedful of the opportunities, confident (in the way that only young people can be) in their ability to overcome the challenges.

Second Place (£50 Amazon Voucher and Judge's book- The Watkins book of African Folklore)

Black Culture - Was it Worth Fighting for? *by Jessica Owusu (Year 13)*

Beaten, bruised, bludgeoned. Slaves' everyday lifestyle. Fight- be killed. Oppress - be killed. Don't do your work - be killed. Death, death and more death.

Now today, we're supposedly free ... right? All that death must've been worth it.? I think.

2011 Riots, drug trade, grooming, trapping.

'Boss man' offers you £20 to ship a parcel - agree? You're one of them now. Disagree? They'll keep on pestering you - we all know that.

'Riots' phone snatching. Easy and fun right? Hop into that line time and that poor lady's iPhone 12 is all yours. You'll head home to your Ghanaian mother and she'll address you. 'Koofoe, good day?' You'll respond. 'Yes mum, just went to school and football, nothing much'. She - your mother - saved up all her money, went away from home, crossed into a whole new COUNTRY for you. To be successful, happy, loving, kind. Why is it wasted on something so cruel.?

We're slowly changing, moving. You decide to not go onto a line bike, instead you go straight home. You decide to ignore 'bossman', going to a trusted adult.

Black culture can be so corrupt, it can be so beautiful too.

Different hairstyles, food, style, accents - don't forget to mention the livelihood. We're all one big family, we embrace our differences and celebrate our accomplishments. Those slaves didn't die for nothing - they fought for our freedom, and slowly and surely we got it. Now, we decide where we will take it.

Judge's feedback: *This poem broke my heart and mended it in the time it took to read it. Life in general and social media in particular, bears down on Black/African people, weighted with expectations for aspiration, achievement, and alignment. Meanwhile, in our communities we are faced with the same complex choices and inclinations towards helpfulness or harmfulness that have defined (and deformed) human societies since the beginning of time. The poet both praises and uplifts the genuinely good, and unflinchingly calls out the failures and weaknesses of global Black culture. It is refreshing.*





I Am Aashna by Aashna Pankhania (Year 9)

**I am Aashna, 12 not 10 years old,
My story is yet untold,
India lives inside my heart,
But the UK's where I made my start.**

**My life is like chai mixed with cake,
And yes, I love a good bake,
Diwali lights glow soft and bright,
And Holi's colours are filled with light.**

**I love sweet treats, like cheesecake and pie
Though sometimes stir-fry I like to try,
Unicorns dance inside my room,
And Pooh bear helps chase the gloom.**

**He says "do nothing is doing something too",
I smile and eat my cookie - maybe two,
He shows me how to be calm and slow.
And find the joy in Just letting go.**

**My sister Aanya fourteen and kind.
Always annoys me - that's fine,
She teases me in her own way,
But it makes me smile every day.**

**My mum is my best friend, soft and near,
She listens close and holds me dear.**

**My dad's random jokes makes me smile,
And brighten up my day awhile.**

**So here I am, soft and light,
A sprinkle of love, a little bright.**

**I'm like a recipe. special and unique,
With a dash of sunshine, and a sprinkle of chic,
A splash of love, a tiny bit wild.
And maybe a pinch of annoyance, just like a child.**

**I am Aashna, just this way,
With thoughts and dreams that stay,
And I wouldn't change it anyway.**

Third Place (£25 Amazon Voucher and Judge's book- The Watkins book of African Folklore)



Judge's feedback: Aashna's poem is just so sweet, innocent and pure. A reminder that when it is all said and done, after you have walked the maze and realized that matters of history and identity are a labyrinth with minotaurs stalking every

corner and more dead ends than are worth the trouble, if you are fortunate enough to make it out, what matters is love for family, an appreciation for what makes life enjoyable, and the ability to let go of things you can't control.

Each of these students demonstrated creativity, authenticity, and depth in their writing capturing what it means to understand and celebrate one's own identity. The judge (Helen Nde) also commented further by adding: "Thank you again for making time out of your busy schedules to facilitate the poetry contest. It was such a pleasure to read through the poems and catch a glimpse into the minds of your students. The poems were brilliant in terms of technique and tone. But more than anything else, they showed just how deeply your students are paying attention to and thinking about the world around them despite the claims that younger generations are distractable and shallow".

We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the effort they put into their work. A huge well done to all who took part your voices and stories continue to enrich our diverse school community. You can also find Helen's book in the school library.

Well done to everyone

Ms Somo, Mr Burton, Mr Menda and Ms Scholey



Stage Magic:

Student Transforms An Inspector Calls

Tabby Bryne, Year 10, wowed everyone with her GCSE Drama set design for *An Inspector Calls*. Over two weeks, she created a naturalistic set enhanced with carefully planned lighting effects and a film of rain, symbolising the pathetic fallacy and foreshadowing the Birlings' downfall. Her thoughtful combination of realistic detail and symbolic elements brilliantly highlights the play's themes and J.B. Priestley's intentions—a truly standout piece in this year's drama projects. Well done Tabby!



Year 7 Students Celebrate Black History Month Through African Theatre

As part of Black History Month, our Year 7 Drama students explored the rich traditions of African theatre storytelling through a series of engaging workshops. Over several sessions, students learned about the cultural significance of performance, rhythm, and storytelling in African theatre, gaining hands-on experience with traditional instruments and mask-making.

Using their creations, the students reimagined the famous Anansi the Spider tales, bringing these classic stories to life with creativity, energy, and a strong sense of collaboration. The workshops not only celebrated cultural heritage but also allowed students to develop their performance skills, imagination, and understanding of storytelling traditions from around the world.



"I thoroughly enjoyed learning about African Storytelling techniques and learning how to apply it to my performance. It's really helped my understanding of different performance styles from around the world". **Jacob - 7L**

Year 10 and 12 Drama Students see "Punch" at The Apollo Theatre

Year 10 and 12 Drama students visited London's Apollo Theatre to see *Punch*, a powerful play by Olivier-Award-winning playwright James Graham. Based on a true story, it explores the devastating consequences of a single "one punch" and the ripple effect it has on families and communities, offering a raw and thought-provoking look at accountability, remorse, and restorative justice.

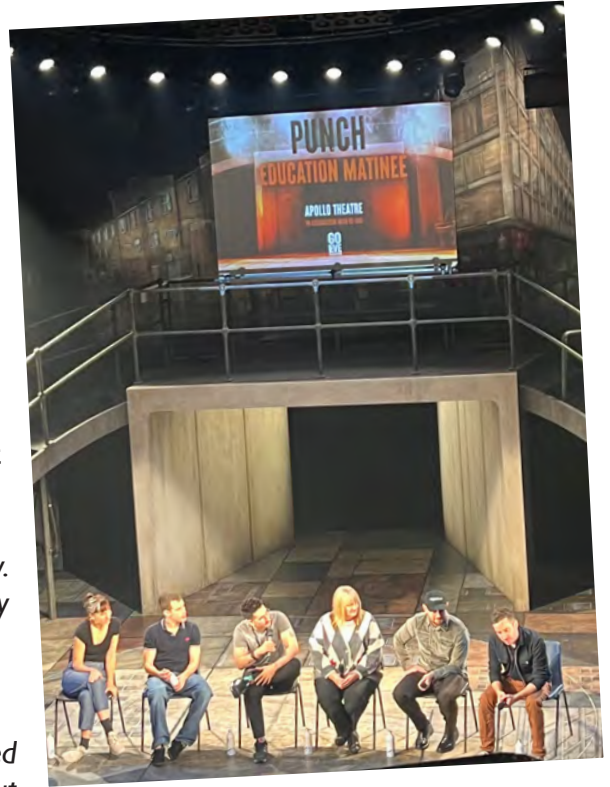
After the performance, students took part in an inspiring Q&A with the writer, actors, and the real-life figures at the heart of the story — Jacob Dunne and James Hodgkins' mother, Joan. The session gave students a unique insight into the creative process and the human stories behind the play, leaving them with much to reflect on about responsibility, empathy, and the power of storytelling.

"This was a very moving and inspiring story performed with sensitivity. The combination of the technical elements and acting made this a very engaging yet informative piece of theatre."

Nazli - Year 12

"I thoroughly enjoyed the way in which the actor playing Jacob moved frantically on the stage in the first half whilst narrating his story about growing up on the Meadows Estate. The fast pace movement using the raised platform helped create different locations and convey the chaos of his early adulthood."

Harley - Year 10



Staff Wellbeing Christmas Wreath Making

Our yearly Christmas wreath making workshop was a huge success! We raised approx £140 for Teenage Cancer Trust. Here are some photos from the evening.



WINCHMORE NUMERACY NEWSLETTER – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL EDITION

This festive edition explores how Maths appears throughout Christmas traditions. From budgeting for gifts to understanding percentages in seasonal sales, students discovered the real-life numeracy behind the celebrations.

Christmas Article of the Week: The Maths Behind the Magic

As Christmas approaches, students across the school have been exploring the real-life Maths hidden behind the festive season. From budgeting for gifts to comparing prices during seasonal sales, Financial Maths plays a huge role in helping families make smart choices at this time of year. Students learned how shops use percentages in discounts, how to spot the best value when choosing presents, and why planning a simple budget can prevent overspending. We also looked at the Maths behind Christmas dinner, using ratios to scale recipes and estimating costs for different family sizes. Even Santa relies on numeracy — planning routes, calculating travel times and managing millions of deliveries! By linking Christmas traditions to essential financial skills, students discovered that Maths is not just in the classroom but part of everyday life, supporting confidence, independence and thoughtful decision-making.



Number of the Week: 25

Students explored patterns involving 25, including quarter fractions, multiples of 5, and how shops use 25% discounts during holiday sales.

★ Student Spotlight – Festive Edition

This week we celebrate Year 9 – **Minnie Hendry (9L)**, who excelled in Christmas budgeting tasks by comparing gift values and applying smart numeracy strategies.

Family Festive Numeracy Challenge

Count the Christmas lights around your home. Estimate first, then count, and compare the results! Bonus: Create a bar chart of lights in different rooms.

Word of the Week: Symmetry

Symmetry is when a shape or pattern is the same on both sides. We see symmetry in snowflakes, stars, wrapping paper and Christmas decorations!

Quote of the Week

“Maths is like Christmas lights — when everything connects, it shines brightly.”

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For further information contact Nichola on 07516 560380
or Email info@northlondonstreetdance.co.uk

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