

HAMPSTEAD FINE ARTS COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS & ALUMNI

A Level Awards

We had an excellent set of A level results in the summer, with students achieving outstanding higher education places. Students won places at King's College, London, Bristol, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Courtauld Institute and Central St Martins, among others.

Overseas applicants succeeded in getting into Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute in New York, Berklee College of Music, and Northeastern University, both in Boston.

Our annual awards were given to:
Freya Sanderson & Poppy Wilson for Academic performance,
Roisin Bunting for Art,
Ailsa Rae for Fashion & Textiles,
Finley Karat for Music,
Alice Reed for Drama,
Joseph Zayan for Media.

The College's most prestigious award, Contribution to College Life, was won by Jamie Laniado & Will Sealey.



ADVANCED LEARNER'S SYMPOSIUM

Madeleine Whittaker & Sophie Cochrane

Since the start of this academic year, we have had the opportunity to attend the Advanced Learning Symposium, which broadens our understanding of current cultural events and enhances our critical faculties.

The talks given by tutors have varied from philosophical debates raised in *Descartes' First Meditation*, regarding what we perceive as certain, to how museum directors should respond to climate activist demonstrations that take place within their institution.

The variety of the talks has given us all a better grasp of topics that we wouldn't typically encounter in our curriculum or everyday

lives, allowing us to interact with our peers to understand their viewpoints, sparking interesting debates. Being English Literature students, we found ourselves particularly enjoying the talk on American identity in literature, and how their identity is malleable and developing.

However, the talk on oceanic disasters, particularly the interlink between the migration crisis and the implosion of the Titanic submarine, so closely intertwined with *Gavin Bryars's The Sinking of the Titanic*, allowed us to delve deeper into events through music, broadening our horizons on the human aspect of the tragedy.



SPORT

Jonas Hausen

I am a dedicated sportsperson, both in college and out. I play football every week with our coach James, and can always be found in between lessons, at lunch and often after school playing table tennis in the courtyard with friends, having fun and being active with my peers.

Outside college, I compete nationally in trampolining, which I have been doing for the past year and a half.

I love the competition and the opportunity to meet different people while learning and having fun.



BUSINESS STUDIES

Bosco Buonaguidi, Grace Macpherson, Yasmina Fakhry, Jade Carabott, Shreya Lachman

The business department has organised many trips in the two years we've been taking the course. A trip to Prop Store, focussed on presenting business marketing and promotion ideas, and the Dukes Sustainability Challenge taught us about integrating energy efficiency within product development.

Our trips encourage us to work with other colleges and learn valuable skills, such as the importance of teamwork, decision-making, leadership, and presentation/public speaking. In our

upcoming trip to Disneyland Paris, we will take part in different Disney-themed workshops on topics like item promotion and customer satisfaction.

We can then use the trip (and the workshops) as a case study in our examinations.

These trips help us learn beyond the classroom, use our knowledge in real-world situations and have insightful discussions about experiences in the industry.



DUKES RENAISSANCE SCHOLARS

Iris Lord

Going on the 2023 Dukes Education trip to Cambridge was an experience that allowed us to open our minds to new possibilities.

While the personal preferences of the group and I may not have aligned seamlessly with the complex scientific topics being discussed, the event offered a unique perspective on many topics that we would not have considered before.

The first day started with a series of talks on a range of topics surrounding different areas of scientific discourse. While I did not understand the majority of what was going on, I still found the speakers' immense knowledge and pas-

sion for the subjects inspiring. Following the talks, we engaged in science-themed activities including bridge-building and programming robots; it was interesting to see how students from other colleges approached the tasks.

Not all the activities were science-based, and we were able to see historical manuscripts such as the Eadwine Psalter at the Trinity College Library.

The trip also included taking photographs in the botanical gardens and punting with Craig.



HISTORY TRIP TO HAMPTON COURT PALACE

Ellie Ryan & Bibi Brech

Hampton Court was first mentioned in the 11th century in the Domesday Book but is most famously known as the home of the Tudor dynasty, despite being built by Thomas Wolsey.

However, the history of the palace does not stop after the Tudors. It continued being a royal residence until the mid-18th century. With such a complex architectural mixture of periods, it is fascinating to see the result of hundreds of years of renovation.

A level students had the opportunity to visit Hampton Court and had a lecture given by a historian based at the

palace. She provided a deep insight into the history of the palace, and the rise and fall of Wolsey. Despite the weather, we could still appreciate the grandeur of the palace and the grounds surrounding it.

The historian gave us a tour around the palace, explaining the realities of what courtly life was like in the 16th century. In the grand hall, we saw the tapestries commissioned by Wolsey as an expression of his wealth, which further established his idea of his own importance.

This trip was eye opening to life within the palace walls and allowed us to further our understanding of Tudor life.



FASHION & TEXTILES

Millie Mahboubian

Fashion and Textiles is a wonderful creative and experimental subject. Over the course, we have been taken on a multitude of eye-opening trips, such as to the *Korean Wave* exhibition at the V&A, which explored a realm of fashion I had not been introduced to before.

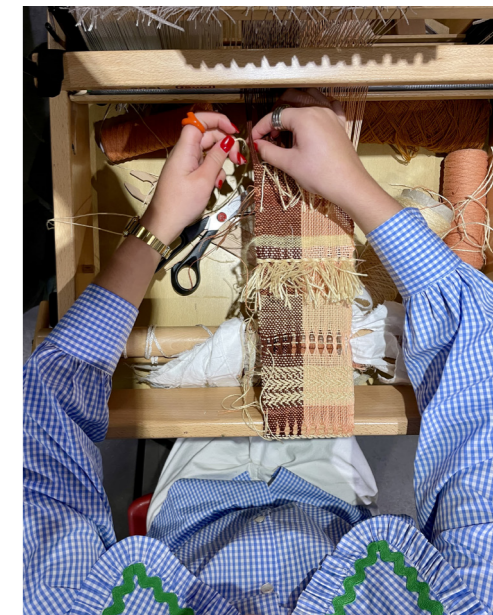
I have learnt a host of new skills and techniques, ranging from fabric manipulation to pattern cutting. By studying the subject for A level, I have discovered what I aspire to do in the future: I now plan to study a fashion-related degree.

I have received an immense amount of support from the fashion and textiles tutors, who work together and incorporate their expertise to cater for each student's individual interests.

Before joining Fine Arts, I had no previous experience in fashion or textiles, but in no time, I was able to confidently set up and thread a sewing machine, hand sew and make delicate garments.

This year I have also attended Weaving Club, which is offered to students who are particularly interested in this aspect of textiles.

I am happy that I have found such enjoyment in the subject and look forward to taking everything I have learnt at A level into my future studies.



DRAMA & THEATRE

Review: *The Effect* Angel Duah Ansah

The Effect at the National Theatre is a profoundly insightful and moving theatrical experience. The play skilfully navigates the intricate terrain of a love affair unfolding amidst the backdrop of a pharmaceutical trial. Paapa Essiedu and Mara Huf deliver exceptional performances, breathing authenticity and emotion into their characters.

The chemistry between Essiedu and Huf is nothing short of captivating, drawing the audience into the nuanced exploration of emotions spurred by the drug trial and

a developing relationship. The play's narrative unfolds with a perfect balance of suspense, vulnerability, and tenderness, creating a truly engaging experience for the audience.

What sets *The Effect* apart is its ability to provoke thought on the intersections of love, identity, and the unforeseen consequences of scientific endeavours. The production is a testament to the compelling storytelling and the transformative impact of outstanding performances. From set design to direction, every element contributes to an immersive atmosphere that enhances the emotional resonance of the play.



National Theatre: *The Effect*, by Lucy Prebble – in association with The Jamie Lloyd Company

THE SOUND OF MUSIC, CHICHESTER THEATRE

Gabriel Payne

Last summer, I played Fredrick Von Trapp in the Chichester Festival Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music*.

The production spanned months, with four weeks of rehearsals in London and three months of production in Chichester. I love performing and had a memorable time with an incredible and supportive cast.

In Chichester I lived with fellow cast members in a large house, with twelve chaperones and a tutor to help me stay up to date with my studies. At the end of it all, we had an exciting gala night where many well-known actors, as well as the mayor of Chichester, came to see the performance.



ENRICHMENT TALKS

Jake Crocker

At Fine Arts, students have **Enrichment Talks** every Tuesday afternoon, organised by Margaret Park, our head of Careers. The talks expand and diversify our thoughts about future careers, our ambitions, and our knowledge of the world. Each week, a new guest is invited to speak in front of students about their profession or specialist knowledge.

In the first talk, Rory Dobner spoke about his life as a successful illustrator, selling his works through Liberty and Fortnum & Mason. As well as making original designs, he embellishes well-known images from *Alice in Wonderland* and *Winnie the Pooh*

with amusing details. We also had Matt Hervey, a lawyer who specialises in intellectual property and copyright, discuss how artificial intelligence is affecting jobs, politics, and other aspects of our lives. He demonstrated how today's technology can create deep fake images from simple online pictures.

Dr Steven Kern, the College's business tutor, gave us a talk on setting up a business and the risks young entrepreneurs face when entering a massively competitive market. Enrichment is a huge benefit to students at Fine Arts and helps students prepare for their future.



FILM CLUB

Miki Balloch

Film Club at Fine Arts College is an intellectual sphere where students come together for two hours to indulge in cinema entertainment, and discuss relevant, socio-political, economic, and cultural issues.

Film Club is a great way to enjoy cinema, and broaden your horizons with different genres, themes, cultures, and forms of cinema. Films range from silent films beginning in 1894 such as the *Cabinet of Caligari*, 1950s golden age Hollywood films (*Some Like It Hot*, *The Apartment*, *Sunset Boulevard*) by great directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and Billy

Wildier, to modern British, American, and international films.

This is in an entertaining, intellectually stimulating, and engaging environment which encourages discussion and respectful debate of historical and modern-day issues.

Films are essential in our understanding of humanity, politics, sociology, and culture. Through Film Club you can enjoy time with friends while being educated and entertained.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Bona Kakembo

I have had a wonderful experience going on several photography expeditions this year: I have used these as inspiration for my A level coursework.

I was immediately drawn to Daido Moriyama as an artist as soon as I saw his work. His compositions of the subjects astounded me and made me think of black-and-white cinematic photos. This gave me the idea to explore in my own work.

We also visited the *RE/Sisters* exhibition at the Barbican. This is an innovative show that incorporates mixed media, film, sculpture and 3D

models, and approaches photography in a way that I find intriguing.

My passion for photography stems from the opportunity it gives me to express my artistic independence.

Photography is such a vast subject that allows me to experience a wide range of creativity in my peers and other artists. My whole experience of photography A level has been excellent, and the advice given by my tutors is both encouraging and critical.

This helps me to elevate my photos in a way that I might not have thought about before.



HISTORY OF ART

Alice de Pace Chalk

Art has always been a window into the human condition, a reflection of history and culture with the ability to provide a deeper understanding of the world around us.

History of Art A level has given me the opportunity to unravel the contexts behind some of the most celebrated works of art in history as well as the tools to develop my critical thinking skills.

This has helped me to learn how to analyse and interpret art with an increased understanding of the nuances, symbolism, and technical innovations that artists employed.

Our study trip to Madrid in April is something that has stuck with me. I vividly remember going to see Goya's painting *The Third of May 1808*. Having studied the painting in class and

knowing the context behind it had a profound impact on my reaction to seeing the original painting.

The trip was excellent in developing my knowledge of all the works we had discussed in class. The skills I have gained from studying History of Art will no doubt stay with me throughout my life, and I am sure that I will never stop discovering and learning.



FINE ART TRIP TO THE COURTAULD

Caia Collis

Peter Doig's exhibition at the Courtauld Gallery held a particular significance for me. The paintings were largely completed in his London studio, and I could recognise locations from around London, some even sparked memories as I could relive parts of my childhood growing up around Camden.

For example, his painting *In Canal* demonstrated the unique traits we all recognise from London's canal scenes. Once we were in the Courtauld we were given the honour of a debrief by Chris and Suzanne of the significance of the exhibition, the first by a contemporary artist in the Courtauld since its reopening in 2021. We were encouraged to study and sketch, the seats and floor littered with young artists adding to the exhibition's atmosphere. In our own time, many of us chose to visit the permanent collection, which includes paintings by Renoir, Degas, and Cézanne.

As the afternoon came to a close, we were able to enjoy the beautiful architecture that is Somerset House.



Year 10 at Somerset House

STUDENT LIFE



History of Art trip to the Courtauld



Fashion & Textiles at the Design Museum



Renaissance Scholars trip

FINE ARTS CONTINUING EDUCATION

Trip to Madrid 2023

Candy and Lekha led a highly successful history of art trip to Madrid with a group of mature students including some past parents.

They enjoyed seeing paintings by El Greco, Goya, Velazquez and Picasso in the Prado, Reina Sofia, Thyssen-Bornemisza and Real Accademia de Belles Artes galleries in Madrid and had a day trip to the ancient city of Toledo.

They also went to the Botanical Gardens, Royal Palace and many vibrant Tapas restaurants.

This was the third FACE European trip, the previous having been trips to Paris and Venice.



Year 10 Start of Term lunch



Year 11 at The Photographer's Gallery



A Level Tate Britain trip



Life Drawing Student Evening Class