



## Meet The New Head Teacher

**Ms Osagie took up the post of Head Teacher this summer after a 10-year period as Deputy Head. We were intrigued to know how she felt about her new position, the changes she's had to adapt to and the positives she's taken out of it.**

***How are you finding your first term as a Head Teacher?***

I can now see the ins and outs I didn't realise were there before. Being the Head has given me the opportunity to see just how fantastic the staff really are. I get to see them and the children in a different way.

***Since you first started working at the school how much has it developed?***

We have grown up. The young people now have a real expectation of leaving with excellent exam results.

***What are the differences between being Deputy Head and Head?***

The Deputy does more running around and gets involved more closely with parents, staff and discipline, whereas the Head Teacher delegates those things to others and monitors how they perform.

***What do you aim to achieve as Head Teacher?***

I want the very best educational experience for the children as well as IAMS being a great place for the staff to work and develop as leaders in their own profession.

***Why are you so strict on uniform?***

If uniform is standard across the board everyone looks the same. So I can make my judgment based on how you work, what kind of person you are and how you present yourself, not whether you've got the latest trainers or dress like Dizzee Rascal.

***Do you have plans to improve the school lunches?***

I think the school lunches are good. It's a freshly cooked meal every day and they reflect the cultures of the school: Moroccan, English, Italian, Eastern. I'm sure the creative leaders will let me know if they think there are areas to improve.

***Was there ever another career that you wanted to pursue?***

I wanted to work in medicine, I did a degree in medical biology and I used to work in forensic science before I became a teacher. If you've seen CSI, I was that person in the lab.

***Do you think it's part of a Head's job to be authoritarian?***

Absolutely: authoritarian, but not a dictator. Not everyone can have their own rules, otherwise you'll have anarchy very quickly.

***How will government cuts affect school funding?***

We're not going to have a massive reduction in funding like some; but things we used to get for free, such as educational psychologists, counsellors and extended school provisions, all that will now cost.

***If you had £1 million what would you change?***

The uniform would be free, because for some parents it's a lot of money.

***What are you most proud of in the school?***

I've seen children who don't have much, yet they come to school every day, equipped and ready to learn and leave with their GCSEs and go on to higher education. When I see them being polite and wonderful young people, it makes me extremely proud.

***What did you think of the GCSE results last summer?***

I was abroad when I heard, but I wanted to fly back, just to be there on results day. Ninety-five per cent got A-C in five subjects or more and they're now ready to go onto college, the next level.



**Jemima Issahaku-Ajona Yr 9  
Ruma Begum Yr 7  
Aisha Issahaku-Ajona Yr 11  
Greg Gorczynski Yr 7**



## Helping The Aged This Christmas

IAMS's involvement in the local community runs deeper than simply educating its youth. We also have relationships with local charities, one of which is Age Concern Islington.

This is the local branch of the charity and it has been working closely with the school. It all started when one of the teachers at IAMS was holding a cookery club that was so good they were asked to do it on a much bigger scale. The project is funded by grants from different companies, ranging from local businesses to national chains. Now every year Age Concern Islington bring some senior citizens into the school, where they're given a fantastic lunch, as well as brilliant entertainment provided by IAMS students. Ashley Grey, the Community Arts Co-ordinator who is also in charge of the whole thing, says, "For the past five years IAMS, working with Age Concern Islington, has invited in over 100 elderly people and has given them the Christmas present that they deserve."

Ashley says, "Not only do the senior citizens get a fantastic feast, but an entire afternoon of shows and talent provided by IAMS and music from the people who donate their services for free". This year they got a smorgasbord of brilliance from Ms Roberta's dance group and Mr Fordham's music students.

**Joe Ash 9E, Ruma Begum 7D**



## Helping The Homeless

Every year since 2007, IAMS has opened its doors to homeless people over the Christmas period. They are provided with services that you and I would take for granted, such as a wash, a haircut, food and a warm place to stay the night. Mr Smith, a PE teacher at the school and co-ordinator of the annual Crisis at Christmas project, says, "It is a great opportunity for people who have had a knock in life to build up confidence and self-esteem through social activities."

Pupils at IAMS bring in everyday items such as toothbrushes, chocolate, flannels and clothing just to make sure their stay is as nice and cosy as the ones they'll be having at home. Mr Smith explains, "I think it's really important to them to have such a great school with such great facilities to be their centre. I know how much I look forward to seeing my family at Christmas and I think these people should enjoy that kind of feeling too."

I hope the work that IAMS and Crisis are doing means as much to you as it does to the homeless people benefiting from it. We should be proud to be helping IAMS and Crisis make a better community.

**Kaine Thompson 8F**

**Photos Greg Gorczyński 7B**

## Building The Future



"The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) initiative under the former government meant our school has had a £14 million injection of money. We get a refurbished D-Block – we couldn't knock it down as it's a listed building – we're going to have new science labs, ICT rooms, gyms, library, a new theatre and all kinds of great things. In two years' time it should be finished and we'll match our facilities with our excellent curriculum. The building works are going smoothly. I'm assured we'll have the D-Block back in July and it's going to look really great."

**Diana Osagie, Head Teacher**

IAMShine talks to two groups of students – some IAMS veterans, others just starting out – about their thoughts on the buildings, old and new.

**Renais, Yr 10**

I remember the my first time in D-Block, it was fun and my class was supportive'

**Kevin, Yr 10**

I think that the new block is nice and clean but there is only one toilet. In D-Block I mostly remember the music room because I used to hang around there a lot.

**Hasan, Yr 7**

The new T-Block is clean and the classrooms are spacious.

**Greg, Yr 7**

My impressions of the T-Block are that it's clean but I don't really like the stairway system. D-Block was really good because of the stairway system.

**Joe Ash 9E, Hazra Daudo 8B, Photos Greg Gorczyński 7B**

## Sing For Sickle Cell

Do you know what sickle cell disease is? The disease is a genetic blood disorder that, earlier this year, cruelly claimed the life of Mohammed Liman, a 14-year-old student at IAMS, and which affects the lives of many across the world.

To commemorate his life and to raise awareness of the disease, the school came together to hold a concert, Sing for Sickle Cell. We spoke to a student at IAMS and Mr Fordham, the Head of Music, who are organising the concert.

"This concert was in response to one of the Yr 10 boy who, unfortunately passed away over the half-term. So we wanted to arrange some kind of response to this," says student and singer Jermain Jackman.

Mr Fordham explains why it's of such great importance to a school such as IAMS. "It's relevant, because we have a lot of African and Caribbean students," he says. "the people who are most at risk of sickle cell are from Africa, the Caribbean and Mediterranean, people who have developed this disease or its genetics. It's important for everyone to know what the disease or condition involves. Students can not only contribute by donation, but they can also participate in the concert and in the organisation team and come to the event. This week we'll also have assemblies about Sickle Cell to raise greater awareness."

This was a great opportunity for the school to come together and remember this student. It was also a chance to show that we are a caring community and that we feel that we can do something to tackle the problem.

**Miranda Williams 11C**

**Phoebe Ryan-Faal 10D**

**Elizabeth Wedderburn 10A**



# Express Yourself

Speak Your Mind is a project that reaches out to local primary schools, giving them a chance to have their say, to see what IAMS is about and what it can offer them in the next stage of their education.

Ashley Grey, our Community Arts Co-ordinator who runs it, says, "It started when I visited students at a primary school and asked what media means. They didn't know. They knew about television, computer radio and so on, but not media, which is 'means of communication'. So I decided to introduce a project that shows what our school does."

Speak Your Mind invites Yr 5 students from the local feeder primaries, alongside Yr 10 IAMS Media students, to voice their opinions in a professional way. "We got a class from each school to choose a project they're really passionate about," says Ashley Grey. "It could be anti-smoking, dog poo, litter, street gangs, anything. The strapline is 'don't

just think it, say it'. They've made websites, gone on protests, made one-minute movies, documentaries, and at the end of the month they come to IAMS and show their work to each other."

Recent projects included a film with Deborah Hutton Campaign, highlighting the dangers of smoking. On completion, the projects are professionally judged. "We have a guest panel of the Mayor, local MP Jeremy Corbyn, a film director or a journalist, and these influential people give feedback on what they thought of the pupils' work and how they could take it further. We always try to have the Mayor and the local MP because, living in a democratic society, it's important that young people realise these are the people who can influence change."

**Mohammed Karim 9B**  
**Hazra Daudo 8B**



## First Story

First Story is a programme run annually for Year 10 English students. The course develops the students' creative writing skills, as well as giving them the chance to become published authors.

"It is a really exciting initiative to be part of," says Ms Dodds, who leads the course. "To have a famous, published author Betsy Tobin come to IAMS and share her expertise with a group of cherry-picked talented young people is so exciting. It encourages students to imagine how they can create an atmosphere for people, how to create suspense and set the tone. They develop their own voice and empathise with different characters."

Participants in First Story write a series of short stories and poems to be published in an anthology at the end of the programme, which is concluded with an awards presentation.

"Betsy is an outside person who has come with fresh ideas, someone who knows what it's like to draft entire novels. Students find it really exciting to work with a published author. It would be wonderful if it were for everybody because it is already clear that massive improvements have been made by students in their English lessons."

**Jemima Issahaku-Ajona 9C**  
**Nathan Hanson 11B**

## Nature in the City



The Green Team is a group of young students who are trying to make the school more eco-friendly. So far they have been to Wray Crescent Park, where IAMS has its own little corner to give students first-hand experience of planting and enjoying watching the seeds grow.

Mr Brown, the science teacher who runs the project, says, "The aim was and still is to increase the awareness among students. We are currently doing two

projects. The pond project is to attract more city wildlife to the pond that we have in our school playground. We had a few experts come in from the London Wildlife Centre to help clear out the pond, so that we could put more plants in it to attract more wildlife. This term we made bird feeders and we hope to put these up on trees in the designated area of the park."

The project has proved so popular that twice the expected number of pupils turned up. The Green Team have also been round mapping our corner of Wray Crescent Park, marking down all the little details like mushrooms, log piles and which animals live there. Green Team is doing what it can to preserve the environment for our generation and those still to come.

**Mohammed Karim Yr 9**  
**Hazra Daudo Yr 8**  
**Ylyn Crowstaff Yr 8**

# Preparing for the Future



Presenting Yourself Day happens annually when Yr 11 pupils at IAMS dress in their business clothes and learn how to fill out job and college application forms. It's the brainchild of Truman Lawson, Careers Coordinator, who gets different industries and companies to come in and work with the students. Truman says, "It gives them a very wide open view, because these students could have big futures; we are talking big businesses, big hotels or City Islington College or offices. We had about 13 adults coming in from across different areas, whether it was banking or law." With Presenting Yourself Day every Yr 11 pupil

leaves IAMS with a new and fuller understanding of how to cope with the future.

**Hazra Daudo 8B, Kaine Thompson 8F, Abdul Arowosaye 11E**



## Diary Dates

4th-14th January	Assessment Exams Yr7-10
13th January	GCSE Science Exam 9am
17th January	GCSE Science Exam 9am
25th January	Year 11 Parents Evening
26th January	GCSE Science Exam 9am
3rd February	Year 7 Parents Evening
9th-10th February	School Play 7pm
21st-25th February	HALF TERM
3rd March	Year 8 Parents Evening
4th March	Staff INSET day – No pupils in school
7th March	GCSE Speaking Exams Begin
11th-25th April	Easter Holidays
29th April	Royal Wedding – School closed

## PARENTS

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY THE SCHOOL MAY NEED TO CONTACT YOU. PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS YOUR UP TO DATE CONTACT DETAILS.

PLEASE INFORM BINNY KEENAN ON EXT 202/221

## SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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**Web address:**

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## Achievements

Congratulations to the following students for their Achievers' Day Awards celebrated at Islington Town Hall on 9th December:

### Academic Achievement Award:

Hong Hanh Vu 18A\* plus A\* for AS level.

Cindy Pun 16 A\*

Both Cindy and Hong joined the school with very little English ability.

### Arts Achievement Award

Jermain Jackman

Leading Soul Fusion and putting in an excellent effort in the Blast Beat competition at the O2 Arena. He has remarkable singing and song writing abilities.

### Islington's Black Educator Network (BEN) Award

Pius Abitegeka

Achieved academically and was elected Head Boy for Year 11 demonstrating outstanding leadership skills and being an excellent role model.

### Sporting Achievement Award

Nathan Hanson

A talented and committed athlete. Fastest over 100m and 200m at U15 in 2010. Also plays rugby for WASPS U16 team.

### Community Achievement Award

Ylyn Crowstaff

She is totally committed to serving her school community.

### Special Achievement Award

Zainab Kasem

Has fought against very real physical odds to stay in mainstream education and participate actively in lessons and the community.

### Jack Petchey Awards

Here are this year's winners of the prestigious Jack Petchey awards from IAMS. All students received a prize of £200 to donate to a school project of their choice.

**Marcus Smith 8A** - Outstanding all-round contribution to Yr7.

£200 to purchase a new kit for the Yr 8 football team, of which Marcus is a keen member.

**Ibrahim Kuyumcu 9F** - Being a positive role model.

£200 to go towards Tutor Group trip.

**Charlie Serra 10F** - Continuously helping peers and teachers, for always being the first to volunteer and for being extremely conscientious.

£200 to go towards Yr 9 trip.

**Elana Lancaster 10D** - For being a leading force in promoting ecological issues as part of the schools "Green Team".

£200 for the Green Team Ecological Project.

**Tiana Carrington 11B** - Totally turning around her attitude to school and education, and for being a model to other students on how to change for the better.

£200 to go towards the Top Tutor Group reward trip, with Tiana guaranteed a place.

**Louise Serra 11D** - For overcoming adversity to maintain a positive attitude to school and her studies.

£200 to go towards the Top Tutor Group end-of-year trip, with Louise guaranteed a place.

**Jemil Olagunju & Nicky Moore 11D** - For helping to organize Haiti fund raising concert. £200 for the Year 11 Prom.

**Bahar Total 11F** - For a generally positive attitude. £200 for the Year 11 Prom.