

PADDINGTON PRESS

**FROM A LANDMARK IFTAR TO DOWNING STREET:
A TERM OF CELEBRATION AND ACHIEVEMENT**



HISTORIC MOMENT AS PADDINGTON ACADEMY HOSTS RAMADAN IFTAR



On Tuesday 2nd March, for the first time ever, our school hosted a Ramadan Iftar, and it was a wonderful celebration of community, culture, and togetherness. The school hall was filled with laughter, delicious aromas, and the excitement of students and staff coming together to break their fast.

Thanks to the incredible organisation of Miss Honeini, the evening ran smoothly and felt truly welcoming for everyone. *"I wanted to create a space where everyone could experience the spirit of Ramadan,"* she said. *"Seeing everyone enjoy themselves and share stories made it so special."*

Tables were piled high with a vibrant array of dishes, from fragrant samosas and crunchy falafel to sweet dates and baklava. Students and teachers alike commented on how much they enjoyed the food. Year 10 student Amina said, *"Everything tasted amazing! I loved trying new foods and sharing mine with others."* Year 12 student Yusuf added, *"It felt really nice to see everyone together, celebrating and chatting. It felt like a real community."*

Staff were equally delighted. Mr. Ali said, *"This Iftar wasn't just about food; it was about connection. You could feel the sense of belonging in the room - it was brilliant to be part of it."*

A huge thank you goes to everyone who contributed, whether by bringing dishes, donating, or helping set up. Your generosity made the evening truly memorable. And of course, a special mention to Miss Honeini, whose hard work, dedication, and care made this historic Iftar possible.

The event left everyone with full plates, happy hearts, and a reminder of how much our school thrives when we celebrate together. May this become a cherished tradition for years to come.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE SCHOOL'S HISTORY, STUDENTS AND STAFF GATHERED TO BREAK THEIR FAST TOGETHER IN A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, CULTURE, AND BELONGING.

BY AMEL

"I wanted to create a space where everyone could experience the spirit of Ramadan. Seeing everyone enjoy themselves and share stories made it so special."

- MISS HONEINI



CAREERS FAIR INSPIRES STUDENTS ACROSS THE SCHOOL

WITH OVER 25 ORGANISATIONS AND EVERY YEAR GROUP IN ATTENDANCE, THIS YEAR'S CAREERS FAIR BROUGHT THE FUTURE RIGHT INTO THE SPORTS HALL.

BY AMEL

"It was really helpful speaking to people who actually work in these jobs. They explained what qualifications you need and what the job is really like."

- YEAR 11 STUDENT

On Tuesday 3rd February, the sports hall was full of energy as students from every year group attended this year's Careers Fair. More than 25 organisations took part, including universities, apprenticeship providers, and professionals from various industries: tech, finance, engineering and even law.

Walking through the hall felt a bit like stepping into the future. At one stall, a student nervously asked about becoming a professional coder only to leave ten minutes later smiling and saying, *"I actually think I could do this."* Moments like that were happening everywhere.

Students moved between stalls speaking to Westminster City Lions, Google, Royal Airforce and more, discovering opportunities like finance internships and careers within IT. Many visitors shared advice about different pathways after school, including university courses, apprenticeships, and work placements.

Interactive activities made the event even more engaging. Some stalls offered quizzes and hands-on demonstrations, while others gave practical advice on CV writing and interview skills. One group of friends could be seen comparing their quiz results, laughing as they realised how different their career strengths were.

Younger students also found the event inspiring. A Year 9 student mentioned how it *"opened their eyes"* to jobs they had never even heard of before. The atmosphere throughout the hall was curious and enthusiastic, with students confidently asking questions and really engaging with the visitors.

Teachers were pleased with the positive response. It was clear that the event gave students a better understanding of the many opportunities available to them after school - and maybe even sparked a few future careers.



SIXTH FORM • PANCAKE DAY

FLIPPING PANCAKES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

STUDENTS RAISE MONEY FOR GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL AND THE BEN KINSELLA TRUST - ONE DELICIOUS PANCAKE AT A TIME.

-BY ALEXANDRE

Pancake Day is always a highlight in the school calendar, and this year was no exception. During break time, sixth form students and staff came together for a busy and exciting pancake sale, all with the shared goal of raising money for charity.

From honey and whipped cream to ice cream and colourful sprinkles, there was a topping for everyone.

As soon as break started, a long queue began to form, as Students eagerly waited, some already planning their toppings while others debated whether to go back for seconds. The smell of fresh pancakes filled the air, making it almost impossible to resist joining the line.

At one point, things got even more entertaining when a student confidently attempted a pancake stack in front of everyone - only for it to completely topple over and land on the floor. The queue burst into laughter, and someone jokingly said, "Don't worry, it's still for charity!"

The pancakes proved so popular that they sold out before the end of break, leaving some students with no choice but to grab cookies instead. While a few walked away jokingly disappointed, others were already talking about how good the pancakes had been and how they wished they'd joined the queue sooner.

All the money raised went to Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Ben Kinsella Trust, two important charities supporting young people and families. Knowing this made the event even more meaningful, turning a simple break-time treat into something that could genuinely help others.

By the end of break, the tables were empty, the queues had disappeared, and the event was a clear success. It was a reminder that even a short break-time event can bring people together - especially when food and a good cause are involved.



PERFORMING ARTS • PRE-HALF TERM

MUSIC SHOWCASE: STUDENTS TAKE THE STAGE



FROM SOLO VOCALS TO COLLABORATIVE PIECES, OUR STUDENTS SHONE IN AN EVENING THAT CELEBRATED CREATIVITY, CONFIDENCE, AND LIVE PERFORMANCE.

-BY ALEXANDRE

Recently, students at Paddington Academy had the opportunity to take to the stage and share their musical talents in the much-anticipated Music Showcase.

The evening brought together students, staff, and families for a celebration of creativity and confidence. Backstage, there were nervous smiles and last-minute practice runs, but once performers stepped into the spotlight, those nerves quickly turned into excitement.

The performances ranged from powerful vocal solos to impressive instrumental pieces. One moment that stood out was when a normally quiet student delivered a stunning performance, leaving the audience completely surprised and cheering loudly.

For many, performing in front of an audience was a big step. Despite the challenge, every student showed confidence and enthusiasm, making the event truly memorable.

The showcase was not just about performing - it was about bringing the school community together. Parents and friends filled the room with support, creating a warm and encouraging atmosphere.

By the end of the night, it was clear that the Music Showcase had given students a chance to express themselves, build confidence, and create lasting memories.

SPORTS • SWIMMING

SWIMMERS MAKE A SPLASH AT REGIONAL GALA

FIVE STUDENTS. TWELVE MEDALS. A PERFORMANCE THAT LEFT THE WHOLE SCHOOL PROUD.

-BY SARINA



Paddington Academy's swim team delivered an outstanding performance at a recent regional gala, returning home with an impressive 12 medals - 5 gold and 7 silver.

Each swimmer gave their all in the competition, showing determination and resilience throughout the day. One of the highlights was watching teammates cheer each other on from the sidelines, creating a strong sense of team spirit.

The level of competition was high, but our swimmers rose to the challenge. Even after long and tiring races, they continued to push themselves, refusing to give up.

For many students, the experience was about more than just winning medals. It was about representing their school, supporting their teammates, and achieving personal bests. One swimmer described the moment they finished their race and looked up to see their team cheering as "the best feeling ever."

This achievement is a proud moment for the school, showing what can be accomplished through hard work and teamwork.

ENGLISH • HOUSE POETRY

SPOKEN WORDS TAKE OVER THE LIBRARY

FROM YEAR 7 TO YEAR 10, STUDENTS STEPPED UP TO THE MIC AND PROVED THAT WHEN GIVEN FREEDOM TO WRITE, REMARKABLE THINGS HAPPEN.

-BY SARINA



It was an incredible week before our February half term, as the library was full of students from Year 7 to year 10, who went head-to-head in the House Poetry Competition.

This competition was a very different experience for all our students as instead of being stuck with a specific topic, everyone had the opportunity to be creative and write their own poem. And our existing results? A massive wave of engagement and some seriously impressive self-thought writing.

The competition was tough, but English teachers eventually narrowed it down, picking the top poems from each year group. These finalists then stepped up to read their brilliant poems during lunch in our school library.

Our House Poetry champions are Keyaan Meah (Year 7), Nazreen Chowdhury (Year 8) and Mariam Mahgoub (Year 9).

A massive well done to everyone who took part and shared their voice.

SPECTRUM

Colourism,
If you ask me, I think it's racism.
Deeply rooted in our culture,
Inspired by antagonism.

Her blood is red, and so is mine,
Yet she gets discriminated, bringing back apartheid, marginalised.
Colourism, we preach unity in the community,
Yet divided by senseless scrutiny.
He's brown, and I'm dark brown,
What's the difference if you ask me?
Different on the surface maybe,
DNA originates from the family tree.

Criticised, analysed, that's why she bought that cream,
Trying to fit into the mainstream theme.
Colourism is a spectrum,
It needs to be seldom.

Poem by Mariam, Year 9 Winner

STUDENTS VISIT DOWNING STREET

- BY ALYA



A group of Paddington Academy students had the unique and exciting opportunity to visit 10 Downing Street as part of National Apprenticeship Week, a nationwide initiative that shines a spotlight on apprenticeships and opens students' eyes to the wide range of pathways available beyond the traditional university route.

National Apprenticeship Week is more than just a campaign - it's a chance for students across the UK to connect with real employers, discover hands-on career routes, and understand what working life is actually like. From healthcare and engineering to business and technology, organisations such as the NHS, British Airways and McLaren use this week to show how apprenticeships allow young people to earn, learn, and gain valuable experience at the same time. For many students, it transforms careers from something distant into something real and achievable.

During the visit, students were also lucky enough to briefly meet the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer. Bringing together students from Year 10 and sixth form, the trip allowed them to step inside one of the most important buildings in the United Kingdom.

More importantly, the experience gave students a clearer sense of their own futures. Conversations throughout the day sparked new ideas - some began considering apprenticeships as a practical and exciting route into careers they hadn't thought about before, while others felt more confident about pursuing long-term ambitions. Seeing successful pathways in action helped students realise that there is no single route to success.

Overall, the visit to Downing Street was an unforgettable experience and a proud moment for Paddington Academy. It not only highlighted the importance of National Apprenticeship Week, but also encouraged students to think bigger, explore their options, and take meaningful steps towards their future.



HOUSE DEBATE COMPETITION

- BY ALYA

Paddington Academy recently made history by hosting its very first House Debate Championship, an event that brought energy, excitement and powerful ideas to the heart of the school. Students from every year group stepped forward to represent their houses, showing incredible bravery as they spoke in front of their year group and challenged one another on complex, thought-provoking topics. It quickly became clear that this was more than just a competition, it was a celebration of student voice, courage and intellectual curiosity.

One of the most gripping debates was between Equiano and Hawking, who explored the question, 'Are British values uniquely British?'. The debate pushed both teams to think deeply about identity, culture and history. Equiano delivered thoughtful points about the origins of values such as democracy and individual liberty, while Hawking challenged the idea of ownership, arguing that these values are shared across the world. The back and forth was intense, and the audience was fully engaged, listening closely as each side built and defended their case.

Equally captivating was the debate between Seacole and Lovelace, which tackled the question, 'should humans colonise other planets?'. This debate captured everyone's imagination. Seacole presented an ambitious vision of the future, pointing to rapid developments in science and space exploration. Lovelace, however, raised important concerns about the reality of such a move, questioning whether humanity is truly ready to leave Earth behind. The contrast between optimism and caution made for a fascinating and memorable exchange.

Throughout the competition, students demonstrated remarkable confidence and resilience. Speaking in front of a large group is no easy task, yet every participant rose to the challenge, proving just how much courage it takes to stand up, share ideas and think on your feet. Watching their peers take such bold steps was inspiring for the audience and made the event just as exciting to watch as it was to take part in.

A huge congratulations goes to this year's winners:

- Year 7 Hawking
- Year 8 Hawking
- Year 9 Seacole
- Year 10 Lovelace
- Year 12 Equiano



Spring Term Word Search

Can you find all the words? (Words may go diagonally and backwards)

P	A	N	C	A	K	E	X	L	Q	W	E	R
O	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	I	T	Y	U	I
N	E	J	O	N	E	S	R	O	P	A	S	D
I	T	R	E	G	N	I	Y	T	R	E	W	Q
T	Y	U	I	O	P	L	K	J	H	G	F	D
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	Z	X	C	V
D	F	G	H	J	K	L	P	A	D	D	I	N
D	S	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N	C	E	O
I	T	A	R	F	I	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U
N	B	V	C	X	Z	A	S	D	F	G	H	J
G	H	J	K	L	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I
R	I	L	E	Y	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E
E	A	S	T	E	R	A	S	D	F	G	H	J
T	Y	U	I	O	P	L	K	J	H	G	F	D
Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K

Paddington
Riley
Iftar
Easter
Integrity
Excellence
Jones
Pancake

Easter Puzzle Challenge

How to Play:

Answer each question.

Take the **first letter** of each answer.

Unscramble the letters to find the hidden phrase.

■ **Prize:** First to solve wins a **chocolate Easter egg!**

Questions

1. What is a celestial body that orbits a planet?

2. What fruit is famously associated with the saying "keeps the doctor away"?

3. What is the ability to do work called in physics?

4. What is a subatomic particle with a negative charge?

5. What is a place where ships dock?

6. What is the first letter of the alphabet?

7. What instrument is used to measure temperature?

8. What is the first element on the periodic table?

9. What colour is produced by mixing red and green light?

10. What is a common writing instrument that uses ink and is not a pencil?

11. What is a person who rules or governs a country called (in general terms)?

⇒ ■ Write your letters here: _____

